It was with great excitement that we welcomed all students from Years 7-12 back to school on Thursday February 2. I am sure they are feeling well rested and looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead in 2017. Interestingly 82 Year 7 students have joined us from almost 50 different Primary Schools with another 17 students also joining us at Years 8-12. I wish them well as they begin their studies at Simonds Catholic College.

A number of new staff have also joined Simonds Catholic College this year. Our new staff for 2017 includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Callegari</td>
<td>Year 10 Media, Year 9 Food Tech, Year 7 Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Henshall</td>
<td>7G Homeroom, Year 7,8&amp;10 Maths, Year 7 Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Johnson</td>
<td>Faculty Manager HPE, 12B Homeroom, VCE PE, Year 11 Maths, Year 12 Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susie Kelly</td>
<td>Years 7-10 Music, Year 10 Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Nugara</td>
<td>10G Homeroom, Year 7 Humanities, Year 7-11 Food Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Scemi</td>
<td>9W Homeroom, Year 9 English, Year 8 Humanities, Year 9 Literature Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am sure you will join me in making them feel very welcome as they join our staff.

A number of major events have already occurred in the first few weeks of Term 1. Our Opening School Assembly was held in the St. Brigid’s Hall on Monday February 6. The Opening School Assembly was a great opportunity to welcome our new students to their first Assembly and also to welcome a number of students from our Year 12 cohort in recognition of their high achievement in VCE 2016. All students who received an ATAR score above 90 were presented with a medal, as were the top students in each of the VCE subjects. Fr. Savino, the Parish Priest of St. Brigid’s and College Chaplain blessed our school community for 2017, and also blessed the Leader’s badges before they were presented to our College Leaders for 2017 during the Assembly.

Year 12 began their year with a two day retreat at Kinglake which gave them the opportunity to reflect and focus on the very important year ahead. This week, Year 9 have been hiking and camping through Mt Baw Baw National Park with the assistance of their teachers and Hall Outdoors in what is quite a challenging yet very rewarding experience.

Our annual House Swimming Carnival was held last Monday in less than ideal conditions, but it was terrific to see a large number of students competing in numerous events to gain important points for their respective Houses as the quest for the Michael Carmody Cup continues for another year.

Finally, as the year begins I remind you of the Vision for our School – to develop confident, well rounded young men who have hope for their future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College
Congratulations to the Simonds Year 12 Class of 2016 on their results. It was the smallest cohort that the College has had, with 62 students attempting VCE and 5 students completing their VCAL certificate. The boys should be commended on their dedication and persistence throughout the year and many can be proud of their results. Every student that completed the year successfully attained their VCE certificate and our median VCE Study Score was 28. Whilst this result was a little disappointing in comparison to the state average of 30, the majority of students actually performed above expectation when compared to their predicted results. There is a measure of ‘value adding’ that schools can access and although this is not one of the publicly stated statistics that the media uses, Simonds consistently performs well in this area. In basic terms it means that our students have left our school having experienced greater than expected growth in their learning. The Dux of the College for 2016 was Jacky Chen, with an ATAR of 96.40. He has taken up a scholarship offer for a Bachelor of Music at JMC Academy, passing on his first round offer of Secondary Teaching at Swinburne University.

Five of our students attained ATARs in the 90’s (9% of the cohort) which compared favourably to the state average of 10%. In fact, almost 30% of the Year 12 cohort gained an ATAR over 70 (top 30% of the state), allowing them access to many of the high demand university courses. 72% of our students were placed in the top half of the state, allowing them to access tertiary courses in 2017 and that is a cause for great celebration!

This year, 58 Simonds students applied for tertiary places and 55 students (94.85%) received a First Round Tertiary Offer. 71% were offered University (Degree) places and 25% were offered TAFE (Diploma or Certificate) places.

RMIT continues to be main institute of choice, with 55% of students being offered a place. Once again, a number of these students had already negotiated a place through our SNAP program.
Business Pathways continue to be a popular choice for our cohort, closely followed by Science courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who worked with and supported the boys throughout their secondary education. These achievements would not be possible without the continual hard work and tireless dedication of all the staff and the support of the parents. We are dedicated to working together to develop confident well rounded young men who have hope for their future. As our 2016 cohort head off into the next stage of their lives, I encourage them to heed the words of Pope Francis - “Do not be afraid to dream of great things”

Mr R Anastasio | Deputy Principal

Students with ATARs over 90

Jacky Chen - DUA 96.4  John Nguyen 93.50  Adam Monteleone 91.15  Thai Le 90.75  Daniel Som 90.05

School Fees 2017:

Tax invoices for your son’s 2017 tuition have been issued and hard copies will be posted within the next few days. This year we are pleased to offer BPay as an additional payment option.

If you prefer not to pay the full account in one payment, we encourage all families to contact the school to discuss and establish a mutually agreeable payment plan that suits your particular circumstances.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) / School Fees 2017:

I am pleased to advise that the Victorian State Government is again offering $225 financial assistance to students aimed at ensuring all students can take part in school trips and sporting events. Families holding a valid concession card are eligible to apply. Please note, parents are required to submit a new application form each year. Application forms are available at both campuses or online at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/csefapplicationform.pdf

Application forms should be returned to Simonds Catholic College. We shall lodge them on your behalf and upon the funds being received from the Victorian Government we shall credit the CSEF funds against your School Fees.

Mr D O’Malley | Business Manager
School Uniform
We are confident that as parents you understand the role the school uniform plays in immediately identifying a student as a member of the school community. I ask for your support in ensuring that your son has all the necessary uniform items and that these are worn correctly and with purpose and pride. This applies from leaving home in the morning to returning in the afternoon.
Staff members have been asked to be vigilant and pay close attention to boys’ attire and to not allow anyone into class who is not wearing the uniform correctly. If your son comes to school without a part of their uniform they are to report to their Year Level Coordinator before 8.30am for a Uniform Pass.
The requirements for wearing the uniform can be found on the school website and in your son’s diary, and we would ask that you please keep these requirements in mind throughout the year as your son dresses for school.

The formal uniform consists of
• Simonds blazer
• Simonds tie
• College grey trousers
• White, long sleeve shirt
• (Optional) Simonds pullover
• Grey or black socks with pants
• Black leather, lace-up shoes.

The alternative summer uniform (optional for Term 1 and 4) consists of
• Short sleeve, open neck shirt with school logo
• Grey shorts with grey walk socks. (white or black socks and emblems of any kind are not permitted).

Lockers
All students have been assigned a locker. iPads are to be stored in their locked lockers when not in use and during recess and lunchtime.

Bell Times and Punctuality
Each day is a six period day with 50 minute lessons on all days apart from Wednesday, where lessons are 45 minutes in length. On Wednesdays students are dismissed earlier, at 2.50pm, rather than the regular 3.20pm.
Students are advised to arrive at school by 8.35am. A warning bell will sound at 8.40am, and boys will need to be in their Homeroom with their books for Periods 1 and 2 when the second bell rings at 8.45am. Any student not in Homeroom at this time is to collect a Late Pass from the office before going to class. At the end of Period 6 students are to move to Homeroom to await dismissal. Once dismissed they may go to their lockers.
Students who arrive late for Homeroom in the morning without a note from their parents are to remain in the class with their Homeroom Teacher after the bell is rung to signal the end of the day. Students who arrive after the commencement of Period 1 are to report to their Year Level Coordinator at the end of that day; these students will be detained up to 4.00pm if they arrived without a note from parents.
It is pleasing to see the majority of our students making the effort to be at school wearing uniform correctly and on time each day, and I thank parents for your continued support in these important matters.

Mrs H Koutoulogenis
Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching) | Head of St Mary’s 7-10 Campus
At SCC, we strongly value the partnership we have with our parent community in furthering the wellbeing of our students.

To this end, we conduct three parent evenings per year (terms 1, 2 and 3), where topics of relevance to parents and boys are presented. Each evening consists of a panel of parents and students from across the year levels.

The evenings are practical, real and relevant.

We do encourage ALL parents to make themselves available to attend each of these evenings and to list them in their calendars as priority evenings.

The evenings are arranged by the “Parent Wellbeing Team” (PWT) which consists of a number of parents and staff.

**PARENT EVENING:**

**Topic:** CHANGE AND TRANSITION  
**Date:** Thursday 23rd March  
**Time:** 6.30PM – 8.00PM  
**Venue:** General Purpose Room – St. Mary’s Campus

This time of year is a time of change for students and their parents.

Primary students change to secondary students; Year 10 students change into VCE students; some students change, at various year levels, from a previous school to become Simonds students; relationships and family configurations change from year to year for a multiplicity of reasons and staff change as we welcome new members.

Naturally, we all hope that the changes are seamless and smooth – sometimes they are and sometimes they’re not. Sometimes anxieties emerge which are hard to deal with.

What makes for smoother transition? What makes change happen more positively? What are the expected issues that arise from change? What are “tried and true” ways to cope with problems that arise because of change?

**Come and hear a panel of three parents and three students speak about their “changes and challenges”**.

Speakers will include a Year 7 2016 student who will to speak with his parent about changes from primary to secondary; a Year 11 2016 student and his parent to speak about the change from Year 10 to VCE; a 2016 student from Brisbane speaking about the change from a previous school to Simonds; an unrelated parent and student speaking about changes and challenges they have experienced and how best they have managed these, and a staff member new to Simonds in 2017 and how he is thinking about and managing change.

There will be time for audience questions of the panel and a handout will be provided.

Members of the Parent Wellbeing Team will be in attendance as will the W@SP (Wellbeing @ Simonds Program) Coordinator/Counsellor, Mr. Pascal Rohan.

**World’s Greatest Shave**

Students on both campuses will be involved in the World’s Greatest Shave, the Leukaemia Foundation’s annual drive for funds to support those (many of whom are children and youth) with blood cancer. Boys have been given an info page and permission forms for parents to sign and a sponsor form.

At lunchtime (for year 7’s) on 10th March, and for the rest of the school on 17th March, participating boys (and staff) will have their hair either shaved or coloured. Shaves will be at length 1 or 2. There will be no “designs”. The non-permanent colour can wash out the same day, if required.

Boys participating need to get sponsors who will pay for them to shave or to colour. Sponsors can be family, friends, neighbours, employers, local shops and businesses ... or boys earning money can contribute themselves. Homeroom teachers have a list of those who wish to participate – but boys need parental permission and permission forms signed. Money is to be handed in on the Monday before the shave/colour dates of 10th and 17th.

You will start seeing ads on TV and in the papers for this event, nationwide. Please get behind it so we can do our bit for this important cause. Thanks.

Mr P Rohan | Coordinator Student Wellbeing / Counsellor
The Mad Scientists are back at Simonds and we have more new and exciting things to do together! We have several newly purchased model-making kits, which include building your own robotic spider, making a solar chopper, a solar maze and a solar house. We have new helicopters to fly when we are investigating flight and gravity, and a number of Planetarium Interactive Touch Pad Learning Systems. Of course, we have more documentaries to watch and numerous experiments to undertake. We are open to all students from Years 7-10 who have a passion for science!

Please speak to your Science teacher for more information!

Miss Fisher | Science Faculty Manager

Student Leadership Camp

During Term 4 2016, the Student Leadership Team for 2017 was finalised. In order to be selected the students passed a nomination process, followed by a formal interview. Officially their roles as leaders of the school started on the first day of school this year. However, during December last year when all other students had finished for the year, the 2017 Student Leaders got together for a camp in Torquay. The camp had four objectives:

- Create a cohesive Student Leadership Team
- Establish the expectations of a Student Leader
- Provide opportunities for students to improve their leadership skills
- Plan student events for 2017

Without the use of their phones, some of the students were nervous, but once we got out on the road everyone started to get excited. During the two day camp the student leaders participated in many different activities requiring leadership skills. In addition to various planning sessions, they did all the shopping and cooking for the camp, worked together to complete problem solving tasks, completed an ‘Amazing Race’ in small teams, performed some stress reduction exercises and practiced their public speaking.

Congratulations to all the members of the Student Leadership Team for their appointments in 2017. Thank you to 2016 Polding House Captain, John Nguyen, who as a past student leader attended the camp to help mentor some of the younger students. Thank you also to Mr Rohan for attending the camp and generously sharing his wisdom and enthusiasm.
Term 1, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>ACC Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>College Board Meeting No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>House Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Family Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Japanese Study Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp @ Toolangi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mass of St Patrick for Melbourne Archdiocese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Year 8 1000 steps @ Ferntree Gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Japan Study Tour begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>ACC Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>11am End of Term Assembly @ St Brigid’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Public Notices

Now Accepting Applicants for 2018 Rotary Youth Exchange!

Are you a Year 9, 10 or 11 student? You may qualify as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and have the opportunity to live and study in Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, Hungary, Norway, Spain, Poland, or Switzerland.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is a unique opportunity for students to experience the culture of a new country, to learn a new language and develop new friendships.

Applications are now being accepted and close on Saturday 8th April 2017. Students must be under the age of 17 years and 6 months, as at 1st January in the year of departure.

Further information is available from -

www.rotaryyouthexchangedistrict9800.com.au

Vanda Mullen Chair: District 9800 Youth Exchange
0408 109 368, vmullen@netspace.net.au

The Information and Enrolment session for students and parents for years 7-12 is on February 7 at 4pm in The Hotham Room Level, North Melbourne Library

Run by The Centre and the North Melbourne Library the regular session time is Wednesdays 3.30pm-5pm throughout school terms.

Cost $36 per term ($26 concession).

TeachingMe connects students with teachers and tutors in any area of study across Melbourne.

looking for a tutor or classes outside of school?

teachingme.com

Learn a new language?
Experience a different culture?
You can have all of this in 2018
- With Rotary Youth Exchange -

If you are in year 9, 10 or 11 in 2017 you can apply now

For further information contact

District 9800 Rotary Youth Exchange
Phone: Gabrielle Morgan, 0419 398 507 or
Email: loftandmorgan@ozemail.com.au

www.rotaryyouthexchangedistrict9800.com.au