FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Mr Peter Riordan

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth of Nations member states since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty, following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919. The day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of World War 1 on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended “at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month”, in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12am and 5.20am that morning. The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on the 28 June 1919. Importantly, and in a most respectful manner, the Simonds Catholic College community gathered on Friday morning to mark this occasion and remember those who fought and died for our freedom, and made enormous sacrifices in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war.

I am pleased to report that the VCE Unit 3&4 Examinations are well under way, and in fact many of our Year 12 students are close to, or have completed their final exam for 2016. Whilst it is an exciting time in the lives of our Year 12 students as their secondary schooling comes to completion, it is also an anxious wait for them until their results are released on December 12.

Finally, I would take this opportunity to ask you to save the date for our End of Year Family Mass and Awards Evening which will be held on Monday December 5 at 7pm. It would be terrific to see as many families as possible on this night to celebrate the conclusion of another school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and woman who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God; May God give peace, God give peace For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; May God give us peace.

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; May God give peace, God give peace For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity; May God give peace.

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; May God give peace, God give peace For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace. May God give peace.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

End of Year Family Mass and Awards Evening December 5, 2016 @ 7.00pm
On October 12, the Year 10 cohort was waiting excitedly for their Social with the girls from St Aloysius College that night. Throughout the day the anticipation was clear as students were mentally preparing one another to talk to the girls from St Aloysius and planning the night ahead.

The night began with students from both schools making a slow arrival. Once inside, one of the Simonds Student Leaders threw away their pride and approached a girl for a chat. This broke the ice and resulted in many connections between the guys and girls. It was great to see many teachers come out of their shell and dance with the students, busting out their best moves and showing the Year 10’s their groove.

On behalf of the Year 10 body, I would like to thank everyone who attended and the staff from Simonds and St Aloysius who planned a great night. We hope there are many more like this in the future.

Over the past few weeks, students in year 10 have been participating in the Australian Share Market ASX game. I was very heartened to observe the enthusiasm shown by all the syndicates involved throughout the game period.

Students from all over Australia were given the opportunity to learn how the Stock Market operated and the methods of trading. In the Game, students could buy and sell shares in top 200 nominated companies listed on the ASX. Once they formed groups and were given a fictitious $50,000 to play with, students soon realised the nature of the share market. Fortunes were made and lost. Some chose to trade impulsively and then got cold feet and sold again, only to see their sold stock improve again. This gave students the realisation that research of company profiles was imperative to understand the nature of trading in stocks.

This was a very mixed market with some big falls at the start of the Game. We then saw the market start to recover only to turn downwards again as the Game came to a close. This made it a difficult market to invest in.

I am pleased to report that a syndicate at Simonds achieve 2nd place in Victoria. Congratulations to “Aeroplane Jelly” syndicate (Bill Theodorakis, Kevin Nguyen, and Max Capacchione)
Parent Wellbeing Team:

Under the leadership of Santo Magro, the parent wellbeing team has arranged for 3 parent evenings in 2017.

Our newly-introduced VIP card will be issued to all who attend on the first evening. Parents who attend the second and third evenings will have their VIP card stamped on the evening – and Mr. P Riordan, Principal, will be awarding a “reward” for all parents with 3 stamps on their VIP card in term 4.

News of the first evening appears below.

Please put this date in your calendar.

Change & Transition evening - 28 February, 6.30pm-8pm.

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.

Naturally, we all hope that the changes are seamless and smooth – sometimes they are and sometimes they’re not.

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 to speak with his parent about changes from primary to secondary; a Year 11 student 2016 and his parent to speak about the change from Year 10 to VCE; a 2016 student from Brisbane and his Melbourne relative speaking about the change from a previous school to Simonds; and an unrelated parent and student speaking about changes and challenges they have experienced and how best they have managed these.

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

The alumni wellbeing team consists of past students of SCC who have returned to the College, interested to give back to the College and its students. The group consists of students from 2012 and 2015. This year, they have delivered a number of pastoral care sessions to the Year 12 cohort on “study” and “life after school”. They have also delivered sessions to the Year 10 cohort on the topic of “respectful relationships”. The alumni team speak with real credibility and are able to share insights and conversation that is suited to their audience. We are very fortunate that these young men have offered their services to the school and we appreciate them and their good, effective work.

Student Wellbeing Team

Two members of the Student Wellbeing Team, Joseph Papandrea and Finnian Eaton (Year 10) recently presented to a year 8 homeroom on the topic of “violence against women”. The presentation was fact-based and drew upon recent Australian statistics. The statistics painted a frightening picture – but the good news is, that such violence is wholly preventable with the right mindset and corrective action. Feedback from the pastoral care teacher and students was very positive. Well done boys!

All the best

Mr P Rohan | Coordinator of Student Wellbeing / Counsellor