Last year, Simonds Catholic College underwent its cyclical four-year Review under the auspices of the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEM). One of the recommendations that came out of the Review was to re-visit our Mission and Vision Statement for the first time since the College was established in 1996. It has certainly been an enriching task working with our school community in re-aligning what our Mission and Vision really is in 2016, and importantly what we value as a school. In coming weeks, it is our intention to display our new look Mission and Vision Statement in classrooms, other teaching spaces and to imbed it in our school Policies.

In a new initiative at Simonds Catholic College, we are now running a Breakfast Club on Tuesday mornings at the St Mary’s Campus where students can purchase a toasted cheese sandwich and a warm cup of Milo for only 50 cents. Two students: James Blay & Max Demopoulos under the guidance of Mrs Koutoulogenis have done a great job in establishing the Breakfast Club and may even expand it to other days of the week, if successful, in the future. I would also take this opportunity to thank Danihers Facility Management for their grant of $1500 to help this Simonds Catholic College initiative get off the ground.

On August 4-6 2016, four of our students are joining with the students of St Aloysius, North Melbourne to perform in the musical Annie. This is the first time in a number of years that our students have combined with St Aloysius in a production and it would be terrific if you could support them by attending one of the performances. Annie tickets are available at www.trybooking.com/203508

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

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PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 IN KRAKOW

God, merciful Father,
in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the comforter, we entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every man and woman.

We entrust to you in a special way young people of every language, people and nation: guide and protect them as they walk the complex paths of the world today and give them the grace to reap abundant fruits from their experience of the Krakow World Youth Day.

Heavenly Father,
Grant that we may bear witness to your mercy. Teach us how to convey the faith to those in doubt, hope to those who are discouraged, love to those who have done wrong and joy to those who are unhappy.
Allow the spark of merciful love that you have en-kindled within us become a fire that can transform hearts and renew the face of the earth.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for us.

St John Paul II, pray for us.
Parent Teacher Interviews @ 11 August

Semester One Reports were distributed to students on the last day of Term 2. Parent-Teacher Interviews to discuss student progress in Semester One will be conducted on Thursday 11 August from 2.00pm – 6.00pm for all year levels. Students across both campuses will be dismissed at lunchtime on this day. Access codes for the online booking portal (PTO) were sent home with all students last week – the portal can be accessed by clicking on the PTO icon found on the home page of the school website and using your unique login and PIN.

Book early for a better chance at securing your preferred times. All Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place at the St Mary’s 7-10 Campus.

Please note the following points:

- When you log on, the system displays only your own child/children.
- You will only see time slots that are available at the time you are using the system. As time slots are booked for teachers, those time slots are no longer displayed as available.
- When you have made all the bookings you require, you can download or email a report of your bookings in time order for printing. You can log on and change bookings any time up to 12 noon on the day of interviews. Please bring a copy of your appointments with you.
- If you encounter any problems using PTO please contact the school office.

2017 Subject Selections

Year 10 → VCE

The VCE Information Night was held on Wednesday 20 July. As a follow up Year 10 students will participate in Taster Classes in the next two weeks for the various VCE subjects in the Science and Humanities areas. Mrs Pradel will address the Year Level regarding Maths options and appropriate choices.

Careers Advice Interviews for Year 10

Year 10 students and families are advised that it is expected that all students will make an appointment to meet with Mrs Mandy Ellwood, our Careers Advisor before finalising VCE subjects. Mrs Ellwood will be available all day on 4, 5, 11 & 12 August at the St Mary’s 7-10 Campus. Sessions will be available until 6pm during the Parent-Teacher Interviews on 11 August should you wish to be present. All appointments are to be made via PTO using the same login details provided for parent-teacher interviews.

Year 9 → Year 10

An information booklet summarising the structure of Year 10 offerings in 2017 is enclosed with this newsletter for all parents of Year 9 students. An Information Session for students will be held Period 5, Friday 5 August. Year 9 students will be provided with the 2017 Year 10 Subject Handbook electronically prior to this information session.

Year 8 → Year 9

Year 8 students will be provided with the 2017 Year 9 Subject Handbook electronically in the next few weeks. This handbook will outline the elective structure at Year 9.

Students currently in Years 8 through to Year 11 who will be continuing at Simonds Catholic College will be required to select their preferred subject choices for 2017 by Monday 22 August using an online portal.

Mrs H Koutoulogenis
Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching) | Head of St Mary’s Campus
**Youth Violence and Crime:**

We have all read and watched in these past weeks, as the media has reported some disturbing trends in the incidence of youth crime in Victoria. While, the majority of young people are law-abiding, socially-responsible people, there are some who place themselves outside the bounds of law and behave criminally and despicably.

The people most often in contact with young people are parents and teachers. It is imperative that these adults draw strong boundaries around their children, having clear and strong rules that govern their behaviour and their social interactions. There exists a plethora of research that states, time and again, that young people NEED and EXPECT firm boundaries from adults. Yes, they will buck against them ... AND they will object in the strongest terms. Firm, fair and clear boundaries assure young people that they are cared for. Boundaries also recognise that young people lack experience and need to be informed, guided and corrected by adults.

Parents need to have home rules – they need to ensure that children assist in the running of the home – they need firm consequences (the old-fashioned word is “punishment”) when expected behaviours are not shown – they need to know where their children are when they are not at home – they (not their children) need to set a time when they will return home from being out – they need the contact details of the people that their children spend time with – they need the authority to ban their children from being with people whom they consider bad influences on their children (and have every right to expect to be obeyed). All these should be non-negotiable – it’s just what parents need to insist upon!

Teachers need to be able to communicate that classrooms and playgrounds are places where boundaries exist for both individual and common good. Students should expect that firm consequences apply for non-adherence to fair boundaries.

Boundaries allow young people to understand what acceptable behaviour is and what is not. Crime and violence are unacceptable, anti-social, punishable behaviours. As parents and teachers, we can (must) do “our bit” to help keep youth crime and violence far from our children.

**Wellbeing Teams:**

The Student Wellbeing Team (SWT) is currently preparing a set of two presentations to the Year 7 cohort on “friendship – harms and helps” and also senior members are preparing a “survival kit” for their Year 12 cohort that includes helpful resources as they move beyond school.

The Alumni Wellbeing Team (AWT), having presented two sessions for Year 12 on “life beyond year 12” are now preparing presentations on different topics, to Years 11 and 10.

The Parent Wellbeing Team (PWT) is discussing and preparing for another parent evening to be held this semester.

**Counselling:**

The numbers accessing the counselling service are substantial – 62 students have availed of counselling assistance so far this year – a large number in a school of our size! Sometimes, it is not easy to speak of concerns and deeply private matters – and many of our students show real fortitude in coming forward. It is heartening to know that our boys are prepared to access assistance, as required, and are prepared to enter into (sometimes) difficult conversations for the purpose of growth.

Mr P Rohan | Coordinator Student Wellbeing / Counsellor
The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is in full swing with 63 students registered, 3 students completed and many others well on the way to meeting the Challenge. The Reading Challenge, supported by the Library and the English Faculty, is a vital part of the College’s commitment to the enhancement of our students’ literacy skills. As an added incentive House Points are awarded to those students completing the Challenge.

Please encourage and support your sons as they move into the final weeks of the Challenge which ends on September 9.

The Bookies, our small but enthusiastic Book Club, meets every Friday at Lunch in the Library. All welcome!

Ms J Dymond | Librarian

Staff Faith Day

‘Working for the Kingdom of God’ was a series of lectures presented by Dr Ernesto Valiente, from the School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College. Staff from Simonds Catholic College gathered with staff at Caroline Chisholm College for a Professional Development Faith Day. We were invited to listen, discuss and question various topics. The first presentation ‘The Quest for the Historical Jesus’ explored the roots, development, and limitations of our historical study of Jesus. After morning tea Dr Emesto presented ‘The Ministry of Jesus and the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God’. This presentation drew from the most recent scriptural research to consider Jesus’s ministry and mission. The third presentation explored why the option for the underprivileged is not optional but an integral part of the Christian vocation.

Ms M Krall | Religious Education Coordinator

World Youth Day 2016

This year World Youth Day is in Krakow, Poland. Students from Simonds Catholic College, Shaan Reis Yr11, and Joshua Bowker Yr10, are pilgrims meeting with many other young people to participate in World Youth Day. Shaan and Joshua have been preparing for the trip to Poland for many months and now have arrived at their destination. They will be taking part in the opening, reflection and the Mass to be celebrated by Pope Francis. At the same time in Melbourne, Yr10 students, David Babula, Timmy Cu and Charles Wolff will be taking part in the World Youth Day – Local Experience at St Bede’s College, Mentone. In this, the Year of Mercy, the students will gather for the day for workshops, reflection and much more.

Ms M Krall | Religious Education Coordinator