All families would have received their son’s Semester One report which was posted home at the end of Term Two. Hopefully, the Semester One report was able to give all students a clear indication of how they were performing in their studies in the first half of the year, and to then assist them in setting their academic goals for the second half of the year. Further to this, Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday August 20 at the St Mary’s Campus from 2 – 6pm. Login information details were enclosed with your son’s report, and I look forward to seeing you on this evening.

SIF Surveys were recently sent to all families. The completion of these surveys is very important as the College sets its Strategic Goals for the next four years. The surveys can be completed online or sent back to the College in a hard copy. The deadline for the completion of the Surveys is Friday August 7.

Last Wednesday, our Senior Pathways Information Evening was held at St Brigid’s Campus where a large number of tertiary institutions set up stalls and information booths to provide relevant information to our Year 10 students, as they begin the critical process of their subject selection for 2016. The evening was a real success due to the diligent and thorough organisation of our Careers Counsellor, Mrs Mandy Ellwood and Deputy Principal, Mr Robert Anastasio, and particularly their liaison with the Tertiary Institutions. In mid August all Year 10 students will receive assistance with their subject selection through Careers Counselling.

Next Friday promises to be an exciting day as we celebrate our LOTE (Cultural) day. Thank you to Mr Di Fabrizzio, Ms Sandra Morello and Ms Yao have put a great deal of work into making this a real celebration of our Italian and Japanese Languages and Cultures on the St Mary’s Campus. The day includes all sorts of activities ranging from sports/games, cooking, history, art and a fashion parade! I am sure there will be much colour, excitement and fun throughout the course of the day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

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**The Blessing of Winter**

In the heart of winter, let us give thanks for the many quiet blessings of this season.

We give thanks for the blessing of winter:
- Seasons to cherish the heart.
- To make warmth and quiet for the heart.
- To make soups and broths for the heart.
- To cook for the heart and read for the heart.
- To curl up softly and nestle with the heart.
- To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.
- To dream with the heart.
- To spend time with the heart.
- A long, long time of peace with the heart.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.
May we be planted and grounded in love and grow in all ways into Christ.

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**LOTE Day arrangements @ St Mary’s:**
- **Homeroom:** 9:15am - 9:30am
- **Activities:** 9:30 - 2:30pm
- **Dismissal:** 2:30pm

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*Michael Leunig*

*Jahann Wolfgang von Goethe*
Teaching and Learning: Professional Learning Teams

This year as part of the teaching and learning professional development program at Simonds Catholic College, all teachers are involved in Professional Learning Teams. Currently VCE staff are involved in researching and devising programs in relation to: student homework and study habits, how to foster independent learners and how to differentiate and address the learning abilities of a mixed ability classroom at VCE.

Professional Learning Team: How to foster independent learners at VCE

Our students can access information at the touch of a button. Whether they google the answer on their phone, discover opinion pieces online or an app that completes their mathematics homework, the capabilities of the latest technology is amazing. Yet, it is felt that students are not utilising these technologies, rather, relying on the teacher to be the one source of information. Whilst many teachers use a variety of resources to relay concepts, we ask students to do the same, which in turn will create independent and inquisitive learners. Research has found that the pupils who take charge of their learning – both inside the classroom and beyond, are more confident in facing challenges, as well as focused in achieving goals.

Our Professional Learning Team has focused on strengthening independent learning, not only for school, but the learning that takes place after their schooling has been completed. Our aim is to highlight and focus on students actively seeking goals, creating self-purpose and encouraging creativity. Through our extensive research, we believe we have created an important stepping stone and guide, to help educate our boys to become 

autonomous independent learners.

The six step guide includes:

1. **Curiosity**: want to find out more advanced things about the world
2. **Persistence**: don’t give up
3. **Accountability**: constant review of the task
4. **Critical Thinking**: doing without being told
5. **Self-examination**: recognize students own strengths and weaknesses.
6. **Self-Motivation**: students set their own internal goals to achieve.

How this will be enforced is that all six goals will be displayed in every classroom across the VCE campus in 2016. All students will be asked to focus on where they believe they need to improve and also to evaluate what needs to be done in order to achieve success in their learning areas.

It is hoped that this will improve the motivation of our students as well as their academic success in VCE. We are excited to put this program in place and determine whether this program can help foster independent learning.

Professional Learning Team: Mr M Roland, Mr T Smith, Ms H Tan

Finance

$225 Financial Assistance for Parents

Deadline for submission of the CSEF Application Form has been extended to Friday September 18 (End of Term 3). To date we have had an excellent response and we encourage anyone who has not applied to do so immediately. In order to be eligible your Health Care Card must be valid on either April 13, 2015 or July 13, 2015.

If you have any queries please contact Ms Cindy Tran or Mr Matthew Rocke.

School Fees

Many of you would now have been contacted either by phone/SMS/email following up on overdue school fees. We understand that some families are facing financial hardship and it is important that each of those families contact the Business Manager, Mr Matthew Rocke, to discuss their individual situations.

Reminder Statements have been sent to all families so you have an accurate record of your current financial position. For those families paying by Term Instalments, September 30 is the final due date for payment.
Is your son sleep deprived?

Did you know that it is recommended that adolescents have nine hours of sleep per night ... and that bedrooms need to be bedrooms (and not entertainment centres)?

Read why this is so at the following link from “parenting ideas”. You can login to “parenting ideas” with the username simondscc and the password 3003.


Parents must “win”:

The strength of any relationship is tested by disagreement. There’s no doubt that “good times” are preferable to “bad times” ... but it’s precisely in awkwardness and difficulty (the so-called “bad times”) that the strength of relationships are tested. When parents need to stand their ground and have serious disagreement with their sons, it’s not all bad news. This is the time when parents can be strong educators and very significant adults in the lives of their sons. All writers and educators on the topic of adolescent growth and development stress the need for young people to have boundaries made clear by parents... to be communicated to their children... and to have appropriate consequences known and expected for breaching of boundaries. In this way, young people are guided to know what is personally and socially accepted. Of course, if parents don’t set the boundaries, young people are likely to use the peer group as a source of boundary-setting (with the problems that inevitably follow). Boundaries need to modify and change as the young person grows and matures (in an awareness that maturation does not necessarily coincide with age).

Mr P Rohan | Coordinator of Student Wellbeing / Counsellor

A Day To Celebrate Language And Culture At Simonds - St Mary’s 7-10 Campus

To study another language and culture has so many benefits. Learning about another culture can provide a window through which students can deepen their understanding of their own culture and the world. This is particularly important in an increasingly globalised world.

There is also strong evidence that the study of another language has a ripple effect, improving cognitive function and improving student performance in other subjects.

Aside from that, the two languages that students study at Simonds, Japanese and Italian, have an amazingly rich history and culture.

What better reason to have a day to celebrate the study of language and culture at Simonds!

So, on Friday 7 August students and staff at our St Mary’s Campus will take a day to celebrate the language and culture of these two languages.

On the day regular scheduled classes will be abandoned and instead students will participate in a variety of activities that will engage and enlighten them on various aspects of the two cultures, such as food, sport and art. Prizes will be offered to the best performing student in each activity.

At lunch there will be a soccer match between two teams representing each country – the Japanese Ninjas and the Italian Stallions, a gelati truck and the canteen will serve pizza and sushi.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE DAY:

- Students will arrive at school by 9.15am and be dismissed at 2.30pm.
- Students will not wear the College uniform but are encouraged to come dressed in the colours of the Japanese or Italian flag and bring or wear a fancy dress costume related to either of the two cultures.
- There will be a parade and prize for the best costume at the end of the day – come as your favourite soccer player, Manga character, Mafioso – use your imagination!

Mr G Di Fabrizio, Ms Y Yao & Ms S Morello | LOTE Faculty
Dear Simonds Community,

In September 2015 Simonds Catholic College in association with Marian College (Catholic Girls school in Sunshine) will be co-hosting a group of students from our Italian sister school: Liceo Classico “Dante Alighieri” of Rimini, Italy.

Welcoming international students amongst us is a unique enriching opportunity for our College.

Simonds Catholic College is now in the process of finding families who could host the visiting students. We ask the hosting families to provide accommodation, some meals and to give our visitors an idea of what Australian lifestyle and family life is like.

The Italian students (boys, 14/15 years old) will be arriving on Wednesday 2 September 2015 and will depart Friday 11 (9 nights in total). They will be going to school in the morning while in the afternoon they will visit Melbourne most iconic places. Simonds students (buddies) from hosting families will also have the opportunity to join their Italian mates in all the excursions and events that have already been organized for our Italian sister school.

I strongly encourage all Simonds Catholic College families (and in particular those whose boys are studying the Italian language) from any year level to take advantage of this opportunity. It will certainly benefit the boy’s perception of foreign language studies and will enhance their appreciation for other cultures. It will be also a great chance for the whole family to establish new friendships. Our Italian partners in turn will host Simonds students in September 2016.

Please give this request your consideration, in the true spirit of hospitality we would like to offer our guests a typical Australian experience.

If you are interested in hosting one of these students please complete the form below and return to me as soon as possible. For more information please contact me via email: gdifabrizio@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au or phone the school on 9321 9200.

Mr G Di Fabrizio | LOTE Faculty Manager

ITALIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE 2015 RETURN SLIP

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Son’s name at Simonds Catholic College

Name: ___________________________ Homeroom: ___________________________

I am interested in hosting a student from Italy from September 2 to September 11, 2015

Signature ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please return slip to Mr Di Fabrizio