Dear Parents,

As the year has come to an end, the excitement has been quite tangible at Simonds Catholic College as students and staff have said farewell to each other for the last time; as they celebrate the completion and hard work of another year.

The Christmas Liturgy held in the General Purpose Room on Thursday 5th December for Year 7, 8 & 9 students was a wonderful celebration and a great way for the year to finish. Mrs Maryanne Kral, our Religious Coordinator designed a very meaningful and symbolic Liturgy, which was highlighted by a gift of $1500 to Caritas Australia, and a large donation of presents to the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the marginalised and less fortunate in our society. Both of these donations were made possible through our social justice fundraisers held during the year. It is important that we continue to further develop these excellent social justice initiatives into 2014 and beyond.

As I reflect on my first year as Principal, I really wonder where the year has gone as it seems to have passed by so very quickly, which I think is a really positive sign. I must say that I am extremely grateful for the welcome and support I have received from all members of the Simonds Catholic College community throughout 2013, and I am certainly looking forward to forging even stronger relationships with staff, students and parents in the coming years.

Finally, as the 2013 academic year finishes, may I wish all families at Simonds Catholic College a safe, happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Riordan
Principal

Farewell to Staff

This year we are farewelling a number of staff from Simonds Catholic College. In 2014 Ms Cristy Alevizos, Ms Nesrin Solano and Ms Kathleen Flynn (until T.4) will all be on Maternity Leave.

After 23 years of dedicated service Ms Tania Monaco is resigning her position to spend more time with her family. Ms Megan Carton has resigned her position to pursue career options outside of teaching whilst Mr Fabrizio Ghio, Mr Peter Murphy and Mr Peter Law have all been appointed to teaching positions in other schools, and we wish them every success with their move.

Our ICT Manager, Mr Gavin Liu will be finishing at Simonds Catholic College after 2 years. Also our LOTE Assistant Mr Francesco Branchi will be returning home to Italy after a year with us at Simonds Catholic College. On behalf of the Simonds Catholic College Community I thank all of these staff members for the generous contribution they have made in their time here.
The Social Justice and Liturgy Group of 2013/2014 had the opportunity to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This was a great opportunity to meet other young Catholics, from across Australia and to attend workshops to help develop faith and leadership skills. Over the three day festival, we attended various workshops from groups such as: Young Vinnies, Caritas and Young Christian Workers. We also listened to guess speakers including, David Jorna (Influential Leadership), Christine Carolan (Issues with Human Trafficking), James Camden (More than the badge), Fr Chris Brian (Force of Nature) and Archbishop Christopher Prowse (Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn and chairperson of the Australian Bishop Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations). Archbishop Prowse, gave us a sensational and inspirational talk on the purpose of prayer and the importance of Christian love from Jesus. Alfonso Zampogna, Gabriel Gomez, Niall Murphy, Daniel Cubias, Richard Prescilla and Gustavo Arbizu gained many unique experiences to help develop faith and new ways to promote Social Justice for 2014. I would to thank Mr Riordan for giving us the opportunity to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2013.

Mr F Ghio - ACYF Group Coordinator

News from VCAL

We had a very successful Afternoon Tea Party. All 5 VCAL students were involved in the preparation and planning of this event.

It was exciting to have all the invited guests turned up which made a great difference to the students’ morale! We were sorry that we could not cater for all Simonds staff but that might be our goal for future.

The students worked really hard in the kitchen despite the heat. We would like to thank all the teachers and staff at Simonds Catholic College for their support and the acknowledgement they have given to the students throughout the year! Without all your support, VCAL would not be running so smoothly.

We have made a short movie clip from yesterday for those staff and friends who were not there with us at the afternoon tea. Please follow the link as per below:

http://tinyurl.com/VCAL-Afternoon-Tea-2013

This is the desert plate from the Afternoon Tea! Thanks Father Luciano for the photo!

Ms H Tan – VCAL Coordinator

Congratulations to Ms Yoko Yao

Staff member Ms Yoki Yao was recently awarded a 2014 Endeavour Language Teaching Fellowship. The ELTF Program is an intensive study program in Japan in January, 2014. The study program will involve 6-8 hrs of classroom tuition and/or field trips per day for 18 days.

On behalf of Simonds Catholic College I wish Yoko all the best as she undertakes this exciting opportunity.

Mr P Riordan – Principal

ATAR Results

Results and ATARs are available from Monday 16 December. To ensure they are offered a place, students can change preferences until 12noon on 23 December via their VTAC Account. Mrs Ellwood and Mr Anastasio will be available to assist students on Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 December.

Ms M Ellwood - Careers Counsellor
Years 7-9 gathered to celebrate Advent in preparation for Christmas. Advent began in the early Church as a time for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ child, God’s gift of his Son who came to bring us salvation and eternal life. It was a time of waiting, prayer and giving to the poor.

During the Liturgy of prayer and sacred song, representatives from Caritas and St Vincent de Paul were presented with gifts for the underprivileged.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students read prayers while Year 8 musicians played the piano as Mr Riordan read the questions for reflection.

Thank you to all students and our staff musicians, Mr Tumer and Mr Di Fabrizio for making the Christmas Liturgy a sacred experience.

Christmas blessings to all and best wishes for the New Year.

Ms M Krall – Religious Education Coordinator

### 2013 Student Awards

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<tr>
<th>Excellence Award</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Excellence Award Year 10 Cont.</th>
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<td>HPE</td>
<td>Kurt Adamciewicz</td>
<td>VCE: General Maths Van Nguyen</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>Riley Barbolo</td>
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### Leadership Award

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<td>Yr 8</td>
<td>ADF Long Tan Leadership Alfonso Zampogna</td>
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<td>Social Justice Award Gabriel Gomez</td>
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<td>Yr 10</td>
<td>Sportsman of the Year Xu Wang Liao</td>
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<td>Kwong Le Dow Young Scholar Michael Au</td>
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<td>Justin Simonds Award Student Hung Ho</td>
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