It really is quite extraordinary to realise how quickly the year passes us by - as you receive this newsletter we are already into the month of August. Interestingly, school life also seems to move just as quickly with many events and activities taking place in the first three weeks of Term 3.

On Friday 18 July we welcomed back last year’s Yr 12 class as we held our Year 12, 2013 Re-Visited Evening in the Study Centre at St Brigid’s. It was a very enjoyable evening as more than thirty students came back to Simonds Catholic College and shared stories of their life after Simonds, and also reflected on their school days during their time at Simonds Catholic College. I know staff who attended also enjoyed re-connecting with their former students in an informal night such as this.

Curriculum planning has already started for 2015, as Senior students begin to make choices that will shape their future careers. Our VCE Information Evening which was held last week, was very well attended, and was also the catalyst for students to hear from various speakers about the different Pathways and opportunities that are available to them in coming years.

The refurbishment of the classrooms in A Building and the General Purpose Room on the St Mary’s Campus is well under way. The five classrooms and corridors in the A building are almost unrecognisable as builders have stripped the inside of these areas back to bare walls. At this stage, the renovations are well on target to be completed by the end of Term 3, with students hopefully moving into these refurbished areas for the start of Term 4.

Finally, I would remind all families that Wednesday 6 August is a Staff Professional Learning Day with no scheduled classes on either Campus.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on 21 August at the St Brigid’s Campus. Login codes were sent home last week. Students will be dismissed at lunchtime on this day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

Reflection

God is no miser. He does not grudgingly give out his blessings, a little here and a little there. He is merciful, generous and kind. And the love he shows to us is passionate and deep. Jesus told his disciples: ‘I have come that those who follow me may have life and have it abundantly’ (Jn 10: 10)

An excerpt from Archbishop Hart’s Pentecost Letter to Youth 2014
Global Faith was the focus for the Staff Spirituality Day held at Treacy Centre, Parkville. The staff took time to reflect on their own faith journey and explored the unique opportunity to work together with our students in a multi-faith setting in a Catholic school. The first session was conducted by Megan Bourke who coordinates the Southern and Melbourne Metropolitan Region of Caritas Australia. Megan gave a lecture and workshop based on the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to assist educators to embed global social justice across the whole school curriculum. Caritas Australia’s Education Program offers many resources with specific Australian Curriculum links. After a delicious morning tea, David Nyuol Vincent, ‘One of the Lost Boys of South Sudan’ spoke of his courageous plight to survive famine, civil war and 17 years in a refugee camp. David shared his story with us and how his faith in God was tested during this traumatic time. After lunch, Liz O’Connell, a teacher at St. Joseph’s College in Geelong, presented a power point of her experience in South Sudan where she taught teachers to teach through solidarity. Spirituality Day 2014 provided an opportunity for staff to listen, discuss and reflect on how we as a community can continue to ‘aspire not to have more, but to be more.’

Mrs M Krall | Religious Education Coordinator

Simonds Third in So You Think You Can Design

Congratulations to Johny Pham and Matthew Scicluna for coming third in this years state wide “So You Think You Can Design” competition. So You Think You Can Design is an annual competition and the finals series, which the boys competed in, is held over two days during the Design and Technology Teacher Association Victoria conference. Through a series of design challenges students are asked to think creatively and develop solutions to particular design problems over a range of different disciplines. With iPad Minis on offer for first place the competition was fierce. The boys worked very hard and met all design briefs and produced some very imaginative product solutions. Unfortunately the judging didn’t go their way; however the boys and the school should be extremely proud of their efforts. With any luck next year we might see Simonds students take first place. With our current Product Design & Technology program I believe Simonds is developing some very creative designers, and it is only a matter of time before the So You Think You Can Design trophy is ours. Thank you again to Johny and Matthew for their time and effort and paving the way to future success for Simonds Catholic College.

Mr E Nikolaidis | Product Design & Technology Teacher
During the last week of Term 2, all Year 9 students were involved in the second part of the “Off Campus” program. This included experiences relating to the historical, social, sporting and cultural aspects of the City of Melbourne.

Excursions included the Old Melbourne Gaol, Parliament House, MCG tour, Melbourne Museum, Melbourne Magistrate’s Court and the Big Issue. Students undertook an investigation of a particular issue relating to the City of Melbourne, and presented projects to parents at the end of the week to demonstrate their findings.

The City Experience week was a great chance for students to demonstrate their abilities to work independently, to meet deadlines and to make decisions within their small working groups. The Year 9 staff worked alongside students guiding them throughout the process. My thanks go to all students who worked well during the week, and in particular to staff members who provided the necessary support and assistance.

Year 9 students are presently seeking placements for their Community Service week which will run in the last week of Term 3, from Monday 15 September to Friday 19 September. This promises to be a great experience for our students as they reach out to assist in areas where they are able to offer service to many different organisations. Some boys will be returning to their Primary Schools to assist with junior student programs whilst others will be attending Aged Care Homes to provide assistance and company for elderly citizens or numerous other welfare organisations.

Mr K Turner | Year 9 Level Coordinator

**ACC Sport Update**

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**Senior Basketball**

**Round 1 vs. Emmanuel**
(A) SIM def EMM 12 – 92
(B) SIM def by EMM 5 – 62
Best:

**Round 2 vs. Salesian**
(A) SIM def SAL 10 – 81
(B) SIM def by SAL 5 – 52
Best:

**Senior Table Tennis**

**Round 1 vs. Emmanuel**
SIM def EMM 13.56 – 2.19

**Round 2 vs. Salesian**
SIM def SAL 10.46 – 5.29

**Year 10 Basketball**

**Round 1 vs. St. Bede’s**
(A) SIM def by EMM 43 – 49
(B) SIM def by EMM 23 – 51
Best:

**Round 2 vs. Whitefriars**
(A) SIM def by WFD 22 – 39
(B) SIM def by WFD 10 – 37
Best:

**Year 10 Table Tennis**

**Round 1 vs. St. Bede’s**
SIM def SBM 12.60 – 3.15

**Round 2 vs. Whitefriars**
SIM def WFD 21.52 – 3.23

**Year 8 Basketball**

**Round 1 vs. Emmanuel**
(A) SIM def EMM 32 – 19
(B) SIM drew EMM 19 – 19
Best:

**Round 2 vs Mazenod**
(A) SIM def MAZ 37 – 21
(B) SIM def by MAZ 10 – 57
Best:
3. Pasquale Curcio 2. Michael Birhane 1. Lachlan Casha

**Year 8 Table Tennis**

**Round 1 vs. Emmanuel**
SIM def EMM 14.65 – 1.10

**Round 2 vs Mazenod**
SIM def by MAZ 4.22 – 11.53

**Round 3 vs. De La Salle**
(A) SIM def by DLS 21 – 83
(B) SIM def by DLS 16 – 64

**Year 10 Basketball**

**Round 1 vs. St. Bede’s**
SIM def EMM 12.60 – 3.15

**Round 2 vs. Whitefriars**
SIM def by WFD 21.52 – 3.23

Mr C Veal | Director of Sport
The recently formed Simonds Multi-Sport Endurance Club represented Simonds Catholic College at the recent Run Melbourne event at Federation square on Sunday 27 July. Ten students from the St Brigid’s Campus took part in the 5km run which started and ended at Federation Square.

Run Melbourne is a major annual run event for Melbourne raising up to $2 million annually for charity. 18000 people took part in numerous run events on the day, with over 5700 in the 5km event.

The Simonds Multi-Sport Endurance club was formed to give Simonds students a chance to experience, as part of the school community, the numerous sporting endurance events such as running, cycling and swimming staged throughout Melbourne and Victoria. It also aims to build students fitness and health as a balance to their academic education.

Students trained after school for the Run Melbourne event where run training was held at Edinburgh gardens in North Fitzroy.

The day of the event provided a fantastic atmosphere, with music, a community atmosphere and a great effort by all the students who took part in the run. Further events are planned for the rest of the year.

Mr K Ladd | Multi-Sport Endurance Club Coordinator

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**Annual Career Expo**

**ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS OF YEAR 7-12 FROM ACADEMY AND SIMONDS**

You are all invited to come along to our Annual Career Expo to be held this year at the Academy of Mary Immaculate on Thursday 7 August, 4.30 – 6.30pm in the Dillon Building. Here you will have the opportunity to meet representatives and special guests from the following institutions and areas of work:

- Australian Catholic University
- Deakin Uni
- Monash Uni
- RMIT Uni / TAFE
- Swinburne Uni / TAFE
- University of Melbourne
- Victoria Uni / TAFE
- Kangan TAFE
- NMIT
- William Angliss
- JMC Academy for Music, Film & Television
- Entertainment, Animation and Game Design
- Academy Sofitel
- the Defence Force
- Victoria Police
- Latitude Gap

Special Guests from – Accounting, Beauty and Makeup, Engineering, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Law, Medicine (from 5.30 – 6.00pm), Music Performance, Psychology, Real Estate, Social Work (from 4.30 – 6.00pm), a Writer-Author and more.......!!

Contact Christine Manolopoulos-Tzikas Careers Consultant at the Academy of Mary Immaculate for any enquiries. Christine.tzikas@academy.vic.edu.au Telephone: 9412 7100

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**125 years of Loreto in Melbourne**

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak is delighted to unveil our commissioned writing of *A Row of Goodly Pearls One Hundred and Twenty-five Years of Loreto in Melbourne* by Jane Mayo Carolan.

Our intriguing history from 1889 covers many stories of kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary education for young women and men. It is a testament to all of the Loreto Sisters and the many others who had the courage and fidelity to pave the way for the founding of Loreto Toorak.

To place your order for this limited edition, hard cover, full colour, 450+ page book, go to www.trybooking.com/FEJE or contact Steve Stefanopoulos.

Postage and pickup from Loreto Toorak available from Monday 15 September 2014.