On Monday 30 November we held our annual Family Mass and End of Year Awards Ceremony. Our theme for the Mass was ‘Thanksgiving’, which of course is very appropriate as our year comes to an end, and we have the opportunity to reflect on the Year that was 2015. The abundance of opportunities that students were offered at Simonds Catholic College in 2015 became even more evident to me when I read our yearbook – The Justinian. In many ways it is a highlights package of the diverse and varied co-curricular events that take place throughout the course of a year. I particularly thank all members of our school community – students, staff and parents – who have contributed to making Simonds Catholic College a better place in 2015. Congratulations to all of the Award winners listed in this newsletter.

It is at this time of year that a number of staff and students leave the College for a variety of reasons. Each of those leaving has contributed to the College Community in their own unique way. We farewell the following staff: Mr Matthew Rocke, Mr Eder Ramos, Mr Kevin Ladd, Mrs Rima Houghton, Mr Tom Smith and Mr Josh Richards. We also wish Ms Nesrin Solano well as she takes maternity leave and look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of her baby.

The President of the North Fitzroy St Vincent De Paul Conference, Mr Alex Rima was extremely appreciative of the many gifts that our students brought in, to be distributed amongst some of those less fortunate members of our wider community in the days leading up to Christmas. Students were challenged to put their “faith into action” and their response in bringing in so many gifts was very encouraging, and will help make Christmas just that little bit better for them this year in 2015.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the staff of Simonds Catholic College for their generosity and commitment to their work on a daily basis. As it is clearly written on our College crest, Simonds Catholic College is a school where students are known, supported and inspired.

May I wish all families a very safe, happy and holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

Advent Reflection

Advent is the beginning of the Church’s Year. It is a time of promise, expectation and participation as we prepare for the great celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Advent is the time we wait in joyful hope for our God to be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. God’s Son became one of us and one with us, to share our human experience fully and completely.
The Years 7-11 Excellence Awards are designed to promote and acknowledge Academic Excellence. The Leadership Awards acknowledge outstanding student leadership, whilst the Justin Simonds Award is presented to a person who lives the values of the Gospel, values education and promotes the Simonds Catholic College community. All of these recipients were presented with their award at our annual Family Mass and Awards Ceremony on, 30 November, 2015.

The recipients of these Awards are as follows:

**Year 7 Excellence Awards**

- Marvin Encena: Health & Physical Education | Humanities
- Jomar Inot: English
- Andrew Le: Religious Education
- Jervin Mabanag: The Arts
- Isaac Molinaro: Technology
- Leonardo Pacioni: Italian | Mathematics | Science
- Kingston Trinh: Japanese

**Year 8 Excellence Awards**

- Alexander Esposito: Religious Education
- Alessandro Fernandes: Technology | The Arts
- William Khouri: Health & Physical Education
- Peter Nguyen: Japanese
- Joshua Slaviero: Italian | Mathematics | Science
- Xavier Volonnino: English | Humanities

**Year 9 Excellence Awards**

- Joshua Bowker: Religious Education
- Steven Chau: Health & Physical Education
- Edward Kwong: Japanese
- Francesco Pacioni: Technology | Science
- Joseph Papandrea: Italian
- Ashane Silva: English | Humanities | Mathematics
- Charles Wolff: The Arts

**Year 10 Excellence Awards**

- Adam Carinci: Italian
- Justin Ho: The Arts
- Thien Huynh: Health & Physical Education
- Calvin Lay: Technology
- Liem Nguyen-Hoang: English
- Thomas Rendle: VCE Health & Human Development
- Anson Tran: VCE Geography
Kevin Van: VCE General Maths | Japanese | Mathematics
Cholo Viray: Science | Religious Education | Humanities | VCE Business Management
Cholo Viray: Year 10 Dux

**Year 11 Excellence Awards**

Gustavo Arbizu Duran: Economics
Christopher Barraza-Purcell: Physical Education
Ricky Bates: General Maths
Jacky Chen: History | Literature | English | Ethics
Thai Le: Accounting
Vinh Le: Food & Technology
John Nguyen: Maths Method
Nam Nguyen: English Language | Legal Studies
Tony Nguyen: Physics
Jean San Juan: Product Design
Daniel Som: Biology
Anthony Titone: Italian
Tan-An Trac: Chemistry

**2015 Leadership Awards**

Sebastian Gronow: Year 7 Leadership Award
Hoang Nguyen: Year 8 Leadership Award
Joshua Bowker: Year 9 Leadership Award
Godwin Makabory: Year 10 Leadership Award
Curtis Reeder: Year 11 Leadership Award

Thien Huynh: CALTEX Best All Rounder Award
Niall Murphy: Social Justice Award
Raymond Lieu: Sportsman of The Year Award

Joshua Jennings: Justin Simonds Award
Triet Luu: Justin Simonds Award
Helping young people deal with horrifying news

Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms and onto our devices via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

But what about the impact of the event and the subsequent media coverage on children and young people?

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as terror attacks. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when such events fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society?

Michael Grose at his “parenting ideas” website, offers the following 8 points for your consideration.

1. Reassure children that they are safe. The consistency of the images can be frightening for young people who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Explain what happened. Sounds obvious but it’s important not to simply assume that young people understand what’s happened. Be calm and stick the facts, using a map to show where it happened.

3. Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

4. Help young people process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Young people are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

5. Support their concerns for others. They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heart-warming to see this empathy for the concerns of others.

6. Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many young people may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time. The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitising to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions. Young people will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

Radicalisation

Much has been said about this in the media over the last weeks – even years. One of the many recurring thoughts that come back to me time and again when hearing the talk around radicalisation, is how important it is for parents to run households that are characterised by: (a) open communication; (b) calmness ... yes, even amidst the turmoil that sometimes happens; (c) an appreciation, understanding and welcoming
of difference and (d) parents providing clear rules about behaviour and common-sense punishments for non-compliance.

Of this list, the first is the most important. **Open communication** allows a parent to understand - and to change and modify understanding - about their child or teenager. It allows for accurate observations to be made about thoughts and mood and behaviour. It can detect changes - even subtle ones - that indicate that some intervention may be appropriate. And it allows for the alarm to be raised if assistance is required. Open communication can help insulate young people from perilous thoughts and behaviour. And open communication can only occur if *time* is spent on communicating. It may not seem “cool” for young people to talk with their parents, but in my position, I am able to reflect that young people need parents as much as they need air! They may not act as though they do … but they do!

Finally and importantly, may all the boys and their families have a safe and happy break from the regular routine over the Christmas and holiday period.

**Mr P Rohan | Coordinator of Student Wellbeing/Counsellor**

**Help-A-Heart fundraising initiative**

Please pray for the recovery of Julian Gunn from Year 9 Red. Julian has recently been diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and has undergone heart surgery to insert a ventricular assist device which will help pump blood to his vital organs.

Help-A-Heart fundraising initiative has been organised to assist the family with day to day expenses during Julian’s treatment and recovery. If you would like to help support Julian and his family at this difficult time, please donate via [https://www.gofundme.com/xr7kv5w8](https://www.gofundme.com/xr7kv5w8)

Thank you for your support and prayers

**Ms Maria Gunn**

**2016 School Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 7-10</th>
<th>Years 11-12 (VCE)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Fees</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
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<td>iPad Levy</td>
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<td>Additional Fees</td>
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Payment Plans are Available

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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bi Monthly Payment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly Payment</td>
<td>Monthly 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Payment</td>
<td>March 24 / June 24 / September 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Payment</td>
<td>By Arrangement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5% of Statement Balance

10% of Statement Balance

33.3% of Statement Balance

Payment Period: February to November (10 Months)

School Fees will be billed annually in advance. A 5% discount off 2017 school fees will be available where payment in full is received prior to March 31, 2016.

Credit Card Payment Forms will be enclosed with this newsletter. These forms can also be obtained from Cindy Tran at St Mary’s reception or from Kimberlee DeMichelle at St Brigid’s reception.

**Arrears of School Fees**

You may receive a letter at the start of 2016 asking you to attend a meeting with the Principal and the Business Manager. The purpose of this meeting will be to enter into an arrangement for the regular payment of school fees and to clear any arrears of school fees.

**Mr M Rocke | Business Manager**
Year 9 Off Campus Program, 2016

All Year 9 students will be involved in a hiking/camping experience from Tuesday February 9 to Friday February 12, 2016 at Baw Baw National Park. This is the second full week back at school. They will hike, set up tents, cook meals, raft down rivers and experience mountain biking through the bush. A full briefing will be conducted on Wednesday February 4.

Students will also attend a Community Service placement each Wednesday for a Semester. Two classes will have Community Service during Semester One and the other two classes during Semester Two. Full details will be included with Semester Reports which will be mailed out shortly.

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Scholarships

These school scholarships are for students who are studying in Victoria (Australia) and who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

The Department of Education and Training administers more than 25 different student scholarships which equates to approximately 250 scholarship awards (as some scholarships have more than the one award).

For scholarships that the Department administers, a student must apply for a scholarship at the same year level that they are studying in 2015, eg. a student in Year 8 in 2015 would apply for a Year 8 scholarship.

Scholarships for students at relevant 2015 year levels will be granted and paid in 2016.

The scholarships are offered to primary, secondary and tertiary students and range in value from $300 to $2500. They are generally awarded to students who:

- demonstrate academic achievement
- demonstrate participation in their school and local community
- are in financial need (determined by the parents/guardians being in receipt of a Health Care Card, a Low Income Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card (Centrelink reference number required) or the students themselves receiving the Youth Allowance).

However there are scholarships that are not based on the above criteria, especially scholarships connected to the Police Force and the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Locomotive Division.

Please note: There are thirty scholarships offered for the George Garibaldi Turri Scholarship. These scholarships are for VCE students at Victorian government schools who intend to become teachers.

There are also two scholarships for student teachers. These are the Charlotte Wilson Scholarship and the Doris Evans Scholarship.

To apply for a scholarship there is a 4 part process:
1. Register
2. Apply for the scholarship
3. Your principal verifies your results
4. Selection is made and the successful applicant notified.

Over the past month the school has been in the process of selecting the Student Leadership Group for 2016. The Student Leadership Group are a vital part of the school community, as they are called upon not only to be excellent role models for other students, but also to fulfil many different roles. They will be involved in organising year level and whole school events, coordinating fundraisers, supporting their fellow students and providing an important link between the students and the staff.

The students nominate themselves for a position in the group and then go through an application process, which - depending on the position - will involving being elected by their peers or successfully completing a formal interview.

Below is the **Student Leadership Group** for 2016:

- **School Captain**: Yuri Bakay
- **Vice Captain**: Jacky Chen
- **Senior Social Justice/Liturgy Leader**: Vinh Le
- **Senior Goold House Captain**: Adam Monteleone
- **Senior Knox House Captain**: Aaron Lai
- **Senior Polding House Captain**: John Nguyen
- **Senior Mannix House Captain**: Saleh Hassen
- **Junior Social Justice/Liturgy Leader**: Josh Bowker
- **Junior Goold House Captain**: Andy Pham Nguyen
- **Junior Knox House Captain**: None
- **Junior Mannix House Captain**: Johan Pagdanganan
- **Junior Polding House Captain**: Ashane Silva

In the last week of school there was a **Student Leadership Camp** to prepare the group for next year. The goals of the camp were as follows:

1. Bring the students together as a team
2. Practice/Learn leadership skills

To achieve these goals the group were involved in a series of different activities such as: cooking meals for the group, planning some of the whole school events for next year, public speaking workshops, teamwork and problem solving tasks, Rock Climbing and collecting donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Over the course of the two days the boys had been extended and taken out of their comfort zone quite a lot. Needless to say, by Friday afternoon they were pretty exhausted. However, they definitely learnt a lot about each other and have a much better idea about what it takes to be a leader. We wish the group all the best for 2016 and we have high expectations for what they can achieve.

Mr S Vaughan | Year 11 Coordinator
As mentioned in a previous newsletter, this year a change was made to the Simonds Catholic College Crest. 2016 will also see the introduction of a new sports uniform and an update to the College jumper. We appreciate that it is an expense to purchase new uniforms, therefore there is an expectation that there will be a progressive transition to the new uniform items and items with the new College Crest.

All of the College uniform will now be available from our uniform supplier, Noone Imagewear, including the sport uniform. A flyer is enclosed with an updated price list and contact details for the store. Noone have advised that they are selling old stock at a discounted price until sold out.

Some students have asked if it is possible to replace their blazer pockets so they can wear the new College Crest. Noone Imagewear are able to arrange this and have advised the following: The cost of the pocket and sewing on is $35 and takes approximately 3 days. The blazer must be dry cleaned and come to the store complete with dry cleaning tag. Some pockets will be available at the store if anyone wants to take up this offer.