As you read this newsletter, I am sure that many of you, like me are wondering where the year has gone! It is hard to believe that we are only a week away from commencing end of year exams in Years 7-11, where hopefully students will be rewarded with pleasing results for the hard work they have put in throughout the year. As a piece of advice, I would suggest that students keep an even balance of hard work, rest and sleep as they prepare for these important exams. A solid study routine in the coming weeks should hold all students in good stead for the examination period.

Whilst the year is rapidly coming to a close there are many positive things happening in the ACC arena. Our Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 Volleyball and Tennis teams, through the assistance of their coaches, have shown much promise and performed creditably as we have ventured into these sports for the first time this year. Ms Flynn was also very pleased with the performance of the ACC Year 7&8 Debating Team last Monday when they too performed very well.

In two weeks time, our Year 9 students will complete the last week of their 4 week Off Campus Program. Sincere thanks go to Mr Ken Turner for his terrific organisation and work in bringing this initiative in 2014 to fruition. So far, the Year 9 students have spent a week hiking through Mt Baw Baw National Park, completed a week long City Experience, participated in their five day Community Service placement, whilst in two weeks time they will finish the year with an Adventure Camp at Phillip Island. The feedback we have received as a school from this 4 Week Off-Campus Program has been extremely positive and encouraging.

Last Thursday evening, Simonds Catholic welcomed over ninety families to the Year 7, 2015 Information Evening with much excitement and interest, as they begin their transition to Secondary School. Finally I would extend an invitation to all families to attend the 2014 Family Mass and End of Year Awards at 7.00pm in St Mary’s Church on Wednesday, 1 December.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College
The Year 7-10 examination period is fast approaching, as a very busy Term 4 draws to a close.

In the coming weeks Year 9 students will be making final preparations for their 4 day beach camp that begins on 25 November. The Year 9 examinations will be held the week before camp.

**Arrangements for Year 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Wednesday 19 November</th>
<th>Thursday 20 November</th>
<th>Friday 21 November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td><em>students who do not study a LOTE will be dismissed at recess</em></td>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normal classes will operate for students on 17 and 18 November. Examinations will be held over three days and students will be dismissed once their final exam for the day has been completed. Students are expected to attend Homeroom at 8.35am as usual on these days.

**Arrangements for Year 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Monday 24 November</th>
<th>Tuesday 25 November</th>
<th>Wednesday 26 November</th>
<th>Thursday 27 November</th>
<th>Friday 28 Nov - Tuesday 2 Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>HPE</td>
<td>Yr 10 students at St Brigid’s for 3 days of VCE Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periods 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Students may go home after the English exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be no formal classes for Year 10 students between 24 and 27 November, inclusive. Year 10 students are expected to attend Homeroom as normal. They will be dismissed after their final exam each day.

**VCE Orientation Classes** Following the examinations, the Year 10 students will be engaged in the VCE (2015) orientation classes for 3 days, from Friday 28 November to Friday Tuesday 2 December. These are important and compulsory classes for students. The classes will be held at the St Brigid’s VCE Campus.

**Arrangements for Year 7 & 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Thursday 27 November</th>
<th>Friday 28 November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1&amp;2</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Thursday 27 November</th>
<th>Friday 28 November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 3&amp;4</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normal classes will operate for students in Year 7 and 8, when they are not doing examinations. Students are required to be at school for the full day, each day.

A Study Guide to assist with the preparation for the exams has been made available to each student - students will have downloaded this guide onto their iPad, either on to the iBooks or GoodReader app.

If students need to reschedule an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, this must be arranged with their respective Year Level Coordinator.

**Mrs H Koutoulogenis - Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching) | Head of St Mary’s Campus**
2015 Booklist

The 2015 Booklist is enclosed with this newsletter.

A Digital Bundle is listed for purchase on the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 booklists. This bundle includes the eBooks required for Humanities, Mathematics and Science. It is a compulsory item that can only be ordered online through Campion. As such, no orders for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 lists will be accepted at the office. Please note there is an error in the listed price of the hardcopy booklist. The correct price of the bundle is $140 and will appear as that on the Campion website.

The code to use when submitting orders online at www.campion.com.au is "A3RE".

Year 11 & 12 lists may either be returned to the school office or ordered online.

Italy Study Tour 2014

Dear Simonds Community,

At the end of term 3 twelve year 9/10 Simonds students participated on a study tour in Italy. On this amazing journey they were accompanied by Mr Di Fabrizio, Mr Sanciolo, our principal Mr Riordan and his wife Mrs Riordan. They spent three fantastic weeks touring the Italian peninsula embarking on a variety of experiences.

The tour was a great success. The students were able to enjoy a number of cultural and educational events while overseas. Our tour was well constructed and started in Rome where we landed on September 14. We spent 3 gorgeous days in the eternal city. The weather was warm and ideal for walking through 2000 years of history. The ruins of the Colosseum and the imperial forum told us in a dramatic way about the legacy of the mighty Roman Empire. In Rome we also had the opportunity to visit a special place for a catholic school: the Vatican City. The Vatican is the smallest country in the world and is a city within Rome. The Vatican is the heart of the Catholic Church and residence of the Pope. Everyone was overwhelmed by the opulence of the pieces of art collected by the Popes in the Vatican Museums. We all had to pay a visit to Saint Peter's church and square that left most of us speechless. Throughout our journey we paid visits to numerous catholic churches in Italy but entering Saint Peter's Church in Rome gave everyone a feeling of belonging that can’t be found anywhere else.

We then moved north to the gentle hills of Umbria where we stayed in a farmhouse near the towns of Orvieto and Assisi. After experiencing the chaos of Rome, visiting Orvieto was refreshing and relaxing and gave us an insight of what a small Italian town looks like.

We then moved to the stunning Florence, place of birth of the renaissance spirit pillar of our western civilization. Once in Florence we enjoyed visiting the region of Tuscany famous for its lovely landscapes. We had daily excursions to Pisa, Siena and San Gimignano where we were immersed in a medieval atmosphere but also able to admire the beauty of the Tuscan countryside. Florence was an intense experience for everyone. One day we toured by bicycles the medieval and renaissance streets of the city centre. On another day we fell in love with Michelangelo’s and Botticelli’s masterpieces at the Uffizi Museums. We had time for night walks, we made a stop at the market of San Lorenzo well known for their clothing, leather and food. Even though our days were very busy our boys would always find time for a game of soccer somewhere just to challenge the Italians in their favourite sport and maybe learn some tricks from the soccer’s Maestros.

Our next spot after Florence was Rimini, a placid town on the Adriatic coast just south of Venice. In Rimini we were warmly welcomed by our sister school (Liceo Dante Alighieri). The boys attended a day of classes in Italian and spent the afternoon socializing with their peers. All boys have fond memories of that day. As a school we hope to continue this partnership next year when we may host some Italian students from Rimini in September 2015. While based in Rimini we also visited the medieval fortress of San Marino and the magnificent mosaics in the churches of Ravenna.

From Rimini we headed by train to Venice. The boys soon realized that Venice is world apart but everyone enjoyed its uniqueness. Thanks to the warm weather we were also able to spend an afternoon at the “Lido” of Venice where we played beach soccer and had a swim in the Adriatic sea. In Venice we met with
Francesco (Italian Language Assistant in 2013 at SCC) who showed us some truly Venetian corners, told us many stories and secrets of la “Serenissima”.

Our last stop was Milan, business capital of Italy. In Milan the boys had the opportunity to visit an Italian SERIES A soccer game at the San Siro Stadium, an experience that I am sure they won’t forget in a long time. Just the time to see the Leonardo da Vinci “Last Supper”, do some last minute shopping and the day soon arrived where we would pack our suitcases for the last time and leave Italy to come back to reality.

I want to thank all the students who participated in the study tour. They always represented the college with pride wherever we went. They accepted the challenges of travelling as a group and getting used to a new country. They became more independent young men. They realized that being away from home and their families at times was not easy. They brilliantly adjusted to the new country understanding the differences between their own lifestyle and the locals’. They made new bonds and friendships and let’s not forget that they all had lots of fun too!

A special thanks to Mr Sanciolo for helping in the planning and organisation of the tour. His knowledge of Italian art, history and language was invaluable while in Italy. All students have learnt so much from him. A particular thanks to Mr and Mrs Riordan, their expertise was crucial to overcome little issues along the way as well as their qualities in dealing with students were a major factor to determine the success of this study tour.

Grazie a tutti!! (Thanks everyone)

Mr Di Fabrizio | Head of Languages

Scott Darlow

An eventful morning for years 9 and 10 as they enjoyed sitting through a keynote presentation lead by singer/songwriter Scott Darlow, a proud musician and a passionate Aboriginal man from Yorta Yorta country. Scott has toured extensively around the globe, playing to an average of 35,000 people a year with his guitar and didgeridoo, and also speaking in secondary schools, and last Thursday on the 6th of November was when he finally made a visit to Simonds College.

Using his music to connect with the students, Scott spoke passionately about his Aboriginal culture, whilst throwing many jokes and puns here and there, he really noted his mission for every school he visits which was to challenge his audience to spread reconciliation all throughout Australia. He shared countless stories about himself and his family and how indigenous people were highly disrespected and abused, especially during the Stolen Generations between 1909 - 1970. Scott grew up having a rough childhood, living in tough conditions and being brought up hearing depressing stories about his family’s history when they were treated as the ones who didn’t have rights of their own and were worth nothing.

But his teachings weren’t all about the negatives around Aboriginal culture, his concluding note for the session was to apply one acronym into our daily lives and also into improving reconciliation, this acronym being, ‘F.L.U.T.E’ (Forgiveness, Love, Understanding, Tolerance & Empathy).

Darlow’s outstanding teachings and band-like performance with just a loop pedal, his guitar and didgeridoo really symbolised who he is as a person and on behalf of Simonds Catholic College, we thank you Scott for making an appearance at our school.

Curtis Reeder | Year 10 Student