Dear Parents,

Recently you received the Term 3 Interim Report for your son. This report gives an overview of your son’s progress and effort in all the subjects he is studying in semester two. It is not meant to be as detailed as the semester reports which include more information on topics studied and forms of assessment. I ask you to discuss your son’s report with him, recognise those areas where he is working well or has improved, identify areas that need improvement and together consider ways that this can be achieved. If you wish to discuss your son’s progress with a teacher or Level Coordinator, you are welcome to ring the college and make an appointment.

Classes for Year 12 are rapidly drawing to a close. I congratulate the many young men who are making a determined effort to prepare themselves as well as they can for their exams and I encourage all our VCE students to make study their number one priority for the remainder of the year. Formal classes for Year 12 at Simonds will finish next week. However, students are welcome to attend school for study and to receive assistance from teachers.

On Friday, 19 October, we will celebrate the Year 12 Graduation Evening with families and Simonds staff at San Remo Ballroom, Carlton North. This evening recognises the achievement of our graduating young men and the support of their families and the staff of Simonds.

On Tuesday, 23 October, there will be a whole school assembly to farewell our Year 12 students and to acknowledge their achievements this year. The assembly will be in the church hall at the St Brigid’s VCE Campus and will commence at 1.30 pm. Students in Years 7-10 will be taken by bus to Fitzroy North and will return to the West Melbourne campus between 3.00 – 3.15 pm.

Last week marked the beginning of the Church’s Year of Faith, established by Pope Benedict XVI. During the next twelve months we are invited to reflect on our lives and relationships and to renew our faith in our God and how we express that in our daily lives.

Below is a letter I recently received from a member of the public...

I’ve been wanting to drop a quick note for a while to say how much I enjoy sharing my train carriage in the morning with some of your students. The boys are delightful: they engage in warm and respectful conversations with each other and importantly with girls from neighbouring schools. There are no clowns, no showing off just lovely polite, happy boys who often make me smile with their humour. My son will be ready for year 7 in a couple of years and it’s made me consider your school based on the good example these boys exhibit.

Congratulations to the unknown boys; maybe they know who they are. May their example and recognition inspire all of us to be caring, compassionate and joyful people.

Yours sincerely

B.F. McFarlane
Year 7 and 9 students participated in NAPLAN testing in May this year. Individual Student Reports were released at the end of Term 3 and were posted to parents with the Interim Reports last week. These reports are to be seen as a snapshot of how your child performed at a particular point in time. Together with school reports, feedback from teachers and previous NAPLAN reports it is possible to get a sense of achievement over time.

The school receives reports on how our average results for the NAPLAN tests compare against the State. Our Year 7s performed at or above State level in Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. Performance in Reading and Grammar & Punctuation was just below that of the State. Our Year 9 student results indicate that they are performing at or above the State across all tests, and significantly above the State in Numeracy and Spelling. It is encouraging to see the improvement of students as they have progressed from Year 7 through to Year 9 at Simonds.

Mrs H Koutoulogenis - Director of Teaching & Learning

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Congratulations to Ms Jennifer Ma on being selected for an Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowship. Ms Ma is one of fifty five Australian teachers who will be sponsored to participate in a Three Week Language and Cultural Study Program overseas during January 2013. Jennifer is the only Catholic school teacher in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be awarded a Fellowship to study in Japan. This is a wonderful opportunity to live with a Japanese family, enhance Japanese language skills through further study, deepen her understanding of Japanese culture and develop networks with fellow teachers of Japanese.

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Catholic students achieve more with less funding

On average, it costs the government 20 per cent less to have a student educated in a Catholic school. Even with school fees, it still costs less to teach students in a Catholic school. In a faith-filled environment, Catholic schools instil discipline and have high expectations of their students. Our school aspires to develop well-rounded learners who achieve their best and who are committed to action for justice and the common good.

In all areas, a higher percentage of Catholic students have achieved at or above the National Minimum Standard for the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing, compared to the Victorian average. Even in our most disadvantaged communities, students in Catholic schools are more likely to study at university after they finish school.

According to financial data from schools in Australia, Catholic schools also save the Australian taxpayer $2.2 billion each year.

Catholic school funding must keep pace with rising government school costs. Our school cannot afford to have its funding frozen. Any funding freeze would really be a cut. A funding freeze would be unfair because our school already saves the government money.

For more information about school funding, please visit www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/funding.
During the second week of the term holidays, our Year 12 students completed practice exams in all of their studies. This practice enables students to experience the various demands of an exam especially the need to work within a time limit. The boys were also able to learn what parts of the courses they understood well and which parts will require further study and revision in the coming weeks. On your behalf I extend our appreciation to those teachers who gave up part of their holidays to supervise these exams and to provide tutoring sessions for their students.

During the first week of this term, Year 12 students participated in an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon at the Melbourne Aquatic Centre. Activities included swimming, table tennis and basketball.

Mr R Anastasio - (Acting) Head of St Brigid’s VCE Campus

Mathematics News

On 2 August, ninety-eight students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The aim of this competition is to create, encourage and sustain interest in mathematics amongst secondary students.

Awards are allocated to students as follows:
- **High Distinction** - top 2% of the state
- **Distinction** - next 13% of the state
- **Credit** - next 35% of the state
- **Prudence** - at least 10 consecutive questions correct starting from question 1.

I am very proud to say that this year more than 40% of our participating students received a credit award or above: High Distinctions - 1 Distinctions - 7 Credits - 38

Congratulations to all students who entered and in particular the following:

- **The Overall Prudence Award Winner**, awarded to the student who achieved the most correct consecutive answers is Michael Tran Year 8
- **High Distinction Awards**
  - Michael Tran (Yr 8)
  - Brian Truong (Yr 8)
  - Andrew Bui (Yr 9)
  - Danh Thanh (Yr 9)
- **Distinction Awards**
  - Farzan Yazdi (Yr 9)
  - Lecky Tu (Yr 10)
  - Thanuja Silva (Yr 10)
- **Credit Awards**
  - Year 7: Kevin Wong, Max Bellofiore, Michael Dang, Lawrence Huynh, Andy Huynh, James Stewart, Adam Carinci, Cholo Viray, Vincent Vong, David Wu, Bishal Shresta, Derick Le, Anthony Trinh
  - Year 8: John Nguyen, Phan Le, Jenwin Mabanag, Thomas Possee, Anthony Tan, Kerry Aing
  - Year 9: Tony Tran, Matthew Mazzaro, Anh Vu Pham, William Ton, Joel Bitsonis, Raymond Liu, Robert Diep, Stefan Frangos, Nick Ngo, James Matsamakis
  - Year 10: Vu Trinh, Simon Hau, Daniel Skucek, Edward Bituin, Da Zhou Huang, David Liang, Denny Tuong, Anthony Ranno

Ms D Sinis - Head of Mathematics

Notice from the Catholic Education Office

**TOPIC: HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT SCHOOL**

Presenter: Andrew Fuller  Ages: Primary and Secondary

Whether your child is in Year 12 or just starting out, the skills and knowledge that you will gain from attending this session will help you to have a positive impact on your child’s life. It will also save you hours of useless arguing about things that don’t make a difference to academic outcomes. Topics covered will include:

- What the latest brain research tells us about the most vital skills for success
- How parents can improve children’s concentration, memory and sequencing skills
- How to build a positive mindset for success
- How playing games improves intelligence
- Why short sharp homework sprints are better for learning than long marathons of study.

**DATE**

Wednesday October 24

**TIME**

7pm – 9pm

**LOCATION**

St Agnes’ – Highett (Ref Mel Map No. 77 B8)

**COST:** $10 PER PERSON TO BE PAID AT THE DOOR ON THE NIGHT

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL: Parent Seminar Coordinator: Shirley O’Sullivan

shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au or Tel: 9464.5225 Monday-Thursday during School hours
Pictured are some of the products that were designed and made by Year 12 VCE Product Design and Technology. This year we have had some of the most interesting and advanced products ever created at Simonds.

These products will be on display in our new Design Studio opening at the start of 2013.

Mr P Murphy - Head of Technology

Rock Music Stand (Rawad Mitri), Balance

Bike (Raphael Deng),

Bicycle Helmet (Tommy Lee)

Sail Lamp (Jamie Vizzini)