All families are invited to the Annual Family Mass and Award Presentation for Simonds Catholic College on Thursday, November 22, in St Mary’s Church, West Melbourne at 7.30 pm.

After the ceremony families are invited to supper in the school’s General Purpose Room. Soft drinks will be provided for all children.

This year is also an opportunity to farewell the following staff who are retiring after many years of service to Simonds, St Mary’s / Cathedral College:

Mr McFarlane (27 years)  Mrs Bertoncello (44 years)  Mr Croughan (27 Years)  Mr D’Cruse (37 Years)

Dear Parents,

This ceremony is the most significant annual event in the life of the college. It is a unique opportunity for the whole school community to gather together to express it’s shared Faith and to acknowledge the excellent achievements of boys at Simonds. This is also the last occasion that some families will be a part of the Simonds community.

I encourage all families to make this evening a priority and make every effort to be present. St Mary’s is a large church which takes many people to fill. I look forward to seeing a great many people in the church on Thursday, November 22.

To assist with the provision of supper, we ask each family to bring a paper plate of food which can be shared with others. As a school we have much to celebrate and for which to be grateful. Let us join together and help to develop an excellent school spirit.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
On Friday 12th October, 2012, Year 9 B&G Japanese students embarked on an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria in the city. This provided them with an opportunity to understand the beauty of Japanese ceramics, arts, bronze, glass and jade objects, as well as ink brush paintings. The workshop they had integrated a Japanese tea ceremony and meditation to further understanding of ZEN philosophy. All the students created their own ZEN ink paintings.

Student’s comment by Stefan Frengos (9 Blue)

On the 12th of October, the Year 9 Blue and Gold Japanese class engaged in an outing to the National Gallery of Victoria, to view meaningful artworks and acquire knowledge about Japanese culture. We set about our venture by firstly hopping on board the ‘57 Tram’, and then walking a short distance until we arrived at the elaborately designed Gallery. We were introduced to our friendly tour-guide, and without hesitation embarked on exploring the many great works of the Japanese. Some of which incorporated the values of ‘Zen’; which was a type of Buddhism that emphasised meditation and appreciation of one’s self, and quickly spread throughout Japan. Most of the class appreciated these fine pieces of art.

After the histories of these great artworks were thoroughly explained, we relocated into a classroom to immerse ourselves in Japanese culture. We had a tea ceremony and practised traditional calligraphy and painting, including ensō, which is a circle that is strongly linked with Zen, as well as Bamboo stalks. Overall the class had a great time and experience learning about Japanese culture and its strong relations to artwork.

A big thanks to Miss Yao and Mr Prinis for supervising us on this great excursion!

Miss Y Yao - Teacher of Japanese

Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

On Friday the 19th of October the Year 12 students celebrated the Valedictory Dinner at San Remo with parents, friends and teachers. Guest speaker this year was Mr Andrew Egan who was Captain in 2001 and later Captain of St Joseph’s Nth Melbourne in 2003. Mr Egan completed Year 12 with an Atar of 89.9 and went on to study a combined Bachelor of Business / Psychology Degree (4 years) and an Honour in Psychology of 1 year. He is now a Team Leader with Brimbank Community Mental Health.

The evening was highlighted by Mr. Egan’s speech and that of Dominic Scholtes, College Captain 2012, and the parental response by Mrs. Theresa Tripepi. The Valedictorian speech on behalf of the student body was given by Kyrollos Hanna and Vincent McIntyre and the final student address by Mr. Croughan. The young men were then presented to Father Delmar, Parish Priest of St. Brigid’s, Father Polak, Parish Priest of St. Mary’s Star of the Sea, Mr. McFarlane, Principal, and the Pastoral homeroom teachers Mr. Law, Ms. Noonan, Mr. Roland and Ms. Williams. Each of the students received a pen set with the inscription “Simonds Catholic College VCE 2012” as a memento and in recognition of their time spent at the College. We wish them well in the future and for their exams
How nice it is to use the hall at St Brigid’s for our College assemblies as it feels that we now have a place we can call home. The College can establish its own traditions in this venue and on a campus where all students will finally attend for the completion of Year 12.

The student body of the College gathered on Tuesday the 23rd of October to farewell our 2012 VCE class on their final day and rose as one to welcome them as they processed into the hall, led by their pastoral care teachers. A prayer service with a memorial poem written by William Wong for Jimmy Nguyen, who passed away in Year 9, was a touching tribute on the day.

Awards were presented to students with the best SAC grades for the semester with the major VCE awards to be presented next year after the conclusion of the Year 12 exams and determination of final exam grades. Dominic Scholtes the College Captain gave a positive and encouraging testimonial to their time at the College. This was followed by Mr. Anastasio the VCE Coordinator who empowered the students to strive for their best and to always have self belief in themselves. The students were then presented to Mr McFarlane, Mr Anastasio and myself and received their 2012 College banners. Again we wish them well in the future and for their exams.

Mr A Croughan - Head of Campus, St Brigid’s VCE

Student Excellence Awards

Gianni Cozzi
- Literature

Kyrollos Hanna
- English

Luke Higgins
- Biology
- Further Mathematics

Ayden Thang
- Japanese Second Language

Philip Huynh
- History (Revolutions)

Pascal James Leung Wan Chin
- Chemistry
- Specialist Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods

Patrick Morel-Shields
- Psychology

Marcus Carinci
- Legal Studies
- Italian

Anthony Ngo
- Physics
- Visual Communication & Design

Kevin Pham
- Food & Technology

Timothy Ryan
- Business Management

Tommy Le
- Product Design & Technology

Dominic Scholtes

Nicholas Willie
Good afternoon teachers and students. Firstly I would like to just say what a great year it has been. It’s incredible just how fast it has gone. I hope that the year has gone well for everyone in our school and that we can all look back on the year and see all the wonderful things we have achieved.

Today, we the year 12 class of 2012, officially bid farewell to Simonds. We say goodbye to the school that has taken us in and given us every possible opportunity to help us succeed in our lives. We say goodbye Simonds, our teacher, our mentor, our friend, our school, and thank you for everything you have done, to make us who we are today.

The past 6 years I have spent at Simonds’ have been the best in my life. I have made many friendships and learned so much about how to live my life to the best of my ability. This school has given all of us a place where we can learn and succeed; it has accepted each and every one of us with wide open arms, no matter who you were, or where you came from you are and will always be welcome at Simonds.

I am so proud to have been able to represent our school on more than one occasion. How lucky and grateful I am, to have been given the opportunity to get to know such a wonderful group of people who I am honoured to have shared the experience of school.

On behalf of the year 12s, I would like to thank all our dedicated teachers who have taught us over the past 6 years. Thank you for giving up your time to share with us your knowledge, so that we may one day succeed in the future. You have shown us how to work and how to learn, how to get the most out of life.

To the boys who have still got a few years of school left in them, don’t forget that your teachers are here to help you, don’t forget how lucky you are to be at a small school that has such a great atmosphere and strong sense of community. Sure there are going to be some tough and stressful times up ahead, but with the help of your friends and your teachers you will overcome these stresses. And remember for every hard time there is to come there will be three or four joyous and fantastic memories that will accompany them. I hope that all future students of Simonds enjoy their school years, like we have and that they learn and benefit from the skills they are taught.

To my fellow year 12s, my friends, good luck for the upcoming exams and the rest of your lives. Even though your schooling may soon be over, just remember your education and learning will never stop throughout your life. As I said at the start of the year in the words of Dr. Seuss:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{You have brains in your head.} \\
\text{You have feet in your shoes.} \\
\text{You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.} \\
\text{You're on your own.} \\
\text{And you know what you know.} \\
\text{You are the guy who'll decide where to go.}
\end{align*}
\]

So guys go out into the world, and take with you the respect and knowledge that you have gained through your journey at Simonds, stay strong, persevere, have fun, live life to the full and most importantly continue to be the best people you can possibly be.

I am going to leave you all with another poem, this poem in particular inspired the great Nelson Mandela when he was unduly imprisoned for 27 years. He said it gave him strength to continue fighting and persevere through the difficult times.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{INVICTUS} \\
\text{Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from pole to pole,} \\
\text{I thank whatever gods may be. For my unconquerable soul.} \\
\text{In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not wincéd nor cried aloud.} \\
\text{Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.} \\
\text{Beyond this place of wrath and tears Looms but the Horror of the shade,} \\
\text{And yet the menace of the years Finds and shall find me unafraid.} \\
\text{It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll.} \\
\text{I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.}
\end{align*}
\]

Thank you for listening. Good luck and best wishes for the future.

Dominic Scholtes – School Captain
In 2007, the College Board decided to institute Justin Simonds Awards named after the patron of our school, Archbishop Justin Simonds. Two awards are made each year; one to a student from any year level who best exemplifies the values espoused by Archbishop Justin Simonds, and one to an adult from the Simonds community e.g. a parent, a teacher, a volunteer or supporter. The three values which form the criteria for the award are:

- Lives the values of the Gospels
- Values education
- Promotes Community

Indicators showing how a student might demonstrate these values are listed below:

**LIVES THE VALUES OF THE GOSPELS**
- Shows openness to the spiritual dimension in his own life and in the life of the college
- Respects the beliefs and opinions of others
- In Religious Education classes, contributes and demonstrates a capacity for reflection
- Participates in a Social Justice activity supported by the college

**VALUES EDUCATION**
- Shows respect for himself and the college
  e.g. language, uniform, punctuality, good manners at school and in public
- Strives to achieve his best
  e.g. involvement in class activities, punctual submission of work, seeks help when needed
- Assists others when asked or if he sees a need

**PROMOTES COMMUNITY**
- Relates well with others of all age groups
- Actively promotes the well-being of the school community
- Shows care and compassion for others
- Volunteers for activities that promote/support the college
  e.g. transition programs, officiating at events, umpiring, assisting in the canteen

Many of the indicators may also be applied to adults.

These awards are prestigious awards for our school community. They acknowledge students and adults who exemplify all that is best about our college community. The recipients of these awards will be excellent role models for us.

I invite parents, students and staff to nominate an adult or a student for this year’s awards. Your nomination should exemplify by his/her actions the values listed above.

A simple nomination form in which you are asked to indicate examples of how the person has lived out these values is included on the back of this sheet.
Person Nominated: ______________________________________

This person has demonstrated that he/she is a worthy candidate for this Award in the following ways:

**LIVES THE VALUES OF THE GOSPELS**
* (Please give examples below)

**VALUES EDUCATION**
* (Please give examples below)

**PROMOTES COMMUNITY**
* (Please give examples below)

Signed by the person making this nomination: ________________________

Date: _______________

Please return this form to the College Office by Wednesday 14th November.