Dear Parents,

Thank you to the families and students who attended the Simonds Family Mass to celebrate a new year for our college. The Mass provided an opportunity to thank God for the blessings our college has received and to commit ourselves to strive to achieve our best in all we do and to support others in their efforts. The stormy weather experienced late Thursday afternoon may have kept some families away. I hope our numbers improve at our End of Year Mass and Awards Evening in November.

I am pleased to announce the launch of the new school website. The website will be continuously evolving, with new material added regularly. Please note that the College Newsletter will be available on this site. Parents are encouraged to visit the site and subscribe to the e-Newsletter. http://www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au

Congratulations to our College Captain, Vice Captains and Student Leaders for 2012. I am confident that this year’s leaders, through their example and commitment, will be excellent role models for their fellow students and will contribute to the well-being of our Simonds community and to those in need in our society.

College Captain
DOMINIC SCHOLTES

VCE Vice Captain
LUKE REYNOLDS

Middle School Captain
RAIMUS PRECILLA

Middle School Vice Captain
SEAN REYNOLDS

Middle School Vice Captain
BRYAN TALAGTAG

LITURGY CAPTAIN (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
Raimus Precilla

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Captain
Vu Trinh

Vice Captain
Thanuja Silva

SRC LEADERS

Yr 8
Richard Precilla (8B) - Anthony Tan (8G) - Matthew Chen (8W) - Jacky Chen (8R)

Yr 9
Alfonso Zampogna (9B) - Joseph Nguyen (9G) - Isaac Montebello (9R) - Nelson Cheong (9W)

Yr 10
Anthony Trinh (10B) - James Tran (10G) - Edward Bituin (10R) - Phillip Pham (10W)

VCE LITURGY LEADERS
Stephen Warburton - Rogan Ng - Luke Reynolds - Larry Ho

VCE SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS
Dominic Scholtes - Sang Cao Lam - Matthew Dougherty - Daniel Gorgievski - Richard Mariano

YEAR 12 STUDENT LEADERS

YEAR 11 STUDENT LEADERS
Stephen Warburton - Jason Tran - Matthew Dougherty - Simmon Tran - Richard Mariano - Thai Ho - Bao Long (Larry) Ho - Patrick Morel-Shields
Ash Wednesday

Boys from both campuses participated in Ash Wednesday Masses to mark the beginning of Lent, the time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Boys were reminded of the tradition of Prayer, Self-Sacrifice and Good Deeds as ways of developing ourselves as better Christians and faithful followers of the teachings of Jesus. To support others less fortunate than ourselves, all classes have been invited to generously support Project Compassion over the remaining five weeks of Term 1.

Archbishop Justin Simonds Academic Scholarships

Since the development of our St Brigid’s VCE Campus, the College Board has introduced these scholarships to support ongoing study of boys in Years 11 and 12. Last year scholarships were also made available to boys in Year 8. A total of six scholarships were granted in 2011.

The scholarships cover 50% of all school fees for a student’s remaining years at Simonds. Scholarships are for current Simonds students only and are based on this year’s semester 1 results. Scholarships are given for overall excellence, and for excellence in English/Humanities and Mathematics/Science.

Science News

Our year 12 Chemistry students had a taste of University life while attending an excursion to Melbourne University on Thursday 16th February. The ‘Instrument workshop’ gave students a ‘hands on’ opportunity to use expensive, modern, analytical instruments only available to universities or chemical industrial laboratories.

Students were able to see all instruments in operation and were able to conduct a chemical analysis of iron in a mineral supplement, sodium in soy sauce, caffeine in coca-cola, or alcohol in wine. The instruments students used were: UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, High Pressure Liquid Chromatography and Gas-Liquid Chromatography.

Our year 12 physics class will be conducting experiments on the motion of rides during an excursion to Luna Park on Wednesday 7 March.

Mr D Barnett - Head of Science

National Apology

On Monday 13 February, students from Simonds College joined with many schools to hold a short commemoration of the 4th Anniversary of the National Apology. The theme was “I feel Proud Today”.

We remember with pride that on the 13th of February 2008 the Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, said “Sorry” for the wrongs that have been inflicted on members of the ‘Stolen Generations’.

The commemoration involved flying the Aboriginal Flag for the day and a short ceremony during Pastoral Care period.

The following statement written by Isaac Montebello (9 Red) described how students felt to take part: “I felt proud on the 13th of February, which was National Apology Day. I felt honoured and privileged to be representing not only my class, but my school on this proud day in Australia’s History to lead the reflection of the day.”

Mr D Barnett
Swimming Squad

The 2012 Simonds Catholic College Swimming Squad came together in only a couple of days with only a handful of early morning training sessions before the assault on the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) in mid February. It takes a focused and determined sort of person (and dedicated family behind them) to be able to commit to the early starts required for a swimming squad and we are proud to say that this year’s squad was no exception. This year we had 22 of our dedicated boys chosen to represent Simonds Catholic College, a great improvement on previous years. We were able to see the boys show interest at first, develop that into excitement at the thought of competing and eventually a determination on the day to represent not only themselves, but their team and school community too.

MSAC came alive on Friday 17 February as several hundred students invaded the facilities for the ACC Swimming Carnival, representing 10 different schools across the Melbourne metropolitan area. Our squad, though small, walked proudly into the swimming Colosseum, home of the 2006 Commonwealth Games, for their chance to stand up and be counted. The boys swam above our expectations and while we acknowledge the whole squad for their great efforts, a special mention must go to Tim Nguyen from year 12.

Tim’s outstanding performance saw him win four events, including the showcase 200m Open Freestyle event. His achievements should serve as inspiration to our future squads.

We thank Mr Vaughan for his great effort with our VCE squad, Mr Di Fabrizio for donating his time on the night as an official, Miss Hands for her enthusiasm and work with our squad in the stands on the evening and last but not least, we deeply thank the parents who gave their time (and sleep) to allow their sons to be able to train and compete on the day. Bring on 2013!

Mr C Veal – Sports Master & Mr A Abrahall - HPE Faculty

Mathematics News

As we embark on the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all students to challenge themselves and take part in the various Mathematics activities that are being offered. This year students have the opportunity to participate in two very different mathematics competitions; the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians and the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards.

The Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians is designed to extend talented mathematics students. The task involves solving six mathematical problems over a three week period in term two. Students who participate will receive certificates and the best students have an opportunity to receive prizes. To keep costs to a minimum the entry fee has been reduced to $10 per student. This will need to be paid no later than Wednesday, 7 March.

The Australian Mathematics Competition, to be held on Tuesday 2 August, is designed to create and encourage interest in the study of mathematics. All students receive personalised reports identifying their potential strengths and weaknesses in various topic areas. Students who perform well will also receive certificates and the best students have the opportunity to receive prizes. The entry fee is $4.95 per student of which students will be asked to contribute $4. This will need to be paid no later than Wednesday, 7 March.

Mathematics Equipment

Just a reminder to all parents that it is important for your son to be prepared for his mathematics classes. Bringing all required equipment to every lesson will allow him the opportunity to maximise his learning time in the classroom. At every mathematics class all students must ensure that they have the prescribed text book, a scientific calculator, an exercise book, two different coloured pens, pencil, eraser, sharpener and a ruler. All students studying mathematics in Years 10-12 are also required to have daily access to a Ti-nspire CAS calculator.

Ti-nspire CAS calculator

Students may order the calculator through the school offices at a cost of $180. This offer will only be available until Friday 9 March and cannot be extended. Students who do not take up this offer will need to purchase the calculator through another supplier. (RRP $229.95)

Ms D Sinis - Head of Mathematics
Below is a site where you can view the fun and interesting work that is going on in our school. All 6 episodes of the online design competition “So You Think You Can Design” are now available on YouTube. The easiest way to find videos is to search for “Simonds Catholic College” in YouTube.

Mr P Murphy – Head of Design & Technology

The Parent Seminar Series, which has been operating in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for 18 years, is an expression of the partnership that exists between parents, schools and the CEOM to further the education and development of students in Catholic schools.

The Parent Seminar Series presents a range of topics relevant to the parents of students in Catholic primary and secondary schools in various locations. Parents are welcome to attend any of the seminars listed and in any location.

Registration/Further Information

See our school website for a link to download the 2012 program, or contact the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, Parent Seminar Series Coordinator:

Mrs Shirley O’Sullivan
Telephone: 9464 5225
e-mail: shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au