The first Friday in March celebrates the ecumenical World Day of Prayer. This year it will be celebrated on 6 March. As Catholics, and as we journey through the Lenten season we are invited to incorporate the focus of the World Day of Prayer into our own Lenten prayer rituals. Through prayer, Christians unite across the globe. It is a powerful act, as it calls for an end to isolation and to come together as one community.

I recently received confirmation from Archbishop Hart that Fr. Anthony Bernal, Fr. Gerald Gehring, Fr. Delmar Silva and Fr. Luciano have been appointed as Chaplains to Simonds Catholic College for 2015. It is particularly pleasing to have these four priests working in our school community with our students and staff.

In recent weeks I have been visiting a large number of Catholic Primary Schools as we begin the Year 7 enrolment process for 2016. It is critical that anybody applying for a place in Year 7, 2016 complete an application form that can be easily downloaded from the College website - even if you have a sibling currently enrolled in the School. If you know of any friends or family who may be considering Simonds Catholic College for Year 7, 2016, the closing date for applications is Friday 20 March.

Simonds Catholic College continues to be a very busy community. The ACC Swimming Team were quite competitive at the recent ACC Carnival held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, with a number of swimmers performing Personal Bests on the night. The strong sense of camaraderie amongst the team was very evident on the night. Particular thanks go to Mr Cox, Mr Conlan and Mr Westaway for their organisation and coaching of the team leading up to the carnival. Our Senior ACC Volleyball and Tennis Teams under the guidance of Mrs Noonan and Mr Smith respectively, have also been very competitive in their Term 1 fixtures games. It is very pleasing to observe so many students taking the opportunity to represent the College.

I hope you enjoy the long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College
1. Quite a number of students have availed of counselling assistance at both campuses and I applaud the boys who make the effort to identify issues with which they need assistance - and then courageously face those issues and work on them. It is a step of strength, resilience and growth. Well done to those who have come forward thus far!

2. The College website now carries the names and contact details of a number of support services. You can access them at the “student wellbeing link” and then the “student and family support” link. Listed services include: family support and counselling, drugs, alcohol and gambling, mental health services, emergency and crisis services, online safety, legal services, emergency accommodation, community houses, sexual assault and domestic violence and language translation services.

3. The “pop culture” groups have experienced growth over the past couple of weeks. We now have 22 members from year 10, 6 members from year 9 and 9 members from year 7. These groups are social/friendship groups, gathered around a common interest in gaming, comics, movies, sci-fi and anime. They are currently presenting favoured characters to group members (verbally and written) with the intent of producing a 2015 pop culture booklet. Many are also preparing to cosplay characters which they will take to the pop culture conventions such as Supanova (in the Easter break), Comic Con, Armageddon and Pax.

4. The Staff Wellbeing Committee looks at ways that it can assist students’ wellbeing. Currently, it is looking at the basic issue of “safety” and exploring ways, through Coordinators and student interviews, of increasing students’ experience of safety at the College.

5. Four boys (two from either campus) have come forward to volunteer their services for a Student Wellbeing Team. We are discussing ways in which such a group would work and how they can best support their peers. Watch this space!

6. The W@SP office at St. Mary’s Campus is taking shape and thanks to the foresight of Mr. Riordan and others last year, it is a welcoming space for boys making use of it. At the moment, some of our more artistically inclined boys are looking at providing some artwork in the corridor and entrance-way to make the area more “their own”. Hopefully we will have some pictures to share in the next newsletter.

Mr Pascal Rohan | Coordinator of Student Wellbeing/ Counsellor

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### Enrolment

**SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

**Do you have a son or know someone due to start secondary school next year?**

Enrolments for Year 7 in 2016 will be closing soon. Application forms are available from our campus offices, or they can be downloaded from our website www.sccmelb.catholic.edu.au.

**Please note that brothers of current Simonds Catholic College Students do not automatically go onto our list of enrolments. An application form needs to be lodged for each child so that we have their individual details.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
<th>SCHOOL TOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 7 2016</strong></td>
<td>School tours are available weekly during Term 1, the remaining tour dates are as follows, commencing at 9.15am:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March 2015</td>
<td>- Tuesday, 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-27 March</td>
<td>- Monday, 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April 2015</td>
<td>- Monday, 23rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May 2015</td>
<td>Bookings Essential call Nikki on 03 9321 9206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For those with children currently in Grades 4 or 5, more tours will be available throughout the year. Check our website for details.
This year Simonds Catholic College has been fortunate enough to be one of only 13 Australian schools invited to be involved in the “STEM Connections Project”. STEM refers to the teaching and learning of Science, Technology (Product Design), Engineering (Systems) and Mathematics subjects in an integrated way that helps engage students in deep learning using a real-world project.

The STEM team (Ms Jacinta James, Ms Madeleine Smooker, Mr Edward Nikolaidis, Mr Peter Hennessy and Ms Desi Sinis) thoroughly examined the knowledge and skills studied in these particular subject areas and proposed that a meaningful way to integrate these subjects and increase student engagement was to introduce a project that impacted their own experience of the Simonds environment. Consequently, the team decided that an enriching project would be to ask students to be involved in the designing and building of vertical gardens at the St Mary’s campus.

Each of the STEM subjects require students to apply the content/skills they are studying to some facet of the vertical garden project. In Mathematics, students are now applying their measurement and geometry skills to help design their vertical garden. In Science students are applying their knowledge of abiotic factors and biotic interactions to decide on the plant type that best suits the Simonds environment and their vertical garden. In Systems students are designing and producing an automated watering system that maximises water conservation for their vertical garden. In Product Design students are designing and manufacturing their vertical garden.

On Monday 2 March all year 9 students were involved in an incursion held by Mr Josh Engwerda a Horticulturist Engineer and Mr Jack Noonan an Environmental Scientist who both kindly volunteered to support the Simonds vertical garden project by holding a presentation for students. This presentation gave students valuable insight into their occupations as well the opportunity to examine the various factors that need to be considered when introducing plant life to a particular environment. Students were lucky enough to see firsthand the specialised equipment that is used by an environmental scientist as well as examine different plant types and their suitability for use in a vertical garden.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our industry presenters who have also both agreed to be involved in further facets of the vertical garden project and Ms Jacinta James who organised the presentation and helped create an enriching experience for our year 9 students.

Ms Desi Sinis | Learning and Teaching Cluster Leader
A tax invoice will be sent out in the week ending Sunday 15 March. The annual fee for your son’s education at Simonds Catholic College for 2015 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Years 7-10</th>
<th>VCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
<td>$2,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPad Levy</td>
<td>$120</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>$2,880</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Discounts Available**

a) Payment in Full by 31 March 2015
A 5% Discount will be applied against 2016 (Next year’s school fees)

b) Family Discount
Second and subsequent students will be entitled to a 10% discount on Tuition fees. Family discounts apply to simultaneous attendance.

**Methods of Payments**

a) Credit Card/EFTPOS: An authority form will be sent with your fee statement
b) Cheque/Cash
c) Direct Debit/ BPAY: These facilities will be available towards the end of 2015

**Payment Frequency**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Years 7-10</th>
<th>VCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>$2220</td>
<td>$288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bi Monthly</td>
<td>$111</td>
<td>$144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Payments</td>
<td>$740</td>
<td>$960</td>
</tr>
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**Mr Matthew Rocke | Business Manager**

**Be A Uni Student for a Day**

La Trobe University is inviting Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents to join us on campus to be a uni student for a day this Easter holidays.

At Experience La Trobe, students will have the opportunity to attend workshops, lectures and seminars of their choice to find out about career options, areas of study, pathways and student life while parents will be able to participate in our special ‘parents program’.

Registrations for the first two events are now open and places are limited so get in quick to design a personalised program for the day.

To view the event program and to register, follow the online link: latrobe.edu.au/experience
Melbourne Campus, Thursday 9 April
Bendigo Campus, Friday 10 April

Due to popular demand, we will be offering Experience La Trobe across all five campuses with our Melbourne and Bendigo Campuses running two events throughout the year. Registrations for these events are due to open in the coming weeks so keep posted for further information.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the La Trobe Customer Service team:

Telephone: 1300 134 045