This week at Simonds Catholic College we have had students and staff visiting from Chuo University Yokohama Junior and Senior High School. During their time here they have sat in on regular classes, whilst Mr Di Fabrizio has organised special English classes for them, as well as a number of exciting excursions in and around Melbourne. This is a new initiative this year where we have been working in Partnership with Marian College in Sunshine, with the girls from Yokohama joining classes with the students of Marian College, whilst the girls and boys come together for the excursions and trips around Melbourne. I am very grateful and extend my thanks to those families who have hosted the six boys this week in their homes to give them this wonderful opportunity. Currently we have our own Study Tour travelling through Japan with our Japanese teacher Ms Yao leading the teachers and staff on this wonderful opportunity for cultural immersion for the next two weeks.

First term has passed by incredibly quickly, and as I reflect on the calendar of events that have taken place, it really is quite interesting to observe what has been able to be achieved in the classroom, and with the many co-curricular activities that have taken place throughout the term. At our end of term Whole School Assembly I spoke of the abundant opportunities that are available to the students of Simonds Catholic College through the generosity of staff giving up their time to work with students in so many different capacities.

The term has concluded this week with our highest ever number of athletes competing at the ACC Athletics Carnival at Lakeside Oval, with a squad of over fifty-five students representing the College and performing very creditably against other competitors.

All families will have received their Interim Report for Term 1, which will provide valuable information for the Parent Teacher Evening which will be held in the first week of Term 2 on Wednesday April 15 at the St Mary's Campus.

As our Lenten journey comes to an end I would wish all families a safe, happy and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College

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Prayer for Holy Week

Jesus my Lord, let me strengthen my courage by taking on the courage of all those people who have been “centurions” for me. Many have faced disasters and hard times with great constancy. The upper hand of evil never turned them against you. They kept going. Let me be like them, Lord. No matter what the cross, let me stop declaring you to be “truly the Son of God, the source of my hope, the reason why I will never quit on life”.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Mr Peter Riordan

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College
YR 12 JACKETS

After a great deal of anticipation, Yr 12 students were elated by the arrival of their Year 12 Jackets. The students have been wearing their jackets with pride and the jackets have proved to further strengthen the camaraderie and sense of cohesiveness between the students. Yr 12 students are permitted to wear their jackets each day with the jacket replacing the blazer as the outer garment.

YR 12 PASTORAL CARE- TAI CHI

Each week in Yr 12, students participate in a Pastoral Care activity based around the theme of ‘Wellbeing and Resilience’. For the final Pastoral Care session of Term 1, under the guidance of Student Well-being Co-ordinator and Student Counsellor Pascal Rohan, students participated in a Tai Chi session. The Tai Chi session allowed students to re-charge their energies and highlighted the importance of deep-breathing. After the Tai Chi session, students gathered and shared breakfast together. A big thank you is extended to Mr Pascal Rohan, Ms Huey Yng Tan and the student helpers from Pastoral Group 12 D for their assistance in organising and running this activity.

Mrs Salvina Noonan | Year 12 Co-ordinator

Eastertime

The season of Lent is a time of the year for prayer, reflection and preparation to celebrate Easter. Leading into Holy Week, Simonds Catholic College Community participated in ‘The Stations of the Cross’ at St Mary’s Campus and St Brigid’s Campus. Students from every homeroom volunteered to lead their year level in prayer and reflection during ‘The Stations of the Cross’. At the end of the ceremony College Leaders presented Project Compassion Boxes for the Annual Caritas Appeal to Mr Riordan. The Social Justice Group organised many fundraising events to support Caritas Internationalis ‘Food for All’ campaign. The Liturgy and Social Justice Leaders focused on the words of Pope Francis “I invite you to make space in your heart...respecting the God given rights of everyone to have access to adequate food”. Once again volunteers from all levels assisted College Leaders with the organisation of casual days, a pizza day and a sausage sizzle. The generosity of staff and students together raised a considerable amount of money to donate to the 2015 campaign ‘Food for Life’.

During Catholic Education Week, students from St Mary’s Campus attended the Schools Mass for St Patrick at St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart and Altar Servers from Simonds volunteered to serve. At the final Assembly of Term 1, our VCE Liturgy Leader, Niall Murphy, led the whole school in a prayer and reflection for ‘Close the Gap’ Day. This day is when we focus on Australia’s largest campaign to improve Indigenous health. Eastertime is a time to celebrate new life and also light overcoming darkness. As Christians, we believe Jesus to be the ‘Light of the World’ and rejoice whenever we share in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Happy Easter to everyone and a safe holiday to all. Alleluia!

Maryanne Krall | Religious Education Coordinator.
Students from Simonds Catholic College are taking part in the 21st annual Australian Geography Competition this week. Approximately 75,000 students from all around Australia have entered the Competition, which is organised by the Australian Geography Teachers' Association and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland.

Competition coordinator Bernard Fitzpatrick said that the Competition gave teachers an opportunity to highlight geography in their schools.

“Geography is a vital subject that all young people should study,” said Mr Fitzpatrick. “It helps students understand the world around them, and how people and environments are interconnected.”

“With schools in many parts of Australia implementing the new national geography curriculum this year, it’s an exciting time to be involved in geographical education, and the Competition plays its part in this,” said Mr Fitzpatrick.

Students who excel in the Australian competition have the chance to represent Australia in the International Geography Olympiad as well as win prizes for themselves and the College. Two students from Victoria will be selected to take part in Geography’s Big Week Out in South East Queensland later this year. From that event, Australia’s team will be chosen for the 2016 International Geography Olympiad in Beijing, China.

The following students from Simonds Catholic College will be representing the school against the best and brightest Humanities minds in the country:

Adam Jacob 7G    Jack Keating 7R   Isaac Molinaro 7W   Ethan Epifanio 7W
Quince Lam 7W    Peter Maslen 9G   Alan Nenh 9R    Toby Wu 9R
Andy Tuano 9W    Ben Broadby 10B

We wish them all the best as they tackle the Australian Geography Competition head on!

Miss Rachael Hands | Humanities Faculty Coordinator

School Fees - Update

Following a number of queries here are some points of clarification

1. Fee Statement says Term Statement but it is for the full year

2. Fee Discount – pay in full before March 31 and receive a 5% discount (Years 7-11 from next year, Year 12 from this year fees)

3. Payment Frequency: Monthly, twice per month, Term payments, annual and by other arrangements.

4. Payment Methods: Cash, Credit/Debit Card, Cheque, Brank Transfer and EFTPOS

Brain Bee Challenge 2015-Record Involvement!

The Science Faculty and I are very excited to announce that we have one in four Year 10 students signed up to have a go at the 2015 Brain Bee Challenge. These students will complete the Round 1 quiz of this neuroscience competition during Brain Awareness Week in the second last week of term.

If the students perform well, they will be invited to attend the Victorian State Final at Melbourne University, where they will be competing against students from other schools from all over the state. Since 2013 we have had 6 students make the State Final and would like to wish the 2015 Year 10 students the best of luck in Round 1!!

Laura Fisher | Science Faculty Manager
Year 8 Leadership Day - 1000 Steps

On the 24th of March Year 8s had their first leadership day for the year, at 1000 steps in the Dandenong Ranges. Unfortunately the 1000 steps were closed due to a landslide, so students were required to complete two activities which involved the Lyrebird track, containing a very steep hill, which leads down from the top of 1000 steps.

All students participated in two activities. One activity required students to climb up the steep 2km hill and work their way back down. Once back at the bottom students participated in a range of team building activities. This required both mental endurance and support from their peers as many students found this activity very challenging. At our end of the day debrief all students felt that it was a huge accomplishment for them to get to the top of the hill and congratulated each other on that fact.

The second activity consisted of a photo scavenger hunt. Students walked a combination of the steep hill, Lyrebird track, and the Belview back-track to collect as many items as they could. This activity required all students to work together to find the items and protect their iPads from the consistent rain that we had on the day. It was great to see students working together as a team, motivating each other not only to find all of the items but also to get through the long, tough walk.

It was a really tough day for the boys. They worked extremely well together and pushed each other to succeed even with the consistent rain and challenging terrain. I’m sure the boys learnt a lot about themselves and each other and they should be extremely proud of their accomplishments from the day.

Scavenger hunt: Hugging a tree and introducing yourself to a stranger:

Walking up the Belview link track

Miss Madeleine Smooker | Year 8 Coordinator

Library

As part of our commitment to the joy of reading and the benefits it brings your sons, the College Library is again inviting students in Years 7-10 to be part of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge. It is not a competition but a challenge to students to read a minimum of 15 books from the beginning of the year to early September. Students can select from a wide range of Fiction and Non-Fiction books available in the Library and also include books from other Libraries and class novels studied this year. As an added incentive, all students completing the Challenge are awarded house points.

Consent Forms are available at the Circulation Desk. Please encourage your son to be a part of this important literacy event and to read more books than ever before!

A reminder too that students are encouraged to borrow over the holidays as term breaks are a great time to catch up on reading.

Mrs Judy Dymond | Librarian