As a particularly busy and opportunity packed Term 1 draws to a close, there are a number of reasons why I am looking forward to Term 2 with great anticipation. After a series of meetings with the Archdiocese, Latitude Architects and the College Leadership Team, a large refurbishment of some areas of the St Mary’s Campus will take place during Term 2. It is planned to refurbish the Reception / Entrance area on Victoria Street, to refurbish all of the Year 7 classrooms and corridor upstairs in the ‘A’ Building as well as the Year 8 classroom downstairs, and also to refurbish the General Purpose Room which is such an important gathering space for us on the St Mary’s Campus. Due to this building project there may be some minimal disruption to students accessing some areas of the College, and also some temporary movement of classrooms. Ms Maule, our Canteen Manager, will be setting up a temporary canteen in Term 2 in the rear of the Systems Room. This may lead to some regular items being temporarily unavailable, but we will do our best to provide as many options as possible. I am sure you would agree that this short term disruption will be well worth the benefit of these refurbishments for many years to come. The building works are due to be started in the April holidays and hopefully completed by the end of the Term 2 holidays.

Last week I visited all of our Year 9 students and staff who were participating in a four day / three night Outdoor Education Experience in the Mt Baw Baw National Park as part of our four week Year 9 program. I believe we should be very proud of our cohort of Year 9 students who throughout the camp, carried their own backpacks with tents, clothing and food, joined in mountain bike riding, white water rafting, orienteering, bushwalking and hiking, and cooked all of their own meals. As I drove around to visit each of the seven groups, I was most impressed with their positive demeanour and their excellent attitude in making the most of this opportunity out of the classroom. As one student said to me, “it wasn’t that easy but I really enjoyed being outdoors and I have never done this before”. I express my sincere thanks to Mr Ken Turner, Year 9 Coordinator, for initiating and organising this Outdoor Education Experience for our Year 9 students, and to staff who attended the camp.

On Wednesday, 2nd April, quite a number of our students are representing the College in the Associated Catholic College Athletics Carnival at Lakeside Oval. Again, it is extremely encouraging to observe so many of our students prepared to represent the College with such pride and tenacity.

To conclude our first term, all of our staff and students will gather for an Assembly in the St Brigid’s Hall on Friday, 4th April. The Assembly will begin with an Easter Liturgy where we will recall that our Lenten Journey started many weeks ago on Ash Wednesday, and that it will conclude on Holy Thursday, and also to remind us of the significance of this Lenten Journey in our lives – the continuing challenge is to make time for deeper reflection on our relationship with God and the ways that we live that in our communities.

I thank you for your continued support in Term 1, and hope that you and your families have a safe, happy and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peter Riordan
Sport

Simonds Catholic College Rowing

As the rowing season comes to a close, we had Year 8 student Eric Low compete in two State Championship Regattas. Eric, who was racing in his single scull, qualified through the heats of the Schools Sports Victoria Regatta on the Barwon to place 2nd in the Year 7/8 Boys Single Scull. To add to his program, Eric also raced up two categories in the year 10 division placing 2nd in the B Final. Just a few days later Eric was back racing, this time in Nagambie at the Scotch Miers Junior Boys State Championship regatta. Continuing his good form, Eric won the Year 9 single scull and followed up with a silver medal in the Year 10 single scull for Simonds. Congratulations, Eric.

The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2014

As part of our commitment to a love of reading and inspiring our students to discover the magic of books, the Library is again inviting students from Years 7-10 to be part of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge.

It is not a competition but a challenge to students to read, to read more and to read more widely. Students must read a minimum of 15 books from the beginning of the year until the end of the Challenge on September 12.

HOUSE POINTS! HOUSE POINTS! HOUSE POINTS!

This year as an added incentive, 5 house points will be awarded to students who meet the Challenge so all students are encouraged to be in it, and read some great books along the way to supporting their House.

Consent forms are available at the Library Circulation Desk and must be completed and returned to Mrs Dymond. Once students are registered, a username & password for online access will be issued.

Please encourage your son to be a part of this Challenge and support him in his reading.

Judy Dymond

Librarian

2014 Catholic Education Week

‘Entrust yourselves to God and dare to dream’ was the focus for Catholic Education Week 2014. Simonds Catholic College was represented by students from Year 8 and Year 10 accompanied by the Principal, Mr Riordan, at the Mass of St Patrick for Schools. The Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Denis J Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. His Grace spoke about St Patrick, Patron Saint of our Archdiocese, and his life and dedication to his faith in God. Students and teachers were reminded of the power of prayer in our lives and the importance of faith in God. The Altar Servers from Simonds who serve at St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne throughout the year, were represented by Altar Servers from Year 8, 9 and 10. Celtic Irish pipers led the procession of three hundred and fifty school banners through the Cathedral, followed by Simonds Altar Servers who led the Celebrants into the Cathedral during the Entrance Hymn, ‘Christ, be Our Light.’ The Mass concluded with an Episcopal Blessing from the Archbishop.

Ms Maryanne Krall – Religious Education Coordinator
On the 13th of March, the Student Leaders were given the opportunity to go to the “Catholic Men’s Breakfast” and the “Leadership Day with the Most Rev. Archbishop Denis J. Hart DD.” Although we had an early start to the day, the opportunity to listen to the life story of Francis Bourke and how we can become better young men was worthwhile. The story demonstrated how we as young individuals can make this world a better place by looking up to our role models, such as Pope Francis. We also had the opportunity to spend time with the Archbishop who told us about his teenage life, his understanding of faith and how this led to his religious vocation. Thanks to Mr. Riordan for giving us this opportunity to learn more about being a leader and growing as an individual.

Alfonso Zampogna - Social Justice Member

On the 13th of March 2014, the VCAL students were invited to meet up with Miss Tan at the Grand Prix at Albert Park in the morning. On the day I was running a bit behind because of unfortunate events that occurred. (There were some delays due to trains changing their destination.) Matthew and I decided to meet on Nicholson Street just outside of Parliament Station. When we got into the Grand Prix it was already very crowded. The first thing we did was go to the ‘Power to Excite’ Educational Talk, which was about Secondary students talking about their science inventions, why they chose the topic and how they made them. After the talk, Miss Tan gave us free time but we had to meet up with her by 1:30pm. During our free time, the first thing we did was go for lunch. While having lunch we listened to the bands that were playing there and after about half an hour or so we walked around the area looking at different things on display. We saw stunt planes doing awesome stunts. After 5 minutes of looking at the planes we then we saw some Go Karts up on display. Next we saw the Ball of Death. What people did inside this was that they were to ride a bike at a fast enough speed around the inside of the ball shaped cage in order to keep them from falling off their bikes.

Finally there was the Pit Stop Challenge. Unfortunately for us we weren’t allowed to do this challenge because we were under 18. Before we knew it, it was time to meet up with Miss Tan. After meeting with her, we saw some of the Johnnie Walker promo girls so we decided to take photos with them. After the photos we watched the V8 Supercars race which sounded was like heaven. After the V8’s, something caught my attention... I thought I was in heaven, I saw Nissan GTR R35s, a Mazda RX7 and some other cars on display. The rest of the day we spent by walking around and looking at vintage cars and watching people doing tricks on their skateboards.

Johny Pham
Year 11 VCAL class of 2014
Cyber Safety Information Session

**Internet privacy in an age of oversharing**

We are holding an information session for parents on:

**Wednesday 23 April 2014**

@ 6.30pm in the LIBRARY
St Mary’s Campus

Join in the discussion with an ACMA Cybersmart expert.

Arm yourself with the knowledge of ‘what’s trending’ and how to assist your child navigate safety online.

www.cybersmart.gov.au

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**St Aloysius Parent Evening**

**Understanding how your kids thing!**

**When:** Tuesday 3rd June, 2014  
4.30pm – 6.30pm

**Where:** St Aloysius College  
31 Curran Street, North Melbourne

**Cost:** Free  
**RSVP:** Please register to Jodie McLeod on 9329 0411  
mcleodj@aloysius.vic.edu.au

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**Calendar Dates**

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