Dear Parents

In a couple of weeks time, Simonds students across Years 9 – 12 will participate in semester exams. Students in all year levels will also be completing assignments and other assessed coursework. We share your high expectations of your sons and encourage and support them to put in a sustained effort at their studies in the coming weeks to ensure they achieve the best standard of which they are capable. Hint for students:

- Prepare for the examination by revising and studying
- During the examination, organise your time effectively
- Make sure that you read the question carefully, underline the relevant words, and make sure you stay on task
- Make rough notes at the start of the question, so as to formulate your thoughts.

Prayer for Exams

God our Father, as I begin this time of exams, I feel some anxiety and frustration.
Help me to stay focused.
Give me a clear mind to perform to the best of my ability.
Help me to study with dedication and vigor.
Grant me silence so that I may process the knowledge I have obtained.
Let me sleep peacefully at night, so that I am refreshed and renewed for my upcoming exams.
Be with me, Lord, during this time.
Undoubtedly, there will be moments when I want to quit and give up.
Please sustain me, Lord. Guide me during times of trouble.
Help me to realize that I have done my best possible work.
Let me be satisfied with the work I have done,
but also help me to see areas that I may improve upon academically in the future.

Amen.

Wednesday 23rd May we had a Vietnamese only parent evening. It was well attended and parents heard from parents of past students sharing their experiences about being Vietnamese parents in our school. Parents had the opportunity to voice any concerns as members of our Vietnamese community. We also had a guest speaker Kym Nguyen addressing how young Vietnamese boys can best flourish in school environments.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Bertoncello
Annual Mass for Altar Servers

Most Reverend Denis J Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne, celebrated the Annual Mass for Altar Servers at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne, Friday 18 May 2012. Altar Servers from Simonds Catholic College and parishes of the Archdiocese of Melbourne were admitted into the Guild of Saint Stephen. Each Altar Server received a medal of Saint Stephen from the Archbishop. The Guild of Saint Stephen fosters a deep awareness and understanding of the liturgy. Saint Stephen was a deacon of the Church who assisted the apostles by his service to God’s people.

Congratulations to Thomas Ngo, Michael Ngo and Jenwin Mabanag for being admitted into the Guild of Saint Stephen.

If your son is interested in serving at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne, please notify me.

Mrs M Krall – REC: Prayer & Liturgy

Invitation to parents and staff

As part of the School Community Partnership Programme launched in 2010, the Arts Faculty runs art workshops every Tuesday afternoon from 3:20pm to 5:00pm, in the art room at the St Mary’s 7-10 Campus. These have proven to be popular with a number of staff and parents who enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of our art room to learn new skills and techniques.

Since the beginning of these workshops the participants have completed many wonderful artworks using a variety of materials and techniques. Some of the activities undertaken include Pottery, Watercolour Painting, Sculpture, Stone Carving, Digital Design and Printmaking.

This opportunity is available to everyone in our school community regardless of experience, age or status. All that is needed is an interest in art, be prepared to roll one’s sleeves and an openness to meet other parents and teachers on a social level; to enjoy the experience of creating, sharing ideas, and having fun.

The programme allows those involved to work at their own pace and seek advice when needed. Participants may choose an area of interest which they want to explore, or learn particular techniques and develop art skills as guided by the coordinator.

There are still 5 places remaining for this year so if you are interested in joining us please contact Mr Sanciolo through the school’s secretary. This programme is funded by the Family School Community Partnership Programme and is at no cost to participants.

Mr B Sanciolo – Head of the Arts
On Friday 11 May, year 10 Japanese students embarked on an excursion to Monash University in Clayton. This provided them with an opportunity to fully understand the importance of studying Japanese and continue learning Japanese to VCE level. There were many great performances including Wadaiko Rindo Drumming and Aikido Performance. Also, many guest speakers presented their experience with the Japanese language and the culture. To conclude the program, we enjoyed a Japanese movie called ‘The Boy and His Samurai’. Everyone had fun, and Simonds was among those who enjoyed it the most.

**Miss Y Yao - Japanese Teacher**

**Student Reflection**

On the 11 May 2012, the Year 10 Japanese students attended the ‘Why Learn Japanese?’ seminar at Monash University, Clayton. Ms. Yao and Mr. Turner were the ones accompanying the Year 10 Japanese students. The day did not start well due to trains being delayed causing a few students arriving late and one student to miss out; however, we went on our way and arrived on time.

The first thing that we noticed when we arrived at the venue was the sheer number of various schools attending the seminar. We gathered inside a large auditorium with tickets allotting our seat numbers. With such a large number of students inside an auditorium waiting for the seminar to start, we all became quite restless wondering what will happen.

We noticed the huge Japanese drums, which is called ‘Taiko’ in Japanese, on the stage. After a short moment, 5 Japanese people entered the stage holding drum sticks and a cymbal. They were the Wadaiko Rindo Drummers. When the lead drummer started drumming, the chatter in the auditorium stopped and our attention was captured by the sound of their drums in perfect unison. Their performance was impressive, amazing, and dramatic.

After a huge round of applause we were welcomed by our host Lois Booth, the president of JLTAV (Japanese Language Teacher’s Association of Victoria) in Japanese. Fortunately, she welcomed us with common Japanese phrases that we have learnt. Afterwards, we were greeted by Mr. Hirohisa Chiba, the Deputy Consul-General of Japan. He shared his thoughts about learning a different language and his passion for learning English. The Wadaiko Rindo Drummers returned to give an opportunity for students to come up and give it a go. They left after giving another spectacular performance with Lois Booth joining them.

We were introduced to three people who have a great passion for learning Japanese; Anna Renalson O’Kane, Jenny Hall, and Jonathan Woods. They shared their own stories of when they were learning Japanese at our age, the struggles they experienced, and their love of learning Japanese and its culture. There was an Aikido performance that made everyone on edge, as the Sensei was flipping his students everywhere. We watched an intriguing Japanese commercial that imitated a Japanese radio show for morning exercises. Everyone was made to have a go at learning and doing the dance in the commercial, which was quite embarrassing for all of us.

Lois Booth then introduced Samantha Barry and Rose Zhang, who are two University students from Monash University aiming to become Japanese Pop-Stars. They gave an impressive performance followed by a large round of applause from everyone to show their support. We ended the day by watching a Japanese romantic comedy movie titled ‘The Boy and His Samurai’. We then left the venue and headed back to school with a spark of motivation and inspiration inside us.

**Bryan Talagtag - Year 10 Gold**
2012 marks the 16th anniversary of the establishment of National Reconciliation Week. What makes this year unique is there being three significant anniversaries in the Reconciliation movement.

**Saturday 26 May** marked the 15th anniversary of the public release ‘Bringing Them Home’. For many Australians this was the first time the tragedy of the ‘Stolen Generations’ became public knowledge. Before then, governments remained silent about the policies of removal that took place for over 100 years.

**Sunday 27 May** marks the 45th anniversary of the 1967 referendum in which 92% of Australians voted to: include Aboriginal people in the reckoning of the census, remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and give the Australian Government the power to make laws beneficial for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Sunday 3 June** marks the 20th anniversary of the High Court’s judgment in the Mabo case in 1992, which recognized Native Title rights of Indigenous people to their lands. The Court rules that Australia was never *terra nullius*.

The theme of National Reconciliation Week 2012 is: “Let's Talk Recognition”. There is still no recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. There is a growing movement of people from all backgrounds and political parties (including leaders) to include such recognition.

In January 2012, the Expert Panel on the Australian Constitution handed its report to the Prime Minister, recommending the following changes:

- section 25 is removed (this section allows State Governments to disqualify voters of any race)
- section 51(xxvi) is removed and a new section 51A is adopted to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to preserve the Australian Government’s ability to pass laws for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- a new section 116A is adopted, prohibiting racial discrimination
- a new section 127A is adopted, recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages while confirming that English is Australia’s national language.

These changes can only occur if voted for by a majority of voters in a majority of States in a National Referendum.

At Simonds Catholic College, we will fly the Aboriginal flag during the week to recognise the importance of our nation’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage. We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people as the traditional owners of the lands where both campuses of Simonds College stands.

*Mr D Barnett - VCE Ethics Teacher*