Dear Parents,

This week Mr Anastasio, the Acting Assistant Principal - Head of St Brigid’s VCE Campus, and I met with the Leadership Team of the Academy of Mary Immaculate. The purpose was to review the current cooperative arrangements between the two colleges and discuss possibilities for next year.

You may be aware that Year 12 students from the Academy have attended classes at Simonds in Accounting and Physics in 2011 and Specialist Mathematics in 2012. In return students from Simonds have studied Music 2010-12, Food Technology 2011-12, and Art in 2012 and participated in the Academy Musical last year. The teachers and students from both colleges are very pleased with the opportunities available to them through these sharing arrangements and the students are to be commended on their attitude and excellent behaviour.

This has been an exciting and beneficial experience for both colleges and will certainly be continued in the future. We are most appreciative of the support received from Sister Mary Moloney Principal of the Academy, and the college community.

While our current Year 12 students are busily studying in the final semester of their secondary schooling, our Year 10 students begin the process of thinking about possible career pathways and preparing to choose subjects to study in their VCE. Information sessions were held for Year 10 students on Wednesday afternoon at the St Brigid’s VCE Campus, and for parents and their sons in the evening. In the coming weeks, each Year 10 student will meet with a careers advisor and will be supported by his teachers to choose subjects best suited to his ability, interests and aspirations. A draft subject selection will be reviewed by teachers prior to each boy making his final selection. Through this process we hope boys will be assisted to make the most suitable subject selection for their desired futures.

STAFF CHANGES

Staff Absence: Mr Alan Croughan continues his recuperation from pneumonia and returned to work on a part time basis this week. Ms Huey Yng Tan and Ms Cindy Tran are recuperating from recent operations Ms Desi Sinis is on four weeks Long Service Leave.

Welcome to: Ms Zoe Kotros, who replaces Mr Alan Croughan and teaches Year 11 Business Studies and VCE Study Classes; Mr Alexander Prinis, who replaces Ms Huey Yng Tan and teaches Science in Years 9 & 10 and a Year 8 Literacy class; Mr Vinh Pham, who replaces Ms Desi Sinis and teaches VCE Mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR BERNARD McFARLANE

ENROLLMENTS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR YEARS 7-12 IN 2013.

Information packages are available from the office at each campus.

Guided tours are available on request.
FOTOMAKERs, (our school photographer) have received some requests from parents for traditional photographic group prints to be made available to purchase in addition to the A4 Booklet chosen as our 2012 product. 

This product is now available to purchase online at: www.fotomakers.com.au

Your unique SHOOT KEY is located on the back page of your A4 Booklet.

Fotomakers can be contacted directly for additional information or to retreat your Shoot Key

Email: admin@fotomakers.com.au (include student name and school name) Ph :1300 660 626

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Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parents are reminded that Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on the following days:

- **Thursday, July 9**  
  Years 7 - 12  2.00 – 6.00 pm  
  - all interviews will be held at the St Mary’s 7-10 Campus, West Melbourne

- **Friday, July 10**  
  Years 7 – 10  8.30 am – 1.00 pm  
  - VCE classes only periods 1-4

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Catholic Social Justice

At Simonds College, we have made “solidarity” something that is central to our school identity. As part of Catholic Social Justice teaching, “solidarity” means to walk beside those who are in need and witness their experience and then be moved to work for positive outcomes for these people.

What has been most reassuring have been the actions of the Year 7 boys who have contributed over $200 in ‘incidental’ giving in the last few weeks of Term Two. This has been their choice and the giving of coins seems to have ‘snowballed’. Noel Jones in Year 7 White and his friends, Cholo Viray and Xanh Nguyen, have collected over $57 just in their own group of contacts. Overall, the Year 7s will have contributed $200 in the past few weeks.

Everyone in the world deserves access to “common good”. This means that the goods of the earth should be distributed more evenly than they are at present. This would ensure that the people suffering maximum deprivation have a chance at a life which is flagged by a decent, secure and hopeful existence. At Simonds, the boys are taught about ‘social transformation’ and that one small action can lead to a massive shift in thinking. As Vu Trinh and Thanuja Silva experienced at the “Catholic Social Justice Forum” earlier in the year, our responsibility does not end with the donations. It is important to lobby for the eradication of unjust political, social and economical structures where possible.

As far as the Simonds community is concerned, our recent actions have been directed specifically to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo where some of our African boys have relatives. Both these areas hold huge masses of suffering human beings – all with one life just like us. At Simonds, we have started a journey of hope and have decided to work towards alleviating even the smallest amount of the fear and hopelessness which exist in these areas.

The crisis in **South Sudan** showed many people eating roots and grasses. At Doro Camp, there were 80,000 homeless people and numbers were increasing. South Sudan is a fledgling nation with little capacity to help itself. People fleeing the bordering states are subjected to terrible violence. They tell of bombs falling on their houses and being attacked by planes while running for their lives. North Sudan has blocked all access from the north of South Sudan and heavy rains have cut off relief supply lines which are trucked in, mainly from the east.
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, although the Civil War is officially over, terror and suffering still continue. While the world has turned its attention away from this area, there are still 1.7 million internally displaced people who are continually forced to move to find safety. This means that they have no permanent home or place of comfort. Camps are overcrowded and ridden with disease in many cases. Violence against women and girls is rife. Murder is common place and there are horrific stories of ambush. This is why our students have an invested measure of concern. While we are safe, there are others who are not. Some of these could be relatives of our students. It is considered to be our “duty of care” and our “call of the heart” to help.

Mrs R Noble – Head of Religious Education: Curriculum

Sports Update

It has been a very busy start to Term 3, with our Basketball and Table Tennis teams making their debuts into the ACC competition as well as the year 10 ski trip to Mt. Baw Baw.

Both Table Tennis teams have burst into the ACC with some impressive results. Our year 7/8 team had a convincing away win at Emmanuel College (10-5), while the year 9/10 team has had two dominating wins over St.Bede’s (14-1) and Whitefriars (15-0). Next week will be a top of the table blockbuster, as the 9/10 team take on Mazenod College.

While both year 7/8 and year 9/10 Basketball teams have faced some strong opposition early, they remain positive moving forward and continue to develop as a stronger team. Our top ranked V.C.E basketball team will be in action again this week at MSAC.

Training for the ACC cross country team is underway after teams were selected late last term. Mr Abrahall and Mr McConnon have a range of tracks and activities planned for the team to ensure we have the best preparation for the event later in the term.

It is exciting to see our Sport program grow and to see our students in action every week. This couldn’t be done without the help of staff, students and parents. Thanks to everyone that has been involved with our sporting teams and good luck for the rest of the term.

Mr C Veal - Sports Master

Year 10 Ski Trip

On the 20th of July, a total of 20 year 10 students participated in a snow trip event located at Mt. Baw Baw. This once in a life time opportunity was well co-ordinated and planned out by the staff members Mr Veal, Mr Turner and Mr Abrahall. Students and teachers rested at school the night before in order to arrive to the snow event on time. Movies, games and also morning breakfast were provided for the students.

The 5 hour bus trip was indeed tiring for all students however the miraculous views and the sights across the mountains sure captured the attention of most students along the way. On arriving at the site immediately everyone sensed the cold weather conditions. After grabbing our gear and equipment, we were taught the basics on how to ski safely and responsibly by our instructor. Some students found it difficult, however most of us got the hang of it. Finally after being taught the basics, we all scattered off and got to enjoy the pleasure of skiing. For the majority of us it was a first time so we got to experience firsthand what the snow surrounding felt like.
It was quite humorous seeing most of us collapsing down but the fierce determination and perseverance of our group showed that it was all about trial and error. It was too bad that none of the teachers fell down, because that would have been hilarious. Overall through long periods of bus rides, overpriced food and amazing sights it was a once in a life time opportunity for all of us to be a part of.

Thanks go out to Mr Abrahall, Mr Turner and Mr Veal for organising this event and for students in year 10 next year; I highly recommend that you guys attend.

Adam Nguyen - 10 Red

The Huddle Study Support Program (at North Melbourne Football Club)

Monday-Thursday 4-7pm and Sundays 2-6pm
- One to one subject specific tutoring
- Quiet study space with internet and Mac computers
- ESL Scholarships to support pathways and increase educational opportunity
- Young women's scholarship supported by “Inspire” - forthcoming
- Hours will be extended leading into and during the exam period

Further activities for Students attending in the Study Support Program are as follows (there are still spaces left in many programs).
- Maths Clinic – one to one maths tutoring by Faculty of Business and Economics students at the University of Melbourne (Wednesdays)
- Words Beyond Rhythm – hip hop and spoken word (Saturdays)
- Shaping Futures – career planning and mentorship with staff at Randstad (Big Brothers Big Sisters)
- igoals9 – online goal setting software that supports young people to set and achieve their goals
- Drop in Basketball (Fridays for young men)
- Indoor Soccer (Thursdays for young women)

Access to tickets in The Huddle bays at North Melbourne Football Club home games, the Vixens and more. Parents and adults may also be interested in our Adult Basic Computer Skills Program, a student-led activity (St Aloysius VCAL), Mondays 2-3pm

There is no cost for participants in Huddle programs. Queries and registrations should be sent to huddle@kangaroos.com.au. (A general registration form is available from your campus office. Students can come to the Huddle at any time to register into specific programs or make enquiries.

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For information on The Huddle’s programs for schools. http://bitly.com/huddle2012programs