PRINCIPAL’S REFLECTION – Mr Peter Riordan

Dear Parents,

At this time of year, I am often met by friends and acquaintances who invariably comment that the year is almost over and that the holidays are not far away! Whilst this is most certainly true there is still a great deal happening across both campuses at Simonds Catholic College.

In a new initiative, all of our Yr 8 students and staff participated in a three day Camp at the Don Bosco Camp in Dromana recently. Many of our students had never explored this part of Victoria before, and despite slightly inclement weather the camp was a huge success as students and staff involved themselves in the various activities with great enthusiasm. Just this week the Yr 9 students have been involved in the annual Yr 9 Camp at Anglesea which provides the students and staff with many great activities to stretch them out of their comfort zone. I believe it is critical as a school based in inner Melbourne that we continue to give our students these challenging and exciting outdoor opportunities. I particularly thank Mr Sebbens, Mr Vaughan and Mr Turner for their outstanding organisation of the Year 8 and Year 9 Camps.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an invitation to our 2013 Family Mass and Awards Evening to be held at St Mary’s Star of the Sea, West Melbourne on Thursday 21 November at 7:00 pm. It would be terrific to see as many families there as possible, to celebrate the wonderful achievements of students at Simonds Catholic College throughout the course of this year.

On Friday 22 November we will be holding a casual day to raise funds for the people of the Philippines whose homes and lives have been devastated by the destruction of Cyclone Haiyan. The people of the Philippines have certainly been in the thoughts and prayers of our school community in recent days, and we will continue to pray for their intentions in coming weeks.

Finally, I would urge all students to work as hard as they can in the remaining weeks of school to ensure that their hard work during the year is well rewarded with pleasing academic results.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Riordan
PRINCIPAL
Remembrance Day Pray Service

On Monday morning students and staff from both St Mary’s & St Brigid’s Campuses assembled to commemorate those who have died due to war. At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. At the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments gave it the name: Remembrance Day. The Defence Force members presently serving on active operations in various parts of the world were also remembered during the prayers for peace. Thank you to the staff and students who led the prayers, provided the music and took charge of the flag during the Remembrance Day Prayer Service.

**Mrs M Krall - Religious Education Coordinator**

Australia-Japan Relations Award

I would like to share this very exciting news which I received today from the Consulates-General of Japan in Melbourne.

Two months ago, I encouraged Kevin to enter the 31st Australia-Japan relations essay contest 2013. I just found out that he is the top junior winner in Victoria. He will be rewarded $300 worth of books of his choice and his family and our school principal Mr Riordan will be invited to attend the ceremony in the consulate of Melbourne, early December.

**Ms Y Yao – Japanese Teacher**

National Day of Climate Action – Get involved

Sunday 17th November 11:00am, Treasury Place, Melbourne.

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) along with our event partners are excited to invite school groups to join our National Day of Climate Action. The AYCC, Getup and our partners are holding events in capital cities in every state, and the ACT. We know young people are going to face the effects of the choices we make now to tackle climate change. So it’s important to have as many young people as possible standing up for why they care about climate change on November 17.

Each event is a family friendly gathering, and we’re expecting thousands of people in each city. It will be a big crowd, and an exciting atmosphere.

During the event there will be:

- Speeches from scientists, fire fighters, young people, doctors and a politician from each party
- A photo stunt for all attendees to participate in. Attendees are encouraged to wear hot summer colours like red and orange.
- Family friendly activities like face painting, music, circus performers
- Information stalls about getting involved with climate action and information about climate change
- Security guards, and police present to ensure all attendees are safe.

If you would like any more information, email Phoebe Howe at phoebe@aycc.org.au

**Mr D Barnett – Science Coördinator**
On Wednesday, the 23 of October all the Year 8 students gathered on the buses to set off on a great journey to the Don Bosco Camp in Dromana. All the students waited with great anticipation for the arrival at the camp. Upon arrival at the campsite we were greeted by a man named John who outlined the boundaries and rules set by the camp. We then settled into our cabins.

Despite the weather conditions – rain, wind - we proceeded with our first group activities. The activities consisted of.... The Trivia, movie viewings, sporting activities, Point Nepean walk and beach walk as well as swimming. We also played a sporting game that was quite unfamiliar to all the students; it was called Gaga Ball, a game originating in Israel. We also hosted a Talent Quest which took place on the second night of camp and consisted of many talented acts. It was a great night which everyone enjoyed and had a few laughs along the way as well.

The food on the camp was lovely. The first night we were served sausages with mash potatoes and vegetables. We both thought the food was nice and we quite enjoyed it. The second night we were served spaghetti bolognese, which once again wasn't too bad. Throughout the afternoons on each of the days we were at the camp, for lunch we were served healthy, yet delicious rolls and sandwiches which consisted of many types of cheeses and fresh produce. On one particular day we had hot dogs in rolls which were loved by everyone!

Unfortunately a sad aspect for all the students was lights out at 10:00pm. Even though most boys stayed up and talked or even played cards until 12:00am, we needed our sleep to ensure we were full of energy for the following day's activities. A highlight for many of the students was the Point Nepean walk and swimming at the beach. The Point Nepean walk was very interesting as we were introduced to places that had been bases or bunkers to soldiers during the First World War; we witnessed training camps, and artillery training courses. We all found this very intriguing and very interesting. We also visited the memorial of a former Australian Prime Minister, Harold Holt, a man who drowned in the waters off Portsea. Another key aspect of the camp was the beach activities: they consisted of sandcastle building, sprint races, longest vortex throws, human pyramids and something all the boys were looking forward to... swimming in the Dromana beach! The water was icy cold but many students ignored the frostiness and continued to enjoy themselves in the water.

On the last day of our Dromana Camp we packed our gear, cleaned our rooms, saluted and thanked the organisers and all the helpers of the camp. The students were all anxious to return home. After once again a long trip home we were dismissed upon arrival at school. The camp in our opinion was a great success and we recommend it to future year 8 students as it will give students an insight into many historical landmarks and the opportunity to explore a new place entirely.

David Tonkich & Josh Dilorenzo of 8 White
As the end of the school year draws to a close, Year 7-10 students will be entering the exam phase soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Period/Date</th>
<th>Thursday 28 November</th>
<th>Friday 29 November</th>
<th>Monday 2 December</th>
<th>Tuesday 3 December</th>
<th>Wednesday 4 December</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>Orientation Day @ St Brigid’s</td>
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<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>LOTE Italian/Japanese</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>HPE</td>
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<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Maths</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
<td>English</td>
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All Year 9 & 10 exams will be 90 minutes duration.
The year 7 & 8 Maths exams will be 80 minutes duration, whilst Yr 7 English will be 50 minutes and Yr 8 English 55 minutes.

Arrangements for Year 7 & 8
Exams will be held during Periods 1 and 2.
Normal classes will operate for students in Year 7 & 8 during Periods 3-6 on exam days.

Arrangements for Year 9
Year 9 students are expected to attend Homeroom as normal. They will be dismissed after their exams on Monday and Tuesday. It is expected that students remain at school as normal after the final exam on Wednesday.

Arrangements for Year 10
Year 10 students are expected to attend Homeroom as normal. They will be dismissed after their final exam each day.

A Study Guide to assist with the preparation for the exams has been provided to each student.

If students need to reschedule an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, this must be arranged with the Year Level Coordinators, Mr Turner and Mr Ramos.

Mrs H Koutoulogenis – Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching)

Australian Mathematics Competition

On 1 August this year, 50 students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The aim of this competition is to create, encourage and sustain interest in mathematics amongst secondary students.

Awards are allocated to students as follows:
HIGH DISTINCTION - top 2% of the state | DISTINCTION - next 13% of the state | CREDIT - next 35% of the state.
PRUDENCE - at least 10 consecutive questions correct starting from question 1.
I am very proud to say that this year and 46% of our students received a credit award or above.
High Distinctions: 1  Distinctions: 9  Credits: 13

Congratulations to all students who entered and in particular the following students:

Overall Prudence Award Winner: student who achieved the most correct consecutive answers!
Kevin Wong 8
High Distinction Awards: top 2% of the state
Kevin Wong 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distinction Awards: next 13% of the state</th>
<th>Credit Awards: next 35% of the state</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francesco Pacioni  7</td>
<td>Kevin Minh Tran  7</td>
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<td>Simon Liu  7</td>
<td>Timmy Cu  7</td>
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<td>Ethan Choi  7</td>
<td>Thai Le  9</td>
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<td>Lawrence Huynh  8</td>
<td>Yurl Bakay  9</td>
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<td>Kevin Van  8</td>
<td>Daniel Som  9</td>
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<td>Adrain Chau  10</td>
<td>John Nguyen  9</td>
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<td>Don Nguyen  10</td>
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<td>Fillo Kuntag  12</td>
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<td>Xu Wang Liao  12</td>
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<td>Raymond Liu  10</td>
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<td>Van Nguyen  10</td>
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<td>Daniil Yarrovi  12</td>
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<td>Ms D Sinis - Head of Mathematics</td>
<td>Lakshya Tyagi  12</td>
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</tbody>
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Community Organisations Event

Are you looking for summer programs for you or your children?

Do you know what family activities are available in your area?

Would you like some support for your child or for your whole family?

Come find out more from these organisation and others at St. Michael’s Primary School Community Organisations Event!

Date: Friday 22 November
Time: 2:30pm—4:00pm
Place: St. Michael’s Primary
8 Brougham Street
North Melbourne 3051

Translators will be available for Vietnamese, Arabic, Chinese, Amharic, Tigringa, Somali, Hindi

... and more!

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