Life at Simonds Catholic College is back into full swing, with the long summer holiday a distant memory. At our Opening School Assembly, our College Captain for 2016 Yuri Bakay delivered an excellent address to our school community. Within his address, he both challenged and urged students to become as involved in school life as possible. He strongly encouraged each student at Simonds Catholic College to become involved in one activity that they had never before been involved in. It would be terrific if parents could talk to their son(s) about this, because by becoming involved in a new and different activity it can only help to continue to build on the fine school culture we have established, and to further enhance that culture.

One of the recommendations that came out of our SIF Review last year from our School Reviewer, Ms Olwyn Horton was to take the time this year to revisit our current Vision Statement that was previously written in 1996 – the year that Simonds Catholic College was established – as an amalgamation of Cathedral College and St Mary’s Boys Regional College; and to evaluate how it resonated with what was currently happening at Simonds Catholic College in 2016. To implement this recommendation from our SIF Review, Mr Chris Bence, Principal Consultant from Catholic Education Melbourne, has spent two sessions working with, and leading staff through this very important process. A revised detailed Vision Statement will be available to all families and the conclusion of this process.

Our ACC Swimming Team put in one of its best ever performances at the ACC Swimming Carnival held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on the evening of Friday, 29 February. Many of our swimmers swam personal best times to produce some really pleasing results. I know many of the parents who attended on the night were extremely proud of their son(s), as was Simonds Catholic College.

Don’t forget that our annual Trivia Night will be held in St Brigid’s Hall on Wednesday 7 March – we look forward to welcoming many families and friends to this exciting and fun night.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Riordan
Principal | Simonds Catholic College
Parent Evening Tuesday 8th March:
A reminder that the evening for parents on the topic of “Communication – What works and what doesn’t” is on Tuesday 8th March, GP Room, St. Mary’s Campus, 7pm-8.30pm. A panel of three students and three parents will speak. A handout will be provided at the conclusion of the evening. If you are yet to hand in your attendance via the reply section on your letter of invitation, please do so via your son to his homeroom teacher. You are also welcome to email (see below).
I hope to see you on the night!

Thursday afternoons:
Do you arrive at school to collect your son? Would you like to wait inside and have a cuppa? Each Thursday parents are welcome in the staff room at St. Mary’s from 2.30pm-4pm (or anytime in between) for a cuppa and chat. If you are interested, can you let me know at prohan@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au

Pass Program
Part of the W@SP (Wellbeing @ Simonds Program) is a “partener” team. We have begun a partnership with Vic Police through the Fitzroy Branch and Constable Chris McGeachan. Four of our students: Saleh Hassen, Kenny Hua and Cholo Viray from year 11 and John Nguyen from year 12 have signed up for membership of the “Police And Simonds Students” program (PASS). More info will be available on this in the coming weeks.

Pastoral Care
A coordinated pastoral care program is now in operation from years 7-12. It is a program which is developmentally appropriate to boys’ ages and aims to educate across a range of practical topics. Lessons are prescribed and delivered by pastoral care teachers - on the odd occasion, a guest presenter. Lessons are delivered in a cooperative and conversational manner and the focus is on communication. It is a new and welcome initiative in the area of wellbeing in the College.

Mr P Rohan | Coordinator of Student Wellbeing / Counsellor

ACC Swimming Carnival
The annual ACC Swimming Carnival took place last Friday 19 February at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park. Simonds was well represented by a team of 25 swimmers from Years 7-12. We had a very consistent group of swimmers and we ended up scoring more points as a team than we had in many years. Two major highlights were Albert Tran coming second and achieving a ‘Personal Best’ time in the 50m Freestyle and the Under 14 Relay team coming third in a thrilling race. It was great to see so many families and supporters sitting in the Simonds section of the stands and cheering the swimmers on. Thank you and congratulations to all the members of the team. Thanks also to the teachers – Mr Westaway, Mr Conlan, Mr Nikolaidis, Mr Riordan and Mr Veal – for giving up their time and supporting the boys.
Following the 2013 introduction of Drama in Years 7 & 8, this year a Year 9 Drama Elective was offered to provide opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in this study area.

In Year 9 Drama, apart from learning about the craft of Drama and its cultural context, this subject offers innumerable opportunities to develop skills in leadership, team building, personal development and communication.

Our talented Year 9 students are already beginning to make sense of this field of study and have now started to construct thought provoking stories to act out in a diverse range of styles and formats. The Tableau Technique is one of the many techniques used in the Drama Classroom. It is particularly useful in story telling situations where it is important to identify and communicate a story succinctly and through a limited number of meaningful ‘frozen moment’ images.

Below, our Year 9 Drama Class in action using the Tableau format to tell their stories about “... a drive with mates”.

As you can see from the pictures below, laughter aplenty in the Drama class - showcasing our talented young story writers and actors!

Mr B Sanciolo | Drama Teacher

Career News

Parents and Students - find out all you need to know about Career Development, Career Events, Tertiary Courses on the Simonds Careers Web Page. You will find all the latest in the Important Information Tab, under Newsletters. SimondsCareers News is published every fortnight, with information on Events, Tertiary Study, Work Experience and more!

http://simondscareers.com/?page=newsletter

School Fees

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
A reminder to those families that hold a valid concession card that you are eligible for State Government financial assistance to the value of $225.00 per student. Applications are available at both campuses or online at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?redirect=1

School Fees:
Tax invoices for school fees will be issued in the upcoming weeks. In the interim should you wish to make full or part payment for your son’s tuition or discuss a payment arrangement please contact the Business Manager, Mr Danny O’Malley on 9321 9202.

Mr D O’Malley | Business Manager
Last week during our Pastoral Care class the whole Year 8 participated in a Marshmallow Challenge. Supplied with 20 spaghetti sticks, a yard of string and sticky tape, we were tasked with building a tower to hold a marshmallow. That wasn’t the challenging part, it was the fact that the tower had to be free standing. Max, Yak Brent and I got together to form the winning team.

As a team we discussed how we wanted our base to look. We ended up going with a small triangle base because it is compact, strong and maximised our resources. We then built up from the base and created a pyramid at the top, and on top of that we put a single spaghetti stick for the marshmallow.

During this lesson everybody displayed teamwork. We learnt lots about how our friends help us to be better people in other aspects of life. We recommend you all give the Marshmallow Challenge a try and you will learn a lot from the experience.

Francis N and Max D | 8 Red