

This Bulletin is produced fortnightly for the information of College families and is distributed to students to take home.

No. 2, Monday, 16th February 2009

REFLECTION

Last week a special edition of the Principal's Bulletin was issued to inform the school community of the situation immediately after the destructive and horrendous fires of February 7. We still have students and staff (and their families) battling difficult circumstances in regard to the bushfires. We shall keep them in our thoughts and prayers and offer practical support when that is required. Remember that financial donations can be made to assist Monicans in distress through the College Office on DSC.

A new school year has commenced and I hope that we are all keen to be 'fully alive' in 2009. In the first edition I provided the context in which we shall live out this 2009 College Theme.

One lesson that we could all take from the bushfires is how fortunate the majority of us are. Thankfully we do not experience the hardship and the grief that others in this world of ours do. This should lead to a profound sense of appreciation.

We know of the struggles of fellow Victorians; we realize that many fellow Australians are caught in harsh circumstances caused by poverty and years of neglect of their needs; we are aware of the torment, pain and horror that surround the daily lives of fellow human beings in many other countries of our world.

A practical and achievable way to show that we are fully alive is to care for and support, by whatever means possible, those in need. It may be through money donations that we show our care: it may be through prayer, asking that many will respond and reach out to the most needy.

For Monicans this has been a bitter-sweet start to the academic year. Without wishing to be glib, let us only hope that things will get better in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, let us be attentive and sensitive to the present and optimistic and enthusiastic about the future. This we shall do most powerfully when we act as one strong, Christian, Monican community.

FINANCE CORNER

Student Roll Information Forms (yellow form)

All students were given a roll information form on the first day of the school year.

Parents must check their family/child's personal information and amend where necessary **in red pen only**. Forms must be signed by a parent/guardian and **returned with their child no later than Tuesday 10th February, 2009**.

Students **must hand the form directly to their Homeroom teacher by the due date**.

Year 7 2009 Parents only-School Start Bonus

All Year 7 parents were sent a voucher for School Start Bonus in December, 2008 for \$300.00.

Vouchers can be presented at any Post Office along with parent identification to collect your payment. If any parent did not receive their voucher please contact Andrea Moon on 9401 2444 at DSC.

Education Maintenance Allowance 1st Instalment 2009

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to eligible parents/guardians of students under 16 years of age. The EMA is paid in two instalments, \$155.05 to both the parent and school in April, 2009 and \$66.45 to the parent and school in September, 2009 being a total of \$443.00.

To be eligible the applicant must have:

** A valid Health Care Card/Pension Card or Veterans Affairs Card.

**Be a Foster Parent and apply for the Foster child only.

**Card must be valid on 28th January, 2009 for the first instalment and 13th July, 2009 for the second instalment.

EMA forms are held at both DRC and DSC receptions and need to be lodged at Davisson St Campus only no later than 27th February, 2009.

Please note: no late applications will be accepted after the 27th February, 2009 as requested by DEET.

Any queries can be directed to Andrea Moon on DSC. Tel 9401 2444.

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dalton Road Campus: Wednesday February 18
Davisson Street Campus: Thursday February 19.

College photographs will be taken by Arthur Reed photographers. Class portraits and individual portraits will be taken and all students will be photographed for a new student identification/library card. All students must wear full College uniform (no Physical Education tracksuits) on the relevant day. All students are asked to pay particular attention to grooming and uniform.

Order envelopes have been distributed to all students. Envelopes should NOT be handed to the Reception or class teachers. To place an order, the envelope is taken to the photography session, detailing the order and enclosing payment.

Photographs are delivered to the College approximately three weeks after the photographs are taken.

FROM THE STAFFROOM

1. We welcome Mrs Paris Sidiropoulos to the College. An Old Collegian, Mrs Sidiropoulos will be the part-time receptionist on Dalton Road Campus.
2. We also welcome Miss Jessica Pletcher as a part-time science laboratory assistant. She commences on February 27.
3. Father Dispin John is the new Assistant Priest in Epping parish and we welcome him to the SMC community. Dispin undertook placement at the College during his training.

PRINCIPAL'S ART PRIZE EXHIBITION & AWARD EVENING

The Visual Arts Faculty invites all members of the St. Monica's community to the Principal's Art Prize award night, to be held on Tuesday, March 31 from 7.00p.m. The exhibition will be in the Fred Chamberlin Gallery on Davisson St Campus, which is directly above the Campus Reception area, and will contain over 130 works of art from all year levels of the College. Awards will be announced and presented at 7.30 p.m. for a prize pool worth over \$800. Seating capacity for the awards presentation may be limited; however some standing room will be available.

Students whose work has been selected for exhibition are required to attend, and official invitations should arrive in the mail by mid March.

Students who submitted work that was unsuccessful in being short listed for the exhibition should have received their work back from their art teacher with an acknowledgement letter. Similarly, students who submitted multiple works, of which only one was

short listed, should have had their non short listed work(s) returned to them with an acknowledgement letter.

General inquiries about the evening can be made to Miss Coralea Burton on 9401 2444.

St. Monica's College gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of Cavalier Art Supplies and Atlas Books, who made such a generous pool of prizes possible.

St. Monica's College, Epping
invites you to join in the celebration of

International Women's Day

with a

Ladies Breakfast

WHEN: Friday 6th March, 2009

WHERE: Gateway Room
Dalton Road Campus

TIME: 7.15 a.m.—8.30 a.m.

COST: \$15.00
(\$5.00 will be donated to The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria to support Breast Cancer).

BREAKFAST INCLUDES: Croissants, Danish, Savory Scrolls, Quiche, Fruit, Yoghurt, Muffins, Fruit Juice, Tea & Coffee

TICKETS: Call Mrs. Glenda Hay
on 9409 8854

Come on Ladies let's get together and celebrate.
Female Staff are most welcome as well as our Senior Female Students who would like to join their mothers for breakfast.

DOOR PRIZE - RAFFLE

WORDS FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD

The College Board meets for the first time in 2009 on Sunday, 22nd February commencing with Mass at St Peter's Church, Epping at 10.30am. At its meeting the Board will be elect a new Chairperson and review the College's Privacy Policy.

Vacancies exist on the Board for an Honorary Accountant (contact Father Peter O'Rourke P.P. of Holy Name, East Preston if interested and qualified) and a parish representative from St Luke's (contact Father Boy Galdo). The new student representative is Miss Kelsey Turner. The 2008 Samaritan Medal will be presented to Mr Graham Bell during the lunchtime recess.

BE SUNSMART

Too many students are sitting in the sun without a hat or sunscreen applied. This is irresponsible given the current heat wave. Saying you have olive skin will not prevent getting skin cancer.

Congratulations to Michael Di Battista on his selection as opening bat for the 15 year old Victorian cricket team. The National Championships will be held in Cobram/Barooga from February 28 till March 8.

Tae Kwon Do

Tae Kwon Do training will commence on Tuesday February 17 from 3.30-4.30pm in the Dance Studio in the Sports and Assembly Hall. Interested students please pick up a letter from Mr Shelton in the Sports and Assembly Hall for Dalton Road Campus or at the Sports Office, Room 317, on Davisson Street Campus.

SINCE THE LAST EDITION.....

A new year: auditions for College productions; trials, tryouts and training for many sports including cricket, tennis, volleyball; ASH; DAV debating meetings; private music lesson; Reading Club; VCAL fundraising event; visit from Melbourne Water re The Wetlands project; SACSS AGM; SMC Rock Band auditions....

PAMELA COYNE LIBRARY MONITORS

We are looking for students who want to learn to be Library Monitors. No experience required! See Ms Rogers for information.

PARENTS DROPPING OFF STUDENTS AT DAVISSON STREET CAMPUS

Parents are asked to use the drop off zone in the Davisson Street Campus car-park so as to alleviate traffic congestion on Davisson Street at peak times. Please also avoid stopping on Davisson Street to drop off children. Apart from the obvious congestion this causes on the street there is also a large risk to children being left to negotiate traffic.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to Bernadette Dimaculangan and Jeffrey Miller on their being selected as Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars through The University of Melbourne.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES – HOW TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN

It is with great sadness and disbelief that many of us have watched reports of the devastating fires in our state, that have touched the lives of so many people including members of our own College community. There have been constant distressing images of death and destruction in the media and a death toll that is hard to comprehend. Our thoughts and prayers are with all people grieving for the loss of family, friends, homes and livelihoods.

It is difficult to make sense of such destruction, serious injury and loss of life. Staff members and families in our College community have been personally affected by this tragedy. The College has lost property at Ostia. Many of us will not be so closely involved; however witnessing this tragedy graphically on television and through the newspapers can still adversely affect us. Sudden,

overwhelming events may challenge our sense of safety and security and personal control over our lives. The dramatic and on-going coverage of the event in the media makes it difficult to be shielded from the emotional impact.

As parents, what do we need to be mindful of when such traumatic events occur?

- People react differently to tragedies and traumatic events.
- Some people are sensitive to tragedy and may become fearful, anxious and withdrawn.
- A tragic event may trigger concerns about parts of our lives that are unhappy, such as a recent bereavement, a change in or loss of a relationship, stressful events.
- Children often have less ability to understand these events because of their stage of development.
- Adolescents may want answers and reassurance and yet may not openly ask for these.

It is important to support our young people through difficult times in a number of ways:

- Listen to your children. Give them opportunities to talk and ask questions about the events and answer them honestly but appropriately for their age.
- Respond to their emotions. Acknowledge these and reassure them of your care and of your concern for their safety and security. We can't stop these tragedies but we can be there for them as they try to understand what has happened.
- Remind them that such events do not happen regularly and that they live in relative safety most of the time. However these natural events do occur in our world and people are remarkably resilient and can survive and cope with support. Hope in our lives is vital to our emotional well-being.
- You may wish to encourage them to become involved in responses to the tragedy – e.g. donating money or clothing, toys and games for children without homes. It is important to encourage empathy and sympathy for the people affected and also to provide opportunities for social action. Helping others draws us together as human beings and also provides a means of accepting and gaining some control over responses to this disaster. Adolescents may particularly benefit from being active and helping others.
- Routine and normality are also comforting and help to re-establish emotional equilibrium and a belief in personal security.
- Limit their exposure to the traumatic images on the news as this can maintain distress.
- Take care of yourself and remember the many positive aspects of your life.

If you have any concerns about responses of your children, please contact the College for support – Homeroom Teacher, Year Level Leader or College Counsellor.

FURTHER ON THE BUSHFIRES

We continue to monitor and offer support to our colleagues and students (and families) who have been adversely affected by the bushfires. Specific messages of support have arrived from: Takada High School, Japan; the Provincial of the Presentation Sisters in Pakistan; Avila College, Mt Waverley; Siena College, Camberwell; Mt Lilydale College, Lilydale; Catholic Education Office Melbourne; Catholic Education Office Northern Region; St Mary's School, Whittlesea; St Peter's School, Epping; Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale; Academy Uniforms; CRC Melton; Salesian College Sunbury; Mrs Joanne Smithwick.

St. Monica's College

Supports

EPPING PLAZA'S BUSHFIRE RELIEF DAY

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2009

9.00 a.m. – 9.00 p.m.

Bands, Face Painting, Sausage Sizzles and more

Please come and join in the activities

Help us to help those in our Local Community who are in need

BUSH FIRE DINNER DANCE

CASA D'ABRUZZO CLUB

55 O'HERNS RD EPPING

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 7PM

TICKETS ONLY \$35

***THREE COURSE DINNER + COFFEE**

***LIVE BAND**

(DRINKS AT THE BAR)

ALL PROFITS TO BE DONATED TO

RED CROSS BUSH FIRE APPEAL

TICKETS MUST BE PRE PURCHASED

FROM RITA ON 0394014452

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

MOBILE PHONES AT SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that whilst these are permitted at school students found in possession of mobile phones in class or in the yard will have them confiscated by school staff and held until a parent contacts the relevant Campus Director before it is returned. Further, some students are using their mobile phones to contact home to be picked up from school and staff are not aware of this until they have gone home. The College has qualified First Aid staff on hand to look after injuries should they occur and the school will always contact parents should further medical attention be required. As well, if students feel they are being bullied they should approach their teachers and Year Level Leader: students ringing up parents directly does not allow the school the opportunity to deal with the situation, and in some cases hinders the progress of any necessary resolution. Parents are asked for their cooperation with these simple procedures.

MARVELLOUS MONICAN

Christopher Pace is a member of 8 Green belongs to a family of musicians. He is a highly regarded pianist. He is remembered most at St. Monica's by his performance of a composed piece at a whole school assembly. After his performance the audience was bewildered by his ability.

Christopher gets his inspiration from a late uncle who passed away, and who was also an amazing pianist. Christopher now uses the same equipment that his uncle used, as well setting up his own recording studio.

Most amazingly, Christopher no longer has lessons from a teacher but continues to excel under his own dedication and self teaching. He so far has composed four pieces of music, as well as self learning the guitar. He now discusses his works and understanding with other piano teachers. He also wishes to continue composing modern pieces as well as performing to crowds.

Christopher is a role model for other Monicans. His uniqueness in ability and maturity is clearly well beyond his years.



B.E. Hanley
College Principal