



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

Volume No. 1

Tuesday, 2nd February, 2010

## WELCOME

The 2010 school year has officially commenced and I welcome all continuing and new families to the College. This year promises to be one of the most dynamic and exciting years in the entire history of the College. Major projects and advancements to Monican life will include the construction of our LOTE Learning and Performance Centre (including a 400 seat auditorium); The Wetlands continuing development; and a major new announcement on Information Technology roll outs. A separate VCAL Centre is also 'on the books'.

SMC pledges to educate and care for all students to the highest standards. Our curriculum programs and pastoral initiatives will continue to maximize students' learning, zest for knowledge, and wellbeing.

I shall continue to send the Principal's Bulletin home via students on a fortnightly basis for the time being. Normally it will be distributed on or before Tuesday morning to students. It is their responsibility to bring it home. A copy is also placed on the College website. Articles for inclusion (family or parish news, individual achievements etc) should be emailed to [P.Griffin@stmonicas-epping.com](mailto:P.Griffin@stmonicas-epping.com)

Our 2010 theme is 'Something Beautiful for God'.

## COLLEGE THEME, 2010

Our 2010 theme is derived from the title of a biography written and published in 1971. The theme will have broad and deep significance for our Monican community as we live it throughout the months of 2010. The College theme is **Something Beautiful for God**.

This theme is the title of a book British writer, Malcolm Muggeridge, wrote about Mother Teresa of Kolkata. His book tells of a woman living out her faith and commitment to God by offering servant leadership to the neediest people of India. She was truly doing something beautiful for God and we will be called to undertake our own Monican acts of service in 2010.

**Something Beautiful for God** will have many aspects. We shall appreciate life given to us by God. In humility, we shall be of service to others as we reveal to them the love of God, the splendour of humanity, and the value of living in community through family, College, and society - locally and internationally. What a treasure and tribute that, if at the end of our life on earth, we stand before God and offer God our life that was of service to others. That will indeed be something beautiful for God.

Monicans will be people of thanksgiving in 2010 – thanking and praising God for all that God has endowed upon us. In gratitude, we will be urged to do **Something Beautiful for God** as our gift to the One who loves us. We shall do this through our songs of praise, our joy-filled dancing, our tenacity on the sports fields, the ongoing development of our many talents and especially through our quest for knowledge. We shall take as our examples people of the past, like Saint Monica, and those of the present for whom doing **Something Beautiful for God** has been their mission and privilege.

When we care for the environment we shall be doing something beautiful for God. God has created an environment that provides the essentials of air, food and



water; that enriches our health; that is spectacular and at other times simple to the senses; that is haven for all God's creatures; and home to flora and fauna. **Something Beautiful for God** should inspire us to care for nature so that future generations survive.

Our 2010 theme will be gentle when we stop and stay awhile with God in prayer. It will be tough when we persevere to be faithful to the message of the Gospel that frequently calls us to action. It will be fun filled when we gleefully do something beautiful for God that we really enjoy doing, something that God will smile upon as he sees us embracing the life he has created for us. Our theme will lead us on voyages of discovery: what really is beauty; how do I appreciate the beauty that encompasses me; why did God grace me with the beauty of life, the wonder of nature; and when shall I stop and literally soak in the beauty of God that surrounds me?

**Something Beautiful for God** will be lived out in 2010 through our words, our actions and our faith. .

## **EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

### **Year 7 Parents-School Start Bonus Vouchers**

All Year 7 families were sent a voucher to claim your \$300 School Start Bonus payment in Mid December.

Payments can be claimed at any Post Office providing you have Photo ID.

If any parents did not receive their voucher please contact Andrea Moon 9409 8800.

### **Roll Information Forms**

All students were given their Roll Information form on the first day of Term 1.

Please check that your family information is correct.

Please make any corrections in red pen and sign and return to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

## **IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION**

All parents/guardians will receive this week a Roll Information Form to be completed and returned to the College by February 5<sup>th</sup>. On this form is a section to record important medical information about your child. It is vital that you complete this section accurately in order that College staff may look after your child's wellbeing and respond appropriately if any serious issues arise at school. It is essential to provide details of any medications taken, particularly if your child has allergies, anaphylaxis (need for EpiPen), diabetes, severe asthma, epilepsy or other serious medical conditions.

Parents of children with serious conditions, in particular anaphylaxis/allergies, diabetes and severe asthma, will be contacted in the near future in order to devise an individual action plan (or revise if needed) and management plan. Review of current action/management plans will occur on a yearly basis.

## **AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following Monicans on their recent awards:

- a. Ms Judith Clarke (Senior Teacher—Careers) - Ruth Chapman Memorial Award for Careers Education
- b. Miss Lorraine Pratt (former staff member) - Nick Ascienzo Memorial Award from the City of Whittlesea
- c. Celeste Mitsiou (11 Purple) - Junior Citizen of the Year Award, City of Whittlesea
- d. Mr Brian Hanley (Principal) - Fellowship of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders
- e. Major Ruth Hayes (former pupil) - Order of Australia Medal in the Military Division, January, 2010

Further reports on these and other award winners will appear in the first edition of The Monican.

## **MOBILE PHONES AT SCHOOL**

It is generally recommended that mobile phones be kept at home unless absolutely necessary. However, some parents require ready access to their children before and after school hours. Nonetheless, mobile phones used in class or on the school property during the day will be confiscated. It will only be returned after a phone call has been made by the parent to the Campus Director. Receiving and sending text messages and

receiving or making calls at class-time is an interruption to the school program and unacceptable. Further, the College will not take responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones. Parents are reminded that students wishing to contact parents or guardians may do so using the phone in Campus Reception.

### **DRC CAR PARK**

Parents are reminded that the Dalton Road Campus car-park does not have a pick up and drop off facility as does the Davisson Street Campus car-park. It is a staff car-park only.

## **TAKADA VISIT—CALL FOR HOSTS**

### **Year 8-12 Students**

#### **Host Family Needed for Japanese School Visit**

The College still requires a family who will host a female student from our sister school in Japan from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. If you would help with our interschool visit host family information kit and forms can be obtained from the DRC Office and the Careers Centre on DSC or from the St. Monica's College Parent and Student Portal page. Host families do not need to be able to speak Japanese as the students from Takada are coming to Australia to practise their English and to learn about our way of life. We hope you can join in the fun, meet someone new and show them how great St Monica's and Australia are.

#### **Youth Employment Opportunities Fair**

The Youth Employment Opportunities Fair is for school leavers who wish to access jobs, traineeships, apprenticeships or further study placements and will be held on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang from 10.00 a.m.—3.00 p.m.

This is a free event offering school leavers between the ages of 18 – 25 the opportunity to consult with:

- Local employers
- Centerlink representatives
- Job Network Agencies
- Apprenticeship and Traineeship groups
- University and TAFE advisers.

## **FROM THE STAFFROOM**

Congratulations to the following SMC staff on recent births: Mrs Mandy Thomson on the birth of Amy Margaret; Mr Joseph Capuana on the birth of a daughter, Jamie; Mrs Emma Roderick on the birth of Stefanie.

Best wishes to Mr Allan Sullivan who experienced a serious workplace accident at DRC in mid January. Allan required extensive surgery and has now commenced a long process of recuperation and rehabilitation.

Mrs Mary Devlin, DRC Mathematics teacher, also had major surgery from which she is recovering and Mary will return to the teaching staff at the beginning of March.

## **CONDOLENCES**

The College community extends condolences to Adam Petruolo (Year 7) and his father, Joe, and family on the death of Adam's mother, Ginette, over the holiday period. We also extend condolences to the Principal and school community of Santa Maria College, Northcote on the deaths of staff member, Lesley Humphries on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and former Principal, Margaret Leahy on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **MY SCHOOL WEB SITE**

The newly released My School website ([www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)) enables parents to search the profiles of almost 10,000 Australian schools including St Monica's College Epping. Parents can quickly locate performance and contextual information about schools in our community and compare them with statistically similar schools across the country. It is very pleasing to see that St Monica's College again is shown in a very favourable light by these results. When compared to similar schools and all schools in Australia in the areas of Writing and Spelling our average is notably above these schools' average and in the areas of Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy St Monica's average is generally above these schools. It is also worth the investigation to compare the College with other secondary schools in the northern region to see how well we measure up, performing usually significantly above or equivalent to them in all areas.

It is important, however, to remember, that as Stephen Elder, the Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, comments;

*"Everyone in a Catholic school community knows that Catholic schools are much more than just a test result, Catholic schools provide a unique and distinctive learning environment where Christian values and respect nurture happy, well-adjusted students. Catholic schools are vibrant communities of learning, faith and life. Teachers and principals strive to help every child achieve their best."*

The College, through all we do, attends to the needs of every child, in learning, in life and in faith.

If you would like further information regarding this resource please refer to the College Parent portal or contact Mr Stephen Baker at the College.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS VICTORIA (CSV)**

### **Overview**

Catholic Schools Victoria is a cooperative organisation of the four dioceses in Victoria and the religious congregations with canonical authority for schools in Victoria. It is based on a spirit of collegiality and cooperation and its purpose is to be advisory, and to facilitate coordination to:

- support the work of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd;
- when appropriate, ensure coordinated approaches and responses to issues impacting on Catholic schools in Victoria; and
- optimise communication and cooperation across dioceses and Religious Institutes in the work of Catholic education.

CSV comprises the four diocesan Directors of Catholic Education in Victoria, Mr Stephen Elder, Mr Larry Burn, Mr Denis Higgins and Mr Peter Ryan, and two nominees of the Education Committee of Catholic Religious Victoria (CRV), Sister Brigid Arthur CSB and Sister Julianna Drobik OP. CSV will meet on a regular basis.

### **Functions**

For matters outside the mandate of the CECV:

- CSV will be responsive and timely in developing coordinated approaches to issues impacting on Catholic schools in Victoria, when referred by the individual dioceses or religious institutes to CSV
- As a consequence of discussions within CSV, CSV members may recommend policy frameworks and/or approaches for consideration to their relevant jurisdiction and/or the CECV
- Upon request, or through its work, CSV may provide advice to the Bishops on the development of state-wide positions or policies on particular issues.

### **Protocols**

Members of CSV are responsible for maintaining the following protocols:

- Each Director keeps his/her Bishop informed of the work of Catholic Schools Victoria and that CRV representatives inform the CRV Education Committee
- The chairing of CSV is shared across the membership of the group for a period of tenure to be decided
- The Chair of CSV manages the processes, but the Directors and Religious Institutes, and the Bishops themselves, make their own decisions and announcements.

### **Key Roles**

To facilitate its work, CSV will:

- establish and oversee Advisory Committees, to maintain an overview of and provide advice to CSV, regarding a particular aspect of the Catholic educational environment referred to it by CSV;
- determine the membership and the Chair of each Advisory Committee;
- approve the Terms of Reference of each Advisory Committee;
- receive and consider advice and recommendations for action from the Advisory Committees.

### **Advisory Committees**

The Advisory Committees to CSV are to be responsive and timely in providing advice to CSV guided by the following principles:

- the grounding of all endeavours in the person of Jesus Christ and the teaching and mission of the Catholic Church with commitment to interpreting and promoting matters in the light of the Gospel;
- commitment to stewardship of the Catholic identity and mission and resources in response to government and other agendas, (mindful of unity in diversity across both rural and urban contexts);
- commitment to research and evidence-based approaches;
- communication with CSV in a clear, purposeful and precise form;
- engagement in a spirit and process of shared wisdom in all matters.

The Advisory Committees are:

- Catholic Identity (Chair—Phil Billington)
- Learning and Teaching (Chair—Deb Punton)
- Leaders and Teachers (Chair—Michael Doyle)

## MUSIC NOTES

### YEAR 7 MUSIC INFORMATION EVENING

An information evening on our instrumental Music Program will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. This will take place in The Gateway Room, located in the Year 9 building at the rear of the Dalton Road Campus. (Not the Sports & Assembly Hall as previously stated).

An important feature of this event will be instrument trials held by specialist teachers. Your child will be physically matched to an instrument to ensure the best possible chance of success. Please note that students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### JAZZ BAND AUDITIONS

Jazz Band auditions will be held on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 3:30 p.m. in the Dalton Road Campus Band Room 458.

## WORLD OF SPORT

On February 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting in The Gateway Room for all parents of students interested in playing basketball for the College this year. Meeting time will be 6:00—8:00 p.m. and will outline the planned program for 2010.

## VCAL CENTRE

The College has lodged a Catholic Capital Grant application for funding of a VCAL Centre to be constructed on Davisson Street Campus. Please contact the College for further details.

## COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dalton Road Campus: Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup>

Davisson Street Campus: Friday February 19<sup>th</sup>

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 will be 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 and handed to the photographers, detailing the order

*St Monica's College, Epping*

*Invites you to an*

### *International Women's Day Breakfast*

Date : Friday 5th March, 2010  
Venue : The Gateway Room, Dalton Road Campus  
Time : 7.15 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.  
Cost : \$15 per person

*(\$5 will be donated to the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria to support Breast Cancer Research).*

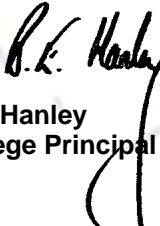
*Female staff are most welcome as well as our senior female students who are accompanied by their mother's.*

**DOOR PRIZE – RAFFLE**

R.S.V.P.  
26th February, 2010  
Mrs Glenda Hay  
(03) 9409 8854

## **MARVELLOUS MONICAN**

The College community congratulates Daniel Camilleri (Year 12) on achieving a perfect score of 50 in his VET Dance course in 2009. Daniel is well known as one of the principal actors and dancers in College Productions and Dance Showcase. Daniel is now completing Units 3 and 4 in VCE Dance as well as his other VCE studies. We wish him well.

  
B.E. Hanley  
College Principal



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