

PEACE AND HARMONY – DURING LENT



We are currently in the Church's season of Lent as we await the glory of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Lent has traditionally been a time of abstinence and fasting, acts of charity, and opportunity for deeper prayer through which we seek to come closer to God by seriously evaluating our actions and thoughts.

Another most acceptable way to recognize that we are in the Lenten time is to try harder to be people of peace who allow harmony to flow more easily in all our contacts with other people. It will demand a certain level of self-discipline to be a person of peace on every occasion, towards every person, and in every situation. But making and creating peace in all aspects of our life truly is a worthy commitment in Lent.

It really puzzles me why so many Victorians seem to relish the fact that a television series called *Underbelly* is making such headlines. No show could be further away from peace, in fact, it seems that it promotes or at least glorifies violence and cruelty and wrongdoing in society. Whether it is the anticipation of sneaking an illegal downloaded copy of the program or the current controversy over the judge's decision, this widespread 'popularity' of *Underbelly* should concern us greatly. Better that we await Easter through acts of peace and reconciliation than we await the screening of this unpleasant and harshly unforgiving television show.

The essence of our Christian faith is that Jesus Christ died for us and then conquered death and evil by rising from the tomb three days after his crucifixion. Followers of Christ accept that only Jesus Christ could rise from the dead and open the way for our eternal life with God after our human existence has ended.

Christ told us that he left all peoples of all times with a special gift – the gift of peace. May Monicans in this time of Lent, 2008 accept that most wonderful gift and spread its effects widely by bringing peace and harmony into our own lives, the SMC community and to all those whom we meet in our spiritual and personal journey towards our God.

MARCH 7 STOPPAGE

A section of the staff has notified me that they will be making a political protest against the Brumby State Government over the issue of staff salaries. This protest will take place on Friday, 7 March 2008.

As a result, classes will not be held for Years 10, VCE and VCAL students on 7 March, 2008. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7, 8 and 9.** I urge all parents to send their DRC child to school on 7 March, 2008.

The majority of staff in Catholic schools has not received a pay rise since October, 2006.

COLLEGE BOARD ELECTIONS

The College Board has elected Mr Graham Bell as its Chairperson with Mrs Jeanine Pattison as Deputy Chairperson and Mrs Rita Lekkas as Secretary. Father Peter O'Rourke PP remains as Chairman of Canonical Administrators.

VCE/VCAL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

This is a reminder of the upcoming VCE/VCAL Parent/Teacher Conference to be held Wednesday, 5 March from 3.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m. at the Davison Street Campus. Please ensure that your son or daughter approaches all their Subject teachers with the appointment schedule, found in the yellow pages of the student planner, to make appointments for the Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of these Conferences and encourage you to attend as a priority for your son or daughter. This is an excellent opportunity, early in the year, to discuss with Subject teachers how your son or daughter has begun the year and to ensure that there are clear plans in place to maximize their results. I sincerely hope to see as many of you there as is possible.

BPAY PAYMENTS

For parents choosing to pay Tuition fees via BPAY, please be aware that you must quote the Biller Code 12807 followed by your BPAY Reference Number that appears on the bottom of your Tax Invoice in the right hand corner.

A number of parents have been quoting the wrong account number; therefore a trace has to be conducted.

The cost of this procedure will be charged to the relevant families.

MEMBERS OF SMC JUNIOR COUNCIL, 2008

Adrian Muzzi, Matthew Cattolico, Benjamin Hodges, Zac Bazzano, Nellie Wilson, Tara Alvarez, Aaron Brennan, Jessica Beninato, Bridget Kerr, Emily De Biase, Estephan Guirguis, Melissa Lobendhan, Celeste Centioli.

HOUSE CAPTAINS, 2008

Congratulations to the following students who are the 2008 SMC House Captains. The selection process was a difficult task as we received forty nominations. The decision was based on sporting involvement and commitment to the House area of the College. We wish all students well in their leadership roles for 2008. The 2008 House Captains will be presented with their House badge and polo top at upcoming Year Level Assemblies. There are still some vacancies – if any student is interested in applying for these positions within the College, could they please contact Mrs Polidano asap. Students in Year 7 will have an opportunity to apply to be a House Captain in the upcoming weeks.

House	House Captain	Year Level
Alkira	Taylah Bourke	8 Red
Alkira	Nelson Lai	8 Red
Barinya	Bianca Licovski	8 Gold
Glenora	Rhys Antonio	8 Indigo
Larapinta	Jessica D'Amore	8 Blue
Alkira	Hayley Birch	9 Green
Alkira	Frank Brisevac	9 Gold
Barinya	Samantha Fenech	9 Gold
Barinya	Paul Heywood	9 Emerald
Glenora	Emily De Biase	9 Emerald
Glenora	Mathew Zuzic	9 Blue
Larapinta	Lauren Tomlinson	9 Mauve
Alkira	Belinda De Vincentis	10 Purple
Alkira	Jason Dang	10 Silver
Barinya	Talia Pulis	10 Green
Barinya	Joseph San Martin	10 Green
Glenora	Larrissa Curcio	10 Orange
Larapinta	Milad Zakkour	10 Gold
Larapinta	Monique Zammit	10 Gold
Barinya	Abanob Morcos	11 Gold
Larapinta	Krystal Guerra	11 Orange
Larapinta	Darcy Sutton	11 Silver
Barinya	Lauren Newman	12 Indigo
Barinya	Peter Shine	12 Brown
Glenora	Luke Vincitorio	12 Red
Glenora	Alycia Benincasa	12 Silver
Larapinta	Laura Bell	12 Purple
Larapinta	Dominic Sutton	12 Blue

SINCE THE LAST EDITION

Busy times: College Board Mass and meeting; Year 8 reflection days at Ostia; memorial service for Kresimir Jakovac RIP; College assembly; golf and tennis tournaments; sports selection trials; College photographs; Junior Council training sessions; Clean-Up Schools Day; Morning Teas with the Principal; 11 Blue breakfast; Takada host evening; network meetings for regional counselors and careers teachers; Year 7 Welcome events; Day of Understanding; Music recruitment night; Year 11 Biology field trip; 10 Premier League; public speaking sign-up; *Grease* auditions; participation in Sunset activity.

PAKISTAN APPEAL UPDATE

Congratulations to all students who have brought a diet drink or healthy Zinger yoghurt icy pole from our Pakistan sales bin at lunchtime. You have raised \$10,106 since last St Monica's Day and an incredible \$41,396.20 since we commenced selling these items on March 31, 2005.

It is fantastic to note the number of students from our College who support this fund raising activity and regularly make extra donations of small change to help the less fortunate children and their families in Khipro, Pakistan. At this stage of the year we are ahead of where we were at the same time last year.

Thank you for your support and remember to buy a diet drink or a Zinger yoghurt icy pole at lunchtime. Thanks also to the staff who regularly help sell these items and/or make donations of boxes of soft drinks.

IMMUNIZATION DATES for YEARS 7, 9 AND 10, 2008

In 2008 only the Year 7, 9 and 10 students will be immunised according to the information below.

Year 7 students

Girls	Monday 3 March	Chicken Pox & Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 1 st treatment)
Boys	Monday 3 March	Chicken Pox
Girls	Monday 12 May	Hepatitis B (1) & Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 2 nd treatment)
Boys	Monday 12 th May	Hepatitis B (1)
Girls	Tuesday 9 September	Hepatitis B (2) & Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 3 rd treatment)
Boys	Tuesday 9 September	Hepatitis B (2)

Year 9 Students

Girls	Monday 3 March	Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 1 st treatment)
Girls	Monday 12 May	Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 2 nd treatment)
Girls	Tuesday 9 September	Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 3 rd treatment)

Year 10 Students

Girls	Tuesday 11 March	Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 1 st treatment)
Girls	Monday 26 May	Boostrix & Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 2 nd treatment)
Boys	Monday 26 May	Boostrix
Girls	Tuesday 14 October	Gardasil (HPV for cervical cancer 3 rd treatment)

The Years 7, 9 and 10 Level Leaders will issue the cards to their year levels before the dates which will need to be filled in by a parent/guardian and be with the student at their immunization dates.

FROM THE STAFFROOM

- I have received the unexpected resignation of Mrs Heather Davies. Therefore Mr Cameron Whitford becomes the Home Room Teacher of 12 Emerald.
- Mr Brian Winther joins the Numeracy Faculty at DRC. Miss Ashleigh Letcher will join the Campus reception team at DRC soon. Ms Keira Knight will commence as a science laboratory technician on March 13.

- Two of our staff who have been absent since the beginning of the year are returning to work. They are Mrs Wendy Styring (now Administration School Officer) and Mrs Leonie Laughlin (DRC RE and Numeracy). Mrs Margherita Bechelli and Mrs Connie Piscietelli are gradually returning to work.
- Mr Stephen Hobday commences Long Service Leave on March 5; Mr Dennis Thomas commences Long Service Leave on March 11; Mrs Margaret Santilli will be on leave from March 17; Mr David Black will be away on school business from February 28 until March 7; Ms Ruth Wiltshire will be on maternity leave commencing from Term 2.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Mr Peter Wardley proudly accepted the 2007 Samaritan Medal at a Board luncheon in the presence of his wife, Pauline, and daughter, Claire, on February 24.

Mr Jian Samuel was delighted to accept the 2007 St Monica's Medal at the College Assembly in the presence of his family on February 26.

The 2007 Polding Medal was presented to Mrs Catherine O'Brien on December 17, 2007.

OFF THE LIBRARY SHELVES

To celebrate the International Year of the Reef, the Pamela Coyne Library is holding an exciting competition for all Year 7 students. The best entries will be displayed in the library and on the library display screen and also win great prizes. Collect an entry sheet from the desk at the PCL. Entries close on Thursday March 13.

GREASE BACK STAGE CREW

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to be part of the backstage crew for 2008. Thank you to all students who put in an application, we hope to see you next year.

Stage Managers:

Kathleen Millington (12 Gold), Louise Conurso (11 Green), Niadin Harte (12 Green), Bianca Lai (11 Gold).

Crew:

Patrick Galati (12 Blue), Daniel Conurso (12 White), Stefania Zafirelis (11 Silver), Darius Mockus-Lane (11 Green), Nathan Peters (11 Indigo), Monique Pizzica (9 Emerald), Starre Williams (9 Red), Erin Kelly (9 Blue), Natalie Milidoni (9 Mauve), Meiruja Sivaneeswren (9 Green), Nelson Lai (8 Green), Hieu Le (8 Green), Melissa Fiorio (7 Brown), Stephanie Zilic (7 Purple).

A FEW PIECES OF GOOD NEWS

- Sister Parveen PBVM from Pakistan has written to thank us for our recent generous donations.
- Archbishop Denis Hart has accepted our invitation to bless the Year 9 project buildings on Sunday August 24, 2008. The Vicar-General of the Archdiocese, Monsignor Les Tomlinson, will be the Principal Celebrant on St Monica's Day. Professor Marie Emmet, Professor of Education at ACU, will be the special guest at the Year 12 Graduation.
- The following letter has been received. Please note that SMC was the lead school in the cluster.

Dear Ms Devine

I am writing to congratulate you, your team of values coordinators in each of the 5 cluster schools and the students who participated in the highly successful *Day of Understanding* held in Melbourne on 18 February 2008.

The cluster's commitment to the Values Education Program is commendable. The Day of Understanding has contributed to our understanding about how people are embedding values education across schools, the curriculum and within clusters.

I was particularly impressed with the energy and excitement that was demonstrated by the student leaders who were leading the Socratic Circles. The collaboration between schools was clearly evident and it is a great achievement to develop synergies between government, non-government and schools of different religious traditions.

I wish your cluster all the best for 2008 and look forward to hearing updates of your progress in Values Education and in your cluster's future achievements with the WellWishers program.

Yours sincerely

Christine Lucas
Director
Targeted Initiatives Section
Student Access and Equity Branch
25 February 2008

YEAR 7 PARENTS TRANSITION EVENING

Each year the College Counsellors meet with parents of Year 7 students to discuss the challenges of the transition to secondary school and the challenges that adolescence may present. You would have received information about this evening with the welcome letter from the Year 7 team and there was a permission slip that included an RSVP for this activity. This should have been returned to the Homeroom teacher. We hope that you are able to come along on this night and share experiences with other parents in a fun and interactive way.

If you did not receive this information and would like to attend, please ring the College on 9409 8910 to secure your place.

We look forward to meeting with you on Tuesday March 4, at 7.30 p.m. in The Gateway Room (Year 9 building).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Well done to these Year 11 students who helped at Ozanam House on February 27 - Ali Chaban, Michael Angeli, Tania Stefanovski, Domenica Paoliello.

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS WEEK PLANNING

Indigenous Awareness Week will be celebrated at the end of May. If parents are interested in being part of a committee to acknowledge this important week, please consider attending the committee meeting on March 6 in the College Board Room at 3.45 p.m. Contact Miss Bernadette Harris for further details.

DEPARTURE FROM DRC

No student is permitted to depart the campus via the soccer pitch and bottom-end driveway. The driveway is a thoroughfare for vehicles and therefore an out of bounds area for all students. Please use either of the gates on Dalton Road Campus.

CAREERS CORNER

Change to Prerequisites for Education/Teaching

As a result of a decision by the Victorian Institute of Teaching applicants without a satisfactory VCE mathematics study will be required to demonstrate competence in mathematics, and may be required to complete additional mathematics study. For full details see the Careers Centre.

Melbourne Model

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Melbourne Model the following courses will no longer be offered in 2009; Bachelor of Early Childhood Education; Bachelor of Education (Primary); Bachelor of Computer Science; Bachelor of Information Systems and the Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery/Medical Science. For further details visit <http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/>

Years 10, 11 & 12 Students

Sunday April 13 is the Open Day for students interested in Veterinary Science. This is an opportunity for students to go behind the scenes at the veterinary hospital and listen to lectures about the training. The venue is the Veterinary Clinic & Hospital, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee. A fuller details sheet is available from the Careers Centre.

VISIT TO JAPAN INFORMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday 22 April the information night for the College's annual school trip to Takada Junior and Senior High School will take place in Augustine House on the Dalton Road Campus from 7.30 p.m. An information brochure outlining the tour can be collected from DRC Reception or the Careers Centre on DSC. Parents and students attending should enter Augustine House from the DRC car park..

WORLD OF SPORT

1. SMC Girls v Victorian Singapore Touring Team

SMC Girls Football team played a friendly game with the Victorian Singapore Touring team recently. The Victorian side comprehensively beat the SMC select 5 – 1. SMC's goal was scored by Michelle Zilic. There were many lessons learnt on the evening.

2. 2008 Tennis Squad members:

Year 7

Allysha Borg, Rachel Kemp, Joshua McFarland, David Moretti, Daniel Vindigni, Shaheen Parasher, Monika Arar, Lewis Vihtelic.

Year 8

Jordan Galea, James Manalastas, Stephanie D'Andrea, Nick Doumtsisis.

Year 9

Nicholas Iglesias, Michael Doumtsisis, Michael Ciccica, Rachel Prowd, Paul Heywood, Andrea Arar, Michelle Papatthanasidou.

Year 10

Samuel Monkiewicz, Jamie Chavez, Joseph San Martin.

Year 11

James Nicolaou, Antonia Loukas, Stefania Zafirelis, Adam Amore, Chris Zucchet.

3. CAS Tennis

Congratulations to the SMC Tennis Squad on their recent performance at the Catholic All Schools Tournament.

The following students were undefeated and made the semi finals: Antonia Loukas, Chris Zucchet, Andrea Arar, Sam Monkiewicz, David Moretti and Monika Arar. Chris, Antonia, Sam and Andrea won the semi and now go on to compete against the rest of the State in next week's final. The matches were hard fought and efforts commendable, well done to all involved.

MARVELLOUS MONICANS

How would you feel if you were asked to address an audience of over two thousand people? Such was the task given to the Year 7 group and Lilian Tran and Kimberly Wright accepted the challenge happily. Their speeches at the assembly were insightful and a good reflection on the early days in secondary school. Both students have already impressed their teachers by their work ethic and dedication to their studies. In the playground they are supportive of their friends and they are always perfectly attired in school uniform. They have already shown they are truly Marvellous Monicans

B.E. Hanley
College Principal