



COMING TOWARDS – AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE

The new Church year has started just as the 2009 school year draws to its conclusion. The Church now is in the liturgical season of Advent – those four weeks that lead up to the Feast of the Nativity. I extend to all Monican families and friends a happy and holy Christmas.

The College has sought to be fully alive this year and often the challenge to be fully alive has been tough. Remarkably, there have been several incidences that have called us to be a strong and resilient community. Times of bushfire and destruction; illness including the H1N1 influenza; deaths of numerous members of the Monican community; and several burglaries of our equipment have made this an extraordinary twelve months.

Nevertheless, our College motto 'Pray and Persevere' inspires us to come towards the future with confidence and optimism. We need to reflect on a difficult year but still give thanks to God for bringing us to the end with feelings of satisfaction and pride. Of course, there have been many reasons to celebrate this year including the creation of new external and internal resources like the Trades & Industry Complex; the track & field centre; The Wetlands beginning; an enormous and admirable increase in ICT resources; many prizes won by the College and individual students (academic, sporting, musical, citizenship); and a general feeling of wellbeing about the College.

The birth of Jesus in a humble stable reminds us of the simplicity of our faith. Our religion is a personal relationship with God and not the bells and whistles that sometimes surround the Church in action. Eucharist is at the heart of our faith and the College has celebrated many fine Masses in 2009. I pray that more and more students will have developed their prayerful relationship with God this year through Religious Education classes, liturgies, or acts of service to others. This close and loving relationship with God is a central mission of Catholic Education.

Preparation for Christmas is normally a busy and often hectic time for families – especially parents. Let us all embrace the opportunity that Advent presents to take the time to come towards Christmas as well prepared spiritually as we might be organizationally.

WITH THANKS

I thank the Administrative Assistant to the Principal, Ms Pamela Griffin, for her work with me on producing this Bulletin each fortnight. We also thank all contributors.

2009 COLLEGE MEDALS

The College Board is pleased to award the 2009 St Monica's Medal to Kelsey Turner (College Captain, 2009) and the 2009 Samaritan Medal to Board and Finance Committee member, George Mascara. Presentations will be made next year. The 2009 Polding Medal will be awarded on December 15.

IMPORTANT 2009 and 2010 DATES

December 2009

- 1 Transition Day for Year 7, 2010
- 4 Classes conclude for Years 7-10
- 9 New staff induction day
- 14 Academic Honours Evening
- 15 Staff Conclude
- 18 Office closes

January 2010

- 11 Office opens
- 26 Australia Day - Public Holiday
- 27 Staff Return
- 29 Year 7 classes commence

February 2010

- 1 Years 8-12 classes commence
- 15 Year 7 Music Information Evening
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 18 DRC Photographs
- 19 DSC Photographs
- 21 College Board Mass & Meeting
- 25 VCE/VCAL Parent Teacher Conferences

CONDOLENCES

The College mourns the passing of esteemed former teacher, Mrs Maree McCann, on the morning of 23rd November, 2009. Mrs McCann commenced teaching Mathematics in 1989 at SMC and concluded at the end of last year due to illness. Our condolences are extended to her husband, Bernie (former SMC teacher), her sons, and all family members. Maree McCann R.I.P.

YEAR LEVEL LEADERS IN 2010

Year 12	–	Mrs Sharon Daley
Year 11	–	Mrs Deborah O'Malley
Year 10	–	Mr Christopher Callinan
Year 9	–	Mr Frank Farchione
Year 8	–	Mr Joseph Registro
Year 7	–	Ms Hannah Quick and Mr Cameron Whitford

GOOD BYE and BEST WISHES

To those students and their families who depart SMC at the end of this year and to the following staff: Miss Lorraine Pratt; Mr Michael Hanrahan; Mrs Anna Keppel; Mr Peter Ryan; Mrs Andrea Cummins; Mr Greg Steptowe; Mrs Frances Barone; Mrs Cindy Thomas; Miss Carolyn King; Mrs Samantha Palmer; Ms Giennie Lim; Ms Shupu Wang.

On leave for 2010 are: Ms Bernadette Nicholls; Mr Paul Carney; Ms Kathryn McGoldrick; Mrs Carly Parker; Ms Emma Roderick; Ms Emma Carracher.

OFFICE HOURS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

The Office will re-open on 11th January from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. until 27th January when it will return to normal.

COLLEGE ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION

In 2009, the eldest child in each family at Year 7 to 11 will receive a copy of the College Annual. All Year 12 students will receive a copy. Distribution will take place as follows:

Year 7 to 9 students:

the eldest child in the family will receive a copy at the conclusion of the day on Friday 4th December.

Year 10 students:

the eldest child in the family will receive a copy at a special assembly in between Hello 2010 classes on Friday 4th December.

Year 11 students:

the eldest child in the family will receive a copy, posted home.

Year 12 students:

all students will receive a copy, posted home.

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS DISTRIBUTION

Semester reports Years 7 - 11 are being finalised by teachers in the week beginning Friday 7th December and mailed home to parents on Friday December 11th. Parents are welcome to make contact with staff at any time to discuss matters of concern.

WORK PROJECTS SUMMARY

1. The Track & Field Centre will be ready for use at the start of 2010.
2. The Wetlands project has commenced and is proceeding well.

3. Work will commence very soon on the LOTE Learning and Performance Centre.
4. Replacement sheds and fences have been constructed at Ostia.

COMPUTERS, COMPUTERS,

The College is expending monies it has received under the Digital Revolution program. Very exciting decisions concerning SMC will be announced at the beginning of 2010. Meanwhile, Mr Fulvio Frijo and Mr Emad Attie fly to China on Friday 4th December to inspect and acquire more ICT stock.

MONICANS OUT AND ABOUT**a. Remembrance Day Poppies**

St Monica's College participated in the annual poppy collection for 2009. For two weeks prior to Remembrance Day, students and staff encouraged their peers to purchase a poppy. The College raised \$400 in support of the local Epping Sub-Branch of the RSL. While many students volunteered to encourage our community to purchase poppies, special thanks are given to Lauren Palumbo and Karla Zacharias for their sound selling techniques. Both students and staff responded well to the resounding rattle of the collection tin.

Thank you to all who participated. Your donations are truly appreciated. Mr Tom Culbertson, representative of the Epping RSL has thanked our community.

- b. The Northern Hospital has written to thank the Year 11 Business Management students who raised \$656 at the recent Business Expo. Donations went to the hospital.
- c. St Peter's Literacy Program assistants: Aruni Subasinghe; Kirsty Brennan; Bradley Bignoux; Nam Thai; Daniel Petkovski; Ivo Preto; Tran Nguyen; Loredana De Marco; Jessica Cozzo; Cherry Ann Ilao; Caroline Daoud; Jake Parnis.
- d. Year 10 community service: Cristina Bitzilis; Riya Bhatara; Celeste Tralli.

TAKADA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Our sister school in Japan, Takada Junior and Senior High School, is visiting our College in March next year. If we have any families who can host a male student for ten days in March can they please contact Ms Judith Clarke on 9409 8835 to arrange for a host package to be sent out. The program is a great opportunity for students to experience life in another culture without leaving home.

MUSIC NOTES

1. Piano Competition Results:
 Congratulations to the students who achieved awards in the Piano Competition:

Junior Category

Trophy (overall winner) – Nelson Lai (9 White)
 Highly Commended – Monika Arar (8 Purple)

Intermediate Category

Trophy (overall winner) – Sarah Maiolo (9 Silver)
 Highly Commended – Timothy Jones (9 Indigo)

Senior Category

Trophy (overall winner) – Bianca Soh (12 Emerald)
 High commended – Ian Mercado (7 Emerald)

2. Well done to all performers in the Semester 2 Music Ensembles Concert which was enjoyed by those in attendance.

MONICAN ACHIEVERS

1. Congratulations to Haynes D'Souza on being awarded a place in the prestigious 2011 Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Program through the University of Melbourne.
2. Ally Greco and Daniel Camilleri have both received commendations from the Victorian Theatre Guild for their performance in *Fame* whilst Ben Hodges is a candidate for Junior Male in a leading role.
3. Year 8 Debate Final: Well done to the Year 8 Indigo students and their teacher, Miss Allen, for winning the Year 8 Interclass Debating Grand final. Congratulations to Year 8 Silver and their teacher, Miss Carracher, who were runners up and Year 8 Brown who came third. This concludes a very successful semester of Interclass Debating via English classes. I thank all students and staff for their involvement in this competition. The debaters from Year 8 Indigo and Year 8 Silver celebrated their magnificent achievement via a pizza lunch in The Gateway Room.

APPEAL TO PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Are you (or do you know someone) qualified and willing to lead our St John Cadet program? The position would be paid on a sessional basis and involve either one or two afternoons after school per week. Please contact Mrs Samantha Palmer (9409 8800) to obtain more details.

SINCE THE LAST EDITION:

A busy time: examinations; Remembrance Day services; Wellbeing Faculty review; Showbiz Factory; CAS cricket; Afternoon Tea Break-Ups: Debating and Public Speaking, St John Cadets; Special Needs transition; Year 7, 2010 orientation day; Board Mass and Dinner; Year 12 Formal; Music

ensembles concert; SACCSS Presentation Luncheon; Talking Faith Exhibition visit; Piano Competition; Hello 2010; Tiffany Hall's Address to Year 10; Year 8 debate grand final; staff vs student debate; Morning Tea with the Principal

WORLD OF SPORT

Year 7 Premier League Semi-Finals

SPORT	St Monica's	Opponent
Cricket	SMC 3 for 41 v	Kolbe 4 for 64
Netball	SMC 30 v	CRC Melton 16
Basketball (B)	SMC 36 v	Emmanuel 58
Basketball (G)	SMC 28 v	CRC Melton 19
Football (B)	SMC 6 v	Emmanuel 0
Football (G)	SMC 4 v	Marymede
		Penalty Shootout 3

Year 7 Girls Basketball Premiership

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Basketball team on winning the Premier League Grand Final by 1 point recently.

Players were: Tara Chetcuti, Emma Smith, Lauren Salerno, Zoe Muneer, Jacqueline Segan, Jaime-Lee Crouch, Maree Chamoun, Grace Balletta.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with much pleasure that I announce the reappointment of Ms Amorina Chirico and Mr Fulvio Frijo to the positions of Deputy Principal and Campus Director for a further period of four years. Congratulations.

Annual St Monica's College Golf Cup

ENTRIES CLOSE

Monday 7th December
 (including \$28 entry fee)

Thank you Brian Hanley for donating Cup and Prizes

DATE Friday 11th
 DECEMBER

VENUE Yarrambat Golf Club

TIME Registration: 12.30pm

COST \$28per person

COMPETITION DETAILS

Stroke & Callaway Handicap Systems

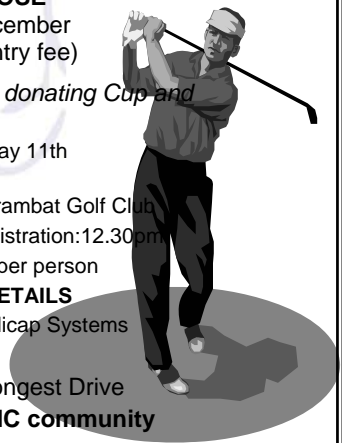
PRIZES

Closest to Pin and Longest Drive

All members of the SMC community welcome

CONTACT PERSON

Cley Anderson 9409 8934



WRITE FOR FUN CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Brittany Adcock of Year 7 who entered the Write for Fun Challenge and had her piece selected and published in the World of Words Book. Well done Brittany.

LETTER FROM PAKISTAN

Dear Mr Hanley,

Many millions of thanks to you from us, Presentation Sisters, for the big amount of money you sent us last August. I cannot thank you, staff and students, enough for being so generous and good to us at all times. Your year's support is much appreciated. I want to assure you that it will be all put into good use for the well-being and education of the needy amongst us. Renewed thanks to you and to all who worked hard to collect all that money to help us with our ministries.

May God bless you for your goodness and kindness. With best wishes and love to all,

Sincerely grateful,

Sr Catherine Sardar.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*The Principal and Staff
of St Monica's College,
Epping*

*Wish all families a joyous
Christmas and a Happy
New Year*

B.E. Hanley

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College Principal



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