

## From the Co-Acting Principals

As we come to the final edition of the Principal's Bulletin it is still very much full steam ahead to the end of the Year. Our Year 12's completed their exams last week and celebrated this with the Formal last Friday night. Years 7, 8, 10 & 11 have now completed their exams while the Year 9's commenced theirs this week. The Hello 2011 program is now in full swing as we write. As the program name suggests, this program orients our students toward their 2011 studies so that they commence the year on the front foot with a clear focus and backed up with a grounding of school holiday work. This is the second year we have run such a program.

The LOTE Centre is now completed! What remains are some external ground works and the fit-out of the classrooms. Each language room has an interactive whiteboard as well as ten desktop computers for student use. These will complement the Netbooks students will already have, and will have Language specific software that will enhance LOTE learning in the College. This is a magnificent addition to our facilities thanks to a Federal Government grant under the Building the Education Revolution funding initiative. It is planned to have an official opening of this facility in the new year, and it will be used for classes as from the commencement of the school year in 2011.

We encourage all parents to make the time to discuss end-of-year reports with their children. There is always a temptation to only focus on exam results, however, there are also other quite important assessment elements which should not be over looked as well as comments regarding attitude to study. In other words, it is always important to look at the bigger picture of results rather than the small

or micro picture of one result. It will be worthwhile comparing mid-year with end of year results and draw important conclusions about things like effort at school as well as home, the number of hours committed to home study compared to the number of hours doing casual work (this becomes an important issue from Year 9 onwards). This is also an important time to set goals, simple goals like decisions to increase home study by ½ an hour a night, attending the ASH (After School Hours) program in the Pamela Coyne Library 2 nights a week, and the like. Setting simple achievable goals also requires a commitment to work that little bit harder, a sure road to increased success.

As the 2010 school year draws inevitably to a close we pray that rather than speed up to the end of the year we take time to slow down to appreciate and recognise our achievements and those of others. The beautiful season of Advent is almost upon us and provides us all with that slow-down time to take stock of what we believe is important in our lives. Yes, a baby, the Christ-child, gives us cause for pause. That God should make himself present to us in the shape of a baby reminds us that our God seeks to show us the depth of his love, his understanding that we need Him to be near to us in real and tangible ways in all our lives. We urge all our families to join in the celebrations of their respective parish Churches. The family celebrations that are part of Christmas as well will truly complement this special time of worship and prayer. On behalf of all the staff of St Monica's College, we thank you for your ongoing support and we wish all our families a Happy, Prayerful, Peaceful and safe Christmas time.

### **Historic Funding Agreement for Catholic schools**

The following statement is from the Director of Catholic Education, Mr. Stephen Elder. Catholic schools in Victoria are now assured of funding in a way that secures their future.

*The Premier and Minister for Education have recently announced that a re-elected Brumby Government will provide state funding to Catholic schools linked to 25% of the cost of education in a state school. This is a truly historic commitment to sustainable state funding for Catholic schools in Victoria. Only four years ago state funding made up only 15% of the income of Catholic schools.*

*Catholic education has now achieved bi-partisan commitment to fund Catholic schools at 25% of the cost*

*of education in a state school. The Coalition previously committed to state funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school.*

*This commitment is a result of the hard work of many Parish Priests, principals, teachers and parents in raising the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools with our political leaders. This historic achievement is a direct result of that strong advocacy. Thank you in particular to parents who have written to local MPs raising the issue of funding. Your work will have a lasting legacy in delivering sustainable funding to Catholic schools in Victoria. Never again should state funding for Catholic schools be a political issue at a state election.*

## FROM THE STAFFROOM

1. We welcome back Mr Brian Hanley from his period of leave during which he visited parts of Europe with his wife Enza.
2. Congratulations to Ms Anthea Sarantos on the birth of her twins Hope and Zacchaeus Yerondais.

## REST IN PEACE

Condolences are extended to the Nolan family on recent death of Mrs Pamela Nolan after a long illness. Our prayers and thoughts are extended to her husband, Bryan and to her children Belinda (past student 2001), Simon (past student 2009), Tim and Ben currently in Year 9.

## SPORTS

### **South Australia Challenge**

Congratulations to the Year 7-9 Girls Futsal squad on their success in Adelaide on November 11 playing the South Australia Challenge.

The junior boys were runners up, losing in a tough match.

### **Adelaide Junior 2010 Results**

#### *Junior Girls*

St Monica's 3 def Mary Mackillop (Adelaide) 0

#### *Junior Boys*

St Monica's 1 def by Gleeson College (Adelaide) 3

Congratulations to all involved, fantastic effort.

### **Year 7 Premier League Finals**

On Wednesday November 10 four teams competed in the Finals.

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>St. Monica's</b>		<b>Opponent</b>
Netball v CRC Melton	27	def by	33
Basketball (Girls) v Marymede	37	def by	51
Volleyball (Girls) v Emmanuel College	3	def	1
Football (Boys) v Caroline Chisholm	5	def	2

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

### ***Orientation Day 2010***

Years 7-9 students will be required to stay Home on Tuesday November 30 due to the Year 7, 2011 Orientation Day. No classes this day.

**November 26th** is a normal school day not a no classes day as in the student planner.

### ***Last Day of School for 2010***

Parents and Guardians are reminded that the last day of school for 2010 is Friday December 3.

### ***Academic Honours Presentation Evening***

December 9 at 7.30pm, Eucalyptus Room, Plenty Ranges Art Centre, Fearer Blvd South Morang

### ***Commencement Dates 2011***

Friday 4th February—Year 7 Students

Monday 7th February—Years 8—12 students



## RSL POPPY SALES

Thank you very much to the students and staff who sold and purchased poppies for the annual RSL Remembrance Day commemoration. All proceeds will be forwarded to our local Epping RSL. Special thanks are given to Grace Paspalis, Julia Cherubin, Kassie Baldi, Sara Furlano, Vanessa Cugnetto and Allysha Borg who sold the poppies on DRC.

## LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

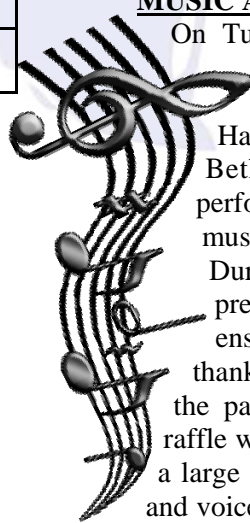
On 8 November, Kurt Cauchi, of 8 Blue represented SMC and Legacy Victoria in the prestigious annual Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award National Final. Kurt competed against 9 other students from across Australia and performed with distinction. He unfortunately did not win the final but must be congratulated on all his hard work and effort in attaining such a high standard of public speaking.

## YEAR 8 GRAND FINAL DEBATE

On Friday the 12 November the annual Year 8 debating grand final was held in the sports and assembly. The debate was the culmination of the Year 8 interclass debating competition held in term 2. The debate was contested between 8 Green & 8 Brown with the topic being “cosmetic surgery should be banned”. In a close debate 8 green managed to win by 2 points. The best speaker was awarded to Sylvia Ataide of 8 brown. Congratulations goes to each team on their work and effort in reaching the grand final. 8 Indigo finished third. The debate was followed by a very entertaining staff v student debate, the topic of which was “school is boring”. The winner of this debate was the student team.

## MUSIC AT SMC

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November the “Sounds of Spring”, music ensembles concert was held in the Sports and Assembly Hall, compered by Benjamin Hodges and Bethany Higgins. Thirteen groups performed a wide variety of different musical styles from Vivaldi to Metallica. During the evening certificates were presented to the most outstanding ensemble members, the year 12s were thanked for their musical contribution over the past 6 years and the Friends of Music raffle was drawn. The evening concluded with a large and quite loud finale of massed bands and voices in a powerful presentation of “Time to Say Goodbye”, dedicated to the Year 12 musicians. It was a most successful evening and both staff and students are to be commended for their pursuit of excellence.



## 2011 VISITING STUDENTS FROM JAPAN

The College is seeking host families for the students of Takada Junior and Senior School who will visit us from Saturday March 12, 2011—Wednesday March 23, 2011.

Takada Junior and Senior High School is the sister school to St Monica's college and students from Japan visit us each year and a tour group from St Monica's College visits Japan each year.

Families who wish to host are encouraged to collect an information sheet from Campus Reception on either the Dalton Road Campus or the Davisson Street Campus. Further information about the program can be obtained from either Fulvio Frijo, Dalton Road Campus Director or Miss Judith Clarke, Senior Teacher (Careers) Davisson Street Campus.

We encourage all families to think about hosting as it can be a valuable cultural learning experience. Families who host do not have to be able to speak Japanese. If you are a host family we encourage you to collect an information pack and return the completed form to the College before the end of the school year as the College needs to confirm the number of students we can host with Takada this year so that flight can be booked.

## HEAD LICE

There has been a case of head lice in Year 9. Head lice have been around for thousands of years and anyone can catch them. They spread from direct head to head contact – this happens when people play, cuddle or work together closely. Parents are asked to check their children's heads, looking for live lice or eggs. If you find either, it is important to treat your child's hair immediately. Children with head lice are required under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations to be excluded from school until treatment has commenced. A child with head lice may be treated one evening and return to school the next day. Two treatments seven days apart are required to effectively treat for head lice. Products may be purchased from chemists or supermarkets. For further information, please consult the following website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice).



### **PRINCIPAL'S TROPHY FOR TECHNOLOGY**

**Date:** November 25, 2010

**Time:** 7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.

**Where:** Davisson Street Campus

**Also showing Works from VET Interactive Digital Media**

St Monica's College  
VCAL

*Present to you*

## TWILIGHT FAIR

All proceeds go to the Northern Hospital's  
Emergency Department

Thursday 2nd December  
3.30—8.00pm

16 Davisson Street, Epping  
(On the basketball court in between Hospitality  
Center & P.E rooms. Entry via car park)

Gold Coin donation entry

hairspray

The HAIRSPRAY production company is offering the school community an opportunity to see performances of the show on Tuesdays (7pm), Wednesdays (1pm & 8pm) or Thursdays (8pm) for the exceptional price of \$55.00 each.

This is an excellent opportunity for the school community to be introduced, if not, reacquainted with the world of musical theatre.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the show, please enter the link below to your web browser, select any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday performance and follow the prompts to the check out.

<http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/showNE.aspx?pp=QGSCH&sh=HAIRSPRA10>

If you have any questions regarding this offer please contact Damien Chambers at [stagedoorpromotions@bigpond.com](mailto:stagedoorpromotions@bigpond.com).

## ADVENT REFLECTION



**“Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”**

**Matthew 24: 37-44**

Sunday November 28 marks the first Sunday in Advent. Advent calls us to “stay awake” and not sleep through the opportunities life gives us to discover God and the things of God, to “watch,” to pay attention to the signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives.

Life is a constant Advent experience: Our lives are Advents of waiting to be healed, waiting to make things better, waiting to complete and move on; the everyday Advents of our lives are filled with fear, doubt and struggle. Our “Advents” are ultimately fulfilled in the coming of the Christ, who comes to dwell in our midst.

Waiting is a wise teacher. The experience of waiting reveals the presence of God in our midst; it enables us to realize what we appreciate, value and cherish; it teaches us how to be present and attentive to family and friends; it opens up our vision and spirits to realize the love of God in our midst. In the middle of the busiest season of the year, Advent calls us to embrace the wisdom of waiting: to slow down and see the goodness of God around us that we rush by too quickly to see, to behold Christ in every moment of compassion, forgiveness and joy we experience in the everyday Advent of our lives.

<http://www.connectionsmediaworks.com/sundaygospel.html#nov28>

### MARVELLOUS MONICAN

Kurt Cauchi was successful in representing the state of Victoria in the recent Legacy Junior National Public Speaking Competition. It's only the second time that a representative from SMC has progressed so far in this competition. Kurt has also participated in many aspects of College life in which he gives his best, an attribute that all Monicans should aspire to.

**F. Frijo  
A. Chirico  
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