



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

No. 14, Monday, September 1st, 2008

PEACE & HARMONY – MONICANS

Annually at the St Monica's Day Mass students, staff and our priests make public pledges to serve each other in this wonderful College community. This fortnight's reflection on peace and harmony is the pledges that were made on August 27 at Mass:

Mr Hanley I ask staff and students to stand when invited, and to recommit themselves to the ministry of service to fellow members of St Monica's College, Epping.

Staff We, the staff of St Monica's College, commit to be strong and constant role models of peace and harmony for the students of this College. We will show this through our deeds and by the words we use to each other, to students and to parents. We will be peace makers and seekers of harmony.

Years 7 & 8 We will try to spread peace and harmony in all that we do. We will be peaceful in our actions and always think of other people. We promise to make this a happy school. We will be peace makers and seekers of harmony.

Years 9 & 10 Peace and harmony will influence all that we say and do when at school and in the outside community. We will extend the hands of peace to everyone we meet. We promise to make all who belong to St Monica's feel welcome. We will be peace makers and seekers of harmony.

Years 11 & 12 We, the senior students of St Monica's College, will lead by example as we work for peace and harmony on the school grounds, in classrooms and at all College activities. We will encourage all students to act in ways that create a better world and a more united school community. We will be peace makers and seekers of harmony.

ST MONICA'S WEEK

This has been busy time for all at SMC with the blessing and opening of the Year 9 building and Science & Technology building on Sunday, 24th August, 2008; the Annual Oration (by Dr Max Stephens) on the following evening and then St Monica's Day on our patron's feast day, Wednesday, August 27. I take this opportunity to thank all members of our College community who were involved in any and/or all aspects of our special week.

NOT ALL GOOD NEWS

Unfortunately the 2008 Fashion Parade and the *Vibe* Student Dance Party were cancelled due to lack of support. Whilst I thank those who had intended to support these events, it is very disappointing to receive so little support from so many.

Also, it is most annoying and extremely disappointing that 357 students were absent on St Monica's Day. Whilst it is understandable and acceptable that illness may have kept some students away, I am only hoping that the remainder were not parent condoned absences or truancy. Particular concerns exist in Years 10 and 9, and to a lesser extent in Years 8 and 11.

BEHAVIOR AND GROOMING

It is a clear expectation that students will behave appropriately when at the College or representing the College. Some families will soon be formally contacted about their children's behavior that does not reach Monican standards. This also applies to uniform infringements – especially boys.

A big tick and congratulations go to those Monicans who always behave well in all situations and who wear their uniform with pride.

SINCE THE LAST EDITION

We have been involved in: Book Week; St Monica's Day; Opening Ceremony; Annual Oration; Uniquely Year 9 White; On the Edge Year 10 Purple; Year 5 visits from Primary schools; LOTE visits to Primary schools; Snow Trip; CAS girls' football; Teamwork Cafes; Tournament of Minds; DAV Finals debating; Year 7 sport try-outs; Year 8 Premier League; School Officers Day and much more.

HOCKEY INSTITUTE FUNDRAISER

Please note that on Friday, September 12 at Reading cinemas in Epping Plaza there will be a 9.00 p.m. screening of the new comedy 'College Road Trip'. This is exclusively to raise funds for our students touring New Zealand with the Hockey Institute during the Term 3 holidays. Tickets can be purchased from Mr Shelton as of now in the Sports & Assembly Hall. Adult tickets are \$14 and children \$11.

2009 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Congratulations to Kelsey Turner and Anthony Cardamone on being commissioned into the role of College Captain for 2009 and to Cardia Speziale and Cris Rabaja who will be the 2009 College Vice Captains.

September

1	Senior Basketball
1	Dance Showcase
2	CAS Football
2	Enrolment Information Evening
3	SACCSS Tennis
3-5	Year 10 Red Ostia On The Edge Retreat
3-5	Uniquely Year 9 Orange Experience
4-5	VCAL Camp
5	Years 7-8 French Poetry Competition
7-10	Envirofriends Murray River Conference
8-9	Year 10 Retreat Days
8	Principal's Cup for Song
9	Years 7 and 9 Immunizations
9	Year 8 Premier League
9	College Board and Executive Meetings
10-12	Year 10 Silver Ostia On The Edge Retreat
10-12	Uniquely Year 9 Blue Experience
10	Athletics Presentation Evening
11	Values Education Forum
12	Small Business Expo
13-25	Japan Tour 2008
15	CAS Athletics
15	Senior Soccer
15	Year 12 Parent Information Evening
17	Years 7-10 Parent Teacher Conferences
18	Year 7 Premier League
18	MADD Night
19	Staff Spirituality Day (Student Free)
19	Senior Winter Sleepout

October

6	Classes resume (summer uniform)
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FROM THE STAFFROOM

1. Congratulations to Mr Greg Steptowe and Mr Chau Phan and their wives on the births of their daughters: Eve Maree Steptowe and Vyvian Phan.
2. Wedding bells: for Ms Alison Prince and Owen in Tasmania; and for Ms Marie Engebretson and Mr Sid Bagh who commenced their married life together on August 30.
3. Ms Michelle Currie has informed me that she will not be resuming at SMC after her recent absence.
4. Mrs Cathy O'Brien and Mr Peter Castles commence leave from September 8 until end of Term 3.
5. We commend the work and contributions made to the College by our School Officers. They are located in all areas of the school and their work is greatly appreciated.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

Congratulations to the Tournament of the Minds team which competed in the regional final on Saturday, August 23 at LaTrobe University, Bundoora. Team members were: Dean Foster, Emily DeBiase, Tessa Bruno, Krystine Dimkovski, Jason Trestrail and Sabitha Rajaeeswaran.

The team presented two performances. The first was based on a long term challenge they had been working on for the past four weeks. In the challenge they were asked to imagine that a gala dinner was being held for William Shakespeare but the guest of honour had lost his memory. The team had to present excerpts from Shakespeare's plays to help him remember who he was. The team chose

to present scenes from 'Macbeth' and 'Romeo and Juliet' in their performance. The team portrayed characters including Lady Macbeth, the Witches, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and the Apothecary. Tessa and Jason were also very entertaining as the presenters hosting the event.

The second performance the team delivered was a response to a spontaneous challenge in which they were given to prompt and in three minutes they had to decide how to 'answer' the challenge and present it to the judges.

The team worked very hard to prepare for this competition. They designed their own props, made their own costumes and learned important team work skills which will benefit them in the future. I encourage all students in Years 7 to 10 to participate in the Tournament of the Minds next year.

DEBATING FINALS

Congratulations to the two SMC teams who competed in the DAV debating finals at Salesian College in Chadstone on Wednesday night. The teams involved were 'D' grade team 2, coached by Mr Andrew Agardy, and 'C' grade team 3, coached by Ms Tina Pitruzzello. The competing students were: Jennie Nguyen, Olivia Ouraha, Loredana De Marco, Sarah Maiolo (Year 8), Katherina Petkovska, Shane Elders and Fabrice Terriere (Year 10). I am pleased to announce that the Year 10 team, coached by Ms Tina Pitruzzello, won this final. This is a groundbreaking win, never before been achieved at SMC. This team now advances to the 'Octo finals' to be held in two weeks' time.

MONICANS OUT & ABOUT

Year 10 St Vincent de Paul helpers: Catherine Vella; Bernadette Dimaculangan; Paul Seidl; Ashleigh Brogden; Joshua Testa; Fabrice Terriere; Elise Mattiacci; Celeste Carli.

Teamwork Café: Domenic Cugno; Emily Watts; Natasha Sopic; Elise Conte.

Year 10 Collingwood Cottage assistants: Natalie Porco; Catherine Saba; Priscilla DeBattista; Rowena Bradford; Joshua Pancho; Emma Piscitelli; Jake Filippi; Louise Zinellu.

Red Cross Youth Ambassadors: Lauren Styring; Krystal Guerra; Anyshka Weerakkody; Elise Wilkes; Luke Larobina; Nicole O'Connor.

South Morang Mews visitors: Maria Falvo; Kayla Leonardi; Jessica Plateo; Ashley Raphael.

St Peter's Literacy Program supporters: Samantha Papagiannakis; Ian Vergel; Vivian Lay; Michael Soosaipillai; Michael Bach; Meiruja Sivaneeswren.

CHAMBERLIN GALLERY EXHIBITION

Currently showing in the Chamberlin Gallery is Year 11 work done by Mr Smith's Visual Communication and Design students. The work includes freehand renderings, one and two point perspective instrumental drawings and isometric shapes done by using Adobe Illustrator. Thanks to Mr Smith for supplying this work and to Ms DiLorenzo for framing and displaying it.

RE: Australian Catholics – 2008 Young Journalist Award.

Sarah Byrns (9) has received a 'Highly Commended' award in the intermediate division from this competition. She submitted a piece about her mother and how important she is to her in her life.



MADD GOES DISCO!

The best of SMC Performing Arts.

Thursday 18th September @ 7.30pm
Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre

Tickets: \$15

Enquires: Ms. Jenny Cavallo 9409-8860

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CAREERS CORNER

Healesville Sanctuary is introducing a new careers program for students who are interested in pursuing a career with animals, wildlife and conservation. 'Keeper for a Day' is running in the first week of the September holidays on Tuesday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 24. Participants will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of real zoo keeping tasks, which could include activities such as: food preparation, animal enrichment, enclosure maintenance, egg sorting, keeper talks, animal health checks, animal handling. The day also includes a comprehensive tour of 'off limits areas' and the Birds of Prey presentation.

Students may come independently. The cost for the program is \$99 and students 14 years and above may register.

Interested students should download the 'Keeper for a Day' flyer and registration form from the website at http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers/Keepers

For more information and to book please phone 5957 2818.

2008 VCE Parents' Information Evening at Deakin University

Deakin University invites VCE students and their parents to attend the 2008 VCE Parents' Information Evening at Deakin University's Melbourne Campus at Burwood on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

The event will commence at 6.00 p.m. with a course information expo followed by a presentation at 7.00 p.m. in the Rusden lecture theatre (lecture theatre 13). Friendly staff will be available to answer questions about courses and careers, student support services, applications and enrolment, scholarships and accommodation.

To register your interest in this event please call 03 9246 8055, visit www.deakin.edu.au or email future-students@deakin.edu.au.

Helping with Career Decisions

www.myfuture.edu.au is a leading Australian career website that helps students to make career decisions and plan career pathways. It is an excellent site that can be used by students and parents to help plan possible career pathways and to answer questions about occupations, pathways, subjects and personal qualities needed.

When students enter www.myfuture.edu.au they can access **My Guide** a personalized career exploration tool and:

- Find out more about themselves, their skills, interests, values and aspirations
- Discover the occupations that may suit them
- Compare career ideas
- Plan career pathways
- Research the world of work
- Explore their creativity and enterprise skills.

My Guide assists the student to explore their career direction and plan their future career by:

- Generating career ideas based on the student's personal profile
- Customizing the student's exploration by their age or stage of life
- Helping the student to identify the pathway towards their career destination
- Helping to set student career goals
- Saving personal student information that can be reviewed, changed or added to at any time.

The detailed career information in **The Facts** is the place to find out about:

- Occupations
- Industries
- Where to get scholarships
- Online vacancies
- Volunteer opportunities
- Support agencies
- New Apprenticeships
- Employment trends
- Where the jobs are
- Education and training providers

Extra Information

- Career development
- Getting a job
- Getting a new apprenticeship
- Enterprise and small business
- Choosing school subjects
- Working overseas

Assist Others is for:

- Parents
- Guardians

The Myfuture website is a live website and is continually being updated to provide the latest information about employment opportunities and courses for students and parents.

A NOTE FROM THE CANCER COUNCIL

THANK YOU!

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea reaches \$2Million Dollar Milestone in Victoria!!

GRAND TOTAL : \$2,004,789.81

Thanks to everyone who held and participated in a morning tea this year to help the Cancer Council Victoria reach this amazing landmark.

These funds will be targeted towards much needed cancer research projects, education programs and support services to help Victorians touched by cancer

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The College Board recently approved an Anaphylaxis Policy and re-approved the Positive Relationships Policy (with changes).

WORLD OF SPORT

Catholic All Schools Central Zone Finals

St Monica's College entered a Junior Girls, Intermediate Girls and Senior Girls team into the Central Zone finals with success in all three age groups.

Junior Girls Final	St Monica's 2	Penola 0
Intermediate Girls	St Monica's 1	St Columba's 0
Senior Girls	St Monica's 5	St Columba's 0

2008 House Soccer at DRC

The House program within the College will run a Soccer Tournament at DRC during lunchtime commencing Tuesday, September 2. Games will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays. All fixtures, rules and team information will be displayed on the House noticeboard (located on the side wall of the Sports & Assembly Hall). Year 10 Soccer Excellence students will referee the lunchtime games. Good luck to all teams involved.

Year 8 Premier League - 28/8/2008

St. Monica's V CRC Caroline Springs

SPORT	St. Monica's	CRC Caroline Springs
Australian Football	12.13.145	1.2.8
Netball	75	14
Basketball (Girls)	41	22
Volleyball (Girls)	3	1
Football (Boys)	9	1

VCE ENGLISH, LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDENT REVISION DAYS

VATE run very good student revision days for the three English studies at Melbourne University each year. It is highly recommended that students attend. Registration is cheaper online (www.vate.org.au) at \$35 for the day (three sessions). Dates are as follows – English Saturday, October 11, Literature and English Language Sunday, October 12. Bookings should be available online any day now OR you can telephone the VATE office on 9411 8500 for details.

CHURCH SPEAKS FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AND THE UNBORN

Archbishop Hart has spoken out strongly against the Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008 and the proposal to decriminalize abortion.

"Treating abortion as an ordinary medical procedure deprives the unborn, our most vulnerable human beings, of the legal protection which the law should afford them. An abortion is not like any other medical procedure and any attempt to treat it as such should be opposed both for the sake of the unborn and for the sake of women who may be pressured to have an abortion," the Archbishop said.

"Abortion understood as the intentional destruction of the unborn child in the womb is always wrong and unjust. The unborn child is a human being entitled to the protection of the law no less than any of us. Every attempt to harm an innocent human person violates principles of justice and is always wrong. There are many alternatives to the death and destruction cultivated by the Bill. The welfare of mothers and families should be a first priority in the formation of public policy."

"The Bill does nothing to reduce the incidence of abortion," he said. The Bill permits all abortions up to twenty four weeks if performed by a medical practitioner.

"While the Victorian Law Reform Commission found that less than 1% of abortions are performed after twenty weeks gestation, the Bill – in allowing abortions up to twenty four weeks pregnancy, increases the possibility of a much larger number of abortions occurring when a substantial majority of the community want a reduction in the number of abortions.

"It places restrictions on abortions after twenty four weeks which are bound to be ineffective. The restrictions imposed after twenty four weeks will deter non-one; no doctor ever needs fear prosecution," the Archbishop said.

The Bill permits pharmacists and nurses to supply or administer drugs to women up to twenty weeks of pregnancy, without the supervision of a medical practitioner.

The Archbishop said, "The so called 'conscientious objection clauses' are a totally unacceptable interference in the freedom of those doctors and nurses who refuse to take part in, or sanction, the deliberate destruction of human life. In certain circumstances it compels doctors to do the very thing to which they conscientiously object, namely the killing of an unborn child. The Bill is a clear breach of the human rights of doctors and nurses forcing them to act against conscientiously held moral, cultural or religious beliefs."

Archbishop Hart called on the community to choose life and reject abortion.

MARVELLOUS MONICANS

This week's Marvellous Monican cannot be given to one student. They cannot be separated because it was a team effort. In Year 8, we had four students who performed brilliantly in the final round of DAV debating recently. Jennie Nguyen, Olivia Ouraha, Loredana De Marco and Sarah Maiolo. All four girls participated in "D" Grade debating which is actually Year 9. This means that they were mostly competing against Year 9s and beating them. They won all 5 regional debates at Loyola College in Watsonia. They are all organised, dedicated and brilliant speakers. Their attention to detail is amazing and their quality of argument superb.

B.E. Hanley
College Principal



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