"If you love each other cordially, you have Heaven already."

Catherine McAuley

Prayer

You have called us, O God, to unite us to yourself in the person of your Son, Jesus. Through our reflections on his life, may we come to know his spirit and to reflect this in our words and actions. We make this prayer in a spirit of gratitude and praise.

Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

This will be my last contribution to the Newsletter for some weeks. By the time you read this edition I will be in Greece on a Pilgrimage following in the footsteps of St Paul. Mr Michael Johnston will be Acting Principal until I return on 8 June.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

Mr Philip Morison, Principal elect of the College, has responded with enthusiasm to my words of congratulations and he is looking forward to working with and for our community. The community of Emmanuel College in Warrnambool will be disappointed that he is leaving as he has led that community with great distinction, energy and enthusiasm through a period of growth.

PLEASE PRAY

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jack Short who is the Grandfather of Josh Short of Year 9 and past student Hannah.

We pray that Jack’s soul is restless no longer as he is now resting in God. Let us lift up our eyes to the stars and remember that the God who made them has called Jack by name. May our prayers and support and strengthen his family and help them.

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS ON THE 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

A copy of this report has been distributed to all families and it is also available on the College Website.

WEEKLY MASS AT THE COLLEGE

Congratulations to 10 Silver on their leadership of the Tuesday morning Eucharist last week at 8.15am. 10 Orange invite parents, grandparents, students and staff to join with them in the celebration tomorrow morning.

The Feast of the Ascension

“Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation.”

In Mark’s Gospel, these words are the last instructions Jesus gives to his disciples. Following this He is no longer physically present in the same way as previously. He is now in Heaven, a place or state of being open to us as our ultimate destiny. It is where our lives are no longer restless because we have found rest in God.

We are instructed or invited to continue the work of Jesus and to take the good news to all of creation. This is the pathway to achieving our ultimate destiny, enjoying the presence of God.

During this week, let us be good news to others and all of creation. Dispose of rubbish wisely, recycle, conserve water or anything to help preserve the earth.

Mk 15:15
Having reached the halfway point of this term it is important for all students to realise the importance of keeping up to date with work. There is ample opportunity for students to receive additional help via the Homework Club or peer tutoring offered in the Maths and Science area. At VCE level students and staff are constantly meeting before school and during lunch breaks to go over work and consolidate skills. Please encourage your daughter or son to take advantage of this. The ‘business end’ of the term is fast approaching with exams for Years 10, 11 & 12 and semester reports not far behind.

Winter uniform will be compulsory for all students from 1 June. This will continue through until the end of Term 3. Students are not permitted to wear any form of jacket other than the school blazer. The spray jacket that is part of the sport uniform may only be worn on the designated sport day for Years 8 – 12 students. It may not be worn in place of or in addition to the blazer on other days of the school week.

Well done to the students who have been involved in the Year 8 Leadership Program over an eight week period. They have given up considerable after school time but in the process have developed a range of skills in public speaking and leadership. Their presentation evening was held last Wednesday evening and highlighted the benefit gained from such a program. Thank you to the families who attended and special mention to the Year 8 Wellbeing Coordinator, Ms Tineo for her commitment to this program.

A reminder to parents that The Eyrie is clearly designated as a non drop off/pick up point of a morning and afternoon. Council officers have been issuing infringement notices to vehicles in this street.

A final reminder of the Parent Seminar that has been advertised recently. At 7.30pm on Thursday 24 May Andrew Fuller will present on the topic of “Building Resilience in Children and Raising Real People”. Andrew is very highly regarded in the field of adolescent psychology and this should be of interest to all parents. Response to this has been good but there are still seats available. We hope to see you there.

A range of important activities are scheduled for the next few weeks. The Year 10 Future Focus Day is on 25 May, on this day Year 10 students are permitted to wear free dress (neat casual). Seeds of Justice Student Conference on 24-25 May. The Northern Territory Immersion experience departs on 31 May until 10 June. Exams for Years 10, 11 & 12 commence on 12 June.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for St Vinnies. The non-perishable food items, toiletries and blankets will be taken in on our regular Soup Van visits.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

In 2010 Rebecca Attwood completed Year 12 Studio Arts. In the Year 12 final show Rebecca exhibited a stunning series of photographic works reflecting on the all too frequent tragedy we see in our country of young people losing their lives in car accidents. Her work documented these events down to the smallest detail, such as a broken seat belt buckle left on the road, long after the police had cleaned up the wreckage. For her remarkable efforts she was awarded “Artwork with the most Powerful Message” in that year. Recently 4 photographs from this series of work have been framed and will become part of our college collection. Congratulations Rebecca!

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

FROM THE REGISTRAR - Ms Mary Ryan

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

The next Parents and Friends meeting will be held tomorrow night at 7.30pm in the staff dining room. We welcome all parents and guardians and assure you that coming to the meeting doesn’t mean you will be on every committee from now on! It is also a good opportunity to meet other parents.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK 2012 / 2013

The new Entertainment book for 2012 / 2013 has arrived and can be purchased from Reception for $65 ($13 of this goes to the fundraising efforts of Parents and Friends). When you visit Reception, please consider taking a ‘Dough Raiser’ card. When you shop at the Chirnside Park or Mooroolbark Bakers Delight stores, show the card and 5% of the purchase price comes to the College.

Mary Ryan
Registrar
May is traditionally a month dedicated to Devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and in Australia 24 May is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. On Sunday 27 May we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost so let us keep this in mind and pray that Mary and the Spirit of the Lord will grant all of us Love and Peace. Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian Church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means “Fiftieth Day” and is Celebrated 50 days after Easter.

YEAR 8 LEADERSHIP PROGRAM “LEAD ALONGSIDE” 2012
Congratulations to the Year 8 Class Captains for participating in their 8 week Leadership Program. Every Wednesday and a few Mondays after school (3.30 - 5.30pm) the students worked on the various skills and different aspects of leadership and what it means to be a “leader”. Sincere thanks are extended to Miss Tineo (Year 8 Co-Ordinator) for the general organisation of the program and to the external presenters Mrs Penny Barrington and Dr Geoff Haw.

The presentation evening was held on Wednesday 16 May at 7pm in McAuley Hall and was a highlight and a showcase of all those weeks of hard work and commitment. Parents and friends as well as staff were very impressed with the quality of the presentations and speeches. Well done Class Captains!!

YEAR 9 “GET REAL/GET INVOLVED” DAY
This annual event was held on Thursday 10 May and a full report from Mr Hill Year 9 Wellbeing Coordinator and students and photos will be published in the next newsletter - look forward to reading about this great day for the Year 9 students. The purpose of the day was to provide experiences from guest speakers which enhanced self-esteem, developed new interests and provided a greater understanding of self and of life. A big thank you to Mr Hill for the organisation of this event for the Year 9 students.

CAREERS@MLMC
Last week all the Year 8 students visited the Careers Centre at the College. The students were given a brief tour, explanation of the services provided to students and a general overview of the function of the Careers Department in a school. Ms Fontana and her team welcomed the students and their homeroom teachers and look forward to seeing Year 7 & 9 students in the next few weeks.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING
Students in the McAuley Campus continue to enjoy their reading in SSR (Sustained Silent Reading), reading for the Premier’s Reading Challenge and in their English classes. The response from students has been very positive and we are confident that Library and Information Week will be a huge success and students will get involved in the activities on offer. A report will be published in a future newsletter.

HOMEWORK CLUB
A reminder to all students in the McAuley Campus that Homework Club operates every WEDNESDAY from 3.30 - 4.30pm in the McAuley Library. Expert help and support is available, no bookings required, just turn up with your books, assessment tasks, revision sheets, homework tasks or get some handy tips on “How to Study and get Organised”.

Give it a try - nothing to lose but so much to be gained!
CHESS TOURNAMENT
We extend our congratulations to the following students who are members of the Chess Club and who competed at Billanook College yesterday. Harley Dingey, David Remminga, Ben Young, Brayden Douglas, Ashely Greene and Blake Tsiotinas. We thank Ms Katie Stanley from McAuley Library for her time and effort in giving the students this opportunity to compete with other schools. Results will be published in a future newsletter.

SCHOOL BACKPACKS
A recent Australian Study has revealed that 70% of school children suffered BACKPAIN from Heavy School Bags. In the Study it was highlighted that students carry up to HALF their Body Weight in books, which puts them at risk of long-term damage to their health. The move to IPADs will improve the situation but for many of our students a few safety tips can help:

- Backpacks should weigh less then 10% of your body weight
- Pack the heaviest items closest to your back
- Make sure that items can’t move
- Don’t carry unnecessary textbooks
- Use both shoulder straps

PREVENTING LOST PROPERTY
Yes! Students clothing really does look alike, especially the uniforms, so labels do help. We remind students, parents/guardians to please check that all items of uniform are labelled. Labels can be readily purchased.

“LABEL IT..........OR LOSE IT”

“God doesn’t require us to succeed, he only requires that you try.”
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Peter Molinari
John Rodgers
Mc Auley Campus Directors

YEAR 7 CLASS MASSES

Last week several of our Year 7 Homerooms celebrated the Eucharist in our Chapel. Parents are welcome to attend these masses and will be invited by their child.
On Tuesday 1 May 2012 all Year 8 students were fortunate enough to have inspirational speaker and comedian Declan Fay speak to them. He spoke about the importance of not letting chances slip through your fingers and to make the most of the opportunities you are given. The students connected well with his humour, stories and his motivating advice. He continued to bring his entertaining and funny stories back to his main point about not asking the big question ‘what if’.

Declan Fay was good. His stories were all really funny and made everyone laugh. My favourite part was when he told us about being in an act and he didn’t know what to do, so he just screamed like a bird. I learnt from his speech that even if you’re not the best student at school you can still have a good career. He also taught us never to give up and not to wonder ‘what if’.

Declan Fay was very funny! I think it was a great idea to invite him to our school, he should come every year. He made all of us laugh and he definitely made my morning great. I also thought it was good that after each funny story it reflected his motto, of don’t give up and not to say ‘what if’. These would help all of us in the future.

At the start of Term 1 Mrs Tasiopoulos (in photo) and Miss Attardi set up painting sessions for the Year 8 students at lunchtime (every Wednesday). We decided to join because we thought it would be a fun and sociable activity to participate in because we love to paint. We also loved the idea of brightening up the First Aid room with colourful and uplifting canvases.

We have worked very hard and have produced some gorgeous paintings for the sick and injured to admire.

We hope there will be more opportunities around the school to show off our artistic side and our passion for art.
The Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) aims to simulate the workings of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly by having teams of two Year 11 students representing member UN countries, engaging in debate on matters of world political and social concern and to develop in students an awareness of the UN and its workings. This is a report from our three teams of students who participated in the event a couple of weeks ago.

The weekend was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for all – organisers, participants and observers. The delegates had all researched the background of their countries so they were able to argue persuasively and present the point of view of the country they represented. It was possible to see all of the students grow and develop over the weekend. It was a privilege to observe such a fine group of young people. All the students were very good representatives of the College and delegates for their countries. They are to be congratulated for their commitment and dedication.

Maddison Alford & Robert Di Paola (representing Kenya photo top left)

“MUNA was an amazing experience. It was a chance to step out of the school world and enter an entire new one. To just be in Parliament House was a thrill. We felt so... little... and inexperienced, but, as the day progressed we started to get really into the whole event and felt not only welcomed but somewhat grown up. Speaking our countries opinions and even just representing them really broadened your horizons, "stepping into the shoes of other countries". You really had to think on your feet and fight for your (or your countries) beliefs and standards. With all the other participants feeling the same amount of overwhelming excitement as us, it was easy to make friends and sometimes, I must admit, we used these friendships to secure amendments and resolutions. This even led us onto the brink of War with America, with Syria leading the charge!"

Gabrielle Stolzenhain & Hannah Kelaart (representing Iraq photo bottom left)

“Before the weekend had even started we learnt a lot about the fact that just what the media portrays a country to be like doesn’t necessarily mean that it is, as some previous perceptions of the countries are not always what they seem. Learning to be more accepting of other countries point of view would have to be the most important thing that I took out of the weekend. We met lots of likeminded people there who took on the persona of the countries they were representing. Talking, negotiating and compromising were important parts of trying to get a solution that was in the best interests of your country. Overall the weekend was amazing and we had an awesome time.”

Our MUNA experience was a very positive one. It was a lot of preparation time but it was all worthwhile. It was great meeting new people from all around Victoria. We are truly thankful for this wonderful opportunity”

(Alice Rennison & Simone Geurts representing North Korea photo right)
Congratulations to all Intermediate VCAL students who were successful in racing in the annual VCAL Great Billycart Derby. You showed great leadership, teamwork and initiative in planning the event and constructing your billycarts. Well done to the team with the fastest time: Isaac Morse, Chloe Serritelli, Jack Spencer and Anthony Tucci and great work to the team with the best design: Belinda Chalmers, Kim Maka, Jack O’Kane, Ilona Rawkins and Ethan Schneider.

Steve Tarulli
Applied Learning Coordinator