SCHOOL FEES

Statements of account were recently sent out. For those who completed direct debit or credit card authorities at the start of the year, we will confirm that outstanding amounts will be covered and contact you if there are any issues. Those paying ‘per term’ by cash / cheque should note that the 3rd of 4 instalments was due on 1 August. Accordingly, 75% of 2013 fees should now be paid unless an alternative arrangement has been approved by the College. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

Business Manager

Noel Kennedy
JJAMM WEEK
THE WEEK OF CELEBRATION AT OUR COLLEGE BASED AROUND THE FEAST DAY OF OUR SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP ON AUGUST 8TH IS ALWAYS ONE OF THE MOST VIBRANT WEEKS ON OUR COLLEGE CALENDAR.

This year was no exception with the celebrations and prayer rituals of JJAMM Week (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) giving all students and staff opportunities for involvement. JJAMM Week is celebrated across Australia and New Zealand in many of the 40 Josephite schools which belong to the AJASS (Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools). The highlights of the week included our annual Music, Media, Art, Design, Dance (MMADD) Day and our Founders’ Day liturgy and carnival.

MMADD DAY
THIS YEAR OUR THEME WAS DISNEY AND WE HAD HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT DISNEY COSTUMES ON YEARS 7 TO 12 GIRLS WALKING THROUGH THE SCHOOL GATES ON TUESDAY MORNING.

Joining this exuberant crew of characters were a large number of staff also dressed as Mickey, Minnie, Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Captain Hook, the Wicked Witch and various other characters. The musical performances and shared story from our highly talented presenter, Fr Rob Galea in the morning set the tone for a highly successful day of creative workshops and house choir performances. Congratulations to all staff and students who contributed to such a memorable day.

FOUNDERS’ DAY
WE WERE HONOURED TO HAVE A NUMBER OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH JOIN US AT OUR MASS AND TO SHARE WITH US THEIR STORIES AND MINISTRIES.

Particular thanks to Sr Therese Quinn, Sr Jeanne Dwyer, Sr Mary Fermio, Sr Margaret Malady and Jenny Glare for the insights they provided into the Josephite history and ministries. The Gospel reflection included a dramatised dialogue between Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods around the themes of the readings and the 2013 College theme of ‘Entrusted with something precious.’ Mary’s reflections reiterated our call to care for all... “I hope they will live in a world where young people can flourish and grow; where all the needs of a young person’s heart, soul, mind and body are met. I especially worry about the vulnerable ones: those who are sick or disabled or are troubled in their spirit and mind. They too are precious and need love and support.”

MSJ’S GOT TALENT AND THE WIZARD OF OZ
IN A FITTING FINALE TO THE JJAMM WEEK OF COMMUNITY CELEBRATION, THE FINALS OF THE ‘MSJ’S GOT TALENT’ COMPETITION BROUGHT SOME VERY GIFTED STUDENTS TO THE STAGE TO SHARE THEIR INSPIRING PERFORMING ARTS TALENTS WITH US.

The student performances in the heats and the finals showcased the depth of talent, courage and trust that is at the heart of our MSJ community. In this spirit, we eagerly await the performance of The Wizard of Oz on September 6th and 7th. So many hours of rehearsal, team work, costume production, set building and vibrant school spirit promise to present us with amazing entertainment on opening night. If you have yet to purchase your tickets you are encouraged to get online and book your seats as tickets are selling fast. Congratulations and thanks to all staff, students and of course our many parent chauffeurs!

Principal
Catherine Dillon.
VCE RELIGION & SOCIETY EXCURSION

OUR UNIT 4 CLASS ARE STUDYING A THEME TITLED “CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE” IN THE SECOND SEMESTER.

Research for this study took us on an interesting tour of sites around Melbourne including:
- The site of the old Catholic Ladies College.
- The site of the old St Patrick’s College.
- St Patrick’s Cathedral, to see the plaques of the Archbishops of the time – Thomas Carr and James Goold.
- The Academy of Mary Immaculate College in (Nicholson St) and Sr Ursula Frayne’s grave.
- ACU and the new Mary MacKillop Chapel and court.
- James Goold House, offices of the CEO.
- Thomas Carr Centre, formerly Parade College.

From the students’ point of view, the major highlights were:

“My highlight of our excursion was ACU as it was interesting to see the interpretation of religion in their university, and despite that it was known to be a catholic university, it had such good nursing facilities in which you could learn and practice in an environment similar to a hospital room.”

“Learning About Ms Canavan’s old school, which was set up by the Charity Sisters and is now the Park Hyatt.”

“The excursion was spiritually enlightening.”

“I felt privileged to sit in the seat that once belonged to a past bishop, located in the gorgeous chapel of the Academy of Mary Immaculate.”

“Learning from Mr. Leonard’s past university lecturer was very insightful. It was amazing to see three generations of teachers and students all united together in one room.”

“Seeing ACU and the opportunities that we have.”

“The very beautiful and modern chapel at ACU which was a new thing for me.”

“Spending time with the class throughout the day, which I felt brought us closer together.”

By R & S students & Director of Mission

BRINGING UP BABY EXCURSION

LONG REGARDED AS ONE OF THE CLASSICS OF SCREWBALL COMEDY, HOWARD HAWKS’ 1938 FILM BRINGING UP BABY CONTINUES TO DELIGHT AUDIENCES TODAY.

Starring Katharine Hepburn as a ditzy heiress and Cary Grant as a beleaguered palaeontologist, the film is recognised for its fast paced dialogue, outlandish scenarios and two of the best comedic performances ever committed to film.

This year, the Year 12 Literature class had the good fortune to be given the opportunity to see the film as it was intended: on the big screen at The Astor in St Kilda. We had a great time eating choc tops and laughing uproariously as Hepburn and Grant descended into madness after adopting a baby leopard.

CITY ADVENTURE

THE YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS WERE LUCKY TO GO ON A CITY ADVENTURE.

The first stop: the Zoo! We split into two groups and were shepherded around by knowledgeable zookeepers. My group made our way to the Baboon lookout, where we were able to observe Hamadryus Baboons in an open grassland area. We recorded their behaviour and discussed the social hierarchy and group behaviour of the primates. We then made our way to the discovery centre, where we discussed the importance of animal ethics.

After a quick break, it was back on the bus and a short ride to the Dax Centre. We were given a moving talk from a woman who had experienced depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress and were encouraged to ask as many questions as we could. We also looked at some incredible pieces of art. People who had experienced mental illness or psychological trauma created these pieces. Creating art was initially a therapeutic technique, as it offered insight into the minds of people with mental illness. Now, it is used to promote an understanding among the general public about mental illness and trauma. Each creation had its own story and was made in the past century, from survivors of the Holocaust to patients living in asylums. We learned about the confronting histories of some of the artists and then made our way back home.

It was truly a wonderful and educational experience that cannot be forgotten easily.

By Nicola de Souza, 11 Therese
MURDER AT MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH
ANYONE DRIVING PAST THE COLLEGE ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM WOULD HAVE WONDERED WHAT WAS GOING ON.

Dressed in 1940s regalia, our Year 9 students, indeed, looked suspicious! All 160 of them had been invited to participate in a Murder Mystery luncheon where each of them was a suspect in a murder.

The scene was Paris 1940. The city was about to fall to the Nazis and each of our suspects had been invited to catch the last train headed for safety. Nestled in their own coach, one member of the party was discovered dead. Suspicion fell on all the guests. It was up to each of them to use their powers of deduction to discover just who had committed the murder.

Packed with clues, maps, spies and intrigue, our Year 9 girls spent the day role-playing their characters as they each tried to discover the truth. Drawing on their intuition, powers of deduction and the skills that they had learnt in their Year 9 English Detectives unit, the girls quickly became absorbed in the fun of the day!

SHORE BIRDS INCURSION
ON THE 17TH AND 19TH OF JUNE, YEAR 7 STUDENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE VAST ARRAY OF SHORE BIRDS AND THE ATTRIBUTES AND ADAPTATIONS THESE BIRDS HAVE WHICH MAKE THEM UNIQUE.

The incursion aided students in discriminating shore birds from other bird types and gave them information on how thriving populations indicated the health of ecosystems. Students were given the opportunity to bird watch in the wetland behind the College and a few even braved misty rain to look through the telescope. The shore birds experience helped to tie the unit of study of “Nanu and Seela: An Arctic Tale” with the world closer to home.

SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA
ON THE 26TH OF JUNE, THE YEAR 11 LEGAL STUDIES CLASSES WERE GIVEN A TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA.

Rodrigo, our tour guide, gave us a detailed tour of the 161 year old building, whilst discussing the vigorous process of the criminal justice system of Victoria.

We were taken into an open courtroom, and showed how the court is set for operations during a criminal trial. I was lucky enough to role play as the valorous Tipstaff, whose role is to swear in the jury members of the court. I felt privileged to occupy the Tipstaff’s position in the Court room and was shown the ‘Panic Button’ which would immediately call Security to attend. I was suitably formal when swearing in the valiant Shareeta Magsambol and the intrepid Georgia Darman who played various members of the community called for jury duty.

After our re-enactment of a murder trial, wherein Michaela Mastroianni played the murderess, we retreated to watch a real murder trial in progress before Mr. Justice Terry Forest. After observing our criminal justice system in operation, we departed with incredible knowledge and life experiences into the vast expanses of the long and hallowed hallways of our Supreme Court. Whilst these hallways are constructed of sandstone, blue stone and concrete, they still reek of a delicate and respectful awe.

On behalf of the class, I would like to thank Ms. Kent and Ms. Kalfas for accompanying us on our exciting excursion.

(Our Court Report will be continued next Synergy after the other Year 11 Legal Studies Class attends the County Court).

By Nikolina Karacic, 11 Joseph

UNSW ENGLISH COMPETITION
ON 31ST JULY OVER 60 STUDENTS COMPETED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES ENGLISH COMPETITION.

The competition tested how well students could interpret specific texts, the range of their vocabulary and their overall writing skills. Most of those who competed left the competition feeling as if they had a better understanding of the level of their use of English. Thanks to all those who participated. House points will be allocated accordingly and certificates should be distributed at some point in September / October.

By Nikolina Karacic, 11 Joseph
LEARNING & TEACHING

こんにちは！Konnichiwa! Hello there!

IN THE FINAL WEEK OF TERM 2, THE YEAR 11 JAPANESE CLASS WENT ON AN EXCURSION TO TAKE PART IN VARIOUS CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SIGNIFICANT TO JAPAN.

Together we travelled to Hawthorn to take part in Aikido - a Japanese martial art – at the Aiki-Centre. The literal meaning of Aikido is ‘the way of harmony with the universe’, and is focused on blending movement and energy or "ki", rather than physical strength to deal with an attack. Our teacher, Catherine Sensei, was enlightening in her descriptions and showed us some helpful techniques in managing ourselves in stressful physical, but also emotional, situations.

Afterwards, as a class, we shared a Japanese lunch together. Putting our studies to good use, we were incredibly proud as we ordered our meals in Japanese, and perhaps even more so when we ate our food with chopsticks or "ohashi". A delicious meal and pleasant conversation later, we went to the National Gallery of Victoria to look at pieces of art, predominantly from Japan, but also other parts of Asia. Walking around the various galleries visiting the artefacts was quite soothing, but with all the descriptions written in Japanese, there was an underlying challenge to try and read every little thing that we saw. On behalf of our class, I would like to thank the efforts of everyone involved in making it possible. It was a truly enjoyable experience.

By Rachel Barber, Year 11 Anne

VCAL HORSE RIDING EXPERIENCE

ON TUESDAY 28TH OF JUNE, THE YEAR 12 VCAL GIRLS TRAVELLED TO LOVELY BANKS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO HORSE RIDING.

As part of our personal development class project we had to plan, organize and implement the excursion.

We started off being matched to a horse by our height. We were then given a quick demonstration on how to ride to make sure we felt comfortable steering and stopping our horse. This was done in the indoor arena where we had to duck in and out of cones and practice walking in a circle till we felt that we were ready to exit the arena for the cross country track.

We then rode our horses around the property, over many obstacles like steps and hills. After this journey we had a race in two teams, where the first team to complete the obstacle course was the winner. We were also given the opportunity to trot on the horse and many of us gave it a go.

Once we finished we rode our horses into the stables and waited for the saddles to be taken off. We then had an opportunity to give the horse a brush and give some it one-on-one attention as well as feeding our horse.

It was a fantastic day and all of us enjoyed it a great deal. We were able to demonstrate team work, communication and leadership skills. We’d like to thank Miss Krell and Mrs Azzopardi for accompanying us on the excursion and ‘Saddle on Riding’ for the horse riding experience.

By Angel Said and Melanie Woska, Year 12 VCAL Students

AURECON BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

THREE YEAR 8 STUDENTS COMPETED IN THE 2013 AURECON BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION.

The competition is a prestigious event that seeks to promote engineering feats among secondary school students. The students involved are tasked with designing and constructing a bridge that is aesthetically pleasing and can carry intense weight. The students who represented the College included: Louisa Elia, Rhianna Everard and Mai Khoi Vu. Their construction used a combination of string and balsa wood that spread the load with a careful design. The student’s bridge weighed in at 155 grams (the weight of a small packet of popcorn) but carried a weight of 133 kg (the weight of a sumo wrestler). The students did extremely well and achieved a third placing for their efforts (after a minor controversy with the judging). Each student received prize money and the school received a $1000 cheque for their efforts. Thanks to the competition organisers and congratulations to Louisa, Rhianna and Mai.

Personalised Learning Coordinator

Matt Smith
YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEMESTER 1 ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS COMPLETED A ONE-WEEK WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT.

Students were placed in a variety of different settings including law firms, banks, schools and offices. This experience benefits the students in the following ways:

• Improving understanding of the work environment and employers’ expectations
• Increasing self-understanding, maturity, independence and self confidence, especially in the workplace
• Increasing motivation to continue study and/or undertake further training
• Enhancing opportunities for part time and casual employment
• Providing opportunity to include the placement in job and course applications
• Providing opportunity to learn skills relevant to the workplace
• Providing opportunity to try out career choices before leaving school
• Exposing students to the ‘real’ world of work

Thank you to all staff who supported the work experience program.

Pathways Coordinator

Jacqueline Krell

I COMPLETED MY WORK EXPERIENCE AT GREENCROSS VETERINARY CLINIC IN WILLIAMSTOWN.

It was very enjoyable because I was involved in surgery scenes, consulting with clients, diagnosing and providing medication to animals.

By Adrianna Trakakis 10 Joseph

I COMPLETED MY YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE AT SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NEWPORT.

I enjoyed returning to my primary school as a teaching figure and not as a pupil. I spent my week aiding teachers during class time, assisting small groups of students with literacy and numeracy tasks and completing several duties in the school’s library.

By Ellie Featherston 10 Francis

I COMPLETED MY WORK EXPERIENCE AT HOBSON’S BAY OSTEOPATHY IN WILLIAMSTOWN.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience, and learning about what it is like to be an Osteopath. I completed a range of tasks, however, the most enjoyable, worthwhile and educational aspect was being able to view procedures and see how an osteopath responds to different types of injuries from a range of patients with a range of different ages.

By Brooke Bakaric 10 Anne
LEARNING & TEACHING

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
I COMPLETED MY WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL.

I found my placement very beneficial as I was able to experience life in the industry and develop my skills. Some tasks that I completed included writing media releases, attending meetings, conducting interviews, posting updates on the council’s social media websites, writing speeches for Councillors and writing news articles.

By Rebecca Gauci 10 Francis

I COMPLETED MY WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT AT RUSSELL COURT KINDERGARTEN IN ALTONA MEADOWS.

I really enjoyed my work placement because I was able to be independent, have a strong work ethic and learn how it is in the real world, while working with children and learning how they communicate with their daily curriculum during the structured kinder sessions. Some tasks I completed were preparing for the day, cleaning up and sitting with the children and joining in all aspects of the curriculum.

By Jessica Saliba 10 Therese

I COMPLETED MY WORK EXPERIENCE AT CALLEA PEARCE LAW FIRM IN WERRIBEE.

I enjoyed my placement as I was able to grasp an understanding of what work in the legal profession would be like and I was able to attend court for a day. Some tasks I completed included ringing clients, completing research, filing and computer-based work.

By Paige Morrison, 10 Joseph

BENEFITS OF SEMESTER ONE
TERM 3 IS AN EXCITING TIME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR LEARNING. WITH THE BENEFIT OF RESULTS FROM SEMESTER ONE, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REFLECT ON WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED AND SET NEW GOALS FOR THEIR LEARNING THIS SEMESTER.

2014 SUBJECT SELECTION
THE PROCESS OF SUBJECT SELECTION IS DESIGNED TO EQUIP STUDENTS WITH THE INFORMATION TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THE ELECTIVE SUBJECTS THAT THEY SELECT.

Over the next few weeks students from Years 8 to 11 will be involved in the process of selecting their subjects for 2014. The chance to investigate future options and select courses for next year is generating excitement amongst students. It is important that students be informed about the available subjects and that the selection of courses is suited to their interests and abilities. An integral part of the process is that parents discuss with their child the subject choices they wish to make for the following year.

The process for Year 10 students includes student and parent information sessions, course guidance and formal interviews. In advising students on their pathway, the Careerwise data has been significant in providing valuable information for subject choice. The transition into the Senior School is an important one, and marks the beginning of a significant phase for students at Mount St Joseph Girls’ College. It is the start of a journey, a very personal journey, for each student, as decisions about which courses of study to pursue are made. As with all journeys, some will have a final destination clearly identified and subject choices will be clear. For others, the pathway won’t be as smooth; it may take some time to reach a point of certainty about which choices to make.

Information for Year 11 and Year 9 students has been distributed at Year Level Assemblies, where students were informed about the selection process and how to complete the selection guides.

The 2014 VCE/VET/VCAL Course Selection Handbook and the Year 10 Handbook are available from the College website to assist students to make well informed decisions about their elective program.

All subject selection forms are due August 20th. Students will be asked to complete both the print and online subject selection forms. The Student Portal will soon be available to allow students to complete the subject selection process online. The instructions for this will be given to students at each year level.

AMT MATHEMATICS COMPETITION
ON THE 1ST AUGUST NEARLY 70 STUDENTS FROM LEVELS 7, 9, 10, 11 AND 12 VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATED IN THE AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS TRUST MATHEMATICS COMPETITION.

Along with those who volunteered all Year 8s also undertake the competition as a means for them and the College to grasp the level of their Mathematics. The paper posed problems that ranged from basic arithmetic, to geometry, to algebra and elaborate real world problems. Thanks to all those who participated. House points will be allocated accordingly and certificates should be distributed at some point in September / October.

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
Joanna De Bono

Personalised Learning Coordinator
Matt Smith
MMADD DAY
TUESDAY THE 6TH AUGUST WAS THE ABSOLUTE HIGHLIGHT OF JJAMM WEEK, IT WAS MMADD DAY!

MMADD celebrates the endless talents that the students at MSJ possess involving arts of all kind - media, music, art, drama and dance. This years’ theme was Disney, which excited everybody in the school community!

The day began with a very special guest speaker, Father Robert Galea. Fr Rob is a young priest and magician originally from Malta. He came to our school with great energy and inspired us all. He shared with us through music and song, his life story and his journey in coming to where he is today. He shared with the College the struggles he had with depression, drug and shoplifting addiction and his unwise friendship choices when he was younger.

There was something special about this MMADD Day. Every year level from year 7 through to 12 had the opportunity to dress up as a Disney character! What an energetic and fun environment to be a part of! Teachers joined the fun too! There was all sorts of characters to be seen - princesses, pirates, animals and fairies.

Throughout the day girls from year 8-11 participated in numerous activities including salsa, makeup, cupcake decorating and theatre sports. Everyone had the opportunity to explore the various fields of the arts whilst in the spirit of JJAMM.

During this time, the year 7 and 12’s were split into their house colours and worked together to create a performance of their chosen Disney movie. It was a great delight to see the girls perform such creative, amusing and marvelous reenactments of classic Disney fairytales. McCormack who performed ‘I’ll Make a Man Out of You’ from Mulan, Solomon who performed ‘Under the Sea’ from Little Mermaid, Kincumber who performed ‘Prince Ali’ from Aladdin and Penola who performed ‘Be Our Guest’ from Beauty and the Beast. The students also had a special performance by the teachers who presented ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.’ They too were brave and enthusiastic to get dressed up and also join in the fun and spirit of the day.

At the end of the day everyone was a winner but most of all everyone had a wonderful fun filled day. A humongous thank-you to all staff and students who made MMADD Day possible, it was a wonderful day full of excitement and joy for everyone! Can’t wait to see what next year’s MMADD day theme is!

By Margaret Raffoul, Tenison Captain

COMMUNITY

SEIREI HOST SISTER EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM
ON THE 28TH OF JULY TO THE 10TH OF AUGUST A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM MSJ HOSTED 30 SEIREI STUDENTS INTO THEIR HOMES AND SHOWED THEM WHAT MELBOURNE IS LIKE.

The day finally came when I was able to take my host sister Akira home and experience two weeks together. I could not wait till I got to meet her. As the two weeks went by, we went to the movies, ten pin bowling, the Zoo, my sister’s Communion, a tram ride around Melbourne’s CBD, dinner at a Japanese restaurant and we completed a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle that was done in less than 3 Days, with a lot of conversation and laughing around the table. I really enjoyed Akira staying with my family and I have really enjoyed her company. It has also been one of the best experiences ever, as I was able to learn about her culture, family and interests. As Akira’s last day was fast approaching we arrived at school and said our goodbyes, it was a very sad time, as I did not want Akira to leave because we had grown a close bond together that I will never forget and hope that our friendship continues.

By Kyra Griffin, 7 Anne
COMMUNITY

SEIREI VISIT

AFTER MANY WEEKS OF WAITING TO MEET THE SEIREI STUDENTS, THE TIME HAD FINALLY COME ON SUNDAY 28TH JULY.

The MSJ host sisters arrived at MSJ at 4.00pm to meet their new sister. Many students gained much from the experience and developed skills in Japanese. We learnt a lot about Japanese culture with some excellent performances and demonstrations of skills in paper crane making, song, dance and art. The Seirei students were fortunate enough to be taken to places like Science Works, see a football game (some even saw Collingwood vs Essendon), the Werribee Zoo and Melbourne Zoo, the penguins at St. Kilda and many other positive experiences. Interestingly many other MSJ students were disappointed that they had missed out on the experience as they could see how strong the bond between the two students had become and are already keen to take a host sister next year.

The two week time has gone so quickly with many friendships established and others reignited. This opportunity only comes around once a year and I encourage other families to look at this for next year. Also we will be planning a return trip for MSJ students in years 9-11 to Japan next year so stay tuned for information relating to that experience. Many thanks to the staff here at MSJ that provided great support and lessons to make the experience such a success. Also Alexandra Gellin from Seirei involvement has ensured the trip was one to be remembered.

Many thanks to the following students and families for hosting our Seirei sisters for a 2 week period. MSJ is very grateful to the families that have accommodated the Seirei students over the last two weeks and I would like to personally thank them for their involvement.

Isabel Szabo,
Maxine Moss
Georgia Burke
Sophie Wareham
Sophie Plessa
Leah Vorgiatzidis
Klya Griffin
Alicia and Kaylee Ellis
Jasmine Keenan
Sanara Dissanayake
Georgia and Zali Darman
Kelly Chan

Yansan Lay
Soshanna Norris
Mikayla Meilak
Lidia and Chloe Zahra
Erin Ryan
Belle Stoodley
Stephanie Nguyen
Matilda Sutherland
Georgia Seward
Yu Yun Lim
Nilla Ollis McDonald

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES KINDLY TOOK ON AN EXTRA STUDENT AND MANY COMMENTED THAT IN SOME WAYS IT WAS EASIER HAVING TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.

Rebecca Kennedy
Mikayla Meilak
Michaela Sultana
Gabriella Bortolot

SEIREI FRIENDSHIPS

“After having hosted a Japanese Student from our sister school Seirei, I know that my life, the lives of my family and the lives of my friends have been enriched from not only the culture, but also the smiles that our Seirei sisters bring”.

“The friendships created when they come here will last a lifetime, and I know this because I still keep in touch with all seven Serei sisters that I have hosted. Even though tears are shed when we see them hop on the bus and head for the airport, we know that one day we will see them, either when they return to Australia once more, or even if we go to them in Japan, and at that moment we meet again, the stories of our friendships will continue.”

By Yu Yun Lim, 12 Francis

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES KINDLY TOOK ON AN EXTRA STUDENT AND MANY COMMENTED THAT IN SOME WAYS IT WAS EASIER HAVING TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.

Rebecca Kennedy
Mikayla Meilak
Michaela Sultana
Gabriella Bortolot

Yu Yun and Arisa Eguchi

The final performance at Kooringal

Seirei Students Performing for Year 7

Kyra Griffin (7 Anne) dresses up in traditional Japanese outfit

Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College - Altona

Synergy Newsletter
**STUDENT WELLBEING**

**COLLEGE ASSEMBLY 23RD JULY**

At the recent College Assembly led by the Student Representative Council, the Student Leaders presented a number of items, this included prayer celebrated in song, portfolio reports from the Wellbeing, ACADEMIC, ARTS, MINISTRY, COLLEGE AND TENISON CAPTAINS along with information about MMADD Day and JJAMM Week future celebrations. One of the highlights of the assembly was the Staff versus Student debate, which addressed the affirmative and negative arguments with regards to school being the best years of one’s life.

JJAMM is an acronym for Julian, Joseph and Mary MacKillop. JJAMM week is a week filled with various activities ranging from live concerts to momentous occasions of reverence. MMADD Day is a day of creativity and fun and this year the theme is Disney. Year 7 and 12 students will perform a number from a Disney musical cartoon on the day, from one of “Aladdin”, “Beauty and the Beast”, “Mulan” and “The Little Mermaid” depending on their House.

At this Assembly we also presented students with a number of awards, which included the Virtue and Courage awards, the St. Ignatius academic awards and House Colours.

The Assembly concluded with the sports report from our Senior and Junior Sports Leaders followed by the advertising of the upcoming College Musical “Wizard of Oz”.

Our next Assembly on the 17th September will farewell our current leaders and induct our new College leaders for 2014. Our current leaders have created some amazing Assemblies and the College would like to thank them for all their hard work to date and for the enthusiasm they have brought to their respective roles.

**“CARMEN’S STORY” YEAR 10 PROACTIVE PROGRAMME**

On Friday the 26th of July the Year 10 Students were introduced to a gentleman by the name of John Maher, who, unbeknown to them at the time, would change their outlook on life all together.

The aim of this road safety presentation wasn’t to scare our year level off the roads, but to remind us of the dangers that are present. A brave John Maher explained his experiences, which included him being seriously injured in an accident and his 18-year-old daughter Carmen’s life being tragically cut short. John’s message was simple; a car crash isn’t just a car crash. Best friends edged closer together and gripped each other’s hands as John spoke about how Carmen’s closest friend broke down at her wedding because her Carmen wasn’t there beside her. From the sounds of sniffles and weeps coming out of our emotional year level, John could clearly see how affected and touched we were by his story. This was again evident from the moving posts that appeared on his Facebook page. One student wrote, “Words cannot describe how lucky we are to have had the opportunity to listen to your story.” Another student posted “Such an amazing story, and my prayers go to your family and Carmen’s friends.”

Please visit [www.facebook.com/carmenroadsafety](http://www.facebook.com/carmenroadsafety) to help support John and his family communicate the danger of fatigue related deaths.

By Ellie Featherston, 10 Francis

**College Captains Penny Sdregas and Lauren Borg discuss the MMADD Day and JJAMM week celebrations starting on Monday 5th August.**

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Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing

Anna Keppel

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You are invited to a
**Drug Proofing Your Kids – Parent Workshop**
**Presented by ‘Values for Life’**

- **on Monday 19th August 2013 in the Performing Arts Centre**
- **Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

“Values for Life” is an educational program that inspires the development of community. They have an experienced, highly trained and professional team of qualified educators, speaking to over 20,000 students and parents each year.

Drug Proofing your kids aims to provide awareness of the pressures and dangers of drugs and alcohol in society. The workshop will explore how it impacts the community, why people use drugs and discuss resilience factors for young people.

A complimentary parent resource manual will be provided to all parents who attend the workshop.

(Please Note: Due to the nature of the topics being covered, students are asked not to attend.)

RSVP on **rsvp@msj.vic.edu.au**
by Friday 16th August
indicating your daughter’s full name and Pastoral Group and the number of people attending.

Please Note:
Due to building works, there is no onsite parking available.
Parking is available near the College and spaces are available in the College’s carpark, across the rail line.

It would be appreciated if time restrictions in Harrington Square could be observed.
SPORT REPORT

SCSFA AFL

ON THE 25TH OF JULY, TWO TEAMS OF MSJ GIRLS VENTURED OFF TO CHELTENHAM FOR INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL.

All girls trained hard, developing good kicking and handballing skills prior to the event. Well done to the junior team who managed to win 1 out of 3 games and improved greatly over the course of the day. The senior team proved their skills on the field and won 5 of their 6 games but unfortunately missed out on playing in the grand final based on percentage. All students showed great sportsmanship and represented our school proudly.

LACROSSE CLINIC

OUR YEAR 7 GIRLS WERE VERY LUCKY TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO LACROSSE CLINICS THAT WERE CONDUCTED BY THE COACHES AT NEWPORT LADIES LACROSSE CLUB. THEY LEARNT SKILLS SUCH AS PASSING, CATCHING, CRADLING AND SHOOTING GOALS.

We would like to thank Newport Ladies Lacrosse for their expert coaching and hope that this will come in handy for the inter school lacrosse competition later on this year.

Sports Co-Ordinator
Natalie O’Brian

GYM EXCURSION

ON FRIDAY 26TH JULY THE YEAR 12 VCAL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASS WENT ON AN EXCURSION TO THE DERRMUT 24/7 GYM IN CAROLINE SPRINGS, THIS IS THE BIGGEST GYM IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

The class departed from MSJ at 12:30pm for our Cardio work out class. After our session with the trainer, the girls had the opportunity to go and use the gym equipment. The girls used a wide range of equipment including the classic treadmill. After a long work out we then got on the bus to come home. The girls had so much fun it was such a great bonding and team work experience we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the process of originising and planning.

by Maddisen Mckenzie and Nancy Akok

YEAR 9 SPORTS COACHING COMMUNITY LINKS

IT WAS A COLD AND WET DAY WHEN THE YR 9 SPORTS COACHING CLASS WENT TO NEWPORT ATHLETICS TRACK TO HELP RUN THE SACRED HEART PS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL.

Each Yr 9 girl had a job to do at the track and the Sacred Heart staff were extremely appreciative of the work the girls did. It made the day much easier for them, to have a group of very competent girls assisting with scoring, marshalling, measuring and recording results. Although we got very wet, the girls did a fabulous job and are welcome back at Sacred Heart any time.

P.E. Teacher
Kelly Sexton

Sports Co-Ordinator
Natalie O’Brien

P.E. Teacher
Kelly Sexton
HELP WANTED

So now we are calling on anybody who is handy with a needle and thread and a sewing machine to make their way down to the College in Term 3 to assist with Munchkin outfits. All welcome!

WHEN: Every Thursday in TERM 3
WHERE: MSJ
TIME: 3.30 – 5.30pm
CONTACT PERSON: Alex Zvi

By Belinda Sorbello, Performing Arts Domain Leader

“DING DONG THE WITCH IS DEAD”
JUST ONE OF THE MANY MUSICAL NUMBERS THE MUNCHKINS HAVE BEEN LEARNING THIS TERM.

Between singing, dancing and now adding in the acting, the cast are realizing it’s not an easy feat! We are very quickly heading down the “Yellow Brick Road” (almost finished blocking ACT ONE) with the leads and heading straight into the Emerald City. (ACT TWO). Down in the shed our handy men have been eagerly building lollipops, a wagon, a house and even a yellow brick road. Costumes, patterns and materials have been drawn and bought. The winning ticket/t-shirt design is yet to be announced, but keep an eye out for the winning designs. (Yes, more than one!) Meetings have been conducted amongst the hustle and bustle of school life, make-up and hair teams, backstage crew, set painters are being organised and the list is endless.

OURS UK SLIDE NIGHT
THE GREAT THING ABOUT TRAVELLING IS THAT IT IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING.

Long after the passport has been put away, the presents have been distributed and the suitcase is put into storage, memories provide hours of enjoyment.

Six months after returning from our tour of Paris and the UK, the 32 students who were lucky enough to enjoy the experience got together again with their parents and their teachers to talk about what the trip had meant to them. Surrounded by their favourite mementos and photos of the trip, they shared with us just what they had learnt about themselves and the world.

They shared stories, laughed hysterically and talked about the ways in which the trip had shaped them. Whether it was an anecdote about Harry Potter world, an insight into something that they didn’t know previously or the impact that the trip had had on the development of their folios or their love of literature, each girl could articulate just why the trip had been so special to them.

Like the trip itself, it was a magical experience.

English Domain Leader

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

YOUTH PARLIAMENT IS A PROGRAM RUN BY AN ORGANISATION CALLED THE YMCA. IT IS A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS THE YOUTH OF VICTORIA AGED 16-25 TO DEBATE IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT, AND ALSO GAIN MANY DIFFERENT SKILLS AND IMPROVE SELF ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE.

I was fortunate enough to be asked, by my facilitator for a youth group I participate in called Future Leaders Unite, to participate in Youth Parliament representing Hobson’s Bay. Participants are required to be 16 years of age and as I am only 14 I did not expect to be selected. Fortunately, the selectors were so impressed with my application that I was granted special permission to participate. I was the only girl in the team of six representing Hobson’s Bay.

With the help of Pete, a Youth Services Worker, my team and I prepared a Bill to debate. Our Bill was based on Victoria providing free, tertiary education for Victorian students. We wrote the Bill and prepared our speeches to support it. We also had to write up a speech rebutting Glen Waverley team’s Bill which had to do with changing Police Pursuit Policy.

Before the main camp, there is a training camp, which taught us the rules and parliamentary processes to debate in the chambers. After that there is a 6-day camp in the first week of the mid year holidays at the Lake Dewar camp in Bacchus Marsh. On this camp we had the opportunity to travel to Parliament House daily to debate our bills and refute other bills. We met the Governor of Victoria (Alex Chernov) at Government house, met many other young people with the same passion for politics and public speaking and also created many strong friendships. The program had a recreational side as well, that helped us connect with everyone around us. Many activities were run that I will never forget.

This program has helped me decide what I want to do in my future, and realise that I am not the only person who LOVES politics. I found many other people with the same talents and hobbies as mine and it helped create an environment where I felt I truly did fit in. It was a life changing experience to participate in the state wide program Youth Parliament.

By Gabi Duke, 9 Catherine
SCHOOL PRODUCTION: WIZARD OF OZ
IT’S BEEN A GRUELING 3 WEEKS, LISTENING TO OVER A HUNDRED STUDENTS SINGING “SOMEBHERE OVER THE RAINBOW” AND SORTING THROUGH ALL THE CANDIDATES FROM THE AUDITIONS.

So, through a seemingly endless list of students (150 of them), we have our final cast, including 40 singing Munchkins and finally, the rehearsals for the Wizard of Oz are in full swing!

Not only has casting been completed and rehearsing well under way but the behind the scenes activities are full steam ahead too. The students vying to have their design chosen as they put their creative skills to the test with entries for the ticket/ poster/ t-shirt competition.

The students have also received their information about rehearsals and the permission slip confirming their commitment to the show and the expectations of maintaining academic standards, due back by May 9 to the Performing Arts Office.

This is a very exciting time for all staff and students involved so let the yellow brick road adventure continue. The cast list is below.

CAST: 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Performer Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Gale</td>
<td>Deanna Galea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunty Em</td>
<td>Nicole D’Souza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncle Henry</td>
<td>Maddie Bateman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeke</td>
<td>Jessica Vranes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>Adrianna Trakakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunk</td>
<td>Tara Bateman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Gulch/Wicked Witch</td>
<td>Michaela Mastroianni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Marvel/ Wizard of Oz</td>
<td>Georgina Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glinda</td>
<td>Monaliza Ziba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarecrow</td>
<td>Jaclyn Seychell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tinman</td>
<td>Simone Curmi-Blackwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Faith Angaika-Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikko</td>
<td>Lisa Groves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard</td>
<td>Alyssa Conte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor of Munchkin Land</td>
<td>Leia Everard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coroner of Munchkin Land</td>
<td>Olivia Kivlighon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!
Rehearsals will run every Thursday from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.
A further rehearsal schedule will be out soon regarding scenes.

By Belinda Sorbello, Director: Wizard of Oz

CHORUS: MUNCHKINS/EMERALD CITY

MSJ Notice Board

Please be aware that individual requests made at the Front Office will be attended to as soon as possible. Students can only be called during Pastoral Recess & Lunchtime periods. Thank you for your understanding.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS
PH: 8398 2000
Payment of fees can be made at the Office from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday – Friday. For any enquiries regarding the school accounts, please contact Administration.

JOSEPH’S CORNER
Joseph’s Corner offers a free counseling service to the families and carers of victims of drug and alcohol abuse. This professional confidential service is available each Tuesday at 3 Birmingham Street, Yarraville, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm. Wednesday at 38 Guinane Avenue, Hoppers Crossing, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 13 Bellin Street, Laverton, 9.00 am – 3.00 pm. For further information or to make an appointment, please phone 9315 2680. This is a non-denominational service.

STUDENT ABSENCES
PH: 8398 2000
Please report student absences on the above number prior to 9.00am. Please leave the following details:
Student’s Name
Student’s Pastoral Class
Reason for Absence
Your name and relationship to the student.

ACADEMY UNIFORM SHOP
238 Wolseley Place, Thomastown
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm. Phone: 9460 8011
Open at the College
Monday 3pm - 4pm Wednesday 8am - 9am
Friday 1pm - 2pm

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
This weekend is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and focus on your relationship in a very positive way. There is no group sharing.

Your marriage deserves that kind of attention.
Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2013 weekend dates: 9-11 August and 18-20 October in Melbourne.
Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday.
Accommodation and all meals provided.
For further information and bookings: Contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03) 9733 0997 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS
St Joseph’s Convent Williamstown.

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 8th August
We celebrate
By reflecting on the Gospel of the Feast of Mary MacKillop (Matthew 6:25-34)
• How this Australian Woman of faith and hope lived the message of the gospel
• How we can live as people of faith and hope today

Thursday 8th August
Afternoon: 1:30pm - 3:00pm (repeat) Evening: 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Facilitator: Therese Quinn rsj
RSVP: Therese Quinn rsj 9397 7140 or email on: therese.quinn@sosj.org.au

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED: FREE STUDY FOR OVERWEIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING FOR HELP.

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is running a randomised clinical trial of an online weight management program for overweight adolescents. Participation involves completing height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measurements and an online questionnaire at baseline, 3, 6 and 12 months. Parents are also invited to participate. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those participants who have kept their appointments. The results will demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of using the personalised, targeted Staying Fit program for addressing weight-related behaviours during adolescence. Recruitment has commenced and we are looking for 550 overweight young people aged 12- 17 living in metropolitan Melbourne.

Enquiries Karly Cini 9345 6954
stayingfit@mcri.edu.au
For more info: www.rch.org.au/cah/stayingfit

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