“Entrusted with something precious”

END OF TERM
The last day for Years 10 & 11 students is Tuesday 3 December at 1.00pm. Years 7, 8 and 9 will finish on Wednesday 4 December at 12.15pm.
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013
I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE YEAR 12 STUDENTS FOR THEIR PROUD CONCLUSION

to their studies. The many hours of effort they put into the preparation of their final assembly, parade and mass was inspiring and these celebrations will be most memorable for all involved. Staff, students and family members were all so impressed by the school spirit and sense of connectedness and the Graduation Mass celebrated their friendships, experiences and achievements. Congratulations to Lauren Borg and Penny Sdregas for leading this very special group of young MSJ women. They will be missed but we know they will go on to make a difference in the world.

FINAL WEEKS
THE YEAR 10 AND 11 ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN EXAMS AND WILL SOON COMMENCE THEIR TRANSITION PROGRAMME TO MOVE INTO THEIR VCE AND VCAL STUDIES.

This period of revision, study and commitment to their 2014 course of study is obviously a time for sharp focus and consistent effort so we thank staff and families for their support of the girls at this time.

The Year 7, 8 and 9 students are also undertaking their final assessments and exams before the end of year celebrations of thanksgiving so we keep them in our prayers also. There is a strong need to ensure all students remain focussed on their studies in these final weeks to ensure they ably demonstrate their learning from this semester.

MERRIJIG AWARDS EVENING
WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE ANNUAL MERRIJIG AWARDS EVENING AT THE COLLEGE ON MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER AND INVITATIONS TO AWARD WINNER AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY WILL BE EXTENDED IN THE COMING DAYS.

We are exploring future options for alternate structures or venues for this annual recognition of the most outstanding achievements of students in the three spheres of academic, faith and co-curricular endeavours. The benefit of having the ceremony on site is that we can celebrate close to our homes and in our own environment but the compromise is that the MacKillop Centre is limited in its capacity hence the exploration of alternatives.

COMMUNITY FAITH FOCUS
IN RECENT WEEKS WE HAVE SHARED COMMUNITY PRAYERS FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WAR ON THE OCCASION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY AND FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

We continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones and for the survivors who are without shelter, food or water. The school is gathering donations for the Caritas appeal which will bring some relief and support to those areas most affected.

Over the past fortnight we have been praying for the representative Sisters of St Joseph from their communities across the world are gathered in Sydney for a time of reflection, discernment and planning for the years ahead. This gathering, known as a Chapter, occurs once every six years and we pray that the Holy Spirit guides the Sisters in their decision making about their ministries and leadership.

This week we also celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Julian Tenison Woods who co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. He was a man of deep faith and great vision and he is particularly remembered as a man who was well before his time in his appreciation of the environment and the need to care for the flora and fauna of our land.

PRAYER FOR EMPATHY, JUSTICE AND HEALING
THIS WEEK THE REPORT OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE BY RELIGIOUS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WAS HANDED DOWN.

So many lives were irrevocably harmed through the abuse and betrayal of trust by members of the clergy in past decades. It is the source of great sorrow and regret that Catholic schools were sometimes the venue for this abhorrent abuse of young people. We continue to pray in earnest for all those affected by abuse and their families and trust that the legal system will continue to hold accountable any person who broke the law and in so doing broke young lives and families.

Thankfully Catholic education and the hierarchy of the Church in the current day have significant policies, procedures and legal compliance measures in place to prevent any repetition of these shameful crimes.

Principal
Catherine Dillon.
Stephanie Papadopoulos, 2013 Social Justice Captain, led a great team of Year 12 girls and SRC members in making this event happen. In her own words, “Thank you for the enthusiasm; without that it would not have been the night it was. There was an excellent turn out from all year levels. I admire your courage, commitment and selflessness. I’m really proud of all the girls who participated in this event and thank you. It will be even bigger and better next year.”

By Stephanie Papadopolous, Social Justice Leader

THE ‘CAGE EVENT’ WAS HELD TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HOMELESS IN OUR CITY. THE EVENT INVOLVED 56 STUDENTS AND 8 TEACHERS SPENDING A COLD BUT PEACEFUL EVENING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE ON A FRIDAY EVENING FROM 4PM TO MIDNIGHT.

The afternoon began with two local speakers, Sergeant Scott Sutton who is the Youth Resource Officer for the Hobsons Bay Police Service Area and Rhonda Collins who is the Manager of Latitude: Directions for Young People, a local support agency.

These talks were followed by games to get everybody mixing; later on there was a simple meal of soup and bread; music; reading books and finally a film highlighting the plight of the homeless. We finished with a prayer around a lit candle.

Participants raised money from sponsors for spending the evening out in the cold and a magnificent amount of $1500 was collected. $1000 of this is being sent to St Joseph’s School in Kununurra, WA to help with basic resources for their indigenous students. We are also sending them the stationery items collected from the whole school. The remaining $500 is being used to buy toiletry packs for the clients at Ozanam Centre in North Melbourne. Other items collected from the whole school in support of “The Cage” are: two large boxes of toiletry items donated to Joseph’s Corner and Women’s Health West; tinned food and clothing which will be distributed by St Vincent de Paul and books and blankets for Joseph’s Corner.

FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS

THIS FRIDAY THE 15TH OF NOVEMBER IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS IN 1832. AS A JOSEPHITE SCHOOL COMMUNITY WE WILL FOCUS ON THE GIFTS AND MINISTRY OF FR TENISON WOODS AS WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS HE MADE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

Father Tenison Woods was a compassionate and dedicated priest. He was also a widely published natural scientist, who wrote extensively about the geology of his 57,000 square kilometre mission district in the South East of South Australia. He successfully combined scientific work with his priestly and civic duties, and was widely respected by all classes and creeds.

He also used his medical skills to help the Aboriginal people and provided Catholic education for the poor and the isolated by co-founding the Sisters of St Joseph. Mary MacKillop admired his ‘many-sided mind’, noting ironically that he was also possessed of the ‘great capacity for hard work’ once given as ‘a synonym for genius’.

**FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS**

**THE CAGE**

**EDUCATION IN FAITH**
ANNUAL MUSIC CONCERT AND ART EXHIBITION
THE ANNUAL MUSIC CONCERT AND ART EXHIBITION WAS AGAIN A HIGHLIGHT OF THE COLLEGE CALENDAR AS THE PERFORMING AND ARTISTIC SKILLS OF OUR STUDENTS INSPIRED ALL INVOLVED IN THE EVENING.

This year the large audience of proud staff and family members were treated to beautiful vocal and instrumental performances by solo artists, duets and ensembles. Instrumentalists showed their prowess on the baby grand piano, flute, saxophone, clarinet, drums, violin and guitar. Musicians from Years 7 to 12 treated the audience to lively performances whilst our Arts Captains, Louise Perry and Kim Ramos did a wonderful job as MCs for the evening. During the interval the audience took the time to admire the beautiful art work exhibited around the hall from some of the many talented MSJ artists in Years 7 to 12. It was a wonderful night spent celebrating the creative talents of our girls and we thank Mrs Cathy Hills and her talented instrumental staff for nurturing the musical talent amongst our girls and to Mr David Meiak, Mrs Jan Cumper and the Art staff for their work to foster and show case so many of the artistic talents of the girls.

By Belinda Sorbello, Performing Arts Domain Leader

BEYOND HORIZONS - MOVE AND GROW BEACH CAMP
ON THE 29TH OF OCTOBER THE YEAR 9 MOVE AND GROW BEYOND HORIZONS GROUP HEADED FOR THE COASTAL FOREST LODGE IN ANGLESEA.

On the way to camp we had the choice of participating in either stand up paddle boarding or mini golf. Stand up paddle boarding was a great experience, although it was quite cold and windy it was still a lot of fun! Standing up on the board was much easier than it looked but some girls still managed to fall in the water. Some girls chose to play mini golf on the nearby courses -The Mill and The Mountain with every hole presenting a new and challenging layout. Once we arrived at the campsite we went to our cabins, got settled and had free time with a chance to play ball sports, try the low ropes course or feed the horses and cows. We knew we had a big day the next day so some of us got a good night’s sleep!

The next day we had the option of either kayaking or maintain bike riding. Kayaking was an amazing experience for all involved. Before we went for a paddle around the river we closed our eyes and took a minutes silence to take in the surrounding noises, which was very peaceful. Padding around the river was relaxing but it certainly involved a lot of arm work especially when we played sharks and seals. Maintain bike riding was very exhausting as we had to ride through muddy puddles and bushes and over rocks and dirt piles. During the ride, we stopped off at a bike park that was really fun but scary the first time you tried it. At the park we had lunch, played on the equipment, played games and went for a walk along the beach. Overall the camp was a great experience and it brought us closer together.

Thanks to the teachers who made it such a fun experience for us.

By Lisa 9T and Hannah 9A

MATHS HELP SESSION ADVANTAGES
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR MATHS HELP HAS BEEN RUNNING DURING THURSDAY LUNCHTIME AND FRIDAY MORNING FROM 8AM TO 8.40AM.

Students have been working together with Maths teachers to take advantage of this extra support with their Maths learning and homework. This Maths Help is continuing in the Year 7 Hub area through the revision and exam period so hopefully many students will take advantage of this great opportunity to get ahead with their Maths study.

By Belinda Sorbello, Performing Arts Domain Leader

A Vocal Solo by Sinit Tsingay

MSJ Voices Performing

Duet Vocal Performance

Strings Ensemble Performance

Making paddle boarding look easy!

Cassie Assad masters her kayak

The Move and Grow Camp Group Photo
LEARNING & TEACHING

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR C GRADE DEBATERS – ALANA EGAN, PAIGE MORRISON, NYANDE NG TH UC AND ELIZABETH SEYCHELL - ON THEIR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS IN THE DAV DEBATING COMPETITION.

After ten months of competition, their run to the State Finals came to a sad end after a very narrow defeat by Melbourne High School in the State Semi Finals.

Arguing the affirmative case for the very challenging topic “That India should have a one child policy”, the girls delivered a sterling performance. Their arguments were clear, their delivery was flawless and their passion and hard work were a sight to behold. Watched on by last year’s State Quarter Finalists - Rachel Barber, Michaela Mastroiani and Jess Daley, these girls achieved something remarkable - a top 4 placing in the state.

I am very proud of the efforts of all the teams this year and would particularly like to acknowledge the achievement of the C Grade team and Charlotte Cameron of Year 8 who won the Swannie Award for Best Speaker in the region. Final placings are as follows:

- B Grade – Third, Williamstown Region
- C Grade – Regional Winners, State Semi – Finalists
- D Grade – Teams 1, 3 and 4 – Joint Runners up Williamstown Region
- D Grade – Team 2 – Fourth, Williamstown Region.

Debating Coach

Mark Stracey

HIKING AND BIKING IN THE YOU YANGS NATIONAL PARK

THE YEAR 9 OUTDOOR EDUCATION CLASS RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO THE YOU Y ANGS NATIONAL PARK FOR A BUSHWALK EXPERIENCE.

With the weather forecast predicting rain and even hail, the students were encouraged to make sure that they came prepared for whatever the outdoors had in store for them. On the first of three walks we made it to the top of Big Rock just as the rain arrived so we made it back down from the summit a lot faster! During the next two walks the weather could not make up its mind with chilling rain followed by bright sunshine to the point that we were all sweating. We saw lots of animals along the way including our highlight that was the echidna that strolled across our path. Congratulations to the girls on a great day of walking through the You Yangs!

Yr 9 Outdoor Education Teacher

Natalie O’Brien

PLANNING FOR 2014 STUDENT STUDY

Subject Selection

As the process for choosing courses of study for 2014 draws to a close, all students must be congratulated on the manner in which they reflected on their strengths and approached teachers to choose subjects that would best suit their abilities and interests.

Any 2014 VCE student considering changes to their selected courses of study must please ensure they first visit Ms Krell, the Pathways Coordinator in the IRC to ensure that pre-requisite subjects for university courses of interest are met.

2014 Booklists

In the coming days all students will receive their 2014 booklist. All booklist orders will be due to the College office by December 6th, with the collection date being January 28th. As in past years, there is an option to order online and have the books delivered to your home at an extra cost. We encourage this as an efficient means of book delivery.

Please note that e-texts will be supplied via a password that may be found on a small card, in a CD case or in some cases, in an envelope. As booklists are unpacked, please ensure that this password is not discarded as it cannot be replaced free of charge.

All students in Years 7 to 10 will also receive an additional order form for the Religion e-text called ‘To Know, Worship and Love’. These are required texts for all students in all Melbourne Catholic secondary and can be ordered through the College at a hugely discounted price so it does not appear on the booklist.

For students wishing to sell second books, please see the student bulletin for instructions on how to advertise them on the College intranet page.

Director of Learning & Teaching

Narelle Layton

SYNERGY NEWSLETTER 4
EXAMS AND HEADSTART

Exams
All students in Years 7 to 12 have received information about the timetables for the exam period so parents should also be aware of the requirements during this important final exam period.

VCE Units 3 & 4 Exams
Congratulations to the Year 11 and 12 students currently undertaking their VCE Units 3 and 4 exams. Their commitment to their revision and exam preparation has been very pleasing. The exams will conclude on November 21st and results are available on Monday 18th December.

VCE Units 1 & 2
Please note that the Year 11 end-of-year examinations will be held from Wednesday 13 November – Thursday 21 November. Timetables for these exams have been circulated to students.

All students must attend their scheduled exams in their full school uniform. There are no scheduled classes for Year 10 students during these exams so students are expected at school only for their timetabled exams.

Year 10
All Year 10 students will sit examinations scheduled on Wednesday 13 November – Thursday 21 November. All students must attend their scheduled exams in their full school uniform. There are no scheduled classes for Year 10 students during these exams so students are expected at school only for their timetabled exams.

Years 7 – 9
All Years 7 – 9 students will sit examination scheduled on Tuesday 25 November – Friday 29 November.

Head Start
All students currently in Years 10 and 11 will undertake the Head Start transition program from Monday 25 November to Tuesday 3rd December. During Head Start students will undertaken four lessons in each of their 2014 subjects. Homework will be set to assist students to commence the new year with confidence and knowledge regarding the type of learning that occurs in each subject. Students can expect to be given homework that is designed to prepare them for School Assessed Coursework (SAC) tasks that occur very early in the course. The programme is compulsory so any student who has problems with attendance during the Head Start period must see her current Year Level Co-ordinator immediately as absence may put their VCE studies at a disadvantage. Absentees will be required to undertake the work missed in addition to completing the holiday homework.

Merrijig Awards Evening – 2nd December 2013
The annual Merrijig Awards Evening is an opportunity to recognise the excellence achieved by students in various academic, faith and community endeavours of College life throughout 2013. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to recognise academic endeavour and community involvement. The academic achievements of our Year 12 students will be recognised at our opening assembly in 2014. This year our guest speaker at Merrijig will be Mrs Annie Rahilly who graduated from our College in 1974 and is now working in the Communications Department at the University of Melbourne and serving on our College Board. We look forward to hearing of the education and career development of Annie as a graduate of our College whilst celebrating the inspiring achievements of our current students.

MSJ GIRLS EXCELLING IN MATHS COMPETITIONS

MSJ GIRLS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THREE NATIONAL MATHMATICS COMPETITIONS THIS YEAR: MATHS CHALLENGE, AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMPETITION AND HAVE SUM FUN ON LINE.

Maths Challenge
Earlier in the year, 13 Year 7 and 8 students participated in the national Maths Challenge 2013 organised by the Australian Mathematical Trust. The girls met over several lunch times to answer a series of mathematics questions under the guidance of Mr. Rafferty. The girls were recently recognized for their efforts with Certificates of Participation and Credit.

Congratulations to the following participants:
Chi Tran, 7T, Maxine Moss, 7T, Nithya Nettar, 7T, Kim Truong, 7T, Kelly Chan, 7T, Zarchi Htike, 7T, Presi Petkova, 7T, Trish Tran, 7V, Niroshi D, 7V, Olivia Drandi, 7C, Sarah Nevins, 7F, Thanuki Waniganesa, 7F, and Truc Tran, 8C.

Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)
The AMC is a national competition in which students are asked to solve thirty problems in 75 minutes. The earliest problems are very easy and they get progressively more difficult until the end, when they are challenging to the most talented student. All Year 8 students undertook the competition along with volunteers from the other year levels.

Have Sum Fun Online (HSFOL)
Have Sum Fun On Line (HSFOL) is a national problem-solving competition for students in Years 3 to 10 and is conducted by the Mathematical Association of Western Australia (MAWA). The competition runs over three weeks where participants in teams of four answer problem solving questions online. Three MSJ teams participated in the competition:

Team 1 – ‘Purple Minions’ : Kim Truong 7T, Zarchi Htike 7T, Nithya Nettar 7T, Tara Whitmore 7T.
Team 2 – ‘MSJ#1’ : Felita Mujaya 7C, Rebecca Donaldson 7C, Annie Tabone 7C, Olivia Drandi 7C.
Team 3 – ‘Dim Sims’ : Chi Tran 7T, Trinh Tran 7V, Stephanie Nguyen 7V, Kriesha-Mae Parulan 7V.

Congratulations to all the participants in all three of these Maths extension opportunities.

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Joanna De Bono

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Mr. Rafferty and the Maths Challenge participants with their certificates

HSFOL Term 3 competition participants with their certificates
**SYNERGY NEWSLETTER**

**14TH NOVEMBER 2013**

**LEARNING & TEACHING**

**SCHOLARSHIPS, PATHWAYS AND EXTENSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Scholarships**
Each year, millions of dollars in scholarships are given to students by various organisations such as tertiary institutions, Government, societies and businesses. There are many types of scholarships, which have different eligibility criteria, selection criteria, and methods of applying. There isn’t a central resource you can use to find every single scholarship you may be eligible for. You will need to take the time to search through Government sites tertiary institute websites tertiary institute scholarship, brochures, myfuture scholarships database, internet search engines. This may take you a considerable amount of time, but it will be worth it if you can secure a scholarship, especially if you have to move away from home to study.


**Diploma courses at La Trobe University:** Unsure of what to study next year? Want to ‘try’ a course at university, but not ready to commit to a degree? La Trobe University is offering the following diploma courses, which will give you credit for the first year of selected bachelor degrees-Diploma of Arts or Business – all regional campuses or Diploma of Health Sciences – Bendigo campus.
Applications are made direct to the University. For more information, go to www.latrobe.edu.au/courses

**TAFE Information and Enrolment Sessions:** If you are considering studying at a TAFE institute in 2014, you may need to attend a compulsory information session. Please use the following links to find out upcoming dates
Box Hill Institute: http://www.bhtafe.edu.au/news/Pages/information-sessions.aspx
Holmesglen Institute Open Wednesdays http://www.holmesglen.edu.au/open/sessions
Wodonga TAFE, Health & Community Services http://www.wodongatafe.edu.au/

**VCE Summer School:** The Student Union at the University of Melbourne are running their annual VCE Summer School between 6 – 17 January. This event provides an introduction to the VCE and assists students to develop practical and academic skills. For details about the program, how to apply and about bursaries for financially disadvantaged students, please go to http://union.unimelb.edu.au/summerschool/how-to-apply

**Science Experience:** Are you in Year 9 this year and have a passion for science? Then you should consider attending the three-day science program at RMIT in Melbourne. There will be plenty of bangs, flashes, smash and fun and you will be able to go behind the scenes and sample the exhilarating world of science. You will perform experiments, participate in field excursions, listen to university lectures and experience the excitement of life on campus. The program runs between Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 January 2014. For more information and to register, go to www.rmit.edu.au/scienceexperience

**Filmmaking Summer School, University of Melbourne:** This intensive summer school is taught by Australia’s leading film industry professionals and is suited to people from all ages and backgrounds. The course dates run from 5 January – 16 February. Accommodation is available at Trinity College where the summer school will be held. For more information, go to http://www.summerfilmschool.com/

**Pathways Co-ordinator**

**SWMINBURNE JUNIOR ITALIAN POETRY COMPETITION SUCCESS! MOLTO BENE!**

**THIS YEAR 168 VERY NERVOUS YEAR 7 AND 8 ITALIAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE SWINBURNE JUNIOR ITALIAN POETRY COMPETITION.**

The 2013 competition saw over a 1000 students competing from various secondary schools around Victoria. We have since received the exciting news that two of our Year 7 students are prize recipients so we congratulate Bianca Pardo of 7 Veronica for receiving 2nd Prize in the Year 7 Italian Section of the competition and Isabella Morlin of 7 Joseph for receiving fourth prize also in the same section of the competition. We would also like to congratulate the following girls for receiving High Distinction and Honorable Mention Certificates in various sections of the competition:
Year 7 - Sophia De Luca Fontana, Nikola Separovic, Mia Brittain, Naomi George, Madeline Herne, Sarah Nevin, Chloe Milenkovski, Margaret Nicolas, Isabella Papamihail and Catherine Thomas. Year 8 – Charlotte Cameron, Natasha Dobbyn, Rosa Fiore, Deana Galea, Olivia Jones, Tara Mallia, Amelia Mazzeo and Isabel Szabo.

**Bianca Pardo 7 Veronica 2nd Prize – Italian Section.**

**Isabella Morlin 7 Joseph 4th Prize - Italian Section**

**SUCCESS! MOLTO BENE!**

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**Bianca Pardo 7 Veronica 2nd Prize – Italian Section.**

**Isabella Morlin 7 Joseph 4th Prize - Italian Section**
LEARNING & TEACHING

YEAR 9 BEYOND HORIZONS PROGRAMME

BEYOND HORIZONS WAS AN INQUIRY BASED LEARNING PROGRAMME THAT THE YEAR 9’S UNDERTOOK WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM THIS YEAR.

One week of each term was dedicated to this wonderful program and every time, was filled with great new experiences for every student. Each of these experiences took us outside of our comfort zone and into the wider world around us. We were given opportunities to explore in and around the city of Melbourne in a way that broadened our horizons and opened up huge imaginations and dreams. One of the most enjoyed experiences was the overnight stay that happened on the night of Tuesday 29th of October.

The year level was able to choose from three different ‘interest’ groups - Soul & the City which focussed on the Arts and the City of Melbourne; Move & Grow which focussed on health, fitness, wellbeing and quality of life and Fiction Heroes, Villains & Me which was focussed on literature and the connection between the fiction world and the world we all live in.

Each individual student was able to explore an area of interest and produce a ‘rich task’ project that we presented to the community. Students worked hard all year and our efforts paid off last Friday on the 1st of November. It was such a sight to see! The Year 8 Hub was filled with creative, innovative and mind-blowing final products and everybody was so proud! There were paintings, dress designs, posters, iBooks, movies, documentaries, fiction novels, magazines and an endless variety of displays - even the students were surprised with what they managed to pull together!

The students of Year 9 would like to thank all the teachers involved in making the Beyond Horizons programme of 2013 possible! We were able to experience things we never thought we could at school - and had the use of our beloved iPads along the way too!

By Jessica Wolff

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES ENGLISH COMPETITION

EACH YEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES Conducts A NATIONAL COMPETITION IN ENGLISH.

Throughout the test, students engage in a range of reading and language skills tests. The students are asked to engage in an array of text types and are required to identify, interpret, infer and synthesise information in and about these texts.

This year a number of MSJ students volunteered to compete in the competition. Our warmest congratulations are extended to the following students who achieved Distinction Awards for placing in the top 10 in the nation.

Well done girls! Thanks to Mr Smith for his help in coordinating the competition.

English Coordinator

Mark Stracey

UNSW Australia

Students experiencing new activities

Sharing Beyond Horizons Learning Projects

Well done girls! Thanks to Mr Smith for his help in coordinating the competition.

English Coordinator

Mark Stracey

UNSW Australia
LEARNING & TEACHING

DIGITAL LEARNING

1-TO-1 LAPTOP & IPAD INITIATIVES

2013 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR DIGITAL LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE. EARLY IN THE YEAR AN IPAD TRIAL WAS INTRODUCED TO ENHANCE THE YEAR 9 BEYOND HORIZONS PROGRAMME AND NOW NEARING THE END OF THE YEAR OUR YEARS 12 AND 9 STUDENTS WILL BE THE FIRST TO HAVE EXPERIENCED A FULL THREE-YEAR CYCLE OF THE 1-TO-1 LEARNING PROGRAMME.

With these milestones in mind we endeavour to support students & families through the transition process for either Year 12 students ending their journey at the College or Year 9 students who will be receiving new devices in 2014.

YEAR 12 AND 9 - LAPTOP TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP TO FAMILIES

There are a number of options available to students and families to ensure that they have a device in the best possible condition when ownership is transferred to families at the end of the school year.

They are:
• Students may bring their laptop in for a check where some defects may be repaired free of charge under Apple Warranty
• Students may make a final insurance claim for damage that has occurred, costing $100
• Students can bring in their MacBook to receive a new installation of Mac including an updated version of the software, Mac OS Mountain Lion.

The above offers are available to students until the close of business at the College on Thursday 19 December 2013.

We encourage students and families to take advantage of these options to ensure that their MacBook continues to serve them into the future.

YEAR 9 IPAD TRIAL

As the first year of the iPad trial has come to an end, students have been asked to return the iPad, charger & USB cable that was issued to them to the IT Department. We thank you for your prompt return of the iPad as we do realise it was hard to give up!

As these devices will support learning for Year 9 students in 2014, students and families will be contacted before the end of the year if we find there is a need for repairs or replacements as a result of damage or loss. The iPads remain under warranty so some repairs will be covered without incurring costs.

We thank students and families for their ongoing support of the College Digital Learning programmes and we look forward to what is on the horizon.

14TH NOVEMBER 2013

GETTING ACTIVE AT THE GYM

AS PART OF A UNIT EXPLORING RECREATION ACTIVITIES, THE YEAR 10 PE CLASSES SPENT THREE LESSONS AT THE WESTGATE HEALTH CLUB WHERE THEY PARTICIPATED IN A SPIN CLASS, BOXING CIRCUIT AND A BODY PUMP CLASS.

These sessions were very intense and the girls discovered some muscles that they had not known existed! Through these sessions, we hope to encourage the girls to continue exercising for a lifetime.

PE Teacher
Kelly Sexton

Alicia Tokay and Taylor El Hout skipping

Melanie Hanna, Stephanie Sponner and Megan Grant testing their triceps

Year 10 PE class doing a Boxing circuit

Bridget Puopuolo skipping for fitness

Jennie Dao and Izzy Zerafa getting fit

eLearning Coordinator
Adam Gonzalez
STUDENT WELLBEING

KEEPING YOUR DAUGHTER SAFE ON THE INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONES

As useful as mobile technologies are, there can be negative aspects of using the internet and mobile phones, such as bullying for young people. There are ways to prevent ‘cyberbullying’ and ways to respond when it does happen. Cyberbullying can be defined as follows:

“Involving the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others”
(Bill Belsey, www.cyberbullying.org)

Here are some tips that you may find useful to speak to your daughter(s) about:

• Discuss with your daughter about being careful who she gives her mobile phone number to and for her to ask her friends not to pass it on to others without her permission.

• Advise her that only her good friends and family are in her contacts for mobile phone, e-mail or social networking sites. If she does not recognize the number, e-mail or message sender on a social networking site tell her to leave it and get some help to check it later with yourself perhaps.

• Ask her not to have voicemail if possible, not to say her name and number as she can then be identified by bullies or tracked by other people.

• If she receives a nasty text message, e-mail or social networking message explain to her that it is better not to respond. That is what the bully wants. Save it or print out the message and show it to someone who can help (parent, pastoral group teacher, year level co-ordinator, counselor etc)

• Encourage her to change her e-mail password if she has shown other people her password and advise her not to tell anyone else what it is. Also, if she can change her nickname regularly so bullies can’t regularly identify her.

• Recommend to her to block anyone she does not want to talk to on social networking sites. If she has regular problems with receiving unwanted messages over the internet, then contact the social networking site provider. For repeated annoying phone calls or text messages then contact your mobile phone network provider and the police, as calls can be traced.

• Remind your daughters to ask for help if they experience ‘cyberbullying’. Advise them to tell you, their Pastoral Group Teacher, Year Level Co-Ordinator, Student Counselor or someone else they can trust to ensure they are supported and something can be done about it.

Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing

Anna Keppel

BULLYING, NO WAY!

Australian school communities getting to the heart of the matter

Website Help: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAMP 2013

“BLAZE THE TRAIL!” such were the words of wisdom that guided the elected 2014 SRC representatives on their leadership retreat. Thirty-four enthusiastic student leaders from the junior and senior schools came together at Don Bosco Camp in Dromana to celebrate their newly appointed roles whilst also enhancing their skills together.

Our introductory session settled some nerves and the array of activities which followed included a student led liturgy, music performances from the Arts Team and the incredible experience of paddle boarding at Sorrento beach where many of us became pros at the sport… once we had found our balance!

More antics ensued when night fell over the camp, with a newspaper fashion parade taking place with special mention to the Ministry portfolio winners but also “professional model” Simone of the Arts Team. There were also some unique leadership games from the teachers who were thoroughly amused at watching us try to untangle ourselves from a cluster in an effort to give a lesson on teamwork. Nevertheless, after three attempts we finally aced it.

Contrary to our apprehension on the way to camp, by the time we left many of us had formed incredible bonds and a sense of family was definitely created between all. We are extremely grateful to have been selected as part of the SRC team for 2014 and cannot wait to finally get stuck into our positions and see what the year will bring!

By College Captains: Mona Liza Ziba and Jessica Deller

SRC students in the Stand Up Paddle Activity

SRC girls having a stroll with Mr.Abraham
THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET – CINDERELLA

THE ANNUAL BALLET EXCURSION SAW STUDENTS AND STAFF OF OUR SCHOOL FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ATTEND A STUNNING PERFORMANCE CREATED BY ALEXEI RATMANSKY, THE WORLD’S MOST IN-DEMAND CLASSICAL CHOREOGRAPHER, IN HIS NEW PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET.

Set to Prokofiev’s beguiling score and featuring Surrealism-inspired sets and costumes, this new Cinderella was met with rapturous applause. Ratmansky has been hailed as the saviour of traditional ballet, injecting fresh life into classical technique. His take on the original ‘girl-made-good’ story delivered true enchantment.

Many thanks to Mrs Duane, Miss Ketcheson and Nicholas Tresize for their assistance with this excursion.

Excursion Organiser

Helen McCaughey

CHRISTMAS HAMPER FUNDRAISER

DURING THE FINAL WEEK OF THE SCHOOL YEAR THE STUDENTS IN YEARS 7 TO 11 WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES IN NEED IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.

Our hampers will be passed on to Sister Jean Dwyer at St Joseph’s Corner who has over one hundred families in need of support this year. It is hoped that each pastoral group will have a hamper to donate. We are asking all students to donate to the Christmas Hamper Appeal by bringing in items such as Christmas food, puddings, shortbreads, chips, nuts, chocolates, Christmas stockings, bottles of drink, bags of lollies – any sort of yummy celebratory food and goodies. We would also like to include Christmas items such as decorations and bonbons. Anything really that could be used as part of a Christmas celebration. If every student donates over the next few weeks we will be able to put together over 36 hampers for those in need over the Christmas period. Please start bringing those wonderful goodies in as soon as possible and adding to the hamper in each homeroom.

Thank you very much for your support of this social justice initiative.

Year 7 Co-ordinator
Alison Duncan

Year 8 Co-ordinator
Merryn Snooks

On behalf of the Wellbeing Team.

MSJ WINS HEALTHY CHALLENGE COMPETITION AND DONATES PRIZE

THIS YEAR THE YEAR 8 CLASSES PARTICIPATED IN THE PREMIER’S ACTIVE FAMILIES CHALLENGE THAT INVOLVED DOING 30 MINUTES OF EXERCISE PER DAY FOR 30 DAYS.

MSJ had the most students participate out of all the schools that entered. We won a $1,000 gift voucher from Rebel Sport and we were also lucky enough to have Victoria Brown, an Olympic water polo player come to talk to us. We all enjoyed her coming out and telling us about her inspirational story of how she made it into the Olympic team.

The Year 8 Class Captains had a meeting to decide what to do with the $1,000 gift voucher. They had a discussion with their pastoral groups and they decided to use the voucher to buy sports equipment and donate it to various charities. The charities include; Edmund Rice Refugee Tutor Program in St. Albans, Women’s Health West, Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and The Youth Junction in Sunshine. Our school is very privileged with the facilities and equipment it has and we thought it would be a great opportunity to support people in need, seeing as it is so close to Christmas.

By Michaela Collins and Christine Yankoulas, 8 Veronica.

SUPPORTING RETURNED SERVICE PEOPLE

THE YEAR 8 CLASS CO-CAPTAINS AND I, HAVE ORGANISED A FUNDRAISER TO COLLECT FUNDS FOR THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT (SASR) TRUST FUND.

This organisation supports families of fallen, mentally ill and wounded soldiers who are no longer able to work. For example, the children of a fallen soldier would be educated until the age of 25. My Uncle, Blaine Flower Diddams, was killed in Afghanistan last year. Blaine was in the Army for 22 years and in the SASR for 17 years. He was on his seventh tour of duty in Afghanistan. Hopefully this fundraiser of raffle tickets and guessing the lollies in the jars will make people more aware of the situation.

By Billie Leeds (8C)
FAREWELL YEAR 12 - THE WEEK THAT WAS

THERE WAS PLENTY OF ACTION FOR YEAR 12 AS THEIR FINAL DAYS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNTED DOWN.

Much emotion was attached to the count down as students were trying to juggle finishing off classes, preparing for exams, participating in pranks, organising their final assembly and joining their family for the graduation mass and ceremony.

As their Year Level Co-Ordinator for the last three years I could not have been prouder as I watched closely the final days come and go. A large group of students were responsible for leading the class of 2013 as they reminisced about their last six years of secondary schooling. With a chosen theme of “To Infinity and Beyond” they warmly involved all students and staff in their celebrations. Their commemorative t-shirt was designed by Kim Ramos under the capable direction of Ms Tzelepis. Some approved antics provided some fun for staff and students alike. One highlight was when the Studio Arts student removed all of Mr Meliak’s desks and chairs from his classroom as they created an outdoor class on the oval. The VCAL also class put together a great action capped review of secondary school on the screens around the school.

On Monday the Year 12 girls were provided with lunch as they received their time capsules: both tears and laughter were shared as memories were relived. On Tuesday a shared morning tea was followed by the final assembly. The trip down memory lane included video compilations of the fun of the last days, highlights of the six years at MSJ and teacher goodbyes and concluded with the traditional awards for each year level. Thanks to all involved including the many family members who come to share these final precious moments. I was also grateful for the kind words that were shared about me as the YLC.

Wednesday morning dawned and themed groups of friends with a careful selection of music to accompany them entered the sails area in the traditional parade. Much fun was had by all of the students as the water throwing extravaganza just beat the rain that arrived as the parade concluded.

Students returned with their proud family members that evening for the mass, celebrated by Bishop Long followed by the awards ceremony and marquee celebration. The mass was personalised by a keen group of Year 12 students working with Mr Leonard whilst Sr Clare prepared a beautiful altar. The musical accompaniment by MSJ Voices under the guidance of Ms Cathy Hills and Ms Ann Fichera was also beautiful as were the prayers of intercession read by students in various languages. Then the graduation celebration began. It was a pleasure to listen to the speeches of Lauren Borg and Penny Sdregas as the College Captains. Ms Dillon spoke of her pride in the achievements of the girls and reminded them of their responsibility to continue the tireless work of Mary MacKillop in seeing a need and responding. Finally we then presented the class of 2013 as they collected their certificate and gift from the College. From there we moved to the marquee as we let our hair down and danced the night away to the great music by Body and Soul ably led by Clara Abate.

Thanks to all staff members who assisted along the journey from the Year 12 Pastoral Group and Subject Teachers who travelled with the girls throughout the year to all staff who supported the girls in their learning and wellbeing during their time at MSJ. Also to those who helped with logistics and set up in the final days and to the ever supportive staff in the Front Office for helping with all the memorabilia and ticket orders. The VCE exams are now well underway and the VCAL students have finished with many employers eager to have them available for more shifts. It has been a privilege and an honour to work with the graduating class of 2013 all and I have many fond memories that I will treasure forever and I look forward to hearing their stories as they venture out in the world as Josephite women.
SPORT REPORT

CLIMBING FURTHER THAN WE THOUGHT WE COULD
AS PART OF THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CURRICULUM, THE YEAR 9 OUTDOOR ED CLASS PARTICIPATED IN LESSONS AT WESTGATE INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING CENTRE.

It was great to see the girls venturing out of their comfort zones and climbing all the way up to the top of the walls. The girls learned about maximising safety and worked well as a team to support each other. Everyone was encouraged by others to believe in themselves and keep climbing when they were thinking about giving up. Most girls even braved climbing up the swinging ladder.

Well done girls!

Year 9 Outdoor Education Teacher
Natalie O’Brien

Mastering The Climbing Wall

ARCHIE THOMPSON SCHOOL OF SOCCER

Soccer Training Opportunity in January

Archie Thompson School of Soccer will be running a 3 day training event for both boys and girls at St Paul’s Campus of Emmanuel College in Altona North during from January 21 - 23 2014.

They are looking to increase the numbers of female participants and have some excellent female coaches involved.

If you are interested look at the website: www.schoolofsoccer.com.au

SPORT REPORT

TABLE TENNIS VICTORY
ON THE 10TH OF OCTOBER, 21 GIRLS COMPETED IN THE SCSA TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION AT MSAC.

After a long, competitive and tiring day of matches, the Intermediate players faced off against Catholic Ladies College, Eltham for the grand final. Winning an astonishing 4 out of 4 games in the Intermediate section they went on to win the tournament. A huge congratulations goes to Mia Srijan who also won best grand final player for the Intermediate section.

Thank you to all the students and teachers for making the event possible.

By Brooke Bakaric, 10 Anne

Best player - Mia Srijan

SOFTBALL
ON THURSDAY THE 10TH OF NOVEMBER, THREE GROUPS OF JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR STUDENTS PLAYED IN THE INTERSCHOOL SCSA SOFTBALL COMPETITION.

Everyone was so excited, especially the Intermediate team who were aiming for a back to back victory.

The weather was cold and gloomy and the first senior game didn’t result in a win even with the other two teams watching and cheering from the sideline. The Seniors kept their heads high and the intermediate and the junior teams both managed to win their first games. Halfway through the second game the weather tuned for the worst with the rain setting in. The game continued as we all put on our brave faces and tried our best even when the rain became worse and this turned into hail. The game was put on hold while everyone huddled into the shelters to try and stay warm and dry. After about half an hour of trying to block the leaks coming through the roof, the day was cancelled due to the terrible conditions. All in all it was a fun day, and we were sad to have it end early.

By Jessica Gough and Maddy Bosanko, Year 10

SYNERGY NEWSLETTER

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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.

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

CROSSING SAFETY
It would be appreciated if parents and carers could assist us by reminding students that the crossing at the College’s main entrance is a pedestrian crossing only when flags are displayed. Flags are displayed at normal start and finish times. At all other times, extra care needs to be taken with approaching vehicles.

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.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS 2013

St Joseph’s Convent
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Thursday 12 September 2013

REMEMBERING THE OLD
EMBRACING THE NEW

A look at significant influences (people and/or experiences) that have helped develop your faith.
What do you take from these to enrich life in times of change?

Facilitators: Judy and Mike Cain

Afternoon Session: 1.30pm-3.00pm
Evening Session: 7.30pm - 9.00pm (repeat)

rsvp Therese Quinns rj 93977140 therese.quinns@msj.org.au

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING
There have been minor delays with the new science and technology building as a result of wet weather and ground rock. However, the building is progressing well with efforts now focused on internal fitout. The facility will provide 5 science rooms, food technology and VCAL centres and open learning areas.