“There where you are you will find God”
WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE. BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ARE ALWAYS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CELEBRATION, REFLECTION, STORY TELLING AND PRIDE.

Fifty years of educating young women on this site in the tradition of the inspiring Australian Catholic female pioneer, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is certainly cause for much pride.

Already this year we have started telling the stories of the earliest years of our school and the courage and virtue of the Sisters, parents and students who first built this school community. We are privileged to be the members of the MSJ family who find ourselves here in this fiftieth chapter of the MSJ story continuing to shape the future.

In the pages ahead you will read about the wonderful energy around the opening events of the school year. We have, as always, hit the ground running with a Jubilee aerial photo of our whole community on the first day, the Year 12 Retreat, Year 7-9 Parent BBQ, Opening Liturgy Awards Ceremony and Swimming Carnival. Through all of these events we have been breathing life into the words of Mary MacKillop, which form our Jubilee theme, “There where you are you will find God.”

GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMUNITY EVENTS...
ALL MSJ FAMILIES PAST AND PRESENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOOK OVER THE PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Aerial Photo
The aerial photo taken on the first day of school this year is available for viewing or download on the College website.

A whole school portrait photo marking the Golden Jubilee will also be taken in March to record for history. This whole school portrait will be put on proud display in the school and at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre.

Golden Jubilee Mass
At 11am on Friday 28th March at St Patrick’s Cathedral in East Melbourne, Archbishop Denis Hart will celebrate mass with the whole school community and all who would like to join us to give thanks for the many blessings of the past fifty years.

We ask that those in attendance please be seated by 10.30 am for the Jubilee Prelude.

To assist with seating arrangements in the Cathedral, please indicate your intention to attend the Mass by registering your details, by Friday March 14th, at www.tickethost.com.au?Event=779

After the mass students will return to school for lunch and an afternoon of entertainment at the College with our “Mount Music Festival.”

Alumnae of the College are invited to join past staff, parish members, current family members and the Sisters of St Joseph for refreshments near the Cathedral.

Golden Jubilee Dinner
An invitation is extended to all alumnae, past and present staff, parents and the Sisters of St Joseph to join us at 6pm on Friday 2nd May at the Moonee Valley Racecourse Function Centre for the Golden Jubilee Dinner.

Tables of 12 or individual tickets can be purchased via Tickethost at www.tickethost.com.au?Event=778.

Tickets are $60 and include a sumptuous three-course dinner, tea, coffee, chocolates and celebratory cake. Drinks are at bar prices.

Back To MSJ Day
On October 12th from 1pm to 4pm the MSJ Extended Family are invited back to tour the school and enjoy a picnic together on the green. There will be further details regarding registering for this event closer to the day.

Moonlight Cinema
On Friday 7th November we will be closing our Golden Jubilee Year with the launch of a publication looking back over half a century of the College and the inspiring stories of graduates and current students. We will also screen a Jubilee collection of images and videos of moments in the life of our proud school community.

So there will be many opportunities in the coming months to celebrate by coming together to tell our proud Josephite story. I look forward to meeting many of you at those events and joining you in a spirit of thanksgiving for the myriad of stories that reflect who we are, who we have been and who we will be into the future.

God bless,

Principal

Graham Dillon.
COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday to Wednesday</td>
<td>Yr 7 ACF Camp</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>24th February Yr 7 JTV Belonging Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday to Friday</td>
<td>26-28th February Yr 7 JTV Camp</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>28th February Yr 7 ACF Belonging Day</td>
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<td>3rd March Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<td>5th March Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Yr 7 – 12 Cyber safety</td>
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<td>Yr 10 – 12 Parent Information</td>
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<td>Evening 8pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>7th March International Women’s Day Breakfast</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>10th March Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12th March Yr 7 &amp; 10 Immunisations</td>
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<td>Thursday to Wednesday</td>
<td>Year 9 Beyond Horizons</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>17th March Parent Teacher bookings open &amp;</td>
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<td>Interim Reports available</td>
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<td>24th March Parent Teacher Student Interviews</td>
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<td>4.00 – 8.00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>25th March Students finish 1.00pm</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Student Interviews 2.00 – 6.15pm</td>
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<td>28th March Jubilee Mass 50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>31st March Year 8 ACF Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2nd April Year 8 IJTV Camp</td>
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YEAR 7 2015 APPLICATIONS MUST CLOSE FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY.

Application forms are available at www.msj.vic.edu.au or by contacting the College on 8398 2000 or registrar@msj.vic.edu.au.

2014 EMA

Holders of Health Care Cards should pay special attention to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) form that was included with your fees notice. The allowance is paid to parents and carers of eligible students under 16 years of age. This form should also be returned to the College by 28th February.

2014 FEES

Parents and carers should now have received their 2014 fees notices. The first instalment for 2014 is due 28th February. If you wish to claim the early payment discount, payment in full of 2014 fees (and any arrears) is required by 28th February. To assist scheduling, it would be appreciated if families paying by direct debit or credit card facilities could return forms as early as possible. If you have any enquiries, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE MOTIF...

FOR FIVE DECADES MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE HAS LIVED IN A COMMUNITY INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP.

The jubilee motif you see here was designed by one of our teachers, Sally Frith. It represents the individual, the present community and the collective journey of Mount St. Joseph Girls College over the past 50 Years.

The Lily

The lily is at the centre of our College crest and references the lily associated with the story of the staff of St. Joseph blooming into a lily. It has been portrayed as a gold lily in celebration of our College’s Golden Jubilee. The lily flowers with the virtue and courage upon which our school thrives. These values and ideas shape the journeys of our students and staff so they can help to shape tomorrow as a better place for all.

The Entwined Stems

These stems within the flower both reference the staff of St. Joseph and the stems of growth in our school community over the past fifty years. The upward arching of the two stems celebrates reaching for new heights and new paths into all of our futures, as we come together during our years at the school and reconnect at later points in life. Thousands of young women have come together to breathe life into our faith and school community supported by many dedicated staff and leaders, as such thousands of entwined paths and stories form the heritage of our school from 1964 to 2014 under the leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
Mary MacKillop tells us “If we have love in our hearts we shall have God in our lives” (1890). It is in our love for one another that we are able to experience the Grace of God in our lives. It is through this love that we are to trust in God and do His good works. Scripture tells us that God’s presence is always with us, “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:18).

I leave you to reflect on some final words that conclude Matthew’s Gospel. How can we ensure we take time out in our life to feel the presence of God with us. “I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20)

Heavenly Father,
As we go about our daily lives, help us to open our senses to what you are trying to share with us. Help us to not get caught up in the busyness of daily life and allow us to experience your love.
Amen

Director of Catholic Identity
Danielle Fairthorne

YEAR 12 RETREAT...
ON MONDAY THE 3RD OF FEBRUARY, THE YEAR 12 STUDENTS TOGETHER WITH 15 TEACHERS TRAVELLED TO RUTHERFORD PARK, DAYLESFORD FOR A THREE-DAY RETREAT.
The purpose of the Retreat was to draw the Year 12 students and their teachers together by providing opportunities to share stories, ideas and values. At the centre of the Retreat was the celebration of the Eucharist, where the Year 12s received their badges and we reflected on the 50th Jubilee theme:
“There where you are, you will find God.”

The Retreat concluded with a strength-building activity in which each student and teacher was told of their strengths through the eyes of others. This activity highlighted the new understandings and relationships that came from the Retreat experience.

On the second day, the students undertook a challenging climb to the top of an adjacent hill which gave panoramic views of the local countryside. Here the students were able to appreciate the beauty of God’s creation.

It was a memorable three days which will strengthen and inspire the Year 12s for their challenging year ahead.

Director of Catholic Identity
Danielle Fairthorne

THE YEAR 12 GIRLS ON RETREAT
REALISATIONS ON RETREAT…
ON MONDAY THE 3RD OF FEBRUARY THE YEAR 12 STUDENTS ALL GATHERED TOGETHER AND LEFT FOR THE YEAR 12 RETREAT AT RUTHERFORD PARK IN DAYLESFORD.

We started off the day settling into our cabins, and learning about the unique qualities of the members of the groups we would be working with over the next two days.

On Tuesday, we all climbed the hill across the road from the camp, a liberating and spiritually enlightening experience. Whilst climbing the hill; a metaphor for our coming VCE year, a consensus emerged amidst the Year 12’s that the journey would be tough, and that there will be struggles along the way, but if we band together the 2014 girls can achieve whatever they aspire to.

Retreat was a great experience that allowed the 2014 graduating class to come together as a family, and create a bond that we will all forever share.

Winnie Lam (12F)  Maddison Grima (12V)
LITURGY CAPTAIN  MINISTRY CAPTAIN

GIVE ME A J-J-A-M-M…
WHAT DOES IT STAND FOR? JOSEPH, JULIAN AND MARY MACKILLOP!

Last week as part of our College Captain duties, we travelled to Sydney for the annual JJAMM conference. Josephite high schools from all over Australia came together to participate in an experience that would not only change us spiritually and emotionally, but also challenge us as future leaders.

Kicking off our journey with anxiousness (neither of us are particularly good flyers) we soon reached our destination in North Sydney. It was here that we finally visited the resting place of the woman who brought us all together – St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop. It is truly astonishing how sixteen different schools from across our nation have all been able to maintain her initial goals of spreading education and compassion for all.

After an array of leadership workshops and sightseeing, our newly bonded group made the journey to Kincumber, which is the birthplace of the first Boys’ Orphanage that Mary opened. The words ‘Breath taking’ would not serve this landmark justice. Immersed in the beauty of nature, we worked on beginning charity initiatives within our communities back home. As well as this, students showcased their talents and trees were planted in honour of our JJAMM experience to symbolise the involvement of each of our colleges.

Tears flooded our eyes as the five-day retreat came to an end. Little did we imagine how eye opening and wonderful this event would be for us and with the utmost sincerity, we would like to thank all who made this excursion possible. We formed surprisingly strong bonds with numerous students from across the nation and furthermore, a light has been ignited within us that we cannot wait to share with everyone at MSJ.

Shine bright like a Josephite…

Director of Catholic Identity
Danielle Fairthorne

YEAR 7 BELONGING DAY…
ON THE 24TH AND 28TH OF FEBRUARY YEAR 7 STUDENTS EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY TO EXPLORE HOW THEY, AS YEAR 7 STUDENTS AT MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE, BELONG TO THE STORY OF MARY MACKILLOP AND FR JULIAN TENISON WOODS.

Each Belonging Day involved three workshops that explored the spirituality of Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. The first session allowed students to explore the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre museum and reflect on both the words of Mary MacKillop and the influence she had on Australian Catholic Education.

Next, students embarked on a pilgrimage around East Melbourne to visit places of significance in Mary MacKillop’s life; including her birth place and her providences, which included a night school for unemployed women and a Catholic school for the poor.

Finally students expressed their creative flare while they learnt about and reflected on the spirituality of Fr Julian Tenison Woods as a geologist and Priest.

Monaliza Ziba (12V)  Jessica Deller (12C)
COLLEGE CAPTAINS  COLLEGE CAPTAINS
**ASh Wednesday, Lent and Project Compassion…**

**Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In our Catholic tradition Ash Wednesday (which is next Wednesday) marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent.**

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a celebration and reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance.

Lent begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count) because according to the gospels, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert. Lent is a time for solemn reflection about the suffering of Jesus but also a time of hope as we look to the resurrection on Easter Sunday. The final days of Lent occur between Palm Sunday (when Jesus rode on his donkey into Jerusalem) and Holy Thursday (when Jesus shared his final meal with the disciples on the eve of his crucifixion).

At MSJ we use the 40 days of Lent to join in prayer and raise funds for the poor who are involved with the work of Caritas Australia, the Catholic overseas aid organization. Caritas is the priority charity of MacCormack House and on the Caritas website you can read about the individual stories of people helped by the charity. Lent is a good time to find 5 or 10 minutes each day to read some scripture, say a prayer or reflect on how we can help others. On the Caritas website you will find an online calendar and an App that can be downloaded to help us reflect during Lent: http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar

**Learning & Teaching**

**Animal Adaptations…**

On Wednesday the 26th of February, the Year 11 Biology students went to Melbourne Zoo with the intent of completing research for our first SAC on homeostasis, which we had been studying in class.

For 90 minutes, a teacher from the zoo school showed us around, taking us through the lemur exhibit and then into a classroom. We were all very excited as we got to hold a python and a lizard!

On a tour of the zoo, the zoo teacher discussed the adaptations of different types of animals to assist them with thermoregulation and osmoregulation. It was a great day at the zoo and it was the perfect preparation for our homeostasis SAC on the following day.

**Jasmine Quick**

11 Joseph
LEARNING & TEACHING

YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2013 ACHIEVEMENTS...

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ACADEMIC RESULTS ATTAINED IN 2013 BY STUDENTS WHO UNDERTOOK VCE, VET AND VCAL SUBJECTS.

On Friday the 14th of February we gathered as a community to recognise the high achievers from Year 12 in 2013 including students who had achieved 40+ study scores and the highest achievers in each subject.

The College Assembly was a wonderful celebration of students’ success with family and friends in attendance. This was followed by lunch with all staff who have played an integral role in the lives of these young women.

Our two College Duxes for 2013; Stephanie Papadopoulos and Yu Yun Lim, achieved an ATAR score of 97.7. Stephanie Papadopoulos addressed the College community at the assembly and reflected on her achievements and efforts and the commitment of all teachers across her time at the College.

Our public recognition of Stephanie’s and Yu Yun’s achievements was also extended to the Top 20 ATAR achieving students and highest achievers in each subject.

We also congratulate the following – Zandalee Owen for the top VCAL student award for 2013, Kara La’Brooy who gained a perfect study score of 50 for Information Technology and Tiffani Deguara who also achieved a perfect study score of 50 for Product Design & Technology.

We are all very proud of these girls and all of our 2013 Year 12 students. They now start the next exciting chapter of their educational or life journey and our thoughts and prayers go with them.

Deputy Principal – Staff & Learning

Joanna Debono

YEAR 7 DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMME & INDUCTION DAY...

AFTER THE FAMILY BBQ THIS TERM, OUR YEAR 7 STUDENTS TOOK THEIR FIRST STEPS INTO DIGITAL LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE WHEN THEY COLLECTED THE COLLEGE MACBOOKS. THE EVENING WAS FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT, QUESTIONS AND LOTS OF PHOTOS TAKEN USING PHOTOBOOTH.

Having access to such a great range of tools in the classroom will really change the way these girls will learn over the next 6 years. They will gain skills that will help them work in teams, navigate the seemingly unlimited amount of information on the internet and become positive contributors to the online communities they belong to.

The real journey began on the first of two Digital Learning Induction days where students had the opportunity to share the skills they already have with peers and staff. Students also took part in sessions ranging from working together using Google Drive on assignments, communicating effectively and responsibly online, and doing a self audit of their own internet usage at home.

In the true spirit of Year 7, their year will be full of new experiences and discoveries. Learning technologies play an exciting part in this and we look forward to seeing how these girls make the most of them.

Digital Learning Co-ordinator

Adam Gonzalez

Maths Help!

Upcoming test?
A little confused?
Need some help?
Want to try something a little challenging?

Come along to Maths Help and get some extra help with anything you like.

Sessions are held weekly: Wednesdays at Lunchtime
Fridays from 8am
in
8 Veronica

DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE...

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELYSE HARRISON, FROM OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013, ON RECEIVING THE DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY. ELYSE WAS SELECTED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP BASED ON CRITERIA SUCH AS ATAR SCORE (ABOVE 90), AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES.

Elyse is studying Science – Wildlife and Conservation Biology, at La Trobe University this year. We wish her all the best with her tertiary studies.
LEARNING & TEACHING

WOW – WHAT A GREAT HOME FOR LEARNING AND LIZARDS!

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THE EXCITEMENT OF THE STAFF AND STUDENTS AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE NEW SCIENCE, FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND VCAL CENTRE IN THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL.

The red stick pendant lights were a great talking point and a chance to sit in the vibrant furniture in the open learning space was also highly sought after. The new Food Technology room had staff, students and parents all coveting the stainless steel fittings and brand new electrical appliances and stove tops. It wasn’t long before the smell of some of our student chef gourmet creations started to drift out into the building.

At the Science end of the building in the animal enclosures, the tree frogs were happy to have crickets on their menu and the tropical and fresh water fish were satisfied with fish flakes. The water dragon, the bearded dragon and the river turtles were just happy that they weren’t on the menu!

The VCAL classes are enjoying their new learning space with street views and a café feel and the Science classes are loving the chance to gather around the learning in collaborative groups whilst also being able to keep an eye on the Science preparation area with all of its chemicals and specimens.

A huge vote of thanks to the architects and builders and the staff and Board members involved in the design and construction.

CHROMATOGRAPHY, SPECTROSCOPY & FUTURES IN SCIENCE…

ON TUESDAY THE 11TH OF FEBRUARY, THE YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY CLASS WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO VISIT THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY’S SCIENCE DEPARTMENT TO EXPERIENCE A RANGE OF SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES.

The morning began with a lecture from Adam, the head of Chemistry at Melbourne University, informing us of the multitude of career opportunities available in the field of Science.

We then divided into smaller groups and put on protective coats and glasses. Each group was then assigned a leader who assisted them in a practical experiment concerning either chromatography or spectroscopy.

Following a demonstration on how the equipment worked, we followed a procedure to complete the experiment in either of the two areas and analysed the results. The leaders also helped us extend our knowledge by giving us a tour of the science building and showing us how our Chemistry knowledge can be applied in the real world.

Overall, it was a great experience and helped us to further our understanding of chromatography and spectroscopy and gave us insight to what lies beyond high school.

Brooke Cunningham 12 CATHERINE
Kayla Williams 12 FRANCIS
STUDENT WELLBEING

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT WELLBEING...

IT IS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND EXCITEMENT THAT I JOIN MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS’ COLLEGE AS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT WELLBEING.

Since arriving at the College in late January, I have been overwhelmed and impressed by people’s pride and joy at being members of this community. I would like to thank the many people and families who have made me feel welcome.

NEW BEGINNINGS…

We welcome our new and returning families to our Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College community. It has been a busy start to the school year, but I have been impressed to see so many young women committing themselves to their study and establishing positive study skills. The College theme for 2014, ‘There where you are you will find God,’ will provide a framework for all members of our community to continue to develop positive relationships and a deeper awareness of the other. The Josephite values of hospitality and mercy are two core values we will continue to explore through our new structured wellbeing program. Each new academic year provides opportunities for students to meet new people and to celebrate our differences and diversity.

YEAR 7-9 INFORMATION NIGHT...

It was lovely to meet so many families at our recent Year 7 - 9 Parent Information Night and Welcome Barbeque. The energy and strong sense of community was testament to the partnerships developed here at MSJ. The format this year enabled all families to meet informally in the Sails Area and then move to Pastoral and Year Level Group meetings enabling families and the community to have conversations that were rich and meaningful.

OUR WELLBEING TEAM…

This year our wellbeing team is ably led and supported by:
- Ms Morlin - Year 7
- Ms Duncan - Year 8
- Ms Snooks - Year 9
- Ms Meurant - Year 10
- Ms Bourke - Year 11
- Ms Kubacki and Ms Stafrace - Year 12
- Ms Sexton - Wellbeing Assistant.

STUDENT WELLBEING SERVICES...

SHARYN D’SOUZA, SOCIAL WORKER (MON-WED) AND SUSHA ARNHEIM, PSYCHOLOGIST (FULL TIME) AIM TO PROVIDE THE COLLEGE WITH MORE THAN JUST A COUNSELLING SERVICE.

We offer Individual and group counselling, assessment for cognitive, learning, and emotional problems, as well as proactive programs for year levels and smaller groups.

Counselling is a large part of our role, and allows students to talk about their problems and concerns to a person who is external from their family and friends. The counselling relationship provides a safe, supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment for students to explore their concerns and develop strategies to manage situations. Students may access counselling for issues including:

- Stress
- Bullying
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Family concerns
- Friendship difficulties
- School difficulties
- Grief and loss
- Body image
- Sleep difficulties

The Year Level Co-Ordinators are capably supported by hardworking and committed Pastoral Group Teachers.

If you were unable to attend our recent Parent Information Night, I encourage you to contact your daughter’s Pastoral Group Teacher and to introduce yourself. Each Pastoral Group Teacher will be making contact with the parents of students in their respective pastoral group.

It is important to utilise the homeroom teacher as the first contact person. Feel free to contact them via email or telephone.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY BREAKFAST…

I would like to formally invite students, mothers, aunts and grandmothers to our International Women’s Day Breakfast to be celebrated at the College on March 7th at 7.30am in the new Science building.

HOUSEKEEPING

Uniform: In term 1 and 4 the College Blazer is optional, however the jumper must not be worn as the outer garment. The College hat is compulsory with the College Summer Dress with knee-high socks and black leather lace ups.

SunSmart: As Term 1 is often the warmest month and U.V rays are strongest, it is expected that all students wear sunscreen from home. Students are also able to re-apply sunscreen from pump packs located around the College. The likelihood of developing Skin cancer is often developed in adolescents. I encourage families to view the YouTube clip “Dear 16 year old me,”.

Health Action Plans: If your daughter has an allergy, anaphylaxis, asthma or any other medical condition that the College is unaware of, can you please inform your daughter’s Year Level Co-ordinator.

Parents are welcome to refer students for counselling via the Year Level Co-Ordinator. Staff members may refer students, and many students refer themselves. Although we encourage students to involve family members in their counselling journey, often they wish to keep sessions confidential. We are required by law to maintain confidentiality with students, however not all information that we collect can remain confidential. This is only the case for any information that reveals a risk of harm to the student or to any other person. Student safety is taken with utmost importance.

If you do not wish for your child to access counselling services at MSJ please inform the school in writing.

Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

STEVEN MIFSUD

SYNERGY NEWSLETTER 2014
YEAR 7 CAMP…
DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY THE 24TH OF FEBRUARY, THE YEAR 7’S VISITED GUNDIWINDI CAMP.

This camp helped us to improve on our co-operative skills through activities like helping each other up the giant swing and to make it across the low ropes courses. We also developed some risk-taking skills, because many activities like the flying fox were quite terrifying for some people, but we put aside our fears and attempted everything.

When we got there, I guess we were all a little nervous, but at the same time very excited to meet, and bond with, new people.

This camp helped us to gain more confidence in ourselves and encouraged us to participate in, and achieve, things we never knew we could do.

There were lots of activities like yabbying, where people had to fish for yabbies’ and then work out if they were boys or girls. We also split up into groups and worked in teams to win in Newcombe and help each other accomplish things like getting over a wall, getting over a high log, getting a tyre over an upright log, balancing people on a long log, getting people through a rope hole and lots more.

We made damper, which is Australian bread, which we shaped onto a stick and roasted over a fire. The only ingredients we needed were self-raising flower and water!

We also learnt how to shear sheep. One of the sheep was very stubborn, it wouldn’t get off its back, he stayed sitting down and refused to get up!

One night we went for a walk into a small forest when it was very, very dark and cold. We were all very scared and nervous that we were going to get lost, and of course we did. We went around in circles and even the teachers had to use their GPS’s to help us find our way back!

My favourite activities were the flying fox and the giant swing. The giant swing was the scariest - I bet I wasn’t the only one with butterflies in my stomach.

Overall camp was an amazing experience for all Year 7 students, we did things we never saw ourselves doing.

Taylor Burke
7 FRANCIS
SPORT REPORT

SUN, SWIMMING & SCHOOL SPIRIT…

ON TUESDAY THE 18TH OF FEBRUARY, ALL THE MSJ STAFF AND STUDENTS HEADED DOWN TO LARA SWIMMING POOL FOR MSJ’S FIRST WHOLE SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL IN MANY YEARS.

The atmosphere was electric from early in the morning. The Year 12s had worked hard to produce costumes to catch the attention of the entire school. There were human Sticky Notes, giant Rubik’s Cubes, gumball machines and even a Teletubby roaming the grounds. It was a beautiful sunny day, we were lucky to have the perfect weather for both spectators and competitors.

Many students showed their talent in the pool, participating in a range of events. Even the teachers got involved; competing against the Year 12 girls in some exciting relays and paddle boat races – unfortunately the teachers lost all events on the day.

Congratulations to Kirralee Smith (7J), Chelsea Gray (8J), Leah Bednar (9T), Andrea Gomes (10A), Brooke Bakaric (11C) and Stefanie Wagenkencht (12J) for winning best swimmer in their year level on the day.

Congratulations to McCormack House who were the overall winners on the day, winning the most points and taking home the House Day Cup.

A big thank you to the Sports Department for organising the event, and to all the teachers for their work in putting together a very successful whole school Swimming Carnival.

Brooke Bakaric (11C)
SPORTS LEADER
SPORT REPORT

OFF TO THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS...
CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE GOLDSWORTHY (8C) AND DEMI UTBER (8F) WHO SUCCESSFULLY QUALIFIED FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SYDNEY TO BE HELD ON MARCH 12TH – 16TH, AFTER COMPETING AT THE VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT ALBERT PARK THIS MONTH.

Demi qualified for the 2000m Steeple race and Grace qualified for the 200m and 400m races.

Both girls have worked hard to achieve their well-deserved success at the Victorian Championships and we wish them the best of luck for March.

Demi (8F) leaping over obstacles in the Steeple race
Grace (8C) working towards a win in the 400m race

IN SPORT...
IT HAS BEEN A VERY BUSY START TO THE YEAR IN SPORT.
On the 18th of February we held our whole school swimming carnival. We were lucky to have fantastic weather and it was fun filled day. We had a record number of swimmers and participants in novelty events, both in and out of the water.

The MSJ swim squad members were chosen from the swimming carnival results and they have already started their early morning training sessions.

On the 25th of February, MSJ entered the SCSA Triathlon for the first time. The girls were very excited about this event and had numerous training sessions at Altona beach prior to the day. Congratulations to Kara Bednar (8J) who placed 16th out of 65 competitors in her very first triathlon, a fantastic effort.

Our Dance Aerobics team has been training at least 3 times a week since the very first day of school. They have been working very hard learning our new routine, and it has been great to see the more experienced members helping out our new Year 7 team members.

SCSA Tennis team trials were also conducted during this time and the squad is preparing to compete next week.

Indoor Cricket trials will commence at the end of this week.

Sports Co-Ordinator
Natalie O’Brien

SWIM, BIKE, RUN...
ON TUESDAY THE 25TH OF FEBRUARY, 16 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM MSJ WENT DOWN TO GEELONG TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRIATHLON.

In preparation, we had been training down at Altona beach and had worked hard on our swimming, riding and running transitions.

When we arrived at Geelong we checked out the track and we were all keen to get started. As seniors raced first, I was able to see how the triathlon went. This was good as I had never participated in a triathlon before and I was nervous.

As the juniors were called down to the starting line, I was more confident and ready to race. When we were up to the final lap of running, we were all tired but determined to finish.

As I crossed the finish line I knew I had done the best I could have and I was proud of myself for completing the race. When I found out I had come 16th, I was even prouder.

Overall we had a great day and I would definitely do it again.

Kara Bednar
8 JOSEPH

U15’S VOLLEYBALL STATE TEAM TRIALS...
ON FEBRUARY 15TH & 22ND I TRIED OUT FOR THE U15’S VICTORIAN VOLLEYBALL STATE TEAM. THE TRIALS WERE HELD AT YARRA VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL’S SPORTS COMPLEX.

We were tested on our height & reach ability, as well as spiking, setting, digging & serving – all important skills in volleyball. This year 10 girls would be selected to play in the state team in a competition to be held Adelaide this August.

I had a great experience overall, and still have one more year to tryout for the team as an U17’s player.

Presi Petkova
8 CATHERINE

Presi trying out for the Victorian State Volleyball Team
Kara nearing the end of the swimming leg
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR…

CONGRATULATIONS TO GABBY DUKE (10A) WHO WAS THIS YEAR AWARDED THE HOBSONS BAY YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Gabby represented Hobsons Bay in Youth Parliament and was not only the only female in the team, but also the youngest participant, only just 15 at the time.

Mayor of Hobsons Bay, Cr Sandra Wilson, said that Gabby is an inspirational young woman who has already proven herself a strong leader for her generation and her community.

“At only 15 years of age, she has been involved in mentoring other young people, participated in leadership training and assisted in developing events for Youth Week, the Youth Art Prize and Battle of the Bands. She is a shining ambassador for the city’s young people, a well-deserving recipient of this year’s Young Citizen of the Year Award,” said Cr Wilson

We’re sure Gabby will continue to follow her passions and make a difference in our community and we wish her all the best with her future endeavours.

COMMUNITY

YEAR 7-9 WELCOME BBQ & PARENT INFORMATION EVENING…

IT WAS A SUNNY NIGHT AT MSJ. THE SMELL OF SAUSAGES FILLED THE AIR. WE ALL LINED UP TO GET OUR SAUSAGES IN BREAD HOPING FOR THEM TO BE DELICIOUS, AND WE WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED.

It was the perfect time for parents to meet their daughters’ teachers. Everyone was so lovely and welcoming. There were tours for the parents and students to check out the new Science, VCAL and Technology building.

The Year 7s and their parents walked to their pastoral classes and were informed about camp and all the exciting activities that awaited them in 2014. After that, we left the Year 7 building and moved to the Mary MacKillop Centre.

You could feel the buzz and excitement from all the Year 7s because they were finally about to receive their laptops. I don’t think there was any one who wasn’t full of happiness. We lined up at a long table with computers stacked at the back. We received our laptops in a black case with our house team logo on it. We took our seats and a voice echoed over the microphone and the hall went silent. We were told about the proper usage of our laptops and received some more information about camp.

It was an exciting night and all the Year 7s couldn’t wait to go home and log-on to their brand new Macbook Pros.

Emily Frydas
7 FRANCIS

TRAVELLING SAFELY AND RESPECTFULLY

All students and parents are reminded of the following points about travel to and from school:

TRAINS AND BUSES
• Be safe when boarding and departing trains and buses.
• Where possible catch the train or bus earlier than the one you need so you are not running late or taking risks.
• Be respectful of all passengers and offer seats to the elderly and physically impaired.
• Always touch on and off – authorised officers are cracking down on fare evasion.
• Students must carry their concession card as well as their student ID card.

CARS
• Parents please do not park in No Standing zones or too close to the Pedestrian Crossing or across driveways or laneways or intersections.
• Please do not stop in the laneway opposite the College entry or the private parking areas off the laneway.

WALKING
• Please be guided safely by pedestrian lights and crossing supervisors.
• Do not duck under the railway crossing pedestrian barrier when the boom gates are down or the bells ringing.
• If walking with earphones or talking to friends please pay attention to the traffic and take care to concentrate when crossing roads.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
9.30am – 12.30pm Sunday, March 2nd
Cresser Reserve, Seaholme
Help us take action to clean up, fix up and conserve our prized Australian environment.

ALTONA LOOP PUBLIC MEETING
7pm Thursday 20 March 2014
Altona RSL, 31 Sargood St, Altona

www.facebook.com/groups/167314643318965/
MSJ Notice Board

Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College  ABN 22 050 139 663
P.O. Box 139, Altona North, Victoria 3025.
133 Maidstone Street, Altona, Victoria 3018.
Telephone: 03 8398 2000  Facsimile: 03 9398 3498
Email: info@msj.vic.edu.au
Web: www.msj.vic.edu.au

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.

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.

Academy Uniform Shop
238 Wolseley Place, Thomastown
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm. Phone: 9460 8011

College Uniform Shop
The uniform shop at the College will be open on the 29th January from 9.30am-4.30pm.

Normal trading hours commence in February as follows:
Monday 3pm-4pm
Wednesday 8.00am-9.00am
Friday 1.00pm-2.00pm.

Interested in Playing Outdoor Soccer in 2014?
Altona City Soccer club, on Millers Rd opposite Cherry Lake, caters for boys, girls, women and men of all age groups. No need to register or pay up front. Simply come and try. It all recommences in January / February 2014, Under 5s to 7s in March.
We are always also looking for coaches that believe in the curriculum, development and fun.
For more information www.altonacitysoccerclub.com.au, call 9398 3974 or join us on Facebook.

Child Dental Benefits Schedule
– Bulk Billed Dental Treatment
If you receive Family Tax Benefit A and you have received a letter from Department of Health, some dental Surgeries will bulk bill for dental treatment to eligible children.
One such clinic is Seaholme Dental Surgery 9398 2080.

Point Cook Football Club
NEW Youth Girls Team
Be part of a new and exciting team playing at one of the largest sporting venues in the West.
Point Cook Football Club will be entering a team in the local girls league in season 2014 and are looking for Girls aged between 13 & 18 to play.
Training is already underway.
For further details please contact either
Belinda McEvvale (Coach) on 0400 588 314; Mark King on 0447 156 108 or email the club at pointcookfc@y7mail.com

Now Accepting Applicants for 2015 Rotary Youth Exchange!
Are you a Year 9, 10 or 11 Student? You may qualify as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and have the opportunity to live and study overseas, experience the culture, of a new country, to learn a new language and develop new friendships.
Applications are now being accepted and close on Friday 25th April 2014. Students must be under the age of 18 years, as at 1st January in the year of departure.
Rotary Youth Exchange invites kind and caring Host Families within the community to assist local Rotary Clubs offer an outstanding exchange program to young people from all over the World.
Further information is available from - www.rotaryyouthexchangeaustralia.com.au

Point Cook Football Club
NEW Youth Girls Team
Be part of a new and exciting team playing at one of the largest sporting venues in the West.
Point Cook Football Club will be entering a team in the local girls league in season 2014 and are looking for Girls aged between 13 & 18 to play.
Training is already underway.
For further details please contact either
Belinda McEvvale (Coach) on 0400 588 314; Mark King on 0447 156 108 or email the club at pointcookfc@y7mail.com

Come and Join the Barnies!
As the largest football (soccer) club in Hobsons Bay, the Barnies are a family-friendly, not-for-profit, FFV-affiliated soccer club, which has places for girls 5-18 years of age.

Important Dates:
Season starts: Sunday, 27 April 2014 Saturday, 26 April 2014 (under 7’s)
Training:
If you would like to try-out then please refer to our website for training times on Sunday mornings. To be held at the JK Grant Reserve, Sugargum Drive, Altona
Season Fees: under 7’s $100 under 8 to 11’s $180 under 12 to 18’s $230
Contact us on info@bujfc.com or 0487 916 590 or for more information www.bujfc.com

Come Anytime for a Free 2-Week Try Out of Scouting at 3rd Williamstown Scout Group
12 Thompson St, Williamstown
Scouting is for both boys and girls and our Youth members include Joey Scouts (6 and 7), Cub Scouts (8-11), Scouts (10 - 15) Venturers (14 - 17 ) and Rovers (18 - 25)
We also welcome Adults who would like to become volunteer Leaders
For more information feel free to contact Helene on 0418 388 436 or email us on thirdwilliscouts@yahoo.com.au