Our proud year of Golden Jubilee celebrations is drawing to a close and we all now take time to refresh and renew before we set our sights on all that is yet to be achieved to continue to honour our proud Josephite heritage in the coming years.

VCE Results Congratulations...
The Golden Jubilee Graduating Class of 2014 finished the year with an excellent set of results in their final exams and assessments. Our school community extends our congratulations to Katie Hovenden after she achieved the 2014 College Dux with an excellent ATAR score of 99.20. The community of Sacred Heart Primary School Newport are also proud of Katie’s outstanding result as their past student. Katie was not alone in the 90+ ATAR ranks with 12 other students also achieving ATARs in the 90s. This equates to over one in ten of the MSJ 2014 graduating class achieving an ATAR of over 90. There were many other stories of outstanding personal success and excellence and we extend our congratulations to all students in their dedication to their study and to the teachers, school staff and family members who played such important support and mentoring roles. We look forward to publicly recognising the outstanding achievements of the top 20 ATAR scores and each Subject Dux at the Awards Ceremony on Monday 15th February 2015.

Christmas Blessings...
It was wonderful to again see the MSJ community following in Mary MacKillop’s words and spirit of never seeing a need without helping in some way, as the school mini-bus was packed with Christmas hampers filled with donations from staff and students for families in need in our local area. With so much of Christmas time being consumed by time pressures and commercialisation, this small act of outreach, along with the beautiful Christmas masses during the final days of school reminded us all of the real meaning and invitation of Christmas. I pray that you each find peace and the love of family and friends in the days of gathering around the table together for Christmas.

Wishing all a safe break and some much needed time to refresh ourselves and spend precious time deepening relationships and building even more rich memories with family and friends.

God bless,

Cath Dillon
Principal

Congratulations to 2014 College Dux, Katie Hovenden, who achieved an ATAR of 99.20

“Where you are, you will find God.”
"Wake up!
Be on your guard!
You do not know the hour."
(Matthew 24:42)

The year winds inexorably to its close, with longer and hotter days, endless Christmas parties, shopping, preparations and the rest. It’s the big slow-down toward summer, yet suddenly the Church’s new year begins, and calls us to:

"Wake up! Be on your guard! You do not know the hour."

The season of Advent is upon us.

Advent is a season in the Church that begins our new Liturgical Year. It is a time of preparation as we wait for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Advent runs over four Sundays in the Church and comprises of four general themes reflected in the Gospels:

• The First Sunday is a Sunday of Lamentation, where we express our grief and sorrow for our sins (Mk 13:33-37)
• The Second Sunday sees us reflect on a divine response (Mk 1:1-8)
• The Third Sunday, known as Gaudete Sunday, is a Sunday of Hope and rejoicing (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)
• The Fourth Sunday of advent is where we reflect on the fulfilment of the Hebrew scriptures (Lk 1:26-38)

Advent is a season of rich symbolism and colour in our Church’s year. The colour purple that will adorn our Church’s reminds us of the penitential character of the season of advent. A lighter shade of purple, as opposed to the deep purple used during Lent, is used to reflect the season of joyful expectation.

The candles in the advent wreath focus us towards the coming of the light of the world, Jesus Christ. He is the light dawning in our life, the son of Justice is to be born. God became a human being to redeem us – to save us from sin. Advent challenges us not to go on as we have before, but to allow the light of Christ to shine into our hearts and make us a people ready to see the signs of God’s love in the world.

Together we pray;

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reins with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

(The prayer above is taken from the opening prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent)

Danielle Fairthorne
Director of Catholic Identity

PLAYING BINGO WITH NEW FRIENDS……

On Thursday the 6th of November, Mr Pinto and Ms D’Mello took 9 Veronica girls; Olivia, Rebecca, Raven, Shahni and I, on an excursion to Florence Aged Care in Altona North.

At the centre, we were shown around by a lady who said she would be taking care of us throughout our visit. She took us up to where some of the residents were playing Bingo and we were asked to join in. We sat around the big table and introduced ourselves to some of the residents playing, then we either watched, joined in, helped the other players with their cards or we called out the numbers. It was a really fun atmosphere, everyone was very friendly and welcoming and they were also very grateful that we had taken the time to visit them. It didn’t really feel like we were visiting strangers, they made us feel as though we were visiting an older friend.

After we played a few games of Bingo and had a fair amount of laughs we were told that our visit had sadly come to an end. We said our goodbyes and went back down to where our mini bus was waiting. It was a great experience to see how the residents lived and the smiles on their faces was uplifting. It was an amazing experience.

Georgina O’Brien
9 Veronica

Rebecca (9V) calling Bingo numbers
AJASS LEADERSHIP DAY...

The AJASS Student Leader Day is a day for Josephite schools from around Victoria to come together to discuss the qualities of leadership and exchange ideas for the coming year. MSJ’s College Captains and Wellbeing, Academic, Arts and Ministry Captains, attended the day along with college leaders from many other schools.

‘What will you do as a leader of 2015?’ and “What does being a part of a Josephite school mean as a leader?” were some of the many thought provoking questions posed.

The day helped us to realise what kind of leaders we aim to be in 2015, and how we can help serve the school in the best way possible. The activities and bonding sessions also enabled us to share our own ideas as a leadership group, listen to the ideas of others, discuss future plans and learn about ourselves as young leaders.

Aside from the valuable leadership advice and words of wisdom we garnered from the leaders from other Josephite schools, we also developed new friendships, which will continue to flourish throughout 2015, creating a pathway for ideas and thought sharing between schools.

This day was an extremely valuable and beneficial experience, and further equipped our College student leaders of 2015 with the necessary skills and attitudes to support the MSJ community in the coming year.

Arlie den Ouden (11T) & Brooke Bakaric (11C)
2015 College Captains

WHITE RIBBON DAY...

The 25th of November is a very special day, not only in Australia, but all over the world. White Ribbon Day was created by a group of Canadian men in 1991 on the second anniversary of the massacre of fourteen women in Montreal, at the hands of one man, on December 6, 1989. They established a campaign to urge men to speak out against violence against women.

Saint Mary Mackillop’s work involved supporting women in difficult situations, empowering them and giving them the courage to face the crosses in their life with faith, love and support. It is through the legacy of Mary Mackillop’s compassionate responses that the MSJ Wellbeing Team was so inspired to support the White Ribbon campaign by raising money for, and awareness of, the issue.

The White Ribbon foundation’s vision is for all women to live in safety free from all forms of men’s violence as well as making women’s safety a man’s issue. The money raised by the MSJ community for this cause will hopefully help to establish a safer society for women.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and spread the word that we as a community do not tolerate violence against women!

Adrianna Trakakis (11F)    Kira Arapidis (11F)
2015 Penola House Leader 2015 Wellbeing Captain

CHRISTMAS - A TIME OF GIVING...

In Term 4, the Ministry Team came together to organise Christmas hampers for Joseph’s Corner. Each pastoral Group across the school received an empty hamper, the aim being for them to fill it as much as they could so those less fortunate would also be able to receive a gift on Christmas day.

A variety of donations were made, as the hampers filled with Christmas inspired gifts and foods as well as essential, everyday items that many of us take for granted - yet these very items will put smiles on many faces.

The Ministry Team aimed to fill up each basket to the greatest capacity before delivering all those goods to Joseph’s Corner to help make Christmas this year special for those in our society who aren’t as fortunate as we are. Thank you to all those who donated items to help us achieve this.

Taylor El Hout (11J), Alicia Tokay (11F), Stefanie Raljevic (11C), Madison Cassie (11C), Cheryl D’Souza, (8A) Angelique Harkins (8F) and Presiana Petkova (8C)
2015 SRC Ministry Team
LEARNING NEWS...

HEADSTART...
In the final weeks of Term 4, all Year 10 and 11 students were involved in the HeadStart programme which is designed to provide a valuable introduction to the studies they will undertake in 2015. All students undertook four lessons in each of their Semester One subjects.

This assists students to become familiar with the expectations of the subject and to make a serious start on their learning. Students have been given holiday homework that builds on the teaching and learning from the HeadStart programme.

SEMESTER REPORTS...
Reports for students from Years 7 to 11 are available to parents online as of Thursday December 11.

EXAMINATIONS...
In the last few weeks of Term 4, our Year 7 to 9 students sat exams in their various subjects. Careful review and reflection on examination performance provides a rich learning opportunity. It is essential that students are well prepared for the demands of examinations as they continue to be used in both VCE and Universities.

2014 VCE RESULTS AND ATAR SERVICE...
VCE results and ATARs should have been received by VCE students from the 2014 VCE Results and ATAR Service as of Monday 15 December.

To find out more about VCE Examination results, a statement of marks can be obtained. Further information is available on the VCAA website: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Joanna De Bono
Deputy Principal - Learning & Staff

PLAYGROUP FUN...
As 7 Catherine walked over to the Tenison Woods Learning Centre with bubbles, a parachute, balloons, play dough and chalk we knew that we were in for some fun with the Saint Monica’s Playgroup.

The children in the playgroup ranged from the age of 18 months to 4 years and it was 7 Catherine’s job to keep them entertained, engaged and happy. This meant that we had to be prepared and our preparation paid off as we watched the children enjoying the activities we had planned.

Activities included sitting in a circle and singing songs like the ‘Hokey Pokey’, ‘Open Shut them’ and ‘If you’re happy and you know it’ and going onto the oval to do cartwheels, have races and overall just letting our inner 2 year old really come out!

On behalf of 7 Catherine I would like to thank all the teachers involved in organising for us to host the playgroup and allowing us to have such a great time.

Layla West
7 Catherine

Fun with bubbles and play dough as 7 Catherine hosts St Monica’s Playgroup

“Where you are, you will find God.”
LEARNING & TEACHING

CHOCOLATE ROSE PETALS, BUTTERFLIES AND MORE...

The Year 11 and Year 12 VCAL students participated in a cake decorating class that was held on-site at MSJ. Our guest demonstrator was Vicky Schroot, she arrived early to prepare for the decorating class and some of us had the opportunity to bake the cupcakes ready for the class to decorate them.

We put on our aprons and washed our hands and once everyone was ready to start, Vicky explained how we were going to decorate our cupcakes. She demonstrated some of the techniques we would be using and then we each went away to our benches and started our designs. The first decorations we made were rose petals, which we created out of melted chocolate.

We made flowers out of white chocolate and hundreds and thousands and butterflies and peacocks out of milk chocolate. Everyone enjoyed making them and taking them home to their families.

When we finished the decorating we then had to clean the equipment that we had used.

Everyone really enjoyed making the many different cupcake decorations, learning new techniques and, of course, eating the chocolate. Thank you to Vicky for taking the time to come and share her decorating skills with us.

Emma Loprieato  Ashleigh Hooper
11 Therese  11 Joseph

LEARNING FROM THE ANIMALS...

On Friday the 7th of November the Year 7 students travelled to the Melbourne Zoo for an excursion. This term the Year 7 girls have been studying biology and classification; the zoo was a great resource of information as we were able to observe the animal’s behavior, appearance, habitat, adaptations and diet.

We visited the many animals of the zoo and gathered information as we went along. Viewing the animals and their surroundings up close was immensely beneficial as it allowed us to gain extra knowledge about the animals we were studying. Following the excursion was an assignment about selected animals sighted at the zoo, the assignment consisted of providing information about the animals such as general observations, adaptations, habitat, diet, features, distribution and their taxonomy.

The Melbourne Zoo excursion gave us a better understanding of the animal and an insight into their astounding lives. Although the day was very muggy and tiring we had a great time and enjoyed being in the presence of the animals.

Charlotte Gerada
7 Francis

“There where you are, you will find God.”
THE BEYOND HORIZONS PROGRAMME EXPERIENCE...

To think big and creatively was the main inspiration for the Year 9 students during the course of the Beyond Horizons Programme this year. We had the opportunity to experience Melbourne, learn more about ourselves and develop our independence.

The final week of Beyond Horizons proved to be the most difficult, yet it allowed us to showcase our talents to family, friends and our community. To wrap up our Beyond Horizons experience, the final week also involved an overnight experience, where we were able to observe the city of Melbourne and learn more about the wonderful city in which we live.

On October 31, the exhibition day for Beyond Horizons began. It started off with excitement and of course, a hint of stress. Students were frantically working to add the finishing touches to their final exhibits. We were looking for innovative ways to intrigue the audience to give them an insight into what we had been working on for the past year and what we had discovered during that time.

It was great that all students were able to participate in this programme and create a product that we were proud of and that expressed our own passions - from art to science, music to food and much, much more. The Beyond Horizons experience proved to be a great success.

Jessica Sinclair, Christine Yankoulas and Melissa Carabott
9 Veronica

At the culmination of the year long Beyond Horizons Programme, Year 9 students presented their Rich Tasks at an Expo which exemplified their work and sustained commitment to their personal inquiry. Well represented in the students’ work were the Arts, media and design, food and health, fitness, wellness, literature, textiles and history. We congratulate the Year 9 students on their amazing achievements and the way they conducted themselves throughout the year when on local excursions and the overnight experience in the city of Melbourne.

This rewarding opportunity for Year 9 students allowed them to explore the world around them through the lens of a subject area of interest to them. The Inquiry focussed learning approach gave them insights into the learning style they prefer whilst affording them the opportunity to think creatively and deeply about something that mattered to them or they were passionate about. Although this work was conducted over four weeks of the year, a significant amount of effort was given in their own time. If you missed our Expo, that was attended by many parents and all students, adjacent are samples of their work.

Congratulations to all Year 9 students on their projects, teamwork, leadership and hard work during the year.

Fion Dorgan
Director of Learning
LEARNING & TEACHING

MERRIJIG - A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION & RECOGNITION...

Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College awards evening, Merrijig, was a wonderful finish to our jubilee year. Our awards night celebrated many of the fantastic achievements of our students and was well attended by parents, families and friends.

We had the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many gifts and achievements of our students in the areas of learning, the arts, community and sporting involvement. We also recognised the leadership qualities that have emerged in our girls throughout the year and the contribution our students have made to the wider community, in particular in the area of social justice.

Congratulations to the following students:

### 2014 YEAR 7 SUBJECT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Teagan La’Brooy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Linda Vu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Sarah Matullick</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Ashqkein Kang</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
<td>Mia Paladino</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Teagan Scicluna</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Emily Frydas</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Simran Girn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Hilary Chau</td>
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<tr>
<td>English, Music and Physical Education</td>
<td>Gemma Srijan</td>
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### 2014 YEAR 8 SUBJECT AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Kelly Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Trinh Tran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Julia Locke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Alannah Attersall</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Asiah Hang</td>
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<td>Textiles</td>
<td>Annie Tabone</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
<td>Isabella Cassetta</td>
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<td>French</td>
<td>Gwendolen Lynch</td>
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<td>Kelly Koutsioviks</td>
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<td>Olivia Drandi</td>
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<td>Food Technology</td>
<td>Adele Mancini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education and English</td>
<td>Tara Whitmore</td>
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<td>Art and Physical Education</td>
<td>Zarchi Htike</td>
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### 2014 YEAR 9 SUBJECT AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tran Nguyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Britney Lloyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Lorraine Degay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Christine Yankoulas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Natasha Dobbyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Communication &amp; Design</td>
<td>Tamsyn Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textiles (Product Design)</td>
<td>Elisa Sponner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and Technology</td>
<td>Nicola Verhoef</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
<td>Amelia Mazzeo</td>
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<td>See-Yin Soo</td>
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<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>Charlotte Cameron</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Jessica Vranes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Coaching</td>
<td>Melissa Carabott</td>
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<td>Outdoor Recreation</td>
<td>Victoria Moustos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food for Life</td>
<td>Leah Bednar</td>
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<td>Health and Nutrition in Australia</td>
<td>Gabriella Bortolot</td>
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<td>French, Music, Science</td>
<td>Louisa Elia</td>
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### 2014 YEAR 10 SUBJECT AWARDS

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<tr>
<td>Advanced Mathematics</td>
<td>Gulneer Kaur</td>
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<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>Shannara Pleiades</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Performance</td>
<td>Mia Srijan</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Fiola Ziba</td>
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<td>Media</td>
<td>Emma Smith</td>
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<td>Information and Technology</td>
<td>Lisa Nguyen</td>
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<td>Italian</td>
<td>Ekaterina Shumilov</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Helen Ho</td>
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<td>World of Food</td>
<td>Sarah Farrugia</td>
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<td>Human Movement</td>
<td>Cindy Mak</td>
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<td>Improving Fitness</td>
<td>Teri Georgiadis</td>
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<td>French and English</td>
<td>Genevieve Byrne</td>
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<td>Youth Health and Textiles (Product Design)</td>
<td>Kaitlan McKertish</td>
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<td>Outdoor Recreation and Physical Education</td>
<td>Lisa Chau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Communication and Design, Art and General Mathematics</td>
<td>Mariya Snizhko</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Education, Humanities, Science and VCE Business Management 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Jessica Wolff</td>
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“There where you are, you will find God.”
### 2014 YEAR 11 SUBJECT AWARDS

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VCE Literature 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Elizabeth Seychell</td>
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<td>VCE English Language 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Raquel Mancini</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCE Advanced General Mathematics 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Megan Prentice</td>
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<td>VCE Biology 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adrienne Currie</td>
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<td>VCE Chemistry 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Hoang Lan Nguyen</td>
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<td>VCE Drama 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Alana Stewart</td>
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<td>VCE Studio Arts 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Alexandra Chiarella</td>
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<td>VCE Studio Arts 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Caitlin Barber</td>
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<td>VCE Information and Technology 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Lucille Kalantzis</td>
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<td>VCE Visual Communication and Design 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Monique Camilleri</td>
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<td>VCE Product Design and Technology 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Nicole Steer</td>
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<td>VCE French 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Thyrza Javier</td>
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<td>VCE Religion and Society 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adrianna Trakakis</td>
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<td>VCE Health and Human Development 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Elizabeth Johnstone</td>
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<td>VCE Food Technology 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Alyssar Daher</td>
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<td>VCE Physical Education 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Brooke Bakaric</td>
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<td>VET Interactive Digital Media</td>
<td>Bridget Puopolo</td>
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<td>VCAL</td>
<td>Georgia Muscat</td>
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<tr>
<td>English, Psychology, Accounting and Legal Studies</td>
<td>Kira Aripidis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion Art and Society, Physics, Mathematical Methods and Advanced General Mathematics</td>
<td>Laura Costa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese, Media, History and General Mathematics</td>
<td>Rebecca Gauci</td>
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### 2014 OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- **Georgia Darman**
  - Year 12

### 2014 ENVIRONMENT AWARD
- **Michaela Mastroainni**
  - Year 12

### 2014 COMMUNITY AWARDS
- **Charlotte McAnda**
  - Year 7
- **Gemma Srijan**
  - Year 8
- **Michaela Collins**
  - Year 9
- **Jessica Vranes**
  - Year 10
- **Imogen Purton**
  - Year 10
- **Lydia Zahra**
  - Year 11
- **Kira Arapidis**
  - Year 11
- **Ciara Cauchi**
  - Year 11

### 2014 SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS
- **Maddison Azzopardi**
  - Year 7
- **Presiana Petkova**
  - Year 8
- **Charlotte Cameron**
  - Year 9
- **Stacey Nguyen**
  - Year 10
- **Alicia Tokay**
  - Year 11

### 2014 THE VISUAL ART PURCHASE
- **Madisson Weightman**
  - Year 12

### 2014 SENIOR AND JUNIOR PERFORMING ARTS AWARD
- **Olivia Kivlighon**
  - Year 9
- **Monaliza Ziba**
  - Year 12

### 2014 SENIOR AND JUNIOR PERFORMING ARTS AWARD
- **Taj Aldeeb**
  - Year 10
- **Lydia Zahra**
  - Year 10
- **Abeba Teshomi**
  - Year 8

### 2015 KWONG LEE DOW YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM
- **Jessica Wolff**
  - Year 10
- **Cindy Mak**
  - Year 10

### 2014 SIMS MANAGEMENT METAL AWARD
- **Maria Dinh**
  - Year 11

"There where you are, you will find God."
2014 CALTEX ALL ROUNDER AWARD
Ellen Tsantarlis Year 11

2014 PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD
Brooke Bakaric Year 11

2014 SR KATH NOLAN AWARD
Michaella Mastroainni Year 12

2014 MABEL PINTO AWARD
Sinit Tsegay Year 12

2014 ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP AWARD
Jessica Deller Year 12

2014 PRINCIPAL’S AWARD
Monaliza Ziba Year 12

2015 MSJ MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Taj Aldeeb Year 10
Lydia Zahra Year 10
Abeba Teshomi Year 8

2014 ACADEMIC DUX
Gemma Srijan Year 7
Kelly Chan Year 8
Louisa Elia Year 9
Jessica Wolff Year 10
Laura Costa Year 11

“Where you are, you will find God.”
As the year draws to a close we celebrate the great Golden Jubilee year of 2014. It has been a year of work, learning and community. We thank our families for their continued support, praise and commitment to working in partnership with us.

UNIFORM CHANGES...
At the start of the semester, we surveyed families regarding a number of proposed changes to the College Uniform. As we believe in listening and engaging with all members of our community, it has been decided that only the PE shorts and trackpants will change. Further details regarding these changes will be communicated in the future.

Families resoundingly wanted the tie to remain; therefore we look forward to ensuring it is worn with pride and dignity. More details regarding these changes will be communicated in the future.

RETURN IN 2015...
All students will commence the new school year on Friday 30th January, 2015 and should be at the College by 8.30am.

May this Christmas be a time of celebration with your family, joy and laughter. Wishing you all every blessing this Christmas.

Steven Mifsud
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing

YEAR 9 PEER SUPPORT TRAINING DAY…
On Friday the 24th of October the Year 9 girls caught a train to the Laverton Community Hub to attend a Peer Support Training Day.

All the Year 9 girls were split into groups and throughout the day, completed a Peer Support Training Day Activity Booklet. Activities included reading real life scenarios and answering a series of questions about how we would help, brainstorming what makes a good leader and picking our own individual leadership skills.

We learnt how to improve our leadership skills, provide support to our peers, how to deal with tough situations and what it takes to be a Peer Support Leader.

Overall, the training session was very successful and we all found it useful to determine whether we want to become a Peer Support Leader in 2015 and help support the Year 7 girls. Many people applied for the positions, so good luck to all.

Alexandria Ricca and Eliza Purves
9 Joseph

ABC NEWS TOP STORIES: ALTERING SCHOOL UNIFORMS COULD CUT SKIN CANCER RISK: STUDY…
Lowering hemlines on school uniforms could reduce the risk of skin cancer from an early age, a Queensland study has found.

A study by James Cook University involving 100 schools in north Queensland, where the risk of skin cancer is high, suggests that lengthening the average uniform covering to the knees and elbows could increase sun protection by just over 9 per cent.

“It’s a big gain for a little effort,” said study supervisor Simone Harrison.

The study found the majority of students wore school uniforms that only covered a small proportion of the upper arm and thighs.

Researchers found there were also wide variations in how standard school uniforms protected children from the sun.

Source: www.abc.net.au
CELEBRATING THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR…

On Monday the 1st of December, all the Year 7 students went to Apex Park to celebrate the final week of the year together.

We had a picnic within our new friendship groups and participated in several activities such as an egg and spoon race, tunnel ball, a great Santa race and a survival game.

The best part of the day was sharing lunch together and the wonderful community spirit.

Much fun was held by all!

On the 2nd of December, the Year 8’s had their Activity Day. We went to Oz 10 Pin Bowling in Point Cook. In the morning, 196 Year 8 students caught the train to Williams Landing. We then walked to the Bowling center. After a good 10 minutes of walking, we finally arrived. It was a beautiful day outside and we were lucky that it did not rain.

Once everyone arrived at the Bowling Center, we broke off into teams of 6 or 7 and began bowling. I was in a group with Gwen, Alex, Lauren, Dhriti and Chloe. During our two games of bowling, “interesting” was an understatement when describing how we played – with us scoring more ‘gutterballs’ than strikes!

It was so much fun being able to let go and relax – especially now that our exams are over.

Once all the groups completed their two games of bowling, we set off to a nearby park in Point Cook. We all sat down at the park and enjoyed our final day as Year 8 girls – enjoying the scenery around us and playing on the playground.

Overall, it was a great day to spend with our friends and celebrate the year we shared together as Year 8 girls.

Isabella Morlin (8V)
2015 Junior College Captain

On Monday, the 1st of December, all of the Year 9 girls went to our Annual Activity Day, which this year was at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville.

We were lucky enough to watch the third film in the Hunger Games Trilogy: Mockingjay. The movie was entertaining and thrilling and everyone enjoyed their popcorn and drink.

After the movie, we walked to the Yarraville Gardens, where we shared lunch together. The weather was lovely - just perfect for the day and everyone either played with sports equipment or on the playground or just sat down with their friends, relaxed and had a chat.

Overall, this day was a memorable one that marked the end of a fantastic year.

On behalf of all of the Year 9 girls, thank you to all our teachers for organising the day and coming with us, it wouldn’t have been the same without you!

See-Yin Soo
9 Therese

“Where you are, you will find God.”
HONOURING OUR SOLDIERS…

It was a windy day on November 11th. The Junior SRC team had taken a bus to Hobsons Bay Council Centre to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony. It started with the Oath of Remembrance followed by a minute of silence.

The ceremony then proceeded with our Tenison Captains (Ellie Kyriazopolous (8F), Isabella Morlin (8V) laying the wreaths, which had been brought by schools and guests. The general public was then able to place a red poppy in honour of our soldiers on a wreath of their choosing. The priest, who had joined us that day, led us in prayer.

The New Zealand national anthem, Australian National Anthem and God Save the Queen were then played and the ceremony was over. After the ceremony we were able to meet people who had been personally affected by war and they told us their stories. It was a touching and eye opening experience.

Jessica Seychell (8I)
Junior Visual Arts Leader

TENISON WOODS DAY…

The creation by students of a vertical garden was a very successful ‘greening’ activity that was the highlight of this year’s celebration of the feastday of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, scientist and ecologist, and co-founder with Mary MacKillop, of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

The activity was the brainchild of Mr David Meliak who created the prototype of the succulent garden planted in a plastic drink bottle. Mrs Marzia Devic, supported by Mr Adam Gonzalez, organised all the equipment and the staff were invited to bring in clean drink bottles and donate succulent plants to be planted in the modified containers. Mr Darrel Downie organised the vertical frame from which the bottle gardens were to be hung.

At lunchtime students assembled outside the Sustainability Lab in the new Tenison Woods Learning Centre and quickly got their hands dirty making up the gardens using potting mix, stones and an array of hardy succulent varieties. Another team inside the lab cut the plastic bottles to size and attached the hanging implements preparatory to the gardens being created. The miniature gardens were watered and then taken to the vertical frame outside the staffroom door and hung in a pleasing pattern.

The vertical garden catches the afternoon sun highlighting the gleam of the plastic bottles and the quartz stones inside and this in turn, catches the eyes of students and staff walking around the school. The bottle gardens will need to be replanted every few months.

Thanks are due to the maintenance staff for their watering of the vertical garden and Mrs Devic for her ongoing oversight and care for it.
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS...

Over the last month or so, the Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College community has expressed the Christmas spirit in a number of generous projects involving students and staff.

Christmas Hampers For Joseph’s Corner:
Fourteen large hampers containing non-perishable food, chocolates, and other Christmas treats, were put together by pastoral groups and packaged into hampers by members of the 2015 SRC: Taylor El Hout, Madison Cassie, Angelique Harkins and Presiana Petkova, a few days after school finished. The hampers were then delivered to Joseph’s Corner in Yarraville for distribution to needy families along with a good number of toys and toiletries also destined to bring Christmas cheer.

Women’s Health Network:
As with last year, a good supply of quality toiletries collected by the pastoral groups were delivered to the Women’s Health Network for distribution during the coming year to women in extra need of support. It was a touching and eye opening experience.

Ozanam Community Centre:
MSJ staff contributed to the purchase of sixty toiletry packs which will be given as Christmas gifts to the men who live permanently at Ozanam House. As our students do community service on a regular basis at the community centre we are very happy to respond to annual call for Christmas gifts.

Gifts For Afar:
Following the example set by the Magi who visited Jesus from afar bringing gifts, MSJ staff donated $554 to be donated to three organisations working overseas: Caritas Australia, the International Red Cross and the United Nations. Our gifts will encompass health, education, clean water, emergency relief, infrastructure and community development. The donations were brought up with the offertory gifts during the Staff Christmas Mass on Monday.

CROSSROADS 2014.....

Tam La (12F) and I, were fortunate enough to be chosen to encounter one of the most rewarding experiences yet. We both set out on the 26th of November on a retreat known as, Crossroads, which is an alternative to schoolies, which involves mission work in Alice Springs and Santa Teresa. Some of the projects we supported in the communities we visited included; packing food packs, helping out with soup vans and completing any jobs the community needed assistance with.

Crossroads is a Pilgrimage that involves individuals being able to reflect on their own life journey and re-connect with or strengthen their individual faith. During the pilgrimage we were able to reflect on who we are and who we want to become.

It was lovely to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who all shared a similar outlook on life. The feeling of knowing you have just helped a community, no matter how small the job may have been, is indescribable and is truly worth it.

Thank you to Ms. Fairthorne and the school for allowing us to be a part of such a wonderful journey.

Charis Anthony
12 Catherine

Charis & Tam La at the Crossroads retreat...

“There where you are, you will find God.”
VIEW WORTH THE EFFORT…

Our Year 9 Outdoor Education semester finished up with a hike through the bush. The You Yang’s was a fantastic location, from the amazing views to the most unforgettable – laughing at ourselves slipping over along our travels. Despite the moans and groans from all the students along the way, the hike was an adventure and we all had a great time and would do it again in a heartbeat.

Britney Epperson  
9 Joseph

LACROSSE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS…

On Friday the 31st of October, MSJ participated in the Victoria Lacrosse Junior Championships at Altona Lacrosse Club. It was a beautiful sunny day and we arrived very eager to play as our team had been training hard.

MSJ finished the day undefeated and entered the grand final with great excitement. We unfortunately lost the final but were pretty happy with ourselves to have made the final and play against some very experienced lacrosse players.

A big congratulations to Dhriti Modi (8V), who played an amazing game, Olivia Gatt (8F) for playing in goals for the very first time and having some fantastic saves, our expert defender Tara Whitmore (8V) for her leadership and to our non-stop runners - Gwen Lynch (8C), Demi Utber (8F), Alex Tsantarlis (8C) and Brooklyn Utber (7T). Well done to the entire team, whom I was very proud to coach.

We were very lucky to have the expert assistance of Sue Sofarnos from Newport Ladies Lacrosse Club on the day. Sue has also been coming to MSJ to teach our Year 8 classes about Lacrosse. Thanks Sue!

Natalie O’Brien  
Sports Coordinator

AUSTRALIAN ALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS...

Grace Goldsworthy (8C) recently represented MSJ in the Victorian All Schools competition where she placed 1st in both the 200m and 400m in the Women’s U14 age group.

We would like to congratulate Grace on her outstanding achievement in athletics and wish her all the best in future competitions!

Natalie O’Brien  
Sports Coordinator
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.

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
Phone: 9460 8011
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and Saturday 9am - 12pm
Open at the College: Monday 3pm - 4pm, Wednesday 8am - 9am and Friday 1pm - 2pm

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
• Second Hand Uniforms can be purchased from the College every second Tuesday of each month between 3.00pm and 3.45pm (this does not include school holidays).
• There are no exchanges or returns permitted on any items.
• Please be aware that all purchases are cash only, no cheques or credit cards will be accepted.
• All permitted items you wish to sell through the College are on consignment for a maximum period of 6 months, after which they will be returned if not sold.
• Blazers, jumpers, rugby tops, rain jackets and school bags must have the current school logo.
• Blazers, kilts and jumpers are required to be dry-cleaned prior to being brought in for sale.
• Any other items such as dresses, t-shirts, track pants and shorts must be washed and ironed.
• Any school bags up for sale must be in good and useable condition.
• The College does not accept any of the following items:
  Winter blouse, tights, socks, hats, scarves and shoes.

“There where you are, you will find God.”