Assessment Time...
It is that time of the term where the pressures of exams and assessments are mounting. As parents and carers it can be difficult to know how to support your daughters in this time of revision and study. Sometimes it helps to put the assessment period into perspective by reminding the girls that the assessments are intended to give some indication to teachers, students and parents about how much learning growth there has been and to inform the goals for future growth. They are not a final curtain drawing down upon their learning but a way to find a sign post for what has been learned and what next needs to be learned.

I also take this opportunity to thank the teaching and educational support staff for the ongoing work they undertake to prepare and support students and to correct and feedback about learning growth to students and parents.

A Visit From The Sisters...
It was wonderful last week to have a group of over 30 of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart visit us as part of their celebrations marking 125 years of their presence and ministry in Victoria. As a school community we owe so much to these inspiring women who exemplify for us what it means to respond with courage and compassion to the calling of God to educate and care for young people in areas that others had yet to embark. For 125 years the Sisters have responded to the needs of parishes throughout Victoria and as one who benefited from one of the primary schools they opened in outlying areas of Melbourne, I can deeply appreciate the difference their work made in so many communities in Victoria. We extend our thanks to them for being such an inspiration for us and we thank the wonderful group of Year 8 students who extended true Josephite hospitality to the Sisters during their visit to MSJ last week. It was beautiful to see the sharing of stories and the shared pride of the Sisters and the girls in our very special school.

Teaching Achievement...
Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College is at the forefront of the work and research being undertaken to use learning evidence and data to inform teachers, students and parents about learning growth. The use of the learning data available through external and internal assessments along with the perception data collected from students about their experiences in their classes is being used to inform our teaching practice to best support the learning growth of each student. Our Director of Learning Engagement, Mr Matthew Smith, has largely undertaken the leadership of staff in this area at our school. This leadership was recently recognised at a national level when Matthew was invited to present at the national conference of the Australian Council for Educational Research Excellence in Professional Practice Conference in Sydney. The theme of the conference was ‘Improving assessments of student learning’ and Matthew presented a paper on the work of our school within the University of Melbourne Network of Schools within which we are targeting the growth of student writing ability to improve learning growth across all learning areas. We congratulate Matthew on this achievement and his leadership and we acknowledge the work of our teachers in striving to use learning data and feedback to continue to improve the learning outcomes of every girl in their care.

Cath Dillon
Principal

COMING EVENTS...

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Year 8 - 11 Exams Commence</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>CAT, 10am - 1.15pm</td>
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<td>Year 10 &amp; 11 Academic Progress Interviews, 1pm – 4pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Student Study at Home Day</td>
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<td>Rehearsal for the College Musical</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>College Musical Production, 12.30 -3pm and 7 - 9.30pm</td>
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<td>Year 10 -12 PST Subject Interviews, 4pm - 8pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>VCAL Subject Selection Meetings, 7pm -8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Student Study at Home Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 11 2015 Subject Interviews, 4pm - 7pm</td>
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Mr Matthew Smith presenting a paper about MSJ’s work within the University of Melbourne Network of Schools at the national conference of the Australian Council for Educational Research Excellence

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATIONS...

Students have put energy and passion into their studies, which is the best preparation to meet the demands of examinations. All students are aware of the upcoming examinations. Teachers have been working with students on examination preparation and study techniques, ensuring that students are aware of what is required for their examinations. It is advisable for students to map out a study programme which will help them in their preparations. Please discuss with your daughter the examination information contained in the Care Monkey letter that also contained the Examination schedules.

You know it is a challenge to reduce the pressure students place upon themselves to achieve. Whilst examinations are important, they are only one measure of performance so, remind your daughter of what really matters to help reduce the stress and keep examinations in perspective.

We place high importance on overall wellbeing and you might find some tips to reduce exam stress in this information sheet from Kids Help which can be found using the following link:


To further support your daughter at this time, we recommend that you revise study schedules and routines, reinforce positive self-talk to be proud of progress and finally give time for exercise, sleep and healthy eating for clear thinking and to maintain their passion for learning.

The examinations will be held in the Pastoral classrooms or in the Mary MacKillop Centre. All students are expected to wear full academic winter school uniform during examinations.

There are no examinations in Semester One for Year 7 students.

All Year 8 students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in their core subjects ONLY for this Semester. The core subjects in which exams will be scheduled are: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Religion.

Students in Years 8 and 9 will attend normal classes when exams are not scheduled.

Year 10 students currently undertaking Unit 1 subjects should attend the Unit 1 exams at the scheduled times. Where this causes a clash with Year 10 exams, students are to organise with their Year Level Coordinator a request for an exam swap. Students in Years 10 & 11 are expected at the College for exams only, with guardian consent via Care Monkey. However, when students remain on campus between exams that are scheduled on the same day, rooms will be made available for quiet study.

We wish students every success and please know that teachers are available to support you before and after exams.

Fran Dorgan
Director of Learning

STUDENT RECALL...

Last year the College conducted a review into the home study practices of its students. In this process, the community recognised that the College needed a more formal and structural approach to dealing with students who receive unacceptable grades; do not submit assessment tasks; or are absent without notice during important assessment dates.

To tackle the issue, the College has began implementing a Student Recall process to allow students to redeem a satisfactory result for an otherwise unsatisfactory grading or to carry out the task without interrupting their classes.

Student Recall is conducted every Thursday in the Byrne Learning Center and runs from 3:20 PM to 4:35 PM.

Parents/Carers of students who receive a Student Recall will be firstly contacted by the subject teacher and then notified of the Student Recall date by letter. If you have any queries about the process, please contact Mr. Matt Smith (Director or Learning Engagement) at the College.

NEW CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF) AND FEE REDUCTIONS...

In many schools, taking part in camps, sports and excursions is dependent on payment of extra fees. The State Government has introduced the CSEF initiative to ensure that no student misses out. The scheme will operate for both primary and secondary schools.

At MSJ, camps, excursions and retreats are included in our tuition fees. However, where families are eligible and receive assistance under the CSEF program, the $225 will be applied to reduce their accounts.

The CSEF is available on the first day of either Term 2 or 3. to those who are:

• Beneficiaries under State Concessions Act – holders of valid Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC), Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) or Veteran Affairs Gold Card, or
• Temporary foster parents

To access the scheme, parents and carers must complete and return the application (attached at the end of this newsletter) to the College by 26 June 2015.

Additional forms and information are available at:


FAMILY ACCOUNTS...

The Term 3 fees statement will be emailed to all families during the holidays. 50% of 2015 fees should have been paid by 31 May.

It would be appreciated if families could make sure their accounts are up to date.

Noel Kennedy
Business Manager

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
SECRETS OF SONG WRITING...

Our Year 11 Music students recently attended a song writing workshop at The Australian College of The Arts (Collarts). The workshop was presented by Ella Hooper (lead singer of Killing Heidi and four time ARIA Award winner).

Ella shared her secrets to lyric writing before the students worked on their own compositions. In two hours, our girls produced three original compositions. They performed their works to an audience of students, teachers and other music industry experts. Each composition was recorded and critiqued by Ella Hooper.

The experience was very positive and proved a valuable day in the song writing careers of many of our students.

Nick Tresize
Teacher

MASTERING DRAMA...

In Year 10, Drama has become a lot more sophisticated than in previous years. We have learnt new skills to bring to our performances. We have expanded our knowledge of terminology and worked with new techniques and elements.

Recently the Year 10 Drama class presented the ensemble that we have been working on for the past 3 months. Each group was given a prescribed structure that displayed the different elements, conventions, techniques, practitioners and aspects that were required to be included in the ensemble. We were also given a stimulus to base the ensemble around such as; Jack the Ripper, The Black Plague and Black Saturday.

Week after week we worked on these ensembles refining, editing and analysing them. They became something each student in the class had put their heart and soul into. Some nights it even kept us awake questioning ‘how could we improve that?’ or ‘how have we used all of the techniques we needed to?’ and then an ‘epiphany’—an idea would come to us in the middle of the night. When we were given the opportunity to finally perform them for our family and friends it was the most amazing experience.

This class has been such a great way for each of us to express ourselves dramatically and learn in a challenging and most rewarding way about all things dramatic as well as about ourselves.

Madison Brown
10 Anne
On the 21st of May, the Year 10 cohort attended the Western Region Careers Expo at the Werribee Racecourse. With almost every University and College in Australia open to explore and discover, we all got a taste of what it’s like to finish High School and pursue a career.

We arrived at the racecourse with open minds and racing hearts as we were so close to reaching our futures. As we entered, we were given a bag to hold all our brochures and booklets and straight away we were off. Each with our own interests, we wandered the expo, coming across many options for what we want to take up.

When we weren’t picking up booklets holding our futures, organising open days to visit the Universities and talking to the stall managers asking about courses and degrees, we were frantically chatting to one another about our new discoveries.

Visiting the Career Expo helped us open our eyes to the opportunities and options available according to our interests and likings. It has allowed us, as young adults of this generation, to find a path that best suits our aspirations and goals in life. Overall, the morning was enlightening and opened our eyes to new pathways to success.

Thank you to Miss Krell and accompanying teachers for taking the Year 10 girls to the expo as it has really helped us in forming goals and finding a pathway to succeed in our dreams.

Yvette Dimalanta
10 Anne

On the 22nd of May the Year 11 Biology students went on an exciting excursion to Cherry Lake. The day began with an adventurous walk to the location. Without wasting any time the students eagerly started the assigned tasks, which included various tests of the pH levels of the creek and the lake, the level of turbidity as well as the depth and the flow of the water.

We were lucky enough to experience an informative description of Cherry Lake by a park ranger. This excursion assisted in our learning and understanding of ecosystems, which will be beneficial for our upcoming exams. Overall, this excursion was a fantastic experience. We would like to thank Miss Hawkins, Mrs Devic, Miss Snooks and Miss O’Brien for making this excursion possible.

Tara Bateman
Emma Chan
Courtney Lino
11 Anne
11 Anne
11 Francis
LEARNING TO SEE THE PERSON, NOT THE DISABILITY...

Over the past few weeks, the Year 11 VCAL class has been involved in a Disability Engagement Programme, which is a short course run by Scope Industries.

Scope is a non-profitable organisation that helps people with physical, intellectual and multiple disabilities achieve their goals in life. Their motto is ‘See the person, not the disability’.

The short course involved two people coming to our school to educate us about the programme and the correct way to communicate with disabled people. Following this, we had to complete a booklet on understanding disability and diversity and communicating successfully with others.

The final part of the course had us visiting Scope Highpoint Industries on the 5th of May. When we first arrived, we had morning tea with the people that work there and then we broke up into two groups. The first group assisted with filling up test tubes with jellybeans for Happy Lab, a shop in Highpoint and the second group prepared string for products to be sold at a deli, also at Highpoint Shopping Centre.

From the moment we arrived to the moment we left we were constantly practicing our communication skills with the people that worked there. We found that some people were a lot harder to communicate with than others so we were asking them to repeat what they had said a few times before we fully understood. This did not bother them as they explained they would rather people do that than just nod their head and move on. Our perseverance was rewarded because what they had to say was really interesting and funny, even though at times, some of the stories told were sad to hear because of what they have been through.

Through this course we have all gained really valuable life skills like communication, patience, empathy, teamwork, self-awareness and cooperation. We are all now so much more knowledgeable about the way we should be treating people with disabilities and to see the person first and not their disability.

Lisa Groves (11T)
Year 11 VCAL Captain

YOUTH AWARD LEADERS CONFERENCE...

On Thursday the 14th of May, the three of us went on an excursion to Collingwood, to attend a Youth Award Leader Conference as part of our Duke of Edinburgh award. The Duke of Edinburgh is an internationally recognised award and was founded in 1956 by Prince Philip (the Duke of Edinburgh), Kurt Hahn (a German educationalist) and John Hunt (the leader of the first team to conquer Mount Everest).

Originally, the award was a way to encourage boys to become more active citizens, it now runs in over 140 different countries, for both girls and boys from the ages 14-25, and encourages them to participate in a number of activities over a set period of time.

At the Young Award Leader Conference, we had the opportunity to get to know and collaborate with 15 other students from different schools. We worked together to build skills in leadership and learn what the traits of a good leader are. We also learnt how to be supportive of all students in a variety of scenarios.

It was great to have silver and gold award participants present to share their advice and experiences with us. We were lucky to meet with the Duke of Edinburgh CEO, Anoushka Gungadin, to share ideas about leadership, future issues faced by today’s youth and the importance of community.

A big thank you to Ms Bowring who organised this amazing opportunity for us and Ms Frith who supervised the excursion.

Dhriti Modi Chelsea Broad Alex Tsantarlis
9 Veronica 9 Veronica 9 Catherine

Dhriti (9V), Chelsea (9V) and Alex (9C) attended the Duke of Edinburgh Youth Award Leaders Training Day, completing their bronze, silver and gold awards.

They were lucky enough to meet with the Duke of Edinburgh CEO, Anoushka Gungadin, to share ideas about leadership, future issues faced by today’s youth, the importance of community and much more.

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
TIME WITH PEERS...

On Friday the 23rd of May, the Year 12 VCAL class went on an excursion to spend the afternoon with children our own age who are in a Special Developmental School in Yarraville. We had lunch with the class of 7 boys and spent the rest of the afternoon playing board games and chatting with the students about school, hobbies and AFL!

Overall, it was a great experience, and a new one for some of the girls that haven’t been in that environment before. The Year 12 VCAL class hope to plan another day with Yarraville Developmental School soon.

Harmony Rush
12 Joseph

HELPING WITH CONSERVATION IN HOBSONS BAY...

On Tuesday the 26th of May, the Year 10 Outdoor Education students travelled to Cherry Lake in Altona. Students learned about the lake and the conservation efforts taken by Hobson’s Bay Council in the area.

We then assisted Conservation Ranger, Andrew Webster, in planting trees in the area. We planted over 200 Chaffy Saw plants, which is the habitat for the local Altona Skipper Butterfly.

It was great to have the opportunity to help out and look after our local community.

Natalie O’Brien
Outdoor Education Teacher

AGIDEAS DESIGN FUTURES EXPO AND FORUM...

On Thursday 14th May a group of like-minded Art, Design and Textile students from across Year 10 to 12 were accompanied Mrs Kubacki and Mrs Cumper to the annual agideas event held at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

We started the night by gathering information at the Career Expo, then ate some dinner before returning to the Convention Centre for an inspiring night featuring International Designers.

We were also lucky enough to meet Channel 10 weather reporter Mike Larkan on the banks of the Yarra.

The agideas excursion was a really amazing experience. It gave all us the chance to have a look at possible universities in the Design, Textiles, Art and Media fields. The seminar gave a great perspective on life as a designer, as well as extended our knowledge and understanding of the wide world of design available to us.

Samantha Muscat
12 Therese

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
RECONCILIATION WEEK, THE SPIRIT IS ALIVE...

May 26th marks the beginning of National Reconciliation Week with the celebration of Sorry Day. It also marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum which saw a large portion of Australians voting YES to allow the Commonwealth the power to make laws specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

The end of Reconciliation Week, the 3rd of June, recognises the 1992 Mabo High Court decision that led the way for Native Title land rights. This week provided Australians with a unique opportunity to reflect on our past and commit to a future that further promotes Indigenous rights. Throughout this week, our students have responded to Reconciliation week through prayer, action and education.

As a Josephite school, we continually work towards working in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Indigenous communities. It was apt that during this week we were also fortunate enough to be visited by thirty-three Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart from Victoria and Tasmania who were celebrating 125 years of the Sisters work in Victoria. The Sisters of St. Joseph have always been advocates for the dignity of all, and have a special connection with many remote and urban Indigenous communities both here in Victoria and across Australia. We give thanks for the work of the Sisters in ministering towards Indigenous Australians, and for their ministry in Victoria.

This year Reconciliation Week coincided with Pentecost Sunday. This is a beautiful connection between our Catholic spirituality and love for the Holy Spirit and the rich Indigenous Spirituality that recognises the importance of the spirit in our lands. The coming of the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles represents the strong connection we have as a larger Church, it celebrates community brought together in Christ. Pentecost is a beautiful time of year to reflect on the spirit in our lives, how it can support us in our challenges and renew our mission of loving one another.

Creating Spirit, breath of life and energizing presence,
Stir us into quickness and freshen our hearts
with new resolve to join you in mission.
We make our prayer, confident in your
power and compassion.
Amen.


Danielle Fairthorne
Director of Catholic Identity

CATHOLIC MISSION MASS...

On Wednesday the 13th of May, seven Year 8 girls, accompanied by Miss Furlong, attended the Catholic Mission Mass. We went to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in the city. One MSJ girl from our group read at the mass, while the rest of us enjoyed being in attendance along with the many other primary and secondary schools.

We all learnt a lot from the Mass and really enjoyed it. The mass was led by Cardinal Napier who is a South African Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. He is also the Archbishop of Durban, a town in Ethiopia.

Catholic Mission is an organization celebrating its 175th year in 2015. The organization operates in 160 different countries and focuses on helping children, communities and church leaders in less fortunate cities and countries.

We all had a great experience attending this mass and I think that it is important that we all understand how lucky we are and no matter how small our contribution may be, we can all do something to help people in need.

Mia Paladino
8 Therese

Seven Year 8 girls attended the Catholic Mission Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in May
AJASS PILGRIMAGE...

On Wednesday the 20th of May, three MSJ students and Ms Dorgan began their pilgrimage to Adelaide with the guidance of Sister Rita, a Josephite Sister. With students from three other AJASS schools from across Victoria and Tasmania, the girls began their trip in the heart of Melbourne, completing the Mary MacKillop walk. They then spent the night at MacKillop College, Werribee. The evening was spent playing ice-breaker games and enjoying a lovely meal and prayer to prepare us for the journey to Adelaide.

We woke for an early start to begin our long bus trip. Our first stop along the way was the Twelve Apostles on the Great Ocean Road. At this stop the MSJ students led all the pilgrims in our usual 12 O’clock mindfulness and observed the pure beauty surrounding us. From here we then ventured to Portland and visited a Bayview College, a school that Mary MacKillop worked in, ending the night with soup and sandwiches in the Presbytery.

The next day was the day we had all been waiting for, our visit to Penola, South Australia. How special it was, Mary’s very first school right before us. We had the opportunity to walk around and explore the Interpretive Centre and the school itself along with the local streets of the special town. That night, we stayed at Mount Gambier, heading for Adelaide the following day.

The final day began with a lovely mass at the Church where Father Julian Tenison Woods was ordained. We then got to visit St. Mary’s, the chapel where Mary was excommunicated. It was emotional and beautiful at the same time, touching each person in the room with the peaceful nature and love that Mary so generously shared.

Overall the trip was an amazing opportunity and we are so grateful for the opportunity to take part in such an inspiring experience. Thank you to Mrs Fairthorne, Ms Dorgan, Sister Rita and everyone else involved in organising such a memorable trip.

Olivia Kivlighon
10 Catherine

ONE YOUTH EVENT...

On Sunday the 24th of May, several students from Years 10 and 11 embarked on a spiritual journey to the ‘ONE’ Catholic youth event held in the Collingwood Town Hall. The Catholic community came together as people of different ages consolidated to connect themselves to God. We began the evening by attending the Pentecost mass which included an invigorating homily spoken by Fr Dan Strickland who encouraged us to ‘surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit’. It was an opportunity for the community to reflect on their relationship with God.

After mass, we had dinner, standing outside the hall where we were warmed by the outdoor heaters and chatted with our friends. After dinner, a bell sounded summoning everyone back into the hall for the exciting rally. The rally consisted of a live band called “One Worship”, who performed melodious tunes based around the concepts of the bible. The guest speaker, Fr Rob Galea, was very captivating as he engaged the audience with his witty jokes and motivating talk on the Holy Spirit.

Overall, the event was very enjoyable as we prayed, laughed and danced the night away. This event allowed the Catholic community to unite and display our faiths through prayer and music.

Our students keeping warm by the campfire before Fr Rob takes the stage

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
Life presents itself with many opportunities and many experiences that can be transformative and deeply powerful. At Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College we offer all members of our community an array of experiences and learning opportunities to support the individual in reaching their full potential.

In recent weeks I have been struck by the many students who soak up the experiences provided and engage with the formal and informal learning. This is evident by our student leaders who have aptly led school tours, students who participate in Choir, sport and the various student led activities for recent events including Reconciliation Week.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SAFETY PLANS...
Supporting our students in becoming independent young women is a goal for all members of our College community. However in recent months, the College has been made aware of incidences involving young people travelling to and from school whereby young people have been approached by members of the public. Can I ask that parents please speak to their daughters about transport safety plans? Has your daughter a plan to implement if she feels at risk? Who will she contact? What should she do? Safety travel plans are an important aspect of being a responsible young person.

STUDENT USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT...
Travelling to and from the College using public transport is a privilege and responsibility. This is a reminder to all students about what is expected on public transport. Please discuss the following points with your daughter:

- It is a privilege, not a right to travel on public transport in the Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College uniform.
- Members of the community are observing your behavior and are judging your integrity and repute.
- Always stand behind the yellow line on platforms and be facing the train as it comes to a halt.
- Do not block doorways or isles with school bags.
- Give up your seat to adult passengers.
- Talk quietly.
- Do not move around the carriage.
- Do not change carriages when the train stops.
- Do not use connecting doors to move between carriages.
- Always have a Plan B in case something goes wrong e.g. trains or buses are cancelled.

CYBERSAFETY...
Over the past month the Year Level Team Leaders and other members of the College’s Wellbeing Team have been supporting our learners and families in the area of Cybersafety, awareness and technological boundaries. As we are aware, technology is a powerful means to access knowledge, be creative and to celebrate humanity, however it can also be dangerous and sometimes even destructive if not managed appropriately. A gentle reminder that students should not be accessing technology from their bedrooms and that mobile telephones, MacBooks and/or ipads should be charged in an open family area, not one’s bedroom.

Each one of us needs a good night sleep and the opportunity to ‘switch off’ from the world. I physically turn off the modem in our family home at 8.30pm therefore my own family can be with one another, being present and enjoying each other’s company. This week I have visited an excellent website from Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and explored the cybersmart section for parents. I encourage all families to visit the site:


Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing

D&M@MSJ ...
On the 19th of May, the Year 7 and 8 students were invited to participate in the Mother/Female Mentor and Daughter night. The purpose of the night was to learn more about our mothers/female mentors and to strengthen the bond between us.

We started with a prayer acknowledging the original owners of the land after which we had a special performance by our very own MSJ super star, Grace Drandi (7A), who sang ‘Lean on Me’ by Bill Withers.

We welcomed our guest speaker who discussed the power of self-esteem and self-compassion. The oral presentation was displayed through a slideshow and the presentation encouraged parents and students to engage in important conversations.

We then broke off into smaller groups and discussed a series of questions with an unfamiliar group of students and parents. During this time, we shared our best memories with our mother/female mentor.

The best part of the night was saved for last. We had earlier prepared a gift for our mothers/female mentors that represented a memory of the past or an item that is significant to us. The mother/female mentor did the same for us. The gifts ranged in size, shape and colours; from a box of baby clothes to a photo frame. It was great to see all the smiles on the participants faces as they opened their gifts and relived fond memories.

The evening was a huge success thanks to the organisation of Ms Dillon, Mr Mifsud and all the staff involved in the planning of the night.

Sarah Peart and Alanna Sutton Jones
7 Anne

D&M@MSJ was an opportunity for our Year 7 and 8 girls to strengthen their relationships with their mothers/female mentors

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
EVERY DAY COUNTS – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AT MSJ...

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student who misses one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind. Speak with your daughter’s Pastoral Group Teacher and find out what work your daughter needs to do to keep up.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let their Pastoral Group Teacher know so we can work together to get your daughter to school every day.
STUDENT WELLBEING

How can I get my teenager to school?

Many teenagers seek independence and think they know best. No matter how hard parents try, some students may be reluctant or refuse to go to school. These are some ideas which may assist parents to deal with teenagers and school refusal. Addressing this attendance issues promptly and setting up good patterns in adolescence can lead to future success.

Did you know?

- Patterns of late arrival at school or missing classes are early warning signs.
- Missing one day of school each week adds up to 2 months missed over a year.
- Each day absent in high school has an impact on skill development and social connections.
- Poor attendance may be associated with future unemployment, criminal activity, substance abuse, and poorer health and life expectancy.

Some causes of school problems

Some of the more common causes of school problems are underlying learning difficulties or learning disabilities or behavioural or emotional issues. There are many other reasons why a young person might not be engaging fully in their education.

School factors might include:

- Bullying
- Disliking, or not feeling connected to, the school culture or environment
- Disliking school subjects, not liking the choice of subjects, or not feeling challenged by the work

Personal factors might include:

- Chronic illness
- Intellectual or cognitive disability
- Behavioural or developmental difficulties or disorders
- Mental health issues such as depression or anxiety
- History of abuse and neglect
- Poor self-concept or self-esteem
- Poor communication skills
- Poor social skills
- Difficulty with listening, concentrating or getting stuck.

Family factors might include:

- Parents who aren’t involved in their child’s education
- A home environment that doesn’t support a young person’s learning
- Family problems such as relationship breakdowns
- Competing family or social responsibilities, such as caring for family members, or working outside school hours

What you can do

- Act early
- Talk about the importance of staying up to school every day, make that expectation. Regular attendance at school sets up good behaviours for regular attendance at work.
- Help your teenager maintain daily routines such as a fresh start, homework, and getting a good night’s sleep. On average, teenagers need 8.5 hours sleep to be healthy and alert. You may also need to monitor their use of the Internet, mobile phone and TV at night to ensure they are not staying up too late or being disturbed while sleeping.
- Try not to schedule hair, dental or medical appointments during school hours. Arrange family holidays during scheduled school holidays so that they don’t miss out on classes and feel left behind. If it is necessary to be absent from school for an extended period, arrange with your school for a Student Absence Learning Plan.
- Don’t let your teenager stay home unless genuinely sick (complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety).
- If your teenager wants to stay home to finish an assignment, rather than letting them stay home, expect them to go to school – make attendance the number one priority. Later, you can discuss with them how they can improve their study habits or adjust their schedule.
- If your school has an assessment calendar on its website, use this to help your teenager plan their study so that they avoid working late the night before an assignment is due.
- Be sure to see a good example – how you meet your commitments impacts on how they will meet theirs.
- Talk to your teenager. What are their feelings about school? What interest them at school? Are there any difficult situations? Help them open these discussions in a relaxed way so that your teenager knows you are demonstrating concern, not authority.
- Try to be aware of your teenager’s social contacts. Peer influence can lead to skipping school, while students with many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful extracurricular activities that your teenager enjoys, such as sports and clubs, to develop positive relationships and experience success outside of a classroom setting. These activities can help your child feel part of the group, important to the school, and more motivated.
- Set clear parameters around part-time work. Make sure that the hours your teenager is working do not impact on their ability to get to school the next day, or interfere with school assessment expectations or exam preparation.
- Familiarise yourself with the school’s attendance policy. This can help when trying to reason with teenagers.
- Monitor your teenager’s attendance and school performance. Periodically check with their teachers to find out how things are going. If you find it difficult to contact several different teachers by phone, try email. Alternatively, the year level coordinator may be a helpful point of contact in relation to specific issues.
- Ask your teenager’s school about what types of flexible or blended learning options they offer.

Remember

You can talk with school staff (such as a teacher, year level coordinator, wellbeing staff, careers staff, assistant principal or principal) to find out what support they can provide to help your teenager attend and engage.

USEFUL WEBSITES/CONTACTS

www.growchildren.net.au
www.healthsafe.org.au
www.education.vic.edu.au
www.youthdirect.org.au
www.youthline.org.au or phone 1800 05 1800, 24 hours a day, 7 days

Everyday Counts

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term - that's four weeks of school per year.

Every Day Counts
Secondary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing, and reading.

Getting in early
It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Absenteeism that is escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
A MMADD DAY IN THE LIFE ON AN MSJ STUDENT...

6:40 a.m.
The smell of hairspray filling up the room as you plaster on the tackiest purple eye shadow you could find in Priceline. Ripping extra holes in your tights, lacing up your Docs. Painting on some ridiculous lipstick, teasing your hair a little more. In the mirror, your reflection resembles the cover of a Vogue magazine from the 1980s.

7:30 a.m.
Running for the bus trying to ignore the strange looks from your fellow commuters.

8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.
As you sit in the Gym, eagerly waiting for the day to begin, the crowd emits a purr of excitement. The welcomes begin on the stage and cheers erupt all around you. The day quickly becomes a blur. The thrilling sensation of Japanese drumming act, Wasaiko Rindo’s, synchronized pounding on their instruments, vibrations rippling through the hall. The amusement of 80s themed workshops: Hair and makeup, dancing, cooking. Lunch with friends sharing stories from their favourite workshops, the suspense grows as you all eagerly attempt to predict the winner of the House performances.

1:30 p.m.
Back in the hall, the teachers’ performances leaving you and your peers in stitches. The 80’s inspired House performances; Dirty Dancing, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, The Breakfast Club, FootLoose, evoking your sense of House pride. House shout off, straining your vocal chords. Drum roll… and the winner is…Kincumber, taking the prize with their interpretation of Dirty Dancing. The crowd erupts again.

3:15 p.m.
The Bell rings and just like that, the day is over.

4:00 p.m.
Peeling off your leather boots and wiping away the layers of purple eye shadow, you’re left fulfilled and excited to see what MMADD Day next year has in store.

Zoe Burdock
12 Joseph

Many vibrant and interesting characters turned up to our 80s themed MMADD Day.

The girls participated in a range of workshops based around Media, Music, Arts, Drama and Dance.

"Living in harmony with nature and God"
SOSJ PILGRIMAGE STOPS AT MSJ...

On Tuesday the 26th of May, thirty-three Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart came and visited our school on their pilgrimage in celebration of 125 years of the Sisters in Victoria. The Sisters arrived at 12pm and were greeted with tea and coffee, they were very appreciative and were eager to share memories and take a further look at our wonderful school.

Ms Dillon warmly welcomed the Sisters before we began our prayer. As is tradition at MSJ the prayer began with the Acknowledgement of Country, which reminded a few of the Sisters about their time and great works in Indigenous communities. After prayer we enjoyed a delicious lunch. Over lunch we shared stories and memories, looking over photos that the Year 8 girls and the Sisters had brought along.

Many of the students were amazed at the works that the sisters were involved in and the Sisters were equally amazed at how times have changed. An example of this was when some students shared their special memory or photos using their mobile phone while the Sisters had hard copies of their photos.

After lunch the Sisters were grouped with two Year 8 students and were taken on a tour of our school. They visited the Chapel, Music Room, Drama Room, MMC, Oval, Year 7 Hub and walked through the Art corridors and the Science labs. They were amazed by how much the school has changed since their last visit. Some were even recalling where buildings used to be!

We took some group photos that the school will treasure as a memory of this great day. The Sisters had a great time and left with a huge smile on their faces… as did we. We are thankful to have been apart of the day and give thanks for 125 years of the Sisters service in Victoria.

Olivia Vella 8 Veronica 8 Therese

CONGRATULATIONS...

Emilie Washington (9V) recently had a major achievement in her life. During May, the Victorian Scout Commissioner presented her with the Australian Scout Medallion, at a Ceremony along with other Scouts from across Victoria.

This is the highest achievement for a scout (and is the equivalent of the next age group, Venturer, achieving the Queen Scout Award). Emilie was the first Scout from the First Point Cook Scout Troop to ever achieve this award and it took her just over 2 years to complete all of the requirements.

Emilie has recently transitioned from Scouts up to Venturers and has now set herself a new goal of achieving the Queen Scout Award.

We are all very proud of this achievement and wish Emilie the best of luck with all of her future Venturer adventures.
SCSA BADMINTON...

On Monday the 5th of May, the MSJ Badminton team made their way to MSAC with high hopes and a competitive spirits.

While all teams performed extremely well, we missed out on placing in the top 2 teams to progress to the finals. We all learnt so much about the sport and we had an absolute ball.

Thank you to all the teachers who gave their time to take us to the competition. My sister Mia and I appreciated the opportunity to help out with teaching the other students some Badminton skills and pointers for the day.

Gemma Srijan
8 Francis

SCSA ATHLETICS SUCCESS...

What an amazing day for MSJ!

On Friday the 8th of May, nearly 85 students competed in the annual SCSA Athletics at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park. The typically Melbourne weather saw our girls competing in various conditions, but it did not stop them striving to win.

The atmosphere from our school was amazing - the enthusiasm, support and consistent cheering for our school was sure to be a factor in our success, with many of our girls earning a placing in their events.

It was an exceptional effort by our athletes whose individual and team efforts scored points that led MSJ to an overall placing of 2nd. In their separate divisions, our Junior and our Intermediate teams each placed 2nd while our Senior team placed 1st.

Congratulations to all the girls who participated and especially to the Senior girls for winning their division.

Special thanks goes to Mrs O’Brien and the PE Department for making this event such a huge success!

Jennie Dao (12J)
Sports Leader
SCSA BASKETBALL...

As Michael Jordan once said, “Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game”. This is exactly what we did at the SCSA Basketball Competition earlier this week.

All teams came out strong showing their skills and team-work abilities. The Junior and Intermediate teams both came away with various wins throughout the day while our Senior team represented MSJ in the grand final. Although the end result of the final was not in their favour, they did MSJ proud with their sheer determination and sportsmanship.

Ultimately the day was a BALL of fun, displaying our players basketball abilities and joy for the game.

Izabella Zerafa    Arlie Den Ouden
12 Therese         12 Anne

HEADED TO THE STATE FINALS...

This year MSJ entered 3 teams into the Schoolaerobics Championships. The girls spent many lunchtimes rehearsing their routines before travelling to Geelong on Sunday the 17th of May to perform in front of the judges.

Looking the part in their leotards, MSJ Elite competed first to loud cheering from the crowd. A more experienced MSJ Adrenaline competed second and we finished up with MSJ Platinum.

All the teams looked fantastic on stage and were rewarded by the judges. We placed 1st, 6th and 8th out of the 18 teams in our division and all 3 teams have progressed to the State Finals to be held on June 7th.

Ms Natalie O’Brien & Ms Wendy Hawkins
Aerobics Coaches
**NOTICE BOARD**

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS**

**PH: 8398 2000**

Payment of fees can be made at the office from 8.00 am - 4.30 pm, Monday – Friday.

For any enquiries regarding the school accounts, please contact Administration.

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**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.

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**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
- Friday 1pm - 2pm

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**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.

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**STAY IN TOUCH...**

Follow Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and keep in touch with all the latest news and events.

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"Living in harmony with nature and God"
Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

**How to Apply**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**Closing Date**

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

CSEF Application Form

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

Foster parent* OR Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Child’s surname</th>
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<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (the department) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• the department will use information I have provided to the DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to the DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid unless I withdraw it by contacting the school or the department.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from the department and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Some personal information may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of evaluation and monitoring of concession card services.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant Date / /
CSEF eligibility

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 - Eligibility
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

• on the first day of Term two, or;
• on the first day of Term three;
1. Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
2. Be a temporary foster parent, and;
3. Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term two (13 April 2015) or term three (13 July 2015).

Payment amounts
CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

How to complete the application form
NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your Centrelink card - unless you are claiming as a Foster Parent or Veterans Affairs Pensioner. You will also need to provide your Centrelink card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, tick the appropriate box. In this case, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
   The CSEF payment is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
   - enter SURNAME AND FIRST NAMES in full.
   - enter the DATE OF BIRTH e.g. 15/09/2008.
   - enter the YEAR LEVEL, unless the student is ungraded, e.g. attending a Special School or language Centre, then enter ‘UNGRADED’ in the YEAR LEVEL column.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

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