2016 Principal...
As I mentioned in my email to all staff, students and families earlier this term, regarding my move into a new position at Catholic Education Melbourne, the opportunity to serve the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart as Principal of Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College is a deep honour and privilege and one which I have no doubt will draw expressions of interest from many strong Catholic education leaders. In order to inform the Sisters and interview panel, about the priorities of the College into the future, all staff, students and parents will receive an email with a link to a survey with four questions asking for your insights about the leadership qualities and school priorities of which those involved in appointing the next Principal should be mindful. It would be most appreciated and beneficial for all in our school community if that survey has a high participation rate. It should take no more than 15 minutes and we thank you in advance for your time.

JJAMM Week...
August is always a month of great celebration at MSJ as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and spend a week focussing in prayer and activity on the invitations extended to us through the faith filled lives of Mary, Julian Tenison Woods and St Joseph. This is affectionately known in many of the 35 Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools (AJJASS) across Australia and New Zealand as JJAMM week and is a wonderful celebration of our Catholic identity as expressed through the Josephite charism. This year, we were particularly proud of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and the inspiration they have provided and we extended our congratulations in this year which marks the 125th anniversary of their arrival in Victoria. In the pages ahead you will find photos and reports of the liturgies, student activities, social justice ventures and fund raising for the Mary MacKillop Foundation that accompanied our 2015 JJAMM week. Congratulations to all staff and students involved.

Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews...
We are looking forward to the opportunity to engage in conversations between parents, students and teachers at the interviews next week. All parents and carers are encouraged to attend to learn more about the learning growth, achievements and consider collaborative goals for future learning. These conversations ensure we are all on the same page about how to best support learning success and what that success will look like once achieved. We look forward to seeing you here on Monday and Thursday evening next week.

COMING EVENTS...

**Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for the following dates and times:**

**Monday August 17th**
- 4.00pm to 8.00pm

**Thursday August 20th**
- 2.00pm to 8.00pm

**As part of staff professional development in student wellbeing, two half days have been scheduled to allow professional learning to be undertaken. Students will finish at 1.00pm on Monday 31st August, Week 8.**
Our celebration of JJAMM (Joseph, Julian and Mary MacKillop) saw many MSJ girls taking part in a variety of different activities throughout the past week. It provided a great opportunity for all of us to re-connect with the Josephite story.

Monday: Penola House
Focus: Women’s ministries and domestic violence
Value: Courage
Activity: To raise awareness of domestic violence and the courage it takes for women to stand up against it students wrote their names and messages of support on white paper cut-outs of women.

At lunchtime we were taken back in time to the Penola schoolhouse, where we were greeted by “Mary” and “Julian”, treated to boiled lollies and taught the arts of calligraphy and bonnet making!

Tuesday: Solomon House
Focus: Multiculturalism
Value: Inclusiveness
Activity: Together we created a world map that demonstrated the broad range of cultures in our MSJ community highlighting the multiculturalism in our school and in society.

At lunchtime, we watched a play about a young privileged boy who was to be enrolled at Penola schoolhouse. Mary ensured this young boy was not treated differently to any other students, demonstrating an inclusive attitude. After the show, it was time for staff and students to battle it out in the annual JJAMM Doughnut Eating Competition.

Wednesday: Kincumber House
Focus: Josephite Ministries
Value: Dignity
Activity: Students signed a card to thank the Josephite sisters of Victoria and show appreciation for their 125 years of service.

Lunchtime was spent playing old school games, such as marbles, skipping, and hop scotch, to recreate life in Kincumber in the early 1900s.

Thursday: McCormack, House
Focus: Countries in need of assistance.
Value: Compassion
Activity: A world map was used to clearly identify and show all the countries that need assistance in our world, raising awareness to the needs of many.

At lunchtime we gathered together to watch a re-enactment of Sr Irene McCormack’s ministry in Peru. There was lots of laughter and fun as students learnt to make friendship bands during the play.

Overall JJAMM Week was a success and it wouldn’t have been possible without the support of, and effort put in by, Ms Fairthorne, Ms Curnow, Ms O’Keefe and Sr Clare!

Brooke Bakaric
12 Catherine

Arlie Den Ouden
12 Anne

Sarah Peart
7 Anne
FOUNDER’S DAY FESTIVITIES

Every year, our JJAMM week ends with a bang as our students and staff gather together to celebrate Mary MacKillop’s Feast Day. It is a great day of celebration as we remember the legacy and life of such a remarkable woman, and are reminded of our call to live in the Josephite spirit.

Our festivities began with a Mass, where we reflected on our College values and their relevance in our lives today. During his homily, Fr John, called on our students to live with courage, compassion, harmony, inclusiveness, dignity, providence and trust. Seven students were given flowers that represented each value. The school will plant these as a continual reminder to all students to live with these values in their daily lives. The Mass also provided the College an opportunity to formally farewell our Seirei visitors.

Following the Mass, students busily prepared for the MSJ Fete. Each Pastoral Group was provided with funds to create a stall with monies raised being donated to the Mary MacKillop Foundation, an organisation that supports small projects and scholarships that transform the lives of the most vulnerable people in Australia. Stalls included nachos, carnival games, discos, reverse raffles, multicultural foods and much, much more!!

The day concluded with our MSJ’s Got Talent final where our young women shared and showcased their many and varied talents from piano, guitar and voice to gymnastics. Students were dismissed to our College song led by the Year 12 students, concluding what was a fantastic day celebrating who we are as a Josephite community and responding to the call of Mary MacKillop to seek all those in need and do what we can to help.
PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS...

One of the forms of reporting used at Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College is the Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews. The interviews provide opportunities for students, parents and teachers to discuss an individual student’s progress and to work together to develop strategies to enhance learning.

Interviews have been scheduled for the following dates and times:
- Monday August 17th - 4.00pm to 8.00pm
- Thursday August 20th - 2.00pm to 8.00pm

Here are some tips for getting the most out of parent-teacher interviews:

Before the interview:
- Go through your daughter’s report and work out which areas you have questions about.
- Ask your daughter if there are any questions she would like you to ask or if there are any areas or subjects she feels that she would like more help in.

During the interview:
- Ask for more information on what is expected for homework and assignments. Find out how much time your daughter should be spending on her homework.

After the interview:
- Talk with your daughter about what you discussed with her teacher and how you can work together to improve her learning.

EXAM PREPARATION...

Our current Year 12 students are now approaching the end of their course and are preparing for the intense revision that lies ahead of them. The period between now and when they receive their results is a crucial time that needs to be managed.

This management includes planning for study by creating a timetable. This should begin with the Term 3 break and continue through into the examination period.

Students should not panic about the upcoming examinations. At home, students need to have a harmonious study environment and the whole family can assist with this. Students should focus on achieving their personal best. Students should commit to the VCE course they have selected and prepare as best they can for the final examinations. There is always something more to read or to learn to do.

Year 12 VCE studies have written exams that are externally set and marked and form a major contribution towards the final result in each subject. All students undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 study need to be familiar with the experience, expectations and conditions required in formal exams.

The Trial Exam period is
- Thursday, September 24 – Wednesday, October 30

Students who have exams will attend at the scheduled time in school uniform.

Joanna De Bono
Deputy Principal - Learning & Staff

PISA ASSESSMENT...

Earlier this year Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College was randomly selected to participate in the International PISA study. The study covers all OECD countries and supplies important information to our government on the state of education in 2015.

Twenty girls from the College have been randomly selected to participate in the assessment. If your daughter has been selected you would have received an information pack last week. The assessments will be conducted on the 12th and 13th August and those students selected will be withdrawn from class during the relevant times. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact Mr Matthew Smith at the College.

STUDENT RECALL...

Last Semester, the College introduced Student Recall as a means to allow students to redeem undesirable results. This Semester, Student Recall is ongoing.

Students assigned a recall will receive a written notice form their homeroom teacher. The recall session is set for each Thursday afternoon (3:20 to 4:35 Pm) and is conducted in the Year 7 Hub. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact Mr. Matthew Smith at the College.

SEMESTER TWO INTERIM REPORTS...

There are four reporting stages throughout the year that provide comprehensive reports to students about their achievement and progress including an indication of areas for improvement. There are two Interim Reports and two Semester Reports.

The Semester 2 Interim Reports on your daughter’s progress will be available via our MSJ Parent Portal from Friday 7 August at 4:00pm. These reports provide feedback on progress that has been achieved in the following areas: Learning Progress, Meets deadlines, Home study, Use of class time, Punctuality to class, Brings required items to class and Seeks assistance when required.

Comments are not required for these reports. After reading your daughter’s Interim Report on her learning progress, if you have any concerns, please contact your daughter’s Pastoral Group teacher or Subject teacher via email or book an interview.

The Semester 2 Interim Reports on your daughter’s progress will be available via our MSJ Parent Portal from Friday 7 August at 4:00pm. These reports provide feedback on progress that has been achieved in the following areas: Learning Progress, Meets deadlines, Home study, Use of class time, Punctuality to class, Brings required items to class and Seeks assistance when required.

Comments are not required for these reports. After reading your daughter’s Interim Report on her learning progress, if you have any concerns, please contact your daughter’s Pastoral Group teacher or Subject teacher via email or book an interview.

To access the Parent Portal, login with your personalised username and password. This was mailed to you at the beginning of the school year.

For assistance with your password or software, please call MSJ IT Help Desk on 8398 2000 or email Helpdesk@msj.vic.edu.au with your contact details and we will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours.

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
FINDING OUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

On Tuesday the 14th of July, the Year 12 girls were lucky enough to visit Victoria University in Footscray and take part in the Tertiary Information Service (TIS) presentation. Representatives from all of Victoria’s leading universities, TAFEs and several independent colleges, came to educate and inform us on vital information regarding post-secondary study options.

We were presented with information on the application processes for different tertiary institutions, our options and how we go about choosing our future paths. We were also provided an outline of all the important dates, such as university open days and ATAR results day, that we need to be aware of. Following the presentation, we moved to the Victoria University gymnasium where all students were encouraged to gather knowledge on a range of institutions, including RMIT, The University of Melbourne and the Academy of Design.

Once we received our complimentary Vic Uni tote bags to fill with course guides, freebies and other educational knowledge, we were set loose to browse all the stalls and educate ourselves on our futures. It was an enlightening experience for all of the senior class and we walked out of Vic Uni with the knowledge of important dates and details and a newly formed confidence about what awaits us after MSJ.

Maselaine Hooley and Neha Narain
12 Anne

CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT GUEST SPEAKER...

On the 17th of July, our Year 8 students were presented data on the effects of human lifestyle on World climate and implications for environmental sustainability.

A parent at the College, Mr Anthony Verhoef, donated his time to make students aware of how Australians use their resources, the effects these are having on long-term climate changes and some options for attempting to remedy the issues that have developed.

The Science Domain is honoured and thanks Mr Verhoef for his valuable presentation that has assisted Year 8 students in the Sustainability Project they are currently undertaking.

Mia Loft
Science Domain Co-Ordinator

Our Year 12 girls attended the Tertiary Information Service Presentation held at Victoria University where they gathered information about their post-secondary study options

MSJ parent, Mr Anthony Verhoef, spoke to the Year 8 girls about how Australians use their resources, the effects on long-term climate change and options for remedying the impacts

“Living in harmony with nature and God”

FAMILY ACCOUNTS...

The Term 3 fees statement was emailed to all families during the holidays.

Please note - 75% of 2015 fees should have been paid by 31 July.

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

Noel Kennedy
Business Manager
ALWAYS APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE...

On Friday the 31st July, the Year 11 VCAL students went on an excursion by train to the Salvation Army. Once we arrived we met Lucinda (a member of the Salvation Army) who took us into a classroom and spoke to us about the homeless in Australia. Lucinda also spoke about what causes homelessness, how we might feel if we became homeless and about the services provided by the Salvation Army.

In the classroom, we took part in two activities. For activity one, we were put in groups of four students and each group was given a different scenario. One of the scenarios was: A son punches his stepfather in the face. We had to write down why this might have happened. Some of the reasons my group came up with were possibly the son had an argument with his stepfather or he might have been upset because he no longer gets to see his real father. It was great to see the different scenarios and ideas that the other groups came up with as well.

For activity two, we had to imagine that we are homeless and we only have $30 dollars to spend for one night. We had to write down what we think the homeless need the most like a place to sleep, a pillow and food. Lucinda mentioned that 56% of the homeless in Australia were males and 44% were females. She also gave us some statistics on where homeless people stay: 39% in “severely” overcrowded dwellings. Lucinda also helped us brainstorm some reasons which can lead to homelessness. Some of these include unemployment, lack of affordable housing, isolation and abandonment, addiction (drug and alcohol abuse) and mental illness.

People treat the homeless differently according to their values and culture. Some people respect and offer help with money and other kind of donations. Other people may be disrespectful and tell them to go and find employment and get off the streets.

The Salvation Army provide lots of services to help the homeless. Some of these include:
1. Meals
2. Accommodation
3. Counselling
4. Clothing

Lucinda also took the class on a short tour around Melbourne to show us where homeless people sleep. I’d describe the alleyway as a dark, dirty and cold area. As we kept walking we also saw some homeless people sitting on the streets. We also went to the Treasury Garden that are very nice and clean looking gardens where some homeless people also sleep at night. In the Garden, there was a bricked toilet block. Lucinda said the homeless jump the locked gate at night to find a dry and safe place. There is a sink and a hand dryer so that they can keep warm and stay dry for the night.

On behalf of all the Year 11 VCAL students, we would like to thank Mrs Cassar for organising this great excursion. We have learnt lots of things about the homeless and certainly what it means to be homeless! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Stafrace and Mrs Azzopardi for coming with us and helping us throughout the day.

“Always appreciate what you have. There is always someone out there who wishes that they had what you have.”

Cassie Assaad
11 Anne
GREAT NEWS FROM L.O.T.E....

The LOTE Domain wishes to congratulate all the students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 for the effort that they put into the recent Berthe Mouchette poetry recital competition.

We also wish to acknowledge the outstanding results of the following students:

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<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>FINALIST</th>
<th>EXCELLENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Godranah Kyeshni Shiraz Abbas Lily Girvan Bianca Seri</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bianna Mercuri Aisha Ali Aimee James Carlina Soto</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ciara Muscat Neena Argo Hishita Kakkar Valentina Stojanoska</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Penelope Parker Madison Baker Hong Lam Alyssa Stuart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ta Stewart Ajik Bol Michelle Locsin Abbey Tyrell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grace Bosnar Leah MacGavin Naomia Vrooch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Renee Cuson Martina Minutil Alkyra Tien Ngoc Vu</td>
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<td>Georgina Drummond Maya Pedretti</td>
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<td>Sogand Ghassanad Jayde Pender</td>
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<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Mada Aldeeb Masa Aldeeb</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ruby Tennant Sujita Chinta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Dhriti Modi Kelly Koutsoukos Nikola Separovic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Nevins Gwendolen Lynch Zoe Unsworth</td>
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<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Greta Dowell Akon Bol</td>
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<td>Emily Hovenden Eleanore Hunter</td>
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Given the number of participants throughout the State, we are immensely proud of them.

Here are some figures for the 2015 competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>NO. OF FINALISTS</th>
<th>NO. OF TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>3163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>2743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>1640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The finalists (those who were awarded a score of 20/20), will now proceed to the second round of the competition in early August.

We wish them continued success.

Angelina Di Loro-Hubble
Teacher

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION......

Every year the College participates in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) organised by the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers. The competition is designed to test the mathematical proficiency of each entrant in regards to their knowledge and skills with arithmetic, mathematical reasoning, spatial recognition and problem solving.

Since its inception, the competition has spread to schools in the Pacific and South East Asia. About 60 students from the College participated in this year’s competition, that was held on Friday, July 31. We hope that participation in this competition has inspired a greater level of interest in the realm of mathematics amongst our students.

Anil Krishna
Maths Domain Co-Ordinator

Lisa (7A), See-Yin (10J) and Chelsea (10F) were amongst the 60 MSJ students who participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition
Kincumber Term - The Value of Dignity...

“With dignity we stand tall”

Term 3 at Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College celebrates the story of Kincumber, a small town on the central coast of New South Wales where the Sisters’ of St. Joseph established a home for orphaned boys from 1887 until 1966. As we remember this story throughout Term 3, we focus on the value of Dignity.

Mary and the sisters provided support to the boys by teaching them skills so that they would grow up with the ability to find work in the country. In 1905 until the 1960s, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the boys from the home manned the local wharf area and ferry service.

Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph brought the message of human dignity to all who they encountered. Mary held in reverence each person about whom she spoke even those who had caused her great pain. As we reflect on the story of Kincumber, we hope that Mary MacKillop may inspire our students to open their hearts to all they encounter.

Lord and giver of all life,
help us to value each person,
created in love by you.

In your mercy guide and assist our efforts
to promote dignity and value of all human life,
born and unborn.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Danielle Fairthorne
Director of Catholic Identity

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST MARY’S ALTONA...

On the second Sunday of every month, a group of young musicians accompanied by Ms Hills and Ms Fichera, provide the music for Sunday 10.30am Mass at St Mary’s Parish, Altona.

This is a positive experience for all. The students are given the opportunity to perform, gain experience within the music ministry field and advance on their musicianship skills. On a spiritual level, it gives each student the chance to become closer to their faith as they share their gifts with the community. The accomplishment we feel when leaving after a morning of filling the church with music is beyond words. Being able to serve the community in such a positive way is extremely fulfilling.

We all look forward to the next Sunday Mass, and we only hope to improve our routine and to involve more students for both ourselves as musicians, and the community.

Paris Evans
11 Francis

Giulia (11V) and Paris (11F) leading them music at the 10.30am Mass at St Mary’s Altona

Term 3 at MSJ celebrates the story of Kincumber and the value of Dignity

ANNUAL MUSIC NIGHT

Our Annual Music Night is fast approaching.
This wonderful evening will showcase the musical talents of our students.

7pm
Wednesday 9th September
Mary MacKillop Centre

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
ONE YEAR TO GO TO WYD 2016...

On Sunday 5th July, we attended the ‘World Youth Day Festiwal’ which marked the beginning of our year long pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016. We had a wonderful experience where we got to meet other pilgrims, taste Polish food and see some Polish dancing. Next year we will be travelling to Krakow, Poland to attend World Youth Day 2016.

The day began with a Mass led by Bishop Mark Edwards. During the Mass we were able to reflect and become inspired by the readings and Gospels. We were able to envision what the Masses at WYD will be like. Through the Gospels and reading, we were able to picture ourselves in Poland attending the masses in the morning.

After the Mass, we made our way to the centre of the festival where we were able to taste Polish dumplings that came in three different flavours. Each were very delicious and took our tastebuds to Poland. While enjoying the flavours of Poland, we wandered around the foyer of Festival Hall where a couple of stalls were set up for us to gain more knowledge about the different pilgrimages available. As we wandered around looking at the stalls, we met other pilgrims who would be joining us on our pilgrimage. We became more familiar with our itinerary for the trip. We also found that our pilgrimage was going to be full of retreats, monument seeing, festivities and Masses. The ‘Festiwal’ also included singing from Fr Rob Galea and Polish dancing! It was an incredibly enjoyable day and we are very excited to begin our journey to World Youth Day 2016!

Celine Lopez  Alexandra Hosking
10 Veronica  10 Therese

YOUTH IN ACTION...

In Youth in Action, we spend our time trying to plan events that are coming up and find ways to improve the College’s Catholic identity. I have been a part of Youth in Action since the end of last year. It is held in the Chapel on Fridays. When I first joined I thought it was a great activity to do with my friends, but Youth in Action has proved to be much more than that. During the time I have spent in Youth in Action, I have been able to meet girls with bright ideas that contribute to our school.

A highlight of Youth in Action this year was the Paschal Way of Light. Once a week we would try to plan something for our station. The result was a success because we got to incorporate all our ideas.

Youth in Action is different each week. Some days we get to do activities like making rosary beads and sometimes we try something new, like finishing with some yoga poses. On other days we will be planning events and trying to brainstorm ideas. We always have time to reflect on the week we have had.

Youth in Action has given me a great opportunity to engage with girls from other year levels and be involved with the Catholic events held in the MSJ community.

Nithya Nettar
9 Therese

“Living in harmony with nature and God”

The MSJ Youth In Action group spends time each Friday planning events, such as the Paschal Way of Light, and participating in different activities with the aim of improving the College’s Catholic Identity
FRIENDS AT FLORENCE AGED CARE...

The Year nine students at MSJ have been given the privilege to take turns in visiting Florence Aged Care, one of the most well known aged care centres in Altona. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to really connect with the elderly in our local area and truly be able to help entertain, care and learn from them during the hour we spend with them.

We played a very enthusiastic and sophisticated game of bingo with the elderly receiving prizes and praises for doing well in the game! We enjoyed the conversations and laughs that were associated with the experiences. It soon became tea time (a well anticipated and deserved break) and although this meant it was close to our departure, that didn’t stop the grins appearing on our faces! It is safe to say that it was a great and exciting experience that many of us would take part in again.

Mary Raffoul
9 Catherine

This year, several students from each Year 9 class were able to visit Florence Aged Care; having a chance to interact with the elderly residents and help them enjoy themselves in their home together.

The experience was uplifting. We had the opportunity to understand and know the personalities of many of the residents there. We met some really unique people and felt really honoured to have the possibility to make many of them laugh and smile. During the game of bingo we entertained ourselves with, many received chips or chocolate for their good wins!

I’m sure the girls I went with had a fantastic time and would love to visit again. As well as Miss Snooks who accompanied us, each of us had humorous and lovely conversations with the carers and elders at Florence Aged Care.

Sarah Boutros
9 Catherine

WHY I LIKE GIVING TO OTHERS...

I chose to participate in the Edmund Rice Tutoring programme at Sunshine Harvester Primary School because I thought it would be a great experience and it was! It is a great feeling to know that you can help people, and the 5 of us who participated all thoroughly enjoyed it!

We were rostered on for Wednesday nights for 5 weeks and the tutoring went until 5pm. When we arrived at the school, the students we were tutoring had story time to extend their vocabulary. Following story time, the primary students then worked with high school students to complete their workbooks. It felt like the tutoring time was over in 5 minutes because it was so much fun.

I would definitely recommend it to anybody. It was a worthwhile experience and I am definitely going to do it again!

Lucy Hiatt
11 Therese

A HELPING HAND AT OZANAM HOUSE...

Situated in the heart of North Melbourne is one building that caters for hundreds of homeless men around Melbourne. On the 17th of July, Courtney, Nicole and I, accompanied by Ms Thomas headed off to Ozanam House as a part of the many social justice experiences MSJ has to offer.

Since 1953, Ozanam House has provided comprehensive and tailored assistance to people with multiple complex needs, particularly men of Melbourne. The groups of volunteers at Ozanam House have developed numerous services including accommodation, catering, counseling, and legal assistance.

Unaware of what to expect we were prepared to give the experience our all and lend others a helping hand. On arrival we were given a tour of the building and had a talk with staff about the type of crises some homeless men have experienced such as drug and alcohol addiction, mental health, violence and financial struggles.

It hit 12 o’clock which meant lunch was to be served! The doors opened and waves of people walked through as we served hot gourmet food. As a team and with the help of the kitchen staff on site, we worked together to make sure everyone was provided with a meal, enjoyed socialising and walked away with a smile on their faces. Potato scallop was the favourite followed by the Magnum ice cream served as dessert. Once everyone had finished, it was time to clean and head off back to school.

Ozanam house was an extremely insightful and rewarding experience to have been a part of! It was incredible to see how many people take time to volunteer and help the many citizens who struggle with simple things like ‘a meal on a plate’. Whilst it was a little intimidating at the start, it allowed us to see just how fortunate we are to have basic needs but also how important it is as human beings to lend a helping hand.

Margaret Raffoul
11 Veronica

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS...
This term we welcomed four new students to the College Melrose Zaldarriaga to 10 Therese, Ash Hoy to 9 Anne, Alisha Ukunde to 8 Francis and Anika Singh to 7 Therese. We are certain these students will enjoy the hospitality and welcoming atmosphere of Mount St Joseph Girls’ College.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES WITH THE HUMILITY OF MARY MACKILLOP...
Mary MacKillop wrote to her Sisters about the need for true humility as opposed to false humility. To Mary MacKillop, true humility was the desire to serve God and to serve one another. Mary argued that each member of the community is to respect the needs of one another; to celebrate their gifts and the contributions that they make. Her notion of false humility was one that was boastful and self-deprecating and one that focused on the negatives of others in the community.

Mary MacKillop’s language of humility resonates strongly for us as we work with our young women and guide them in their faith, learning and wellbeing. We are reminded of the need to hear each another’s story and to listen deeply and patiently to those stories. In writing to Father Woods, Mary “was concerned with true humility as an inner disposition that was free from any illusions about self importance, grounded in reality and an acceptance of truth about oneself and others. . . . Humility or freedom from self distortion is the fertile soil that ensures other virtues will take root and grow . . . so leave a person free to love and serve God and others wholeheartedly.”

As we begin a new term, it is a good opportunity to think about how we model and live a life of humility and justice.

BUS ROUTES...
At the end of last term the bus routes to the College were further improved, with the addition of 2 new routes; one to and from Point Cook and the other to and from Tarneit.

Route 1217
Departs from the Bus Stop near the Corner of Derrimut Road/ Leakes Road in Derrimut Rd. Continues onto Hogans Road, Morris Road, Andrew Rd, Taronga Rd, West Meadows Lane, Marquands Rd, Sayers Road, Old Geelong Road, Bladin Street, Maher Rd, Railway Ave, Merton Street, Hall Ave, Victoria St, Queens Street, Maidstone Street to MSJ.

Route 1215
Departs Sanctuary Lakes Shopping Centre, Point Cook Road, Seabrook Blvd, Point Cook Road, Central Ave, Merton Street, Petre Ave, Newham Way, Macneil, Henry Drive, Spicer Blvd, May Ave, Merton St, Victoria St Everingham Drv, Queen St, Maidstone Street to MSJ.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING...
On Monday July 20th, the students were dismissed at 1.00pm enabling the staff to participate in a half-day workshop focussing on student wellbeing. The Wellbeing Team prepared an afternoon where we explored mental health and anxiety in young people.

In order to provide a learning culture that promotes high expectations we need to understand our learners and acknowledge their stories. This workshop involved a panel of people who explored the effects of mental health on their lives. We invited two parents to share their experiences of mental health and anxiety from their perspectives as carers. We also invited two people to discuss their experiences of mental health, a current Year 9 student and author of ‘The Good Greek Girl,’ and ambassador for Beyondblue, Maria Katsonis

MALE MENTORS’ BREAKFAST...
The Annual Male Mentor Breakfast will be held on September 4th beginning at 7.30am. Please pencil this date in your diary. We invite all male mentors to attend this breakfast with their daughter or young woman they nurture and care for. Please see the flyer for further details.

Steven Mifsud
Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
On Friday the 31st of July, John Maher came to speak to the Year 10 girls about a serious issue that is affecting our world today – road safety and fatigue. Today, fatigue is one of the biggest killers on our roads.

John spoke of the extraordinary events that have occurred in his life that included himself being involved in a serious car accident at the age of 42. In this accident, John was seriously injured and the driver of the other vehicle, Emma, aged 18, was killed. John spoke about how a car crash is not just a car crash and how his accident changed his life and the lives of his family forever.

John and his family experienced many struggles and bumps after his accident but the biggest challenge of all was when their youngest daughter, Carmen, aged 18, was later killed in a horrific car accident. John told his story to us, and it was very informative and emotional. He mentioned all the issues and struggles that his family faced after Carmen’s accident and the impact that it had on all of their lives. His important message to us was to never, ever drive if you are feeling tired, drowsy or fatigued and to play it safe when on the road.

For more information on John, Carmen’s story and his inspirational presentations, you can follow them on Facebook; Carmen’s - Road Safety Presentations.

Olivia Jones
10 Catherine
STATE REPRESENTATION IN CALISTHENICS...

On Tuesday 7th of July, our Victorian Calisthenics State team left early in the morning to go to Queensland for the 27th National Calisthenic Championships. When we arrived we went to our accommodation and began practicing.

The next day we got up early and went to the Arts Centre, Gold Coast as we had stage practice to familiarise ourselves with the stage and know what it would feel like on competition day. On Thursday we got up early for the Opening Ceremony where they introduced all the states that were competing and then went straight to practice. Once practice had finished (around 1pm) we all went to get spray tans and then went to watch and support our teammates. The Victorian team had a successful day with a 2nd place in the Graceful Solo, and 5th and 1st placings in the Physie Solo, along with 5th and 4th placings in the Inters Duo - we were really happy with how the girls performed and were very excited for them.

The next day the Subbies and Juniors were on so we got up early and made a tunnel for them and when they came through. We sang the Victorian song and we wished them good luck. We then headed off for our last day of practice. After this, we watched some of the teams on our TV and found out that Victoria had won in the Subbies and Juniors. We all jumped up in excitement and some of us even started crying because we were so happy for them. After that the Seniors Graceful and Physie solos were on and the results for Victoria were 5th, 3rd and 1st in the Graceful and 5th and 1st in the Physie – a great effort.

We woke up the next day feeling very nervous but also excited. I got into my Victorian uniform and then we all got our make-up done. The Juniors and Subbies had made a tunnel for us to go under and they sang the Victorian song. We had 6 items to do for the whole day and we got a lot of good feedback from the people watching in the audience. After our last item we went onto the stage and waited nervously for our number to be called out. We ended up coming 3rd and we were very happy. We all got a big bronze medal and went outside to see our family and get photos taken. We made friends with the Western Australia team, who were really nice.

After our competition we went to Dreamworld as a treat and we had lots of fun. The next day was very emotional as we had to say goodbye to new and old friends. Overall, it was a great experience and I am very lucky to have been a part of it.

Sommer Hann
9 Francis

WATER POLO WONDER...

Congratulations to Ashleigh Zibell (8J) on her selection for the Victorian U14 State Water Polo team and participation in the East Coast Challenge in Brisbane during the Term 2 school holidays.

Ashleigh was also invited to join Water Polo Victoria’s Athlete Development Program last year and spends many, often early, hours training.

We wish Ashleigh the best of luck in her future water polo endeavours, especially the upcoming U16 Nationals in Perth this September.

Sommer Hann
9 Francis
20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND PEACE...

On Monday 27th July MSJ celebrated our 20 Year partnership and Peace Programme with Seirei High School, Japan. It was pleasing to have so many past and present MSJ host families, host sisters, staff who have set up and maintained the programme and MSJ exchange students come along to celebrate with current students and teachers from both Seirei and MSJ.

Many great stories were shared as memorable moments flooded back while looking through photos that captured the 20-year partnership.

We would like to thank all that attended and we look forward to celebrating the next stage in this cultural, peace and educational program that sees two countries from across the world come together in the name of humanity.

Stacey Bourke
Director Student Wellbeing

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY...

At MSJ we have students from 44 different cultural backgrounds, so we are quite a diverse school. The Year 12 VCAL girls wanted to celebrate this by each bringing a meal from our own cultural backgrounds and sharing it with the Year 7 students.

We undertook many class meetings to organise the Multicultural Lunch. At each meeting there was a minute taker, chairperson and organiser. We discussed a number of things such as what day would be best, exactly who should be involved, allergies to consider and creating a recipe booklet of the meals and treats from a variety of cultural backgrounds - this book will be available for sale soon!

We decided that Friday lunchtime would be a great time to share this lunch together. We worked hard on promoting and communicating this event by visiting the Year 7 pastoral classes, creating posters and posting a notice in the school bulletin. We planned and organised the day really well and worked out everything that had to happen so that we were ready for the lunch.

Overall it was a really good outcome, there was plenty of food brought by all and everyone had the chance to talk to each other about their own cultural background, try foods they may have never tasted before and enjoy favourite foods from their own cultures!

Harmony Rush 12 Joseph
Brooke Aquilina 12 Anne

Mr Sugiura, Michael Donnelly, and Ms Dillon cut the cake in celebration of the 20-Year partnership and Peace Programme between MSJ and Seirei High School, Japan.

Many host families, host sisters, past and present staff and students joined our guests from Seirei in celebrating, and reminiscing about what has been a wonderful partnership.

The Year 12 VCAL girls celebrated MSJ’s cultural diversity by organising, and catering for, a Multicultural Lunch that they shared with the Year 7 girls.

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
HELPING OUT AT SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL...

The last day of July proved to be a wonderful, sunny day, as 22 girls from Years 7 to 10 volunteered to officiate at the Sacred Heart Primary School Athletics Carnival.

The girls were responsible for running the events that, amongst other things, included: recording, measuring distances, lining the winners up, timing, and collecting equipment. It is a wonderful example of the two schools working together and our girls engaging in their local community.

Both Sacred Heart Primary School staff and parents commented on the great work that the MSJ girls performed over the day and the day wouldn’t have run as smoothly without their help.

WINNING AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS...

Steph Kelly (11F) had an outstanding U19 Women’s Lacrosse World Championship representing Australia in Edinburgh, Scotland last week.

Although Australia just missed out to England in a very tight (10-9) Bronze medal semi-final on Saturday Steph, scored 3 goals and 1 assist during the game.

Steph finished the Championships as Australia’s leading point scorer and with an overall tournament ranking of 5th, with a total of 23 points.

Steph was also the leading goal scorer for the Aussies and the 17 goals she scored throughout the tournament put her in the 5th spot on the Championships goals ladder.

Congratulations Steph on your achievements and representing your school, family and country with pride. We wish you continued success.

SCSA FOOTBALL...

On the 23rd of July, the annual thrilling SCSA AFL competition was held at Highett Oval. We had a terrific turnout of MSJ students representing the College in this tough contact sport.

The girls showed lots of skills; tackling, handballing and kicking their way through matches and working together to put points on the scoreboard. Unfortunately our teams did not come away with a placing, even with the Junior Team advancing through to the semi-finals.

Our girls showed determination to win and incredible sportsmanship, and many even made some new friends on the field. Mostly importantly, the MSJ girls had a fun and enjoyable day and this would not have been possible without the help of, Mrs Sofarnos, Mrs Tagell, Mr Meilak and Mr Piazza for supervising and coaching the MSJ girls.

Thank you to the staff and students who attended and the PE department for organising teams to participate. The next SCSA competition is Outdoor Soccer on the 19th of August; hope to see many MSJ girls joining in for another fun-filled day!

Jennie Dao (12J)
Sports Leader

Steph (11F) represented Australia at the U19 Women’s Lacrosse World Championship in Scotland. She finished the tournament placing 5th overall for both points and goals and was Australia’s leading point and goal scorer.

“Living in harmony with nature and God”
The ATAR advantage

Edgar D’Souza

AN INDEPENDENT new study on the “value-add” performance of non-government education shows that Catholic schools add an average of six ATAR points at the career-defining end of a student’s journey.

Executive director of Catholic Education Stephen Elder says Catholic education has always sought to avoid the divisive language of public versus private and seeks to work in partnership with government schools for the betterment of all students.

“However, we would be doing all students a disservice not to look closely at this research for insights into what really makes a difference to student outcomes to improve the overall standard of education,” he said.

Tracking the actual Year 9 NAPLAN and Year 12 VCE results of more than 40,000 Victorian students for the first time, the new research evaluates school sector differences, taking into account socio-economic background and prior achievement to produce a definitive finding.

Mr Elder says the analysis by University of Melbourne researcher Dr Gary Marks shows that a student completing Years 9-12 at a Catholic school will achieve a result on average six ATAR points higher than a comparable student at a government school.

The results follow earlier studies showing Catholic school students perform better at university and have a better chance of higher salaries in the workforce.

Dr Marks says reasons for the differential include higher expectations, better teachers, stronger discipline and a more rigorous curriculum in the latter years of secondary school.

“These findings confirm that Catholic and independent schools add value to student performance. The effects are not trivial,” Dr Marks said.

Article Source: Fairfax Leader Newspapers
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.

NOTICE BOARD

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

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.

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.

GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP WITH JOSEPH SULFARO & THE YPS!
The Young Paulists are hosting a Goal Setting Interactive Workshop with Joseph Sulfaro. Joseph is a qualified Life Coach and his methods and processes will empower you to take those necessary steps that you require, to get where you want to go in life!

Date:
Friday, 21st of August 2015

Time:
7.00pm-10.00pm (Workshop will start 7.30pm sharp and will conclude 9pm)

Location:
The Gym @ St James Parish, 336 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing North

RSVP for catering purposes:
Sunday, 16th of August
via email - yp@stjamesapostlehcn.com.au
or call the St James Parish Office on (03) 9748 6800

This is a free workshop for all adults aged 18 years and over - feel free to bring a friend!
Donations will be collected on the night and all money raised will go towards the sponsorship of education for the mssp Seminarians in the Philippines.

Light refreshments will be served after the workshop and there are prizes/prizes to be won!