Welcome to the 2016 school year.

I particularly extend a warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined the College. I am delighted to be a part of the Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College and am looking forward to working with students, staff and families over the coming years. The beginning of the year has been a hectic but positive start. Students have been engaged and committed to their studies and have been taking advantage of the many extra and co-curricular opportunities that have been made available to them.

Our College theme for the year, ‘Be the Heartbeat of Gods Love’ was launched at our first College assembly on Friday 29th January. Our theme, along with the Year of Mercy and the Sisters’ of St Joseph theme; ‘Listening to the Heartbeat of the World’ will provide us with rich opportunities throughout the year to truly reflect on our faith and who we are called to be.

A Focus on Learning as a Partnership

I would like to thank the parents who attended the College Welcome BBQ and Information Night on Tuesday 9th February. At this evening I spoke about Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College as a faith and learning community and that in partnership we all contribute to the success, development and growth of young women.

This partnership involves students, staff and parents. We all have a role to play. For the students what they need to do is believe in themselves, aim high and work hard. They need to be open to new ideas, develop a growth mindset, don’t say ‘I can’t’ but say ‘I can’t yet’. Aim to always improve and do better.

For teachers it means that they need to know their students, develop a strong relationship with them so they have a clear understanding of how they learn best and the support that they need to achieve. It is imperative that the staff are well informed of best practice and current research about learning and teaching, in order to provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

Parents need to be engaged in their child’s learning, ask questions, provide an area conducive to study and supervise homework and study. At times, you need to say no to activities that will impact on your child’s ability to complete work, homework or study. This may mean saying no to some social events and saying no to requests to stay home from school. It is important that parents attend parent/student/teacher interviews and information sessions that will allow you to work with us and provide worthwhile educational experiences for your daughter.

The College is currently undertaking a curriculum review. We are seeking feedback from students, teachers and parents about the teaching and learning program at MSJ. Over the last two weeks I have held a number of forums with students and they have provided me with invaluable feedback. These responses will support the College in providing and improving the learning experiences for your daughter.

I am now seeking feedback form parents. Below is a link to short survey that gives you the opportunity to provide the College with your thoughts on what we are doing well and what we could do better in the area of teaching and learning. I encourage all parents to take the time to respond to this survey.

Click for survey

I look forward working with all members of the Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College community as we continue to strive to model the faith and values of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Father Julian Tenison Woods and the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Kate Dishon
Principal
YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations on the academic results attained in 2015 by students who undertook VCE, VET and VCAL subjects.

On February 5 we acknowledged the excellence achieved by the 2015 VCE and VCAL graduates. In particular we recognised the students who achieved the Subject Dux awards and the Top 20 ATAR scores along with those who achieved 40 or more in individual study scores.

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

The College Dux for 2015, Elizabeth Seychell, achieved an ATAR score of 98. Elizabeth addressed the College community and reflected on her achievements and efforts and the commitment of all teachers across her time at the College.

Top scoring students in their individual study areas were also acknowledged and a number of these students were in Year 11 in 2015 when they completed a 3/4 unit of VCE study.

As our 2015 Year 12 students start the next exciting chapter of their educational or life journey our thoughts and prayers go with them.

Joanna DeBono
Deputy Principal - Director Of Learning

Year 12 Chemistry Excursion

On Friday the 12th of February, the Year 12 Chemistry class went on an exciting excursion to Melbourne University to enhance their skills in Chromatography and Spectroscopy.

We were taken into the lecture hall and eagerly awaited to learn all we can about the topics before commencing the experiments. All the girls tried their best in answering the questions asked and were not shy to share their answers with the group. There were a range of experiments that different groups carried out. My group found the precise percentage of ethanol in a sample of wine. We were all amazed with the machines that we used and were very interested in how they worked. This excursion gave us an insight into how we use our knowledge of the theory to apply it and find unknown information about different substances.

Tara Bateman, 12 Francis.

Study Buddies

Studying with peers is one of the most effective ways to learn as they have common goals and often common outcomes to achieve. By varying your study routines to include gaining another students perspective or point of view, you are enriching your own learning and pushing your thinking further. Your questions and answers can be discussed in a supportive environment, try out ideas together and seek feedback as a group from your teachers.

Study Buddy Venue: Library Resource Centre
Tuesday 8.00 - 8.30am
Thursday 3.15 - 4.15pm

Maths Help - Wed morning & Friday lunchtime

KnowIT (IT support or advice)
Mon - Fri - lunchtime

All students and teachers welcome.
Be the Heartbeat of God’s Love

Love one another. Bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. 
(Mary MacKillop, Jan 12th, 1909.)

As we begin our school year we turn again to a new College theme to inspire our thoughts and actions. This year our theme, Be the heartbeat of God’s love, combines two key events that are being celebrated in Australia and abroad this year.

Firstly, we recognise and celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that is being celebrated across the Catholic Church in 2016. The motto for the Jubilee year, Merciful like the Father, invites us to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love, compassion and forgiveness instead. In establishing this Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis calls us to contemplate mercy for; “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace”. It is this theme that will guide our community to act, and respond to the world with compassion and love as they strive to Be the heartbeat of God’s love.

This year we celebrate 150 years since the founding of the Sisters’ of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in the small town of Penola, SA. The motto for the Sisters’ year of celebration is ‘Listening to heartbeat of the world. Throughout the year we will join in prayer and celebration with the Sisters’ as we remember and give thanks for their 150 years of service and mission throughout Australia, and the world.

As we reflect on our College theme we also turn to Christ. The key Gospel passage we will reflect on throughout the year comes from the Gospel of Matthew and forms our understanding of the corporal acts of mercy. From this passage we are called to feed the hungry, give food to the poor, clothe the naked, comfort the sick, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned. As we constantly turn to this scripture for support and inspiration this year our community is called to respond with compassion, love and mercy to all, for Christ tells us “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25: 34-40).

May we as the Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College community respond to our college prayer and our college theme in 2016, through our actions and words as we strive to Be the heartbeat of God’s love.

Danielle Fairthorne
Director of Catholic Identity

God,

Your spirit calls us to respond to the mysteries of the world with;

- Love and compassion,
- Peace and justice,
- Mercy and forgiveness,
- Inclusiveness and dignity,
- Virtue and courage,

May the Holy Spirit who shaped the ministry of Jesus Christ, Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods, continue to shape our community in love. May our efforts bring our faith to life as we serve one another.

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

On Friday 19th of February, the Mount St. Joseph’s community joined together to celebrate a wonderful beginning to the 2016 school year with a prayerful mass led by Monsignor Greg Bennet and Fr. Shabin. The mass had a great emphasis on the MSJ Houses as we were able to reflect on the value of each House through the beginning procession and we were also asked to reflect on our school motto this year; “Be the heartbeat of God’s love”.

The mass began with a moving procession of the house banners and their candles as we listened to the story and meaning behind each House. The First Reading and Responsorial Psalms, that then followed, focused on the concept of mercy, forgiveness and turning away from one’s own sin, which supported our understanding of Lent. The homily, by Monsignor Greg Bennet, began with a slow and comical rendition of Adele’s hit song ‘Hello’ and was dedicated to trying to reach God from the other side and trying to be the heartbeat of God’s love through our everyday life. The liturgy was extremely inspiring and motivating as the MSJ girls head into another year of learning, growing and living with compassion.

Alex Hosking, 11 Veronica, Celine Lopez, 11 Therese
JJAMM - Julian, Joseph & Mary MacKillop

As School Captains of 2016, we were blessed with an amazing opportunity to strengthen our leadership, create ties with other Josephite leaders and gather ideas to bring back to MSJ. The annual JJAMM student leaders conference/pilgrimage began at Mary Mackillop Place in Sydney. There, we spent time reinforcing all that we knew about Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Father Julian Tenison Woods and Saint Joseph. We explored the values of JJAMM and what connects us as AJASS (Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools). We took the opportunity to be by Mary Mackillop’s tomb and held a beautiful liturgy in the Memorial Chapel.

From Sydney, the group of student leaders from 25 schools across New Zealand and Australia relocated to Kincumber, where Mary Mackillop opened an orphanage for boys in 1887. It is here at Kincumber, we continued our work, in the beautiful surroundings, collecting and developing ideas on how we can best lead our schools for the year ahead. We developed projects and social justice campaigns as well as a combined Josephite response to the LetThemStay Campaign.

JJAMM 2016 was an amazing journey, for which we are incredibly grateful. We strive to hold on to and share the richness of faith, community and ideas with the MSJ community.

Jessica Wolff and Margaret Raffoul, Yr 12

Year 12 Retreat - The Treasure Within

The year commenced for Year 12s with a three day Retreat, Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd at Rutherford Park, Blampied. The aim of the Retreat is to deepen within the student a better realisation and appreciation of themselves as an individual and to become more aware of and confident in their own personal strengths and abilities. Each student is encouraged to reach out to others and work toward building a stronger sense of community. Students were also able to deepen their faith through personal reflection, prayer, liturgy and celebration of Eucharist.

In the activities, students were encouraged to build trust, communication and awareness of themselves and each other. Through a series of interactive exercises they were able to share their experiences always being respectful of others and their stories.

The theme, “The Treasure Within” focused on their life journey so far, looking into the future and where God will be in their lives as they unlock the treasure within.

Much thanks is extended to the Year 12 PGTs, Ms. Kubacki, Ms Skahill, Miss Anastasi, Mrs Fairthorne, Mr Piazza, Miss Jones and Ms Canavan who along with Miss Bourke, Miss Arnheim, Mrs Sofarnos, Miss Baka, Mr Lavery, Mrs Azzopardi and Mrs Gauci who so willingly gave of their time to support the retreat program and make it such a successful experience.

Here is a snippet form one student’s perspective from “the walk up the mountain”, an analogy of the VCE year, the struggle it will present and the feeling of success at the end.

“Before coming on this retreat I didn’t really know what to expect. I’m sure many of us were feeling nervous, excited and some a little scared, but what we found on the retreat was so special and for me personally, a little life changing.

On our second day we climbed a hill which although didn’t look it from afar, was quite steep and challenging. As we climbed I noticed I could hear words of encouragement coming from everyone and laughter as we all supported one another. As the hill got steeper a few of us had slowed down and had stopped, perhaps in some cases only a few feet from the top. I had given up, I was tired. I was sore and felt like I couldn’t go any further…. but just as I was about to give up completely I heard my name being yelled and as I turned around to see my friends calling out to me, they walked BACK DOWN the hill to come and get me. For me not only was that a highlight of our friendship, but it showed me that even though I had given up and I thought I was only giving up on myself, my friends were there to pick me back up and help me achieve that goal.

Before this retreat, I was scared and quite self conscious but now, I feel much more confident and positive in going forward, with people around to support me.”

“Be The Heartbeat of Gods’ Love”
It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we return to the Mount St Joseph Girls’ College. We in the Wellbeing Team continually admire the honesty, humility and sense of community that is so evident amongst the girls. The students are so energised and excited to be at MSJ. We, in the Wellbeing Team feel privileged to support you and your family as you journey with us and look forward to your continued partnership.

Welcome to our new, year seven families and new and returning families to our Mount St Joseph Girls’ Community. It has been a busy start to the school year, but I have been impressed to see so many young women commit themselves to their study and establishing such positive study skills.

The College theme for 2016, ‘Be the heartbeat of God’s love,’ will provide a framework for all members of our community to continue to develop positive relationships and a deeper awareness of the other. The Josephite values of service and compassion are two core values we will continue to explore through our structured wellbeing program. Each new academic year provides opportunities for students to meet new people and to celebrate our differences and diversity.

Years 7 – 12 Parent Information Night
It was lovely to meet so many families at our recent 7 – 12 Parent Information Night and Welcome Barbeque. The energy and strong sense of community was testament to the partnerships developed here at Mount St Joseph Girls’ College. The format this year enabled all families to meet informally in the Sails Area and then move to the Mackillop Centre and then Year Level Group meetings enabled families and the community to have conversations that were rich and meaningful.

Our wellbeing Team
This year our wellbeing team is ably led and supported by: Ms Morlin (Year 7), Mrs Stafrace (Year 8), Miss Meurant (Year 9), Miss Snooks (Year 10), Mrs Duncan (Year 11), Mrs Kubacki (Year 12), and Ms Bourke as the Director of Student Wellbeing. The Year Level Coordinators are capably supported by hardworking and committed pastoral group teachers.

I would like to formally invite students, mothers, aunts and grandmothers to our International Women’s Day Breakfast to be celebrated at the College on March 8th at 7.45am in the Tenison Woods Learning Centre. More details to follow.

Dr Michael Carr Greg comes to MSJ
As part of our ongoing commitment to work in partnership with our families the Wellbeing Team is hosting a series of parent seminars. Building on the success of the D&M@MSJ, we are hosting a parent workshop that explores anxiety and stress in young women. See the attached flier.

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

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

Parking
Families are to use the Harrington Square Carpark when dropping off and collecting students. Over the past couple of weeks a few families have been parking on Maidstone Street, please note that this is a No Standing Zone, as it can become very easily congested. Parking inspectors will be monitoring the situation. Please do not park over driveways or on people’s nature strip. Late last year we received phone calls from our neighbours in Civic Parade. Again the safest place to collect your daughter at the end of the day is in Harrington Square.

Steven Misfud
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Teacher Contacts
If you were unable to attend our recent Parent Information Night, I encourage you to contact your daughter’s pastoral group teacher and to introduce yourself.

Please follow this link to a list of Pastoral Group Teachers.

Click here

The email address is the first initial followed by the surname of the teacher and then add @msj.vic.edu.au. For example smisfud@msj.vic.edu.au

It is important to utilise your daughter’s pastoral group teacher as the first contact person. Feel free to contact them via email or telephone.
30 Japanese students are coming to MSJ from our sister school Seirei on 24th July for two weeks. We are looking for 30 families to host a Japanese student. If you are interested in becoming a host family for the entire two weeks, please contact Mr. Hayashi by Friday 15th March.

**Japan Trip 2016**

Japan Trip Information Night will be held at 6PM on Wednesday 16th March in the Tenison Woods Learning Centre. All Year 9, 10 and 11 students can apply for this trip. Next year, only Year 9 and 10 students are allowed to participate in this tour. So this is the last chance for Year 11 students to join this trip.

Travel Period: 14th September to 29th September.
Estimated costs: Between $3500 - $4000
If you are interested in this trip, please contact Mr. Hayashi by 15th March.

Email: thayashi@msj.vic.edu.au

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**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 these dot 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 aisles 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 trams are cancelled.

**Myki Cards**

Train Inspectors regularly frequent the train system. I encourage all parents to ensure that your daughter’s Myki ticket has adequate funds as fines are hefty.

Steven Misfud
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing
Pancakes for Project Compassion

On the 9th of February, Shrove Tuesday brought the MSJ community together in solidarity to begin our promotion of social justice for Project Compassion.

Students from all year levels volunteered their time to cook and sell pancakes before and during school, to raise money for Caritas, resulting in a profit of over $260.

Preceding the first day of Lent, Shrove Tuesday is viewed as a day of repentance, allowing us to reflect on how we can form a greater connection with God, and overcome our weaknesses to do penance for our sins. Throughout the six weeks of lent, we will be learning about and praying for the work of Caritas and the individuals and communities supported by their work. Through this year’s Project Compassion theme, “Learning more, creating change”, we will celebrate the power of education, and continue to raise awareness about Caritas’ demonstration of faith and generosity.

Georgia Eastment, Senior Social Justice Leader (Year 12)
Michala Meilak, Junior Social Justice Leader (Year 9)

Run For The Kids - Help Support Olivia

I am doing the Run For the Kids (16.3km) for my 12-year-old brother Alex on the 20th of March 2016.

Alex has Spinal Muscular Atrophy and has been a long-term patient at the Royal Children’s Hospital since he was a baby. Alex is confined to a wheelchair and cannot do things normal 12 year olds can do. Basic tasks that we take for granted are a big effort and are very time consuming for Alex. I have seen first hand what a wonderful job the hospital does not just for him, but also my family. Despite all this, he has a positive attitude and doesn’t let his condition change or affect his bubbly personality. He is an inspiration to us all.

This is a very big challenge I have decided to take on but I believe I can do it while helping raise money for the Royal Children’s Hospital. I have been training for months and look forward to the race.

To donate and support Alex and myself Click here.
All the support is much appreciated

Olivia Gatt 10 Veronica

LRC Gives Generously to Moroma Adventist High School in Papua New Guinea

As a Josephite College we are called to act justly and to support our neighbours. The College recently refurbished the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and parts of our withdrawn book collection have been donated to a school community in Papua New Guinea.

Lynda Koemer, a volunteer from the Moroma Adventist High School visited our College to collect books and resources we were no longer using. It is wonderful that these resources are educating and empowering young minds rather than being used as landfill.

Moroma Adventist High School started as a mission station by Seventh Day Adventist missionaries from Australia in 1948.

The station then developed into a Primary School run by the Missionaries of the Seventh Day Adventist Church until it became a higher primary and eventually upgraded to a high school in 2013. With limited resources, the government only focuses on building few structures whilst limited attention is given to other aspects of the school’s learning resources such as a library and essential books.

The book donations will enable effective learning and will be a great resource for the school. The partnership with individuals and schools in Melbourne, Victoria will go a long way in enhancing learning at the school.

Australia Day Honour

Congratulations to MSJ student Gabi Duke, who was awarded as the Junior Australia Day Ambassador for Hobson’s Bay.

Gabi presented a five minute address at the Hobson’s Bay Australia Day breakfast about why she is proud to be an Australian.
In Memorium

It is with sadness that I inform the community of the death of Mr. Barry Sims, a teacher at the College who has been battling cancer since November last year.

Barry taught Music at MSJ for 17 years. He was passionate about teaching and his love for Music was infectious. Many students have been inspired, valued and nurtured by Barry. He was an amazing man with great integrity, passion and made an incredible contribution to the MSJ community. Barry was much loved by Staff, students and our community. He will be truly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barry’s wife Joyce, son Tony, family, colleagues, students and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.

Amen

Kate Dishon
Principal
2016 COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Tuesday the 23rd of February MSJ had their annual swimming house day.

It was a very successful day and we were lucky to be blessed with delightfully hot weather. All girls enjoyed participating in various swimming events or team novelty events.

Well done Penola House on taking out the carnival by only a close 2 points.

**FIRST**

PENOLA (P) -333 POINTS

**EQUAL 2ND**

SOLOMON (S)

McCORMACK (M) -331 points

**THIRD**

KINCUMBER (K) -304 POINTS

A big congratulations to the year level champions

Yr 7 BIANCA MATTHEWS (K) 24 points
Yr 8 CAITLIN McGRAW (M) 26 points
Yr 9 CHARLOTTE McANDA (K) 18 points
Yr 10 CHELSEA GRAY (M) 17 points
Yr 11 PAIGE MAYNARD BUCKLER (S) 31 points
Yr 12 LISA GROVES (S) 31 points

**RUNNERS UP**

Yr7 CHARLOTTE MANKOT (K) 15 points
Yr 8 OLIVIA CALDWELL (P) 17 points
Yr9 LILY RICGS (P) 14 points
Yr 10 WHITNEY BUCKLEY (S) 10 points
Yr 11 LEAH BEDNAR (P) 22 points
Yr 12 ANDREA GOMES (M) 22 points.

As always the year 12 students could dress up in their house colours and cheer on the younger year levels as they swam. It was a day filled with fun, excitement and of course competitive swimming. A huge thank-you to all teachers involved especially Ms Sofarnos who worked tirelessly to make the day a success.

Overall it was a great day and I look forward to Athletics day early next term!!

Taylor Mitvalksy, Year 12 – Wellbeing captain
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.

COLLEGE CLOSURE DAY
A REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES THAT
THURSDAY 3rd MARCH
IS A STUDENT FREE DAY. ALL TEACHING STAFF WILL BE ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY. THE FRONT OFFICE WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 8:30am-4:30pm

CALLING ALL PAST & PRESENT FAMILIES OF ST. PAUL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
60th Anniversary of St.Paul’s School
West Sunshine
Mass Sunday, 28th February at 12 noon.
Following Mass the school will be open for inspection and light refreshments will be served.
RSVP School Office on 9363 1568
Email: 60years@spsunshinewest.catholic.edu.au

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.

“Living in harmony with nature and God”