From the Principal

‘So great is the strength we possess in our unity’

Mary Mackillop 1874

Sorry is a simple word, and one that can be very easy to say, we often automatically say sorry when we bump into someone and even if we get in someone’s way on the street. We say sorry when we have nothing to be sorry about and unfortunately at times we don’t say sorry when we most need to.

Saying sorry doesn’t always mean that we have personally wronged, harmed or hurt someone; it often means that we understand their situation, feel their pain and want them to know that we care.

In 2007 the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said sorry to our indigenous community for all the pain and suffering that they had endured in the past. It was an acknowledgement of the many wrongs inflicted on them over many years. During Reconciliation Week I ask that we take the time to learn more about our indigenous history and the contributions that our indigenous brothers and sisters have made to the development of our nation. Let us also, as people of faith, who are called to act with justice, challenge those in our society who vilify and discriminate against others and let us embrace the diversity that is Australia. As Jesus said ‘love one another as I have loved you’, and let us embrace our many differences in our school and wider community.

Schools have been holding assemblies for many, many years. They have often been used as an avenue for teachers and principals in particular to berate, criticise and highlight the many faults of the student population. Thankfully, times have changed and that is no longer the case. Our assembly on May 23 was fantastic. The assembly, lead by the Senior Student Leadership Group was upbeat, reflective and informative. Thank you and congratulations to all involved in ensuring that it was a true celebration of life at MSJ.

MMADD (Music, Media, Art, Dance, Drama) Day was held on Monday 16th May. This was a great day, which offered the students the opportunity to really celebrate the Arts, showcase their many talents and participate in new and exciting activities. It was a fantastic day and an example of how great learning can happen outside the traditional classroom. Thank you to all the students and staff involved in this great day.

I would like to encourage all members of the MSJ community to purchase a ticket to see the College production of ‘Anything Goes’. The cast and crew have been working very hard over the last few months in preparation for the three shows that will take place on the 17th and 18th of June. Well done to all staff and students involved in the production.

Kate Dishon
Principal

Students diligently practising for ‘Anything Goes’
The middle of Term 2 can feel fast paced as we move closer to final assessments, examinations and reporting.

The Year 8 to 11 Semester One examinations will run from June 2 to June 9. Students enrolled in a unit 3 / 4 study will sit the GAT on Tuesday June 7 from 10.00am to 1.15pm; students must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to its commencement.

Parents, carers and students have received a letter with information regarding the examination period and their examination timetable. Students should also be speaking to their subject teachers regarding their specific examinations, so that they are confident about the content of the examination but also how to revise prior.

All students must attend their scheduled exams in their full school uniform. There are no scheduled classes for Year 10 and 11 students during these exams so students are expected at school only for their timetabled exams. Year 8 and 9 students will have scheduled classes when not sitting exams.

Examinations should be regarded as an extension of the normal range of assessment practice undertaken across the College. All students need to build both the skills and resilience to face their examinations. I encourage you to have learning conversations that focus on what strategies your daughter is using in her preparation.

To support students in their learning journey, students have been involved in a number of initiatives and programs:

**Study and Revision**

- Edrolo is a study and revision tool for students completing a 3 / 4 Unit.
- It is interactive and multi-modal.
- It is being used in Psychology and trialed by Year 12 teachers in other subjects.
- Elevate Education held a seminar for Year 11 students in Memory & Mnemonics. Students were shown a range of skills to boost their ability to memorise information. These included strategies to minimise distractions at home, the mnemonic peg-word method, as well as the mental journey method.

**Pathways**

- Year 12 students are involved in interviews with Ms Krell to investigate pathways and course options.
- On June 8, Year 12 students will participate in a pathways excursion to University and TAFE campuses to explore courses.
- Years 10 and 11 have attended the Careers Expo to begin exploring University and TAFE courses.
- Years 10 and 11 have been introduced to Pathways planning which will be explored further in Term 3.

**Curriculum Review**

Following feedback from parents and students, MSJ staff have been involved in focus groups to develop recommendations for the Stewardship Team in the following areas:

1. Year 7 – 8 Curriculum
2. Year 9 Curriculum
3. Year 10 Curriculum
4. Years 11 and 12
5. Immersion / Co curricula / Programs

These recommendations will determine the models of core, electives and co curricula activities for students at MSJ in 2017.

**Year 11 2017 (Current Year 10 students)**

For Year 10 students, the transition into the Senior School is an important one. The process will include student and parent information sessions. Please note the following dates.

More information will be provided later.

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**Joanna DeBono**

Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching

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**Thursday, July 14**

6.00pm – 6.45pm | VCAL Information Evening Meeting

**Thursday, July 14**

7.00pm – 8.15pm | Parent Information Evening and Domain Expo

**Thursday, July 28**

2.00pm - 7.00pm | Parent/student interviews
Cancer Research Work Experience

During the Term One holidays, we completed our Year 10 Work Experience at Peter MacCallum Cancer Research Centre. We were able to meet lots of new people who gave us a valuable insight into a career in Scientific Research.

During the time we spent there, we observed the scientists at different stages of their research and were able to ask questions and participate in some of the experiments, including tissue/cell culture and mice dissection. We were also able to observe different types of surgery including the removal of breast and prostate cancer. Another thing we saw was the fluoro-microscopes and fluoro-fax machines. The scientists used them to find out the percentages and ratios of different cells in the their samples in order to review the results from their experiment. Through the scientists we also found that the career is also quite flexible in the way that the research scientists are able to travel around the world to different research centres and conduct experiments.

One of the highlights of this experience was seeing the animal house where the experiments were tested on living organisms. However, there are many rules and ethics regarding the treatment of these animals to ensure that they do not suffer in any way during the experiment. Mice and flies are used in many experiments as they have various similarities to the structure of the human body and can therefore be used to test out different treatments, which could possibly be used on humans in the future. One of the experiments being done included immuno compromised (impaired immune system) mice being injected with a type of leukemia. We were able to take part in dissecting the mice to remove their spleen and bone marrow to analyse the amount of cancer cells in their body, as leukemia is more concentrated in these areas of the body.

Overall, we had a great experience at Peter MacCallum Cancer Research Centre and were able to gain a valuable insight into the commitment and determination that is involved in finding a cure for cancer.

Madeline Bateman (10J) and Olivia Drandi (10T)

Slime Time

The Year 11 Chemistry classes have been working on Organic Chemistry. An important part of this topic is Polymers, which make up the plastics that we use today. The students were able to investigate the structure and properties of polymers by creating PVA slime, also known as Polyvinyl alcohol.
Debating

On Wednesday 16th of March the MSJ debating teams competed in their first round of debates for the year as part of the Debating Association of Victoria competition. Overall, we had 10 teams competing against teams from other schools in the Hobson’s Bay area. Each team that we competed against presented us with a new challenge and made us think carefully before we decided on what to say in our rebuttals.

Our hours of discussion and preparation paid off as we had a very successful night. The D grade teams were arguing either, for or against, the idea that Australia should become a Republic, the two C grade teams were arguing against the topic, “That we should not permit the sale of alcohol after midnight”, and, the A grade team were arguing against the topic, “That the media should not be permitted to report on criminal cases until after the trial.” Clearly, the MSJ debating teams are very persuasive because ALL 10 teams won their debates.

It is fair to say that MSJ had a fantastic start to this year’s debating competition. We were fortunate again in the second round because ALL 10 teams won again. However, reality struck us in the third round, as five teams won, but the other five only lost by one or two points. A very good year so far!

By Amy Smedley, 9F

The Willy Lit Fest Debate - 19th June

Join students from MSJ and Bayside as they debate the nature of curiosity in the 21st Century. Starting at 10:00am in the Williamstown Library Auditorium, this is a free event but bookings are required.

One of our MSJ parents, author Anna Brasier, will also be appearing at events in the Willy Lit Fest.

For more Willy Lit Fest information and bookings, please visit the Willy Lit Fest website: http://willylitfest.org.au/

Careers Expo

On the 20th of May, the Year 10 students went to the Werribee Racecourse, in order to attend the Careers Expo. There, the students were given the opportunity to be informed about different career pathways.

There were many fields available for students to explore such as arts, design, media, science, medicine, engineering, food technology and even careers at McDonald’s! Students were given booklets from the various stalls, to gain an insight into their desired pathway and to do further research into what choices they should make. It was great to gain knowledge about what subjects to select for next year and possible career options and pathways. It was a time for us students to ask questions from more experienced workers in their field of expertise.

The expo was a different learning environment for us as it allowed us to develop skills of independence, so we can seek the information for our desired pathways ourselves. Overall, the Expo was eye opening and beneficial for us, full of different options to assists us with subject selection.

By Niroshi Dikmadugodage 10A, Kim Troung 10J and Zarchi Htike 10V
True reconciliation and recognition...

This week our school celebrated Reconciliation Week. This week is a time where across the nation we stop to pause on our past actions and commit to change in the future.

Across the year in our events at school we take time to acknowledge the first peoples of the land. In the Hobson’s bay area we acknowledge the Yalukit Wilum people of the Boon Wurrung country, of the Kulin nation. This acknowledgement is a sign of the Colleges’ commitment to continue to work towards reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous Australians.

During reconciliation week we remember significant events in the struggle for reconciliation. The week begins on the 27th of May, the anniversary of the 1967 referendum where discriminatory clauses were removed from the Constitution. The week concludes on the 3rd of June, the anniversary of the Mabo Decision, a significant move forward for indigenous land rights. Hopefully sometime in the future, we will celebrate another referendum giving recognition to Indigenous Australians in the Constitution.

Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods supported the local indigenous communities in their early ministries, and throughout the 150 year history of the Sister’s of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, they have continued to support remote communities across Australia. As we continue to support the reconciliation movement this term, we also continue to support St. Joseph’s Primary School in Kununurra, WA, a school supported by the Josephite sisters.

During our celebrations of Reconciliation week our students have been challenged to make a difference. There are two small things that our students can do to make a difference to this cause. Firstly, I encourage families to sign up to the Recognise campaign calling for the recognition of Indigenous Australian’s in our Constitution http://www.recognise.org.au/. Finally, we encourage students to bring in new stationary items, soccer boots and other relevant items for our St Joseph’s Kununurra campaign.

I leave you now with the words of Saint Pope John Paul II when he visited Australia in 1986. His address highlighted the value and contribution of the Indigenous community to the Church in Australia and recognises the need for reconciliation in our country. We pray that the spirit moves the government to call for a referendum to recognise indigenous Australians.

Your Christian faith calls you to become the best kind of Aboriginal people you can be. This is possible only if reconciliation and forgiveness are part of your lives. Only then will you find happiness. Only then will you make your best contribution to all your brothers and sisters in this great nation. You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.

(Pope John Paul II, 1986)

Danielle Faethorne
Director of Catholic Identity
Reconciliation Week - 30th May to 3rd June

For Reconciliation Week 2016, the Ministry team has organised a variety of activities and events to be held. To kick off this important week in Australia’s history, the ministry team created a short documentary film to signify the key aspects of this week and displayed it at the college Assembly on the Anniversary of Sorry Day. It displayed what the community of MSJ knows of sorry day and what sorry day and reconciliation week actually symbolises. It was a beautiful way for our students to engage with this key issue and be challenged by to make a difference.

The theme of Reconciliation week this year is Our History, Our Story, Our Future. To support this theme the ministry team have organised a number of events including movie sessions to reflect on the story of Indigenous Australia, special chapel prayers focusing on Aboriginal spirituality and many other reflective activities. Reconciliation week is a time for all of us to look to our past, our present and our future and to acknowledge the first people of this land. We are all looking forward to reflecting on these aspects in the coming week.

By Josephine Mazzeo, College Liturgy captain

MSJ Youth Rally

On Friday the 13th, students from Mount St. Joseph’s, Mackillop College, Emmanuel College and Penola College all gathered together to celebrate faith, love and community at our first ever MSJ Youth Rally with an inspiring workshop from musician, Steve Angrisano, a veteran musician.

The night began with Steve teaching us the song “Lean on Me” which everyone loved to participate in as it created a strong sense of friendship and companionship between the students. As the night went along, we learnt many new songs complete with dance moves such as “Trading my sorrows” and “Yes Lord”. These songs were extremely fun and amusing to be apart of and taught us the importance of compassion, unity and faith in the Lord. We also engaged in various icebreaker games that allowed everyone to get to know one another and create new friendships with each other.

During the night, we all gathered in the sails area for a BBQ where everyone was able to meet one another and enjoy the company of new friends and new people. Overall, the night was a major success and inspired all students to live a life of courage, kindness and confidence in God.

We’d like to thank everyone on the Faith team at MSJ for organising such an amazing night and especially, Steve Angrisano for coming to celebrate MSJ’s first ever Youth Rally.

By Celine Lopez, 11Th and Erin Ryan, 11Th

Altona Mass

On the 24th of May, schools all came together as a community to celebrate the feast day of St. Mary Help of Christians, and remembered all of the great things Mary has done, and can do for us.

While we were at the mass, we also learnt about the different parts of Mass such as the Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion Rite and the Concluding Rite. This was a good opportunity for us to come together with the community and to learn more about the Eucharist.

By Danielle Delviglio, 7V
Life presents itself with many opportunities and many experiences that can be transformative and deeply powerful. At MSJ 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.

I have been impressed by the many students who have had the tenacity in MMADD Day, Open Day, the College Assembly and the Youth Justice Ministries. I believe that it is these students who ultimately gain the most out of their learning at MSJ. Learners who participate in the fullness of College life develop excellent organisational skills, refine social skills and learn to live with others in respectful relationships.

Last week as I wandered out to the Open Area, I was delighted to witness our girls playing downball. They were in the moment and celebrating team spirit. I was even more struck by a group of Year 10 students who formed partnerships with girls in Year 7. This is the spirit of hospitality and inclusion that is a key aspect of MSJ. A simple task of playing downball turned to be an exercise in welcome, care and humour: the essence of a simple and thoughtful life.

As we enter the winter months and the days seem to be getting shorter, darker and more miserable, I invite all members of our community not to retreat to our homes or to ourselves, but rather continue to embrace the fullness and breadth of living in a diverse and wonderful community.

Last week I read an interesting article in The Age that outlined strategies to support children through their learning, importantly it highlighted the pivotal role of parents.

The following are extracts that you may find useful:

- Build self confidence; encourage; allow your daughter to make mistakes and use those opportunities to teach her something about herself. Promote the success of your daughter.
- Set high but realistic expectations; your daughter should know that you believe she can achieve, do not accept second best, demand the best that she can achieve.
- Show your support and enthusiasm; listen, respond and do.
- Create a study space and stay organized; provide a quiet space.
- Encourage learning at home; discuss what you have learnt.
- Adolescents need at least nine hours sleep a night.
- Limit television, social networking sites and electronic games.

Steven Misfud
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing

D&M @ MSJ

On Tuesday the 17th of May, my mother and I along with other year 7 students and their mothers attended the D&M night. When I heard about this night I was really excited that I was going to spend one on one time with my mother. The night began in prayer, everyone lined up to light a candle with their mother. I thought this was a great way to start a very special evening.

The guest speaker, clinical Psychologist Carmel Ferretti, was very informative and provided useful information about typical mother daughter relationships and how we can balance our everyday lives together so we can understand each other’s needs. Once Carmel finished, we were given some private time to talk to our mothers about what we thought was great in our relationship and also what we may lack. I liked how Carmel said “sometimes we need to leave what we are doing for example washing the dishes, and spend time with each other even if it’s five minutes”.

The highlight of the night was when we exchanged gifts, we were told to bring something special that meant something to us, to give to each other. My mother gave me a photo album with special memories of us together which I will cherish forever.

To conclude the night we were given a card to write to each other. This gave me time to reflect on the night and realise how fortunate I was to be able to spend precious time with my mum. The letter from my mum is something I will hold onto, and look back on.

By Isabella Oraison, 7C
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser

The Year 11 VCAL Food Technology and Year 11 VCE Food Technology students raised $308 for the Cancer Council by running The Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 13th May.

Every year, the Cancer Council helps thousands of Australians affected by cancer through cancer research, support services and prevention programs. Our MSJ fundraising efforts will help support the Cancer Council’s vital work, nationwide.

Here is just a small selection of the delectable delights that the students created.

Friday 26th August, 2016
From 7pm with appetisers
At Mount St. Joseph Girls’ College
Cost $40pp (3 course meal, BYO drinks)
For tickets call MMHC (03) 9926 9300
RSVP: 10th August, 2016
MMADD Day 2016

On the 16th of May 2016, Mount St Joseph Girls’ College celebrated their annual MMADD day. MMADD day showcases the wide variety of the arts related subjects studied at MSJ such as Multimedia, Music, Arts, Dance and Drama.

The day began with a guest speaker named Katrina Fleming who shared her insights on the film industry and her comedic expeditions.

Students from year 8 to 11 then ventured to begin their creative workshops, including cooking, hip-hop dancing, R&B singing and filmmaking. As part of MSJ tradition, the Year 12’s and 7’s collaborate to choreograph a dance to a specific theme. This year our theme was R&B Royalty and each House danced to a medley of 3 songs by a R & B artist. The Arts portfolio announced that Solomon was to perform with Rihanna songs, Kincumber with Jason Derulo, McCormack with Black Eyed Peas and Penola with Usher.

We had the opportunity to MC the final assembly which showcased each House collaboration, Best Dressed and the teacher performance. Each house dance was judged by a panel which included Mr Poole, Mrs Bushell, Ms Coyne and Ms Mount. McCormack was lucky enough to take home the trophy with the runners up being Penola.

We both had an incredible time and are extremely thankful to be given the opportunity to be Master of Ceremonies. We’d like to thank all the teachers and students who put in effort to make this event happen!

Lia Tuiniua and Gabi Duke
2016 Division 2 SCSA Athletics

The 2016 MSJ Athletics team competed in the SCSA Athletics Carnival at Lakeside Stadium on Friday May 6th.

74 students represented the school along with 6 staff, and competed in track events including Hurdles, 1100m Walk, 100m to 1500m track and relays, and field events Discus, Javelin, Shot Put, Long Jump, Triple Jump and High Jump. The girls competed strongly all day, with many backing up for multiple events on the day to ensure MSJ was represented in every event on the program.

We finished 5th in each of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior sections, out of a very competitive field of 8 Girls Catholic Colleges. Catholic Ladies College Eltham won the overall Champions honour, from OLSH College, Bentleigh, followed by Ave Maria College Essendon, Killester College Springvale, MSJ, Presentation College Windsor, , Academy Fitzroy and St Aloysius North Melbourne.

Congratulations to all our students on the way they represented their school.

Sue Sofarnos
Sports Coordinator

MSJ Student Sporting Success Stories

Hockey

Congratulations to Gwen Lynch (10A) who has recently made the Under 18 Girls Victorian Team for Hockey.

The Under 18 Australian Championships are being held in Launceston this year, and Gwen will be travelling with the team on Wednesday 6th July - Monday 18th July.

Volleyball

Congratulations also to Presi Petkova who has qualified for the Victorian U 17 State Volleyball team.

SCSA Basketball

On Tuesday the 24th of May the MSJ basketball team participated in the SCSA tournament. It was a great day with lots of enthusiasm shown by all involved.

Coached by Hannah Meilak (12 Therese) and Ms. Sofarnos, the Juniors came forth. A great effort by all the girls. The Intermediate Team came third coached by Ms. Sexton and the Seniors coached by Ms. Baka, came a controversial second in a nail biting grand final. Thank you to everyone involved an well done to all the girls on their great effort.

Taylor Mitvalsky (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.

SCHOOL FEES

FAMILY ACCOUNTS…

A statement will be emailed to families during the holidays. 50% of 2016 fees should have been paid by 31 May.

Families paying by term should note that their 3rd instalment is due 26 July 2016.

Families paying by direct debit / credit card will continue to have payments deducted in accordance with their authority. It would be appreciated if families could make sure their accounts are up to date.

Noel Kennedy
Business Manager

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.

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

COLLEGE CLOSURE DAYS

A REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES THAT

FRIDAY 10th JUNE

IS A STUDENT FREE DAY. ALL TEACHING STAFF WILL BE ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY. THE FRONT OFFICE WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 8:30am-4:00pm.

MONDAY 13th JUNE - QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY

IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY. THE COLLEGE WILL BE CLOSED

CHANGE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Please note that the previously advertised school closure day on 24th June (Last Day of Term 2) has been changed.

All students are expected to attend the full school day on June 24th.

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.

"Be the Heartbeat of God’s Love"