



*Give bread, Lord, to those who are hungry, give hunger for yourself to those who have bread, for you alone, Lord, can satisfy our desire.*

## From the Principal:

The past fortnight has again provided many opportunities for us all to witness active partnerships operating between students, parents/guardians and teachers especially focussing on quality performances (Music Ensembles, Open Day Tour Guides, Mater Idol, Rehearsals for Little Shop of Horrors Production, Preparation meetings for Hybrid Car), community activities (College Assembly, Year 8 Seed Days & Sleepovers, E-Week, Year 7 Community Day) and shared decision-making for future studies (Tertiary Expo Night, Year 10 Taster Day, Subject Selection Information Sessions, Chemistry Quiz) amidst other sporting and classroom activities. Across all these activities, I wish to commend the superb efforts of our students as well as staff. Congratulations also to the many families who have juggled home and school commitments so generously. Although the schedule may at times seem unrelenting, be assured that nothing works as surely in supporting students' learning, as the support and love of their family.

Most adolescents, at one time or another, experience some uncertainty, disappointment and

confusion at home and at school, about themselves, their family, their friendships and their futures. Often these concerns are resolved through appropriate reporting, careful actions or mediation. In such ways, students develop their own unique emotional resilience and intelligence. The key in resolving these issues is to ensure calm and honest communication across all parties. As outlined in the College Planner, students and their parents are advised to report when the behaviours of others are not respectful or are abusive and threatening. Once reports are received, College staff can begin to investigate and resolve matters. Without proper disclosure, an effective resolution is difficult, even unlikely.

*Treading lightly; living generously.* There is a powerful message behind this year's College theme. Inspired by the Rule of St Benedict, we seek to ensure that our College is structured in such a way 'that the strong will have something to strive for, and the weak have nothing to fear' (RB). Unless we commit to be respectful of neighbour, to see Christ in the other, we will not have the courage to offer love as well as forgiveness when transgressions occur. Naming transgressions is

an essential first step. Love and forgiveness is the vital ingredient for restorative healing for individuals and our community. May God bless our many efforts.

I have recently returned from a short leadership program at Harvard University. After many lectures and discussions, I remain challenged most particularly by questions raised about the role of the teaching professional especially considering accountability measures, curriculum standards and the increasing potential of technology to improve teaching and learning strategies.

However it was evident from US school leaders that we have much to be proud of here in Australian schools. We understand the pivotal relationship between the emotional and learning needs of our students. Our curriculum offers a broad learning environment supporting the formation of our students academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally. We must work rigorously to ensure this breadth is not compromised, especially as new accountability and legislative requirements are imposed upon schools by Victorian and federal government bodies.

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal



Little Shop of Horrors Rehearsals Performances August 13,14 & 15 tickets on sale now.



Sports Minister James Merlino with students at the recent Victorian Girls Get Active at Sport breakfast

## Global Young Leaders Conference

On 13th June I set off for an intense 12 day conference in the United States. The Global Young Leaders Conference brings young leaders from countries all over the world together to learn, share thoughts and grow as the leaders of tomorrow. The 28 hours of travel was well worth it. The 320 students from over 20 different countries were all incredibly nice and excited for the next two weeks.

While there, we, 'The Scholars' as they called us, were split into groups and assigned a country. We would represent this country working on three simulation activities. These simulations were to do with international diplomacy and peace keeping. We were put in a real leadership position with exactly the same role and power as the leaders of today. We were given problems that would affect the globe and directed

to fix these through negotiation and resolution writing.

The days were long, starting at 7am and finishing at 10:30pm, and full of everything from sight seeing to speeches about cultural diversity. Although tiring, long and full of things you had never heard of before but had to know, it was so much fun. The people I met were exceptional and the things I learnt from students of different cultures were amazing. Although it sounds like school in some ways, it was so much more. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.

I would like to give a big thanks to Mrs. Mary Close for helping me get there and to everyone who helped me along the way with donations and chocolate selling. I would not have been able to have this amazing experience without you.

Rebecca Fletcher

## Year 12 Biology - University of Melbourne Genetics Excursion



On Friday 17th of July the two year 12 Biology classes set on a journey of 'genetic discovery'. We travelled to Melbourne University to participate in a genetics workshop. While there, we conducted 3 different activities. We considered some genetically engineered bacteria, analysing their resistance to high copper concentrations. This involved the DNA manipulation techniques of Polymerase Chain Reaction and Gel electrophoresis... these are techniques we see being used in the forensic labs to solve crimes on some TV shows. We also looked at the results of genetic crosses using fruit flies. For this we had to put fruit flies to sleep and then use microscopes to observe the differences in physical appearances between the flies, which are due to genetic mutations. It was an enjoyable and worthwhile day. Thanks to Mr. Kolb and Mrs. Sanders for organising the day and accompanying us.

Maddi McAllister & Josie Byrne.



Mater Christi Environment Week was held from July 20 to 24 starting with a symbolic seed-sowing activity in Home Groups. Seeds will hopefully grow into plants which can be used around the school gardens. Tuesday was the traditional House Chalk Art Competition with a different environmental theme for each House. Blue House won for their depiction of a beach environment, Silver was second with the cycle of energy use and Orange House was third with the theme of Biodiversity. Thursday saw groups of students participate in the Scavenger Hunt.

Wednesday had Green Dress and Nude Food both happening! Students were asked to dress with an environmental theme. Gold

coin donations will go towards the children we have been helping at Gurambira School in Zimbabwe to improve their school facilities and also an environmental cause to be decided by the Environment Group. For Nude Food, everyone was asked to bring lunches unwrapped in reusable food and drink containers. So – less waste and litter! We would like this to be the first of many Nude Food Days which will encourage the reduction of waste and litter at Mater Christi – hopefully eradicating it eventually! We ask for the ongoing support of parents in this initiative to say no to throwaway plastic wraps, paper bags and other packaging.

Katrina Trost, Environment Leader

## Parents...do you have time to organise a Second Hand Book Sale at MCC ?

Each year there has been an informal swapping of books between students at the end of Term 4. For some this works but for others it does not.

Obviously it is a help to parents and students to be able to access text books in good condition at reduced prices. In many schools, it is a small group of parents who actually organise this event.

Are you able to volunteer your time to organise this?

If so, please contact me at the College as soon as possible...a small group of 4-6 would be ideal. You would need to be able to volunteer some organising time during Terms 3 and 4 and some time to manage the sale late in Term 4

I hope that this service will be able to be provided for our community

Mary Close  
Deputy Principal – Welfare



## More Congratulations on Tinnies for Vinnies!

The College has received a warm message of thanks from Evert Jansen, president of the Belgrave St Vincent de Paul Conference. The society values enormously our generous contribution of almost 5000 cans and 300 dollars. Evert wrote: 'Please accept this letter as our sincere thanks, once again, for the donation of cash and cans collected from the students this year... Without the help of Mater Christi we would not be able to carry on with our work.'

Peter Cahill, Catholic Action Teacher

## Taster Day Report Friday 24th July 2009

The aim of Taster day is to give students in Year 10 a chance to "taste" some of the subjects on offer in the VCE. Each lesson was only 35 minutes long, which felt such a rush, but after each session the students came away affirmed in their choices for next year, or clearer in their minds that this was not the subject for them. That was the purpose of Taster Day so we are all delighted with the outcome. Teachers and student were all enthused by the experience and feel ready to face subject selection with much greater confidence. A very real thanks must go to all of the teachers who rearranged their schedules so willingly to be part of this important experience.

Helen Smith  
Year 10 Learning Leader

## Hospitality Day

For the excursion last week the year 12 hospitality classes caught a train to the Vic markets in the city central. After splitting into our groups and meeting our guides, we went off to the deli hall. We were taught about the history of the Vic markets, and were permitted to taste a wide variety of foods such as cheese, dips and kangaroo. We then went to the meat hall and looked at the wide variety of meats and seafood. We also looked at the fruit market and tried different juices and vegetables. All together it was a fantastic day for going to the market and everybody enjoyed themselves!

Thanks Mrs Mugridge and Miss Eekelschot

Briahna Thomas

## YEAR 12 VTAC INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday August 6th

7.30pm-8.30pm

Venue: College Hall

A compulsory event for  
all Year 12 students and parents

Julie Feeney, Head of Senior School  
Andy Donnelly, Careers Co-ordinator

## Subject & Tertiary Expo



Our Mater Christi College Expo Day was held last Thursday 30th July. It was a very successful evening and well attended.

Answers to some of the "frequently asked questions" can now be found on [www.materchristi.edu.au](http://www.materchristi.edu.au) > Curriculum > Overview.

## Enrichment

Prosody?Phoneticians?Turn-taking? Intonation units? These terms were the order of the day on Wednesday July 22nd when the Year 12 English Language class visited the University of Melbourne. The workshop they attended was designed to complement their studies and help prepare for assessment over the next few weeks. They enjoyed three very different presentations and they learned new concepts as well as confirming their existing knowledge of spoken texts. It was also an excellent opportunity to experience a university –style lecture series on campus for the day.

Julie Feeney, Head of Senior School

## Ensemble Night

The build up to the Ensemble Night began early at music camp where the students worked hard to prepare for their performances.

On Wednesday 29th, the College Hall was converted into a welcoming performance space. The students, wearing their Music uniforms, looked the part as they prepared to entertain the large and proud audience. The evening started with Orchestra playing magical refrains from *'In the Hall of the Mountain King'*. The Choir charmed the audience with a French song. Bluebirds continued the French theme, and the Contemporary Ensemble harmonized *'The Day You Went Away.'* The audience was moved by a haunting rendition of *'Danny Boy'* from the Flute Choir and then jived us along with some Jazz. Jazz became the flavour of the night as the Jazz group swung into action with *'Lil Darlin'* and *'Eli's Comin'*. Following was the harmonised Eagles Song put together by the music staff when on camp. The Percussion/Guitar Ensemble then proceeded to rock the night with some Kings of Leon and the Rolling Stones. String Ensemble created some Fireworks from Handel and the perfect Fourths played lovely baroque music. As the rock band upped the tempo in the final performances, students entered into the spirit of the music and danced at the back of the room. Everyone enjoyed the final performance which was a combined rendition of the Queen hit *'Somebody To Love'*.

At supper afterwards, parents, students and staff expressed delight with the event, and many remarked on the improved standard of these performances.

Thanks to all who participated in making the night a great success, especially noting the contribution of the Music and Maintenance teams and Instrumental Music Coordinator, Sandra Waldron.



### Performances:

Thursday 13 August 7:30pm  
Friday 14 August 7:30pm  
Saturday 15 August 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Cost: \$25 Adult \$15 Student/Child  
\$75 Family (2 adults + siblings)

Order forms are now available on the intranet.



## Dandenong Ranges Community Bushfire Group Welcomes

School & Kindergarten Parents to a Community Meeting.  
Be informed regarding the 2009/2010 bushfire season

CFA Guest speakers

7.30 pm Monday the 10th August  
The Mt Dandenong Hotel

Gold Coin Donations appreciated  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/drcbfg/>

RSVP: Julie Howard  
[elvira@netspace.net.au](mailto:elvira@netspace.net.au) or  
0425776115



## St Josephs Monbulk - Emerald

CAR BOOT SALE  
Saturday, 12 September  
Starts at 8.00am  
Phone 9754 2141  
for more information



## Uniform Shop Sale

Roll-Neck Jumpers  
30% off for term 3

## Important dates

Friday 7 August

SCSA Football

Last Day Year 8 - 11

subject choices on-line

MCC Snow Trip departs

Sunday 9

Production - Little Shop of Horrors

Bump In

Monday 10

MCC Snow Trip returns

Production - Technical Rehearsal

Tuesday 11 August

Year 11 Reflection Day

Wednesday 12

English Competition

Production Rehearsal

Thursday 13 - Saturday 15

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

School Production

Tuesday 18

Staff Professional Learning Day

NO CLASSES

Wednesday 19

SCSA Soccer

Canteen Roster

Monday 10 August

Frida Kassis

Tuesday 11

Monique Froude

Wednesday 12

**HELP NEEDED**

Thursday 13

**HELP NEEDED**

Friday 14

Sabrina Martenstyn

Monday 17

Frida Kassis

Wednesday 19

Debbie Wills

Thursday 20

Brenda Felton

Friday 21

Robynne Carter



Contact Employment Privacy Policy Enrolment Enquiries  
a good samaritan school for girls

Our College Curriculum Co-curriculum Student Services News and Events

## News and Events

Check the News and Events page on the web-site  
[www.materchristi.edu.au](http://www.materchristi.edu.au)

