



*"Go into all the world and preach the good news" Tread Lightly...Live Generously*

*Year 12 Valedictory Mass*

## From the Principal:

Catholic Schools received the good news last week of the new "sustainable funding arrangement" agreed to by the Victorian State Government with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria. In his media statement, the Director of Catholic Education Melbourne, Mr Stephen Elder has said "The State Government agrees that education is about choice and parents have the right to send their children to a non-government school. Parents, therefore, should not be financially disadvantaged in any way if they choose a Catholic school Mr Elder said the additional funding provided the opportunity to establish equitable funding to students with disabilities in Catholic schools. "The new agreement represents a significant step towards our goal of Victorian Government funding equivalent to 25% of the cost of education in a government school, and we will work with the government over the next 12 months toward achieving this outcome...I would like to thank the State Government for listening and acting on our concerns."

Funding distributions per school are not yet known, but the College Board will consider the impact for the Mater Christi College community and ensure the best outcome for all families.

Last week, an audit was conducted at the College of our buildings, grounds and Emergency Management Plans, specifically to assess our preparation for the summer and possible bushfire season ahead. As always the safety of our students and staff is paramount and this was seen to be reflected in our Emergency Management Plans.

Mater Christi College along with most schools in the Dandenong Ranges is required to give notice (via SMS, with details confirmed on College website) of a School Closure Day should there be a "catastrophic" weather forecast. On such a day, most bus routes will also be closed. Should there be an emergency during a school day, the College Hall is considered to provide reasonable shelter. Students are well practised in emergency drills and respond responsibly at these times. Occasional heatwaves are part of Australian school life and so, our teachers will ensure

appropriate progress in their teaching programs.

Parents are encouraged to check the College website for details, especially as further Government announcements are made. Alternatively, parents may check with Catholic Education Commission of Victoria website on [www.cecv.catholic.org.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.org.au)

Congratulations to Salome Bricker and Erica Barclay who were the recipients for next year of the Kwong Lee Dow University of Melbourne Scholars awards.

And finally, with VCE exams over, a wonderful valedictory Mass, Presentation and Dinner was held at Caulfield racecourse to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2009. I thank all their families for supporting our special partnership in education and pray that they will continue to be blessed and enriched as their daughter enters into adult life. For the students, may God bless them, especially to "tread lightly, live generously".

*Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal*



Year 12 Valedictory Mass



## Advent

We are fast approaching the end of school year and beginning preparation and anticipation of Christmas and holidays. With December we begin a New Church Year. We begin it with Advent – a time of waiting. But waiting for what? Children often know very well what they wait for, for them Christmas is a season of excitement, anticipation and hope.

What do we hope and wait for? What brings us real joy? During Advent we are invited to go deeper into life's mystery, to discover what is not obvious. As we wait and search, our insight and perspective becomes sharper. We get

better at choosing between what is real and temporary, what is good and better.

Advent leads us to Christmas. Children love the story of the birth of Jesus. But it is a lot more than that. Christmas is the coming of God among us. Jesus came so that we 'may have life and have it to the full' (Jn 10:10). He offers us a life that is daring, fulfilling and joyful.

Advent asks: What is the star we are following? We can be confident that as the Wise Men followed their star to find Jesus, we too will find God's presence in our lives, in our relationships and our world.

Ewa Toomey  
Faith Development Leader

## Year 10 Da Vinci Exhibition experience

When the students returned from their excursion to see the Da Vinci exhibition on Tuesday they had more questions than answers. As a teacher, I could ask for nothing better.

"Who was this man that this exhibition was all about? We can see he was a great artist. After all he painted the Mona Lisa and we know that this is a famous painting. We didn't know he did all that other stuff. How come he wrote backwards? Why did he cut up the bodies? Did he really invent a robot? Why didn't he do just one thing? Why did he write about shadows and truth and justice and wisdom and honesty and so on? What is Phi and what does it have to do with Da Vinci and rabbits?" Learning is pretty intense sometimes!

Each of the teachers who went on the excursion prepared a worksheet around their subject, based on the works and ideas of Leonardo Da Vinci and on the experience the students had of uncovering a little of his genius. The students will spend time looking into the life and ideas of this great man through the different lenses of their subjects. Hopefully they will learn that seeking the answers to questions can be a lifelong pleasure/treasure hunt and that starting with Da Vinci is a pretty good place to start.

Thanks to the teachers who went on the excursion for their particularly dedicated approach to this experience. Their own passions have clearly transferred to the students.

Helen Smith Year 10 Learning Leader

## Year 7 Adventure Race

Year 7 students competed in four events over two days in an Adventure Race at Lysterfield Lake Park. The eight teams were – Amazing Red, Beautiful Blue, Crazy Orange, Dynamic Purple, Excellent Pink, Fantastic Yellow, Great Green and Super Silver.

Dressed in their teams colours, the girls participated in Operation Eagle Eye (orienteering), Soak it up (rafting), Balance or bail (mountain bike riding) and Blood, sweat and bandages (first aid scenarios) events.

Each activity was led by a qualified instructor who provided safety information followed by skills sessions. Despite the hot weather, everyone had a great time and many students discovered skills that they will be able to use in real life situations. Thanks to the staff involved – Amanda McLellan, Trish van den Dolder, Cathy Wu, Lisa Costello, Alex Saffigna, Alana Neilson, and Beth McLeod, and to the very thoughtful bus driver, Davo who bought icypoles for all.

Michelle Murray Year 7 Learning Leader



## Athletic Champs

In early November Jessica Callaway, Amelia Finnegan and Miranda Morris competed in the Victorian Adidas All Schools Track and Field Championships. Miranda came third in the under 16 girls 400m heat to progress to the final and came 7th overall. Amelia participated in the under 15 girls 3km walk and came 2nd while Jessica also competed in this event and placed 9th.

It was a fantastic day and a great start to the athletics season. Congratulations to Jessica and Amelia for qualifying for Nationals in Tasmania.

Alana Nelson AFL Trainee



## Year 11 Outdoor Ed Amazing Race

The final excursion for our keen class of Year 11 Outdoor Ed students was a truly Amazing Race at Lysterfield Park Lake. The day was a perfect opportunity for us to use a combination of the skills we have developed over this year. We were required to solve problems as we made our way around the course (with minimum impact) while mountain bike riding, kayaking and orienteering. The race was won by the mighty Green Team, who now hold the new course record for Lysterfield ~ congratulations girls! This was one of our greatest excursions, so thanks to Miss McLeod & Miss Van den Dolder for their planning and support.

Georgia McLean Year 11

## Year 9 adventures

Year 9 girls recently enjoyed an action packed two days of adventure including an outdoor experience day at Lysterfield Lake Park followed by a day of aqua skills at Warrandyte Pound Bend with teachers and River Ocean And Mountain (ROAM) staff.

The activities at Lysterfield included mountain bike skills and a trail ride as well as First Aid which involved fake blood and bandages in the bush. We also rock climbed and abseiled which was a lot of fun.

At Warrandyte we rafted on the Yarra River, took a nature walk and learnt to safely swim down a rapid and across a river. It was great weather on both days so that made it even more fun!

In between the adventure days we returned to Mater Christi for more activities led by the ROAM instructors and enjoyed a yummy BBQ put together by the Food Technology staff. We slept in the VCE lounge and had breakfast at school the next morning.

The camp was a great experience for all of Year 9 as it gave everyone a chance to 'face their fears and push their limits'.

By Clare Steele and Grace Alateras

## My Restaurant Stars

Thanks to the hard work and skills of Year 10 students, the My Restaurant class transformed the dining room for two wonderful evenings of culinary delights, ranging from gnocchi, prosciutto wrapped chicken, spinach & ricotta crepes to the mouth-watering toberone mousse, tiramisu and profiteroles with hot chocolate sauce. Guests not only expressed their gratitude for the fine dining experience but were greatly impressed with the girls' professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication to hospitality.

Anna Goodings TMR Teacher



## Environment News

### St Thomas More's Garden Helpers

In very warm conditions last week, eight Environment Group members took the steep walk across to St Thomas More's to help with their fantastic garden project. Year 6 students are developing a frog pond and indigenous garden area which has been in the planning phase all term. These final year students will definitely leave their mark on the school!

Mater Christi Environment Group has been looking forward to making a connection with St Thomas More's and this was a perfect opportunity. Our girls spent two hours helping with digging, planting, painting and watering. They are now hoping to build a frog pond at Mater Christi!

Well done to: Katherine Gabsch, Jessica Watt, Jessica Zavattieri, Emma Schmidt, Rishni De Silva Gunasekera, Keshia Perera, Sal Bricker and Binh Vuong Tieu.

**Katrina Trost** Environment Leader



## Carols in the Park and Twilight Market

Where: Belgrave Town Park

When: Friday 11 December

Time: 5:00 – 9:00pm

## Second Hand Book Sale

When: Saturday 5 December

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Where: Room: C101/C102

(Enter via the ground floor door at Student Reception and follow the directions to C101)

Payment: Cash or cheque only.

EFTPOS or credit card facilities will not be available

## Come join the music program!

### Music Tuition Enrolment for 2010

Lessons available for: Piano, Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Violin, Viola, Cello, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar, Drum Kit and Voice

Enrolments for Music Tuition 2010 are now being accepted. Forms are available on the school intranet, from the display stand near Student Services or directly from the music studios.

Further information is available from Sandra Waldron, Instrumental Coordinator 9757 0859 or [waldron\\_s@materchristi.edu.au](mailto:waldron_s@materchristi.edu.au)

## Education Maintenance Allowance

Application forms for EMA 2010 are now available from the school office. Full details will be made available in the final 2009 newsletter. For further information, please visit the EMA website:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/)

## Carols @ Convention

Where: Belgrave Heights Convention Centre Convention Avenue BELGRAVE

When: Sunday 13 December

5:00pm: Family festival

7:00pm Carols and entertainment

## Important dates

Friday 27 November

Year 9 Exam Day

Monday 30 - Wednesday 2 December

Year 12 2010 Retreat

Monday 30

Year 10 Exam Day

Wednesday 2 December

Year 11 Final Day

Thursday 3

End of School Year

Year 7 - 10 students

Friday 11

End of School Year Teaching Staff

Friday 17

Office Closes

Wednesday 20 January 2010

Collection of Stationery & Text Books

Friday 29

Term 1 begins

Year 7, 12 and new students

Monday 1 February

All students commence

## Uniform Shop

Final day for the Uniform Shop will be

Thursday 3 December

January dates

20 Jan 9:00am - 3:00pm

21 Jan 1:00pm - 5:00pm

28 Jan 1:00pm - 5:00pm

then each Tuesday and Thursday 1:00pm - 4:00pm during term

## Canteen Roster

Monday 30 November

**HELP NEEDED**

Tuesday 1 December

Ruth MacNab and Virginia Currie

Wednesday 2

**HELP NEEDED**

Thursday 3

Una Steele



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)

