



Tread lightly...Live generously.

2009 College Theme

*I'm always wondering is it 'us' or is it 'me'
But I've come to realise that it should be 'we'
While respecting and caring for our beautiful land
We all leave tiny footprints in the sand.*

*Stories of wisdom have always been told
We learn from each other, big and small, young and old.
All souls are connected we all share the same fate
Show respect and make sure it's not too late.*

www.treadinglightly.sveiby.com

Principal's Message

Welcome one and all members of Mater Christi College community for 2009. I hope that those returning have been refreshed and re-energised by the Christmas and New Year break.

A special welcome to our new students and their families, especially those in Year 7, beginning their secondary education years and also to our international students, experiencing our hot Australian climate for a first time.

I encourage all students to offer a message of welcome in classes and ensure that our commitment to Benedictine hospitality is evident to all newcomers.

I am pleased to welcome also the following staff to the College this year:

Trudi Bons (Accounting, Economics, Chemistry), Paul Green (Business Management, Economics, Information Technology), Kate Lemke (Canteen Manager); Patricia Loudon (Liturgy Coordinator and Religious Education);

Amanda McLellan (Health, Physical Education, Religious Education); Maryanne McPhee (English and Religious Education), Alana Nelson (AFL Trainee); Jessie O'Sullivan (French, Art); Karlene Rainbow (Maths, Science); Dean Snook (Music, Humanities, Production) and Tricia van den Dolder (Physical Education, Science, Health), Marie Arthurson (Physical Education and Dennis Cunningham (French).

A full list of staff roles has been listed under Student Services > Contact for Parents on the College website.

Hopefully, most share my excitement-even some 'butterflies'- as we begin this new school year! Undoubtedly there will be challenges, changes, possibly unexpected outcomes, and most importantly, authentic, relevant learning experiences for all. Thanks to those staff who have prepared and improved our facilities and prepared documents in readiness for the year ahead. We look forward to providing challenging classes, where students can strive to achieve, can master skills and can know more about themselves and our

world. House Leaders and Home Group teachers have prepared carefully for the new Middle and Senior Home Groups. And as our Mission Statement suggests, we are working towards "excellence in all things".

Congratulations to Year 12 students of 2008, and I look forward to providing a summary of their excellent results in our next Newsletter, coinciding with the Award Assembly of Wednesday 11 February where outstanding achievements will be acknowledged. All families and friends are most welcome to attend. In the meantime, we wish Year 12s of 2009 our full support for a successful year ahead.

We remember in our prayers, staff members Kevin Dillon on the death of his wife, Betty, just before Christmas and Elena Malishev on the death of her baby Damien, five weeks before his due birth date. May God grant them courage during these sad days.

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal



We welcome new teachers for 2009 Back row: Paul Green, Maryanne McPhee, Tricia Van den Dolder, Marie Arthurson, Nat Neilson, Dennis Cunningham Front row: Dean Snook, Karlene Rainbow, Trudi Bons, Patricia Loudon and Jessie O'Sullivan

From Mary Close Deputy Principal - Welfare

Special Bulletin to Parents - Total Fire Ban/Bushfire Procedures

Due to the College's unique location in a richly forested area, it is important that parents be familiar with the precautions we take on days of total fire ban and in the event of a bushfire in the area. Our main perceived threats are an emergency situation on-site (e.g. fire on the property), or, more likely, a bushfire in the area. In either case, our immediate response is to ensure student safety. If deemed necessary students will be evacuated to a safe location on-site. The Hall and Gym are ideal safe locations. With both the CFA and the Police close by, our school is well placed for keeping informed on any emergency situation in the Dandenongs.

Procedures for Total Fire Ban Days (as declared by the CFA)

School continues as normal, but with restrictions on student movement. Careful consideration will be given to excursions/off-site activities. Where we believe that there is an unacceptable risk, the activity will be cancelled.

If there is an outbreak of fire

In the event of fire in the area we will liaise with the local CFA to ensure all is safe – this contact will be constantly monitored during the day.

If there is no immediate danger, classes

will continue throughout the day until normal closing time. The following transport regulations will then apply.

Students will be dismissed only if there is NO doubt about the reliability and safety of their transport arrangements and the safety of the environment at their destination. Students will only be dismissed when the situation is safe, or into the direct care of their parents.

Any student who is collected by parents during the transport process must be marked on the roll as having being collected by her parents, AND SIGNED FOR BY HER PARENT/GUARDIAN.

No child is to go with anyone other than her own parents and no child is to be removed from any form of transport during the trip home.

Off Site Evacuation Regulations

If fire is threatening, then the State Emergency Service (SES) procedures will apply:

Transport will be arranged by the SES to a major evacuation centre.

Notices of evacuation and evacuation centre location will be displayed at the school and on the College website if possible.

The students will be admitted to the

evacuation centre using the emergency rolls and labels and their whereabouts recorded for use by both the Police and Red Cross. The College maintains ID tags for such a situation.

Whenever possible the Home Group Teacher will remain with the Home Group until the emergency is clarified.

Discharge from Evacuation Centre – whilst children will be discharged into the care of their parents/guardians, no general discharge will be made until such time as the officer in charge of the fire declares the area to be safe.

General Welfare – 24-hour care is provided. The centre provides meals, first aid, bedding etc.

Enquires regarding evacuees – please contact the College on 9754 6611

If unsuccessful... The Shire of Yarra Ranges arranges an emergency telephone number on which enquiries can be made (1300 368 333) as the normal service may jam in the event of emergency. Until arranged – all messages relating to evacuees will be broadcast by the Police Department through TV and radio stations.

Bus and Train Travellers

A large number of Mater Christi girls travel to and from school each day on buses and trains. We expect that the behaviour of these girls will be exemplary at all times. When they wear the Mater Christi uniform they represent the school as well as themselves.

This year we have again appointed student transport contacts on all buses and on the train. These girls have accepted the responsibility to provide liaison between the school and their bus or train. We are able to contact these girls if there are any delays or problems with the service and they will be able to inform us of such matters. The girls will also be keeping a watch out for any unacceptable behaviour and will support students who may be experiencing difficulties. We will certainly follow up any reports that the behaviour of anyone on the buses or trains is in any way unacceptable.

In the mornings, if a bus or train does not arrive at a stop at a scheduled time we recommend that your daughter contacts

the school directly on 9754 6611. We will investigate the problem and call her and the transport contact to inform them of what is happening.

In the afternoons, the College has staff members on duty at the Belgrave-Gembrook Road bus stop until the last MCC chartered bus leaves. Staff on duty carry a mobile phone so that they can be contacted by the school if buses are running late. The College is unable to provide duty staff for the Belgrave Train Station, which is a public space, but does work closely with Connex and Victoria Police to monitor and respond to issues related to the train service and unacceptable behaviour or incidents that may occur.

Any matters related to inappropriate behaviour should be reported to Mary Close: Deputy Principal-Welfare as soon as possible.

Any queries related to bus services or routes should be reported to Cathy Pote on 9754 6611

Issues related to train services must be reported directly to Connex @ 1800 800 705 or @ www.connexmelbourne.com.au/contacts

Attention MCC Chartered Bus Travellers

You will have received a letter from the College in January notifying you of changes to some bus routes because of unprecedented demand for bus travel and the need to put on an extra bus.

It is very important that the Bass Pass Update form attached to that letter is returned to the College by Tuesday 3 February.

Transport Concession Cards

We have been informed by the MET that Transport Concession Cards for travel on public transport are now not required until students are 17 years of age. Students may still wish to purchase a card for ID reasons.

Communication between home and school

I have a question about my daughter at Mater Christi...who do I contact?

Your first point of contact for queries related to your daughter should be her Home Group Teacher, who may refer your query to other staff as necessary.

It is very important for the Home Group Teacher to be able to coordinate all contact regarding your daughter. Please ask your daughter what Home Group she is in and the name and contact details of her Home Group Teacher. Each Home Group also has a support Home Group Teacher. If you are unable to contact the Home Group Teacher, please speak to the support teacher. Your daughter should be able to tell you the name of this teacher as well.

With this first Newsletter for 2009 is a list of the names of some people who have specific responsibilities related to

student management at the College. We hope that you will find this useful. The list is also posted on the Mater Christi website under the Student Services tab.

College activities and excursions

Whenever a school activity or excursion is planned, girls are given a hard copy of the information to bring home to parents for information and approval.

From the start of 2009, we will be placing copies of these letters on the College Intranet.

Students will be able to login to **General Information > Student Information > Year level** to download copies of these letters if they misplace the original copy. No replacement copies will be available at school. This practice is consistent with Mater Christi's commitment to strive to "tread lightly".

Mary Close
Deputy Principal - Welfare

STOP PRESS: Delayed Start to 2009 School Year

As per SMS notice and details on College website, the extreme weather conditions along with the potential fire danger presented an unacceptable risk for each of Thursday and Friday, particularly in respect of safe travel home for our students.

Thanks to the families and staff who offered their support and responded positively to this important change of schedule. I encourage all parents, students and staff to check the College website, News & Events section regularly for such updates.

National Schools Basketball Tournament

During December last year, 17 students and 4 staff travelled to Newcastle for the annual National Schools Basketball Tournament. We experienced every type of weather from torrential rain to 30 degree temperatures, but this was not enough to stop the MCC teams from dominating in their divisions. Team 1 won 5 of their 6 qualifying matches to go in favourites to the grand final. Unfortunately they were beaten by a small margin, but they were inspirational in their approach to the whole tournament. Team 2 was a relatively new team of mainly Year 7 players competing against mostly Year 10 students. They excelled all expectations and won all of their qualifying games and the bronze medal overall.

Congratulations to the girls for their hard work at training and fundraising efforts throughout the year. We were very proud and impressed with their teamwork and basketball skills, but most importantly with their sportsmanship. Thanks also to Danni Fidge, Emma Gibcus, Lauren Ferguson and Melissa Hale for supporting the girls on this week.

Lauren Ferguson and Melissa Hale 2008 Sport Co - Coordinators



Partnership in Learning Important Dates for families

Year 12 Night with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Life in Year 12... information and strategies for parents and students.

Tuesday 3rd February 7.30 - 9.00pm
College Hall

Years 10 & 11 Night with Annie O'Rourke

How to get the most out of 2009 including sessions with House and Home Group teachers for parents and students.

Thursday 5th February 7.30 - 9.00pm
College Hall

Years 8 & 9 Parent Night

An overview of some of the learning and teaching initiatives, key contacts for the year and creating partnerships for parents.

Wednesday 11th February 7.00 - 8.00 pm
College Hall and Pavilion.

We look forward to meeting with you and enjoying the conversations on these nights.

Janine Bauman Head of Middle School
Julie Feeny Head of Senior School

End-of-year Music Performances

Monbulk Christmas Carols

Despite a wet and cold December evening, the Monbulk hall was bright and warm as soon as the Mater Christi College Choir and Orchestra commenced the Christmas carols in a community singalong! The orchestra looked impressive in their new music shirts and Santa hats. The choir also sang the harmonious "O, Holy Night" to the audience and the Grade 2 Patch Primary School Children beautifully sang popular Christmas songs. Santa then visited the children and after some more singing, the event ended with great memories of a wonderful, music-filled happy evening.

Burrinja 10th Birthday Celebrations

At the Burrinja 10th birthday celebrations, the Mater Christi rock band entertained the lunch time crowds in the foyer in a very tight performance, playing the traditional favourites "Beds are Burning" (Midnight Oil) and a new piece "It's Raining Again" (Super Tramp). Ex-students, Laura McKane and Sarah Strachan joined us for this performance.

Thanks to the accompanying music staff, Chris Walker, Sandra Waldron and Elize Brozgul.

Important Travel Reminder

Thank you to all families for patience and consideration that was shown during the heavy traffic flows as our students returned to school.

It is important that we continue to make safety a key priority – for drivers, for pedestrians, AND for our local residents.

For travelling to and from school, all parents and staff are asked to:

travel with utmost care - observe 40 km per hour zoning

- enter Bayview Road from the eastern end (see diagram)
- keep school entrances clear
- avoid double parking
- ESPECIALLY keep clear in front of the FIRE STATION — AT ALL TIMES
- For exiting Bayview Road, in peak times, please obey the "Left turn only" sign and use roundabout 300m away to return to station and town centre).
- Please support safety for everyone.



New Government Legislation re Anaphylaxis management in schools

New legislation regarding Anaphylactic Management in schools came into force on July 14 2008. This has been enacted by the Government in order to ensure that there are minimum safety standards in schools and children's services. Parents of students who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis **MUST** complete an **ACTION PLAN** and the **MANAGEMENT PLAN** annually. It is imperative that these forms are completed immediately and returned to the College ASAP. Mater Christi College aims to implement effective anaphylaxis prevention and management strategies. If you wish to discuss this further please contact Kaye Walker or Wendy Langford (College Nurses).

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be

a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria for the first instalment of the EMA must be met as at the first day of Term 1.

To receive the first instalment, applications must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009.

Application forms are available from the school office. For further information, please visit the EMA website: www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/ema/index.htm

Important dates

Friday 30

All Student commence

Monday 2 February

Good Samaritan Foundation Day

Tuesday 3

Year 12 - Michael Carr-Gregg

Welcome Night

Thursday 5

Mater Christi College Foundation Day

Senior School Year 10 & 11

Focus Night

Wednesday 11

Middle School Year 8 & 9 Focus Night

Friday 13

Second Billing 2009 Due - Tuition

Wednesday 18

Opening Mass

Canteen Roster

Monday 2 February

Frida Kassis

Tuesday 3

Ruth McNab

Wednesday 4

Kaaren Jukes

Thursday 5

Una Steele

Friday 6

Debbie Wills, Carolyn Mitchell

Monday 9

HELP NEEDED

Tuesday 10

Monique Froude, Bernie Lamanna

Wednesday 11

Sue Nicholas

Thursday 12

Annette Thompson

Friday 13

Sabrina Martenstyn, Naomi Scott

HELP NEEDED FOR CANTEEN - PLEASE PHONE 9757 0832 IF YOU CAN HELP.



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 website for all important news updates
www.materchristi.edu.au