



May the Advent candles remind us to tend the flame of God's love in our hearts, protect it with our prayer, and hasten safely towards our heavenly home by the light of its inner radiance during these Advent weeks.

Verna Holyhead, sgs

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.



From the Principal:

As we journey through this Advent season to the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, Joan Chittister suggests that "we must do more than simply go through the Advent calendar; we must develop in us an Advent heart."

In this time of Advent we are invited to ensure that God is a continuing presence in our daily lives, no matter how ordinary or uneventful these may seem to be. How aware are we of the troubles and hardship of others? How do we "tread lightly; live generously" with our family and friends? We are called to offer the presence of God to those around us, bringing peace, friendship, justice and love to all within and without our communities.

As we finish this 2009 school year, may each one of us, whether student, parent, teacher, staff member or friend of Mater Christi College continue to celebrate our work in partnership for the formation and development of "informed and compassionate women of faith".

In addition to replacement staff, I wish to acknowledge the great contributions of departing teachers, Wendy Mitchell, Beth McLeod and Paul Green, along with staff member Jim Vortman. We wish them well for their future endeavours.

Over the holiday weeks ahead, I hope that all students, parents, staff and families will enjoy a peaceful Christmas, a joyous New Year and a safe and restful break.

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal

MCC Hybrid Car Team RACV Energy Breakthrough

The Mater Christi College Hybrid Car Teams have again successfully participated in the four days of camping, scrutineering, display, design and construction interviews, and racing in Maryborough at the RACV Energy Breakthrough.

A major feature of this year's event was the weather! The preliminary activities were conducted in sweltering 40 degree heat with shade and ice providing the only relief. By lunchtime Saturday our race was on and by evening, so was the rain. We decided to take a break at midnight and a soaked team sought some sleep and temporary relief from the wet.

We re-started next morning and at 5.00am both teams bravely jumped into cold wet overalls and began again. The rain returned. By mid-morning the storm blew barriers onto the track, cars piled up, camp sites and pits sank into the water and visibility was near zero.

For only the second time in its 19 year history, the event was cancelled for safety reasons. The very wet teams packed up a very wet camp and pits with mixed feelings of disappointment and relief, but characteristic of the spirit of the participants, everyone expressed a desire to try again next year.

The Pink Spark Team completed 291 km during the race and won its division for Design and Construction. The Mater Madness team completed 268 km as faultlessly as ever (except for one smashed wheel).

The teams would like to thank the teachers and helpers, Adele Lucas, Brian Lucas and Peter Bast. We also wish to thank Charmaine Jeffrey representing Bendigo Bank who has kindly joined us as one of the major sponsors of our teams.

Bernd Kirsch and Jen McKane
Team Managers



Fitness Challenge

Congratulations to the 100 students who participated in the 2009 Nike+ Schools Challenge. The students recorded their total distance for running and walking over 22 days and Mater Christi ranked 23rd out of 137 schools from Australia and New Zealand. The outstanding performer was Melissa Thiele who completed the maximum distance of 220km and finished 4th overall.

Alana Nelson, AFL Trainee



Food Technology students have entered the Christmas spirit by designing and producing many festive food items. Year 8 students made truffles and produced individually designed and decorated gingerbread biscuits. The Year 10 My Restaurant class produced impressive shortbread trees while the Year 9 Melting Pot classes have continued their multicultural theme to produce a delicious array of Christmas treats from around the world. The final products demonstrated excellent skill development.

Leah Eekelschot, Food Technology Teacher

Year 12 2010 Retreat

Year 12 2010 students completed their year on Retreat at Rawson in Gippsland, a beautiful setting for a period of time away from the usual demands of life. The focus of the retreat was the College theme for next year and the girls made beautiful banners to demonstrate their hopes and ideas for the future.

Activities including goal setting, developing positive relationships and facing some personal physical challenges on the high ropes and flying fox. Staff who worked with the girls were full of praise for their preparedness to participate and their strong commitment to the programme. Thanks to the teachers and congratulations to the students!

Julie Feeney, Head of Senior School



Walk Against Warming

December 12th is D-Day for the planet as world leaders meet in Copenhagen to do a global deal on climate change. We want to send them a message they can't ignore. A message that we want them to take bold and decisive action to reduce greenhouse pollution, and create a safe climate. While they talk the talk, people all over the world will walk the walk in the Walk Against Warming. With your help, we can make sure our voices are heard in Copenhagen.

In Melbourne join the Walk Against Warming on Saturday December 12th, 12pm at the State Library, Swanston Street. The walk will go down Swanston Street to Princes Bridge where 10,000 people will make a human sign to spell out "SAFE CLIMATE - DO IT!"

Climate change is surely the greatest threat to our way of life - and Australia is the greatest emitter in the world of greenhouse gasses per person! It's happening now and we need to act. YOU can help to make that action a reality!

If you would like to be a part of the walk, check out www.waw.org.au or email me at trost_k@materchristi.edu.au so we can organise a group from MCC.

Katrina Trost
Environment Leader

2010 Start of Year

January

- 20 Collection Stationery & Books
Uniform Shop 9.00 - 3.00
- 21 Uniform Shop 1.00 - 5.00
- 28 Uniform Shop 1.00 - 5.00
- 29 Yrs 7,12 & new students begin

February

- 1 All Students begin
School photos

A more detailed *Important Dates Term 1* calendar is enclosed with Semester Reports.

Victorian Student Number

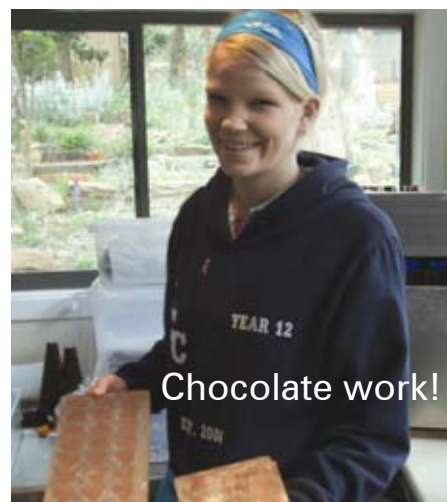
A message from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding the introduction of a Victorian Student Number (VSN).

The VSN is a student identification number that is being assigned to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to stable information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

The introduction of the Victorian Student Number will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria. The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them.

You will see the VSN appear on student report cards, enrolment confirmations, and exit confirmations from 2010.

If you want to know more about the VSN please see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/overview.htm>



Chocolate work!

Since September, a group of VCAL girls has visited Wild Patch Chocolates in Olinda where Linda has been teaching us how to make Belgium Chocolates. We tempered chocolate, made fillings and assembled gift boxes. We also helped to complete orders for local businesses.

Sam Currie, Yr 11 VCAL Student

Office Hours

Office Closed
Friday 11 December

Office Open
Monday 14 – Thursday 16 December

Office Closes for Holidays
12.00 noon
Friday 17 December 2009

Office Re-opens
Monday 18 January 2010

News and Events

Check the News and Events page on the web-site www.materchristi.edu.au

