



*"Thank God, it's Lent". Let me welcome this observance as a great opportunity to put some distance between me and the things that don't count. Let me take the chance to restore balance. Let me ask the hard questions.*

*Lenten Reflection Marilyn Huber*

## From the Principal:

This week, on Ash Wednesday, we commence the season of Lent. Over the forty days leading up to the feast of Easter, we recall Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness and through this time, we are reminded to recommit ourselves to God's purpose, through prayer, fasting and alms-giving.

The College community will gather in House groups on Wednesday morning and through the signing of each of us with ashes, we are reminded of our mortal state. Many people make pledges during Lent, to forego certain pleasures or non-essentials in their lives – perhaps for example lollies, favourite foods, TV shows. Others commit to good deeds such as donations to Project Compassion. Along with prayers during Lent, our fasting and good deeds are small ways in which we recommit our lives to God.

However I suspect it is alms-giving that remains a mystery to many students... and yet, given the work already undertaken to support fundraising activities for relief efforts in Haiti, we know that there is much generosity already evident. Congratulations to the Year 12 students and staff who provided pancakes on Shrove Tuesday with funds going to Caritas. However, Lent is a time set aside to really focus on our efforts. Giving from our excess is a simple enough exercise, but sharing from all that we have would seem to offer a stronger and more authentic commitment to our 'neighbour'. There are already some Home Groups which regularly support the charity work of an international relief organisation. Perhaps

we should all be doing this...giving to others regularly. If we are able to save money, or spend on extras for ourselves, does this not suggest another way we could help others? Let's reconsider our efforts, and see if we are indeed doing enough to help our neighbours, near and far? Why not become a regular contributor to Caritas? Some action here could be the best of Lenten pledges.

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who this week have established their credentials – they no longer wish to be escorted to their classrooms! Many teachers have enjoyed greeting and meeting our newest community members, and we all hope that we will continue to work with positive excitement and deliberate energy.

At the other end of the school, students in Year 12 are already conscious of the need to work with great determination. I trust that by now, all have developed a firm study plan. I encourage students and parents to have clear agreements around goals, study strategies and weekend expectations! As identified recently by Dr Michael Carr Gregg, good communication plays an essential part in a successful Year 12 year, along with regular sleep, eating and studying patterns – or check out his book in the College library to learn more about the benefits of eggs, anchovies, hot milk and chewing gum!

The Middle School celebrated a successful swimming carnival last week, where participation, leadership and barracking was at an all time high. Congratulations to Purple House which celebrated its first win for 2010 with top event points, and to Green House

which scored a first for the House Spirit Award. Staff as well as students joined in the parade of House colours, and I particularly thank Melissa Phillips, Amanda McLellan and Erin Hunt for their superb organisation of this event. Even the occasional shower of rain could not dampen these spirits.

Several information evenings are scheduled during first term and for Middle School student parents, next Tuesday's Focus Evening will provide some important information as well as another opportunity to meet some of your daughter's teachers. I look forward to seeing you there.

I am pleased to commend the successful work of a small team of parents and staff who organised a new approach to second hand book sales at the end of last year. It was a busy but effective Saturday sale, and I hope that for many, the wait in the queue was rewarded appropriately. Improvements are scheduled for 2010, and so I thank the staff and parents who worked to ensure the success of this great initiative.

Please remember in your prayers:

Claire Dale (Year 12 student) and her family especially, following the death of her father, James after a period of illness.

Fr Bill Bainbridge, parish priest of St Scholastica's in Burwood and one of the founding Board Directors who was a major contributor to the governance and developments of Mater Christi College in its formative years (70s & 80s). We give thanks for his continuing support for the College.

[Continue Page 2](#)



Shrove Tuesday



## Outstanding Achievements and Highlights of 2009

We are again very pleased to acknowledge outstanding results for the Mater Christi College Year 12 Class of 2009:

100% completion of VCE & Median study score of 32

100% completion of Senior VCAL

6 students achieved ENTER scores  $\geq 98$ , placing them in top 2% of state

10% of students achieved ENTER scores  $\geq 95$ , placing them in top 5% of state

20% of students achieved ENTER scores  $> 90$ , placing them in top 10% of state

Strong results were achieved with  $> 75\%$  of study scores at or above the national average, and including some outstanding results in Accounting, Design & Technology, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths and Visual Communication & Design,

Achievements included many personal bests as well as strong academic outcomes:

Congratulations to College DUX – Dan Lu with an ENTER score of 99.3



**Dan Lu** achieved outstanding results, with all her scores in the 40s, including 48 for Maths Methods, 45 for Specialist Maths. She was delighted to accept a place in Commerce (New Generation) at The University of Melbourne, Parkville.



**Ellen Saber** who received an ENTER of 98.6 will study Commerce at Monash University. Ellen scored highly with 44 for Economics and English Language and 41 for Chemistry. She was this year the proud recipient of the Astrid Renehan Memorial Chemistry Prize.



**Georgie Stokol**, with an ENTER of 98.5, was awarded a scholarship to study Science Advanced with Honours at Monash University.



**Dan Li** achieved an ENTER of 98.25 and was offered a place in Commerce at University of Melbourne. Overall, 7 of 16 international students were offered places at University of Melbourne.



**Lisa Mandeltort's** ENTER of 97.1 resulted in an offer of studying Science Advanced with Honours at Monash university.



**Stephanie Bricker** ENTER of 98.45 achieved a perfect score for VET Hospitality and has accepted the offer of a place in Pharmacy at La Trobe University.



**Kelly Bartholomeusz** achieved an outstanding ENTER of 98.1 and was delighted to accept a place studying Professional Communication at RMIT University, Melbourne.



**Courtney Wills & Sailing Zhang** were successful in being offered a place at The University of Melbourne Victorian College of the Arts, a highly competitive process, dependent also upon an outstanding portfolio



**Vicki Malmo** was delighted to be offered a place to study Nursing at Monash University (Peninsula Campus), with the additional thrill of receiving a study support scholarship.



**Gabrielle Pradier-Hammill** is looking forward to studying Design-Communication Design at Swinburne University of Technology. Her Visual Communication work was successfully nominated for the VCE Season of Excellence.



**Eden Carell's** achievements through VCE have resulted in being offered a place in Film and Digital Media at Deakin University

Many other Year 12 students have been delighted with offers pertinent to their anticipated pathways. In addition to the courses listed above, our graduates are looking forward to making their mark in fields such as:

Marketing, Tourism, Psychological Sciences, Business Information Systems, Fashion, Furniture Design, Professional Communications, Sports Therapy, Biomedical Science, Health Sciences, Nursing, Disability Work, Forensic Science, Food Technology and Nutrition, Emergency Health (Paramedic), Psychology & Psychophysiology –Arts, Environments, Graphic Design, Legal Practice, Drama, Media and Communications, Fine Art, and Occupational Therapy.

Further details of the 2009 results will be published in a future newsletter.

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal

## Middle School Swimming Carnival

On Thursday the 11th of February, an exciting year of sport commenced with the Middle School Swimming Carnival, held at Belgrave Pool. The girls showed great enthusiasm in and out of the water by competing in both the swimming races and novelty events. The swimming offered plenty of excitement with close finishes and a battle for first place between Purple and Orange House. For those not so confident

with swimming, the novelty events provided plenty of entertainment and amusement. By the end of the day, it was Purple House that took out First Place while Green won the House Spirit Award. Overall the day was a great success thanks to the help of the student leaders and staff. Well done also to all the girls!

Erin Hunt AFL Trainee



## Haiti Fund

The VCAL students held a barbeque at the recent swimming carnival to help raise money for Haiti. Throughout the day we sold chocolates, lolly pops, sausages and veggie burgers.

The day was a great success raising around about \$400. We also helped with the race timing and the place judging. Everyone enjoyed the day and it was a great experience.

Samantha Currie Year 12 VCAL

## Curriculum News

### Reports and Reports Folder

Mater Christi students receive four formal reports each year, two Progress Statements and two Semester Reports. Except for the final report of year, each report is followed by a Progress Meeting, where parents and students are encouraged to discuss the student's progress with the subject teacher.

This year all students will receive a Mater Christi Progress Portfolio. The Portfolio is divided into year levels and should provide students with a neat and convenient way to file the reports and certificates they receive. The folders will be distributed towards the end of Term 1.

### New Awards for 2010

The College seeks to identify and acknowledge the excellence and endeavour of students and we are restructuring our awards for this year to better recognise student performance. Further details will be

placed on the College website shortly, but in brief the awards will include:

**Scholastica Award** – This award is presented to all students achieving a predetermined unit average. For Yr 7-10 students the average Unit Result must be at least 5.6, for VCE the target is a B grade average or better.

**Subject Award** (Effort and Achievement) – The highest achieving student from each subject will receive the Achievement Award, while the most committed will receive the Effort Award.

**Award of Excellence** – This award will be presented at each year level to one student who has excelled across a range of areas such as scholastic achievements, community involvement and leadership.

Other specific purpose awards which are currently available to students will remain.

Tony Kolb  
Director of Curriculum

## VCE Mathematics and English Tutoring

Mater Christi offers a free tutoring service to all VCE students in English and Mathematics. This is provided in a one to one or small group situation.

The tutors are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students are welcome and encouraged to book in as regularly as required. The booking folders can be found in Scholastica.

We look forward to seeing many students this year.

If parents or students have any queries please contact us:

Kylie Lee (Mathematics)  
lee\_k@materchristi.edu.au

Anne-Louise Sheehan (English)  
sheehan\_a@materchristi.edu.au

## All the Glamour at the Year 12 Formal



## e-News coming soon

Is your email address current?

Please notify the registrar of any changes to your contact details at [koomen\\_c@materchristi.edu.au](mailto:koomen_c@materchristi.edu.au)

### Important Travel Reminder

Thank you to all families for the patience and consideration that was shown during the heavy traffic flows as our students returned to school. Safety is essential – for drivers, for pedestrians and for our local residents.

When 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
- keep clear of the front of the FIRE STATION — AT ALL TIMES

When exiting Bayview Road in peak times, please obey the "Left turn only" sign and use the roundabout 300m away to return to station and town centre.



### Centacare Catholic Family Services

Picking up the Pieces is a one day program for those who are in the early stages of grief following the end of their relationship. This program can help with the feelings of confusion and loss that come with being separated, divorced or widowed.

Date: Saturday 27 February

Venue: 62 McKillop Street GEELONG

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

Cost: \$50 (\$30 for concession holders)

Includes lunch, tea & coffee

Bookings essential – limited places.

Tabor Journey is for those further down the road of grieving, but who would still like to learn from others, as well as heal the hurt, loneliness and grief they are still experiencing. This is a live-in-weekend held in Templestowe from 7.30pm Friday 12 March to 4pm Sunday 14 March.

For further information and an application form for Tabor Journey, please phone 5221 7055.

Fr. E. John McCarthy  
Family Counsellor

### Charter Bus Guest Users

Please be aware that if a student wishes to bring a friend home on the Charter Bus, it is necessary to obtain permission to travel from the College prior to travelling.

Students should report to Main Reception and ask to speak with Mrs Cathy Pote.

Permission will be granted subject to seat availability and a temporary bus pass will be issued to the student. Some of our Charter Buses this year are at almost full seating capacity so for safety purposes, it is important that this process is followed.

Cathy Pote Bus Coordinator

### Important dates

Monday 22 February

Year 8 Seed Day

Tuesday 23

Year 7 & 9 Seed Day Big Sister, Little Sister

Middle School Parents Focus Night on

Cyber Safety 7:15 pm

Wednesday 24

Opening Mass

Thursday 25

Year 12 2009 Reunion

Friday 26

Year 7 Community Day

Closing Date for applications Year 7 2011

Monday 1 March

Central Australia Trip Meeting 7:30pm

Tuesday 2

Year 10 Seed Day

Year 10 Focus Evening 6:45pm

Friday 5

Schools Clean Up Australia Day

Monday 8

Labour Day holiday

### Canteen Roster

Monday 22 February

Marcelle Rennardson

Tuesday 23

Robyn Lynch, Kay Murray

Wednesday 24

Una Steele

Thursday 25

Robynne Carter, Hillary Halliday

Friday 26

Linda Mckee

Monday 1 March

**HELP NEEDED**

Tuesday 2

Virginia Currie

Wednesday 3

Kaye Longombardo

Thursday 4

Una Steele

Friday 5

Carolyn Mitchell, Beverley Crampton



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)

