



*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and Holy is His Name;*

Luke 1:46-50.



From the Principal:

At its very inception, Mater Christi College, our Good Samaritan school, was named to honour the life of Mary, mother of Jesus. This most surely tells us something important about a commitment towards understanding the important roles for women in our world. Educating girls is therefore both our passion and our purpose.

Of her time as mother of Jesus, it is impossible to not be inspired by the faith, love and hope that Mary showed throughout her life. Without doubt she faced significant challenges, yet we know that her faith in God, ultimately enabled her to offer herself as parent and support for Jesus, and she became the first disciple of Christ.

Mary's openness to God of the impossible "for how can this be?" (Lk 1:34) inspires us to follow in her footsteps in confidence that God will provide in abundance and beyond our expectations.

We are inspired by her to love and trust God, as we continue to live prayerfully the Benedictine values of community and hospitality, humility and stewardship, justice and peace.

Our College Leaders had an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills in the context of Benedictine Community. They explored the Benedictine values, and came up with ideas of how to live and promote them at the College. We look forward to some strong Benedictine leadership this year.

Although a public holiday for students in Victoria, last Monday 8 March as International Women's Day provided an opportunity for women around the world to join together in celebration of the intelligence, strength, courage and beauty of women. Since 1908

this has been a day to celebrate the achievements of women around the world without regard to their national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political differences.

Tragically, however, we also know that women across the world disproportionately suffer the burden of poverty and are the victims of widespread discrimination. Consider just one stark example - the risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth is about 1 in 26 in Africa – and yet about 1 in 7,300 in developed regions.

Let us also remember that at the start of this century, government leaders from around the world came together and agreed on a powerful agenda for a global partnership to fight poverty – the Millennium Development Goals. Despite there being only the one specific goal of gender equality, we know that without progress towards the empowerment of women, none of the other goals will be able to be achieved.

Educating all girls, including ours here in Belgrave, to participate more actively in the affairs of society, in public life, in promoting social change, in gaining greater access to technical training and information and communication technologies.....is fundamental to the achievement of these Millennium Development Goals, "empowering women to end poverty by 2015."

So, what are we doing here at Mater Christi College to support the empowerment of our girls? Are efforts towards the Millennium Goals of relevance to our education endeavours? I would most strongly suggest that they are, and that most significantly our Lenten reflections and practices are an authentic and essential starting point.

It is uplifting to consider the efforts currently being made by so many students across all year levels to identify and organise support for communities in need, whether these are in Haiti, Chile, East Timor or here in Australia, in indigenous communities as well as on our streets in neighbouring suburbs. Extraordinary efforts are evident across the many groups as diverse fundraising activities are organised, from sausage sizzles, to raffles, hot drink sales, 'hearts for Haiti' badges to supporting Soup Van volunteers at Sacred Heart Mission. And as we work deliberately to inspire our students to "become active and compassionate women of faith" it behoves all of us to get well and truly behind these efforts to be neighbour, offering financial, spiritual and emotional support.

Recently I came across a most useful website for parents: www.pbs.org/parents/raisinggirls/powerful/ which offers many useful strategies towards supporting the formation of confident girls, including links to other resources. I would think that debating some of these suggestions might well result in robust 'intergenerational' family conversations, and might just activate new insights into both the world of cyberspace as that of girls in the developed world!

So, as we journey through this time of Lent, let's authentically reflect and share with our girls, ways in which women, and girls, living across all communities can experience justice and equality, such that they can all live as "compassionate and faith-filled women who will participate freely and creatively in the affairs of society."

Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal

Principal Review

On Tuesday 20 April, a specialist Review Panel will conduct a Formative Review of the College Principal, Mrs Mary Fitz-Gerald. The guidelines for Principals' reviews in the Archdiocese of Melbourne emphasise the need for constructive examination of the Principal's role and performance, on agreed terms, within the context of the purpose and mission of the College and its strategic plans and relationship with the Church Authority, i.e. the Members of the Good Samaritan Sisters Congregation, Education Council and the Mater Christi College Board.

The Review Panel comprises Mrs Susan Dankert as Chair, Sr Veronica Hoey (representing the Good Samaritan Sisters), Ms Fiona Purcell (for the College Board) and Ms Kathleen Heagney (Principal's Nominee).

The review report will include information from interviews with selected members of the current College community, i.e., Leadership team, Staff, Board members, Parents and Students. The final report will be presented to the Chair of the Mater Christi College Board for the Board's consideration.

An invitation is also extended to parents who wish to express their views about the current functioning of the College under the leadership of Mrs Fitz-Gerald. If you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity please email Mrs Susan Dankert, Review Panel Chair danck@netspace.net.au by Wednesday 14 April to register your participation in a phone interview. Each interview will be conducted by phone with a member of the interview panel at a mutually convenient time and all information is confidential to the panel.

Terry Stephens MCC Board Chair

VCE Creative Showcase

The VCE Creative Showcase represents selected works from Year 12 students from the eastern region of Melbourne. Two students from Mater Christi College were chosen by the Showcase selection committee:

Eden Carrell presented her short movie based on the feeling of rock music. The display of Eden's extensive talent was also evident when she performed her own music, accompanied by her brother and Mater Christi teacher, Dean Snook.

Courtney Wills displayed a 3 dimensional artwork that presented a complex array of welded and found objects, with flora central to the theme, based on criminals.

Congratulations to both girls who expressed through their art the creative complexity of artwork undertaken at Mater Christi College.

Anthony Clarke
Domain Leader - Visual Arts



Concert at the Bowl

The Year 11 VCE music class attended the first of the free Myer Music Bowl concerts. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra presents these concerts during February each year, honoring the legacy of the late Sidney Myer who donated the money to build the Music Bowl. The soloist in Tchaikovsky's First Piano concerto was the phenomenally talented seventeen year old Australian star Maxwell Foster. The event was preceded by a lavish picnic on the lawn.

Elize Brozgul
Instrumental Music Teacher



France Experience

On November 30 2009, 60 teenagers left Australia for 2 months in France, I was lucky enough to be one of them.

Spending my summer holidays in France was the pinnacle of my life thus far. I went to French school, had snowball fights in the French countryside and ate delicious French food. It gave me a chance to really experience a new part of the world.

I stayed with a host family located in Brittany, a north western region of France and experienced the culture of



France. At the end of my trip I spent three days in Paris and enjoyed the spectacular tourist attractions.

From an educational perspective it was magnificent for the immersion in the language, particularly preceding Year 12, and I believe I have improved considerably. If you are interested in something similar I strongly recommend contacting Southern Cross Cultural Exchange or any other exchange organization to work out what program is the best option for you.

C'était trop magnifique!

Kathleen Mellahn Year 12

Year 10 Focus Nights

There was quite a buzz in the Main Courtyard on the evening of the Year 10 Focus Night. The delicacies prepared by the Hospitality class and their excellent service set a happy mood for all who came to the pre-meeting social gathering. Teachers and parents commented that it was nice just to meet each other as people and to spend a few minutes getting to know a little more about each other. The girls introduced their parents to their teachers and everyone enjoyed the casual chat.

After a delightful 45 minutes we went into the Hall for the "Keys Please" Presentation and the representative from the TAC spoke to parents and daughters about that exciting new phase in the girls' lives: learning to drive. During the day the girls had attended a day-long program about



living and driving safely. Guest speakers from the "ROADS program" of the Shire of Yarra Ranges had spoken to them about the impact of alcohol and drugs, peer pressure and over-confidence when getting behind the wheel. They had been so well-prepared that when the questions came in the evening, the girls knew the answers and amazed their parents with their knowledge.

The girls left excited because they now realized how close they were to becoming drivers. The parents left excited because they now knew just how they were going to be able to help their daughter through this time. The teachers left excited at the completion of many interesting conversations.

Helen Smith and Melissa Clarke-Birch
Year 10 Learning Leaders



Student Leadership Training

The Year 12 leaders participated in a Good Samaritan leadership course, run by the Good Samaritan Mission Team from Sydney. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities such as exploring "what is a leader?" We worked together to develop goals, projects and actions that we would like to see take place during our leadership year. We also learnt about the history of St. Benedict and the Benedictine values that we

adopt at Mater Christi College. The day concluded with a liturgy and reflection based on the importance of setting goals, daring to dream and striving to make a difference within our community. Overall, the day was very beneficial and we all left with a positive outlook and lots of ideas for the rest of our year.

Rhian Pospischil
Faith and Liturgy Captain



Year 8 Seed Day Community and Service

In February all Year 8 students participated in a "Community and Service" Seed Day.

Cressida McDonald from Knit a Square spoke of the purpose of the program and how it has evolved. The girls were then taught how to knit by women from the Country Women's Association. The girls engaged excitedly in this traditional activity.



The remainder of the day was spent exploring geographical aspects of Africa. The girls created a class banner and discussed the importance of being informed and being compassionate. The day concluded with Liturgy that the students were actively involved in facilitating.

Vicki Godfrey Year 8 Learning Leader

Attendance Reminder

As students settle into the routine of classes, I would like to remind families of the attendance requirements for girls in Years 11 and 12. All students are expected to be at school for 100% of class time. Exceptions to this may be for illness or important family matters and such absences must be explained via a note in the planner. Other absences for social reasons, such as attending a concert on a school day, are not in the best interests of the students' learning and also undermine this College expectation.

Julie Feeney
Head of Senior School

Artificial Fingernails

Parents, please ensure that your daughters understand that artificial fingernails are neither appropriate nor permitted at school.

Girls will be excluded from classes where these are a health hazard if they persist in wearing them – e.g. Food Tech, Art, Science, PE.

Thank you for your support.

Mary Close
Deputy Principal - Welfare

e-News coming very soon

Is your email address current?

Please notify the registrar of any changes to your contact details at koomen_c@materchristi.edu.au

St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully Require Homestay Families for Indigenous Students

St Joseph's College will be welcoming a number of students from various Australian states and territories to the College in 2010. The boys range in age from Years 7 to 10. They come from different indigenous communities located throughout the Northern Territory including the Alice Springs area. Most were previously enrolled at Worawa College in Healesville which has recently announced its closure to boys.

We are now looking for homestay families for these students. A Homestay family provides accommodation, meals and support for a student, and receives an allowance of \$245.00 per week to cover expenses. Homestay is a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange and making new friends. Families with young or older children, couples, single-parents and grandparents can all welcome students into their home. The College will work in partnership with homestay families in providing any support and assistance that the boys may require, including support in developing cultural understandings.

If you would like further information or to receive an application form, please contact the Homestay Co-ordinator, Jo Crosbie on 9756 3185 or 0427 777 967.

Help! My Child is in VCE

Featuring guest presenter Dr Matthew Bateman Co-founder of VCE Help

D: Wednesday 24 March

T: 7:00 – 9:00pm

A: Knox Civic Centre

511 Burwood Hwy Wantirna South

P: Sarah Waters 9298 8311

E: sarah.waters@knox.vic.gov.au

Bookings essential



The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

The Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children's Hospital is seeking families to take part in a research project looking at social skills and moral reasoning.

For further information please contact Ms. Tilly Crozier on 9090 5244 or via matilda.crozier@mcri.edu.au.



Marriage Encounter Weekend

This is a marriage enrichment program for married couples based on Catholic values, but you don't need to be Catholic to attend. Forget life's tensions and interruptions to rekindle what brought you together.

The next 3 weekends are: 16-18 April, 25-27 June and 20-22 August. For further information and bookings contact Peter & Erika Smith (03) 9899 0824 or Email vicbookings@wwme.org.au. Visit the website for more information on www.wwme.org.au



Time Out

The Family Care Sisters facility at 69 Alto Ave Croydon, offers holistic care to all women who are in need for a peaceful environment, 'time out', support or nurturing. In 2010, we have our normal weekly program as well as offering "Focus" weeks – where the daily session for that week will look at different aspects of a specific topic. The topics are: "Creating Healthy Relationships", "Chronic Illness – Fear or Freedom" and "Create our own Happiness – Lemons to Lemonade". Suggested cost: \$25 - \$30 per day or whatever you are able to give. Contact details:

P: 9723 6797

E: resthome.familycare@bigpond.com

Important dates

Saturday 20

Year 7, 2011 interviews

Monday 22

World Water Day

Wednesday 24

Year 11 Central Australia Trip departs

Friday 26

Progress Reports Posted

Term 1 Ends

Saturday 27

China Trip departs

Earth Hour 8:30 - 9:30pm

Thursday 1 April

Holy Thursday

Friday 2

Good Friday

Saturday 3

Central Australia Trip returns

Sunday 4

Daylight Savings Ends

Easter Sunday

Tuesday 6

China Trip returns

Monday 12

Term 2 begins

Canteen Roster

Monday 22

Marcelle Rennardson, Ruth McNab

Tuesday 23

Robyn Lynch

Wednesday 24

Una Steele

Thursday 25

Robynne Carter, Hillary Halliday

Friday 26

Linda McKee

Extended Uniform Shop Winter Uniform Purchases

Tuesday 23 March 1:00 – 8:00pm

Thursday 25 March 1:00 – 8:00pm



Contact Employment Privacy Policy Enrolment Enquiries

a good samaritan school for girls

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News and Events

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



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