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Newsletter 3

Website: <http://www.sfx.vic.edu.au>

March 6, 2008

From the Principal Mr Paul Desmond

Student Leadership

I have much pleasure in introducing to the parent community a group of outstanding young men and women who have taken on positions of student leadership this year:

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Ellie Frindt: Ellie is a former student of Mary MacKillop Primary School and has been a St Francis Xavier College student for five years now. Her interests include hiking, camping and netball. As a Year 12 student Ellie is undertaking studies in RE, English, Further Maths, Psychology, Physical Education and Drama and hopes to study psychology teaching next year. Ellie is a member of Gallagher House.

Fraser Selby: Fraser is a very keen musician and has represented the College widely as a member of various bands and choirs. His love of music is known to all. Fraser is currently studying units in RE (Social Justice), English, Maths Methods, Music, National Politics and Accounting and hopes to study psychology at university next year. A former student of Berwick Primary School, Fraser is a member of White House.

Kate Cremer: Kate is keenly interested in dancing and music. Her academic interests are high, and she is committed to enrolling in a physiotherapy course next year. Kate is studying RE (Social Justice), English, Maths Methods, Biology, Physical Education and Dance. Kate attended Wodonga Primary School, having moved to this area four years ago. She is a member of Schneider House.

Nshan Sakadjian: Nshan is a talented sportsman and loves all sports, particularly soccer, rugby and kickboxing. Nshan is also interested in music, dancing and singing. His VCE units are RE (Social Justice), English, Further Maths, Physical Education, VET Hospitality and VET Sport & Recreation. In 2009 he aims to commence his studies in either physiotherapy or sports medicine. Nshan is a member of Synan House.

Letter from the Director

Please find attached to this edition of our Newsletter a letter from Mr Peter Ryan, Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sale.

Elections for the College Board

Following the recent call for nominations for election to the College Board for the Parishes of Narre Warren and Iona/Maryknoll, I am pleased to announce that Mr Peter Collingwood has been appointed unopposed to represent the Parish of Narre Warren. As we received no nominations for Iona/Maryknoll Fr Michael Willemsen has appointed the incumbent representative, Mr Michael Keane.

MARCH

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Monday 10th	Labour Day – Students not required at school
Wednesday 12th	Year 7 Camp No. 1 departs Year 7, 2009 Information Evening, 7.30 p.m. at the Berwick Campus
Thursday 13th	Stations of the Cross , re-enacted by Senior Drama students – 7.30 p.m. at the Beaconsfield Campus
Friday 14th	Year 7 Camp No. 1 returns
Monday 17th	Year 7 Camp No. 2 departs
Tuesday 18th	Keys Please Presentation, 7.30 p.m. at the Beaconsfield Campus
Wednesday 19th	Year 7 Camp No. 2 returns
Thursday 20th	Central Australia Trip departs Applications for Year 7, 2009 close End of Term 1

St. Francis Xavier College

NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter can be found
on the College website:
www.sfx.vic.edu.au

World Youth Day

We have a very committed group of young people who have chosen to attend the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney in July this year. In total, 60 students of Year 11 will join the expected 500,000 other young men and women in a celebration of their Faith. The highlight of the week will occur with Eucharist celebrated by His Holiness, Pope Benedict.

Year 12 Retreats

All students in Year 12 recently took part in a three day Retreat at either Catherine's Creek or Yarra Junction. The aim of the Retreat was to give the students the opportunity to slow down and reflect upon their goals for the year, their family, their commitments, their relationship with God and their prayer life. I had the opportunity to spend a little time with each group and could not help but be greatly impressed by the spirit and dedication of the students. I would ask you all to keep the senior students in your prayers in the demanding months ahead.

REMAR Embarkation Camp

Last week 37 of our Year 10 students joined Mr Len Cooke and Miss Sara Evans at Dromana for the first of our REMAR experiences. The REMAR programme is designed to provide young people with a focus upon their Faith and prayer life, and an avenue for charitable works.

Inter House Swimming Carnivals

The students at both campuses took part last Tuesday (senior) and Wednesday (junior) in the annual swimming carnivals. Student attendance and participation were both outstanding, as was the standard of competition in the water. Most who were not competing were actively supporting the swimmers. House Co-ordinators have been delighted by the positive support of the students.

My congratulations to our Co-ordinators of Sport, Ms Siobhan Taylor and Ms Kate Meyer upon the thoroughly well organized events.

We are Praying for:

- Mr Len Cooke and family, following the recent death of his father, Jack.
- Mr Eddie Hoareau.

HELP NEEDED

Ms Melinda Varley

The Textiles Department at Berwick Campus is in need of a volunteer to reupholster 21 vinyl bench stools. All materials will be provided. If you can help in any way, please contact me at the College on 9702 6588 or mvarley@sfx.vic.edu.au.

St Catherine's Primary School Country Fair

Saturday March 15, 2008

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Rides, showbags, food, plants
and much more

(Any former St Catherine's students who would like to help on stalls, please ring the school 9702 1466)

REMAR EMBARKATION CAMP

by Ainsley Szybkowski



Remar is a program new to our College, built on four main elements, *leadership, community, charity and faith development*. On Tuesday, February 26, thirty-seven eager students went along to the Remar embarkation camp at Safety Beach. This camp introduced us to the 3-year program we were about to join and aimed to give us all an insight into what and how the group would run. Along with Miss Evans, our caravel leader and Mr Cooke, we took the bus trip to Dromana where we stayed until Friday afternoon.

It was pretty full on. The camp was run by Simone, a lady from Remar head office, along with three previous Remar participants who were using their gap year from school to come along to the camps. These people were amazing in the stories and advice they were willing to share with us. In order to ensure smooth running of the camp we were allocated chores we were to complete in small groups of six. The chores included preparing and cleaning up after every meal, cleaning the bathrooms and preparing morning tea and supper.



The main content of the camp however, was alternating between sessions of discussion in small groups, listening to talks and playing games! Sometimes these discussions and talks pressed on issues a little close to home making everyone teary eyed and emotional. But if anything this made us appreciate the experience and certainly learn things about people that we had not known before. The main games that we played helped us to bond together as a group and were simply a bit of fun.

By the end of the four day camp, all thirty-seven students were confident that they wanted to continue with the Remar program. We walked away with a new sense of enthusiasm as we began our three year journey. I was very thankful to have been involved in such a rewarding experience. Hopefully everyone involved was able to take something from the embarkation camp and are now looking forward to continuing Remar.

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Mr Mark Brockhus – Deputy Principal, Head of Campus

Care Group Teachers, 2008

The role of the Care Group Teacher includes being the primary provider of pastoral care for the students in their group. As such, they should be the first point of contact for parents/guardians if there are any issues or concerns. The Care Group Teacher will also be providing constant guidance in terms of academic progress for each student in his or her group and can be contacted for general feedback as desired. If there are any concerns over student progress the Care Group Teachers will contact parents/guardians as the need arises.

The Care Group Teachers for 2008 are:

BURGESS

Romi BENNETT
(Co-ordinator)
Clare Caldwell **CCA**
Les Paul **LPA**
Kevin Woodhouse **KWO** &
Karen Boyd **KBO**
Jane Watkins **JWA**
Mariasosa Pandelidis **MRP**

GALLAGHER

Greg FURLONG
(Co-ordinator)
Julie Clark **JCL**
Anne-Marie Gates **AMG**
Len Cooke **LCO**
Pamela Ramos **PRA**
Nicole Leach **NLE**

McDONAGH

Adam GORDON
(Co-ordinator)
Bruce Topham **BTO**
Bob Santoro **BSA**
Ed Creely **ECR**
Laura Stewart **LST**
Emma Hornby **EHO**

McKENNA

Jan RANKINS
(Co-ordinator)
Sue Nichols **SNI**
Bernadette Barlow **BBA** &
Maree Chapman **MCH**
Patricia Dulude **PDU**
Ian Coffey **ICO**
Jayne Sheumack **JSH**

Melbourne University Master Class

The University of Melbourne invites all Year 10 students to participate in Master Class 2007. This free program offers interested students the opportunity to sample tertiary level study prior to choosing VCE subjects later in the year.

SCHNEIDER

Mark DAWSON
(Co-ordinator)
Patricia Portbury **PPO**
Peter Robinson **PRO**
Erica Aimino **EAI**
Georgina Erpismidis **GER**
Athena Beshir **ABE**

SYNAN

Paul ATKINS
(Co-ordinator)
Roshan De Silva **RDS**
Scott Goldsworthy **SGL**
Greg Ashcroft **GAS**
Laura Bettio **LBE**
Siobhan Taylor **STA**

THOMAS

Ben CUNNINGHAM
(Co-ordinator)
Sara Evans **SEV**
Jim Parker **JPA**
Ben Murphy **BMU**
Andrea Laszczyk **ALZ**
Daniel McMullan **DMC**

WHITE

Margaret BLYTHMAN
(Co-ordinator)
Lauren Hyland **LHY**
Jacqui Dunstan **JDU**
Xavier Gargan **XGA**
Paul Kimonides **PKI**
Adrian Peacock **APE**

Interested students must apply online before April 11 at: <http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/about/meetstaff/vic/masterclass/>. Brochures with further information about Master Class may be obtained from my office.

Senior House Swimming Carnival

This event, which took place last week on a warm day at the Monash Aquatic Centre, was a fantastic reflection on just how well the year has commenced at the Beaconsfield Campus. Student attendance and participation was excellent, with many making the special effort to come dressed in House colours. The program itself was well-organised by Ms Siobhan Taylor, ably assisted by our AFL Trainee, Mr Matt Burns and Sports Captains Mark Puts and Alex O'Sullivan. Congratulations to all who took part, as well as to the well-deserved winners in McDonagh House.

Tax File Number Applications

Upon commencement of employment, it is a requirement of all employees to supply a Tax-File Number (TFN) to their employer. Students beginning work for the first time who do not have a TFN can complete a special student's TFN Application Form available from Student Services (Berwick & Beaconsfield). Upon submission of the form, a TFN will be mailed home in about 6 weeks.

Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal, organized each year by the Student Leaders, will take place at Lincoln of Toorak on Saturday June 28. Although not a school organized event, the Formal is a highlight of the year for many students and provides an opportunity for celebration at the end of the Semester 1 exams. To assist with supervision, the leaders require 8-10 parents to be present on the evening; dinner is provided free of charge. If you can assist, please contact me here at the College and I will forward your names to the Year 12 Formal Committee.

Year 10 'Keys Please' Seminar

A Year 10 **Keys Please** Seminar will be held on Tuesday March 18 in the College Library starting at 7.30pm. This school event is highly recommended for all students in Year 10 and their parents. **Keys Please** is a positive and proactive program for learners and their parents/guardians that introduces the different driving skills a learner needs to become a responsible and safe licensed driver – including the importance of forming a positive partnership with their parent or supervising driver. **Keys Please** has been developed by VicRoads, in conjunction with the Victoria Police, Transport Accident Commission, Department of Education and Training, and Community Road Safety Councils. I strongly urge ALL Year 10 students and their parents to attend.

UNIFORM SHOP

Beaconsfield Avenue, Beaconsfield
Mrs Jennifer Taylor

Hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Last Saturday of the month
9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

2008 Senior Swimming Carnival

Miss Siobhan Taylor, Alex O'Sullivan & Mark Puts

On Tuesday February 26 the Senior Swimming Carnival took place at Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The weather was great, and by mid-morning people were already applying sunscreen for what was to be a warm sunny afternoon. The day was full of nervous faces but once they launched themselves into the pool there were no nerves to be seen. Fun, laughter and outstanding colourful costumes filled the day. The carnival ran smoothly and all events were done in 'Great Spirit', thanks to the encouragement and participation of all Staff, Captains and students. The results for the day were as follows:



OVERALL RESULTS

McDonagh	1,131
Thomas	1,113
Synan	1,006
White	1,079
Burgess	1,068
Schneider	950
McKenna	919
Gallagher	791

House Spirit Award

Burgess

Year Level Results

Year 10 Boys	White
Year 10 Girls	McDonagh
Year 11 Boys	White
Year 11 Girls	Thomas
Year 12 Boys	Synan
Year 12 Girls	McKenna

Individual Champions

Year 10 Male	Trent Lindsey
Female	Tamara Niessen
Year 11 Male	Eric Lopez
Female	Kara Donnellan
Year 12 Male	Michael Brown
Female	Danielle Mitchell

Records Broken

Trent Lindsey	Open	100m Freestyle	1:04.45
Trent Lindsey	Year 10	50m Backstroke	34.89
Eric Lopez	Year 11	50m Backstroke	32.38
Eric Lopez	Year 11	50m Breaststroke	35.03
Danielle Mitchell	Year 12	100m Freestyle	1:15.01

YEAR 10 OUTWARD BOUND

Peter Robinson – Outward Bound Co-ordinator



Preparation for the expedition continues. On March 5 students listened to an information session about Outward Bound presented by Sean Powell from Outward Bound Australia. In the evening many parents also attended an information session where Sean spoke about the aims and philosophy of Outward Bound as well as giving advice on suitable clothing and preparation for the expedition. The clothing list was distributed to parents at this session.

It is essential that students bring all of the items listed on the clothing list. However, you should not have to spend large sums of money outfitting your child. Most of the items required can be found at home – perhaps in the rag bag!

We do have a discount arrangement with Aussie Disposals at Fountain Gate and Dandenong for items which need to be purchased. An Aussie Disposals discount list is available from the office at the Beaconsfield Campus. Everything on this list is suitable for use on Outward Bound. Students participating in Outward Bound Courses can also receive discounts at Snowgum stores.

Get Lost Camping in Warragul (Telephone 5623 6833) has suitable coats for hire at a cost of \$10.00. Get Lost Camping will deliver coats to the College free of charge. These coats can then be returned to the College office following the expedition. Outsports in Moorabbin (Telephone 9532 5337) also has suitable coats for hire from \$18.10. Outsports will deliver for a small charge.

Each Outward Bound Group will be meeting in the weeks leading up to Outward Bound as part of their preparation.

One area each student can work on by themselves is physical fitness. Some preparation prior to the expedition will make the experience more enjoyable. Students should take time to walk a few kilometres in the shoes or boots they intend to wear on Outward Bound several times per week over the next 5-6 weeks. This will be even more beneficial if they carry some weight in a pack or their school bag while walking.

More information will appear in the newsletter in the weeks leading up to the expedition – including travel arrangements and emergency contact information.

In the meantime if you have any questions about any aspect of Outward Bound please do not hesitate to contact me at the Beaconsfield Campus on 9707 3111.

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL
Mr Andrew Walsh – Deputy Principal, Head of Campus

Inter-House Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday February 27 the Berwick Campus Junior Inter-House Swimming Carnival was held at the Monash Aquatic Centre. The weather was kind to us and students and staff entered into the spirit of the day very well. It was fantastic to see a number of parents and grandparents who were able to be present and support their child or grandchild on the day. We received great praise from the Monash Aquatic Centre staff for the behaviour of the students and the general conduct of the day. All Inter-House competitions provide wonderful opportunities to develop and nurture House spirit and this was evident in the way students made contributions on the day. Those who contributed by competing in swimming events, barracking, entering the Points Swim, staying with the House as a show of strength, keeping their respective areas clean, etc. are to be congratulated for their contribution in fostering school and community spirit.

Congratulations and thanks to

- Ms Kate Meyer for organising the day
- Burgess for winning the competition
- Gallagher for winning the House Spirit Award
- Ed Support staff and students for refreshments
- All staff and students for their contributions

On the Buses

There have been a number of instances over the past few weeks where a small number of students travelling on the buses have been involved in inappropriate and sometimes dangerous behaviour. There is no excuse for throwing food or other items in or from a bus. There is no excuse for bad language or yelling out at passers by. There is no excuse for play fighting or wrestling, and there is certainly no excuse for any form of bullying. So, let me be quite clear on this issue: students who behave in a manner which impinges on the rights of fellow passengers or members of the general public will be suspended from travelling on the bus. Parents please impress upon your children the need to respect the wellbeing of others.

It is also most important that all students have and show, when requested, their bus pass. All students who have submitted their bus travel application forms for 2008 have been issued with a pass. Those students who do not have a valid pass may need to find alternative means to travel to and from school.

Year 7 Camps

The Year 7 Camps take place over the next two weeks, with students from Burgess, Gallagher, McDonagh and Thomas Houses leaving for Licola on Wednesday March 12 and returning Friday March 14. Students from McKenna, Schneider, Synan and White Houses leave on Monday March 17 and return Wednesday March 19. I wish all staff and student campers a safe and most enjoyable time.

Hands on Learning Information Evening Wednesday March 29, 2008

Hands On Learning

During Term 2 the College will be running a new program **Hands On Learning**. This program offers an alternative to the regular classes within the school environment. The program allows students to actively participate one day a week in various practical projects, which may be within the school or outside in the local community.

Hands On Learning has been implemented to provide students with a wider choice of curriculum. This program has been designed to provide a complete alternative to the classroom structure, and normal learning style, where new skills can be learnt by doing and experiencing, with less emphasis on verbal directions, and written skills.

An Information Evening will be held on **Wednesday March 19 at 7.30 pm** at the Berwick Campus for those interested in either being part of the program or at least finding out more information about the program. Those who wish to find out a little more about the program beforehand may contact the HOL Co-ordinator Mr Richard Stumbles at the College.

Want to have fun, be active and spend more time with your family? Take the 30 minute Challenge!

We all know that every little bit helps when it comes to the health of your family. And pulling the kids away from the TV or computer can be a challenge.

That's why the Victorian Government has created the Premier's Active Families Challenge. It's a new 'Go for your life' program and aims to improve the physical activity levels, health and wellbeing of families.

Families can complete the Challenge by doing at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days between 9 March and 20 April 2008. You can do the activity on your own or as a family.

To participate, register online at www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 73 98 99 then collect your free Challenge booklet in the *Herald Sun* on Tuesday 4 March.

As a registered participant you'll get ideas on fun things to do, events to get involved in, a chance to win prizes and a completion certificate. You will also receive offers such as 15 free visits to YMCA and 10% discount at Rebel Sport. The *Herald Sun* free Challenge booklet includes a diary to help keep track of your family's activity during the Challenge.

So go on, get active and take the Challenge. For more information visit www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au or call 1300 73 98 99.

Travel Conveyance Allowance 2008

Families attending St Francis Xavier College may be eligible for Travel Conveyance Allowance from the Department of Education and Training. However, strict guidelines and rules must be adhered to.

The home residence must be more than 4.8kms by the most direct and practicable route from the school. (www.whereis.com.au)

Travel Conveyance Allowance is only credited to Education Fees if claimed via Private Car (pink form), Public Transport (cream form), and only two Private School Buses. These school buses are Bus No. 8 (Berwick Station Bus) and the Shuttle Bus between Campuses.

The College will credit an Education Fee account when we are in receipt of the Government Allowance. (September and December)

All other Travel Conveyance Allowance is used to assist in subsidizing the cost of providing Buses to families. If we were to charge actual bus costs to families, the fee would be **more than \$1200 per student. All Bus travel requires a Green Private Bus Conveyance form.**

The Department of Education and Training makes the final decision of eligibility to claim Travel Conveyance Allowance.

All Conveyance forms must be received at the College by Friday March 28th 2008. Forms are available from reception at both Campuses.

STUDENT ID CARDS

Peter Robinson – College Organisation Co-ordinator

At the request of the Student Representative Council (SRC) the College has introduced Student Identification Cards. These cards can be used by students where they require photo ID.

Year 7 Students were photographed on their Orientation Day last year and have already received their cards. All other students will receive their cards in the near future.

Students will receive a new ID card every two years.

There is no charge for the first card issued to a student every two years. However, lost cards will cost \$7.00 to replace.

CAREERS NEWS

Mr Phil Apperley – Careers Advisor

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Dates for 2008 are December 1-5. Any student who intends participating in the program will need to complete a unit in Occupational Health & Safety and sit a test before starting work. Students can get a hard copy of the unit from me in the Careers Room. Students can practise the test at home and then complete the test under supervision in the Careers Room.

YEAR 12 TERTIARY INFORMATION SESSION will be held in May this year. All Year 12 students will attend Monash University where VTAC will give a presentation on courses and application procedures. All Universities and TAFE Institutes will be in attendance together with some private providers. Open Days are also an important way of receiving information on courses. The dates for these will be published in future Newsletters.

VET COURSES AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE

Students have started well and are already showing that they are keen to do well in the Certificate they have chosen. The College offers 6 courses on campus.

- Certificate II in Business
- Certificate II in Information Technology
- Certificate III in Multimedia
- Certificate III in Music Industry (Technical Production)
- Certificate II in Community Recreation (Sport & Recreation)
- Certificate II in Hospitality (Operations)

All VET Courses (Vocational Education & Training) contribute to the VCE and students receive a study score which contributes to their ENTER.

CAREERS ROOM is open at lunch times for student use. I will be available to help with any questions relating to careers, job applications or courses.

Students can also make appointments to see me during class time or Year 12 students can see me during private study time. Parents can make appointments before, during or after school or email me papperley@sfx.vic.edu.au.

Instrumental News

Mr Lance O'Reilly – Instrumental Music Co-ordinator

Instrumental lessons have started and music staff are very happy with the enthusiasm and talent that is here among the student body. Music staff will make every effort to find and locate students when they are late for a lesson but it is the responsibility of the student to regularly read the morning bulletin and their Instrumental Music Timetable. An important reminder that parents contact a Music Coordinator as soon as possible at the Campus their child is studying Instrumental Music if they are to be away for any reason – Mr O'Reilly, Berwick Campus and Ms Dulude, Beaconsfield Campus.

JUNIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Ms Kate Meyer

The Junior Swimming Carnival was held in sunny conditions at Monash Aquatic Centre. The carnival was opened by our Sports and House Captains. Competition throughout the day was close with some outstanding individual and team performances. The Point Swim and Body Board races got many students involved and the day concluded with the traditional Teacher V Student relay. Congratulations to all students who participated on the day!



Results

Burgess	1231
McKenna	1132
McDonagh	1050
Gallagher	1024
White	1018
Synan	904
Thomas	837
Schneider	765

Year Level Champions

- 7 Girls – Olivia Raiti, White
- 7 Boys – Nick Ryan, Synan
- 8 Girls – Alexandra Collingwood, Burgess
- 8 Boys – Jed Wynen, Burgess
- 9 Girls – Jessica Kelly, McDonagh
- 9 Boys – Rodjay Boavida, McDonagh

Year 7 Champions – Burgess

Year 8 Champions – Burgess

Year 9 Champions – McDonagh

Girls Champions – White

Boys Champions – Burgess

House Spirit Award – Gallagher

Records set at Carnival

Olivia Raiti	Open Girls 100m Freestyle	1.09.25
Olivia Raiti	Open Girls 50m Butterfly	32.71
Olivia Raiti	Yr 7 Girls 50m Freestyle	33.21
Olivia Raiti	Yr 7 Girls 50m Backstroke	37.58
Samuel Grimshaw	Yr 8 Boys Breaststroke	49.01
White	Yr 7 Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle	2.53.83
McDonagh	Yr 9 Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle	2.47.00
Gallagher	Yr 9 Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle	2.25.89
McKenna	Girls 4 x 50m Medley Relay	3.04.19



“The Journey so far....”

an evening for Senior Students, 2008
Thursday April 17 Beaconsfield Campus –
6.45pm- 9.00pm

Mrs Bernadette Barlow, Mrs Maree Chapman,
 Mr Ben Cunningham

We are planning an evening for our Year 11 and 12 students this year where they will have the opportunity to hear the career journeys of several past students of the College. The aim of the evening is to inspire our young people to believe in their dreams and to work to their full potential in pursuit of their goals

We have been very heartened by the responses and offers of extra support that have been received to date from the many past students of the College whom we have contacted. In many of their “journeys” these ex-Collegians have had to overcome obstacles and difficulties, and that alone is worth hearing!

The evening is an exciting initiative in a growing College and promises to be a very interesting night. Students (and their parents) are invited to choose two sessions from an array of choices, in line with their career goals.

Further details will be sent home at the end of this Term, but please keep Thursday April 17 free for a very special evening.

SIS Swim Relay Carnival

Ms Kate Meyer & Ms Siobhan Taylor

On Friday February 22 forty students travelled to Noble Park Swimming Centre for the annual SIS Swim Relay Carnival to begin the swimming season. The night gave our swimmers their first opportunity to compete against other SIS schools. There were some outstanding results on the night, congratulations to all swimmers who participated.

Congratulations to the following teams who won their events.

Junior Girls 4 x 50m Breaststroke Relay – Olivia Raiti, Alexandra Collingwood, Therese Obery and Rachel Copestake

Intermediate Boys 4 x 50m Breaststroke Relay – Aiden Whaler, Ryan Shaw, Paul Jones, Nathan Prosser

Junior Girls 4 x 50m Backstroke Relay – Alexandra Collingwood, Therese Obery, Emily Arnold, Olivia Raiti

Junior Girls 4 x 50m Medley Relay – Alexandra Collingwood, Casey Lutrell, Emily Arnold, Olivia Raiti

Swimming training for the upcoming SIS Carnival at MSAC has begun and we wish all our swimmers the very best of luck. Thanks to the staff members and parents who supported our swimmers on the night.

TEACHING & LEARNING: FAITH & LITURGY

Mr Malcolm Joseph – Deputy Principal, Mission

Stations of the Cross

At 7.30pm on Thursday 13 March, we will continue with what has now become a tradition at the College – a dramatisation of The Stations of the Cross. Mr Ed Creely's senior Drama students are currently rehearsing for the performance which will take place in the College grounds at the Beaconsfield Campus.

Seen through the eyes of Mary, the mother of Jesus, the play is set in contemporary times with contemporary costumes that convey the story as being not just an historical account but a real living story that is as relevant and as provocative now as it was over 2000 years ago, part of the lived experience of a faith community.

Darkness gives way to light. Fear is overwhelmed by courage. Despair becomes exhilaration. Experiences are shared. Morale is lifted. A Community of Faith is formed. They begin to share everything they have and care for those who have little. They share food and pray the Eucharist, giving thanks. My son calls you to this full life of victory that comes through the despair and sacrifice of his death and the empowering life of his Resurrection.

Why not join our own Community of Faith this Easter as we remember?

Retreat, Reflect, Refresh

Recently I addressed the Year 12 parents on the importance of taking time to reflect. In his autobiography, *Freedom in Exile*, the Dalai Lama describes two kinds of mental laziness – the laziness of the East and the laziness of the West. In the East it is typified in India where people stand around, drinking cups of tea discussing the merits of the latest Bollywood movie. In the West people keep themselves busy ... doing, doing, doing... running from one thing to another. According to the Dalai Lama both are forms of laziness – an escape from the reality, escape from the challenging task of finding out who we are and what we really value. An escape from *self*!

The Dalai Lama had several dialogues with Thomas Merton, a spiritual writer, poet, author and social activist. A Trappist Monk, Merton is regarded as one of the most influential Catholic authors of the 20th century. He also promoted the importance of stopping, taking a step back and discovering not only ourselves, but perhaps, also the presence of God in our lives. He says, 'What can we gain by sailing to the moon if we are not able to cross the abyss that separates us from ourselves? This is the most important of all voyages of discovery, and, without it, all the rest are not only useless but disastrous'.

I sincerely hope that each one of us – teachers and parents – will find some time to make this most important journey of self-discovery, and, in doing so, encourage our students to do the same.

Mrs Karen Boyd: Director of VCE

At the recent Year 11 and 12 Information Nights I spoke to parents about Special Provision during VCE studies. VCAA states that 'The underlying principle of Special Provisions is to ensure that the most appropriate, fair and reasonable arrangements and options are available for students to demonstrate their capabilities where their learning and assessment programs are affected by illness, impairment or personal circumstances.'

Special provision is available in four different categories:

- Student Programs
- School-based assessment
- Special Examination Arrangements
- Derived Examination Score

There are specific requirements for each form of Special Provision. If you think that your child may be eligible for Special Provision please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or email me at kboyd@sfx.vic.edu.au

Mrs J. Prestia: Director of Learning, Berwick

Learning is forever and if we can discover how we learn best then it makes our journey more relevant and engaging. The predominant learning styles are 'Visual', 'Auditory', 'Kinesthetic' and 'Tactile'. Although we all have our preferred style we learn using a combination of these.

A visual learner often 'sees' the information in his head when trying to remember it. He learns best when information is presented visually, such as in a film or video, charts and drawings. He likes to write notes, make posters and is attracted to bright colours. Often this visual learner is artistic, organized and driven to succeed.

The auditory learner likes to hear the information and enjoys discussion. This learner 'hears' the information in her head. S/he likes to learn in sequence and enjoys interacting with others. The auditory learner doesn't necessarily like to write things down but learns using jingles and can easily deliver lines from movies.

The kinesthetic learner engages best when participating in physical activities. S/He has trouble keeping still. This learner particularly enjoys working with computers, or listening to new material while shooting goals. S/He also notices and retains non-verbal actions and can remain engaged watching others moving around or dramatizing the learning.

A tactile learner learns best when given the opportunity to manipulate objects with her hands. She likes games, visiting relevant sites, or making models. This is a way to help her connect.

If this has ignited an interest in learning more about your preferred style and some strategies to use please log onto any of the following websites and have a go!

www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp

www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/iisweb.html

www.ldpride.net/learning_style.html

Happy Learning!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mrs Maree Chapman – Community Liaison

Year 7 Enrolment 2009

The first stage of transition to Secondary school for the students in Year 6 at our Parish Primary Schools is in progress in preparation for 2009. Year 5 and 6 students at each of the Parish Primary Schools within our community have been visited in the past few weeks and given important information in regard to their Secondary education at St Francis Xavier College. The information sessions outlined the enrolment process for Year 7, 2009 and each student received a College Prospectus and enrolment form.

The following current Year 7 students also returned with me to their past primary school and related their recent experience of transition from primary to secondary school at SFX and answered the many and varied student enquiries. They were: Meg Gee, Christopher Vinen, Liam Dullard, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Samuel Blackwood, Adam Burns, Melissa Wilson, Divashskin Pather, Michaela Doyle, Sally Price, Daniel Saitta, Rayan Chazbek, Chika Ikogwe and Jasminique O' Shea.

The Year 7's were excellent in the manner in which they presented themselves and were a credit to the College.

In 2008, our 30th year, it was pleasing to hear the students at some of the schools comment that their mother or father had attended St Francis Xavier College in its early days of formation.

A College Prospectus and enrolment information may also be obtained from the College office at either Campus.

The second stage of this process is the Parent Information Evening for Year 7, 2009 which will be held next Wednesday March 12 at 7.30 pm. in the Hall at Berwick Campus. This is an important evening where the College curriculum, enrolment process, uniform and other details will be discussed. Parents also have the opportunity to meet teachers to discuss specific learning area matters, or make general enquiries.

All enrolment queries can be directed to Mrs Tricia Randle or myself but it is important to note that the final closing date for applications for Year 7, 2009 enrolments is **Thursday March 20, 2008**. With the growing pressure of numbers at the college in 2009, it is vital that all applications are received by this date.

College Tours (6.00-7.00 pm)

These will be available on the night prior to the Information Evening for parents and prospective students to view the various facilities at the Berwick Campus. Please report to the front of the Hall near the canteen, to meet your Tour Guide.

Tour Guides

Student Tour guides conduct the important role of escorting parents of prospective students around each Campus to view the various facilities and buildings. They are also called upon to answer general enquiries and have in the past,

proven to be excellent ambassadors for the College. Tour Guides have been chosen to represent their House at both Campuses in Year 9 and Year 10 and these students have been entrusted with this important responsibility in 2008.

Berwick Campus:

Burgess: Karen Alarcon, Sam Cannizzaro
Gallagher: Shannon Johns, Justin Hester
McDonagh: Gina Lay, Caitlyn Sorensen
McKenna: Justine Nario, Lachlan Forrester
Schneider: Patrick Sullivan, Sharika Kalanathan
Synan: Bethany Mete, James Smith
Thomas: Matthew Wynne, Cassie Ager
White: Cassie Mortimer, Ben Lance

Beaconsfield Campus:

Burgess: Cassandra Krylov, Andrew Cavalin
Gallagher: Sophie Thompson, Mathew Waldon
McDonagh: Breanna Moore, Tyler Maxwell
McKenna: Christian Bieniak, Ben Wylie
Schneider: Vanessa Boon, Marcus Washington
Synan: Tara Crivari, Luke Canty
Thomas: Luke Bastian, Sarah Dortmans
White: Brody Selby, Tylah Ingram

YEAR 12 VCE/VET CLASSES SCHEDULED DURING THE TERM 1 BREAK

A number of VCE and VET classes and one Excursion have been scheduled during the Term 1 Break.

These classes provide an opportunity for students to revise material covered during Term 1, to prepare for Term 2 and to spend longer periods of time studying aspects of the course without disrupting other classes.

A copy of the schedule is attached to this Newsletter.

Please also note that the Beaconsfield Campus Library will be open between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm during the first week of the Term 1 break for student use.

If you have any questions please contact Peter Robinson on 9707 3111.

OUR PARISH MASSES

Berwick:	Sat. 6.00 p.m. Sun 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Narre Warren:	Sat. 6.00 p.m., Sun. 9.15 a.m., 11.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Pakenham:	Sat. 6.00 p.m. Sun. 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m.
Koo Wee Rup:	Sat. 7.00 p.m.
Iona:	Sun. 11.00 a.m.
Lang Lang:	2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.
Nar Nar Goon:	1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.
Maryknoll:	4th & 5th Sunday of each month at 9.00 a.m.

YEAR 12 RETREAT

Mrs Jane Watkins – Director of Religious Education,
Beaconsfield

The Year 12 Retreat took place during Week Four of this term. Students from Burgess, Synan, Thomas and White participated at Adanac Camp in Yarra Junction, whilst Gallagher, Schneider, McDonagh and McKenna enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of Catherine's Creek near Yarragon.

The Retreat began with a review of expectations of our time together and an explanation of what we aim to achieve during our "withdrawing from the everyday". Each session aimed at developing student awareness of their journeys and destinations in life – involving an introduction by a leader, followed by small group sessions where students could share their stories, or listen to others.

God as Potter invited students to reflect on their perceptions of God, and the events and people who have shaped their lives.



Journal Writing offered students the opportunity to discover their own space and voice, with time alone to think.



My Quality World was a chance for students to try and understand who and what is important in their lives, and how this can change over time.

Seeing God in all Things allowed students the opportunity to share their artistic talents (or lack thereof!) with others, and put a little of themselves into their "circles".



The second morning began with a **Water Ritual**, where students blessed each other, and discovered the value they saw in each other. This was followed by discussion of **The Beatitudes**, and how, through interpretation, they can be understood to include our own actions in life. **Jesus' Ministry** was a chance for students to try and understand the mystery in the world around them perhaps – the discovery of their own 'epiphany moments' in life.



The afternoon of activities was a great opportunity for students to have some fun, and let off steam. They could try the flying fox, giant slide, canoeing and many other adventures!

Reconciliation was a moving and unique session experienced by the students. It provided a chance to let go of the troubles in their lives, and reflect on what was important to them. The reverence the young men and women of Year 12 displayed during this time, and their understanding of sacred moments was truly a credit to them.

Mass was a wonderful opportunity to get together and share in the community. Some groups were lucky enough to enjoy the great outdoors for their Masses, and participate in a casual yet moving service, which they helped create.

On the final morning, students came together to discuss their time together – reflecting on what the journey in Year 12 means. The "candid camera" shots provided lots of laughter and embarrassing moments!



The Retreat is a wonderful experience for students to step back from the pressures and attempt to understand themselves. It is something that could not happen without the support of the College community at large, and the time given up by students and staff alike. This year's Retreat was a memorable experience which the Year 12 class of 2008 will remember fondly for many years.

Parents & Friends Association

Second hand book Sale December 2007

Cheques have been posted this week for books sold in last year's December sale. Due to a change in Treasurer over the break, our processing was delayed, we thank you for your patience.

Up Coming Events / Fundraising for 2008

2nd Term – 30th Year Anniversary Paver Fundraiser – more details to follow.

3rd Term – Shopping Tour

4th Term – Market Night

Meeting Dates for 2008

Our meetings are held in the staffroom at the Junior Campus and all families are welcome.

Wednesday April 9	Wednesday September 3
Wednesday May 7	Wednesday October 8 AGM
Wednesday June 4	Wednesday November 12
Wednesday August 6	Wednesday December 3

Becoming a Foster Carer

What is Foster Care? It is a temporary care for a child or young person in your own home for a planned period of time.

Who can become a Foster Carer? Someone who is:

- Over the age of 21 years
- Stable in their own life
- Flexible, mature, responsible, with a good sense or humour
- A good communicator, tolerant and willing to learn
- Single, married, or living usual or alternative lifestyles

An information night will be held on Thursday March 13 at Pakenham Secondary College's theatrette, 1020 Princes Highway, Pakenham from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Please RSVP your attendance to Oz child on 9212 3900 (for those interested in fostering children) or Uniting Care Connections on 9704 8377 (for young people 12 years and up).

St. Michael's Church

ABN 54 424 077 678
129 High Street Berwick Vic 3806
Phone: 03 9707 1355 Fax: 03 9707 5891

Dear Participant,

Thank you for participating in the 2008 Tip Top Hot Cross Bun Drive. All proceeds from the sale will go towards supporting World Youth Day events or supporting our young people to attend events in Sydney.

When you have completed the order form below and included the money raised, please place in a sealed and clearly labelled envelope and return to Student Services by Wednesday March 12.



Buns will be available to collect from Student Services at either Campus on Monday March 17, 2008.

Thanks again, from St Michael's Youth Day Team.



1/2 doz. Pack for \$5



Surname	Name	Phone number	Number of packets	Total cost
Total packets:				
Total amount raised:				

VCE/VET CLASSES SCHEDULED DURING THE TERM BREAK

Tuesday, March 25

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Cert 3 Multimeadia	MBL	Thomas 8	9.00 am-3.30 pm
Unit 3 Physics	RDS	Schneider 5	9.00 am-1.00 pm
Studio Arts	EAI	Thomas 1&2	9.00 am-3.00 pm

Wednesday, March 26

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 Chemistry	MPA	Schneider 6	2.00 pm-4.00 pm
Music Solo/Group Performance (Optional)	PDU	Music	11.00 am-3.00 pm
Systems Engineering	PKI	Thomas 5	10.00 am-2.00 pm

Thursday, March 27

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 Maths Methods	BBA/KOG	Synan 1	9.00 am-1.00 pm
Unit 3 Biology	GER	Synan 4	10.00 am-12.00pm
Unit 3 Further Maths	AMG/ALZ	Synan 2/3	1.30 pm-2.30 pm
Unit 3 Legal Studies	RBE	Burgess 1	10.30 am-12.00 pm
Systems Engineering	PKI	Thomas 5	10.00 am-2.00 pm

Friday, March 28

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 Economics	PRO	Schneider 2	10.00 am-1.00 pm
Unit 3 Australian History	BTO	White 11	9.30 am-1.00 pm

Tuesday, April 1

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 LOTE	ATH	McKenna 3	9.00 am-12.00 pm
Unit 3 Physics	RDS	Schneider 5	9.00 am-12.30 pm

Wednesday, April 2

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 Biology	GER	Synan 4	10.00 am-12.00pm
Unit 3 Physics Excursion	RDS/ALZ		9.30 am-3.30 pm

Thursday, April 3

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Unit 3 Software Development (Optional)	FNA	Burgess 5	10.00 am-1.00 pm
Unit 3 IT Applications	PPA	Burgess 6	1.00 pm-3.00pm
Group Music Performance	PDU	Music	11.00 am-3.00 pm

Friday, April 4

Class	Teacher	Room	Time
Group Music Performance	PDU	Music	11.00 am-3.00 pm

The Beaconsfield Campus Library will be open between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm during the first week of the school holidays (Except Easter Monday)

If any students find that they have a clash between different classes please speak to both teachers.