Volume 18, Issue 3  

March 10th, 2011

Tomorrow night we celebrate one of the most significant moments in our College’s history with the formal hand-over of Governance from the Sisters of St. Joseph to the Archdiocese at our Commissioning Liturgy.

A few words in a Newsletter can never hope to do justice to the gravity of this moment, but last Sunday’s gospel about the wise and foolish builders says it better than I can.

Jesus reminded us that everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on rock.

I’m not sure of the geology of New Town but the buildings of Sacred Heart College have withstood many rainstorms and winds over 125 years. Much more important than the buildings and their physical foundations is the spiritual bedrock that Sacred Heart is built upon. The Sisters of St. Joseph built this College, brick upon brick, on the word of God. Their devotion to the poor and marginalised, to Catholic education and to the vision of St. Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods is the mortar that holds those bricks together.

The Sisters will continue to have a strong and guiding presence in the leadership of Sacred Heart College through their membership on the College’s new Governing Council and we the staff will continue to promote, preserve and nurture the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Our task is to build upon the foundations that have been laid for us, to build on the devoted and faith-filled work of the Sisters.

Archbishop Adrian Doyle will be the chief celebrant for the Liturgy which will commence at 6.30 p.m. in the forecourt in front of the Mission and History Centre which is the former Convent for the Sisters.

I look forward to celebrating this very historic and important event as a College community on Friday.

Ash Wednesday
On Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Lent is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. It is a time for us to have a special focus on the needs of others and we deliberately turn away from our own selves, our wants and desires, in order to fully understand what it means to be a Christian.
Project Compassion
This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes for their donations or you can donate online via the website at www.caritas.org.au
Please put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2011 Project Compassion Appeal

Swimming Carnivals
The College Primary and Secondary swimming carnivals, held over the past weeks were both very successful thanks to the great efforts of our Sports Co-ordinators, Mr. Adam Mills and Mrs. Jill Long and the work of our volunteers and parents.

My School
On the 4th of March, 2011, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) launched the My School 2.0 website (www.myschool.edu.au). The website provides profiles on each school, including ours, and includes information about the school such as numbers of students and staff, attendance rates and results from the national literacy and numeracy tests. For the first time, the website now also includes information about NAPLAN. The website shows comparisons between our school’s NAPLAN results and those from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia – we can see how our school is performing against other schools with statistically similar students. From this, we can see in what areas our school is doing well and where we need to look to make improvements. The website also now shows student gain information, so that we can acknowledge how our students have progressed over time. Financial information for our school is also shown, with 2009 recurrent income and capital expenditure displayed broken down by source of funding.

• Most helpfully, My School enables us to look at our performance in comparison with schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds. We can use this information to learn about the strategies and programs of statistically similar schools that are achieving particularly good outcomes for their students.
• The information gives us very specific information about our performance in particular domains of literacy and numeracy, so we can pinpoint which areas and at which year levels we may need to give a greater focus.
• The information My School provides is just one source of information about our school. For further information on our school’s performance, parents and community members are encouraged to look at our website, read our annual report, and talk to the principal as well as your child’s teacher.

There is a lot of information contained on the website, and we encourage parents, carers and other interested members of the school community to view the website. If you have any questions you can go directly to the ACARA information desk (at 1300 895 563), or please contact the school.

Student Achievement
Congratulations to Thomas Carney (9 Gold) who has been selected to represent Tasmania at the National Club Championships of Water Polo. We wish Thomas well in this competition that commences on April 22nd. Well done to Krista Nichols (Leaver 2010) who has been accepted to go the USA on a soccer scholarship. Krista will complete Year 11 and 12 in Tasmania and then head overseas for 3 years. Well done Krista! This week we wish Alex (7 Red) and John Buga (7 Blue) support and encouragement as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion together with their sister Beatrice (Leaver 2010). This weekend they will be presented to the Archbishop at the Rite of Election at the Cathedral and we wish the Buga’s every blessing as they continue on this faith journey.

Uniform Shop—House Tops
We wish to advise that house tops are now available for purchase for the lower grade students (K-2). These tops are to be worn at athletic, swimming and cross country carnivals and may also be worn on sport days—these do not replace the red sport tops. The uniform shop is open on Tuesday from 8am until 1.30pm and Thursday from 10.30am till 12.00 and 12.45 until 4pm. For those students who have not yet purchased the house tops there is plenty of stock available. Mrs Julie Eaton—Uniform Shop Manager

Old Beach Bus
A number of parents have contacted me about supporting a direct bus from Old Beach. We are happy to do this, but it is important that parents contact Metro directly so that they can assess need. If you would like to lend your support to the proposal, can I ask that you contact Tracey Long either by email at thelongfamily@netspace.net.au or by phone on 0448 688 812.

Craig Deaton
Principal
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION
The Hobart Archdiocese has notified us of the 2011 dates for the sacraments of Initiation in the parishes of the Southern Region. If your daughter or son (Grade 7 to 10 students only) is participating in this program we would appreciate you letting the College Office know.
Mr Tony Brennan (REC Ministry and Mrs Genevieve Tyrell (REC Curriculum).

LIBRARY
If anyone have any Reader’s Digest magazines that you have finished with, could you please consider donating them to the College for the Literacy Program? We can use the articles, some of the games and even the advertising with our students. It doesn’t matter how old they are.
Mrs Dawn Palmer—Teacher Librarian

VET INFORMATION NIGHT AT GYC
On Thursday 24 February, Guilford Young College held a VET Information Night for all students (and their parents) who had enrolled in VET subjects at secondary and senior secondary level from within the Southern Tasmanian Catholic Colleges Trade Training Centre (STCCTTC). Sacred Heart College VET students, as part of this consortium of schools, were invited and encouraged to attend.

Many of our students and parents managed to get there, joining over 550 other parents and students from Colleges as far away as St James College in Cygnet.

The Information Night proved to be an extremely valuable experience for all who attended. Guests were welcomed by Mrs Bobby Court, Principal of GYC, who impressed upon all present the opportunities that become available when a student makes a choice to do a VET qualification.

We then heard from a previous VET Business student (from GYC) who inspired us with her words and is now making it big in her chosen career of human resources. We heard from Leanne Wallace, from Work and Training, who talked about the criticality of work placement as part of all VET courses and the importance of developing key employability skills such as initiative, punctuality, teamwork and communication.

Students and parents then broke into groups to talk with GYC and SHC teachers about the course that they had specifically enrolled in.

All in all, feedback from the night was extremely positive, with many parents gaining answers to questions they had about their son/daughter’s VET course and future pathway.

If you have a son or daughter studying a VET course during 2011 and have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to contact me or your son/daughter’s VET teacher at any time.
Mrs Donna O’Neill—Manager of VEL

TAX FILE NUMBERS
Any student requiring a tax file number this year, can obtain a form from the Front Office. Take advantage of applying for a Tax File number through the School Program. It means you don’t have to provide any proof of identity documents. You simply need to record your birth certificate registration number. Please read the form and fill it out correctly. Please return to the Front Office or to Ms Brown. Each Friday fortnight (Day 10) any forms that have been returned will be mailed to the Tax Office. It will take approximately 10 days for your Tax File Number to be mailed to your home address. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Kerri Brown.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE FUNDRAISING
Thank you to the wonderful parents who came along to the meeting held on Tuesday night.

The Fundraising Committee of 2011 wish to advise that Entertainment Books will again be sold through the College. We hope to beat last year’s efforts of raising $2700! If you would like to pre-order (and pay) a book and receive over $180 in discount vouchers please contact Jo Fitzpatrick through the College Office.

WORLD YOUTH DAY – FINAL CALL!!
This is the final call for anyone interested in joining the Tasmanian Pilgrimage to Madrid for World Youth Day 2011. This amazing opportunity will see you join other like-minded young (16 – 35yo) Tasmanians on the Journey of a lifetime to Rome, Assisi, Siena, Lourdes, Loyola, Burgos and finishing in Madrid with 2 million people from right across the world for the massive, week long celebration! All details on this pilgrimage can be found at: www.wydtas.org.au. If you are at all interested, this is your LAST CHANCE, you must contact Rachelle by Monday 14th March on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au to join.

IMPORTANT DATES

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Dear Parents,

Things continue to “hum” along. Already the weeks seem to be blurring from one to the next as we go through our traditional yearly programs and also implement new ideas to the school day.

Thank you for your continuing support of our endeavours.

ASH WEDNESDAY

All students have participated in an Ash Wednesday liturgy this year. For the first time, our Prep – Grade 2 students have had the opportunity to attend a combined Lower Primary Liturgy at the Lenah Valley campus. Thank you to Ms Jacqui Lawless and Mrs Jane Davies for your initiative and support of this liturgy and following “recess”. It has enabled our younger students to feel a greater sense of community and meaning on the special day within our Church Calendar.

All Grades 3-6 students (from all campuses) attended a combined College Ash Wednesday Liturgy here at New Town. Again, the sense of community was strong as we joined with all Grades 7-10 students to receive the ashes representative of this day and to reflect on their meaning.

We ask the question “What will be our sacrifice for Lent?”

PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

What a superb day! We were blessed with mild — if cloudy — weather and great “House Spirit” and participation from all of our students. Congratulations must go to all students and parents who attended. The day had a great feel to it, and the support of all was evident. Well done on a terrific day at the pool. Many thanks must go to Mrs Jill Long, Mr Eric Monaghan and all other contributors to an excellent carnival! Much appreciated!!!

We now look forward to our Early Childhood Swimming Carnival which, due to the inclement weather, has had to be postponed until Mon 21st March.

PLANNING DAYS AND NETWORK MEETINGS

All staff have undertaken planning days within their Grade teams to begin planning for and implementing the Australian Curriculum. These days have been a huge success and will be followed by afterschool Network Meetings with other Catholic Primary schools. Of focus will be writing tasks and assessments, to ensure that we are delivering the best possible opportunity for successful outcomes in upcoming national testing procedures. We are also working closely with our secondary counterparts to ensure smooth transition between Primary and Secondary learning opportunities.

FIRST RECONCILATION

Any child from the parish of Moonah/Lutana who has celebrated their First Reconciliation (Confession) and wishes to be part of the preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist this year please note that there is a Parents Only Meeting at the Moonah Presbytery, 24 Hopkins Street at 7:30pm on Wednesday 24th March. For further information please contact Fr Peter Wood MSC on 6272 1442.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Due to a need to have Parent Teacher interviews earlier in the year and a clash with timetabled Network Meetings, the Parent Teacher interviews have been dated as follows:

Grades K, Prep, 3 and 4: Mon 21st March and Tues 22nd March

Grades 1, 2 and 5, 6: Mon 21st March and Mon 28th March

Letters outlining procedures for these interviews and allocation times will be forwarded very shortly. As we encourage full parental and student participation in these important interview opportunities, please keep an eye out for the letters over the coming days as they are sent home with your child.

ASSEMBLY

Today we need to thank our Grade 6’s for hosting and organising our assembly. The prayer — focussing on “Forgiveness” was truly inspirational and so too was the “bloody” movie introducing Grade 6 students and their aspirations for the year. Again, thank you to Mrs Jane Davies for her input and organisation of Prayer and to Miss De Gouveia and the Grade 6’s for your enthusiasm and interest in developing our assemblies.

Dates to Remember

Grade 4 Primary Assembly — Thursday 24th March
Early Childhood Swimming - Monday 21st March 12 – 2pm

Warm Regards

Mrs Sue Walker—Deputy Principal — Primary NT

RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL CONFIDENCE GROUPS FOR CHILDREN—SPECIAL SKILLS GROUPS FOR CHILDREN WITH ASPERGER’S DISORDER

Family Psychological Services is again offering Resilience and Social Confidence groups for children in Grades 2-6. We teach skills that foster social confidence and resilience through games, activities and discussion. We have now also modified our curriculum to meet the needs of children who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The groups begin the week of March 21 and end the week of May 16.

The format of the group will be weekly sessions for 8 weeks. We provide an introductory interview with parents and child, and an information night for enrolled parents. During this introductory session we will outline the objectives for the group and discuss parent participation. This will also be an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have concerning the group. The cost per 90 minutes session is $70 and is claimable through private health funds or Medicare.

For further information please contact Margaret Stoklosa on 62248881