

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE SYDENHAM

CRC Sydenham has a focus of continually improving the relationship between teaching practice and student learning. The College also recognises its responsibility to provide teachers with extended opportunities to build on what they already know about effective learning and teaching. As new technology and research emerges, teachers need to keep abreast of this knowledge and refine their conceptual and pedagogical skills.



Staff at CRC Sydenham are currently in the middle of two modules that are set aside to enhance teacher learning throughout 2009. Staff choose from a variety of sessions which include First Aid training, Photoshop, Literacy, Interactive White Board training and Art in Religious Education to name a few. Some staff took the opportunity to visit other schools and observe different practices within their subject area in another context.

The first part of the module took place on the afternoon of the 18 February, and Friday 6 March is also dedicated to continuing professional learning. Investing in professional learning is paramount to ensuring that the College becomes a learning community where teachers work together, learn from each other and share effective teaching and learning strategies.



ALISON ROBERTS—DIRECTOR OF STAFFING ADMINISTRATION

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

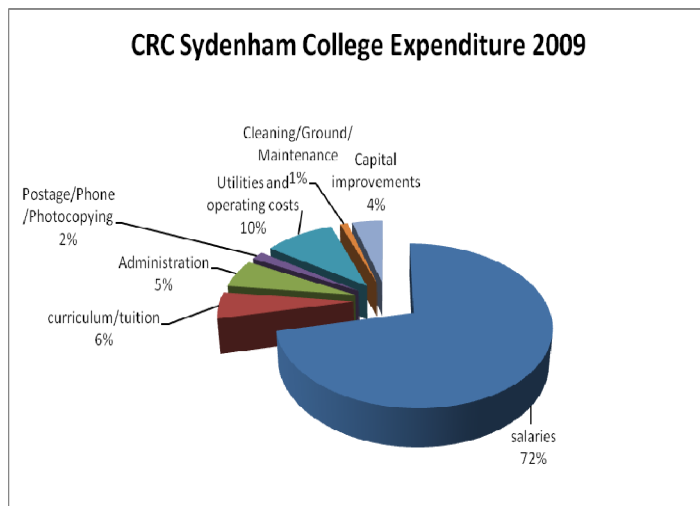
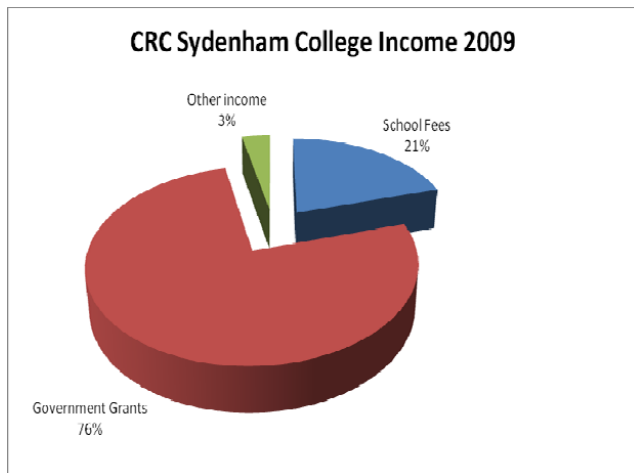


A group of 26 Year 10 and Year 11 Geography students travelled to Airey's Inlet and surrounding parts of the coast to investigate various coastal processes and features. Fortunately the day was fine and we were able to see clearly many interesting features and learn how they had formed and over what period of time. Stacks, caves, lithified dunes, rock platforms and undercutting were all identified and the processes of how they evolved explained. We also learnt how before the last ice age, the former coastline was much further in that it is today and that the present day coastline will change again due to rising sea levels. It was also stressed how important it is for each and everyone of us to care for the coastal environment which can be a very fragile part of the eco system.

COLLEGE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2009

The following article was not included in its entirety in our last newsletter so has been reprinted.

Last week, many families received invoices for fees. While fees have increased this year, they do not cover the actual cost of educating individual students. All students are subsidized by the State and Federal Governments. Unfortunately, the reality is still that Catholic students in Victoria are among the lowest funded students by the State Government in the country. You will recall last year the funding campaign, which many of you were a part of, to lobby the State Government to improve funding for Catholic Schools. This year the College will receive an additional \$85000 while oncosts will increase disproportionately. The reality is that we will rely on school fees to remain operational. Included are some details of our income and expenditure in the graphs below.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thursday 19 February was an auspicious day for our community, Bishop Christopher Prowse officially blessed our new multipurpose hall and celebrated the Opening School Mass. The Hon Anthony Byrne MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister officially opened the building on behalf of the Prime Minister. It was good to see so many parents join with us in celebrating this occasion. Now that we have such a facility, parents are always welcome to join us for assemblies and Masses. Please feel free to call and notify the office staff that you will be in attendance so that a seat can be reserved for you.

The Student Leadership Group introduced Tutor Leaders for the first time this year. I wish to congratulate and recognize those students appointed to these formal leadership positions:

Bradman	Dunlop
B1 Rosalie Iaria	D1 Shannon Rissinich
B2 Alysha Goring	D2 Brock Ellis
B3 Paige Honey	D3 Jessica Tejedor
B4 Lawrence Vella	D4 Shannon Preddy
B5 Stephen Nasr	D5 Rhiannon Napoli
B6 Jenny Ha	D6 Ebony Clarke
B7 Sarah Williams	D7 Andrea Lopez
MacKillop	O'Shane
M1 Matisse Guarino	O1 Faamu Leaitaua
M2 Jordan Munro	O2 Marina Loncaric
M3 Kevin Singh	O3 Rachel Cruz
M4 James Tuck	O4 Neha Fernandes
M5 Jessica Duda	O5 Ebony Clark
M6 Aurelius Sladen	O6 Melissa Scerri
M7 Ashlee Williams	O7 Andrew Grixti
Winton	
W1 Joanna Fitzgerald	
W2 Matthew LeBon	
W3 Laarni Tapat	
W4 Sherimaine Pedraza- Sampang	
W5 Zoe Taylor-Said	
W6 Isabelle Patti	
W7 Diego De Leon	

The Student Leadership Group's silver jubilee project recently came to fruition with the installation of the Corpus Christi sculpture. In 2007, the student leaders decided to commemorate the school's 25th year by commissioning an artist to work with them to leave a lasting reminder of the year. The students chose the following reading as a basis for the sculpture.

"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood Lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, Myself draw life from the Father So whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; Not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead. But anyone who eats this bread will live for ever." (John 6.57-58)

There is an elegance and depth in this passage that draws us into the mystery of what it may mean to connect ourselves to issues and concepts which are bigger than ourselves. This is a key issue for young adults as they try to come to terms with who they are, what capacities and gifts they possess, what the world may be and how



Spirit of God
As we begin the journey of Lent
May the Ashes we received
Be a sign of the Power of Your Love
To transform us into the best that we can be
To overcome our fears and anxieties
And to grant us fullness of Life with You. Amen

we might try to find a place within it all. The text says that by only dealing with the surface of life, we will find no lasting satisfaction. Success comes from balancing off the immediacies of life with the depth of insight needed to understand the ocean currents of meaning that underpin our lives. The intense reality of the mystery of the Eucharist draws us into a richer understanding of life. Communion can be experienced on many levels: a communion with the body of Christ, a communion with the community at mass, a communion with the worldwide church, a communion with Christ himself (e.g. St. Theresa of Avila).

There is a great deal of symbolism in the sculpture which includes:

- ◆ The cast bronze wings which are a reference to the earthly 'flight' or journey we must undertake;
- ◆ The polished stainless steel wings, which shadow the bronze wings, represent the 'holy spirit' and the presence of the 'spirit' within our lives;
- ◆ The tapered steel base to both sculptures is coloured Madonna blue to show that it was Mary who agreed to allow the life of the spirit to create a pathway for Christ to enter the world. Her decision to embrace the mystery of the spirit changed all our lives forever and allowed us to be a part of the Body of Christ (Corpus Christi);
- ◆ The two arms represent heaven and earth – Corpus Christi being the link between the two to provide everlasting life
- ◆ The representation of Christ's earthly struggle vs eternal life is very much present in the earthy bronze and stainless steel wings;
- ◆ Through Corpus Christi – we rise up – Christ is risen – we are risen;
- ◆ The stainless steel on the back in sunlight reflects the blue and looks like water, it is through Baptismal waters that we become a part of the Body of Christ.



I recognize the student leaders of 2007, 2008 and 2009 who have worked on the conceptualization of the project with the artist. I also wish to recognize Dr Margaret Carswell who worked with both the students and the artist. The Corpus Christi sculpture will be officially blessed at our Feast Day, the Feast of Corpus Christi, later this year.



Yours faithfully

Brendan J Watson OAM—Principal

LOOKING AHEAD

Important Dates & Excursions

Friday 6 March	Staff Professional Development Day Students to study at home
Monday 9 March	College Closed—Labour Day
Wednesday 11 March	Year 11 Wellbeing Afternoon all Year 11 students dismissed at 3.30 pm
Thursday 12 March	VCAL Camp to Otways
Friday 13 March	VCAL Camp to Otways returns at 3.30 pm.

Important Dates & Excursions

Tuesday 17 March	SACCSS Swimming Carnival 4.00 pm - 9.00 pm—Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.
Wednesday 18 March	Report Writing Afternoon. All students dismissed at 12.55 pm
Thursday 19 March	Parents Association Meeting—Cafeteria 7.30 pm onwards Year 12 Geography Field Trip—Phillip Island
Friday 20 March	Yr. 12 Geography Field Trip—Phillip Island returns at 3.30 pm

We would like to invite all parents / guardians and students to

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thursday 2 April (2.30 – 8.30PM)

The parent/student/teacher interviews are scheduled at this important time of the year to allow parents the opportunity to speak directly to staff about their children's progress, and to explore strategies that will enhance their educational performance in both the VCE and VCAL. Parents and students will be provided with a PIN number to complete an on-line booking for these interviews with their teachers. Where teachers have a particular concern in relation to the performance of a student they will indicate this on the Interim Report, requesting that parents attend an interview with the named teacher. All teaching staff will be available to discuss your child's progress and any concerns you may have. The Interim report will indicate two codes for these Interviews, 'E' for encouraged – this is an open invitation to parents; 'R' for required – this is a specific request that parents attend due to a concern that teachers have in relation to a student's progress. We look forward to seeing you at the interviews.

Interim Reports

Interim Reports will be posted home on Wednesday 18 March. These reports serve a distinct purpose. They provide a timely update for parents and students in regard to both their academic progress and their attitude and effort in their studies. It is important to recognise that these reports clarify how they are progressing and are not designed to be a detailed insight into your child's performance. Naturally the end-of-semester reports will provide a detailed insight into your children's performance in the VCE, VET or VCAL. The parent/student/teacher interviews compliment the Interim Reports.

EXTENDED ABSENCE

For students to learn in Year 11 and 12 they need to be here at school. Attendance is monitored at each lesson to ensure that students meet the minimum attendance as required by the VCAA. Students who do not meet these external attendance requirements will jeopardize their studies in the VCE and VCAL. Parents are advised to consider delaying any extended holidays or travel during these final years of Secondary education. If the absence is significant students may need to consider deferring their study, extending their VCE over three years, or enrolling in Distance Education. If an extended absence/ holiday is being considered parents are required to notify the College Principal in writing.

WELCOME TO SYDENHAM

This year we have welcomed Year 9 students from CRC Caroline Springs. These eager future students of Sydenham are undertaking their Wood work classes here. We are keen to see their products as they work through the principles of design.



VCE DATA

At Sydenham we receive VCE data that enables our staff, with the assistance of the Heads of Faculty, to analyse the performance of the students in their classes. This information is very useful in preparing the learning and teaching program for the new school year. Teachers are lifelong learners and model this for our students. This year we have employed an additional educational consultant to work with the staff as they review the 2008 VCE results. Both areas of strength and improvement have been identified for the College to address. While teachers continue to improve their practice, parents and students need to play their part. Attendance and punctuality are both important contributors in this regard. The College looks forward to fostering this strong relationship into the future.

CRAIG HOLMES—DEPUTY PRINCIPAL— LEARNING AND TEACHING

SYDENHAM HAIR AND BEAUTY

This year VCAL has made a significant change to the Work Related Skills component of the course. Instead of all students developing skills in wood work, construction and design, we have developed a course where students can choose from three Work Related Skills pathways. One of these pathways is Hair and Beauty.



Students have currently been undergoing training in hair, make-up, skin care and business management and in order to further develop these skills we have set up our very own salon -"Sydenham Hair and Beauty". Staff and students can pay a small price and receive a manicure, facial, hair style, make-up application or even a full make over! This salon is bound to be a success and hopefully soon we will be able to raise money for a charity with the profits made.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

The SLG is a team of students who provide leadership and are a fine example to our student body. They are an integral part of our College organisation and we are so appreciative of their commitment to their role and to the College. The team for 2009 consists of the following members

College Captains
Alexandra FATO
James JOHNSTON

College Vice Captains
Jessica BUHAGIAR
Alvin JEREMIAH

College Sport Captain
Ashleigh GUNN

College Liturgy Captain
Chanelle SCHIAVONE

College Social Justice Captain
Kristine Dionisio



STUDENT LEADERSHIP DINNER

On Thursday 26 February the Student Leadership Group 2009 and their parents had the privilege of enjoying a delicious meal with the Cluster Co-ordinators as well as the Leadership Team of Catholic Regional College Sydenham. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another and celebrate the coming together of such a great team. All enjoyed the professional service of the hospitality class who served dinner and drinks throughout the night. Speeches were made from our Principal and College Captains—James and Alex, as well as introductions of the members of the SLG. We thank everyone who made the night possible and definitely memorable.

JESSICA BUHAGIAR—COLLEGE VICE CAPTAIN

Bradman Cluster Leaders
Ashley GREEN (12)
Tegan KAY (11)
Daniel SIMIELE (Sport)

Dunlop Cluster Leaders
Mitchell HALES (12)
Minh NGUYEN (11)
Danielle GRIOLI (Sport)

MacKillop Cluster Leaders
Kristy MANSOUR (12)
Amy-Alyce ATTARD (11)
Marco POGGENBERG Jnr (Sport)

O'Shane Clusters Leaders
Kayla PORTELLI (12)
Dylan MORRISON (11)
Elyse SICARI

Winton Cluster Leaders
Jarrod JOSKE (12)
Sophie CIRILLO (11)
Anthony LO GUARRO (Sport)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday signifies the start of Lent. Lent is a forty-day period of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter. An ancient biblical practice of repentance was for people to put away their good clothes and wear garments of sackcloth. They were sprinkled with ashes as a way of asking for forgiveness for the wrongs they had done. While this practice died out, it became the custom for people to remind themselves of the need for repentance on the first day of Lent by making the sign of the cross with ashes on the foreheads. The ashes remind us of our human frailty and our need for God.

In Australia we have recently experienced the power of bush fires to reduce even the strongest, most permanent of things to ash. But any of us who have walked through the bush after a fire know that this is about a beginning of new life. Death and destruction is never the end of the story. The resurrection is at the heart of the Christian message.

CRC Sydenham marked the beginning of Lent this year with a simple Ashes ceremony within individual tutor group's morning prayer, where the meaning of the ceremony was explained, some scripture was read and everyone was given the opportunity to receive the ashes.

Pictures below are of the recent Opening Mass and Blessing of the new Multipurpose Hall which occurred on Thursday 19 February



PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Ash Wednesday we begin together our Lenten journey. Through prayer, fasting and works of love we will experience God's power at Easter, which "dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, and brings mourners joy". (The Exultet)

Saint Paul said to the Ephesians: "You must be renewed by a spiritual revolution, so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth." (Ephesians 4:23-24)



Saint Peter Chrysologus illustrates the call we receive: "Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting."

Pope Benedict says (2009): "Faithful fasting contributes to unity of the whole person, body and soul, helping to avoid sin and grow in intimacy with the Lord ... it is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live."

This Lent I invite you to join me on a journey to Jesus. We need silence to listen to him. I ask all parishes and schools to use silence before prayer so we can attend to the Lord's presence. Our church building should be a place of prayer and silence at all times, drawing us to union with the Lord. The great prayer of the Mass will then be supported by our own prayer, adoration, reflection and we will more readily notice what God is asking of us.

The modern world uses dieting to care for one's body. We as Christians use fasting to focus our attention on prayer and to open our lives to God's plan. Fasting mortifies our selfishness and opens our heart to love of God and neighbour. We listen to Jesus and are nourished by his saving Word, so that we hunger and thirst for God.

This year the insecurity of families, and especially children, who do not have enough to eat even in our own society, helps us to grow in the spirit of going to the help of those who suffer. From our fasting, donations to Project Compassion can bring food to subsistence farmers in Uganda, drought relief in India, hope to former 'street boys' in Papua New Guinea, and assist youthful Indigenous Australians. Looking at God, denying ourselves, helps us to make a more complete gift of self to God, so that in realising our own weakness and our sin, we are able to see God's vision of the world, its people and what we can do for others in our community.

As we hunger and thirst for God, we humbly use prayer and fasting to focus on God and on what we can do for others. God will be at the centre of our lives and we will be enabled in some small way to be his instruments far beyond what we might expect.

Thank you for coming on the journey, as together we know the light and hope coming from Jesus, which we can give to others.

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

IMPORTANT :CHANGE IN TIMETABLE ON THE 24 AND 25 OF MARCH

Due to the Intercampus Mass for staff which is being held on Tuesday 24 March from 1.30pm onwards it will be a half day for students. However, to ensure that students do not miss classes it has been decided to run a **Wednesday timetable on the Tuesday and a Tuesday timetable on the Wednesday 25 March**. This means students will be present for a full day of classes on Wednesday 25th March. There will be no early dismissal. The only students affected by this change will be the VET students who must still go to TAFE on the Wednesday and Multi media students.

BUSES

The third Sita bus will now go to Westlakes and CRC Melton. All students should now have a bus pass for their designated bus. All students should now have a seat as long as they travel on the correct bus.