



18 August 2011 Edition 2:3:11

Feast of Assumption  
Loving Father  
You have revealed your beauty by exalting Mary  
And making her the mother of our Saviour.  
May the prayers of this woman clothed with the sun  
Bring Jesus to the waiting world  
And fill the void of incompleteness  
With the presence of her child.  
Amen

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

World Youth Day 2011 is a world wide Catholic event to be held over six days from August 16–21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain focusing on young people. Many of you will recall when WYD was held in Sydney. Pope Benedict revealed the location of the event at the final Mass in Australia during World Youth Day in 2008.

It will be the second time that Spain will host the event the last being World Youth Day 1989. We have three students attending World Youth Day in Madrid they being Laura Marino (B1), Vanessa Panzarino (O1) and Sharon Calleja (O1). We wish Laura, Vanessa and Sharon well on their pilgrimage to Spain and look forward to their return where they will share their World Youth Day experience with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with them for a safe trip.



Laura  
Marino



Vanessa  
Panzarino



Sharon  
Calleja

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has approved a request from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference that the liturgical observance of St Mary MacKillop on 8<sup>th</sup> August be raised to the level of a solemnity. By having her feast day celebrated as the highest liturgical rank, the Church in Australia acknowledges that the story of and devotion to Mary MacKillop has a prominent place in the Catholic community and beyond. A solemnity will mean that the Mass now includes the Gloria and Creed and three readings. As can be clearly seen in the readings, the liturgical books have unfortunately eliminated the universally and instantly recognised name MacKillop: she is now to be known as St Mary of the Cross. On 8<sup>th</sup> August this year, and every year, parishes around Australia will conduct special Masses to celebrate the feast of this country's first saint. I have no doubt that the Solemnity of Mary of the Cross will become an increasingly important day in our communities.

Mid year VCE examination results were received from the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority this past week. Students should now have their results for Studio Arts, Accounting, Physics, Biology, Psychology and Chemistry. Pleasingly, 21% of our students received a grade of A or A+, one of the best results for mid year exams for the past five years. I congratulate all students on their results and encourage those who were not completely satisfied to speak with their teachers as to how they might improve between now and the end of year exams.

English, English Language and English Literature practice examinations have been held at the College for Year 12 VCE students since the start of term. Traditionally, the longitudinal data suggest that our students do not achieve as highly in these examinations as they do in other areas and thus having such an opportunity provides valuable insights so that students might better plan their home study routine. These examinations have been supervised by external examination staff and will be assessed by examiners external to the College. Staff and students will receive written feedback on student performance and parents can expect a letter with details of recommendations for improvement. It is critical that families take the opportunity to go through the letter and feedback in detail in order to prepare for the end of year examinations. The College has instituted this program to provide every student with the opportunity to know how they are faring and to plan for improvement with the available time left. I urge parents to meet with the English teachers at the upcoming interim report evening to discuss the results further so that students might have every opportunity for success at the end of the year. I remind families that at this time of year every Year 12 student should be completing 4 hours of home study each night (5 nights per week) and Year 11 students should be completing 3 hours of home study each night. Those failing to maintain these levels now may be setting themselves up for failure later.

Yours faithfully

BRENDAN J WATSON OAM—PRINCIPAL

## FROM THE STUDENT WELLBEING DIRECTOR

### RELATIONSHIPS DAY – 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011

Relationships Day has been running at College for a number of years in a variety of formats with the focus being on the promotion of healthy relationships. In 2011 we were fortunate to have two different organisations presenting to students for the day. The first was a live theatre performance titled 'Love Drunk' presented by the organisation Phunktional. It was a cutting edge, issues-focused performance, dealing with youth culture and relationships with the aim to **encourage young people to make positive choices and build healthy, respectful relationships**. 'Love Drunk' addresses a range of issues including drug and alcohol use and abuse, sexual assault, family violence, and racism. Students reported having really enjoyed the performance and were actively involved in a thoughtful discussion of the aforementioned issues, at the conclusion of the performance. Some comments provided by students in the evaluation of the day included:

'Very entertaining and enjoyable'

'Very helpful, based on reality'

'Awesome'

'Funny and portrayed a strong message'

The second presentation was by Jonathan Doyle, Director of Choicez Media. Jonathan speaks to students around the country on issues of femininity and masculinity and explains how to wade through the conflicting messages the media provides on sexuality. He promotes a Catholic message of respect for human dignity through the way in which we relate to others. Students thoroughly enjoyed his presentation, providing the following comments in the evaluation of the day:

'I absolutely loved it! It was the best speech I have ever witnessed and EVERY teenager needs to see it!'

'I thought it was excellent advice given from Jonathan, we can all relate to it'

'Very good speaker and made a usually uncomfortable topic something we could talk about openly'

'Absolutely life changing'



Relationships Day - 29 July 2011



Guest presenter Jonathan Doyle from Choicez Media with Year 11 Students Tayla Zammit, Vincent Mauro & Gido Mayor



'Love Drunk' Theatre performers with Sharon Calleja and Vincent Tran

### OUR EAST TIMOR PROJECT

For the past eighteen years Catholic Regional College Sydenham has had a strong interest and connection with the people of East Timor. In 1993, in response to media information about the struggle of the



East Timorese against violence and oppression, students of CRC Sydenham sought ways to help this country so close to Australia. In 2002 the country gained its independence amidst significant turmoil which decimated the local economy and infrastructure. East Timor is a very poor country struggling to provide food, clean water, housing and education for its people. We as a community here at CRC Sydenham have, every year since 1993, made significant contributions to support school and community projects in East Timor.

In 2004, 2008, and again in 2010, students, accompanied by staff, travelled to East Timor to meet with the communities that we have been supporting and, in consultation with the schools, determined the best way we could continue to offer support. These visits were also an opportunity for students from the schools to meet, converse and share experiences as young people from very diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Our third term East Timor project is designed to reinforce the core place Gospel values have in our School community. We have the chance to do something practical, and put into practice the story of the Good Samaritan and so bring alive our College theme to "Go and Do Likewise." Our commitment to East Timor, a very Catholic country, is highly valued by the people we support who know that they are not alone in their struggle to be freed from the oppression of systemic poverty. Our most recent trip was a very humbling experience for all. The obvious poverty and struggle that the people of East Timor are experiencing has strengthened our resolve to continue to support them over the coming years.

CRC Sydenham currently supports the Catholic Senior Secondary School at Railaco, 90 minutes drive into the hills south west of Dili. We have begun a scholarship program to ensure access to education for the poorest students in this region, as well as continuing to provide much needed educational resources. Each year we pay for the education of 21 students, 7 each at years 10, 11 and 12, as well as periodically sending up a pallet of

much needed educational resources. Last year's fundraising has also allowed us to help pay the tuition fees of students wishing to go to Bacau, where Australian Catholic University (ACU) offers an internationally recognized teaching degree. Access to quality education is one of the greatest needs in this developing nation, and will enable them more than anything else to help them free themselves from their poverty.

We invite all the CRC Sydenham Community to join us in our efforts to support the people of East Timor by firstly becoming aware of the situation as it is, and secondly contributing generously to this year's fundraising activities which will be focused on our third term Social Justice Mass to be held on Tuesday September 13.



**East Timor Fundraising Dinner**

**Quatrefoils Restaurant**

**6.30pm**

**Thursday September 8**

**\$50 per head**

**3 Course Dinner**

To book please ring Paul Reed on 9361 0000 or fill in the following form and leave at the College Office.

I wish to book \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the East Timor

Fundraising Dinner on Thursday September 8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

# SPORTS NEWS

## SPORTS NEWS

**AFL/NETBALL:** After 7 rounds, the AFL and Netball competitions came to a close last week with both sides finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall with a 3 win and 3 loss record.

I would like to thank all the boys and girls for representing the College in such a professional manner over 3 terms. I would in particular like to thank the captains of the 2 teams – Jake Horwood and Tom Stewart for the AFL and Elyse Denny and Stephanie Rofe for the Netball for your leadership and determination in what was a particularly long season.

To the coaches, Allister Hill, Anthony Gale and Megan Hill I would also like to say thanks for giving up your class time, lunches and after-schools for training and coaching. Your support this season has been invaluable.

**SOCCER:** On the 27/7 the boys soccer team played against Mackillop College at CRC Caroline Springs. On a perfect day for soccer, our boys dominated the entire game coming away with a 5-2 victory.

Goals: David Mahoney 2, Ben Malaga 2 and Kristian Gjergjaj 1

Best Players: David Mahoney, Kieran Farrugia and Ben Malaga

The girls team had a bye.

On Wednesday both the boys and girls teams played home matches against Marymede Catholic College. Both teams had resounding wins and should be congratulated on their achievements.

**BOYS:** CRC Sydenham 10 def. Marymede 2

Goals: Chris Cristaldo 3, Ben Malaga 2, A.J Nini, Anthony Frazzica, Josh Szelest, Josip Jurjevic, Nick Jurcic 1

Best: Chris Cristaldo, Josh Szelest and AJ Nini

**GIRLS:** CRC Sydenham 7 def. Marymede 2

Goals: Lucinda Cvitkovic 3, Antonia Boljesic 3, Laura Dimasi 1

Best: Lucinda Cvitkovic, Antonia Boljesic and Stephanie Murdaca

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Important Dates

Wednesday 24 August	Year 11 Wellbeing Activities Period 5 - 6. All Year11 students to attend. Year 11 students will be dismissed at 3.30pm
Monday 29 August	Yr. 12 Australian History Excursion
Thursday 1 September	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 1.30pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 7 September	Year 11 Wellbeing Activities Period 5 - 6. All Year11 students to attend. Year 11 students will be dismissed at 3.30pm
Saturday 10 September	Apex Fashion Awards

### Important Dates

Tuesday 13 September	Whole College Mass 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Thursday 15 September	Year 11 Theatre Studies Excursion
Tuesday 20 September	SACCSS Athletics Year 11 & 12 Theatre Studies Showcase 7.30pm - 10.00pm
Wednesday 21 September	Year 11 Wellbeing Activities Period 5 - 6. All Year11 students to attend. Year 11 students will be dismissed at 3.30pm
Friday 23 September	Term 3 ends, all students will be dismissed at 3.30pm