

"Let Your Light Shine"

WEEK 4 TERM I, 2012

24 February 2012

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the College,

"Lord, I know there is darkness within me and around me. Bless these days with your Word. Let your Light shine in the darkness. Help me long for that Light until we celebrate it at the Vigil six weeks from now."

(On Line Ministries)

Ash Wednesday

This week we marked the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Our students were invited back to their parishes for Mass, returning to St Francis Xavier Lurnea, St Anthony's Austral and Holy Spirit Carnes Hill. Thank you to our parents for supporting this initiative, we value every opportunity to link our College to our local Parishes.



Students who were unable to return to their parish participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at the College led by our Liturgy Team.

Opening Mass

Thank you to the number of parents who attended our College Opening Mass last Thursday. It was truly an extraordinary celebration of community. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Victories at Horsley Park, a beautiful Church. Br Pat led our Mass and we celebrated our College theme 'Let Your Light Shine'. In many ways our students were in fact taking on this challenge on that day in Church. They showed extraordinary reverence, they participated very well in the Liturgy and the Choir singing was once again exceptional. Mrs Melham incorporated a series of Commitments from our students, our staff, and myself around our challenges for 2012. Thank you Mrs Melham.



On a personal level the Mass was an opportunity for me to commit to the Clancy community and I did so with great pride. I called on the Clancy students to be committed to work with conviction, to be proud as Catholics and to be committed members of Clancy.

Welcome to New Parents Night

Last week also provided us with an opportunity to meet our new parents. We had close to 200 parents attend this night and close to 25 staff members representing our Leadership Team and our Year 7 Pastoral Team. It is traditionally a relaxed night where parents get to chat with teachers in an informal way. It was a night of great affirmation, the Year 7 parents particularly are very happy with their new school and we, I must say, are very happy with our Year 7 students. Thank you again to all parents who took the opportunity to come in and meet us.

I would like to thank Mr Aitken, Mr Bailey, the Year 7 Pastoral Teachers, the Year Coordinators and the Leadership Team who supported our new parents and College.

Year 11 Information Night

Last Monday night, parents of Year 11 students came to the College to hear about the Board of Studies requirements and also to meet the teachers who are part of their children's lives in the first step into Stage 6. The night was well attended and I would like to thank Mr Dooner for his comprehensive description and his wise words around how to best tackle the Preliminary year and to get the best return from that year in terms of building towards a strong HSC.

Open Day Sunday March 18



Our Open Day this year **begins at 10.00am and finishes at 2.00pm**. Many of your sons and daughters will be invited to act as ambassadors for our College, as tour guides or participating in activities that showcase our school. A letter seeking your permission will be distributed next week and we ask that you support us in this initiative. Last year, our Year 7 students were outstanding tour guides and it also provided them with an opportunity to interact with our wider community.

Our Parents and Friends Association do wonderful work to support our College by running a BBQ as a fundraiser on the day. We would welcome donations for this fundraising drive and the details are on an letter attached with the Newsletter. The Parents and Friends Committee is always interested in new members. Any contribution or show of support is appreciated, whether it be a donation or your attendance at one event.

Parish Masses and Primary School Visits

In the week leading to Open Day students will join me in visiting our parishes and our local schools. I will be visiting **St Francis Xavier Lurnea, on Sunday 26 February at 9:30am**, the following weekend on **Saturday March 3, at 6.00pm** I will be at **St Anthony's Austral** with students and on **Sunday 4 March at 10.00am** I will be at **Holy Spirit Carnes Hill**, to introduce myself and speak about our wonderful College.

Year 10, 2012 Information Evening

A reminder to parents of students in Year 10 that we look forward to seeing you at our Information Evening on **Monday 27 February at 7:30pm** in our Theatre. This particular Information Evening is very important because of changes to the School Certificate test and the introduction of RoSA. We will provide you with more detailed information and the changes and implications for your child.

Thanks for your continued support.

Iris Nastasi
Principal

From the Assistant Principal - Mr Craig Mooney

Parking near the College

Each afternoon parents would be aware of the congestion in the surrounding streets near our College. The local Council is constantly patrolling the local area. To avoid a hefty fine please ensure you abide by the posted street signs and park in designated parking areas only.

Communication between the College and Parents

Communication between teachers and parents is beneficial in many aspects of your son/daughter's education. The diary is an effective way for both parents and teachers to communicate with each other over day to day issues on a regular basis. For issues of a more substantive nature, parents are asked to contact their child's Pastoral Teacher as a first port of call. The Pastoral Teacher will be able to offer advice and/or direct your call to the person best suited to address your issue or concern. If you feel the issue is of a more serious nature you may wish to contact the Year Coordinator. The Year Coordinator will

deal with most situations or refer them on to the Assistant Principal/Principal where this is deemed appropriate. These procedures are in place to ensure fast and efficient responses to your concerns or queries.

Uniform

Once again can I thank parents for their support in ensuring students are correctly attired in the College uniform. This week I spoke at Assembly of a phone call received from a member of the public compelled to contact the College and praise our students on how well groomed they looked walking through Greenway Park each afternoon and how they are well behaved. Congratulations to those students that continually promote the good name of the College.

On a couple of occasions this term, parents have questioned why the "ballet style" lace up shoes for girls are not permitted. These shoes do not adequately cover the upper part of the foot compared to more traditional shoes. The College OH&S standards for practical subjects are not met by these shoes, and for safety reasons are not permitted. It was outlined to all students last year that these shoes were not acceptable. If purchasing new shoes in the future and you are unsure if they are acceptable, please contact your son/daughter's Year Coordinator for guidance.

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents about compulsory school attendance has been released by the Catholic Education Office, Sydney. This information can be viewed on our College Website under Policies/Attendance Policy. If you would like a hard copy of this brochure please contact the College Office.

Craig Mooney
Assistant Principal

Peer Support 2012 at Clancy



Last week, during Peer Support at Clancy, students learnt the value and importance of showing empathy for themselves and others when they are experiencing new and challenging situations. Students focused specifically on the need to consider the feelings of others and appreciate people's differing points of view. Over the next few sessions, students will begin to understand how developing empathy for themselves and others can help us all cope with challenging situations and assist others to manage when they are challenged in some way.



Lorena Ghignoni and Katie Pearce
Peer Support Coordinators

From the Acting Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Melinda Melham

In the last two weeks the College has participated in two beautiful liturgical events; our Opening Mass and Ash Wednesday Liturgy. As the heart of our community is our faith; the reverent way our students participated in both liturgies demonstrates their commitment to their own faith development. Our Opening Mass celebrated our theme for the year 'Let Your Light Shine', our thanks to Br. Pat Hurley, our Liturgy Team, Vocal Group and Musicians for doing just that in creating such a beautiful ceremony. It was also a memorable event as we formally welcomed **Mrs Nastasi as our College Principal**. Our community is fortunate to be under the guidance of her leadership, we are continually inspired by her commitment to her faith and constant encouragement to strive for excellence.

On Wednesday, our students travelled back to their parishes for Ash Wednesday Masses. Our Parish Priests are part of our community, we are grateful for their support and inviting us to return to our parishes to begin Lent. At school, our liturgy asked us all to consider Archbishop George Pell's theme for Lent; "***if you want peace, work for justice***". Our community will endeavor to support the needs of our wider community whilst also considering our personal need for growth through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the words of one of our House Patrons Mother Teresa "*it is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.*"

Our College community will support Caritas Australia with Project Compassion beginning today. Our community has always displayed enormous support for social justice issues, in anticipation we again thank you for assisting those in need in our world.

A reminder that Tuesday morning Mass is celebrated each week in the Chapel at 8am with Br Pat Hurley, all are welcome. Year 12 are supporting these Masses for the next three weeks, we encourage all families of this year group to join us.

Melinda Melham
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Special Education Coordinator—Ms Trish Baran

A new year brings not only new students, but also new members to the Special Needs department including myself to the position of coordinator of Special Needs. It is fantastic to be at a school of such prestige as Clancy Catholic College and meeting so many students and parents in the opening weeks of the year which has made the transition so much easier, and to those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet I very much look forward to that moment! We have been working hard in the department preparing scaffolds for assignments, so keep an eye out for when they will be appearing in your son's or daughter's school bags!



Trish Baran
Special Education Coordinator

Linking Learning to Parents

Gifted Education @ Clancy

This year, a large focus for us will be on the identification and development of outstanding programs to target students who are talented in a range of academic areas. As parents, you obviously have a much better understanding of the gifts and talents your child has to offer. As such, we will be calling on you to nominate your child (in grades 7-10) for our two Gifted Education Programs launching early in Term II.

We will use this nomination from you, along with nomination from Class Teachers and other objective assessments (such as NAPLAN, Torch and AGAT) to determine the best candidates for enrichment.

So, if you are wondering "is my child gifted?" or "does my child have a special talent that could be developed through guided enrichment?" take a moment to complete the quiz.

QUICK GIFTED QUIZ

(1=not at all, 2=occasionally, 3=sometimes, but not always, 4=regularly, 5= always shows this)

Does your child have quick accurate recall of details?

1 2 3 4 5

Do they show intense curiosity for subjects, more than other kids their age?

1 2 3 4 5

Are they highly attuned to their feelings and others feelings?

1 2 3 4 5

Are they frequently frustrated by not achieving perfect results in assessments?

1 2 3 4 5

Do they complete homework with ease, often commenting how easy the work is?

1 2 3 4 5

Is your child an avid reader, often reading books that are more advanced than others their age?

1 2 3 4 5

Does your child shows leadership qualities, with friends, at home, in school?

1 2 3 4 5

Are they highly creative or imaginative?

1 2 3 4 5

Do they teach themselves new games, topics and skills?

1 2 3 4 5

Are they comfortable around adult company, easily able to engage in conversation with those much older than themselves?

1 2 3 4 5

Although not an exhaustive list of qualities, if you scored between 35 and 50, you might be the proud parent of a gifted or talented child.

More information will be coming home this term about nomination and programs launching at Clancy Catholic College this year.

Lauren Drego
Leader of Diverse Learning

Onstage Excursion



On Friday 10 February, the Year 11 and 12 Drama classes travelled to Seymour Centre in the city to view the top HSC Drama works from the 2011 HSC. The rain held off at the appropriate times. The students were blown away by the outstanding costume design projects on exhibition. The HSC group and individual performances were highly entertaining and they really helped the students to envisage what a Band 6 Drama student looks like. The cohort thoroughly enjoyed the day. A huge thank you to parents and guardians of their support of this event.

Josephine McKell and Alix Stirling
Senior Drama Teachers

Careers News

This week I would like to remind you that more in depth information regarding careers is available on the school website in the careers section. Also, any student that wishes to apply for their Tax File Number please obtain an application from the from Office and return it as soon as possible as forms will be sent out in Week 5 this term.

Careers in Mining - Dinners

For Year 10 to 12 students, parents and teachers.
Contact: Chrissie Clarke education@nswmin.com.au or 02 9274 1400
Proposed 2012 Dinner Schedule
29 February – Wollongong
<http://www.nswmin.com.au/Policy-and-Advocacy/Careers-and-Education/Careers-In-Mining-Dinners/Careers-In-Mining-Dinners/default.aspx>

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Try new activities, learn new skills and have a great time along the way.
<http://www.dukeofed.com.au/>

Australian Government Department of Defence Work Experience Program

There are a range of placements available in the Air Force, Army, Navy and Public Service.
<http://www.defence.gov.au/workexperience/default.htm>

Sydney Film School Events

Advanced Diploma of Screen & Media Info Night:
26 March, 6.00pm start
Open Day: 28 April, 2.00pm start.
<http://www.sydneyfilmschool.com.au/school/important-dates.aspx>

Sharyn Conneally
Careers Advisor

PLAY GUITAR @ CLANCY COLLEGE!

Group guitar lessons available for all levels of experience

ENROL NOW FOR TERM 1!

My Guitar School

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1300 853 566 OR EMAIL mail@myguitarschool.com.au
www.myguitarschool.com.au

Uniform Shop Hours

The Uniform shop will be open from **8.00am until 4.00pm every Thursday for all of Term 1**. Also a reminder to all students who require a new Blazer to please order from the Uniform Shop as soon as possible as Blazers can take up to 8 weeks to be made and students are required to wear them as part of their compulsory school uniform on the first day of Term II.

Simone Rayment
On Campus Schoolwear

Dates to Remember

Year 10 Information Evening
Monday 27 February at 7.30pm

College Swimming Carnival
Thursday 1 March from 8.30am to 2.30pm
Prairiewood Leisure Centre, Prairiewood

Year 11 Retreat
Monday-Wednesday 5-7 March (Group 1)
Wednesday-Friday 7-9 March (Group 2)

Year 7 Camp
Wednesday-Friday 7-9 March

IMPORTANT NOTICE COLLEGE SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 2012 College Fees have been sent home via eMail and student hand out. If you have not received your Fee Account for Term 1, please contact the College Office immediately or email accounts@clancy.catholic.edu.au with your preferred email address, child's name and pastoral class.
Thank you.