

*"Let Your Light Shine"*

WEEK 8 TERM I, 2012

23 March 2012

*Christ be with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,  
Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me.  
Christ in the eye of everyone who sees me,  
Christ in the ear of everyone who hears me.  
Salvation is of the Lord,  
Salvation is of Christ. Christ be with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,  
Christ where I arise,  
May your salvation, O Lord be ever with us.*

*The Breastplate of St Patrick*

**St Patrick's Day**

Recently I spoke to our Clancy students about many of the myths that surround St Patrick. I relayed a conversation I had with my own son about his understanding of St Patrick and his life. My son relayed confidently to me that St Patrick was Irish, he eradicated snakes in Ireland and was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland.

The truth of course around St Patrick is that none of those things are true. St Patrick, believe it or not, came from Britain and was probably brought to Ireland as a slave as a young boy. He would have spent much of his time very lonely and isolated in fields as a shepherd in either County Mayo or County Antrim. It's more than likely there weren't any snakes there when St Patrick arrived, but he is famous for making a statement that all snakes should be gone from Ireland. It's believed of course, that this was a metaphor for paganism. Adding to the mythology, there were in fact Christians in Ireland before St Patrick arrived!

**So my question to the Clancy students was "What's the big deal about this man Patrick and why is he a Saint"?**

The facts are, that within 200 years of St Patrick's arrival, Ireland was considered a completely Christian country. He obviously was a wonderful teacher, had a great understanding of the Irish people himself and captured their hearts, their imaginations and their souls.

An example of St Patrick's great teaching was his use of the shamrock. This plant grows freely in spring in Ireland and he used this three-leaved plant to explain the Trinity. This plant is very symbolic to the Irish and it has since become a symbol of nationalism and today is widely used as a representation of Eire. St Patrick also used the symbolism of the sun and included it in his crucifix. This became later, the famous Celtic Cross. He used bonfires and flames because the Irish considered fire as being central to their spirituality. This was a man who knew his people. He was a man of great faith, he told the Irish there was only one God and that they had a soul and they would be saved. He was a great Disciple of Christ.



The breastplate of St Patrick is one of our core prayers here at Clancy. It reminds our students that we are completely surrounded by Christ, that Christ is with us, that we are in fact the face of Christ ourselves when we interact with people everyday. The breastplate of St Patrick links very well with our motto 'May We Continue to Love Like Christ'.

## Open Day

I would most sincerely like to thank the huge number of parents who came to assist us on Open Day. The atmosphere on Sunday was wonderful and we were swamped by interested families and nervous young people who left our school feeling very relaxed and happy. The teachers at Clancy showcased our College brilliantly and really stamped our vision for teaching and learning on the day, whether it was through Clancy University, an initiative in 2012 to engage our more able students, or to the particular services that the Special Education Department offers. We had a tremendous group of 60 Year 7 students who operated as Tour Guides and once again this proved, that despite having the most wonderful facilities, our greatest assets are indeed our students.



A thank you to every family who supported our Open Day by driving your children to school or making the time so your children could be at school to showcase the great work that we do in our practical subjects such as in TAS and Visual Arts. Thanks also to those students who were able to speak very confidently in Key Learning Areas such as Religious Education, English and HSIE, about their learning and how they learn. I think if students are able to articulate how they learn, they are already working towards becoming successful lifelong learners.



Sunday, 18 March was a very proud day for me as Principal of this College. While it generates a lot of work for our teachers and KLA Coordinators and I am very grateful to them, it also ultimately ends up as a great community-building day where teachers and students with parents, work together very well.



## College Fees

Attached with this newsletter is a letter setting out information on school fees and charges for Clancy Catholic College.

You will notice that all fees and school based charges are due by the first day of Terms I, II and III. Only miscellaneous items are charged in Term IV.

I have approved a period of three weeks to be given for payment each term. To give your sons and daughters the best education possible, it is vital that all fees are paid by the payment date.

School fees for Term I are now overdue. Thank you to all parents who have paid these fees. If you have not done so, please pay immediately.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Mr David Bailey, to arrange an interview to organise a payment plan.

**Iris Nastasi**  
Principal

## From the Assistant Principal - Mr Craig Mooney

### Backing up Work

Laptops are a great tool in the classroom and at home to assist with learning. Many students spend hour upon hour of their time preparing Assessment Tasks on their laptops and developing revision notes for major examinations. However, in recent years some students have lost all their hard work when hard drives crash or laptops are broken. The College strongly advises students to purchase an external hard drive and **BACK UP ALL WORK ON A WEEKLY BASIS.**

### Requests for Leave

A reminder that in the event of parents needing to take their child out of school for a period of time, an Application for Exemption From School Form needs to be completed and submitted to the Principal for approval. Please ask your son/daughter to see their Year Coordinator **four** weeks before the leave is required to obtain a form. Once completed please return the form to their Year Coordinator who will ensure the request is processed.

**Craig Mooney**  
Assistant Principal

## Year 7 Camp



On 7 March 2012, Year 7 travelled to Yarrmundi for their Camp. At the YMCA site, the students participated in many different activities such as a Giant Swing, the Flying Fox, Archery, Caving, High Ropes, Low Ropes, Vertical Playpen, Alpine Rescue, Rock Climbing and Initiatives for three days. All activities tested the students' physical strength and also their mental abilities.

As a year group, the students were divided into 10 groups and we stayed in that group for all the activities. It was a great opportunity for the students to make new friends and get to know a wider range of Year 7 students. The students were asked to rely on, trust and support their peers during the activities and cheer them on all the time. It was also a great chance to work alongside teachers outside the classroom environment.



Overall, Camp was a wonderful and memorable experience where students tested their strength and were able to expand their experiences and challenge themselves in all activities. At Camp the students "let their light shine", by having a go in all the activities that they might have thought were impossible.



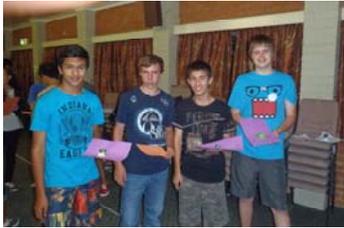
**Olimpia Stambe**  
Year 7 Student

### Year 11 Retreat

In Week 6, Year 11 attended their first of two residential Retreats at Camp Kedron, Ingleside. This is an important event in the students' faith development to take time away from their daily routines and take time for spiritual growth. At our College, we have not adopted a particular charism, rather we focus on the spirituality of the heart. As our College motto is to 'Love Like Christ', our faith development is focused around the heart and the importance of love.



This cohort demonstrated respect and reverence when contemplating their spiritual growth. The value and care they showed for their peers



and families was a privilege to witness, they have great confidence in sharing their beliefs and a genuine interest in their own faith development. I am thankful for their participation in this memorable event, and a special thank you to Ms Bissett, Mr Bolonia, Mrs Kihi, Mr Timillero, Ms Hasrouni, Mr Coppola, Miss Montibeler and Miss Nguyen, Mr Mooney and Mrs Nastasi who spent time away from their families to assist in facilitating the retreat. I also want to acknowledge Fr Noel Short and Fr Peter Smith who travelled to Ingleside to share in a Liturgy with the students, their time and support for our students is invaluable and always appreciated.

**Melinda Melham**

**Acting Religious Education Coordinator**

### Year 11 Retreat 2012

The Year 11 Retreat held at Camp Kedron, Ingleside, was an unforgettable experience for the year group. It gave the cohort time to walk away from the pressures and stress of school, sport and work to focus on ourselves and especially our hearts.

The theme for the Retreat was "*An Invitation to the Heart*" and gave Year 11 time to reflect on the persons we are and the persons we hope to become. This time also allowed us to cement our relationships with others and build new ones.



Teachers played an integral role in educating us on the different parts of our heart, through opening up and sharing their own personal stories with us. The highlights of the Retreat were filled with rather emotional experiences. The second night was especially memorable as we all received letters from our parents, which spoke of how very proud they were of each of us. In receiving these letters, there was not a dry eye in the room.

The Retreat taught Year 11 the importance of stopping once in a while to reflect on our lives and encouraged us to push our boundaries and be the best people we can. For all Year 11's the retreat was undeniably momentous and these special moments will be cherished for the rest of our lives.

**Victoria Abreu and Dylan Villanueva**  
**Yr 11 Leaders**

### Blood Bank and the Vampire Shield

On Monday, 19 March, brave Year 11 and 12 students set off to the Liverpool Blood Bank with Mr Kyritsis and myself to donate blood and clock up our College numbers in the Vampire Shield Competition. The 10 students who donated were very brave and generous with many of them donating for the first time. Each donor helped to save three lives through their donation and in total the lives of 36 people were saved! I urge all to consider becoming a donor, booking an appointment with the Australian Red Cross on 131495 at the Liverpool Blood Bank and have your donation counted in the College's competition tally.



Congratulations to the following students who gave generously; our first time donors: Sean Duncan, Gabriel Bustamante, Daniel Monforte, Freddy Rabie and David Markis, and our returning donors: Garth Fernandez, Mickayla Martin, Robert Mauceri, Morris Attia and Khalil Ashkar.



**Josephine McKell**  
**Blood Bank Facilitator**

### Parents' Survey

In the coming weeks the Year 7 children will be participating in a short survey about how students manage the transition from primary school to secondary school.

This research is being conducted in several Catholic primary and secondary schools across the Sydney Diocese. All the schools involved have a commitment to ensuring the transition process is as successful and smooth as possible for their students. The data gathered will provide schools with valuable information about student needs as they prepare their transition programs. I will also use the information to design workshops for Year 6 and Year 7 students that specifically target the areas of need that are identified in the survey.

The surveys have been co-designed with school principals to ensure relevant information is being collected and will be completed by students at school. The Catholic Education Office, Sydney has granted approval for this survey to be conducted.

Some examples of student questions include:

- I feel like I am fitting in at high school.
- Using a laptop has made it easier for me to complete my schoolwork.

Parents will also have the opportunity to share their opinions of this process via a parent survey. I strongly encourage you to share your perspective of your child's transition because, as a parent, your understanding of your own child will help to provide important information about this change in their schooling. The survey will be available for parents at the following link from 22 March until the end of term.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parents78>

Please be assured that all surveys will be anonymous, with no student or parent names collected.



### NO. 3 – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS

Last month the Government released the Report of the Review of Funding for Schooling. Undertaken by Mr David Gonski AC, this Review has been considering the nation's system of funding government and non-government schools.

NCEC will be closely considering the Government's response to the Report and any new funding models that are proposed.

It costs governments much less to educate a student in a Catholic school than it does to fund a student at a government school because parents share the cost.

Even after parent contributions are taken into account, Catholic schools operate with an average of 10% less recurrent funding than government schools.

Catholic schools save the Australian taxpayer \$2.2 billion a year.

Fair and equitable government support for Catholic schools guarantees real parental choice in education and delivers value for the taxpayer's dollar.

**Dr Dan White**  
Executive Director of Catholic Schools

### From the eLearning Coordinator - Mr John Coppola Caring for laptops

As you may be aware, your child's laptop has become a hub for learning and information gathering in our classrooms.

It is therefore important that our students maintain them and use them in an appropriate manner so as to avoid downtime.

One of the most avoidable causes of damage downtime is breaking of the LCD screen. The LCD screen on laptops is made from glass and liquid crystal and must therefore be kept in the protective bag when not being used. This includes walking from class to class.

Students are not to place their laptops directly into their school bags without the protective bag issued by the College. Students are also advised not to leave their bags containing laptops laying on the floor in crowded areas e.g. assembly, year meetings, lunch and recess and waiting for buses.

We do encourage students to place bags against walls, away from traffic. If students have lockers, then it is encouraged to place laptops in lockers during this time.

Recently, students have been reminded at Assembly to follow the above guidelines and It would be appreciated if you the parent could remind your child, on departure to school and at home, to care for their laptops in the above manner.

**John Coppola**  
eLearning Coordinator

### Pentecostal Consultation for Student Leaders

On Thursday, 23 February, Robert and I had the opportunity to experience a Leadership Seminar at Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College in Burwood. After school we were driven to the consultation by Mrs Kihi. When we arrived we met with other College Leaders from schools within the Sydney Archdiocese. We had the opportunity to have a photograph taken with Cardinal George Pell. We then listened to his words of wisdom alongside other Guest Speakers about their take on sin and forgiveness, in this time of Lent and in today's modern world. The discussion was then followed by a forum where we were given the chance to ask the Cardinal questions regarding issues on forgiveness.



Overall, it was a good experience. We met a lot of great people and learnt some interesting things about sin and forgiveness.

**Daphne Labour**  
College Captain

### Ancient History Excursion to the Nicholson Museum

On 16 March, the Year 11 Ancient History class travelled to Sydney University to look at and 'discover' the many artifacts that were on display in the Nicholson Museum. The museum held a wide array of artifacts that we were able to marvel at. Our guide led us in an engaging discussion on Ancient Egypt and helped us to analyse many ancient artefacts including the coffin of Padiashaiket. After this, the whole class ventured into a room where we got to actually hold artefacts dating back to 2000 -12000 years BC.



That experience was once in a lifetime and was the highlight of my day. We learnt a lot from this excursion and we all had a very good time.

**Morgan Davies**  
Year 11 Ancient History Student



### Sydney Alliance Catholic Schools Training Day

On 8 March, eight members of the Year 10 Evangelization Team took part in the Sydney Alliance Catholic Schools Training Day. On the day, we were taught ways to wholistically gather information relating to issues that the students at our school may want addressed. We were introduced to the idea of *Listening Campaigns* and *Relational Meetings*. We were then taught through the use of technological and practical activities, that equal power and strong relationships were the foundation of a strong leadership team. We hope to be able to use the skills and ideas learnt on the day to work towards our common goal: To love like Christ.



**Carissa Dunn**  
Member of the Year 10 Evangelisation Team