

Principal's Report

Thoughts for Lent

*Fast from hurting words
and say kind words.*

*Fast from anger and be
filled with patience.*

*Fast from pessimism and
be filled with hope.*

*Fast from worries and
have trust in God.*

*Fast from complaints and
contemplate simplicity.*

*Fast from pressures and be
prayerful.*

*Fast from bitterness and
fill your hearts with joy.*

*Fast from selfishness and
be compassionate to oth-
ers.*

*Fast from grudges and be
reconciled.*

*Fast from words and be
silent so you can LISTEN.*

(Pope Francis)

We are now well into the season of Lent. In many ways Lent is a bit like gardening. We look at our lives to 'weed' and 'prune' the things that are stopping us from living fully, to 'water' the things we're doing well and to plant new ways of being. Often in Lent we choose simple actions that help us to become more prayerful, to live more simply, and to share what we have with those who are in need.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Christian church. The forty days of Lent mirror the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Originally it was a time when the faithful re-dedicated themselves, and when new Christians were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

Lent is a perfect time for reflection and making changes in our lives. Our opening reflection from Pope Francis provides some thoughts on what we might weed and plant in our lives.

Opening Mass

On behalf of students and staff I would like to thank Fr. Tuan Do CSSR (Holy Eucharist) for celebrating our opening school mass. Thank you also to the students and staff who planned, prepared and led the very prayerful and thoughtful liturgy.

Induction of School Leaders

During mass we inducted our 2018 school leaders; the School Captains, Social Justice Captains, SRC and House Captains. Congratulations to all the students who have graciously accepted a formal leadership role this year.

Whilst we're only four weeks into the school year these young people have already been very busy. So far they've hosted the Year 12 2015 morning tea; welcomed families to the MacKillop assembly; made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, helped out with Family Nights, started fundraising, organised a lunchtime basketball competition, launched Project Compassion and helped to run a very successful Inter-house Swimming carnival. Thank you to all involved. Your sense of service and willingness to be involved is terrific. The names of our 2018 School Leaders are included later in the newsletter.

Congratulations: VCE and VCAL 2017

On behalf of the school community I would like to congratulate Teresa Phan (Year 10 2015) on being DUX at Sydenham last year, and Jack Elliot (Year 10 2015) on being the most accomplished VCAL student. We are delighted to hear that both have been so successful in their final two years of schooling.

Teresa is studying Engineering at RMIT and Jack has just completed a pre-apprenticeship in carpentry and is in the final stages of organising an apprenticeship with Form 700.

In this week's newsletter we include an article by Teresa where she reflects on her VCE experience and her hopes for the future. Not only is it great to catch up with Teresa and to find that she is flourishing but her reflections are invaluable for Years 9 and 10 students and families as they look towards Years 11 and 12.

Wednesday 4 March 2018

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See 'Families Matter' for Teresa's article. The next newsletter will contain a similar article from Jack.

Inter-house Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Guelen House on winning both the Boys' aggregate and the overall trophy at last week's Inter-house swimming, and to Reis House for taking out the Girls' aggregate. This is the third successive year for the all-conquering Guelen.

Despite the overcast and cool conditions it was a really good day. Congratulations to all the students who represented their House and who did their absolute best for their teams. There were some very good team and individual performances. Thank you to all the enthusiastic supporters who cheered for the swimmers as they competed.

With these very impressive swimming results Guelen has made a strong start to the 2018 Williams Cup but it is early days yet.

Thank you to Andrea Jurcec, Adele Simoncini, the House Captains and all who assisted them in organising a fine carnival and a very enjoyable day.

Newsletter Days for Term 1 2018:

Fridays: 16 March 29 March

*The newsletter can also be accessed on Friday morning (Day 10) on the College website at:
<http://www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au>*

Updating Contact Details

We ask all families to notify the office if there are changes to contact details, including phone contacts for parents/carers and emergency contacts.

With changes to Government guidelines on student absences, the school now needs to ring the emergency contact if we cannot contact parents / carers when a student is absent.

Much time can be wasted if we have numbers that are no longer connected.

Notification of Absences

*We ask that parents or guardians contact the school **before 10.00am** if a student is absent on any day. This can be done by phone on **9366 2544** or email to Jill Gerada at jgerada@crcstalbans.com.au. As Jill is responsible for tracking absences we ask that parent notification by email be directed only to her, not to other staff.*

To ensure the safety of students the College needs to contact parents, carers or the emergency contact when a student is away from school without notification. Jill starts on these calls after 10.00am. It is a great help if parents/carers ring before we make contact.

Since our last newsletter.....

Over and above the day to day activities of the school since our last newsletter students, families and staff have participated in the following:

*Year 8 Family Nights
Inter-house Swimming Carnival
Swim Squad Training
Lunchtime Basketball competition
Volleyball Club
School Photos
Opening Mass*

I am sure that students and their families are very appreciative of all these opportunities and the time and energy that staff put into organising and offering these experiences.



CHRISTINA UTRI
PRINCIPAL



PROJECT COMPASSION Third Week of Lent

Bayan is a 12 year old Syrian girl, living with her family in Jordan. An ambitious student, Bayan has her sights set on a career as an ophthalmologist. As a quiet, young refugee she struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone and faced the prospect of missing out on schooling. With Caritas Australia's support, Bayan is an academic high-achiever who is flourishing in a stable school environment.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help bring stability to vulnerable youth, providing just futures for others like Bayan.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone 1800 024 413.



Mass Roster 2018

Term One

14th March

Sacred Heart

21st March

(Harmony Day)

CRC SRC Leaders

28th March

Sacred Heart

Vinnies Group

We are well into Lent and the Project Compassion Boxes are going well. Please continue to give generously.

This week we had our Project Compassion Jelly sell, which involved students both making and selling Jelly and the funds contribute to the work of Caritas.

The Vinnies group meet every Thursday lunchtime in the language centre, all students welcome.

2018 Sacrament Program

Is your child interested in completing their communion, reconciliation or confirmation this year?

If you have a child interested in participating in the program please email our Faith and Mission Leader Jacinta Dykes on: Jdykes@crcstalbens.com.au by March 8th.

Congratulations to all the students who have graciously accepted a formal leadership role this year.

They are as follows:

College Captains— Harrison Gatt and Janaya Nheu

College Vice Captains— Daniel Duong and Cindy Vo

Social Justice Captains— Sharelle Lynch and Jasmine Paras

Student Representative Councillors— Jasmine-Jade Bui, Rhanel Hao, Dennis Truong, Awer Makuach, Sonany Istaifo, Nhi Nguyen, Emily Gerada, Hayley Nguyen and Danika Alwyn

House Captains, Corbett— Shirleen Nguyen and Alexander San Jose

House Captain, Guelen— Damien Le

House Captains, O'Reilly— Carl Mikhail Sevillano and Chiara Vallescas

House Captains, Reis— Abuk Ring and Aebrom Bactad



The VCE subjects that I studied were English Methods Specialist Chemistry and Psychology (completed in year 11). In addition to this, I also completed one ACU subject; Health Science.

Many factors assisted me in achieving my ATAR. One of them was knowing how to prioritise my tasks. This is especially important to ensure that I did not fall behind, rather I aimed to complete my work ahead of time so that I had time to do extra revision for SACs (SACs were very frequent and most people crammed, but, by spending extra hours maintaining ahead of the class schedule, I ensured I had adequate time to study to the best of my ability). Another was forming positive relationships with my teachers and informing them when I struggled or needed more help with any topics. In doing so, they could accommodate their teaching style to what suited me best. Also, by looking at concepts and trying to understand them rather than rote learning helped me memorise my content easily.

I am currently studying at RMIT University. The course that I chose was Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Infrastructure). Although I was pressured to choose a course which required a higher ATAR such as biomedicine at Melbourne University, I followed my passion and thought about what I would want to do in the future, not what others thought of me.

My advice for anyone who is worried and anxious about entering VCE is to be accountable for your own learning. In doing so, everyone must understand that the work they put into assessments, homework tasks and SACs, will reflect in their scores. Another very important note is to choose subjects that you are passionate about. Keeping in mind that you will be spending hours studying for these subjects, it is essential that they are enjoyable subjects. Seeking help from teachers is absolutely necessary, especially if you do not understand concepts. Do not continue with another topic without fully understanding the previous one as this will eventually become a bad habit. As well as seeking help from teachers, I found it even more useful to form study groups with like-minded students and work together outside of school hours. Most importantly, all students should think strategically in VCE. This means that everyone must understand that English is their most important subject as it is automatically counted in their primary 4 subjects (primary 4 subjects contribute the most to your ATAR). I knew this was the case and to improve my English, I wrote practice essays every week. Also I knew that I was more confident in my mathematics so I worked towards becoming rank 1 in my two mathematics subjects. I also did a year 12 subject in year 11 (psychology) and was very proud of my study score. Essentially, from the beginning of year 12, I knew my top subjects would be English, Methods, Specialist and Psychology. Hence, I relieved stress by focusing on those subjects rather than Chemistry as I knew it would not be one of my primary 4 subjects.

Maintaining a healthy balance between school and your social life is extremely important. I did not give up social media, nor did I decline birthday parties because I was studying. Instead, I made an outline of all the work I needed to complete and ensured they were completed before I went out. For example, if I had a party on Saturday night, I woke up earlier and completed my homework for that day.

In the future, I hope to change the perspective of women in the Engineering field as it is highly male dominated course. My goal is to eventually own my own business where I can be my own boss. However, it goes without saying that I must continue to work even harder than I did in VCE. After high school finishes, the journey is not over.

Good luck everyone with your future endeavours and work hard to achieve your goals. Everyone should be able to finish their 13 years of school with something they can be proud of, regardless of what score they receive.

SCHOOL FEES 2018

All families should receive their school fee statements for 2018 this week.

A big thank you to all families that have set up their Direct Debits and arrangements for 2018.

Families who hold a current Centrelink health care card or pension card and have not already given a copy of their card to the office are requested to kindly bring their card as soon as possible.

We request New families to have a payment plan set up with Direct Debit or Centrepay.

Families who had this set up last year must **re-submit a new one for this year.**

If you have any queries regarding fees please contact Mrs Anne Ross on

**Parents
With Centrelink
Concession Card/
Health Care Card**

Please contact Mrs. Ross
on **9366 2544**
to make appointment for 2018
CSEF Your card should be
Valid as of 29 Jan 2018

Student Parent Teacher Interviews



Student Parent Teacher interviews will take place in the hall on Thursday 19th April (1.30 - 5.00 pm and 6.00 - 8.00 pm).

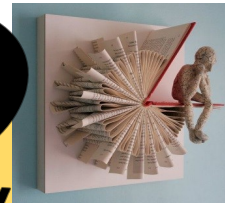
- Interviews can be booked online via the Parent Access Module (PAM) on the College website from 19th March
- Passwords and instructions for accessing PAM will be mailed to families late next week.
- The booking and initial interview takes place with the Pastoral Care teacher. Families are invited to speak with 5 – 6 other subject teachers as well. (This would normally take approximately 30 minutes).

We look forward to meeting all families at the interviews.

Early finish on April 19 for Student Parent Teacher Interviews

Families are asked to note that classes will finish at 12:40pm (the end of period 4) on the 19th April.

TIME



READ

MARCH 2018

<http://> OUR COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



READERS CUP LADDER

The ladder opposite shows each classes position for having borrowed the most books so far this year. At the end of the year the leading class will feast on a pizza lunch in the library. Currently 7 Kiewa is leading by 2 books, followed by 8 Hollows in second place and 7 Wimmera a close third.

KEEP READING



KIEWA

HOLLOWS

WIMMERA

SNOWY

MCAULEY

HUGHES

EDISON

CLARK

DEAKIN

ATTARD

MANNIX

O'CONNELL

YARRA

BARTON

ORIFICI

CURTIN

MACKILLOP

LITTLE

LYONS

If you are looking for something to read try one of these:



COMING UP ...

Reading Hour

Community Breakfast



Library Hours: Recess and lunchtime everyday Monday – Thursday 8.30 - 4.30pm

Expressions of Interest are being received for

China Trip 2018.

You do not need to be studying Chinese to Participate. Offer open to all students in Years 9 and 10.

China Trip 2018

September 22nd - October 4th
\$3900

Price and date may vary slightly due to availability

The China Trip occurs in the September holidays and is for approximately 12 nights in country. The trip takes us from Beijing, Xian to Shanghai. The sights are plentiful: The Great Wall, Tian an Men Square, Forbidden City, Terracotta Soldiers, Shanghai's Bund and more.

Costs include: travel, meals, accommodation entry into all venues, visas. Students attending stay in secure accommodation, transported by private bus and are always accompanied by our CRC teachers.

Expressions of Interest close 27th February with a deposit of \$100 - refundable if limited numbers cause cancellation. Letter and initial payment can be made at the front office.



Key Dates

Term 1 2018

March

Thursday 8:

7 Wimmera Family Night

Monday 12:

Labour Day Holiday

Wed 14 - Fri 16:

Year 8 Camp

Thursday 15:

7 Kiewa Family Night

Tuesday 20:

7 Snowy Family Night

Thursday 22:

7 Yarra Family Night

Tuesday 27:

SACCSS Interschool Swimming

Thursday 29:

Final Day Term 1

**Thought about
learning the
guitar?
Well now is
your chance!**

From \$12
**Per lesson (Group),
invoiced per
term!**

GUITAR LESSONS

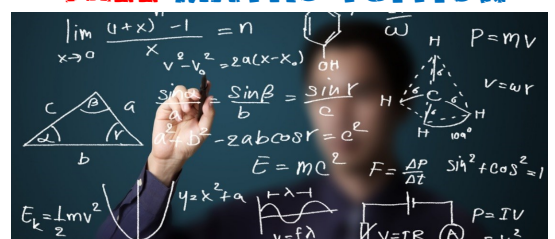
**Lessons are
conducted at
school on a
rotating time
table so students
do not miss the
same classes.**



**LIMITED SPACES
AVAILABLE!
GET IN WHILE
YOU CAN!**

**PLEASE CONTACT:
CLARENCE MARSHALL
CRC St. ALBANS
or
LUKE JULIEN
0413 245 416
julien4@dodo.com.au**

" FREE MATHS TUITION "



Years 7 & 8: Monday from 3:15pm - 4pm
Years 9 & 10: Wednesday from 3:15pm - 4pm

Any student interested in learning maths
please register in the office.

**If you have any questions please feel free
to see Mr Phan any time.**