



ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE

Dream... Embrace... Become... 1 April 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



THE BLESSING OF THE LORD BE UPON
YOU
Psalm: 129:8

MAY THE GLORY AND THE PROMISE
OF THIS JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR
BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO
YOU

Dear Parents/Carers

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the last Sunday of the season of Lent, marking the beginning of Holy Week. This feast day celebrates Jesus' glorious entrance into Jerusalem, where he

was welcomed as a King, the crowds laying down palm leaves before him, and worshipping him with shouts of Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord (Matthew 16:1-9). The palm tree was a tree of honour and sign of life. It marked the place where they could find water for their flocks. On Palm Sunday we are given a blessed palm branch to remember the time, before Jesus' arrest, when the people proclaimed him as King.

Our College Easter ceremony enabled us to focus on the revelation of the Cross in the World today through our actions.

I would like to offer the insights of Hugh Mackay the Australian psychologist and social researcher, from an article he wrote in The Age, March 25, 2005 as he reflected upon Good Friday and Easter.

A strangely reflective, even melancholy day. Is that because, unlike our cousins in the northern hemisphere, Easter is not associated with the energy and vitality of spring but with the more subdued spirit of autumn? Or is it because even non-Christians recognise Good Friday as the most solemn day in the Christian calendar - the day when Christians commemorate the execution of Jesus. His crime? Although he was himself a Jewish rabbi, Jesus rejected the Jewish emphasis on obedience to the letter of the religious law, with its inherent threat of punishment by a vengeful God. Instead, he encouraged an inner state of holiness - being "born again" in a spiritual sense - which is why he rated tolerance, meekness, humility and compassion far above obedience on the scale of human virtues. He taught the transforming power of forgiveness and discouraged judgemental attitudes towards other people's behaviour. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone," was about the most revolutionary imaginable proposition to put to a culture dominated

...where the sky's her limit!

Date Claimers

2 April	End Term 1 3pm
21 April	Term 2 commences
4 May	Labour Day Holiday
24 May	Exploration Day
29 May	Dance Night 6pm

by the legalistic concept of revenge. He praised "purity of heart" but condemned prejudice.

Hugh Mackay goes on in his article to challenge us as Christians to truly see Jesus in this light and to express the spirit of love and goodness when we live and participate in a world often marked by bigotry, bitterness, hatred and violence.

Last week we were delighted to share the good news of the success of Father Ray's recent surgery. Many of our families would know that Father Ray has endured ongoing serious complications with his sight for an extended period of time so the marked improvement in his sight is considered a true blessing.

As the term ends, I extend my congratulations to our students for the efforts during the term. I would hope that the reports issued during the holidays will reflect this effort. I also strongly encourage all parents/carers to take advantage of the Parent Teacher interviews organised for April 20. The College Office will be opened until April 9 and will reopen on April 14 for organising times if not yet completed.

This week we will farewell a long standing member of our College, Mrs Avril MacBain. Mrs MacBain has supported the Science department since 1994. I acknowledge the efforts to help ensure the girls access the best possible Science experiences along with the commitment Mrs MacBain has given to the role. Her assistance with the Titration process has ensured the College has achieved ongoing success in this program.

We also farewell Ikuko Nakagawa our Japanese assistant. The additional support offered by Ikuko helps ensure all girls engaged in the Japanese program are fully supported.

May the blessing of the Easter season be on all.

God bless

Mrs Margaret Battle

*Let no one come to you without
leaving better and happier*
Mother Teresa

PASTORAL CARE

Are there quiet weeks with adolescents? As we head towards the holidays I seem to be running from crisis to crisis, generally the result of girls making poor choices. It's always good to draw on the wisdom of Mrs Ryan, and I often find myself posing her question, "Where is this on the catastrophe scale?" Can I please urge parents to help their daughters to put things into perspective and develop the confidence to move on?

One strategy that sometimes helps is counselling. We are fortunate to have Ms Anna-Maria Mazy as our College counsellor but often our students seem to see her office as akin to detention. I would appreciate your support in helping your daughter to recognise the benefit in having a trained ear to help put things in perspective. On the other hand, it's important to encourage her to see counselling as a transition back to self-determination so that she does not become overly reliant on its benefits.

Last week saw our first Mercy Reflections session for the year. This is a group that meets twice a term to focus on Mercy spirituality. I would be very pleased to hear of parents who might be interested in joining this group. Please contact me at the office for further information.

Easter is of course our central Christian feast with its wonderful image of transformation. Easter reminds us that there is hope in the most hopeless of situations; that the darkness will never overcome. I hope you will take time over the holidays to reconnect with the message of Easter and to share it with others. What a different place the world would be if we were all Easter people, committed to spreading light.

*Mr John Clarke
Deputy Principal*

JAPANESE TRIP

Three of our Year 12 students from 2008, (Erin McGowan, Carla Scanlan and Victoria Richards) took advantage of our short term exchange programme with our sister school Shijonawate in Osaka and spent two and a half months in Japan after completing their school studies last year. By all accounts they had a wonderful time and many unforgettable experiences. Anna McCrae (Year 12, 2008) is currently enjoying a 12 month stay at Shijonawate as part of our long term exchange programme.



Victoria: Great opportunity to develop self-confidence and independence.

Carla: I learnt a lot about myself and also the other girls. I now know a lot about another culture and way of life. I have a lot more independence as well. It was worth while going – I can't wait to go back!

Erin: It was an excellent experience to be immersed in a culture so different to our own. The kindness and welcoming from the Japanese people was amazing – I would recommend going for an exchange scholarship to everyone.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did you come and see us at the Toowoomba Show? We had many visitors to our display, past and present students came to chat with us and we had many enquiries about enrolments. Mr Rod Sterling, an RASQ life member came over to our display and commented on the professionalism of our Hospitality students at the Sponsors Cocktail party and the Governor's dinner. So our congratulations go to our Hospitality students and their teacher Mrs Barbara Wuersching.

The last week of Term One has become Reader's Cup Week, and our Year 8 and 9 students have enjoyed fierce competition in the Callaghan Centre. Thanks to Ms Worthington and Mrs Tamvakis and the dedicated Year 8 and 9 English teachers for their efforts in making this such a success.

*Mrs Linda Creedon
Assistant Principal
Community Development*



Our professional Hospitality students at the Toowoomba Show



Mrs Barb Wuersching at our Show display

ENGLISH

On Friday 20 March, four bus loads of excited Year 8 students headed for Somerset College at Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast to take part in the 16th Somerset Celebration of Literature. It was a beautiful autumn day and the atmosphere at the festival was electric. The 2009 festival offered a fascinating blend of writers, biographers, poets, journalists and artists. We had the opportunity to listen to presenters such as John Heffernan, Maureen McCarthy and Kristen Murphy. The day was informative and fun with many students chatting to the authors and having their favourite book signed.

Tuesday and Wednesday of the last week of term has become Readers' Cup week. This is the culmination of the compulsory reading program for our Year 8 and Year 9 students for Term One. Mrs Worthington leads the way on the microphone firing the questions. On the Tuesday our Year 8 winners were: Deanna Middleton, Amy Dahl, Montana Stenner, Madison Hoffman and Jenna Henning from the Mad Unicorns. In second place; Izabella McDonald, Kaitlin Campbell, Grace Oxenford and Rhiannon O'Connor of the Rickomog's. In third place we had; Kellie Counsell, Molly McNab, Catherine Barbour and Amanda Greendyke from the Pretty Pink Princesses.



On the Wednesday our Year 9 students took over the Callaghan Centre and our winners for the term were the All Aussie Rejects: Abby Saville, Kat Rasby, Ashlee Lawson and Jess Reading.

*Mrs Linda Creedon
Head of Department*

MATHEMATICS

Irrational behaviour is not something that we encourage in the Mathematics Department here at St Saviour's College; however, celebrating irrational numbers is something that we fully endorse. For those a little confused by what I am talking about, I am referring to the Pi Day celebrations that were recently enjoyed in several of our lessons. Pi Day is celebrated around the world each year by maths enthusiasts



on the 14 March in recognition of the number Pi. Pi is the symbol for the ratio of a circle's diameter to its radius and has been calculated to over a trillion decimal places, although it is most commonly rounded to just two, leaving it at 3.14, hence the 14th of March. Although the fourteenth fell on a Saturday this year, it didn't stop some of our very own maths

HOUSE REPORT - XAVIER

This year, Xavier has begun with a bang! At the College Swimming Carnival on 20 February, Xavier led the way in total house points for the entire day, proving to everyone that the blues are the best! Needless to say, we won the carnival (by a mile!), but that wasn't done without considerable effort. All the teachers, Mrs Russell and the House Coordinators in particular, put a lot of energy into organising the carnival, as well as all the Xavier students for showing up and having a go! It is important that we thank the Xavier seniors, or should I say, the 'Bondi Blues'. They did so much work for us leading up to the carnival and we will forever be in Xavier debt to them. It was an absolutely fantastic day that none of us will be forgetting soon!

We have had a lot of fun this year with the events that have been taking place within our community. Pancake Day and St Patrick's Day were both highly successful days and we were proud to see lots of Xavier students joining in on the fun.

The Movie Night, held in the Callaghan Centre, was a great night. Lots of people turned up to show their support for raising money for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, and we just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who did show up. There were lots of Xavier girls there and hopefully at our next gathering, even more people will join in!



Thanks everyone!
Jessie and Abuk

enthusiasts from partaking in the celebrations. The photograph shows students of Mrs Davidson enjoying some of the cakes and other goodies they brought along for the day.

Of course, it hasn't all been cake and biscuits in Maths this term. Our students have been working very hard all term preparing for their exams and for our Year 9 girls, it didn't stop there. Once the exams were all done and dusted, and many students would be looking forward to a more relaxing final week of school before their Easter break, our Year 9 girls were preparing themselves for their NAPLAN tests which take place in Term 2 by trying out a full "dress rehearsal" in the hall. The practice papers were undertaken with the intention of coming to grips with the very different style of question that the NAPLAN tests contain as well as for getting used to the different routines associated with taking an external examination. Hopefully, the experience will prove to be of benefit next term when the girls go through the whole experience again with the tests proper.

Finally, a quick reminder that the Mathematics department is continuing this year to offer tutorial sessions every Monday lunchtime in Room 9. If there are any topics that students feel they would like a little bit of extra help with, then they should come along to the sessions where members of the department will be available to help them out.

*Mr Ross Smith
Head of Department*

Dream... Embrace... Become...

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This term we have embarked on lots of new ventures, all designed to ensure that the religious education of all of our girls is relevant and challenging.

Year 12s have been introduced to Religion and Ethics, in a new unit that has seen them consider Social Justice. In small groups, students have proposed ideas of raising awareness on Catherine McAuley Day about a whole range of current justice issues. Meanwhile, Year 11s are the guinea pigs for a new program for Study of Religion, with an emphasis on pilgrimages. They are looking forward to their Brisbane visit to the Buddhist Temple and Islamic Mosque coming up early next term.

In the Junior school, our new semester units have taken shape. Year 9 and 10 students are benefitting from the integration of RE with Careers education. Understanding their future options has taken on a new significance when approached from a focussed faith basis. Year 8s are exploring our Mercy heritage and will soon move on to the Jesus story.

I am grateful for the dedication and creativity of the wonderful RE staff.

Mr John Clarke

CALLING FAMILIES IN THE CLIFTON AREA

We have a student that is new to the school who lives at Clifton. If you would be able to assist with settling in, travel etc could you please make contact with the school on
4637 1600 and speak with Kym or Gai.

"A New You – Dare To Be Great Women's Retreat will be held in the Bunya Mountains from April 17 to 19.

Includes yoga, relaxation, pampering and life coaching. Only 10 places.

Phone 0408 485 100,
email annemaree@womensretreat.com.au
or visit www.womensretreat.com.au"



Year 8 Religious Education

EXPLORATION DAY

24 MAY 2009

10AM – 2PM

Tour the school, meet the principal, see demonstrations and displays, take part in activities and much more!



KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

19 APRIL 2009

DOWNLANDS COLLEGE

6:30 – 8PM

Child Abuse Awareness Sessions for parents/carers and others looking after children

Toowoomba Catholic Education office invites you to attend a free information session facilitated by Child Wise, to learn about protecting children from harm and abuse.

The most important tool to protect your children is information. These sessions will be delivered by highly qualified child protection specialists and will provide important and practical information on:

- The definitions and indicators of child abuse
- What is normal childhood development?
- How you can protect your children in the community and on the internet
- The tricks that sex offenders use to gain access to abuse children
- What you can do if you suspect a child is being abused
- How you can talk to your children about safety and speaking up when they need to
- How to select a child safe organisation and activity for your child, eg. sports, clubs etc.

More information www.childwise.net