

Newsletter of Penola Catholic College

"Remember God is merciful and wants you to trust in his mercy"

(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 12th March, 1876)

Volume 2 February 25, 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Year 7 Enrolments 2017

A reminder to all of our existing families that Year 7 enrolments for next year (2017) close on Friday February 26. A number of families applied after the close of enrolment last year and it makes it very difficult to accurately plan for the following year, so I ask that you submit your enrolment on time. Often families assume that we know that there is a younger sibling but I would be very disappointed if one of our existing families missed out on an enrolment due to not submitting their enrolment on time.

Beginning of the Year

It is hard to believe that the students have only been back three weeks. In this time we have had a range of activities including our Beginning of Year Mass, Year 7 and Years 9-12 Information Evenings, School photographs, Swimming Carnival, Parents and Friends meeting and a Board Meeting. This week we have our Year 8 Information Evening, a student free day on Friday and on Friday night we will have our Year 7 Welcome Dinner with over 300 people attending. At our first College Assembly we acknowledged our VCE high achievers from the Class of 2015 (more information contained later in this newsletter) and presented College pins to all of our new students.

Glenroy Gym Update

Demolition of the existing Gym will begin on Tuesday and should take a fortnight to completely demolish. We have an agreement with the builders that no demolition will take place at recess or lunchtimes whilst the students are in the yard to minimise any chance of student injury. There are temporary fences in place with another line of bollards and tape as a secondary exclusion zone to ensure that no student is in any danger of being hit by debris. I ask all students to obey the instructions of teachers to ensure that they remain outside the secondary exclusion zone. As with all building programs it is often said that it is short term pain for long term gain!

Planned Evacuation Drills

Parents will have read about the wave of hoax threats that have disrupted many schools around the world and in our region lately. Our College always holds a safety drill early in the year but it is particularly timely given recent events. During the next fortnight we will hold a practice drill of our emergency procedures for an evacuation situation on both campuses. You will receive a notification via the Skoolbag App indicating when these drills will take place. Student safety is paramount here at Penola Catholic College and we will continue to practice both evacuation and lock down throughout the year so that all staff and students are familiar with what to do in an emergency situation.

Blessing and Opening of the St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre

Last Friday February 19 marked another significant occasion for Penola Catholic College with the blessing and opening of the St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre, another chapter in the unfolding story of Penola Catholic College and its predecessor colleges. Whilst we have offered a number of internal VET courses for a number of years there is no doubt that these new facilities are at the cutting edge of industry standards. It is the culmination of a significant degree of planning by my

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predecessor, Mr Chris Blake and I would like to take this time to publically acknowledge his foresight and vision for this facility. It was most fitting to have Chris open this building and I imagine it gives him great pride to witness the fruits of his labour in terms of the extensive planning that went into developing our new St Joseph's the Worker Trade Skills Centre.

As a large Catholic co-educational secondary school situated in Melbourne's North West we are able to offer a significant range of pathways for our students. In 2015 we offered 57 different VCE subjects and our students participated in 34 separate VET programs. The St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre will provide for our students studying VET Hairdressing, VET Beauty, Vet Integrated Technologies and VET Engineering.

I have included below an excerpt from my speech on Friday as well as Chris Blake's speech (Penola Catholic College Principal 2008-2013)

"The planning and construction of the building took place over a period of approximately 2 years. I acknowledge especially the expertise of our architect, Mr Ezio Costa from Clarke Hopkins Clarke, who has designed a wonderful contemporary facility within the usual constraints of space and money. On behalf of all of us I thank you Ezio, and your staff, for once again converting our ideas into the reality of a new building. I acknowledge the work of our builder Raysett Constructions Pty Ltd and its staff particularly Eddie, Lisa, Kevin and Tom. I wish to thank also Mr David Vilchez from the Diocesan Building Advisory Service for his assistance and advice. I acknowledge the contributions of College staff members including Mr John Gribble, Mrs Jenny Vinten, Mr Peter Ratcliffe and his team, Mr John Paul, Mr Anthony Ratcliffe and Mr Gareth Henderson.

I acknowledge the contribution of the Australian government who provided \$1,260,000 towards the St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre. Senator Simon Birmingham, the current Minister for Education and Training, offers his apologies for not being able to join us here today. It is his hope that our students will use the facilities provided to their full advantage and that it will support them to become confident, happy and productive young adults."

Chris Blake's Speech

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you Chris for your introduction and welcome.

I am delighted to be here today, amongst many friends, and the priests, students and families of this great community. It is also a pleasure to join with the other invited guests as we help you celebrate another milestone in the development of the college. I feel honoured and privileged to have been asked to open the St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre today.

The planning for this centre commenced in 2009 when the College began discussions with local schools, tertiary institutions and other agencies to prepare an application for what was then known as the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, an initiative of the Rudd Labor government. As you would appreciate, projects such as this do not happen overnight and there is a lengthy story to tell of the journey from those early discussions in 2009, to a successful stand-alone application for funding in 2013, and on to the completion of the project late last year.

From the point of view of the College I would suggest that there were two key aims behind the decision to pursue funding for a Trade Training Centre, now known as a Trades Skills Centre. The first was the desire to provide the best possible facilities for the programs on offer, including engineering and hairdressing and beauty courses, and to extend the offerings in the electro-technology domain. These vocational areas were in alignment with the Australian government's desire to address skills shortages in a variety of trades. The second aim was to ensure that as far as possible the needs and aspirations of all students could be met across a wide range of subject offerings, especially in the middle and senior secondary years, as students prepare for their transition to further study and employment.

The College community can be justifiably proud of all of its facilities and the many opportunities that are provided for the young people in its care. Can I also say to the young people who are in the audience today that the opportunities here at Penola Catholic College are second to none and I encourage you and your fellow students to make the best use of these wonderful facilities, and the programs that are conducted within them by experienced and committed teachers and staff members. The St Joseph the Worker Trade Skill Centre adds to an impressive range of facilities and courses in the areas of vocational education and applied learning.

When I first saw the Trade Skills Centre last November, on the day of the 20th anniversary celebrations, I was amazed at what had been achieved. I would like to congratulate all involved in bringing the dream to reality. Whilst I was involved in the early planning stages of this project, it was difficult to envisage the final reality simply by looking at the plans and computer generated images. Once again, Ezio Costa and the team from Clarke Hopkins Clarke, have most capably transformed these dreams into reality.

Again, heartiest congratulations to Chris and the Leadership Team, to the members of the Trade Skills Centre Building Group, the College Board, the architects and builders, the Diocesan Building Service, and the College staff for all that has been achieved.

In naming the centre after St Joseph the Worker, the College has drawn on a number of strands of its Catholic heritage and identity, including that Jesus himself was a skilled worker, a carpenter, at least until he commenced his public ministry. The name also reminds us, as mentioned in one of the prayers of the faithful, of the importance and dignity of work in Catholic social teaching, and finally it also reminds us of the heritage of this site which for many years was under the care of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. All in all, a most suitable choice of name.

So it is without further delay and with much pleasure that I declare the St Joseph the Worker Trade Skills Centre officially open, and I invite the College Captains, Katrina Angerosa and Joseph Calara to come forward and assist me in the unveiling of the memorial plaque.

Planning and Coaching Teams

As part of our focus upon Literacy this year, we have developed Planning and Coaching teams in each subject area at each year level. In practical terms this means that all Year 7 English teachers meet together at least twice per term to plan, develop resources, discuss pedagogy, assessment tasks and determine the focus for the term. In some cases the focus may be upon curriculum documentation, developing literacy rich assessment tasks, scaffolding these tasks or joint construction of writing tasks. Every staff member that teaches Year 7 English has a chance to contribute to this team and it allows them to moderate their assessment to ensure consistency in the marking of assessment tasks.

Student Photographs

A reminder to all parents that you need to notify the College if you do not give permission for your son or daughter's photograph to be published in newsletters or promotional materials. We would like to begin to place more photographs and videos on myPenola so I take this opportunity to remind you of the student permission form for photographs. If we have not received your permission form back at the College we have assumed that your consent has been provided. It is the responsibility of each family to make this decision and notify the College if you decide to exclude your son or daughter from having their photograph published. In practical terms, this will mean that your son or daughter will need to be excluded from most group shots such as class photographs as these are published in our Year Book each year.

Vale Kathy Fawcett



Staff gathered on Tuesday February 23 to reflect and pray for Kathy Fawcett who passed away after a relatively short battle with cancer on Wednesday February 17, 2016. Kathy has worked in a variety of administration roles at Penola Catholic College for the past 21 years and at Therry College prior to Penola being established. Kathy continued to work up until the end of May 2015 when she was diagnosed with cancer. Her children went through our predecessor school Therry College or were graduates of Penola Catholic College. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kathy's children Dean, Grant, Michelle and their families. The Penola community offer their deepest sympathies to the entire Fawcett family.

Lent in the school community

The following is part of an extract from Joe Doolan who writes for the Melbourne Catholic Education Office. *Lent is a time to renew and restore our relationship with Christ. In what ways can this be enabled and supported in the school community?*

Each gospel concerns an encounter with Christ that challenged people to open themselves to God, to faith, to truth, to life. Catholic schools provide opportunities for such encounters throughout the year, but Lent demands a special effort. These opportunities might include:

- providing regular prayer and meditation sessions (daily or weekly, for individuals and groups)
- reflecting on the Lenten readings
- using images of the face of Christ for prayer and meditation

- ensuring every classroom, gathering space and public space contains an image or symbol that is not only a reminder of Catholic identity but an invitation to be open to Christ's presence
- encouraging participation in <u>Project Compassion</u>, not just in donating or raising money but in opening our eyes to the suffering around us and making a compassionate response

Lent is a chance to encounter Jesus, to remember again his invitation to chat, to come and see who he really is. It is a rich season for schools to look into the face of Jesus, not merely in our chapels and classrooms with crucifixes and other images. Every encounter we have with a student, colleague or staff member can lead to a more profound realisation about our lives in Christ.

A Prayer for Lent

Merciful God,

You called us from the dust of earth;

You claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.

Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes.

Bless us as we journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice;

our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,

for in his cross you proclaim your love now and forever.

Amen.

Adapted from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

Chris Caldow

Principal

AMBULANCE VICTORIA

Please find the following information regarding Ambulance membership in Victoria. As part of our First Aid policy the College will inform parents of the Ambulance Victoria membership costs. If a student is injured at the College the College insurers will cover the cost of an ambulance. If a student becomes ill at the College then the parents will need to pay for an ambulance unless they meet the criteria listed below or are members of the Ambulance Victoria Service. In the instance of a student being unwell the College has a duty of care to the student. If an ambulance is required to be called it will be called regardless of whether the family has membership.

Under the State Concession Scheme the Victorian Government provides Victorian pension and health care card holders free ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services (where authorised as medically necessary) to/from the nearest appropriate medical facility.

A valid card holder shares the same transport fee benefits as an Ambulance Victoria member. Eligibility for the concession card must be valid at the date of transport, regardless of the date on the card. This eligibility is determined by Centrelink, not Ambulance Victoria and is regulated by Department of Human Services.

Customers unsure of their eligibility status should have this confirmed with their card provider. The safest option to ensure year round cover is to purchase AV membership.

Individuals eligible for free transport include:

- Persons with a valid Pensioner Concession Card.
- Persons holding a current, valid Health Care Card (excluding Cards with payment types CD and FO) and their dependents as listed on the Card (in circumstances where the dependant is the patient).
- Children holding a current Child Disability Health Care Card(payment type CD) or Foster Care Health Care Card (payment type FO), but not their guardians/families as listed on the Card.

Ambulance Victoria Membership costs				
Family		Single		
\$21.90	quarterly direct debit only	\$10.95	quarterly direct debit only	
\$87.60	1 year membership	\$43.80	1 year membership	
\$262.80	3 year membership	\$131.40	3 year membership	
\$438.00	5 year membership	\$219.00	5 year membership	

Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2015

At the Opening College Assembly on Friday 5th February, we welcomed back the highest achievers from the VCE class of 2015. Our students performed extremely well with 4 students gaining an ATAR score of 90 or higher. A further 24 students gained an ATAR of between 80 and 89.99. Congratulations all of our students who completed their studies successfully and thus qualified for tertiary studies in various universities, TAFE institutions and the world of work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015

We extend our warmest congratulations to our **College Dux**, **Douglas Jones**. Douglas will be studying Bio-Medicine at the University of Melbourne and wishes to pursue a career in Medicine. His speech delivered at the College assembly has been published at the end of this article.

Congratulations to the following students who received **an ATAR ranking in the 90+ range**: Our College Dux, Douglas Jones, followed by Emma Setaro, Dymal Champaneri and Tawfiq Rizqallah. These students were formally acknowledged at the College Opening Assembly last week, and were presented with the Penola Catholic College, Academic Excellence Award 2015 by our Principal Mr. Chris Caldow.

We also presented the students who received an **ATAR ranking in the 80+ range**: The highest ranking student in the 80 to 89.99 category was Anita Majdandzic followed by Moller Bartekian, Renata Madjandzic, Stewart Mahi, Raneen Wardy, Matthew Azzato, Jacob Mandanici, Patricia Guzman, Cynthia Nguyen, Daniella Marcato, Hayden Pinder, Genevieve Caceres, Nicole Cheah, Jimmy Hoang, Rose Phan, Jenny Hoang, Xenia Carrascalao-Gomes, Peter Anastasopoulos, Anna Nguyen, Vicenzo Tomolo, Daniella Misho, Bradley Peterson, Bryan Ibanez and Nathan Cerra.

Well done to the students who are our VCE TOP SCORERS, our subject duxes. Students who gained a **Raw or Scaled Study Score of 40+ in one or more studies** are placed in this category. The maximum study score in Year 12 is 50. The following students were presented with a Penola Catholic College 2015 VCE Subject Excellence Award plaque by our principal, Mr Caldow.

Maryna Ayshoa	Arabic
Xenia Carrascalao-Gomes	French – also accelerated in Italian 2014 and scored over 40
Jaiyden Castelluccio	Outdoor and Environmental Studies
Hein Dihn	Food Technology
Baghdad Gaorg	VET Engineering
Michael Georges	Systems Engineering
Andrew Gorecki	IT Applications – Year 11 student accelerating
Patricia Guzman	Spanish
Douglas Jones	Specialist Mathematics
Douglas Jones	Mathematics Methods
Douglas Jones	Biology
Danielle Marcato	Health and Human Development
Sarah Mati	Italian – Year 11 student accelerating
Daniella Misho	English
Bradley Peterson	Japanese
Rose Phan	Studio Arts
Tawfiq Rizqallah	Physics
Tawfiq Rizqallah	Further Mathematics
Josephine Tran	Accounting – Year 11 student accelerating
Josephine Tran	Chinese – Year 11 student accelerating
Raneen Wardy	EAL
Raneen Wardy	French

We congratulate all of our students who have been awarded the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). We are very proud of all of their achievements.

Year 12 Students Studying at University 2016

Our congratulations are also extended to the following students who have been accepted to study a first year university subject as part of the La Trobe University VCEPlus Program and University of Melbourne, Extension Program.

- Josephine Tran will be studying Accounting at the University of Melbourne
- Anthea Ranieri will be studying Human Bio-Sciences at La Trobe University
- Stefano (Matteo) Callegari will be studying History at La Trobe University
- Tyler Meier will be studying Event Management at La Trobe University

Wishing all of our students a successful year in 2016.



Lucy D'Angelo DP – Teaching and Learning



Speech from College Dux

Good morning, Mr. Caldow, special guests, staff and fellow students. It is with great honour that I stand here before you today to accept my position as the Dux of Penola Catholic College for 2015. Achieving Dux is a difficult journey, if it was not for my teachers, family and friends, I would not be present here on stage. So on that note, thank you to my family for always showing me support and love when I most needed it, and for guiding me in the right direction.

I want to take this opportunity to particularly thank my mother, Linda, for always pushing me to achieve my best, and for having faith in me. I am also grateful for your willingness to prepare my favourite meals throughout the year, I could not ask for more than what you gave me. Thank you to my father, Simon, who always cheered with joy when he heard of my progress in VCE, which truly showed me how much he cared about my future. Your pride and belief kept me going and motivated. I also want to acknowledge my brother, Carlos, for always showing me respect, support, and passing down reliable advice whenever I needed it, and my younger brother Andrew for being supportive and bringing humour to my studies.

Secondly, the wonderful teachers at this College should be recognized for their hard work and efforts throughout my Year 12 journey. I want to particularly recognize my Biology teacher, Mrs. George, for always being there when I needed extra help and had questions to be asked. I appreciate your efforts and dedication as a teacher, but honestly, you were more than that, you were a mentor, someone who I could look up to and receive professional advice from. For this, I am deeply appreciative.

Mr. Chan, my chemistry teacher, I appreciate you for lighting up the mood and bringing joy and enthusiasm to the classes; your sense of humour and wonderful personality should not go unseen.

Thank you to my English teacher, Ms. Johnson, for always pushing the class beyond their limits and helping us achieve our absolute best in English, and finally, thank you to my Mathematics teacher, Mrs. Johnson, for motivating us to achieve our absolute best, and providing us with lame math jokes that only you would find funny.

Although these four teachers stood out in my performance in 2015, many others, including Mr. Mills, Mr. Hipwell, Mrs. Eleftheriadis, Mr. Pavlou and Mrs. Raspudic constantly supported and believed in me, and I will forever be grateful.

To the Year 12s of this year, VCE is an adventure that can only be taken once. So ensure that the people who journey with you are the right ones. Every day I looked forward to spend time with friends at school, as it was a break from study, and I want to specially thank Stewart Mahi for making the year an unforgettable one, as we shared memories that will last a lifetime. As I said before, Year 12 occurs only once, so spend it with the right people, and I am forever blessed and grateful for having you beside me.

The reason that I stand here today is partially because of the aforementioned people, but the main reason lies within the fact that I had set myself goals. Throughout my two years of VCE, I set myself many goals, goals that pushed my boundaries and were unrealistic. Two of these were to get a driver's licence and get a

girlfriend, but both of these did not happen. However, I am thankful for that, because I realized that sometimes in life, you will not always get everything that you desire. But, there is a clear distinction between desire and destiny. If you truly want something, if you really want to become a professional soccer player, get drafted into the AFL, become a famous artist, a musician, the next prime minister, a doctor, or become the dux of 2016, just know that every person in your dream position was once a beginner, every person in your dream position once started from the bottom, and they worked their way to the top, whether it be 1 year or 10 years, they worked overnight, they worked while others were sleeping, they believed in themselves, and they did not give up. Hard work and sacrifice is the only recipe for success. If you really want something, you will go out and get it.

However sometimes, hard work and sacrifice does not always pay off, as every human is susceptible to failure. I have also experienced my share in failure countless times, when I received my UMAT score in 2015, I was on the verge of an emotional breakdown, filled with confusion and regret. But the very next day I was more motivated than I had ever been, I wanted to prove the assessors wrong, I wanted to show them that I was more valuable than the score that they threw at me.

You see, my point here is that when someone says 'no' to you, when someone declines you, when someone does not want to help you, ignore them for the time being, work like hell, and thank them when you make it. Because I tell you, failure is the road to success, I have learnt more from my mistakes than I have ever learnt from my victories.

If you really want something, the only thing that is stopping you is time, time will go by and it will stop for no one, so make use of your time this year and make people proud of you.

Just to finish off, I want to remind all the current students, particularly the Year 12s, that we are all humans, and breathe the same air, so if we all are standing on stage here today, so can you, and the only difference between me and you, is time.



College Dux 2015 – Douglas Jones (5th February 2016)

MARDI GRAS (French for FAT TUESDAY)

On Tuesday 9th February, Mrs Favrin's Year 9 French class learnt all about Mardi Gras and how the French prepare for the beginning of Lent. The highlight of this lesson was, of course, making crepes.

Mrs Favrin had prepared the batter and so we all took it in turns to come to the front of the room and make our own crepe. Some of us went back for seconds too. They looked really easy to make, but we learnt that it's all in the action of the wrist and how well we could use the wooden spreading utensil. No matter how the crepes looked, they tasted yum with either Nutella or jam.





PENOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE **Second Hand Uniform Sales** Fortnightly: <u>TUESDAYS</u> At Broadmeadows Campus from 8.45am till 10.30am Term 1: 1st March, 15th March Term 2: 12th April, 3rd May, 17th May, 31st May, 14th June Term 3: 12th July, 26th July, 9th August, 23rd August, 6th September Term 4: 4th October, 18th October, 8th November, 22nd November, 6th December Anybody who wishes to sell their freshly dry cleaned second hand uniform items, can do so by leaving them at Reception. All items must show they have been dry cleaned by having dry cleaning tag attached. A small fee will be charged for postage and handling. Please Note: From the first school day of 2016, all students must wear the new style uniform. The old style uniform is no longer accepted to be sold by the Second Hand Uniform Shop. **Academy Uniforms** 238 Wolseley Place, Thomastown Ph: 9460 8011 Academy Uniforms also run a school shop service at Broadmeadows Campus in the current second hand uniform area in the Mannes building on: Wednesday mornings from 8:00 - 9:30am Thursday afternoons from 2:30 - 4:00pm HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIPS & EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE **APPLY BY THURSDAY, 31st MARCH 2016**

Scholarships valued from \$2,500 up to \$3,500 are open to students between 15-18 years of age and offer the unique opportunity to live and study overseas for a semester or year.

Students can also make a saving of up to \$1,000 off their exchange program fee with an Early Bird Discount:

The deadline for scholarship and early bird discount submissions for all programs departing between October - March 2017 is **Thursday, 31st March 2016.**

Visit <u>www.studentexchange.org.au</u> or call 1300 135 331 for more information



Penola Catholic College Skoolbag

The College is now using the Skoolbag App to send out information to parents and students. School notices, alerts and newsletters are communicated directly to smart phones through the Skoolbag App.

The App can be downloaded from the App Store by searching





Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, **up to \$500** for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), such as full-time, part-ime, casual or seasonal work, and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Christian Unger, your local Saver Plus Worker: (03) 9483 2416 / 0407 817 758 or cunger@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across Craigieburn and surrounding districts by Brotherhood of St Laurence. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.