



AQUINAS COLLEGE MENAI

NEWSLETTER

9 February, 2009

Vol.16.No.2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Each year we all make New Year's resolutions. This is a practice that many people adopt because they wish to begin the year differently from the previous year, or it is a method of setting goals they would ordinarily not set. It is also very much aligned with our need as humans to seek to 'begin something again.' One of the issues that we have to address, at Aquinas each year, is that there are many people in our community who are facing a 'new beginning.' Last week I named all the staff who are beginning at Aquinas, as well as those who are beginning a new role with different responsibilities. Obviously we have a host of new students in Year 7 and a sprinkling of students beginning across Years 8-11. I am also aware that for many parents this weekly newsletter is the beginning of a regular form of communication, covering events and or the life of the Aquinas community.

I found the following quotes about the concept of 'beginning'. I share them with those who are new to the College and therefore 'forced' to begin but also to those who have been here for some time and realise the need for a new beginning.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." (Henry Ford)

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." (Martin Luther King Jr)

"Every day is a new beginning. Treat it that way. Stay away from what might have been, and look at what can be." (Marsha Petrie Sue)

Desire is the starting point of all achievement, not a hope, not a wish, but a keen pulsating desire which transcends everything." (Napoleon Hill)

It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult undertaking which, more than anything else, will determine its successful outcome." (William James)

"There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning." (Louis L'Amour)

"Dissatisfaction is a great starting point, for it is right there that we have the most power, strength, and energy to push change through." (David De Notaris)

*

Our students are now settling into their study routine and participating in the many other dimensions of the College. Our seniors, Years 10, 11 and 12 will soon be commencing assessment tasks for their various courses. Parents would be aware of the significance of these tasks, as they count towards final grades and marks to be submitted to the Board of Studies for Years 10 and 12, and performance in assessment tasks determines final grades and ranks for the Year 11 Preliminary course.

It is important that Years 7, 8 and 9 also complete homework, assignments and assessment tasks to the best of their ability to ensure, not only pleasing grades on reports, but the development of good study habits in the future. If you have any questions regarding assessment tasks, do not hesitate to contact Mrs Keegan, our Curriculum Coordinator, or the relevant KLA Coordinator. I also encourage you to use your son's/ daughter's diary for communication with the College.

Our KLA Coordinators are:

Religious Education	Mrs Jodie Hughes
English	Mrs Lisa Mirabello
Maths	Mr Marek Bem
Science	Mrs Slavica Butler
HSIE	Mrs Melinda Alvarez
PDHPE	Mr Shane Hardcastle
Creative Arts	Mrs Julie Tennant – Visual Arts/ Music
	Miss Andrea Mollica – Drama/ Languages
Technology/ Applied Science	Miss Melinda Scarpignato

*

Parents would be aware that, if you have any concerns in relation to your son/ daughter, the first point of contact is with pastoral teachers, either through the College Diary or by telephone. The Pastoral Coordinators are also available to address any problems or concerns. Our Pastoral Coordinators for 2009 are:

Year 7	Mr Matthew Holland
Year 8	Mrs Julie Monk
Year 9	Mr Andrew Finch / Mrs Tina Gulisano
Year 10	Mr Simon Wilson
Year 11	Mr Michael Snell
Year 12	Mr Michael Lenarduzzi

Mr Anthony Hulme is our Pastoral Care Coordinator.

*

We look forward to meeting with Year 7 parents at our 'New Parents Evening' on Friday.

Jane Donovan
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

FOR THE CALENDAR

DAY		WEEK	
Wednesday	11 Feb	A	U/15 Berg Shield Cricket (Wagga)
Thursday	12 Feb	A	Yr 11 D&T Excursion (Powerhouse Museum)
Friday	13 Feb	A	Year 7 Parent Social Evening (7:00pm) Summer Sport (Round 1)
Monday	16 Feb	B	Leadership Camp
Tuesday	17 Feb	B	Leadership Camp
Wednesday	18 Feb	B	Year 11 Parish Mass (8:20am) Induction of College Leaders (Assembly)
Wednesday	25 Feb	A	Opening School Mass / Ash Wednesday
Tuesday	3 March	B	College Swimming Carnival
Wednesday	4 March	B	Year 10 Gifted Writers Day Year 10 School Certificate Information Evening 7:30pm
Thursday	5 March	B	SSCCC Opens and U/15 Rugby League Trials
Friday	6 March	B	SSCCC Swimming Carnival

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Yesterday's Gospel presents Jesus as both a preacher and a Healer. These two ministries were central to Jesus' mission on earth, seeking opportunities to preach whenever he could. It was from the very beginning of his public ministry that many gathered. In many ways this was a typical day in the life of Jesus. He taught, preached, worked miracles and prayed. Jesus was there to serve, to give, to share. He was not seeking any reward or any appreciation. Rather he wanted to do the healing and he does it to the full. Mark's Gospel however, adds something more. He spends the time in prayer in order to get the necessary strength to continue his mission, aware that he cannot give to others what he does not have himself and he gets his strength from his Father.

In our own lives we too are all preachers although we may not seek opportunities to publicly preach, we each preach the word of God on our own, through our words and actions to the people we come in contact with. From the very beginning of his public ministry Jesus' reputation as a teacher and healer spread rapidly throughout Judea, so much so that hundreds would gather at the places he visited in order to be cured of their afflictions.

As followers of Jesus, we too are called to respond to the needs of others with compassion. Not just to those we know and love, but equally to strangers. We must come to recognize Christ in the face of others.

Mark's Gospel highlights that teaching and healing were central to Jesus' mission and he himself acknowledged "that is why I came". Although "the whole town came crowding round the door" Jesus responded to their needs, and rather than being exhausted he set out to visit neighbouring towns the next day. Importantly amid all of this frenetic activity Jesus took time to pray. We too should seek times for prayer, especially when we are under pressure. We pray that we might be people who take up that opportunity to be people of compassion, healers, preachers and people of prayer.

Yesterday was Catechist Sunday; this week let us offer prayer of thanks for all those who volunteer as catechists in our state schools, who have taken up publicly the ministry of Jesus to preach and bring to life the word of God to these children. May we also keep in our prayers this week all those in our nation, particularly those in Victoria whose lives have been taken or changed forever by the bush fires in Victoria. Please pray also for those trying desperately to stop the fires, treat the injured and heal the wounds of devastation.

Mrs Jodie Hughes
Religious Education Coordinator

Catholic Youth Events in Sydney

Basic Youth Ministry Training Course

Catholic Youth Services is holding a 'Basic Youth Ministry Training Course' for all involved in Catholic youth ministry leadership on February 14th 2009 at the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield. It will run from 9am-4pm and will cost \$20. Register now at matt@cys.org.au or 9665 5344.

Music Workshop

Catholic Youth Services is holding a jam session for all young people who would like to learn some new Catholic liturgical music and praise and worship songs. At Waverly College Senior School, Waverly, the workshop will run on February 21st 2009, from 9am – 4pm. Register now at vincent@cys.org.au or 9665 5344.

Need more information or know of other upcoming events? See me during the week.

Mrs Nolan
Assistant REC



Social Justice Group

The Aquinas College Social Justice group is a group of Year 7 to 12 students who gather together every second Wednesday morning at 8:20am in the Library. They discuss various justice issues in our local and wider community and look at ways to help a variety of causes, especially through fundraising.

Our first meeting will be held THIS WEDNESDAY morning in the Library. All students are welcome.

Want to know more about this group? See Mrs Nolan during the week.

Mrs Nolan
Social Justice Group Facilitator



Buy Roses for Valentines Day!

Every year the Aquinas community has raised money for Project Compassion by holding 'Roses Day' around the time of Valentines Day, a well known celebration of friendship and love. Aquinas staff and students have the opportunity to order roses for those they care about, which they **can pick up on Friday, February 13th**, the day before Valentines Day.

All money raised will go to Project Compassion. Project Compassion is a major fundraising campaign run by Caritas Australia, a Catholic agency for overseas aid and development.

Year 12 students have been visiting each pastoral class to collect orders. **All orders and payments must be made by this Wednesday, 11th February.**

1 rose \$3, 6 roses \$15, or 12 roses \$30

Any Q's? See Mrs Nolan or Mr McNamara



CAREER NEWS

Welcome to 2009. At this time of the year I like to remind students of who I am and where and when I can be found.

As the Careers Adviser, I am available to assist students in planning their after school future. I have a great deal of information on courses and occupations, and I receive a lot of information through the mail on a weekly basis. I try to disseminate the information through this newsletter, and also through a Careers Newsletter which will go to pastoral classes of Yr 10, 11 and 12. Copies of this will also be posted in the Careers Site of MyClasses. Students are also expected to be registered with Career Central (Year 10 will hear more about this later this year) and to read their regular emails.

If a student has absolutely no idea what they would like to do, they can make an appointment with me, where I will provide career counselling. This might take the form of a computer program, or a session with me, depending on the students' needs.

There is a Noticeboard outside my office where I place information that may be of interest to students. It is worthwhile taking the time to check this noticeboard out throughout the year. (If you don't know where my office is, please ask your pastoral teacher!)

I plan to spend time with Year 12 during their morning pastoral as often as I can this year, to give you more opportunity to speak with me.

I am usually at school every Tuesday and Wednesday and Week B Thursday. However, this does change as I am often out at meetings or visiting unis / TAFE / etc. If you wish to see me and cannot find me, please leave your details with the front office staff, who will pass it onto me.

Finally, onto the first pieces of information for the year. This is for Year 12 students interested in pursuing an accountancy career or business career.

- The Chartered Accountants Cadetship Evening will be held on the 21st May from 4.30pm at the Sydney Convention Centre. The perfect opportunity to find out more about cadetships and meet potential employers. www.charteredaccountants.com.au/studnets
- Business Cadetships Program Launch 7pm on Friday 27th March at the Sydney Harbour Marriott, 30 Pitt Street. Students can be studying a range of business related degrees to be eligible for this program. Visit www.businesscadetships.com.au for further information.

On Monday 2nd Feb, 94 Year 12 students participated in the University of Wollongong Discovery Day. They chose lectures to attend, and spent the day at the university learning about life as a university student. It was a very informative day, and thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. My congratulations to Year 12 on their impeccable behaviour, and also on their uniform. They looked fantastic amongst the other schools on the day.

Mrs Lisa Higgins , **Careers Adviser**
(Available Week A: Tuesday, Wednesday; Week B: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Bedford College, a private college, has provided the following information to explain the government's FEE-HELP system for students when they have left school and are entering private colleges. Please contact Mrs Higgins if you have further questions relating to this.



What is VET FEE-HELP?

VET FEE-HELP is an extension of the Australian Government's FEE-HELP scheme (currently available to university students) to provide loans to eligible full-fee-paying students to assist them to pay their tuition fees.

Students will access VET FEE-HELP from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) authorised by the government as an approved VET FEE-HELP provider. It is available to students studying one or more of the following courses:

- Diploma
- Advanced Diploma
- Graduate Certificate
- Graduate Diploma

The courses must be nationally recognised and accredited and have significant credit transfer arrangements into a higher education degree program.

How does it work?

The Australian Government pays the full amount of the tuition fees for the course directly to your VET provider, and you repay the loan through the tax system via compulsory and/or voluntary contributions once you are working.

When do I start making repayments?

You do not make any loan payments until your employment income is above the minimum threshold (\$39,824 in 2007/08). **Example:** A person with a HELP repayment income of \$40,000 in 2007-08 will make a repayment equivalent to 4% of their income, or \$1,600.

Important things to know about VET FEE-HELP

- No upfront tuition costs
- No age restrictions
- Available to Australian Citizens or holders of a Permanent Humanitarian Visa
- A loan fee of 20% applies to VET FEE-HELP loans for diploma and advanced diploma
- courses (payable to the government and added to your loan but not included in the FEEHELP limit)
- You can utilise the VET FEE-HELP loan to pay your VET tuition fees, articulate into university and then add your university costs to the loan until you reach the maximum FEE-HELP borrowing amount (currently \$81,600 in 2008)

For more details, contact Bedford College or visit www.goingtouni.gov.au

PEER SUPPORT

The Peer Support Program teaches students a range of skills to deal positively and proactively with life experiences, develop a sense of self worth and belonging and encourages taking responsibility for decisions and actions. Students are allocated into groups of 8-10 and work through a series of activities covering a range of skills and concepts, which are led by two Peer leaders.

Moving into secondary school represents a significant change for students, as they adjust to a new situation that is quite different from their experience in primary school. *Working through the Framework* for Orientation provides students with opportunities to get to know others and their Peer leaders. The framework is designed to assist younger students to become familiar and confident with their school, teachers and new routines. Time is given to assist students to learn how to manage and organise their time effectively.

Research has shown when students form close connections with their peers they are more likely to have a satisfying and successful school experience.

You can support your child by asking them about the Peer Support Program and encouraging ongoing communication between your child, home and school.

Erin Wailes

CASUAL WORK AVAILABLE

Phone Operator / Counter Work

Required for Al Martino's Italian Restaurant
Illawong

2 nights per week

&

Junior Pizza Cook Assistant

2 nights per week

Contact Robert on 0439 735 810

MATHS DEPARTMENT

This is directed to Junior students every week and should be done **without a calculator**. This will help to lift your skill levels in the School Certificate.



The answers appear later in the Newsletter every week.

1. Find 10% of 750g
2. Find the 15% discount on a \$320 dress.
3. Find the balance if 8% is discounted off a \$900 laptop?
4. Write 150% as a fraction or mixed number
5. Write 3% as a decimal

Mrs Cathy Fensom

Book Review

Crossing Paths by Dianne Blacklock

Crossing Paths is the latest offering by local author Dianne Blacklock.

Set in contemporary inner and suburban Sydney, the story begins when the two main characters are stranded in a broken down elevator for a couple of hours. The story which unfolds concludes with a rather predictable ending. However, the beauty of Crossing Paths is that Blacklock's natural storytelling and humour takes the reader on a journey of pure escapism. The characters become friends and you feel as though you could be taking a voyeuristic peep into one of your neighbour's homes. A great summer read.

Marina Vukovic

On Monday 2 February, 100 students from Year 12 went to the University of Wollongong Discovery Day.

This day was aimed at helping us to experience a day in the life of a Uni student. We selected our own sessions to attend, which included topics about finance, science, history, psychology, journalism, the arts and information sessions about scholarships and student experiences.

Despite the heat, everyone found the day helpful in understanding what University is all about, and it got us all excited for the year to come.

Special thanks to Mrs Higgins and Mr Lenarduzzi for organising this day and coming with us.

Ashlee Wilkins & Ellyce Horan
Year 12

SCHOOLWEAR OFFER

\$50 OFF NORMAL PRICE

SCHOOL BLAZERS

NOTE: 1 WEEK ONLY!
SATURDAY 7TH FEB TO SUNDAY 15TH FEB 2009

LOWES

Exclusive stockists of premium quality Beare & Ley Schoolwear

PS: EXTRA 5% DISCOUNT FOR EZY-WAY CUSTOMERS

Aquinas has got Talent!

Alisha Sloan, Claire McGuinness and Jacinta Gulisano of Year 10 are singing as a trio called "Soundcheck" in the 2009 season of Australia's Got Talent. Their heat will be televised on Wednesday 11th February on Channel 7 at 7.30pm. Please tune in to give them your support, and see if they progress to the Semi Finals!

UNIFORM SHOP

The next date is:
Thursday 12 February 2009
8:00am—9.00am

Please note the Uniform Shop only sells Sports Uniforms and School bags

Please note the Uniform Shop does not accept Eftpos or Credit cards

MATHS CHALLENGE

Answers:

1. 75g
2. \$ 48
3. \$ 828
4. $1\frac{1}{2}$
5. 0.03



LOST PROPERTY

There are various items in Lost Property

Please check Lost Property if you are missing any items

Maths Department

CANTEEN ROSTER

TERM 1

MONDAY	9/2	CRISTINA WISSAM, MARIA EBB
TUESDAY	10/2	CAROLYN COONEY, SUE HANNIGAN, KIM GLENIE
WEDNESDAY	11/2	LIBBY YIP, SUSY PASQUALINO
THURSDAY	12/2	LYNNE THOMAS, SUZANNE BARTON, SHARON POLLACK, KATE HORN
FRIDAY	13/2	JEANETTE SALE, JANE GUY, LEANNE EVANS
MONDAY	16/2	CAROLINE RAMSAY, HELEN HEAL
TUESDAY	17/2	VANESSA MCSWEENEY, KAREN DOOLEY, ANNE MAREE SIPEK
WEDNESDAY	18/2	JENNY WILSON, SANDRA NARBESHUBER, PENNII CASTLE
THURSDAY	19/2	CARMEL GODDEN, MELISSA TOWNSEND-CRYER
FRIDAY	20/2	AMANDA KAYES, JACQUELINE WAKIM, DENISE VAN VLIET, ANGELIQUE ANDREW