



A Prayer for a Winter's Day.

On this winter's day
We are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits;
The warmth of another's smile or embrace,
The glimpse of the sun through the clouds,
Freshly brewed coffee,
Newly baked bread,
Hot soup.

On this winter's day
We are thankful for glimmers of hope,
for acts of kindness that tell us
we are not alone,
in our sorrow,
in our suffering,
in our uncertainty.

On this winter's day
We are thankful for
All that stirs us into life;
For funny stories and laughter,
For music that sets us dancing,
For words and wisdom that inspire us.

On this winter's day
We are warmed
By the beauty of this place in which we live,
By the company of family and friends,
By our passion for justice and peace.

May the thoughts of our hearts,
the words of our mouth,
the work of our hands,
and all that we do with our lives
speak of grace and truth
as we seek to live in the way of Christ.

Amen.



From the Principal . . .

Welcome

Welcome back for Semester 2. I trust that everyone enjoyed the break, is well rested and ready for what will hopefully be an interesting and productive term.

It has been a busy start to the term with Year 10 Work Experience, Year 5 visits and Year 8 City Camps all taking place this week. I thank staff for all the additional work they've put into organising and running these activities.

St Vinnie's Winter Sleep Out

In the past few weeks there has been much talk in Melbourne about the cold weather. With morning temperatures close to zero and barely reaching double digits during the day we are all feeling the cold a little more this year. We can only imagine what it must be like for people who are homeless or those who cannot afford heating.

At the end of last term a group of students and staff set out to raise awareness about homelessness and the work of the St Vincent de Paul society by participating in the Schools Winter Sleep Out. As well as sleeping on the floor in a hall without heating, they organised a whole school 'Pyjama Day' fundraiser and collected blankets for St Vinnies. We are all very grateful to all who were involved, especially for their willingness to do something about this very important issue.

Below is a thank you note from Pat Marek on behalf of St Vinnies . . .

"St Vincent De Paul St Albans West Conference would like to thank Ms Utri, Principal, Mr Marshall and teachers and students from Year 7 to year 10 for their effort sleeping in the school hall overnight on Tuesday 23rd June in Winter.

The students slept on the floor accompanied by teachers and Mr Marshall who encouraged them to sleep out, so as to have an idea what it must be like for people who have nowhere to sleep but outside in the cold night.

The students filled a van with blankets, doonas, clothing, socks, gloves and hats which will come in very useful for people over Winter. They were very tired on Wednesday but very happy

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to have helped in some way which made them and our volunteers very happy ...

May God bless everyone for their effort."

Pat Marek.

Year 7 House Council

At the end of last term Year 7 students finalised their House Council for Semester 2. Congratulations to all the students who nominated and to all who were successful in being elected to this role. It was great to hear that about 60 students nominated to be on the House Council. This means that the House Council will have many willing helpers with the activities that they plan.

We look forward to working with you. I am sure that your leadership, ideas and work will have a very positive impact on our school.

A voca: Catherin D'Rozario Tommy Nguyen Jayden Kretiuik

K i e w a: Abuk Ring Arianit Gjergjaj Roshith Thanthulage

S n o w y: Ezabelle Cormanes Sharelle Lynch Jenny Vo

W i m m e r a: Danika Alwyn Julie Le Samuel Gray

Y a r r a: Christina Cao Aebam Bactad Xuan Dien Vo

Reports

Early last week families received information regarding Semester 1 reports. Below is a summary of key points:

- Families can access the report online through the Parent Access Module (PAM). Passwords for this were re-distributed with this letter.
- Families who cannot access the report online can request a printed copy. It is important that this is done prior to Student / Teacher / Parent interviews.
- Once they have read the report, families are asked to complete the 'Response to Semester 1 Report' and to return this to the College by **Monday 27 July**.
- Student / Teacher / Parent interviews will take place next week on Tuesday 28 July and Thursday 30 July. Interviews need to be booked through PAM.
- Students need to attend with their families and to see their pastoral care teacher first and then other teachers as required.

Early Dismissal

Families are reminded that students will be dismissed at 2.15pm on Tuesday 28 July and Thursday 30 July as we have Student / Parent / Teacher interviews on these days.

Congratulations

In looking through the reports it is good to see that most students are working hard and giving 100% in their studies. Congratulations to everyone who can say that they've done their best. This is what true excellence is about and there's no more anyone can ask of you. I'm sure that you feel a strong sense of a job well done and that your families are very proud of all you've achieved. I'd encourage you to build on this during second semester.

Doing your best

A small number of students and their families would be disappointed with their Semester 1 results. Typically, these students leave things to the last minute, do as little as possible in class, are disorganised and begin work in the last few days before the end of semester.

For students who are keen to improve there are many avenues of help available, both at home and at school. Think about the following:

- If you have difficulty with organisation and planning, ask your family, homeroom teacher or year level leader for help as they are more than happy to assist.
- If you find it hard to understand the work, see your subject teacher at lunchtime or after school. They are only too happy to give extra help.
- If you struggle with homework, Study Support is your answer. It runs from 3.05 - 4.15pm on Mondays to Wednesdays.
- If you struggle with reading, see Ms Vassallo for additional support.
- If you lack motivation, a chat with Jenny might help.
- If a lack of direction is the problem, an appointment with Mrs Dykes, our Careers Teacher, might do the trick. A clear career goal / plan might just help to get you back on track.

How often do we hear people saying they wish they'd worked harder in the previous year, in a particular subject or at school in general? I hope that there are few, if any, students with this regret at the end of the year. Everyone can achieve their personal best but it does require you to work hard!

Congratulations: Dante Alighieri Poetry competition participants

Late in Term 2 a large group of Years 9 and 10 students attended the Dante Alighieri Poetry competition at the University of Melbourne. Each student had prepared a poem to be recited to the judges.

We are very proud of all the students who represented our school on the day. Not only were they terrific ambassadors for the College but they were willing to test their skills in a challenging situation.

In particular, I'd like to congratulate Patricia Dabu, Charles Endaya, Vivian Fadiet, Briana Flores, Truc Truong and Vivian Truong who achieved Certificates of High Distinction. This is an outstanding achievement. As well as this, a significant number of students received Honourable Mentions and Certificates of Merit. These are listed later in the newsletter.

On behalf of the students I'd like to thank Jess Iaria, Rosalba D'Astoli-Iannuzzi and Melissa O'Shea, our Year 9 and 10 Italian teachers for all their work in preparing students and in ensuring that students have fantastic learning opportunities in Italian.

Parking restrictions around the school

Families are reminded to read parking signs around the College carefully. As is the case around all schools, there are speed and parking restrictions in the area. This assists with traffic flow and in keeping students safe.

Parking officers regularly monitor the area. Recently one of the officers asked that we again remind families of their responsibilities in this. He was particularly concerned about parents who double park and call for their children to run across the road.

Young children and adolescents combined with congestion, double parking and speeding are a dangerous mix. I ask all families to take particular care in cars around the school.

2016 Course Planning

Decisions, decisions, decisions! Over the next five weeks students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will all be planning their courses of study for 2016. With so many options this is a challenging process.

We encourage students and their families to participate fully in this process; by reading all the information provided, attending lunchtime information sessions and discussing options with relevant staff. Next week's Student / Parent / Teacher interviews are an excellent opportunity to begin this conversation.

It was very pleasing to see so many Year 9 families at Tuesday's **Parents as Careers Partners** (PCPs) night. Your interest and support of your children at this important time is very much appreciated. On your behalf I would like to thank Jacinta Dykes (Careers Teacher) for organising the evening and Chris Orsini, Atem George and Annette Vella for their support of the initiative.

Sydenham Open Evening and Careers Expo

Years 9 and 10 families have recently received information from CRC Sydenham regarding the Years 11 and 12 Open Evening and Careers Expo. You are reminded that this will take place this coming Wednesday. It is expected that **all Year 10 families** will attend and we would encourage all Year 9 students who are considering a VCE or VET subject in Year 10 to attend with their family.

Annual Report 2014

Our 2014 Annual Report is now available to families on the College website at www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au. Hard copies are also available from the school office and will be available at Student / Parent / Teacher interviews in the third week of Term 3. I'd encourage all families to take a look.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published fortnightly and distributed on **Day 10 (Friday Week 2)**. Students will have a chance to read it before placing it in their diary to be taken home to parents that evening.

Newsletter Days for Term 3 2015:

Friday 7 August, Friday 21 August, Friday 4 Sep, Friday 18 Sep

The newsletter can also be accessed on Friday morning (Day 10) on the College website at:

<http://www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au>

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:

- Vinnies' Winter Sleep Out
- Year 7 and 8 SACCSS Futsal
- Senior Secondary Pathways program
- Author in Residence program
- Year 7 Swimming
- Year 10 Italian Immersion Day
- Year 9 Premier League
- 10 MacKillop Community Service
- International Federation of Catholic Universities opening mass
- Year 8 City Experience
- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 5 visits
- Parents as Careers Partners night

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

Dante Alighieri Italian Poetry Competition, 2015



Congratulations to our Italian students for their excellent performance at the Dante Alighieri Italian Poetry Competition at Melbourne University.

High Distinction (scores of 90-98)

Patricia Dabu
Charles Endaya
Vivian Fadiet
Briana Flores
Truc Truong
Vivian Truong

Honourable Mention (scores of 80-89)

Elias Cormanes
Gabrielle Febey
Jans Garay
Edward Jeselnik
Jennifer Rios
Stephanie Tran
Isabella Vanegas Caicedo
Markus Vidakovic
Betty Vu
Carolinh Lamb

Merit (scores of 65-79)

Justin Castro
Jenia Lai
Kathleene Mendoza
Nam Nguyen
Khan Nguyen
Kayla Palmier
Jenny Pham
Carolkim Tran
Isabella Audino
Antonella Koesoemo
Caitlyn Jane Sanahon

GRADE 5 VISITS

Students in Grade 5 from some of our feeder schools (St Paul's, Holy Eucharist and Sacred Heart) visited on Tuesday and Wednesday and enjoyed their day experiencing secondary school life at CRC St Albans, making snow, decorating biscuits, participating in a dance class and experiencing special effects make-up.



*Someone
Once Said...*

“ You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.”

- Alvin Toffler



St Vinnie's Crew

THE WINTER SLEEPOUT

On Tuesday 23rd June 35 students and 5 staff braved the cold and participated in the Winter Sleepout here in our college hall. It was a chance to raise awareness of the Homeless problem here in Melbourne and to experience a mild version of what it may be like for our homeless.

We would like to thank everyone in our school community for your generous donations of blankets and Winter clothing for our St Vinnie's Winter Appeal. We collected a Van-load full of new and used items. Previous St Vincent De Paul Society President, Pat Marek and Volunteer, Miro Jencit came to our school on Wednesday 24th and met with all 35 students who were involved in the Winter Sleepout and collected our donations on the society's behalf.

This year's School Winter Sleepout was a huge success and I would like to especially thank the staff that assisted me in running the event and supervising the students. I would also like to thank the St Vinnie's Crew and the SRC for all their support and work in making this event such a success.

Wednesday Morning Mass

Wednesday Mass Roster for term three:

15th July	CRC 9 Lyons/Barton-MCS
29th July	NO MASS
5th August	CRC 9 Deakin-CML
19th August	CRC 9 Huges- DIO
2nd September	CRC 7 Yarra-MPO



Pyjama and Onesie Day

This day was a huge success and we raised \$245.00 through gold coin donations for the St Vinnie's Winter Appeal. It was great to see so many students and staff supporting those involved in the Winter Sleepout by wearing their Pyjamas or Onesie's for the day.

Thank you all so much.

Mr Marshall



20c Coin Drive

Start collecting your 20c coins!

Which house will have the longest coin trail?

Details will be announced in the next week or so.



TWILIGHT OPEN EVENING AND CAREERS EXPO

@ Catholic Regional College Sydenham

Wednesday 29 July 2015

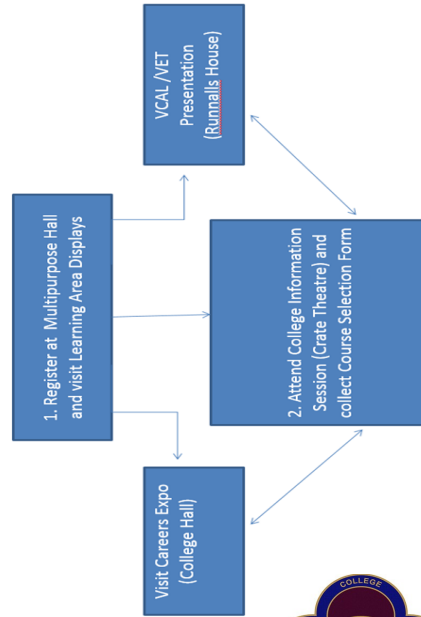
It is essential that **all Year 10 students and at least one parent** attend this expo as subject selection forms will be distributed on the night and vital course selection information will be provided.

5.00PM – 8.30 PM

Formal Parent Information Presentations will be held in *The Crate Theatre* at the following times:

- Session 1: 5.30 – 6.00pm
- Session 2: 6.00 – 6.30pm
- Session 3: 6.45 – 7.15pm
- Session 4: 7.15 – 7.45pm

Suggested path of movement for parents/guardians:



PLEASE REGISTER AT THE COLLEGE MULTIPURPOSE HALL ON ARRIVAL

KEY DATES TERM 3

Tuesday 28 July:
Student / Parent / Teacher interviews
(3 – 8pm) via online bookings
(Students dismissed at 2.15pm except Yr 9 Premier League students)

Wednesday 29 July:
Open Evening & Careers Expo at CRC Sydenham
(Very important that all Year 10 students and their families attend)

Thursday 30 July:
Student / Parent / Teacher interviews
(3 – 8pm) via online bookings
Students dismissed at 2.20pm)

Tuesday 11 August:
Years 11 & 12 Course Planning Day
(Year 10 students)
Year 10 Social

Wednesday 12 Aug:
Staff Planning Day
(No school for students)

Wednesday 19 Aug:
Course Selection and Enrolment interview: CRC Sydenham
(Year 10 students and families)

Tuesday 1 September:
Term 3 Immersion Day

16 – 18 September:
Year 9 Camp

18 September:
Year 8 Reflection Day

Have you changed your contact details?

Families are reminded that the school needs to be notified immediately that there are changes to phone contact details or addresses. Please ring the office, on 9366 2544 or come in and speak to Jill.



Catholic Regional college St Albans

A few vacancies remain for year 7 2016
To enrol call **Anne Stokie on 9366 2544**
or visit www.crcstalbens.catholic.edu.au for more details



www.crcstalbens.catholic.edu.au