

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with pleasure that I write this Newsletter comment after returning from my Sabbatical during last term. It was a marvellous experience and I value greatly the opportunity that was given to me to not only have the time to relax and reflect on all that we have achieved at Sancta Maria but also to visit other schools and to meet with international educationalists. During the term I visited schools in Melbourne and in the UK focussing on Values Education and Value Added Assessment. I visited both Catholic and State Schools.

As you will be aware "Values" is now a focus area of the NZ Curriculum. It is very clear that this is an international move with Australian and UK schools placing a significant emphasis on Values Education. Of course, Values Education is not anything new for Catholic Schools. While there are core values which are common to most schools, each school has a variety of values that they focus on, which often reflect the needs of their communities. What is common are the strategies for implementation, that is how students are introduced to the values. The practice that we have established at Sancta Maria College appears to be fairly common in other countries as well. There is research available that clearly indicates a link between Values education in schools and Quality Teaching and Learning.

Value Added is the means by which we measure the improvement in a student's performance. I will not go into the details here but it is based around the notion of assigning each student a target grade and then through regular monitoring and mentoring tracking the progress towards that target grade. This is now a national system that is used by over 900 schools in the UK.

In a few weeks time my full report will be available on the school website. If you are interested in more detail on these two topics please visit the website.

This term is of significant importance for all students. Having read a number of reports over the holiday period it is clear that while most senior students are tracking well academically all need to apply themselves fully to their academic goals this term if they are to reach their potential. It is wonderful to hear of all the outstanding co curricular achievements of last term, including Grease, but these areas, while being important for the overall development of the students, will not secure them a career.

This term academic work must be a priority.

I want to conclude by thanking the Senior Leadership Team at the school for the outstanding work that they did in my absence. Miss Cooney and her team did more than 'hold the fort'. Initiatives that we were discussing in Term 1 have been further developed and the school is in good heart. I could not have taken this opportunity without their support and expertise. My appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their support. I look forward to catching up with the newly elected members.

It is great to be back and I am looking forward to what will be a very successful term.

God Bless
Paul Daley
Principal

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Values Education

The Value that we are focussing on for the start of this term is "Equity".

Equity

What is equity?

Equity is fairness. It is based on a legal system that is founded on the principles of natural justice that supplements common law.

As Catholics, we believe that inequalities that affect millions of people are sinful and in open contradiction of the Gospel.

Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design. How can we ensure equity exists in our society? Various Church documents state that:

- In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labour, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race. However, the earth is divided up among people to assure the security of their lives, endangered by poverty and threatened by violence. The appropriation of property is legitimate for guaranteeing the freedom and dignity of persons and for helping each of them to meet his basic needs and the needs of those in charge. It should allow for a natural solidarity to develop between men.
- The development of economic activity and growth in production are meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. Economic activity, conducted according to its own proper methods, is to be exercised within the limits of the moral order, in keeping with social justice so as to correspond to God's plan for man.
- Access to employment and to professions must be open to all without unjust discrimination: men and women, healthy and disabled, natives and immigrants. For its part society should, according to circumstances, help citizens find work and employment.
- Equity can consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. (Cf. Mt 25:31-46.) Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God: (Cf. Tob 4:5-11; Sir 17:22; Mt 6:2-4.)

He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food must do likewise. (Lk 3:11) But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. (Lk 11:41) If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? (Jas 2:15-16; cf. 1 Jn 3:17). [2447]

Equity Quotes

'There is but one law for all, namely that law which governs all law, the law of our Creator, the law of humanity, justice, equity—the law of nature and of nations'. Edmund Burke

'When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him whose' – Don Marquis
Ethics and equity and the principals of justice do not change with the calendar
Law and equity are two things that God has joined but which man has put asunder Charles C. Colton

Prayers for Equity

We pray:

That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and to His Gospel of peace, brotherhood and justice.

That our personal experience of suffering may be an occasion for better understanding the situation of unease and pain which is the lot of many people who are alone, sick or aged, and stir us all to give them generous help.

That the Church may be a "home" for all people, ready to open its doors to any who are suffering from racial or religious discrimination, hunger, or wars forcing them to emigrate to other countries.

That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centres, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.

PTFA

The PTFA Committee met last night. They are busy organizing two fundraising activities. As a community we need to support the efforts of this hardworking group of parents.

Help us raise \$10,000 by selling seeds – support our fundraiser beginning 2 August.

Trivial Pursuit Night: Saturday 4 September. \$15.00 per ticket which will be going to support the "schools chosen cancer charities – Breast Cancer, DOVE and Canteen".

Telephone: Tracey Monaghan 535 7609 for tickets.

STUDENT INFORMATION

PARENT REMINDER – PHONE CARDS AVAILABLE

Students are required to have a phone card to make phone calls from the school pay phone. They cost \$5 from the Cashier, or the cost can be added on to your account.

LEAVE REQUESTS

Parents requesting leave for students must send a letter in writing to the Principal 10 days prior to the event.

Parents collecting students from school for appointments must sign them out at the student centre. For Health and Safety reasons students **can not** wait in the car park to be collected.

Students who are unwell during the day **must go to the sick bay** to see the school nurse, **not text their parents** to collect them from school. The school nurse will contact parents who need to pick up their children

Lost Property

A small amount of property (mainly Uniform and Shoes) has been going missing recently. While we will do all we can to identify those responsible students and parents can assist by

- (1) Students must take responsibility to ensure that Uniform items are not left lying around. Put them in closed bags.
- (2) Parents: Please check that the items that your son/daughter is wearing do belong to them. If you notice something a bit different it may have been a genuine mistake. Please contact the school so that we can get the item back to the owner.
- (3) Ensure that all clothing is named.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Family Mass

Sunday 1st August 10.30am Auditorium

This annual occasion is when we join with St Lukes Community and celebrate "family" and in particular the Sancta Maria College family. We warmly invite and encourage you join us for this special celebration.

Car Park Etiquette

You will all be aware that there is significant congestion in the car park both before and after school. We request that everybody coming into the car park areas during these times do not exceed the speed limit of 5 kilometres per hour and please show courtesy to other drivers and pedestrians.

KEY DATES

Monday	26 July	BOT Meeting – 7pm
Tuesday	27 July	Late Start 10am– all students In Zone Buses will operate 1 hour later
Sunday	01 Aug	SMC Family Mass
Tuesday	03 Aug	NSW English ALC Cert 1 Lang Assess
Wednesday	04 Aug	Yr 7 / 89 St Kents Winter Ex Yr11 Drama NCEA Product ALC Cert 2 Lang Assess
Thursday	05 Aug	Parent Evening – 4.00 – 8.00pm
Friday	06 Aug	Yr13 Drama NCEA Product
Wednesday	11 Aug	Careers Evening 7pm Yr9-10 Drama Stds
Friday	13 Aug	Whole School Mass
Sunday	15 Aug	Feast of Assumption
Monday	16 Aug	School Closed
Tuesday	17 Aug	NSW Maths
Wednesday	18 Aug	Music Performance 7pm
Monday	30 Aug	BOT Meeting - 7pm

Dates and times are correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to change.