



ASSUMPTION NEWS

July 30, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of our Assumption community,

On Thursday, August 13 we will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary. This is a significant day in the Catholic Church and in Marist schools, as we celebrate Mary's love, obedience and steadfast commitment to doing God's will.

The founder of the Marist Brothers, St Marcellin Champagnat, committed his life to educating and helping the poor and marginalised in his community. Marcellin found inspiration in Mary and what she represents for us. Mary and Marcellin are role models for us to show the way to Jesus and how to act as true Christians towards the poor and marginalised of our world and College community.

The day will begin with a whole school Mass in the Gonzales Centre which parents are most welcome to attend. After recess the students in each pastoral care group will be involved in an activity to raise funds for needy Marist schools overseas. There'll be a concert after lunch with a number of our talented students performing on stage.

I look forward to this feast day as we come together to celebrate what we are truly about at Assumption College. Of course this is a compulsory school day for all our students.

Premier's VCE Awards



On Tuesday, July 21 Mrs Maureen Kurzman, our Director of Welfare, attended the presentation ceremony for the 2009 Premier's Awards. Each year these awards are presented to the top five students in each Year 12 VCE subject. With more than 2000 guests in attendance, Stephanie Bekema (left) received one of these prestigious awards for community service.

Congratulations Stephanie on receiving this award and for all your hard work for achieving a score of 48 and your dedication to community service.

AGSV/APS winter season

This Saturday marks the end of the AGSV/APS winter sporting season. Over the course of the season I have watched many of our students represent Assumption College and have been impressed with the sportsmanship shown and the level of commitment. I congratulate and thank the staff and parents who have coached teams throughout the season. I thank in particular our Sports Co-ordinator, Mr Marc Merigan, for ensuring that all our teams were able to take to the field or court each Saturday.

Subject information evening

On Monday night we held a subject information event for our Year 10s and their parents. Our staff enjoyed the chance to chat with parents after the formal presentations. Each Year 10 student and their parents will now work with their assigned mentor over the coming weeks to finalise their subject selections. I encourage our parents and students to keep talking and listening to each other while making these important decisions. There is no such thing as a silly question during this process.

2010 Enrolments

We have received many enrolment applications for 2010 at Years 9, 10 and 11. We are keen to advise families by the August exeat if their application has been successful. Next week we will send home the 2010 Intention to Return form, and I ask parents to please return this form to the College as soon as possible.

The exeat

Our exeat begins at 3.30pm on Friday, August 14 and I ask parents to please support the teaching and learning program at the College by ensuring all students remain at school until the normal finishing time. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation. Classes resume at 8.45am on Wednesday, August 19.

Exchange Weekend, August 21-23

About 120 ACK students will be participating in our annual cultural and sporting exchange with Sacred Heart College over the weekend beginning August 21. We will be hosting the exchange this year, and I thank those families who have kindly offered to billet a Sacred Heart student.

Assumption College

PO Box 111, Kilmore 3764 Victoria
mail registrar@assumption.vic.edu.au

Telephone (03) 5782 1422
Website www.assumption.vic.edu.au

Deputy Principal's report

We still need to find homes for a number of our visiting students, and if ACK families of Year 10-12 students could assist it would be greatly appreciated. Mrs Kurzman would welcome your phone call.

Homework

I have been surprised to hear from Year 9 students, while introducing the subject selection process, that few of them would average one and a half hours' homework a night. I urge all students to revise the key concepts from each lesson when they go home each day. Revision is an important way for students to remember what has been learnt during the day. Homework should include daily revision, preparation of notes, completion of set homework, reading of texts and understanding trial questions. A common misunderstanding is that preparation for exams should only take place in the week before the examination period. In reality, adequate preparation for exams requires weeks, not days.

First XVIII football

Congratulations to the First XVIII football team on reaching the AGSV and Herald Sun Shield Grand Finals. We wish the players, Mr Ray Carroll and his coaching staff every success.

Marist netball

Congratulations to our Marist Netball Team which competed in the annual Australian Marist Tournament in Adelaide during the holidays. The students performed well to finish 8th. More importantly our students were outstanding ambassadors for our College through their great sportsmanship and respectful behaviour towards opponents and families.

Kind Regards



Michael Kenny
Principal

Co-curricular photos

Co-curricular photos will be taken tomorrow. These photos will be used in the College Annual and families will be able to buy them in early September.

It is important that the correct uniform is worn for the photos, and I have these listed for the relevant activities below. There have been difficulties in the past when students did not bring their own uniforms and held up the process by waiting to swap clothes with other students. Therefore, I encourage all students to come prepared.

Boarders were asked to return this term with items of uniform worn in a summer sporting team. This is particularly crucial for cricketers.

Uniforms required are as follows:

Basketball: shorts and singlet.

Cricket: whites and blazer.

First XVIII football: jumper, blue shorts and socks.

All other football teams: tracksuit top, polo shirt, blue shorts and socks.

Hockey: hockey shirt, blue shorts and socks.

Music, debating, equestrian and VET groups: full school uniform.

Netball: netball skirt and singlet.

Soccer: soccer shirt, blue shorts and socks.

Softball: tracksuit top, polo shirt, blue shorts and socks

Swimming, cross-country, tennis & golf: tracksuit and polo shirt.

Volleyball: volleyball shirt, blue shorts and white socks.

Students may wear their sports uniforms to school on the day if they are not required to wear full school uniform for any photos.

Mr Peter Jongebloed
Deputy Principal

From the Business Manager

Building projects

Having attained funding under the National School Pride Program, the College has received further good news in obtaining funding under the Commonwealth Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. Under the National School Pride initiative we have received a grant of \$200,000 for the upgrading of grounds including landscaping and outdoor furniture. This work will be undertaken in the front bus loop area and in the space between the Arts/Technology, and Music buildings to the south and the Upper William Wing to the north.

Assumption College has also obtained a grant of \$1,206,000 under the Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools (out of the Australian Government's \$14.7 billion BER program).

Both projects will begin shortly, with the School Pride project to be completed by the end of the year and the Science and Language project to be completed by early in the 2010 school year.

The funding comes at a time when we have just finished two major projects, the Arts/Technology building and the boarding amenities.

2009 Fee payments

The third instalment of boarding and day school fees has been sent to all families, and unless alternative arrangements are in place, was due by July 14. The final account for bussing fees has also been sent out and was due by June 19. Thank you again to all those families who have already paid fees.

If you are experiencing difficulties or have any queries in relation to fees, please contact our accounts department.

2010 Re-enrolments

In the next few weeks families will receive re-enrolment information and forms for the 2010 school year. I ask families to closely read the information as there are several changes and additional information is being sought.

Changes include: signing off on computer information technology access conditions for students, supply of email and SMS details to assist in improved communications and changes to re-enrolment fees.

After lengthy discussions and research, the College Council has decided that re-enrolment fees will be adjusted over the next three years so that by 2012 the first instalment (of three) will be paid by families *before* students start school in that year.

This will mean families re-enrolling students for Years 8 to 12 in 2010, pay a re-enrolment fee of around \$500 for day students and \$1500 for boarders. This will need to be returned with re-enrolment forms. At the start of the 2010 school year this amount will be shown as a payment to fee accounts.

To help improve communication with families, email and or SMS contact details will be sought in the re-enrolment package. Having these details will allow us to provide correspondence such as newsletters, excursion information or account details directly rather than through the post, thereby improving the service and efficiency we are able to offer you.

Your co-operation in promptly giving us this information will be much appreciated, and if you have any queries please contact the College via accounts@assumption.vic.edu.au or phone reception.

Working with Children Checks

With the Sacred Heart exchange weekend fast approaching, all families who intend to host a student or students and have not completed Working with Children Checks are asked to do so urgently. For the

purposes of hosting, you should apply as a volunteer and there is no charge for processing the check.

This is a legal requirement applying to all schools and is not particular to Assumption College. Forms can be obtained from any post office. For further information go to:

www.justice.vic.gov.au/workinewithchildren,

Email: workingwithchildren@justice.vic.gov.au,

Or phone: **1300 652 879**.

You are welcome to contact me if you are still unclear about the requirements.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

While most families will have applied for the EMA in the first half of this year, if you have not already done so, obtain an application form from the College and return it to us by August 7.

If you are unclear of your eligibility or need further details about the form contact our Registrar, Mr Bernie Jephson, without delay.

Mr Joseph Feery
Business Manager

From the Careers Desk

Open days

A reminder that tertiary open days are held in August, mostly from 10am-4pm. They are not just for Year 12 students but for students from Year 10 upwards. Below are some dates.

- Sat, Aug 1 – **Monash Uni** (Berwick, Gippsland, Parkville and Peninsula campuses).
- Sun, Aug 2 – **Monash Uni** (Caulfield and Clayton campuses).
- Sun, Aug 9 – **Deakin Uni** (Geelong); **RMIT Uni/TAFE**; **Gordon TAFE**; **Victoria Uni/TAFE** (Footscray); **William Angliss TAFE**.
- Sat, Aug 15 – **Holmesglen TAFE**.
- Sun, Aug 16 – **Aust Catholic Uni** (Melbourne); **Deakin Uni** (Warrnambool); **La Trobe Uni** (Bendigo) **Swinburne Uni/TAFE**; **Melbourne Uni**, **Sunraysia TAFE** (Swan Hill).
- Sun, Aug 23 – **Box Hill TAFE**; **Deakin Uni** (Melb); **La Trobe Uni** (Albury/Wodonga).
- Sun, Aug 30 – **Australian Catholic Uni** (Ballarat); **Ballarat Uni**; **La Trobe Uni** (Bundoora).

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF OPEN DAYS

Try the following:

- Collect an open day **timetable** beforehand from the university/TAFE websites. Often lectures/information sessions are held on open days – be there at the correct time.
- Allow **sufficient time** for your visit; two hours or so would be wise.
- Speak to **staff** about courses that interest you. Write your **questions** beforehand.
- Speak to **students** studying courses that interest you to get their perspective.
- Collect **information/brochures**.
- Does the course that interests you offer **industry placements** or work experience?
- Are there **international study** opportunities with your course?
- Consider **transport** issues; is the campus you are considering accessible from where you live? How long will it take to travel there? Will you need accommodation?
- Check out the **environment** where you will be studying; would you be happy studying there for three or four years?
- Consider the **facilities** offered for your course compared with other institutions.
- Consider visiting a **country campus** on open day, especially if you are concerned that you might not obtain a high enough ENTER for a metropolitan campus. ENTERs required for country universities/campuses are generally lower. They also often offer more personal assistance, accommodation on site, and a different lifestyle which will suit some students.
- Be aware that if you plan to apply for a course involving an **interview/folio presentation** as part of the application process (e.g., design courses) you may be asked what you found of interest about the course at open day. Attendance is vital.

VTAC Guides and early entry programs

VTAC Guides have been delivered to the school and Year 12 students have been asked to collect them from the office. If you haven't seen it at home, ask your child if they have collected it yet.

ACU, Victoria University and Ballarat University offer ACK students early entry programs for their courses in 2010. The application forms from Victoria University have arrived and can be collected from the career office.

Applications for ACU's Early Achievers program can be completed on-line from August 3. Students can go onto the ACU website and read about how to apply and what evidence they need to supply as part of their application. The web address is:

http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/why_choose_acu/choosing_the_right_university_to_attend/early_entry/

Year 12 parent information night

If your child is in Year 12 and is considering applying for a tertiary course next year, it is important that you attend the information night on Tuesday, August 18 at 7pm. We will go through the procedures for applying for courses, for scholarships and for special consideration etc. If you are unable to attend please email us and we will send you a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Student allowances for 2010

In the last newsletter we mentioned the Government's proposed changes to student allowances for 2010. This website may be useful to parents: www.deewr.gov.au/youthallowance. It has information and tables to show how much assistance a student may be eligible for, and the estimator allows you to calculate the assistance based on parental income and circumstances.

Subject selection for Year 10 students

The mentoring program for Year 10 students has just begun. As outlined in the last newsletter, pastoral care teachers are meeting with Year 10 students individually to discuss their options for next year. Before this meeting takes place all students must do some research. This means reading the subject information booklet, highlighting possibilities and crossing out anything that is of no interest. If any parent would like to be at these meetings (which we would encourage you to be) please contact your child's pastoral care teacher to organize a suitable time for the meeting.

Want to work in advertising?

The RMIT Careers Day will provide a realistic, up-to-date overview of the industry and employment opportunities. Find out about branding and strategy, creative advertising, production and study options.

When: 10am-3.30pm, Sat, August 22; **Where:** RMIT Building 108, Level 9, Lecture Theatre 16, 239 Bourke St, Melbourne; **Cost:** \$55 (incl refreshments and light lunch); **Info:** Jenny Tserkezidis:

jenny.tserkezidis@rmit.edu.au, ph: 9925 5658;

Registration forms in careers room; www.rmit.edu.au/bus/events/careers/ad.

Interested in studying at Deakin University?

A representative from Deakin University is coming to talk to interested students on Friday, August 7 in the library at lunchtime. This session is available for any Year 10 to 12 student who may be considering Deakin. She will talk about her experiences as a first year student, the university in general and the course she is studying. She will also have information about scholarships and residential colleges.

Interested in studying any of the health sciences at La Trobe University?

Bart Strzebonski from the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University will be visiting Assumption College on Tuesday, August 11. He will be available to talk to any student from Year 10 – 12 who may be interested in studying any of the health sciences, including nursing, at La Trobe. The university is in the process of changing all its health sciences courses, so it would be valuable for students to hear about these changes. He will be in the library at lunchtime to make a small presentation and answer questions.

If parents have any questions about career information email us on:

careers@assumption.vic.edu.au

Mrs Jenny Pendlebury and Mr Chris White
Career Co-ordinators.

Teaching and Learning news

Subject selections

Over the next couple of months, students in Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 will make important decisions about subject selections for 2010. It is vital that these decisions are made carefully and with the benefit of all relevant information. Wise choices generally result in positive educational outcomes. To help this process we are running parent information nights. The first was held last Monday for parents of students entering Year 11 in 2010.

At this meeting I spoke about how important it is for students to make good selections and how crucial it is that these decisions are informed. Students have a wide range of choices. They need to understand how these selections affect their pathways in later years and in relation to university entrance prerequisites. Which Science? VCE or VCAL? VET or no VET? Lots of questions needing lots of answers.

To support our current Year 10s we provided a session with Darren Periera, a highly respected motivational speaker who presented a program called 'Shape Your Destiny'. He urged our students to identify their skills and passions and to seek out pathways that allow them to enjoy what they do. On the same day we held a subject selection expo which gave students an opportunity to explore the full range of subjects on offer at Assumption. Last Friday, the Year 10s visited 'Jeff's Shed' for a careers expo. Hopefully, these events will provide the stimulus for some serious thinking about subject selections and pathways.

At the parent information night I also spoke about the process of mentoring our students. This year all students will be mentored by their pastoral care teachers who will work with them to offer advice and guidance. Please feel free to contact pastoral care teachers if you have any concerns or queries about the process. If you would like to arrange a meeting

after hours with myself or another senior teacher please contact me at the school.

We will begin working with Year 9s once we have finished the process with Year 10s. They will also need to choose wisely. Some choices can have implications for future studies at the College. For example, the Maths course selected can open up or close off VCE options and tertiary study options.

Maths teachers can support students in making this choice. Another important decision relates to studying French. If a student wishes to study French in VCE they must study Year 10 French.

The choice to take a VCE subject during Year 10 needs to be carefully thought through. If they choose to study a VCE subject they must be prepared for the increased workload. Students should talk to the teachers of these subjects before making such a choice. Entrance to accelerated options will be on an application basis, and decisions will be made on the basis of past performance and demonstrated ability to cope with work at this level.

VET studies are also available to our Year 10 students in a range of areas. VET studies require a significant time commitment and an ability to be organized and self-motivated. These courses may be run by outside providers and often mean students have to cope with travel as well as the pressure of having to catch up on work missed while out of the school. VET courses may also incur additional costs. These factors need to be considered carefully before decisions are made.

Please feel free to contact the school and speak to relevant staff if you have any queries about subject selections.

Tasting the orange

I was talking to my Year 12 class recently, trying to explain to them the need for them to engage more fully with their work. I wanted to make them understand that learning is an interactive process that requires them to be involved participants rather than passive recipients. I was explaining that really powerful learning only occurs when students come to an understanding of something through their own efforts. Many students are happy to copy notes from the board and think that this is learning. I pointed out that if this is all they do then they are unlikely to learn much of any importance. They need to do something with those notes.

I used the analogy that learning was a bit like tasting an orange. Teachers can spend hours explaining the chemical composition of an orange. We can teach them how to draw an orange and colour it appropriately. We can tell them about the nutritional value of an orange. We can try to describe the taste and smell of an orange to them. BUT – until the student takes an orange from the fruit bowl, peels it and eats it, they will never learn about its texture or

what the orange tastes like. An orange comes in an attractive, appealing package but it needs to be opened up to reveal its inner essence. It's the same with any knowledge. Teachers can package information in all sorts of ways but students will only learn when they decide to get stuck into the information and make sense of it for themselves.

Parents can help by asking students to tell them what the orange tastes like.

Mr Geoff Crawford
Director of Teaching and Learning

Sports report

AGSV and AGSV/APS winter round up

By the time you read this, winter sport for most boys and girls will have finished in the AGSV and AGSV/APS competitions. I congratulate all students on their participation and sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the season. I thank all the parents for their early mornings in transporting their sons and daughters to school, and thank all the parental coaches for their support and the time they have given up to coach our students.

AGSV combined team selections and matches

Many of Assumption's best female athletes attended the AGSV combined team selections at Yarra Valley Grammar on Thursday, July 23.

I congratulate the following students on their selection in the AGSV representative teams in their chosen sport:

AGSV Soccer – Shae Lowe, Louise Buggy, Natasha Zakhour, Celeste White (Emergency)

AGSV Netball – Alana Mascitti, Olivia McEvoy (Emergency)

AGSV Hockey – Courtney Grech, Stephanie Harding (Emergency)

AGSV Basketball – Emma Renton, Nikita McDonald (Emergency).

It is great to see these talented girls selected and it is a reward for all the hard work they have put in throughout the season. The girls will now compete against the APS on Saturday, August 8 at Geelong Grammar and against Ballarat Associated Schools (BAS) on Wednesday, August 12 at Trinity and Marcellin playing fields.

The boys AGSV selections will appear in the next newsletter.

AGSV Athletics

The ACK Athletics Squad has begun training for the first trial meeting on Saturday, August 8. Any students wishing to maintain their fitness between the winter and summer sporting seasons are encouraged to join the squad. There's training every Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3.35 to 4.50. Ms Melissa

Berton, Mrs Narayan-Butler and Ms Emma King are coaching the girls team, while Mr Stephen Davis and Mr Peter Jongebloed are in charge of the boys team.

Sacred Heart exchange weekend

The 53rd annual Sacred Heart College exchange weekend takes place on the second last weekend of August. Assumption College will be hosting Adelaide on Friday, August 21 for a weekend of sporting, cultural and social exchanges. In girls sport ACK will field senior teams in: basketball, hockey, netball, soccer and mixed tennis. In boys sport ACK will host matches in: football, soccer, basketball and mixed tennis. All matches will be played on the Sunday, and times will be posted in the next newsletter. This cultural exchange weekend offers a wonderful opportunity for ACK's senior students to interact with students from another Marist school. It is always a highlight on the Assumption College calendar.

Football

I congratulate the First XVIII footballers on reaching the grand final of the AGSV competition (played on Saturday, August 1) and the Herald Sun Shield (on Sunday, August 9 at the MCG) for the second year running. The boys have played exceptional football throughout the season and are to be congratulated on demonstrating great sportsmanship and tenacity. Good luck to all players for both games.

Co-curricular forms

I thank all parents and students who have been prompt in handing in their co-curricular involvement forms for the 2009/2010 summer season and 2010 winter season. The processing of all forms is laborious and the number of teams I enter is based on student selections and the number of coaching staff available.

Outstanding forms need to be handed in ASAP as I have to have the summer team entries in by the end of today.

Spectators

I remind parents and supporters of the need to respect umpires and opposition supporters at all ACK sporting events. It is disappointing to see spectators yelling abuse at umpires, many of whom are volunteers. Umpires are an integral part of all sports and deserve respect for demonstrating outstanding commitment. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Mr Marc Merigan
Director of Sport

From the boundary

First XVIII in both finals

Assumption's First XVIII will contest both grand finals as in 2008.

In the traditional AGSV competition, the Dark and Light Blues meet old rivals Penleigh and Essendon (PEGS) at Trinity Oval (Bulleen Road, Bulleen) at noon on Saturday, August 1.

When the teams met earlier this year the result was a draw in a thrilling clash. In last season's Grammars' Final ACK won by 3 points after a superb contest.

MCG on August 9

A fine semi-final win over Parade has taken Assumption to the 2009 Herald Sun Shield Final at the MCG on Sunday, August 9 at 11am. The clash is prior to Richmond v Sydney.

Opponent is St Pat's Ballarat, a powerful side with several key Rebel players.

Assumption and St Pat's date back to 1893 and are considered the two great traditional teams in Australian College football.

It is hoped that large support crowds will assemble for the respective finals. Congratulations to Captain Brendan Allen and the squad – and all involved with the team for the efforts to date this season.

Well done to our other nine teams fielded in 2009 with special mention for the Premier 2nds, 3rd, 10A and 7B sides. Also fine seasons for the 9A, 7A, 10B and Year 8 teams.

Thanks to the coaches and all assistants.

A big thank you to the good men who came every Saturday to umpire – Greg Sharp, Peter Burns, Michael Tessari, Michael Thompson and also Simon O'Donnell, Trevor Connell, Paul Treacy, Peter Slattery, Trevor Frost and Bruno Dimasi.

I hope these fine people can help us again in 2010.

Mr Ray Carroll
1st XVIII – 1st XI Coach

Hilary's night of indulgence

A special fundraising night of indulgence has been organised for parents only for Monday, August 10 at 7pm in the Administration Building. This event will include: wine tasting, gourmet food tasting, such as food preserves and confectionery, lingerie displays, cosmetics, jewellery and a whole lot more. A gold coin donation is the cost of entry. All proceeds will go to support our Papua New Guinea Yangoru Primary and Secondary School.

Don't forget your cash and credit cards on the night. All adults are welcome; the more the merrier.

RSVP to the office by Friday, August 7.

Mrs Maria Windsor
Hilary House Co-ordinator



Dates to remember

August 1	AGSV Football Final.
August 5	Year 9 City Camp parent information evening.
August 8	Athletics trials begin. AGSV winter Sport Vs APS.
August 9	Herald Sun Shield Final at MCG
August 12	AGSV winter sports teams Vs BAS.
August 13	Assumption Day celebrations.
August 14	Exeat begins at 3.30.

