Dear Parents, Guardians, Friends and Students

Time moves so quickly at school, here we are at the end of week 3. We welcomed a number of new students at the start of the term – students from our local community to farther reaches of the state. Jo Ball and our student leaders again spent time with them doing an orientation. It is always wonderful to see these young leaders mentoring the younger students. They have done fantastic work in this area in 2015. They truly exemplify the Touchstone of an Inclusive Community and all that that means.

Our senior students returned from their Workplace learning with many stories of great experiences and some with offers of possible work or apprenticeships for next year. Our College value of Excellence should be at the fore for them as they re-focus on their school work and aim to achieve the best results they can during this semester to give them the best chance of securing these opportunities.

At the end of the first week there was a Buddy reunion and lunch for all of our new students this year. This was an opportunity for them to get together and talk about all their experiences this year and share the successes and failures. Thank you to Jo Ball, for arranging this, I know all the students had a fantastic time together.

The College has begun a programme called MindMatters this semester. It is a whole school community approach to mental health. The benefits of positive mental health cannot be underestimated and it has been shown that this has a positive effect on the academic and work outcomes for all involved. Here is a quote from their website:

MindMatters is a mental health initiative for secondary schools that aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people. We call it a ‘framework’, in that it provides structure, guidance and support while enabling schools to build their own mental health strategy to suit their unique circumstances. MindMatters provides school staff with blended professional learning that includes online resources, face-to-face events, webinars and support. All content has been informed by strong evidence in the area of school mental health and wellbeing. The use of MindMatters’ comprehensive resources has mental health benefits for the entire school community – including students, families and school staff. (Mind Matters http://www.mindmatters.edu.au/about-mindmatters/what-is-mindmatters)
The students and staff have all undertaken a survey in the last few weeks which will give us a snapshot of the mental health of our community and provide a guide for the areas which we may need to focus on. We have a MindMatters team who are guiding our progress, they are meeting regularly and have already started the professional development programme with the staff. They regularly give us work to do and provide tips which we can use in our classes and dealings with others. Our team is: Tracey Crisp (Pastoral Care Coordinator), Celia Hoogland (College Nurse), Michelle Sladen (College Psychologist) and Rachael Stampfli (Learning Needs Coordinator). I thank each of these ladies for taking on this extra responsibility which I know will have a positive impact on our community.

Once again I would encourage you to call your child’s teacher/s if you have any concerns about their progress at any time. Thank you to those parents who have already taken the opportunity to have a discussion about the semester one reports which went out during the holidays. If you have lost the contact details just ring College reception and the ladies will make sure that the staff get the message that you want them to make contact with you.

With less than ten weeks of the school year left for our Year Twelve students this is a busy and at times emotional time for these young people as they begin to prepare for the next adventure in their lives. Please keep each of them in your prayers and thoughts as they complete their programmes of work and prepare for final exams.

God Bless

Marie Barton
Principal
At the end of last term, you would have received your child’s semester 1 report. The report documents your child’s learning and I would certainly encourage you to discuss the report with your child. I believe that the sharing of these results is an important part of the educative process and a significant way that you can contribute to your child’s learning.

When sharing the report with your child, I would encourage you to:

- Discuss your child’s progress and give positive feedback. In this way, your child understands that you believe that their learning is important and valued, and your child can see they are becoming a successful learner.
- Ask questions that will help your child explain what they have learnt.
- Discuss with your child realistic goals for improving areas of concern.
- Seek clarification from the teacher if you are concerned about any aspect of the report.

Just as important as the academic result are the attributes. The attributes provide information on your child’s progress in regards to behaviour, completion of assigned work, preparedness for class and the ability to work independently. Students who do well in these areas generally have a higher academic result.

Finally, I would like to congratulate those students who have excelled in their Semester 1 report and challenge all students to continue working hard to improve their academic and attribute achievements.

Jason Sutton
Deputy Principal

“I believe that the sharing of these results is an important part of the educative process and a significant way that you can contribute to your child’s learning.”
SECURITY BOOM GATE

As people are aware the College is introducing added security by installing a new Boom Gate at the entrance to the College. Work commenced in April but there have been some on-going issues in relation to mobile connectivity from the College to the gate control unit. Another alternative is currently being investigated in order to provide the office staff with the capacity to open the gate remotely for visitors to the College. This will provide three alternatives to open the gate outside of normal exit and entry times.

Access for Parents/Visitors

The gate will be opened by timer and remain open Monday to Friday from 7.00am to 9.00am and again from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. If you need to enter outside of these hours the following will apply:

- Notice in advance – contact the Office and a security pin will be provided by staff;
- On the day notice – Phone numbers will be listed at the boom gate and people will need to ring the office and the gate will be opened automatically if necessary.

I would hope that there will be minimal ‘teething’ problems however updates will be provided to all families should the need arise. It is anticipated that the operation of the gate will commence sometime before the end of August.

Many thanks for your patience.

Geoff Hendriks
Director of Business
In a recent announcement Caritas Australia has thanked thousands of generous supporters, including schools and parishes across Australia, who collectively helped to raise a record-breaking $11.57 million nationally to Project Compassion 2015 during term one.

We here at the College contributed $1000 towards this appeal which funds overseas development aid – food security (seeds and animal breeding stock); health (wells, water tanks, sanitation and health centres); education (classrooms and teaching materials). Things we take for granted but so badly needed in many places around the world.

Recently I forwarded term two’ fundraising cheques - $300 to Lifelink (the Perth Catholic Archdiocesan fund which supports many services including a women’s refuge and mental health services) as well as $150 to Shopfront ( a Maylands drop in centre for those in need). Thank you!

Term 3 fund raising – This term we are fundraising for Bro Olly’s Wheelchairs for Kids. Bro Olly together with Rotary volunteers, build wheelchairs – design approved by the United Nations – which are sent to poorer countries especially where landmines from past wars remain hidden and injure people who often lose their legs. The wheelchair gives these people – both children and adults – a new life because they are now mobile again. Each wheelchair costs $150 so let’s see how many people we can help to a new life of freedom.

Bro Tony Hackett CFC
Chaplain

“Things we take for granted but so badly needed in many places around the world.”
The other day a student asked me what I did in my spare time. My mind was busy with what I was doing and how I was following up with student behaviour, supervising and generally being aware while on duty. My response could well have been interrupted as rude and giving a message that was dismissive of them. That wasn’t my intent; I was busy and felt the question inappropriate from a student.

I realise more and more, that living an authentic example as a staff member at an Edmund Rice school, is about negotiating complexity. I can honestly say I am even beginning to get a measure of Joy from dealing in this ‘grey’ area of community. In fact the greatest gifts and growth for me this year have been in times and situations of confrontation. This included being called a hypocrite, being challenged in class by a year 12 student, finding my preparation for class lacking in some aspect, or reacting with anger to a student transgression. Sure the times of encouragement and comfort and success are all vital. Yet there is something in reflecting on the demands of the day that are not so neat and correct, which can also be so enriching.

Suddenly the ‘hypocrite’ can be explored. I could map my intention, my actions and the consistency or otherwise. Without the non-too subtle confrontation, I wouldn’t have spent the time and self-examination. In our community with a diverse population and experience, modelling accountability is a powerful tool. One area of potential growth for our students is in being accountable. As in most of our successes in life, having a sense of timing, humility, a willingness to say sorry, all practically help us address complexity with ourselves and others. If we have support systems, and friendships that allow us to tell our stories, or homerooms and Mind Matters lessons where we can grow in social skills, these all combine to potentially help us better understand ourselves.

The teachable moments that I find most potent are often when I really listen. Be it to a peer, a student, or a morning prayer. Morning prayers so often truly amaze me. We might go a few weeks then one day, a prayer comes along, and through listening, I can sense a powerful and relevant teachable moment. Students are very open whenever staff are authentic and touch into a truth. There is richness in this College’s traditions, when we pause and speak from truth.

(Continued over)
A recent example of deconstructing a prayer, was the one below:

Dear Lord

I trust in You today.

I know, You’ll work out Your purpose and perfect plan for my life.

Amen

I re read this prayer and openly pondered the place of trust in the here and now, and for the future. It’s the same with times of conflict, if I put together, reflection, a support network and a trust in God; I am capable of so much more. The real point for the readers though is, does this resonate with you?

Meanwhile, I’ll go and find Kyle in year 8 and explain my reaction to his question about my spare time, and hope we can build another layer of understanding and mutual respect.

There are so many new students this term. If we trust in Mrs Barton decision, and God’s plan in all this change, we might move from fear and resistance to making new friends. This will take a conscious effort by the community to model inclusion and adaptation. Our ‘Touchstones’ of Gospel inspiration, inclusion, solidarity, all validate our trust and efforts to continually build our community of Jesus inspired love.

With Jesus in our Hearts.

Paul King
Head of Religious Education
Part of the work staff have undertaken at the college since the beginning of the year has been around the development and implementation of the College’s *Good Standing Policy*. This policy clearly aligns with college core values and recognises and supports student achievement in all areas of the college’s curriculum both in and out of the classroom. The policy allows students to advance their good standing so they are able to apply for student leadership positions within the college whilst also supporting those students who require additional support and guidance to become fully involved in the college community. As part of the reward structure of the policy regular good standing activities and excursions have been organised with the first of these being run last term.

Prior to students in years 10-12 leaving for work experience all students who had maintained their good standing for the term participated in a variety of activities organised and supervised by college staff. Activities students could participate in included: a poker game, facials and movies and an Amazing Race style race around the College grounds. Feedback received from students has been positive and all students were engaged and enjoyed the activities they selected.

Students in years 7-9 also participated in a good standing activity afternoon on the last day of term two with all students participating in an amazing style race around the College grounds. Students selected a partner and had to race to each checkpoint using the clues provided by staff after they completed their checkpoint challenge. Students were highly competitive and raced well with Ryan Hawkins and Jacob McGrath claiming first place and being awarded an itunes voucher each, and Emily Gorry and Tasman Helmers coming in at second place. The afternoon was great fun and again all students and staff enjoyed the experience and I look forward to planning and implementing this terms good standing activities for our students.

Tracey Crisp  
Pastoral Care Coordinator/HOLA English
What Is MindMatters? The mental health of students affects all aspects of the school community – from student engagement and academic achievement, to social adjustment and staff morale. Schools that promote a positive environment perform better, attract and retain more students and build a strong reputation in the community. The mental health of all students is a key foundation for school success and this is why the College has adopted the MindMatters initiative for 2015.

The MindMatters team consists of the College Psychologist, Mrs Michelle Sladen; the college nurse, Mrs Celia Hoogland; Head of Residential Care, Mrs Sam Godfrey and the Pastoral Care Coordinator, Mrs Tracey Crisp. Together these staff have worked to develop and implement a timeline for the implementation of this initiative across all aspects of the college community. All teaching and training staff are currently involved in ongoing professional development which will allow them to better assist all students relating to engagement and academic achievement to social adjustment and building resilience. Staff meet regularly to discuss and share their understandings and to further develop strategies designed to better meet the needs of our students. The use of MindMatters’ comprehensive resources has mental health benefits for the entire school community – including students, families and school staff.

How Does It Work? MindMatters is based on the principle that the best mental health strategy is one that prevents issues from arising in the first place. For this reason MindMatters helps schools promote positive mental health through the whole school community, and aims to prevent mental health difficulties in students by taking steps to improve relationships and resilience. MindMatters provides staff with practical advice and guidance so that they can support students who may be struggling with mental health difficulties in a timely and appropriate way. Promotion, prevention and early intervention are central tenets of the MindMatters’ approach.

If you have any questions regarding the MindMatters program and its implementation at the college please do not hesitate to direct your enquiry to one of the MindMatters team leaders and they will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mrs Tracey Crisp
Pastoral Care Coordinator/HOLA English

Prayer

Tender God,
Your gentle and kind-hearted love waits for us in the darkness and shields us from the light when it feels too overwhelming. We remember today all those who live in the depths of depression. Continue to cherish us all when we find it so difficult to cherish ourselves.
Enable us to discover companions of compassion who will abide with us, as you abide in all things and in all places where the heart and mind aches for peace and a place of rest from the storm. We ask this in the name of our brother and friend, Jesus Christ. Amen
Christopher Newell 2012
Woolworths Earn & Learn is Back!

Woolworths is giving you a chance to contribute to some amazing new educational equipment for our College. To get involved simply follow the steps below and with almost 10,000 educational resources to choose from, there’s plenty of valuable resources up for grabs the college can chose from. So get collecting and help us secure additional resources for our students.

**Step 1:**
Shop at Woolworths and you’ll get 1 Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 you spend.

**Step 2:**
Stick them on a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet. You can pick one up from your local school, Woolies store or download one.

**Step 3:**
Once you’ve filled your Sticker Sheet, pop it into a Collection Box at your local school or Woolies store.

Tracey-Ann Crisp
Pastoral Care Coordinator
HOLA E
The Catholic Agricultural College ‘Buddy Program’ forms an integral part of the college’s pastoral care system. On their very first day at the start of the school year each new student was partnered with a Year 12 student from the same pastoral house. The aim was to make:

- The new students feel welcome.
- Points of contact for the new students with the seniors of the school.
- To assist in the new students being a valued member of Catholic Agricultural College.
- To assist in new boarders settle into boarding life.

This term we had a lot of new students starting at Catholic Agricultural College. To make these students feel welcome and to re-acquaint our “Buddies” a “Buddy Reunion” program was put in place.

All new students were buddied with the year 12 leaders and then the new students completed the passport activity with the student leaders, Mrs Rush Harvey and Mr Resuggan.

On Friday a special lunch was organised followed by house group activities organised by the student leaders.

It was a lovely way to start the new semester.

Mrs Jo Ball
Head of Science
Above left — Year 12 students work with the new students. Centre — Some students arrived from communities in the Far North of the State. Right — Teaching Assistant, Tyler Resuggan, completing the passport activity. Far Right — Year 12 Student Leader, Kate Fabbri, enjoys the lunch with one of the younger students.
For the duration of Term 3 the Year 10 students are taking part in the keys4life program. This is an initiative supported by the RAC which gives students a range of driving education, including the road rules, dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, mobile phone use, buying the right car and much more. At the end of the 10 week program, the students will take an exam, if they pass they get a certificate which can be used to obtain their learners permit.

Our Year 10 students are approaching the age where driving will soon become a part of life. By including the keys4life program we hope to keep them safe on our roads.

Sr Celia Hoogland
College Nurse
Student Success

James recently competed at the 15th Annual Norfolk Island Open Championships. James was the youngest in his division and after navigating a particularly mountainous and difficult course, we are pleased to advise that he came Runner Up in the Junior Compound Barebow division.

With over 100 competitors from Australia and NZ including 12 Juniors, the competition was fierce and James fought hard over the four day event to secure his placement with only a 6 point difference between him and the Champion who was a 17 year old Norfolk Island local boy.

James is looking forward to competing again at beautiful Norfolk Island and will also be attending the World Championships in N.S.W. next year.
26th June, 2015 was the RSPCA’s Take Your Dog to Work Day. Pets provide a number of physical and mental health benefits for people. Pet dogs in an office can be a very positive experience in the working environment for both workers and dogs!

So, Jill accompanied me to school. What a star she was when we visited class rooms and interacted with the students. As we approached each child, we’d ask if they’d like to give her pat, she would just sit there and enjoy the moment until it was time to move on to the next eagerly awaiting child.

It was interesting to see the level of willingness in students wanting to have this interaction. The boarding students showed the most interest. Looking back to when my son was a boarder, what did he miss most about home? His dog ‘Jill’.

The day was a huge success with Jill enjoying her time with her new ‘friends’.

Mrs Donna Rush-Harvey
Teaching Assistant

“...The day was a huge success with Jill enjoying her time with her new “friends”.”
Boarding News

Weekend Leave

Most of the Boarding students’ parents/guardians would have received an email from me on the weekend reminding them of the leave procedure. Please ensure you get the students leave form into me by Wednesday each week. It makes it very difficult to organise weekend activities, staffing and meals when the numbers keep going up and down.

Weekend Leave Procedures for students are:

- Early in the week talk to your parent/guardian about going out
- Speak to Miss Sam, so she knows you are planning on going out, she will keep an eye out for your leave form
- Your guardian sends in a leave form by 5pm **Wednesday**, email or fax 95761146
- Leave form has to be completely filled in and signed by your guardian, including who is picking you up, address and contact phone number
- Wednesday night Miss Sam checks leave forms, enters details in the sign out book
- Miss Sam will let you know if there has been any issues with your leave

We do not run a bus service to Perth for weekend leave. Your family will have to come and collect you from school.

Late leave will not be accepted; staff will not be doing last minute phone calls and chasing up leave forms. It is not the Admin or Residential Care staff’s job to ring parents and arrange leave forms or lifts to Perth. Students on disciplinary matters may not be approved leave.

Download leave forms from the CAC Bindoon Website, click Boarding tab, click leave form tab or ask your supervisor for one.
Boarding Social Events
Over the course of the year we take the boarders to a large number of Recreational Activities; Outback Splash, cinemas, shopping, bowling, markets, fun days, local events, boarding school socials, sports days and movie nights at other boarding schools. It is a privilege for students to be taken to these events, only students who display positive behaviour in boarding may attend. There is an expectation of the standards of behaviour for students to attend, the students are reminded of this each time they go on an outing, I ask parents to please also reinforce these points with your children:

- Dress Standards must be appropriate for the activity, staff will check students before departure
- Only boarding students may attend these functions
- Must arrive with the school group, no parent drop offs at the event
- No mobile phones
- Dances/Socials are held from 7pm-9.30pm
- Students may not bring; water bottles, jackets, bags
- Dance floor behaviour to be appropriate – no crowd surfing or immoral behaviour
- Zero tolerance of drugs and alcohol
- If any drugs or alcohol are found, or a student is found under the influence the event will be shut down and the students return to school immediately

Paint Balling – Year 10, 11 and 12 students
A reminder that we are taking the senior boarding students Paint Balling at Dizzy Lamb Park on Sunday 6th September. Please send back the signed forms and the $65 fee before the Boarders Long Weekend.

Boarders Long Weekend – Term 3
Students can be picked up before 3pm Friday 21st August. They return Tuesday after 2pm. We are running a bus down to Midland Muzz Buzz Thursday after school, getting into Midland at 4.45pm. Then picking up students Tuesday at 2pm, the bus will depart Midland Muzz Buzz at 2.30pm sharp. Please send me a leave form with details of where your son/daughter is going for the Boarders Long Weekend, if you need them booked on a plane, train or bus please contact me ASAP.

Sam Godfrey
Head of Residential Care
“Thank you for the ongoing hard work and support by staff and students for the last semester.”

Farm Report

This year started off with good rains in March, April, giving an optimistic start and an early green pick for the stock.

The hay crop went in late June then the weather had changed to a very dry May, June, drawing dust behind the combine during seeding.

Cattle calving was good, with no assisted births needed. Lambing went well with a good average. Cross bred lambs are growing very well, probably have first lambs for sale within a month. Merino lambs mulesing will be starting next week with Year 11 farm students assisting.

Cattle club students are working hard feeding and breaking in their cattle for the show season that is just starting. A big thank you to the students who are doing the morning and afternoon feeds, especially Christine, who seems to always be there.

I was lucky enough to have two weeks off during school holidays, went out towards the gold fields, where it was wet and cold but worth the trip. Came back to discover at the school we had only had a disappointing 5 mls of rain. Made up for it today (Tuesday) having 25 plus much needed mls, at the time of writing.

Thank you for the ongoing hard work and support by staff and students for the last semester. Looking forward to better rains this term, so we can stop feeding cattle and get some growth in the crops.

Eugene O’Sullivan
Farm Trainer