Dear Parents, Guardians, Friends and Students

Time is rapidly approaching when our Year 12 students will be leaving us and starting on the next phase of their learning and life journeys. At the end of this week they will only have three complete weeks of school left. In this time they will complete their final College exams and graduate. This is an exciting and challenging time for them; please keep them in your prayers, particularly as they prepare for their exams.

Preparations have already begun for our students and animals that are attending the Royal Show. I am extremely proud of the work that our staff and students do and their commitment to our Equine and Cattle Club programmes. They always represent the College with pride and demonstrate exemplary behaviour at these times. If you are at the show, please drop by and see the students in action.

Presentation Night this year will be at the end of the first week of term four on Friday October 16 2015. We have brought this forward so that our year 12’s will not need to travel back to the College once they have graduated. In the past a number of year 12 students have not been able to attend because of work commitments so we are looking forward to having our entire student cohort and parents present at the wonderful celebration of the students accomplishments throughout 2015. It is expected that all students will be in attendance.

Part of the ceremonies will involve the installation of the 2016 Student Representative Council. The 2015 student leaders will be presenting the new leaders with their badges. The new Head Boy and Head Girl will jointly MC the evening’s presentation along with Mr Jason Sutton. The new leaders will be taking up their responsibilities at the end of Week 2 Term 4 when the year 12’s leave us.

God Bless,

Marie Barton
Principal

A Student’s Prayer

Loving Father, I stand before You in the midst of confusion and complexities of life. My future sometimes seems distant and unknown. Give me, O Lord, the vision to see the path You set before me. Grant me the courage to follow Your way, that through the gifts and talents You have given me, I may bring Your life and Your love to others. I ask this through Jesus, Your Son and my Brother. Amen

From the Deputy Principal

**LIVE EACH DAY LIKE IT’S YOUR LAST**

I am sure you have all heard the saying, “Live each day like it’s your last”. It is a saying we’ve all heard before, but have you actually given it any thought?

Living each day like it’s your last forces you to think about your priorities. It forces you to quit the things that waste your time and energy and to concentrate on the most important things and people in your life. If you live that way you make better choices, you treasure each moment and suck the life out of every hour and it removes the clutter and garbage that so often chokes our lives.

Living each day like it’s your last is not about living in gloom and fear of death. Rather it is about grabbing every opportunity, not procrastinating, doing today what you could put off till tomorrow, reaching out to your dreams today, not letting another moment pass you by and most importantly, live life to the full.

It’s living your life so that when your time comes to go, someone will care and someone will say their life is different and their life is better...because YOU were there.

*Jason Sutton*
Deputy Principal

---

**Important Enrolment Information for 2015**

The College is accepting enrolments for next year. If you intend sending siblings of current students to the College in 2016, could you please collect an Application Form from the Registrar and submit it asap. Similarly, if you know of families considering the College for their child, then please encourage them to contact the Registrar on 9576 5508 as soon as possible.

Students not returning for 2016 need to give a term’s notice as per the enrolment agreement. Failure to do so could result in being penalised a term’s fee.

School fees for 2015 are required to be paid on or before the end of Term 4. If you are having trouble in making your payments, please contact the Accounts Department on 9576 5506.
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. The gates will become operational in the week commencing 21 September (last week of term and probably Wednesday).

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.

The office number is 9576 5500 and the after hours/weekend number is 0457 518 154.

I would hope that there will be minimal ‘teething’ problems however updates will be provided to all families should the need arise.

SCHOOL FEES

Reminder school fee statements will be sent out during the school holidays. Parents are asked to finalise accounts as soon as possible in order for the College to manage our commitments. At the time of writing there is still over $1 million in outstanding fees. The finance team will be following up early in the term. If you are having difficulties in paying and need more time then please contact the College as soon as possible.

Geoff Hendriks
Director of Business
“Animals are daily reminders of the many good things that we have in this beautiful place.”

Blessing of the Animals

Recently Pope Francis issued an Encyclical (Papal letter) not only for Catholics but for all people. Called “Laudato Si” – Praise be to You! – he reminds us all of the sacredness of creation and our need to care for creation. Pope Francis called for September 1 to be a day of prayer for creation. Here at Catholic Agricultural College, we were somewhat late but on Wednesday, September 16 we had our annual Blessing of Animals.

We gathered at 11 am in glorious spring sunshine on the College Forecourt for the Annual Blessing of Animals by Fr Ken D’Souza, a Franciscan Friar, who is parish priest of Goomalling and beyond. There were horses with their riders, a few cattle and their handlers as well as a some sheep with their good shepherd Bro George. Two pet dogs and a pet rabbit completed our menagerie! The animals and carers were blessed and thanks was given for the many blessings that they bring us.

Animals are daily reminders of the many good things that we have in this beautiful place and with our Blessing of Animals service (originating with St Francis of Assisi in the Middle Ages) we give thanks to God who is the Maker and Keeper of all creatures great and small.

Bro Tony Hackett CFC
Chaplain
Although it was an overcast day with a couple of showers it was still a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase the work of the staff and students of the college to the community. There was a wonderful atmosphere around the College as visitors and families watched the opening then the grand parade. Visitors toured the College facilities and stalls in the main forecourt then made their way to equine for the show.

The College Café was popular with delicious hot food on offer and the College olives were on sale at the information stand and proved to be a winner. We had many prospective families on the College tours who have booked for interviews for the 2016 enrolment intake; these families enjoyed the teachers explanation of the curriculum and facilities on show. It was also a great day to catch up with a lot of our past students visiting to look at the changes that have been made to the college.

Sharyn Jenkin
Registrar
College Identity Development

This term has been an amazing opportunity and challenge. The irony of being a leader of Identity is one is really a servant, a prophet, a wandering minstrel, and a hopeful role model. Any person in the position would bring their God given gifts and pondering these gifts with mentors, that I’ve found a clearer sense of calling. I could correctly tell you that this call is about servant leadership, and being part of a team. These are all true. Yet ones call to Identity, or to helping our collective hearts shine, is not only in the rational, cognitive zone.

In the business of school demands, I feel more and more called to prayer, as a response to my role.

This call comes from mentors close and others physically faraway but ever present, like Pope Francis. Most of all, this call to prayer comes to me daily, from the life of the student body. How do students call me to prayer, and how do they voice connection with God? This Grace, these free gifts from my student mentors, is a deliberate choice on my behalf to look for God’s traces in my life. Saint Ignatius’ observations of the spirit of God reinforce and open my heart to this wonder. Ignatius refined Paul’s observations of the heart of Jesus, of joy, of peace, of justice and love.

As I drove to the College this morning I pondered the qualities that inhabit the collective student body. One key observation is the generosity of students at this College. I actually shared this thought with my homeroom and was surprised at how this resonated with them. I found myself able to name specific students and examples of their generosity. Is it the exposure to caring for animals, or the mix of students from all over the state that draws students in solidarity? Is there also a place for God nurturing this in our community?

Is this a special character of this College, or something one would find in any school? I leave that for the reader to also ponder but my own conviction is that this is both unique and powerfully present at this College. What flows from this well of generosity is not fully harnessed and lensed. St Ignatius also reminds us of the place for gratitude for God’s generosity. There is a relationship between generosity and gratitude. One informs the other.

“All these small actions add up to a flow of Grace and goodness within our community.”
So I finally come to a concrete example of generosity, and it comes from my outdoor education class. As we gathered for our pre camp briefing, I asked the students to consider and share their expectations and how they were emotionally ‘travelling’ as we were about to set off. Themes of respect, safety, listening all got a ‘jumper’. Then Shonitta Gordon from Halls Creek spoke. Shonitta spoke about us setting off and being aware and respectful of the country, the elders, and the guardian ancestors. It was a moment of generosity, and gratitude coming together. Generosity in sharing this insight, and inherent in her words, was a gratitude and respect for creation, God’s work.

Shonitta, Rachael Glass, Sean Penn, Sian Ryder, all have stories of generosity shared with their peers. Sometimes it’s Marretta Farrell giving a friend a lovely gift, and other times its Peter Mataele helping Brother Tony at clean up. All these small actions add up to a flow of Grace and goodness within our community. The closing words however, should come back to Shonitta. ‘May we all pause and be thankful for the guardian ancestors’, and may this College deepen in contemplation on how to continue to grow a new crop, a new community, in this time of exciting change.

With Jesus in Our Hearts

Paul King
Head of Religious Education
What a great team of staff and students attended this year’s Carnevale, held at the Perth Cultural Centre in the city. This event showcases the art and talent of students from Catholic Schools and Colleges in WA with lots of entertaining acts on show. We were lucky that the weather held off with only a few small showers at the beginning.

Our College had a fabulous display with Ethan showing his talent with 4 stroke motors, Taylor and Rania showing their hairdressing skills on their display dummies, Maggie and Jamie using their great communication skills talking to the public about the 2 horses, Gaunter and Trumpet that are always a great feature of our display and our 2 student leaders Blake and Kate doing a wonderful job on the College display with our olive enterprise.

All students were showing their communication skills with the public, which is not an easy task in the ‘big smoke’ interacting with each other and helping when needed with the horses was a great asset to all.

Thank you to all of these students who represented the college in a professional manner and Karen for her endless effort in her role as Equine Manager bringing the horses to this event.

Sharyn Jenkin
Registrar
Free Dress Day Fundraising

Fashion Parade

To celebrate our Footy and Fabulous Jumpers free dress day students leaders organised a fashion parade to be judged by an expert in the field of Fashion. The students assembled on the lawn area in their Home Room Groups. Each House nominated four of the best jumpers to take part in the completion. Leah turned up the music while staff and students cheered the fashion paraders as they strutted their stuff on the cat walk. The best two male and female paraders went in to a walk off and the judge chose the winners Dusty Forrester and Teki Hart. The winners received a free Snazzy Shake and Crazy Cookie and the runners up a free cookie. Nearly $170 was raised for Brother Ollie’s wheelchairs.

Snazzy Shakes and Crazy Cookies

The student leaders with the assistance of the ‘Michelin Star’ chefs Mrs Crisp and Mrs Nguyen spent Thursday preparing the M&M, Giant Choc Chip Crazy Cookies. They made 300 cookies to sell and they were absolutely delicious. At lunch time the shakes and cookies were on sale for all students and staff. The student leaders made Strawberry, Caramel, Chocolate and Bubble Gum Blue Snazzy Shakes which were sold with the Crazy Cookies. The left over Crazy Cookies were taken around to the class rooms and the Administration office. All the cookies were sold.

We had some donations from staff and students which went to the total money raised just for this fund raiser $440.

This went towards a very special leaver’s gift for our year twelve students.

A very big THANK YOU to Geo for supplying most of the ingredients and allowing the students to cook up a storm, to Tyler Resuggan for the use of his room and of course to our ‘Michelin Star’ chefs.

Mrs Ball
Year12 Co-ordinator