Dear families,

As many of you would be aware I have recently been away from the College on ‘renewal leave’ which is an opportunity provided to Principals by the Catholic Schools Office after the completion of their second contract of appointment. For my renewal leave I elected to participate in a pilgrimage following in the ‘Footsteps of St Paul’ through Greece and Turkey. We were very privileged to have as our guide Father Anthony Denton – an Australian priest who is based in Rome and for the past two years has been responsible for setting up and running ‘Domus Australia’ for Cardinal Pell. Father Anthony led our group in daily Mass (in amazing venues- among ancient ruins, in caves converted to chapels, on hillsides and besides flowing streams!) as well as the daily rosary and morning prayers.

The pilgrimage was a wonderful experience which began in Athens visiting the Parthenon and the place in which St Paul preached to the early Christian community in Athens. This was followed by a visit to Corinth and celebration of Eucharist where St Paul lived for at least 18 months and where he wrote the 2 letters to the Corinthians.

The pilgrimage then journeyed north to the isolated hilltop monasteries of Meteora then on to Philippi and Thessaloniki in northern Greece. St Paul wrote many letters to the people of both these areas.

Travelling from mainland Greece to the island of Patmos where the apostle St John lived in exile for a period of time for preaching the Gospel (see Rev19:9). It was here in a cave on the hillside overlooking the beautiful harbour inlet of Patmos that St John is alleged to have written the final book of the New Testament- Book of Revelation. This was followed by a visit to the ancient site at Ephesus and the site of the burial of St John the Apostle and the House of the Virgin Mary where St John took Our Lady when they left the Holy Land after the crucifixion of Jesus.

The pilgrimage then followed St Paul’s journey along the Turkish coast through Izmir, Pergamon, Alexander Troas, Troy, Assos and then a slight deviation and half day visit to Gallipoli where we celebrated Eucharist in the memorial at Lone Pine cemetery. Having not been to Gallipoli before and only seeing the dawn service on TV, I was so moved and emotional walking on the water’s edge of ANZAC Cove where 98 years before young Australian and NZ soldiers were killed. This was a moment I will never forget.

It was then into Istanbul (previously the Christian city of Constantinople). The tour group then visited the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia Mosque. Hagia Sophia (or Sancta Sophia as it was known when it was a Christian Basilica, before the Ottoman takeover of Turkey) still has beautiful frescos and mosaics from the early Christian era. Our final destination was an internal flight to the central Turkish area of
Cappadocia where again St Paul visited and preached and where the early Christians avoided persecution by living in underground cities and in the carved out caves in rock faces.

The pilgrimage certainly gave me a much clearer understanding of the life and challenges faced by the early the Christians and how vulnerable they were to persecution by the Romans and later from the invaders of the ‘middle east’. One has to be in awe of the commitment and faith in Christ that St Paul and the martyrs of the early church had in spreading the ‘good news of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ’ and importantly of the faith and hope in the second coming of Christ and our salvation in God’s Kingdom.

It has certainly been a frantic 9 week term. Staff and students have been busily involved in 2014 enrolment interviews, Year 10 into 11 subject selection evening and interviews, half yearly exams and marking, and report writing just to name a few activities. Thank you all for all your efforts throughout this term.

Enjoy your winter break- stay safe and warm!

God bless,
Stephen Walsh
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The term has really flown by and now the weather has become colder to herald that we are in the last week of Semester 1. For the girls this means planning for the time they will spend with their friends and family during the two week break. The last day of Term 2 is Friday 28th June and classes continue till period 6 so the girls are expected to attend until 3pm.

There are several dates to keep in mind for next term:

School Returns
Students return to school on Monday 15th July to Week A (ie Day 1) classes. The girls will continue in their winter uniforms and so, just a couple of reminders regarding this:

- the College blazer must be the outermost garment when travelling to and from school (if there are difficulties in obtaining a blazer please let your daughter's Leader of Year know)
- College jumper (no other jumpers are acceptable, if there is difficulty obtaining a jumper please let your daughter’s Leader of Year know). Please remember that hoodies must not be worn at school at all.
- only black scarves and gloves may be worn at school
- no short or “rolled up” skirts
- hair tied back
no handbags or alternate bags only the College bag may be brought to school
blankets may only be used when students are seated they may not be used as capes when walking around the College or travelling to or from school

Parent Teacher Evenings
Parent teacher evenings for Years 7-10 will be held within the first four weeks of Term 3 on the following dates:
Year 7: Tuesday 23rd July
Years 8-10: Wednesday 31st July
Monday 5th August

Parent teacher evenings provide an important opportunity for you to discuss your daughter’s progress in each of her subjects with her class teacher. You will be able to discuss areas of strength as recently demonstrated in the half yearly examinations and pinpoint any areas for development so it is important that each student accompanied by at least one parent attend.

Trial HSC Examinations
The Trial Examinations begin on Monday 29th July (Week 3) and continue to Monday 12th August (Week 5) so Year 12 students will spend much of this holiday period on their preparation. Timetables will be given to the girls by the first week of Term 3 together with the examination process and procedures. Just a reminder to both parents and students that mobile phones may not be taken into examination rooms at any time.

Reminders for Term 3
Picking Up and Dropping Off
Please be aware of the new road system outside the College. If you must drop your daughter at the gate cars are asked to utilise the first roundabout to ease the morning and afternoon congestion in the bus drop-off area. It is also important to remember that there is now a “Give Way” sign at the end of the bus turning bay area. Therefore, due to the ongoing contention in Russell Drysdale Street, if you are dropping off and/or collecting your daughter the best approach is to arrange to leave/meet her at Elizabeth Ross Park. The street fills with buses and students from 8.15am in the morning and then between 3 and 3.40pm in the afternoon which leads to many safety issues for students boarding buses and walking to and from both schools.

Please note that if you are dropping your daughter to school early there is no supervision at the College prior to 8.20am each morning.

School Zones
A reminder to all our parents that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families.

School zones operate on all gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days. School zones for our school will end on 28 June and resume on 15 July.

Have a lovely and relaxing holiday.

Cheryl Merryweather
Assistant Principal

FROM THE RE LEADER

Year 11 Retreat 2013

As we gather here on our final day, I’d like to reflect on the amazing opportunity we’ve had here on retreat and give thanks for the laughter, tears and smiles which have brought our cohort together.

As the bus departed Joey’s on Wednesday morning, we were a group separated by boundaries, and struggling with the pressures, stresses and expectations that come along with senior school. Many of us had lost sight of life’s important issues and failed to take in the remarkable beauty which surrounds us.

As the hours passed and we were fed meal after meal our bellies expanded and the boundaries segregating groups were gently lifted. Dance battles broke out, surprising talent emerged like Missy Ada Gansta and we were subjected to the musical magic of Sam Davies and Ms Harrison.

With Chris’ unique Karl Barron like approach and love of classical gansta rap, with 80’s love songs, we were able to reminisce on the joys of the past and look towards our future with positivity and productivity.

For many of us, me included, the act of selflessness was an optimum goal, however at times, it seemed incredibly daunting and sometimes impossible especially when it comes to those things we all want; the shoes, the clothes, festival tickets, a car. However we’ve learnt by looking at our lives with perspective, from the outsider’s view, that our purpose becomes simple: to love God, the planet, each other and ourselves. By doing this we are making the world a
better place. We have a new found lease on the word
respect, and its true value in society.

I hope that we can all walk away from this experience
with newly instilled respect for each other’s
individuality; feeding those around us with positivity
and encouragement.

When we come together I can genuinely say I wish you
all love, joy and happiness in your lives, the same kind I
hope to experience.

Today we move one step closer to being that iconic
“MacKillop woman, and I’d like to thank God for this
opportunity to build bonds, rebuild the ones we have
previously lost and renew the ones we already shared.
Sarah L.

This retreat has been filled with music, laughter and
toons to cherish forever. Through the dance
battles, screaming voices, and slips of paper to bring a
smile to our faces, we have all found a new connection
with those around us to help us journey through Year
11 and the future ahead of us. Our childhood songs and
games have brought back memories we may have
forgotten, and with Chris’ help, we remembered that
once in a while, we need to let it all go and smile with
those who mean the most to us. Last night brought us
security, relief, freedom, and a weight lifted from our
shoulders and our hearts. The Sacrament of
Reconciliation allowed us to lift the burdens we carried
so we could start anew, to take those first steps to our
better and brighter selves, making us realise that we
do not need to travel alone in the world; there is
always someone there to walk along with us and
listen. These experiences of cartwheels and Soulja Boy,
ski jumpers and archers, and enough food to make us
never eat again has reminded us that our world is
wonderful, those around us are beautiful, and we all
need a smile and a hug to get us through even the
darkest days.

FROM THE LEADER OF LEARNING AND
TEACHING

Year 12 Trial Hsc Exams
The Year 12 Trial HSC exams begin Monday 29th July
(Week 3). The following instructions and procedures
will be published on the exam timetables issued to Year
12 students.

- You must arrive at the College at least 20
  minutes prior to the commencement of
  exams.
- Meet in Founders Court prior to exams.
  AM – 8.50 am, PM – 12.50 pm.
- If you are late for exams no extra time is given.
- If you are ill or suffer a misadventure on the
day of an exam you must notify the College
(Mrs West, Ms Merryweather or Mrs Parsons,)
and follow the appropriate procedure as
outlined in your Assessment Handbooks.
- You must ensure that you have a medical
certificate in cases of illness. On your return to
school you must see Mrs West, Ms
Merryweather or Mrs Parsons to fill in an
illness/misadventure form.
- You may not leave examinations early.
- You must use your Board of Studies number as
  your identification on each exam paper.
- Mobile phones are not permitted in exam
  rooms so you should leave them at home or
  locked in lockers.
- You are expected to bring all required
  equipment (pens, stapler, tissues, water,
calculators etc) in a clear plastic container.
- No borrowing of equipment during the exam.

Please discuss this with your Year 12 daughters.

Term 3 Year 7 – 10 Parent Teacher Evenings
The dates for Year 7 – 10 Parent / Teacher interviews
next term are:

| Year 7 | Tuesday 23rd July (Week 2) |
| Years 8 – 10 | Wednesday 31st July (Week 3) |
| AND | Monday 5th August (Week 4) |

Booking times are 7 minutes in duration from 3.30pm
and will be made through the new online PTO booking
system. Invitation letters will go home to parents with
login and booking details at the end of this term. If you
have questions about PTO, please contact Mr Kirk
Mercer at the College. This is a great opportunity for an
exchange of valuable information between parents,
students and staff.

Kathy West
Leader of Learning and Teaching
FROM THE LIBRARY

Library News
There have been a few recent improvements in library services at the college:
1. Electronic communication. Students now receive all notices regarding overdue books and reserved books via email. As such, we ask that girls check their school email accounts regularly. Letters will continue to be sent home for very overdue items.
2. Help for students with research. The library has a new website: LibGuides.

LibGuides provides a range of helpful material for students including access to Destiny the library catalogue as well as a range of subscription databases. In addition LibGuides includes various KLA pages which contain useful links and other resources to assist with homework and assessment tasks. Students will also find helpful information on how to research and advice on digital citizenship, referencing and plagiarism.

LibGuides may be accessed through the above link. There is also a link on the home page of the College website.

Mrs Nesbitt-Hawes/Mrs Powers
Teacher Librarians

CAREERS CORNER

Dates for your Diary
Canberra Institute of Technology ICT Information Session
Wednesday 14th August 9am to 1pm
CIT Reid, 37 Constitution Avenue Reid
Hear from IT industry experts about Web development, mobile apps, computer building, computer games and more.
Contact: 026207773188

Private Colleges
National Art School Open Day
Saturday 31st August 10am to 4pm
National Art School, Forbes Street Darlinghurst
Contact: 0293398744

Australian Institute of Music Open Day
Saturday 17th August 10am to 3pm
1-55 Foveaux Street Sydney
Contact 0292195444

FashionMarsters Sydney Bachelor of Fashion and Business Information Session
Thursday 27th June 6pm to 8pm
91 York Street Sydney
Find out more about the career paths available in the global fashion industry and how the Bachelor of Fashion and Business can help students to achieve a career in the industry. Career and portfolio advice is also available.
Contact 0292991400

Academy of Information Technology Film Editing Bootcamp
Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th July. 10am to 4pm
Level 2 7 Kelly Street Ultimo
Learn about every step of editing short films or photographs and make a music video.
Register online or contact info@ait.nsw.edu.au or 0292118399

ACS Foundation Newcastle Big Day In
Thursday 25th July 9am to 4pm
University of Newcastle Callaghan Campus, University Drive, Callaghan
‘Big Day In’ is an IT careers conference featuring speakers and workshops from companies such as Google, IBM, Westpac and more.

Gap Year/ Student Exchange
EA Ski Snowboard Training Switzerland Instructor Internship
Placements are now open for the 2013/14 winter season at Verbier, Switzerland for the EA Ski Instructor Internship. The program includes training at one of Verbier’s top Ski Schools.
Contact sstraining@educatingadventures.com

World Education Program Early Bird Special
WEP is offering students in years 9 to 12 a $500 discount towards a semester or year program departing in July – September 2014. Applications must be received by Sat 30th November to be eligible.
Contact 1300884733.

UTS Galuwa Engineering Experience
Wed 10th to Friday 12th July
UTS Broadway Campus Sydney.
This free program is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Year 9-12 who are interested in visual arts, agriculture, science, information technology, geography or who have an aptitude for creative thinking and problem solving. The program will feature interactive workshops, site visits with industry partners, career pathway information and more.
RSVP by Friday 21st June Sophia Romano on 1800064312.

University of Notre Dame Nursing Open Night
Tuesday 24th September 4pm to 7pm
Darlinghurst Campus 104 Broadway Chippendale
RSVP 02 82044404

Open Day Macquarie University
Saturday 14th September 10am to 4pm
Think about the future. Find yours in Study at Macquarie.

Chris Wilkinson
Careers Advisor

COMMUNITY NEWS

Uniform Shop Hours during July School Holidays
The Uniform Shop will only operate on July 10 from 8.30 – 10am.

Mary MacKillop Place Museum
July School Holiday Program

Where? 7 Mount St, North Sydney
When? 8th – 12th July 2013
Time? 10.30 – 12.30
Cost? $8.00 per child per session
Includes morning tea
Suitable for children 5-12 years

Bookings? Museum Educator
T: 02 8912 4883
E: mackillop@sosj.org.au

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE