REMINDER:
25 February Parent Information Evening, College Masterplan 6pm - College Hall

Important Dates:
26 February - Class of 2013 Welcome
Back Sunset on the Deck 5.30pm-7pm

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OPENING MASS TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2014
Dear Parents and students

Today I have had the privilege of presenting to our 2013 Graduands their certificates which recognized their outstanding achievements in last year’s HSC. It was a proud moment for me to see these lovely young women proudly accept this acknowledgement and to genuinely be so joyful at visiting their College. The parents of the girls were there to see them as they have always been there to encourage and to support their daughters over their years here.

In my speech I mentioned as I have on previous occasions, that this assembly has a big impact on the younger girls as they often decide at this assembly that “I will achieve a Band 6 to be at this presentation when I finish Year 12.” Inspiration is a powerful thing and it is especially important for young women to see examples of hard work and determination in their peers, in order to be inspired.

In her speech to the assembly, Ella Harkin, our Dux of 2013, said that she didn’t always have this determination but in her senior years she knew she had a choice. Her choice was to use the gifts she had been given and to realise the potential that so many teachers had said that she possessed. She then saw how she could be successful and chose to be the student and scholar she knew she could be.

In the following extract I would like to share a piece of the story of the Sisters of Charity who were founded by Mary Aikenhead and who sent five sisters to Australia. In this the Sisters’ 175th year, I will share with our community small excerpts of the story of the early years when the sisters came to this foreign land and established an order which determinedly worked with the poor for the service of their community and for growth of this new colony.

In 1834 Dr John Bede Polding, an English Benedictine monk, had been appointed Bishop of Australia and Van Dieman’s Land. During a hurried trip to Ireland he had visited Mary Aikenhead to ask for Sisters for his far distant apostolate. Mary was impressed by his fervour and was sympathetic towards his wants, promising to help when she could.

Ms Fay Gurr
Principal

The Social Justice calendar begins this term with a Caritas Australia event. Caritas runs Just Leadership Days to engage students with social justice issues, and to encourage them to be just leaders. The day teaches students to challenge injustices, for both local and global change, and to develop leadership qualities for their schools and communities. It is one of the core educational components of Caritas. This is an event I enjoy attending with the year 10 and 11 students from the Caritas Christi student committee. The girls are always willing to participate in the activities and discussions and do come away from the day energised and ready to spread their knowledge. I look forward to presenting you a review of the day in the next bulletin.

Red Cross is a prominent charity in our society that is always around in times of crisis and ready to lend a hand. At our College assembly last Thursday, our guest speaker Nicole Baker, senior community fundraising executive, spoke to the girls about the history and the services Red Cross provide to the Australian community. Nicole also expressed her excited she is that St Vincent’s will be part of the Red Cross Calling campaign this year. Thank Nicole for raising the awareness of the work of Red Cross and for taking the time to visit the College on your short trip to Sydney. This year Red Cross celebrate their centenary and this has never been a more exciting time to be involved.

On 21 March St Vincent’s College will be part of the Red Cross Calling campaign, a day where the girls will be out in force across Wynyard Park, St James and Kings Cross stations collecting donations to raise much needed funds to support humanitarian services.

Please donate generously on that day, especially more so if it is in the areas where our girls will be collecting.

Ms Jessica Lee
Social Justice co-ordinator

Red Cross Calling on you!
Help us change lives for another 100 years

100
Term 1 has begun in the usual fashion, with the calendar already overrun with events and girls already keen to add more. The Opening Mass was last Tuesday, where the leadership team, new students and staff were officially inducted and welcomed to the College. The swimming carnival went swimmingly on Tuesday with all girls making an amazing effort with costumes, cheering and participation.

However, while there is a lot going in at St Vincent’s, we are excited to talk to you about one very important event that has recently been coordinated in our community. Last Monday 17 February, Year 12 student and O’Brien House Captain, Charlotte May shaved her hair to raise money for Canteen, an organisation for Young People Living with Cancer. Charlotte made the decision to shave her head when she found out that her best friend, Madison Brooke of Year 12 was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in December 2013. Maddy didn’t have a choice about losing her hair because of the treatment that she was receiving for the cancer. The only choice Maddy has is how she deals with her diagnosis and treatment; and I am proud to say that Maddy is positive, courageous and inspirational.

The St Vincent’s College Leadership team took up Charlotte’s initiative to raise money and funds for Canteen and worked to create an event that the whole community could be a part of. Charlotte’s goal was to raise $5000 to go towards the Canteen organisation and before the event, donations from the College and wider community had already achieved an amazing $4000.

The support shown by girls at St Vincent’s was astounding. The paved area was crowded with girls (and staff) who had come to support Charly and Maddy; almost all of the College watching the shave. The first cut was met with cheering and clapping and some sympathetic wincing, as we all watched the incredibly brave Charly shave off all of her hair with a smile on her face. Donations flooded in, through both the cake stall held at lunch and collections throughout the day. Girls were amazingly generous and with the help of the St Vincent’s community, and Charly was able to pass her goal of $5000, with St Vincent’s contributing over $1000.

We would like to thank all members of the community for their generosity and say a big congratulations to both Charly and Maddy who look as gorgeous as ever, and have been inspirations to the entire community.

If you would like to contribute to the cause please donate through Charly’s everyday hero page - http://www.everydayhero.com.au/charlotte_may

Lucy Kenehan and Jody McPhee
College Co Captains

On 11 February we celebrated the beginning of our Academic Year with the College Opening Mass at St Mary’s Church in North Sydney. At the Mass we remembered and celebrated Mary Aikenhead and the five Sisters of Charity who travelled to Australia 175 years ago as a desperate Bishop sought assistance for the new colony of NSW from the Catholic community of Cork.

Mother Mary Aikenhead responded to the call even though her own community was struggling as they grew to understand their mission and purpose in Ireland and beyond. Giving herself and her order to God, confident in divine providence; Mary agreed to send five young sisters to Australia. Sr Mary John Cahill, Sr Mary Lawrence Cater, Sr Mary John Baptist de Lacy, Sr Mary Francis De Sales O’Brien and Sr Mary Francis Xavier Williams made their way to Australia where they were greeted with joy on 31 December by a jubilant and surprised crowd.

During the 175th celebration of the Sisters of Charity in Australia and the fifth year of the creation of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and the second year of the College new House system, we continue to unpack the spiritually that forms and informs all the Ministries of Mary Aikenhead; Ignatian Spirituality. Mary Aikenhead's spiritual life was deeply nourished and informed by Ignatian spirituality. In fact her whole life was formed on the belief that all people had the capacity to “find God in all things” - which could also be expressed today as “encountering God in the present moment.” God can be discovered through faith in all natural and human events and elements, in history as a whole, and most especially in and through the lived experience of each individual person.

Today we carry the charism of Mary, her passion for justice, respect and service of the poor in our College community. Mary was a woman who valued community, the power of sharing a meal and walking in solidarity. The opening mass, celebrated by Fr Michael Stoney sj set the tone of our year, a year where we will endeavor to encounter God in the present moment as members of St Vincent’s College community.
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In his homily on the Gospel that inspired Mary Aikenhead (Luke 16:19-31), Fr Michael referred to the story of I am Malala: The girl who stood up for Education. He shared with us that in his reading of her story, Malala had no bitterness in the pursuit of her dreams; a dream which was for equitable access to education for all. Fr Michael challenged us to think about the gift of education we have been given at St Vincent’s and how we are now charged with a responsibility to ensure that we do something with this gift. Fr Michael implored us to not be like the rich man who ignored Lazarus, the poor man who slept at his gate. Members of this community are called to be people who are servants of the poor. We are called to not only name the poor in our community: the refugees; those who are hungry; the traditional owners of our land; those who are persecuted; the destitute; and those who are lonely. I encourage all students, parents and staff to engage in the plethora of opportunities that are available at the College in 2014 as we endeavour to be people who not only notice the poor, but also serve them. As Fr Michael said, we are at an exciting time in our Church “it’s too exciting to walk out…we have so much to spread of the great gospel message” and the best way of spreading it is through action.

The words that concludes this article were prayed by Ms Fay Gurr for our new staff and students at the opening mass. These words are a challenging and powerful reminder to us all on how we can be effective and meaningful members of St Vincent’s College community.

As the living tradition of the Sisters of Charity and members of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, we, the St Vincent’s College community, are called to be:
Generous of spirit
Hope filled
Respectful
People of Justice and Servants of the poor.
May your lives at the College bear witness to our commitment; and through this, may we find wonder and joy in all we do.

Ms Rachel McLean
Director Faith and Mission

In Sympathy
The College community offers its condolences to the following who has lost a loved one recently: Tanaha Hughes, (Year 10, Cahill House) Grandmother
In this edition of my report I include updated results from the HSC analysis and reflect upon the message I heard at this morning’s Academic Excellence Assembly. In the first addition of the Bulletin some information, especially ATAR scores, was incomplete. It remains incomplete since we rely on the willingness of students to provide us with data, however, I am happy to include the following updates.

- Ella Harkin Band 6 in 11 units ATAR = 99.10
- Stephanie Blancquart Band 6 in 10 units ATAR = 98.70
- Nicole Mestrovic Band 6 in 9 Units ATAR = 98.50
- Gabrielle Hodge ATAR = 98.25
- Joanna Griffiths ATAR = 97.20
- Amelia Akle ATAR = 96.05
- Lauren Pisani ATAR = 96.00
- Henriette Tkalec Band 6 in 9 Units ATAR = 95.55
- Maxine Jelic ATAR = 95.10
- Approximately 20% of our students received an ATAR of 90 (top 10% of the state).

Indeed the class of 2013 have performed well maintaining the College’s position within the top 100 schools. On the tables published in the Sydney Morning Herald, St Vincent’s College would have placed 66th if selective schools are removed and we were ranked 14th amongst the catholic schools. However I want to impress upon everyone that the number of Band 6 results is only one measure of success and is very limited. As a parent I would be more concerned about whether a school is adding value to my daughter’s learning regardless of her capacity. In most subjects less than 10% of the students across the state earn a Band 6 so to simply measure and report on those successes is unfair. Fortunately there is a measure of Comparative Learning Gain that is undertaken across the catholic sector and on these measures it appears that St Vincent’s has been increasing its effectiveness over the last four years and remains a College of positive influence on learning gain regardless of the level of capacity.

Academic Assembly
The recent Academic Assembly was a wonderful opportunity to welcome back and acknowledge the fine achievements of 42 of the graduands from 2013. The graduands received a certificate in recognition of attaining a Band 6 or E4 result in one or more of their subjects. Ella Harkin was also recognised as Dux of the College having received and ATAR of 99.10. Ella addressed the assembly and spoke very highly of the quality of teachers and their willingness to go out of their way to help students. There were many messages that Ella provided as food for thought to our current community of students as they navigate their studies in 2014. My favourites included her perspective on education being a way of “opening doors and creating opportunities”. The key here is that the better you do the wider your scope of choice for future choices. Additionally I liked that Ella saw education as a “privilege” that should be “enjoyed” and “not taken for granted”. I wish the class of 2013 all the best in the future endeavours and challenge the class of 2014 to choose to live up to their potential.

Upcoming Assessments
All students received a copy of the assessment calendar indicating when assessments are being held. You will note that all year groups have assessments in term 1. Of particular note is the Year 12 assessment block that is scheduled for week 8. Each girl will receive a timetable indicating when her assessments are on. Some of the assessments are oral presentations and/or performances. These are mixed in with exam style tasks and practical work. It is most important that all students are well prepared for all tasks, regardless of how tight the assessment schedule appears. I also take the opportunity to remind everyone that, for Years 10 – 12, in the event of an absence due to illness or misadventure on the day of a task or the preceding day, documentation supporting the claims for an appeal attached to the illness/misadventure form must be submitted on the first day upon the return to school. Please refer to the Assessment handbook for greater detail. This is in addition to the usual protocol of phoning in to report the absence. Failure to do this may result in a zero being awarded. For students in years 7 – 9 a phone call and note explaining absences is essential but sufficient.

2014 Higher School Certificate
Girls in Year 12 received a booklet published by the Board of Studies which outlines the rules and procedures surrounding the HSC. This booklet compliments the material outlined in the College Assessment Handbook. If any girl did not receive the booklet, they should collect one from Student Services as a matter of priority.

Careers Information
The Honeywell Engineering Summer School has regularly had to turn applicants away because of the interest. In 2014 it is now offering the Autumn School. The Autumn Engineering School is seeking expressions of interest from current Year 11 and Year 12 students with a desire to pursue Engineering in the future to take part in its Autumn School. More information is available at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sydney listed under “Schools Program”. Students that are interested can contact Aimee Najdovski on 9410-5613 or sydschool@engineersaustralia.org.au

Mr Robert Graham
Director of Teaching & Learning
St Vincent’s College is part of the Sydney Archdiocese. The Catholic Education Office Sydney is responsible for 149 schools within the Archdiocese. We are one of the fifteen independent Catholic schools run by religious orders, and in our case we are under the care of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and in the Tradition of the Sisters of Charity. All 16,000 students who attend these Catholic independent schools are still part of the larger Catholic community and follow the same teachings and guidance given by the Catholic Education Office Sydney (CEO).

Having attended the Archdiocesan Religious Education coordinator’s meeting today at Leichhardt, it was great to connect with leaders in Religious Education from throughout the Sydney Archdiocese and know that we are all working together towards common goals and with the same values.

One of the main focuses during 2014 for the CEO is to developing ‘working drafts’ of our revised RE curriculum. This will ensure that learning outcomes for students are revised and new pedagogical developments are incorporated into teaching programs throughout schools.

All units of work will be revised to ensure that each student has the ability to access the outcomes at the level that suits their ability. Differentiated learning will be built into each unit and new forms of teaching and learning strategies will be integrated and all areas of assessment will be revisited. Revised drafts will also align with the National Curriculum and ICT skills and links will be built into all aspects of the programs. In many cases these draft programs will reflect the work that teachers already do in classrooms but it also gives us a formal way of collaborating with teachers from a diverse range of schools. As with all change and development it is an exciting time, no doubt there will be challenges, but it is very gratifying to see the local church respond to the community and the students in their care so comprehensively.

Year 7 Religious Studies has begun the academic year exploring what it means to be ‘church’ and what it means to belong to a community; the College community, the Sisters of Charity community, the local Parish of St Canice’s and the Universal Church. The Reflection Day complements what students do within the classroom and the focus, has been to highlight the College Values and integrate these into our daily lives. Ms Anderson and Ms McCarthy, Ms Lock, Ms Parish, Ms Forbes and I are loving getting to know Year 7s and introducing them to all the most important aspects of the St Vincent’s College community.

Year 8 Religious Studies are on a quest to understanding the geographical, political and historical context in which Jesus lived. What would life have been like for Jesus growing up in first century Palestine under Roman occupation? He was no stranger to persecution and although the Jewish people were hoping for a Messiah who would be a strong military leader and would lead a revolt, the world instead found a Messiah who spoke about love and taught forgiveness. This message was not acceptable to people then and resulted in Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion. 2000 years later Jesus’ message is still not heard or accepted by people and the society still in which we live often turns to violence to reject opposing views. This unit of work brings the land and people of Palestine alive and allows students to opportunity to develop an understanding of the human Jesus through the lens of history.

During the Christmas holidays the College facilitated the Tanzania Immersion Program. Whilst there will be many opportunities to share with the community things we learned, shared and experienced, I’d like to share a photo/s taken in a classroom at the Edmund Rice College at Sinon, in Arusha which highlights the value students place on education and the value of the life God gave us. Education for the children we developed relationships with highlighted to us that Australians take for granted what we have available to us each and every day. We thank God for the lessons we learnt at the hands of students in Arusha and give thanks for the educational opportunities we have here in Australia.

Mrs Elizabeth Parker
Head of Religious Studies
From the English Department

English Extension 1: Some Reflections

Rationale
The Preliminary and HSC English (Extension) courses enable students who are accomplished, analytical and imaginative in their use of English to refine their understanding and appreciation of the cultural roles and significance of texts. The courses are designed for students with a desire to pursue a specialised study of English.

These courses provide students with the opportunity to pursue areas of interest with increased independence and to theorise about the processes of responding to and composing texts. Through extended engagement in investigation and composition, students explore multiple meanings and relative values of texts. They explore a range of conceptual frameworks for the reading and composition of texts and examine a range of reading practices to develop awareness of the assumptions that guide interpretation and evaluation. (English Stage 6 Syllabus, BOS p.84)

A Teacher’s Perspective
Every student in Years 11 and 12 must complete 2 units of English. They can choose either English Advanced or English Standard. Students who undertake the Advanced course have a further option of choosing a third unit of English called English Extension 1.

The Board of Studies states that students completing the English course must be “accomplished” English students. I believe there are two other equally important characteristics: enthusiasm and autonomy.

Students should be passionate about all areas of the subject. Creative writing is focussed upon as much as analytical writing. I tell students that they need to love writing as much as they love reading; and that they need to love writing essays as much as they love writing short stories. Students also need to be capable of working independently over a sustained period of time as there is an extraordinary amount of independent research required in both the Preliminary and the HSC years. The course is incredibly challenging but it is also endlessly fascinating.

A Student’s Perspective
English Extension allows for more independent thought. It’s less about remembering specific details and facts, and more about finding an understanding of the ideas of the course, so that you can reflect on how these ideas are reflected in the texts you study, and also put them into your own creative writing. It's a course which is highly demanding - you have to be prepared to think for yourself in a way you might not be used to, and you certainly can't 'cruise through' the year - but it's also equally rewarding.

Ms Deborah Moir
English Teacher

From the Science Department

Why Enter Academic Competitions?
The Academic Competition forms have now been distributed to all students and the Science, Mathematics and English departments anticipate an enthusiastic response from the community.

Entering such competitions can have several benefits. They promote the development of transferable skills and encourage a healthy sense of competition and a commitment to excellence amongst the girls who participate. Critical thinking skills and resilience in examination situations are important to success in school, in employment, and in life. By participating in competitions, our students can hone these skills for their future benefit. Tracking of progress in these skills from Year 7 to 10 is possible with the ICAS competitions.

Success in competitions has opened doors to students. Ruby Donegan thoroughly enjoyed a rewarding experience at the Sydney University Gifted and Talented Program last year, having successfully qualified in the November Examination.

Right: Ruby Donegan (Year 11) at the Sydney University Gifted and Talented Program in 2013

The Competitions available are listed below:
The Science English and Mathematics (ICAS) Competitions (Years 7 - 10)
The Mathematics Competition (AMC - Years 7, 8 and the top two classes of Years 9-12 are strongly encouraged to enter)
The Chemistry Quiz (Years 7-10 and Year 11 Chemistry)
The Science IQ team based online challenge (Years 7-10)
The Sydney University Gifted Program Qualifying Examination (Years 8 and 9)
The Chemistry Titration Competition (Years 11 and 12 Chemistry only).

Please email myself or the Gifted Education Coordinator Mrs Cheryl McArthur at the College (mcarthurc@stvincents.nsw.edu.au) if you require an extra copy of the competitions entry form.

Dr Chris Reynolds
Head of Science
reynoldsc@stvincents.nsw.edu.au
Félicitations!……… to the French Class of 2013
This Friday, many of our students will return for the Academic Assembly.

Over half of the girls in our French class achieved a Band 6, with a further three girls very nearly reaching a Band 6 also. It was a superb performance all round, and for many girls it was the best result out of all their subjects. I am very proud of the class.

The girls took charge of their personal HSC course and perfected their own individual notes. They revised steadily and paid attention to the areas of the course that they wanted to strengthen. This steady hard work and wide reading paid off.

Every girl obviously has a flair for French and a love of the subject, and they built on this enthusiasm persistently. There were definitely up and downs for all throughout the course, with surges of productivity and the odd outbreak of nerves. However, what shone through ultimately was the girls’ diligence and dedication to their studies.

In collegiality, the girls worked supportively together as a group - sharing good exam answers they produced and fairly analysing why a certain response achieve top marks. In reflection, it’s these skills, life-long skills for learning, that will be of great benefit to our ‘Vinnies’ Alumni, as they head forward to conquer new challenges.

Mrs Jo Anderson
French/German/Religion teacher and Head of Cahill House
From the Visual Arts Department

Years 7, 8 and 9 Make a Great Start in Art

Year 7’s have bounced into the Visual Arts rooms with great enthusiasm. It has been most exciting as we are starting the year with portraits. Before studying facial proportions and conventions, we have had two lessons of drawing each other; a great icebreaker if ever there was one. These drawing exercises were challenging but the girls said “in a good way” for they were to work with constraints. Drawings were to be done by either not looking at the page but only at the subject, not taking the pencil off the page, using the wrong hand or drawing with a foot. These exercises tested our ideas about what and how we draw and how we interpret what we see.

We have discussed the conceptual framework which looks at how we interpret artworks by looking at the influences and interrelationships between the artist, artwork, world and audience. Class discussions came close to the question “what is art?” in so far as we talked about the form of artworks and what went into the making. We then looked at the self-portraits of Frida Kahlo.

The Year 8’s are studying flowers and this has begun with looking at the conventions of botanical illustration, floral fabrics and flowers in art - noticing how the purpose and the audience influenced how flowers were represented. We also considered what flowers symbolise. Each class has spent two lessons in the gardens drawing the flowers there.

Year 9’s are studying still life and we have started with drawing. The concentration and commitment they put into their drawing was truly impressive. Thus far we have worked with pencil, pen and ink and have paid attention to how the picture is composed. Students noticed that by drawing a border around the still life at the beginning of the drawing, seemed to focus the mind on how to arrange the objects on the picture plane.

We discussed the earliest examples of still life from Ancient Rome and how the rationale for making such works was quite different to the contemporary still life.

Ms Brooke Thompson
Visual Arts Teacher

Lions Youth of the Year Quest

Lions Youth of the Year Quest is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. Potential winners will possess a high level of academic, leadership, sporting, public speaking and citizenship achievement. Go to www.lionsclubs.org.au/yoty for further information or to nominate, or contact your local Lions Club, or Quest Chairperson for Australia, Mr Brian Williams md201yoty@iinet.net.au.


Ms Suzanne O’Connor
Community Relations Co-ordinator
From the HSIE Department

STAGE 4
This year we have a great variety of subjects within the HSIE faculty. It is compulsory to study Geography and History in Stages 4 and 5. However, we have many students who have chosen to study some of our most interesting and exiting electives.

In Year 7 we have begun the year with History. Our students have just about finished their first topic An Overview of the “Dawn of Civilization” and will soon be “Investigating the Ancient Past - including Ancient Australia”.

Our Year 8 students have started with the study of Geography this semester and are learning about Global Change and the impacts of Globalisation, as well as refining their atlas skills!

In Year 9 all HSIE students are studying the topic, “Investigating Australia’s Physical Environment” in Geography Mandatory. They are currently learning about Australia’s geographical dimensions. Also in Year 9 we have an Elective Geography class. The topic they are currently studying is Australian Neighbours improving their social and cultural literacy of our Asian neighbours.

We also have a Year 9 Elective History class and Commerce class who are currently investigating Consumer Choice including comparison shopping.

Our Year 10 courses include, Mandatory History this semester as well as, Elective History and Commerce. Recently, our Year 10 Commerce students studied the Griffith by-election as part of their unit on Political Involvement in which students develop an understanding of how political processes operate at various levels.

STAGE 6
In Year 11 and Year 12 our department offers 8 Electives:
- Ancient History
- Business Studies
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Society & Culture
- Economics
- Extension History
- Geography

As your daughter begins to consider subject selection for the future, I invite her to ask members of the HSIE team about our array of subjects and which best suit her individual needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in regards to subject selection or information as I am more than glad to assist in this very important decision making process. Additionally, please find further information regarding these subjects on our new website ‘Stage 6 HSIE Electives’.

GENERAL BUSINESS
In order to maximise student learning, I would like to make sure all of our students have the correct and up to date resources, therefore each student should be equipped with an appropriate textbook for their subjects. Please contact myself or your daughter’s classroom teacher if you require information or support regarding this matter.

Year 7 Cambridge History for the Australian Curriculum
Year 8 Geoactive Book 3rd Edition
Year 9 Geography Focus2, Commerce for Australian Citizens 2nd Edition.

Year 12 Business Studies students attending ‘Business Studies 101’, a before school lesson every Wednesday morning 745-830 for revision and asking questions.

Ms Laura Wilson
Head of HSIE
wilsonl@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

From the Performing Arts Department

For the College Production, Peter Pan, auditions for narrators and shadow were held on Friday 14 February. These auditions went really well with students showing their vocal and physical prowess. These characters will add to the variety and excitement in our opening scenes. At our recent rehearsals the Darling Family scenes are progressing well, as are the opening scenes in Neverland.

It is rewarding for all of us to see Year 12 students sharing their ideas for their characters with girls in Years 8 and 9. For many of the students this is not their first College production, but for those that it is there is much to learn and experience.

Years 11 and 12 Drama students attended Onstage on 11 February. Onstage is a presentation of exemplary HSC Drama work from the previous year. The standard this year was fantastic, especially in costume design. This gave our students an idea of the standard expected of them and ideas for presentation. The performances were also interesting as students were able to see examples of group and individual performance representing different styles. Students can often have a very fixed idea of what is expected for the HSC and this show allows them to see the vast, varied of style and form that is considered appropriate for HSC Drama.
Year 12 Drama are beginning their study of Tragedy and progressing with their Individual Projects. This year that includes theatre reviewing, directorial critique, performance, costume and set design.

Year 11 are steadily working on monologues. This is an exciting challenge as you can imagine as they will be performing individually.

Year 10 Drama has commenced Ancient Greek Theatre as their first topic. Ancient Greek and Commedia Dell Arte are the two topics explored to represent the diversity of mask work in theatre. After Ancient Greek they will study Commedia. Mask work is very challenging as it is not part of their everyday experience usually. Many students can find this very challenging, but often find it interesting and liberating working with the physical rather than vocal expression.

Year 9 Drama are learning about and exploring Elements of Drama and Improvisation. These can be very challenging for students new to Drama but are fun and fresh as the ideas come directly from the students. Even if the ideas can be complex and challenging we are having fun as we learn with great scene work developing in small groups.

Co-curricular classes have commenced for all the instruments, voice, Speech and Drama and Dance. If you would like to start learning any of our co-curricular subjects it is not too late. Please collect a form from student services, from the website, or from the top floor of Garcia, and complete the form and return it as soon as possible. Students find their classes very rewarding and many attempt examinations and Eisteddfods as part of their learning. Please feel free to call me or email if you have any questions about co-curricular classes or Performing Arts in general.

Ms Catherine Johnson
Head of Performing Arts

Music

Every second Tuesday (Day 7), we hold ‘Eat, Play, Share’ lunchtime concerts in the MCR Hall. Students bring their friends along with their lunch and enjoy the entertainment. This is a rewarding experience for students as it builds their confidence and experience in performing in front of an audience. All students who play an instrument, sing, dance or act are encouraged to perform. To sign up to perform, students write their name down on their preferred week on the form outside the Performing Arts staffroom.

Elective Music classes from Years 9 to 12 participate in Soiree concerts throughout the year. This learning experience forms part of their Performance assessment and it is a great opportunity for parents and friends to see their daughter develop her skills as a musician and performer. Entry is free. The dates for Term 1 Soiree concerts are as follows:

Tuesday 4 March - Year 11 and Year 12 Soiree

Tuesday 25 March 2014 - Year 9 and Year 10 Soiree

Miss Julianna Wick
Music Teacher

Dance - Call Back Excursion

On Friday 14 February Year 12 Dance students travelled to the Seymour Centre to watch the live performance of Callback. Callback is a showcase of exemplary dance performance and compositions from the 2013 Higher School Certificate Dance Examination. It celebrates the achievements of students from all across the state from all school systems. The showcase provided a valuable insight into HSC Dance standards and outcomes and allows the students to understand the level of achievement for Band 6 candidates. Our senior Dance students were also a part of a Question and Answer session with the supervisor of marking for HSC Dance. This feature of the excursion allowed the students to hear valuable information about their preparation for the HSC examination period and advice on how to achieve success. The students were inspired from this experience and hopefully it will assist them over the next few terms.

Dance Ensemble 2014

On Monday 17 February over 40 students auditioned for the 2014 Dance ensembles. We are so very lucky to have so many talented students at the College. The girls who auditioned showed a great display of enthusiasm and motivation. Congratulations to the girls who are successful this year! Rehearsals for the Monday and Wednesday groups will commence in week 5.

Miss Alana Santi
Dance Teacher
On Monday 17 February the Year 12 PDHPE class took part in a Sport and Exercise Science workshop on campus at Sydney University. The session, linked to the Factors Affecting Performance module of the HSC course, investigated a range of concepts in a practical setting.

During the workshop girls were provided with the opportunity to engage in a range of activities including, fitness testing for aerobic and anaerobic fitness, and the design of training programs that lead to physiological adaptations for improved performance. Other topics covered included the efficiency of the body’s energy systems during physical activity and the application of basic principles of training.

The Year 12 class are also currently very busy teaching themselves a new motor skill using their knowledge of the processes relating to skill acquisition. This means homework for the next five weeks will involve attempting to jugging, swinging softball bats, developing bowling of cricket balls and even a little bit of time at the driving range.

Mr Ben Doyle
Head of PD/H/PE

This Carnival is always a highlight of Term One and this year was no exception. We had a couple of new records and a very close finish for Age Champions and House Champion. Congratulations to Maddison Vitnell (Yr 12) for her new records in the 17yrs 100m and 50m Freestyle and for also taking out the Invitational 50m in 30.78. Another record was broken by our new year 7 swimmer, Emerson Lewis. She broke the 13years Backstroke record which has stood for eight years.

2014 Age Champions
12 years  Olivia Walker  Cater
13 years  Emerson Lewis  Cater
14 years  Jasmine Shires  Cahill
15 years  Georginna Bannister  Cahill
and  Adelaide Barnier  Cater
16 years  Courtney Tier  Cahill
17 years  Maddison Vitnell  De Lacy
18 years  Lucy Kenehan  Aikenhead

A huge congratulations to Cater for taking out the Inter House Championship and to all the Houses for their wonderful spirit and participation. Thank you to all those parents who came along on the day to support and to all our wonderful staff who helped the day run so smoothly.

The IGSSA squad will be announced shortly and the carnival is being held at Homebush on Friday 14 March. Sadly each of the twenty seven IGSSA schools are only allowed to send one swimmer in each event, however if you placed in the top four in any of the Championship races, you may qualify for a relay spot. Also swimmers are only allowed to swim a maximum of three events plus a relay, so that will also free up some spots for the second and third placegetters. Please let Ms Jacobs know if you are not available to swim at the IGSSA Carnival.
TERM 2 SPORTS TRIALS

Football Trials:
Year 7: Monday 3 March, at Rushcutters Bay Park 3.30pm-5.00pm
Years 8 and 9: Monday 3 March, at Rushcutters Bay 3.30pm-5.00pm
Year 10, 11 and 12: Wednesday 5 March at Rushcutters Bay 3.30pm-5.00pm.

Hockey Trials:
All Year 7, junior and senior hockey players will be trialling on Wednesday 12 March at Rushcutters Bay 3.30pm-5.00pm.

Basketball Trials:
Year 7: Monday, 3 March on the College courts 3.30pm-5.15pm
Year 8 and 9: Tuesday 4 March from 3.30pm-5.15pm on the school courts
Year 10, 11 and 12: Wednesday 5 March from 3.30pm-5.15pm on the College courts.

St Catherine’s Invitational Netball Competition
As part of the trialling process for the IGSSA First teams for Term 3, we will be entering three teams in the top division at the invitational competition run on Wednesday nights at

St Catherine’s. Trials for these squads will be held in the last week of term. The senior trials will be held on Monday March 31, juniors on Monday April 7 and Year 7 on Tuesday April 8 on the College courts 3.30pm-5.00pm. Any girls who play representative level or who have been selected by Ms McGrath and Ms Jacobs may attend. Only ten girls will be chosen for each age group.

Cross Country:
The annual IGSSA Cross Country will be held at Frensham on Friday 16 May 2014 - next term. Any girls wishing to participate in the carnival should be training both at home and at the College. School training commences on Monday 24 February. It will be held on Monday’s and Wednesday’s with Natasha Stenberg at Rushcutters Bay. The girls meet outside the change rooms straight after school. The team will be selected based on their training attendance and performance. Those selected to run at the carnival will automatically be representing their House and the College. The SVC Cross Country Age Champions will be determined by the placing’s at the IGSSA Carnival.

SPORTS STAR:
This section is to make the College community aware of some of the exceptional athletes we have in the College. If your daughter has represented her state or country in her chosen sport, please send us any results, photos or blurbs on their performance. Please send to jacobsj@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

Ms Jacinta Jacobs
Sports Coordinator
Invitation
SVC COLLEGE MASTERPLAN

Please join us
CONSULTATION EVENING

Tuesday 25 February
6:00pm to 7:30pm in the College Hall

St Vincent’s College, Potts Point
A world of opportunities for your daughter in the heart of Sydney

JOIN US IN SCONIE
We warmly invite our College community and interested families to join the Principal and the Head of Boarding for an information evening. Drinks and nibbles provided.

Friday 28 February 2014 at 6pm
Scone Motor Inn
Register online: www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au

St Vincent’s College
NEW DATE!
OPEN EVENING

Monday, 10 March 2014
4 - 6pm
Mark your diary and spread the word, the St Vincent’s College Open Evening has been changed to a NEW date!

Register at stvincents.nsw.edu.au

St Vincent’s College is a Catholic educational community dedicated to developing confident, independent women. We are inspired by the tradition and values of the Sisters of Charity, including Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Justice, Respect, Service of the poor.

Contact Us
Locked Bag 2700, Potts Point NSW 1315
Ph: (02) 9368 1611 Fax: (02) 9356 2118
www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au
Gifted Education

Term one is gathering momentum as the College settles into the academic year and I would like to take this opportunity to alert families to some of the activities and opportunities that are available now.

The College will be hosting a Gifted Education information night on Wednesday 12 March at 6.00pm in the College Hall, for the parents of students new to the College, and those parents who missed the opportunity last year. The evening is an opportunity to find out more about the College’s commitment to education opportunities for high ability students, the identification processes and the programs and opportunities that we offer. If you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address provided below.

Year 7 students can be seen all over the College no longer lost but now purposefully heading to class and co-curricular opportunities. Teachers have begun to develop an understanding of their new students and several have contacted me to alert me of students who are displaying high ability, and who may be candidates for enrichment and/or extension. It is important that the identification of students for participation in programs specifically designed for gifted students be from as wide an array of sources as possible. If you are the parent of a child who has high ability in one or more academic areas, then the knowledge and information that you have gathered over their lifetime is invaluable in assisting the College to meet your daughter’s educational needs. If you would like to provide additional information to assist this process, you can complete an information sheet specifically designed for the identification of high ability students; this is available by emailing a request to me at the address at the end of this article.

This week your daughter should have brought home a copy of the Academic Competitions sheet. There are several competitions across different subject areas which are held throughout the year. To avoid repeated notes home we combine the information on one sheet and ask that you select and pay for all of the competitions before the end of March. As the Gifted Education coordinator, I recommend that students enter all the competitions available to their Year Group. Success in these competitions are often prerequisites for many other opportunities, and a track record of repeated achievement can make all the difference if a selection process is required for acceptance to a program. If you do not have the sheet please contact me by email to have an electronic copy sent to you.

If your daughter is in Year 12 and interested in a career in medicine, I recommend attending the UNSW Medicine Information Evening on Thursday 13 March. The evening is a chance to find out more about the course and the application process. There will be information from the faculty, from current students who have successfully completed the interview process, and coaching advice about preparing for UMAT (the entrance examination for the course). This event is very popular and so is only open to Year 12 students and their parents. Registration is necessary and is on a first come first served basis, please follow the link below: http://www.network.unsw.edu.au/egateway/students.splash

I have been visiting Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry classes to speak to interested students about applications for attendance at the Autumn School of Engineering, which are now open. If your daughter is in Years 11 or 12 and is interested in pursuing a career in an area of engineering, this is a very worthwhile opportunity to explore what is available. The two College students who were lucky enough to obtain places last year thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it a very useful for tertiary education planning. The school will be held from 11 to 14 April but there are only 50 places available, and as these are filled on a first come basis it is best to apply as soon as possible. Support from local Rotary Clubs is required, but students are urged by the organisers to apply first and then speak to their local Rotary Club about sponsorship as this can take some time to arrange. Applications are only available in hard copy and can be obtained from me in the Mathematics staffroom.

Chess Club has begun for 2014 and will be held every Day 1 lunchtime in A31; beginners to experienced players are welcome and Mr Robert Bielinko will once again be supervising and coaching interested students. If your daughter is new to the College and feeling a little shy, please encourage her to come along with her lunch and enjoy the fun, we are a small but dedicated group. This year the College plans to enter teams into some of the school competitions available.

Ms Cheryl McArthur
Gifted Education Coordinator
mcarthur@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

Sisters of Charity Outreach needs volunteers for its services. These include visiting the socially isolated or collecting country people coming to Sydney and driving them to medical appointments.

For further information please contact Maria McNuff on 8382 6437, 0404 861 523 or email mmcnuфф@stvincents.com.au
Indigenous Education

13 February was the sixth anniversary of the day that the Australian nation officially said ‘Sorry’ to indigenous Australians for the wrong doings of the past. Four of our proud indigenous students: Kirsty Porter, Merindah Hardy, Paula Basset and Alice Sheather spoke to the assembly about the importance of the day.

"Today is an important day in Australia’s history, because on this day in 2008, the Prime Minister of the time, Kevin Rudd, apologised to our people on behalf of all Australians. The apology was for the past mistreatment of our people, especially those who were taken away from their families, ‘the stolen generation’.

The days of a racist Australia are not all that long past. It was only 40 years ago that Aboriginal children were still being ripped away from their parents and it was not long ago at all when many Australians simply shrugged their shoulders about the possibility of closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in this country."

We all have family members who were taken away from their families. My grandma was only a little girl when she was taken away from her family. Nanna doesn’t like to talk about it but she tried hard to find her lost brothers and sisters and has now reconnectied with them. But she missed out on so many years of her aboriginal family life and memories…and so the apology was very important to our people. We felt it in our hearts, because it meant that the injustices of the past were formally recognised and we could move on from past hurt and look towards a future where we all work and live and learn together in harmony.

In recognition of that important day in history we honour our families, our ancestors and the indigenous people of this land, the oldest continuing culture in human history. We reflect on their past abuse and in particular on the mistreatment of those who were ‘stolen generations’. But for the future we take heart. As strong and proud St Vincent’s women, we lay claim to a future that embraces all Australians:

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

We’d like you to read a poem by a Kamilaroi man, Neville Draper, whose birthday is today. It is called ‘Sorry’.

**Sorry**

Sorry for the lies you told  
For the children you stole  
Hearts that don't bleed  
Hearts so cold.  

Came to this land  
With guns in hand  
An ancient culture  
You wish to disband.  

Taken our rights  
By days and by nights  
Killing our people  
And not hearing our plights.  

Now it's the future  
And someone has spoken  
Time to move on  
And to heal the broken.  

Six years after the apology we remember today as an important day in Australia’s history and we celebrate a national Sorry Day on 26 May every year.

On Sunday 16 February, Kirsty Porter, Kaitlyn Leak and I travelled to Knox Grammar to commence a mentoring program where we learnt about having a mentor. A mentor is a support person who isn’t involved with the College, a friend, nor an authority figure, but who is there to listen and assist you with life choices.

After an introduction to the program, we met our mentors. Our mentors are Nicola, Sara and Esther. Sara and Nicola both work with Qantas and Esther works with the Commonwealth Bank. Throughout the day we were involved in activities like sharing stories, trust exercises and making up our own unique handshakes. We all enjoyed the day and can’t wait to meet up with our mentors again. If you’d like to see more photos from the day please go to the AIEF website: http://aief.com.au/news/news-media/article.php?id=3303

By Taneeka Simon, Year 10

Ms Jane Betteridge  
Indigenous Support  
Diverse Learning Centre

Kaitlyn, Taneeka and Kirsty with their mentors
**Recommended Reading**

There were times when Donal Ryan's "The Spinning Heart" was so bleak, I had to stop reading it. However, it is so skilfully written, I had to return to it. It begins with the black humour of an adult son going daily to check on his horrible father: "I go there every day to see if he is dead and every day he lets me down." This made me laugh aloud. However, as different narrators give us their stories, the atmosphere becomes black with little humour. One of Ryan's great talents is his ability to connect the people in this community through their stories. We do not find out the resolution to all their problems but when there is one, it does not appear until the final chapters. This book gives us an uncomfortable insight into Ireland after its most recent economic collapse. No leprechauns but a great deal of profanity and fluent swearing is another characteristic of this very affecting novella.

I have some reservations and some praise for “Torn” by David Massey. This novel is told with the voice of a young, newly trained English medic who has been deployed to Afghanistan. Almost at once she experiences the violence of war. As well, she begins to understand how complex this war is. All of this is admirable and an excellent book for the Young Adult readers for whom it is intended. However, there is a touch a Mills and Boon in the romance between Ellie and an American SEAL: although those burning looks during sentry duty seem rather dangerous for the rest of the troops. However, the description of the countryside and the multitude of perspectives about the conflict as well as the endless suffering of the Afghan people make this a book worth the reading. As well, it is obviously an excellent Related Text for Belonging as well as for Discovery.

"Moving Among Strangers" by Gabrielle Carey is a non-fiction account of a family that has kept many of its secrets, often causing damage. As a young woman, Carey achieved notoriety as one of the authors of “Puberty Blues” with Kathy Lette. She has written other books as an adult and this is one of the most interesting. She and her two siblings tend to their dying mother but their conflicts continue during this time. Carey writes to a number of people about her mother's approaching death. Among those people is Randolph Stow, long self-exiled from Western Australia, who wrote the wonderful novel, “A Merry-Go-Round in the Sea”. Stow knew Carey's parents when they were all children. Like them, he had been unhappy for most of his adult life. He tells Carey about her parents and this causes her to follow the clues about these three people. The "Strangers" of the title is about all three and the ways in which they hid parts of their lives. This book is quite brief but contains all sorts of fascinating idea about which to think long after it is finished. It would also be an excellent Related Text for the Area of Study, Belonging.

I finally found a book from the Dublin IMPAC list that is seriously worth considering as a prize winner: Absolution by Patrick Flanery. A young man returns to post-Mandela South Africa to interview a famous writer because he has been commissioned to write her official biography. Clare Wald is imperious and quick-tempered but accepts the young writer under a series of conditions. However, Flanery cleverly shows us how many versions of “truth” there are in any human inter-actions. Clare’s daughter has disappeared. Was she a freedom fighter under the apartheid regime or a terrorist? Did Clare betray her hated sister and reveal her whereabouts to allow for her assassination? Do Steve and Clare remember their earlier meetings? The title also tells us about people wanting forgiveness and how impossible that forgiveness may be. As well, this would be an excellent Related Text either for Belonging or Discovery.

The List of My Desires by Gregoire Delacourt is a perfect jewel of a novella. Jocelyne is forty seven: she has two adult children, the grief stricken memory of a third child who died at birth, a struggling business and a deeply loved husband. When she wins an enormous prize in the lottery, she is frightened because she knows how money changes everything. So ….. she does absolutely nothing. However, she is betrayed in a heart-breaking and life changing way. The ending is completely Gallic, refreshingly astringent. This is the kind of book that can be read in a day but savoured for weeks afterwards.

Ru by Kim Thuy is another book on the IMPAC long list. It deserves its nomination. Although it is subtitled “A Novel, the book seems to be based a great deal on Thuy’s life. Her family fled Vietnam after the South fell. In interviews, Thuy describes their experience as “fortunate”: they were at sea for four days, stayed in a refugee camp for four months and then were settled in Montreal in Canada, where they were warmly welcomed. The book is made up of very short “chapters” that move back and forth in time. As an adult, she worked in Hanoi but regards Quebec as her home and writes about it with great warmth. Her present life is always influenced by her memories of her past, first as a child in Vietnam and then as a very poor immigrant family. Out of these two experiences, comes a strong and proud voice. This book could be used as a Related Text for Belonging but, again, is also one to be read for the sheer enlightenment given to any reader.
The first P&F meeting for 2014 was held on Tuesday 11 February and well attended by parents, who heard enthusiastic reports from the Principal and from the Director of Learning and Development about recent events, including the 2013 HSC results.

Term 1 is crammed with events including many opportunities for parents to contribute to college life. The parent forums on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February recognise parents as stakeholders in formulating a strategic vision for St Vincent’s. Other key stakeholders are staff, students and boarder families. This is our chance to contribute to the way ahead for the college. What ideas can you contribute? What are the qualities and strengths of SVC that should be retained? What can be improved? What should simply be changed? We should all strive to participate strongly and positively in this important consultation process.

Planning the Spring Fair
The first meeting about this year’s Fair will take place at the College on Wednesday 5 March. All parents are invited to attend this meeting. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for this year’s Fair! Start time: 6.30 pm.

Cocktail Party - Saturday 8 March
It’s the first parent event of 2014 – don’t miss it! A lovely evening for all parents, held in the College grounds, from 7.00-10.30 pm. Price per head is $45 which covers all drinks and a great selection of high quality cocktail food. Please see the enclosed flyer for how to book your tickets.

Open Evening - Monday 10 March 4:30 pm
Can you help with serving afternoon tea at the College Open Evening on Monday 10 March? The P&F serves refreshments to potential new families. No baking required! Just a welcoming smile and an interest in sharing your experience as a St Vincent’s parent. If you think you could help for an hour or two, please contact Sally Ayto (sallyhux@tpg.com.au)

Save the Date - Saturday 31 May
The P&F is excited to announce a wine-related event for parents on the night of Saturday 31 May. This will be a parent-only event, to be held in the college hall. Wine trivia, wine challenges and a wine auction are part of the program, so SAVE THE DATE now and stay tuned for more information.

Stay in touch
P&F news can be found in the College bulletin, published each fortnight. We are also delighted to appear in the new-look College website!

Next P&F Meeting
The next meeting of the St Vincent’s College P&F Association will be on Tuesday 20 May 2014, starting at 7.15 pm.

Date for Year 10 Social
The 2014 Year 10 Social is an important date for girls in the class of 2016 and a date has already been set – Saturday 1 November 2014. As in 2013, the Year 10 Social is organised not by the College but by parents. Are there any Year 10 parents who would like to be part of the planning for this event? Or Year 9 parents – it could be useful to get some experience this year. We already have a small organising committee, but will need more creative minds and more helpers! Please get in touch with your Class of 2016 parent coordinator, Annette Moran.

Yr Group Parent Coordinators:
Each year group has one or more designated volunteers to keep parents informed particularly on College P&F events such as the Fair or year events for families in your year group. You may remember filling out a P&F form at time of enrolment.

You can opt to have your details included in the class contact list.
Please contact Felicity Ratcliffe (felicity_ratcliffe@iprimus.com.au) Sally Ayto (sallyhux@tpg.com.au), or your Year group coordinator - see below.

Year 7 (Therese Powell) svc.class2019@gmail.com
Year 8 (Trish Pryke, Carin Gerrard & Ann Cahill) svc.class2018pf@gmail.com
Year 9 (Geraldine King, Adrienne Ruz & Katherine Aitken) svc.class2017pf@gmail.com
Year 10 (Annette Moran) svc.class2016pf@gmail.com
Year 11 (Rebecca Hugonnet & Lynne Carr) svc.class2015pf@gmail.com
Year 12 (Abigail Gruzman, Sally Doyle & Mary OSullivan) svc.class2014pf@gmail.com

2014 P&F Executive:
President: Elizabeth Roydhouse svc.pandf@gmail.com 0416 107 029
Vice President: Robert Goldrick 0422 259 364
Treasurer: Chris Dunn
Secretary: Sally Ayto svc.pandfsecretary@gmail.com or sallyhux@tpg.com.au
Assistant Secretary: Felicity Ratcliffe felicity_ratcliffe@iprimus.com.au

Elizabeth Roydhouse
P&F President