FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians, Friends and Students of SAC,

This week we welcomed families of many of our Reception to Year 8 students to a Meet the Teacher evening. For around 150 of these families, it was their first encounter with the teachers of St Aloysius College. There was a tangible sense of excitement about the journey that lies ahead and a chance to hear first-hand what each school day might hold for our students. We hope that this evening is just the beginning of your sense of connection with this community and leaves you feeling comfortable about approaching the teachers throughout the year.

→ Continued on page 2.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Jubilee Year of Mercy.................................................................3
Term 1 Diary.................................................................3
Canteen Roster.................................................................3
Year 12 Orientation Day.........................................................4
Year 12 Results .................................................................5
Semester 1, 2016 VET Courses..................................................6
Open Day 2016.................................................................6
Year 6 Reflections.................................................................7
Justice for Refugees.............................................................7
Primary Sport.................................................................8
Secondary Sport............................................................8
Reception 2016.................................................................9
Music Information 2016.........................................................10
Plastic Bags Project...........................................................10
First Day of School.............................................................11
Splash into Swimming.........................................................12
The Pipes are Calling ..........................................................12

Library Opening Hours
The Catherine McAuley Library is open

Monday - Thursday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Fridays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
as well as recess and lunch times.

Years 7-12 students are welcome to use the library after school for quiet study. Out of School Hours Care is available after school for Reception to Year 6 students.

Ms Carol Grantham
COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES
From the Principal's continued.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are called to reflect on what it means to educate young people in mercy. Pope Francis, in addressing a group of students in 2013, said that "the main element at school is to learn to be magnanimous. It means having a great heart, having greatness of mind; it means having great ideals, the wish to do great things in response to what God asks of us." (The Church of Mercy, p 122)

I was reminded of these words when I received a letter from a group of Year 9 students at the end of last year. They were passionate about addressing some of their concerns for the environment. I want to share with you just a snippet from their letter:

“As young, independent and educated women we plan to take decisive action one small step at a time to contribute to the greater overall wellbeing of the Earth.

Women of mercy strive to be compassionate and caring for one another and we can do this through a sustainable environment achieved through the simplest of initiatives. As Catherine McAuley once said: There are no failures, only opportunities.”

I’m sure you will agree that this is a highly articulate and thoughtful response. This group of students, who are currently in Year 10, spend time before school removing wrappers from newspapers in order to recycle them. They meet regularly to share ideas and make plans for actions to address their environmental concerns here at SAC. In this current newsletter, the girls have shared some information about their recycling program.

This is one student-led initiative that, for me, captures that idea of doing “great things in response to what God asks of us”.

And this initiative was inspired and supported by teachers. I hope that in this Year of Mercy we will be inspired by the young people of St Aloysius College and continue to find ways to let them know that we believe in them.

The prayer that follows was written by Annabelle Matthias 9RK, and beautifully expresses a spirit of gratitude and courage so evident in our students:

Dear God,

We pray for those who need our help and thank those who helped us.

Being a Mercy school we empower young women to help shape the future.

We thank the Sisters of Mercy for educating young, less advantaged women who now play a vital role in the world as we know it today.

Together as a Merciful community we will care for those in need of a helping hand and we will do our best to be the best we can in our school community and the wider community.

Help us to acknowledge that it is the Jubilee Year of Mercy and being a Mercy school we shall thank those who made our school community who we are today.

Amen

Ms Paddy McEvoy
Principal
THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Last year on Tuesday 8 December Pope Francis picked up a silver hammer and with it he knocked three times on a door of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The door opened and the Pope entered. The door is a holy door which is only opened during jubilee years which occur every fifty years or at the discretion of the Pope. This tradition dates back to the 15th century. This jubilee year has been declared by the Pope the Year of Mercy.

Mercy is something with which we are all familiar because ours is a Mercy school. Our foundress, Catherine McAuley opened the doors of Baggot Street to the poor in Dublin in 1827 and ever since the Sisters of Mercy and those who work alongside them in mercy ministries all over the world, have continued to open their doors to those in need.

Pope Francis is asking two things of us during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Firstly, he is asking us to open wide the doors of mercy, the doors of our hearts, to all those in need of comfort and compassion, food and shelter, a place of refuge and safety, freedom, friendship and love.

Secondly, Pope Francis invites us to enter through the Holy Door of Mercy where we will experience the love of God, the love that enables us to transform our world.

Our balloon arch is a symbol of celebration, of welcome and of hospitality which is one of our mercy values.

The door is a sign calling us to walk through the holy door of mercy this year and come face-to-face with the God of mercy who welcomes us unconditionally.

Ms Elizabeth Boylan
RELIgIOUS EDUCATION (8-12) & LITURGIES COORDINATOR

TERM 1 DIARY (for students and parents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15 February 8:55-9:40am Year 5-12 Assembly (Dux of 2015) 7pm Year 12 Parent Information Night</td>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>17 February Year 8 Camp begins (3 classes)</td>
<td>18 February Student ID Photos &amp; Class Photos (except Year 8 &amp; 9) (Day 2)</td>
<td>19 February Year 8 Camp ends (3 classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>24 February Year 8 Camp (2 classes) begins</td>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>26 February Year 8 Camp (2 classes) ends Newsletter available on SAC website</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CANTEEN ROSTER

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15 February Fran Buller Di Young</td>
<td>16 February Joanne Madi</td>
<td>17 February Karen Golding</td>
<td>18 February Pam Robinson</td>
<td>19 February Leanne Carter Renee Philip</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22 February Fran Buller Di Young Frances Marshall</td>
<td>23 February Kathy D’Arcy</td>
<td>24 February Ann Shatlock Karen O’Keefe</td>
<td>25 February Pam Robinson</td>
<td>26 February Sue Cecere</td>
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</table>
Aquinas College greeted 120 keen Year 12 students on Wednesday 3 February 2016. The day was devoted to activities designed to give our students strategies to cope with the busy year ahead. With a focus on achieving balance between the demands of school and other family and everyday commitments, the students were encouraged to make the most of their final year by remaining positive, drawing on their inner resources and realising that they have already successfully completed many years of schooling. Several different perspectives were presented by Year Level Coordinators, teachers and especially 15 old scholars. The returning students from 2015 proved to be an enthusiastic group, willing to impart their advice to our current seniors. Year 12, despite the hard work required, can also be a special year in which participation in extra-curricular activities is encouraged and welcomed in order to make the year even more memorable. Our recent scholars certainly sent this message home.

We feel that the year has started on a very positive note and that the Class of 2016 will be every bit as productive, committed and successful as the old scholars who have gone before them.

Ms Carolyne Williams & Ms Muriel Noujaim
YEAR 12 COORDINATORS

As we take our first steps into the area of unknown, the Year 12s can now walk a little more confidently as the Year 12 Orientation Day at Aquinas College shed light on what is to come and how students should best approach it, in order to achieve success. The purpose of the day was to give students strategies to cope with the busy year ahead. This was definitely achieved. Through various activities, motivational talks and in particular through the return of a number of old scholars we were guided through what the year would look like and how best to ‘attack it’. The old scholars in particular, having just completed the year, gave us valuable advice on how best to approach Year 12. Some key points that we have taken away with us are:

• Communication with teachers is paramount. Ask for help
• Determination, perseverance, organisation and balance are key
• You get out of the year what you put in to it
• Make use of your time
• Do not waste time worrying and stressing
• Take part in extracurricular activities where possible
• Do not ever give up.

Orientation Day has left us inspired, motivated, relieved and heartened. Through our new-found determination and confidence and, with the help of our teachers, friends, family and peers we, the class of 2016 are ready for the challenge!

Adele Beaumont 12MN & Isabelle Dick 12CW
The Year 12 students of 2015 were another wonderful group of girls. They involved themselves in all aspects of school life and were particularly prominent in promoting school spirit. They involved themselves fully in the social justice activities, sport, carnivals and were a great support for each other.

Sometimes students say that for Year 12 “I am going to give up sport/co-curricula activities or even family events so that I can concentrate on my Year 12 studies”. Our experience shows that the most successful students are those who have balance in their life - study, spiritual, sport/relaxation activities, family and friends. No one facet should dominate students’ time at the exclusion of the others. I also strongly advocate the importance of getting sufficient sleep and exercise as well as healthy eating to assist learning.

In addition to excelling in other aspects of school life, the Year 12 students achieved excellent SACE results - a fitting reward for a hard working group of girls who worked together to help each other and themselves.

Some highlights from last year’s Year 12 students:

- Over forty two percent of SAC students received an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) above 90, placing them in the top 10% of all students
- ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) above 90, placing them in the top 10% of all students: Maryam Khan, Philippa Good, Clare O’Mahoney, Georgina Procter, Nahidah Qasimy, Grace Monaghan, Sarah Colangelo, Anastasia Markou, Anya Kalu, and Kayla Wahlstrom.
- Eleven (11) Merit Certificates were awarded to St Aloysius College students. These will be presented to students in a ceremony at Government House.
- Almost eighty percent of all grades achieved by our students were A or B grades.
- Dux of the school was Maryam Khan with an ATAR of 99.65.
- Almost one hundred percent of students achieved their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).
- Over ninety eight percent (98%) of our Year 12 students applied to study at a South Australian university. A small number of students applied to study at TAFE.
- Just over 93% of those who applied for university received a first round offer, 100% of those who applied for TAFE received an offer
- 72% of those receiving a university offer got their first preference and 92% received their first or second preference

Merit Certificates

The following students were awarded a Merit Certificate and have been invited to receive their certificate in a ceremony at Government House.

The students to receive a Merit Certificate are:

Maryam Khan (2 merits), Jasmin Branford, Matilda Brown, Theresa Chav, Laura Cimarosti, Lauren McGrechan, Vanessa Pearce, Shyanne Premnath, Emma Wilczek and Edith Wong.

The Merit Certificates were awarded in English Communications, Mathematical Applications, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Scientific Studies, Research Project B, Society and Culture, Chinese (Continuers) and Dance.

SAC Students achieve an ATAR in the Top 10%

Congratulations to the following students who achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) above 90, placing them in the top 10% of all students:

Maryam Khan, Vanessa Pearce, Laura Cimarosti, Theresa Chav, Emma Wilczek, Tallulah Robb, Erin Teakle, Lauren McGrechan, Faeza Kashmiri, Hoang (Ngan) Tran, Xuan Chen, Matilda Brown, Philippa Good, Clare O’Mahoney, Georgina Procter, Nahidah Qasimy, Grace Monaghan, Sarah Colangelo, Anastasia Markou, Anya Kalu, and Kayla Wahlstrom.

Beyond School - University and TAFE

Most of our students applying for tertiary places have received their offers. In the first round of offers to school students, just over 93% of SAC students who applied received a first round tertiary offer. Over 72% of our students who applied for a university place received their first preference in the first round of offers. This excellent outcome reflects the hard work of the Year 12 students and the course counselling offered to the students by the St Aloysius College staff.

We wish all of our students the best of luck with their continuing education and hope that the values taught at St Aloysius College will continue to influence their views on life.

Why ATARs aren’t directly comparable across schools

Schools have different admission policies

Whilst some schools have entrance exams, with only the high achieving students gaining entry to the school, other schools have a broader enrolment policy which encourages a diversity of student groups - multicultural mix, different socio-economic groups etc. Those schools with a narrow enrolment policy which only recognises high exam scores may have a slightly higher ATAR average but may miss out on many benefits gained by a diverse student population.

Schools have different promotion policies and practices

Some schools (not St Aloysius College) refuse to allow students to do a Year 12 subject unless they have scored a B grade or higher in Year 11. While at SAC we provide counselling and support regarding subject selection, we do not make blanket rules about prerequisite standards. Factors such as the student’s maturity, personal or other problems that have affected Year 11 study must be considered.

Don’t compare apples with oranges

Comparing ATAR results from one school to another is fraught with many problems and issues that make the comparison of such statistics almost meaningless.

In summary, a school can ensure that it has a very impressive pass rate by its restricted enrolment policy (only allowing students who are academically gifted to enrol in the school and through the use of entrance exams) or by the rules it places on the selection of Year 12 subjects (eg enforcing high prerequisite Year 11 standards before being allowed to attempt a year 12 subject). All of these factors will ensure an impressive pass rate and higher ATAR average for the school, but they are not, in the opinion of St Aloysius College, in the best interests of the students.

Many facets contribute to making a good school - academic performance is an important one but other aspects of school life are also very important. We are proud of the well rounded education offered to our students.

Mr John Konopka
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (ADMINISTRATION)
SEMESTER 1, 2016 VET COURSES

Year 10, 11 and 12 students are invited to enrol in training courses after school called VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses. Enrolments are now open for Semester 1 (half year) and full year VET courses. VET courses give students the opportunity to gain TAFE qualifications whilst still at school through TAFE and private training organisations that normally train adults. VET courses are the same qualifications that adults complete however VET classes are made up entirely of school students, students wear their school uniform, trainers have police clearances, the courses are considerably less expensive than adults are required to pay (eg. the Certificate III Hospitality course is $5796 at TafeSA or $3381 for concession card holders, whilst the VET course cost for SAC students is $1450), attendance at classes is monitored and any student work placements required are organised for the student and there is little ‘homework’ in addition to attending the VET class each week, so a VET course is not an onerous burden on students. VET courses also accrue SACE points, with students able to add these qualifications to their SACE certificate. Some full Certificate III VET courses are able to count towards the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank for university admission), thus boosting the ATAR a student achieves at the end of Year 12.

Students study a VET course for many different reasons. Some of the reasons SAC students study a VET course:

- they have an interest in an area that is not a school subject (eg. make up)
- to improve their chances of gaining casual, part-time or holiday work
- to start accumulating qualifications towards their career
- to boost their ATAR
- to have fun and learn new skills

Information about 2016 VET courses, including a pricelist, has been distributed to students via Home Class pigeonholes. Information packs are also available from the Careers centre in J101. Students may also request additional information by visiting the Careers Centre or contacting Ms Louise Murphy by email lmurphy@sac.sa.edu.au.

SHORT VET COURSES - BARISTA, RSA and FIRST AID

Short VET courses are one day courses that are offered throughout the year. There are a limited number of places available in the Barista, RSA and First Aid courses. Information about each course has been distributed to Home Class pigeonholes and is also available from the Career Centre.

Ms Louise Murphy
VET COORDINATOR

Open Day is an opportunity for interested families to visit our College and view our facilities, educational offerings and talented students. You may know some families who are interested in a St Aloysius College education, so please let them know of the 2016 Open Day date.

Student participation in Open Day is vital to its success, so we ask that you permit your daughter to be part of the activities if she is required. In recent years, there have been many people whom we welcome on Open Day.

Permission notes will be given to students who will be involved in the Open Day activities. Those students who have Open Day responsibilities have the option of arriving at school by recess on Tuesday 8 March, with parental permission.

All students will be dismissed at 1:00pm on Monday 7 March so that the school can be prepared for this important event. We thank you for your support and look forward to a successful evening.

Ms Marian Elliott
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (CURRICULUM)
SECONDARY SPORT

YEAR 6 REFLECTIONS

STUDENTS’ REFLECTIONS

My first day as a Year 6 student was exciting. We started getting straight into routine quickly, which was good. We had fun together and our classroom felt very homely and organised. I’m very excited to be in Year 6 and do some challenging things.

Isabella Sortini 6RL

The first day of Year 6 was awesome! I got to know my teacher and friends very well. I loved the classroom and it was very neat and tidy. I am really looking forward to having a great time in this class and to make new friends. We did so many fun activities and went into routine really quickly. I am glad to be in this classroom and to have a really nice teacher.

Ekjot Joshan 6RL

On the first day of Year 6, I was very excited but curious. The teachers were very warm and kind. I loved spending time with new people and finding new friends. I’m very excited to challenge my knowledge, go on what seems like an amazing school camp and experience more opportunities to achieve more in my school learning.

Charlotte Hurt 6RL

Student Absence & Lateness

When a student is absent from school or running late, parents are asked to telephone the dedicated student absentee line on 8217 3213 or SMS 0407 724 721 by 9:00am on that day to advise the school of the likely length of absence. Parents will be contacted if the school has not been advised.

Upon their return to school after an absence, students are asked to bring a note to the Home Class Teacher signed by a parent/caregiver explaining the student’s absence. Your assistance is appreciated.
Welcome to Primary Sport for 2016, a year which I am sure will be filled with countless sporting opportunities, achievements and individual and team development in various sports.

Term 1 sport nominations have now closed. I hope the new online nomination system provided families with a convenient way to nominate and make payments for sport. If you nominated your daughter to participate in Term 1 sport the following will occur:

- Permission forms were sent home on Tuesday 9 February (Week 2) and were due back on Thursday 11 February (Week 2)
- Students in Years 4-7 will be emailed an information pack for their chosen sport by the beginning of Week 3. The information packs will include information regarding starting dates, times, game fixtures, training times, venues etc. This information pack will be emailed to the students’ school email account
- Students in Years 1-3 should have received information for the Come ‘n’ Try program attached to the permission forms issued on Tuesday 9 February (Week 2)

Please ensure that you have carefully read the Primary Sport Handbook available on the SAC website so you are fully aware of the SAC sport policies and inclement weather procedures.


Contact Information for Primary Sport Coordinator:
Ms Kate Marks
Tel: 0447 512 480 or 8217 3233
Email: kmarks@sac.sa.edu.au

SECONDARY SPORT 2016

This term SAC have nominated a number of teams in Secondary indoor volleyball, touch football, water polo, basketball, tennis and lacrosse competitions. It is fantastic to see so many of our students involved in sport and committing to being physically active. I look forward to watching our Secondary students compete as well as sharing their achievements with you throughout this term.

The new sport online nomination and payment process has been very successful and with the addition of the Term 1 Sport Handbooks we hope families are fully informed of the sporting opportunities, procedures and policies surrounding SAC sport. Students who have nominated should have received a permission form on Tuesday of this week. These permission forms were due Thursday of this week and are a requirement in order for students to participate in Secondary sport in Term 1. All nominated students will have received an information pack via email this evening outlining all the details for the sport they are involved in for Term 1. It is important that all students and parents read this information pack carefully. All Term 1 sport participants must read the appropriate SAC Sport Handbooks that are available on the school website. Please read the information corresponding to the nominated sport thoroughly, in particular the SAC sport and weather policies.

Ms Vashti Casserly-Lund
SECONDARY SPORT COORDINATOR

Contact Information for Secondary Sport Coordinator:
Ms Vashti Casserly-Lund
Tel: 0447 937 709 or 8217 3233
Email: VCasserly-Lund@sac.sa.edu.au

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Clipsal 500 will take place March 3-6. Please make sure you allow sufficient time to make all sporting commitments for that week and weekend. Road closures will impact traffic conditions.
Reception students have had a busy and exciting first week of school. Students have brought with them enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn new things. In their first week of school they have been introduced to many aspects of school life and the girls have approached all activities with confidence. Reception teachers and students look forward to a year filled with many enjoyable learning experiences.

Ms Kate Ruston, Ms Tanya Halstead & Ms Shey Odgers
RECEPTION TEACHERS
Welcome back to another busy and exciting year of Music at St Aloysius College. In addition to Reception to Year 12 Music as part of the curriculum, we are also able to arrange private instruction for the following instruments in 2016:

- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Saxophone
- Bass Guitar
- Flute
- Trombone
- Cello
- Oboe
- Trumpet
- Clarinet
- Percussion
- Viola
- Double Bass
- Piano
- Violin
- Drum
- Kit
- Voice

Lessons will be offered for 30 minutes per week during school time. Times are generally negotiated with the individual instrumental teacher so that lessons are on either fixed or rotating timetables, as appropriate. 2016 Instrumental/Vocal Tuition Application Forms with all details are available for collection from the Front Office, or your daughter may collect a copy from the Music Department.

Supporting instrumental lessons are a number of ensembles and choirs. Ensemble playing gives players and vocalists the opportunity to learn a vast array of repertoire while experiencing the sound of a full band, orchestra, choir or chamber ensemble. Students also use the opportunity to expand upon the techniques learned in private lessons. I encourage all students to participate in a school ensemble and ask them to refer to student bulletin notices for more details.

We have the following ensembles available:

- Primary Choir (Years 4-7)
- Junior String Ensemble
- Middle School Concert Band (Years 5-8)
- Catholic Schools Music Festival Choir (Years 6-7)
- Senior Choir (Years 8-12)
- Senior String Ensemble
- Flute Ensemble
- Catch 22 Choir (audition required)
- Stage Band (Years 8-12)
- Orchestra (Years 7-12)
- Rock Band (Years 8-12)
- Drum Corps

This year’s annual Music Camp will be held at the Nunyara Conference Centre, Belair providing an opportunity for intensive rehearsals and team building activities. It will be held from Sunday 6 March to Monday 7 March and will involve all members of the SAC Senior Choir, Catch 22, Stage Band, Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Senior String Ensemble, Rock Band and Drum Corps.

For more information about the Instrumental or Music Curriculum Extension Program, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Looking forward to a great year of music making!

Ms Linda Clemente
MUSIC COORDINATOR

PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT
Doing and being environmental crusaders

This year the project for recycling plastic bags will continue in the school with a dedicated group of Year 10 students carrying on the work of collecting plastic bags that cover ‘The Advertiser’ newspaper and taking them to Coles to recycle them. These students are dedicated to making a real difference in our use of plastic both here and at home. So stay tuned for how you can become involved and make a difference to the world. We only have one Earth to keep clean and beautiful for ourselves and nature.

Ms Sharyn Schubert & Ms Carolyne Williams
GREEN HOUSE COORDINATORS

Hurry limited places available!

70% Off membership!
Exclusive to EFM Angas St

Unlimited access to EFM for $100 for Term 1
For more details please contact Ellen Nobbs on:
elen.nobbs@efm.net.au or 0419 056 730

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
53 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000 / www.sac.sa.edu.au / 82173200

Page 10
ALL SMILES ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2016!
INTO swimming!

Aged 7-12 years?
Thinking of joining a swimming club?
Want to try competitive swimming?

SwimmingSA’s ComeNTry events are FREE!

Sunday 21st February 2016, 3:45pm at the Unley Swimming Centre

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact SwimmingSA 7123 0848
or zoe.williams@sa.swimming.org.au
Unley Swimming Centre (outdoor pool)
13 Ethel Street, Forestville

ENTER ONLINE AT www.sa.swimming.org.au/try by 12pm Friday 12th February