

27 May 2009

Term 2 No.7



**The Miranda family
(4 generations) at Mother's
Day Mass on
Thursday 7 May 2009**

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Bethlehem,

The Feast of Mary Help of Christians was celebrated in our Church this year on 25th May. It is a special day of thanksgiving and honour of Our Lady, the patroness of Australia. In 1884, the bishops of Australia decided to make Mary Help of Christians Australia's Patron. We turn to Mary for the protection that our nation needs, and put ourselves into her care, just as she puts herself into the care of God.

*We turn to you for protection,
Mary, the help of Christians,
Listen to our prayers and help us in our need.
Save us from every danger,
And may you bring the blessings of peace and unity
to all the peoples of Australia.
Amen*

Parent Involvement:

I have been delighted with the number of parents attending events in the life of the College. Since the beginning of the school year parents have been present for the following events:

- Parents and Friends Group Meetings (Term 1 and 2)
- Opening School Mass
- Year 7 Welcome Mass
- Swimming Carnival
- Year 9 Drama Performance
- CSDA Public Speaking Competition
- Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition

- Lions Youth of the Year Competition
- Open Day
- Religious Art Exhibition at ACU
- Ashfield Youth Art Exhibition
- Friday Night Debating
- Gifted and Talented Information Evening
- Farewell to Br. Kelvin at Dooley's Catholic Club and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Mother's Day Mass and Breakfast (see photos in this newsletter)
- Mother's Day Classic – for Cancer Research
- Bethlehem/De La Salle/St. Vincent's Council Meeting
- Year 9 Laptop Parent Information Evening

Parent participation in the life of the College is a priority at Bethlehem as we understand that a partnership with parents leads to improved learning outcomes for students. When parents attend events in the life of the College it provides the College with the opportunity to keep parents informed and to ensure they are consulted so that they can fulfill their role as partners in their child's learning. As a reminder please note the following events coming up:

- Friday Night Debating
- X – Factor June 3rd

- Athletics Carnival June 9th
- Years 11 and 12 Parent / Teacher Evening : **Compulsory Event:** - 1.30-9.00pm June 11th
- Year 11 2010 Information Evening: **Compulsory Event:** June 22nd
- Year 8 Musical – Jack and the Beanstalk June 23rd
- Year 7 -10 Parent/ Teacher /Student Meetings **Compulsory Event:** 12 – 9.00pm Monday 6th July
- Bethlehem Day 9th July

Also the next Parent and Friends Group meeting will be held in Term 3 on Tuesday 18th August. We have a guest speaker attending the meeting from Marist Youth Care to address parents on the topic of raising adolescents in the 21st century. I hope to see you all there.

Year 9 Laptop Roll out:

On Tuesday last week the Year 9 students received their laptop computers. It was a pleasure to witness the excitement of the girls as they received these wonderful learning devices. A great deal of preparation has taken place to ensure the laptops were ready for distribution and to ensure that staff and students have the necessary skills to commence using the laptops to enhance the learning process. A very special thank you to all staff involved in the Year 9 Laptop roll out. In particular thanks to:

- The staff involved in preparing the laptops for distribution: Mr Abbey, Mr Xu, Mrs Charbel, Ms Stekhoven and Mr Attaalla.
- Staff involved in facilitating professional development: Ms Mansour, Mr Doyle, Mr Eirth and Mr Wheatley.
- Staff involved in the preparation and who attended the Year 9 Information Evening: Mrs Mann, Mr Wheatley, Ms Pantua, Ms Richmond, Ms Ffrench, Mr Whittaker, Mr Doyle, Mr Abbey, Ms Rosetti, Ms Allen, Mrs Charbel, Ms Stekhoven, Ms McGrath, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Reddy, Ms Percy and Mrs Englert.
- Staff who prepared and then conducted the Year 9 Boot Camp program held Thursday: Ms Mansour, Mr Doyle, Mr Eirth and Ms Papadopoulos.

We also thank Mr Prest, ICT Adviser from the Inner West Catholic Education Office for providing an excellent talk on the appropriate use of the internet.

Parish and CEO Events:

I have been very pleased to attend a number of events on behalf of the College in the past few weeks. Firstly, there was a very special parish dinner held in the College Hall, hosted by Fr Michael Walsh from St. Vincent's Ashfield. This event was attended by over 250 guests to acknowledge the contributions and generosity of Ashfield parishioners. Secondly, I have attended two farewell functions for Br. Kelvin Canavan, who has retired as our Executive Director of Schools. We thank Br. Kelvin for his outstanding leadership of Catholic Education and ask God's blessing on his future work at the Australian Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame. I thank Elizabeth Bell, Erica McRae and Margueita Sotiriou for attending the farewell function at Dooley's Catholic Club and Iris Somera, Katrina Soueid and Violet Inati for attending the Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

IMPORTANT EVENTS:

Pentecost Catechesis - Bishop Anthony Fisher:

All Years 10, 11 and 12 are invited to attend a World Youth Day style Catechesis evening with Bishop Anthony Fisher in our College Hall on Friday 29th May commencing at 7pm and concluding at 9pm.

The Catholic Youth Services Team will also be part of this very special event. The theme for the evening will be *Truth, "The Truth will set you free"* (John 8:32). Youth from all over the Archdiocese have been invited. As we are hosting the event I am hoping that all students in Years 10-12 will be able to attend.

Walk with Christ:

On Sunday 14th June Catholics will come together for the annual Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to mark the Feast of Corpus Christi. The procession begins at 2.30pm at St. Patrick's, Church Hill (near Wynyard Station) and makes its way through the city to the Cathedral. Families are warmly invited to join this celebration.

Congratulations:

- To our Debating teams who have enjoyed a number of wins over the last few Friday evenings. In the past two Friday evenings Year 7 and Year 11 defeated Christian Brothers Lewisham and Years 9, 10 and 11 defeated St. Clare's Waverley.
- To our Mock Trial Team who defeated St. Catherine's at Waverley.
- To the students competing in the Brain Bee Challenge. Our girls have proceeded through to the NSW State Finals and have been invited to submit a team for this state final event.
- To Samantha Clemente (Year8) who has been invited to be on the Board of Governance of the Auburn Council Youth Action Policy Association (YAPA). Samantha has also had an article published by the organization. This is an amazing achievement.

Anna Dickinson
Principal



Assistant Principal News...

On May 14th and 15th I was fortunate to attend the Inner West Assistant Principal's conference held in Terrigal. Dr Dan White, the Executive Director of Catholic Education in Sydney, was the keynote speaker at the conference. Dr White presented in the area of Catholic Pedagogy and our mission as educators to engage and transform students in the search for truth and making Jesus real in their lives. The staff at Bethlehem will have the opportunity to work with Dr. White at our staff spirituality day on July 10th. This will be a wonderful opportunity for teaching staff to explore the themes that are central to our work as Catholic educators. This day will enhance and help shape the way we work with your daughters here at Bethlehem.

Recently Year 8 students attended an overnight camp at Stanwell Tops. Staff and students spent their time at the camp in community and leadership building activities. Students had a wonderful time at the camp and their feedback has been very enthusiastic. Thanks to Miss Wilson, Miss Mansour, Mrs Kells, Ms Bucciarelli and Miss Boland who were the supervising teachers.

Year 8 students are also busily rehearsing for their musical "Jack and the Beanstalk". This production will be on June 23rd. For students in other year groups an opportunity to perform musical items will be at our 'X Factor' night. 'X Factor' will be held on Wednesday June 3rd at 7.30pm in the Music room. All parents and friends are most welcome audience members.

Year 12 students will undertake their retreat also at Stanwell Tops next Thursday and Friday (June 4 and 5) This will be a great chance for the students to share and reflect on their experiences over the last six years at Bethlehem as well as contemplate what the future may bring. The Year 12 retreat provides a much needed opportunity for senior students to refocus their energy as they enter the final stages of their HSC year.

On June 2nd Year 7 students will receive the second round of the HPV vaccinations as well as the Chicken Pox vaccination. It is essential that students eat breakfast on the morning of their vaccination. Please don't hesitate to contact the Stage Coordinator Miss Wilson or myself with any questions or concerns.

A reminder to parents that students should now be in full winter uniform. This includes wearing the blazer to and from the College, wearing stockings for both junior and senior students. Knee high socks and stockings are not part of the College uniform. All students should now have the compulsory College back pack. The Uniform Shop is open at the College on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (8-11am) and Fridays each week.

Teash Richmond
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News...

Pentecost Catechesis – Friday 29th May, 7-9.00pm, with dinner at 6.00pm

Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 have an exciting opportunity in their faith development to attend a World Youth Day style Catechesis evening with Bishop Anthony Fisher.

After WYD last year, many of our pilgrims commented on how effective catechesis was in raising their understanding about the theology and teachings of the Church. Another aspect they sincerely appreciated was the contemporary experience of the Mass. They requested that we host an evening like this. In conjunction with the Catholic Youth Services Team (CYS) and the Archdiocese of Sydney, we will be hosting catechesis with the theme of *Truth*, "The Truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Cardinal George Pell is in Rome for Pentecost and will send his Pentecost Statement via DVD, which is a response to the students of the Archdiocese. In February, two students from each Catholic school across the Archdiocese met with Cardinal Pell and presented questions, ideas and feedback to him. Bishop Anthony will also talk about *Truth* and field questions from those in attendance.

Catechesis will be in our College Hall and it commences at 7.00pm on Friday 29th May and concludes at 9.00pm. (Dinner is at 6.00pm)

The invitation is to all young people across the Archdiocese. Entry is only by ticket and seats are limited.

National Sorry Day – Tuesday 26th May, Commemoration on Friday 29th May

The theme for this year is *Sharing a Journey of Healing*. The National Sorry Day Committee asks:

"The Historic National Apology [from our Prime Minister Kevin Rudd] initiated a new step toward the healing needed for Stolen Generations, their families and Communities. It also united Australians throughout the nation in a shared Journey of Healing. The National Sorry Day Committee invites you to join the Stolen Generations and thousands of other Australians who will gather through out the country and overseas for Australia's **National Sorry Day**."

In response to this request, our College will hold National Sorry Day Commemorations in our Hall for Years 7 and 8 on Friday 29th May from 1.30 to 3.00pm. Mr Phil Geia, who has both Torres Islander and Aboriginal heritage will lead us in song, dance and story telling.

Prayer for National Sorry Day

Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image, Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past.

You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven. We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced. We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families. We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness. Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and inflicted and heal their spirits. In your mercy and compassion walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable. Lord, you are our hope. Amen.

Wayne Wheatley
Religious Education Coordinator

Science News...

Congratulations to Christine Sarmiento, Angelica Panopoulos, Caroline Pollock and Genevieve Boutelet of Year 10 for qualifying for Round 2 of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. The girls will spend a day at the University of Western Sydney competing against other students who also made it to the NSW State Finals. The day will be filmed with live streaming so that their classmates will be able to watch from school to cheer them on from a distance! Well done girls and good luck!

Silvana Rossetti
Science Coordinator

Curriculum News...

NAPLAN

Congratulations to all students in Years 7 and 9 for successfully completing the NAPLAN tests last week, and thank you to Ms Pantua for all the preparation and organisation that led to such a smooth process. Feedback from the girls suggests that they felt confident and well-prepared, and we look forward to their results later in the year.

The data analysis we receive for each student is quite detailed and allows us to identify individual strengths and weaknesses. We have been working with Year 8 and 10 students using the data from last year's NAPLAN. Some intervention is occurring in small groups with students withdrawn from class, while other work is being undertaken in the general classroom context. We have particularly targeted those students in need of support with literacy, as well as those who have performed in the top bands, to focus on pushing them towards excellence. The girls have been enthusiastic in their response to this additional support, and we hope to see even better results in the 2009 Year 9 NAPLAN tests and in the School Certificate.

YEAR 9 LAPTOPS

We have had a very exciting week with the roll-out of laptops to Year 9 students. We met with parents and students on Tuesday night to present information about the program and to distribute the Macs. The girls spent four lessons on Thursday learning about the care and use of their laptops and we look forward to the many opportunities this technology will provide in the classroom. Staff are involved in continuing professional development, and are working creatively to plan for the integration of these tools. It is definitely a good time to be in Year 9!

Brain Teaser No. 17

KenKen

6x		3-	
1-		2÷	
4	6+		1-
2÷			

This new puzzle requires you to fill in the numbers 1 to 4 in each row and column, so that no row or column contains the same number more than once.

The clues in each 'cage' gives you additional information for the numbers in that 'cage'. For example, 3- means the difference between these two numbers is 3, 2÷ means the quotient for these two numbers is 2.

Students are invited to solve this problem, and deposit the answer, marked clearly with name and homeroom, in the box in the General Office by 3pm on **Friday 29th May**. The first correct entry drawn will receive a canteen voucher!!!!

Last week's solution: 11 ribbons

Congratulations to the many students who correctly solved Problem 16. The first correct entry drawn was submitted by Karen Lee of 8 Gold. Well done!

See Mrs Mann to collect your canteen voucher.

Janet Mann
Curriculum Coordinator

Uniform Shop Hours...

Uniform Shop Hours as follows:
Tuesday & Friday 10.00am-1.30pm and
Wednesday 8.00am—11.00am

Phone Number 9799 6163

CASH/EFTPOS or CREDIT CARDS accepted

Cheques payable to TALEB AUSTRALIA

Lay-bys available

Community News....

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield— Sacrament of Confirmation

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is to be celebrated by Bishop Julian Porteous in St Joan of Arc Church Haberfield on **Saturday 27 June 2009 at 5.00pm**. Any child wishing to be confirmed on this occasion will need to attend the preparation courses that will be running in the Parish in the weeks leading up to Confirmation day.

The **Confirmation Enrolment and Information Night** for parents/guardians and children will be held in St Joan of Arc Church at 97 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield on **13 May 2009 at 7.30pm**. Information about the preparation classes to be conducted on Tuesday afternoons at St Joan of Arc School, Dalhousie Street, Haberfield will be provided on the night.

For further information please contact Mr Harry Stephens, St Joan of Arc Sacramental Program Coordinator on 0418 230 322.

Uniform Shop News...Update

*The Uniform Shop will also be open every
WEDNESDAY morning from
8.00am to 11.00am*

Important Dates Term Two 2009

26 May	National Sorry Day
27 May	ICAS Computer Skills Competition
28 May	Year 11 Mass at 9am
29 May	CSDA Debating Rd 5 at Holy Spirit, Lakemba
29 May	Night Patrol
2 June	Year7 Vaccinations— HPV (Dose 2) and Chicken Pox
3 June	Year8 Mass at Midday—St. Vincent's Church
4-5 June	Year 12 Retreat at Stanwell Tops (Mass 9.00am on 4th June)

Bethlehem College—Community News



Bethlehem College Year 12 Class of 1987 Reunion...

A reunion has been arranged for the Year 12 class of 1987 to meet for a casual get together:

When: Friday 26th June, 2009 at 7.30pm

Where: Club Ashfield (Ashfield Catholic & Community Club, Charlotte Street, Ashfield)

Please contact Jo Price for more information on mobile 0402 270 997 or email itsjoprice@hotmail.com

Caritas Australia News...

An invitation to a free, Interactive Exhibition

Nine years ago, the world made a promise. A promise which, by 2015, will lift millions of people out of poverty. Caritas Australia and AusAID would like to invite you to *Blueprint for a Better World*, an interactive multimedia exhibition bringing you face to face with the reality of extreme poverty and explaining how we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

When: 25th May to 5th June, 10.00am-4.00pm weekdays

Where: The Atrium, Auburn Council, Civic Place, 1 Susan Street, Auburn NSW

Guided tours can be booked for school groups, on the hour every hour starting at 10am. Tours will be conducted by an educator and last 45 minutes.

The exhibition focuses on case studies of development programs around the world. The exhibition gives real examples of poverty and ways communities can be supported to improved their own lives. Visit the exhibition website for school resources: www.blueprintforabetterworld.org.

To book a school visit, please contact Becky Swinburn on 1800 024 413 or email at beckys@caritas.org.au

ADHD Workshops News...

Take a journey to understand the world of the child with ADHD along with why and how their world effects their environment and all those around.

Please visit our Workshops and Seminars page at www.everydaywithadhd.com.au for more information and registration.

There are various seminars in the Sydney suburbs running from Tuesday 9th June to Thursday 18th June—a comprehensive list of workshops is available on the website.

Cost: \$39.00 per person
\$40.00 per couple
\$20.00 pensioners

Payment can be made online by credit card or bank deposit. No credit card facilities available at the Workshop. Payment can also be made by cash on the night but as interest has been very strong, it is advisable to secure your seat by online registration.

The book *Every Day with ADHD* will be available for sale on the night for \$32.95 (cash only).

Marrickville Council News...

Sport-a-month Program

Try a different sport each month for free with Council's Sport-a-Month Program. Come and try Cycling with the Marrickville—South Sydney Bicycle Group for free in the month of June 2009...

Coming soon... Bowling in July 2009, Cricket in August 2009 and Croquet in September 2009.

Also All Nations Soccer is on again for Refugee Week 2009. Please visit www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au for further information and registration details on any of the above.

The New 2009/2010 Entertainment Book.... Still only \$65

To purchase your book, please contact: St John's Pre School Centre, Maureen Siljanovski, Email: stjohnsps@optusnet.com.au or phone: 9797 6392

Bethlehem College— English News



FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:

Hello again!

STAGE 5 SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday 6th May, the Hayes Gordon Repertory Company presented their show *Love! Death! And a Little Madness!* to all of Stage 5 in the multi- purpose Hall.

Nicola Danes of Year 10 had this to say:

On Wednesday 6th May, the HGR Theatre Company visited Bethlehem College, putting on a fantastic performance for the students of Years 9 and 10. The performers acted out various dramatic plays written by Shakespeare, including Romeo and Juliet, The Merchant Of Venice and Macbeth. These characters allowed the audience to view Shakespeare's plays in a more visual and realistic way, understanding the underlying factors of love, hate and fear in which he intended to bring out in his plays. The students were able to enjoy the witty and entertaining live performances of Shakespeare's stories, and the deep and meaningful messages which they convey.

Mary Daoud of Year 9 had this to say also:

The purpose of the performance was to portray various aspects of Shakespeare's writing and how they relate to today. The actors spoke to us about the fact that even though the style of writing present in Shakespeare's plays is different to what we know now, the issues are ever-present in today's society. The themes of love and madness were discussed, in that they are linked by the fact that love, in many cases, can lead to insane approaches to situations. This was conveyed through an act from Twelfth Night, where Malvolio is tricked into believing that Countess Olivia is in love with him. Another theme that was spoken of was the theme of hatred and prejudice which are present in many different communities today, whether they be religious groups or countries. This idea was best reflected in a scene from Romeo and Juliet. Throughout the incursion, references were made and scenes were acted out from some of Shakespeare's most famous plays such as Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, The Merchant of Venice and Hamlet. Overall, I believe the incursion was very beneficial to all of us as we are all studying Shakespeare's writing this year. Personally, the incursion has allowed me to understand William Shakespeare's writing from a different perspective because I am able to relate to it. The incursion was great and I think Years 9 and 10 would agree with me.

UNIVERSITY OF NSW ENGLISH COMPETITION

Once again, the **University of New South Wales 2009 Australasian Schools English Competition** is being run for all students in Years 7-11. The rationale behind assessing all students is for the English department to effectively use the data to plan for the National Curriculum in English. This assessment will be also used as a diagnostic tool in order to cater to the diverse needs of all students. The cost of this assessment is \$6.60 and will be billed on the Term 2 school fees. This is also an exceptional and cost effective opportunity to assess the knowledge and skills your daughter has achieved, as this exam provides comprehensive feedback to parents and carers.

DEBATING NEWS

Bethlehem competed on home turf against Brigidine College, Randwick in Week 2. **Congratulations to Year 9 who were successful!** I must thank the many students who acted as chairpersons, timekeepers and ushers on the night. I must also thank the many staff who came to either adjudicate or support our girls.

Also our debaters have competed against Christian Brothers' Lewisham. **Our Years 7 and 11 teams were successful!** Congratulations to our debaters who competed against St Clare's Waverley last Friday, 22 May. Our Years 9, 10, and 11 were successful on the night.

COMPETITIONS

There are also many other exciting competitions happening in English which are aimed at all students:

- University of NSW Writing and Spelling Competitions
- Short story and Poetry competitions (Write4fun competition)
- Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards
- What matters? Writing competition
- Premier's Reading Challenge (see Ms Barra or Mr Playford for details)

These competitions have fantastic prizes – cash, ipods, cds, etc – **YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

And many, many more.....

See Mrs Kelly for entry details of these competitions

GO BETHLEHEM!

Mosh Mavrakis
English Coordinator

Bethlehem College— Mother's Day Photos

