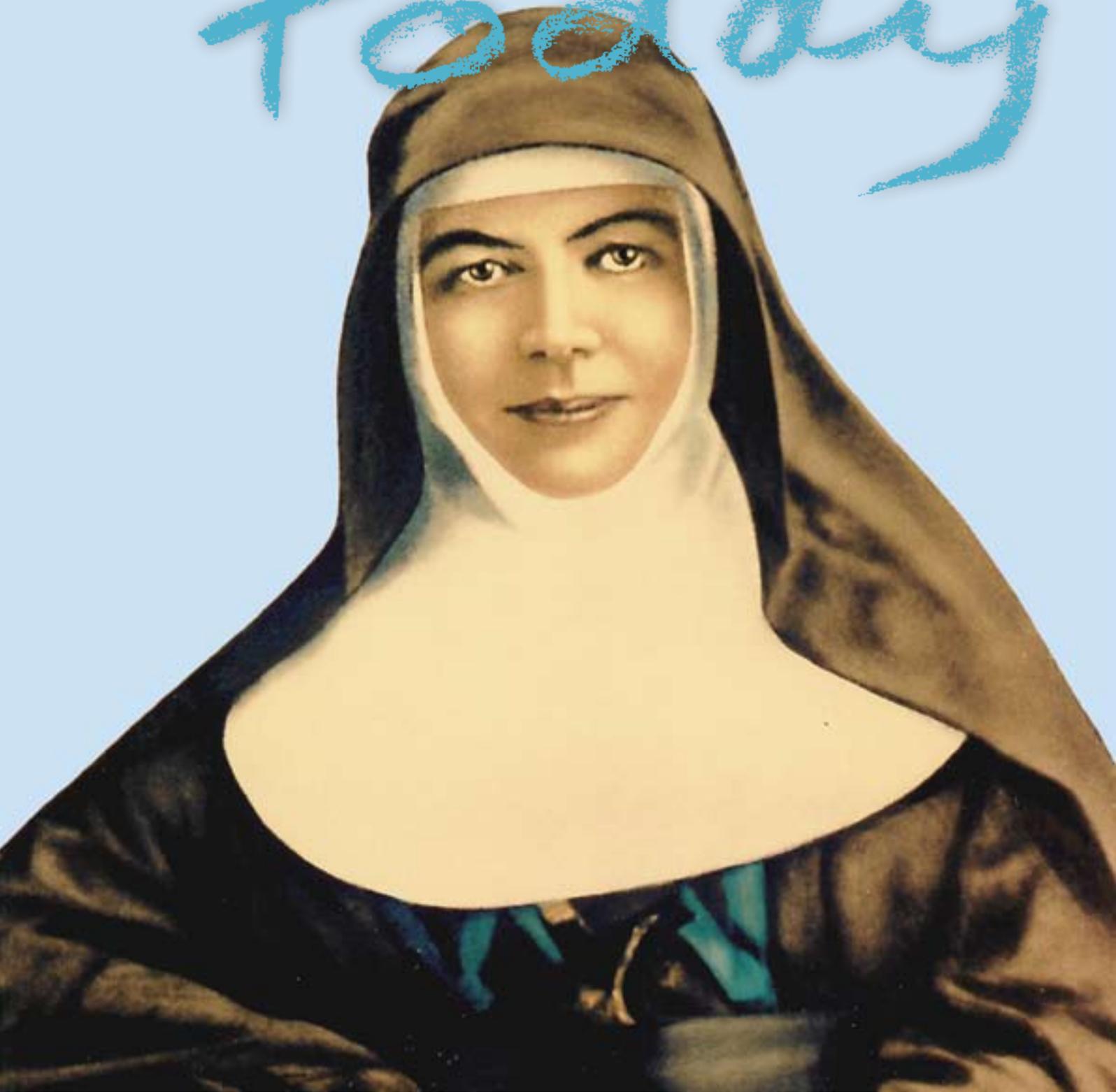


*Catholic Education*  
today



February 10  
Our Saint Mary

Back to school  
Parent Seminar Series



Catholic Education Office  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

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**Catholic Education Office**  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

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**Cover Image** Mary MacKillop. Photo courtesy Sisters of St Joseph Victorian Province. See story Page 3.

## From the Director



**Image**  
Stephen Elder,  
Director of Catholic Education.

As our students headed back to school to begin a new year, the Catholic education sector was greeted with some more good news. Catholic secondary school enrolments in Victoria grew faster than secondary school enrolments in other sectors in 2009, adding 1,093 students. This compares to 900 additional students enrolled in government secondary schools and 600 additional enrolments in independent secondary schools.

Preliminary data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), based on the 2009 August census, revealed there was an overall increase of almost 2,200 full-time equivalent students. Full-time equivalent student enrolments in Catholic schools in Victoria rose by 1.2% between 2008 and 2009.

These latest figures again demonstrate that parents are choosing Catholic schools for their Christian values, their unique and distinctive learning environment and their strong academic results. Catholic schools are vibrant communities of learning, faith and life, and the rising enrolments are an endorsement by parents of the dedication and commitment of our principals and teachers.

In respect to the increasing enrolments, I am pleased to say that two new Catholic primary schools have opened in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They are St Francis de Sales in Lynbrook and St Lawrence Primary School, Derrimut. In addition, Simonds Catholic College, West Melbourne, has opened a new Year 11 and 12 campus in North Fitzroy.

On a separate issue, the launch of the *My School* website has caused a lot of controversy. Catholic school communities know that Catholic schools are focussed on much more than a test result. Teachers and principals strive to help every child achieve their best in a broad range of areas and the publication of NAPLAN (National Assessment Plan Literacy and Numeracy) data will not alter that focus.

In 2009 Catholic schools throughout Victoria again scored well above the state average in national tests. However, we are concerned that the publication of this information will lead to the creation of league tables. Catholic schools already ensure that parents and school communities have access to a wealth of information about schools and the performance of students.

I would like to wish all Catholic school communities the best in 2010, especially those families who have enrolled a child in a Catholic school for the first time. ✝

Stephen Elder  
Director of Catholic Education



**Image left**  
New citizen Lotus  
with Year 3 students  
at the ceremony. Photo  
courtesy Our Lady of  
the Nativity School.

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The students have been exploring immigration and have come to understand how many people migrate to Australia from many countries around the world in search of a better life.

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## Proud Aussies

Fifty-two primary schools students at Our Lady of the Nativity School, West Essendon, recently hosted some very special guests. The Year three students organised a citizenship ceremony for some of Australia's newest citizens.

Thirty-two people took the pledge in the school hall before their families, special guests and federal and local government authorities. Teacher Samantha Cleur says the hall was decorated in green and gold and the colours of the Australian flag.

Parish priest Monsignor Peter Kenny welcomed the crowd and the children sang 'From St Kilda to Kings Cross' and 'Waltzing Matilda', ably assisted by principal Anne Doherty on guitar.

The ceremony was the brainchild of the Year 3 students. "The students have been exploring immigration and have come to understand how many people migrate to Australia from many countries around the world in search of a better life," says Ms Cleur. "They have also been learning about citizenship and the privileges of being an Australian citizen."

The official proceedings ended with the national anthem and a rendition of 'We Are Australian'. The candidates were presented with a small gift — a photo of the students with a special congratulatory message — and the event finished with a light supper, including ANZAC biscuits and peppermint slices. †

## One step away for Mary

Catholics Australia-wide are rejoicing in the decision by Pope Benedict XVI to canonise Mary MacKillop.

The founder of the Sisters of St Joseph will be canonised in a ceremony at the Vatican on 17 October. Mary MacKillop, who was born in Melbourne, established her first school in the tiny South Australian town of Penola in 1866. She died in Sydney in 1909.

The Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Stephen Elder, said the decision was a tribute to her courage and determination.

## School is the word

John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John had their heads in the clouds in the final scene of *Grease* when their car unexpectedly flew into the air.

But, unlike the characters in this popular 1970s musical, the first day Preps at St James Primary School in Vermont including three sets of twins, had their feet firmly on the ground.

With teachers Louise Carty and Bernadette Bowman providing a gentle push, Alice and Matthew, Justin and Brad and Mitchell and Lewis had to settle for a ride in a *Grease* look-a-like car that was used for the 2009 school musical.

While the wheels never left the bitumen, principal Andrew Mullaly said a play in the car and the fun and excitement of making new friends helped alleviate any first day nerves.

The St James youngsters joined more than 191,000 students who are attending a Catholic school in Victoria this year, including about 14,000 Preps.

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has two new primary schools in 2010: St Francis de Sales in Lynbrook and St Lawrence Primary School, Derrimut. Simonds Catholic College, West Melbourne, has opened a new Year 11 and 12 campus in North Fitzroy. †



"Mary MacKillop was a tireless worker and supporter of the poor and underprivileged and countless generations have benefited from her legacy," said Mr Elder.

"She has left an indelible mark on Catholic education in Victoria, and indeed Australia, and her elevation to sainthood acknowledges all that she achieved in her lifetime."

Thousands of Australian Catholic lay and religious are expected in Rome for the ceremony at the end of the year. †

# Fair outcome



#### Image right

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, the Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder (far left) and the General Manager of the Catholic Development Fund, John Hurren, with (from left) Angela, Glen, Georgia and Lachlan.  
Photo courtesy Elizabeth Callahan.

#### Further Information

More information about the CDF can be obtained from:  
[www.melbcdf.com.au](http://www.melbcdf.com.au)

One of the recipients of the Father Wall Bursary Achievement Leadership Awards established a 'fair trade' café while another winning student has a strong interest in Indigenous issues.

In addition to the café, Angela from Catholic Regional College (CRC), St Albans, also established a relationship between CRC and a school in East Timor. Other winners to be announced in December were Georgia from Avila College, Mount Waverley; Glen from St Joseph's College, Geelong; and Lachlan, John Paul College, Frankston.

Named after Father James Wall who established the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), the four Year 10 students are active in community service and social justice initiatives and school leadership programs.

Glen organised a busker's day to raise money and awareness of St Joseph's sister school in Africa and tutors students from war and poverty-ravaged countries. Lachlan raised money for the underprivileged in South America through a stamp collection drive and Georgia is involved in activities to raise awareness of Indigenous communities.

The bursaries, which are valued at \$2,500, will assist with school fees and other expenses incurred in the students' final years of schooling.

Father Wall's commitment, dedication and faith resulted in the establishment of the CDF which since the 1950s has assisted hundreds of Catholic schools with a range of financial products and services. The bursary was established by the CDF after the death of Father Wall in 2002.



## Website re-launched

The Yarra Healing website that was originally unveiled 10 years ago was re-launched in November.

Yarra Healing aims to advance the movement towards reconciliation with Indigenous Australians by introducing Catholic teachers and students to the greater Melbourne area through the voices of its original five Indigenous groups, the Kulin Nation.

In terms of reconciliation, Pope John Paul II said during his Australian visit in 1986, "The Church of Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you, the Indigenous peoples of Australia have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others".

Later in 1998, the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) launched a statement entitled, *Educating for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation: A New Partnership with Indigenous Peoples of Australia*, that articulates a vision for reconciliation.

Another major development was Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2008 apology, acknowledging the Indigenous peoples as one of the oldest continuing cultures in human history and reflecting on their past mistreatment.

The Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder, who re-launched the website, said the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) would continue to support the spirit of reconciliation.

"This has been achieved across a broad range of initiatives, including the development of the Yarra Healing website and the Reconciliation Gayip at Rod Laver Arena in 2000. Around 13,000 Catholic school students from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne heard the stories of Melbourne's Aboriginal peoples, which was the Archdiocese's major celebration for the Centenary of Federation.

"The Yarra Healing website continues to be an expression of the Catholic sector's commitment to support schools in implementing Indigenous studies, as a key element of educating for understanding, acceptance and true reconciliation," said Mr Elder. ✝

# Outback education



**Image top to bottom**  
The Avila College group on  
their way to Santa Teresa.

Chloe and friend.

*Photos courtesy Avila College.*

The highly acclaimed movie, *Sampson and Delilah*, was a stark reminder to many of the difficulties faced by Australia's Indigenous peoples, especially in the outback.

**M**any Catholic school students are involved in fundraising efforts and some even travel to remote locations to work in Aboriginal communities — Avila College students among them.

Santa Teresa, two hours drive from Alice Springs, was the destination in 2009 for a small group from the Mount Waverley school. Ten girls and three teachers, including principal Liz Gleeson, travelled by four-wheel drive along the red, dusty road to spend time with the local community.

There was no lack of chores: tutoring the children in vocabulary and reading; cooking, preparing and delivering meals on wheels for the elderly; being part of the early morning bus run to collect children for school, preparing breakfast and lunch and minding young children in the crèche.

Year 10 students Georgia and Amy say the trip was a real education. "Helping a Year 10 class of seven students with a learning standard of Grade 5, truly opened our eyes to the privileges we have at Avila and the contrasting level of wealth in our own country.

"Other experiences which opened our eyes were seeing first-hand, 15 people living in a three-bedroom house and one tiny community store to provide for the entire town."

But there were plenty of positives. "We also had the chance to experience the enriching culture and traditions of this wonderful community. At the Spirituality and Healing Centre, we participated in a smoking ceremony which cleansed our bodies and hearts. We spent time in and went to Mass in the humble white church."

Fellow students Meera and Tenille concur." The community, though faced with many hardships, was positive and happy and warmly welcomed us. Farewelling everyone at Santa Teresa was more difficult than we expected, as we were leaving people who had changed our outlook and position in the world.

"We were very happy to be able to present the principal of Santa Teresa with a cheque for \$1,000, on behalf of all the Avila Year 10 students, who contributed generously to our chocolate fundraising effort."



# Parent Seminar Series 2010

A program for parents, carers and guardians of students in Catholic primary and secondary schools.

## Raising Mighty Boys

Boys Development/Boys and Discipline/Boys and Learning

Presenter: MICHAEL GROSE

Raising boys is still a hot topic in Australia and other parts of the world. Parents who do best raising their boys, know and appreciate what makes their sons tick. They know that boys develop differently, learn differently, think differently and behave differently than girls. They also adapt their parenting to suit the individual needs of their sons.

This seminar will provide a better understanding of the needs of boys so you can adapt your parenting. Parenting boys is a broad topic and not everything will be covered, but you will get the essential information and lots of strategies and some reassurance (that you are on track) to help you raise your boys into fine men.

Seminar time	
12 May	7pm–9pm St Margaret Mary's, Brunswick North
25 May	Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Wyndham Vale
11 August	St Anthony's, Glen Huntly
18 August	St Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North
31 August	Sacred Heart, Kyneton

## Sugar and Spice

Understanding Girls

Presenter: RHONDA BRISCOE

What are little girls made of 'Sugar and Spice and all things nice' says the rhyme, but if the sugar is the sweet side, then the spice side is most likely hot chilli! For girls, the journey of growing up is filled with the turmoil of words imagined but not directly spoken, of rampaging thoughts and volatile feelings, of friendships in pairs or in groups and often, of conflict most cruel.

Understanding girls requires that parents be patient with their daughter who may be the essence of sugary syrup one moment but just as quickly turn into hot chilli pepper the next.

So how do we help girls grow up? Rhonda Briscoe was the creator of the first specific girls anti-bullying program in Australia (M power Girls). Her workshop is based on her years of working with girls, teachers and parents addressing girls' issues.

Seminar time	
22 April	7pm–9pm St Mary's, Williamstown
6 May	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
11 May	Marian College, Sunshine West
18 May	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ringwood
8 June	St Columba's, Essendon
17 June	Sacred Heart College, Newtown
4 August	St Mary's, Thornbury



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All workshops are informative and enjoyable and presenters are qualified and expert in their field.

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## Emotional Intelligence

'Always look on the bright side of life'

Presenters: CATHY O'BRIEN, MICHELLE MILLER and ANNA RICCIARDELLO

Emotional intelligence is a vital component of leading a fulfilling life.

Do you know what EQ is? How is it different from IQ? Emotional intelligence enables young people to make the links between how they feel and how they function in the world. It covers the skills of self knowledge and self management and knowing how to relate well to others. Resilience is a connected area, that of being able to bounce back from difficulties.

How can you help your children to know themselves and to be resilient so that they may meet life's challenges?

Attend this workshop and discuss these important aspects of your child's development and learn about some ways to assist them.

Seminar time	7pm–9pm
17 March	Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell
20 April	St Mark's, Fawkner
5 May	St Augustine's, Keilor

## Adolescent Issues

Drugs, Alcohol, Partying & Peer Pressure

Presenter: CATH BEHAN

Adolescence is a period of transition, it is a time when young people begin changing from a child to an adult. This doesn't happen overnight but over several years.

Parents of adolescents may also have concerns about their child during this period. Common concerns related to the adolescent's behaviour include risk – taking behaviour, mood swings, drug experimentation, rebelliousness, wasting time and problems at school. Communication between family members can help make this transition a much less stressful period.

In this seminar, adolescent issues will be explored, and strategies will be examined to keep young people safe and connected to their families.

Seminar time	7pm–9pm
28 April	St Aloysius College, North Melbourne
19 May	Whitefriar's College, Donvale
26 May	Padua College, Mornington
6 September	Salesian College, Chadstone

## Internet Safety

Dealing with cyber bullying

Presenter: SUSAN McLEAN

The explosion of new technology has seen a dramatic rise in the negative impact of cyber technology. The issues of cyber bullying, harassment and stalking are emerging as major issues confronting the safety and wellbeing of young people and the wider community.

*This seminar will cover a number of areas, including:*

- Popular sites for youth, including MSN instant messaging, social networking sites such as My Space and Face Book, virtual chat rooms such as Club between an 'on-line friend' and a 'stranger'.
- Misuse of mobile telephones, email, MSN, blogs, webcam etc. including legal consequences.
- Potential dangers and safety tips – how to assist children in your care to stay safe online.

Seminar time	7pm–9pm
21 April	Holy Rosary, Kensington
23 June	Salesian College, Chadstone

## Parents and Children Sharing the Journey

Presenters: CONSTANCE JENKIN and MARIKA MILES

This seminar is aimed at parents with a Year 6 child: to assist them to help their child succeed at school and in life. Explore strategies to venture out with confidence to meet the challenges of adolescent years at school and enjoy family living. Create a foundation for resilience in the transition from primary to secondary school.

Seminar time	7pm–9pm
25 August	St Anthony's, Lara
8 September	St Michael's, North Melbourne

## Secrets of Raising Well Behaved Kids

How to say "no" to your child and how to get the cooperation you want without nagging, whining or bribing your kids

Presenter: MICHAEL GROSE

Discipline is easy if you have easy kids or they are in an easy stage of development. But getting cooperation from kids who are challenging, going through a 'difficult' stage or who have difficult temperaments is a real discipline challenge for many parents. Get it right and family and family life can be a breeze. Don't have a plan and parenting can be a constant struggle.

The good news is that discipline doesn't have to be a struggle. You can develop a consistent approach to managing kids' behaviour but you need to have a plan to follow. This seminar will help you develop a parenting plan that will help put you back in control and feel more confident and happier as a parent. It will help make family life enjoyable and easier for you as well as your kids.

*In the seminar you will learn:*

- How to get your kids to **cooperate** without telling them what to do.
- The secret to curing kids' **parent deafness**.
- The one word that **power hungry kids** do not want to hear you say and what to say instead.
- Why saying **No** to their requests is good for kids.
- How to be more **consistent** so your moods don't dictate your discipline.

Seminar time	7pm–9pm
24 August	Catholic Regional College, Caroline Springs
15 September	Sacred Heart, Kew
9 November	St Fidelis', Moreland
17 November	St Elizabeth's, Dandenong North 

### Registration and Further Information

Contact your school or Catholic Education Office Melbourne, Parent Seminar Series Coordinator, **Mrs Shirley O'Sullivan** on **9464 5225** or email [shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au)

All seminars cost \$10 per person

# Professional Learning for Members of School Boards in 2010

## Evening seminars and network meetings

The CEOM will again offer a range of opportunities in 2010 for members of Catholic school boards to improve their knowledge and skills and enhance their contributions to their children's school.

School board professional learning is important. The CEOM school board seminar program is relevant to new primary school board members as well as boards who have been together for a while. Boards may schedule attendance at one of the seminars in lieu of their usual board meeting.

Board chairs may be interested in joining a network. The primary and secondary board chair networks were established in 2008 and have an ongoing membership of between 12 and 20 members.

Details of each of these professional learning opportunities follow.

## The primary school board member

An excellent induction program for new board members and board chairs and a quick refresher for ongoing members of primary school boards. A flexible format that incorporates presentations, discussion and examination of case studies.

22 March	South Yarra
21 April	South Yarra
5 May	Ringwood
23 June	South Yarra
21 July	South Yarra

## Board Chair Network–Primary / Board Chair Network–Secondary

Network members meet once a term to discuss issues and share ideas. Some meetings may involve guest speakers and presentations from network members.

### Primary Network

23 February	South Yarra
24 May	South Yarra
13 July	South Yarra
4 November	South Yarra

### Secondary Network

4 March	South Yarra
20 May	South Yarra
14 July	Fitzroy
10 November	Epping

## Twilight Forums 2010

As a new initiative, the CEOM has scheduled two twilight forums to be held on 9 September and 7 October. These evening forums, to be held at the Treacy Conference Centre, Parkville, will focus on parent involvement in their Catholic school community. 

## Further Information

Details regarding the seminars and networks are available from the School Boards page of the CEOM website at [www.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au)

Board members interested in attending the seminars should seek their school principal's assistance to register online on the CEVN website <http://admin.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au>

For details on joining the Chair Networks, please contact **Patricia Palman** on 9267 0228 or email [schoolboards@ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:schoolboards@ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au)

## Further Information

For further details regarding the forums, please contact **Patricia Palman** on 9267 0228 or email [schoolboards@ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:schoolboards@ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au)

# Tribute

## to the founding Sisters



Image left to right  
School prefects, circa 1933.

Teacher Rowena Thomson with  
students Lauren, Genevieve  
and Cassandra.

Photos courtesy  
Our Lady of Mercy College.

Much can be fitted into the life and history of a school over 100 years. Enrolments fluctuate, classrooms are built and pulled down, and teachers and students come and go. Our Lady of Mercy College (OLMC) in Heidelberg is no exception.

The Sisters of Mercy was founded by Catherine McAuley, who established the order in Ireland in 1831. In 2010, the college is celebrating its centenary with a variety of functions, including staff reunions, dinners, concerts, community fairs, sports nights and art exhibitions.

Principal Julie Ryan said the 2010 celebrations would focus on the contribution of the Sisters and their foresight and dedication.

"Despite the many hardships of religious life and early 20th century living, and notwithstanding the meagre resources and facilities available to them, these remarkable women delivered a high quality education that was by all accounts extensive, enriching and rewarding for students," says Ms Ryan.

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Our initial centenary events will pay homage to the founding Sisters of Mercy and those who succeeded them. We enter into these celebrations with the highest measures of respect and admiration for their accomplishments.

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"Our initial centenary events will pay homage to the founding Sisters of Mercy and those who succeeded them. We enter into these celebrations with the highest measures of respect and admiration for their accomplishments.

"Fitting tribute will also be extended to the parents and parishioners of the Heidelberg community who over many decades made an immeasurable contribution to the school's growth and success. Their stories of fetes, fundraising, land purchases, working bees, family sports days, makeshift tuckshop arrangements, chauffeuring rosters for the Sisters and teaching the Sisters to drive will feature significantly in the centenary celebrations."

The OLMC story begins with Catherine McAuley and her followers whose special mission was to educate the poor, with a particular interest in the education of young women. The Sisters of Mercy came to Australia in 1846 and arrived in Fitzroy in 1857.



# 2010 events

## Centenary Reunion Weekend

27 March Centenary dinner.

28 March Centenary Mass at St John's at 1 pm followed by a reunion at OLMC.

## Staff Reunion

28 May A gathering will be held for all past and present staff members at the Old England Hotel.

## High Tea

25 July Afternoon tea will be held at OLMC to honour the contribution that the Sisters of Mercy have made to life at the college.

## Performing Arts Concert

19 August OLMC will present a wonderful night of entertainment from the Performing Arts students.

## Mercy Day

15 September The whole OLMC community will gather for a Centenary Mercy Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10 am.

## Community Fair

9 October

## Art Exhibition

October OLMC Art department will host an exhibition of current student work and achievements in the PAT building.

## Sports Award Night

19 November An evening to honour the sporting achievements of 2010 will be held in the Performing Arts Theatre.

### Further details

Available from **Marie Jenkins**  
(Centenary Coordinator)  
on **94592511** or email  
[mjenkins@olmcheidelberg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mjenkins@olmcheidelberg.catholic.edu.au)



However, it was not until January 1910 that five sisters arrived in Heidelberg, following a request from the local priest for the nuns to run a new convent. They began work in the primary school and a week later the first secondary classes for six students were held.

The school was initially governed by the Mother Superior but in 1956 the first principal, Sr Mercedes Hogan, was appointed.

In 1959, the last intake of preps was accepted and by 1966 Our Lady of Mercy College was a secondary school only. In 1962, the name was changed to Our Lady of Mercy College. In recent years the school has continued to expand both in enrolments and with the construction of new buildings. ✦

**Image top to bottom**  
Principal Julie Ryan.

Elizabeth, Amanda and Jenny.

Photos courtesy  
Our Lady of Mercy College.

# Catholic leaders *honoured*

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These principals have been inspirational to generations of young Catholic students and it is fitting they are being recognised in this manner.

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Retiring Catholic school principals and parish priests in the Archdiocese of Melbourne were acknowledged for their contribution to Catholic education at an end-of-year Mass and dinner.

Twelve principals and nine priests were recognised for their work in schools and parishes.

Eleven principals were also acknowledged by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, for their 20 years of service to Catholic education. The Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral was celebrated by Archbishop Hart who thanked all principals for their work in Catholic education.

The retiring priests were: Fr Lou Heriot, Rev Mgr John Murphy, Fr John Mullally, Fr Peter Robinson, Fr Allan Mithen, Fr Philip Gambin, Fr Joseph Browne, Fr Karmel Borg and Fr Michael Sheehy.

Retiring secondary principals were: Br Bill Firman FSC, De La Salle College, Malvern; John Fox, Sacre Coeur, Glen Iris; Rev Patrick Moroney OMI, Mazenod College, Mulgrave; and Vicki Myers, Clonard College, Geelong.

Retiring primary principals were: Bernie McHugh, Resurrection School, St Albans; Susan Regan, St Damian's School, Bundoora; Mary O'Donohue, Sacred Heart School, Preston; Mary Penny, Our Lady's School, Craigieburn; Anna Tilbrook, Sacred Heart, Croydon; James Wheelan, St Joseph's, Sorrento; Tracey Heenan, St Kevin's, Ormond; and Sister Lorraine Testa ASJM, St Bernadette's School, Sunshine North.

After the Mass, there was a celebratory dinner at the Park Hyatt for about 260 principals that included a year-in-review presentation, featuring highlights of the Catholic school year. Mazenod College principal, Rev Patrick Moroney, addressed the large gathering on behalf of the retiring principals.



The Director of Catholic Education, Stephen Elder, praised the principals for their leadership and service. "I would especially like to thank those principals retiring at the end of the year for their dedication and commitment over many years to Catholic education. These principals have been inspirational to generations of young Catholic students and it is fitting they are being recognised in this manner." +

**Image top to bottom**  
Retiring principals,  
Bernie McHugh and  
Susan Regan. Photo  
courtesy Derek Edwards.

# On a mission



James has never let his disabilities restrict his joy for life. The De La Salle College student has cerebral palsy but as the college's Director of Mission, Patrick Jurd explains, "James has a passion for life that is infectious. He is one of those people who enriches the lives of everyone connected with him."

It is that same passion that prompted James to organise a basketball charity match between staff and students. Only one catch! All participants had to play in a wheelchair.

James says Wheelchair Sports Victoria supplied the wheelchairs. "They have a program called Wheeltalk which creates awareness of spinal cord injuries and prevention.

"They brought out 14 chairs. Not everyone could play so we conducted a silent auction. Students had to bid for a chair to play (and) if they were the highest they got to play."

Able bodied basketball, says James, used to be his sport of choice. "I played for seven years in primary and secondary school but I gave up because I have cerebral palsy and the game was just getting too fast for me," he says.

"I turned to refereeing to stay involved in the sport. I missed basketball but I eventually got in a wheelchair and haven't got out since! Now I'm training with the Dandenong Rangers and hoping to get a game in the next couple of years."

The wheelchair basketball match was a big success with \$250 raised for Wheelchair Sports Victoria. ✦

#### Image above

James in action during the wheelchair basketball game. Photo courtesy De La Salle College.

## Lap of honour

The Literacy Assessment Project (LAP), developed by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) in collaboration with The University of Melbourne, has attracted the interest of a Vietnamese education delegation.

A group of Vietnamese educators recently visited St Peter Julian Eymard Primary School in Mooroolbark during its Australian visit to get a better idea of how the LAP is implemented, from a teacher and student perspective.

The LAP initiative has achieved great success in improving reading outcomes for students in Catholic schools. Prior to the school visit, the 22 educators attended a seminar presented by members of the CEOM literacy team project. St Peter Julian Eymard's principal, James Daly, explained how the LAP is implemented in schools.

The Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne hosted group members while they were in Melbourne.

In 2009, the Australian Research Council announced an \$860,000 linkage grant to continue research into the LAP's success. The research grant will try to determine if the improvement in literacy outcomes achieved in Catholic primary schools can be successfully replicated in other education systems, in other year levels, and in other subject areas. ✦



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By sponsoring a guide dog we are giving back to the wider community and helping vision impaired people.

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## MacKillop College award

MacKillop College, Werribee, has been highly commended in the Australian Awards for Teaching Excellence in the category 'Excellence by a School and its Community'. Principal Rory Kennedy accepted the prize from the deputy prime minister Julia Gillard on behalf of the school community. Mr Kennedy said the school's nomination involved a multi-faceted approach, incorporating a whole school achievement focus (curriculum development together with achievement and promotion); the Year 9 alternative campus; the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL); the new MacKillop College arrivals program; and the school's wellbeing program. Mr Kennedy said, "Every staff member has made an active and positive contribution to this award."

## Maggie and Jack

The story in the August issue of **Catholic Education Today** about Bridie, the Australian Shepherd at St Anne's Primary School, Seaford, prompted another Catholic school to write about its canny canine. St Brendan's Primary School, Somerville, has on loan from Guide Dogs Victoria, Maggie, a black Labrador. Deputy principal Michelle Bruitzman has responsibility for Maggie, taking her home each day and working with the Guide Dog instructors. She says St Brendan's introduced the program because a vision impaired student, Jack, attends the school and "by sponsoring a guide dog we are giving back to the wider community and helping vision impaired people". Ms Bruitzman says the program also raises awareness about people who have disabilities. Principal Corrie Hearn says, "It is great doing something for the community and we love having Maggie at our school." Maggie even has her own blog at: [www.maggiegdvg.blogspot.com](http://www.maggiegdvg.blogspot.com)



## New-look handbook

New re-designed copies of the parent handbook have been distributed to schools. Two separate booklets are available: *Faith in Your Child's Future: Parent Handbook for Victorian Catholic Primary Schools* and *Embracing the Fullness of Life: Parent Handbook for Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools*. The handbooks provide parents with general information about what Catholic schools can offer children. The publication is available on the websites of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au) (under Parents), the Catholic Education Office Melbourne [www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au) (under Parents), and the Victorian Catholic School Parent Body [www.vcspb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.vcspb.catholic.edu.au) (under Useful Links). These websites also have the publications in Arabic, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

**Image top to bottom**  
MacKillop College principal Rory Kennedy receives a Teaching Excellence Award from the deputy prime minister Julia Gillard. *Photo courtesy MacKillop College.*

Jack with Maggie. *Photo courtesy St Brendan's Primary School.*

# Around the Archdiocese



## Beautiful waste

Students and teachers at Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale, embarked on a different sort of project in 2009—to create a rangoli. A what, you may ask? A rangoli is an example of folk art that is common in southern India and used to celebrate special occasions, such as weddings or the Hindu festival of Diwali. Artist Lou Chamberlain says rangoli is traditionally made from finely ground powder to create a colourful pattern on the ground outside a home. “The design can be made from grains such as rice and lentils coloured with spices or natural dyes ... or even from flowers,” she says. The design was based on the seven pointed star that contains the school crest. The school’s rangoli used materials such as sand, grain and flowers and a collection of 40,000 plus plastic bottle tops and other disposable items. “The rangoli gave expression to connections across staff, students and our families and provided a special cross-section of our community,” says Ms Chamberlain.

## Chapel blessing

Padua College’s (Mornington campus) new chapel, St Francis of Assisi, was officially blessed at a special Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, in December. Padua principal Christopher Houlihan said, “It was a privilege to be involved in the project and bring to fruition a long-held goal of the college community. I was humbled to be present with students, families, board members and invited guests in opening a building that is visibly the very essence of what this Catholic school represents. As the Archbishop said in his homily, ‘a place for all to be in a closer relationship with God, and experience personally the presence of God’.”

## Tall poppies

A science program, Growing Tall Poppies, has won Santa Maria College, Northcote, \$100,000 through the Victorian Schools First Impact Awards. The project aims to bring Year 10 students, teachers, parents and community members together to improve student learning outcomes in science subjects. Students are required to work away from school in teams of six and report back to the school community on a particular science they have studied. The project is a partnership with Melbourne University Centre of Excellence in Coherent X-Ray Science and Akorn Education Services. It is supported by the NAB, the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) and Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).



**Image top to bottom**  
Courtney and Athena work on the rangoli. *Photo courtesy Star of the Sea College.*

Padua College’s new chapel. *Photo courtesy Padua College.*

Building the Future

AS  NE



Catholic Super and National Catholic Superannuation Fund are merging into one fund on March 31 2010.

The merged fund will continue its dedication to the Australian Catholic community with strong investments and personal attentive service.

The new fund will continue to be a low-fee, not-for-profit industry

super fund, that does not pay commissions, invests responsibly and provides unbiased financial advice to its members.

For more information about the merger of Catholic Super and National Catholic Superannuation Fund go to [www.merger.ncsf.csf.com.au](http://www.merger.ncsf.csf.com.au).

If you would prefer to telephone us call 1300 550 273 or 1300 655 002.

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