



# Clonard Chronicle

Edition 12 6th August 2010

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May we remember  
in our humanity  
we are part of a world family.  
Tolerance  
noting differences  
while remaining peaceful.  
Recognizing that each  
has the right  
to determine their reality.  
Tolerance  
allowing us to remain calm  
when we think others should act differently.  
Tolerance breeding happiness  
as we take tender insights  
into living.  
Tolerance  
blossoming in peace, joy, happiness, love.  
Acceptance in love by practicing love.

*Susan Helene Kramer*

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Clonard College,

At the end of last week, we hosted the Parent/Teacher/Student interviews for students who study a Unit 3 & 4 subject. This was an opportunity to attain some valuable feedback from teachers regarding progress thus far and advice on what is needed to maximise results in the remaining studies.

On Monday the VCE mid year results were distributed for the subjects of Accounting, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology and Studio Art. Congratulations to all students for their efforts thus far in these subjects. We of course encourage a continuation of these efforts over the remainder of the year. I would also like to acknowledge the teachers who have worked with the students in these subjects for their dedication and tireless work in preparing the students for their examinations.

### **CLOGS (Catholic Leaders of Geelong Schools)**

Each year, CLOGS choose an international, a national and a local focus to raise funds and awareness of. In the wake of the tragedies of teen suicide across many schools in Geelong last year, the members of CLOGS have decided that they would like our local focus to be on teenage depression and suicide prevention. The 'upbeat' picnic is an idea that would hopefully give this issue much needed awareness and aim at providing information to empower young people to speak up about issues they may be experiencing and seek support. The picnic will be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> (period 5 & 6) and involve Years 9 & 10 students from the four Catholic Secondary Colleges in the Geelong region. The event will be held at Sacred Heart. Permission notes and further notifications regarding this event will be distributed to students' families.

### **Staff Professional Learning Day**

A reminder to all families that this coming Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, is a Staff Professional Learning Day and therefore no students are required at school on this day.

### **Yr 12 RE Guest Speaker**

On Monday of this week, the Year 12 students studying Ethics were addressed by a guest speaker, Sherene Hassan. Sherene is the vice-president of the Islamic Council of Victoria. She is heavily involved in interfaith dialogue and is one of the media spokespeople for the Islamic Council of Victoria. Sherene spoke to the students on a range of topics relating to the Islamic faith. Most importantly she spoke about the need for tolerance in Australia regarding religious freedom. As a country, we pride ourselves on the many freedoms that are afforded all citizens. It is timely that we are reminded of the need to respect one's right to be part of a faith and the many teachings and traditions that make up this faith. The reflection at the start of this newsletter reminds us of the need to be tolerant of those people who are different or who practice a faith other than our own.

### **Mary MacKillop Canonisation**

Attached to this newsletter, you will find an envelope courtesy of the Sisters of St. Joseph asking for assistance with the significant costs associated with the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop in Rome in October. Obviously the preparation and hosting of such an event entails great cost and any assistance that you are able to provide is greatly appreciated.

### **Federal Election**

Also contained within this newsletter are some very important statements regarding the upcoming Federal election on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The first is a document from the National Catholic Education Commission outlining the six commitments sought from Catholic Schools from the political parties.

As you may be aware, the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard has commenced a review into the funding of schools. With no firm guarantee from either the Prime Minister or the Education Minister, Mr. Crean, that the current funding levels would be maintained, there is a real danger that the funding for Catholic Schools will decrease.

Comments on school funding by the Education Minister were reported in the Weekend Australian on Saturday and can be found through the following link: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/creans-funding-warning-to-private-schools/story-fn59niix-1225899244184>

Mr. Crean has worked productively with Catholic education in the past. However his comments to date do not provide certainty that government funding for Catholic schools will continue at current levels and increase to keep pace with government school costs. The Shadow Minister for Education Christopher Pyne also made comments on education funding that have been reported in the Age, and can be found through the following link: <http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/labor-to-cut-nongovt-school-funds-pyne-20100801-11160.html>

Mr Pyne's comments give certainty that recurrent funding for Catholic schools will continue at current levels with increases to

keep pace with government school costs until 2016. The Greens' education policy is available via the following link: <http://greens.org.au/policies/care-for-people/education>  
The Greens' policy is to return a significant part of Catholic school funding to 2003 levels. This would mean a significant drop in government funding for Catholic schools. Schools would have no choice but to respond to this drop in funding.

The facts of Catholic school funding are clear:

- Catholic schools students in Victoria receive 37% less total government funding than students in government schools.
- Catholic schools stretch every dollar further - the average spending per student by Catholic schools is 93% of the cost of education in a government school.
- With these resources, and students from every walk of life, Catholic education has strong reasons to keep government funding at current levels in real terms with increases to keep pace with education costs. If funding is reduced or frozen we will be faced with tough decisions on fees and programs in Catholic schools.

Please consider this information when making your decision this month.

**STOP PRESS!**

After much effort by Parish Priests, Principals, staff and parents on the issue of funding certainty and sustainability we have now achieved bi-partisan consensus from the Liberal/National and Labor parties until 2013.

Further details will follow in the next edition of the Clonard Chronicle

**Bereavements**

Clonard College extends its sympathy to staff member, Mr Allister Cox, on the recent passing of his mother, Margaret Cox. We also extend our sympathy to Kiah Morrison (7Y) and her family on the recent passing of her grandfather.

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> of August	Staff Professional Learning Day Stewardship Council Meeting (5.15pm)
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> of August	Arts Week Commences Yr 10 Interviews Commence
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> of August	Junior DAV Debating Training
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> of August	Yr 7-10 Vic Netball Championships
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> of August	Science Week Commences
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> of August	Yr 9-10 "UPBEAT" Festival at SHC (Pd 5&6)
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> of August	Soccer Div. 3

Best Wishes



Damian McKew  
Principal

**Clonard College and St Joseph's College  
TRIVIA NIGHT  
& SILENT AUCTION  
Friday 27th August 2010  
7pm for a 7.30 start in the SJC Gym  
\$10 per person BYO drinks and nibbles  
Fundraiser for World Challenge Vietnam and  
Cambodia Trip 2010**

**Arts Week is nigh!**

Next week is Arts Week at Clonard and there are plenty of exciting activities planned for students and their families alike. There will be special performances by our senior Clonard musicians and the school choir at lunchtimes as well as an opportunity for Open Mic performances on Friday. The special feature of the week is Arts Arvo on Wednesday. Students in Years 7-10 will participate in an Arts workshop for the afternoon with either visiting artists or Clonard artists. Some of the workshops that will run include belly dancing, jewellery making, street art and cake decorating. On Wednesday night, there will be an Arts evening, where Clonard families and members of the public can come to the Hall to see some of the Visual Art work produced so far this year, while they listen to Clonard musicians and partake in some refreshments. The evening will be capped off by a performance by the Geelong Repertory Theatre Company of the one-act play, *The Bald Prima Donna* in the Kildare Theatre.

We would love to see you and your family on Wednesday evening and celebrate the Arts at Clonard with you!

**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

The St Vincent de Paul Society in this region continues to assist families and individuals through programs that support and encourage.

Come and See. Wednesday 1st September 7.30pm

Hibernain Hall, Little Myers Street, Geelong



# SUSTAINING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA INTO THE FUTURE

## ELECTION 2010 COMMITMENTS SOUGHT FROM POLITICAL PARTIES

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PRIOR TO THE 2010 FEDERAL ELECTION, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND SYSTEMS ARE SEEKING COMMITMENTS FROM THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO ENSURE THAT CATHOLIC EDUCATION WILL BE SUSTAINABLE INTO THE FUTURE.

- 1. Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation.**

Catholic schools and systems are a large and genuinely national enterprise, educating one in five Australian children. They therefore require a solid basis for funding certainty - a direct relationship through Commonwealth legislation.
- 2. Catholic schools and systems from 2013 have, at the very least, access to the same funds, indexed to government school costs, as currently available.**

To allow schools and school systems to survive, general recurrent and targeted program funds for Catholic schools and systems in 2013 must be at least the same level of funds, indexed, as currently allocated.
- 3. Catholic systems have the capacity to distribute funds to schools according to need.**

Catholic systems must be able to retain their well-established structures to allocate funds in a flexible, responsive and transparent manner to best meet the needs of schools and students.
- 4. Funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism, to ensure that Catholic schools and systems are able to meet the rising costs of education.**

Indexation must be linked to government school recurrent costs via an index that measures rising costs and expectations.
- 5. Funding for students with disabilities must be increased towards parity with government school funding.**

The number of children with a disability enrolled at Catholic schools is rising substantially. Increased funding is required to ensure that these students are able to be educated to an excellent standard with appropriate dignity and respect.
- 6. Capital funding should be increased for educationally disadvantaged communities and areas of population growth.**

Catholic schools and systems are committed to serving students from educationally disadvantaged communities and from fast-growing communities, and so seek increased capital funding to provide facilities and resources in these areas.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

Clonard is currently undergoing a curriculum and RE review. The process involves us reviewing our curriculum and practices in these areas, making recommendations for further development and having these validated by a visiting panel. An important part of this process is to seek feedback from students and parents. To do this we are offering a parent forum to give you the chance to have your say and help frame the recommendations. We hope many of you can attend. More details in coming weeks. There are plans for an online survey too- look out for it!

**Parent Forum @ Clonard**

**How are we going teaching RE and the general curriculum?**

**When? Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**

**Where? Kildare Theatre, Clonard College**

**Come along and have your say.**

**CLONARD COLLEGE 20  
YEAR REUNION  
Class of 1985-1990**



**CLONARD COLLEGE**

**Date**

Saturday 16 October 2010

**Venue**

Belmont Hotel  
77 High Street  
Belmont VIC 3216

**Time**

From 4.00pm to 10.00pm

Drinks at Bar Prices

**RSVP**

Antoinette  
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