Veritas No 15, 17 October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer, Students & Friends of San Clemente

There was much excitement at the conclusion of our recent inservice day when Melissa Grant (One and Three Creative Communications) officially launched our new website. I encourage parents and friends of San Clemente to visit and explore our new, professional and engaging website.

The new look site has considerably more content and is much easier to navigate. The content is supported by current and attractive photos and a dynamic ‘news’ section. The content has detailed information on Enrolments, Curriculum, Student Wellbeing, Community, General Information, News and Photos.

Such an innovation has not been possible without a great deal of work. I take this opportunity to thank Melissa Grant for her diligence, perseverance and creativity. At the school level a big thank you to Scott Donohoe (Assistant Principal), Jan Harte (Librarian) and Kristy Huber for their dedication in seeing this dream come to fruition.

Last week the various media outlets inundated the airwaves and print with a significant focus on ‘Mental Health Week’. It was of particular interest to see the challenge of ‘Building Resilience’ in our young people attracting so much attention.

Here are some thoughts about the importance of Resilience in our young people:

Lucius Seneca was Rome’s leading intellectual figure in the mid 1st Century AD. Amongst other writings, he produced 125 philosophical moral treatises which influenced Western thinking for many centuries. Somewhere amongst his writing is the following statement, which is probably within the scope of our abilities to understand: “Difficulties strengthen the mind as well as labour does the body”.

One of the goals of every parent is to be able to witness the coming to maturity of their children, that time when they are able to take up their own lives as independent individuals. Along the journey to this end, parents have much temptation to overcome to prevent too much interference in the decision-making process of their children.

Parenting is somewhat like coaching: An athlete relies on the coach to understand what the athlete wants to achieve. The coach uses his experience, learning and expertise to guide the athlete; he provides the correct equipment, suggests a suitable diet and lays out the rules for training. Along the way he praises effort, suggests adjustment to style and amount of training, and gives heaps of encouragement. However, the coach does not do the training nor does he feel the actual pain associated with it. But he can be there to share the disappointments and celebrate the successes.

Sometimes, as parents, we can forget that our children own their lives as much as we do and that our role is one of guidance not possession. This can be demanding on our patience, for we want only the best for our children and on occasion we might wonder if this is what they want for themselves. However, as the Irish say: “You have to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.”

“God, my Father in heaven, I turn to You for inspiration. Your Son, Jesus, chose His way of life which finally led to Calvary. May I, like You, forever love my children. Amen

Peace and Best Wishes,

Tony Kelly, Principal

Follow this link to our website (Information) to read the latest Parent News from the Federation of Parents & Friends
Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care) writes

Welcome to our final term of 2014! While this term will once again prove to be a very eventful one, including Year 9 Leadership Days, examinations and Year 10 Awareness Week and Graduation to name a few, we are also busily preparing in advance for next year. We are now in a position to announce our 2015 Year Coordinators which are as follows:

- Year 7: Mr Nathan Beckett
- Year 8: Ms Meredith Cram
- Year 9: Mrs Kate Tolffree
- Year 10: Mr Patrick Doyle

This structure allows for continuity of care, as all Coordinators will remain with their current year groups, with the exception of Year 10. They have developed a very strong rapport with their cohorts and I have been particularly impressed with their knowledge and care of the individual. Mr Daniel McCloghry will extend his leave from the position for 2015 and Mrs Tolffree has been on leave and she will return during Week 4 of this term. I would like to thank Mrs Bronwyn Denham who has been the Acting Year 8 Coordinator for the enthusiastic, thorough and professional way in which she has embraced the role.

Day One of this term was a Staff Development Day centred on student wellbeing. The day was based at Merewether Surfhouse and involved two guest speakers, Danielle Miller (Enlighten Education - http://www.enlighteneducation.com/) followed by Craig Moore (Newcastle psychologist). Danielle has worked with our girls in the past and we found her to be so engaging and inspiring that we invited her to our staff day. Craig addressed some parents in the diocese last year on resilience and with such positive feedback, we felt our staff would also benefit from his knowledge. Both presentations were of the highest quality, providing essential information that our staff can apply in caring for our students. During the afternoon, our Pastoral Care Team delivered a workshop on student wellbeing at San Clemente, highlighting our new Positive Education framework which will be implemented from next year with Stage 4 and then rolled out with Stage 5 in 2016-17.

I was able to touch on this new program in the final newsletter of last term. Essentially, Positive Education is education for both traditional skills and for happiness. It focuses on what is right with individuals rather than what is wrong, thus assists people in learning what their strengths are and how they can better use them in their lives. Furthermore, as stated by psychologist Tarnya Davis in the Newcastle Herald recently, “Happiness should not be our (only) goal; instead we should work towards lasting well-being”. This is only really scratching the surface with the wellbeing framework and we will endeavour to inform you more of its benefits as time passes.

During the year, our Pastoral Care Team has been regularly discussing the wellbeing of our students, how we can improve it and what constitutes an effective school wellbeing framework. The team also met during last holidays to extensively discuss our vision for student wellbeing at the school. We have liaised with staff in seeking their feedback and this ultimately led to our decision to implement Positive Education at our school (PosED@SCM), which is based on the principles of Positive Psychology. There is no denying the high prevalence of youth depression and anxiety in today’s world and schools provide an excellent platform to address this through a well-considered, meaningful and engaging wellbeing framework. I recently read an interesting article on positive education which states:

“The high prevalence worldwide of depression among young people, the small rise in life satisfaction, and the synergy between learning and positive emotion all argue that the skills for happiness should be taught in school. There is substantial evidence from well-controlled studies that skills that increase resilience, positive emotion, engagement and meaning can be taught to schoolchildren.” *(Seligman, Ernst, Gillham, Reivich & Linkins, 2009, p. 293)*

The article elaborates later in saying that “More well-being is synergistic with better learning” (p. 294).

Essentially, happy students who are more aware of their strengths and lead meaningful lives will be more engaged with their learning.

During Week 4, our 2015 Years 7 and 8 Pastoral Care Teams will be engaging in some Positive Education training from an experienced facilitator, learning more about its concepts and philosophy as well as importantly, its practical application at a school level. We are looking forward to introducing the framework to our school and the significant benefits it can have on the wellbeing of our students and community.


Mr Scott Donohoe, Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care

Assistant Principal—Curriculum Report

Thanks to those parents and carers who took the opportunity to meet with teachers on the recent Parent-Teacher day. These days provide a useful chance for exchange of information. The meetings are really about how the school can work with parents to provide better outcomes for their children. Although staff found it a positive day, there was some disappointment with attendance being a bit lower than we hoped for. Executive will be reviewing the days, including with respect to timing both within the year and the days themselves.

San Clemente has a staff which is always looking for ways to improve things for students. During this year a staff committee has operated with a view to looking at ways in which we can improve educational outcomes for students. Lack of engagement of students is a significant problem throughout schools and San Clemente is no exception. Among other things, this can be related to the digital world that students live in but schools have not completely caught up to. Some teachers, perhaps with greater confidence in their skills, have been successful in taking greater advantage of the opportunities that technology offers. The task of the committee is to lead school wide change in the most appropriate ways of teaching for the 21st Century.

During the last week significant numbers of teachers have been involved in immersion visits to two Sydney schools which are at the forefront of changes in teaching and learning. These two visits provided exciting pictures of possibilities for change at San Clemente in the future. Parramatta Marist High has implemented Project Based Learning in Years 7-10 in all subjects. In this scheme, students work in groups to develop solutions to a real world problem which is related to the curriculum. The problem could range from redesigning a vegetable garden to suggesting effective solutions to world problems. A major characteristic is that they are ‘non-Googleable’.

The real strengths of this sort of scheme are that students are creating much of their own learning, they are strongly engaged, and are developing skills of collaboration, creativity and problem solving. Parramatta Marist reports that their HSC results
have improved since they implemented this type of student learning.

For teachers, such a teaching and learning model, if introduced, would require a change in role from being the director of most of what students do, to being a facilitator of the students’ own work. Much planning and strengthening of teachers’ skills are required before introduction. Poor implementation could be worse than no change at all.

That is what the future holds. What about now? Term 4 has a lot of assessment, in many cases as exams. Students need to work steadily, and not leave it until the last moment. Find out from your teacher what will be in tasks so you can work towards them. Ask for revision work, make your own revision notes. Steady work will win the race!

Mr Keiran Williamson, Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Year 10 News

“Never let the things you want, forget the things you have”

This week during our Year 10 meeting I spoke to the group about the importance of GRATITUDE. Gratitude: thankfulness, gratefulness, or appreciation is a feeling or attitude in acknowledgment of a benefit that one has received or will receive. Currently the focus for many year 10 students, parents and their teachers is naturally pointed at what lies ahead. “What are you doing next year?” “Have you thought about University?” “What type of apprenticeship are you looking at?” etc etc. With our thoughts looking too far into the future it is very easy to lose focus and appreciation for what is happening right now in our lives. No doubt all year 10 students must make careful consideration for what lies ahead of them in 2015 and beyond, but the remaining days, weeks and months here at San Clemente are still to be enjoyed. Teachers remain focused on providing engaging lessons and a wide variety of experiences for the remainder of 2014. (NB: See 60s Day next week) This also goes hand in hand with my motto for Year 10 – No Regrets. Far too often I hear from ex-students who say how much they miss SCM, how they wished they had done a few things differently or could take some of that time back. Perhaps the nature of a 7-10 school leads to students focused more on the future, rather than Term 4. Showing gratitude and appreciation is not to be taken for granted and can lead to a more fulfilling and happy life. A recent study from Penn State University in the US has shown writing daily gratitude journals for 3 weeks leads to increased optimism about one’s life, longer and more refreshing sleep, greater positive emotions, and feeling more connected to others. Martin Seligman, co-founder of the Positive Psychology movement and has become world renowned for his ground breaking work says “When we take time to notice the things that go right - it means we’re getting a lot of little rewards throughout the day. And we are feeling happy.”

For more information on upcoming events in Year 10 please read the letters that went home with students this week. If you have any questions in regard to this please contact me at nathan.beckett@mn.catholic.edu.au

Dates to Remember:
Yearly Exams: Nov 10-13 Work Experience: Nov 17-21
Awareness Week: Nov 26-Dec 8 Graduation: Dec 9
Shout Out #1: GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! A Gold award this week to an outstanding and enthusiastic Year 10 Student. Congratulations to Jean Simpson on this well deserved recognition. Jean participates in all areas of school life with a huge smile on her face and on behalf of Year 10 we say - Well Done!

Shout Out #2: The Breakfast club program at Waratah West public school continues to run through the efforts of volunteer staff and students. This week we needed students at the last minute so thanks to Year 10 girls Taylor Stirling and Tenille Doolan.

Nathan Beckett, Year 10 Coordinator

Year 7 News

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you and your family enjoyed a relaxing break and are ready to begin the final term for Year 7. It is already shaping up to be an exciting and busy time.

At our Year Meeting this week I discussed a range of issues with the students. Every term I set a new goal for Year 7 to strive towards. This term we are focusing on thinking before we act or speak, ensuring that we reflect on the possible implications of our words and actions and the effect that these have on our relationships. We really want to foster positive connections, particularly with our peers, and this simple technique is just one way to do so.

Next Monday 20th October, Year 7 will be travelling to the Hunter Valley Zoo for a fun and informative day. Notes went home this week. If you have any questions about this please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

The Uniform Challenge will continue this term. Pastoral Care Group Teachers and myself will continue to monitor the standard of uniform for Year 7. Congratulations to 7 Aquinas for being our Term 3 winners! They will be treated to a hot chip lunch next week. Unfortunately, the start of the term has seen a few items crop in that are not in the school’s Uniform Policy; black socks, wearing skate shoes with the academic uniform, jewellery and nail polish. Please ensure your son or daughter wears the correct uniform. If there are any extenuating circumstances please send them to school with a note.

This week many students received Bronze and Silver Awards. It is great to see so many students being recognised for their hard work and effort in a range of areas. Keep up the great work! I know Year 7 can achieve a few Gold Awards before the end of the year.

I am currently reading a book by leading Australian psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg titled, ‘Strictly Parenting’. In this book one of the key ideas Carr-Gregg talks about is the importance of setting boundaries and limits for teenagers. This relates to all aspects of their life from bed times, technology use, behaviour and homework, just to name a few. Working with Year 7, it is evident that they do respect and actually like boundaries. As caregivers it is our job to set these and then follow through on the harder part of the job in ensuring they are adhered to.

Lastly, I am very excited and honoured to have been given the opportunity to continue working with Year 7 and follow them into Year 8 as their Year Coordinator. Pastoral Care Group Teachers will also continue with their classes into Year 8. It is wonderful that the relationship and connections established this year will only be further enhanced in 2015.

Year 7 Quiz: What are Year 7 focussing on this term?
The first person to find Miss Cram on the playground will receive a prize.

If you have any questions or queries please email on meredith.cram@mn.catholic.edu.au or call on 40147300.

Meredith Cram, Year 7 Coordinator

Year 7 Form Mass
Friday 31st of October, 9.15am
St Columban’s Church, Church Street, Mayfield
Family and friends are invited to attend
Year 9 Matters

On Tuesday at the Year 9 year meeting I read to Year 9 a short reflection about a legendary Indian tribe who occupied the prairies of America. The area had been in drought for many years and most tribes were struggling to survive, except for one tribe. All the tribes would perform rain dances in an attempt to open the heavens. Some tribes would dance for a few hours at a time, others would dance all day whilst some even danced for a few days, then they gave up as their attempts failed to bring rain. Word had spread amongst the chiefs that one tribe in the area could make it rain. So all the chiefs in the area gathered and decided to search for the legendary tribe who could make it rain. When they found the tribe they approached the chief and asked him to share the secrets of his tribe. The chief replied, "There are no secrets, we continue to dance until it rains, it is that simple".

I challenged each student in Year 9 to belong to the legendary tribe. If you are attentive and consistently work hard in class and at home with an emphasis on effort and belief and never give up, academic performance will improve. If you are content with mediocrity and just getting by, that is all you will achieve.

Whilst on the topic of academic performance and achievement, a reminder that Semester Two Examinations for Year 9 commence on Monday 17th November. Year 9 will be provided with their examination timetable next week. I will also email a copy to parents which can be attached to the fridge at home. Students will also be receiving from their classroom teachers examination notifications which will provide information about specific areas and topics to focus on for each examination. Students should be starting to revise their class notes now and design a regular and achievable study timetable as the examinations are only four weeks away.

Year 9 also received an information/permission note on Wednesday explaining the community/leadership days they will be involved in next Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October. The theme for the community days is – “You Get What You Give!” It will focus on:

- Community Building
- Fostering positive Leadership
- Building stronger relationships
- Encouraging effective communication
- Having fun

The aim of the program is to develop leadership potential in all our Year 9 students. This will be an excellent opportunity for the year group to gather together for two days of community building with an emphasis on developing communication and team work and to commence the leadership process to elect school leaders for 2015. Please ensure that the permission note for the community days is returned to school by Monday 20th October.

A reminder to Year 9 and parents, if you have any concerns at all please contact me at school or at the following email address; patrick.doyle@mn.catholic.edu.au

A final thought Year 9,
"Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right."

Patrick Doyle, Year 9 Coordinator

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Year 8 News

Welcome back to the final term of Year 8 and what a busy one it is going to be! Mrs Kate Tolfree has taken an extra four weeks leave so I am excited and honoured to continue on in the role until the end of October.

At the beginning of this term all staff had an in service day based on the principles of positive psychology. Positive psychology is going to be the focus of our pastoral programme next year. It is a great concept which has huge potential for our students here at San Clemente.

My focus for our Year 8 students this term is resilience. Resilience is defined as ‘the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape/the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties’. Year 8 students can face many difficulties and traumatic situations at times and sometimes it is difficult for our students at this young age to step back, look at the big picture and bounce back. Research shows that resiliency can be learnt throughout your life so I thought I would like to highlight the five steps to Resilience:

Resiliency Means Accepting that All Things are Temporary - It helps to put change into perspective at times that change occurs, and remember that change is a natural progression of life.

Self-Aware People are Resilient People - If you approach a task and experience good outcomes time and time again, you begin to see yourself as effective — you get things done. You begin to understand better your own strengths and weaknesses, so when an especially difficult task challenges you, or an unexpected tragedy occurs in your life, you have a greater ability to put it into perspective.

(Some) Adversity Helps You - Adversity not only helps us build our coping skills, it also helps us put things into perspective.

Our Social Relationships Bolster Us - Listening — really listening (sometimes called “active listening”) — to others is not only a valuable life skill to learn, it also will make you a more resilient person.

Goal Setting and Understanding Your Problems are Important - Virtually all problems have solutions. Even if we don’t understand or see them at first, most problems in our lives can be solved.

I believe resilience is a life skill which can take time to develop. The resilience principles above can be used for both parents or students.

To conclude, a reminder that students will be having end of year exams in around week 6 (depending on the subject). I encourage all students to speak to their teachers if they have any concerns about their exams or if they simply want some extra revision to prepare themselves. Good Luck and I am looking forward to the next 4 weeks!

Mrs B Denham, Year 8 Coordinator (Acting)

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Library and Book Hire Loans

Attention YEAR 10 students: the school year is coming to a swift close and all loans must be returned to school. Please bring your outstanding Library and Book Hire loans to the Library ASAP, or please pay for any lost / damaged items. Students with outstanding loans will not be issued with graduation tickets until all loans are reconciled. Thank you to those students who have already taken care of this. Thank you.

Mrs Hüber, Library & Book Hire

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Sight & Sound Exhibition Opens 20th Nov...

Save the date to view the works of San Clemente’s creative students
New Caledonia Excursion

At the end of last term, six San Clemente students and two teachers went away on a French school excursion for one week to New Caledonia.

On the excursion students and teachers visited Amedee Island where they snorkelled, went on a cruise, swam with turtles and enjoyed a wonderful show performed by the locals and a buffet lunch. Students also experienced a cultural tour at Tjibaou Cultural Centre where we learnt interesting facts and more about the culture behind the country and its past. We also went to French lessons, did a tour on the chu-chu train that took the students and teachers around the city, dined at French restaurants at night, visited the aquarium, visited the country-side, met the friendly people, shopped at the local markets, which offered beautiful and unique things and had many opportunities to practice our French and experience the Melanesian and French culture.

The trip was long awaited but in the end was a memorable time for all.

Mrs Churchward, Tour Organiser

HSIE News

As part of the stage 5 history course, Year 10 will be involved in the annual San Clemente 1960’s Day. In its fourth year, this event provides students with the opportunity to be immersed in elements of life of the 1960s. As part of the day students will learn more about Music, Sport, Entertainment, Fashion and Dance and participate in a variety of activities that will bring this groovy decade to life.

This year the 1960s Day will be held on Monday 20 October. This is a compulsory school day as students will use the information they gain to assist in answering an extended response question in their final History Examination.

School will begin and end as normal. However, students will not go to regular classes but participate in 5 sessions. At the end of the day, our year 10 students will enjoy some live 1960s music (performed by year 10 music students) as well as participate in a number of other activities.

To bring the day to life staff and students dress up in their best 1960s outfits. Students are encouraged to borrow clothes from family or friends or alternatively see what fashion finds can be sourced from the local op-shops.

If you have any questions about this day, please contact Ms Wakely at school.

Ms L Wakely, HSIE Coordinator

English News

Students have settled into their Term 4 classes. Year 7 and 9 are on their final rotations for the year and Years 10 and 8 remain the same, with the exception of some Year 8 students. A class of boys has been formed in Year 8 English, therefore some students, both male and female, have been moved to different classes. The aim of this move is to support our students and their engagement in English. Please note that English 4, 5 and 6 classes are all mixed ability.

All English assessments/exams are timetabled for Week 6. Notifications will be distributed in the following weeks, depending on the nature of the task. All students receive a hard copy of assessment notifications. They will also be placed on the school website.

All students are reminded to bring their pencil case and exercise book to class. Handwriting is an important skill. Students in Years 7 and 9 are expected to bring their charged tablet to class as most English resources are uploaded onto these devices.

Home study is an important part of English. Students are encouraged to revise over their notes from class as they prepare for their assessments and exams.

(karen.brennan@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Ms K Brennan, English Coordinator

On September 18th San Clemente’s Drama students, along with some very talented Music students, showcased their skills in the performance of ‘With All Her Faults’ at the Civic Playhouse. Australian playwrights and musicians were the focus of this year’s show and our students did an outstanding job of moving these from the script to the stage. The show was a sell-out and the audience was enthralled by what our students were able to achieve at such a young age – well considered and sincere character development.

Congratulations to all involved!

Mrs E South, CAPA
Welcome to the 2014 World Mission Appeal

When I grow up I want to be... Alive

This year, parishioners and school children across Australia are invited, as part of the Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal, to reach out to support the crucial work of the Jamaican Catholic Church in helping people turn away from violence and crime to seek a new future through the power of education and the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Sadly Jamaica is a nation deeply troubled by violence and crime. With the second-highest rate of gun killings anywhere in the world**, communities across Jamaica live in constant fear. To just be alive might seem like a simple dream to us, but for many of the Jamaican youth born into the ghettos, they know chances are high that they will never achieve their dreams or that their life will be cut short as a result of the violence.

Together we can help the youth of Jamaica, and throughout the world, grow up to be fully alive, and achieve their dreams of a positive and hope-filled future.

The SRC have decided to adopt ‘When I grow up I want to be ALIVE’ as their Socktober focus with many activities planned for 30 October. Students are encouraged to support this worthy cause throughout October. On the Thursday the 30th students can come to school accessorising in colourful socks. There will be a variety of activities in the afternoon for the community to engage in.

SRC

Textiles Excursion to Sydney

On the 17th and 18th of September Year 10 Textiles students participated in an excursion to Sydney. The highlight on the first day was a styling workshop held at “Whitehouse Institute of Design”. The students were given the theme of “Nature” and their task was to create a paper garment and items for a window display to reflect this theme. The girls’ work was kept on display over the school holidays in the window of the Whitehouse School. Students also gained an insight into the world of fashion styling and the many career opportunities and types of further study required to work in this field.

Congratulations to Sophie Richardson who won a one week scholarship to the Whitehouse School for her outstanding work on the day.

The second day was spent at the “Opera Centre” in Surry Hills. The girls were given a tour of the workshops and saw first hand people working on costumes and props for the Opera productions held at the Sydney Opera House. A highlight of the tour was trying on hats and costumes for the opera, and watching a talented sculptor at work creating an intricate masterpiece from a block of polystyrene! The students were also treated to hear the powerful voice of an opera singer rehearsing in one of the studios.

Thank you to all the students who attended the excursion. It was a pleasure to spend two days with such a lovely group of girls and a big thank you to Miss Di Prinizio who accompanied us on the excursion.

Mrs Rutherford, Textiles

Art on the Street

A number of students from Years 8, 9 and 10 Art classes spent the afternoon on the last day of school Term 3, watching a group of street artists at work. We had a great time seeing their amazing work being painted on various walls in a laneway behind Church St, Wickham. One of the artists gave a very informative talk about the origins of Street Art and his experiences as a Street Artist. We were all very inspired and have plans afoot to create our own mural artworks within the school grounds!

Emma McCarthy, Visual Arts
Dear Parents,

All Year 10 students who are attending Catholic secondary schools in the diocese are expected to satisfactorily complete the annual Yr 10 Religious Literacy test, unless your child has not attended the school for two years. This test will be conducted on Tuesday 28th October.

This test is part of an important diocesan process across Primary and Secondary RE and is designed to measure student knowledge and understanding of the Stage 5 RE course across a range of course outcomes. It provides diocesan schools and RE teachers with valuable information about the teaching and learning of RE. We are one of many dioceses across NSW who have religious literacy assessment and testing. Your participation in this testing process is important to us.

THE RESULTS:

The results of the test are reported in a number of ways. They are given to the Bishop of the diocese, the diocesan Schools Council and the Director of Schools. The results are also given to school Principals, secondary RSCs and Yr 10 RE teachers. All of these groups take a keen interest in the level of Catholic religious literacy in our schools. In fact it is the expectation of the bishops of NSW that all students attending Catholic schools will achieve a “high level of Catholic religious literacy” by the time they leave school.

Students are also advised of their results. Individual students who do well in this test may be eligible for the diocesan Religious Literacy award which will be given to the top student, or students depending on the results. The top performing school will also receive a special diocesan award. These awards recognise excellence and achievement at the end of the Stage 5 RE course.

NON SERIOUS ATTEMPTS:

In terms of assessment Religious Education is no different to any other subject area with regards to the standard that is set for achievement of the course outcomes and the requirements for completion of tasks. The diocesan RE course is endorsed by the NSW Board of Studies as a subject that is eligible for a ROSA grade. This also means that there are additional requirements around assessment that we must meet.

As a student in a diocesan Catholic school it is an expectation that they will attempt the diocesan Religious Literacy test properly and make a genuine effort to complete all questions. Failure to do so may result in the following:

⇒ They will be awarded zero marks and will not be given a grade for the test. This could negatively affect your school’s overall result.

⇒ A serious Non-Attempt will have a negative impact on overall grades.

⇒ All serious non-attempts will be reported to the Catholic Schools Office and we will then contact the Principal of your school to determine what further action will be taken.

⇒ The data collected about your performance in the test may be shared with your Stage 6 RE teachers for next year.

Thank you, good luck to all in the Year 10 Literacy test.

Rosemary McAllister, Religious Studies Coordinator

Indigenous Update

Term 4 is off to a flying start already for our indigenous students. Mrs McInnes, Mrs Isherwood and I will be accompanying all Indigenous from Years 7-10 to the Yakka: Closing the Gap Try-A-Skill Day this coming Friday, 17th October. Yakka Day is for young Aboriginal people from around Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. They learn more about various occupations from industry experts and get hands on experience by trying some of the skills used in particular jobs. This is a chance for students to speak with employers, as well as learning about pathways leading to apprenticeships, traineeships, TAFE or University. Transport to and from is provided on the day. Entry is free. UON’s 2NURFM will be broadcasting live from 9am – 12pm.

Then on the 23rd of October, Year 10 indigenous students will have an orientation morning at SFX. The students will be shown around the College Campus and meet the Aboriginal Support Teachers and the College Executive. They will endeavour to answer questions, students may have about SFX and Senior Studies in general. Lunch and transport are provided on the day.

Permission notes for both excursions have already been issued and need to be returned to Mrs McInnes, Mrs Isherwood or myself ASAP.

Spare permission notes can be obtained via the free San Clemente SkoolBag app and / or any information or questions you have, please feel to email me directly or keep watching posts on the SCM Facebook page.

Anne Marie Kelly
Leader Laptop Program—Year 7 & Year 9 Students 2015

All orders are to be made online by going to the Computer Doctor Newcastle shopping Portal at http://computerdoctor.cart.net.au/
Can you please register and order by October 17 2014.
Payment can be made immediately OR deferred - however all payments must be settled by December 1st 2014
Parents with genuine financial hardship concerns, can you please organise an appointment with Mr Kelly ASAP to make alternate arrangements for payment.
The laptops will be delivered to the school at the start of term 1 2015. They are yet to be manufactured.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Newman by email steven.newman@mn.catholic.edu.au

Keiran Williamson, Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

Leader Laptop Program 2015 - Year 8 & Year 10 Students 2015

This year, your child participated in our 1:1 program with the Surface RT as the device to be used for our curriculum at San Clemente.

Whilst many students’ devices are still functioning there are many that have been damaged. An unforeseen issue with the Surface RT is that the device is unable to be repaired. Once damaged, they need to be replaced and this is not covered under warranty. If your child’s device is damaged, it is expected that it be replaced so they can access the curriculum on offer at San Clemente.

Next year, the 2015 Year 7 and Year 9 groups (current Year 6 and Year 8) are required to purchase the LeaderTab W220 from the Computer Doctor Newcastle.

We are extending this offer for next Year’s Year 8 and Year 10 (current Year 7 and Year 9) that have devices that are damaged and need replacing. It is preferred that you purchase the LeaderTab W220 from the Computer Doctor Newcastle rather than another device. It costs $659 and it is highly recommend the case be purchased as well for $28.

We have opted for the LeaderTab W220 as our preferred device at San Clemente as it is a more robust device than the Surface RT. It is a full functioning Windows 8 computer and it can be repaired. Also, by going through one retailer students can bring the device to school and we can arrange for the repair from a centralised location rather than parents travelling and organising repairs.

If your Child’s Surface RT is still functioning then there is no need to purchase another device. However, please consider purchasing a robust case for it. If you do want the LeaderTab W220 you are more than welcome to purchase it.

If you need to replace your child’s device please visit the San Clemente Cart at http://computerdoctor.cart.net.au/, Register and then place an order. Orders are due by October 17 and payment finalised by December 1st. The laptops will be delivered to the school at the start of Term 1 2015. They are yet to be manufactured.

For a step by step video on how to place an order please go to http://youtu.be/sNo0Pg6iSfs
If you have any questions, please contact Mr Newman by email steven.newman@mn.catholic.edu.au
Thank you for your ongoing support.

Keiran Williamson, Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

P & F News

The SCM P & F Committee has TWO MAJOR fundraising events confirmed for the remainder of 2014; a BBQ & a Movie Night. We are aiming to raise enough money to air-condition the D rooms at the school to benefit our kids during the hot summer months.

The BBQ will be held on Saturday, 1st of November at Masters in Heatherbrae. We have had a fantastic response from parents, grandparents and staff, who have volunteered between 1-2 hours of their time that Saturday to help raise money for our school & our kids. We are still in need of more volunteers, to cook the BBQ, serve and sell on the day, in particular from 2pm onwards. If you can spare a small amount of time on that day, please email me at Anne-Marie.Kelly@mn.catholic.edu.au for more information or to register your willingness to help out. It is a great way to meet other parents and support our kids.

We are also hosting a Movie Event on Friday, 21st November at Scotty’s Cinema Raymond Terrace. It is the official release date in Australia of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 – we have secured a private cinema just for our event. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND; students, parents, friends, family, neighbours, groups, couples, etc. The cost is $15 per person, which includes the movie ticket and the possibility of winning some amazing Lucky Door Prizes, like an hour personal styling session at Charlestown Square + a $50 voucher, $50 vouchers at Supermarkets, bottles of wine, cafe & restaurant vouchers, beauty treatments and MANY MANY more prizes. Tickets are on SALE NOW – they MUST BE purchased before the evening and from Mrs Kelly in the large staffroom (P & F Secretary).

Keep viewing the SCM Facebook page for more details; please come along and support these upcoming events, all proceeds go straight to our children.

Anne-Marie Kelly, P & F Secretary
All Families to complete this form which reflects any changes to the family structure for 2015

Family Discount Information 2015

This form needs to be completed and returned to San Clemente by

Name of Fee payer for students listed below: ____________________________

Please list ALL children attending Maitland/Newcastle Diocesan Schools in 2015 whom the above person is responsible for the payment of fees

School                      Students name                      Grade in 2015
(eg Kinder, Year 1 ... Year 12)

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

If a fee payer requires further clarification of Family Discount inclusions, you are required to contact your eldest child’s school.

If any of the above information changes you are required to notify each school immediately. (ie One of the above students do not return to school or do not start in the new year or leave during the new year. Or if another child not listed above whom you are responsible for their fees starts at any of our schools in the new year.)

____________________________________________________________________

Fee payer’s Signature                   Date

Family Discount rates for children in Maitland-Newcastle Diocese schools are as follows:

1 child family 0% - full rate to be applied
2 child family 10% discount for each child off tuition Fees only
3 child family 20% discount for each child off tuition Fees only
4 child family 40% discount for each child off tuition Fees only
5+ child family 50% discount for each child off tuition Fees only

Office Use Only
No of Students in Family:____________________
Family Code:____________________
Needs editing (Y/N):____________________
To Bill DF&SBL (Y/N):____________________

NOTE: Family Discounts will only be applied to fee payers based on return of this form.

HEALTH CARE CARD
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle offer a further reduction off Tuition fees for ‘means tested’ low income Health Care / Pension holders. This rate provides an additional discount for each child to a maximum of 50% off the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate. In order to receive this additional discount, you must provide a copy of your Health Care Card to the School at the commencement of each school year.

Name of Health Care Card recipient (name on card) ____________________________

Card Number: ____________________________ Expiry Date:____________________

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR SCHOOL EVEN IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHILD ATTENDING.
Calendar Dates to note

School Year 2014
20 Oct Year 7 Hunter Valley Zoo
20 Oct Year 10 1960s Day
22/23 Oct Year 9 Leadership Days
25 Oct Deaf Pride Mass 5.30pm
30 Oct socks Day
31 Oct Year 7 Form Mass
05 Nov Loud Shirt Day
10 Nov Year 10 Exam Week
17 Nov Year 9 Exam Week
19 Nov Elective 9 & 10 Drama Excursion
20 Nov Sight & Sound Exhibition
21 Nov P & F Movie Night
25 – 27 Nov Orientation Yr 7 2015
25 Nov Chris Doyle—Yr 8s
2 – 4 Dec Orientation Yr 7 2015
1/5 Dec Year 10 Awareness Week
9 Dec Year 10 Graduation
11 Dec Annual Academic Awards
16 Dec Community Day
17 Last Day Students

San Clemente High School
UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop Phone 49689987 shop hours
0424015192 mob
e-mail san.clemente@bigpond.com
web www.alintaapparel.com.au
NORMAL HOURS
SCHOOL TERM
TUE 8.00-11.00am & WED 8.00-10.00am

San Clemente High School Canteen

Term 4 Week 3 & 4 Weekly Specials
Gourmet Sandwich $4
Variety of Salads $4
Frittata $4
Caesar/Greek/Pasta $4

Wednesday 05 November

UNIFORMS FOR SALE AS NEW CONDITION
2 pair of near new size 14 formal boys shorts $20 each
2 size 10 formal shirts great condition $15.00 each

Uniforms

If you have any used uniform items, still in reasonable condition, we would be grateful if you would donate them to our clothing pool. We are often able to help those less fortunate and maintain uniform standards at school. Thank you.

CA变更好or: Thank You to Students and Parents for your wonderful support during Term 3. We hope to see all of our volunteers and some new helpers next term.

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>L Thomas</td>
<td>M Robinson</td>
<td>S Davis</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
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<td>L Wetherall</td>
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