



*Issue No. 11*

*29 April 2010*

Dear Parents and Carers

Just prior to Christmas last year, a wise friend gave me a book called *"The Last Lecture"* by Randy Pausch, Professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. Professor Pausch had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and the book records his final lecture; *"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"*. Rather than a lecture about dying, it was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment. It was about living.

I commend the book to you. Following is one excerpt from the book that I came across recently. I think it speaks for itself:

*'Look for the Best in Everybody*

*This is beautiful advice that I got once from Joh Snoddy, my hero at Disney Imagineering. I just was so taken with the way he put it. "If you wait long enough," he said, "people will surprise and impress you."*

*As he saw things: When you're frustrated with people, when they've made you angry, it just may be because you haven't given them enough time.*

*Jon warned me that sometimes this took great patience—even years. "But in the end" he said, "people will show you their good side. Almost everybody has a good side. Just keep waiting. It will come out."*

Many parents would be aware of the wonderful work that happens each week as a result of our structured work placement program. In addition to providing opportunities for our students, the structured work placement program teaches skills better learned in the work place than in the school environment. We are fortunate at Mater Dei that as in so many cases, we have the generous and willing support of local businesses who so willingly make these opportunities available to our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses (listed on page 4 of this newsletter) for their support of this important program. Please support them where ever is appropriate.

Just as importantly, I also extend my appreciation to Mrs Glynis Patrick, Mrs Coleen Merlino, Ms Chris McIntyre and Ms Karen Powell who liaise with the businesses, transport the students and generally manage this program in a thoroughly professional and dedicated way.

On Thursday of this week, the Annual General Meeting of the Mater Dei Company was held during the day, followed by a meeting of the Board in the afternoon /evening. Quite a deal of time and work is required by a number of people in preparing for both the AGM and the Board meeting. It is an appropriate time to both reflect on the previous twelve months as well as look forward to the year ahead. Mater Dei is well served by the very professional and caring interest in the mission of the organisation by our company members; Sr Helen Foley (Chair of Members), Sr Rita Reilly, Sr Jeanie Heininger, Sr Veronica Hoey and Ms Terry Creagh. Likewise, by the dedicated work of our Board of Directors, all of whom are returning for a further twelve months of service on the Board following the AGM; Mr Rob Burns (Chair), Mr John Adam (Deputy Chair), Mr Kevin Lawler (Company Secretary), Sr Anita Brennan, Mr John Le Breton, Mr John Gamble, Mr Steve Muter and Ms Jo-Anne Hewitt.

Commencing this week we will trial some minor changes to both the format and frequency of the school newsletter. In an effort to profile our students more prominently on a regular basis, page two of the newsletter will be devoted to the photos of award recipients at a previous assembly as well as a simple report (and photo) of the work of a particular class. This will happen on a rotational basis so that all classes will be represented. The other change is that the newsletter will be published and distributed fortnightly as opposed to weekly. Mrs Templeton will produce and distribute an information sheet on the "off week" to keep you abreast of important announcements and reminders. Please feel welcome to let me know of your reactions to these changes as we trial them.

Prayers and best wishes

**Tony Fitzgerald, CEO/Principal**

**Secondary F** is looking forward to a busy term. Over the past couple of weeks we have had a focus on Anzac Day. Secondary F has been busy learning about the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the wonderful country that we live in. We have been discussing the importance of remembering the soldiers through Anzac Day and have been making poppies in remembrance.



Secondary F has particularly enjoyed using the new school laptops to find information and images that we have used in an assembly PowerPoint presentation. We are very fortunate to have this new technology for our students to use.



As elective classes have begun again Secondary F look forward to learning about conserving energy in Science, learning about their body in PDHPE and making wonderfully creative collages in art. The students are also very excited about the upcoming camp to Teen Ranch.



Julia received an Academic award

## SCHOOL AWARDS

### Academic

<i>Kinder Purple</i>	<i>Saul Castaneds-Abalos</i>
<i>Kinder Red</i>	<i>Clare Marsh</i>
<i>Primary R</i>	<i>Chelsea Calleja-Rickert</i>
<i>Primary G</i>	<i>Harrison Hines</i>
<i>Primary S</i>	<i>Linda Obeido</i>
<i>Primary K</i>	<i>Michael Backhouse</i>
<i>Secondary W</i>	<i>Mouhamad Bassal</i>
<i>Secondary A</i>	<i>Daniel Jones</i>
<i>Secondary R</i>	<i>Cameron O'Brien</i>
<i>Secondary F</i>	<i>Julia Aslan</i>
<i>Yr 11/12G</i>	<i>Adrian Dellarmi</i>

### Citizenship

<i>Kinder Blue</i>	<i>Breeana Bruin</i>
<i>Kinder Red</i>	<i>Michael Sahin</i>
<i>Primary R</i>	<i>Breeana Durrant</i>
<i>Primary G</i>	<i>Brad Coomber</i>
<i>Primary S</i>	<i>Shae-Lea Mally</i>
<i>Primary K</i>	<i>Victor Fineanganofa</i>
<i>Secondary A</i>	<i>Sanjana Chavan</i>
<i>Secondary R</i>	<i>Jake Nelson</i>
<i>Secondary F</i>	<i>Laura Gow</i>
<i>Yr 11/12G</i>	<i>Angela Saba</i>

**Uniform Awards** *Bailey Smith, Mitchell Anthony, Jack Foweraker, Miles Andrews, Hannah Scott, Candice Marsh, Luke Faint, Jareer Jaber, Lachlan Hedges, Brooke Lee, Christopher Sciberras.*

**Stewardship Awards** *Yr 11/12P*

Laura received a Citizenship Award



Dear Parents & Carers

Last Friday afternoon students and staff gathered in the Hall to commemorate Anzac Day. Our ceremony included a visual presentation of photos that were screened during the Laying of Wreaths which had been prepared by each class grouping as they discussed Anzac Day and Australian Defence Force personnel who are working in many areas of the world to bring peace to people who do not live in a free society as we do. It was a very special occasion.

***Next Monday 03 May is our first Country Fair Mufti Day for 2010!***

The Mater Dei Country Fair is one of the highlights of our calendar each year and the 2010 Country Fair will be held at Mater Dei on **Sunday 17 October**. I know that this sounds a long way off, however it's the first Sunday after we begin Term Four and is combined with the Mater Dei School's Ex-Students' Reunion so it is a really important event each year.

***Students and members of staff are all invited to bring a small donation next Monday 03 May for the Country Fair Chocolate Wheel and students may wear mufti to focus on this event. We will be having four Mufti Days for the Country Fair Chocolate Wheel as follows:***

***Monday 03 May = small toys and items of stationery***

***Monday 21 June = items for gardening and the car***

***Monday 02 August = toiletries***

***Monday 20 September = Christmas decorations***

So may we suggest small toys, writing paper, envelopes, pens etc would be wonderful ideas to send in next Monday for our first Mufti Day. Our special thanks also to all our families for your support as our attention turns to the 2010 Country Fair.

***It's time to get out the wool and needles and to start knitting or crocheting scarves, beanies, rugs, wraps, baby clothes etc.***

Each year we invite all members of the Mater Dei community to knit or crochet warm items (such as those listed above) and to send them in to Mater Dei by **Monday 21 June** when we will invite members of the **Tharawal Aboriginal Community in Campbelltown** to join us for Morning Tea and to receive our knitted and crocheted items for the chilly Winter days ahead. This is a wonderful and simple way to say we are one community and we are thinking of others. It's also a great opportunity to knit and crochet and create amazing items that always draw admiration from everyone who sees them in the Staff Room.

***Three extremely important reminders this week:***

- 1. Last week we sent home a two page letter to families of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 regarding the NAPLAN assessments that are scheduled for May. In May 2010 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests (i) if they are newly arrived in Australia with a language background other than English or (ii) if they have a significant intellectual and/or functional disability. If you are requesting that your child is exempted from the NAPLAN testing you will need to complete the appropriate form and return next Monday 03 May if you haven't already done so. Please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Gibbs (Primary Coordinator), Samantha Giles (Secondary Coordinator) or myself if you have any questions or concerns or matters that you would like to discuss regarding this important assessment.***
- 2. All students in Years 7 – 10 will be participating in their 2010 Camp from Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 May at "Teen Ranch" Cobbitty. Please return the signed Permission Note next Monday 03 May if you haven't already done so. An extensive letter is going home with this week's newsletter with full details about the camp including activities, accommodation, meals etc.***
- 3. Last week we sent home our Database print out sheet for every student so that the student's family is able to check all information. It is essential that you check every detail on the sheet and either (i) tick off or (ii) change the details to ensure that we have a totally up to date Database entry for your child. Please sign and return the Database print out sheet next Monday 03 May if you haven't already done so and even if it is completely correct.***

***Many thanks to all our families for your prompt attention to these important matters.***

With best wishes to you and your families

**Pamela Templeton  
Assistant Principal**

The canteen will not operate on May 14  
(due to the Lipstick Luncheon).

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### MATER DEI ANNUAL RACE DAY

July 31, 2010

at Kembla Grange Racecourse

Tickets \$120 each or \$1,000 per table of 10



Sponsorship packages from \$2,000

### Mater Dei ANNUAL FOUNDATION DINNER

September 11, 2010  
at The Cube, Campbelltown



Sponsorship packages from \$3,000

Details [www.materdei.org.au](http://www.materdei.org.au)  
or call Debbie or Lee in the Development Office

*Due to a table being cancelled, there are a few tickets still available for the Lipstick Luncheon!*

#### Diary Dates

Mon 03 May = Applications close for 2011 Enrolments  
Mon 11 May = Mothers Day Morning Tea @ 10.30 am followed by Mothers Day Mass @ 11.15 am in the Mater Dei Chapel  
Fri 14 May = Mater Dei 2010 Lipstick Luncheon  
Wed 19 to Fri 22 May = Year 7 to 10 Camp  
Mon 14 June = Queen's Birthday Holiday  
Fri 18 June = 2010 Mater Dei School Athletics Carnival  
Fri 18 June = 2010 Mater Dei Trivia Night commencing @ 7.00 pm at Mater Dei  
**Fri 25 June – End of Term Two**

### POST SCHOOL PROGRAM NOTICE

We are pleased to confirm the Mater Dei School Post School Program (PSP) Information Night for students in Years 12, 11 and 10, their parents and carers, to be held on Monday 17 May commencing at 7.00 pm in the Staff Room.

This is an extremely important and relevant meeting for all senior students and their families and in particular 2010 graduating students in Year 12 as every student enrolled at Mater Dei School also meets the criteria to make application for PSP Funding that is provided by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC). The PSP Funding is a natural transition for our students as they continue with extended programs focusing on living skills, community access, protective behaviours, relationships, leisure and recreational activities as well as specific training for full or part time employment.

We will have several Service Providers as guest speakers to explain the programs available to our students including Transition To Work (TTW) and the four levels of Community Participation (CP).

HOST EMPLOYERS FOR MATER DEI STUDENTS IN TERM ONE 2010 (as mentioned on Page 1-please support as and wherever possible)

Meals -On-Wheels

Camden Pre-School

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Butterflies @ Camden (Florist)

Campbelltown City Council

Camden Golf Club

Narellan Congregational Community Services

Camden Hire

MacDonald's Narellan

Macarthur Pre-school

Pat Farmer

Big W Narellan

Fruit Barn—Camden

McDonalds Campbelltown

Afford Industries (Ingleburn)



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