



## CEO/Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the majority of Year Twelve students around NSW launch in to 'schoolies' celebrations, I am reminded once again of the humility and simplicity that comes with life at Mater Dei, and especially for our students in Year Twelve who will be leaving us in coming weeks. The focus for many seventeen and eighteen year olds at present is more around the Gold Coast, partying, a perception of freedom that is too often accompanied by a lack of responsibility and risk taking and usually spending lots and lots of money. In moderation, there is probably not too much wrong with any of the above. But like many things in 2011, young people find the attraction of *excess* too great a lure and so inevitably end up in places and situations they had not contemplated.

By contrast, the Mater Dei Year Twelve students, while preparing for their own graduation with a great sense of excitement and anticipation, seem to me to do so with a much more measured sense of occasion and dignity. They continue to find the simplicity of school life and their relationships with teachers and friends quite enough to sustain them. How refreshing it is to watch. As Joan Chittister O.S.B observes; *"only those are unhappy who are trying to be what they are not"*. I do see that in many young people. I've yet to observe it in the young people at Mater Dei. I look forward to celebrating their graduation on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

I was delighted recently to announce to our staff that Mr Andre Daniels has decided to accept a permanent teaching position at Mater Dei following this year on secondment from Mount Carmel Catholic High School. Many parents would be aware of the wonderful contribution Andre has made to performing arts at Mater Dei this year, most notably through the choir and in preparing the students for our inaugural performing arts evening next Friday. I am delighted that Andre has decided to make Mater Dei his home and I know the students are equally excited. We look forward to building on the many opportunities that already exist at Mater Dei in music, drama and choir in 2012 and beyond.

On less exciting news, our Board chair Mr Rob Burns, announced at the cocktail party last Thursday that Sr Anita Brennan has resigned from the Mater Dei Board to take up a position with the Good Samaritan Sisters at the Santa Teresa Mission just outside of Alice Springs in 2012.

Sr Anita has dedicated almost twenty years of service to the Board of Mater Dei. Quite apart from the experience, wisdom and work that Sr Anita has dedicated to the Mater Dei community in that time, her kindness, compassion and strong sense of justice has been a witness for all who have worked with her in this important ministry. While we are sad that Sr Anita leaves our immediate community, she goes knowing that she is forever welcome at Mater Dei and that our community here is grateful for the witness of her lived vocation. Sr Anita will go to Santa Teresa with the prayers and best wishes of the Mater Dei community.

Finally, thank you to all who prepared and attended the cocktail party last Thursday. As always, it was a thoroughly enjoyable way to formally end our year with our extended community and to thank them for their constant and generous support of the students. With only three weeks of school remaining, we look forward to our inaugural performing arts evening next Friday 02 December followed by the end of year Mass and Secondary presentation on Friday 09 December and the Primary presentation on Friday 16 December.

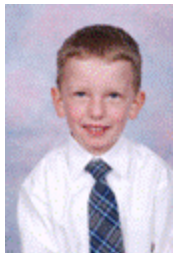
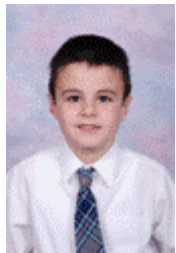
Sincerely,

*Tony Fitzgerald, CEO/Principal*



*Student, Lachlan Hedges, shaking hands with Kevin Lawler at the Cocktail Party*

The following students received Citizenship Awards last week:-



Jacob Celan, Jack Conroy, Breanna Durrant,



Dylan Elphick, Linda Obeido, Matthew Hunter,



Stefan Males, Chelsea Morris, Joseph Gurnett-Attard

**End of Year Arrangements**

The following outlines some important dates and details for our end of year celebrations this year.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Last day of school for all Year 11 and Year 12 students

Living Skills Program ceases for Year 11 and Year 12 students for 2011

**Graduation and End of Year Mass**

9:30am to 10:45am held in the Hall

Morning Tea provided for visitors from

10:45am to 11:30am

**Secondary End of Year Assembly**

11:30am to 12:30pm held in the Hall

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Last day of school for all Kinder to Year 10 students

Living Skills Program ceases for Year 5 to Year 10 students for 2011

**Primary End of Year Assembly** 9:30am to

10:30am held in the Hall

Morning Tea provided for visitors from

10:45am to 11:30am

**Year 11 and Year 12 Formal** 6:30pm to

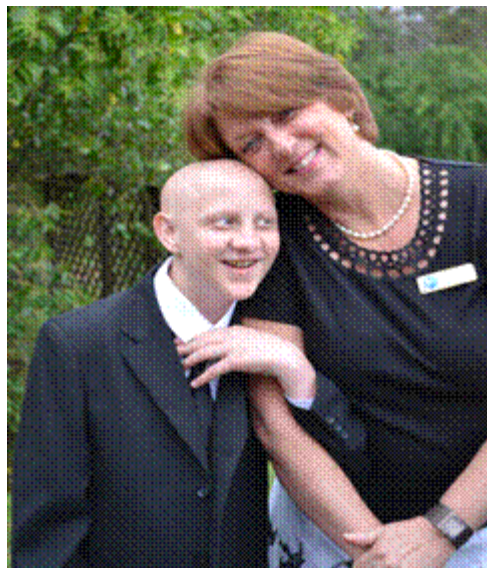
10:30pm Camden Lakeside Country Club

***Pls order tickets by Tues 29th Nov.***

*Students from the Living Skills Program were ready to greet guests at the Cocktail Party*



*Sr Anita Brennan (middle of photo) with Board members Mark Scarce, Joanne Hewitt, Professor Patricia O'Brien and Rob Burns.*



*Jackson Keane and Rhonda*

### **Mater Dei Living Skills Program (LSP)**

Families have received an invitation to attend one of four **Transition Visits** before the end of Term Four to the relevant Houses in which their daughters and sons will be participating in the 2012 Living Skills Program. This will provide an opportunity for students who will begin their Living Skills Program for the first time next year and their families to visit the Houses, meet the Social Educators who will be facilitating each student's 2012 Individual Plan and to ask all of those questions that still need answering. Each Transition Visit is from 5.30 to 7.00 pm and refreshments will be served as we welcome our students and their families into the 2012 Living Skills Program.

All students who have been participating in this year's Living Skills Program have received an invitation to attend our **2011 Christmas Party** on Tuesday 06 December. The Social Educators will of course transport the Tuesday night students to the venue however families are invited to drive their sons and daughters who participate on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday night to the party which will commence at 6.00 pm. Families will be able to relax in the adjoining bistro during the party or perhaps use the time for some Christmas shopping before collecting their children at 7.30 pm.

We are advising in advance that our focus for 2012 will be **"Healthy minds, healthy bodies and healthy choices"** and this philosophy will underpin every aspect of our program next year. And finally we are confirming that the **2012 Living Skills Program commences on Monday 30 January and concludes on Friday 14 December** (relevant to each student's participating nights).

### **Mater Dei Early Intervention Program (EIP)**

Families have received a letter this week which includes a survey of the services that we have provided for their children during 2011 and an invitation to confirm continuing services which will commence in Term One 2012. The MDEIP team of professionals believes that reflection and review of each child's services is fundamental if we are to maintain our professional relationship with families whilst augmenting and strengthening each child's **Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)** and the agreed outcomes which have been collaboratively determined and included in the IFSP with attention to responsibilities and accountability.

All children and their families have received an invitation to attend our **2011 Christmas Party** in the EIP Hall on Tuesday 13 December from 10.00 to 11.30 am. This will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate our children's progress and successes during 2011 and for families to make arrangements for play dates during the holidays.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

**Pamela Templeton,  
Director of Services**

## **Coles and Woolies docket – THANK YOU**

We have just purchased \$1,000 worth of sports equipment with our Coles docket and \$1,000 worth of science resources with our Woolworths docket, valuable additions to our school's teaching resources.

We thank our students, staff, parents and friends who collected these docket for Mater Dei.

### **CAMPBELLTOWN ARTS CENTRE JANUARY 2012 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

A large variety of workshops are available at the Campbelltown Arts Centre in January. For information and bookings please ring Nikoleta on 4645 4294.

An information session for Introduction to Computers and Next Step Computers will be held at Narellan Library on Monday 28 November at 10am. All enquiries to 4647 1283 or email [info@camdenconnections.org.au](mailto:info@camdenconnections.org.au)

Included with this newsletter are the following flyers:-

- ◆ Camden Council's **Everyone Can Dance "Discobility" Dance Party**
- ◆ SIZZLE Festival Program—an inclusive arts event.

## **P & F Christmas Dinner 2011**

You are invited to attend the 2011 P & F Christmas Dinner. The dinner has been scheduled for 7pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at the Crown Hotel, 187 Argyle St Camden and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to attend could you please return the slip below to the school so that I can make the appropriate reservations.

Regards

**Garry Saunders – P & F President.**

**P & F Christmas Dinner 2011**  
**I would like to attend the P & F Dinner and  
could you please book for \_\_\_\_\_ people.**  
**Thanks**

**Student \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_**

# MATER DEI CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FOR PURCHASE

The cards featuring artwork from our students are excellent value at \$5.00 for a pack of 12 cards.

Also, corporate cards which are blank on the inside for overprinting (at extra cost) can be purchased for \$7.00 for a pack of 8 cards.

Enquiries to Debbie: 4655 7481



## Diary Dates for 2012



***Mater Dei  
Charity Golf Day  
Monday April 2  
Twin Creeks Golf Club, Luddenham***

***Ladies Lipstick Luncheon***



***Friday, May 11,  
The Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club***

***Tickets for luncheon and sponsorship packages for both events are on sale now. Visit [www.materdei.org.au](http://www.materdei.org.au) or contact Debbie in the Development Office.***