Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of our Assumption community,

The first term holidays are just around the corner and I encourage all members of the Assumption community to reflect upon the significance of Easter over the break. The death and resurrection of Jesus are important for all Christians bringing hope and meaning to our lives. Jesus offers forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. Easter is a time when we can reflect upon Christ’s example of how to live and the sacrifice he made for us. It is a time to reconnect to him and his teachings.

Catholic Education Week

Last week all Catholic schools celebrated Catholic Education Week. The theme of the week was “Entrust yourself to God and Dare to Dream”. Mass was celebrated at St Patrick’s Cathedral last Thursday. More than 2000 students, including representatives from ACK, took part in the Eucharist and the principal celebrant was Archbishop Denis Hart. ACK is first and foremost a Catholic school trying to be true to the Gospel. Secondly, we are a Marist school which complements the Gospel’s call to act for the disadvantaged.

Year 12 Retreat

Our Year 12 Retreat takes place at four venues next week. I encourage our students to leave behind the everyday issues they face and focus on the important relationships in their lives. It is a time of great value to our senior students as they begin to prepare for life after school. I wish them a peaceful and relaxing time away.

AGSV/APS sport

The AGSV/APS summer sporting competition ends this weekend. Congratulations to all students who have represented the College this term. A big thank you to our Sports Coordinators, Mr Marc Merigan and Mr Alex Timms, for their organisation, and to our staff who have coached teams. Thank you also to those parents who have coached or helped in other ways. The summer sports awards night (for boys and girls) will be held in the Gonzales Centre on Monday, May 12 at 7pm.

Interim reports

Next week staff will finalise their interim reports. These will be available for parents via PAM from Thursday, April 3. While it is difficult at this early stage to report on all areas of our students’ progress, it is important that parents are informed about how their children are performing.

Parent-teacher-student interviews

These interviews will be held over three days in the Gonzales Centre: Thursday, April 24 from 2-9pm; Tuesday, April 29 from 4-7pm and Thursday, May 1 from 4-7pm. Please see Ms Kift’s report for details.

It is important that students attend these interviews with their parents so that they can be involved in discussions regarding their progress.

Open Day – March 30

Open Day will be held from midday to 3pm. It is always a fantastic day as the staff and students showcase the magnificent facilities we have at Assumption College to prospective families.

Winter uniform

Given our later start to term 2, I expect all students to be wearing the full school winter uniform when they return on Monday, April 28. Blazers can be bought from Kerris Menswear in Seymour or Academy Uniforms in Thomastown. They can also be bought at the second-hand uniform shop on campus.

Staffing news

Mrs Lynne Falzon will be on long-service leave in term 2 and we wish her a relaxing break. Mrs Julie Coonan and Mrs Jennifer Najdenovski are on maternity leave, and we wish the mums-to-be a restful time in the lead up to the births.
Marist Basketball Carnival
We wish the girls and boys basketball teams every success at the Marist Basketball Carnival in Sale next week. It is a wonderful experience for our students to be competing and mixing with students from other Marist schools around Australia.

P-12 update
I am delighted to advise that Mr Stephen Elder, Executive Director of the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, has joined the working party. We have scheduled two meetings with him in attendance, and he has also committed to be involved in a parent information evening. We now have two parent representatives from each school involved and we hope a final decision will be made by the end of term 2. Once I receive more information on this matter, I will pass it on to our college community.

Term 1
I congratulate staff and many of our students for the way they have adapted to the busy first term. I trust that all students have, by now, established good study patterns, at school and at home. Those who achieve to their maximum potential are focused on their school work and maintain balance in their lives between school work, sporting commitments, part-time employment and social activities.

Our senior students have the opportunity over the holidays to evaluate what has been achieved and if necessary put in place strategies to improve. Those who do this are taking responsibility for their own learning.

The College will close for the first term holidays at 4.30pm on Friday, April 4. I ask for parental support in not requesting an early departure as it disrupts our teaching and learning program.

Classes resume for all year levels on Monday, April 28 and the next newsletter will be available in the first week of next term. I wish all members of our Assumption Community an enjoyable vacation.

Kind regards,

Michael Kenny
**Important Dates**

March 30  
Official opening and blessing of new boarding houses at 10.30am  
Open Day, midday-3pm

April 1-3  
Year 12 Retreat

April 3  
Immunisations for all year 7 girls and boys, and Year 9 boys

April 4  
Easter Liturgy - Way of the Cross  
Term 1 classes end at 3.15pm

April 24  
Parent-teacher-student interviews 2-9pm

**Term 2**

April 28  
Classes begin at 8.45am

April 29  
Parent-teacher-student interviews 4-7pm

May 1  
Parent-teacher-student interviews 4-7pm

May 8-10  
Music Camp

May 13-15  
NAPLAN testing, years 7 and 9

**Things you need to know**

**Absenteeism:** The College must be notified when your child is absent. Simply phone the Absentee Line: 5783 0806 and leave a detailed message or email absenteeism@assumption.vic.edu.au.

**Change of contact details:** Please ensure the College is kept up to date with any change of contact details including email and residential addresses and mobile numbers. Simply logon to PAM, go to School Links/PAM support and update your details.

**Need to make a payment?** For payments to the College for items such as excursions, uniform items or study tours, simply click here.

**The Marlhes Restaurant:** Bookings for the Marlhes restaurant are essential and can be made through Trybooking. The restaurant is open every second Wednesday from 5.30-9.30pm. Any queries can be directed to Mr Nigel Engel.

**C & J Kerris Menswear:** (Ph: 5792 433) On campus every Friday lunchtime between 1.30 - 2.15pm, (opposite the Gonzales Centre, next to the theatrette) for all your uniform needs.

**Parents and Friends Association:** Next committee meeting, April 2 at 7.30pm in the College staffroom. All welcome.
From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Interim reports
Interim reports offer a simple snapshot of your son or daughter’s application and work habits in their various subjects throughout term 1. These reports, available on PAM from Thursday April 3, are a fantastic opportunity to gauge how your son or daughter is managing their studies, to identify potential concerns and to begin – or hopefully continue - a conversation with their teachers about how to support and maximise their learning and development this year.

Parent-teacher-student interviews
To provide greater opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teachers, we have scheduled three parent-teacher-student interview sessions at the beginning of term 2. These sessions will be held in the Gonzales Centre.

- The interviews on Thursday, April 24 from 2-9pm will be available for all students.
- The interviews on Tuesday, April 29 from 4-7pm will be available for all year 7 students and year 8-12 students in Austin, Damian, Frayne, and Hilary houses.
- The interviews on Thursday, May 1 from 4-7pm will be available for all year 7 students and year 8-12 students in La Valla, Marcellin, Marian and McAuley houses.

Bookings are made via the online booking system, Parent-Teacher Online (available via a link on PAM) using your PAM PIN. A letter has been sent to all families detailing how to make an interview booking. If you do not receive this letter or have any queries about your PAM PIN, please contact our SIMON/PAM administrator, Ms Trudi Smith. Interviews are scheduled for 10 minute slots; if there is a need for more time, parents are encouraged to contact teachers to arrange to meet at an alternative time, rather than book multiple slots.

Similarly, given the limited interview slots available, students who have the same teacher for more than one subject are encouraged to book a single interview slot, rather than multiple slots with the same teacher. We strongly encourage students to attend these interviews. It is essential that they participate in a dialogue about their progress, achievements and areas for development to give them a sense of ownership of their learning.

Should my son or daughter have started studying yet?
Year 12s are already 20% of the way through their final year of schooling. Or, to put it another way, they have already learned a fifth of what they will need to know for the final exams. So, it is essential that they begin developing a regular study program now so they are prepared for the practice examinations in June and the final ones in October/November.

Being successful in examinations is partially a reflection of your grasp of the material or subject matter; but it is also highly dependent on your ability to: work within time limits, perform under pressure and manage anxiety, recall information when you need to; analyse questions and use cues (such as the number of marks allocated, the space provided, the key words of the question etc.) to anticipate the depth and detail required in the answer. Practising examination technique is the best way to ensure you can perform at your best in the final assessments. For our year 12 students, the VCAA website provides past examination papers to assist their revision.

But it isn’t just the year 12s who should be revising regularly. For year 9-11 students, there are just seven weeks of school before their examinations begin. So, it is certainly not too early to begin revising, reviewing the gaps in their knowledge and preparing themselves to demonstrate their learning in an examination setting. Year 9s will have their first experience of examinations this semester, with examinations in English, mathematics, humanities, science and religious education. The learning area coordinators in these subject areas have developed a study program that will be available on SIMON and PAM from the beginning of term 2 to assist students and parents to plan their preparation for examinations and ensure they are developing good study habits that will assist them throughout their senior schooling. Additional support and guidance will be provided to the year 9s via their subject teachers and within their houses. However, here’s a simple habit for all 9-12 students to get into, to help with regular purposeful revision: at the end of each school day, set aside 15-30 minutes to reflect on the key knowledge and/or skills learned in each class that day. In a dedicated revision book for each subject, spend five minutes reflecting on each class you had, writing down the specific things that you recall from the lesson - what do you know or what can you do as a result of that lesson? Then compare this list with any notes or worksheets from the class and identify the gaps – what didn’t you remember? Highlight these things and spend time revising them.
Opening School Mass

After a change of date for our Commencement Mass because of the fires, the Assumption College community came together on Friday, February 21 to acknowledge 2013’s academic high achievers, commission our 2014 student leaders and celebrate the beginning of the 2014 school year with our Opening School Eucharist.

Fr Grant O’Neill, parish priest of St Patrick’s, Kilmore, was the chief celebrant and he was supported by Fr Arnold Heredia, parish priest of St Mary’s Lancefield. I thank these men for their continued support to our College community. The reverence and respect shown by our students was a credit to them. They displayed a true understanding that when we celebrate a Mass in the Gonzales Centre, Christ is truly present among us and it is a sacred space.

Congratulations must go to our student leaders of 2014 as they begin their year of service. I’m sure they join with me in acknowledging and thanking their predecessors for coming back and being part of their commissioning by passing on the light of leadership. As it turned out, because of the postponement more of our 2013 leaders could join us.

I thank everyone who assisted in making this occasion such a wonderful event, a truly fantastic way to begin our year as we relish the opportunity to serve one another.

We are a Marist School. “Marist” is derived from the name Mary – in particular Mary the Mother of Jesus. St Marcellin taught is that it is through Mary that we reach Christ. Throughout 2014 we will be taking up the theme #serveoneanother. This is a very tangible concept and we can in many ways be people of service.

We all help to make the lives of others that bit better. However, do we really do all we can? Do we put the needs of others before our own, and do we ultimately put Jesus ahead of all? These are the challenges that we are faced with. How do we live within our own Marist community with an attitude of love?

So this year, and in the years ahead, let us take seriously the call to serve one another. As Marists, let us grow in our love of God and of our neighbour. Let us build a community whose spirit is one of a mutual, compassionate and loving attitude to serve, an attitude of love.

Lent

As we journey through this season of Lent we are invited to reflect upon the things that matter most; the things of the heart that lead us to the fullness of life. Lent is a time when we make a special effort in three areas: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are honoured ways of changing whatever prevents living a full Christian life. Almsgiving reminds us of the bond that joins us with each other and of the social responsibilities that accompany it. Fasting sensitises us to our dependence on the natural world. It is a reminder that we need to strengthen our self-discipline, refraining from eating or “fasting” and avoiding self-indulgent activities. We are then more able to focus on and commit to prayer, which unites us with God, the source of our life and being.

Lenten Message—Pope Francis

Recently, in his first message for Lent, Pope Francis offered some thoughts on the theme "He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9)."

Here, Pope Francis hopes “this Lenten season finds the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty.”

For a more detailed document, visit Pope Francis’ Lenten message.
**Marist Brothers visit ACK**

It was wonderful to have the Marist Vocation team and members of the Mission and Life Formation team visit our staff and students this term. Brothers Greg McDonald and Doug Walsh spent a day with us speaking and sharing their stories with the year 7s and the year 12s. This is probably the first time that our year 7 students have had the opportunity to meet a Marist Brother.

Br Hubert Williams spent time with some of our new staff and presented the *In the Champagnat Way* program to them. The group was a mix of teaching, boarding, administrative and support staff. The program focuses on what it means to be Marist and what makes Marist education unique. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff to gain an insight into how diverse Marist education and the Marist world is. We welcome these opportunities for our students and staff.

---

**ACK Open Day**

**Sunday, March 30**

**Midday - 3pm**

---

**How Much Do you Really Know About Asylum Seekers in Australia?**

After teaching at St Patrick’s Primary School for many years, I have been doing some work with refugee families and asylum seekers in Melbourne. I have been working with Sr Brigid Arthur from the **Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project**.

Next Sunday, March 30, Brigid will speak at the 8am and 10.30am Masses about her work at the **Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation at Broadmeadows**, more commonly known as the Broadmeadows Detention Centre.

All families are invited to join Sr Brigid for a cup of tea in the Parish Centre after these Masses.

Mr Paul Duff

---

**Palm Sunday Events in Melbourne**

The Office for Justice and Peace and the Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office invite you to attend the **Palm Sunday Prayer Service in Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Refugees**, from 1 to 1.30pm on Sunday, April 13 in St Patrick’s Cathedral. The celebrant will be Bishop Vincent Long.

It is hoped that concerned Catholics will then join a march/walk for justice for refugees from the State Library at 2pm.
Experiencing the Life and Words of Jesus

Our Year 8s were recently invited to visit a new exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St Kilda. The display caters for the topic, The Jewish Context of the Life and Words of Jesus. Students read from the sacred text, the Torah, interacted with displays, listened to music and recited prayers and held and wore many of the objects used by Jewish people in their daily lives.

Volunteers guided students around the museum’s many exhibition rooms, and some met a survivor of the Holocaust who kindly retold her amazing story. The volunteers also invited our students to take part in a Sabbath prayer ceremony. Mrs Jenny Better, coordinator of the educational program, explained the different elements of the Sabbath prayer and the significance of the ritual. Students were invited to taste the Challah, a bread eaten on the night of the Sabbath.

We thank Mrs Better and the volunteers of the Jewish Museum for their time and for the valuable information that they passed onto our students. Thank you also to the staff and students who went on the excursion. The museum staff were most impressed with our students.

ACK Arts & Exhibition Week

“If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him.” – John F. Kennedy

The Hermitage has been transformed into something special for the ACK Arts & Exhibition Week. Staff and students have created and installed an impressive variety of work for our junior exhibition. Due to its buzz and popularity, many students from years 10 and above have asked to contribute and we have acquiesced. However, only students from years 7-9 will be awarded prizes.

Year 7 and 8 students have created two impressive artworks on the glass of the Hermitage: a stained glass relief of St Marcellin and his inspiration, Mary our Good Mother, that adorns the building’s main entrance doors. The second artwork is a giant rainbow serpent inspired by the paintings of indigenous Australians.

Arts Week has a number of activities on offer in and around the Hermitage. On Tuesday, students were treated to an all-day workshop by renowned artist HA HA aka Regan Tamanui. Students worked with him to create a mural inspired by Marcellin.

During lunchtimes, year 7 and 8 students are invited to continue painting the giant aboriginal rainbow serpent on the glass of the Hermitage in preparation for Open Day.

During Arts Week the Hermitage will be open to visitors until 4.30pm today and on Friday and between midday and 3pm on Open Day.

Arts Week is proudly sponsored by Cavalier Arts Supplies.

Year 8 art students visit Melbourne Now

In the past few weeks Year 8 students have travelled to the NGV Australia at Federation Square to share in the celebration of the latest art, architecture, design, performance and cultural practice that make up the creative landscape of this great city. Melbourne Now was an amazingly inspiring exhibition for the 200-plus students that visited and they have not stopped talking about it.

The exhibition has challenged what our students understood about art. It has opened a new door to the creative world and the endless possibilities and opportunities the visual arts can bring.
Year 12 Technology Excursion

Research by Mrs Panousieris discovered that our technology students needed to improve their folio drawings. Therefore, 18 year 12 Product Design and Technology students along with Mr Solomons and I were invited to Whitehouse Institute in Melbourne last month. The purpose was to learn some drawing skills and hear from industry experts about design trends and specialist techniques. The Whitehouse Institute is a highly regarded private university where Project Runway Australia and Grand Designs Australia are filmed. The entrance, workshops and hallways were overflowing with creative exhibits and cutting-edge examples of students’ projects from the previous year.

Flamboyant presenter Todd told of his working background of fashion in England, set design for studios and film in America and now as a freelance lecturer at Whitehouse, and continuing success in private business. We attempted a variety of drawing styles and conventions throughout the day with a focus on space, design, fundamentals and colour.

A quick walk around the room at the end of the day was all it took to notice the significant improvement in such a short time. The highlight of the day was when Todd announced a scholarship, valued at $600, which was won by Joshua Oliver, and special commendations to Zachary Gration and Mia Barker. This new understanding of design concepts will hopefully find its way into the students’ folios in coming weeks, and I look forward to seeing what they produce after being in such an inspirational environment.

At the end of the afternoon session we thanked Todd for the use of the institute’s facilities and told him that ACK is always grateful for the opportunity to gain industry knowledge linked to our curriculum in the hope of improving student outcomes.

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Panousieris for setting up the successful excursion.
What’s New in Maths

**e-learning**

**Mathletics: Years 7 & 8**
Year 7 and 8 students have access to Mathletics and have been given their login details. This is an interactive website which helps students consolidate their learning. Their teachers will have set tasks for them to complete either in class or as a homework. If you would also like your child to have access to the Maths Online software, it is available to buy through TryBooking on an individual subscription basis for $20.

**Maths Online: Year 9 & 10**
Year 9 and 10 students have access to Maths Online and should now have their login details. This is a tutorial style program that students can access at home to support and extend their learning in class.

**Year 11 & 12**
Maths Online is available on an individual user pays 12 months subscription basis to students in years 11 and 12. Subscriptions can be bought for $20 through TryBooking. This represents a significant saving compared with purchasing a subscription through the Maths Online website. The Maths Online software is a highly useful resource for maths students with a vast range of tutorials based on the Australian Curriculum together with interactive activities, problem solving activities and worked solutions that include feedback. Please phone or email narelle.collins@assumption.vic.edu.au if you have any queries, concerns or feedback about either of the software packages.

**Tutorials**

**AIMS Program**
Our extra-curricular tutorial program continues this year with the **Wednesday night tutorial** being held in the library as part of the AIMS (Academics in Maths & Science) program. For further information please phone or email Laila Sarraf laila.sarraf@assumption.vic.edu.au

Other tutorials are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various Teachers</td>
<td>AIMS program, Wednesday after school in the library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Barbara Radford</td>
<td>Year 7s - At 7.45am on Tuesdays in the LEC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 8s - At 7.45am on Wednesdays in the LEC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 9s - At 7.45 on Thursdays in the LEC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Sue Kift</td>
<td>Junior maths - Tuesdays lunchtime in Room 330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Narelle Collins &amp; Miss Shona</td>
<td>Junior maths - Wednesdays lunchtime in Room 330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maskelyne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Cristina Vergara</td>
<td>Physics and maths - After school in the library Day 4 (Thursdays week 1) and Day 8 (Wednesdays week 2) or by appointment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael Egan</td>
<td>After school on Wednesdays in Room 211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Vincenzo Rovetto</td>
<td>By appointment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All are welcome to attend any of these tutorials for extra support.

In general, if you are concerned or have any queries about your child’s progress in mathematics, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

March 27, 2014

Mrs Narelle Collins
Learning Area Coordinator
narelle.collins@assumption.vic.edu.au
March 27, 2014

**Year 11 Formal**

A reminder to our Year 11 students and families that the formal will be held in the Celebrity Room at Moonee Valley Function Centre on Friday, September 12. The occasion allows students and their families to come together and enjoy a formal evening with staff and other Year 11 families. This event is a long-running tradition at Assumption College and always proves to be enjoyable. Further details can be found on PAM. A deposit must be paid by April 28 to secure your booking. Any questions can be directed to Ms Jessica Flavell or Mrs Rochelle Coyle.

**Pi Day – π day – March 14**

On March 14 staff and students of Assumption College celebrated Pi Day with a pi recital competition. The student who recited pi to the highest number of decimal places was Year 12 student Kylan Davy. Kylan recited pi to 100 decimal places and took home a $20 iTunes voucher. Well done Kylan!

An approximation to π

π = 3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399937510
582097494459230781640628620899862803482534211706798214
808651328230664709384460955058223172535940812848111745
028410270193852110555964462294895493038196442881097566
59334461284764823378678316527120190914564856692346034
861045432664821339360726024914127372458700660631558817
488152092096282925409171536436789259036001133053054882
0466521384146951941511609 ................ forever ....

**Marian House**

Hello and welcome to the Marian family for 2014. I am Alex Langdon, Marian House Coordinator. I am looking forward to an exciting time ahead. I congratulate the majority of students for their smooth transition into the year. Term 1 is almost complete and there have already been some great memories. From all reports year 7s had a wonderful time on camp, made plenty of new friends and now feel an integral part of Marian. The swimming sports were held a couple of weeks back, and the results are in the sports section of the newsletter. All students who participated ought to be proud of their efforts. There were numerous improvements. Lastly, I would like to introduce the Marian student leaders.

**House Captains** – Xavier Dimasi and Jessica Wendel

**SRC Members** – James Bugeja, Jasmine Roberts, Sophie Harrington, Katie Kempster, Jack Nicholls, Scout Perry, Erin Gough, Thomas Falls, Renee Fontana, Jack Cornelissen, Jaron Murphy and Holly Isherwood.

I look forward to working with these great people and leaders throughout the year.

Thank you to all for your efforts so far. **GO MUSTANGS.**
**LOTE**

**Italian Exchange, 2014**
Planning for the Italian Exchange is in full swing, with nine students travelling to the Bari region and to several major Italian cities at the end of Term 4. It will no doubt be a wonderful experience and opportunity for our scholars of Italian. Mr Anthony Montemurro will coordinate the organisation of the trip over the coming months.

**The Dante Alighieri Poetry Recitation Competition**
In this annual event, our students of Italian in years 9-11 practise their speaking skills at Melbourne University. This year, the year 11s will compete on June 16 and our year 9s and 10s on June 19.

**The Alliance Française Berthe Mouchette Poetry Recitation Competition**
Our students of French in years 8-10, will be competing on May 21, during LOTE Week. The Alliance will provide us with an assessor for the day. VCE French classes will be tested on Wednesday, August 13 at the Alliance Française in St Kilda.

**French Educational Tour, 2015**
Students of French in years 9 and 10 in 2014 will be eligible to apply to participate in the French Educational Tour in 2015. The application process will begin in Term 4, 2014. The tour will involve three main stages: a visit to Paris, a homestay in Lyon and a coach tour of regional France.

**French Exchange Visitors, 2014**
On July 14, Bastille Day, we will welcome our 14 French Exchange students from The Externat Sainte Marie in Lyon, accompanied by their teacher Madame Béatrice Manuguerra. The students, aged 15 to 17, will be hosted by families of our ACK French students. We continue to cement our strong relationship with our Marist sister school in Lyon and look forward to some enriching activities which we will arrange for their stay. The French Exchange Welcome Dinner is set for July 16 at the Marlhes Restaurant from 6pm.

**From the Careers Desk**

**Lunchtime career seminars are back**
Lunchtime career seminars have begun for 2014. Recently, former student Mick Marrett (pictured right), who left ACK in 2010, spoke to a group of students about his career as a fitness trainer and about the industry. While at school Mick completed two years of Sport and Recreation and couldn’t wait to leave school and get into the workforce – something that he said he would have done differently if he had his way again.

At the end of year 11, Mick completed a course at the Australian Institute of Fitness and tried to get work as a personal trainer in a gym. Due to many circumstances, including serious injury, it took some time before he was employed at the Kilmore Leisure Centre. Mick explained that while short courses got him into the industry, eventually, he advised the students to do a degree or at least a diploma course if they wanted to enter the industry full-time. He warned students that they would need to be ready to work long hours and do a lot of things that they may not like at first when working in a gym before they become a full-time personal trainer. Such jobs could include pool attendant, receptionist or kiosk attendant.

Mick finished by explaining how to work as a self-employed personal trainer. He advised them to make sure that they were registered, had the appropriate insurance and had permits to use council land.

Students should email me if they have any requests for seminars in term 2.
Easter holiday exam preparation program
Various companies are conducting examination preparation programs during the first term holidays. Brochures about these courses are outside my office.

Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) roadshow
Year 10–12 students are invited to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Roadshow. This is an information night different from regular ADFA information sessions – this session will have special guests from the ADFA and the University of NSW, and is a fantastic opportunity for students interested in the academy to gain a better understanding of it.

Date: Monday, March 31
Time: 6 – 7.30pm
Location: 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne, VIC, 3000
Meeting Place: Level 14 Reception area

RSVPs are essential, so please respond via email to reserve a seat/s by no later than Friday, March 28. RSVP return email address: CPTVIC@dfdr.com.au

Experience La Trobe
Experience La Trobe is designed especially for year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents to get a taste of what it is like to be a university student for a day and get the inside scoop on what really happens after high school. Students may participate in workshops, find out about student life and also check out the Melbourne campus, including student accommodation. University students and staff will be there to help participants and answer any questions. Experience La Trobe is free - with lunch and entertainment provided.

Date: Friday, April 11
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: Melbourne Campus, Bundoora, at the intersection of Plenty Road and Kingsbury Drive
Registration: Click here to register.

Experience Trades for a Day @ RMIT
Want a hands-on job with lots of variety? Try a trade at RMIT. At this event you'll get to try workshops in air-conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing, and electrotechnology, as well as learn how a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship can put you on a path to a lucrative career. This event is open to year 9 and 10 students only.

Date: Monday, June 30
Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm
Location: RMIT city campus
Registration: Registration is a must.

Leaving school
I often get asked if you can leave school at the end of year 10. The answer is NO. For many years now the rule has been that you need to study until the age of 17. Leaving school before you turn 17 can be very difficult.

However, you can leave school if you tick all of these boxes:
- get permission from your school
- get permission from the Department of Education
- get a full-time apprenticeship or job

You MIGHT be able to enrol at TAFE if:
- you have successfully completed Year 10 and are not quite 17... (but you still need permission from authorities).

Research shows, over and over again, that staying at secondary school, for as long as possible, means that you are far more likely to succeed in your career life (later on).

Work experience
It is too late for students to submit applications for work experience during term 1 holidays.
VCAL

Year 11 Numeracy
We welcome Mr Alex Houghton to Assumption College and to VCAL Numeracy. Alex’s background is in hospitality and his Year 11 Numeracy class has already benefitted from these skills. The students have been looking at a unit of work on measurement and budgeting and finished the unit by preparing meals they had researched. Each meal served two people and could be cooked for less than $5. Such meals included Caesar salad, pasta with various sauces, vegetable and rice sensation and camembert cheese dip served with garlic infused chips. Student thoroughly enjoyed their experience in the kitchen and certainly enjoyed tasting each other’s cooking.

VCAL workshop
The VCAL department has a new student workshop: the former common room in Shandon House. Students have been setting up the room so that it is more functional. This included painting the new doors that have been installed and finding and sorting out equipment and tools that belonged to the VCAL department but were being stored around the school. The new workshop area will allow students to store projects and continue to work on them in the one area. One of the first projects undertaken in the workshop will be a painting for the maternity ward at Kilmore Hospital.

Year 12 celebration night
A group of Year 12 students has put together a proposal for a night to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the VCAL class over the past two years. This proposal has been accepted and they are now working on the details for the evening. The students have asked me to notify parents that they should keep Tuesday September 16 free so they can attend the VCAL celebration night. Further details will be made available next term.

Work placement in June for Year 11s
As mentioned at the parent information night, Year 11 students must find work placement when the VCE students are doing their exams from Monday June 2 to Thursday June 5. Students need to be aware that external TAFE providers will still be operating during this time and, therefore, they should still attend TAFE on the Wednesday, June 4. If students are having difficulties organising this time they should either speak to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Fifield (who is available on a Wednesday or Friday) or me. Those who are unable to organise work placement must attend school as normal.

Parent-teacher-student night
Parent-teacher-student interviews will be held on April 24 and 29 and May 1. I encourage parents to make an appointment to meet your child’s VCAL teachers to discuss their progress and what assessment is coming up during term 2. I will be available if parents would like to speak to me about any concerns they have with the VCAL program.

Open Day
At the College’s Open Day on Sunday, March 30 there’ll be a display of work by our VCAL students. If you have ever wondered what VCAL is about or what your child has been doing in VCAL we would welcome your visit to our display.
Pool and Aths Track Action

Assumption staff and students travelled en masse to Seymour pool for the annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival on March 13. Last year’s champions, Frayne, were confident of becoming back-to-back winners, with the other houses eager to stop this happening. The sun was shining and the birds were singing (although they were difficult to hear over the enthusiastic cheering coming from Mr Langdon and Marian House). It was a perfect day to be at the pool. Participation rates were high and everyone enjoyed themselves. As hard as everyone tried, Frayne were too strong and took out top prize.

Swimming Results:
- First - Frayne (878 points)
- Second - Hilary (630)
- Third - McAuley (612)
- Fourth - La Valla (603)
- Fifth - Marcellin (592)
- Sixth - Damian (583)
- Seventh - Austin (532)
- Eighth - Marian (497)

Eleven days later, the eight houses took to the Carroll Oval for the annual Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Frayne, fresh from their triumph in the swimming carnival and the 2013 reigning athletics champions were poised to again complete the ‘double’. Most students were heavily involved in competing and cheering. The highlight of the day was, as always, the ACK Gift; a handicapped event in which competitors from each level race against each other for the title of “fastest runner at the school”. The boys and girls races went right down to the wire, with Billy Goodwin (Year 8) and Alexandra Roberts (Year 7) the eventual champions.

Just before the end of the carnival the teams gathered around the track for the announcement of the winning house. Fourteen points separated first and second, leaving those in Frayne and McAuley with fingers crossed and wondering. Then came the announcement that left Mr Montemurro speechless: “McAuley are the 2014 athletics champions.”

Athletics Results:
- First - McAuley (1634.5 points)
- Second - Frayne (1620.5)
- Third - Marian (1469.5)
- Fourth - La Valla (1323.5)
- Fifth - Damian (1320)
- Sixth - Marcellin (1161)
- Seventh - Hilary (1141)
- Eighth - Austin (1057)

Boys Sport

The only team that remained undefeated throughout the season was the Thirds Blue tennis team (pictured), coached by Mrs Jenny Pendlebury. This team, made up of all Year 12 boys, represented the College for the last time on Saturday and they left their best game until the end. This week the boys, captained by Caleb Brooks and Christian Bell, defeated PEGs 12 sets to nil to remain undefeated for the season. Congratulations to all teams that have represented the College in a true sportsman-like manner all season.

A big thank you to all the parent coaches and any other parents who have helped score, umpire, or assisted the coach in some way throughout the season. Your efforts are much appreciated. The next summer season begins in mid-October and students will move up to the next year level of sport. E.g. Year 7s will play in the Year 8 competition in term 4.
Winter sport

Important dates
Friday, April 4 – First XVIII v St Bernard’s at 2pm on Carroll Oval (Ray Carroll – Dominic Legudi Cup)
Friday, May 2 – First XVIII v PEGS at 2.30pm on Carroll Oval
Saturday, May 3 – Round 1 of AGSV winter sport
Teams have either begun or will begin training shortly for the winter season.

Coaches wanted
Coaches are needed for the Inter B and 8B football teams. No coach means forfeiting of matches. Please email me if you can help with any of the above.

Football umpires
Any more parents willing to help umpire their son’s home matches (other than firsts) please email me ASAP.

AGSV Swimming Carnival
The annual AGSV Swimming Carnival was held at MSAC last Friday. Year 9 student, Andrew Rice, won his 50m butterfly event and was our only boys first place for the night. A big thank you to all swimmers for their efforts.

There were seven ACK boys records broken at the carnival.

ACK Record Breakers:
Jai Harrop – U15 50m freestyle – 27.75 (old 28.98 – N. Langdon 2005)
Andrew Rice – U16 50m butterfly – 27.79 (old 29.58 – R. Coburn 2010)
Andrew Rice – U16 50m freestyle – 25.82 (old 27.75 – N. Langdon 2006)
Andrew Rice – U16 100m freestyle – 56.94 (old 1:01.85 – N. Langdon 2006)
Andrew Rice – Open 100m backstroke – 1:02.46 (old 1:06.39 – A. Rice 2013)
Jack Atherden, Jack Callaghan, Mitchell White, Andrew Rice – U16 4 x 50m freestyle relay – 1:59.33 (old 2:01.21 – J. Stewart, A. Gatt, A. Tilley, J. Harrop)
Adam Gatt, James Stewart, Jai Harrop, James Boland – U17 4 x 50m freestyle relay – 1:53.26 (old 2:11.01 – F. Graham, L. Reeves, R. Coburn, T. Pearce)

ACK Placings:
First – Andrew Rice – U16 50m butterfly
Second – Andrew Rice – U16 50m freestyle
Third – Andrew Rice – U16 100m freestyle
Third – Adam Gatt – U17 50m breaststroke

School Sport Victoria (SSV)
A reminder to all students and parents that ACK is affiliated with School Sport Victoria. This means any student enrolled at the school can try out for the many state teams on offer. Please visit www.ssv.vic.edu.au.

Girls Sport

As the girls summer season draws to a close, we reflect on what has been another successful time in ACK sport. We have seen some comprehensive victories from our Thirds, Inter B Gold and Junior B tennis teams, as well as from a number of our volleyball teams. We saw our Year 7s experience victory for the first time representing ACK in the volleyball and softball, and some strong performances from our firsts sides also give us hope for the future. I thank all players and coaches for their commitment throughout the summer season.

The AGSV Swimming Carnival was held at MSAC last Friday. As always, ACK was represented by an enthusiastic team. We had some stand out performances, notably from Erin Roche who was breaking school records again. And new Year 7 Sophie Locke looks to be a find for the future. Congratulations to all those that were involved.

Winter sport training has begun for a number of teams, with some to start in the last week of this term. Training will resume in the first week of term 2, with the first game of the season to be held on Saturday May 3. If you have not signed up for a winter sport, but would like to, we still have vacancies in basketball, soccer, hockey and cross-country. Please contact me ASAP if you would like to join.