From The Rector

One of the great highlights of the year occurred last Friday when we celebrated our Inaugural Mass together at St Patrick’s Cathedral. To gather in such numbers and in such spirit is a testament to the values that we share. The music ministry led us well and Claire Patti our Vocal Teacher, deserves great praise. Through her hard work, dedication and talent, she was able to guide the Mazenod voices to soar in the Cathedral. Her efforts and the efforts of all involved in the music genuinely helped us all come closer to God.

Thanks also goes to the many students, staff and families involved in the celebration, under the guidance of Mr Jeremy Wright and Fr Andrew Chen O.M.I. It was great to be able to have my Mum and Dad come down from Brisbane to celebrate with us. They too were very grateful for the welcome that they received.

During this week our Year 7’s have been on camp in Rawson (30km north of Moe). I was able to travel up and visit with them and witnessed very happy young men and very hardworking Staff and Year 11’s. The variety and scope of activities was very pleasing and gave each boy the opportunity to contribute and find their place.

An enormous amount of responsibility is placed on Mr Matt Johnson and the staff who support these camps and the school owes them a great debt of gratitude. The time that is given to these camps, is time away from their own families and this is genuinely appreciated. While at camp, I was very pleased to see that the staff were constantly giving directions to the boys about manners, discipline and expectations of behaviour. This sets the tone for the rest of the educational journey at Mazenod and is crucial in maintaining and growing our good name in the community. The use of manners with the camp staff was also particularly pleasing.

We have recently seen the first of our synthetic surfaces installed in both the quadrangle and Year 7 Four-Square Area. Both surfaces provide genuine recreation opportunities for the students at recess and lunch and aim to alleviate some of the space issues that the boys face. Please feel free to come and have a look next time you are within the College. These surfaces signal the beginning of our upgrading of Sporting Facilities within the College. We are currently negotiating with the Council regarding the re-surfacing of the Football Pitch with FIFA Accredited Tiger-Turf. This facility will provide an all-weather surface that will benefit all students at the College. Further announcements regarding the upgrading of Sports’ Facilities will be made in the coming weeks.

Plans are also underway to further increase the resources available to the Science Faculty. The first of these resources is to create a new Science Laboratory to further enhance the study of Science at Mazenod. Science develops an understanding of the bigger picture and fosters a desire to push the boundaries of discovery. It is the means by which we develop and applied creatively. An education in Science fosters intellectual curiosity and a capacity for life-long learning. Science at Mazenod offers students great opportunities in many fields and is valued very highly. The Science Faculty spend considerable time and effort providing a meaningful and rich curriculum and have provided many students with the skills necessary to pursue a career in Science, Medicine and many other fields. In upcoming newsletters, further exciting developments in the study of Science at Mazenod will be revealed.

Tom Gubbins, (Vice Captain – Community Service) recently launched our Mobile Phone Recycling Initiative and invited everyone in the community to look for any old mobile phones and adapters lying around the house. These mobile phones are 90% recyclable but not biodegradable and therefore need to avoid being in land-fill. This initiative has the full blessing of the College and I encourage all un-used mobile phones to be deposited in the recycled bins within the College. Feel free to ask any family and friends as well. Every effort at caring for our planet demonstrates great cooperation with God, who creates and sustains all that exists.

I would like to encourage the entire community to continue to bring in the donations for Mission Action Day in a few weeks. This year we are invited to contribute at least $40 to those in genuine need. We are genuinely able to make a difference in the lives of those we help as well as our own. The knowledge that our offering reaches the materially poor should give us a great sense of purpose and hope. I am very confident that our generous community will once again respond to the cause.

I announced two weeks ago that our community contributed $20,000 to the people of Haiti and I am pleased to announce that the combined total from all Oblate Ministries in Australia was $100,000. This generosity is the core of the College and a deep demonstration of the values of St Eugene de Mazenod who reminds us constantly to stand with the poor and suffering and never walk away from them. The Provincial of the Oblates, Fr Harry Dyer O.M.I. has asked me to pass on his thanks to all in this Community and in the wider Province who contributed to this amount.

Could I please ask all Year 7 Families to note the date of March 19 as this is the Year 7 Welcome and Games Evening. This event further cements a relationship with the College and it is hoped and expected that all Year 7 Families make an effort to attend this gathering. I would also encourage all mothers and fathers of the College to become involved in the Mothers’ and Fathers’ Auxiliaries. Upon enrolment many parents expressed a pledge to become involved, yet actual attendance does not seem to reflect that at times. Please check the Newsletter for upcoming events and support these wonderful groups.

This week I have travelled to Mazenod College in Western Australia with the School Captain and Vice Captains as well as our Leadership Coordinators. This journey is to further enhance our close relationship with Mazenod WA by undertaking a joint venture of support. A further report will feature in future newsletters.

Congratulations to Jack Cummings of Year 11 who was part the Victorian Under 17 Team Pursuit and Team Sprint (Cycling) which set a new National Record over the weekend. A report is contained later in the Newsletter.

Take Care and God Bless
Fr. Michael Twigg O.M.I.
In an attempt to assist the Oblate Missionary work in the Developing World, Mazenod College will be holding its annual Mission Action Day on Friday 26th March.

As this is the College's one big appeal for the Oblate Missions, each family is asked to support the day with a donation of at least $40.00.

The needs of the poor in the Developing World are dire. These have been intensified by both the current global recession, as well as, by the natural disasters which have had a devastating impact on the lives of so many people. We assure you that EVERY cent raised by our Mission Action Day will be distributed to the poor in the Developing World.

Moreover, in order to make this year's Mission Action Day the most successful ever, we would appreciate any donations or goods which we might raffle as prizes, and / or monetary donations.

If others would like to contribute to this very worthy activity, please send donations to either Ms. Natina Giacco or Mr. Tony Rolfe. Individuals and Companies will be acknowledged to the Student Body and School Community.

If you have any queries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to either e-mail or to telephone us at the College.

Natina Giacco --- ngiacco@mazenod.vic.edu.au
Tony Rolfe --- trole@mazenod.vic.edu.au

Thanking you very much,
The Organising Committee of Mission Action Day.

MOTHERS’ AUXILIARY

The Mothers’ Auxiliary meeting will be on Wednesday 10th March, commencing with Mass at 7.30 pm followed by meeting in Conference Room at 8.00 pm.

Come and enjoy the company and supper with other Mazenod Mothers.

Date to Remember:
Mothers Day Annual Dinner – Friday 7th May, 2010 at Dandenong Club. Look out for Invitation in Newsletter over the coming weeks.

Donation:
Mothers’ Auxiliary would very much appreciate any donation of prizes for the “Mothers Day Annual Dinner Raffle” which tickets are sold and drawn on the night of the dinner. If you can help with any items that could be added to the list of prizes this would be great. Donations can be left at the front office marked “Mothers Day Dinner Raffle”.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee:
Sandra Mancini - 0418 177 283
Nancy Mete - 0418 553 191

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to Brenton Allen, Music Class of 2009 who has been selected to represent Mazenod for the outstanding work of Year 12 music students across Victoria in the Top Class Music VCAA showcase concert. Brenton will deliver his first public solo guitar performance at 6.30pm on the 13th March at the Melbourne Recital Centre. Tickets can be obtained online from the Melbourne Recital Centre, Southbank.

CAREERS AND PATHWAYS

The University of Melbourne Update:

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE FOR A DAY
ACCESS ALL AREAS – Friday 9 April 2010
Access All Areas is especially designed for Year 10 – 12 Victorian, interstate and international students and their families, allowing them to come onto campus and gain personal insight into the University of Melbourne. The program allows students to gather information that is tailored to them. Following the introductory presentation there are information sessions on specific study areas, allowing students to select their preferred sessions and speak to faculty staff face-to-face. There will also be a special information session for parents and the opportunity for a tour of the residential colleges.

Opportunity to gather detailed information on:

- The Melbourne Model
- Courses in 2011 and beyond
General Careers Update:

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
A reminder to all year 10 students that work experience forms must be returned to Ms. Seremetis by Monday 22nd March 2010. This is the last week of term 1. Work Experience dates for 2010 are 14th – 25th June 2010. Please note that places for work experience fill up quickly and students are likely to miss out on worthwhile opportunities if this placement is organised at the last minute.

TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECENT SCHOOL LEAVERS
Apprenticeships Group Australia (AGA) currently has many career opportunities for Business Administration Trainees in Melbourne and its surrounding suburbs for school leavers. This is a fantastic entry level opportunity – as with all apprenticeships and traineeships, you will be paid to learn while you are earning your qualification and you will also have a dedicated Field Officer who will provide support to you throughout the traineeship. This is a great way to kick-start your career in business. AGA has various industries to choose from such as Finance, Legal and Trade Services to name a few. Some of the host employers that you could be working for include ANZ, Mercedes Benz, Exxonmobil, and Robert Bosch (Aust). If a Business traineeship does not interest you, then perhaps consider a Spare Parts Interpreter Traineeship. Again this is a Certificate III nationally recognised level qualification. Further information and application forms are available on the website: www.agaustralia.com.au/careers alternatively you may wish to call and speak with Shane Gordon, Recruitment Officer, Apprenticeships Group Australia, Mobile: 0438 549 371, Telephone: 9237 7418

TRANSITIONS IN EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION FORUM
How parents CAN support their children to make a positive JOURNEY through the peak transitional stages of their education. A forum for parents to assist their children to make the transition from primary to secondary school and from secondary into other forms of education training and employment is being held by Gateway LLN on Thursday 15th April, 2010, 6pm – 8.30pm at Main Hall, Box Hill Town Hall, Box Hill.

The “Transitions in Education” Forum aims to:
[-] Assist parents to support their children to make the transition from primary to secondary school and from secondary into other forms of education training and employment.
[-] Empower parents to support their children to make a positive JOURNEY through the peak transitional stages of their education.
[-] Increase parental awareness of external agencies within the Gateway region.
[-] Increase knowledge and understanding of the wide range of career and training options.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Michael Carr Gregg is one of Australia’s highest profile psychologists. He specialises in the area of parenting adolescents and adolescent mental health. Michael has been the Consultant Psychologist to various Victorian schools and professional associations and in 2003 he was one of the founding members of the ‘National Coalition Against Bullying’ and became one of their national spokespersons.
To register your interest, log onto: wwwgatewaylln.com.au for more information. Light refreshments will be provided.

SUBWAY SANDWICH ARTISTS WANTED
Subway Oakleigh and Mount Waverley has ten part-time/casual positions available for students to be trained as Sandwich Artists. Work is available after school and on weekends. Students are to email or mail a letter of application and resume to the following addresses. Email:
Two new Australian Records for Jack Cummings – Year 11

Over the course of last weekend, Jack Cummings of Year 11 was invited to the Sid Patterson Grand Prix along with fellow Victorian Team Members Jacob Schmid and Evan Hull to try and better the National Record for the Under 17 Team Sprint in Cycling that they had already broken two weeks earlier at an event. In their first attempt they smashed the previous record they had set and set a new National Record of 48.6 seconds. However a timing malfunction meant that the record could not stand. They then raced other races and the promoter then offered them another slot to have another go. They then set out again to break the record and recorded a time of 48.86 seconds to break the National Record again.

On the Saturday night there was another major international event and Jack and the Victorian Pursuit team which Jack is a member of along with Evan Hull, Tom Hamilton and Alex Morgan set out to break the National Record in the Under 17 Team Pursuit. They smashed it in a time of 3.21.589 to lower the record by about 1.3 seconds.

These achievements give Jack two of the five National Records available to Under 17’s in Australia. Jack has also been invited to join the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and will be joining them at the end of March. The College is extremely proud of Jack and continues to support him in his Cycling Pursuits.

Joel Watson receiving his pennant for breaking the ACC Under 13, 50 metre Backstroke record.

ACC Athletics

Our carnivals are only 2 weeks away and all things are in full motion as we prepare ourselves for the day. Training sessions are Tuesday and Thursday after school, with the Thursday session at Ross Reserve Noble Park till 4.30pm. Our distance runners also train at 7.30am on a Friday morning under the guidance of ex Mazenod student and Athletics captain Aaron Holmes. Our students are participating in a trial carnival on Wednesday the 10th of March at the Bill Seward Track Burwood. The trial will kick off at about 1pm. The ACC are yet to confirm the timing of the day as Olympic Park have not yet finalised the sharing arrangements for March with all their tenants. We can only confirm that our Junior Field events will take place on Thursday the 18th of March at either Williamstown or Olympic Park and the remainder of the Carnival will take place on Wednesday the 24th of March at Olympic Park.

ACC Sport

In the excitement of so many records and our great result at the swimming 2 weeks ago, I mistakenly mixed up Joel Watson’s ACC records. To reconfirm what a fantastic night Joel had, he broke the record in the U/13 Backstroke 50 metres, with a new time of 33.72. Joel was also outstanding winning 50 metre events in the Butterfly and Freestyle and was part of the record breaking team in the under 13, 50 metre Freestyle relay. Congratulations again to Joel on a wonderful night.