



RONCALLI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

‘ TO SEEK TRUTH AND PEACE ’
KIMIHI TE PONO ME TERANGIMARIE

26 May 2011

Issue 2, Term 2

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

On Monday morning I was invited to attend a *Thanksgiving Service* at St Mary's Anglican Church to celebrate Craighead Diocesan Schools' Centenary (1911-2011). The service was celebrated by the Anglican Bishop of Christchurch and her thought provoking sermon, taken from Matthew 5:13, was based on **salt** which was a very important mineral in biblical times.

The Bible, in fact, contains numerous references to salt. Salts' ability to preserve food was a foundation of civilization. It eliminated peoples dependence on seasonal food, and allowed them to travel over long distances. But because salt was difficult to obtain, it was highly valued. In fact, Roman soldiers were often paid in salt and the word 'salary' derives from the Latin word *salarium*, referring to money given to the soldiers to buy salt.

I was particularly interested by the way the Bishop related the qualities of salt to education at a special character school. I have outlined a few of the main points from her sermon below, because I think it raises some interesting questions for the Roncalli school community as we look ahead to the future.

- Historically, salt has been important as a **preservative**. In our ever-changing educational environment, we need to be very clear about those things that require change, and those beliefs and traditions that are worth preserving. What is worth *preserving* at Roncalli College (our non-negotiables)? What needs to change?
- Salt is used in cooking to '**draw out**' flavour. Salt does not change the taste of the food but rather enhances it. Likewise, it is important that we as educators see the unique, God-given gifts in each individual student and find ways to draw them out and develop them. Good education should *not* be about changing students into what we want them to be; or what the markets dictate. Principle-centred education is about helping students to become the best possible versions of themselves. How good are we at recognising, acknowledging, and developing the unique gifts and talents of each individual student? How can we do it better? How can we help students see the amazing potential within themselves?
- An interesting quality of salt is that when it is used it '**loses itself**'. For example, when used in cooking the salt dilutes and cannot be seen. So it is present but unseen, a quality that is part of our Mercy and Marist tradition. How are we as educators helping our students to become 'servant leaders' in a society that preaches 'it is all about me'? How are we as parents and teachers modelling these counter-cultural values?

So my challenge this week is for all of us to **be worth our salt**.

Until next time,

Chris Comeau

UPDATES

STAFF NEWS

Roncalli College are pleased to welcome two new teachers to the College team in term 2: Mr Andrew Williamson, and Mr Ben Liddy. Andrew Williamson will be teaching English across the school, and Ben Liddy will be teaching both English and Religious Studies. We hope both enjoy their time at Roncalli.

ST JOSEPH'S LIP SYNC 2011 – "A DAY AT THE RACES"

The annual **St Joseph's Lip Sync** night will be held at the **Caroline Bay Hall** on **Saturday 25 June 2011**. This year's theme is "**A Day at the Races**" and doors will open at 7pm.

As in previous years, we welcome acts from inside and outside our school community. If you are interested in registering an act please telephone either Di Higgins (Ph: 684 8151 or 027 404 8238) or Lisa Richards (Ph: 686 3496 or 027 6583072) on or before Friday 17 June 2011 to confirm details.

Tickets will be on sale at the St Joseph's School Office at a cost of \$20 per person from Monday 13 June 2011.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for tables of 10 or more.

TERM CALENDER DATES:

27 th	Year 13—Time Management Presentation
29 th	Catholic Youth Team Sportsday—Year 9 to 13 Year 9 & 10 Netball Development Tournament
<u>30 May-3 June</u>	Exam Week Year 11-13's
31 st	Year 10I Retreat
1 June	Year 10E Retreat Aoraki Cross Country School Uniform Shop Open 3.30-4.30pm
2nd	Year 10R Retreat
3 rd	Year 10M Retreat
6th	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
7 th	PTA Meeting 7pm in Staff Room
8th	ICAS Science Competition
9th	Year 12 Retreat
10 th	Peer Support 2pm
11 th	Smokefree Rockquest
12-13 th	St Peters Exchange
14 th	Year 12 Retreat
15 th	School Uniform Shop Open 3.30-4.30pm
16 th	Big Sing – Dunedin Navy Careers Presentation

"All ShookUp"..

The Musical Theatre section of the South Canterbury Drama League is looking for a Wardrobe Manager for our up-coming production "All Shook Up". We are looking for a person with commitment, energy, a positive "can do" attitude, who would enjoy being part of a hard working, fun team. If you are interested, or know of someone who could be interested, please contact Jan Faith who will send out the job description for this unpaid job. Rehearsals start in June, show dates are 16 - 24 September.

Jan Faith

PRODUCTION SECRETARY 03 684 3701 027 284 8112 j.faith@xtra.co.nz

SoccerRep Trials

Rep Trials - 16th Grade Boys Soccer - for boys born in 1995: Trials will be May 29th and June 12th at 11am at Sir Basil Arthur Park. For further details or information contact Steve Deeley, 03 612 6114.

CYT presents Sports Day 2011

Sunday 29th May, 1pm @ Roncalli College **Gather a team of 5 students from year 9 – 13's.** **Win spot prizes!!!** For more information or to register go to www.cyt.org.nz or call 03 353 0705

SENIOR EXAM WEEK

At the start of next week, the senior school will be facing their first set of examinations for the year. We hold examinations for the students for several reasons : we want them to be familiar with the examination process and protocol, so that there is an opportunity for them to face the kind of assessment that they will have at the end of the year; and it also gives some students a chance to have a blocked period of time to complete a piece of work.



The examination time-table is as follows and all students are expected to attend their examinations. If a student is unable to attend the examination, the student or a parent/caregiver needs to contact the school before the examination to discuss whether a doctor's certificate will be required, and whether there will be a need to make up the examination time.

Students should attend the examinations in full school uniform, and have had breakfast if it is a morning exam. Students should be studying and revising for these examinations.

Guidelines for examination sitting

- All pens are to be placed in a clear plastic bag
- You must complete your examination in either a blue or a black pen
- Only clear drinking bottles are allowed
- No eating during the examination
- No cell phones
- Turn off watch alarms
- Do not use correction fluid - twink etc
- Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your exam is due to start
- You are not allowed to leave the examination room until your examination is complete
- Please put up your hand if you drop something on the floor
- Please see Ms Hill or ring if you are unable to be present for any examination
- You must bring your own paper in to the examination but you may not bring any notes or other material with you
- There will no toilet break for the first 45 minutes



Exam Preparation Tips – Information for Parents and Students

Getting Started

The earlier you start, the more time you will have to prepare for the exam. You don't have to wait until exam time approaches; try to set the stage from the beginning of the course by reviewing the material after each class. By starting early and studying on a regular basis, you will have a better opportunity to absorb the information and life will be a lot easier when it's time to put it all together for the exam.

Make sure all of your course material is well organized so you can find and fill any gaps. If you miss any classes, get the notes from your friends right away instead of scrambling at the last minute. Proper organization will help you to get a better picture of the material that has to be covered and improve the flow of the study process.

Creating a Study Plan

As the exam nears, you will need to create a plan to help you study effectively and minimize stress. The first step is to figure out how much time and effort you must dedicate to studying for the exam by asking the following questions:

- How much material do you need to cover?
- How difficult is the material? How much time is available?
- Do you have any other priorities during the study period?
- What is the format of the exam?
- How important is the exam?
- What is your performance target for the exam?

To prepare the study plan, map out all of the material that has to be covered and make a schedule showing what, when and how much you will study each day. If you have kept up with the course work, studying will involve revision of the material that you have already covered. If you are behind in the course, you will have to finish the readings and other uncompleted work before starting the revision (if there isn't enough time to go over everything, you must decide what is most important for the exam).



Here are some tips to follow in creating your study plan:

- budget your time realistically;
- allocate the study time into several manageable study sessions;
- divide the course material into small segments and assign them to the study sessions;
- set clear and specific goals for the study sessions;
- prioritise to ensure that material weighted more heavily in the exam gets sufficient study time;
- take into account your familiarity with the material and the difficulty level;
- don't make the study sessions too long;
- study sessions should have enough variety in terms of topics and activities to prevent boredom and loss of effectiveness;
- avoid cramming before the exam; and
- don't forget to include regular breaks.

Studying for the Exam

You are now armed with a plan and ready to start studying for the exam. Try to study in a location where you can concentrate and won't be interrupted. You can work with others or join a study group if you find it helpful, but be careful to keep it from turning into an inefficient use of your time. Some proven study tools and techniques are listed below - people respond to different learning styles, so use what works for you.

Revising with Summary Notes

Make a condensed version of your readings and class notes by creating summary notes. Pinpoint the key terms and concepts and make sure that you understand them. You can identify key terms and concepts by paying attention to what has been emphasized in your classes, textbooks and course syllabus. For example, if a particular topic has taken up a lot of time in the classroom, it is more likely to be on the exam and you should have a good understanding of it.

The process of making summary notes can help you to retain more information. By writing the information thoughtfully instead of just seeing it, you can develop a greater perception of the material. To take this further, activate your other senses: you can recite the summary notes aloud, and even record and listen to them.

Memorizing with Flashcards

Flashcards (or "index cards") are a good memorization tool. Reduce your summary notes into bullet points, keywords, lists, formulas and diagrams and place them onto a card for each topic. (Some people like to use flashcards to prepare their summary notes in the first place, while others find that it leads to information overload.)

The items on the flashcards act as memory triggers. By memorizing the flashcards you can enhance your ability to recall larger bits of information referenced by the triggers. You can carry the cards with you and review them even when you have only short bursts of time available.

Practicing under Exam Conditions

Knowing the course material is necessary but not sufficient to guarantee success on the exam - you also need to be able to communicate the answers effectively under exam conditions. Practice using sample questions in the same format as the exam and answer them in a simulated test environment. The sample questions can be sourced from old exams and assignments, which are often similar from year to year with small changes. Even though you are only practicing, it is better to write full answers to the questions so you can work through the entire thought process.

The practice session should serve as a feedback loop. Check the answers to the practice questions to diagnose your strengths and weaknesses. If you are weak in an area, go back and study it further to address any gaps.

Taking Care of Yourself

Don't forget to take care of yourself during the exam preparation. It is very important to be in good mental and physical condition for the exam. A small amount of stress can get you psyched, but too much mental or physical strain can be detrimental to your performance. The last thing you want to do is to sabotage your efforts by ignoring your well-being.

After you finish studying, take some time to relax. Don't stay up too late if you can help it and try to get a good night's sleep. Eat before the exam to build your energy, but avoid heavy foods that can make you drowsy.

Keep a positive attitude about the exam. Think of it as a way to demonstrate your knowledge and not as some imposing challenge. Go to the exam focused and relaxed - you have done the work, now it's time to reap the rewards.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

2011 College Fair Date— Sunday 2nd October 10.30am start. Mark your calendars now!!

We are looking for more **great fences** to put our Fair signs on. If you have a big fence that is in a prime spot we could use around Timaru, I would love to hear from you. Please ring Geoff Fuller 03 684 5962.

PTA committee meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the School Library. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to come along and have a look, and join the PTA family. Our next meeting date is Tuesday 7th June in the Staff Room.

TelstraClear Intelligent Rewards are now available for credit to Roncalli College. If you are already a TelstraClear customer, or wish to become one, please refer to our website for further details.

CULTURAL NEWS

Roncalli College Choir Activities:

June 10th Performance at St Mary's Lunchtime concert

June 16th Choir travels to Dunedin for the 'Big Sing'
Secondary Schools Choir Competition



AND FROM OUR HEAD GIRL...

Hi everyone, Genevieve Woodall here, your Head Girl for 2011. I am enjoying this position and the challenges and opportunities it is providing. For the remainder of the year, I hope to further develop our sense of community and also strive to role model our form goal of including others, and appreciating difference.

I enjoy playing sport, particularly tennis, netball, soccer, and squash. Playing the guitar, singing, and dancing are also interests of mine. I thoroughly enjoyed being involved with our Colleges' Stage Challenge entry this year; an awesome experience I would recommend to anyone who has the chance.

I am currently unsure on which career path to take, and I am considering having a gap year in 2012 to volunteer abroad.



Supermodels, Pop Divas, and Soapie Stars . . .

Do we want these to be the role models presented to our teenage girls? Wherever they look, teenage girls are bombarded by messages about what to eat, how to act, how to look, how to please someone, and how to be liked. Popular culture, TV programs, magazines, movies and websites all dispense information and so-called “advice” to vulnerable and impressionable girls.

Created by experienced educators with a proven track record of success, Enlighten Education’s programs help teenage girls decode the mixed messages they receive, and help them develop self-esteem and confidence. They cover everything from helping girls discover their own inner beauty, to managing friendships and even developing business plans. Enlighten encourages girls to reach their own conclusions and to know their own minds. Rather than telling girls what to do, they focus on informing, inspiring and empowering them. We encourage girls to be discerning consumers and critical thinkers, and to find their own voice and power in a complex world.

As part of Roncalli’s Wellbeing Week (May 9-13) some of our senior girls spent the day with Rachel Hansen exploring issues close to their hearts. The feedback from the girls says it all:

□ I thought that today would be boring but it wasn’t – it was very inspiring! I am going to change the way I study. The best part was making the diaries, and writing what we liked about each other in them. I also liked seeing the photoshopped pictures - they inspired me. If I feel beautiful, I WILL be beautiful!

□ I thought that today we were just gonna talk about our feelings all day. The best workshop was ‘Love The Skin You’re In’ because it showed me that my body isn’t the problem, it is actually the way that the media portrays beauty. My body is beautiful, it’s the media that isn’t! Today I saw that how other people view me is completely different to how I view myself. I absolutely loved today, it has made me feel so good.

If you wish to know more about Enlighten Education, go to: www.enlighteneducation.com

Adrienne Quartier
Guidance Counsellor extn811



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

2011 South Canterbury Sports Awards

NOMINEES

Nominations for Outstanding Young Sportsperson of the Year:-

JORDAN HOOKE – Swimming

ROBERT MULVENA – Rugby

EMILY VAN DER HEYDEN – Speed Skating

Nominations for Outstanding Sports Official of the Year:-

KATHYRN RICHARDS – Basketball

Nominations for Outstanding Sports Administrator of the Year:-

RICHELLE CANNELL – Athletics

FINAL AWARDS

Congratulations:-

Emily van der Heyden was selected by the judges as a top 3 contender for the title in the Young Sportsperson of the Year. The category had 18 elite sportspeople nominated so to be a finalist was a huge achievement for Emily.

Richelle Cannell was named the 2011 Outstanding Administrator of the Year.

Kavanaugh College Exchange

Congratulations to all students who travelled to Dunedin to compete in the annual winter sports exchange with Kavanaugh College. A special thanks to all staff, coaches and parents who travelled with Roncalli to compete in their chosen sports. Your time and commitment is very much appreciated. A Full report and photos will be published in the next sports update due to be published week 5, term two.

St Peters' Exchange – Timaru – Sunday 12th and Monday 13th June

Roncalli College is hosting the annual winter sports exchange with St Peter's College from Gore on Sunday 12th & Monday 13th June.

The following teams will be competing:

Junior Premier Girls Basketball, Junior Premier Boys Basketball, Senior A Netball, 10A Netball, 9A Netball, Girls 1st XI Hockey, Boys 1st XI Hockey, Under 15 Rugby and Junior Debating.

We are required to **Billet** the St Peter's students for the night on **Sunday 12th June**, so I would like to ask families to put this date on their calendars. All students involved will receive more detailed information soon.

Roncalli College Netball

Roncalli Club Duty Day – Thank you to all teams and managers who organised and helped out on Club Duty at Netball on Saturday 21st May. Great job done by Roncalli!

Cheese Roll Fundraiser – I would like to extend a huge thank you to Sarah and Peter Shaw for their preparation and coordination organising our Roncalli Netball Cheese roll fundraiser held on Sunday 22nd May. And thank you to all the wonderful helpers on the day and all who supported Roncalli Netball. We are delighted to announce we have raised enough money to cover all costs for the 10A and 9A netball teams competing in the Junior SISS Netball Tournament in July in Christchurch.

Roncalli Junior Development Netball Tournament – Sunday 29th May 2011 – Aorangi Netball Courts

Roncalli College is again running the Aoraki Year 9 and 10 netball development tournament at the SC netball courts this Sunday. This tournament is a great opportunity for young netball players to develop, experience tournament play and prepare for the Junior South Island Netball tournament in July.

This event is also a fundraiser for the Roncalli A team as they prepare for the South Island Secondary Schools Senior Tournament in August.

Roncalli has the 10A, 10A2, 9A, 9A2 and 9B1 teams competing. Good luck to all teams involved.

Tournament information and draws have been posted on the Roncalli website www.roncalli.school.nz

This has been a great day in the past with teams really enjoying the experience. So come along and support Roncalli Netball.

Monday Night Badminton

The Monday night Badminton competition will recommence this coming Monday 30th May. The Draw will be posted on the gym notice board and website as soon as made available. A Reminder to all players to please wear the correct playing uniform and footwear (sneakers) at all times.



SPECIAL CHARACTER

We have a busy Term 2 planned for our students and staff, with a number of educational and training opportunities being offered, by a range of presenters, including over the next fortnight:

- Wednesday 25th May –additional 3 Year 13 Eucharistic ministers will be commissioned by Fr Chris – congratulations to Angelique Kinsman; Kate Jones; and Genevieve Woodall.
- Chanel House Mass Wednesday 25th May - House Masses are now being celebrated regularly during DEAR/House Group time on a Wednesday, and this is enjoyed and appreciated by the students.
- Saturday 28th May - School parish outreach where Choir and Orchestra supports St Thomas' parishioners in celebrating their 6pm Vigil Mass
- Year 10 Retreats – 10I Tuesday 31 May; 10R Wednesday 1 June; 10E Thursday 2 June; 10M Friday 3 June.

Over the past week we have also enjoyed:

- Teachers new to Catholic Schools Day – 19th May
- Mahitahi visit to our school – 23 May – assembly and time with Year 12 and 13 students

SacraStin training is also ongoing.

Our Open Day last week saw standing room only at the 9am Mass celebrated at the Basilica, on an intermittently wet day. The Ministry team also took this opportunity to prepare baking for visits to sick and bereaved families during this day.

Congratulations also to the following students who have chosen to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at their respective Parishes in May: Keegan Casey; EllieMcIlraith; Lochlann Medley; Christina Ryan; George Styles; Courtney Walls; Tim Coughlan; Joseph Gibson; and Ainslie Tipper. God's blessings to you all.

A Prayer for our Students

*May you keep us close to your heart,
in our busy years at high school,
as we deal with this time in our lives.
Give us the courage to strive,
to do our very best;
to reach all our goals.
Help us to believe in our abilities,
and may we have the strength to continue to strive,
even when we come across challenges and difficulties.
With your help,
may we achieve the best of which we are capable.*



AMEN.

(from "We Have Hope" – Prayers by New Zealand Mercy Secondary School Students)

You don't have to leave home to go places!!

Mid-year classes begin July 18, and enrolments at Aoraki Polytechnic are now being taken. Aoraki have career-focused programmes based on the skills and knowledge required from industry to create well rounded, work-ready graduates. Prior to the Christchurch earthquakes, New Zealand already had a trades skills shortage and now the demand is even greater.

To help cater for these demands, Aoraki is offering mid-year starts in several construction trades programmes. Running for the first time are National Certificates in Baking, and Animal Care. Aoraki also has midyear starts in a range of subject areas including Agriculture, Arts and Design, Beauty and Hairdressing, Business and IT, Hospitality and Health and Education.

Contact Aoraki on 0800 426 725, or go to the website www.aoraki.ac.nz

