

## RCIA Becoming Catholic

Congratulations and welcome to: Alan Bloomer, Andrea Davidson, Marijana Fak, Brooke Gardiner, Meg Ceh, Tristan Marvin, Hayley Davidson and Dianne Malacarne who will be received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Saturday, March 27, 7pm Mass at St. Joseph's Church. All parishioners are most welcome.

If you are interested and would like more information about the Catholic faith, you can contact: Joan Robertson or Fr. Hengel at the Parish Office: 56231642, or Deacon Mark Kelly: 0427748646

## School Excursions

*'Mum/Dad you need to sign my permission form!'*  
*Sound familiar?*



Students are handed permission slips by their teacher for any upcoming excursion and occasionally permission slips will be emailed to parents. We plan on using emails more often in Term 2, and so we ask that you keep us updated with changes to your details, as email is our preferred method.

At times, the permission slips may end up misplaced. If this occurs they can be easily accessed via Blackboard by completing the following steps:

- Go to **BLACKBOARD**
- Under the **MY COURSES** tab located on the right of the screen click on **PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION**
- On the left side of screen click on **PERMISSION FORMS**
- Click on relevant **YEAR LEVEL FOLDER**
- Scroll to locate the excursion and click the attachment to open and print the permission slip

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me via phone or email: Sally Ablett – First Aid Officer 56235944 / sablett@mscw.vic.edu.au

## Darren Pereira's Sessions

On Thursday, March 10, Darren Pereira ran two sessions at the College. The first was entitled VCE Success Strategies and involved a high powered, up tempo, interactive 3 hour session for all Year 11 students. As always, students were extremely enthusiastic about the motivational nature of Darren's presentation and the practical and clear steps he presented to assist them in succeeding. Unanimously, they asked that he return in 2017, when they are in Year 12, to validate them further in the strategies that will allow them to achieve to the best of their potential. Students' voices were clear when they said:

*"I've been struggling to keep up with things but what he taught me today is going to make a big difference."*

*"He was great. He brought great ideas and practical suggestions. The humour also kept us engaged."*

*"The presentation was highly entertaining and motivational. Definitely learnt new strategies for study and learning that will make life easier."*

*"One of the few times I've been able to sit and focus for a long period of time, without zoning out. He was awesome."*

That evening he also ran a session for parents on how to assist their teenagers towards getting the very best out of their own abilities. It too was a resounding success with parents commenting on the variety of positive and constructive ways presented for helping children. Some comments are below:

*"Darren's enthusiasm was inspiring. His knowledge was amazing. I could've listened for another two hours."*

*"Affirmed what I had been doing right and made me think about some things that needed to change."*

*"Thank you. This came at a perfect time for us (and our son)."*

*"I've walked away with strategies and a better way to communicate with my child."*

The pity, and there was one, was that few parents took the time and the opportunity to come, gather, share and be affirmed and supported in their goal of assisting their children.

In conclusion, I include below an endorsement written by a staff member, but with his parent hat. I thank Mike Hall for taking the initiative and the time to write this. It is well worth reading.

**John Picinali** | Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care



## WHY ATTEND —as a parent—a presentation by Darren Pereira?



*Darren Pereira*

I 'wear different hats' at Marist-Sion College. As well as being a teacher, I am also a parent to five children who have been students here, the last of whom is currently in VCE. I've been to several of Darren's presentations, including

both his daytime talks to VCE & VCAL students and the evening presentations to parents. It's in that parental role that I suggest several reasons why parents should come to his next evening presentation:

- 1) At that level our children are competing for their preferred career, apprenticeship or place in tertiary education against the thousands of other students in Victoria studying at the same level. Every step we take to encourage our children to help themselves to achieve puts them in a better position to determine and meet their life goals. One step we can take is learning more about the role we play as parents of senior secondary students.
- 2) Darren provides very useful and achievable advice about how parents can help their children do their best. Not only is it based on a sound grasp of the science of learning, he understands the range of situations of home life, and seeks to empower parents, especially at a time when some teenage culture discourages input from parents.

- 3) Darren is no 'one hit wonder' Every talk to parents that I have attended has been different, as he regularly updates his info to reflect the latest research in the art of learning. (The last decade has seen tremendous gains in scientific understanding of brain functions). Each annual presentation at MSC has been an improvement on the previous, as he incorporates the latest relevant info to provide the best possible advice.
- 4) Darren's advice strongly emphasises the strategies of learning at home that go beyond 'just doing the homework' regularly set by teachers. He not only explains why students need to constantly revise over the whole year, he also offers a range of methods which make revision more effective, and prevent it from being an unbearable stress on our children, and consequently – on ourselves. The support and environment provided by parents at home are important.
- 5) The students at MSC generally know, by our own efforts to send them to our school, that we parents believe that their education is important to us. But the occasional reminder never hurts. If we parents take the time to organise the evening so that we can attend Darren's presentation, that sends a message to our children that we believe their schooling is important. A full theatre on the night reminds us that we – the parent body - are a team, encouraging all our children to strive for their best. That attitude is 'catching' within the student body and between them, as they challenge and help each other to meet greater goals.

**Michael Hall** | *Parent*