Principal’s Message

What is True,
What is Good,
What is Beautiful

At about this time in July 1873, the Presentation Sisters of Limerick were faced with an important and difficult decision. Would they respond to the letter from their colleague and friend, Limerick man Fr James Corby, who had written from our emerging city asking for their help to open a school. Would they take the risk, leave Ireland for the other side of the world knowing they would probably never return, take on the responsibility of a new community and school at ‘the ends of the earth’. The Irish Catholic population of post gold rush Melbourne was largely poor and working class. They experienced much of the marginalization and discrimination of newly arrived immigrant groups and the 1872 Education Act had just removed the possibility that their children could be educated in Catholic schools. It was this community that the Limerick Sisters were asked to serve.

What must have gone through their minds, these seven women and their superiors as they pondered their answer? Mother Mary Paul Mulquin, 29 and from a well off family in Limerick; Sister Margaret Mary Cronin, an experienced teacher already; Sister Mary Patrick (Honoria) Irwin, good with finances and future bursar to the Windsor community; Sister Mary Berchmans Carroll, liturgist and teacher of the youngest children; Sister Mary Xavier (Elizabeth) Mackey, only 19 and a fine singer; Sister Mary Bernard (Jane) Gunson, the oldest of the group who already had relatives in Melbourne; Monica Bray, not yet a Sister but committed to the Presentation mission. We can only guess how they felt but we know that the answer was yes and the rest is the 140 history of PCW we have been celebrating this year.

For PCW, 2013 has been an eventful year already and the pages of this edition of Windsor News are a testament to the continuing energy and life-filled purpose of our school and its community; students past and present, staff, families, Sisters and friends. They all feature. This year has been eventful in the world at large as well. One of the most significant events for which 2013 will be remembered was the abdication of Pope Benedict and the election of Pope, Francis I. Francis has won admirers and attention already for his humility and for his surprising perspective on the papacy and the world of 2013. The world took notice when he addressed the crowd in St Peter’s Square following his election when he asked them to pray for him. He washed the feet of prisoners, men and women, Christians and Muslims on Holy Thursday. For Francis, “the truth, goodness and beauty of God...are precious allies in the commitment to defend the dignity of the human person, in the building of peaceful coexistence and in carefully protecting creation.” These words have much to say to educators and concur with those of, Howard Gardner, child of holocaust survivors and renowned educational writer, who has long maintained that what all children require from education is an understanding of what is true, what is good and what is beautiful. If schooling can give a young person this understanding, then their teachers will have served them and their world well.

Perhaps it was such thoughts that inspired and drove the Limerick Sisters, Mother Paul Mulquin and her six companions, to answer the call to education and its transforming power. In the work they did then, and all that has occurred since, truth goodness and beauty have come to PCW. We are all the grateful inheritors of the legacy of that brave decision that was made 140 years ago. We continue to be inspired by the courage, dedication and faith of the Seven Sisters – it is our dreaming.

Ms Leonie Keaney
PCW Principal
Leading so others will listen

In March this year, myself and three Year 10 PCW students were selected and sponsored by the Prahran Rotary Club to participate in a weekend leadership camp, Rypen. Over the weekend I learnt so much, not only about leadership, the importance of morals, teamwork and trust, but about myself too.

Through one of our wonderful guest speakers I learnt the three D’s: Dream, Dare, Do. I learnt what it is I value most, and that I will fight hard for it and through listening to another guest speaker, I learnt the importance not only of having a voice, but how you use it.

I live near Glenferrie road, and often come across a man who would sit on the footpath, drawing chalk pictures and asking for donations. Walking past with some friends, I remember thinking and saying that I didn’t really want to give him money, but would prefer to buy something he wanted from the nearby shops. For one reason or another, they would talk me out of it.

On this particular day it was hot, and I wanted a gelato pretty badly. Today, though, I couldn’t just walk past, pretending the man didn’t exist. Thanks to Rypen, I learnt the importance and the need for people to stick to their morals and values. So I went to this gentleman, knelt down and told him I was going to Coles (I had absolutely no intention of going there—after all, they don’t sell gelato), and asked if would like me to buy him something.

It’s funny; I still remember how he spoke, the tone of voice, the slight gruffness, but polite and humble. I came out of Coles with two cold drinks, and as I handed them over to him, a middle aged lady walked past me, gave me a brilliant smile and a compliment. I forgot all about that beloved gelato but it didn’t matter, I felt so good after doing what I believed to be right.

The fact that I remember that day so clearly really says something to me about how important it was, not just the deed, but the act of acknowledging what I believed to be right, and going through with it. Since then, I’ve been in contact with a group, which meets every Friday to help tutor young children from migrant or refugee backgrounds, and am waiting a response as to how I can become a part of that.

Leading so others will listen! I want others to listen, to hear about the issues we have in society, and to DO something about it. There is no point in complaining about what is wrong, we must attempt, at the very least attempt to change it.

My thanks to PCW, Prahran Rotary and the RYPEN program, believing that the youth of today will create the future of tomorrow.

Carina Field, Year 11, Loyola 3

Teacher Candidates at PCW

When starting my Masters of Teaching degree, having the opportunity to teach at a secondary school felt like a distant venture. Having been bombarded with a series of textbooks, pedagogical frameworks and professional assessments; the opportunity to stand in front of a classroom filled with students can present as a little overwhelming. For this year’s 2013 semester one teacher candidates at Presentation College Windsor, this would not be the case.

Since March 2013, teacher candidates have had the opportunity to lead a series of classes in a broad range of subjects across year’s seven to twelve. During our placement, we have received outstanding guidance from a number of mentor teachers who have not only assisted our development in the classroom, but have afforded us opportunities to engage with many facets of the profession. Personally, becoming involved in events such as the athletics carnival, professional development, the staff faith day and faculty meetings has demonstrated that a holistic education for students cannot only be provided by books, it is delivered through a strong school community.

Reflecting on my time at the college, it is the support and nurturing of this community which has reaffirmed my passion to become a secondary teacher. The welcoming attitude of all staff and students has made this placement experience for teacher candidates a learning venture we will never forget. We express our thanks especially to PCW Principal, Leonie Keaney for allowing us to join the PCW community and Jeannette Gregg for her tireless efforts to ensure that we received a total school experience.

Martin Dickens

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Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.

John Dewey

St George and the Dragon

Maybe you recognise this image from St George and the Dragon outside the State Library of Victoria?

This beautiful drawing by talented PCW Art Technician Alex Renn recently won a local art competition. The prize for the drawing includes a solo exhibition as part of the ‘Midsumma’ community event early 2014.

The title of the drawing came from reading Homer’s ‘Iliad’,

Alex has lived in Prahran since the early 80’s. He went to Victorian College Art School (now Swinburne Uni) in the late 70’s & 80’s and majored in a drawing and printmaking degree. This was followed by post graduate studies in printmaking at RMIT and a Diploma in Education from Monash in 2001.

Alex has taught drawing at various community groups including Mercy Centre Black Rock and Brighton Arts Society, and diploma level art at both TAFE and Secondary Colleges. Currently at PCW in the role of Art Technician, this gives him weekends, evenings and school holidays to continue his art practice.
Year 9 Eachtra Community Projects

As part of the year 9 Eachtra program, our girls have recently been busy losing themselves in the service of others and in the process finding that they each have a great deal to offer their local communities.

We began on Monday with some planning time and a thoroughly engaging community service forum featuring M.A.D. Woman. Melina Schamroth and former students Alecia Crawford and Sahara Bartlett-Matthews (both Alecia and Sahara have spent extensive periods of time volunteering abroad and Alecia now works towards eliminating global poverty). The common theme of all presentations was the transformative power of community service for both the volunteer and the community.

Tuesday saw our girls undertake their community service. Some girls chose to help migrant and refugee women at Wellsprings in Dandenong with their English conversation skills; some worked at local Sacred Heart Mission op shops; others cleaned up St Kilda beach and learned about the impact of litter on local marine life; one lucky group headed out to Collingwood Children’s Farm for some maintenance work (and animal patting); another helped at Jesuit Social Service’s art gallery; and two groups spent time with elderly residents at Sacred Heart Mission Aged Care and Corpus Christi.

Wednesday morning was all about sharing our experiences with one another. In their community service groups, the girls prepared ten minute presentations informing other students and teachers about the organisation they assisted, how they helped to make a difference and what they got out of the day. Listening to the various presentations, left us all very impressed by what had been achieved over the three days and even a little moved. Some of their reflections are featured below and you can also go to our website www.pcw.vic.edu.au and click on the link for our YouTube page where you will be able to see some videos our students made.

Chris Pearson and Nick Williamson

Community service was an amazing experience. It taught me many things and showed me the truth of what is going on in the world. Over all volunteering is great and more people should do it.

Jessica Lawson

Community service helped me experience what other people go through & how people of the community help others less fortunate than themselves. It really opened my eyes to everything that we can do to help other people. I hadn’t heard about St.Kilda Mums before, but after hearing what they do and who they help, it really showed me how caring some people are and I will definitely be helping them in the near future.

Grace Long

Year 10 Pleiades

Pleiades is a new subject that has been introduced as a core subject at Year 10 this year which incorporates both History and Science.

It is a subject that endeavors to explore where civilization has come from both scientifically and culturally.

“Pleiades” is a reference to PCW’s origins as it is the name of a constellation also known as The Seven Sisters. Since PCW began with seven sisters travelling from Ireland to start our school we thought it an appropriate name for a subject that examines our story.

Pleiades enables us to travel from the beginning of time through until the present day – visiting “threshold moments” in our history: moments that have shaped us.

We started with the Big Bang, the creation of the Solar System, Life and Evolution in term 1, looked at events that led to World War 2 and how it unfolded in term 2 and are currently starting to investigate the Cold War in term 3. Term 4 will be about looking towards the future.

For a look at examples of student work from this subject, check out our PCW YouTube Page.

Ms J. Kennedy

PCW Head of Science

“We the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Mahatma Gandhi

www.pcw.vic.edu.au
House Spirit at PCW
Monash University STEPS partnership

In late April, we had the great pleasure of taking part in a student/staff exchange to our Presentation sister school in Queensland, St Ursula’s College located in Yeppoon, which is approximately 45 minutes out of Rockhampton. It is both a day and boarding school and has an enrolment of about 450 girls. We left a chilly Melbourne on Saturday, April 20 and flew via Brisbane to glorious Queensland sunshine. It was a very good omen for a wonderful week ahead.

A key purpose of the trip was to celebrate and reinforce the Presentation tradition which we share through our Presentation education. When we were met at the airport by Assistant Principal Mrs Kathy Curran, her warm and friendly welcome immediately demonstrated that the spirit of Nano Nagle was well and truly alive in Yeppoon! This was our universal experience at St Ursula’s as Principal Catherine Dunbar, and the College community, went out of their way to make us feel at home and provide learning opportunities for all of us. We shared in St Ursula’s celebration of Nano Nagle’s feast day including their beautiful liturgy and fun lunchtime activities including a disco in the Hall!

Highlights of the trip included sharing classes and learning with our Yeppoon buddies, walking with hundreds of St Ursula’s students in the ANZAC day march, fish and chips (with Yeppoon style melted cheese and BBQ sauce) at the beach, a fantastic day at the local crocodile farm, experiencing boarding school life, attending school musical auditions and slumber parties with new found friends.

We feel incredibly grateful for the opportunities given to us by both PCW and St Ursula’s as we enjoyed such an interesting and fun week away. Experiencing school life in another state offered a unique learning experience not only for how Year 10 curriculum is different, and delivered, in Queensland but being in a Presentation school, having it reinforced that we are connected to a much wider Presentation family. We were all reminded that we share the spirit of Nano, and our Presentation education in common, and that these unite us with all Presentation girls around the world. That sense of connection and welcome will be a lasting memory of the trip as one of our girls reflected, “We were treated like long lost family!”

In July, we will have the opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality shown to us when our Yeppoon buddies come to stay in Melbourne. While we won’t be able to offer them the same warm weather conditions, we are really looking forward to making them welcome and showing them both PCW and Melbourne school life. Hopefully their presence will reinforce the value of such an exchange program and the great benefits of being members of the wider Presentation community.

Matilda Boseley, Caitlin Dickinson, Sarah Smith, Camille Thomas, Emma Thomas and Miss Fiona McKenna.
Thanks to Diana, Marilyn and Margot who organized our annual get-together at Yarra Yarra Golf Club. Sister Mary (Rosaria) Kavanagh “graced” us with her presence. Sister Judy Bellesini was our guest speaker. She gave a heart-warming account of the voluntary organization “Well Springs” - established over 16 years ago by the Presentation Sisters. It is a place in Dandenong for women from different backgrounds and cultures. Confidence, independence and friendships provide a wonderful atmosphere for many lonely new-comers to our country. Good health to all. See you in 2014.

Margaret Martin

We Remember Ruby Tout

Educator
9 June 1917 to 3 May 2013

Ruby was a PCW Alumnae. She passed away in May at the age of 95. She was a student at Presentation Convent Windsor from the mid 1920’s and was Dux and Captain of the school. At 17, in 1934, she graduated and went to the University of Melbourne, enrolling in ‘Pure English”.

After working as headmistress at Brunswick Secondary College and then a stint travelling overseas, Ruby met Brother Francis McCarthy of the Christian Brothers who drew her back into secondary education asking her to establish the new library at Parade College. Two years later she then headed to St Kevins to teach senior English and became Head of the English department.

Reunion Class of 1961

Thanks to Diana, Marilyn and Margot who organized our annual get-together at Yarra Yarra Golf Club. Sister Mary(Rosaria) Kavanagh “graced” us with her presence. Sister Judy Bellesini was our guest speaker. She gave a heart-warming account of the voluntary organization “Well Springs” - established over 16 years ago by the Presentation Sisters. It is a place in Dandenong for women from different backgrounds and cultures. Confidence, independence and friendships provide a wonderful atmosphere for many lonely new-comers to our country. Good health to all. See you in 2014.

Margaret Martin

Wellsprings for Women Inc. is auspiced by the Presentation Sisters, Victoria.

In 1994 Wellsprings opened one day per week as a Drop-in Centre offering a friendly environment for women to meet in a non-threatening, homely venue. As the number of women attending the Centre grew, a holistic program was developed addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, recreational, educational and skill based needs of the women. These programs were offered to encourage and empower women to grow in self esteem and learn about the wide variety of opportunities available to them in the Community.

The large number of Refugee and Asylum Seeker families who have moved into the Dandenong area call for new and creative responses to a wide variety of needs, and the centre is providing programs to meet these needs.

From that beginning the Programs have gradually increased to the point where the centre is open 5 days a week and caters for approximately 300 women weekly.

For more information visit their website www.wellspringsforwomen.com
Reunion Class of 1983

PCW Alumnae Celia Tankey... speaking with our Year 12 girls on International Women’s Day

My name is Celia Tankey (formerly Celia Grant) and I was in the class of 2002. In the ten years since graduating from PCW, I have done a lot of travel. I spent a year living and working in Tanzania in my first year out from school. I got married in Romania. I have a degree in social work and this month I will graduate as a psychotherapist after doing a three year postgraduate diploma. I also have two babies, a two year old boy and a 7 month old girl and there are lots of bits in between.

But let me tell you a story about when I was a student here at Presentation College Windsor. There was a girl who I went through my high school years with. It was a regular occurrence that she would be sent from the classroom to the deputy principals office through years 9 and 10. Wagging school was a frequent event. Despite these obnoxious behaviours, the girl went on to be a Xavier Music Captain and School Vice Captain, even obtaining a TER of 95.95. The school and the teachers never gave up on her, seeing through the cocky teenage angst and valuing the glimmers of light that did sparkle from time to time. Well, that girl of course, is me.

I have thought a lot about what I wanted to share with you today, on this international celebration of women. I will share with you the two things that have led my way from my schooling through until now. ONE: My absolute love of learning. And TWO: Letting my passions drive my learning.

Let me unravel this a little for you. My VCE studies took place alongside a Year 12 Theatre Studies production, Music Festival and fundraising the $10,000 I needed to get to Tanzania. I had an endless to do list of dreams then, and I still have one now. I love learning about and experiencing the world. I love music, theatre and the arts. I was in the school choir, symphonic band and rock band. I am passionate about social justice and was a member of the Social Justice committee at PCW. I fulfilled my dream of going to Africa, to live and work with the people and immerse myself in another culture. I spent 4 months working in remote indigenous communities in the Northern Territory during my social work studies. I did a course in creative arts. I tried my hand at pottery. Studied Spanish. I finished a degree in social work. My last three years have been amazing, being a new mum while doing a most life-changing course in Holistic Psychotherapy, learning about this being Human, and this being Woman. What can be more fascinating than that? I am intrigued by the spiritual elements of humanity. Religions fascinate me, as do countries and history and animals. I am slowly re-learning piano in adulthood and have continued to be involved in music choirs and bands. And I have just learnt to knit. I love literature. I write, and love poetry and spoken word. I would love to do photography. Learn Spanish fluently. Go bird watching.

How is this relevant? These are passions that drive my learning. No matter what your passions, even if something small, if there is something that ignites a fire in your belly, burn the flame bright and follow your gut, your intuition. As a woman, your intuition is profound. As a woman, you have Ageless knowing, an instinctual creativity. As a woman, you can have your cake and eat it too... just not all at the same time perhaps. I still have many goals and ambitions, but have slowed down a little to raise a family, but in the next couple of years we hope to move again to remote Australia to experience more of our country and give our children this sort of experience.

We are lucky in this country, that a woman has as much chance to reach her dreams. I can share with you a story about my time in Tanzania where I worked in a tiny rural village at a coeducational boarding school, teaching health and HIV/AIDS awareness. In Tanzania and in much of the developing world, the opportunities for women are so very limited. I want you to think about this:

You are a 15 year old girl. You started menstruating at 13 years old. For two years, every month during your menstrual cycle, you take sick leave from school, retreating from the world for 5 days. For the first 2 days, when the...
PCW Alumnae Celia Tankey... (Continued)

1 in 10 African girls drop out of school as a result of poor menstrual hygiene and lack of sanitary products. This most basic education on things like hygiene and reproductive health is what I was doing when I worked in Tanzania. And one of the biggest focuses for us was to empower girls and women to love themselves, respect themselves and strive to reach their dreams, because they had never been told that they could dream.

So you women who sit here before me today have an advantage. Make the most of it. You have an education. And you have an education at Presentation College Windsor. This most unpretentious and wonderful of school that you won’t find anywhere else in the world.

Don’t be too caught up in what you want to ‘do’ with your life as if a final outcome must be decided on. Just live your life, following your passions, gestures and intuition like a leaf in the wind, knowing at each moment that you are exactly where you are meant be.

Speaker of the House – Anna Burke visits PCW

After being visited by Tony Abbott last year, PCW students were familiar with the procedure of hosting a well-known politician. But in contrast to that experience, Anna Burke’s visit was lengthy and insightful. Anna Burke is a PCW alumnae, and when she attended school, PCW was a prep-year 12 college. Anna stated honestly at assembly that she ‘had some fantastic times here. I also had some terrible times. But that’s just school!’

Anna addressed the VCE Politics and Legal Studies classes. She spoke of her job as MP for her electorate of Ashwood, and as Speaker for the House of Representatives. She gamely tackled questions ranging from the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the legalisation of gay marriage and her core ethos as a politician. Her presentation was marked by a lack of spin. She discarded the age old rule defined by John Howard as ‘don’t answer the question they ask you, answer the question you wanted them to ask’.

Anna spoke in a particularly frank way on why she bothered to follow a political pathway and is still bothering years later. She entered politics around the same time as several other ‘Labour women’ such as Tanya Plibersek and Julia Gillard. She recounted an event in the Party where she attended school, PCW was a prep- year 12 college. Anna stated honestly at assembly that she ‘had some fantastic times here. I also had some terrible times. But that’s just school!’

PCW students of all ages gained something valuable from Anna Burke’s visit, and saw a personification of Nano Nagle’s strong example. Her philosophy encapsulated ‘keep trying no matter what gets thrown at you’. She informed us not only of her learning difficulty which was discovered and supported during her time at PCW, but the many challenges presented to her as replacing Peter Slipper as Speaker and acting as a true representative of her electorate of Ashwood. Many of us left her presentation with a refreshed faith in politics as a means of enacting change.

Stella Joseph-Jarecki
2013 PCW Music Captain

New Chapel Window

Next time you pass the Chapel on your way to the Hall, spare a few moments to view the sacristy window. The best effect is at night time. This window, at eye level, had long been in need of repair.

It has been commissioned by the Association of Parents of Off-Campus Resident Students Inc., first formed in 1984, towards negotiating the re-location of the boarders, to North Road, then to Oakleigh for fifteen years and later to Nano Nagle House, 167 Dandenong Road.

It is bequeathed as a mark of appreciation for over twenty-nine years of perseverance on the part of dedicated parents and Presentation Sisters, and to coincide with the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the foundation of PCW by the Sisters from Limerick, Ireland. The various symbols recognise the educational mission of the College, 1873-2013.

Sr. Mary Kavanagh PBVM

PCW Alumnae Life Membership

We encourage all past pupils to support the ongoing Alumnae work by becoming a financial Life Member of your Alumnae. It is a once only fee of $100 and this supports the ongoing work of the Alumnae office to run reunions, produce Windsor News & Entre Nous eNews and our work to increase communications and connections with all Windsor past pupils.

Please go to the College website www.pcw.vic.edu.au/alumnae and download your membership form and post into our office today. All Life Members receive an Alumnae Key Ring in recognition of support. Thank You.