Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to Term 1, 2001. A special welcome is extended to all our new staff members, students and families who have joined the Loreto Community this year. We are starting the year with 800 students, which is a record enrolment for our School.

Already the energy and goodwill of our students and teachers is evident and at our first whole School Assembly today we heard from some extremely articulate, capable, generous and creative young women. The main focus of the assembly was to congratulate our high achieving VCE students from the Class of 2000. Twenty-three of last year’s class achieved study scores of 90 or above which is the recognised benchmark of academic excellence. We presented them with a commemorative pen to celebrate their achievements and it was wonderful to see the affirmation given by the students to these young women. The career choices they have made are diverse and interesting and I feel quite justified in saying that these women will, in time, contribute much to our society. On the whole our academic results last year were outstanding and this is a tribute to the combined talents of our staff and students. I will comment in detail next week about the results and tertiary offers our students received.

Our School Captain and Vice-Captain spoke about their Loreto Leadership Seminar based on the theme of Sincerity. This is our School Mission Statement emphasis this year, based on Mary Ward’s virtue of “we should be such as we appear and appear such as we are”.

Clementine Wallace and Loretta Davis spoke about the exciting year they had as exchange students in France last year and all the opportunities they had to grow in self-confidence. Their language competency in French is now quite remarkable.

Virginia Cosgriff and Georgina Conlan also spoke about their experiences at the Edmund Rice Camp and the National Science Summer School. I will ask them both to write about their experiences in future newsletters.

In this the first Newsletter of the term, space constrains me from sharing all the news I would want to. All the more reason to read next week’s newsletter!

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Anne Fry
PRINCIPAL
DAWSON STREET REPORT
Helen Weir

Our new Year 7 students have settled into school very well. The students are now able to get themselves to classes without going the "long way round". Thank you to parents for making sure that their daughters were well prepared for their new start. Everyone seems to be catching the correct buses home with the minimum of fuss.

TRAFFIC IN DAWSON STREET
This can be a very busy road. Please arrange to pick up your daughter in Lyons Street, which is quieter. Students will not be allowed to cross Dawson Street at the gate. They will need to go down to the traffic lights or parents will need to come and escort them across the road.

YEAR 7 PICNIC TEA
The Year 7 Picnic Tea will be held tonight Thursday, February 8 at 6.30pm and you are welcome to look around the School prior to the meeting at 7.30pm.

YEAR 7 CAMPS
Barry/Mulhall Thursday, February 15 and Friday, February 16.
Mornane/Ward Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23.
More information will be available later.

MUSIC
Simone Segrave/Helen Duggan

MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP
The first meeting of the Music Support Group for 2001 will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 7.30pm in The Cottage at Sturt Street. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of this very efficient and social group is invited to attend. We would particularly like to see some Dawson Street parents.

MUSIC TUITION
Applications for those students wishing to become involved in music tuition are now being processed. If interested in learning an instrument, students need to return their pink tuition form to either School Office as soon as possible. Students who are new to the program will begin music lessons in week three or four.

MUSIC CAMP
There will be a day camp for all Dawson Street and Sturt Street Choir members from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Sunday, March 25 at Sturt Street. Parents and friends are invited to join us for an informal concert and afternoon tea at 2.30pm. More details will be available later.

UNIFORM POOL
Maxine Reid

The Uniform Pool is open on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1.00pm until 4.00pm, except during the holiday breaks, and is located at the Dawson Street campus. Dates for Term 1 are as follows:-
February 20 March 6

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) - 2001

Parents are still required to complete Education Maintenance Allowance Application forms for the first instalment of 2001, and also supply a photocopy of their valid Centrelink card to the school. Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid by Loreto College in the first instalment of 2001, will not be required to complete an extra application for the second instalment.

To be eligible the claimant must be a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of 16 and hold a current Centrelink Pensioner Concession or Health Care Benefit Card or be a Foster Parent as at the first day of Term 1.

As the EMA is provided to assist low-income families, any Centrelink payments that are not income tested e.g. Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Remote Area Allowance are not eligible unless the claimant also holds and applies with a current Centrelink Pension Concession or Health Care Card or a Veterans Affairs (TPI) Pensioner Card or is a Foster Parent on the first day of Term 1 for the first instalment and on the first day of Term 3 for the second instalment.

Application forms for the first instalment must be submitted by parents to the school no later than Friday March 2, 2001. The school will not accept late claims. An annual amount of $127.00 for primary and $254.00 for secondary students is payable in two instalments, each on a 50% to the parent and 50% to the school basis.

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SPORT
Kelli Baird

Congratulations to:
• Katrina Braszell (Year 9) on winning the U/15 VSSSA Triathlon on Sunday at Lake Wendouree. We are hoping that Katrina will be selected in the U/16 team to compete at the Nationals.
• Catherine Ranger (Year 12) on finishing second in her age group and fourth overall in the CICA Lap of the Lake on Saturday.
• Mrs Carmel Parker on finishing second in her age group at the Ballarat Triathlon on Sunday.

Term 1 sport commences next week.

CANTEEN
Sue Walsh

The Canteen is up and running and as time progresses there will be some changes. Stay tuned! Any new volunteers will be most welcome. I can be contacted at home on 5335 9838.

The 2001 Canteen Price List is available from the
**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**

Judy Lyons

Conveyance Allowance is available to students who live more than 4.8km from the College and travel on a bus on which they pay a fare, or come by car. The Allowance is also available to those students who travel more than 4.8km to the bus stop of a free bus. The Allowance is not available to those parents who choose to drive their daughter to school when a free Government bus operates in their area. Students eligible for the Conveyance Allowance in 2001 will receive a full refund of the fares.

At this stage the full refund does not apply to students travelling from Daylesford.

In the case of concession fares – purchased as either a half yearly or yearly ticket – that is the amount refunded regardless of the fact that some travellers may buy weekly or monthly tickets which may be more expensive than the concession fare.

In 1994 the responsibility for approval of the payment of Conveyance Allowance was transferred from DSE Regional Offices to individual School Principals, who are obliged to follow very detailed guidelines and procedures. It is imperative that students travelling by bus provide proof of travel by presenting their ticket to the School Office. Half yearly/yearly tickets will be photocopied, attached to the Conveyance form and the original returned to the student. Students buying weekly or monthly tickets must bring a number of tickets to be attached to the form. No form can be processed until all details are attended to.

The College requires a new form to be completed each year. Every eligible traveller must collect a new BLUE form from the School Office by the second week of February. It is the sole responsibility of the family to make sure that they collect and return their form, along with the relevant documentation.

If you have any queries, please phone Mrs Lyons at the Sturt Street Office. The College processes applications and forwards claims to the Department of Education at the end of February and in June. Late forms cannot be processed until the following semester. Payment is not forwarded to the College until the last week of Semester 1 and Semester 2 and then individual cheques are forwarded to the parents. If travel arrangements change, parents must inform the College. Any overpayment becomes the responsibility of the College and so absolute vigilance is necessary.

Please note: The school will not make phone calls requesting the return/correct documentation of Conveyance Allowance Forms. It is the student’s responsibility to hand it in.

**SCIENCE**

Stephanie Porter

**S³ - SUPER SCIENCE SITES**

www.chemistry.co.nz/chem.htm

This is a good reference page for many Chemistry questions.

Areas covered include:

- Crystals – learn how to grow a crystal garden
- Equations – a basic guide to balancing equations
- Detergents – just how does a detergent degrease dishes?
- Terms and definitions – Ever wondered what moles have to do with Chemistry?

As an extra, there are pages full of tips, such as how to remove stains, including – ink, boot polish, chewie, liquid paper and mildew. Well worth having a browse.

If you come across any Super Science Sites that you would like to share with others, please hand the address, a short review (optional), your name and form to Ms Porter.

**PARENTS’ & FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION**

Tony McVeigh

Welcome to all parents on behalf of the Parents’ and Friends’ Association.

Our first meeting for the year will take place at Loreto College Dawson Street in the Library at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 20. This will be a chance for you to get an insight into our fundraising efforts, offer fresh ideas into the discussions or become involved personally. Take up the challenge!

On the agenda for 2001:

- Father and Daughter night on Tuesday, March 27.
- A games night at Gonzaga Barry Centre with food, refreshments and spot prizes.
- A social night.
- Mother and Daughter night.
- An Evening at the movies and coffee across the road. (Films previewed by the Parents’ and Friends’ prior to bookings.)

**AMBULANCE MEMBERSHIP**

The Ambulance service responds to every medical emergency including road trauma, burns, sports injuries etc. As a member you not only benefit from the very best emergency and non-emergency care, you are also helping the Ambulance Service to maintain and continually improve life saving standards and equipment. Membership entitles members and their dependants to free ambulance transport. Membership forms are available from both School Offices.

**YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

Margaret Ferguson

Students over sixteen years of age who are interested in attending the Youth Parliament, which will be held from Sunday, September 23 to Friday, September 28, 2001, can obtain an application form and funding information from Mrs. Ferguson.
Although the school year of 2001 has just begun, it seems as though we have never been away. As usual, it is a common held belief that the Christmas holidays dissipated before our very eyes, and we find ourselves greeting a flurry of new and familiar faces, ready to embrace what should be another assiduous year. I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our staff, students and families - I hope your festive season was both joyful and relaxing. To our new staff, students and families joining us for their first year at Loreto College, I welcome you on behalf of the Student Body, and wish you well in your ensuing association with the school.

During the holidays, Sinead Hehir and I were given the opportunity by Sister Maureen Burke IBVM, to spend a weekend at St Mary's College (Melbourne University), in the company of other Loreto School Captains from around Australia. It was here we found ourselves immersed in conversation, sharing things about our schools and lives; our differences, similarities and opinions. Together we talked about our fears and dreams in relation to our positions for 2001, and the difficulties stemming from our attempts to encourage this year’s Mission Statement value of Sincerity within our individual schools. Despite our horror at Ballarat being the only school to have Barry as the colour red, it was an inspiring and eye-opening experience, with the establishment of many continuing friendships made over the time spent together.

The Melbourne Theatre Company Subscription will again be offered this year. Information letters are available at the Sturt Street Office. Payment must be made by Friday, February 16 so bookings can be confirmed. Contact Miss McArdle if further information is required.

**Loreto College Parents’ and Friends’ Association**

Dear Parents,

As your time is of the essence, and it is sometimes difficult to get to meetings, would you please indicate if you could assist with any of the following events during the coming year.

- **Organising Raffles**
  - Paperwork
  - Ensure return of outstanding books
- **Father and Daughter Night (Sports Night)**
- **Mother and Daughter Night (Movie)**
- **Spring Luncheon**

Name: ........................................ Daughter’s Name: .................................... Year::……

Telephone Nos: Home: ..................... Work: .....................

The Loreto College Parents’ and Friends’ Association thanks you for your time and assistance.

TONY McVEIGH President (03) 5334 1465 Home

NICKI PORTER Secretary (03) 5339 1386 Home

Please return completed form to either School Office at your earliest convenience.