Dear Parents and Students,

Today is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Federal Parliament in Australia – by this political act the nation of Australia was created. In the first 100 years of nationhood Australia has contributed to the world arena in many domains – innovation in science, agriculture, medicine to meet our specific needs; culturally in diverse fields of music, art, theatre and literature; in military arenas our contribution has been recognised by courage and tenacity. There are countless thousands of reasons to stop, reflect, celebrate and give thanks to God for the richness of life in Australia.

Another celebration this week will be the launch of Catholic Education Week on Friday, May 11. The history of Catholic Education in this Diocese pre-dates Federation and this is a significant source of pride to all involved. The contribution that Catholic Education has made to Australia is staggering considering that until the 1970’s, when Federal funding was introduced, the schools were sustained by faith and sacrifice within their communities. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the Religious Congregations, particularly our own Loreto Sisters who have been such an important part of this story. Not only did they set up their own schools throughout Australia but Mother Gonzaga Barry’s innovations in curriculum, teacher training and early childhood education have been used by teachers in all sectors of education.

The tradition of reflecting on the role of the Mother of Jesus in the month of May has been a Catholic tradition for centuries. Next Thursday our May Liturgy will be celebrated and you should receive an invitation via your daughter this week. Some of the qualities of Mary that are so universal are found in a reflection used at the School Council meeting last night. This is part of the reflection “It’s a Wild Spirit, the Spirit of Mary”:

Yes her spirit lives on among us for sure.
Too at one with Love, and Life to die;
  hurting with the hurting and
  in the middle of the afraid;
by the cross of the being crucified
  and cradling those in pain;
at the edge of all the action that’s strong loving;
  standing her ground
amid the violence of sin’s disarray;
  taking full on those who
dare try to keep her in place;
unflinching in her bold defiance
of all that threatens love’s advance.

In concluding, I take this opportunity to wish all mothers within our community a very special Mother’s Day.

Yours sincerely
(Mrs) Anne Fry
PRINCIPAL

INTERNET REPORT
John Joosten

Many Loreto College students use the School Internet and e-mail facilities extensively in their study (and recreation). A recent survey of our students indicated that about 66% have Internet access at home. Parents often feel inadequate in their knowledge of the Internet and regard the whole issue as being too complicated for them, leaving it to their children.

The Federal Government has set up a web-site (what else?) which seeks to inform all Internet users about safe Internet usage. There is information regarding the potential hazards of the Net and the practices that can be implemented by parents to promote safe Internet use. The web-site is at http://www.netalert.net.au I encourage all parents to log in and have a look.

PUBLIC SPEAKING
Tammy Vandenberg

There have been many students at Dawson Street willing to participate in Public Speaking this year. We need to have a competition within the School in order to select students for Legacy Public Speaking and Rostrum Competitions. Alicia Ryan and Chloe Olszewski spoke about volunteers and were selected to speak at the Legacy Public Speaking Competition in June. Susan Crebbin and Bridie Rantall were chosen to speak at the Rostrum Competition in May.

SOUP DAY – MAY 17
Lunchtime – after the May Liturgy
All money goes to the Ballarat Homeless Shelter.
The Social Justice Committee would like to thank the following Ballarat businesses that generously donated prizes to our Walkathon which was held last Friday.

- Power FM
- Aus Colour Laboratories
- Ballart Bike Centre
- Allan Bros Jewellers, Sturt Street
- A and C Jewellery
- Fauli’s Shoes
- Muffin Break Wendouree Village
- McDonalds Family Restaurant
- Mars Confectionery of Australia
- Wendouree Squash and Racquetball Centre
- YMCA

All instrumental and vocal students are invited to participate in our next *Matinée Musicale* on Sunday, June 3 at 2.30pm in The Cottage at Sturt Street. This is an excellent opportunity for music students to perform for a friendly, supportive audience of parents and friends. Details are available from Ms Helen Duggan, Mrs Simone Jans or any instrumental teacher.

In Term 1, one hundred and thirty Dawson Street students auditioned for a part in the play “*So Much to Tell You*” by John Marsden. The standard and enthusiasm was outstanding, making my selection difficult. The following thirty students were selected. They now have a rigorous rehearsal schedule throughout the term.

- Ashleigh Gutteridge, Bonnie Halsall, Bree Dodd, Cassandra Bird, Claire Mc Ardle, Danielle Mc Veigh, Genevieve Rix, Kaila Reeves, Karli Creek, Keely Johnson, Elizabeth Dwyer, Louise Elford, Mary Quinn, Mary Spencer, Rebecca Lowry, Samantha Kellett, Sarah Godfrey, Siobhan Noble, Stephanie Charewicz, Taryn Jones, Ashley Braybrook, Clare Ryan, Kate Moss, Louise Pearce, Melissa Santos, Sophie Jackson, Eliza Sanby and Emma Jeffrey.

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 2 are as follows:-

- May 15
- June 5
- June 19

This week the Senate had the idea of a Soup Day to be held after the May Liturgy. The Soup Day is to bring awareness about the homeless problem in Ballarat. The homemade soup – vegetable, pumpkin or tomato – plus a roll will cost $1.00. All proceeds will be going to the Ballarat Homeless shelter.

On Thursday night the Senate members will be attending the Year 7, 2002 Information Night. An excellent chance to get to know our prospective Year 7 students for next year.

We would like to congratulate all members of the Social Justice Committee for all of their hard work in organising the Walkathon. I know I had a brilliant day. The weather was a bit dubious, but it all fine up for a beautiful day in the end.

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<td>Mon: J Crowe</td>
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<td>K Cartledge</td>
<td>D Sturrock</td>
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<td>Tues: J Foley</td>
<td>K Bigarelli</td>
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St Patrick’s College and Loreto College are proud to present this powerful and haunting play directed by Cordelia Reeve.

Performances are to be held at St Patrick’s College Performing Arts Centre on:

- Tuesday, May 15 at 9.30am (Schools performance)
- Wednesday, May 16 at 7.00pm
- Thursday, May 17 at 7.00pm
- Friday May 18 at 7.00pm.

Tickets are available from St Patrick’s College Reception or by phone on 5331 1688. Adults $12.00, Concession $8.50 and Children $5.00.