Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends of our College,

Quite a few things have been happening at the College over last few weeks and I wish to pass these on so that you are kept informed. Elsewhere in this Newsletter other activities will be given a more detailed summary.

**Impact Program:** Firstly, I wish to congratulate Joshua Smith (Year 10) who has been selected to be part of this year’s Impact Program (Foundation for young Australians).

The IMPACT program is a three year leadership and development program working with Indigenous young people across the Northern Territory (NT). There are 31 students in the program, from 17 different schools across the territory. This is a great opportunity for Joshua and we congratulate him on his selection.

**National Schools Constitutional Convention:** From Wednesday 16 March to Friday 18 March, Olivia Hill (Year 12) will be among 120 Year 11 and 12 students from around Australia attending the 21st National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC), being held at The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra. All Australian education ministers support the NSCC with most states and territories funding feeder conventions and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training funding the NSCC.

The National Schools Constitutional Convention program provides senior students with an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia’s Constitution provides a democratic framework and encourages them to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2016 Convention is ‘Education in a Federation’. We congratulate Olivia on her selection and wish her well at the Convention – it will be a great experience for her.

**Stranger Danger:** This morning I was informed about a young student from Holy Family Primary School being approached yesterday afternoon by a man in a white car with a black bonnet who asked her if she wanted a ride home. This happened along Mueller Road towards McMillan Road. Fortunately the child ran away and has reported the incident. I am passing this on so as to raise the alert with your own children to never accept a ride from anyone whom they don’t know – and to report it if it happens.

**Condolences:** The College community has been hit with a number of tragedies these last few weeks. We offer our deepest sympathies to the following families:

Mr Rivas, a teacher here at the College, whose wife recently lost their unborn child of 19 weeks in the womb;

The Hodges family (Kobe, Year 8 and Braith, Year 7), whose mother died suddenly a few weeks ago from a series of strokes; and
The Kiden-Ayige family (Irene Ayige, Year 12, and Lawrence Ayige, Year 10) whose older brother, Geofry died suddenly last weekend. Geofry was an ex-student of O’Loughlin and was on the student leadership team in 2014.

Many of us in the school have been deeply moved by these tragedies and we offer our prayers, support and deepest sympathy to the families.

**Monday 14th March, SACE Stage 2 Clarifying In-Service Day:** Just a reminder to everyone, as mentioned in our last Newsletter, that on Monday 14th March all of our staff who teach Stage 2 (i.e. Year 12 classes) are required to attend an in-service day at Casuarina Senior School, conducted by the Board of Studies. In order to accommodate for the 23 teachers who will attend this in-service, we are asking our Year 10-12 students to study at home that day. For those who wish to come to school, supervised study will be provided.

**Staffing Update:** Last Monday I introduced Ms Katrina Orian to the students at Assembly. Katrina replaces Ms Kate Calvert, who resigned a few weeks’ ago due to personal health issues. We are very happy to have Ms Orian on our staff – a former student of O’Loughlin.

News on Mr Thai Nguyen (Mr T) is that his recovery is progressing and he hopes to be back at school sometime next week. At some stage he will require an operation to rectify the broken cheekbone.

Mrs Debbie Ellul, who works at the front reception desk, has indicated her intention to finish up in a couple of weeks’ time. Her last day with us will be Friday 18th. We thanks Debbie for her work in school administration during her time with us and wish her all the best for the future. Debbie has always given a kind and cheerful welcome to visitors to the College and has been the main person who dealt with enrolments. Mrs Di Cook has recently returned to Darwin and so she will replace Debbie at Reception. We welcome Di back to the school.

**Coming Events on our Calendar for March:**
- Mon 14th – Fri 18th: Year 7 camps at Lake Bennett (two groups)
- Mon 14th: Home study day for Years 10-12
- Mon 14th: College Advisory Board meeting
- Sat 19th – Fri 25th: Year 12 Creative Arts Interstate Trip
- Easter Break: Fri 25th – Mon 28th
- Thurs 31st: Last day of Term for students
- Fri 1st April: Staff Retreat Day (Pupil-free day)

That’s all from me for this week. God bless.

Jim Jolley
Principal