It is with sadness that we farewell Rev Robert McUtchen who is retiring after many years as a Chaplain in a number of schools, and for the past nine and a half years here at Casey Grammar. Rev McUtchen, or Rev as we have known him, was appointed as the first Chaplain at Casey Grammar School in 2007, and during his time as Chaplain has done many things to support the school and its community. He has conducted the regular services to celebrate the events in the Christian calendar such as Lent, Easter and Christmas.

In 2012 the building program which included the Performing Arts Centre allowed the school to provide a Chapel space which has been used for Year Level Chapels for a number of years, and starting last year for our House Chapels which Rev initiated and organised with the help of the Pastoral Care Groups of each House. This has provided a focus for the House in addition to the sporting commitments of House members. Rev also started the tradition of a Founders’ Service in 2013 to honour the founders of our school.

A number of years ago the school commenced the organisation of an alumni, and Rev has been instrumental in starting the Casey Grammarians, of which all students become a member when they leave the school.

Each year Rev has organised and coached students to participate in the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) which has provided an opportunity for students to meet other students in the wider community and develop invaluable skills. He has encouraged us to be generous in supporting the 40 Hour Famine each year and Rev has been on many excursions, sports days and school camps during his years at Casey. He has assisted many students and families in times of crisis as well as in happy times. It has always been Rev’s aim to find opportunities to relate current events or issues, or aspects of the curriculum, to faith and theological thinking.

Rev will be continuing his Christian ministry as the Minister at St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Beaumaris; we trust that he will have fond memories of Casey Grammar, and will keep in touch.

Margaret Buttigieg

It is disappointing that people are reporting unsafe and unacceptable driving and parking in the school car park. Having an off-street car park is a privilege, and we would expect that licensed drivers would drive according to the road rules and understand that children need to be safe, and that their behaviour can sometimes be unpredictable. Therefore, that all drivers drive responsibly, is of the highest importance.

Please, again, observe the following:
- ‘Kiss and go’ zones are exactly that, you should not be parking in them
- 5 Minute parking means 5 minutes
- Observe 10km per hour at all times
- Be patient!
- Park in designated spots, don’t drop off or pick up students on the road or worse, on the crossings

Margaret Buttigieg
UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Uniform Shop hours are:
Mondays 3.00 pm to 5.30pm
Thursdays 8.30 am to 10.30am

HOW TO LET YOUR CHILD BECOME INDEPENDENT

Letting go is challenging but can be managed in stages:
1. Walk or ride with your child around the neighbourhood as a great, cheap family activity.
2. Teach and reinforce road safety and navigation skills by riding or walking with your child.
3. Set up buddy groups of older children who can walk or ride together
4. Drop your children 500m from school so they can walk the remainder.
5. Join VicHealth’s Walk to School month.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews are available to specifically discuss any concerns parents may have about mid-year reports:

Secondary interviews Tuesday 26 July - 3:30pm-6:30pm
Primary interviews Wednesday 27 July - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Year 4-12 school reports will be available on line from 3pm on the last day of Term 2.

ONLINE LUNCH ORDERS

If you are using a bank transfer for online lunch orders, please allow 3 business days for the credit to appear in your account.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Playground supervision is provided from 8.35 am to 3.35 pm. There is no supervision after this time. Students should not be playing on the playground equipment and should have been collected by their parents by this time.

‘I SEA, I CARE’ AMBASSADORS IN ACTION

On a cold day in June, Environmental Leaders from 18 schools took part in the Catchment workshop. We began at a quiet residential street in Endeavour Hills, with a City of Casey crew showing us what was caught in the litter trap under the pavement.

Rubbish and pollution can flow through our catchments via the drains, creeks and rivers before entering our bays. The results can be devastating for our marine life.

They spent the afternoon at Frog Hollow investigating the bugs and water quality in Eumemmerring Creek, which eventually feeds into Patterson River, and planting natives in the reserve. They also toured the wetlands that clean the storm water and collected rubbish along the creek. More people are living in the Catchment each year and we can all do our bit to protect the future of our marine environment.

LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP

This term, Year 5 and 6 prepared for and then participated in an event called Lightning Prem. They had a few options of which sport they wanted to do: Soccer, Netball, AFL, Newcombe and T ball. They were all very enjoyable sports.

When we decided which sport we wanted to do, we started training with the help of the Year 9 coaches. Netball and soccer stayed at our school and the other sports went to other schools. Everyone had so much fun and it was a great experience for all of us.

Bianca O 6T
The Student Leadership would like to take the opportunity of highlighting some of its wonderful members throughout the newsletter, at different times throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about the students who represent you and the school.

Year 9 Student Leader    Lauren R.

I've been at Casey Grammar since Prep, which was around 10 years ago now. Over my time at Casey Grammar, I've come to love a lot of things about the school, and the people who make up the school community.

I love that I've found an incredible group of friends who will support me through thick and thin. I love that the school consistently challenges me and puts me outside my comfort zone. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending school camp, both as a participant and as a group leader. I had an amazing time being a part of the school production of Hairspray Jr last year and I love being a part of the school Concert Band, and I'm so grateful that both have allowed me to expand my friendship group to include people of different year levels.

My favourite subjects would have to be Maths and Drama, which are polar opposites, I know, but I love the challenge of Maths and the different challenge that is Drama - having to perform in front of others. The teachers are entertaining and make the class fun.

Another aspect of Casey Grammar that I love is the leadership opportunities that consistently present themselves. I was Primary School Captain in 2013, and by default, a part of the Student Leadership Team. I continued the SLT into Year 7, but gave it a miss in Year 8 as I felt that, towards the end of 2014, I wasn't really contributing to what the group was trying to achieve. However, I was encouraged to try again this year and I'm determined to help make a positive influence within the school and am enjoying the interaction, camaraderie and suggestions that are currently being put forth.

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year. After next week children have three weeks without formal school classes. For many parents it's a time of catching up, reconnecting with their children and spending time as families. For other parents, school holidays are anticipated with dread of bored and indolent children. It is important that children are busy during the vacation. Sedentary activities such as computer games, Facebook, television might be appealing to children and are okay in small doses. What teachers find is that children who are not busy during the holidays or spend most of their time in sedentary activities return to school sluggish and difficult to engage. Those students who have disruptions to sleep-wake cycle (too late to bed and too late to rise) and those who do not engage in mental activities such as reading, take the longest to get back into routine at the beginning of term. It is also evident that children who do not participate in school-type activities during the vacation suffer significant learning decay. That is, their skills deteriorate substantially during the holidays if not used. It's a little like being an athlete. If the brain doesn't train, it doesn't keep fit.

Planning a holiday program for your children, particularly if both parents are working, is not a simple matter. Plan early for “play dates”, catching up with friends, or going to the cinema. There are many holiday programs around Melbourne, such as Scienceworks, Arts Centre Kids Program, Gasworks runs holiday programs, ACMI Game Masters (as in video), and museums such as the Immigration, Melbourne, and National Sports Museums also run holiday programs. Getting on to other parents to arrange a roster can make the holidays a stimulating and enjoyable time. Listed below are some of the activities arranged by the City of Casey for teenagers:

Galactic Circus, Screen Printing Workshop, Button Badge Bonanza, Melbourne Museum: Jurassic Park, Splat Ball, Ice Skating and many more. Many of these activities are subsidised by City of Casey and many are FREE.

Or search the City of Casey School Holiday Program.
Dear Friends

I retire from Casey Grammar at the end of Term 2 2016. School Chaplain is one of the best jobs, occupying a unique place in a vibrant Prep to 12 school and a community of teachers committed to developing in their students a love of learning and inquiry. What a privilege to lead special events including Staff Commencement, commissioning School Leaders, VCE Commencement and Valedictory services, and Anzac Commemoration. I helped at Years 5-6, and Year 7 Camps, as well as countless excursions and sports days. Life is never dull.

Casey Grammar continues to be unapologetically “Christian”, expressed in celebrations of Lent, Easter, Christmas, and in House Chapels.

As some of the school community are of no professed belief and a growing number of students are from other faiths, School Chapels are often a first experience of Christian worship. The RE teachers and I seek to present it honestly and positively. We respect the faiths of non Christian students, but include them in services and ceremonies as appropriate. I have shared with students and staff at moments of bereavement or family issues, and the marriage of one staff member. One highlight was the conversion of the old drama studio into the Chapel, venue for most services including the Annual Founders Service. I also recruited and trained teams to various Model United Nations events, seeing students grow in confidence and speaking ability. It was fun running 40 Hour Famines, and other social service events. Prize Nights, VCE Formals and Valedictory dinners remind me how wonderfully well our students grow towards adulthood.

Sharing life with the staff has been another joy. There are amazing people at Casey Grammar and I am grateful for their friendship and support, as well as the encouragement of many parents.

Although I leave school my work as part time priest at St Michael and All Angels Anglican church in Beaumaris continues. I will continue to pray for the School. Thank you for a special nine and a half years.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN - Robert McUtchen

WINTER CONCERT

On Tuesday 14 June, the Music Department held our Annual Winter Concert. It was an extremely successful evening, with over 120 students from Years 3 to 12 performing. All students participated with great enthusiasm and the quality of performances was outstanding. Thank you to all the family and friends who attended the evening. It was such a thrill for the students to perform in front of a completely full theatre. Congratulations to all the students who participated, they should be very proud of their conduct and performances.

PFC NEWS

The PFC would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. Next term we will be working on the story books and running the Fathers’ Day stall. We will also be continuing with running the Kiosk at the PAC if anyone would like to volunteer their time. We have had a successful first and second terms with the sports day sausage sizzles, the Kiosk at the PAC and the Mothers’ Day stall. Thank you to all the helpers. The next meeting will be held at school on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at 6:30pm.

Pam Foley.