Inspirational

We were graced with the presence of Deng Adut at our first College Assembly for 2016. What better way to launch our 2016 College Theme of ‘Build Faith, Build Knowledge’!

His story has received more than 2 million views on Youtube and his Australia Day Address has gone viral.

As most people would be aware, Deng Adut was taken from his mother at the age of six, forced to become a child soldier and was shot twice before being smuggled out of Sudan and to Australia.

At the age of 14 he settled in Blacktown. He taught himself to read, then attended TAFE before completing a law degree at Western Sydney University.

Deng spoke with great wisdom to the students, advising them to accept every opportunity given to them, with an open heart and an open mind. 1200 boys and 100 staff were completely mesmerised by his presence!

Deng was interviewed on stage by one of our Year 8 boys, Dut Deng. A wonderful connection because Dut actually played the younger Deng in the video!

We have included a more extensive outline of Deng’s journey in this issue of ‘The Focus’.

Please be kind to one another,
Santo Passarello

Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening
A fantastic occasion where Year 7 students, parents and staff joined together both formally and informally. The evening culminated in a sumptuous supper! Pictured is William Nolan with his lovely family.
From the Assistant Principal

We are almost a month into the new school year and the pace of life at Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown has returned to normal, with several major events having already been ticked off for 2016. Last Tuesday night, we played host to the parents of our newest group of students at the Year 7 Welcome Evening. The function was well-attended and gave Mr. Cullen and his Homeroom teachers an opportunity to outline the expectations, procedures and opportunities that exist at our school. As always, we provided supper for our guests, with Ms. Grzelj and the Year 11 peer support leaders excelling in their hospitality. Last week we also convened our first formal College Assembly for the year. At this gathering we launched the 2016 College theme of “Build Faith, Build Knowledge”, proudly welcomed back the HSC high performers from 2015, and were privileged to welcome a special guest speaker, Mr Deng Adut, a local refugee lawyer whose amazing story has attracted widespread media attention following a recent advertising campaign by Western Sydney University. This assembly also gave us the opportunity to present a motivational video to the students encouraging House spirit for the upcoming Swimming Carnival.

As most parents would be aware from previous years, the second section of this report is generally used to remind students and parents about procedures and expectations at our school. We have already addressed the importance of attendance this year in several publications and parent evenings but another aspect of this same problem is partial absence, particularly absence from sporting activities such as Thursday sport. All parents would understand the importance of Thursday sport for their sons – both in terms of health and fitness and as part of a broad and balanced education. While the vast majority of our students regard Thursday sport as one of the highlights of their school week, we seem to have a small percentage of students who regularly find reasons for absence during this time. If students are injured and genuinely unable to participate in sport, the school provides other options and activities that are just as valuable. This is far preferable to students simply signing out and going home to unstructured or unsupervised activities.

Secondly – another reminder to students to avoid bringing large amounts of money or other valuables to school. Most of our students have the common sense not to leave their bags and belongings unattended in public areas such as Westpoint or Blacktown Station, but unfortunately, some students do not extend these levels of awareness and personal security to the school setting. Please advise your sons to be sensible and vigilant at all times and to report any theft or suspicious behaviour immediately. A good example of this is the tendency of some students to plug their mobile phone chargers into power points in classrooms or outdoor learning areas and then leave their phone unattended. To put it simply, this is asking for trouble.

And finally, a reminder to all students and parents about our Hands-Off rule. This rule reflects the importance we place on respect for other people and the protection of their individual safety. We constantly reinforce the Hands-Off rule with the entire school community and students who engage in behaviour that breaches this rule, whether it be fighting, harassment, teasing or intimidation, know to expect serious consequences. As we have seen in recent times, some people in our society are unable to control their anger and will choose to punch first and ask questions later. As teachers and parents, it is crucial that we teach the young men in our care that this path of action has the potential to lead to serious problems.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who will be receiving Bronze, Silver and Gold awards at the upcoming Year and College assemblies. Particular mention must be made to Connor O’Brien of Year 8 who has already accumulated 100 merits and will be receiving his first gold award at the next College assembly. Well done Connor!

**Bronze awards**
- Luke Mulligan 8D24
- Nicholas Suryathyo 9B1 2 Awards
- Kiano Pomente 11E7

**Silver awards**
- Connor O’Brien 8D18

**Gold awards**
- Connor O’Brien 8D18

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

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**Pictured above are Dut (Year 8) with Mr Santo Passarello and Mr Deng Adut.**

At our first formal gathering for 2016 we took the opportunity to launch our 2016 College Theme, ‘Build Faith Build Knowledge’. Considering this theme, how significant that Deng Adut was with us!

We also acknowledged our 2015 HSC High Achievers. Our assemblies are occasions where we pray together, celebrate each other’s successes and create and nurture school community.
Deng Adut - a man who has made the journey from child soldier to refugee lawyer and is now making a difference in Western Sydney.

At the age of six, Deng Adut was snatched from his mother and forced to fight in the war that eventually split his country. He was trained to use an AK47 and was wounded on at least two occasions.

Deng was born in 1984 in the village of Malek in South Sudan. He was one of eight children, four of whom are now dead. After military training in Ethiopia and South Sudan, he went to war. "I got shot in my back," he says, "and had a shrapnel wound in my hip." Deng eventually escaped and spent 18 months in a camp in Kenya before his visa for Australia was approved in June 1998. Adut had just turned 14.

Adut had no education. He chose to study at TAFE. He learned to read and write using dictionaries. He worked in Coles, and at a service station, a meat factory, learned to read and write using dictionaries. Adut had no education. He chose to study at TAFE. He worked in Coles, and at a service station, a meat factory, a workshop that made doors and windows, and a fish shop. But all the time he continued his studies. He enrolled in an acountancy diploma, did well in taxation law and business law, and applied to Western Sydney University for a place on the Bachelor of Law program. The university had him sit a couple of first-year courses to see if he could succeed, then offered him a scholarship as a full-time student.

He graduated in 2010, and completed a post-graduate diploma and starting practising in 2011.

He is now a partner in the AC Law Group, a firm which he co-founded, and works seven days a week. He takes on fee-paying criminal trials and family law, and refugee pro bono cases.

His growing public profile has lent his story another twist but, even before his Australia Day Address, Deng was a celebrity in Blacktown. "Almost everyone goes, That's the guy! That's the guy from the TV," says Deng. His fame came entirely unexpectedly. "Those who made the video, their intention was not to make me popular or to promote me, but to help other people think about their life."

He believes it has worked. "A lot of people thank me," he says. "Most say, 'You changed my life. The stupid little things I used to think about, I've now changed my attitude to.' They've stopped drinking alcohol, or taking drugs, or they're actually going back to school or going to university and doing a degree."

Deng has shown others what is possible even though he speaks with great sadness about the deaths in his family and his lost childhood in the army.

From the Director of Studies

Helping with Literacy

All students have settled well into school establishing good work habits and a routine of study. While in the early burst of enthusiasm this is the case, parents need to be vigilant that this attitude and the embedding of good work habits continues. This can be done quite easily simply by checking your son’s diary weekly. If your son claims that he has no homework, remind him that there is always revision and the mandatory reading every night. Half an hour spent on reading and discussing what your son has learnt can be very profitable in improving your son’s comprehension, vocabulary and also general knowledge. There is nothing as wonderful as a good debate around topical issues. Boys when given a writing task, often complain that they have nothing to write about, but they themselves can be the greatest storytellers to their friends. If they start drawing on their knowledge and expertise, by having meaningful talks at home about all sorts of topics, they will find the exercise much easier. Good debaters are often the best essay writers, as they know how to defend their corner.

Subject Changes

There should be no need for Year 9 students to be changing their electives or in the case of Year 11 their course of study. It is important that boys settle into the classes that they have selected. Many of these subjects were chosen after careful consultation with teachers and Coordinators. If the work at first appears to be a little challenging, this is normal, and the boys need to adjust to the demands of these new courses. Given time, students will be able to experience success and come to enjoy the new challenges. They need to build their resilience by learning to cope with more difficult problems and activities. The satisfaction that they will gain from mastering content or skill will more than compensate for a little uncertainty.

Aim High

Boys will be given a letter early next week announcing the launch of the AIM High program including information about their mentors and workshop experiences. There will be a series of workshops in Term 1 and 2 that they will need to attend. These 20-minute workshops will address strategies to cope with stress, study and healthy living. Thank you to all the teachers who have so generously volunteered to work with the high achievers in 2016. The mentors for 2016 are Colm McCaughan, David Walker, Tania Hogan, Thomas Barton, Manuela Lavaselli, Heather Gilchrist, Vikki Forrest, Karen Davidson and Danuta Paton.
Principal's Writing Challenge
Mr Passarello has declared that it is on again! So time to start sharpening your pencils and searching for ideas as the clock ticks down the days to the launch of the 2016 Principal’s Writing Challenge! Yes, it is on again with many prizes to be won and many wonderful stories to share.
"No one can tell your story, so tell it yourself. No one can write your story, so write it yourself."

Changes to the University of Sydney Admission Requirements
This change will impact on the Year 10 cohort of 2016. The University of Sydney has made a decision that there will be a requirement that candidates achieve at least a Band 4 in HSC Mathematics in order to be potentially eligible for admission to a number of their programs. This decision has been made based on evidence that shows a direct correlation between academic achievement in undergraduate programs with a quantitative element and the level of mathematics studied within the HSC curriculum. Those students who undertake more advanced studies in Mathematics have a greater chance of academic success in their program of study than those who have undertaken studies in HSC General Mathematics course.

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)
Is your son thinking of leaving school before he completes the HSC? If your son has satisfactorily completed Year 10 he is entitled to a Record of School Achievement (RoSA). The RoSA credential will show the grades/results you achieved in Year 10, and, if applicable, in Year 11. It will also list any Year 11 or 12 courses you participated in but did not complete before leaving school. When you have decided that you are ready to leave school, make sure that you inform the office and Mrs Paton, Director of Studies, who will organise for you to sit for the Literacy and Numeracy tests developed by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES). Before you leave the school officially Mrs Paton will need to inform BOSTES of your departure and it will mail your RoSA to you. Make sure you check that your correct postal address is on your BOSTES student record. You will be able to access the results of the Literacy and Numeracy tests when you log onto Students Online. If you have forgotten how to do this, again see Mrs Paton who will assist you. These are all very important documents and do not forget to show them to further education providers and in job interviews.

Mrs Danuta Paton

SRE Commissioning Mass
The first line of the Entrance Antiphon “When He calls on me, I will answer Him” was perfect for the 2016 SRE Commissioning Mass on the first Sunday of Lent. Our SRE students gathered with the other SRE teachers in the parish to celebrate Mass together with Fr Peter Confeggi and the community at St Michael’s Church. They were joined by family, as well as, Mr Passarello and Mr Prendergast. It was an inspiring way for the boys to start their year in their role as SRE teachers. During mass, the Year 11 students pledged to continue their ministry. Congratulations to Bailey Broom, Anthony Pecora, Daniel Brown, Jonah Mercado, Yvan Musni, Marwin Manlangit, Tyrell Muller, Christopher Satorre, Scott Lawless-Burke, Haile Zabala and Jonathan Espinas.

Ms Denise Grzelj, Year 11 Coordinator
We took the opportunity last week to congratulate some of our many HSC high achievers from 2015. Despite the pressure of enrolling at university, many of our students who scored an ATAR in the 90’s were able to return to their school community and witness the admiration and esteem that their efforts have earned them. I know that the boys enjoyed their return to our school community. They all commented on the significant impact that the school had on their achievement. We congratulate all of these fine young men and wish them the very best for the future.

Mr Santo Passarello, Principal

Pictured are:

**Back Row (L-R)** Mr Santo Passarello, Christopher Walker, Jarrad Lewis, Thomas Doyle, Nicholas Hertel, Rohan Hudson, Aaron Pinto, Amogh Ghimire, Giuliano Celani, Demian Meina, Jiasheng Huang, Kenneth Medida

**Front Row (L-R)** Bienn Tongol, Rohit Louis, Miguel Ramirez, Mark Fang

*Absent: Patrick Bear, Samuel Healy*
Year 7 2016

Our new Year 7 students have continued their exceptional transition to become fully fledged ‘Patties Boys’! Thank you to parents and families for your support in ensuring that our newest students have fully embraced the Patrician invitation to allow Christ to reign in their lives and to pledge their lives to ‘Build Faith, Build Knowledge’. Our Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening was a recent highlight of the transition of our students to Patrician Brothers’ College.
From Mr Dominic Cullen:
The parents of the new Year 7 cohort were officially welcomed into our Patrician family on Tuesday, 9 February 2016. It provided an excellent opportunity for Homeroom Teachers to meet parents and further explain how the school works. It was also another excellent example of how parents and teachers work together to ensure Patrician Brothers Blacktown is a caring and learning community.
Sacrifice is the focus of Pope Francis’ Lenten Message

In his message for Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis draws insights inspired by the words of Saint Paul: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” [2 Corinthians 8:9].

Pope Francis asks the question, “What do these words of St Paul mean for Christians today? Firstly he addressed Christ’s grace. Jesus made himself poor, not for his sake, but as St Paul says “so that by his poverty you might become rich.” Through his incarnation and the cross, Christ frees us and enriches us. He gives us true freedom, salvation, happiness, compassion and the solidarity of his love.

Secondly, Pope Francis challenges us to be witnesses of Christ. In imitating Christ, we are called to confront poverty, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. In the humanity of the poor and outcast we see Christ’s face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our values and actions must convert to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing. During this Lenten season we must be witnesses of Christ, experiencing the joy of spreading the good news, sharing the treasures entrusted to us, offering hope to our brothers and sisters who are experiencing darkness. We must become merciful and act with mercy. During this Lenten season the College community will respond to Pope Francis’ Lenten message through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through prayer we grow closer to God so that we can be true witnesses of Christ. Fasting joins us in solidarity with the poor and Almsgiving is a sign of our commitment to justice and taking practical steps to help the poor.

How fitting considering our 2016 College Theme of ‘Build Faith, Build Knowledge’!
Shrove Tuesday and Caritas Launch
The tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday started as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar before fasting commenced for the 40 days of Lent. To maintain this tradition, the School Leaders and other Year 12 helpers, alongside Mrs Krista Erenavula, Mr Alan Dadisho and Mr Noel Bajada, cooked up hundreds of mouth-watering pancakes before school, during recess and lunch. They were served with ice-cream and maple syrup - a bargain for $2! Thank you to all the boys who supported us by buying pancakes. All money raised goes to Project Compassion.
Shrove Tuesday was a living example of ‘Build Faith, Build Knowledge’, our 2016 College theme in action.
Lord, help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for all that we have. Remind us to live humbly and to remember those people who do not have what we so easily access every day.
Help us to think and love like Jesus Christ. Amen.
Ms Denise Grzelj, Year 11 Coordinator
English KLA Update

Pope Francis stated “Do not bury your talents, gifts that God has given you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things!” In the English Department in 2016 we will be continuing our work on developing and extending the reading and writing skills of our students. The year has begun smoothly with students engaging in a variety of learning activities. We are looking forward to a fantastic year where we can all work together to assist the boys in realising their talents, building their knowledge and helping them to achieve great things.

Stage 4
Both Year 7 and Year 8 have started the year with a textual study. In these units, students will be developing their reading and writing skills through a range of activities. In 2016, we will be continuing to implement strategies from the EM4 project to further develop our boys’ language comprehension and writing skills.

Stage 5
Year 9 and 10 have begun the year studying Australian and Romantic poetry respectively. The boys are developing their skills in analysis and working on consolidating the use of TEEL paragraph structure to write extended responses.

Stage 6
Year 11 have transitioned smoothly to the demands of Senior English with all three courses beginning with a study of the conventions of a particular genre.
Year 12 are continuing with their HSC courses and diligently preparing for their upcoming Half-Yearly Exams.

Mrs Zorica Bicanic, English Coordinator

Student Testimonials

In English we have been learning about the Holocaust and World War Two. Our teacher, Mrs Spencer, is easy to listen to. We have also learnt spelling words and have done a spelling bee. I find it easy to co-operate in English.

Sebastian Zarzycki, Year 8

In English we have been learning about World War Two and the Holocaust. We are reading The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. We are learning by filling in a chart on what we know about World War Two, by doing a suitcase activity and a writing activity.

Ben Cooper, Year 8

In our English class we have been learning about the six reading strategies – clarify, question, predict, connect, evaluate and infer. We read a chapter of a novel and used these strategies to understand the chapter a bit more. English has been my favourite subject, especially with our English teacher Miss Gearing.

Jadd Ghourizi, Year 7

In English, the class and I have been learning about similes and metaphors. We have also read a chapter of a novel in class. I like my teacher because she makes English fun. I have really started to enjoy English.

Jamie Murray, Year 7

In English we have been learning about similes and metaphors. We have also read a chapter of a novel in class. I like my teacher because she makes English fun. I have really started to enjoy English. I have really started to enjoy English.

Ezrah Lavemai, Year 7

Reading, writing, speaking and listening are some of the things that I love doing in English. Two things that have been difficult about entering high school would have to be a new environment and new challenges, but one thing that I love would be the subject English.

Ezrah Lavemai, Year 7
Mathematics KLA Update

Mathematics lessons in Years 7 and 8 this year will have a special emphasis on the development of spatial and problem solving skills, using many of the ideas gained from participation in the EM4 program (English and Maths for Stage 4) organised by the Parramatta Diocese. While there will still be many lessons that are teacher-directed and expository in nature with extensive skills practice, other lessons will provide opportunities for individual and collaborative investigation and problem solving, being more self-directed and open-ended, but still guided by the teacher. The aim is to develop more resilient learners who will persist even when the path to solving a problem is not immediately clear.

In order to facilitate the acquisition of spatial skills across Years 7-10, students will be spending more time working with concrete materials as they investigate two- and three-dimensional shapes. Poor understanding of spatial concepts and difficulty in visualising shapes from worded descriptions or diagrammatic representations is not only affecting learning in topics involving measurement and geometry, but is also preventing students from using diagrams and spatial concepts like symmetry when problem solving in a variety of contexts.

During the first two weeks of this term all the students in Year 7 were tested on items from Stages 1-3 to determine their understanding and retention of concepts in Number, Space, Measurement and Working Mathematically from the K-6 Syllabus. We found that Year 7 students in general needed considerable development of spatial and problem solving skills. While some students had a satisfactory understanding of Stage 3 (Years 5-6) concepts in Number and were ready to proceed to Stage 4, many students were struggling with Stage 3 material, and some had failed to master concepts and skills from Stage 2 (Years 3-4). Year 7 students have now been streamed into classes according to their demonstrated level of concept and skill development so that their lessons in Mathematics can target areas of weakness while still providing an appropriate level of challenge. Students who are operating at early Stage 2 or below are following a special program designed by their teacher Mr Kitchener to develop basic skills in Number, Data, Space and Measurement using digital technology. We hope the use of iPads and computers will engage these students so that they develop more confidence in using Mathematics as they improve their knowledge and skills. A similar program is also offered in Year 8 to students who are still struggling to master concepts and skills from Stage 3.

Homework and home study is expected of all students in Years 7-12. Students in Years 7-8 are expected to spend 15-20 minutes on Mathematics each evening, students in Years 9-10, 20-30 minutes, and students in Years 11-12, 30-45 minutes. Home study should include revision and skills practice. Students have been asked to purchase digital access along with the hard copy of their text. Digital access accompanying Signpost Mathematics (used in Years 7-10) includes a variety of student resources for school and home use, including quizzes for testing skills, foundation sheets to prepare for new topics and extension activities to challenge more able students, as well as links to activities designed to enhance concept development. Mathematics General students in Years 11 and 12 also have a variety of useful digital resources available through the digital access accompanying New Century Mathematics General texts, including links to investigations described in the text and practice tests. Saying “I have no Maths homework” is never an option!

Every Wednesday after school, Homework Centre operates in the College library. There are usually Maths teachers available to assist students who have missed a lesson for whatever reason, or who are having difficulties understanding or completing work. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Parents of students in Years 7 and 8 can assist their sons by working with them on learning times tables thoroughly is a vital skill for success in Mathematics. Students who know their tables are more confident when problem solving. Success in algebra is very limited for students who lack fluency in mental arithmetic. We are finding that many of our students in Years 7 and 8 struggle with simple mental arithmetic such as adding, subtracting or multiplying one-digit numbers. One-to-one help from a parent is invaluable in developing these skills and building confidence.

Success in HSC studies in Mathematics doesn’t only depend on work done in Years 11 and 12. Achievement in Years 7-10 determines the level of Mathematics available to a student entering Year 11 and his likelihood of success in the HSC. Students who gain high marks in HSC courses share some common traits – they have all worked hard to master concepts and skills every year from Year 7 onwards, they make the most of every minute of each lesson, they take every opportunity to seek help from their teachers whenever they need help clarifying a concept, they plan their home study-time carefully, especially when completing assessment tasks, and most importantly, they have an excellent record of attendance throughout their school years. As teachers and parents, we have a responsibility to foster these traits in the young gentlemen of Patrician Brothers’ College.

Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator
Year 11 Assessment Information Evening
Parents and boys who attended this evening are now fully aware of the significance of the internal assessment program of the Preliminary Year. Ultimately it is about promoting ethical scholarship and the ability to work independently and confidently within their chosen program of study. Time management will be crucial and Elevate Education has already run some workshops with the boys about preparing for senior work. The Preliminary Year is important as it lays the foundation for success for the HSC in 2017. If the Preliminary Year is not completed satisfactorily then boys cannot progress to the HSC and will have to repeat a subject or subjects. At the same time, having a sound foundation for the HSC work ahead, the boys will find that success is much easier to attain and they will avoid all nighters or emotional “meltdowns” when they realise that time had been wasted in Year 11. The Assessment booklets help boys organise their study timetables as they know well in advance what awaits them. Planning for success is always much more satisfying then facing failure due to poor time management skills or procrastination. Some boys will find habits hard to break from the junior years, but essentially they need to develop the skills of being industrious before they go out into the real world. Consistency is the key and working smarter and more efficiently actually provides you with more time to do the things you enjoy. Students must prioritise and be firm with their decisions. This is a year when many boys come to understand the meaning of maturity and responsibility.

The important thing is to start the journey and stay on track. If difficulties arise boys are asked to seek help as there is always a solution. Good luck to a successful Year 11, 2016.

Mrs Danuta Paton

What is Homework?
Homework can be:
- Consolidating of class learning
- Completing unfinished classwork
- Catching up on missed work
- Summarizing
- Routine day-to-day work on assessment tasks
- Research for assignments
- Preparing for exams
- Independent work, thought and reflections
- Reading a text or reading a novel
- Consolidating and extending skills practiced in class
- Applying learning to other real life situations

The following times are an indication of how long your son should be spending engaged in homework each day. They are recommended minimum requirements in order for a student to make learning gains.

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If your son is having difficulty completing homework independently or working above and beyond these recommended time guidelines, please feel free to contact SET for support and advice regarding your concerns.

Mrs Melissa Scalone, SET (Student Enrichment Team)

Biology/Senior Science Excursion

Our excursion was an insightful trip to an up and coming area of Western Sydney; Penrith Lakes. The former quarry is now being turned into a new area with planned residential and leisure zones. As such, the environment within the scheme is undergoing massive changes that the Year 11 Biology and Senior Science classes had the privilege of researching last Tuesday, accompanied by our teachers, Mr Gange, Mr Ferry and Ms Hogan. My group was taken by coach to the Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre. It was here that we met some of the staff who spoke to us about our activities for the day and instructed us on the proper use of the equipment that we would be given. Throughout the day we took part in activities such as sampling the abundance of bird species in the area and surveying the abiotic factors, crucial in keeping the health of the ecosystem. It was within these activities that I could draw a parallel to our school’s theme for the year, “Building Faith and Knowledge”. Just as our school has undergone renovations, even built a brand new building to aid in the learning of its students, the Penrith Lakes scheme seeks to use such meticulous research to make the former quarry a haven for people and nature alike. The excursion was incredibly enjoyable and informative and I am glad I was given the opportunity to visit and research such a fascinating place to assist in my studies.

Anthony Pecora, Year 11 Biology Student
Senior Dance
Tuesday 16 February 2016

Thank you to all the staff whose presence ensured a successful evening for our students: Mr Heath Borg, Mr Jim Prendergast, Mr Scott Durham, Ms Jacqueline Mercieca, Mr Adnan Saleh, Mr Danny De Alwis, Mr Thomas Barton, Mrs Courtney Spencer, Mr Matt Hartigan, Mr Brett Sullivan, Ms Jaimee Bocasan, Mr Jordan Williams, Ms Melissa Luppino, Mrs Mel Scalone, Mr Adam Hartigan, Mr Colm McCaughan, Mr Mark Domars, Mrs Gretel Collison, Ms Mel Gearing, Ms Charmaine Castellino, Mr Steve Mulligan, Ms Denise Grzelj, Mr Ben Miller, Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Mr Alan Dadisho, Mr Michael Said, Mr Noel Bajada, Mr David Walker, Mr Chris Duffy, Ms Natalie Collins, Mrs Zorica Bicanic, Mr Peter Ross, Mrs Natacha Warnant, Mr Santo Passarelo, Mr Brian Edmonds and Ms Alyssa Magno.
Invitation

Diocesan Palm Sunday Youth Celebration

Palm Sunday each year is the day established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 as the International World Youth Day celebration. This year’s celebration will be held on 20 March 2016.

Our students have been invited to join the youth and clergy of the diocese, to participate in the Palm Sunday procession which moves off from Parramatta Town Hall and concludes at St Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta. The Palm Sunday procession commemorates the entry of Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem in the week preceding His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Following the evening Mass, Catholic Youth Parramatta will host a World Youth Day event where the World Youth Day Krakow 2016 raffle will be drawn.

Students are asked to assemble in front of Parramatta Town Hall at 4.45pm with their teacher in readiness for the procession start at 5.00pm.

Please see Mr Anthony Silvestrini or Mr Jim Prendergast for more details.

Invitation

Diocesan Good Friday Night Walk

25 March 2016

The Good Friday Night Walk is a very successful youth event of the Parramatta diocese. Participants walk from St Patrick’s Church Blacktown to St Patricks Cathedral Parramatta making stops along the way at the parishes of Seven Hills, Toongabbie, Wentworthville and Westmead. The ‘Year of Mercy’ will be the predominant theme this year and will be incorporated into the liturgical reflections at each parish stop.

The walk itself begins at 10.00pm on the Friday evening and should reach the Cathedral by 6.00am the following morning. There will be refreshment/ bathroom breaks along the way.

Please see Mr Anthony Silvestrini or Mr Jim Prendergast for more details.

Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown representatives at the NRL Nines in Auckland

We congratulate our former students who represented their respective clubs in the recent NRL 9’s tournament held in Auckland. We wish all the players well in the upcoming NRL season.

Penrith - Bryce Cartwright, Sione Katoa, Chris Smith, Dallin Watene Zelezniak, Robert Jennings

West Tigers - Tim Simona, Tyler Cassell
Cowboys - John Asiata, Matthew Wright
Parramatta - John Folau, Tepai Moeroa
Manly - Halauafu Lavaka, Jamie Burher
Knights- Pauli Pauli, Daniel Levi
Sharks - Luke Lewis, David Fifita, Joseph Paulo

PRESS RELEASE

Representative Oztag Heads to Sydney's West

Australian Oztag is pleased to announce that Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown will play host to the 2016 State of Origin series on Saturday and Sunday June 18th & 19th, 2016.

This will mark the first occasion a Representative tournament will be played in Western Sydney and is certain to create a buzz amongst the local Oztag community.

The Series will once again be split over 2 days with the Senior competition being held on the Saturday, followed by the Juniors on Sunday.

The school will also play host to the Australian team Training Camp. All Australian players will converge on our school for a 2 day training camp later this month in preparation for the 2016 Trans-Tasman Series.

Along with being Sydney's Number 1 Rugby League school, PBC Blacktown has produced many high quality Oztag players with many of them going on to represent their country in our wonderful sport.

Australian Oztag Managing Director Bill Harrigan visited the school and said the schools facilities are "as good as he has seen anywhere”.

2016 Youth Ambassador Program

Applications are now open for the highly successful Youth Ambassador Program. The Youth Ambassador Program has witnessed the emergence of a number of fine young students who either live or go to school within the Blacktown Local Government Area. Council recognises that consultation and engagement with youth is an essential component of community engagement.

Two Ambassadors are appointed in April each year to represent the youth of Blacktown. The role allows them to contribute a youth perspective through Council’s Sister Cities and Youth Advisory Committees, make recommendations on youth priorities, foster youth development and collaboration and represent the youth of Blacktown at various prestigious community events.

Applications are open to Year 10, 11 and 12 students and will close at 4.30pm on Thursday 24th March, 2016.

Please follow the link to download an application form:
http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/People_and_Community/Awards_Scholarships_and_Ambassadors/Youth_Ambassador_Program

Further enquiries contact Tanya Bigeni, Senior Events Officer on 9839 6273
MCS Basketball
Round 10 v St Patrick’s Marist College Dundas

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Round 11 v Patrician Brothers’ College Fairfield

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MCS Cricket
Round 10 v St Patrick’s Marist College Dundas

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<td>C Grade</td>
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Round 11 v Patrician Brothers’ College Fairfield

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<td>A Grade</td>
<td>4/194</td>
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NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC)
The NSW CCC administration will continue their online nomination process for all sports in 2016. Where there is an MCS pathway, students must first be selected in the MCS squad and participate as part of this squad at the NSW CCC selection event. All other NSW CCC pathway sports are conducted through individual nominations. This can be done by visiting the NSW CCC website. As always, the college will advertise all relevant sporting details through our assemblies and morning announcements to students.

www.csss.nsw.edu.au
www.mcscolleges.com

The NSW CCC holds an annual Blues Awards night. This evening acknowledges the top 2 athletes / sportspeople from any particular sport across all Catholic High Schools in NSW. From our college Arjun Nair, Yr12 2015 was awarded a Blue Award for his outstanding efforts in the sport of Cricket. Congratulations Arjun.

NSWCCC Softball
Congratulations to Samuel Barnett and Breadon Rodricks who represented the MCS at the NSWCCC Opens selection trials. Further congratulations to Samuel who was subsequently selected in the NSWCCC State side. Well done boys.

MCS Sport at PBB
A Reminder to all students and parents that if you are selected in a college team / squad that represents us at MCS events, you must return your permission note and levy to the school office before you can compete. Thank you in advance for your prompt return of your note and levy.

MCS Basketball and Cricket Semi Finals
Well done to our 4 Basketball teams who have qualified for their Basketball Grand Final this week – Year 9 Opens, Year 10 Opens, B Grade and A Grade. Good luck in your Grand Final. Unfortunately, our 2 junior cricket sides went down in their matches. Thanks to all MCS Basketball and Cricket players for the manner in which you participated in the MCS competition this season.

Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator

AFL Academy for PBB

Patrician Brothers College has been selected by the AFL to establish a new academy at the school. This free program will see selected students trained by AFL coaches, using a comprehensive program similar to that used in the Giants Academy. The school has also been invited to participate in an invitational U16 competition to be played on the main oval at Blacktown Sports Park starting in Term 2. A number of potential academy students, staff and their families were given complementary entry to see the Sydney Swans play Port Adelaide last weekend at Blacktown International Sports Park. It was a great introduction to this very popular Australian sport. Trials for the AFL Academy are on Tuesday, 23 Feb and 1 Mar. The Academy starts training on Tuesday afternoons on 8 Mar 16 to the end of Term 3.
Library Update

Library hours have been extended in 2016 to meet the needs of our students and to adjust to the new start and finish times of the College.
The Library now opens at 8am with students being able to have a solid 45 min block to complete work in the morning. We will also be extending our hours on selected Monday and Tuesday afternoons when requested by KLA areas, when large numbers of students have assessment tasks due. These dates will be published in the Morning announcements and the Focus.

Year 8 Science Assessment Afternoon
Monday 29 February. Library will be remain open till 4.30pm

Homework Centre
An invitation is also extended to all students to attend Homework Centre in the College Library each Wednesday afternoon until 4.15pm. Teachers make themselves available during this time to assist students with homework and assignments.

Year 7 Only
The Library would like to extend a special welcome to our new Year 7 students and invite them to visit us on our YEAR 7 ONLY lunchtimes on Wed 2nd and 9th March. Students will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with our facilities and to meet our Library staff and Ambassadors.

Library Noticeboard
There is a noticeboard in the Library where students can advertise the sale of second hand texts and novels. Students are asked to write the names of the books they wish to sell and the price, their name and a contact number. This has meant significant savings to students.

What’s new in Fiction
BRO by Helen Chebatte
Fight clubs, first loves and family ties are pushed to the limit in this debut novel by Helen Chebatte “Don’t dob on your mates or even your enemies. Respect your family!” This novel provokes student’s thoughts about the benefits of multicultural society, how violence can lead to tragedy and the promotion of safe ways that people can deal with anger and their emotions.

Careers
Professional Cadetships Australia (PCA) are inviting Year 12 students to apply for their Cadetship Program. The program combines university study and paid work at a leading global company. Students wishing to pursue Business or Engineering and Technology at a University in Sydney in 2017 are encouraged to apply. Applications open on the 7th March. Please visit www.businesscadetships.com.au

Bedford College is a Registered Training Organisation which offers diplomas in Education, Business and Leadership. The 2016 Course outlines and information about the College are available in the Careers Section in Library 3.

Mrs Vikki Forrest, Teacher Librarian

Congratulations Ricky Nair

A rare feat. Ricky scored 120 not out in a recent 20 over MCS game for the school. Well done Ricky!

Message from Transport NSW
Train/Bus Travel

Some students are yet to receive their OPAL cards for use on public transport to and from school. We have been advised by Transport NSW that all students are eligible for FREE travel until 31 March 2016 provided they are in full school uniform.

If your son has not received his OPAL card or his card is not working (invalid), please contact Transport NSW on 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students. Unfortunately Transport NSW are not allowing the school to contact them on behalf of students. Transport NSW apologise for any inconvenience caused.
Newspaper Articles

Driver has ‘hunger’ to reach top

SCHOOLBOY RACER SETS GOAL FOR BIG TIME OF FORMULA ONE

Dina Cama

Talented go-kart driver Benito Montalbano, pictured near Milton in Victoria, has won two state titles in NSW, one in Tasmania, and one in Queensland, as well as other titles across the country. He has also been in the top 10 in the Australian Karting Championships.

"I've got the hunger to go all the way to the top," he said.

"I've been racing for about four years, and I've been racing in-state and interstate competitions," he said.

"I've been racing in the Victorian and Tasmanian championships, and I've won the Victorian state title twice."

"I'm really looking forward to the big races coming up, and I'm really excited to see how I can perform," he said.

Racings's aim is to keep improving and eventually go to Europe and compete in the international races.

"I hope I can get picked up by someone and become a Formula One driver," he said. "That would be truly amazing, a dream come true."
TASMANIAN KART CHAMPIONSHIPS

BENITO MONTALBANO
SCORES BIG IN LAUNCESTON
WITH 2 STATE TITLES
Moylan gets captaincy

BY KRYS IVA P OLL ARE AND PATRICK FAHY

MATT Moylan has been named Penrith Panthers captain for 2016.

In a major announcement at Pepper Stadium on Wednesday morning, Panthers coach Anthony Griffin said he was pleased to promote the homegrown talent.

“Matt’s a local junior, he’s been in the area his whole life, he’s now a central part of our team and I am very happy,” he told reporters.

Moylan grew up in Doonside and played his junior football for St Patrick’s Blacktown in the Penrith junior league.

He is also one of many top level players to have come through the production line from Penrith Brothers College, Blacktown.

Moylan made his first grade debut for the Panthers in 2013 and has played 50 NRL games to date.

Moylan said the announcement was something he has been very proud of.

“I think it’s a massive achievement and I am really honoured to be named captain for this year,” the 24-year-old said.

“I was pretty surprised by it; I think with the senior players that we’ve got here... that have done the job before it was bit of a surprise.

“But I am ready for the challenge and I think it will help me going forward as a young player.”

Moylan’s composure has impressed Griffin since his arrival at the club three months ago.

“I’ve taken my time with this decision, and he’s a very composed young man,” Griffin said.

“He’s already achieved a hell of a lot in his short career, bearing in mind he still hasn’t turned 25 yet.

“Probably his composure and his presence are the things that have impressed me the most.”

Griffin admitted Peter Wallace “might be” a bit hard done by over the decision, but said “Peter’s got a lot on his plate at the moment”.

“It’s coming back from two knee reconstructions and he’ll be a real good help to Matt, but the decision I have made is about what I saw right at this time,” he said.

Having a former local junior as captain of the first grade team was “a great thing for the Panthers,” Griffin said.

“Going forward as a club we want to promote as many local juniors as we can as NRL players,” he said.

Stars indicate a green cap ahead

FOR NOW HE’LL BE STUDYING AND TRAINING

Nick Houghton

FORMER Penrith Brothers Blacktown student Arjun Nair is a name cricket fans should remember.

The 17-year-old all-rounder, who has been named the next big thing in Australian cricket by former Australian captain Greg Chappell, continues to shine at an international under-19 level.

Breaking into first grade for Hawkesbury at the tender age of 15, Nair is quickly becoming a star of the future.

This season he was selected as a rookie for the Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League and in the NSW Futures League team.

“It’s been an incredible few months in cricket for me and I’m feeling really committed about how I’m progressing as a player,” Nair said.

“I have the chance to represent Australia at under-19 level is a dream come true and, hopefully one day, I will be able to go to the next step and earn myself a green cap.

Nair was one of the standout performers during the Australian under-19 tour of the subcontinent recently, coming fourth in runs against Pakistan and taking 10 wickets in the series.

The Canberra-born Girraween resident will this year balance cricket with study when he begins a Bachelor of Business and Marketing course at Western Sydney University.

He plans to hone his skills on the pitch as well.

“I’m always trying to improve my skills and become a better player,” he said.

“I try to get down to the nets as much as possible.

“I’m determined to make my cricket career as far as possible.”

Arjun Nair is one of Australia’s most talented young cricketers.

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617
Want to play Rugby League with a GREAT Club?

St Patrick’s Junior Rugby League Club
2016 Registrations are now open for Players, Coaches, Trainers, Managers and Volunteers. Please go to the website below to register.

Rego Date: Saturday 27th February 2016
Where: The Sportsman Hotel, Kildare Road, Blacktown.
Time: 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Registration Cost: Free
*Conditions Apply

Age Groups: U6 to A Grade
Please ensure you bring identification for the player (birth certificate)
For further details visit www.stpatricksjrlc.com.au or contact the Registrar, Belinda 0406 829 021 or the President, Ray 0407 924 279.
Need Transport? Ring Tony!

Contact them TODAY for a special offer to all Patties families. Ask for Tony!

We are pleased to announce the recent launch of a new shuttle service. This will provide first-class service for anyone requiring assistance with transport. The details are:

**Five Star Shuttles – Transfers Made Easy**

Airport and Cruise Transfers
Contact: Tony Saba, Director
Mobile: 0404 390 620
Website: [www.fivestarshuttles.com](http://www.fivestarshuttles.com)
Email: fivestarshuttles@outlook.com

Please visit our website and follow the link to our OFFICIAL Facebook Page:

http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au

Also trading as Shire Coaches

Phone: 0245 736 181
Mobile 0408 973 267


AVS Security

AVS Security specialises in large crowd control security around Sydney. AVS Security is the security provider for over 150 venues within the hospitality industry along with multiple stadiums, including WIN Jubilee. AVS is heavily involved within the sporting community from grass roots through to elite level and honoured to have Brad Fittler, Nathan Hindmarsh and Socceroo goalkeeper, Matty Ryan as Ambassadors.

Follow us on
Facebook - AVS Security
Twitter - @AVSSecurity
Instagram - avs_security

Website

This newsletter is available NOW in FULL COLOUR
Visit
[www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au](http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au)
Kings Langley Hockey Club
Great Sport - Great People - Great Club
Register Today With Kings Langley Hockey Club
For Boys, Girls, Men & Women
U7s to Adult
Beginners to Seasoned Players
Phone Lyn 9674 2876
Email info@kingslangleyhockey.org.au

Term 1 Statements
Australia Post's delivery times have changed, which may cause a delay in some parents receiving their Term 1 statements later than usual. This could be an extra 1-3 business days in most cases. Parents are reminded that all fees are due 7th March 2016.
Student Support Unit, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

UNIFORM SHOP
Located next to school office

- **Tuesday**
  - 8.30am - 3.45pm

- **Thursday**
  - 8.30am - 3.45pm

Bob Egan Electrical
Domestic, commercial and industrial
Contact Bob Egan 'an old boy of PBCB'
Phone: 9626 5951
Mobile: 0418251094

President Body Repairs
Specialising in all major insurance work
Contact Glenn Jones
13 Turbo Road Kings Park
Phone: 9621 1281
Fax: 9622 5164

ActiveWest PHYSIOTHERAPY Centre
Sports, Spinal and Work Injuries
Contact Igor Kralj  PROUD TO BE AN OLD BOY
Suite 6, 2A Newton Road Blacktown 2148
Phone: 9672 7977
Fax: 9672 3977