How do we celebrate each other’s success? Do we take satisfaction in other’s achievements or does it cause us to be envious?

In Australia we have a tendency to succumb to a condition known as ‘Tall Poppy Syndrome’ - criticising those that rise above their peers. This is a social attitude where the person that is outstanding in some way is criticized by others as presumptuous or attention-seeking. Often it is someone from humble beginnings who achieves great things. In the beginning, the underdog is cheered on but when he or she makes it big the attitude is, ‘Who do you think you are anyway? You have gotten too big for your boots.’

A reference to tall poppies is traced to the writings of Roman historian Titus Livius Patavinus. Essentially he describes how the last Ancient Roman King fell into the trap of ‘cutting down’ those around him in order to make himself look and feel better. The expression ‘Tall Poppy Syndrome’ is now used to describe people who act to achieve parity with another person or group who they perceive as somehow ‘better’ or more ‘successful’, not by improving themselves but by bringing others down to their level.

Similarly, there is a Japanese proverb ‘the nail that sticks out gets hammered down’. Jesus would certainly fit this mould - a humble carpenter’s son from a small town who went off and made a name for himself. Jesus was a threat to the society as it had been, lifting up the poor, telling folks they should love even their enemies. This tall poppy made folks uncomfortable, going around saying that God’s Love has no boundaries. If we connect with Jesus Christ and begin to listen to His dreams for our lives, He will want us to stand up and become a tall poppy. He wants us to be one. We are called to stand out and be different. We are called to stand up and bring something of God to the world.

Instead of emulating the tyrannical Roman king we should all try to be like Jesus and become committed encouragers.

The word ‘encourager’ means to ‘inspire with courage, spirit and confidence’ - to be an encourager instead of a knocker, to view people with optimism, to look for success and to celebrate it. As the Bible says, ‘Therefore encourage one another and build each other up …’ (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Words have the power to change lives. You can empower people through the words you speak or cut them down. You can cause them to live or to wither and die. Don’t let your mouth be full of negative talk, but rather practise and make it a habit; a lifestyle of speaking words that build. Please take care of each other, Santo Passarello
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 its normal lively rate, with several major events having already been ticked off for 2013. 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 the Homeroom teachers an opportunity to run through the details and procedures of life at our school. As always, we provided a generous supper for our guests, with Mr Domars, Ms Grzelj and the Year 11 Peer Support leaders excelling in their hospitality. Next morning, students and staff gathered in year groups in the Chapel and Hall for a series of Ash Wednesday ceremonies where we paused to reflect on the importance of generosity, humility and prayerfulness in our lives. Thanks to Mr Prendergast and Mr Beacroft for their excellent work in organizing and presenting these liturgies.

As most parents would be aware from previous years, the second section of this report is generally used to outline procedures and expectations at our school. A good starting point at this early stage of the year is to remind parents about 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 wherever possible. Most of our students have the common sense not to leave their bags and belongings unattended, either at school or in public areas such as Westpoint or Blacktown Station, but unfortunately there have been several reports of thefts in recent weeks. Most of our students would never be involved in theft and are only too willing to report any untoward incidents, but sadly, there is always a chance that the person standing next to us at any given time may not be totally trustworthy. Please be sensible and vigilant.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Chewing gum is not only BANNED but it is BAD for your health!

Apart from being a destructive and environmentally unfriendly substance, chewing gum can cause serious health issues, such as muscle fatigue and headaches. The ingredients in gum, including sugar, sugar substitutes and gum base, are carcinogens and have been linked to a variety of negative health effects, including cancer and diabetes. Chewing gum can also damage dental fillings and braces. In summary:

1. Chewing gum causes unnecessary wear and tear of the cartilage that acts as a shock absorber in your jaw joints. Once damaged, this area can produce pain and discomfort for a lifetime.
2. You use eight different facial muscles to chew. Unnecessary chewing can create chronic tightness in two of these muscles, located close to your temples. This can put pressure on the nerves that supply this area of your head, which can lead to chronic, intermittent headaches.
3. You have six salivary glands located throughout your mouth that are stimulated to produce and release saliva whenever you chew. Producing a steady stream of saliva for chewing gum is a waste of energy and resources that could otherwise be used for essential metabolic activities.
4. Most chewing gum is sweetened with aspartame. It has been linked with cancer, diabetes, neurological disorders and birth defects.
5. If your gum isn't sweetened with aspartame, it is probably sweetened with sugar. Regular intake of refined sugar is most likely the single greatest dietary cause of chronic health challenges like cancer, atherosclerosis and diabetes type 2.

In order to assist students and remind them of these hazards there is an automatic 1 hour Friday afternoon detention for those boys caught chewing gum. Countries such as Singapore in fact totally ban this toxic substance!

2012 HSC Students Return

Pictured below are Mrs Danuta Paton, Director of Studies, Nicholas McNulty, 2012 College Captain, Manpreet Singh, 2012 College DUX and Mr Jeremy Lane, Leader of Learning and Innovation.
2012 HSC Academic Achievers

We took the opportunity last week to congratulate some of our many HSC high achievers from 2012. Despite the pressure of enrolling at university, many of our students that 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. Manpreet Singh, as the spokesperson for the group, addressed the whole school assembly and commented on the significant impact that the school had on his achievement.

We congratulate all of these fine young men and wish them the very best for the future.

Mr Santo Passarello, Principal

Pictured above are:
Back Row (L-R): Nicholas McNulty, Ben Collins, Samudit Rupasinghe, Mark Santiago, Matthew Boidin, Manpreet Singh, Gerard Dias, Mr Santo Passarello, Rohith Srinivasan, Tim Johnston, Daniel Zhu, John Ragheb, Tarunjit Singh, Daniel Bongolan, Michael Butrous, Jacob Grant, Walid Abouchaaya.
From the Director of Studies
AIM HIGH Study Skills Workshops for Term 1 2013

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<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Ms Belinda Pearce</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diet and Exercise</td>
<td>Mrs Marie Lane</td>
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<td>Note Making</td>
<td>Mrs Karen Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coping with Stress and Exams</td>
<td>Ms Tania Hogan</td>
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Differentiation
The biggest challenge for teachers is to differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities. (Professional Standard 1, Focus Area 1.5)

The trick is to design activities that create, within the same task, opportunities for students of varying ability levels. For example, in maths, you can pose a problem at the simplest level to the whole class, allowing your high achievers the option of more advanced questions that have more than one solution. In most subjects similar extensions of routine learning tasks are possible. One way of doing this is allow student choice and provide opportunities for students to work with others, building their individual strength.

Mrs Danuta Paton

2013 Maths Challenge & Maths Enrichment

These are problem-solving activities organised by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The Mathematics Challenge Stage takes place over three weeks. Students receive a problem booklet containing 6 problems (Years 7 to 10 Junior and Intermediate levels). Students are required to present written solutions to as many of these problems as they can. The problems are challenging and require time and persistence, but are based on Mathematics which should be known at that level. Students in the Junior and Intermediate levels may work with a partner on two of the problems. Individual solutions must be submitted.

The Mathematics Enrichment Stage is a sixteen week enrichment program (much longer and the level of difficulty is considerably higher than the Challenge Stage) which commences in April. It comprises two parallel series of comprehensive student support notes. Each student participates in one series. These programs are designed for students in lower to middle secondary (Years 7 to 10).

In both of these stages, teachers mark the submitted solutions from marking schemes and solutions provided by the Australian Mathematics Trust. Marks are then submitted to the Australian Mathematics Trust on computer sheets and certificates are issued. Students are allowed to seek help from any resources other than human ones – textbooks, encyclopaedias, etc., and use calculators and computers (note that web-sites offering help with problems are really human resources and not allowed, but the use of a computer-based encyclopaedia or a web-site providing information of a general nature is permitted). Teachers will be checking on progress from time to time and may be able to answer questions of clarification. Some class time will be set aside for consultation with partners.

We hope the Challenge and Enrichment are enjoyable and valuable learning experiences for your son.

Register by 26th February 2013 with payment of $24.00 for Mathematics Challenge Stage and/or $40.00 for Mathematics Enrichment Stage.

Mr Priyantha Jayakody and Mr Aaron Kim, Mathematics Challenge & Enrichment Teachers

Homework Modifications for Students with Additional Needs

In the front of the student diary, clear guidelines are provided for the amount of time our students should be allocating to their home studies. At times, however, it may be necessary to inform individual teachers how much time your child is actually spending on completing work at home.

In some cases, it may be necessary to ask for modifications. Explain what aspects of the homework cause difficulty for your child, and ask if it can be modified to better meet your child's abilities. For example, some teachers may insist that children copy out the questions in a book as well as writing the answers. A modification to allow your child to provide answers only may immediately cut homework time in half. An easy timesaver is simply to reduce the number or length of homework. For example, if there are twenty multiplication problems on the page, perhaps your child can do ten. If the teacher wants a five-paragraph essay, perhaps your child can write two paragraphs. Whatever modifications you can agree on, also include a time limit. Tell the teacher that you will monitor your child to make sure he puts in effort on homework, and if he is unable to complete the work, you will send a note indicating how much time was spent. Ask the teacher to accept partially completed homework if a minimum agreed time has been spent to give your child credit for doing his homework.

Remember, good sleep is essential to learning. During sleep, information and experiences learned during the day become integrated into long-term memory. Thus, it is counterproductive for a child to forego sleep in order to study; he may finish the homework, but he will weaken his ability to remember and understand the content.

The Learning Support Team
First Assembly for 2013
At our first formal gathering for 2013 we took the opportunity to launch our 2013 College Theme ‘Gifted and Graced’. We also acknowledged our 2012 HSC High Achievers. Our assemblies are occasions where we pray together, celebrate each other’s success and create and nurture school community.
Shrove Tuesday
Caritas Australia is part of a global network that spans over 200 countries and territories. For over 110 years, Caritas has worked towards the creation of a just world. A Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, Caritas is Latin for love and compassion.
The school leaders, along with other Year 12 students and Mr Dadisho, Mr Scalone, Ms Newton, Ms Pham Ms Castellino, Ms Wong, Mrs D’Cruz and Mr Domars dedicated their time on Shrove Tuesday to make and sell pancakes to raise money for Caritas.
Thank you to all the boys in our school community who supported this cause. A special thank you goes to our Master Chef, Mr Dadisho, who worked tirelessly with the Year 12 boys, cooking pancakes and ensuring it all ran smoothly. The team raised $300 for Project Compassion. Thank you for giving of yourselves so generously and with such enthusiasm in making a difference to such a good cause.
Ms Denise Grzelj, Year 12 Coordinator
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent (which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). It is a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Why we receive the ashes

Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told:

“Remember, Man is dust and unto dust you shall return.”

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.
Historical Update
It is an exciting time for History in the world. On February 5th, it was revealed by Richard Buckley of Leicester University that a body found underneath a council car-park was that of the famous English hunchback king, Richard III. “My horse, my horse, my kingdom for a horse!” is a phrase from the Shakespeare play Richard III that most people probably recognise as the desperate cries of the King. The discovery of the body helps us to understand how History is not just in the past but is all pervading.

This will be an exciting time for our students, especially those in Year 7 who are just starting to dip their feet into the ocean of History. Year 12 are looking at using Moodle in Ancient History to enhance their knowledge of Tiberius Gracchus, when politics was even more cut-throat than the modern election campaigns we’re all used to.

To keep up to date with all things historical, both within the Patrician Brothers’ College History Department and with the wider world, students and parents are encouraged to follow @MrNilsson27 on twitter.

Mr Daniel Nilsson, History Teacher

Performing Arts Update
Performances

Performing in front of an audience is a wonderful opportunity for students to improve their musical skills and develop self-confidence. The College provides many opportunities for the boys to perform throughout the year. This Term there have been performances at the Year 11 Assessment Information Evening and the first college assembly.

Bring It On Dance Competition
The boys are currently in the process of auditioning for the College’s 2013 team entry for the Bring It On Dance Competition. This will be the fourth year that the College has entered a team in the competition, and after receiving a place in all previous years the expectations are high!

Please make a note of the date for the first heats – we’d love to have as much support on the day as possible - Saturday 11th May – State Sports Centre, Olympic Park.

Mrs Karen Davidson, Performing Arts Coordinator

TAS Update
Welcome to Mr Paul Kenyon who has joined the TAS faculty for 2013. Paul will be teaching Information and Technology and Religion. Our school community looks forward to working together with Mr Kenyon.

Year 7 Design & Technology – Practical Classes
We would also like to welcome the young Year 7 students who have joined the Patties team in 2013. All Year 7 students will be participating in workshop practical experiences during Semester One or Two. In order for students to be safely attired in the correct Personal Protective Equipment, it is a requirement that students wear the following:

- Safety Goggles (Purchased from school or can be brought from home)
- Black Leather shoes
- Apron (provided by the school)

All safety goggles will be stored in a plastic bag and remain stored safely in a designated cupboard by their class teacher. Some students will commence practical work in Semester Two and goggles will only need to be purchased prior to the commencement of Term 3.

Year 12 Industrial Technology & Design Technology
Year 12 Industrial Technology students are embarking on the commencement of the Major Design Projects for this year’s 2013 HSC course. Students and parents are reminded that any resources required for the the projects to commence should be purchased and brought to school by the end of Term 1 Week 2. This would allow all students adequate time to complete a successful and aesthetically pleasing project.

Year 12 Design Technology students are also preparing for their Major Design Projects by attending an excursion to the Powerhouse Museum on the 28th February, 2013. The excursion gives the students the opportunity to see previous successful HSC major works. A seminar will also be part of the excursion with lecturers explaining key elements to a successful submission.

Once again, we wish our new Year 7 Students the very best in their first year at Patties, welcome to Paul Kenyon and good luck to our Year 12 students.

Mr Michael Benitez, TAS Coordinator
**TAS Reminder**

A reminder to parents of Year 12 Industrial Technology and Design and Technology students that Wednesday afternoons from 3:25-5:00 have been dedicated to give your son an opportunity to work on his major project. Your son has been given a timetable with times he is required to attend, however he is welcome to attend all sessions. During these sessions there will be between 2-3 staff members to offer assistance. In the past we found that this additional time is vital in ensuring that students complete their projects on time and to a high quality level. We kindly ask that you motivate and encourage your son to attend.

*Mr Noel Bajada, Design and Technology Teacher*

**Science Update**

As an enthusiastic group of Year 7’s arrived and wandered starry-eyed for the first time into a secondary science lab, the science faculty dived head on into 2013, utilising many ‘hands on’ learning activities. In Year 7, students have been learning about laboratory safety, scientific equipment and experiment methods. Students have been demonstrating the safe way to light a Bunsen burner, which will be pivotal in many class investigations throughout their secondary schooling. Some students are the proud holders of the all important “Bunsen License”.

In Year 8, students have been learning about energy and heat and have investigated how heat transfers through conduction and convection. Some boys might like to show their parents the “coloured ice cubes” experiment. I’m sure many boys will remember the “Blubber hands” investigation for years to come. this demonstrated how whales insulate themselves in cold ocean waters.

Year 9 students have been studying the Cell Theory and have prepared microscope slides to observe onion cells and looked for evidence of photosynthesis in the leaves of plants by using iodine stains. Year 10 students have been examining the evidence for Evolution and looked at the history of the scientific understanding of Natural Selection. Students have also researched how Natural Selection has led to antibiotic resistance by many deadly bacteria.

Senior students have settled in well and many are preparing for exams or their first assessments. Year 12 students will sit their half yearly exams in Week 10 of Term 1. Students should now be making summary notes and completing practice papers. Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students are eagerly awaiting their field study at Long Reef, where they will measure and record abiotic and biotic components of a local ecosystem, as a compulsory requirement of their studies. 2013 is shaping up to be another eventful year in the Science Department.

*Mr Chris Ferry, Science Coordinator*

**Maths Update**

It is important that a student brings his text book, geometry set and scientific calculator to every lesson. Appropriate calculators can be purchased at the College uniform shop. This will ensure that the calculator has all the required functions and is similar to the calculators used by other students in the class.

The most effective way to develop knowledge and skills in Mathematics is to practise regularly. For this reason, Maths homework is usually set every lesson. Students are expected to review what they have learned in class and then complete an exercise involving these ideas and skills. The set homework should be recorded in the student diary and should take about 15 to 20 minutes each night in Years 7 to 9 and 20 to 30 minutes each night in higher years.

Homework Centre operates in the College Library every Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm. There are usually at least two Maths teachers present who can help students catch up work they have missed or clarify concepts or methods that are not well-understood.

Students will soon be asked if they wish to enter the Australian Mathematics Competition (held early in Term 3).

*Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator*
Year 7
First Impressions

Patrician Brothers’ College is a great place! I have learnt a lot of new things already. The best thing of all was everyone is having a great time.
Blake Smith

Sport is great at Patrician Brothers. We are also enjoying our subjects and are looking forward to learning more and more. A great school
Matthew Saba

High school has been great. The teachers are very nice and I have made so many new friends. My favourite teacher is Mr De Alwis.
Laren Henry

My first week at Patrician Brothers’ College has been exciting. I have made some friends and look forward to coming to school every day.
Tej Kehal

My first week has been awesome! I have met new friends and I am looking forward to sports, camps, music and challenges that are ahead of me.
Marc Zaurrini

I have made many new friends. I also like playing sports like footy. My favourite teachers are Mr Hartigan and Mr Green.
Andrew Amabile

When I walked in the front gate I saw Mr Passarello greeting students at the end of the driveway. The teachers and my peers have treated me nicely.
Haydrian Raki

Everyone is friendly and it has been easy to make new friends. I have been given great teachers. At Patties we are able to learn at our ability.
Jonathan Tabone
**Merit Awards**
Welcome back to 2013! Firstly, congratulations to the following students who received Bronze Awards in the last week of 2012:
- Connor Boulter 8D24
- Thomas Cowan 8E10
- Andrew Garbutt 8D19
- William Gibson 8D22 3 Awards
- Patrick Gilmour 8D17
- Jayvee Datuin 9B6 2 Awards
- Nicholas Hertel 10C6 5 Awards
- Christopher Walker 10C7 4 Awards
- Wayne Mulligan 12F8 3 Awards

It is very exciting that we already have award recipients for 2013. Special mention must go to Liam Christensen of Year 7, who has already earned enough Merits to receive a Bronze Award. Outstanding work!

Congratulations to the following award recipients for this fortnight. These awards will be distributed at upcoming Year and College Assemblies.

**Bronze Awards**
- Liam Christensen 7C18
- Anshul Arora 8D19
- Jakson Cleverly 8D22
- Ruel de Guia 8D22
- Jesse Vincent 8E9
- Luke Dickson 9B3

**Silver Awards**
- Hayden Blankley 8D17

When students have received enough Merits to receive their next award, they are to head to the College Library. Once there, they are to put the Merits into one of the envelopes provided and place the envelope in the Merits Box located in the Library foyer.

A huge thank you must go to Mr Benitez and Mr Dadisho for the organisation and construction of the new Merits Box. It looks fantastic! Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

**Mrs Marie Lane, Merit Awards Coordinator**

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For any parents new to Patrician Brothers’ College, here is an outline of our Merit Award System.

**Patrician Brothers’ College Merit Award System**

**MERIT**
Awarded for Academic Achievements, School Service
**Extra Curricula/Sporting Achievements**

**BRONZE AWARD**
10 Merit Awards
Presented at Year Awards

**SILVER AWARD**
5 Bronze Awards
(50 Merits)
Presented at College Assemblies

**GOLD AWARD**
2 Silver Awards
(100 Merits)
Presented at Semester Prize Giving

**PRINCIPAL’S AWARD**
2 Gold Awards
(200 Merits)
Presented at Semester Prize Giving / Graduation Ceremony

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**Peer Support**
The first day of Year 7 began with a warm handshake and a welcoming smile from our Peer Support Leaders as they greeted the new Year 7 students. They also spent time with them, helping them to feel at ease with their new school and all the Year 7 expectations.

The Year 11 Peer Support Leaders also participated in the Year 7 Welcome Evening by introducing themselves to the parents and then serving supper. Everything was done with such generosity of spirit and enthusiasm in making the transition to High School a happy one for the Year 7 students.

They continued their great work into the Pastoral Care period where the Peer Support Leaders gathered with small groups of Year 7 students to get to know them better and to develop a stronger bond of support and trust with their Year 7 students.

Thank you to all the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders who are so committed and enthusiastic in their determination to make high school a great experience for our Year 7 students. Keep up the good work.

**Mr Mark Domars, Peer Support Coordinator**

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Oasis Youth Music, St Michael’s Blacktown presents ‘To Jesus’ CD
CDs will be sold at $15 each.
facebook.com/oasisyouthmusic
twitter.com/OASISyouthmusic

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Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening
We recently welcomed each of our new families to Patrician Brothers’ College. The evening began with prayer and an address from the Principal, Mr Santo Passarello. This was followed by an opportunity for parents to personally meet their son’s pastoral liaison person (homeroom teacher). The evening concluded with a lovely supper organised by Mr Steve Mulligan, Mrs Karen Davidson, Mr Mark Domars and Ms Denise Grzelj.
Bishop Daniel Delany Art Competition
You are invited to enter the Daniel Delany Art Competition
What: You have the opportunity to create a visual artwork based on the life of Daniel Delany and the text provided. The best entries will be included in a book that is being published. Prizes will also be offered for the best entries. You will be notified of these at a later date.
When: You are to submit your artwork by lunchtime on the 19th April to Ms Newton in D24. If you are submitting a digital image you must submit a hardcopy as well as the image on a flash drive. Your name must not appear on the artwork. You should however submit your artwork in a plastic sleeve or in a folder with your name on that. Your artwork cannot be marked with your name on it as the artworks are to remain anonymous for judging.
Who: This competition is compulsory for Years 10 and 11 art students and open to any boy in Years 7 – 9 who wishes to participate. We encourage as many boys as possible to be part of this exciting competition!
Your Task: Carefully read the material given and create an artwork based on it. You do not have to capture the entire story in your artwork, just one aspect, scene, character or concept. Your art teachers can assist you to achieve your very best standard.
Guidelines: The size of the artworks should be no smaller than A4 and no larger than A3. Materials can be paint, pencil, coloured pencils or charcoal. The artwork is to be two dimensional only and Landscape orientation is to be used. Two or more illustrations are ok if using a cartoon style. The style of your work is your choice - eg Cubism, Abstract (but not so abstract that the topic is obscure) or Digital. You can be as creative as you like so long as you stay within the confines of the guidelines above. You may use images from the internet as a source of inspiration for your work. This is an image of Daniel Delany that has been digitally altered to create an interesting artwork.
We look forward to seeing your original artworks boys so be inspired!!!

Thursday Morning Mass at School
Each Thursday morning in the College Chapel, Mass is celebrated at 8.15am with all students invited to attend. These Masses are well received by the students who attend so in the future it would be good to see many other students taking up this golden opportunity to grow and develop in their faith.

Sacramental Program
All students from Years 7 to 12 are invited to participate in our school based sacramental program for students who have not completed their sacraments. The program will take place in the College Chapel at lunch times (usually one lesson per week, over a five week period). The Sacraments we are offering this year are Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. For all inquiries or to be included in this year’s program please contact Mr Beacroft.
Mr Greg Beacroft, Liturgy Coordinator

Library Update
Library Monitor on duty
Rameez Parkar of Year 8 is seen here performing his duties as a Library Monitor. Rameez is a very willing and capable helper.
Year 7 Enjoy their Special Lunchtimes in the Library
Many of our new Year 7 boys have taken advantage of the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the library and its resources on Wednesdays this month. The boys have enjoyed the Games Area in particular, borrowing chess or cards to play with their friends. Others have spent the time reading in the Fiction Lounge and some have even been working on their Maths!
Mentor Periods in the library
Year 11 and 12’s have started the year extremely well, utilising their Mentor periods to meet with teachers or work collaboratively in small groups. The Silent Study is always popular at this time with boys who want to work individually away from the larger group. We have generally been impressed with the boys’ proactive approach to their use of this time.
Year 7 Library Orientation
All our Year 7 classes have been booked into the library for a reading session once a fortnight as part of their English work. The first session is taken up with a Library Orientation activity where the boys use a map to locate various resources and spaces in the library. This year they have used the ipads to navigate their way around, scanning the QR codes placed around the room to retrieve information.
Science Research Collaboration
Year 7 students have begun working on their first assessment task for Science. It is a research project and poster about a famous scientist. Each class has been allocated time in the library, where they have the opportunity to develop their research skills using the laptops, ipads and books. We look forward to seeing the posters and displaying some of their work in the library, in the coming weeks.
Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Teacher/Librarian

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A significant number of Year 11 students have responded to this call in their work as SRE (Special Religious Education) teachers. Last Saturday they attended the SRE Commissioning Mass at St Patrick’s Parish, Blacktown. Together with Mr Passarello, Mr Prendergast and the parish we celebrated together in prayer. Fr Peter Confeggi blessed the SRE badges and the SRE boys. We prayed that they will continue to stay strong in their commitment to teaching the faith at State Primary Schools.

Our SRE boys who were able to be at the Commissioning Mass included Anas Abu Ganaba, Adam Boidin, Julian Castillo, Mandrid Fernandez, Isaiah Mercado, Sukamanu Raki, Karl Serna, Klayne Soans and Linous Touto. Apologies from Natnaeil Koko, Joseph Tramontana and Uilisemi Manumua.

It is inspiring to see that we have such committed and enthusiastic young men willing to make a difference and to carry Christ into the hearts and lives of younger children.

Ms Denise Grzelj, SRE Coordinator

Year 12 Construction

The Year 12 Construction students are currently working through the ‘concrete’ part of their program. This coincided well with a small job that needed their expertise within the school. Last Wednesday the students helped prepare the foundation and formwork of this concrete pour. This included the compacting of the sub ground and inclusion of plastic and steel, for reinforcement.

On Friday, the very eager boys were all prepared to make and pour the concrete slab. They mixed the Aggregate of rock and sand, with cement and water to the exact ratios, then poured the concrete and finished it to a very level flat surface. Well done boys! We are very proud of your hard work and skills to complete a nice job for the College.

Mr Ray Camilleri and Mr Adam Scarpin, Construction Teachers
The Chess Press!

Although we are a few weeks away from our first MCS chess encounter for 2013, F8 and F9 are nevertheless the place to be at lunch with chess fever spreading throughout Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown! With their eye firmly on the prize, students have been battling it out at lunchtimes with fellow Patrician chess warriors to earn the top spot of representing the College at the MCS Chess Competition. The newly equipped and refurbished F8 and F9 have witnessed many great games over the last fortnight from some of our youngest and oldest contenders! Stay posted for the soon to be released list of our MCS Chess Team as well as details of an upcoming interschool chess challenge run by the Sydney Academy of Chess which we are going to take by storm!

What’s so great about Chess?

“A fun place to be! An alternative activity to get involved in at lunch.” Samuel Brennan, Year 7

“I can develop strategies and monitor my progress in the game. I can socialise with friends.” Krishal Chand, Year 7

“A cool place to play chess with friends and have fun” Pujan Thapa, Year 8

“It’s a good way to connect with friends and you can develop your ability to think fast and critically!” Tinashe Matabva, Year 9

Ms Charmaine Castellino and Mr Anthony Silvestrini

WYD Rio 2013

The focus of early preparation for WYD RIO from 23 – 28 July 2013 will be the Holy Father’s message for WYD 2013 which was released late last year. In his message he encourages young people preparing for this great event, calling on them to become Disciples of Christ in this important year of Faith.

“This missionary vocation comes to you for another reason as well and that is because it is necessary for our personal journey in faith. ... When you proclaim the Gospel, you yourselves grow as you become more deeply centred on Christ and mature as Christians. Missionary commitment is an essential dimension of faith. We cannot be true believers if we do not evangelise”.

"What does it mean to be a missionary? Above all, it means being a disciple of Christ. It means listening ever anew to the invitation to follow him and look to him. … I encourage you to think of the gifts you have received from God so that you can pass them on to others in turn. Learn to reread your personal history. Be conscious of the wonderful legacy passed down to you from previous generations. ... Let us never forget that we are links in a great chain of men and women who have transmitted the truth of the faith and who depend on us to pass it on to others. Being a missionary presupposes knowledge of this legacy, which is the faith of the Church. It is necessary to know what you believe in, so that you can proclaim it”. Excerpt from Pope Benedict’s message for WYD 2013.

Mr Jim Prendergast, REC Coordinator

Year 12 Studies of Religion

Year 12 Studies of Religion students were fortunate enough to participate in a tutorial last Thursday afternoon led by guest speakers Irene, Elizabeth and Patrick from Jarara, the Indigenous Education Support Unit of the Parramatta Catholic Education Office. The tutorial was centred on exploring Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities which students examine as part of their HSC course. The guest speakers shared invaluable first hand information and personal experiences of important facets of Indigenous culture, primarily the Dreaming, “Country”, totems, kinship, ceremonies and land. In addition to exposing students to the rich tapestry of Aboriginal Culture, the guest speakers were kind enough to openly and bravely share their heartfelt personal experiences of the Stolen Generation. Students were truly moved and came away with a much deeper and more personal understanding of the forced removal of Indigenous children which no text book could have done so well. A sincere thank you to our guest speakers for their generosity and warmth in sharing their stories and a big congratulations to our students who showed great respect and appreciation during the afternoon.

Ms Charmaine Castellino and Mr Kim Crawford
Counsellor’s Corner

Last year as part of an assessment task, a Year 10 Maths class conducted a survey on how PBC students spend their time outside of school hours. Of particular interest was the amount of time spent on study/homework, physical activity and time spent in front of the computer, either on Facebook or computer games. The amount of hours per week spent on these activities is shown graphically. To summarize we see from Year 7 through to Year 12:

- That time spent on social media/computer games increases from 15 hours a week to 20 hours a week.
- The time spent doing physical activity declines by about 50% from Year 7 to Year 12 from 10 hours a week down to 5 or 6 hours.
- Time spent in study and homework is consistent from Years 7 through to Year 10 and then increase three-fold for Years 11 and 12.

This data provides challenges for your son on a few levels:

- Research suggests that a consistent balanced approach to life’s tasks is the way to success. Everything in moderation is key to a successful and happy life.
- Research also shows that those who are physically active respond to life’s stressors more positively. A study with Year 12 students revealed that those who joined a gym during their HSC year had much better HSC results than those who did not go to a gym. It is concerning that senior students seem to be replacing physical activity with time spent on social media and making this choice at a time when they need to increase their physical activity to keep their stress levels down.

Importantly what your son needs from you during these years from childhood to adulthood is to be their parent. They need your love. But a close second is they need structure. Every teenager needs rules and limits. Be firm but fair. Good Luck!

Ms Linda Cassel

NSW Combined Catholic Colleges

The NSW CCC administration has changed the way in which students nominate for individual sports. As always, the college will advertise the relevant details through our assemblies and morning announcements to students, but the responsibility now lies with the parents/students to register online. This can be done by visiting the NSW CCC website: www.csss.nsw.edu.au

NSW CCC

Arjun Nair – Before Christmas Arjun represented NSW CCC at the NSW All Schools selections where he excelled. The selectors of the All Schools team decided to use the AW Green Shield as another selection criteria. Whilst competing in the AW Green Shield for Hawkesbury, Arjun made 3 centuries, 2 fifties and scored over 500 runs in seven innings. Subsequently he was selected in the AW Green Shield First XI representative squad and the NSW All Schools team that will compete at the Australian Championships in Perth next week. Congratulations Arjun!

General Blues Awards

The NSW CCC holds an annual Blues Awards night. This evening acknowledges the top 2 athletes / sportspersons from any particular sport across all Catholic High Schools in NSW. From our college Daya Singh (a member of our outgoing Yr12 cohort of 2012) and Anas Abu Ganaba (Yr11) were acknowledged with a Blue Award for their achievements in Cricket and Athletics respectively in 2012. Congratulations to both young men.

Mr Heath Borg, MCS and PDHPE Coordinator

Christmas Hampers 2012

At the end of 2012 the college organised the donation of 43 hampers to St Vincent de Paul. Students and staff worked tirelessly in collecting and packaging these hampers. They were very well received!
Year 9 Lifesaving & Bronze Medallion Awards

The Year 9 students of 2012 undertook a week of aquatics at Riverstone Pool in the final weeks of school last year. This opportunity fulfils the PDHPE syllabus requirements of Aquatics in Stage 5 of the NSW Syllabus and provides students the opportunity to develop their swimming and lifesaving skills whilst attaining awards from the Royal Lifesaving Society.

Students successfully completed lifesaving awards based on their own swimming ability, including Learn to Swim groups through to the Bronze Medallion Award. Resuscitation Awards were also attained by the majority of students. Having staff at Patrician Brothers who possess the knowledge, skills and expertise to run such a program is of a great benefit to our students.

The positive feedback from staff and examiners from the Royal Lifesaving Society was a testament to the capabilities and positive attitude of the students who undertook the program. At a recent College assembly, the 31 Bronze Medallion students were presented with their certificates. This has been the highest number of students to achieve the Bronze Medallion Award in one calendar year and involves practical activities and insight into the business profession.

Congratulations also go to 2 of our own PDHPE staff members, Mr Adam Hartigan and Mr Adnan Saleh, who themselves passed the Bronze Medallion Award. These certificates ensure that appropriately qualified teaching personnel are utilised at school events and excursions involving water activities.

Finally, congratulations to the 170 students of Year 10 who completed the Lifesaving Course in 2012.

Mr Bruce Baker, PDHPE Coordinator

Careers Update

MedEntry UMAT Preparation

Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 31 July 2013. MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UMAT preparation. MedEntry offers discounts of up to 40% and numerous scholarships. For more information please visit www.MedEntry.edu.au

Young worker toolkit


Funded by the Federal government, this website is pertinent to those young people currently employed, as well as students about to leave school and their parents. Topics covered include starting work, pay, tax, safety at work, work related problems, job dismissal and where to get further information.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants

The Institute of Chartered Accountants will host some exciting and informative FREE events in 2013 for high school students who are interested in a career in business or accounting.

Cadetship Evening – Wednesday, 15 May 2013 from 4.30pm

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

This is an excellent opportunity for Year 12 students to engage with over 22 employers, attend information sessions regarding cadetships and receive tips on the recruitment process.

Meet the Business Leader – Tuesday, 30 July 2013 from 4.30pm

Venue: Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia

This event will provide Year 10 & 11 students the opportunity to meet and network with young and experienced professionals from a variety of business roles to gain a better insight into the business profession.

Mastering the Exams

The School for Excellence (TSFX) is running a series of lectures titled “Mastering the Exams”. During the course of these lectures, students will learn beneficial skills that will help optimise exam performance, as well as strategies that will maximise concentration and learning.

Subject specific mid-year examination revision/preparation lectures are also being held at the University of Sydney in mid March.

Information and brochures regarding these programs are available in the Careers section in the Library.

Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Careers Advisor

---

| Jesse Abbott | Daniel Groom |
| Connor Baggs | Samuel Healy |
| Patrick Bear | Nicholas Hertel |
| James Carter | Rhys Jones |
| Giuliano Celani | Benjamin Lenthall |
| Joshua Chiha | Brock Matijevic |
| Calum Connaughton | Daniel McKinley |
| Adrian Green | Didier Michel |
| Matthew Nolan-Ban | Terrell Smith |
| Zachariah O’Toole | Daniel Stanley |
| Sajeeth Parameswaran | Brice Starr-Stephens |
| Cooper Pickwick | Brodie Vassallo |
| Aaron Minto | Luke Vella |
| Nicolas Retamal | Joel Wheatley |
| Patrick Ross | Bryce Williams |
| Patrick Schell |
MCS Basketball
Round 9 v Patrician Brothers’ Fairfield
Highlights from matches included:
A Grade – Josef Flores’ patience and leadership on offense. Ulisem’s great defence.
B Grade – Although both teams were fairly rusty after the break, Harvey Zabala really stood out and dominated the Fairfield side.
10 Opens – Raj Nandan’s attack on the basket was sensational. Overall the team’s defence was superb.
9 Opens – Nico Sandaga and Jacob Forster’s defence. 8 Opens – It was a disappointing loss. The team played well in the first half.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Fairfield</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
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Round 10 v Holy Cross College Ryde
Highlights from the matches included:
A Grade – Aaron Figueroa and Jose Flores’ offensive skills.
B Grade – Complete dominance of the court. A real team victory.
10 Opens – Defensive plays executed with almost surgical precision. Every member of the team scored points today.
9 Opens – Combination of offensive and defensive brilliance from all players today.
8 Opens – Highlight of the game (and the season) was Geoff Doctor’s ball handling and crossover skills.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Ryde</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Round 11 v Trinity Catholic College Auburn
Highlights from the matches included:
A Grade – All round effort from Natnael Koko.
B Grade – After a slow start for the second week in a row, the boys came through for a comfortable victory.
10 Opens – Spirited offense in the second half wasn’t enough to get us over a very strong opposition. Standout performances from Raj Nandan and Jaedon Salvador.
9 Opens – Nico Sandaga’s defence and Carl Cruz’s shooting.
8 Opens – A very tight loss.

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<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Auburn</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Congratulations to the 5 teams and their coaches who all made the Semi Finals. Good luck!

MCS Cricket
Round 9 v Patrician Brothers’ College Fairfield
All games were washed out except for the A Grade. Results and highlights from this game include:
A Grade – Arjun Nair (39) and Ricky Shepherd (51 no) showed the way for the team, setting up a terrific victory. Brilliant fielding from Shanel Narayan was also a standout.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Fairfield</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>6/161</td>
<td>3/138</td>
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</table>

Round 10 v Holy Cross College Ryde
Highlights from this round include:
Yr8 Opens – Today was a disappointing loss for a team with semi final aspirations.
Yr10 Opens – The win today was spearheaded by Alex Johnston with 49 runs and 2/12 and Arjun Nair making 46 runs and taking 3/21.
C Grade – Against a very strong bowling attack, Wayne Mulligan was our only player to reach double figures.
B Grade - BYE
A Grade – A last over loss was tough to take in the hunt for a semi final berth. Nick Grant’s blistering 50 off 26 balls gave us a total to defend, but some good bowling was not supported in the field.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Ryde</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 Opens</td>
<td>8/95</td>
<td>3/107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Opens</td>
<td>7/148</td>
<td>9/81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Grade</td>
<td>10/46</td>
<td>1/47 (v Campbelltown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>BYE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>10/111</td>
<td>5/112</td>
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Round 11 v Trinity Catholic College Auburn
Highlights from this round include:
Yr10 Opens – Ricky Shepperd and Mark Ragheb made solid contributions with the bat scoring 50 and 35 respectively. Ricky Nair took 5/16 and Arjun Nair took 2/19.
C Grade – Wayne Mulligan made 22 in a very close game.
B Grade – Great partnership between Luke Smith (29) and Jordan Cruce (55). Jordan was also involved in a wonderful piece of sportsmanship. Aditya Sharma was the pick of the bowlers taking 3/10.
A Grade – Great all round performance from an understrength team. Will Reardon made 50 off 28 balls and 1/7, Amanpreet Singh made 26 off 17 and took 2/2 and Shanel Narayan took 3/5. Thanks to Anish and Josh from B Grade who filled in.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacktown</th>
<th>Auburn</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 Opens</td>
<td>3/216</td>
<td>10/48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Opens</td>
<td>8/179</td>
<td>10/74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Grade</td>
<td>9/91 (v Parramatta)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>8/130</td>
<td>7/115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>4/147</td>
<td>10/60</td>
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100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617
Visit by Nathan Hindmarsh, NRL Legend

Since his retirement at the end of the 2012 season, Nathan Hindmarsh has been working as a development officer for the NRL. He visited our school at the end of 2012 to present our student leaders with the $10,000 winners cheque for the GIO Australian Schoolboys Cup. As the Australian Champions, Nathan publicly declared that Patrician Brothers’ College was ‘the best rugby league school in Australia!’.
School Fees
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are committed to providing an affordable quality Catholic education for families. We understand the financial demands placed on families and seek to keep fees as low as possible. There are a range of options available to assist families with paying school fees. These include Flexible Payment Plan (see back of your Statement), Credit Card, Cash, Cheque, Bpay, Aust Post and Direct Debit. Any family experiencing financial difficulties should contact either Mrs Sandra Bartolillo or Mr Steve Mulligan to discuss your situation. These discussions are strictly confidential.

School based Fees
These were issued in Term 4 of last year and should have already been paid. For all new students this will give you a detailed breakdown of items invoiced.

Diocesan Tuition Fees
Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools ) To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below. The 2013 Annual Diocesan Tuition Fees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annu-</th>
<th>No Charge for 4th + Children</th>
<th>1st Child 100%</th>
<th>2nd Child 75%</th>
<th>3rd Child 50%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec:</td>
<td>Year 7 – 8</td>
<td>$1,689</td>
<td>$1,266</td>
<td>$843</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 9 – 10</td>
<td>$1,869</td>
<td>$1,401</td>
<td>$933</td>
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<td>Year 11 – 12</td>
<td>$2,391</td>
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<td>$1,194</td>
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</table>

Diocesan Building Levy
All families with one or more children in a Parramatta diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood are required to pay the annual Diocese of Parramatta Diocesan Building Levy. This levy has replaced the various building levies that parents previously paid to school building funds (managed by either parishes or schools). The levy for 2013 is $645 per family, payable in three equal instalments of $215 and payable in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

Volunteers Needed
Assistance from volunteer parents, grandparents or other family members is needed to help with the Reading Program that forms part of our School Literacy goal to improve reading standards. Volunteers are needed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9am – 9.30am.
If you are able to volunteer please phone the school office on 9671-3000 with your details and Ms O’Keefe, Mrs Scalone or Mrs Ghikas will get back to you.
Thank you for your generosity.
Attractive Painting and Decorating

Need some excellent painting done? We can recommend an outstanding painter and decorator, trading as MPS. Ask for Sami and tell him that you are from PBC!

0410 623 801
www.multitexservices.com.au

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
50 Forge Street Blacktown
Phone: 9621 1281
Fax: 9622 5164

It’s All Good Driving School
A high standard dual control vehicle.

Contact Connie or Vincent Azzopardi
DISCOUNTS for Patrician Brothers’ College students (must show ID card)
Phone: 9831 4663 Mobile: 0439255483

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

Matrium Finance
Unit 25 / 5 Inglewood Place
PO Box 7025
Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153
Phone: 02 8818 3255
Fax: 02 8818 3233
Mobile: 0435 890 713
Email: glenn.mackay@matrium.com.au
Web: www.matriumfs.com.au

ActiveWest
PHYSIOTHERAPY Centre