At a recent local community sports presentation, a number of staff, parents and students had the wonderful opportunity of hearing from the great Australian and Olympic Gold Medallist, Anna Meares OAM.

Defining the meaning of sportsmanship and determination, Meares fielded questions on her multiple achievements in cycling.

Her story certainly caught my attention! Just months after breaking her neck in a cycling accident, Anna Meares stood proudly with her silver medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. It was a remarkable comeback from an injury that was both career threatening and life threatening. “The more I meet people and the more they explain to me how they’ve used it as inspiration for themselves, I’m proud of what I’ve been able to achieve in inspiring other people”.

Only some weeks later did Anna learn that the crack in her vertebrae came within 2 millimetres of leaving her completely paralysed. While others were concerned for her health, Anna’s focus was firmly on her Olympic campaign.

Thinking back on this time, Anna told us that her recovery was assisted by the clear goal she had in front of her. “In a situation like that, when you're feeling sorry for yourself, I knew that I needed to surround myself with people who were positive.”

Her subsequent medals in the Beijing and London Olympics are now famous sporting achievements and the basis of an inspirational story. Anna explained how her experiences have changed her as a person. "I think it's made me a lot more appreciative of what I have, the people that I have and a lot more grateful for the opportunities that I'm presented with," she said.

Despite her gruelling training schedule, Anna works diligently for causes she is passionate about, including acting as an ambassador for the Little Heroes Foundation and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Anna is a true champion and a wonderful role model.

Please continue to take care of each other,
Santo Passarello

Career Highlights of Anna Meares:
- 2004 Olympic Games – Gold, Bronze
- 2004 Time Trial World Titles – Gold, Silver
- 2007 World Championships – World Record
- 2007 World Cup – Gold
- 2008 Olympic Games – Silver
- 2012 Olympic Games – Gold, Bronze

Chase Chapman of Year 7, one of our outstanding young sportsmen, is pictured with Anna Meares, OAM
From the Assistant Principal

The last fortnight featured several highly successful events at Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown. Our annual Swimming Carnival was held last Friday and judging by the feedback that we have received from parents, staff and students, it was one of the best in recent memory. Participation rates were outstanding, attendance was high, house spirit was overwhelming and the standard of competition was intense. In the same week, our Year 11 and 12 students gathered for the Senior Social Dance with students from Nagle College. The attire and behaviour of the boys was outstanding and the night was a roaring success. Our social dances with Nagle College, from Year 7 right through to the seniors, have been consistently successful in recent years and a major factor in this ongoing success has been the generosity of our teachers to organise and supervise these events after school hours, often during the busiest times of the school year. This generosity doesn’t go unnoticed by the College Executive and we are certainly grateful for the commitment of our teachers to your sons.

There are several significant events to note in the weeks ahead. On Monday 25th March we will be holding Progress Interviews for students in Years 7-11 who teachers have identified as struggling with application or behaviour in their various subject classes. These interviews are predominantly generated from teacher and coordinator recommendations but if parents would like to contact Ms. Samantha Borg in the front office, extra interviews can be scheduled. These Progress Interviews will be held in the Library between 3:45 and 5:45pm. Parents will receive a letter indicating their appointment time(s) if teachers or coordinators have requested an interview with their son. As you would understand, early intervention is crucial if unsatisfactory application or attitude are going to be successfully addressed, so we ask for your support and attendance if your son is nominated for these interviews.

Also on the horizon in coming weeks are - the junior Rugby League tour to the Central Coast from 11-13th March, St Patrick’s Day Mass on Monday 18th March, Holy Week liturgies on Thursday 28th March, Year 12 Examinations starting 2nd April and Year 7 Camps in the final week of Term One from 8-12th April.

In terms of reminders for this fortnight – most parents would appreciate the fact that the Year Coordinators and Home-room Teachers have been tireless in encouraging all students to adopt the full and correct uniform in the weeks since school resumed this year. In the vast majority of cases, students and parents have been totally supportive, realizing that our uniform not only has an impression factor in the local community, but that it also assists students to develop commitment and pride in their school community. However, for this to have full effect, we need the support of all parents and students. Like many aspects of school life, and for that matter, life in general, it only takes one or two individuals to tarnish the appearance and good reputation of the majority. The second reminder relates to participation in excursions and camps. As part of the organisation for excursions and camps, the school is required to work through a risk assessment of all aspects of the proposed event, including activities, transport, safety and management of students and staff. While ideally all students in a class or team should have access to the benefits of an excursion, the Principal or Assistant Principal may deem it necessary to exclude a student from an event if the student’s recent behaviour clearly indicates that their participation in an excursion could present a risk to the safety of other students, staff and/or members of the public, or significant harm to the good name of the school. Special events such as excursions and camps are a privilege rather than a right and occasionally we do need to invoke this clause. Your support will be appreciated.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Counsellor’s Corner

‘These are the best years of your life’

Parenting educator Michael Grose, says this is a phrase you should avoid saying if you want to maintain a good relationship with your child or teenager. Here’s why;

Young people today are experiencing more pressure than ever with research showing a spike in anxiety and stress levels in 14 -17 year olds. The greatest source of stress for today’s teens is the pressure they put on themselves – they have to succeed at everything they do, they have to be fitter, skinnier (girls), more muscly (boys) and get better marks. Teens also worry about their families, with one in five worrying their parents will divorce. This is obviously concerning and anxiety producing when the teens ‘safe refuge’ is unstable at this volatile developmental stage.

Here are six ways to help your teen relieve pressure on themselves and maintain good mental health:

1. Maintain regular contact through family mealtimes.
2. Help them get plenty of sleep.
3. Make sure they have someone to confide in.
4. Let them do something unproductive every day.
5. Encourage volunteering.
6. Hug them.

Ms Linda Cassell

Trivia

With the spotlight on the Papal election in Rome Mr Crawford has found 10 Papal Trivia questions. $5 canteen rewards are available to the first two correct entries he receives. Clearly write your answers on paper labelled with your name/homeroom.

1. How many Popes have there been?
2. Pope Urban XIII ruled for how many days?
3. The Pope's technical title is what?
4. How did Pope JohnPaul II travel to Blacktown on November 26 1986?
5. Name the last African elected Pope in 492.
6. Pope Pius IX is the longest serving Pope. His reign lasted how long?
7. The title "pope" comes from the Greek word "pappas" which means what.
8. Pope Pius X lowered the age Catholics could make their first Communion from 13 to what age.
9. What does it mean when a pope speaks "ex cathedra"?
10. Our understanding is that Jesus made St Peter the first Pope in Matthew 16:18. What did Jesus say to him?

Mr Kim Crawford, College Secretary
Swimming Carnival

The College held its Annual Swimming Carnival at the Blacktown Aquatic Centre. A tight battle emerged between the defending champions the Marlins and the Hounds. With the lead swapping on a number of occasions, it was the Massey Marlins who prevailed to become Swimming Carnival Champions for six years running. Thank you to all boys for your attendance, wonderful behaviour and participation on the day.

*Mr Van D’Morias, Sports Coordinator*

**House Results**

1. Massey Marlins 2450  
2. Histon Hounds 2129  
3. Delany Devils 1830  
4. MacKillop Magpies 1033

**Age Champions**

12’s  Tim Hodges (MacKillop)  
13’s  Daniel Hertel (Histon)  
14’s  Jack Groeneveld (Massey)  
15’s  Joshua Webber (Histon)  
16’s  Connor Baggs (Delany)  
Opens  Nazar Kucheruk (Massey)
Swimming Carnival - Age Champions for 2013

Pictured above are:
Nazar Kucheruk, Opens; Connor Baggs, U/16; Joshua Webber, U/15; Jack Groeneveld, U/14; Daniel Hertel, U/13; Tim Hodges, U/12.

Pictured above are Tim Hodges (U/12 Champion) and Wayne Mulligan (MacKillop Magpies House Captain - Participation Winners). Pictured on the right is Cain McGill, House Captain of the Champions, Massey Marlins.
From the Director of Studies

Aim High
The Aim High program for high achievers was launched with a seminar from Elevate entitled ‘HSC Success Program’, a meet and greet afternoon with the mentors and the first workshop on Time Management run by English teacher Belinda Pearce. The following teachers have generously given of their time to be mentors for our Year 12 students:

Ms Angela Pham
Mr Jeremy Lane
Mr Danny De Alwis
Mrs Selina Wong
Mrs Tania Hogan
Mrs Marie Lane
Mrs Vikki Forrest
Ms Erenie Sawiers
Ms Charmaine Castellino
Ms Melissa Luppino
Mr Kim Crawford
Mrs Danuta Paton
Mrs Sue Dracoulas

Congratulations to the students selected for the program:

The program is a wonderful opportunity to consolidate skills and address issues that might impede effective progress towards a successful completion of the HSC and achieving set goals.

The School Literacy Improvement Plan
The school is determined to improve the literacy of all our students and as such we have implemented strategies to assist students in improving in all areas of literacy but particularly in writing. Year 8 and 9 have designated literacy classes and literacy work together with the classroom teachers in assisting students with specific literacy needs. Teachers have collected further data by administering a formative persuasive writing task to each student in Years 8 and 9. This data will be analysed along with the data from the 2012 NAPLAN literacy tests. Our goal in Term One is for students to master structuring their work into paragraphs. Years 8, 9 and 10 have reading in the library every fortnight.

It is important that parents support the school in assisting in our endeavour to improve literacy across all aspects of the curriculum. Literacy is crucial for your son to experience success in school. How often does your son read? How often does he see his parents read? It is through modelling good practice at home that your son will recognise that literacy skills are extremely important. Often when a student is experiencing difficulties at school it signals that the student’s reading, listening and writing skills are not as strong as they should be to cope with the ever demanding needs of the curriculum. If we work as a team and keep a vigilant eye on each student’s progress then he will feel more confident in tackling more difficult material and concepts.

Free Lectures for HSC Students
To assist students in their preparations for the mid-year HSC exams, The School for Excellence (TSFX) is running a series of free lectures in March entitled “Mastering the Exams”. While this lecture is free of charge, students are required to make a minimum $10 donation to the charity representatives that will be in attendance on the day. 50% of the proceeds collected will go to Beyond Blue and 50% will be donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation. Some free passes have been issued to Year 12 homerooms.

UMAT
Year 12 students wishing to pursue a career in Medicine need to sit for the UMAT test. Important dates are:
Registrations open early April 2013
Registrations close 7 June 2013
Sit UMAT 31 July 2013
Results released late September 2013
For more information and access to practice papers visit http://umat.acer.edu.au/

University of New South Wales
Key dates to put in the calendar (for Year 11 & 12):

March:
20 - Faculty of Engineering Information Evening
May:
30 - Faculty of Science Information Evening
16 - Faculty of Law Information Evening

Various Dates:
1 - UMAT registration deadline
6 - Scholarships Information Evening

July:
25 - UMAT Exam

August:
31 - Start your Elite Athletes and Performers Bonus Points application

September:
7 - UNSW Open Day
27 - Closing date for on time UAC Applications
30 - Closing date for UNSW Scholarship Applications
30 - Med Online Application

November:
30 - Closing date for Elite Athletes and Performers Bonus Points application

December:
18 ATAR release date
For information on events and registrations, please visit watson.unsw.edu.au

Implementation of the new Maths General syllabus
The Preliminary Maths General and HSC Maths General 2 courses are Board Developed Courses (BDCs), examinable at the HSC, while the HSC Mathematics General 1 course is a (non-examinable) Content Endorsed Course (CEC):
- in 2013 and beyond, Year 11 students will study the Preliminary Mathematics General course
- in 2014 and beyond, Year 12 students who have satisfactorily completed the Preliminary Mathematics General course will study either the HSC Mathematics General 2 course (BDC) or the HSC Mathematics General 1 course (CEC).

Mrs Danuta Paton
Aim High

Recently the Aim High students attended a workshop on Time Management. We started by identifying our weaknesses in terms of our organisational skills. Many boys identified that social networking sites and mobile phones played a huge part in distracting them from their work, whereas others felt so overwhelmed by the many tasks required of them each day that they often didn't know where to start!

During the workshop, we discussed how we can overcome such distractions in order to use our time effectively.

**Better planning:** By taking the time to list your chores each day, you will become more productive as you will have a plan. It also helps to see what needs to be done rather than just to recite.

**Prioritise:** What is more important: adding a friend to Facebook so that you can share funny YouTube clips, or starting the English essay that is due this week?

**Delegation. Group work:** Assign appropriate and fair tasks to all members of the group based on their skills. Remember to communicate!

**Managing interruptions:** One of the main interruptions identified was the mobile phone. Many of our boys admitted to owning an iPhone or iPod which they used to text friends. Go into Settings > Do Not Disturb and set this function to ON. Your messages will still be received but your phone won't buzz or light up to distract you from your work.

**Procrastination:** Accept that you will procrastinate and lose interest at some point. Think about why you are losing interest. Are you scared of failure or scared of success?

**Attitude:** Dreading starting your assignment? Feeling fidgety? Go for a jog or spend 30 minutes at the gym to clear your mind. Your body will be more relaxed and your brain will be ready to function. If you find that music helps you to study, listen to music! It's all about what works for you and what helps you to use your time effectively.

Save time by leaving reminders of the tasks that need to be completed. Use Post-It notes, a pocket diary or iCal (Apple users).

Our Year 12 Aim High boys found these suggestions very helpful and will be incorporating them into their daily routine to become more efficient and increase their chance of success.

Remember:

“Don’t say you don’t have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Michelangelo, Mother Theresa, Leonardo Da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein.”

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Ms Belinda Pearce

Maths Update

Year 7 are currently working on the development of their number skills. We have noticed that many students in Year 7 and Year 8, do not know their multiplication tables. This is essential knowledge for developing skills across all topic areas in the 7-10 syllabus. Parents can help their sons become more familiar and confident with multiplication tables by frequent, short, verbal quizzes at home, concentrating on one table at a time.

It is important that all students have a scientific calculator. These are sold at the uniform shop. Purchasing one from here ensures that their calculator has all the functions required and is similar to the calculators used by the teacher and other students. In particular, students in Years 7 and 9 will need to have their own calculator and be familiar with its operation well in advance of NAPLAN testing in early Term 2. Students are not permitted to use their phone as a calculator.

At the end of each chapter in the Signpost texts for Years 7 to 10 there is a section on literacy in Mathematics. Students are encouraged to become familiar with the mathematical terms and definitions presented here as they proceed through the topic. Parents, even those who are not confident in Mathematics, could help their sons by questioning them about these terms and definitions to improve their understanding of mathematical language and concepts.

First formal Assessment Tasks in Mathematics for Years 10-11 occur during Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. These tasks include submission of a portfolio of work and in-class tests on the topics studied so far this term. Students should have already started revision during home study. They have several sources of review material: for Year 10, the diagnostic tests at the end of each chapter of their Mathematics texts, self-marking quizzes on the interactive website (accessed using the CD that came with the Maths text) and the homework book that accompanied the text; for Years 10 and 11, the prepared portfolios with notes from class and examples worked during lessons.

Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator
Merit Awards
It was incredibly pleasing to see all junior year groups represented in the Bronze Awards recipient list this fortnight. Unfortunately, there were no senior students! Years 11 and 12, make sure you hand in your Merits promptly, instead of leaving them until the end of the year.

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

**Bronze Awards**
- Shaun Cleasby 7C18
- Gajan Sivanesan 7C16
- Aditya Banodkar 8D19
- Andrew Garbutt 8D19
- Jake Mooy 8D24
- Angelo Pascoa 8D22
- James Salman 8D24
- Nathan Segavic 8D22
- Sam Barnett 9A24
- Jamil Dewan 9A24
- Jason Fatialofa 9A24
- Hrishikesh Kulkarni 9B3
- Rivaldo Madeni 9A26
- Brendan Ram 9B4
- Ford Zapanta 9B6
- James Salazar 10C3

Good luck for the next fortnight!

*Mrs Marie Lane, Merits Coordinator*

LOTE Update

Buongiorno a tutti!
Bonjour tout le monde!
Good morning everyone!

My name is Mrs Manuela Lavaselli and I have started this year at Patrician Brothers’ College. I would like to thank all the staff for making me feel welcome and part of this community. What a wonderful school! I certainly feel privileged to be a part of this special community.

Welcome to E10 (one of our LOTE centres of excellence), or as I like to call it, beautiful language classrooms! It is full of colors, pictures, maps, paintings and objects that remind us about wonderful France and Italy.

In both French and Italian we have studied greetings, nationalities and numbers. We have also started to use the actual languages and of course the heavy reliance on technology is very popular with the boys! The boys are interested and keen to be able to communicate using the words and expressions learnt in LOTE.

Learning a second language can benefit our young men in a number of ways. For instance, the boys discover the traditions and customs of a different culture. In addition, a student of a second language is exposed to the history and famous figures of another country. A student who is learning a second language develops the ability to pick up the various sounds of unfamiliar words, understand and interpret them which has been shown to improve thinking skills. Learning a second language is also a valuable asset. Knowledge of a second language is a valuable skill to list on a resume in almost any line of work.

In an increasingly multicultural society, language competencies and intercultural understanding are an essential part of being a world citizen. Learning another language not only exercises the brain to perform more effectively, it provides a mental consciousness and flexibility that builds intellectual character. It is a gift from which we can all benefit and that we can offer to our students as they learn to live and work successfully as linguistically and culturally aware citizens.

Learning a foreign language offers a wonderful opportunity to broaden your horizons. You also increase your travel opportunities! Mr Passarello has told me that in 2014 the school will once again be travelling to France and Italy! So please encourage our students to keep on enjoying and learning in our “bellissima” E10!

*Mrs Manuela Lavaselli, LOTE Teacher*
Performing Arts Report
St Mary MacKillop Primary School Ceremony
On Friday 22nd February, Mary MacKillop Primary School in South Penrith was officially renamed Saint Mary MacKillop. In honour of this occasion, students from several secondary schools were invited to perform as part of a concert for students, staff and parents. Several boys from Patrician Brothers’ College generously gave up their time and missed the swimming carnival to be able to perform on the day. Congratulations to Simione Teekafa (Yr 9), Karl Serna (Yr 11), Jerome Reinoso (Yr 11) and Gavin Lumanta (Yr 12), who performed brilliantly and were wonderful ambassadors for our College.

Capitvate
A Performing Arts Initiative run by Parramatta Catholic Education Office. The Capitvate rehearsals began on Monday 25th February with a full day Choral Workshop at Delany College. Mr Silvestrini accompanied ten students for the day. The boys worked on the music they will present at a public concert in Term 2. The instrumental students began with their first Workshop on Monday 4th February at St Columba’s Springwood. Mr Domars accompanied our students and also played viola with the ensemble. The Capitvate Concert will be held at Nagle College, Blacktown on Wednesday 19th June.

Bring It On
Rehearsals for this hip-hop dance competition are well under way. The boys are working towards their first ‘mini’ performance at the Talent Quest. Congratulations to the boys who have been selected as the team’s student leaders: Jye Mamo (Year 12), Mandela Vito (Year 12) and Maeva Feilo (Year 12).

Mrs Karen Davidson, Performing Arts Coordinator

Year 9 Geography Tectonic Plates Activity
Our first topic in Year 9 Geography is about how the world formed many years ago. The world’s continents sit on ‘plates’. When there is tectonic activity, these plates often move. They can move sideways, up or down. Often, when plates move, massive destruction is the result. If this tectonic activity occurs deep under the ocean, a Tsunami often destroys coastline, up to thousands of kilometres away. The task we had to complete in class was to make an interactive map of the tectonic plates. The winning map was completed by Liam Baker, Nabeel Ahmed and Mustafa Barodawala.

Mr Steve Taylor, Geography Teacher

Year 8 Report
Year 8 have hit the ground running in 2013 with many boys involved in MCS Basketball and Cricket, Public Speaking starting, selections well underway for winter sport and the upcoming MCS Chess Tournament. We encourage all boys to continue to get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible.
We have been fortunate to welcome several new staff to the Year 8 Pastoral Team in 2013 and the boys have made Mr Paul Kenyon, Miss Melanie Gearing, Miss Leanne Sultana and Mrs Manuela Lavaselli very welcome to the College and Year 8. During Pastoral Care the boys have been busy setting goals for 2013 and electing Class Captains, who will be officially announced and presented with their badges at an upcoming College Assembly.

Mr Adam Scarpin and Mr Dominic Williams,
Year 8 Coordinators

Young people prepare for WYD Rio 2013
Young people all over the world are encouraged to focus on the Holy Father’s message for WYD 2013. “I encourage you to make prayer and the sacraments your foundation. Authentic evangelization is born of prayer and sustained by prayer. We must first speak with God in order to be able to speak about God. In prayer, we entrust to the Lord the people to whom we have been sent, asking him to touch their hearts. We ask the Holy Spirit to make us his instruments for their salvation. We ask Christ to put his words on our lips and to make us signs of his love.”
“Find in the Eucharist the wellspring of your life of faith and Christian witness, regularly attending Mass each Sunday and whenever you can during the week. Approach the sacrament of Reconciliation frequently. It is a very special encounter with God’s mercy in which he welcomes us, forgives us and renews our hearts in charity… I also encourage you to practise Eucharistic adoration. Time spent in listening and talking with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament becomes a source of new missionary enthusiasm.”

Excerpt from Pope Benedict’s message for WYD 2013.
Science

The last 2 weeks have been particularly interesting for Science: two unrelated but very significant asteroid/meteor events, developments in 3D printing technology and the celebration of 60 years since the discovery of the double-helical structure of DNA – but all of these events pale into insignificance when compared to the work being done by Science students at our College!

Our senior students have been hard at work in all five HSC Science disciplines to emulate, if not improve upon, the stellar HSC Science results of 2012. With at least one Thursday afternoon tutorial in Biology and one in Earth and Environmental Science under their belts, they are now even better equipped for that task. In our junior sector, our students from Years 7 through 10 have completed the respective first modules of their programs and are well on their way to a better understanding of the natural world.

Special mention must be made of the role the College Library has played in our students’ access to resources for the subject. The help that our librarians have provided has been invaluable, particularly to our Year 7 students who have just submitted their first assessment task – a poster about their choice of famous scientist. The effort that most of our students have put into the project has been nothing short of remarkable!

The Science staff look forward to showcasing even more of the fantastic work being done in our labs in the coming newsletters.

Mr Robert Gange, Science Teacher

TAS Update

Mr Benitez’s Year 12 Design & Technology class recently had an eventful day at the Powerhouse Museum. The annual Industrial Technology Exhibition displaying the best major works of 2012 was attended by our students. We absorbed a great deal of advice and tips from graduate designers about achieving our best with our Major Design Projects. Listening to the speakers and viewing past projects, gave students the encouragement and inspiration to strive to the best of their abilities.

The HSC Workshop of a Wednesday afternoon has commenced slowly. Student attendance is increasing and I urge all parents to encourage their sons to attend the supervised afternoons. There are three teachers available for suggestions and consultation on their Major Projects. The afternoon sessions are a wonderful time to concentrate and complete practical work without any distractions. Students from Design & Technology and Industrial Technology are both welcome to participate in the afternoon sessions.

Mr Michael Benitez, TAS Coordinator
Senior Dance

A wonderful evening of dance and enjoyment - our annual senior dance with Nagle College proved very popular. Our boys excelled in their behavior and presentation. Thank you to all the staff whose presence ensured a successful evening for our students:

Mr Steve Mulligan, Mr Mark Domars, Mrs Melissa Scalone, Ms Jessica Fleming, Mrs Selina Wong, Mrs Mel D'Cruz, Ms Denise Grzelj, Mr Adnan Saleh, Mrs Marie Lane, Mr Noel Bajada, Ms Melanie Gearing, Mr Michael Said, Ms Angela Pham, Mr Nathan Campbell, Mr Adam Hartigan, Mr Matt Hartigan, Mr Praveen Narayan, Mrs Gretel Collison, Mrs Stephanie Hunt, Mr Alan Dadisho, Mr Danny De Alwis, Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Mrs Karen Davidson, Mrs Sharon O'Keefe, Mr Peter Ross, Br Peter Higgins, Ms Tania Hogan, Mrs Danuta Paton, Mr Heath Borg, Mr Jim Prendergast, Ms Erenie Sawiers, Ms Charmaine Castellino, Mrs Barbara Newton, Mr Manny Scalone, Mr Brian Edmonds and Mr Santo Passarello.
Year 7 Orientation Day for Patrician Linked Schools

A group of Year 7 students represented the College at the Year 7 Orientation Day for Patrician Linked Schools at Liverpool. The Patrician schools that participated were Holy Cross College, Ryde established in 1891; Delany College, Granville established in 1942; Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown established in 1952; Patrician Brothers’ College Fairfield established in 1953 and the host school, All Saints Catholic Boys College, Liverpool established in 1954.

We commenced the day with a liturgy to remind us that we are part of a Patrician family. We then learned a little about the history of each of the schools and the work of the Patrician Brothers. The next part of our day was made up of group activities where we looked at questions such as, how can we see Jesus in everyone, how can we be welcoming to everyone and how can we help the poor. We then participated in a liturgy “See Christ in All”, which included the lighting of a candle to take back to school.

After a BBQ lunch and goodbyes, we returned to school eager to share what had happened on the day with the rest of our community.

Mr Gregory Beacroft, Liturgy Coordinator
Historical Update

On February 28th, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI officially resigned as head of the Catholic Church, being the first pontiff to do so since Pope Gregory XII in 1415 who resigned (under some duress) following the great schism. Currently in the world we experience politics on a global scale, from nuclear weapons testing in North Korea, Australian political manoeuvrings, American gun control laws, to international issues such as the environment. For the people of Europe in 1415, war was raging between England and France, with the infamous Battle of Agincourt being won by the English, who were outnumbered 4:3, winning primarily through their Longbow men against the French mailed knights.

This links in with our current Year 8 History studies of Medieval Europe, where the nature of Medieval warfare is vitally important (and really interesting!). Year 12 Ancient History are wrapping up Tiberius Gracchus, 12 Modern are starting to sink their teeth into the Russian Revolution. Year 7 have now gone past dipping their toes into History and are now wading into the wonders of Ancient Egypt. Year 9 History are beginning to look at the conflict of WWI, with Year 10 now well into the brutal conflict in Vietnam.

For more history news from Patrician Brothers follow @MrNilsson27 on twitter.

Mr Daniel Nilsson, History Teacher

The Chess Press

After the past few weeks of intense try-outs, the Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown MCS Chess Team has been selected. Congratulations to those students chosen to be part of the team and a big thank you to all boys who took the time and effort to try out. Best of luck to the MCS team as they battle it out against competing schools for the title. Stay tuned for the results!

The 2013 Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown MCS Chess Team:
Year 7: Samuel Brennan, Krishal Chand, Luke Eckersley and Gajan Sivanesan
Year 8: Christopher Addison, Aaron Prasad, Brock Sperinck and Pujan Thapa
Year 9: Ahsun Ahmed, Arshpreet Badwal, Jamil Dewan and Shaho Mavloudi
Year 10: Renz Jericho Hernandez, Jiasheng Huang, Rohan Hudson and Miguel Ramirez
Year 11: Omar Dewan, Aditya Sharma, Simrandeep Singh and Monish Sundarampillai
Year 12: George Borzsonyi, Peter Hudson, Alexander Vlismas and Kristopher Vlismas

Ms Charmaine Castellino and Mr Anthony Silvestrini

Vinnie’s Van

On Wednesday 27th of February, five Year 12 students, accompanied by Ms Grzelj and Mr Pendergast, travelled to Penrith and Parramatta as part of our Vinnie’s Van duty. The night began when we left school at 6.30 and arrived at Merrylands to prepare for the night. Each individual played their role when preparing the meals for the night. With that done we were ready to embark on our journey.

We first reached Penrith and upon arrival a sense of joy was bestowed upon guests and volunteers. Ready to serve, we set up the van and prepared the sandwiches and beverages. You could see delight in the smiles of the people being served as well as the volunteers. This enlightening experience left us even more enthusiastic as we left and prepared for Parramatta. We made our way to Alfred Park in Parramatta where we set up shop to begin serving. Only a few guests had arrived but they were still eager to receive a meal for the night. During this time in Parramatta we came across a kind Mongolian visitor named Albert. We took care of Albert as well as other guests and gladly served with enrichment in our hearts. Listening to their stories and seeing the gladness in their faces, we once again left with joy and knowledge that a good deed was accomplished.

We finally made our way back to Merrylands to clean up and finish for the night. The overall experience was heartening and enriching as we witnessed the joy of residents who came for the night’s meal.

Volunteers for the night: Carl Zamora, Harvey Zabala, Jemil Casipit, Paul Lee and Jesse Ocsan

Carl Zamora, Jemil Casipit and Harvey Zabala, Year 12
MCS Swimming
Congratulations to all boys who have been nominated for the MCS swimming carnival. A list of qualified swimmers will be available at school by Friday 8 March. Any questions can be directed to Mr Borg.

Communication
Up to date sport information can be viewed on the following sites.
MCS WEBSITE  
NSW CCC WEBSITE  
@pbbsport

Blacktown City Council Sports Awards Evening
Congratulations to Chase Chapman who was acknowledged on the evening as one of the premier U12 athletes in our local government area. He was affirmed for his efforts in Rugby League, Rugby Union, Touch Football, Softball, Athletics, Swimming and many more activities. We were represented in 4 categories on the evening. Congratulations to Chase and all nominees.

MCS Winter sports
The winter season is fast approaching and the college eagerly awaits the start of the Rugby League, Weight for Age Rugby League and Soccer seasons. Congratulations to all boys who have been selected in these squads. I’ll also take this opportunity to remind parents and students that permission notes and levy need to be returned to the office before the start of the competition. Any questions related to this can be directed to Mr Borg. Thanks you once again for your continued support of our representative sport program.

Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator

Western Sydney Wanderers Soccer Clinic
On Tuesday, 26th February, 2013, our school hosted a Professional Soccer Clinic conducted by the newest soccer club in the Australian A-League competition. Development staff and coaches from the new and top of the table team the ‘Western Sydney Wanderers’ ran our Year 7 and 8 soccer squads through a specific training and game sense session during period five and six. The clinic took place in our state of the art hall facility due to the poor weather and field conditions on our ovals. The staff, students and coaches participation on the day ensured an exciting and positive atmosphere throughout the session.
Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown would like to thank the ‘Western Sydney Wanderers’ staff that made the effort to come to our school for the day, creating a memorable experience for our junior representative soccer players.
We hope to continue seeing this dominating display of soccer from the Western Sydney Wanderers and wish them all the best for the rest of the 2013 season.

“WHO DO WE SING FOR”?

Mr Nathan Green, MCS Soccer Coach

Berg Shield Cricket
The Berg Shield cricket team progressed to the Semi Finals of the competition with a comprehensive victory against De La Salle College Caringbah. Yuvraj Manav was the standout performer with 2/4 off his four overs. He was well supported by Arjun Nair and Daniel McKinley who both took two wickets.
Our innings with the bat started at a fast pace as Ricky Shepperd hit a quick fire 20 runs and Arjun Nair (60 not out) hit the ball to all parts of the ground. This meant that we were 0/43 off only 6 overs!
Our attention now turns to the next round with the boys putting in over time on the training paddock.

Mr Matt Hartigan, Coach
We are pleased to announce that the 2012 Yearbook has officially been issued. This is a significant production and we are very proud of how the history of our community has been captured for 2012. Many schools in fact no longer bother to produce a Yearbook. Patrician Brothers’ College is NOT one of those schools. We hope that you enjoy perusing its 333 pages!

At the back of the 2012 Yearbook, I included the following acknowledgement:

This Yearbook celebrates the achievements of the Patrician Brothers’ College community in 2012. In 2012 our NAPLAN and Higher School Certificate (HSC) results have once again placed Patrician Brothers’ College as one of the top Catholic systemic schools in NSW. A wonderful achievement!

Once again we also pay tribute to the outstanding range of co-curricular activities that our students have the privilege of participating in. The level of involvement of the students and the commitment and dedication of the staff is unrivalled.

My appreciation is extended to all our wonderful students – you embody everything that is good and wholesome at Patrician Brothers’ College. Thank you for your caring attitude towards each other, the staff and of course your parents.

When I reflect on 2012, it is clear that the quality and strength of relationships is at the core of our success. Thank you to all of our critical stakeholders – students, staff and parents.

As a Catholic community we are proud of the role our school plays in the faith formation of the young men in our care. It is our hope that their journey will continue to be enriched by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. The school is fortunate to have Fr Peter Confeggi as our coordinating Pastor and spiritual leader.

We hope that you enjoy the 2012 history of Patrician Brothers’ College. My thanks are extended to Mr Jeremy Lane, Mrs Marie Lane, Mrs Pauline Field, Mr Steven Mulligan, Mr Brian Edmonds, Mrs Melanie D’Cruz, Mr Hamilton Lund, Mr Andrew Green (Brilliant Images and Graphics) and Mr Jeff Hosnell (Printciple Source Pty Ltd), for their outstanding assistance in the production of this Yearbook.

Mr Santo Passarello,
Principal
There is considerable uncertainty and anxiety among Catholic school communities from the announcement of the NSW Government’s cuts to school funding. These cuts occurred despite the state government’s 2011 election promise not to reduce funding to Catholic schools. The following information explains the funding cuts and the issues for Catholic schools resulting from the Gonski review.

**NSW SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS**
- All NSW schools are facing **unprecedented funding cuts** of $1.7 billion to recurrent school funding and freezing funding to non-government schools for the next four years (with the exception of students with a disability and new students in new schools).
- The 2012 grant for each student in Catholic systemic schools was $1,889 for primary and $2,530 for secondary.
- The NSW Catholic Education Commission (CEC) have estimated a cumulative loss over four years of about $273 per primary student and $365 per secondary student in state school funding.
- With the current ‘nexus’ between state and federal funding, Catholic schools stand to **lose $3 in federal funding for every $1 cut in state funding**.

**GONSKI REVIEW AND FEDERAL FUNDING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
- The existing funding legislation expires at the end of 2013 and the current political environment provides **no certainty** for Catholic schools on long term federal funding.
- The current model means federal funding is directly linked to changes in state funding. With **significant cuts** to school funding by the NSW government this model is increasingly problematic.
- If federal funding is ‘allocated’ to an individual school it may restrict the capacity of our diocese to respond flexibly to local school needs. Catholic systemic schools should **not be penalised** because of our system approach.
- Escalating cost of living pressures are already impacting adversely on our families, there needs to be an **appropriate funding model** developed that not only considers the financial capacity of parents, but also the significant investment needed for ongoing costs e.g. technology, energy and utilities, maintenance, professional development, etc.
- Any new funding model should not impose **unreasonable conditions** that are likely to increase the administrative burden on teachers or schools.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**
- A freeze to the NSW Building Grants Assistance Scheme (BGAS) will result in a significantly **diminished funding pool** for capital projects from 2013. The impact is a funding shortfall of about $20-30 million.
- Reductions in capital funding reduces the Catholic sector’s ability to respond to the growth in demand for Catholic schooling and the building of new schools or expansion of existing schools.

**THE FACTS**
- **One in every four** students attends a Catholic school in western Sydney.
- Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta serves 45,000 students and employs 4,500 teachers and staff.
- **Catholic schools operate at 90%** of the recurrent resources of government schools.
- Students with a disability in Catholic schools receive less funding from government than if they were attending a government school.

**WHAT CAN I DO?**
- Write/call your local state and federal members of parliament to share your concerns.
- Sign the petition opposing the NSW Government’s school funding cuts.
- Be aware of the educational policies of the various political parties in the upcoming federal election.

For more information and to sign the petition visit www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding
Catholic Education Office Notices

Stop funding cuts to education in NSW
School fees: Catholic schools operate at about 80% of the resource levels of public schools and depend on ongoing funding from state and federal governments. To meet the shortfall between the basic costs of running a school and the amount provided by governments, Catholic schools need to charge school fees, which we try to keep as low as possible. We will endeavour to minimise the impact of NSW Government’s school funding cuts on families. No student will be refused enrolment because of a family’s inability to pay fees. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please arrange a confidential meeting with your principal. Sign the petition to stop the cuts, write to the Premier or your state MP, share your comments and find more information about the school funding issue at: www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding

Second Chance Initiative could be your New Year’s resolution: 9 March
The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese of Parramatta is calling for volunteers willing to make a difference to their community by sharing their time, knowledge and encouragement to people exiting prison. Volunteers will be thoroughly trained for their roles to operate in ‘circles’ of 4-6 people to support prisoners exiting the corrective environment. To learn how you can get involved, come along to an information morning at 10am on Saturday 9 March at the St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Office, Level 4, 73 Dunmore St, Wentworthville. To learn more and RSVP please call Vinnies (02) 9689 1900.

Pilgrimage to Ireland with Fr Ted Tyler: 23 Sept–8 Oct
Fr Ted Tyler, Parish Priest of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains, is leading a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle with an itinerary that includes: Dublin, Belfast, Enniscorthy, Kilkenny, Limerick, Galway City, St Brigid’s Cathedral, Shrine to St Oliver Plunkett, Lough Derg and Holy Island, great shrine of Knock, Trinity College with a viewing of the Book of Kells, and the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Further details: Fr Ted Tyler frejtyler@live.com, John Voytas tel 0411 325 710, jvoytas@bigpond.net.au

Catholic Schools Parent Conference: 25–26 May
Join parents, educators and guest speakers for the 10th Catholic Schools Parent Conference at the Novotel Hotel, Parramatta. The theme for the 2013 conference is iConnect with Learning, in Partnership, in Faith and focuses on technology as a communication, learning and social networking tool. Daily rates available and early bird benefits. Full program and registration at http://www.cccsp.catholic.edu.au/

Reasons for Hope Retreat: 8–10 March
An annual retreat for young adults since 1996. This year’s speakers are led by Archbishop Barry Hickey, Emeritus Archbishop of Perth, who will present the keynote address, celebrate Mass, lead the group in meditation and be a part of the evangelisation panel. Other speakers include: Fr Anthony Bernard – Parish Priest at Camperdown, Sr Mary Julian Ekman RSM, Luke and Philips Caufield and the Member for Castle Hill, Dominic Perrottet MP. Further details: Richard 0431 291 078, richard@reasonsforhope.net.au and Allison 0435 040 753, allison@reasonsforhope.net.au

Faith at the Fiddler: 14 March
Catholic priest and world renowned musician Fr Rob Galea will be the guest speaker and performer. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear a young, vibrant priest speak intimately about his faith through the beautiful contemporary Catholic music that he writes and performs world wide. Faith at the Fiddler is a forum for young people to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney’s most famous pub. Time: 5pm–7pm. Where: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Linda Ducksbury – Catholic Education, Parramatta tel (02) 9840 5743, linda.ducksbury@parra.catholic.edu.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 15-17 March
For married couples – take time out of busy schedules to invest in your most precious asset, your marriage. Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Inquiries & bookings tel 02 4283 3435 or visit: www.wwme.org.au

Day of the Unborn Child: 17 March
The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child. It marks the day our Lord Jesus Christ became a tiny unborn child in His mother’s womb. It is a day of celebration and remembrance of the dignity of the unborn. It is also a day to remember the millions of unborn children whose lives have been ended by abortion. Program: Mass at 10.30am in St Mary’s Cathedral; Angelus at noon followed by prayerful procession led by Bishop Julian Porteous through the streets of Sydney; Benediction at 1.30pm in St Mary’s Cathedral followed by afternoon tea with Bishop Julian in the Cathedral Hall. A project of Family Life International (02) 9519 9111, mail@fli.org.au www.fli.org.au

Seniors Week Mass: 21 March
As part of Seniors Week celebrations, a special Mass will be celebrated at 11am in the Crypt under St Mary’s Cathedral. The Mass is being organised by Life Ascending Australia (LAA) and everyone is welcome. The principal celebrant will be Fr Geoffrey Plant, LAA Spiritual Adviser. You are most welcome to join members for lunch at a couple of venues after Mass. For information about LAA contact Margaret Smith (02) 4753 1031, margaretcliffsmith@hotmail.com

Holy Hour for Vocations: 21 March
A special time of prayer where we join to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations on the 3rd Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. Time: 7pm–8pm.
Sporting Stars featured at Sports Presentation Evening

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

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

Nagle College Open Night – Come, See, Experience
- View student work
- Student led tours of the College
- See demonstrations and performances
- Speak with staff
- Principal’s Address

Tuesday March 19, 2013
6.00pm – 8.00pm
58A Orwell Street, Blacktown South
Ph: 8887 4501
www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

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scu.net.au
Volunteers Required
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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am – 9.30am.
If you are able to volunteer please phone the school office on 9671 3000 with your details and Mrs O’Keefe, Mrs Scalone or Mrs Ghikas will get back to you.
Thank you for your generosity of spirit.

UNIFORM SHOP
Located next to school office

Tuesday
8.30am - 3.45pm

Thursday
8.30am - 3.45pm

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