This week we celebrated St Patrick’s Day. Saint Patrick was of course the great Apostle of Ireland. His devotion and inspiration largely converted Ireland to the Catholic faith. St Patrick was also renowned for his humility, a quality that we can already see in our new Pope!

All of us at Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown should take the opportunity to reflect upon St Patrick’s example and what it can mean for our daily lives. This feast day is especially important for us because it also provides us with an opportunity to remember and celebrate all the Patrician Brothers to whom we are so indebted. Thank you for leading us on our faith journey – the Patrician Charism continues to be the cornerstone of our faith mission here at Patrician Brothers’ College.

As we move through the Lenten season it is my hope that we all take the opportunity to renew our faith and love of God. Lent is a time when we turn back to God and ask him to forgive us for the times when we have failed to respond to his love and a time when we take up the challenge of living our lives in the way he asks us to. Lent is a time to listen, reflect and act upon the words of Jesus. In other words, to become more like Christ through our words and actions.

Please take care of each other,
Santo Passarello

St Patrick’s Day Mass
A wonderful Eucharistic celebration! Our boys were outstanding in their participation and enthusiasm.
From the Assistant Principal

Term One has certainly flown and Holy Week is almost upon us. The last fortnight has seen several major events. The annual Rugby League tour to the Central Coast was a great success last week. The players certainly appreciated the opportunity to develop their team work ahead of the season proper and the teachers and coaches involved in the trip were extremely generous with their time and support for the young men in their teams.

St Patrick’s Day celebrations were held last Monday and again the students excelled in terms of participation and enthusiasm. Our College Mass in the morning was concelebrated by priests from a number of local parishes and after lunch we gathered again for a Talent Quest showcasing some of the outstanding Performing Arts talent among our students.

Also last week, two of our Year 11 students, Christian Crichton and Marlon Rodrigo, were invited to participate in the filming of the official media advertisement for Catholic Schools Week in the Parramatta Diocese. The video is available on YouTube for anyone who would like to see the result of their work.

On another theme, we have been extremely encouraged by the results to point of our various Literacy Improvement programs across the school in 2013. Students in Years 8 and 9 have been given designated class time and the support of several literacy coaches to improve their writing skills, while students in Years 10-12 have been working specifically on their paragraph writing skills using a scaffold titled TEEL. Teachers and coordinators are already reporting noticeable improvements. Parents have a significant role in this process as well – you need to encourage your sons to read and write as often as possible. Literacy is arguably the most important skill set we can pass on to our students in terms of preparing them for future success and we would appreciate your support wherever possible.

Finally for this week, on Monday 25 March we will be holding Progress Interviews for students in Years 7-12 who have been identified as struggling with application, effort 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 should have already received a letter indicating their appointment time(s) if teachers or coordinators have requested an interview with their son. We ask all parents to make these interviews a priority if their attendance is requested.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Merit Awards

Wow! What a fortnight! It was so exciting to see many boys receiving their first Bronze Awards for the year, as well as other boys receiving multiple awards. A reminder to Year 11 and 12 to make sure you hand in your Merits promptly.

I must acknowledge three students who were left off the Bronze Award recipient list last fortnight:

Ali Chrara 7C13
Manmeet Saini 8D19
Calum Connaughton 10C3 2 Awards

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

**Bronze Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bayeh</td>
<td>7C18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Brennan</td>
<td>7C11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finlay Cham</td>
<td>7C16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Eckersley</td>
<td>7C15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Gallagher</td>
<td>7C11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Kangol</td>
<td>7C12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viliami Lolo</td>
<td>7C13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier Manu</td>
<td>7C14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Pualoa</td>
<td>7C16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Rosales</td>
<td>7C17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Tabone</td>
<td>7C15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izak Xiberras</td>
<td>7C13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Alcantara</td>
<td>8D16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anshul Arora</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayden Dever</td>
<td>8D16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Espinas</td>
<td>8D22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Grech</td>
<td>8D22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Norman</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Park</td>
<td>8E10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachery Salman</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senthil Rahavan</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navneel Singh</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Ackroyd-Mosbey</td>
<td>9A26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Allan</td>
<td>9B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Bestierwitch</td>
<td>9A26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Capati</td>
<td>9A25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyson Cham</td>
<td>9B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayvee Datuin</td>
<td>9B6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamil Dewan</td>
<td>9A24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Fatialofa</td>
<td>9B6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hrishikesh Kulkarni</td>
<td>9B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Lee</td>
<td>9B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Lipscombe</td>
<td>9A24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braeden Rodricks</td>
<td>9B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravinoor Roomi</td>
<td>9A23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Simonds</td>
<td>9B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Syed</td>
<td>9B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coen Wynne</td>
<td>9B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Zapanta</td>
<td>9B6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josef Flores</td>
<td>10C8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Silver Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aditya Banodkar</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruel de Guia</td>
<td>8D22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Garbutt</td>
<td>8D19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I look forward to checking the Merits Box next fortnight!

*Mrs Marie Lane, Merit Awards Coordinator*

**Congratulations!**

One of our hard working and dedicated parents has been once again been elected to the Parents Representative Council (PRC). This is a significant group that represents all parents in the Diocese. They have special access to both the Bishop and the Executive Director. We congratulate **Lynn McKinnon** on her appointment as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee. We wish Lynn all the very best in this role for 2013.
St Patrick’s Day
This week the school community gathered to celebrate the feast of St Patrick, the patron saint of the Patrician Brothers. On February 2nd 1808, Bishop Daniel Delany formally declared that the first Patrician Brothers would dedicate their lives to continue the mission of St Patrick. Like Saint Patrick and as declared in his great prayer, The Breastplate, the Brothers strive to see Christ in his creation and in the people to whom they have committed their lives.
The Mass was a great faith experience, enhanced by the reverent participation of all those gathered, an inspirational homily by Fr Peter Confeggi, Parish Priest of St Patrick’s Blacktown and outstanding music. Fr Peter, during Mass, challenged us all to continue the work of the Patrician Brothers as we are ‘Gifted and Graced’.

Mr Gregory Beacroft, Liturgy Coordinator
From the Director of Studies
NAPLAN
2013 Free Student Workshop – Wednesday 17 April 2013
Alpha Omega Education Auburn, Level 4, 1-5 Harrow Rd
Registration online is essential at www.alpha-omega.org.au.
Anyone who attends will receive a free Student NAPLAN pack.

Literacy Starts at Home

The foundation work in literacy is undoubtedly done at home. Reading, writing, listening and discussing can all be done within the home and lay good foundations for your children. Modelling good literacy practices such as reading regularly with your children and discussing what has been read, making reading material available at home, rewarding or acknowledging a good work ethic and making sure that children have regular routines and are given realistic expectations are some of the building blocks of ensuring success later at school and in the workplace environment. How often do parents accept as fact that their son has no homework, or look in their books to see that there is little work and make the assumption that not much is being done in class? These are usually warning signs that cannot be overlooked. Regular homework is an expectation and each subject area has syllabus outcomes that need to be achieved. If you are concerned that there appears to be little work in your son’s book, contact his teacher. How has your Year 7 boy adjusted to the rigours of high school? Does he need any assistance? The important thing is that their son has no homework, or look in their books to see that there is little work and make the assumption that not much is being done in class? These are usually warning signs that cannot be overlooked. Regular homework is an expectation and each subject area has syllabus outcomes that need to be achieved. If you are concerned that there appears to be little work in your son’s book, contact his teacher. Has your Year 7 boy adjusted to the rigours of high school? Does he need any assistance? The important thing is that their son has no homework, or look in their books to see that there is little work and make the assumption that not much is being done in class? These are usually warning signs that cannot be overlooked. Regular homework is an expectation and each subject area has syllabus outcomes that need to be achieved.

Some ways to help your son:

- Make sure that he has a quiet and comfortable learning environment.
- Encourage him to tell you what he has learnt at school that day in whatever subject.
- Get him to share half an hour of silent reading with you. You can have different reading material and then the earlier these can be addressed, the better this will be for your son who can learn how to experience success in his learning, rather than disappointment.

Scheduling some time to help your son:

1. Make sure that he has a quiet and comfortable learning environment.
2. Encourage him to tell you what he has learnt at school that day in whatever subject.
3. Get him to share half an hour of silent reading with you. You can have different reading material and then the earlier these can be addressed, the better this will be for your son who can learn how to experience success in his learning, rather than disappointment.

Some ways to help your son:

- Make sure that he has a quiet and comfortable learning environment.
- Encourage him to tell you what he has learnt at school that day in whatever subject.
- Get him to share half an hour of silent reading with you. You can have different reading material and then the earlier these can be addressed, the better this will be for your son who can learn how to experience success in his learning, rather than disappointment.
- Make sure that he completes all homework and if he tells you he has none, tell him that that is wonderful because then he can actually do some revision and study, or he can write you a story about the work that he is doing in English or another subject.
- Encourage him to set high expectations of himself and to seek to learn something new every day.

Aim High Workshops
The skills workshops for our Year 12 Aim High boys are progressing well with Mrs Lane running a very informative workshop on diet and exercise, while Mrs Davidson gave the boys some superb hints about how to make effective notes and alerting them to the purpose of note making. With the first round of formal examinations looming for Year 12, parents should ensure that their sons have mapped out a revision and study timetable. The workshops run for the Aim High students are also open to all Year 12 students who are more than welcome to come in and learn from the expertise of our teachers. No doubt there will be many workshops and lectures run for the Year 12 students during the holidays, but they can start now in building up their skills and knowledge and completing every assessment task to a high standard.

HSC Live
Visit the following website www.hsclive.com.au. Expert teachers in NSW are placed in front of real students and there are filmed weekend-long courses in cable quality HD and streaming online live as it happens and free for any student to watch.

Preparing for the Semester I Examinations for Year 12
One of the most effective skills you can develop is your ability to study. You are not tested on simply what you can remember but on how you can apply your knowledge. Do not think of the exams as hurdles, but rather as an opportunity for you to demonstrate your understanding of the material that you have studied. The other thing that you need to consider is that exams make you work under time constraints. A good idea is to get together a study group. Things can be clarified for you much quicker with your peers. Do some preliminary reading of your syllabus and the examination task notification sheets so that you know exactly what will be tested in the Semester I examinations. Next, you need to get all your work books, notes and textbooks together so that there is no material is missing. Work through past papers on the topics that will be examined. Time yourself and see how much you can accomplish in the allocated time.

Important things to remember on the day of the examination:

1. Get there on time. Read your timetable carefully and make sure that you arrive in plenty of time so that you are not stressed before the exam even begins.
2. Take care of the technicalities – bring the right equipment, write legibly, allocate time for each question.
3. Read the instructions. Listen to any instructions given.
4. Answer the question. Establish what it asks for, then recall, select the relevant material, organise it (plan) and formulate your answer.
5. Think about the questions in terms of the course objectives and your understanding of the course content covered.
6. For essay or short answer questions check your paragraph structure. Are all your major ideas related to the question theme? Are they in proper sequence? Have you enough supporting evidence? Have you written clear topic sentences?
7. Consider the examiner’s expectations in relation to the exam question. Are you expected to present facts and data or are you focussing on interpretation?

Mrs Danuta Paton, Director of Studies
Maths Update
During Week 11 of Term 1, Mathematics classes in Years 7-9 will be having Mathematics tests covering all the topics studied during Term 1. Students should have already started revision during home study. They have several sources of review material: 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; the homework book that accompanied the text; notes and examples worked during lessons. Retaining Mathematical knowledge and skills is essential for development in Mathematics, and term tests reveal whether or not students are assimilating the concepts and processes introduced during lessons. Parents can assist by ensuring their sons engage in regular revision activities in Mathematics, and incorporate these into their homework and study routines.

Mrs Denise Arnold, Mathematics Coordinator

Mathematics: Investigating Pythagoras’ Theorem

Have you ever heard of $a^2+b^2=c^2$?
That two thousand, five hundred year old equation is Pythagoras’ Theorem. Pythagoras and his followers discovered that in any right-angled triangle, the length of the hypotenuse (the longest side which lies always opposite to the given right angle) squared is equal to the sum of the length of the other two sides squared.

Pythagoras’ Theorem is a distinct cornerstone of mathematics that continues to amaze and dazzle mathematicians today. It is the basis of trigonometry and connects algebra and geometry. It is also the foundation of some modern technology and computing. Due to this fact, it is an important aspect of the Year 8 maths syllabus and is currently being taught to all Year 8 students.

In our Maths class, 8M1, our Mathematics Teacher Mr Jayakody has instructed us to design and create a poster about Pythagoras’ life, Pythagoras’ Theorem with some worked examples and its applications in today’s society. We all created impressive, detailed posters doing just that. I personally, worked hard on my (mostly) handmade poster and was rewarded with a good result.

Sidney Alcantara, Year 8 Student

TAS Update
Year 8 Design & Technology students have been planning and managing the construction of their Desk Organisers. The students are preparing a Design Portfolio outlining all their ideas, management of materials and time and will be preparing design sketches.

The design project and portfolio encompasses several activities including, literacy, numeracy, spatial, cognitive and kinesthetic skills.

Year 9 Graphics Technology students purchased their Graphics equipment early this term. The boys have commenced working on their first orthogonal drawing. Orthogonal drawings allow the transformation of 3D drawings to 2D, with the addition of such skills as lettering, dimensioning, numeracy, cleanliness and care for their work.

Year 12 Industrial and Design & Technology boys are well and truly on their way to completing some wonderful pieces of furniture and innovative designs for their Major Design Project. The skills and techniques shown by the boys are of the highest level.

A reminder to all students wishing to complete Assessment work before school, that D16 is open for individual work every morning from 8:20am. All are welcome!

Mr Michael Benitez, TAS Coordinator

Year 9 Commerce
This Term we have mainly focused on Consumer Choice. We have studied topics such as commerce and choice, consumer decisions, consumer protection, consumer complaints, responsibilities of consumers and payment choices for consumers.

Whilst learning all this we have also focused on contracts, writing business letters, bartering and topic research tasks. We have also done a wide variety of vocabulary tests and preparing for upcoming essays.

Mitchell Levick, Year 9 Commerce

Newsletter—Website and Facebook Page
A reminder that this newsletter is available in full colour on our website:
http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Additionally all photos can be sourced on our Facebook page:
Library Update
New Magazine Racks
The magazines are a popular resource for the boys who enjoy browsing Science Illustrated, APC, Dirt Bike, Mad, MacWorld and the other regular subscriptions. The Rugby League magazine is the most read in the football season. All magazines are available for overnight loan.

The Library as a Flexible Learning Space
Mrs D’Cruz and Mr Singh’s English classes have recently booked into the library to use the large classroom space to work together. The boys have the advantage of two expert teachers and the library resources to work collaboratively on their texts.

Book Bites Competition – Write a review and win a prize!
Year 7 are continuing their introduction to the library. Over the past two weeks students have been introduced to the home drive, where they can save their classwork from any computer in the school. They were also shown how to access the Book Bites on the Library website. Book Bites is a place where students write book reviews, which can be accessed by our reading community. Share some of your favourite reads or read some of our reviews. It’s a great place to find a book to read! http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au/library

Over the next few months, we are encouraging students to write a book review for Book Bites. Each student that submits a book review will be entered into the draw to win an autographed copy of Pig Boy and morning tea with this year’s guest, the author J C Burke. J C Burke will be visiting our Library for some writing workshops on Tues 7th May.

Library Monitor
We apologise to Rameez Parkar of Year 8 as his name was inadvertently left off the list of Library Monitors in the last newsletter. Rameez is a very willing and capable helper.

Year 7
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 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.

Homework Centre
Increasing numbers of boys are taking the opportunity to come to Homework Centre every Wednesday after school. This week we had close to 80 boys and 15 teachers who used the library to meet and work together. Year 7’s were seen working on their Famous Scientist assignments, Year 12’s collaborated in study groups, Maths problems were tackled and solved and computers were working overtime! Homework Centre is always buzzing with a fantastic atmosphere of learning and sharing.

Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Teacher/Librarian

Year 7 Geography
The students have been practicing their literacy by describing their journey through the Water Cycle.

Simon Koutoulas shares his adventure with us:

Life as H2O: One day I was relaxing in the ocean until it was time. Time to evaporate! Before I knew it I was high in the sky. Floating in the sky until a plane smashed into us; we all split apart.

Soon we came together and we formed a cloud. A cloud bigger than we ever formed before. This is a H2O day to remember. “It’s getting cold in here, colder than before”. We can’t see each other, I think we are about to faaaaall.

‘Thump’
We have hit earth.

Faster and faster we roll down the steep hill. WooHoo! We are going so fast we are flying H2O molecules.

“Ahhhh, Splash” We are in the dam.

Ah this is the life.

Oh no, the dams overflowing!!!

To be continued…

Mr Kim Crawford, Geography Teacher

Year 9 Visual Art
The Year 9 Visual Arts elective class went on an excursion to Darook Beach. The purpose of this event was to give the students the time to reflect on the environment, take photos, paint and draw the surroundings. The visual information that they gathered is going to play an integral role in the making of their landscape painting. We are currently studying “plein air” painting, which is a French word that simply means to paint outdoors, which they experienced. They were asked to take note of the colour of the sky, which is not always “blue” and realize that water can be green or even a light creamy brown as it gets closer to the shore. This is invaluable information that helps them to create a more realistic painting.

Art Express
Last year Joseph Gaerlan of Year 12 created a beautiful sculpture titled “The Women in my Life”. It is a sensitive piece of work where he created small white clay images of women in various poses. These small figures were then placed on aged timber stands that Joseph finely sanded and polished. The works are a true inspiration from a dedicated student. We are all very proud of him. These works have been included in the Art Express exhibition at the Orange Regional Gallery which will open on the evening of the 15th of March 2013.

Mrs Gretel Collison, Visual Art Teacher
Year 8 Religion

Year 8 Religious Education classes are currently studying the unit *Images of God*. In this unit, students explore their personal images of God and question the nature and action of God in the world. As part of their formal assessment, the students recently received an assessment task that requires them to locate and select five different images of God and display these as a mind map accompanied by their own knowledge of the image.

To support my Year 8 Religion class with the assessment, students were provided with a library lesson to conduct their own research using iPads as well as an assessment scaffold for guided completion of the task. The scaffold provided to the students allowed them to visualise the ideas and components they needed to research for the task and provided them with a sense of direction to conduct their research. Using iPads to complete the scaffold allowed the students to become ‘facilitators of their own learning’ by using a highly engaging and personalised learning device. Having a 1:1 iPad to student ratio, the iPads provide our students with an engaging way of doing research when accompanied by a scaffolded activity.

Throughout the lesson, student’s progress was monitored and they were provided with suggestions for what types of images of God to use and how to construct these as a mind map. Having students engaged with their learning while mastering new technology highlights the exciting ways that learning can take place in both physical and virtual learning spaces!

*Ms Melissa Luppino, Religion Teacher*

Year 10 Graphics Technology

The Year 10 Graphics Technology class has just started its second year in our pursuit to master Graphics. Our first module CADD (computer aided design and drafting) involves using a software called ProEngineer. This software assists us in creating 3D models of our designs. It also renders results in realistic images. With the assistance of Mr Dadisho, our class was asked to create our own personal Coffee Cup and a Drink Bottle to our particular design. As our knowledge of this great software develops, we will be heading to a whole new level in designing and drafting objects. Some of our peers went a step further and made short tutorials on the production of their 3D model.

*Year 10 Graphics Students*
Science Update

Greetings Science fans. As I write this, the world continues to be improved by the efforts of budding young scientists. In the last few weeks a 15-year-old boy in the U.S. created a pancreatic cancer detection test, which has been proven to be 28 times faster, 28 times less expensive and over 100 times more sensitive than current tests. In even more groundbreaking news, scientists have announced the first validated claim of a child being cured of the HIV virus, after anti-viral drugs were administered from birth. This paves the way for a potential complete cure of this deadly disease in the future. Hopefully our science students are inspired in our classrooms to continue their studies in the future, and become involved in the great work science is doing.

In our junior classrooms, students are still benefiting from the many diverse learning activities and hands-on practicals being offered. Year 7 have been learning about particles and matter. The students have been making observations of changes of state and measuring density of metals. Year 8 have started their chemistry unit and have investigated the properties of metals and chemical changes. The pop-test was a particular highlight, as the students dissolved magnesium in acid and ignited the hydrogen gas that was produced, causing the distinctive ‘pop’ sound. The boys have also completed their first assessment, a practical investigation to determine the pH of soil and the effects it has on hydrangea colours.

Year 9 have been learning about the human body and reproduction and have reviewed the body systems through a rat dissection. To dissect means to ‘expose to observe’ and the students also debated the ethics of dissections in science.

Year 10 are currently studying cell division and the ‘blueprint of life’: DNA. Students have researched the contribution of scientists Watson, Crick and Franklin (with the latter often not credited) and analysed the structure of this all-important molecule. Practical activities led to the extraction of this DNA molecule from a kiwi fruit. The complex procedure can actually be completed with simple laboratory equipment and common chemicals.

In senior news, 2012 HSC teachers are still on cloud nine after reviewing the HSC results carefully. Science achieved exceptionally well and the teachers are very proud of this cohort. Currently, senior students are preparing for exams and Year 11 Biology and Senior Science will soon report back from their excursion to Long Reef rock pools. We look forward to hearing more about the exciting scientific activities being undertaken at PBB.

Mr Chris Ferry, Science Coordinator

Counsellors Corner

As we look towards the Easter break, I can confidently predict two news items which will accompany us over the long weekend. The first will be a reporting from the local churches on the Easter liturgies, with the TV cameras possibly catching a VIP or politician entering or exiting the church. After the local church coverage, the TV anchor newscaster will then cross to the Vatican in Rome and report on the Pope’s Easter message.

The second standard nightly news item over the Easter weekend will be a tally of the number of people killed on the road during the four day break. Every Easter, television carries stories of communities devastated by multiple fatality crashes, often caused by driver inexperience. The biggest single worry for most parents is when their teenager begins driving.

Some statistics which might be useful to pass on to your teenage son are:

- One boy driving on his own, aged in his late teens, is relatively safe.
- If you add a male passenger in the car, the young driver takes more risks and the chance of a fatal crash increases by 50 per cent.
- However if the passenger is a girl, a male driver usually becomes more protective and careful and is actually safer than if he is on his own.
- If you then add one or more young people in the back seat, the death rate of the driver increases by over 400 per cent.

Education about these driving statistics and a prayer for safety on our roads this Easter will help us stay focused on the core message of Easter.

Ms Linda Cassell, College Counsellor

SRC Report

Thanks to the 28 students who attended our first SRC meeting and engaged in a lively discussion of a number of issues. Our 2013 walkathon project was discussed. The future of the event was debated and our expectations were raised and we were informed the windows will be tinted to improve visibility of the boards. Access to the toilets after training was raised and this will be investigated as will the possible catching a VIP or politician entering or exiting the church. After the local church coverage, the TV anchor newscaster will then cross to the Vatican in Rome and report on the Pope’s Easter message.

As we look towards the Easter break, I can confidently predict two news items which will accompany us over the long weekend. The first will be a reporting from the local churches on the Easter liturgies, with the TV cameras possibly catching a VIP or politician entering or exiting the church. After the local church coverage, the TV anchor newscaster will then cross to the Vatican in Rome and report on the Pope’s Easter message.

Education about these driving statistics and a prayer for safety on our roads this Easter will help us stay focused on the core message of Easter.

Daniel Osborne, SRC Leader
PDHPE Camp
The Year 11 PDHPE group ventured out to the Blue Mountains to participate in their Outdoor Recreation camp. This camp is an essential component of our studies as it complements the theory that is being taught in the classroom and gives us a practical understanding of what is required for us to complete our assessment task. We visited Evans Lookout, Govetts Leap (and its waterfall), Pulpit Rock, Jenolan Caves and Kanangra Wall. Over the 3 days and 2 nights we participated in hiking, abseiling and caving. A wonderful and challenging time was had by all.

Klayne Soans, Year 11 Student
Peer Tutors

A number of senior students - Tyrell Fuimaono, Soni Luke, Tyrone May, Dylan Fuad and Robert Jennings and Year 10 students - Patrick Ross, Terrell Smith, Carl Winterstein, Joe Vaegeau, Brandon Santa Maria, Joseph Ma’u, Didier Michel, Liam Spice, Mitchell Austin and Ivan Larbie, attended Blacktown TAFE to learn how to be Peer Tutors. These boys, through the Peer Tutoring Program, will support some of our junior students to become more independent readers.

Our teacher on the day, Julie Burnicle, was extremely impressed with all of the boys – how well they participated in the learning, how well they conducted themselves and their potential as successful Peer Reading Tutors.

The Peer Support Program will start in the next few weeks with selected numbers of Year 7 and Year 8 students and will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from 12.30pm to 1.00pm.

In the meantime, please encourage your sons to read a variety of texts EVERY DAY for at least 10 minutes. The more you read the more words you learn. The demands of the Secondary Curriculum intensify each year and boys who neglect reading often find they have an insufficient vocabulary for effective communication, including reading, writing and spoken language.

Ms Denise Grzelj, Literacy Coordinator
In 2013, 3 representatives from each year group travelled to Holy Cross Ryde early in the morning to compete in the MCS Chess tournament. After a gruelling 6 weeks preparation to determine the top 3 students from each year group, the boys were very keen and eager to show off their chess talents against 11 other schools. Not only did the boys represent the school with pride, but they also played to the best of their abilities. Each team finished 2nd in their pool which allowed them to proceed to the playoff for 3rd or 4th position, where the majority of the teams took out 3rd position. Thank you to the boys for being so cooperative and representing our school so well through their chess talents.

Congratulations to:
Year 7  Samuel Brennan
Year 7  Luke Eckersley
Year 7  Gajan Sivanesan
Year 8  Christopher Addison
Year 8  Aaron Prasad
Year 8  Brock Sperinck
Year 9  Arshpreet Badwal
Year 9  Ahsun Ahmed
Year 9  Jamil Dewan
Year 10 Miguel Ramirez
Year 10 Rohan Hudson
Year 10 Renz Jericho Hernandez
Year 11 Monish Sundarampillai
Year 11 Aditya Sharma
Year 11 Omar Dewan
Year 12 Peter Hudson
Year 12 Alexander Vlismas
Year 12 Kristopher Vlismas

More chess endeavours to come in the near future!

Mr Anthony Silvestrini & Ms Charmaine Castellino, Chess Coordinators
**House Competition**

The current points table is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Massey Marlins</th>
<th>Delany Devils</th>
<th>Histon Hounds</th>
<th>MacKillop Magpies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Participation</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Semester 2 Prize Giving</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>191</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- House captains and year mentors are encouraged to organise house based competitions ie, basketball, touch, chess and each of these mini-comps will contribute a maximum of 10 points to the house competition. Teachers supervising Thursday sports might also consider an occasional house-based competition…
- The Talent Quest on St Patrick’s Day will be worth 50 points to the most successful house performers.

**Mr Kim Crawford, Convenor**

**MCS Swimming**

On Wednesday 13 March our enthusiastic swimming squad competed in the MCS swimming carnival at the Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush. The team were well supported by family, friends, Mr Said, Mr Green Mr Hartigan and Mr Passarello. Highlights of the evening included:

- **Nazar Kucheruk** – Opens Age Champion
- **Daniel Hertel** – U13 Runner Up Age Champion

The squad that competed on the night were:

Reece Alderton  
Joel Borg  
Benjamin Carrick  
Chase Chapman  
Joshua Chiha  
Brendan Contarino  
Jack Groeneveld  
Daniel Hertel  
Nicholas Hertel  
Timothy Hodge  
Daniel Kucheruk  
Nazar Kucheruk  
Sam McGregor  
Jake Mooy  
Tomas Nancarrow  
Ryan Pritchard  
Braeden Rodricks  
Corey Scott  
Jack Singleton  
Marc Zaurrini

Congratulations to all of our swimmers.

**College Cross Country**

The annual College Cross Country will be run on Wednesday 27 March during periods 5 & 6. Students must register their names with Mr Borg before the event.

**Australian Junior Athletics Championships**

Congratulations to **Anas Abu Ganaba** who won the 200m and ran third in the 100m at the U18 National Athletics Championships that were held in Perth. This stretches his unbeaten record over 200m at State, National and International Championships to 15 months. The 100m third placing was only his second defeat during the same period (both at National Championships). Well done Anas.

**MCS Soccer & Weight For Age RL**

No team lost during the opening round of these competitions. A great start to the season. Well done teams and coaches.

**Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator**

**2013 Class Captains**

Congratulations to our 2013 class captains who received their badges at our recent Assembly. Just a reminder that Year 7 captains will be appointed after their camp at the end of Term.

A reminder that the SRC meets each Day 3 lunch in C6.

**Mr Kim Crawford**

**Year 8**

E9 - Jesse Vincent  
E10 - Kiano Pometne  
D16 - Rameez Parkar  
D17 - Dante Filipe-Otai  
D19 - Mohak Issar  
D20 - Jonah Mercado  
D22 - Leo Simona  
D24 - Karlyn Waithi

**Year 9**

A23 - Clarence Ocampo  
A24 - Jamil Dewan  
A25 - Liam Baker  
A26 - Joshua Carroll  
B1 - Gordon Allan  
B3 - Hrishikesh Kulkarni  
B4 - Delahoya Manu  
B6 - D’Angelo Tolu

**Year 10**

C1 - Patrick Bear  
C3 - Sajeev Prameswaran  
C4 - Vince Quiaem  
C5 - Aaron Pinto  
C6 - Thomas Doyle  
C7 - Rohit Louis  
C8 - Hans Zabala

**Year 11**

G1 - Adam Boidin  
G4 - Joshua Singh  
A20 - Krishneel Gounder  
A21 - Zachary Abu Bakar  
A22 - Omar Dewan  
A27 - Vonn De La Torre
PBB School Sport

Mini Golf
1/10 Third Ave Blacktown NSW 2148
Mini Golf King is one of the latest additions to our PBB school sport selections. After arriving at Mini Golf the boys split into team and battled their way through the amazing ‘Lost Jungle’, ‘Pharaoh’s Tomb’ and ‘Dragon’s Lair’. The competition amongst them is already set to a high standard as many boys achieved a hole in one within the first two holes. The winner and ribbon recipient was Anish Lal of Year 11 with a total score of 47. Well Done!
Find your pic on Instagram @PBBSchoolSport

Tae Kwon Do & Self Defence
Patrician Brothers College School Hall
Tae Kwon Do and Self Defence is also a new addition to the sport selections available at PBB. 17 students took part in their first encounter of this type of martial arts. The two instructors guided them through various stances, maneuvers and techniques. Mrs Maguire also showed some of the boys the ropes with her knowledge and experience. Very impressive!!
Adrian Green had this to say about his first experience of Tae Kwon Do, “It was fun and yet challenging at the same time as it was my first time. I do think some past experiences in Karate did help a little”. Looking forward to seeing all of your advancements in the coming weeks and some more action shots on the PBB School Sport Instagram account.

Chess Club
The competition was on, as students paired up and battled against each other in several rounds of chess. Two teams were very quick with their wins in the first round, awarding them each a PBB School Sport ribbon. These fine chessmen included Wade Berry, Kyle Morris, Bavneet Rattan and Dennis Marlon Lomibao. Let the chess battles continue!
Will these boys be champions next week or will there be new champions on the horizon. Stay tuned to find out in the coming weeks.

PBB School Sport Notices
Ribbons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wade Berry</td>
<td>Chess Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Morris</td>
<td>Chess Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bavneet Rattan</td>
<td>Chess Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlon Lomibao</td>
<td>Chess Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Magro</td>
<td>Gardening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Green</td>
<td>Tae Kwon Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anish Lal</td>
<td>Mini Golf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recruiting:
Gardening
Mini Golf
Indoor Soccer
Squash
See Mr D’Morias- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during Homeroom @ Staffroom.
Find us on Instagram @PBBSchoolSport

Mrs Melanie D’Cruz, PBB School Sports Journalist
Rain, Runs and Runners Up - The Berg Shield Saga

The Rain flowed like a leaky faucet for much of February, postponing and disrupting Patrician Brothers Blacktown’s road to the final. An early victory in Term 1 ensured the Year 10 Cricket Team, now coached by Jack-of-all-Trades, Mr. Matthew Hartigan, would make it through to the semi final. Unfortunately the weather again dealt a cruel hand, leaving Mr. Hartigan double-booked for this prestige event.

The Runs, and the rapid rate at which they were scored, ensured that Mackillop College Warnabale, would have had a sad trip back up the F3. In the semi final, the sun finally shone and the stars of PBB cricket also illuminated the field. After some tidy bowling (A. Nair 2/29 and R. Sheppard 2/11), and what seemed like a tough target being set, Alex Johnston (69no) and Ricky Sheppard (35) made short work of the 125 total, with 10 overs to spare. Alex must have had an important AFL related commitment after school, finishing the game with two monster sixes.

The Runners Up were all we were destined to be on Wednesday, after coming up against a match ready St Paul’s of Kempsie, at Campbelltown. Many factors may have changed the outcome on the day, but after chasing a similar total to the Semi Final, our top order couldn’t fire. Even a bizarre run-out after a no-ball, was caught by a fielder, and returned to catch the non-striker agonisingly short couldn’t dampen the drive for victory but alas the damage was done and the chase fell short. The boys showed tremendous spirit, sportsmanship and friendship, which is a testament to the values instilled by their previous coaches Mr. Anthony Attard and Mr. Matthew Hartigan. Amazingly, the first thing many boys mentioned after shaking their opposition’s hands was how excited they were to again represent the college in the NSW Downie Shield competition next year. The outlook is positive!

Mr Chris Ferry, Cricket Coach

The Compassionate Homeroom 9/A25

Over the first three weeks of Lent, my Year 9 homeroom A25 have shown compassion, spirit and community by raising an amazing $233.40! The monies raised go towards Project Compassion which is organised through Caritas Australia who helps communities that are less fortunate. Project Compassion donations assist over 200 countries with healthcare, education, shelter and food. Well done gentlemen!

Mr Danny De Alwis, 9/A25 Homeroom Teacher

Careers Update

The Sydney Morning Herald HSC and Careers Expo

Thursday 30 May and Friday 31 May
Saturday 1 June and Sunday 2 June
10am-3pm

The Sydney Morning Herald HSC and Careers Expo brings together over 140 exhibitors providing information on tertiary and training courses, career and employment opportunities, HSC subjects, study skills and gap year programs. Exhibitors include Australia’s major universities. The Expo also features 120 seminars on HSC subjects including English and Maths, tertiary courses, career and study advice. Admission is $10 or $25 for families of 3 or more (children under 14 are free) and is valid for all 4 days of the expo. Admission includes seminars and The SMH.

For more details see the expo visitor guide in the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday 28 May or hscandcareers.com.au

Western Sydney Careers Expo 2013

Thursday 20 June and Friday 21 June, 9am-3pm
Saturday 22 June and Sunday 23 June, 10am-3pm
Sydney Showgrounds, Sydney Olympic Park

The Western Sydney Careers Expo brings together over 120 exhibitors providing information on tertiary and training courses, career and employment opportunities, HSC subjects, study skills and gap year programs. Exhibitors include Australia’s major universities. The Expo also features 130 seminars on HSC subjects including English and Maths, tertiary courses, career, employment and study advice. Admission is $10 or $25 for families of 3 or more (children under 14 are free) and is valid for all 4 days of the expo. Admission includes seminars.

For more details see the expo visitor guide in your local Fairfax newspaper in early June or westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au

UTS

Undergraduate course guides are available in a range of diverse areas in the Careers Corner in the Library. They are comprehensive guides which include details of course structure, core and elective courses, possible career paths and fees, scholarships and financial assistance information. Please feel free to come and peruse this material. Courses include; Business, Law, International Studies, Information Technology and Education, just to name a few.

Directory undergraduate
directoryundergraduate 20.14 iPhone app is now available on the App Store.

Just go to the iTunes Store and use the search term 'undergraduate'. An iPad version is in the process of being developed and will be included in the first update in a couple of months. The cost is the same as last year at $5.49 - until around November when it will drop to $1.99.

UMAT

The National Institute of Education (NIE) has sent through some information advising students of the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) dates, preparation courses and resources. This information is on display in the library.

The Simulated UMAT Day is also running again this year. For more details see the expo visitor guide in your local Fairfax newspaper in early June or westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au

Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Careers Convenor
Newspaper Articles

PATRICIAN BROTHERS BLACKTOWN

Hip hoppers hooray
DANCERS BEAT A PATH TO FURTHER GLORY

Peter Theodosiou

PATRICIAN Brothers’ College, Blacktown, has finished in the top three of the Bring It On hip hop dance competition for the past three years and they are hoping for more success this year.

A team of 55 students was selected at auditions last week with two months to prepare for the first heat at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre on May 11.

The school won the competition in 2011, finished second in 2010 and was third last year.

Performing arts coordinator Karen Davidson said students would choreograph a five-minute performance based on hip hop music from the early ‘90s.

“The idea of the competition is that students can be responsible for their own learning,” she said.

“This year we will be looking at old school hip hop dancing.

“The songs are a secret at the moment because we found that in previous years songs overlapped.”

Competition rules state that selected students must attend 85 per cent of school days to be eligible to compete at the competition.

They will train after school on Mondays and during lunchtime on Tuesdays.

WESTMEAD

Mohak snaps up opportunity with Crocs

Gayla Melville

A THRILLED senior will head over to Canada next month to show off his ice hockey skills on the international stage.

Mohak Saini, 14, from Westmead, was selected to the NSPF Ice Crocs team to compete in the 13th International Friendship Games.

where he will face off against teams from Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, New Zealand and the US.

Mohak said he hopes to impress the coaches to be in the top eight competition.

“They have amazing88 players, are able to skate extremely fast and can pass with their eyes closed,” he said.

“I had two tryouts at the Central Coast last year and found out I was selected a week after the second trial.

“I practised all summer and then practised again after the tryout and was selected again.”

Mohak has been playing ice hockey for three years, after he became hooked when his dad brought him to see a friend’s training session.

His parents have both lived off the tax seven or eight times a week, working on his cardiovascular, speed and flexibility.

“Hockey is my main passion it’s the main focus in the summer,” he said.

“If there is a free-off, it’s everywhere whenever the puck is.

“I like it because of the fun and excitement.”

Mohak said that one day he hopes to make the NHL as his ultimate goal playing for his favourite team, the Boston Bruins.

For Mohak’s father, he’s just happy his son is learning the life skills of being competitive and joining in hard work, regardless of whether he makes a career out of the sport.

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617
Year 7 Camps

In Week 11 the Year 7 Camp will provide a valuable opportunity for our students to experience an outdoor education program as well as widen their circle of friends while having fun.

The campsite where the boys are based is at beautiful Mulgoa. The sites have toilets and running water - very civilised. The activities that will be undertaken include canoeing, kayaking, abseiling, swimming and bushwalking. The boys will also have to cook their own meals using barbecue, butane gas stoves and camp ovens! We will be cooking pasta Bolognese and a roast dinner for evening meals.

Please assist your son in the packing of bags for camp (but don’t do it for him, so he knows what is his) Label all clothing and equipment and ensure everything is packed using the checklist that will be provided. Bag sizes are also important as these are camp sites and not appropriate for suitcases with wheels! The contents of the daypack are also very important as it is the only bag the boys have access to during the day and while on activities.

Camps develop team spirit and a sense of belonging where the boys feel accepted. It is a wonderful experience for the students, one which teaches some lifelong skills and develops some great friendships.

*The Outdoor Team*

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

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

---

Paul Myliotis
Director

Ph: (02) 8705 3250 | Fax: (02) 9909 1580 |
Mob: 0404 046 467
Postal: PO Box 325 Cremorne NSW 2090
Address: Suite 12, Level 1, 287 Military Rd Cremorne NSW 2090
Web: www.omoney.com.au

---

SCU More Generous Banking

There are so many possibilities to enjoy each day when your banking is More Generous

Office Locations:
Blacktown Head Office (ATM facilities only) 19 Second Avenue
Rouse Hill Shop GR092, Civic Way Rouse Hill Town Centre
Parramatta 207 Church Street

Call 13 61 91
scu.net.au
Chess Ribbon
Pictured below is Marlon Lomibao with his chess ribbon.

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