Lent

Hey, whadd you give up for Lent?

I gave up being cranky and obnoxious, if it’s anything to you...

live in material, moral and spiritual destitution. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are “as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything” (2 Cor 6:10), sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.

As we start on our Lenten journey, each one of us is invited to reflect on what the words of Pope Francis mean for us. What is justice? Where is there inequality? How can my life be simpler? With whom can I share?

What implications does this have for us at Patrician Brothers’ College? How does this urging by Pope Francis inspire us? Will this Lent be a season to consider our own wounds that need God’s healing? Will our practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us to see more clearly the wounds of others and how can we share Christ’s healing love with them?

Importantly, if we think of Lent as a season to earn God’s favour by good intentions or good works, then we’ve got a theological problem. God’s grace has been fully given to us in Christ. We can’t earn it by doing extra things or by giving up certain other things in fasting. If we see Lent as a time to make ourselves more worthy for celebrating Good Friday and Easter, then perhaps we shouldn’t keep the season until we’ve grown in our understanding of grace. If, on the contrary, we see Lent as a time to grow more deeply in God’s grace, then we are approaching Lent from a proper perspective.

Lent is an opportunity and a grace, not a burden. May we use the weeks of Lent this year to cleanse and ready our hearts so we can receive Jesus Christ this Easter and share his life throughout 2014.

Please be kind to one another,
Santo Passarello

Swimming Carnival
A great community day!
Pictured below is Jacob Syphers of Year 7 with Mr Nathan Campbell.
From the Assistant Principal

The last three weeks featured several highly successful events at Patrician Brothers’ College, Blacktown. Last 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 highly 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. We also held our annual Swimming Carnival last Wednesday 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.

There are several significant events to note in the weeks ahead. On Monday 24 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 generated from teacher and coordinator requests. 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 Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations starting on Monday 31 March, Year 7 Camps from Monday 31 March to Friday 4 April and Holy Week Liturgies on Friday 11 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 that particular 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

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following merit award recipients. These awards were distributed at last week’s Year and College Assemblies.

Bronze Awards

Benjamin Tualalai 7C12
Mark Wehbe 7C15
Angelo Gunatilaka 7C18
Vishal Kumar 7C12
Sebastien Navarro 7C12
Faiyad Rahim 8D20
Jaden Victoria 8D19
John Morelli 8E9
Izak Xiberras 8E10
Luke Eckersley 8E10
Samuel Brennan 8D19
Thomas Finn 8E10
Nicholas Galea 8D16
Kirshoth Kamalanathan 8D19
Lotovale Paul Lotovale 8D16
Matthew Saba 8E10
Shivpreet Singh 8D22
Jonathan Tabone 8E9 2 Awards
Nicholas Zakia 8E9
Ayden Dever 9A26 2 Awards
Jonathan Mifsud 9A23
David Alam 9A24
Kiano Pomente 9A24 2 Awards
Thomas Cowan 9A24 4 Awards
Jacob Forster 10C5
Jayvee Datuin 10C3 3 Awards

Silver Awards

Luke Eckersley 8E10
Jonathan Tabone 8E9

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

Only 18 more days until our students and staff depart for France and Italy! WOW!
Swimming Carnival
A wonderful community day! Our boys were sensational in both their behaviour and participation. Thank you to Mr Van D’Morias who organised the day. Full results in our next issue of The Focus!
From the Director of Studies

UTS Bachelor of Accounting (BAcc)

With close to 100 scholarship students currently enrolled, the UTS BAcc is Australia’s largest and most successful business co-op course. The list of industry partners is a Who's Who of Australia’s best employers: Allianz, American Express, AMP Capital Investors, Asciano, Axiom Forensics, Brambles, Brookfield, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Coca Cola Amatil, Cuscal, DEXUS, Ernst & Young, Johnson & Johnson, KordaMentha, Lend Lease, Lion, Macquarie Group, NAB, Perpetual, PwC, TNT, Unilever, Westpac.

UTS Applications

Applications close Friday 6 June, for students hoping to start the course at UTS in January 2015. This is a much earlier closing date than other university courses, but has proven very successful as it allows the university to match the Chartered Accounting firms’ timetable. UTS will be making up to 25 guaranteed offers in July, allowing applicants to weigh up any BAcc offer at the same time as the CA firms make cadetship offers. A second round of applications will also be taken, closing 24 October, but only limited places will be available. If interested, students are encouraged to apply in June.

The BAcc online application form will be available online from 1 April at www.bachelorofaccounting.com

The selection criteria can be found at http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/business/business-study-areas/accounting/bachelor-accounting/scholarship-selection

UTS is looking for all-round achievers - applicants who have taken initiative and pursued interests within and outside school, and in doing so demonstrated things like interpersonal skills, dedication and leadership. A high ATAR is not essential. Academic ability is just one of our 5 selection criteria, so some successful candidates will be stronger in other areas than on ATAR. Each year we take in applicants whose eventual ATARs fall in the range 85-100.

The BAcc Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 20 May at 7.00 pm in room CB02.04.29, 15 Broadway Street, Broadway NSW 2007. To RSVP, email carin.alberts@uts.edu.au

Engineering at UNSW

Students interested in studying Engineering at UNSW are invited to register for the annual Engineering Student-Parent Info Night, Wednesday 19th March, 5.30pm - 8pm, Leighton Hall, Scientia, UNSW Kensington Campus.

UNSW Science Information Evening

Years 11 and 12 students interested in studying science at UNSW and their parents are invited to attend an Information Evening with guest speaker, Professor Fred Watson - astronomer and popular scientist.

Following the presentation, students will have the opportunity to speak with our current students and academic staff. Wednesday 26th March, 6.15pm - 8.30pm, Leighton hall, Scientia Building.

UNSW Kensington Campus

Registrations Essential at http://science.unsw.edu.au/events/infonight

A Reflection on Student Learning to Date:

Do Not Bury Your Talents

While reading Chris Hadfield’s An Astronaut’s Guide to Life, I was struck by a realisation Chris had when he was only 9 years old. On the evening of July 20, 1969, he and his family had gone to their neighbour’s cottage to see Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon. On the way home he realised that he wanted to be an astronaut. Being a Canadian he realised that it was Mission Impossible as astronauts were American. This did not deter him as he dared to dream. But dreams are not enough. This is what he writes: “There was only one option, I decided. I had to imagine what an astronaut might do if he were 9 years old, then do the exact same thing. I could get started immediately. Would an astronaut eat his vegetables or have potato chips instead? Sleep in late or get up early to read a book? …from that night forward, my dream provided direction to my life. I recognised even as a 9-year-old that I had a lot of choices and my decisions mattered. What I did each day would determine the kind of person I’d become. …I was in an enrichment program (at school) …where we were taught to think more critically and analytically, to question rather than simply try to get the right answers. …we learned how to learn.” Chris Hadfield took his dreams and made them a reality. All students have dreams but how many are prepared to make the right choices? To persevere and push themselves in the right direction? Year 12 students might consider whether they have read their set texts in English, or have they taken the easy (but least effective) option of using cheat notes in order “to get the right answer”. … Year 7 students could consider whether they chose to read a book for half an hour or be on social media for two to three hours. Sometimes to master a problem students need patience. Does your son write down his Maths or Science homework or has he given up before he has actually made any attempt at these subjects? Does he know that it is okay to make a mistake as from mistakes he has a basis to work from?

Year 12 examinations are in Weeks 10 and 11

What has your son done to prepare for these important assessment tasks? Has he constructed a plan for his revision? Time is a crucial factor in a revision program. Building time into his study program for sufficient practice on a variety of tasks is vital. Initially the program can be loose and flexible, but the closer your son gets to the examinations the tighter it needs to be. Here are some basic principles that your son might use to draw up a revision program:

- Being realistic – he should not overestimate how much he can get through in a given time. It is better to start earlier than to try to cram everything in at the last minute.

- Making sure that his program gives the necessary attention to every subject. He cannot think he knows a subject well enough that he does not have to revise it. Knowledge needs to be consolidated and put into long term memory and this can only be done through regular revision.

- Creating a balance between revision activities which are reading based and those which involve writing responses. Your son can practise on past papers; do timed essays, short responses, etc. Allow for thinking time in order to reflect on what has been responded to or learnt.

- Building into his program some “time off” to relax. He will not work his best if he spends all his time studying. Revision is best done with a fresh mind and in relatively short sessions with breaks. He can only take in so much at one sitting. One hour at a stretch is enough then he should take a 10 minute break.
For each study session keeping a checklist of the things that he wants to cover, for example:

- Re-read Area of Study related text and review notes
- Do a section of a practice paper on Mathematics
- Look at past paper questions on Physics and plan responses on topic revised yesterday
- Read over notes in the topic studied in Studies of Religion

Mrs Danuta Paton

Year 11 Geography Excursion
Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre
On Tuesday 25th February, Year 11 Geography travelled to Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre to help with our coursework. We are currently studying the Hydrosphere and the teachers at the centre helped us to learn the nature, impact and human responses to Urban Runoff. We learnt about the 2km long Olympic Rowing Course and how the water is treated before it goes into that massive body of water. During the day we got the chance to use equipment like a pH meter, a turbidity tube, digital thermometer and a salt dissolving tablet.

After conducting our tests, we concluded that the health of the water at the Penrith Lakes precinct was considered excellent and there are a lot of processes to follow to maintain the health of the water.

Our day concluded with a drive around a new development area of Penrith called “Waterside” and we learnt some of the rules and regulations that Penrith council makes residents comply with, if they choose to live there. We all had a great day and would like to thank Bob and Laura for showing us how to use geographical equipment and for teaching us about the Penrith Lakes area.

Sajeeth Paramaswaran, Year 11 Geography Student

Learning Support
Does your son have difficulty focusing on information when advertisements, links, etc also vie for his attention? Next time he needs to research a topic, check whether the advertisements, links, etc also vie for his attention? Next “presto” he is presented with information written in a clear, concise format for reading and understanding new information.

Mrs Sharon O’Keefe, Learning Support Coordinator

Library Update
Book Club Meeting

Our first meeting was an opportunity to make a decision about the all-important first book. After much deliberation we chose Holes by Louis Sachar. For an overview of the book go to http://www.louissachar.com/HolesBook.htm

I read Holes some years ago and really enjoyed it so I am looking forward to rereading it and hearing what the members think of the story.

One of the great things about being in a Book Club is that you are often asked to read books that you may not choose yourself, so it shifts you out of your comfort zone and into another genre or storyline. It’s also great when everyone doesn’t agree! The best discussions are often when we all have a different opinion about the book. If you missed out on joining our Book Club see Mrs Dracoulas or refer to the library Google site, https://sites.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/patslib/book-club

Would you like to be a Library Ambassador?
Library Ambassadors have an important role in the management and operation of our library. Many boys have given years of service, not only assisting the staff and students but developing skills in customer service, time management, work practice and ethics. They have helped to train new ambassadors and contributed to the culture of learning in the welcoming environment for which our library is known. Ambassadors may be asked to loan and return books, to help with shelving and act as technology trouble shooters, looking after the charging, storage and maintenance of our 60 iPads and 50 computers. They assist boys to use and manage their printing accounts and are called on for advice about new purchases of resources or the development of our library systems.

Library Ambassadors represent and promote our library within the school and wider community with confidence and diplomacy.

Expressions of Interest for these positions of trust and responsibility are called for now and due by the end of Term 1. https://sites.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/patslib/ambassadors

Famous Scientists
This week saw the completion of the Year 7 Famous Scientists Assignments. It was fantastic to see our students work on their assignments with such commitment and enthusiasm. In the coming weeks, the library will showcase the work of some of our students. Over the past few weeks, the boys have learnt and put into practice research skills using books, websites and databases. They have also had the opportunity to work with the new virtual environment, classroom8.

Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Teacher/Librarian

Stations of the Cross for Fridays in Lent
Last Friday, we began commemorating the Stations of the Cross in the College Chapel. The Stations of the Cross are an old Catholic tradition where the faithful re-enact the different stages that Christ went through on his journey to Calvary, beginning with his sentencing to death, to being laid in the tomb. Fridays in Lent are a very appropriate time to hold such an event, as each Friday prepares us for the most solemn of all days, Good Friday, on which Christ was put to death for the sins of humanity. Attending Stations of the Cross is a fantastic way for students and staff to prepare for Holy Week, as it keeps in mind the very purpose of Lent, in which we try to do penance in order to make us stronger in heart and will, in imitation of Christ, who bore the worst of all suffering, on the Cross. It is through our penance that the joy of Easter is more fully understood. Many thanks to Mr Hersey for his tireless organisation and to the staff and students who are attending. Stations of the Cross will take place at 1:30pm every Friday during Lent in the College Chapel.

All are welcome!

Mr Colm McCaughan, Religious Education Teacher
Shrove Tuesday

Caritas Australia is part of a global network that spans over 200 countries and territories. For over 110 years, Caritas has worked towards the creation of a just world. A Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, Caritas is Latin for love and compassion.

The school leaders, along with other Year 12 students, dedicated their time on Shrove Tuesday to make and sell pancakes to raise money for Caritas. The team raised $300 for Project Compassion. Thank you boys for giving of yourselves so generously and with so much enthusiasm to help such a good cause.

Ms Denise Grzelj, Year 11 Coordinator
Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday the 5th March the whole school participated in Ash Wednesday liturgies to mark the beginning of the Lenten period. The students were reminded in the liturgies that Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Catholics. The students are encouraged over the next six weeks to contribute to the Project Compassion boxes which are located in each homeroom and also to attend Thursday morning Masses at 8.15am in the College Chapel.
Performing Arts Update
HSC Music Performance Evening
On Tuesday evening in Week 5 the inaugural HSC Performance Evening was held in the hall. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to perform in front of a large audience that included staff, students and invited family and friends, and in doing so, began developing their performance skills and learning to overcome their nerves.

Adam Boidin and James Tikolevu were members of the audience who came along to support their peers. This was their observation: “We were incredibly impressed by the talent displayed by the Year 12 music students and their performances exceeded our expectations. The boys displayed extensive musical ability and showed impressive performance skills. The Year 12 music students should be congratulated for the success of the performances and we’re excited to see what the boys have in store for us next. Well done!”

Week 5 Assembly Item
Congratulations to Jake Mawby, Chad Sagun, Michael Gubert and Jason Gomes, all of Year 12, who performed at the Week 5 Assembly. The performance of “Purple Haze” was a great warm up for Jake as this was his assessment piece that evening.

Year 12 Music Composition

The Year 12 Music students welcomed ex-student Joshua McNulty back for a preparation workshop on Tuesday 4th March. Joshua submitted two compositions for his HSC which were awarded ‘exemplary’ status - beyond the level of a Band 6. The workshop was a great opportunity for our students to begin the process of composition by looking at some amazing examples. Joshua has subsequently gone on to study Composition at the Conservatorium of Music.

Thank you Joshua for giving your time and sharing your experiences with the Year 12 Music students.

Equipment Update
The College recently purchased some new keyboards for G4, one of the music classrooms. Thank you to our skilled groundsman who prepared and installed benches for the keyboards which have already been well used by the elective students.

Mrs Karen Davidson, Performing Arts Coordinator

LOTE Update
Salut, ciao and greetings! As this year we have been invited to study Composition at the Conservatorium of Music. Thank you to our skilled groundsman who prepared and installed benches for the key-boards which have already been well used by the elective students.

Mrs Karen Davidson, Performing Arts Coordinator

LOTE Update
Salut! Je m'appelle Connor et j’entre dans le music classroom at Year 8C French.
Hello, my name is Connor and I am thirteen years old. My background is Irish and English but, I am an Australian citizen. Connor Cullen, Year 8C French

Salut! Je m'appelle Eldrin et je suis filipin et australien. J'ai aussi treize ans et je parle tagalon et anglais, merci et au revoir.
Hi, my name is Eldrin and I am a Filippino Australian. I'm also thirteen years of age and I speak both English and Tagalog. Thank you and bye. Eldrin De Leon, Year 8C French

Hello and welcome and my name is Johanzaib. I am twelve years old and I am a Pakistani Australian and today, I am feeling well thank you and how are you? I like to speak Urdu with my family and English with my friends. Goodbye. Johanzaib Khan, Year 8C French

Buongiorno! Mi chiamo Wayne e sono un australiano aborigene e ibanese e ho tredici anni. Parlo inglese e poco italiano. Arrivederci.
Hello, my name is Wayne and I am of Aboriginal and Lebanese background. I am thirteen years old and speak English and some Italian, bye-bye. Wayne Boney, Year 8D Italian

Ciao, io mi chiamo Timothy e ho tredici anni. Sono di origine inglese e americano e sono anche australiano. Abito a bellissima Sidney e tu da dove abiti? Grazie e ciao.
Hi, my name is Timothy and I am an Australian of English-American origin. I am thirteen years old and I live in beautiful Sydney and where do you live? Thanks and bye. Timothy Hodge, Year 8D Italian

Buongiorno, mi chiamo Paul e sono australiano e anche samoano e tongano e ho tredici anni. Oggi sto molto bene e tu come stai? Ciao.
Hello. My name is Paul and I am Australian, Samoan and Tongan and I am thirteen years of age. Today, I am very well and how are you? Goodbye. Paul Latovale, Year 8D Italian

Ciao a tutti! Io mi chiamo Alex e sono un cinese australiano. Ho tredici anni e non parlo cinese ma parlo inglese e mi piace praticare la lingua italiana. Arrivederci.
Hi everyone. My name is Alex and I am a Chinese-Australian. I'm thirteen years old and I only speak English. I like to practice the Italian Language. Goodbye. Alex Thai, Year 8D Italian

Mr John Scavo, Languages Teacher
Chess Club

Not sure what to do at lunch? F9 is the place to be! The College’s Chess Club is back in action with the return of friendly yet challenging and adrenalin filled games. It has been a pleasure to see our regular chess players back in force as well as new and extremely talented Year 7 players. With the MCS chess competition re-scheduled for Term 3, our 2014 College MCS squad have begun training for what is sure to be another exciting and intense inter school competition.

Mr Anthony Silvestrini and Miss Charmaine Castellino, Chess Convenors
Social Justice Corner – Caritas Leadership Day
On Friday the 28th of February I had the pleasure of accompanying nine Year 11 students to the “Just Leadership Day”, at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta. The day was run by Caritas Australia and was aimed at encouraging students to become leaders for justice, in their schools and in their communities, for both local and global change.

Just Leadership Days enable students to develop a respect for the poor and sense of responsibility as a global citizen. Students become more active in social justice activities in and out of school.

Fr. Dennis Espeio from the Philippines was the guest speaker and shared with the students his experiences of working in emergency resettlement for communities affected by typhoons. It was a special opportunity for the students to hear Fr. Dennis’ first-hand experiences and they also had the opportunity to ask questions.

“I had the chance to see the way our people lived in the dangerous places they came from; I am a witness to the great and important changes in their lives.” Fr. Dennis Espeio

The students learnt that Social Justice is not just about raising money for charities. There are different types of action that can develop and foster social justice. These include:
- Acts of Charity (raising funds)
- Acts of Solidarity (activities that build empathy)
- Awareness-raising Acts (education)
- Action for Change (signing petitions and letter-writing campaigns)

The boys also had the opportunity to share ideas with students from other schools and to develop their own ideas and plans to put into action through the Patrician Brothers’ College Social Justice Committee.

The students who attended were: Luke Vella, Daniel Mangabat, Bienn Tongol, David Salame, Patrick Bear, Rohan Hudson, Aaron Pinto, Oliver Fynn and Tyran Liddiard.

The focus for Term 1, 2014 is raising awareness and funds for Project Compassion.

1st Week of Lent
Project Compassion, Week 1, brings you the story of Maristely.

An advocacy program in São Paulo, Brazil, enables favela (city slum) residents to gain legal deeds for their land, as well as securing access to basic services. A youth empowerment program is enabling young people from the favela, like Maristely, to work for justice so that peace, rather than violence, rules the streets where they live.

2nd Week of Lent (School week beginning 17th March)
Project Compassion, Week 2, brings you the story of Deng. For Deng in South Sudan, the cycle of poverty and disability was made worse with the civil war, which led him and his family to flee their village and live in the bush for many years. Deng and his family are rebuilding their lives through their participation in a Caritas Australia food security program.

The school has so far managed to raise $1575! Thank you to all the students and staff who have already given so generously! For more information visit www.caritas.org.au

Miss Jessica Fleming

Year 10 Science
Making DNA models
Year 10 Science classes have been learning about genetics. Today, the students made an edible model of DNA. Many boys are visual learners and making models helps them to view abstract concepts at a concrete level. The boys also had a lot of fun putting their models together and then they were able to eat them!

Mrs Natacha Warrant, Science Teacher

Year 10 Pastoral Care
Team Building Start to the Year
Two weeks ago in our Pastoral Care lesson, Year 10 students were asked to construct towers that were made out of straws.

The tallest tower was the winner! To be completed successfully, this activity would require various skills such as communication and teamwork. To make it more interesting, our homeroom teachers split us up into groups of people who barely knew each other or didn’t talk to each other that much. The aim of this was to make us get to know our homeroom peers better and learn from each other. We all got along pretty well because most of our homerooms hadn’t changed much since last year.

All the groups had pretty big towers and all the boys added to the group effort. When making the towers there were many times that a group’s tower was about to collapse and you could see that everyone in the group was running around to mend the problem. Overall, I think it was a great learning experience for the boys.

Mrs Lesley Maguire, Year 10 Assistant Coordinator

One – Our New Environment
Marist Youth Care has opened an exciting new centre in Blacktown for young people aged 12-17 years named the ONE (Our New Environment) centre. The ONE is an after school hours youth service for young people aged from 12-17 years. One of the opportunities the ONE centre offers Patrician Brother’s students is the Homework Club. The Homework Club has a teacher available to work with the students who attend. The ONE Homework Club can also be a place to just chill and do your homework quietly. The HOMEWORK Club has all the latest I.T. equipment that the young people might require to complete their school work. This is a FREE service.

The Homework Club Hours are:
Monday 2pm-5pm
Wednesday 2pm-5pm
Thursday 2pm-5pm

Parents and students are welcome to drop into the ONE centre which is located at 22 Main St Blacktown or contact Teresa-the ONE centre co-ordinator on 0439 247 435.

Ms Linda Cassell, Counsellor
Year 7
First Impressions

PBC is awesome! Making many new friends is great! I am enjoying every day. My favourite teacher is Mr D’Morrias.
Aidan Villadolid

I have made heaps of new friends and everyone is very helpful. All the boys are helpful and the teachers are awesome!
Harry Hawkins

We have twice as much work and triple the homework but we get treated as young adults. My favourite teacher is Mr Domars.
Bailey Wyatt

My favourite things about PBC are PDHPE, Science, Thursdays as we have sports and all of the helpful staff.
Jalen Pitcaithly

High school is great! I have met new friends and I am looking forward to sports, camps, music and challenges that are ahead of me.
Donovan Boney

I like the school canteen and the different things we learn in class. It was also great trying out for the MCS football side. A great school!
Kaleb Thorp

The teachers and my peers have treated me nicely. My favourite subjects are Science and DT. I really love my new school and being a Patties boy.
Giorgio Hajjar

I adore my teachers and I thank them for teaching me so much so far and I can’t wait for the rest of the year!
Go Patties!
Robbin Hernandez

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Year 7 Science Learning Project 2014

IntoScience

In 2014, Patrician Brothers Blacktown commenced an exciting and innovative Year 7 Science Program focused on collaborative, creative and student directed learning that uses a multi platform e-resource called IntoScience. IntoScience is an interactive program that can be used on computers and a variety of tablet devices both in the classroom and at home.

In the classroom
IntoScience is a new frontier in e-resource, mapped to the new Australian curriculum and we are one of the first schools to utilise it. The program contains over 100 activities, virtual experiments and simulations of investigative fieldwork. Students earn inquiry points as they undertake the activities, which are used by the teachers to track and guide the student’s progress and development. Each student has his very own research lab, complete with a personalised avatar to explore the realm of IntoScience. Throughout the course they participate in formative assessment of their scientific understanding, reasoning and creative thinking. Teachers are guiding student learning in large collaborative classrooms, where students have access to one-to-one iPads and other devices. Students then utilise laboratory time to fine-tune scientific skills and consolidate scientific understanding and inquiry. This two-pronged approach allows students to learn in their individual style and develop a deeper understanding at their own pace.

At home
Students have round-the-clock access to the program for further exploration of the virtual research laboratory and observatory. Students further consolidate their learning by completing homework activities in an engaging virtual environment. Students only need access to a tablet or an Internet browser on a computer (such as in the school library) to continue to access the activities and review content from the day’s learning. Students can also challenge each other to online science quizzes to further test themselves.
TODAY’S TASKS

IntoScience Activities:
1. EXPERIMENT USING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD - write down each of the steps in your science book
2. ORDER OF THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD – Make sure you get 2 enquiry points (but don’t cheat by looking at the book!!)
3. THE BASKETBALL SHOOT - Complete the worksheet of doing this.
Vinnies Van offers companionship, a light meal and referral for those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in Penrith and Parramatta. It assists people of all ages and genders. Vinnies Vans operate seven nights a week, except New Year’s Eve. Students and staff at Patrician Brothers’ College continue our great tradition of involvement in this wonderful cause. **Ms Jessica Fleming**

“Our 2014 College Theme … Where did it come from?**

“I can see there are many young people in the Square…is this true?” Pope Francis said to the crowd of faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square. “Are there many young people? Where are they?” the Pope asked, triggering a wave of applause and cheers among the young people present. “Your lives are only just beginning and so I ask you this: Have you thought about the talents God has given you? Have you thought about how to use them to serve others? **Don’t bury your talents,** set your sights on great ideals that will allow your talents to grow! Life was not given to us for us to guard it jealously and keep it to ourselves, but to give it to others. Dear youth, you have big hearts, don’t be afraid to dream of great things.”

“Rarely has a new player on the world stage captured so much attention so quickly— young and old, faithful and cynical - as has Pope Francis. With a focus on compassion, the leader of the Catholic Church has become a new voice of conscience.”

“Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au
Public Speaking Competition
On Friday 21st February, a group of Patrician students and staff ventured to Bede Polding College in Windsor to compete in the first round of the CSDA Public Speaking competition. The topics were:
- Who cares?
- The things that matter
- It's time
- From a distance
- True colours

Our Students represented our school admirably, competing against 14 schools from the region. Only a small number of students were selected to go through to the Zone Finals and although our students had prepared for weeks and presented unique speeches, we did not have any students selected. I'd like to thank our students for their conduct and attitude on the evening. I'd also like to thank the staff who gave up their Friday evening to support our students and community. Our representatives were:

Year 7
Fisii Pilatiti
Coaches: Ms Jaimee Bocason & Ms Melissa Luppino

Year 8
Dennyson Veloso
Tej Kehal
Coaches: Ms Jessica Fleming & Ms Jacqueline Merceica

Year 9
Louis Waters
Anshul Arora
Coaches: Mr Torquil D’Souza & Ms Melanie Gearing

Year 10
Rafiul Masud-Akanda
Stephen Vassilopoulos
Coaches: Ms Courtney Spencer & Mr Jordan Williams

Year 11
Luke Vella
Zorawar Singh
Coach: Mr Mark Strong

Year 12
Kyle Singh
Adam Boidin
Coach: Mrs Danuta Paton

Mr Mark Strong, Public Speaking Convenor
Class Captains from Years 8-11 and their Year 12 mentors recently met to discuss their ideas and plans for 2014. Adam Boidin, as SRC leader, reminded leaders of their responsibility to be positive models. Mr Passarello congratulated the students on their appointment and assured them of his support and Mr Crawford discussed their role description. All students are welcome to discuss issues with their class captain or year mentor and to attend SRC meetings held in C6 during lunch each Day 1. Year 7 Class Captains will be appointed after their Camp at the end of term.

Congratulations to the following students who received their class captains badges at this week's assembly:

**Year 11**
- F8 Hans Zabala
- F9 Daniel Mangabat
- F10 Aaron Pinto
- F11 Ben Cartwright
- E6 Nathan Rizzo
- E8 William Ong

**Year 10**
- C1 Aidan Johnston
- C3 Gordon Allan
- C4 Liam Dickinson
- C5 Bradley Semlitzky
- C6 Mitchell Levick
- C7 Justin Carpenter
- C8 Leonardi Menassa
- C9 Jamil Dewan

**Year 9**
- B1 Chris Simic
- B3 Silao Siaosi
- B4 Adrian Morelli
- B6 Ruel de Guia
- A23 Matthew Faauila
- A24 Vincent Akena
- A25 Carlo Sagun
- A26 Daniel Brown

**Year 8**
- D16 Jordan Antoun
- D17 Benjamin Carrick
- D19 Chris Magro
- D22 Lancelot Garcia
- D22 Vaotangi Mafi
- D24 Jaz-al Siaosi
- E9 Haydrian Raki
- E10 Tiakiwai Rangi
MCS Basketball Grand Finals

PBB A Grade defeated St Dominic's College, Penrith 42 - 36 in a very tight game. Our team’s resolve, determination, patience and skill came to the fore. The cream certainly rose to the top under pressure in this match. The team is coached by Mr Robert Bangel, who in the last 5 years has taken the A Grade team to the Semi Finals each year, played in 4 Grand Final’s and won 3 Championships.

B Grade defeated Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield 46-39 in overtime. This was one of the most intense “come from behind” wins that I have witnessed. Trailing for most of the match and down by 8 points with 1 minute to go, the team rallied to draw even right on the full time hooter. 5 minutes of overtime was played and our boys were too strong and ran out the eventual winners. Congratulations to Mr Robert Gange on his first title as a senior coach.

Both of these teams went through their season undefeated.

Our Year 8 Basketball team also played in the finals but lost to St Dominic’s, Penrith.

Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator
Sports Update

Alex Johnston
As a 17 year old, Alex recently participated in the U19’s Western Zone of the NSW Country Cricket trials in Coffs Harbour. Alex is an all-rounder and acquitted himself very well. Alex has also starred in the college A Grade cricket side this year and is a member of the GWS AFL program.

Arjun Nair
Arjun, of Year 11, competed at the NSWCCC U19 trials, where he was subsequently selected in the U19 NSWCCC team that competed last week at the NSW All Schools Championships. In a year where he has made a name for himself in school boy cricket he was also selected, as 7th youngest ever, to represent Hawkesbury First Grade in the Sydney Grade competition (only a few months older than David Warner!). He has amassed 261 runs and taken 6 wickets in this competition. He represented Hawkesbury in the AW Green Shield competition (U/16) and scored two centuries in compiling 349 runs in 5 games. He rightly earned selection in the NSW U/17 team from this competition. Arjun’s MCS form was equally impressive, which included an innings of 125 in 17 overs (of a total of 3/303) and scored 314 runs (ave 39) and 12 wickets in season 2013/14 to help the First XI to the Semi Final.

Timothy Hodge
Tim was recently awarded the News Local Young Achiever Award. He was awarded this honour on the back of a stellar swimming season in 2013 that saw him compete at the Australian All Schools Swimming Carnival where he broke two national records. Tim is also part of the 2016 Paralympic swimming squad.

Anas Abu Ganaba
Anas was awarded the News Local Junior Sports Star Award. He was acknowledged for his 100m National Schoolboy title and his first places in the 100m and 200m at the Youth Olympics in 2013. Anas is currently preparing for the National Age Athletics Championships.

Logan Fitzgerald Gladdish
Logan is in Yr10 and was recently selected in the MCS Opens Baseball side for the second year in a row. This team competed at the NSWCCC Championships and took out first place. Well done Logan!

PBB School Sport Ribbon Recipients
School Tennis
Ayden Dever
Amornwat Kasemmongkol
David Iskander
Brock Iskander
Tyan Liddiard
Cheran Ganesan
Senthil Rahavan
Yuvraj Singh
Gajan Sivanesan
Aiden Scott

Find your pic on Instagram @PBBSCHOOLSPORT

Congratulations to Amir Reza Darabi of Year 7 who will be travelling to Japan with his Martial Arts club, Kempo Ryu, to compete in a martial arts competition. Amir has been participating in Martial Arts for 2 years and will be competing in the following disciplines:

- Forms
- Point Sparring
- Weapons
- Full Contact

Amir is currently an Orange Black Stripe Senior belt holder. Good luck Amir!
Wiggle goes back to school

- Patrician Brothers College Blacktown alumnus Blue Wiggle Anthony Field (pictured) and Parramatta Eels player Joseph Paulo recently returned to the school to play footy with fellow Wiggles, much to the delight of current students. The star line-up were filming the clip for The Wiggles’ latest song Shock The World, which Field says was released in support of the US Tomahawks of which Paulo is a member. “It’s great, it hasn’t changed at all since I graduated in 1974,” the passionate West Tigers supporter says of his old stomping ground. Look out for the clip on The Wiggles’ upcoming DVD, set for release in June.
JUNIOR SPORTS STAR

Athletes enjoy good time at awards

BLACKTOWN sprinter Anas Abu Ganaba has a simple secret to his speed on the track.

“I was born fast,” he declared at the News Local Junior Sports Star presentation at the Waterview function centre at Bicentennial Park last week.

The Patrician Brothers College Year 12 student enjoyed a stellar year that saw him crowned the Australian All Schools Athletics champion after winning the under-16 100m sprint in 10.06sec.

Last January, he won the 100m and 200m races in the Youth Olympics.

Follow Blacktown Patrician Brothers student Timothy Hodge, 12, claimed the Young Achiever Award for his feats in the pool.

The amputee athlete is on course to 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics after being selected for Swimming Australia’s Paralympic Development Squad.

He broke four national records this year.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Patties power through tourney

EVAN SIEFF

PATRICIAN Brothers College, Blacktown, have again exerted their league prowess with victory at the GIO Schoolboy Nines tournament.

Played at Norford Park, Sefton, last Thursday, the one-day tournament featured the heavyweights of schoolboy league including Endeavour Sports High School, The Hills Sports High School, Hunter Sports High School and Marraville Sports High School.

Patrician Brothers swept them all aside on an undefeated run to the title.

They beat Hills 26-10, thumped Marraville 4-0, beat Endeavour 16-0 in the semi-final and overcame Hunter 26-8 in the decider.

Patrician Brothers sports co-ordinator Van D’Mortas said the players benefited from having played together at the school since Year 7.

“The win was a result of the training and the commitment that everyone puts in,” he said.

The GIO Schoolboy Cup competition begins in May, with Patrician Brothers out to reclaim the title they lost to Keirra Park Sports High School last year.
Have you visited our WEBSITE recently? Did you know that the Patrician Brothers College Blacktown website is amongst the most innovative and interesting in the entire Diocese of Parramatta? **This newsletter is available NOW in PDF and in FULL COLOUR.** Visit [www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au](http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au)

If you have any ideas or would like to assist with the website please see Mr Jeremy Lane.

**Don’t Bury Your Talents**

In response to our reflection at the Assembly, 12SORA invite you to unscramble the following alphabetical list of talents that may be found in our community.

- AMENSSTSING
- BSTALLKBEAT
- CSSEH
- DINGBEAT
- ESMAX
- FXSTINGIHING
- GLOF
- HPLINGE
- IPERSTINGHORNSI
- JELLIKTONGE
- KEGLOWNED
- LENTRISE
- MASHTPIE
- NATE
- ORREGAINS
- PAINO
- QUEERSTION
- REEEEERF
- SREIGN
- TINKGAL
- UGUIDESTRAND
- VRETUNEOL
- UNIFROM
- XTROUNCY
- YGRAINN
- ZALE

Students (or staff) who submit the correct answers to Omar Dewan or Mr Crawford by next Friday (28 March) will go into a draw for two $5 canteen vouchers. Winners and the correct answers will be in the next Focus.

**Play Hockey this winter!**

Join Kings Langley Hockey Club today. Boys and girls, men and women welcome.
- Development programs
- Junior competition for U11, U13, U15 and U17
- Senior Men
- Open Age 4-a-side

Based in Lalor Park

For more information phone Lyn on 9674 2876 or visit [http://www.kingslangleyhockey.org.au](http://www.kingslangleyhockey.org.au)

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

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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

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

ActiveWest PHYSIOTHERAPY Centre
Sports, Spinal and Work Injuries
Contact Igor Kralji
Proud to be an Old Boy
Suite 6, 2A Newton Road Blacktown 2148
Phone: 9672 7977
Fax: 9672 3977