The Focus

From the Principal

THE TROUBLE WITH OPPORTUNITY IS THAT IT COMES DISGUISED AS HARD WORK!

Following our recent Semester One Prize-Giving Ceremony, I was asked how parents and staff can help create a more motivated, committed and focused student culture. In other words, how do we enable students to ‘step up’ and achieve their potential?

There is nothing more heartbreaking than to witness students ‘bury their talents’ and perform below their best. Wouldn’t it be great if we could motivate, inspire and encourage disengaged students to change!

The simple answer of course is that: Students need to take personal responsibility for their learning!

In all walks of life, people who live committed, passionate lives of genuine contribution and success do so because at some point they made the decision to stop settling for mediocrity. They take responsibility!

I recall going to the Warrumbungle Mountains a number of years ago with my two sisters. Our motivation was to reach the mountain called ‘The Breadknife’. As soon as the track got a bit more challenging they both dropped out and headed back. What a shame because not too much further along I reached the top and came across an amazing outlook. It was simply majestic!

I spent about 20 minutes enjoying the beauty of this place. Whilst I completely understood why my sisters had decided to turn back, I was disappointed for them. With a bit more perseverance they could have achieved the summit. They regret their decision to this day!

It is the perseverance we practice in our lives that leads us to places of beauty and majesty.

Let’s accept the invitation of Pope Francis: Do Not Bury Your Talents

Please continue to be kind to one another, Santo Passarello

Assistant Principal
Merit Awards
Athletics Carnival
Director of Studies
HSC Exhibition
KLA Reports
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Notices

Athletics Carnival
A great community day! Pictured below are two of our terrific Year 7 students, Hayden Hunter and Jack Jones.
From the Assistant Principal
This week we welcomed back our Year 11 students following a very successful Retreat program at Mittagong and we also welcomed three visiting teachers from Patrician Secondary School in Newbridge, Ireland. Our guests visited a number of classes related to their subject areas and also participated in a special College Assembly last Wednesday where they answered questions about their own school back in Ireland. Mr Passarello will feature a full report of this visit in the next issue of the newsletter, The Focus. Meanwhile, Year 12 are nearing the end of their Trial HSC Examinations, our GIO Cup Rugby League team are preparing for the upcoming finals, all students in the school are putting final touches on their entries for the Principal’s Writing Challenge, the liturgy team are preparing for our Mass for the Feast of the Assumption this Friday 15/8, and finally, our Year 8 students are practising their dance steps in PDHPE classes in preparation for their Social Dance with Nagle College on Wednesday 27/8 at Nagle.

In terms of reminders for parents and students this week – we have noticed an increasing number of students who claim to have lost or misplaced parts of their uniform but are yet to replace these missing items. The items in question include ties, school shoes and sports shoes. While there are probably some genuine cases, it now appears that some of these students are feigning these losses and then dragging the chain when asked to replace them. The other problem area at the moment is students who are continually wearing items such as hoodies and jackets that are not part of our uniform. If students actually wear the full winter uniform, or full sports uniform on Thursdays, there is no need for additional items to keep them warm, even on the coldest mornings, but some students obviously do not have the full uniform. Your support in these cases would be appreciated. For parents who work shifts and unusual hours, it may be as simple as actually sighting your son before or after school to check if he is wearing the full and correct uniform.

Mr Brian Edmonds

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

Bronze Awards
Amir Darabi 7C12 2 Awards
Ethan Pillay 7C13
Dev Saldanha 7C16
Jermaine Khamphet 7C17
Cameron Brus 8D16
Damien Hill 8D19
Simeone Fidow 8D19
Angelo Gunatilaka 8D20
Shivpreet Singh 8D22
John Morelli 8E9
Luke Eeckersley 8E10
Joel Relunia 9A23 2 Awards
Scott Lawless-Burke 9A25
Jonathon Estil 10C1
Isaac Levave 10C3
Nicholas Cowan 12G4 2 Awards
Andrew Dous 12G4 5 Awards
Jared Moore 12G4 3 Awards
Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

Holy Family Emerton Celebrates 10 Years
On September 18 Holy Family Primary School Emerton will celebrate 10 years since our foundation in 2004. We would like to invite all ex students and families to join us for the day or part of it. The day will consist of Mass at 9.30am followed by morning tea for parents and guests. After morning tea we will have a special assembly to reminisce. The final part of the day will be a complimentary sausage sizzle. If you would like to come, and to help us with catering, we ask that you contact the school office on 96289232 or mgoracz@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal’s Writing Challenge
Over $8,500 in prizes on offer!
Every English class in the College will receive prizes:
1st Prize $100
2nd Prize $50
3rd Prize $25
So what are you waiting for? Start writing!
Athletics Carnival 2014

On Friday, 25 July the College held its annual Athletics Carnival at the Sydney Athletic Centre, Homebush.
To all students and staff a very big thank you for your help and participation on the day.

A particular vote of thanks and acknowledgement must be extended to our ‘maestro’ Mr Van D’Morias.
His organisation was outstanding. Thank you Mr D’Morias!

Results – 2014 Athletics Carnival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Massey Marlins</td>
<td>2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Histon Hounds</td>
<td>2898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>MacKillop Magpies</td>
<td>2674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Delany Devils</td>
<td>2670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Champions

- **12s**: Sindhuveet Lal, Delany
- **13s**: Tyler Field, Massey
- **14s**: Benjamin Tait, Massey
- **15s**: Brock Sperinck, Histon
- **16s**: Braeden Rodricks, Massey
- **17s**: Jarome Broadbridge, Delany
- **Opens**: Natnail Koko, Delany

New Records

- **Opens**: Anas Abu Ganaba, 100m (10.70s)
- **Opens**: Anas Abu Ganaba, 200m (22.64s)
- **14s**: Johnny Papadimitos, 100m (11.72s)
From the Director of Studies

Scholarships
St Andrew’s Scholars University of Sydney
The St Andrew’s Scholars program is seeking young people with the capacity and commitment to realise their potential to become leaders in the university, the nation and the world. The College will provide students of outstanding abilities with a residential environment that enhances their university experience, providing them with opportunities to extend their talents and interests and to develop lives of meaning. The scholarships will provide financial support of $25,000 per annum and will be awarded for the duration of each student’s undergraduate degree, whilst they live in St Andrew’s. The Scholars will be exceptional young men and women who will thrive academically, are engaged in life and have the potential to make a significant positive contribution to College and, in the future, the wider community.

Submit Your Application
To apply for the St Andrew’s Scholars program, download the Application Form at http://www.standrewscollege.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/st-andrews-scholars-application-form.pdf

After completing the form, follow the instructions to submit it, along with the relevant attachments. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a broad range of the St Andrew’s Scholars Attributes. http://www.standrewscollege.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/st-andrews-scholars-attributes.pdf

Applications close on 8 September 2014.

New Open 2015 Scholarships Guide- Upcoming Events Information Evening Podcast
Scholarships and Financial Support Service
The Scholarships and Financial Support Service administers scholarships, student loans, bursaries, and prizes for undergraduates, postgraduate coursework and postgraduate research students. There are over 700 scholarship schemes on offer and each year and the University of Sydney gives out over $65 million in scholarships, not taking into consideration prizes or college and sporting scholarships. Student loans and bursaries assist students who may experience financial difficulties. This assistance is not intended to provide ongoing income support or payment of fees, but to help in emergencies and to supplement other income.

We invite you to take your time and have a look at what opportunities are available. Don’t forget to check out our Now Open section at http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/updates/now_open.shtml

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be in the final year of high school or on a gap year having completed their final year in 2013, and aged between 17 and 20 years as of 1 March in their first year of university study
- Predicted to receive an ATAR rank of 95 or higher including any access scheme bonus points, in order to determine academic potential and achievements to date
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or the holder of an Australian humanitarian visa
- Be available for an interview in person with the selection panel in the week commencing 29 September 2014
- Intend to accept an offer to full time study at a University in metropolitan Sydney and a place in St An- drew’s College commencing in March 2015

- Successful applicants will be offered a conditional place, subject to achieving the ATAR set in our offer and satisfaction of degree program entry requirements. A reserve panel of interviewed applicants will be chosen, from which individuals will be selected to receive an offer in the event that the requisite ATAR is not reached by any of the conditionally selected Scholars
- Scholars must live in St Andrew’s College for the duration of the Scholarship
- The applicant’s school Principal’s recommendation is the primary reference for academic capability

Scholarships and Bursaries St Andrew’s Scholars awards are based solely on merit and your financial circumstances will not be considered as part of this application.

If you are unsuccessful in applying for the St Andrew’s Scholars program, you may still be eligible for other scholarship support. See our Scholarships and Prizes page.

If you think you may need financial assistance to pay your fees, you can submit a Bursary Assistance application also.

We encourage you to submit all applications at the same time, including your application for residence in St Andrew’s.

Scholarships - University of Sydney
Several scholarship opportunities are available to new students each year. Scholarships are awarded on merit and require students to submit an application. Scholarships include:

- Fee relief for all-round merit, including academic, leadership and extracurricular achievement
- Named in honour of the College’s Rhodes Scholars, these entry prizes are based on Year 12 or University examination results
- Sport – in conjunction with the SUSF and applied for through their Elite Athlete Program
- Performing arts – based on competitive audition and awarded in return for contributing to vocal or instrumental ensembles, drama, dance or public speaking
- Discretionary scholarships which reward merit across the academic and co-curricular domains in all-round capability
- Alumni Society scholarships for contribution to the life of the College

Music Scholarships
The music scholarships below are open to both new and returning students. Please select the correct application form for the scholarship you wish to apply for. Each application form also contains information specific to that scholarship.

Application forms for new students:
- Choral
- Convenor of Chamber Music
- Convenor of Jazz & Contemporary Music
- Keyboard Accompanist
- Instrumental Musician
- Piping

Indigenous Scholarships
Each year, St Andrew’s College offers up to five Indigenous Australian scholarships to support students who wish to reside at St Andrew’s College and who wish to study at the University of Sydney.
Completed applications should be submitted via email to: registrar@standrewscollege.edu.au
All applications for bursary assistance must be received by 30 September.
Bursaries are awarded on application, with the level of financial assistance determined by a means-tested assessment of each family’s and individual student’s capacity to pay fees.
Numerous assistance packages are available. Prospective students are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible. Bursaries are made possible through the generosity of our alumni and other members of the St Andrew’s community.

How do I Apply for a Scholarship?
Visit our website sydney.edu.au/scholarships/updates, select the scholarship you would like to apply for and follow the instructions.

When is my Application due?
Applications for the University of Sydney Scholars Merit and Equity Awards close on 2 October 2014. Closing dates for faculty scholarships vary. Please check the dates carefully.

Can I Apply for more than one Scholarship?
Yes. You can apply for several scholarship programs offered by the University of Sydney. However, you can only hold one primary scholarship – valued at $6000 or more – at any one time.

When do I find out if I’ve been awarded a University Of Sydney Scholarship?
If successful, you should receive an offer by early January 2015 via email.

I’m intending to do a Combined Degree. Which Faculty should I put on the Application Form?
If you are unsure which faculty to list for your preferred combined degree, check the UAC handbook or the UAC website (www.uac.edu.au) for the course code.

What if my school or institution doesn’t give me a Report or Reference before the Closing Date?
Please do not send in attachments after you have submitted your application. If you don’t have a report for Year 12 yet, just supply your most recent report (usually Year 11). If you don’t have a reference, don’t worry. The assessors know that many schools don’t supply references until much later in the year, so they will look at your application as a whole.

If I take a Gap Year, can I still Apply for a Scholarship?
Yes, but for faculty and merit awards only. You need to apply for the University of Sydney Scholars Merit Awards in the same year you complete your HSC (or equivalent). Merit awards may be deferred for up to two years with permission from the dean of your faculty. You may be eligible to apply for some faculty scholarships after taking a gap year. For more information about these scholarships, visit sydney.edu.au/faculty-scholarships
Find out more at sydney.edu.au/faculty-scholarships For more information on scholarships, phone 1800 793 864 or visit sydney.edu.au/scholarships

Open Day - 30 August 2014
The Sydney Uni Open Day offers you a world of opportunity. This is your chance to explore what campus life is like. We have plenty of fun stuff for you to join in including mini -lectures and opportunities to get academic advice. Stay up to date with all things Open Day at: sydney.edu.au/openday

September 2014 Scholarship Applications Open
The University of Sydney Scholars Merit Awards
Apply through the University’s website: sydney.edu.au/scholarships
The University of Sydney Scholars Equity Awards
Apply through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC): www.uac.edu.au/equity

Early October 2014 Applications Close
Check our website for more details on closing dates, because they vary.

Mid October 2014
For University of Sydney Scholars Merit Awards, you will receive an email confirmation that we have received your application. The email will include a reference number. We receive a large number of applications, so to make it easier for us to identify your application, please quote the reference number in all your future correspondence with us. If you do not receive a confirmation by early November, please contact us at scholarship.applications@sydney.edu.au For University of Sydney Scholars Equity Awards, you can check your application status at www.uac.edu.au

Mid December 2014 Atar Release Date
Firm offers for University of Sydney Scholars Merit Awards will be sent out as soon as your ATAR is available to the University (states other than NSW may have a different ATAR release date).

End Of January 2015
Firm offers for University of Sydney Scholars Equity Awards will be sent out by UAC.

Mrs Danuta Paton

Vinnies Van

On Wed 23rd of July, staff and students from Patrician Brothers College Blacktown took the Vinnies Van to Parramatta and Penrith to feed the homeless. Our terrific volunteers made coffee, tea and sandwiches and gave of their time chatting to the needy. It was a truly inspirational evening watching our boys at work. Not only did it mean so much to the people we met, but the boys found the experience to be both rewarding and humbling.

Congratulations and thank you to Ben Cartwright, Jonah Metuangaaro and Desmyn Brown who were fantastic ambassadors of our school and to Mr Dadisho for driving the bus.

$100, $50, $25 Gift Vouchers
Do you want to win fantastic CASH Gift Vouchers?

Then the 2014 Principal’s Writing Challenge is for you!
HSC Major Works Exhibition
On Tuesday 22nd August, our school hosted an event exposing the artistic and musical talents of our senior students. The event was our annual HSC Major Works Exhibition, situated in our school hall. Staff, students, parents and friends of our school community were invited to attend. The evening showcased the many artistic and extraordinary gifts and talents of our senior students. There were 4 senior groups represented that evening. Artworks were displayed by the Year 11 Visual Arts class, Year 11 Photography class and Year 12 Visual Arts class. We also enjoyed stunning musical performances by the Yr12 Music class.

Year 12 Visual Arts students showcased their Bodies of Work. There was an extraordinary and diverse, artistic display of talent on display. The students have been working hard over the past 3 terms developing and refining their works. These boys presented works varying from drawings, paintings, ceramics and sculpture.

Eron Alcantara completed a series of detailed Anime drawings of his family that were transferred onto pieces of Perspex, inviting the viewer to look into his world.

Marvin Banaba created Totem poles demonstrating his love of graffiti, which is very much a part of his youth culture and combining it with his heritage from the Cook Islands.

Nickhil Deo produced 3 lovely sculptures made from paper representing sea formations. Each sculpture consisted of hundreds of scrolls made from old books.

Tahi Epera painted an exquisite work on panels reflecting the power of words. He chose words that were important to him and that represented his character.

Daniel Ghali chose to work with Lino print medium. His work consisted of 8 marvelous prints of cars, each one representing a family member.

Johnathan Izquierdo built an extraordinary life size sculpture representing time. This sculptural piece was inspired by a work he created in Year 11.

Michael Katon was captivated by the illusive owl. Using twigs and sticks he worked tirelessly and built a sculpture of an owl in flight.

Natnaeil Koko chose to create an artwork that was close to his cultural heritage. Using clay he built 4 vessels that demonstrated characteristics of his African background. His artworks were named after his homeland.

Brody Malietoa discovered that painting was his strength in Year 11 and went on to create amazing self portraits that capture the essence of his character and his personal journey through Year 12.

Andrew Mallett’s ink drawings were both sensitive yet strong, conveying the message of the struggle for identity and the quest for beauty and perfection.

Isaiah Mercado’s sculptures were inspired by the Australian artist Del Kathryn Barton. He created 5 exquisite sculptures, beautifully painted, focusing on the identity of women.

Kyle Morris created a delightful collection of works based on the blue bird and how it is a symbol of hope.

Liam Murray assembled a sculptural work from the wild, out of plaster and chicken wire. He created a magnificent lion head fixed to the upper torso of a man, focusing on the connection between man and the animal kingdom.

Jerome Reinoso’s ink drawings were a colourful and sensitive assemblage of works exploring the tensions, stresses and emotions students go through while doing their HSC.

Sebastian Semau explored the value of his relationships, representing them in a spectacular manner, using pen. He created 9 sensitive drawings that capture the essence and unique qualities of intimate family and friends.

Karl Serna (pictured below) explored with paint medium after discovering his talent for painting in Year 11. He chose to paint about a relationship that was close to him as a child and vital to his growing up.

Jarrett Spice carefully and intricately crafted 7 extraordinary wire cages based on Shakespeare’s soliloquy “All the Worlds a Stage.” In these highly detailed, exquisite works Jarrett seeks to “challenge the very disposition of life”.

James Tikolevu’s composition seeks to address the notion of a disposable society. He created a wearable gown made of objects we would normally discard and he transformed them into an interesting and elaborate gown.

Liam Veldsman created an emotionally powerful sculpture about the inner emotions attached to bullying. The sculptures are a personification of what a victim of bullying may feel like.

Overall these boys produced an exceptional standard of work and we are all extremely proud of them. Congratulations to them all and we wish them the best of luck for the HSC.

Mrs Josephine Arcella, Visual Arts Department
Library Update

Blacktown Library Visits for Year 8
As part of the English/Library Program all Year 8 boys will have the opportunity to visit Blacktown Public Library. This will take place during normal scheduled class time. The boys will walk to and from the Library accompanied by their English Teacher and the Teacher Librarian. They will be given a guided tour of the library by Library Youth Development Officer, Julian Chung. This will be a valuable experience to alert our students to the extensive range of facilities and resources that are freely available. Year 8 will be given a general tour and the opportunity to ask questions and join the library if they choose.

We would encourage all parents to allow their boys to become members of the public library to make use of this excellent free resource.

Year 7 PC in the Library
Last term, each Year 7 homeroom spent one of their PC lessons in the Library where they spent time talking about their experiences in high school. It gave the boys an opportunity to discuss things they may have found challenging during this time of transition.

Organisation was one of the recurring subjects, particularly having so many different classes and an increase in the amount of homework. Mrs Forrest spoke to the boys about the importance of finding time in their daily schedule and then using this time efficiently. Each student was asked to look at their own schedule and allocate some time each day to completing homework and assignment work. They were also given a Term Planner, which allows students to be more organised in the completion of upcoming assessment tasks.

These tools have been stuck into their diaries and we ask parents to encourage their continued use. Additional copies are available from the Library.

Science and Engineering Photo Competition
From the 1st August until the end of September 2014, the UNSW Faculties of Science and Engineering are holding a joint photo competition.

Prizes - There are cash prizes of $500 each to the winners, plus runner-up prizes of $250, to entrants who impress with their talent and expertise!

Enquiries - Please email science@unsw.edu.au

Book Week – 16th–22nd August – Watch This Space
Mrs Sue Dracoulas & Mrs Vikki Forrest, Teacher Librarians

LOTE Update

As Year 9 Italian Elective Students have been investigating the language of weather forecasting, below are several highly engaging contributions.

A Roma siamo in estate e oggi fa bel tempo con massimi gradi di trentatre e per la serata, abbiamo cielo aperto e aria calma e le stelle sono incantevoli. Godetevi!

In Rome we have summer and today it is sunny with a maximum of thirty-three degrees. In the evening, we have clear skies, gentle breezes and the brilliantly shining stars are magical. Enjoy! Mark Ebdani

Mentre a Firenze, oggi abbiamo la minima temperatura di undici gradi e la massima di ventisette. Abbiamo l’aria calma di mattina e vento piacevole per la serata con una breve pioggia circa mezzanotte. Una passeggiata attraverso L’Arno propriamente ci vuole!

Meanwhile in Florence, the minimum temperature for today is eleven degrees and a maximum of twenty-seven. Calm conditions in the morning with slight breezes in the evening and a brief summer shower around midnight. Honestly, a stroll along the Arno River will do wonders for your well-being!

John Falzado

Finalmente a Enna in Sicilia, abbiamo forte caldo con sole raggiante verso il mezzogiorno e vento dolce e rinfrescante nella serata. La notte perfettamente fatta per aria aperta godendo alcuni gelati. Bravissima e bellissima Sicilia!

Finally in Enna Sicily, today is very hot with a burning midday sun and pleasant, refreshing breezes in the evening. A unique summer night made for the alfresco lifestyle with several yummy gelati included. Well-done, wonderful Sicily!

Antonio Pecora

Mr John Scavo, Italian Teacher

Counsellors Corner

Negative or Positive?
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) suggests that if you change your thinking patterns, your emotions and behaviour then follow suit. You have the power to change a situation from negative to positive just by changing your attitudes. So in relation to school, a negative attitude is a barrier to learning while a positive approach opens doors.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Negative Thought</th>
<th>A Positive Thought</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I hate school!</td>
<td>What can school do for you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t do this!</td>
<td>I’ll see how far I can get if I try!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is too hard!</td>
<td>This is a challenge!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is better than me!</td>
<td>How much have I improved!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m scared of getting it wrong</td>
<td>What do I need to do to improve?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is boring!</td>
<td>What can I achieve here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People don’t like me!</td>
<td>What can I do to be a better person?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms Linda Cassell, School Counsellor
Yr 7 Music Excursion:
Sydney Symphony Orchestra Sinfonia

In Semester 2, Year 7’s study the Instruments of the Orchestra in Music. On Wednesday 6th August, the Sydney Sinfonia staged a performance for schools at The Morley Centre in Westmead and our boys were lucky enough to attend. This interactive performance experience was a fantastic way for the students to learn about instruments and our boys were keen to get involved and answer questions. Well done Year 7 on your excellent behaviour during the day.

The Sydney Symphony was a great experience to be part of because I was able to learn more about how an orchestra operates and the different techniques used when playing a selected instrument. I thought that the orchestra would be boring but I was amazed how they could actually play a story or piece that resembles a special moment of special time.

Boehn Russell

At the music excursion I learnt about all the sounds of the instruments in the orchestra. My favourite instrument was the harp because the sound was mellow and enjoyable.

Teiavo Manu-Tamariki

Each part of the orchestra had a different role to play and by itself it sounded ok but coming together as one, it sounded amazing and as the conductor explained, music creates an artwork and it made it a magnificent piece.

Mundar Mariguddi

I like the way that the conductor didn't ignore us. He taught us and showed us heaps of new things. I learned a lot about the orchestra.

Mathew Dickson

The most interesting part of the orchestra was when they introduced us to the families and what instruments were in the families. Also I liked it when they started to play Harry Potter with the percussion. Overall it was great!

Erol Lopez

I enjoyed the orchestra because of how they played songs together and also how they harmonised. They showed us musical instruments and it was wonderful. We were given some questions to test our knowledge. We also saw some small instruments and some big. The man who spoke to us and explained the musical instruments was very nice and funny.

Amir Darabi

My experience of the orchestra was interesting. It was enjoyable and fun all at the same time. I liked the way all the types of instruments were presented. For example, percussion, brass, woodwind and stringed. What I didn’t like was the conductor used words I didn’t understand.

Sebastien Navarro

On Wednesday 6th August the whole of Year 7 had the privilege to attend a very important and fun experience. All of Year 7 watched the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in action playing percussion, stringed, woodwind and brass instruments. We also got an opportunity to learn more about the instruments that consist inside the 4 types of instruments. It was a wonderful and fantastic experience for me and I am sure that it was the same for the rest of Year 7.

Aditya Mehta

At the Sydney Orchestra we listened to different pieces of music from different types of instruments. There were 4 different types of families such as stringed, percussion, woodwind and brass. The day was enjoyable watching the performances. Some instruments that were played included the cellos, violin, harp and many more.

Benjamin Taualai

Mrs Karen Davidson, Performing Arts Coordinator and Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Music Teacher

Year 7 Science
IntoScience Update

Throughout 2014 Year 7 have been using an interactive resource called IntoScience in Science classes to supplement their learning. Students have enjoyed the dynamic learning space of the Patrician Learning Centre and the benefits of one-to-one iPads to use this interactive learning tool. They are able to explore animations and games that solidify their scientific knowledge and build upon their skills of numeracy and scientific literacy. Students are able to build an avatar who can explore unique ecosystems and the solar system. Most recently the CSIRO and IntoScience have teamed up to produce a virtual tour of the Jenolan Caves, just west of the Blue Mountains. They can explore the geology, chemistry and ecology of these caves from their iPad or computer screen.
Did you know your son has unlimited access to this resource and it's built in learning activities at home? Students have a personalised login and only need access to a web browser or an iPad connected to wifi. Go to www.intoscience.com to download the app or sign in through a web browser. The students can also download the application on the "iTunes app store". We encourage all students (and parents) to utilise this application at home to build upon the learning done in the classroom.

Mr Chris Ferry, Science Teacher

Year 11 Biology

Year 11 Biology students have just completed their third assessment task for the preliminary course. In this skills task, students were required to demonstrate their ability to produce a specimen for viewing under the microscope. Students were also required to produce a scientific diagram, a skill which they have been refining from Year 7. We were thrilled to have one of our Irish guests Ms Deirdre Harnett visit and assist us in completing this task.

Skills and practical based assessment tasks are an important component of assessment within the Science department and feature in each year group, including Year 12. The skills learned and refined in preparing for these tasks reflect those same skills which would be required and expected of any student pursuing Science studies at a tertiary level. We are proud that so many of our students choose to pursue a career in Science following the completion of their HSC.

In the coming weeks, Year 11 students will be preparing for their end of Year exams. These exams will conclude their preliminary assessment. We wish them well in their studies and encourage them to seek assistance from any of their teachers if they require clarification of concepts or additional help.

Mr Heather Gilchrist, Science Coordinator
Year 11 Retreat Program

Each year, Year 11 participate in a rite of passage known as ‘The Retreat’. At the start, many students found it difficult to open up to our peers but as time went on many of us found comfort in each other’s life stories. This offered us the opportunity to take off the mask of day to day life and show each other who we really are. The Retreat allowed us to drop the stress of everyday life and look back on the path that we came from and where we wish to be in the future. Much fun was had by all of us. We all grew spiritually and in our relationships. Through prayer we centered ourselves in our relationship with God, our families, friends and ourselves. Using prayer and meditation we found peace with ourselves. Plenty of free time was also given to us so we all got to run around and kick the ball with each other and this is where new friendships were formed, not only among friends but teacher student relationships grew as well. As much as the students took from this experience, the teachers gained lots from it as well. Many students found this week extremely relaxing and character building. All the students would like to thank the staff for this wonderful opportunity of growth.

Fr Peter Confeggi, Mr Jim Prendergast, Ms Denise Grzelj, Mr Peter Ross, Mrs Melissa Scalone, Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Mr Matthew Hartigan, Mr Paul Kenyon, Mr Adnan Saleh, Ms Angela Pham, Mrs Melanie D’Cruz, Mr Alan Dadisho, Mr Noel Bajada, Ms Charmaine Castellino, Ms Melanie Gearing, Ms Linda Cassell, Mr Mark Strong and Mr Santo Passarello.

Student Reflections:

The Year 11 retreat was a great experience. It gave everybody a chance to share what was on their mind and grow together as a Year group. When we arrived at Marist Brothers Hermitage, Mittagong where the retreat is held, we were greeted by one of the dogs Champ that lives on the now running farm. There were many activities to get involved in such as soccer, N.R.L., and A.F.L. and lots more, too many to mention. The most enjoyable part of the retreat for me was being able to achieve a closer relationship with my friends and peers as well as the teachers that were there. The retreat lasted a mere three days. I wish it was longer as it was one the best experiences I’ve had in 2014. **Alessandro Sammarco**

The retreat was a life changing experience. I bonded well with boys whom I don’t usually hang around with. I have also made new friends during the retreat. The best thing about retreat was the small group activities where we shared stories about our lives. I really engaged with retreat as we had wonderful teachers there to help us. I also liked the breaks where we could play basketball and soccer. Retreat has changed me into a man. **Zane Blake**

The retreat was probably one of the most life changing experiences that I have had the opportunity to attend. The little groups that we were put into made me, and a lot of other people in our group, connect to one another on a different level. Retreat has cleared my thoughts out completely by being in those little groups and sharing what is holdings us back. Sharing stories was probably the best thing about retreat as it opened my eyes as well as many other peoples and teachers included. **Tyson Charter**

Retreat was a great bonding experience for the Year 11 students. It was a great way to learn about the lives of other peers and it also told us a lot about ourselves. We also learnt a lot about the teachers who attended as they were very open towards us. The activities we did as small groups were effective and people shared a lot of information about their lives that we had no idea of. It would have to be the most enjoyable moment of my schooling life thus far. **Oliver Fynn**

Retreat was an amazing experience. It was a good chance to withdraw from the daily pressures of school, work, and sports and reflect on where we are at in our lives at that point in time and where we are heading. It was an amazing time to reflect within the smaller groups and also as a larger group in the Chapel. Retreat was a great time to not only further bond with your friends but also to meet new people and learn the hardships which they experience in their day to day lives. This is an amazing program which continues during Pastoral Care periods in Year 11 and 12 as a reflection. This is a great program which I hope the school continues to do. **Nicholas Hertel**
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Principal’s Writing Challenge 2014

Talent is a dull knife that will cut nothing unless it is wielded with great force. Stephen King, Danse Macabre

In 2011 the Principal’s Writing Challenge was launched to promote literacy, creativity and independent thinking amongst our students. The whole school wrote expressively as a community and it was a wonderful event that inspired many students to produce some inspirational stories centred on the word “Dice”.

In 2012, the students were asked to respond to the college theme “Celebrating our Past, Present and Future” while in 2013 they explored the idea of “The Path to…”

The purpose of the writing challenge is to engage every student from Years 7 to 12 in the process of writing; and in writing, to share not only the gifts of their imagination, but also to strengthen their literacy skills. The response has been overwhelming and boys in every year group have produced pieces of writing that range from the heart wrenching to the delightfully humorous. Teachers across all faculties are involved in reading these scripts and carefully selecting those that succeed in engaging the reader.

Every student who takes part in this challenge experiences success. Motivation is high as they understand the competition’s relevance in improving their literacy skills. The process itself is a learning experience for the boys; from generating the idea to its execution, they learn that there are many steps that need to be completed. The act of writing itself is rewarding as students produce something that others can appreciate and this also improves their confidence.

This year the theme for the Principal’s Writing Challenge is “Talents”. Start writing boys!

Submission Date: Wednesday 13th August
An exciting opportunity to sharpen your writing skills!

EVERY English class will have an opportunity to win $100, $50 and $25 dollar gift vouchers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entrants</th>
<th>Every student in Years 7-12 is required to enter the Principal’s Writing Challenge.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Stimulus | “Talents”

You may choose how this term is interpreted and incorporated into the writing piece. |
| Word Limit | Year 7 - 10  500 words  
Year 11 – 12  750 words |
| Closing Date | THIS WEEK |
| Submission Details | All entries are to be submitted to your homeroom teacher on the due date.  
Cover sheet to be attached to the front of your submission |
| Format | Entries should be typed, double-spaced. Presented in Times 12 point. A4 sized paper to be used.  
Submissions to be stapled in the top left hand corner.  
No plastic sleeves or folders to be submitted.  
Do not use illustrations, photos, borders, colours or fancy fonts, more than one column or landscape layout. |
| Prizes | There will be THREE winners from EACH English class in Years 7-12  
1st in each class receives a $100 Westpoint voucher, 2nd in each class receives a $50 Westpoint voucher, 3rd in each class receives a $25 Westpoint voucher  
Presented at the Principal’s Writing Challenge Presentation Ceremony |
| Judging | A panel of teachers will decide on the winning entry from each class.  
The judges will look for the following features in your writing:  

1. Creativity and Originality  
The submission is engaging, original and incorporates the stimulus in an interesting way.  

2. Structure  
Submission follows correct structure for the mode chosen.  

3. Language (The creative piece demonstrates the following):  
Correct word usage, tense, grammar, punctuation.  
Use of imagery, symbolism and other devices such as irony, humour  
Appropriate and creative use of language to develop the character/s, atmosphere and plot, ideas, etc  

4. Audience and Purpose  
The submission should demonstrate language appropriate to audience and purpose  

Please Note:  
Submission must be suitable for publication in The Focus |
TAS Update

Industrial Technology HSC Major Works

Our boys recently completed their major works in Industrial Technology (Wood). We congratulate these students on their achievements and wish them the very best in the HSC marking process.

For my Industrial Technology project I designed and constructed a modern coffee table. Included in my design was a unique laminated top, contrasting dark and light timbers. Other unique aspects of my design included drawers underneath the table which opened by physically pushing them in as opposed to the traditional handle. Doing this project I learnt the high levels of difficulty involved in creating a coffee table. A highlight of my project was learning how to use the lathe to turn the coffee table legs.

Praneet Gosai, Year 12 Industrial Technology Wood

My Industrial Technology Timber major project is a Classical Wooden Wardrobe. Within my project I produced a diamond laminated door panel along with vented sides to allow airflow. I tried to maintain the classical look with the contrast of darker maple timber accompanied by lighter pine timber. I encountered numerous obstacles in the construction of my timber major work but managed to overcome them. The highlight of the construction of this project is that at the end of the day I can take something home that I can happily say I created.

Andrew Dous, Year 12 Industrial Technology Wood
The 2014 MCS Chess competition was separated over 2 days with Years 7-9 playing in Week 1 and Years 10-12 playing in Week 2 of this term. 24 students split into teams of 3 (Years 9 and 11 entered 2 teams) and travelled to St Patrick’s Marist College, Dundas to represent Patrician Brothers, Blacktown with pride. We all had a very enjoyable day filled with heated battles and new friendships. Our Year 11A team came 2nd while the majority of other teams placing 3rd in the tournament. Thank you so much to the students below for the way they conducted themselves on the day and for representing the College so well. Thanks also to Mr Heath Borg for the organisation of the event.

**Year 7**
- Kurt Crespo
- Manuel Fagela
- Dev Saldanha

**Year 8**
- Sam Brennan
- Luke Eckersley
- Jonathan Tabone

**Year 9**
- Christopher Addison
- Ayden Dever
- Kiano Pomeote
- Aaron Prasad
- Brock Sperinck
- Pujan Thapa

**Year 10**
- Benjamin Moussa
- Sanveet Singh
- Patrick Sweeney

**Year 11**
- Jiasheng Huang
- Marlon Dennis Lomibao
- Teeshko Mohammedan
- Miguel Ramirez
- Rajvir Singh
- Nicholas Wormleaton

**Year 12**
- Aditya Sharma
- Simrandeep Singh
- Monish Sundarampillai

Arguably the biggest chess tournament of the year is yet to come. *Chessmania*, in Term 4, which anyone in the College is allowed to enter, is a huge event on the Chess calendar. So come along to Chess Club, which is open every lunchtime in F9, to prepare to be part of Patrician chess history!

*Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Coach*
Patrician Brothers Tennis Squad had a wonderful day at the annual MCS Tennis competition. We were runners up in both the Senior and Junior divisions and runners up overall. The boys should be proud of their efforts and achievements. Each player fought hard on the day to contribute to the success of the team. Well done to our Semi-Finalists and Finalists and particularly to the following boys:

**Champions**
U/17s Singles – Tyran Liddiard
U/17s Doubles – Lachlan Hand & Rahul Parihar
U/14s Doubles – Gergis Abdalla & Ayden Dever
U/13s Doubles – Aasir Khan & Nicholas Urludag

**Runners up**
U/15s Doubles – Camil Abouchaaya & Vincent Akena
U/12s Doubles – Jordan Mackin & Christopher May

**The MCS Tennis Squad – 2014:**
U/12s  Hohepa Puru, Jordan Mackin, Christopher May and James Whelan
U/13s  Aaron Baker, Aasir Khan, Nicholas Urludag and Nicholas Bear
U/14s  Roland Podesta, Gergis Abdalla, Ayden Dever and Yuvraj Singh
U/15s  Nicholas Femia, Camil Abouchaaya, Vincent Akena and Jaydon Sperinck
U/16s  Joel Wheatley, Thomas Lees and Lucian Fitzgerald-Rogers
U/17s  Tyran Liddiard, Lachlan Hand and Rahul Parihar
Opens  Andrew Dous, Zachary Abu-Bakar, Luke Smith and Connor Baggs

*Mr Manny Scalone and Mr Dominic Williams, Coaches*
Sports Update:

Elite Cricket

The elite cricket program has started again, with training being held on Tuesday mornings throughout Term 3. We are once again fortunate to have the expertise of Grant Lambert, old boy of the college, former NSW Speed Blitz Blues representative and NSW Cricket academy coach, assisting our coaches. Video analysis of batting and bowling technique is taking place at the moment and the boys value the expert advice and skill development being provided by Grant.

School Sport Australia National Titles

Tim Hodge of Year 8 won a total of eight medals from 10 Multi-Class races in 13-15yrs category at the recent National Schoolboy Swimming Titles held in South Australia. Below is an outline of his achievements.

- 2 x 1st in 200 IM & 50m Back
- 4 x 2nds in 200m Free, 50 Fly, 200 Medley Relay, 4 x 50 Relay
- 2 x 3rd in 50 Free, 100 Back
- 2 x 4ths in 50 Breast & 100 Free

He did 7 x Personal best’s from his 8 individual events & broke 5 x Australian Records in the 13yrs & Under S9 category. A number of the records he broke were previously held by 2 swimmers who have just won gold & silver at the current Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Tim dropped 4 seconds off Paralympian Matthew Cowdrey’s 13 Yrs & Under 200 IM record which had stood unbroken for the last 12 years! Congratulations Tim

NSW CCC All Schools Representatives

Recently we have had a host of students compete at NSW All Schools carnivals. Notable performances were put in by Matthew Pottinger (Cross Country), Ryan Pritchard (Touch Football) and Joshua Curran (Touch Football). Particular mention must go to Joshua who has been selected to compete at his second national championships in 2014. Well done.

NSWRL State Knockout
The College recently entered teams in the Schools with Rugby League Programs division of the NSWRL State Knockout in the U13, 14, 15 and 16 divisions. Such is the depth of talent at our college, we were invited to enter 2 teams in the U13 and U15 divisions. This competition saw us compete against the best Catholic and Sports High Schools in NSW. Our U14 side reached the Quarter Finals, our U15 side were Grand Finalists and our U13A and U16 side won their Grand Final and were crowned State Champions. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches for their hard work and dedication in 2014. We look forward to our Senior A Grade continuing this success in the NSWCCC Cup and the National Schoolboys GIO Cup #gopatties

Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator

U14 Sevens Rugby

Congratulations to the U/14’s MCS Rugby team who held off a strong St Dominics in the final of the MCS Rugby Sevens. Duwayne Fuimaono and Ethan Mokoia scored in the 10-5 victory. Ayden Pittman-Lyon was sensational throughout the tournament. While attack was a strength of this unit, scoring over 150 points, our defence was also key, only letting 3 tries in over 6 games. Congratulations to: Roland Podesta, Luke Puru, Ayden Pittman-Lyon, Luke McDonald, Duwayne Fuimaono, Chase Chapman, Aporosa Nasou, Braiden Magele, Ethan Mokoia, Aaron Cairns, Dylan Glassie and Tiakiwai Rangi. Special thanks also to assistant coaches Ken Leota and Connor Tunks.

Mr Chris Ferry, Coach
PBB School Sport Ribbon Recipients

Mini Golf:
Nicholas Moujalli
Jai Uren
Caleb Begg
Jonah Mercado
Kaleb Thorp
Bayleigh Luxford

School Tennis:
Eldrin De Leon
Aiden Scott
Eric Tan
Isiah Albano
Jalen Pitcaithly
Jacob Syphers
Jordan Antoun
Sam Brennan

Year 7 & 8 Basketball:
Cazitu Koko
Joseph Perez
Terii Taia
Miller Tauliiili-Pelesasa
Christian Ulu-Kini
Semeatu Saemo

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Then you need to enter the 2014 Principal’s Writing Challenge
One Day's Absence Puts Students Behind
By Amy McNeilage

The average school student in NSW misses almost three weeks of school each year. Australia is alarmingly slack when it comes to school attendance, with high school students skipping more days of school than almost any other developed country. An analysis of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students from Western Australia found any absence from school leads to a decline in academic performance. The study dispels the belief there is a safe level of absence students can get away with before their grades will suffer. "We were able to show that, actually, every day counts and days that you're missing in Year 3 and Year 5, we can detect that all the way through to Year 9," the report's co-author, Stephen Zubrick, from the University of Western Australia, said. "A 10-day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing." Absence was found to have a greater impact on writing than it did on numeracy and reading. While poor attendance is a problem across the socio-economic spectrum, families in affluent areas often interrupt schooling for overseas holidays. The average attendance rate for NSW public school students in 2013 was 92.6 per cent – about 14 days off a year – and has been relatively consistent over the past decade. Attendance is much poorer among high school students, with the average student missing 20 days a year. In a major international survey of 15-year-olds, conducted by the OECD in 2012, almost a third of Australian students said they had skipped at least one day of school in the previous two weeks. In high-performing countries such as Japan and Korea, that figure was less than 2 per cent. Until now, educators thought there was a threshold of safety when it came to school absence. A certain number of absences could be caught up, but beyond that academic performance would suffer. To the surprise of researchers in Western Australia, however, it seems there is no "safe" threshold – no matter whether the absence is caused by parents not putting a priority on schooling, old-fashioned wagging or travel. A comparison of the NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 WA students and their records of attendance has found that any absence from school causes a decline in average academic achievement on NAPLAN tests. And the effects of absence are cumulative. Data suggests we take a far more casual approach to time away from class than other nations. The most recent Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development survey of 15-year-olds found more than 30 per cent of Australian students had skipped at least one day of school in the previous two weeks. The OECD average was 15 per cent, while in Japan and Korea the figure was less than 2 per cent.

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Email: [fivestarshuttles@outlook.com](mailto:fivestarshuttles@outlook.com)

Principal’s Writing Challenge
Over $8,500 in prizes on offer!
Every English class in the College will receive prizes:
- **1st Prize**: $100
- **2nd Prize**: $50
- **3rd Prize**: $25

So what are you waiting for? Start writing!
Boys from Patties in top form

PATTIEAN Brothers Blacktown Juniors dominated the NSW Schoolboy’s Rugby League Carnival, winning 11-0 in the 13-15 age division last week. Patties teams won the 13s and 15s age groups and were runners up in the 14s and 16s age groups, making Patties the best performing school in the competition. Standing in for Patties’ head coach Peter Ross was the under-15s coach Peter Pollock, who said, "In the 13s, Braden Madea played well and got player of the match in the grand final. The under-16s also made the quarter-finals and lost to the competition winners." If we get lucky, we will repeat our junior success," Ross said.

EVELETON ADVOCATE, Wednesday, July 20, 2014

RUGBY LEAGUE

Teens picked for rugby side

FOUR students from local schools will represent the nation after being selected to the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League under-16 side. Year 11 students from St. Brigid’s College, St. Kevin’s College, and St. Michael’s College will join Brothers Blacktown product Tayt Coyle, Tyrell Passarella and Matthew Jennings to tour England and France in November and December. Oliver Chars from Brothers Blacktown College in Schoolfield will also represent Australia.
Careers Update
Open Days
University of Notre Dame
Broadway Campus, Saturday 30 August, 9am-3.00pm
www.nd.edu.au/events/sydney

UTS
City Campus
Saturday 30 August, 9am-3pm,
Kuring-gai Campus
Saturday 6 September, 11am-1pm

UNSW
Saturday Sept 6, www.openday.unsw.edu.au

University of Wollongong
Saturday August 16, 10am-4pm
uniadvice@uow.edu.au or 1300367869

Maclay college
Saturday August 23

Meet the Business Leader 2014
Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand’s “Meet the Business Leader” is a great opportunity for Year 10 and 11 students to gain an insight into their future by meeting university representatives and top employers from the corporate world.
This is a fantastic opportunity for students to:
• Learn how to build their professional brand and digital footprint with executive coach, Wendy Mak
• Hear from a panel of business professionals who will answer questions about university and work life
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Mrs Vikki Forrest, Careers Convenor

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In the next issue of our wonderful and informative newsletter, *The Focus*, we will feature a full pictorial of the recent visit by Patrician teachers from our brother school in Newbridge, Ireland! Don’t miss it!

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