I have often heard it alleged that: Many people, in particular young people, are selfish, self-centred, and uninterested in much outside their own Facebook page.

Data does exist showing generational increases in self-esteem, assertiveness, self-importance and narcissism in a growing percentage of the population. This data suggests that there has been a cultural shift toward individualism and a focusing on the self. The phenomenon of the ‘selfie’ (and in particular the ‘selfie stick’) is evidence of this.

But despite this ‘me, me’ culture, I am not convinced that society has lost its way completely. Most people I know have a clear understanding of the importance of ‘us’ and ‘we’ as opposed to ‘me’. The strongest evidence I have of this is the sense of connectedness and identification with community that I see here at Blacktown - not only in the school, but also the wider community.

To witness the occasion of the First XI school cricket squad play a team comprised of ‘old boys’ of the school during the holiday weekend, was testament to the sense of identity that exists here at Patrician Brothers.

There is research that documents that people who use pronouns like ‘we’, ‘ours’ and ‘us’ experience less stress and enjoy more positive feelings in their lives. Those found to be less satisfied in their lives and relationships used pronouns like ‘me’, ‘I’ and ‘you’.

Life has enough challenges as it is – we need each other more than ever!

Please be kind to one another,
Santo Passarello
From the Assistant Principal

November has just arrived but already we have had a preview of what looks like being an unusually hot and oppressive summer.

Despite the early summer heat, the HSC Examinations have progressed successfully with feedback from the students and teachers being quite positive. Hopefully this optimism translates into excellent results. Last week, our newly-appointed 2015 Student Leaders ventured across to Collaroy for their Leadership Camp with Mr Domars and Mr Scalone and then later in the week we gathered with their parents, Homeroom teachers and the College Executive for dinner in the PLC prepared by Mrs Karen Davidson, Mr Domars and students from our Cooking Club. Also last week, we sent a large number of staff to two important training courses. The first of these courses was the latest session of the EM4 Mathematics program that has been conducted by Parramatta Catholic Education Office throughout 2014, targeting the development of numeracy in Years 7 and 8. The second course was the I-Read program that trains teachers and parents in the development of reading skills. Both programs will greatly benefit our students in 2015 and beyond.

In terms of reminders for this issue - I would suggest to all parents that one of the best insights that you can get into your son’s progress at school is to find the time to glance through his books and folders and then have an informal chat with him about who his favourite teachers might be. Teenage boys are generally quite intuitive and disarmingly honest in their assessment of teachers and they will usually lavish praise on their best teachers, especially the teachers who genuinely care about their learning. This often includes a respectful appreciation of teachers who push them hard and set high expectations. When these insights are combined with a quick look at the work your son produces in class each day, you will soon get a clear idea of your son’s progress, effort and working relationship with his teachers. The long working hours and busy lifestyles of many of our parents mean that we are becoming increasingly time poor but these few minutes spent with your son could be well worth the effort in the long term.

On a related theme, a reminder to all parents that there are clear pathways for contact with the school, particularly when you need to follow up on a serious concern related to learning or behaviour. Concerns related to classroom learning and work issues are best addressed with the teacher who is directly involved. If this fails to resolve the situation, the next point of contact is the relevant KLA Coordinator for that subject area. Serious issues related to misbehaviour or lack of participation or attendance should be directed to the relevant Year Coordinator for investigation or clarification. The Assistant Principal works in conjunction with the Year Coordinators and KLA Coordinators on a daily basis and maintains oversight of all serious cases, especially issues that could require suspension or more serious action.

Finally - at the moment we are working with the students to improve their general levels of social interaction with other students and staff. In a large school of over 1200 students and almost 100 staff, the way that each individual student presents himself and relates to other people around him has a huge impact on the overall tone of the school environment. Bad language and obnoxious or aggressive manner are clearly unacceptable in any situation, let alone an educational setting where students and teachers are trying to work together to improve learning outcomes. Consideration for others extends into the school yard as well, where we require students to observe basic rules of safety such as hands-off, no running and reduction of unnecessary noise. Students have been reminded about these expectations several times this week and are fully aware that staff and coordinators have been asked to monitor these areas of cooperation for the remainder of Term 4.

Mr Brian Edmonds

Merit Awards

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

Bronze Awards
Tyson Andree-Evarts 7C13
Jermaine Khamphet 7C17
Mandar Mariguddi 7C16
Patrick Moriarty 7C11
Boehn Russell 7C18
Tallis Smith 7C13
Kaleb Thorp 7C17 2 Awards
Pius Baraji 8D19 2 Awards
Luke Eckersley 8E10
Laren Henry 8D24 2 Awards
Hayden Morris 8D19
Roland Podesta 8D24
Gajan Sivanesan 8D16
Jaden Victoria 8D19
Izak Xiberras 8E10
Kiano Pomente 9A24

Silver Awards
Brock Sperinck 9B3

Gold Awards
Jacob Forster 10C5

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

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

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SPORTS POLO SHIRT DESIGN ON OUR WEBSITE

Simply scroll your phone, iPad or other device over our QR code for immediate connection to our new website
**Walkathon Project 2014**

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 Walkathon Project has officially commenced. You will recall that we identified the construction of an additional seated, shaded student area as our target project for 2014. This will be a spectacular addition to the student facilities at Patrician Brothers’ College!

Students were involved in all aspects of the 2014 Walkathon Project, including:
- The design process
- Identifying the location
- Selection of final materials
From the Director of Studies

Year 12, 2015 have been given two important documents this week. One is the BOSTES Higher School Certificate Rules and Procedures and the 2015 HSC Assessment Handbook.

Both booklets need to be read carefully by students and parents. The rules and procedures of BOSTES and the school are very carefully itemised and explained. In the BOSTES Higher School Certificate Rules and Procedures, on page 5 is a check list for the students. This is very important as it tells them what they did to do during the HSC year, from logging into their Students Online account, to viewing their personal HSC timetable and dates for projects and performance exams. That booklet should be kept in a safe but accessible place.

The 2015 HSC Assessment Handbook informs the students of all the upcoming internal assessments and the rules surrounding satisfactory completion of the HSC course. While the book is detailed, success really rests on a few straightforward actions. The HSC student, to maximise his chances of satisfactorily completing the HSC course must:

- attend school regularly
- take part in ALL activities set by the classroom teacher
- regularly revise work
- submit all assessment tasks ON THE DUE DATE
- abide by the rules of the HSC ALL MY OWN WORK “Honesty in Assessment” and not plagiarise or engage in acts of malpractice
- use the diary given by the school to keep track of due dates

Assessment completion generally undergoes a series of planned steps and stages. It is not a last minute all-nighter or a roughly hewn piece of work.

**Step 1: UNDERSTAND AND DEFINE THE TASK**

Skill set:
identify, locate, select, analyse, interpret, apply logic, think critically, aim for originality, allocate, research

**Step 2: PLAN, RESEARCH AND DRAFT**

Skill set:
organise, prioritise, structure, draft, grammar, spelling, punctuation, edit, assess, review, cite

**Step 3: COLLATE AND SUBMIT ON DUE DATE**

For most Board Developed Courses, school-based assessment throughout the HSC course contributes 50% of your HSC mark. This is reported on the student’s Record of School Achievement (RoSA). You must satisfactorily complete OVER 50% of the school-based assessment program for you to have completed the course otherwise you will be eligible for a non-completion award (N-Award) which means you will not obtain your HSC in that year.

**Year 10 Examinations**

Year 10 will sit for their first formal examinations this week. It is a good practice before the more formal testing in the Preliminary Course and the Trial HSC culminating in the HSC exams. Students will learn about their Board of Studies identification numbers, which will be the same for the senior years. They will also realise the importance of exam protocol, particularly the rules surrounding the use of mobile phones in an examination room. Aside from that, of course there is the preparation and study in order to be successful.

Mrs Danuta Paton

Year 8 History Update

Year 8 have been studying Medieval Europe and recently the Black Death. Students were asked to imagine they were civilians living at the time, writing a letter to a relative describing the living conditions and warning them to stay away. Stephen Izquierdo produced a phenomenal piece of work as shown below.

Mr Colm McCaughan, History Teacher

England, Sunderland 15, 21st of May 1349

Dearest cousin Gavin Bennan,

I know you are not a fan of reading but this letter must be read to the end. Within the realm of England I have experienced the wrath of God striking down in the towns with a deadly plague. The catastrophe of the Black Death, which every peasant, lord, priest, knight and King, call it has caused the run of terror as everyone is most vulnerable to this deadly sickness in England. As towns are compacted together, survival is futile as living conditions for all individuals, children and senior peasants including I are at risk due to the uncleaned sewage systems and lack of sanitation in the area such as decontamination. As well groups of peasants have been falling like flies due to this plague, and many peasants have risen against their Lords to revolt, so the Lords can realise our precise value during this time of mankind. From this effort peasants and I can build the intended benefits to survive during this plague. Many people believe this plague is due to religious reasons since the church believe the hour approaches of God's vengeance and he shall strike the souls of unthankful citizens, but even their vile carcases shall be plagued. Everyone is trying to blame someone for this unforgiving plague, which I think in my opinion is a tiny bit ridiculous. And churches are filled with people, such as the church of Durham Cathedral, with people praying in distress, worrying about if the reign of God will strike them, and complaining to the priests because they don’t have the answer for the plague. Due to this, for some reason the plague has spread even faster than before. The stench is horrible with dead bodies piled up in the city, on the land and in the water. Clean water is hard to find, as all you can see in the rivers are bodies drifting away, waiting to ascend into heaven. Many doctors are trying to end this by using scientific knowledge of herbs and medicines. But most of the time people still don’t survive, as my neighbourhood has disappeared and turned into a ghost land. Many burial sites are next to our area; it isn’t a pleasant sight.

People say the Black Death is due to floating black dots in the air and rats in the area. But nobody believes them including I, cousin. They say there is nothing to really do because it seems like Gods plan. And the only way to get rid of the plague is to ring the bells of the church so God will not be angered. The symptoms of the plague included swelling, blackening around the skin, buboes that look like a red colour at first and a high fever. I hope nobody has the symptoms cousin, in your area as the madness and wave of fear must stop in the countries of the world. As doctors keep piling up bodies, fatal death comes closer, however I believe God, gave I and my family temporary immunity for this disease. So cousin I warn you, stay in the countryside and stay away from anyone who is sick, as your survival will be my thank you to you.

Sincerely your dearest cousin,

Stephen
Student Leadership Formation Camp

Our 2015 student leaders recently took part in a leadership formation program held at Collaroy. Led by Mr Mark Domars and Mr Manny Scalone, the boys took the opportunity to explore the challenges of their leadership and began the planning process for 2015. Our student leaders for 2015 are:

Patrick Bear, Ben Cartwright, Jia Sheng Huang, Rohan Hudson, Austin James, Tyran Liddiard, Aaron Pinto, Daniel Mangabat, Alessandro Sammarco, Bienn Tongol, Joe Vaegaaau and Hans Zabala.
Student Leadership Dinner
A proud tradition at Patrician Brothers’ College is to host a dinner for the incoming student leaders, their parents and the significant staff who have played a role in their formation. This is held in our Patrician Learning Centre and is catered for by the Cooking Club under the leadership of Mrs Karen Davidson (and assisted by Mr Mark Domars, Mrs Sue Dracoulas, Mrs Josephine Arcella and Mrs Debbie Ross). A wonderful evening of celebration!
I was able to tick the Holy Land off my bucket list after spending the recent school holidays there in a group of 40 pilgrims shepherded by Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest of Glenbrook.

The initial 4 days were based at the Sea of Galilee and that region is beautiful and not over-developed. It was easy to imagine Jesus and his fishermen friends working, walking, discussing and relaxing by the lake.

Each day, Fr Wim led us in a simple Mass that reflected the scriptural events related to the specific site we had visited. From the Transfiguration on Mt Tabor, to Cana where eight couples renewed their wedding vows, to the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee, each place will now be more real to me when mentioned in the Gospels.

Our 6 days based in Jerusalem were different in context and impact. Coinciding with Jewish New Year and the Sabbath, it was an education to see how religious practice and tradition impacts on such a religious city: no shops open, heightened security, reduced services in our hotel, mosques competing with synagogues for attendance.

Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity and Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulchre should have been highlights, reflecting the beginning and end of Jesus’ life, but their popularity and division between Christian denominations reduced their spiritual impact on me. By comparison, Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives, the dungeon in Caiaphas’s house and the Wailing Wall were really powerful experiences. Never had I imagined that I would ever get to pray there!

Some less Jesus-related sites also had a wow factor. A day trip into the Judean wilderness enabled visits to Masada, Qumran, the Dead Sea and Jericho. I can now visualise Zacchaeus climbing a sycamore tree to get a better view of Jesus; I’ve floated on the Dead Sea; I can understand how the scrolls of scripture lay undisturbed for nearly two millennia and can understand the importance of Masada in Jewish history. Petra was another full day and this world heritage site in Jordan, dating from 300 BC, was amazing. The Roman city of Jerash in Jordan had been a well-kept secret.

Having taught the story of Jesus over nearly 40 years, I can now recognize and identify where he walked and talked. Fr Wim’s daily reflections asked us to enter into the events of the area and this confirmed my faith in the Gospels. For example, Sepphoris was the Roman capital of Galilee at the time of Jesus and being thirty minutes walk from Nazareth, it may well have been where Jesus and Joseph found work as craftsmen. I had long wondered about how carpenters could eke out a living in the desolate countryside that is Israel.

Educationally and spiritually refueled, I hope to make the wonderful fortnight real in Blacktown and Springwood.

Mr Kimpton Crawford, Executive Secretary
On the 28th of October the Year 12 Photography class went on an excursion to Cockatoo Island. This provided opportunity to work with the texture, lighting, historical buildings and its culture for our first major Year 12 project for Photography. As a class we were able to experience the conditions of the convicts that were captured on the island and the exhibition of the workmanship in building military ships. As we arrived, the class was split up into teams to capture the sinister moments of the island, which enabled us to take ownership of our own photographic technique and broaden our photography experiences.

*Nirat Sridakaham, Photography Student*

**Campion College Knowledge Challenge 2014**

Congratulations to Rohit Louis, Luke Vella, Thomas Doyle and Patrick May for competing in the Campion Knowledge Challenge at Campion College. They defeated St Clare's Catholic College during the first round 8-3 and came up against Redfield College for the Championship. It was a tough final round with 30 questions instead of 20 and it could have gone either way, with it coming down to who could press the button faster for a few questions. The boys unfortunately lost 8-9. Thanks must go to Ms Gearing for helping Mrs Paton prepare the boys and provide transport for the heats and Ms Bocasan for looking after the boys during the Championship. The boys have won $500 for the school and each boy in the team will receive a book voucher to the value of $50.

**Well Done Andrew De Iulio**

On 28 August, Andrew De Iulio of Year 9 was in his dad's car after school waiting for him to finish a phone call when he heard a cry from a in a nearby home. He went to investigate and found an elderly woman lying on the ground crying out in pain. He raised the alarm with his father who called an ambulance. Andrew helped comfort the lady until the ambulance arrived and directed them to the right place. He also helped the ambulance officers place the lady on to the trolley to get her into the ambulance.

Andrew showed great qualities in an unfamiliar situation and brought great credit to the school. He displayed common sense, sensitivity and maturity. The lady who was injured personally came to the school on 21 October to express her gratitude to Andrew for caring about her. She was very thankful for his efforts on the day.
Jarara Indigenous Awards 2014

A group of young Aboriginal boys from our school were given the opportunity to work with professional dancers, Nathan & Liam Eldridge. They learnt cultural dance, the sacredness of dance and the importance of sharing our culture with others. On the night they were assisted by Lewis Coe & David Newtown.

Students performing were:
- Zach Nuttall Year 10
- Wayne Boney Year 8
- Greg Kelly Year 8
- Tyrell Bergan Year 7
- Paul Cutmore Year 7
- Tyren Miller Year 7
- Hohepa Puru Year 7
- Niwhai Puru Year 7

Comments from students:
At the beginning I didn’t want to be part of it because I felt shy to dance in front of people, but I decided to do it because Nathan boosted my confidence. Wayne Boney
I felt proud and happy – it felt like I was representing my culture and I felt like part of a group, it felt good.

Tyrell Bergan
It was amazing I felt loud and proud. Hohepa Puru
I got nervous but was proud. Greg Kelly
I felt shy and embarrassed but when I got on stage I felt happy and it went away. Tyren Miller
I was nervous, but being the leader made me feel very proud to be Aboriginal. Zach Nuttall

HSC TEST YOURSELF APP

Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli recently announced availability of an Higher School Certificate (HSC) Test Yourself App using multiple choice questions from HSC exams.

The HSC Test Yourself App’s content comes direct from BOSTES and is based on the most current HSC syllabus for each course.

A mobile App, it works on Android phones and tablets, iPhones and iPads, so students can access the tests whenever and wherever they want such as on the bus or train travelling to and from school.

There is no cost to download the App from either Google Play or Apple’s App Store and once downloaded students can test themselves with a free set of questions included in the App and then decide which subjects they want to download. The download will indicate how many questions are available for that subject and the price for the subject pack. The cost ranges between $1.99 to $3.99 a subject.

The App contains exam questions from popular HSC courses including:
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Construction
- Economics
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension
- PDHPE
- Physics
- Senior Science
- Studies of Religion

The HSC Test Yourself App can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store on Apple’s iTunes.

For more information, contact:
Mark Focas
Project Manager, e-Syllabus
Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW
mark.focus@bostes.nsw.edu.au
(02) 9367 8352

Saturday School of Community Languages
2015 Enrolment Procedures

Information about languages courses offered at the Saturday School of Community Languages, including application forms and centre locations, is provided in the 2015 Enrolment Information, which is available at www.sscsl.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Applications for all years formally close on 20 February 2015. Late applications will only be accepted and approved under those conditions set out in the enrolment booklet. Please note that Year 7 applications should be sent as early as possible in 2015. Application forwarded from primary school will not be accepted. Student currently studying at the Saturday School will receive a green Confirmation of Continuing Enrolment in 2015 form in Term 4. In order for existing students to confirm their intention to continue studying at the Saturday School in 2015, this form should be signed by a parents/caregiver and returned directly to their centre.

New and continuing student will be confirmed with home schools after 20 February 2015.

For further information, please contact Adelia Fuller, Principal, Saturday School of Community Languages on 02 9244 5694.
Chess Mania 2014 – ‘The Overture Before Victory’

2014, the year that was ‘The Overture Before Victory’, had laughs, tears, music but more importantly another Chess Mania tournament. Chess Mania for 2014 had over 30 students battle it out for the honour and glory of being the best chess player at Patties for the year. As numbers slowly diminished to just 9, it truly did become anyone’s game. Ultimately the top four were decided and the following places were awarded:

1st Marlon Dennis Lomibao
2nd Rajvir Singh
3rd Pujan Thapa
4th Rohan Hudson

Thank you to all the boys who participated and to all the staff that assisted in making this event run as smoothly as it did. As always, Chess is open every lunchtime and it’s free so come along to play this legendary game up in F9. 2015 looks to be yet another epic instalment of Chess Mania – ‘Age Is Just A Number’.

Ms Charmaine Castellino and Mr Anthony Silvestrini
Library & Careers

Would you like to be a Library Ambassador in 2015?
Library Ambassadors perform a vital community service to our school. They assist in the smooth operation of the library, supporting the staff and the boys to make our library an effective learning space and an enjoyable place to be. Boys who are interested in receiving training for Library Ambassador positions in 2015, should request an Expression of Interest form from Library staff. These applications will be considered by Mrs Dracoulas and Mrs Forrest in consultation with Year Coordinators.

Senior Book Sale Noticeboard
There is a noticeboard located near the careers shelving in the Library, which provides an opportunity for senior students to buy and sell second hand textbooks. Students are invited to leave a list of the books they wish to sell and a contact number. We encourage our seniors to peruse this noticeboard for the opportunity to purchase second hand textbooks at considerably reduced prices.

Australian Training Company
ATC are holding information sessions with the opportunity to discuss future traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities in a variety of industries. Each session will conclude with one-on-one interviews. For more information and to register, contact Kenita on (02) 9704 1500 or ksv@austrg.com.au.

The Careers Advisory Service
This service provides professional, friendly and impartial advice following the release of the HSC results. It is a free service and access to this service can be obtained by visiting their website at www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au or calling 1300 300 687. Careers advisors will be available from Thursday 18th December to Tuesday 23rd December to answers any enquiries. Brochures are available in the Careers shelves of the Library.

Mrs Sue Dracoulas and Mrs Vikki Forrest, Teacher Librarians

PBB School Sport Ribbon Recipients

Table Tennis
Joshua Steel
Jake Forrest
Nana Appiah

Mini Golf
Blake Bano
Nicholas Urludag
Pukhraj Sanghera

Indoor Rock Climbing
Daniel Brown
Miguel Ramirez
Ben Daly
Ryley Bamblett
Liam Ackroyd-Broadbere

Find your pic on Instagram @PBBSCHOOLSPORT

Sleepy Students Fail Global Learning Race
By Dan Harrison SMH

Sleepiness may be holding Australian schoolchildren back in the international education race.
Research conducted alongside international maths tests shows Australian students were the fifth most sleep-deprived in the world, of 50 countries studied.
According to their teachers, 67 per cent of Australian students were in classrooms where instruction was limited by students suffering from a lack of sleep.
Internationally, the average was 47 per cent of students being in classrooms where not enough sleep affected performance.
Teachers provided the information in questionnaires distributed as part of international Science, Maths and reading tests taken by about 900,000 children. About 60,000 teachers completed the surveys.
The test results, released in December last year, showed Australian students were outperformed by their peers from 17 countries in Maths.
Teachers have long been concerned about children not getting enough sleep, and disruptive behaviour could often be traced back to a late night. Teachers do have the opinion that a good night's sleep before going to school is really important.
The government's Better Health Channel website says primary school children and teenagers need 9 to 10 hours of sleep a night.
MCS Basketball
Patrician Brothers’ College was the recipient of the recent ‘Creative Design Award’ from the local community. This was based on our signage, school reception entrance and the amphitheatre.
Notice from the Bishop’s Office

St Patrick’s and St Michael’s Parishes Decree

Having concerned for and seeking the good of the faithful in the Parishes of St Patrick’s, Blacktown and St Michael’s, South Blacktown, with plans to build a Church of sufficient size for parish and diocesan celebrations in the Blacktown area, having consulted the clergy and the faithful of both parishes, having consulted the diocese more broadly in the lead up to the publication of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and having formally consulted the Council of Priests, I hereby decree that the Parish of St Patrick’s, Blacktown and the Parish of St Michael’s, South Blacktown be merged such that the new parish be named:

Mary, Queen of the Family, Blacktown

The current parish boundaries remain in force except for the current common border between the two parishes which is now extinguished. The newly titled parish contains two churches which will continue to be known as the Church of St Michael and the Church of St Patrick.

The temporal goods, including assets and liabilities of the Parishes of St Michael’s and St Patrick’s are to become the temporal goods, including assets and liabilities, of the Parish of Mary, Queen of the Family, Blacktown. The records of the two parishes are to be kept at the central office of the Parish of Mary, Queen of the Family.

The Decree takes effect from 18 September 2014.

The Family

Pope Francis has convened an Extraordinary Synod on the Pastoral Challenges of the Family which is currently underway in Rome. The publication “Inform” makes several important points about the role of family and the Church.

- There needs to be a renewed commitment to the family and to raising children by the Church and society at large;
- Religious decline results in family decline and vice versa;
- The Holy Family narrative tells us much about the nature of motherhood and fatherhood and the acceptance of children as a gift from a loving God;
- The special nature of family life draws us towards a radical self-giving for the good of others and a willingness to accept what is offered;
- The family is not something that was invented by the Church. It has been the mainstay of successful societies for millennia;
- It is within the family community that children first learn right from wrong and good from bad;
- The natural family existed before the state and has priority over the state in terms of rights;
- Parents’ role as ‘first educators’ of their children must always be respected;
- All of us have a responsibility to build a social environment which protects and nurtures the family;
- Parents have the right to bring their children up in accordance with the family’s moral and religious convictions;
- The family teaches children that they are all loved equally and unconditionally;
- The family is the usual way in which each of us learns to develop a relationship with God;
- Children are called to show gratitude to their parents for the gift of life and for the sacrifices they make for them. They also need to learn to show respect and obedience; and
- Parents do not own children – they are gifted to them out of love.

The Synod on the family is expected to be a watershed in terms of the Catholic Church’s teaching and support for families. Already there are signs suggesting that the strict application of Church doctrine will no longer be the basis for decisions. A statement released last week makes the point that “it is necessary to accept people in their concrete being, to know how to support their search, to encourage the wish for God and the will to feel fully part of the Church…” It is pleasing to see that, through Pope Francis, the Spirit is leading the Church towards a more contemporary, pastoral and supportive approach to people in diverse situations.

Changes to Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Enrolment Policy

In September 2014, a new enrolment policy and procedures were approved for use by Catholic systemic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

What has changed?

Under the previous enrolment policy, Catholic families were asked to enrol their child/ren in their local parish or ‘feeder’ school. Recognising the changing nature of work and family life, the new policy allows Catholic families greater choice, by removing the concept of ‘feeder’ parishes and schools. Catholic families may now apply for enrolment in a Catholic school anywhere in the Diocese.

Where places are limited, priority will be given in order to:

- Catholic children who live in the local parish
- Catholic children from other parishes
- Children of families who actively participate in the life of the school and local parish community (e.g. siblings)
- Orthodox children
- Children from other Christian faiths
- Children of non-Christian faiths

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who makes decisions regarding enrolment of students?

The principal of each school has the delegated authority to accept enrolments.

2. Will siblings of children already enrolled have preference?

Siblings of children already enrolled in the school are considered by the same criteria above. However, within each of these categories, a sibling of a child already enrolled will have preference over an applicant who does not have a sibling enrolled in the school.

3. Is enrolment guaranteed for existing primary students?

A child who has completed primary education in a Catholic Diocesan primary school will usually be offered continuity of enrolment in a Catholic Diocesan secondary school. If no places exist at the school of choice, contact Catholic Education’s Director of System Performance to assist the family to enrol in another Catholic secondary school in the Diocese.
NEW Sports Polo Shirts for 2015

For a number of years a significant number of parents and students have been campaigning to change the sports polo shirt design. The reasons put forward have been:

- To modernise the dated and unappealing ‘canary yellow’ of the current sports polo
- To appropriately mirror the distinction between junior and senior students

As a consequence the College Executive have determined that the change will take place for 2015. The rules regarding the purchase of the new sports polo shirts are:

- Year 7 2015—compulsory to wear the new sports polo
- Year 11 2015—compulsory to wear the new sports polo
- ALL other students have until the start of 2016 to begin wearing the new sports polo shirts.

We suspect that all students will probably want to update to the new design (it is far more appealing and a higher quality material that breathes and is easier to wash) - hence all Years 8-10 and Year 12 students CAN purchase the new polo shirt in 2015 if they wish. Additionally we have modernised the sports shorts as well. They are now a more modern design (with two zippered pockets) and easier to wash.

**FROM 2016 ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR THE NEW SPORTS POLO SHIRT**
JUNIOR SPORTS STAR

In a league of his own

JAKE HAS PASSION FOR GAME

Jenny Pogson

RUGBY league player Jake Bugeja wakes up every day with passion in his heart.

The 15-year-old plays for Wentworthville Rugby League Club division 1 and has his eyes firmly set on a professional football career.

Jake has been nominated as a Young Achiever in this year’s NewsLocal Junior Sports Star awards, sponsored by Reba.

His mother Melissa said she hoped to one day walk in the footsteps of his uncle Mark Barnes, who played for the Parramatta Eels in the 1980s.

“He’s such a good kid, his dream is to play NRL and he’s so close to it,” she said.

“Pop has been training him up, but he’s not well at the moment and his dream is to see Jake run out on the footy field.”

“He looks up to his grandfather and he’s taught all the fundamentals of football.”

The Patrician Brothers Blacktown student plays fullback, centre and on the wing. He plays with the In League in Harmony Malta heritage team, and was recently one of 30 players chosen by NSW Rugby League to go to Institute of Sport training camp in Narrabeen.

Over four days the players were taught high-performance training football skills like how to cope with the media if they make it as professional players.

He was also chose to play in next year’s Ortag state cup with the Hills Bulls.

Jake also became a hero after saving the life of a baby who had stopped breathing by performing CPR in 2012.

Jake Bugeja is the nephew of Eels’ and Roosters’ Mark Barnes and is a footballer down to his bootstraps.

Picture: PHIL ROGERS

Gordon pedals for knowledge with 92km ride

Para-cyclist Gordon Allen

LALOR Park teenager Gordon Allen, 16, has cycled more than 92km in aid of the $600 recently by cycling from Goonhalla to Bowral in the 92km College of Knowledge Challenge for Kids Bike Ride. The Patrician Brothers’ College, Blacktown student became the first Para-athlete to join the Western Sydney Academy of Sports when he was accepted into its cycling development program.

The money raised will go to the cycling event to support autistic education. The ride has so far raised $2,000.

Gordon has also been nominated as a NewsLocal Junior Sports Star.

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au

Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617
Giants give AFL draft nod to Finlayson

By Elisha Pearce

PATRICIAN Brothers Blacktown graduate Jeremy Finlayson has been selected by the GWS Giants for the 2014 AFL draft and the club’s senior playing list.

Finlayson moved from Cumbin to Sydney to pursue an AFL career with the GWS Giants.

Finlayson, 18, was excited upon learning he’d be a professional AFL player.

“Isn’t sunk yet, but I’m sure it will soon,” he said.

“I was selected by the Giants and put the jumper on and spoke to the media then I flew home to see family that day and I definitely couldn’t keep that quiet.”

Finlayson’s journey began in the Riverina town of Cumbin.

“I got a call from one of the managers who asked me to move up to Sydney for a scholarship and I certainly didn’t knock it back,” Finlayson said.

“I started when they started the PM Capital Giants Academy. I’ve been with them and was offered a scholarship.”

While living at St Joseph’s Gardens and attending Patrician Brothers Blacktown during years 11 and 12, Finlayson played with the Eagles in the North East Australian Football League as part of his development.

He said he enjoyed his time at Patrician Brothers.

“Just graduated from there and it’s been great,” He said. “There’s 1,200 at the school which is about the same population of Cumbin.”

Finlayson needs to get over a small hip surgery this off-season.

“I just want to play some games,” Finlayson said when asked what his goals for next year were.

“I’ve just need to get over this hip surgery first. If I work hard and put some time on – I’m pretty little at the moment – I can get some game time. I can play anywhere, which is helpful.

“Last year there was only one draftee that didn’t get a game.”

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YMCA NSW Youth Parliament

The YMCA NSW Youth Parliament is a youth leadership program run by YMCA NSW that looks at simulating the experience of being a Member of Parliament. The program focuses on Leadership, Advocacy and Education with its participants representing their electorates in Parliament House!

I am currently in search of the next Youth Member for Blacktown!

To select our next Youth Member for Blacktown we are running an Essay Competition where I want to see the young people of our community outline their vision for Blacktown by answering – “If you were elected to Parliament, what would you like to see done in Blacktown?” (750 word limit)

To apply to be the next Youth Member for Blacktown you must:

- Be aged 15-18 years
- Live within the Blacktown State Electorate (Arndell Park, Blacktown, Doonside, Kings Park, Lalor Park, Marayong, Woodcroft, Quakers Hill, Prospect)
- Be active within the area

Essays can be submitted to Shop 3063, Westpoint, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown NSW 2148 or emailed to blacktown@parliament.nsw.gov.au. Submissions need to be received before close of business 20 November 2014.


Mr John Robertson MP, Member for Blacktown

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Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) November Appeal
During the month of November, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith@work this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions. The faith@work appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. Please be generous so these good works can continue.

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100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au