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As Pope Francis teaches us; when we go beyond limiting our beliefs, when we realise that we are responsible for accepting faith and learning opportunities and not to bury our talents, then we can achieve greatness.

I would pose to all members of our community: Have we been authentic to the invitation extended by Pope Francis? If our answer is a resounding yes, then congratulations! We are all delighted that there has been growth both in faith and in learning in 2014.

If however there is an element of hesitation in our response then we need to make absolutely clear in our own minds and hearts how we will address this in 2015. Time is short!

I say this often – each and every day, in our actions, words and deeds, we practise and rehearse for the person we eventually wish to be. If we prepare poorly then the outcomes will be poor. An athlete that fails to prepare, prepares to fail.

I wish all our community members, students, staff, parents, family members and the wider community a blessed, holy and safe Christmas.

Please take care of each other,
Santo Passarello

Assistant Principal

Merit Awards

Year 7 Social

Director of Studies

Year 7, 2015 Orientation Day

Social Justice Report

Vinnies Van

Library Report

New Times for 2015

Sport

Newspaper Articles

Notices

Semester 2 Prize-Giving Ceremony 16 Dec 9.45am
Final day of classes 2014 16 December
First day in 2015 Years 7, 11, 12 Wed 28 Jan 2015
First day in 2014 Years 8, 9, 10 Thurs 29 Jan 2015
Next Newsletter ‘The Focus’ Mailed 6 February 2015

12 December, 2014
Term 4 Issue 4

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From the Assistant Principal

Term 4 is rapidly moving towards conclusion and the last two weeks have been quite busy in terms of welcoming our new Year 7 students for 2015 and undertaking major programs with our Year 9 and 10 students. The Year 7 2015 Parent Information Evening and Orientation Day were both held last week and were highly successful. The parent evening on Monday attracted a huge attendance and the excitement of the students and their parents was obvious. The Year 7 Coordinator, Mr. Dominic Cullen, delivered a very clear outline of what the College stands for and how we cater for the learning, faith development and pastoral care of the Year 7 students. The Orientation Day on Friday was also an excellent event - with every aspect of the day carefully planned by Mr. Cullen, Mr. Domars and the Year 7 Homeroom teachers. The Year 10 Peer Support leaders were tremendous and the Year 6 students and their parents were glowing in their praise at the end of the day. Also last week, our continuing Year 10 students were involved in their Step Up Into Senior School program at school. Reports from staff and students involved in these programs were very positive. This week our Year 9 students participated in the Lifesaving course at Riverstone Pool. This is an important element in the PDHPE course and also provides them with invaluable life skills in terms of water safety and emergency first aid. The work required behind the scenes for both programs is quite significant and we offer our thanks to Mr. Heath Borg and his team at Lifesaving and Mrs. Lesley Maguire for her excellent organisation of the SUISS program.

We now look forward to our Semester 2 Prize-Giving ceremony on Tuesday 16 December, where we celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students throughout 2014 and bring the school year to conclusion. Final reports for students in Years 7-10 will be sent home on Friday 12 December. Year Coordinators have been closely monitoring reports in their respective year groups and will contact parents to organise Progress Interviews in the last week of term if there are serious concerns. If parents would like an interview with any of their son’s teachers as a result of the final reports, please ring Samantha Borg in the front office to organise an interview during school hours on either Wednesday 17 December or Thursday 18 December. In terms of reminders for students and parents - we again urge all students to use the pedestrian lights that are adjacent to both main entrances to our school site - rather than attempting to run across the extremely busy roads that run along both sides of the school. Last week we again witnessed several near misses in Flushcombe Road when parents called their sons to run across the road to cars parked on the other side. Unfortunately, an accident is inevitable if our students continue to take these unnecessary risks.

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
- Daniel Carrick 7C11
- Braith Egarchos 7C16
- Joshua Lin 7C17 3 Awards
- Avin Maharaj 7C12 2 Awards

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warrant, Merit Awards Convenor

White Ribbon Day

Thank you to our group of highly committed and generous young men in Year 11 who gave up their Tuesday morning to reach out to the community about White Ribbon Day and to hopefully make a difference in peoples’ attitudes. They met early Tuesday morning just after 7am at Blacktown Police station. They were briefed by Police Officers, Genelle Warne and Deborah Lee on their roles and then together headed off to Blacktown Station to hand out the White Ribbons and most importantly inform the community of its significance.

White Ribbon is Australia’s nationally led campaign to end men’s violence against women. Its vision is for all women to live in safety, free from all forms of men's violence, by building greater equality and respect between men and women to reduce attitudes that support violence. The campaign works through primary prevention initiatives involving awareness raising and education, and programs with youth, schools, workplaces and across the broader community.

The Patrician spirit was well and truly alive as these young men reached out to members of our community in hope of creating a better society. Thank you to Adrian Costaganna, Kyle Pereira, Patrick Ross, Jodeci Taia, Jamaal Tauveve, Aaron Pinto and Desmond Tipene. You made us very proud. Thank you to Mr Matthew Hartigan who led this team of fine young men with great inspiration.

Ms Denise Grzelj, Year 11 Coordinator
Year 7 Social

Our boys were simply wonderful!

Thank you to all the staff whose presence ensured a successful evening for our students. Thank you to:
Mr Heath Borg, Ms Angela Pham, Mr Dominic Cullen, Mr Michael Benitez, Mr Matt Hartigan, Mr Nathan Campbell, Mrs Mel D’Cruz, Mr Jim Prendergast, Mr Mark Hendy, Mr Scott Durham, Ms Jamiee Bocason, Ms Jacqueline Mercieca, Mr Chris Hersey, Ms Jessica Fleming, Mr Peter Ross, Mr Anthony Hrvatin, Mr Chris Ferry, Ms Linda Cassell, Mr Jordan Williams, Mr Brian Edmonds, Mr Santo Passarello, Ms Rebecca Reynolds + Senior Students - Aaron Pinto, Daniel Mangabat, Rohan Hudson and Jayden Salvador.
From the Director of Studies

Year 12 2015 Satisfactory Completion of the HSC
A few reminders to parents and students about what is required for successful completion of the HSC assessment program:

- **All subjects**, whether those that count for an ATAR or those that are part of the HSC program have an assessment program that requires satisfactory completion. An N award in any course for the HSC may eventuate with the student not being eligible for the HSC and they will be required to repeat that subject the next year, or settle for a statement only of what they have completed in Year 12.

- **The HSC All My Own Work** program stresses the importance of submitting work for assessment that has not been plagiarised. The Board of Studies and the teaching standards are very strict about any forms of malpractice and exam malpractice. This will result in a zero award for a student and at the HSC level may result in the HSC qualifications being withdrawn.

- **If exam malpractice does occur**, the school is now required to log the details with the Board of Studies and Teaching Standards (BOSTES).

- **For most Board Developed Courses**, school-based assessment throughout the HSC course contributes to 50% of your HSC mark. This is reported on your Record of Achievement.

With the first round of HSC Assessment tasks currently in progress, parents could support their sons by helping them create a timetable of how to achieve the final goal of being prepared for a task and/or handing it in on the due date. Sit down together with your son and:

- **Develop a plan of attack**
- **Create an uncluttered and calm workspace**
- **Make sure that he has all appropriate resources — texts, HSC Syllabuses (can be found on-line), pens, folders, paper, etc**
- **Highlighting deadlines**
- **Give him strategies on multi-tasking and effective organisation**
- **Above all make sure that he is calm and in control, not stressed and flustered.**

**Students Online**
The Students Online website (studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au) is an important channel of communication between students and BOSTES. It features information and advice to assist you throughout your HSC study and has a personal account area for each student. Log in with your Student Number and PIN to access your account and see your personal study details such as your exam timetable, assessment ranks, Year 10 and 11 grades and HSC results. You can also generate an eRecord PDF of your cumulative results from the end of Year 10.

**For HSC Students 2014**
You must activate your Students Online account and create your PIN to access your HSC results online or by SMS.

**How to get your 2014 HSC results**
HSC results will be available online and by SMS the morning of Wednesday 17 December 2014.

**Visit online**
Visit one of the following websites and enter your Student Number and Students Online PIN:
- www.hscresults.nsw.edu.au
- www.hsc-results.nsw.edu.au

**By SMS**
If you have not registered to receive your results by SMS which needed to have been done by 5pm Tuesday 16 December 2014 you can alternatively from 6am Wednesday 17 December, get your results by SMS by texting your Student Number, followed by a space, followed by your Students Online PIN to 0488 570 570 (Australian mobile numbers only, standard charges apply).

**Deciphering your text message results:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMS Sample</th>
<th>What sample represents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EngAd 85 5</td>
<td>English (Advanced), HSC Mark 85, Band 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FrenB 85 5</td>
<td>French Beginners, HSC Mark 85, Band 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geog 81 5</td>
<td>Geography, HSC Mark 81, Band 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMaths 72 4</td>
<td>General Mathematics, HSC Mark 72, Band 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HistX 43 E3</td>
<td>History Extension, HSC Mark 43, Band E3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mhist 91 6</td>
<td>Modern History, HSC Mark 91, Band 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**By mail**
HSC credentials will arrive in the mail in January. Please check your postal address is correct in My Details to ensure they are sent to the right place.

**By phone**
The HSC Inquiry Centre 1300 13 83 23 hotline will be available from 8am on Wednesday 17 December 2014 followed shortly after by other HSC results services.

**Early Results**
Congratulations to Isaiah Mercado and Adam Boidin from the class of 2014. Isaiah’s Major Work for Visual Arts was short-listed for Art Express 2014 while Adam Boidin’s Major Work for English Extension 2 has been short-listed for The Young Showcase 2014. Both boys have been targeted as having submitted outstanding Major Works for the HSC. Adam Boidin has made history for our school as it is the first time that a Major Work in English Extension 2 has been shortlisted from our school. A marvellous achievement by both boys!

We wish our HSC class of 2014 all the best as their HSC results come out on Wednesday 17 December. Boys come to school on Thursday 18 December for a celebratory BBQ breakfast and to access their ATARS.

**Semester 2 Prize Giving Ceremony**
A reminder to parents and students about Semester 2 Prize Giving which will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 16 December commencing at 9:45am. Students are to be in summer uniform and take special care with their grooming.

**Mrs Danuta Paton**
First Aid
Earlier this year, the College was acknowledged by RLSSA for its contribution to health promoting initiatives in the work place and promotion of lifesaving education for our students in 2013. The College has once again allocated significant time and resources in 2014 to this important educational focus. The following is an outline of the initiatives that our community participated in this year.

- Selected staff members completed the RLSSA Resuscitation and Community Lifesaver examiner qualifications.
- 100 Year 11 Students completed the RLSSA First Aid certificate which includes resuscitation.
- 200 Year 9 students completed various RLSSA swim/lifesaving awards and obtained their resuscitation certificate.

Finally, in Week 11 of this Term when all students have completed their schooling the entire college staff will stop work and complete their First Aid training, including resuscitation, making our college and the wider community a safer place.

Mr Heath Borg, PDHPE Coordinator

Practicum Students in Learning Support

In Weeks 7 and 8 this Term, 3 students from the Australian Catholic University (ACU), Luke De La Cruz, Wendy Lee, and Janine Bocasen, worked closely with Learning Support as part of their Community Engagement Program. During this time the University students worked predominantly with boys in Years 7-10, observing how they engaged in their learning in a number of different subjects and the importance of differentiated learning for an individual’s success. We would like to thank the students for their professionalism and enthusiasm throughout their time at Patrician Brothers’ College and hope that they feel enlightened and empowered to work confidently with future students in their own classrooms!

Learning Support Team

Excellent results in the Australian Mathematics Competition 2014
The results of the 37th annual Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) conducted by the Australian Mathematics Trust under the Trusteeship of the University of Canberra held on August 2014 are now available. Patrician Brothers’ College entered 45 students from Years 7 to 11. Over 40 countries entered for AMC this year. HSC students could not participate due to their Trial HSC examinations. Three students have received a Certificate of Distinction; eighteen students achieved a Credit and fourteen students received a Proficiency Certificate.

The names of award winners are as follows:

Jiasheng Huang  Year 11 – Distinction
Jason Pinto  Year 10 – Distinction
Mustafa Barodawala  Year 10 – Distinction
Pawanjot Jas of Year 7 has received his Distinction certificate for the Mathematics Enrichment Program.

Congratulations on our school’s performance this year and we thank all the students for their participation. We look forward to you participating again in 2015.

Mr Priyantha Jayakody and Mr Aaron Kim, Organisers of AMC

Reader/Writers

Over the past 8 weeks students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, have sat for their end of year examinations. For various reasons some of our students require the services of a reader/writer. The following boys were highly recommended to the Learning Support Team by their Teachers. These students have the ability to work capably with boys who require assistance, enabling them to adequately demonstrate their knowledge in their exams.

The reader/writers were prompt to all exams and showed enthusiasm and maturity, as they assisted individual students. Our reader/writers are as follows:

Year 7
Matthew Pottinger; Anton Mlinaric; Chris May; Aidan Villadolid; Luke Barber; Vincent Zaccheo; Caleb Gara

Year 8
Amornwat Kasemmongkol; David Iskander; Rhys Wright; Gajan Sivanesan; Antonio Ayala; Reece Alderton; Samuel Brennan; Michael Alam; Anmol Venkatesh; Dennyson Veloso; Eric Tan; Luke Eckersley; Lachlan Kellam; Louis Waters

Year 9
Geoff Doctor; Vincent Akena; Michael Zakhia; Anthony Pecora; Adam Dunn; Lachlan Kellam; Louis Waters

Year 10
Ricky Nair; Jude Zaragoza; Jaskirat Boparai; Tyson Cham; Karl Garcia; Jacob Forster; Nima Bahramrad; Jason Pinto; Joel Hogan; Steven Wehbe

Learning Support Team
Year 7, 2015 Orientation Day
Year 7, 2015 joined our school community on Friday 29 November for their Orientation Day. The Orientation Day is an opportunity to meet the Peer Support Leaders, become clearer in what is expected from a student in high school, do some testing and experience some aspects of the day-to-day running of the school. The weather was kind to us and added to the enthusiasm for the planned activities with the Pastoral Care Team, the Peer Support Leaders and most importantly the Year 7, 2015 boys themselves.

A big thank you to the Year 10 boys who were involved with the day. They showed an enormous amount of commitment, dedication and flexibility in engaging their youngsters and making the day the success that it was. Ms Denise Grzelj and Mr Mark Domars did an outstanding job in preparing these young men for their task.

I would also like to thank our new Year 7 students for the way they engaged in the day. We have made a wonderful start to school life at Patrician Brothers, Blacktown and I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Mr Dominic Cullen, Year 7 Coordinator
The Delany Youth say Thank you!

Patrician Brothers’ College has a great tradition of supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Christmas Hamper Appeal. Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated items to these hampers; it has been an excellent effort and a great success with enough donations for 37 hampers! Over the past few weeks the Delany Youth (Social Justice Committee), have been collecting the hampers and decorating them to ensure they look festive. Thank you to all the boys involved who have given up lunchtimes to wrap presents, decorate hampers and transport them to the school Chapel.

“Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able with God’s help to renew the world.”
Pope Benedict XVI Advent 2005

Thank you for your generosity. It will give true meaning to Christmas and many will benefit from your act of kindness.

Ms Jessica Fleming & Ms Charmaine Castellino, Social Justice Coordinators

Vinnies Van

Last Wednesday, Mr Paul Kenyon, Mr Danny De Alwis, five Year 12 students and myself took part in Vinnies Van. Vinnies Van is a service that provides friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in the Penrith and Parramatta areas. It also provides people who are living on the streets with a warm beverage, a snack and a friendly conversation.

As my second time on Vinnies Van, I was quite certain I knew what to expect. As we arrived in Penrith, unpacked and the people began to gather around us, it was then that I immediately recognised one of the men. I brushed it off as thought surely this can’t be someone I know. As I approached the man, he began to speak and it was at that moment that we both recognised each other. He was actually my boss at a part-time job I used to work while I was studying at university. I was in utter disbelief for a few moments. He shared his story with me and explained how he was sacked from his job last November and has not been able to find any work since. This man has since continued to struggle to find employment and he, like many Australians, is now living out of his car. It was in this encounter that I realised that through life’s struggles anyone can end up in this situation – even someone who was once my boss.

So during this festive season it is important that we, as a Catholic community, reach out to those people who feel they have no one and nothing. We must not be so quick to judge individuals, as we all have a story to tell.

Ms Melissa Luppino, Teacher

Year 7 Religion

In Year 7 Religion we have been exploring world religions this Term. After looking at Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism - Christianity was covered in Term 3 - we are finishing with Sikhism. Sikhism is not on the HSC list but it is very visible in our Blacktown community and their temple at the corner of Sunnyholt Rd and the M7 is a landmark so we have been looking at their beliefs and practices. Cousins Karenpreet and Noorpreet Badwal accepted my invitation to share their faith and practices with my classes and we all appreciate their informative and honest answers about their religion and we are all the better informed about Sikhism as a result. Best wishes to all families for Christmas and the holidays.

Mr Kim Crawford, Religion Teacher
2015 School Timetable

In 2015 there will be a slight change to the daily finishing time. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday the day will conclude at 3.10pm. The Thursday finishing time will be 3.00pm.

Please note that there has not been any change to the actual teaching time. The change will only affect the length of lunch each day. These changes will be introduced as part of a number of changes to assist students in remaining more focussed on their learning. Appropriate notification has been provided to all transport providers. It is planned that further timetable changes will be introduced in 2016.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeroom</th>
<th>8.55-9.10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>9.10-10.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>10.10-11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.00-11.20</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>11.20-12.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>12.10-1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.00-1.30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>1.30-2.20</td>
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<td>Period 6</td>
<td>2.20-3.10</td>
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Thursday

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<th>Homeroom</th>
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<td>11.20-12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.10-12.40</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sport</strong></td>
<td>12.40-3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC27248’.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC22604’.

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at [taxsuperandyou.gov.au](http://taxsuperandyou.gov.au)

In the coming weeks we will provide more information by email on how students can apply for a TFN and the educational services we can provide.

If you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

**Mr Steve Vesperman, Deputy Commissioner of Taxation**

Seeking Mentors

Do you want to give something back to your community? Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta’s Post School Options Team provides one on one mentoring for secondary students. We are seeking new mentors who would like to give something back to their community and join this valuable and worthwhile program.

The volunteer mentor hosts the student in the workplace for one day per week (May to September excluding school holidays). The mentor is both a personal and professional role model for the student. All mentors are offered free TAFE mentor training and receive a TAFE Certificate of Attainment ‘Mentoring in the Community’.

Mentors can be from any industry, an individual in any trade area – clerical, administration, hairdressing and beauty or a large company e.g Bunnings.

Please consider this call for assistance so that the program can continue to supply a valuable service to students in our Catholic communities. If you would be interested in becoming a mentor or finding out more information, please contact:

**Leoni Jeavons-Fellows**
Coordinator Post School Options, 0424 750 583

Website

This newsletter is available NOW in FULL COLOUR.

Visit [www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au](http://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au)

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SPORTS POLO SHIRT DESIGN ON OUR WEBSITE
Library Report
Looking for some Holiday Reading with a Difference?
Audio Books are a great way to read without reading! Listen to classics or contemporary fiction using these free download sites.
http://www.audiobooktreasury.com/free-audiobooks/
http://librivox.org/
http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/categories/1

Sydney Writers Festival comes to Blacktown.
Mrs Dracoulas and Mrs Forrest took 15 boys from Year 8 to participate in the Writers Workshops at Max Webber Library on December 1st. The boys were Michael Alam, Phoenix Boulenaz, Ali Chraha, Ethan Cruz, Isaac Hogan, David Iskander, Tej Kehal, Chris Magro, Gajan Sivansan, Blake Smith, Jonathon Tabone, Eric Tan, Dennyson Veloso, Izak Xiberras and Nicholas Zakhia. Here are some of their reflections:

On the first of December 2014, a small group of fortunate Patrician Brothers students (including myself) from 8 English were invited to go to the Writers Festival, hosted in the Max Webber Blacktown Public Library. During the 3-4 hours we were at the festival we were lucky enough to get first hand advice from published authors on how to improve our creative writing skills and how to build on fictional characters and environments. Some of the activities we participated in were:

- Improving on basic stories
- Learning words with certain letters that will help a scene in a story to sound softer/sharper
- Creative thinking
- Mind mapping

This was an enjoyable learning experience that I would love to participate in future years.

Phoenix Boulenaz
During the week a group of Year 8 boys were given the chance to attend a creative writing workshop at Max Webber Library. It was run by four published authors and it was part of the Sydney Writer’s Festival. One of the authors was Gabriel Tozer. She was a country girl from Wagga Wagga. Whilst at high school her favourite subject was English and Drama. She is the chief editor of the Dolly magazine as well as a journalist. On top of that she got a book published January 2014 called The Intern. She showed us how many different careers being a writer can provide.

Gajan Sivansan
I had the chance to meet some amazing authors at the Max Webber Library. One of the amazing authors we met was Jaclyn Moriarty who gave us a different view of writing creatively. When stuck for ideas when writing she gave us some activities such as drawing with your opposite hand to the one you usually use. She had asked us to draw a cat train and circus tent; by drawing these we were able to stimulate the opposite side of the brain. We did a brainstorm on a colour of our choice to get our imagination juices flowing. An activity I found inventive was when we had to advertise a bottle of water that was sold for a million dollars. Finally we ventured with the technique called ‘stream of consciousness’ where we wrote what comes to your mind first. I thoroughly enjoyed the excursion and hope to do more in the future.

Tej Kehal
On the 1st of December, a few Year 8 boys went to Max Webber Library in Blacktown, as part of the Sydney Writers Festival. We had a few talks with 4 published authors. One of them was Jaqueline Moriarty, who we had a discussion about where to draw inspiration and ideas in order to write a story. Some activities included, drawing with the hand opposite to our writing hand, mind maps and advertising a million dollar bottle. We were very intrigued by the authors and the stories they had to share.

Dennyson Veloso
One of our workshops was with Melina Marchetta. With her we learnt what Six Word Memoirs are and how useful they are when writing a novel. She told us that she uses the memoirs in her novels because those 6 words can imply so much about a character. Overall my experience there was great as I learnt and enjoyed myself at the same time.

Jonathan Tabone
From writing paragraphs on my earliest memory to trying to draw with my left hand, going to Max Webber Blacktown library was a great adventure. We had the opportunity to meet four great authors; learning about their experiences was truly inspiring. Overall I have learnt great things from these authors.

David Iskander
During the workshop with Will Kostakis, Izak Xiberras wrote this paragraph and won a signed copy of Will’s novel! As the man in the dark clothing caught up to him, the boy ran towards the bush, panting as he ducked and weaved between the ghostly gums that rose out of the thick fog. The boy’s body twitched from exhaustion. Then the floor gave way, everything went dark.

The boys are to be congratulated for taking the opportunity to attend and for their outstanding representation of our school at this event.

Book Review
Malala Yousafzai’s story is an inspiring one. It shared with us her amazing story of hope and courage. I encourage our students and wider community to include this on your holiday reading list. It really highlights how much Malala values her education and how lucky we are to have all that we do here at Patrician Brothers.

I am Malala is the autobiography of Malala Yousafzai who, as a 15 year old, was shot in 2012 by the Taliban for standing up for girls’ education in Pakistan. This year she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of young people and for the rights of all children to an education. Cynically, I had been tempted to think such an award was a “sympathy vote” but having read her story I am embarrassed I ever thought that.

Empowered by her father and supported by her illiterate mother, Malala showed amazing maturity and charisma for a teenager. If only her vision could be injected into young people so that the liberating power of education could be realised in all.

Malala’s story unveils the reality of life in Pakistan before and after the emergence of the Taliban. The beauty of her home in the Swat valley is contrasted with the steps taken by the Taliban to intimidate the prophets of change. Her successful recovery in the UK sets the scene for ongoing and global advocacy (and a powerful movie) but read this book first - it is an unforgettable read! Mr Kim Crawford
This publication is available as an Ebook and can be accessed free of charge via the College Library Website. To access this Ebook go to the https://sites.google.com/a/parra.catholic.edu.au/patslib/
Hover over the Home tab in the top left hand corner of the page and then click on Search. Click on download Ebooks. There are a number of books also available to download for free. We would love to hear your feedback or review on these books. 

**MALALA The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Changed the World**, is a lighter and easier read of this compelling story.

**Mrs Sue Dracoulas & Mrs Vikki Forrest, Teacher/Librarians**

**Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge Read to Win!**
Read 10 or more books during the summer holidays to go into the draw to win one of four iPad minis. The competition is already open and entries close Friday 6 February 2015. Winners will be announced on Monday 16 February on the Catholic Education Office website. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. Students must record all the books they read on the online application form and have them verified by a parent or guardian prior to submitting the form. The categories are:
- Ages 5-8
- Ages 9+
Entry online via [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

**Br Aengus Book Launch**

The highly anticipated launch of Br Aengus Kavanagh’s new book *Will Catholic Schools be Catholic in 2030* took place at the Patrician Principals Conference held at Delany College. We wish Br Aengus the very best for the success of this much-acclaimed book.

**Pictured below are Year 8 students with Mrs Sue Dracoulas and Mrs Vikki Forrest.**
Year 9 Lifesaving

In Week 9 of Term 4, 200 Year 9 students undertook a week of Aquatics training at Riverstone Pool. This opportunity fulfills the PDHPE syllabus requirements of Aquatics in Stage 5 of the NSW Syllabus and provides students with the opportunity to develop their swimming and lifesaving skills whilst attaining awards from the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (RLSSA).

Students successfully completed lifesaving awards based on their own swimming ability, including Learn to Swim groups through to the Bronze Medallion Award. Their awards focused on swim ability, personal survival techniques and the ability to perform dry and wet rescues for people in distress. Having staff at Patrician Brothers who possess the knowledge, skills and expertise to run such a program is of great benefit for our students.

Resuscitation Awards were also attained by the majority of students. All students were given 3 hours of resuscitation training by college staff members over 3 days. They were then lectured by staff from the RLSSA, before completing a practical and theoretical examination. Students were given the opportunity to attend a one hour lecture conducted by Youthsafe, which is an organisation that speaks to young people about the dangers and consequences of unnecessary risk taking behaviour.

The positive feedback from College staff, staff at Riverstone Pool and examiners from the RLSSA was a testament to the capabilities and positive attitude of the students who undertook the program. It is reassuring to know that our students are doing their best to reduce the incidence of drowning and develop skills that may one day save a life.

Mr Heath Borg, PDHPE Coordinator
MCS Basketball
Round 7 v Parramatta Marist High

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Round 8 v St Paul’s Catholic College

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<td>Year 10</td>
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MCS Cricket
Round 7 v Parramatta Marist High

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<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>9/84</td>
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Round 8 v St Paul’s Catholic College

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<tr>
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College Sport Representatives
The college has been blessed with an abundance of sporting talent throughout the 2013 – 14 season. We congratulate the following boys who have represented us at either MCS, NSW CCC, NSW All Schools or Australian Schoolboy level.

U13
Tyler Field     MCS Athletics
Junior Filimaia-Tau  MCS Athletics
Timothy Hodge    NSW All Schools Swimming
Bilya Ibrahim    MCS Athletics
Daniel Kucheruk  MCS Swimming
Cedrique Michel   MCS Athletics
Matthew Pottinger NSW CCC Cross Country

U14
Aku Makki       MCS Athletics
Ioannis Papadimatos  MCS Athletics
Ben Tait        MCS Athletics

U15
Robert Afu     NSW CCC Rugby League
Liam Baker     MCS Athletics
Leeroy Brown   MCS Rugby League & MCS Athletics
Noah Conaty    MCS Touch Football
Joshua Curran  Australian Merit Squad Rugby League & NSW All Schools Touch Football
Matthew Faaula MCS Rugby League
Shannon Gardiner MCS Rugby League & NSW All Schools Touch Football
Jake Hunter    NSW CCC Touch Football
Luke Jones     NSW CCC Rugby League
Tyran Liddiard MCS Cricket
Samuel Lilomaiava  MCS Rugby League
Tim Lilomaiava  MCS Rugby League
Arjan Nair     NSW CCC Cricket
Isaiah Niutama  MCS Touch Football
Zach Nuttall   NSW CCC Rugby League
Dallas Paterson MCS Rugby League, MCS Athletics & NSW CCC Touch Football
Ryan Pritchard MCS Rugby League & NSW All Schools Touch Football
Jerome Rouss   MCS Rugby League
Brock Sperinck MCS Athletics
Jarrod Spicer   MCS Rugby League
Jake Tago      MCS Rugby League
Freedom Tamaraki  MCS Rugby League
Luke Zaurrini  MCS Athletics

U16
Franco Betham-Misa NSW CCC Rugby Union
Jaydn Field     MCS Athletics
Ezra Kemp       MCS Rugby Union
Austin Latu    MCS Rugby Union
Teeson Lemusui  MCS Rugby Union & MCS Touch Football
Delahoya Manu   NSW All Schools Rugby Union
Billy Momoeisa   NSW CCC Rugby Union
Braeden Rodricks MCS Athletics
Desmond Tipene  NSW CCC Rugby Union
Beni Valu       NSW CCC Rugby Union

U17
Connor Baggs   MCS Cross Country
Nicholas Hertel MCS Swimming

U18
Anas Abu Ganaba MCS Athletics
Benjamin Ansah  MCS Soccer
Samuel Barnett  MCS Softball
Patillai Bolea  MCS Rugby Union
Marlyn Brown    MCS Touch Football & MCS Athletics
Jon Cook        MCS Softball
Christian Crichton NSW CCC Rugby League & MCS Athletics
Cowan Eperere   NSW CCC Rugby League
Vincennes Fialelei Ausage  MCS Rugby League
Dylan Fuad      MCS Rugby League
Tyrell Fuimaono Australian Schoolboy Rugby League

100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown 2148
www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au Ph: 9671 3000
Fax: 9831 6617
Logan Gladdish-Fitzgerald  MCS Baseball
Jamie Hill  NSW CCC Rugby League
Mitchell Hyde  MCS Touch Football
Robert Jennings  Australian Schoolboy Rugby League
Natnaeil Koko  MCS Soccer & MCS Athletics
Casey Lafaele  MCS Rugby League
Soni Luke  MCS Rugby League
Jarome Luai  MCS Rugby League, MCS Athletics & NSW CCC Touch Football
Uliisemi Manumua  MCS Rugby Union
Tyronne May  NSW CCC Rugby League
Vincent Mulipola  MCS Rugby Union
Sukamanu Raki  MCS Rugby League, MCS Rugby Union & MCS Athletics
Tevita Smith-Cottrell  Australian Schoolboy Rugby League
Joseph Tramontana  MCS Rugby League & NSW CCC Touch Football
Joe Vaegaau  MCS Rugby League

Mr Heath Borg, MCS Coordinator

Cricket

The Australian cricketing community has mourned the loss of a young man taken too soon in extremely tragic circumstances. The most amazing consequence of this tragedy is the way that the global sporting community has stood together in support for the family and friends of Phillip Hughes who have been affected by the circumstances.

Many members of the Patrician community were upset to hear the news of one of their hero's untimely demise and perhaps it was fitting that our annual B vs. C Grade Cricket match was scheduled for this week.

This is possibly one of the most fiercely contested matches in the school calendar, but it was humbling to see the way the boys stood together as one in tribute for Phil, as Patties boys. The game started with a minute's silence, players stood shoulder to shoulder, hands on hearts, uniform black arm bands and finished with a stirring rendition of our Lord's Prayer. The game then continued in the spirit and fun that our boys are renowned for. A great day for Patrician Brothers and the global cricketing community.

Mr Chris Ferry, First XI Cricket Coach

Events at Blacktown Library
Free School Holiday Program 2015
Open to ages 12 – 18
Materials will be provided.

Design your own pencil case
Date: Monday, 12 January
Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Venue: Dennis Johnson Library, Cnr Stanhope Parkway & Sentry Dr, Stanhope Gardens
Phone: 9421 2670 to book

Decorate your own library bag
Date: Thursday, 15 January
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Venue: Lalor Park Branch Library, Cnr Freeman St & Northcott Rd, Lalor Park
Phone: 9624 5243 to book

Decorate your own coffee mug
Date: Wednesday, 21 January
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Venue: Function Centre Max Webber Library, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Alpha St, Blacktown
Phone: 9839 6677 to book

Decorate your own chest box
Date: Friday, 23 January
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Venue: Function Centre Max Webber Library, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Alpha St, Blacktown
Phone: 9839 6677 to book

Young Adults Program - January, February and March 2015

Gaming Tournaments - Test your gaming skills for your chance to gain the “Gaming Champion” title! Fun and friendly tournament. Prizes to be won.

Date: Wednesday, 14 January
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Our Library @ The Mount Druitt Hub, Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt
Phone: 9839 6677 to book

Date: Monday, 19 January
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue: Dennis Johnson Library, Cnr Stanhope Parkway & Sentry Dr, Stanhope Gardens,
Phone: 9421 2670 to book

Champions Chat Club - Open to all high school students
Come, chill & chat. Snacks provided. No bookings required.

Board games
Friday, 30 January, 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Charade games
Friday, 27 March, 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Minute to win it
Friday, 27 February, 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Venue: Max Webber Function Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Alpha St, Blacktown

For more information contact Library Youth Development Officer, julian.chung@blacktown.nsw.gov.au

Play AFL Like Your Hero in Season 2015
Blacktown Magic are looking for players interested in playing Under 19’s & Men’s AFL in season 2015.
Training time and venue below:
Wednesday 17th December – 6.00pm to 7.15pm
Blacktown International Sports Park – BISP (rotation between Ovals 1 & 2)
If you are interested please contact: Patrick Barclay
Ph: 0403 888 226
Email: marketing@blacktownmagic.com
School Sport
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**
New Polo Shirts
The students are extremely excited by the colour and design of our new polo shirts!

Pictured above are Jacob Syphers and Ali Chara

Pictured below are Tyran Liddiard and Michael Tupou
Newspaper Articles

Liam Veldsman’s sculpture is set to trigger discussion about a serious subject when it is exhibited at the Blacktown City Art Prize this week.

Full story, page 3
Artists vie for the big one

**Student weaves an anti-bullying message**

A student weaves an anti-bullying message. Her work is part of a special exhibition of works by young artists. She said it's about how society reacts when people are bullied. Her work is a reflection of her own experiences. She said it's important to raise awareness about the issue and to promote understanding and empathy.

**NSW Indigenous Under-16s Squad for 2015**

Gordon Allan

Gordon is a local junior and welcomes the opportunity to be part of the Indigenous Under-16s squad for 2015. He is proud to be representing his community and is excited about the possibility of playing with the other talented players who are also part of the squad.

**Category: Young Achiever**

**Age: 16**

**Sport: Cycling and football**

Gordon is the first Para-athlete to join the Western Sydney Academy of Sport and was recently selected to train in a squad with para-cycling world champions. He plays for NSW in the seven-a-side paralympic football team that won the national championships in October 2014.

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**Related Link**

2015
Return Dates

Administration Office reopens
Monday 19 January 2015

Uniform Shop Extended Trading Hours
Monday 19 January to Friday 23 January 2015

Year 7, 11 and 12 Students Return
Wednesday 28 January 2015

Year 8, 9 and 10 Students Return
Thursday 29 January 2015

Enrolments for Preschool
Catholic Early Learning Centre - St Michael’s Parish Blacktown South
Preschool for children 3-5 years
Enrolling now for 2015
For more information phone: 8814 8406
www.celcblacktownsth@parra.catholic.edu.au
We are pleased to announce the recent launch of a new shuttle service. This will provide first-class service for anyone requiring assistance with transport. The details are:

**Five Star Shuttles – Transfers Made Easy**

Airport and Cruise Transfers  
Contact: Tony Saba, Director  
Mobile: 0404 390 620  
Website: [www.fivestarrshuttles.com](http://www.fivestarrshuttles.com)  
Email: fivestarrshuttles@outlook.com

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**AVS Security**

AVS Security specialises in large crowd control security around Sydney. AVS Security is the security provider for over 150 venues within the hospitality industry along with multiple stadiums, including WIN Jubilee. AVS is heavily involved within the sporting community from grass roots through to elite level and honoured to have Brad Fittler, Nathan Hindmarsh and Socceroo goalkeeper, Matty Ryan as Ambassadors.

Follow us on  
Facebook - AVS Security  
Twitter - @AVSSecurity  
Instagram - avs_security

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

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

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Also trading as Shire Coaches

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**Mobile:** 0408 973 267


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Parramatta 207 207 Church Street

**Call 13 61 91**  
[scu.net.au](http://scu.net.au)
We wish all our families, staff members and the wider community a wonderful and safe Christmas. We are genuinely looking forward to our renewed journey in 2015.

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**Tuesday**
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**Thursday**
8.30am - 3.45pm

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Fax: 9672 3977

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Bob Egan Electrical

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