Gift of Patrician Community
Much has now been said about our 2015 building program. Our Facebook page has been setting records with the sheer number of posts and comments! The excitement is well justified. This major program (the biggest in many years) will revolutionise how we do things at Patrician Brothers’ College. Students, staff, parents and indeed the wider community will all be beneficiaries of these state-of-the-art facilities. Facilities however are not the most important ingredient in the recipe for success. Much of what we enjoy, value, treasure and honour revolves around the people in our community. The most significant aspect of our success has always been the quality of our relationships. This is something we must never lose. It is part of the fabric of our Patrician story. Our founders, the great order of the Patrician Brothers, have gifted us the most crucial elements of success – care, empathy, compassion and respect.
In this changing, increasingly narcissistic society, we must work even harder to take care of each other!
Santo Passarello
From the Assistant Principal
The last three weeks featured several highly successful events at Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown. Last week, our Year 11 and 12 students gathered for the Senior Social Dance with students from Nagle College. The attire and behaviour of the boys was outstanding and the night was a roaring success. Our social dances with Nagle College, from Year 7 right through to the seniors, have been highly successful in recent years and a major factor in this has been the generosity of our teachers to organise and supervise these events after school hours, often during the busiest times of the school year. This generosity doesn’t go unnoticed by the College Executive and we are certainly grateful for the commitment of our teachers to your sons. We also held our annual Swimming Carnival last week and judging by the feedback that we have received from parents, staff and students, it was one of the best in recent memory. Participation rates were outstanding, attendance was high, House spirit was overwhelming and the standard of competition was intense. Next Monday 16 March we will be holding our Term 1 Progress Interviews for students in Years 7-11 who teachers have identified as struggling with application or participation in their various subject classes. As always, the critical factor in turning around the fortunes of these students is the extent to which the school and parents are able to work together and deliver a consistent message. Also on the horizon in coming weeks are major celebrations for St Patrick’s Day on Tuesday March 17, the Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations starting on Monday 23 March, Year 7 Camps from Monday 30 March to Thursday 2 April and Holy Week liturgies on Holy Thursday.

In terms of reminders for this fortnight – most parents would appreciate the fact that the Year Coordinators and Home-room Teachers have been tireless in encouraging all students to adopt the full and correct uniform in the weeks since school resumed this year. In the vast majority of cases, students and parents have been totally supportive, realizing that our uniform not only has an impression factor in the local community, but that it also assists students to develop commitment and pride in their school community. However, for this to have full effect, we need the support of all parents and students. Like many aspects of school life, and for that matter, life in general, it only takes one or two individuals to tarnish the appearance and good reputation of the majority. The second reminder relates to participation in excursions and camps. As part of the organisation for excursions and camps, the school is required to work through a risk assessment of all aspects of the proposed event, including activities, transport, safety and management of students and staff. Ideally, all students in a class or team should have access to the benefits of an excursion, however, in some instances the Principal or Assistant Principal may deem it necessary to exclude a student from an event if that particular student’s recent behaviour clearly indicates that their participation in an excursion could present a risk to the safety of other students, staff and/or members of the public, or significant harm to the good name of the school. Special events such as excursions and camps are a privilege rather than a right and occasionally we do need to invoke this clause. Your understanding is appreciated. Finally, since the beginning of this school year we have been focusing on the safety of our students as they arrive and enter our school premises. While the majority of students are careful at all times and pay close attention to traffic signals and teacher instructions at the various gates and crossings around the school perimeter, it has been disturbing to see the number of students, and parents, who flout all safety requests and take quite outrageous risks as pedestrians and drivers. Last week we experienced a serious accident at the corner outside our school gates and we desperately hope that there will not be any more - but unfortunately the behaviour of some members of our community suggests otherwise.

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
Nathan Carroll 7C11
Lewis Charter 7C12
Priyam Kandiban 7C16
Elemai Latu 7C12
Thomas Maka 7C15
Connor John O’Brien 7C12
Luke Osborne 7C17
Sahil Punjwani 7C16
Isaac Rosario 7C16
Jack Stewart 7C16
Sibi Subramanian 7C18
Vijay Umashankar 7C18
Avin Maharaj 8D17
Anton Milanic 8D24
Ethan Pillay 8E9
Timothy Hodge 9B6
Tej Kehal 9A25
Chris Magro 9A26
Shivpreet Singh 9A26 2 Awards
Jonathan Tabone 9A25
Hayden Blankley 10C3
Kiano Pomete 10C7 2 Awards
Jack Singleton 10C6
Brock Sperinck 10C3
Jamil Dewan 11A21
Andre Fuerte 11G4

Silver Awards
Avin Maharaj 8D17
Ethan Pillay 8E9
Chris Magro 9A26

Good luck to all for the upcoming fortnight!

Mrs Natacha Warnant, Merit Awards Convenor

Only 18 more days until our students and staff depart for Ireland and England! WOW!
Swimming Carnival
A wonderful community day! Our boys were sensational in both their behaviour and participation. Thank you to Mr Van D’Morias who organised the day. Full results in our next issue of The Focus!
2014 Yearbook

It was with great pride this week that we issued the *2014 Yearbook* to all families.
From the Director of Studies

Aim High

Congratulations to the Year 12 students chosen for the Aim High program. The boys are Arshdeep Baidwan, Giuliano Celani, Calum Connaughton, Thomas Doyle, Amogh Ghimire, Nicholas Hertel, Jiasheng Huang, Rohan Hudson, Jarrad Lewis, Bing Xin Li, Rohit Louis, Aaron Pinto, Vince Quiaem, Alessandro Sammarco, Rafiq Shalla, Terrell Smith, Jonathan Soans, Brandon Tiedemann, Luke Vella, Kenneth Medida and Ivan Larbie. Thank you also to the teachers who have put themselves forward as mentors for these boys: Tania Hogan, Anthony Silvestrini, Scott Durham, Angela Pham, Danuta Paton, Jessica Caccitelli, Robert Gange, Scott Gallen, Jim Prendergast, Vikki Forrest, Danny De Alwis, Denise Arnold and Manuela Lavaselli.

Last Wednesday the boys attended their first workshop on Time Management presented by Scott Durham. They took away with them many important strategies that they can now implement into their study and preparation for the HSC program. Some tips that ALL Year 12 boys can follow are:

- Use your diary (it is NOT an old-fashioned idea!)
- Make a daily checklist of things that you need to do and cross them off as you do them (this provides immediate gratification and satisfaction)
- Set priorities (don’t leave that assessment task till the last minute)
- Do the most important tasks first

Another interesting topic was about budgeting time. You need your rest time but you must be firm about how much time you allocate to rest, pleasure, study and revision. If you budget wisely you can have some savings!

The use of a term planner that can be purchased from Office Works is a useful visual aid to see exactly what the demands are for you in terms of disruptions, outside activities and assessment tasks. This certainly will help you budget your time more effectively.

Another useful tip is to keep all the work with you, so if there is a spare moment that occurs in the day, you have something to go on with and thereby keep on top of every subject. This “waiting time” means that you are NOT waiting with nothing to do rather you are actually utilising your time more efficiently.

When studying, it is a good idea to turn off all electronic devices. These are unnecessary distractions and can be very intrusive and time wasting. There is no added value to your study with these devices still active.

Sleep is very important. Sleep is the means by which your brain transfers items learnt from short term memory to long term memory. All these tips are important and relevant for every boy across all years.

MedEntry UMAT Preparation

MedEntry is a leading Registered Training Educational institution committed to helping students enter health science courses. It offers two-day courses, practice exams with fully worked solutions and percentile rankings and much more. For the boys wishing to sit for UMAT this year, further information can be found at www.MedEntry.edu.au

Registration deadline for UMAT 2015 is Friday 5 June 2015, 5.00 pm

Test date: Wednesday 29 July 2015

For more information go to: http://umat.acer.edu.au

NAPLAN 2015

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12 – 14 May 2015 for ALL Year 7 and Year 9 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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Catch Up Day - Friday 15 May

A “catch-up” day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Every student in Year 7 and 9 is expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Access to disability adjustments or exemptions from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Mrs Danuta Paton

Disability and Emergency Provisions

Your son may apply for Disability Provisions for their exams and assessments in Year 11 and 12, if they meet requirements set by the Board of Studies. Students can apply to the B.O.S. for Disability and Emergency Provisions (DAEP) for the HSC Examinations. The College may make a determination to provide DAEP for assessment tasks including the End of Year Examinations, Half Yearly Assessment and Trial Examinations.

If the College grants DAEP for internal tasks it cannot guarantee that the same level of provisions will be offered by the B.O.S. The College grants DAEP in good faith based on evidence as listed in the B.O.S. ACE Manual.

Where a student requires a laptop to complete an assessment task they are required to use a “clean laptop”. Under no circumstances can they use a laptop they have used in their studies.

Any Disability Provisions used will appear on the H.S.C. report. Please advise the Learning Support team if you wish to apply for Disability Provisions and provide the necessary documentation. Please indicate which category the student will be using, i.e. Learning Difficulties, Medical Difficulties, Hearing Difficulties and Vision Difficulties. Discuss this with your son as it is important he agrees to these provisions.

This information must be returned to Learning Support as soon as possible, or before Monday 30th March, 2015. If you have any questions about this please contact the Learning Support Team.

Learning Support Team
Visit by His Excellency the High Commissioner John Aquilina

The student leaders and some members of the College Executive were privileged to share an extended afternoon tea with the Honourable John Aquilina last Friday.

After retiring from 30 years in State politics as Member for Blacktown and later Riverstone, the Hon. Mr John Aquilina was invited to become the Maltese Ambassador to India. His new title is His Excellency the High Commissioner for Malta to India. While he now lives in New Delhi his heart resides in Western Sydney and we were captivated by stories of service to our community.

The Hon. Mr Aquilina was the grandson of illiterate goat-herders and he really appreciated the value of education as a vehicle to success. John taught for 10 years before being elected Mayor of Blacktown and in 1980 he became the Member for Blacktown. His passion for quality schooling and a University in Western Sydney culminated in being appointed Minister for Education for 6 years. After this portfolio he was able to further utilise his teaching skills as Speaker of Parliament and Leader of the House.

Our student leaders asked probing questions on his dreams, achievements and what sustained him during his long career in politics.

His passion for his family, his faith and his personal integrity make The Hon. Mr John Aquilina a wonderful example of Service and Sacrifice for us to reflect on this year.

Mr Kim Crawford, Executive Secretary

Mr John Aquilina, a loyal and former Blacktown man entered the gates of Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown last week. With a joyful welcome from the entire Leadership Team, the former Parliamentarian and New South Wales politician provided insight into the life he has led: a man who walks the street of New Delhi, who renounced his home citizenship and who taught in schools in Blacktown. With inspiring passion, he sat in front of us and answered questions that would definitely assist us in our roles here at Patrician Brothers’ College Blacktown. He spoke of how he manages stress, commitments and the everyday challenges in the streets of New Delhi. His generosity was shown in the way he answered all of our questions. His most powerful answer was having self-belief. To make change, we must earn respect, trust, show the people that we believe in ourselves to do whatever we put our minds to and follow through. We were humbled by his wise words and felt very grateful for his visit here at Blacktown.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, we thank His Excellency the Hon. John Aquilina for his visit.

Bienn Tongol, Student Leadership Team

John Aquilina later wrote to us:

Dear Mr Passarello,

I had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the students and teachers. Additionally, I was most impressed by the thoughtful and meaningful questions asked by the young men.

I trust that the experience will help them to think beyond the domain of their immediate horizons.

Kindest regards,

His Excellency the Honourable John Aquilina A.M. U.O.M.
High Commissioner of Malta to India,
High Commissioner to Bangladesh
Ambassador to Nepal
Visit by His Excellency, The High Commissioner for Malta to India

Pictured above are Mr Jeremy Lane, Daniel Mangabat, Jiasheng Huang, Hans Zabala, Alessandro Sammarco, Austin James, Aaron Pinto, Mr Brian Edmonds, the Hon. John Aquilina, Joe Vaegaau, Bienn Tongol, Patrick Bear, Tyran Liddiard, Rohan Hudson and Mr Kim Crawford.
Year 7
First Impressions

My first Term in high school has been awesome! I have met new incredible friends. Our principal Mr Passarello, is fantastic – he greets us in the morning when we arrive at school.

Edwyne Afeaki

I am enjoying Science. I am also looking forward to making a pendant in Design and Technology. All the staff and older students have been really friendly and welcoming.

Luke Osborne

I like that we get to learn new subjects which are different from primary school. We learn new and interesting things every day. Year 7 this year has been an exhilarating experience.

Aloha Junior Kolo

What I have liked most about starting school at Patrician Brothers College is meeting new friends. I also enjoy having more than one teacher.

William Penisini

Mr Cullen tells us that we are here to learn, respect each other and grow in our faith. These are the 3 things that we are expected to do when we come to school every day. We have also learnt about our school theme ‘Service and Sacrifice.’ This plays a huge part in all of our lives.

Anthony Simic

What I like about school is getting to learn new things and seeing my friends every day. My teachers are all nice and welcoming. It is all about trust, friendship, sports, and so much more.

Zac Lipowicz

I like the space, fellow students and being with my friends. I like all the subjects but my favourite is History. I like learning about all the ancient artifacts and historians. My favourite teacher is Ms Mercieca.

Christian Canales

I love being at Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown because wherever you go you are included in games or just meeting new friends. My favourite teacher is my homeroom teacher, Mr Bangel.

Elemasi Latu
Library Update
Homework Centre
The Library was buzzing last Wednesday during Homework Centre, with many of our students working on the first of their assessment tasks for the year. Over twenty teachers, from a range of different subjects, were available in the Library to help out. It is definitely the place to be on Wednesday afternoon and if you haven’t come along before, it is definitely worth a visit. Thanks so much to our teachers for their gift of time and to our students for their diligent approach to their studies and the respect and appreciation they always extend to their teachers. There is always such a great sense of community - come along and be a part of it!

Library Instagram Page
Follow @pbblibrary on Instagram for the latest news, events, book reviews and photographs. #pattiespageturners

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@pbblibrary

Book Review
Title: Eureka
Author: William Diehl (author of Primal Fear)
Genre: Crime / Thriller
Set in Eureka, a town run by gangsters, police investigate the death of Verna Wilensky. Police soon realise that it is a murder and discover that she had almost $100,000 in her bank account. Sergeant Bannon uncovers an old secret that results in political turmoil and a bloodbath.
I like the action in the novel and the characters are unique. I also like the romance between some of the characters and how they treat each other with respect. I recommend this book to all teenagers.
4.5 Stars

Mose Feilo, Year 12 Student
Would you like to be part of our book review team? If you have read a great book recently and would like to share it with our college community, come into the Library and Ms Wong or Mrs Forrest would be happy to share it on our Instagram page or maybe even in The Focus.

Blacktown Library
Would you like to access 100s of digital magazines for free? Join Blacktown Library and access Zinio for Libraries, the world’s largest newsstand which offers full colour, interactive digital magazines for your enjoyment.

Browse Blacktown library’s collection of popular titles with no reservations, no time limit on loans, no need to return, and no limit to the number of magazines you can download. Genres include Sport, Automotive, Music, News, Entertainment, Science and Technology, Art Photography and many more!

Mrs Vikki Forrest and Mrs Selina Wong, Teacher Librarians

Captivate Choir Practice
On Tuesday 3rd March, the College hosted the first rehearsal for the CAPTIVATE secondary choir performances in our Jubilee Hall. We had both Year 9 and Year 10 music elective classes attend – that is almost 100 of our boys! Singing alongside other schools from the diocese, the boys added a rich and much needed male tenor and bass section to compliment the sweet female alto and soprano vocals. The boys will be practising throughout the year at lunchtime and attending another all school rehearsal in Term 2, before showcasing their talents alongside other CAPTIVATE performances later this year.

Mr Anthony Silvestrini, Music Teacher

HSC TAS Workshop Schedule
The workshops are available for HSC student use every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 3.15 – 4.30pm. Mr Benitez will supervise students commencing HSC major projects during these times. The TAS department has created teaching and learning resources for most subject areas on the Google Drive. All students can access assessment notifications, resources and their workbooks via the Google drive. They will need to login to the system in order to obtain access and any resources needed using their school username and password. This is of specific importance to HSC students commencing their Major Projects.

Mr Michael Benitez, TAS Coordinator

Message from Catholic Education Office
Quality Catholic School Survey
All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey. The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school’s culture, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement. Between 9-20 March staff and many students, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. This year we will be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement.
Year 7 Technology Mandatory – Pendant Unit

Year 7 students should be very pleased with the hard work and effort that has gone into producing some of the best practical projects that I’ve seen in a long time. The boys were challenged to design a jewellery pendant for Mothers’ Day and had to be inspired by Australian Indigenous culture or a famous Australian landmark.

Boys pictured above are from 7DT3: Albert Ivan Cabanalan, Stephen Zammit, Alex Kingsley, Max Tromp and Zac Lipowicz.

Mr Noel Bajada, TAS Teacher

Year 8 TAS

Year 8 Design and Technology students have commenced a new unit based on the design and construction of a CO2 Drag Car. The design project involves the understanding of many aerodynamic concepts such as friction, inertia and thrust. Students are required to use the understanding of these concepts and implement them into the personal design and manufacture of their CO2 drag car.

Upon completion of the projects, each student will have the opportunity to race against their fellow classmates. The 2015 CO2 PBB Drag Challenge has begun.

The commencement of the 2015 Industrial Technology HSC projects is well underway. Year 12 Industrial Technology students have been steadily planning and managing their major projects. Submissions this year include: A desktop cupboard, rocking chair, entertainment units, study desk and dining table to name a few.

Mr Michael Benitez, TAS Coordinator

A Night of Service and Sacrifice

The night started off with us meeting at school at 6:30pm with Jonathan Soans, Jai Mohan, Mr Cullen and Mr Dadisho. After meeting, we travelled to Merrylands to pick up the Vinnie’s van vehicle, then made sandwiches, labelled them, got the drinks ready, loaded the van and headed off to Penrith to help the homeless. We stayed to talk to those in need and distributed food and drinks. It was really busy at Penrith as we continued to talk and provide food for the duration without a break. An hour later we packed up and headed off to Parramatta where we followed the same procedure. We chatted with the homeless who were very nice people and so appreciative. Then we headed off back to Merrylands where we packed up. We were home by midnight, exhausted but happy that we made a difference.

It helped me realise how blessed we are with all the things we have today compared to those homeless people out there. From setting up the food and drinks for the night to traveling to Penrith and Parramatta and serving the homeless, it felt so good within and it was so rewarding seeing them smile when we served food and talked to them.

Shanik Sukhani, Year 11 Student

Speech by Adam Boidin

It is worth sharing the inspirational address by 2014 College Dux, Adam Boidin, at our recent College Assembly:

Good morning Mr Passarello and all members of the Patrician Brothers’ College community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Passarello, the Executive and entire College community for their invitation to celebrate the achievements of the 2014 HSC High Achievers. I know I speak for these young men when I say that it is an honour to be able to return to and celebrate with the College community that has not only fostered your academic abilities, and ultimately, shaped your character.

From my personal experiences, I have learned that there is no one-size-fits-all to success in the HSC. Instead, success manifests itself in many ways, depending upon one’s personal ability. And yet, success is always recognisable by individual sacrifice and persistence; an inner, self-motivation to achieve one’s very best, despite the trials that define the HSC year. It is these characteristics that defines the 2014 High Achievers as such, as students that could not only see the mountain peak, but beyond to the possibilities that exist only through hard work.

Yet, one must note that success is not measured by a position on a bell curve, nor is it measured by raw data, state averages or a list of Band Sixes. The true yardstick of success is individual effort, at any level and in any field. Those that succeed are not always those with the natural ability, for it is these people that become complacent and often fall behind. Instead, it is those that work consistently to achieve their personal best, whether that be at a Band 6 or Band 4 level, that deserve to be regarded as truly successful. It is hard work, dedication and sacrifice, and not trophies or accolades, that are characteristics of success; characteristics that I believe are embodied by the 2014 HSC High Achievers.

I am of the opinion that we are all different, while paradoxically, being intrinsically similar. We are individuals that have different abilities, interests and perspectives, and yet, we are all the same in the sense that every single one of us has the potential for success. When one recognises their potential, just as the High Achievers have done, they have the ability to strive beyond complacency and have immense success. Their example transcends the exam hall, and proves the possibility that exists through hard work in any field.

For a final time, I would like to congratulate the HSC High Achievers on their success in 2014, and encourage all of you to learn from their example. I would also like to thank the College community for their support throughout the years; a community that we wish all the best for the success in the years to come.

Thank you,

Adam Boidin, Year 12 2014 Dux
Year 7 Patrician Induction

On Tuesday 3rd March, our students attended All Saints College, Liverpool where they joined four other Patrician Brothers’ Colleges - Granville, Ryde, Fairfield and Liverpool. The students had the opportunity to interact with several Brothers who were able to pass on the heritage and tradition of the Patrician Brothers’ involvement in Australia and throughout the world. The students were great ambassadors for our College. They are now able to pass on the messages of the Brothers to their fellow Year 7 students.

Mr Greg Beacroft, Liturgy Coordinator
**Australian Flag**
Did you know that at Patrician Brothers’ College, the proud tradition of flying the Australian Flag has been continuously practised sine 1952!

Pictured above are *Patrick Morelli, Aaron Abbas* and *Luke Mulligan* all of Year 7.

Pictured left are two more of our terrific new Year 7 students, *Jakob Arthur* and *Samuel Loizou*. 
Sports Ribbon Recipients

School Basketball
Rocky Togatuki
Paul Blake
D'Angelo Tolu
Aifesili Junior Leaia
Bernard Amituanai
Mataele Soni
Mua Tuileufuuga
Simione Teekafa
Jason Fatialofa

Year 7 Soccer
Jamie Azar
Christian Canale
Marcus Jones
Priyan Kandiban
Summit Lucas
Paul Park
Isaac Rosario
Vijay Umarshankar
Sebastian Salman
Joshua D'Mello
Naman Bathla
Russel Soriano

Table Tennis
Pawanjot Singh
Christian Aualiitia
Osei Nana Appiah

Indoor Rock Climbing
Daniel Brown
Remy Nijjar

Tennis Balmoral
Ethan Woodley
Aiden Scott
Matthew May
Robbin Hernandez
Fisii Pilitati

Year 7 Cricket
Jordan Coom
Parampreet Chadha
Luke Osborne

Year 7 Handball
Emil Fares
Levi Ngaha
Russel Soriano
Parampreet Chadha
Farah Koko
Blair Broughton
Message from Catholic Education Commission
Next NSW Government Must Lift Capital Funding to All Schools

Enrolments in NSW schools will grow by 267,000 students by 2031, putting more pressure on both the government and non-government school sectors to expand. Catholic Education Commission NSW Executive Director Brian Croke said the NSW Government must increase capital funding to all school sectors to accommodate this growth in enrolments.

“The NSW birth-rate is now 10,000 per year higher than it was in 2010,” Dr Croke said.

“That means 500 extra kindergarten classes are needed each year - which must then become 500 additional Year 1 classes the following year, then 500 Year 2 classes the year after that, and so on.

“This growth rate will be sustained, if not increased, in coming years and it will affect all sectors – government, Catholic and independent.

“The NSW Government and Opposition have already announced several new government schools during this election campaign - which we support - but the government sector alone will not be able to meet this growth in enrolments.

“Catholic and independent schools currently educate 400,000 students or a third of those enrolled in NSW.

“The NSW Government needs non-government schools to grow so that they can continue to enrol their current proportion of this increase - otherwise, taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for far more classrooms and teachers than is currently envisaged.”

Dr Croke said the NSW Government must first reverse its 2012 decision to cap capital funding to non-government schools at $11 million per year and put in place a sustainable, long-term funding framework that grows as enrolments increase.

“Catholic schools, which enrol more than 251,000 students, need to build more than 2,300 new classrooms to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031.

“For decades, these building projects have largely been funded by parents - and they will continue to be - but the NSW Government must now ease the pressure on parents by lifting its funding support.

“Catholic schools educate 21% of the state’s students, but receive just 2% of the capital funding allocated by the NSW Government to all schools.

“Last year, Catholic schools received just $7.6 million in capital funding from the NSW Government. That’s less than what was received in 2011 – and since then, Catholic school enrolments in NSW have grown by more than 10,000, or the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools.

“By comparison, government schools will receive $399.1 million for capital works in 2014-15.

“To put it another way – that’s $524 per government school student and $30 per Catholic school student.”

Dr Croke said Catholic schools save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year because Catholic school parents met most of the capital costs.

“Without Catholic schools, taxpayers would have to fund hundreds more government schools because those students have to be educated somewhere.”

2015 State Election
DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Make your vote count – How does your party support Catholic education?

Soccer Registrations
Closing Soon
The 2015 soccer season is starting soon so please be quick to secure your spot at St Pats.
To play for St Pats you can register online at www.myfootballclub.com.au or you can register at one of our training days.

When:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
From 5.30 pm till 7.00 pm

Where:
Bert Saunders Reserve, Kiata Crescent, Doonside, next to Featherdale Wildlife Park
St Pats offers a great environment to play this great sport so don’t miss out, call Silvana on 0422 747 235 for more information.
The Sacrament of Confirmation

In Term 2, lessons will be held once a week, during lunch time, to prepare students who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. You can only receive the Sacrament of Confirmation once you have completed the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. If you are interested in being included in the Confirmation Sacramental Program please contact Mr Beacroft.

Mr Greg Beacroft, Sacramental Coordinator

Attenzione attenzione, tempo di verifiche!!
Watch out, assessment time!
Buongiorno a tutti!
Yes, the time to be assessed about everything our language students have done so far is here. From Years 8 to 10, all our students will face some testing. Year 8 will have a listening task, Year 9 will prepare a fashion parade and Year 10 will have a task that requires them to be well prepared with all their skills; from writing to reading, listening and speaking. Buona fortuna a tutti!!
Good luck everybody!
Bonne chance tout le monde!

Mrs Manuela Lavaselli, LOTE Convenor

St Pats Soccer and St Pats Rugby League

You will notice an advertisement for each of these great clubs in this week’s newsletter.

Please support them.

Originally linked to our parish they are run by many ex-students and parents of our school community.
When was the last time you felt really alive?

God is glorified when men are fully alive.
It becomes

MEN’S WEEKEND

The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for men to explore what makes them feel fully alive. The experience of the weekend is powerful and dynamic, and many men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission. The weekend is organised by men in your local community and conducted by an experienced team of menALIVE leaders. It is suitable for all men from 18 years of age.

2-3 May 2015
Patrician Brothers College
100 Flushcombe Road Blacktown

For more information, contact:

Paul Scott
paul2311@optusnet.com.au  Mob. 0416250591
Justin Bear
justin.bear@blueismont.com.au
Mob. 0488 033 066

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish
mqofblacktown.org.au
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Newspaper Articles

Leading school’s new look

COLLEGE GETS MAJOR REVAMP

SCHOOL UPGRADE

Walter Read

PATRICK Brothers College Blacktown principal Sister Patricia told yesterday that the $4.5 million upgrade to the D Block building was the result of years of planning and was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Patrician Community.

“This project is a major step forward in the Patrician Brothers education program,” Sister Patricia said. “It has taken more than four years of negotiation to secure the funding and the school community is very excited to see what the new facilities will do for our students.

“The development will enhance the college environment and will allow the college to continue to provide our students with the best possible education. It is a new and exciting time for the college and its students. We are excited to see what the future will bring.”

CONSTRUCTION

The construction is expected to be completed in eight months with all facilities due to be open for the new year. The new facilities are expected to be open for the new school year.

ARTIST IMPRESSIONS

ARTIST IMPRESSIONS OF THE TECHNOLOGY BUILDING FOR PATRICK BROTHERS BLACKTOWN.

Club plans to develop on 2015 recruitments

By Patrick Delby

THE Powerhouse Panthers have a big decision to make in 2015, with a host of new players vying for places in the team for the next season.

Coach Peter Naylor has put his squad through a rigorous pre-season training program to prepare them for the new season.

“We have been working hard over the pre-season to build the team’s fitness levels,” Naylor said.

“The priority is always to develop the players’ skills and fitness levels, and we have been working on these aspects extensively.

“We are looking to build a strong and successful team that will be able to compete at the highest level in 2015.”

The Panthers have a new look for the season, with a host of new players vying for places in the team.

“We are excited about the new players and we are confident that we will have a strong team,” Naylor said.

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Better world begins with a quite a bit of batter

Nick Houghton

PANCAKES were on the menu for Patrician Brothers' Blacktown students last week, all for a good cause.

On Shrove Tuesday the school introduced Caritas's Project Compassion campaign to run through Lent.

Guests of honour at the event were Fijian farmers Eric and Ma Narayan, whose lives were turned around through the support of the project.

Patrician Brothers' Blacktown social justice co-ordinator Jessica Fleming said meeting Mr and Mrs Narayan was a wonderful opportunity for the students.

“Seeing first-hand how the money raised through Project Compassion can make a difference was proof that every cent counts,” she said.

“The students all work very hard to give back to their community and were able to raise $501 from the sale of pancakes on the day.”

A fundraising hot cross buns stall will follow.

Ms Fleming said the school had participated in the campaign for decades and it was a big part of their social justice program.

Moylan focused to storm back with tips from the greats

By Patrick Folly

Matt Moylan has taken the NRL by storm since bursting onto the scene in 2013 and it looks like the only way is up for the 23-year-old.

Since being named the Panthers rookie of the year in 2013, Moylan went on to play fullback for City in 2014 and was a member of the Kangaroos Four Nations squad at the end of the season.

While Moylan missed out on making his test debut, he has already kicked off playing representative football 2015, having met up for the All Stars in February.

Moylan said spending a week with the All Stars' team was a great experience for Moylan, who said he enjoyed the chance to play alongside some of the best in the game.

“Getting to meet a few other players in the NRL, you don’t normally get the opportunity to play with was a good experience,” he said.

“Some of the older blokes like [Paul] Gallen, Casey Parker and Jeremy Smith, guys that have played at the highest level for a long time,” he said.

Moylan said he also took on some things from halves combination Mitchell Hooke and Kieran Foran, which he is hoping to bring back to the Panthers this season.

Based on last year’s finals appearance, Moylan is confident the Panthers can be a force in 2015, but said there was much room for improvement.

With Jared Hayne chasing his dream in America, the KRW State of Origin-fullback position will be up for grabs in 2015, but Moylan’s focus is on the Panthers.

“Obviously I’d like to play [Origin], but I think I’ve just got to focus on playing consistent, good footy for Penrith first,” he said.

Moylan grew up in western Sydney, where he admits he’s been in and out of the league when it comes to supporting NRL teams, but says he is living out his boyhood dream at the Panthers.

“If you’re always something I wanted to achieve, I always wanted to play professional rugby league, to get that opportunity and to be here now is something special.”
Australia's IWA Pro Wrestling is a family fun action packed live show with heavyweight matches, women's matches, tag teams and daredevils.
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Only a few weeks to go before our students and staff fly to London to begin their Ireland and England adventure!
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