



# Especean

Vol 30, No 05 – 1 March 2017

## Principal

*Two are better than one . . . for if they fall, one will lift up the other.  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of St Patrick's College,

Grant us  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
and a generosity of service  
that gives without counting cost.  
A life overflowing with Grace  
poured out from the One  
who gave everything,  
that we might show  
the power of love  
to a broken world,  
and share the truth  
from a living Word.  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,  
and a yearning to share it.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This is a time in the Church calendar where traditionally, we are asked to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." Lent is a time of conversion. We do this through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. People often "give up" things for Lent. I am more inclined to want to "take up" something. After all, the ultimate invitation is to take up the cross and walk with Jesus during this time.

Lent can be a time for reflection and quietude: where we contemplate our place in our world and seek to make it a better place, even in our own local communities. For the boys in our College, they can do this simply by committing to a more disciplined prayer life during Lent and praying quietly for those who may be in need of God's help. In more practical ways, of course we can raise funds for needy communities and we can deny ourselves the extras we enjoy and give those away. The gift of giving (not just in material ways) is usually more rewarding than receiving.

Lent can also be a time of simplicity, where we seek to strip away those things that clutter up our minds and our thoughts and to empty out the filing cabinets of our brains so that what is left is the essential material. In doing so, we allow the conversation with God to flow more freely. I always find that by this time of year we have well and truly revved our lives back up to warp speed and we rarely allow ourselves some time out to just be. Lent can represent that opportunity and invitation to slow down, even if it is only for a few minutes.

The journey to Easter can be solemn. What this journey reminds us of is our physical mortality. Our time on the earth is just so fleeting in the grand scheme of things. Let us not fritter this time away, but take the forty days as forty different opportunities to make meaning, mostly for someone else who needs our help. Lent also invites us to make amends. There may be people we have offended, upset or disappointed. Lent gives us permission to say sorry. Today, all members of the College community participated in an Ash Wednesday liturgy. We were all marked with the sign of the cross with the ashes. The ashes symbolise the dust from which we have come, and to which we will ultimately return. Not just during the season of Lent, but each and every day, we are invited to rise from the ashes and begin anew.

Our call as an Edmund Rice school is to embrace the stranger in our

midst and to work for a more just and inclusive world. Lent is an ideal opportunity and a clear invitation for us to be Christ-like for others in whatever ways we can. I wish you a happy Lent in so far as I hope that it is a time of giving and not receiving. Whatever you take up, do so with passion and vigour for the sake of others. May it be a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we aim to emulate the work of Blessed Edmund Rice in following Jesus of the Gospel.

### Parent and family engagement with the College

In recent weeks we have had the opportunity to meet with parents of Years 7, 9, 10 and 12 students. We have celebrated with our Year 5 students and families at the Welcome Mass and Supper and we have held our annual Dux Assembly where the highest academic achievers from the class of 2016 were publicly recognised and rewarded for their efforts. I offer great thanks to all the families who took time to attend these events and celebrations. Our ongoing aim is to partner with you in the ongoing education of your son. In particular, we offer our congratulations to all of the young men who achieved such excellent results in their HSC last year. Some of these students will never receive an award or prize for their results, but they achieved a personal best and out-shone even their own expectations. To all of those students, we also extend our hearty congratulations. The best signals we can send to our current students about the rewards for hard work come from their peers. These signals often take place when they are least expected.

**Congratulations** to Mr Fadi Hajjar and his wife Bouchra and their son Luca on the safe arrival of their new baby daughter and sister Sophia. Sophia was born at Westmead hospital on 20 February, is 50cms long and weighs 3.41 kg. Sophia's big brother Luca is very excited! Bouchra and Sophia are both well. What a blessing to their family!

*Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.*

Craig Wattam  
Principal

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: Absence from School

If your son is absent from school, the only time parents are required to phone the College is if it is for an extended absence, for example: surgery; broken limbs; chicken pox; head lice; conjunctivitis.

Following NSW health guidelines, it is also a requirement to advise the College if your son is suffering from one of the following vaccine preventable diseases: Diphtheria; Mumps; Poliomyelitis; Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib); Meningococcal disease; Rubella ("German measles"); Measles; Pertussis ("whooping cough"); and, Tetanus.

SMS messages are automatically sent to parents each morning to advise if their son was absent in Homeroom. The College would ask that if this SMS message is incorrect, then a phone call to the Office is warranted.

## Junior School

Last Thursday our Year 5 boys took part in their Belonging Day for 2017. At both the Hunter's Hill and Parramatta venues, our boys entered into the day with enthusiasm and energy. The groups were led ably by our staff and some of our Year 12 student leaders, giving the boys a day of fun and challenge with many opportunities to meet new boys from across the cohort. The striking factor was the high level of connection the "newies" have already made with their new College and the cooperation and good manners they have displayed. Helping the Year 5 group attune themselves to their class, peers and school is a worthy goal, one that is an ongoing challenge, but one that was helped in a big way by this year's very successful Belonging Day. Well done and thanks to all concerned.

On Friday night, 10 March, the Annual Year 5/6 Family Dinner will take place in the College Gymnasium, commencing at 6.30pm. Once again, we are expecting a big crowd for this night and our Parents' and Friends' Executive have enlisted great support from our parent body in organising and preparing for it. The night plays an important part in building belonging and cohesion within the College community and, more specifically, within the Junior School. This is particularly relevant for our new families in Year 5 who are feeling their way with their new surroundings and whom we particularly want to make welcome. The night is informal, so the boys are not required to wear uniform on this night. Their dress should be neat casual with closed in shoes.

*Jim Walters—Director of Junior School*

## Junior School Sport

Saturday was yet another frustrating morning of sport for the College, this time due to the wet weather. Some games were cancelled early and unfortunately some were cancelled at the venue. The teams that did play had some excellent results, especially in Cricket. The Prep A and B, both had strong wins over Cranbrook and the Year 5 Super 8's kept their winning streak going against Waverley and Barker. Well done to all the Basketball teams with 7 victories, a draw and 3 close losses.

Good luck to our Swimming squad who will compete at the BPSSA Carnival this Friday at Riverview and to the select few next Tuesday at the IPSHA Representative Carnival at SOPAC. Training is available to all Junior squad members at the College pool every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting at 6.45am.

*Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster*

## Ash Wednesday and Lent at St Patrick's College

Today marks the beginning of our 40 day journey to the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter – God's promise of salvation for all. This season is a chance for us to take stock of our lives and particularly our relationship with God. We are offered the opportunity to fix problems and to stop and reconnect with the various elements of our lives we often sadly neglect. We are called to deepen our connection with God through **PRAYER**, to connect with others who may be less fortunate through **ALMSGIVING** and to reconnect with ourselves and our blessings through **FASTING**. This season is one of preparation – working on ourselves to be ready for when Christ returns and to be ready for the joys of Easter. Sundays are not part of the Lenten season as every Sunday is a mini-Resurrection, and Fridays are a particular day of sacrifice from us to reflect the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

**PRAYER**—The students and staff of the College engaged in small liturgies around the campus to mark Ash Wednesday – all wearing the mark on our foreheads to remind us to 'turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel'. Every Wednesday in the Chapel at 1.30pm the Rosary is said, every Thursday at 1.30pm in the Chapel will be a Lenten prayer service and every Friday at lunch time Fr Jack is available for Reconciliation (most important in this season).

**ALMSGIVING**—Throughout Lent the whole community will raise funds for our 2017 Lenten Partners – *Edmund Rice Camps* and *various organisations in Papua New Guinea* (Callan Services for people with disabilities, the Edmund Rice Life Centre for students who don't fit in to school, and the schools of St Mary's and St Leo's in the Rabaul region). More will be shared about our partners throughout the term. There are various ways to contribute, from the various stalls students run at lunchtimes to the College's Blue, Black and Gold Dinner. Most importantly, however, is the concept of giving without expecting anything in return. We need to have an element of sacrifice in our giving. All donations are accepted and every cent goes directly to our partners – no processing charges.

**FASTING**—Tradition has required us to give up meat on Fridays. In more recent times if we do not give up meat then something else is to be sacrificed. As a tangible expression of fasting, no meat or meat products will be sold at the College on Fridays in Lent. The Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW (CLRI) also share with us each year another way of fasting – the *Lenten Carbon Fast*. This can be viewed on the homepage of the College Website. All staff and students have been emailed this table of fasting for every day of Lent as we also consider the carbon footprint we leave on God's creation.

We are a faith community. The remainder of Term 1 allows us to strengthen our individual and communal relationship with God who has blessed us with so much.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

*Gillian Daley—Director of Identity*

**Public speaking** This Friday night the CSDA public speaking season begins. Round one is always very competitive as all our speakers are out to grab a spot in the Zone Final. 12 speakers ranging from Years 7 to 12 will be representing the College. We welcome all supporters, including family, friends and staff to Holy Cross College Ryde from 6.00pm.

*Martha Zantis—MIC Public Speaking and Debating*

**All Hallows' Sacramental Program** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at All Hallows' this year on Sunday, 17 September. Application forms for the sacraments are now available. Please note the form must be received by the Parish office by **28 February** for your child to be included in the All Hallows' Sacramental Program 2017. Please forward any enquiries to the parish office [parishallhallows@gmail.com](mailto:parishallhallows@gmail.com) or call **9713 7960**.

# DUX Assembly 2017



## Curriculum

### Year 12 Assessment Block

The Year 12 Assessment Block begins next week, Monday, 6 March and concludes Friday, 17 March. The assessments are generally written examinations, although some oral presentations and practicals will also occur.

Both the Assessment Block timetable and the College's *HSC Assessment Policy* and *Examination Rules for Senior Students* document have been emailed to all students. They are reminded to thoroughly familiarise themselves with these documents.

Thus, ignorance of the College's Assessment Policy or examination rules will not constitute a valid excuse and penalties will be incurred for breaches of policy and procedures.

In particular, in the event of absenteeism due to illness or misadventure during the Assessment Block, parents and boys are reminded that a telephone call to the Year Coordinator, Mr Castiglione, must be made on the morning of the examination. Where possible, the missed examination or a substitute will be arranged within the Assessment Block period. On the boy's return to school, a medical certificate for the illness/misadventure must be given to the relevant Studies Coordinator.

I wish all the boys every success and strongly encourage them to use the remaining week wisely for final preparation.

*Andrew Brennan—Acting Director of Curriculum*

## Marie Bashir Public School's Leadership Day



Great leaders don't set out to be a leader ... they set out to make a difference.

On Wednesday, 15 February 2017, a group of Year 10 students, accompanied by Miss Lazkin and Mr Kirby, were given the opportunity to take part in the Leadership Day held at Marie Bashir Public School. It was a day which provided all of us with a different outlook on what defines a 'leader' as we listened to the different ideas of the younger students, which we may not often get the chance to do. We were involved in various team building activities and challenges, such as the egg drop, in which we provided assistance to young leaders of all ages and shared some of our knowledge

with them. The primary students also heard engaging talks given by our very own Year 12 Prefects Drew Beacom and Eoin O'Sullivan who raised some important points about our global responsibilities and various humanitarian issues.

Overall, our involvement in the day was a highly enjoyable and unique leadership experience. On behalf of all the students involved, we thank Marie Bashir Public School for the rewarding opportunity.

*Christian Bejjani & George Banis (Year 10)*



### Study and Learning Skills

Throughout this term and next, the students will be involved in various programmes to assist them in the development of their learning and study skills. Year 12 had a seminar with external agency, Elevate Education last week and the presenters from Elevate will return to work with students in Years 10 and 11 in the coming weeks. Years 5-9 will take part in programmes run by staff internally.

On the evening of **Thursday 16 March**, Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services will visit the College to run a seminar for students in Years 7-9 and their parents on studying. This session is different to those that the students will take part in during school time. Save the date – this night was extremely popular when run for the first time last year. More information to come.

Students are welcome in the Diverse Learning Centre at lunchtimes to study and complete their work. Teachers are always available to assist students with their work in the Centre.

*Janine Timillero—Diverse Learning Coordinator*

# Sports Draw - SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2017

CRICKET—ISA Semi Finals				
1st XI	v	St Stanislaus'	10.00	Breen Oval
2nd XI	v	Chevalier	10.00	SPC 2
3rd XI	v	St Paul's	10.00	Hudson Park
16A	v	Sydney Grammar	9.00	Reg Bartley Oval
16B	v	Epping Bulls	8.30	Meadowbank Park 10
15A	v	Concord Briars	8.30	Upjohn Park
15B	v	North Ryde RSL	8.30	North Ryde RSL
14A	v	Ryde Hunters Hill	8.30	Rydalmere Park
14B	v	Concord Briars	8.30	Strathfield Park 1
14C	v	Riverview C	1.30	Riverview 6th Field
13A	v	West Ryde White	8.30	Tuckwell Oval
13B	v	Epping Bulls	8.30	Mason Park 2
13 White	v	Shore F	9.00	Northbridge BN
13 Gold	v	13 Blue	1.30	Mason Park 2
13 Red	v	13 Green	1.30	Strathfield Park 1
13 Green	v	13 Red	1.30	Strathfield Park 1
13 Blue	v	13 Gold	1.30	Mason Park 2

BASKETBALL—ISA Semi Finals				
17C	v	Oakhill Gold	3.00	St Paul's Gym 1
17D	v	St Andrew's B	2.00	St Paul's Gym 2
15A	v	St Stanislaus'	12.30	Penrith Basketball Stadium 2
15C	v	Chevalier B	1.00	St Paul's Gym 2
15D	v	Redlands B	12.00	St Paul's Gym 2
14A	v	St Augustine's	1.00	Penrith Basketball Stadium 6
14B	v	St Andrew's	12.00	Penrith Basketball Stadium 4
14C	v	St Pius X D	11.00	St Paul's Gym 2
14D	v	St Paul's	10.00	St Paul's Gym 1
13B	v	St Andrew's	11.00	Penrith Basketball Stadium 6
13C	v	St Pius X E	9.00	St Paul's Gym 1
13D	v	St Andrew's B	8.00	St Paul's Gym 1
13 Gold	v	Redlands D	11.00	Benildus Hall (Oakhill)



## Conclusion of Summer Season

As we move into Semi-Finals and Finals a number of boys will have played their last game of summer sport last weekend. A special thanks to those Year 12 boys who played their last game of Basketball – with all 3 Opens Cricket sides making the Semi-Finals, all Year 12 Cricketers still have at least one game before finishing up their Cricket careers at the College. ISA Semi-Finals will take place this weekend with Finals on 11 March. Lower grade Cricket teams will finish on 11 March, with NDJCA teams contesting Semi-Finals on 18 & 19 March, and Finals on 25 & 26 March. **Training will cease once a team is no longer involved in competition.**

## Expressions of interest for coaching and refereeing

Any parent or Old Boy who is interested in coaching a Football, Rugby or Tennis team this winter is asked to contact [mitchell.kearsley@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mitchell.kearsley@spc.nsw.edu.au) to express their interest. Anyone qualified and interested in refereeing either Football or Rugby for the school is also asked to contact me.

## Congratulations

A number of our 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket players trialled for the NSW Country and City Schools Cricket team recently. This involves a number of trials in Sydney and Bathurst, with players being cut after each stage. I am pleased to announce that both Harry Manenti and Michael Robinson have been selected in the NSW CCS Cricket side who will play in the NSW Schoolboys Cricket Championships next month, while Matthew Bryson has been named as one of two shadow players. Harry has also been named Captain of this team – a wonderful achievement for all boys.

## ISA Code of Conduct for Semis and Finals

- Barracking should be enthusiastic and positive, but not designed to heckle, denigrate or unsettle opponents. For example: barracking during a free throw or a kick at goal and so forth is always bad sportsmanship. Similarly, sledging is totally unacceptable. Barracking should be for the school only. Negative comments are totally unacceptable. Positive comments are motivational.
- Good play by either team should be recognised by applause.
- It is never right to express disapproval of a referee or umpire's decision, irrespective of his/her age.
- Vocal support for any team should never encourage violence or rough or illegal play.
- Coaching by spectators from the sideline is to be actively discouraged by the school official with whom the spectators are associated. Spectators shall not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game, including encroaching on the field/court.
- Adults must remember that games at school level are organised for the benefit of the students concerned and not for adults.
- Visitors to the grounds should co-operate fully with any regulations or requests made by the home school, such as car parking, seating, dressing rooms and the placing of spectators. At all times visitors should leave the area tidy and free of rubbish when they leave.
- Adults, parents, students and others are expected to set an example by their self-control and deportment at matches.

*Mitchell Kearsley—Head of Secondary Sport*

## St Patrick's Junior Rugby Club

With their tour due to begin in April to New Zealand, our players in the Under 16s Junior Rugby Club are already busy training for the upcoming season, whilst in the Under 10s and 13s squad we still have some spots to fill. If your son is interested in playing Rugby in a Sunday Competition, please feel free to contact Joe Abraham on 0407 910 510.

For younger boys and girls, we also field teams in the Under 6s, 7s and 8s which play on a Saturday morning at St Luke's Oval, Concord.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT WEEKLY DRAW SUMMER ROUND FOUR 4/03/2017

CRICKET	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
TRAD 6A	Knox	Cooke Park	8.00am
TRAD 6B	Knox	SPC NO 4	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6A	Grammar Edge	Queens Park 6	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 6B	SPC 6D	Phillips Park	7.30am
SUPER 8'S 6C	Grammar Edge	Queens Park 6	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6D	SPC 6B	Phillips Park	7.30am
TRAD 5A	Scots	Christison Park 2 Middle	8.00am
TRAD 5B	Scots	Christison Park 3 North	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 5A	Trinity	Bressington 3	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 5B	Waverley	Queens Park 1	9.30am
BASKETBALL			
TEAM A	Redlands	Dunnett Hall	10.30am
TEAM B	Redlands	Dunnett Hall	9.40am
TEAM C	Redlands	Dunnett Hall	8.50am
TEAM D	Redlands	Dunnett Hall	8.00am
TEAM E	Redlands	NBISC 1	9.00am
TEAM F	Redlands	NBISC 1	8.00am
TEAM G	Redlands	NBISC 2	9.00am
TEAM H	Redlands	NBISC 2	8.00am
TEAM I	BYE		
TEAM J	BYE		
TEAM K	BYE		
TEAM L	BYE		
TENNIS			
TEAM A	Riverview	Longueville Tennis Courts	7.30am
TEAM B	Barker	Clarke Rd	8.00am
SOFTBALL			
TEAM Black	Arden	Breen Oval	8.00am

## VENUES:

Auburn Basketball Centre: Wyatt Park, Church St, Lidcombe  
 Cooke Park: Madeline St, Belfield  
 SPC Courts, No 3, No 4: Edgar St, Strathfield  
 Phillips Park – Nicholas St, Lidcombe  
 Rudd Park: Cnr Clarence & Varidel Strs, Belfield  
 Queens Park – Darley Rd, Waverley  
 Clarke Rd – Clarke Rd, Waitara  
 NBISC - Jackson's Road, Warriewood  
 Dunnett Hall - Redlands Junior School, 272 Military Rd, Cremorne  
 Bressington – Underwood Rd, Homebush –Opp the DFO.  
 Riverview Courts – Tambourine Bay Rd – Inside Senior School

FIXTURES AND GROUND LOCATIONS are published live online (includes cancellations):

Go to <http://www.spc.nsw.edu.au/co-curricular/sporting/> or visit the College website and select Sports Fixtures on the Quick Links menu

WET WEATHER UPDATES: call 02 9763 1000 and follow the prompts; Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SPCSeniorSport>; or on the Fixtures Pages above.