



Especean

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Principal

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

Creating, thinking and learning in a post-modern world.

There has been a great deal of media interest in the last few weeks about standards in education and the pending changes to the Higher School Certificate, particularly in English. The usual cries of the syllabus dumbing down what we expect of students, the loss of the canon and the all-too-familiar howls of Shakespeare being dumped are somewhat reminiscent of the same arguments that were presented when the “new” HSC was introduced at the turn of the century.

Students in classrooms across Australia are engaged in learning that exposes them to quality literature. They will continue to study Shakespeare, Donne, Auden, Eliot and the like, and they will also continue to study quality, contemporary Australian literature. This has been the case since I was a Year 12 candidate! More than ever, what we attempt to do in classrooms in this country is to develop in students a sense of critical literacy: we ask them to examine what they are reading carefully, to evaluate and synthesise how the composer positions the reader/responder; to draw conclusions about bias; to explore and discuss modality, purpose, audience and tone; and, importantly, to learn about their world through what they read. What we encourage in our learning experiences with students is creative and critical thinking. We ask students (even in Kindergarten) to think about their thinking processes (metacognition), to reflect on their learning and to be offered regular, helpful feedback on that learning. This is not only confined to the English classroom. This permeates all courses and subjects on offer in the curriculum.

Recently, St Patrick's College produced a Learning Framework. This Framework describes five key principles for learning. The principles outline what learning specifically looks like at St Patrick's. As learners we need to collaborate: we work in teams as well as individually. We seek to create, communicate, reflect on our learning, and do so in a community characterised by positive, life-giving relationships. We also engage in our learning with a sense of self-efficacy; subscribing to a belief that we have the capacity to improve in our learning. We develop strategies that promote this sense of a growth mindset.

In concert with the Learning Framework, the skills and dispositions that our young people will need when they leave school include being confident, articulate communicators, able to present to real world audiences, with the ability to “perform” to others and to be problem creators as well as problem solvers. If this is not higher order thinking, I don't know what is! Given that many of the careers that the graduates of St Patrick's will encounter and engage with don't yet exist, our task is to encourage them to be adaptable, flexible and agile enough so that the portable skills that they will carry into their adult life will be applicable to a variety of work and life situations. This means that our focus is not necessarily so much content-specific, but more concerned with developing the ability in young people to be thinkers. We must teach our students to be agile, life-long learners, and to be discerning. And, we must teach them about that four letter word that begins with F. We must encourage (teachers and parents) and imbue in our boys that it is ok to FAIL. If we do not fail, we will never know how to succeed. Failing doesn't mean giving up. It means tackling the problem or task again but with a different strategy, lens or approach. Sometimes it simply means trying again, and trying yet again until we get it right. This is called

resilience. Students at St Patrick's need to be challenged to take calculated risks with their learning. Learning is not always easy. Sometimes it is difficult. That's ok. As parents and teachers, we have to allow our young people to ‘sit in it’ at times. And, to reach a brick wall. They won't ever break through it if we provide the answers, or we do it for them.

We live in a complex and ever-changing world. Our job as teachers, is to prepare our young men to take their place in this world as active, faith-filled citizens, and to make a difference to the lives of others. This is not a simple task. Good academic results are important but the HSC is only one measure of learning. Some are suggesting that it is an out-moded measure. I'm not so concerned with this argument. What concerns me more is that the graduates of St Patrick's are young men who can articulate themselves with confidence and poise and to eloquently take a position as an informed adult, ready to speak out against injustice. The point of an education is not merely to prepare people to get a job. It needs to be far broader than that. All of our endeavour at St Patrick's is not geared towards an HSC. The learning journey is a more lofty and noble process than that. The HSC just happens to occur at the pointy end of Year 12. There is so much that takes places along the way that is perhaps more important. I have every suspicion that the HSC will be around for a while yet. I have every confidence that our boys will be well served by an English syllabus that will expose them to quality writing, poetry, drama and visual and digital text. And, they will be able to critically analyse a myriad of literary styles and genres as well as draw enjoyment from them.

Condolences

We extend our prayers and condolences to Justin Newman, his wife Margaret and family on the death of Bill Clarke, Justin's father-in-law. Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal



Induction of Junior School Leaders



Junior School

This Friday night, 10 March, the Annual Year 5/6 Family Dinner will take place in the College Gymnasium, commencing at 6.30pm. The night is informal and your seat allocation will be listed at the door; you do not require your tickets for entry. As far as possible seating has been arranged within your son's class group, but, as you can imagine, this is not always easy to achieve. I would like to thank Kate Manenti and the P & F executive in advance for the enormous work that goes into this evening. Their efforts are seen and greatly appreciated. Boys are not required to wear uniform on this night, their dress should be neat casual, including closed in shoes. A reminder too, that parents provide their own drinks and nibbles for this night.

Next Friday, 17 March, Year 5 and Year 10 take part in their Peer Support Day here at the College. The Peer Support Program aims to help establish a greater sense of community and support between our Junior and Senior students. It allows our Year 10 boys to be part of a great leadership opportunity and our Year 5s to feel more secure and connected to their new school. The Year 10s underwent their Training Day on Monday and were very impressive in how they managed the program, so they are well prepared and determined to make the Peer Support Program of 2017 a really valuable experience for all. We will keep you informed about the organisation of the day.

Jim Walters—Director of Junior School

Junior School Sport

Congratulations to all the boys in Basketball who were the only teams who played last weekend. It has been an extremely frustrating start to the season and I thank you all for your patience and understanding. Good luck to all teams this Saturday.

Congratulations to all the boys in the Swimming squad for your efforts yesterday at the IPSHA Carnival. A HUGE congratulations to Markus Parinetto of Year 5 who has made the NSW CIS team for Diving. Markus placed first in the U11's Springboard and third in the Open Boys Platform. Well done.

We're holding the CUA School Fun-Run in conjunction with our Junior School X-Country Carnival, as a major fundraising event this year! The event will be held next Tuesday 14 March in and around the College starting at 9.30am. This is a sponsorship based fundraiser, and we're looking to raise \$30,000 so all help is appreciated!

The CUA School Fun-Run promotes healthy and active lifestyles to our students, which will benefit all of them in the long run! It's all about participation and we're organising a great day for our school community. Family support is key to our fundraising success and we encourage all students to get involved. The CUA School Fun-Run is a healthy fundraiser that ensures all boys have a viable alternative to junk food fundraising. The event sends the right message to students about having fun while getting involved and being active. <https://youtu.be/rYsSPmFg2To>

Thanks for supporting your child's wellbeing and our school in raising money towards our Lenten appeal.

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster



Philosophy Excursion

Last Thursday the Year 10 Philosophy students visited the Art Gallery of NSW to further their study of their current unit of work, The Philosophy of Aesthetics. The students viewed many interesting exhibitions such as Adman: Warhol before Pop, Art Express, and Beyond Words (Calligraphy) and a number of others.

The students also went to the Study Room in the Gallery and had a workshop from Dr Kerry Sanders a Philosophy Lecturer on the philosophy of aesthetics and art. It was a great day out that definitely helped the students with their understanding of the different views and purposes of art. Thank you to the students for their participation and the commendable manner in which they represented the College.

Janine Timillero—Diverse Learning Coordinator

Study Skills Workshop – Parents and Students Years 7 - 9

Research has repeatedly confirmed that parental involvement and engagement in their child's education has a strong impact on learning. On the evening of Thursday 16 March, Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services will visit the College to run an interactive seminar for parents and their sons in Years 7-9. This session is different to those that the students will take part in during school time. This night was extremely popular when run for the first time last year.

The workshop will be held in the College Gymnasium from 7.00pm – 8.40pm. Please arrive 10 minutes early to receive handouts.

Parent/Guardian(s) and students should attend together. As the session is very interactive, the session will not be of full value unless both the students and a parent attend.

Both students and parents also need to bring along a pen each (and one highlighter for the family) and the school diary.

The main areas that will be covered are:

- Managing homework and assignments effectively by efficient time management.
- Learning to be more organised for school and at home.
- Working and studying effectively in high school.

Please RSVP by indicating your details on the response form linked here.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSel3ekviQuUr0V1mBcJW1GCoWi90oUhziVfrV5QEFcQZO477g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you.

Denise Lombardo—Director of Learning and Innovation

TO: PARENTS & STUDENTS OF YEAR 7
(and Years 8/9 students who missed out last year)

Would you like to know the study skills secrets to success in high school?

Parent/Student 'Study Skills' Evening

Thursday 16th March 2017, 7-8.40pm

College Gymnasium

St Patrick's College Strathfield

(Note: please arrive 5-10 min prior to collect handouts.)



NESA 2017 Confirmation of Entry Forms

Over the coming week or so, boys of Years 10, 11 and 12 are confirming their respective entries with the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) for the purpose of credentialing, ultimately leading to the award of the Higher School Certificate.

The boys will check their personal details, all subjects currently undertaken as well as other details such as indigenous status and Australian citizenship. In addition, each Year 12 boy will confirm his eligibility for an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). A few Year 12 boys may choose not to receive an ATAR.

It should also be noted that in signing the Confirmation of Entry form for the HSC, each Year 12 boy is confirming he has read and understood the booklet, *Rules and Procedures for 2017 Higher School Certificate Candidates*, issued to the boys during Term 4, 2016. Also, each Year 12 boy is confirming he has completed the Board of Studies *All My Own Work* program about good scholarship practices.

Years 10 and 11 Confirmation of Entry forms are signed, dated and returned during Homeroom. They do not leave the College. All forms are then cross-checked for accuracy with both College and Board records. In the case of Year 12, each boy will sign and date his form individually with Mrs Doonan.

Should parents or their sons have any questions or concerns regarding any of the details mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Andrew Brennan—Acting Director of Curriculum

PASTORAL CARE

“Each of our boys and young men is unique. We all want to see them happy and successful and we all want to keep them out of trouble. If we as parents, carers, or mentors can help them.... then the potential for all society to thrive is limitless.” (Arne Rubinstein, *The Making of Men*, 2013)

Transport

Students and parents are reminded that boys should be tapping both on and off when using their OPAL cards. This is a requirement from Transport NSW; see <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/termsAndConditions> for further details. Students are to be aware that drivers have the right to request that a student tap on when entering the bus and, if need be, make payment if the student does not have their card, or refuse travel.

It's important to remember that the School Opal card is only for travel to and from school on school days and doesn't cover travel to After School Care, school excursions, sport and other activities away from the College.

Responsible Use of Social Media

This is an area that has met with widespread public concern in recent years and during the year students across the College will be involved in activities within Homeroom and Pastoral Care Periods [PCPs] relating to the responsible use of social media. Further information for parents wishing to broaden their understanding of this area can be located at <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>.

Relationships and Bullying Survey

As per the current Strategic Plan goals, our College aims to create a positive, safe and supportive school community for everyone. At times, collecting information from students and parents will assist us in achieving these aims. The perceptions of students and parents can both affirm what the College is doing well in terms of establishing and maintaining positive student-teacher relationships, support for students and bullying, whilst also directing future action for improvement.

It is important for all members of the College community to be made aware of student perceptions and the extent to which they feel the College provides them with a safe place to learn and develop. Student and parent surveys have been created for this purpose. The anonymous survey will be completed by students in Years 6-10 during an extended Homeroom on Friday, 17 March to coincide with the National Day of Action against Bullying. A link will be sent to parents so they are able to complete the survey on the same day. Students in Years 11-12 will complete the survey in Week 8 and students in Year 5 later in the year. The results will be collated, reviewed and then discussed at a variety of forums in early Term 2.

Lenten Dances

For your calendar, students and parents are advised that the College will be hosting Lenten Dances on the following dates: Thursday, 30 March - Years 9 & 10 and Friday, 31 March - Years 7 & 8. The dances are in support of our Lenten partners, both in Australia and overseas. Letters will be distributed to students and parents later this week. Parents wishing to assist in supervising the dances are asked to contact Mr Simpson, Director of Pastoral Care at the College by Monday, 20 March.

Applications for Leave

Students and their parents are reminded of the expectations regarding Applications for Leave of 3 or more days. Details can be found on pages 26-27 of the College Diary. The application form is located on the College's parent portal on SOLE <https://sole.spc.nsw.edu.au/course/view.php?id=272>. Previous leave should be noted. The College reserves the right to decline applications and to apply consequences to those students who are absent without approval.

College Events

During the course of the year there are a number of significant College events where it is an expectation that all students attend. This includes but is not limited to House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Opening Mass, Spirituality/Reflection days, Founder's Day and Speech Night. There is an expectation that the College be contacted and a medical certificate be provided if a student is absent without Approved Leave/Exemption of Attendance. The College reserves the right to apply consequences for those students who do not provide a satisfactory explanation for their absence.

Robert Simpson—Director of Pastoral Care

Sports Draw - SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2017

CRICKET—ISA Finals				
1st XI	v	Oakhill	10.00	Breen Oval
2nd XI	v	St Pius X	10.00	Oxford Falls
3rd XI	v	Scot's School	10.00	SPC 2
16A	v	St Joseph's	1.30	St Joseph's College 2
16B	v	Epping Bulls	8.00	Meadowbank Park 10
15A	v	Concord Briars	8.00	Upjohn Park
15B	v	North Ryde RSL	8.00	North Ryde RSL
14A	v	Ryde Hunters Hill	8.00	Rydalmere Park
14B	v	Concord Briars	8.00	Strathfield Park 1
14C	v	Shore	1.30	Strathfield Park 1
13A	v	West Ryde White	8.00	Tuckwell Oval
13B	v	Epping Bulls	8.00	Mason Park 2
13 White	v	13 Blue	11.30	SPC 4
13 Gold	v	13 Green	8.30	SPC 4
13 Red	v	Kings E	1.30	Mason Park 2
13 Green	v	13 Gold	8.30	SPC 4
13 Blue	v	13 White	11.30	SPC 4
BASKETBALL—ISA Finals				
17D	v	St Paul's	1.30	Penrith Basketball Stadium 3
13B	v	Oakhill Maroon	9.30	Penrith Basketball Stadium 5
13C	v	Oakhill Gold	8.30	Penrith Basketball Stadium 5
13D	v	St Paul's	8.30	Penrith Basketball Stadium 6
BASEBALL				
1st IX	v	Concord - FRI NIGHT	6.00	Major's Bay Reserve 3
16 Blue	v	Rosebank	11.00	Major's Bay Reserve 3

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT WEEKLY DRAW SUMMER ROUND FIVE 11/03/2017

CRICKET	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
TRAD 6A	Trinity	Bressington 1	8.00am
TRAD 6B	Trinity	Bressington 2	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6A	Newington Wyvern	Strathfield Park	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 6B	Kings	Rudd Park	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 6C	Newington Wyvern	Strathfield Park	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6D	Kings	Rudd Park	8.00am
TRAD 5A	Riverview	SIC 5	8.00am
TRAD 5B	Riverview	SIC 6	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 5A	Scots	Phillips Park	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 5B	Kings	Phillips Park	8.00am
BASKETBALL			
TEAM A	Waverley	WCJS	10.30am
TEAM B	Waverley	WCJS	9.40am
TEAM C	Waverley	WCJS	8.50am
TEAM D	Waverley	WCJS	8.00am
TEAM E	Waverley	Auburn 1	9.00am
TEAM F	Waverley	Auburn 1	8.00am
TEAM G	Waverley	Auburn 2	9.00am
TEAM H	Waverley	Auburn 2	8.00am
TEAM I	Waverley	Auburn 3	9.00am
TEAM J	Waverley	Auburn 3	8.00am
TEAM K	Trinity Summer Hill	The Centenary Centre	8.15am
TEAM L	Trinity Summer Hill	The Centenary Centre	7.30am
TENNIS			
TEAM A	Knox	SPC Courts	8.00am
TEAM B	Riverview C	Riverview Courts	7.30am
SOFTBALL			
TEAM Black	Trinity Grammar	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
 Bressington – Underwood Rd, Homebush – Opp the DFO
 SIC 5 and 6 – Tambourine Bay Rd, Lane Cove
 Riverview Courts - Tambourine Bay Rd, Lane Cove (Senior School)
 WCJS Courts – Henrietta St, Waverley
 Strathfield Park - Chalmers Rd & Homebush Rd, Strathfield
 The Centenary Centre - Prospect Rd side of Summer Hill Campus
 119 Prospect Rd, Summer Hill



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 to express their interest. Anyone qualified and interested in refereeing either Football or Rugby for the school is also asked to contact me.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the 17D, 13B, 13C and 13D Basketball sides who have progressed through to this week's Basketball Finals at Penrith Stadium. Good luck!

This weekend sees all three of our Opens Cricket teams involved in Grand Finals. The 1st XI and 3rd XI will be playing here at the College, while the 2nd XI will be playing away at Oxford Falls. This is a significant achievement for our Cricket fraternity and wish them the best of luck.

As always, any support from the wider community would be much appreciated.

Winter Sport Trials

Winter sport trials for Rugby, Football and Tennis commence on Tuesday, 21 March. Due to the unavailability of council grounds during this time, we will be running trial sessions on Saturday, 25 March in addition to the midweek afternoon sessions. A schedule for trials will be released shortly.

We are aware that some boys will still be engaged in Cricket and Baseball Finals at this time – these boys are advised that their summer co-curricular activities take precedence over their winter commitments until the end of their summer season.

Mitchell Kearsley—Head of Secondary Sport

Father/Son Evening for Year 11

“What kind of man will he be?”

All young men of Year 11 and their fathers/father figures are invited to attend an evening of reflection, sharing and fun. We will share a meal together and continue to develop our relationships in this positive environment. A good chance just to have time together.

Date: Tuesday, 4 April 2017

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Waterford House (Merley Rd, Strathfield – next to the College Pool)

Attire: Casual clothing

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 29 March. Send an email to gillian.daley@spc.nsw.edu.au with Father Son Evening as the subject. Please include in the email the name of both the father and the son plus a contact phone number and email address.

Numbers will be limited so get in quick. If you have any questions please send us an email or contact us at the College.

Gillian Daley
Director of Identity

& Justin Newman
Year 11 Coordinator