“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”
Proverbs 27:17

Last Sunday’s first reading from Maccabees was an extraordinary testimony of faith. The reading recounts the arrest, torture and execution of a mother and her seven sons who were under the direction of a cruel conquering king to renounce their Jewish faith. Refusing to comply with the King’s orders, each of the seven sons was tortured and executed one at a time until eventually the mother herself suffered the same horrific fate. In listening to this reading at Sunday Mass, I could not help but think of my own mother and the non-negotiable faith demands she made of her six boys and one girl. In having the freedom to attend Mass whenever we choose and with so many opportunities to express our own Catholic faith in ways that require little sacrifice, I encourage all of us to consider the true meaning of Christmas outside of the commercial self-gratifying promotions that do little to help those in need.

Last Saturday was our Annual Year 5 Students and Parents Orientation Day. It was so nice and reassuring to see so many of our existing parents at this special event enrolling another son at the College. Equally, it was lovely to meet so many new parents who have entrusted their sons into the care of our College. In my address to the parents, I was able to share with them why St Patrick’s is an overwhelmingly happy school. Amongst some of the reasons that I stated why I think St Patrick’s is a happy school were the following:

- Students becoming involved in all aspects of College life, including our comprehensive Co-curricular program.
- Students being committed to their learning, irrespective of their ability levels as learning demands are adjusted when required.
- Parents working in partnership with the College and supporting the decisions that we make.
- The support for the non-negotiable behavioural, uniform and grooming expectations.

Thank you parents for your contributions which enable St Patrick’s to enjoy the reputation for high standards, personal excellence and inclusivity. By avoiding confusion through mixed messages, students are able to have a sense of belonging while contributing to a College community which continues to build upon the past work of the Christian Brothers.

In addition to the support provided on a daily basis, many parents generously volunteer their precious time to support the various activities that are part and parcel of our busy College life. With obviously too many people and activities to list, I would sincerely like to thank everyone for giving what they can to the College. I have always said that the St Patrick’s parents are the most supportive, generous and friendly group of parents that one could possibly hope to work with. As a small token of the College’s deep appreciation, this Friday’s Volunteer Mass and Lunch is our way of saying thank you. The parents in turn last week, through the Parents’ and Friends’ Association, treated the staff with a thank you lunch which further reinforces the sense of belonging and appreciation that underpins our wonderful community.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever

John Murphy
Acting Headmaster

Vol 29, No 34 – 9 November 2016

Christmas Hampers

All Homerooms in the College have begun to compile the Christmas Hampers for those less fortunate than ourselves, because indeed we are a very blessed community in so many ways. These hampers will be sent to families through our three designated charities – St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Care and a home for survivors of domestic abuse. We ask that you bring in non-perishable food items, toiletries and Christmas presents to fill these hampers in order to bring joy to somebody else’s Christmas. All items must be new, not used. We ask that you give what you would like to receive rather than what you want to get rid of. All hampers need to be completed by 23 November. Thank-you, in advance, for your generosity and compassion for those who live on the margins as we aim to bring Justice & Solidarity to all. As our Founder Blessed Edmund Rice reminds us, we should give to the poor in handfuls.

Waleed Younan
Sherrie Rodricks
Acting Director of Identity
Social Justice Facilitator
On Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November, our Year 6 boys have their Transition and Orientation Days at school. These two days will be spent giving the boys some preparation for 2017, including meeting some of their teachers, exploring their new environment, learning about routines, classrooms and lockers and having some free time as well. The dress for the two days is neat casual. The boys will be reminded of this while on camp in Week 6.

On Wednesday 23 November, our Year 6 parents are invited to a “Preparing Your Son for High School” presentation in the Robson Auditorium. The night is aimed to assist in the transition from Primary to Secondary School for parents; what to expect from your sons, how Year 7 is organised, what changes to anticipate and more. The night commences at 5.30pm and there will be parking available on the Tennis Courts.

On Thursday 24 November, 5 White, 5 Red and 5 Gold will be presenting their instrumental concert in the Duffy Music Centre. The boys have been working hard this Semester with their strings, brass and woodwind and are excited about showing their wares to an appreciative audience. The concert commences at 11.00am in the performance space of the Duffy Music Centre. Parents are most welcome to attend. There is no need to RSVP, just turn up on the day.

**Year 6 Camp**

Next week from November 14 to 17, Year 6 will be taking part in their Annual Camp. Can I please insist that in packing for your boys, you do not include any NUT BASED products for them to eat. There are some boys travelling with us who have allergic responses to these products. These boys dietary requirements will be met at the camp itself, but we need to aware of these boys when eating in transit.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

*Jim Walters—Director of Junior School*

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**Science Olympiad Awards**

Recently a group of Year 11 students sat for the Australian Science Olympiad Exams. These exams are a great way for students to test their knowledge of scientific concepts and their application in critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and skills of scientific inquiry. The Science Olympiads are run in Biology, Physics and Chemistry and are a great opportunity for talented Science students to be extended. They are challenging exams for students who have completed these Science courses let alone for Year 11 students.

It is wonderful that a number of our Year 11 students received recognition for good results in these exams. Congratulations to: Andrew Clark who received a Distinction in Physics, to Baxter Brown, Gabriel De Palo, Adrien Di Lonardo, Jackson Smith and Andre Volpato who received a Credit in Physics, to Nestor Campos, Jackson Smith, Andre Volpato who received a Credit in Chemistry and Jack McGrath who received a credit in Biology.

*Janine Timillero—Diverse Learning Coordinator*

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**Parents & Friends’ General Meeting & AGM 2016**

**Tuesday, 15 November 2016**

Dear Parents,

You are invited to attend our last P&F General Meeting & AGM in 2016 on Tuesday, 15 November 2016 commencing at 7.30pm in the Robson Auditorium. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

*Kate Manenti—President, P&F*
St Joseph’s Alice Springs Art Enterprise with St Patrick’s

The Greeting cards and 2017 Calendar designed by the students from St Joseph’s Alice Springs Flexible Learning Centre have now arrived at SPC and are available to be purchased from reception in the front office of the Hickey Building.

They both look amazing and would make wonderful Christmas gifts. Money raised from these sales will be going back to the St Joseph’s community to enable them to continue to produce such amazing works in the near future.

A set of 5 Greeting cards are selling for $15.00
The 2017 Calendar is selling for $15.00

The purchase order form can be found on SOLE under the Parent Portal. Correct Cash payment can only be accepted, as change will not be returned to the student.

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Senior and Junior School Winter Sport and Non-Sport Photos: Ordering On-line

Below parents will find shoot-key and ordering instructions relating to the Senior School Summer Sport photos. Please note that the photos will be sent to your home address and not the College.

Parents are advised that if they are experiencing any difficulty in ordering they can ring the Parent Hotline on 1800 750 586 for advice.

2. Click Order Your School Photos
3. Enter shoot-key in box provided: CL44ZZT3
4. Scroll through and select an image. Image appearing in main box is the image chosen to purchase
5. Enter required copies
6. Add to Cart
7. If further prints required please continue steps 4-6 until all images chosen
8. Click Cart on top right hand side
9. Check order is correct and click checkout
10. Customers who have already created an account enter their username & password
11. New customers click I don’t have an account and wish to create one.
12. Customers proceed through checkout to enter their credit card details
13. Once approved an invoice will be auto-generated to the customers email
14. Photos will be sent to nominated addresses and not to the school.

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Night of the Notables

On Monday 7 November we had a visit from Howard Florey, Steve Jobs, Benjamin Franklin, Matthew Flinders, Louis Braille, Albert Einstein and many more Notable characters as 6 Black presented ‘Night of the Notables’. The Night of the Notables is a programme in which students engage in an in-depth study of one notable person. The students have been involved in comprehensive research which has facilitated skills of independent learning as well as higher level thinking skills. On Monday night the students showcased their product of deep personal study. They presented themselves in character as their Notable, displayed the Learning Centre they had created and engaged with the audience in a short skit.

The night highlighted the hard work that had been carried out by the students and they are to be commended on their excellent participation in this project. A big thank you is extended to the many Junior School students who came along to the night and also to the students (many of them ex notables) from the secondary who assisted.

Janine Timilleror  Daniel Fields
Diverse Learning Coordinator  Junior School Curriculum Coordinator
Baseball

In addition to the Sport Captains listed in last week’s Especean, I’d like to extend a big congratulations to Fortunato Russo who has been named Captain of Baseball for summer.

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Congratulations

Oscar Schmidt-Utili of Year 11 was selected in the NSW U17 Rugby 7’s side who played in a lead up tournament to the National Championships last weekend. This is a huge honour for Oscar and reward for his continued hard work in this arena.

Pink Stumps Day

SPC will be hosting a ‘Pink Stumps Day’ on Breen Oval on Saturday 12 November, 2016. This is in support of the McGrath Foundation, which raises money to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities across Australia as well as to increase breast awareness in young people.

The day will consist of:
- 1st XI fixture on Breen Oval with a ‘pink flavour’
- Raffle
- BBQ and Drinks
- High Catch Challenge on Breen Oval (lunch break)

I would encourage all members of the College community to endeavour to get down to Breen Oval this Saturday in support of this cause. To further support the event you can donate at https://pinkstumpsday2017.gofundraise.com.au/page/stpatscricket.

Mitchell Kearsey—Head of Secondary Sport

Upcoming Events

Saturday 12 November – ISA Summer Round 4 NDJCA Cricket RHBL Baseball

Saturday 12 November – Pink Stumps Day (Breen Oval)

Saturday 19 November – ISA Summer Round 5 NDJCA Cricket RHBL Baseball

Saturday 26 November – ISA Summer Round 6 (last round of term 4) NDJCA Cricket RHBL Baseball

16A Cricket will play until 3 December.
NDJCA Cricket teams will play until 10 December.
RHBL Baseball teams play until 17 December.