



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)

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

Young children and adolescents: the internet, imagination and access to pornography.

I was listening to a conference presenter talk about young children in the digital age, where the ubiquity of hand-held devices is all they have ever known. We were asked in this session to consider our cultural feelings about childhood: what is it about childhood that stirs images in our minds? Is it about playing on swings, building a cubby house, running around the park or is it sitting on a couch playing with an iPad? Children as young as six months old are exposed to technology. However, it may surprise you to learn that TV is still the most used form of technology in the household. The United States advice on very young children and technology is that children under 18 months should not be using technology with the exception of Facetime. Even infants at six months of age can recognise faces on Facetime.



Obviously, families play a very important role in children's use of technology, as they are the first teachers of their children. How much technology, what it is used for and what kind of technology is provided is usually up to parents to decide especially

with younger children. The use of technology as a babysitter is an attitude that some parents reportedly do not like about themselves according to some US research.

Early childhood educators see the importance of imaginative free play to improve cognitive, social and emotional growth. We know that it is vital for young children's development. It is fair to say that we, as parents, were all raised last century. So, what does a 21st century play paradigm look like? Some scholars believe that children should wait until they commence their formal schooling before using technology, however, most preschoolers are already familiar with technology prior to school. Millennial parents want their children to be using technology in their learning. When we think of hand-held devices (like smart phones and iPads or tablets) it is sobering to realise that these have only been around for less than a decade. We do know that technology is changing the face of childhood. In the lecture I was in, we were asked to contemplate our own personal biases, thoughts and feelings about how young is too young to engage with technology. Increasingly, I have seen quite young children in restaurants with their parents, each armed with an iPad or a smart phone. I wonder whether these are provided for entertainment, distraction, education or as behavioural devices to keep children quiet and compliant. Digital play is indeed changing our understanding of childhood play. When children engage with technology, they will incorporate elements of traditional play with digital play and often will negotiate with each other about the use of a device. They will often show others how to manipulate a game, or an app and they haven't abandoned imaginative play.

What is alarming though is the possibility for addiction to technology. When you wake up in the morning, what is the very first thing you do? I will bet that many people will reach their arm out for their mobile phone, even before their eyes have fully focused! Internet addiction is a growing problem. I am not suggesting that technology is "bad" but I do wish to raise a sensitive issue with parents about how children's use of technology changes as they leave childhood behind and enter adolescence. Perhaps in some ways this is naming the elephant in the room. The anytime, anywhere possibilities for boys to access the internet means that there are opportunities to accidentally or purposefully end up on sites that are not always appropriate. Pornography

is available at the click of a button. If you think your adolescent son would never access pornography on line, I would politely ask you to conduct your own research on this matter.

According to most research I have read, the average age for first viewing pornography online is 11 years old. This is not always a deliberate act. Many young people inadvertently find themselves on a porn site as a result of a seemingly innocent search. If you think you will wait until your child



is older before having a discussion about his internet viewing, perhaps it will be too late. Most young men consume pornography at much greater rates than young women do and the peak ages for frequent online viewing are between 14-18 years. The most important thing to note is not *if* a male between the ages of 10-18 will access or view porn online, but *when and how often*. What is more important is the discussion you can have with your child(ren) about the values and attitudes you have towards this sensitive issue and at what point in your son's growing up are you going to have this conversation? Once upon a time we had the talk about the birds and the bees with our children but now we must have that talk and include access to porn. I would suggest you include questions to do with respect, dignity and the portrayal and valuing of women as equals and how real life looks compared with the internet when it comes to love, romance and relationships as opposed to sex and personal gratification only. One website I consulted said "do not let porn be the only sex education your child gets."

Technology is not going away. For the most part we cannot control what is put online, but we can educate and help our children navigate their way through the internet and provide sensible, values-based advice and a balanced approach to how they engage with technology. We want our children to be informed about their responsibilities as well as their rights. Real people in real relationships still must drive our everyday interactions, with technology being a tool and an adjunct to our life, not the dictator of it.

Perhaps these websites and articles might prove useful:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography/online-pornography-and-young-people>
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/online-risks/online-pornography>
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/361-380/tandi368.html>

I would ask that you please keep in your prayers Patrick Morris from the Class of 2013 who is currently in a coma in an Athens hospital following a motor vehicle accident on the island of Mykonos. Patrick has cerebral bleeds in both hemispheres and a brain stem haemorrhage. This was Patrick's first overseas trip since graduating in 2013.

One of Patrick's five siblings has set up a 'Gofundme' page, which through the generosity of friends, has enabled Patrick's parents to fly to Athens to be with him. The link to the 'Gofundme' page is <https://www.gofundme.com/3e66nh-patricks-medical-fund>. Along with your prayers, I am sure the family would be very appreciative of any monetary support you may wish to give for what will be a long and difficult time ahead for Patrick and his family.

Condolences

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of David Ricigliano (Old Boy, class of 1990) who died recently. I know that a number of friends and Old Boys were represented at the funeral of David. Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal

Junior School

Later this term Year 6 classes will be visiting Mary MacKillop House in North Sydney. Mary MacKillop House is a museum dedicated to the life and works of Mary, telling her story in word, music and multimedia presentations. It is an excellent tribute to Australia's first officially proclaimed Saint.

The celebration of Mary's life and works is very relevant to us as Australian Catholics involved in the field of education. Mary dedicated her life to teaching the young in what was a developing nation and she was instrumental in contributing to the building of our present day Australian Church which has so much invested in the work of education. That spirit of the early Christian Church, so present in Mary, of willingness to work hard, put yourself last, be welcoming, hopeful and resilient is a great example to us all. The lessons from Mary's life are still very pertinent to the young – her courage, intelligence and foresight founded a great Religious order and her influence continues to be felt across all aspects of our nation. I am sure our boys will come away with a deeper understanding of the legacy of this wonderful Australian. I would like to thank Mr Davis for organising these days for the boys. These excursions will take place in Week 7 and you will receive full details of them closer to the date.

Each Friday either Year 5 or 6 take part in a Pastoral Care Period. The period is a way of assembling the Year group to share work being done in class, address issues that impact on the boys' well-being and acknowledge the good work and behaviour of the boys through the presentation of awards. I would like to publically acknowledge the large number of boys who have received awards this year. Often these awards are given to those who may not receive accolades for sport or academia, but who are outstanding young men. These boys, the heart and soul of the College, deserve sincere congratulations.

Jim Walters—Director of Junior School

Junior School Sport

Congratulations to the Prep A, B and C Football teams for outstanding wins over Barker College last Saturday. All three teams remain undefeated with one game remaining.

Congratulations also to the 11A1 side who remain undefeated. Well done also to the 11B1 and the 11D2 teams who are also undefeated. Another impressive performance for our Prep A and Prep B Rugby sides on Breen Oval with strong wins of 39 – 0 and 56 – 0 also against Barker. An excellent win for the 11A Rugby side against Riverview sees the boys on cloud nine for the last game against Shire this weekend. This weekend we have nearly all teams playing at home. The U11's Football are playing each other and I have decided to make their games 25 minute halves so that all boys/reserves get a fair go.

Good luck to all boys this weekend in their last game of winter sport for 2017. I would like to thank the staff and coaches of all teams for their work over the season and to all the parents for your ongoing support of the Junior school. Good luck to Damon and Jacob Chidiac, Alex Conti and Finlay Mitchell who will be representing NSW CIS in Touch Football this week. Good luck also to Nathan Yeung who is competing in the Karate World Cup in the Gold Coast this weekend. We wish them all the best of luck.

Next Saturday 12 August is our first Invitational Athletics Carnival (only a select squad) at SOPAC warm up arena. All boys have been to meetings and training will start next Monday morning for the whole squad.

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster

Student Accident Insurance

Each year, the College renews a Student Accident Insurance policy to cover any injuries to students whilst engaged in school related activities. This policy is negotiated by our insurance broker, Willis Australia Limited, and the current policy is placed with Catholic Church Insurance (CCI).

If your child suffers a significant injury that requires medical/hospital treatment, claim forms can now be downloaded direct from the parent portal on SOLE – <https://sole.spc.nsw.edu.au>

Also on SOLE is a claims procedure document as well as the policy wording including benefits payable (the College has the higher Standard Cover not Basic Cover). The completed claim form and any relevant attachments should be returned to the College as the school must verify that the accident occurred during a school related activity before sending the claim to Willis for processing.

Please note that the policy will not cover the cost of any medical service for which a Medicare benefit is payable. This is prohibited under Federal health legislation. Parents may also wish to review the benefits that are payable and make a decision if additional private insurance coverage is warranted. For example, dental treatment can be very expensive and the benefits for loss or damage to teeth may not cover expenses incurred.

I stress that parents are encouraged to carefully read the policy and the details about what is, and is not covered. The College cannot advise you about matters to do with your own medical insurance.

The College also pays a subscription each year to Ambulance Service NSW which will cover the cost of any ambulance transport to a hospital. If you are invoiced for such a service, please forward the unpaid invoice to the College's Finance Department.

Colin Liversidge—Director of Business Services

A Double Debating Victory

Last Friday night's CSDA Debating Grand Final was one that will truly be remembered. Our Year 12As were out for the win against St Patricks Marist Dundas and they surely delivered. The boys were fantastic and the whole team should be commended for their efforts. This night was also special for Mr Michael Robson who had the pleasure of awarding these boys the "Robson Shield for Debating". SPC also won the Senior Aggregate Shield. The last time this occurred was in 1974. A special thanks goes to the senior coach Ms Jane Sulis, who has with her tremendous amount of experience, guided the boys all season to which they have been so responsive and for which they are so grateful. Well done to all for a fantastic season.

Martha Zantis—MIC Public Speaking and Debating



Work & Welcome

One initiative that has been running at the College since the beginning of 2016 is the *Work & Welcome* programme, through which staff volunteer to contribute part of their pay each week to a fund which pays the wage for a refugee to have a work placement at the College. This programme enables people who struggle to get a job, because they have no Australian work experience, an opportunity for 10 weeks of paid work. In this time they gain skills, earn a living and connect with a community as they settle in Australia after a very difficult period in their life. Once enough money has been earned by the staff we discuss the type of placement who would fit in at the College in whichever field there is a need. We have just had our first placement completed by a lovely man named Peter who was a member of the Maintenance Team. He had an impact on all who met him and he shared his story with the staff recently. Many staff continue to contribute each week as we look forward to helping our next employee, giving them purpose and connection. We run this programme in conjunction with the *House of Welcome* who works on behalf of *Multicultural Development Australia* (MDA). The programme benefits not only the recipients but our community also, as we learn more about the lives of others and the hardships many face. Our aim is to be a truly inclusive community just as we are called to be by Christ.

Old School Uniforms and Tracksuits

Thank-you to all who have donated old tracksuits and uniforms to the College who use them with our Justice Partners.

If you plan on donating any there is now a **deadline to get them in – Friday 25 August**. Nothing will be accepted after this date so please do not just leave them at the College. To drop off items prior to the deadline please deliver to the front office.

Gillian Daley—Director of Identity

SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL TOUR



Over the recent break sixteen Footballers and two staff coaches travelled to South America for the Football Tour. They began with a skills session in Chile with one of the top three teams, Universidad Catolica. A stopover in Argentina at the famous Iguazu Falls provided spectacular views. The team not only competed against Southern Cross College and St Patrick's in Buenos Aires, they also experienced what it's like to be a local by staying with host families. The on-field highlight was a 2-1 win against the British School in Uruguay with headed goals from Matthew Achmar and Luke Pipolo. The students were commended on their respect and conduct and enjoyed a wonderful overall experience that will no doubt stay with them for years to come.

Oscar Teixeira—Year 9 Coordinator



Tickets \$15 each

Water, soft drinks and chips for sale
Ticket and student ID must be shown
at entry

PLC Sydney Thompson Hall
Entry via Young Street

Students in Year 7 & 8 have been invited to attend PLC, Sydney's fundraising dance for East Timor.

Tickets can be purchased from both Ms Lamir and Ms Michael at the College prior to Wednesday 9 August.

Parking available on Drummond Field, Croydon



PASTORAL CARE

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Did you know that if your son attended St Patrick's between Years 5-12 and missed as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of his time at the College he will have missed over a year of education?

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week;
- or a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all College activities, on time. If your son has to be absent from the College, you must inform the College and provide a reason for your son's absence. A small number of absences may be accepted; for example, if your son has to go to a special religious ceremony, is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation, is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the Principal, the College will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help.

Sometimes, the College will ask support staff and other agencies to assist. It is important to understand that further action will be taken where students of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from the College. Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences** - The aim of the meeting/conference is to help identify strategies to support the boy and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree. The outcome of an Attendance meeting/compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the boy's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.
- **Applications to the Children's Court** - A Compulsory Schooling Order Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or boy to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.
- **Prosecution in the Local Court** - If all attempts by the College and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

Adapted from Student Attendance at <http://www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au>

Robert Simpson—Director of Pastoral Care



Back to Breen



The Relational Institute
Australia

Its time we talked! Pornography,
young people and sexuality
today.

A Parent information evening with Maree Crabbe



Maree Crabbe

31 August 2017 7pm

Pornography has become a parenting issue we can't afford to ignore...

Readily available and aggressively marketed online, exposure to hardcore pornography is now mainstream. Porn has become a default sex educator for many young people, with serious implications for their capacity to negotiate free and full consent, for mutual respect, sexual health, and gender equality.

Back by popular demand, this session will be led by Maree Crabbe, Coordinator of the community education project Reality & Risk: Pornography, young people and sexuality. Maree is Co-Producer and Co-Director of the documentary film Love and Sex in an Age of Pornography, and, The Porn Factor; both broadcast on SBS. She is also author of In The Picture – a whole school resource to assist secondary schools to address the influence of explicit sexual imagery. Maree's articles on young people, sexuality and pornography have been published in online and print media.

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR?

Parents, Aunties, Uncles, Grandparents, Youth workers and anyone wanting to learn more about this important issue.

PRICE

\$30 +GST

To Learn More Visit
<http://www.therelationalinstitute.com.au/tria-events/>

Sports Draw - SATURDAY 5 AUGUST 2017

FOOTBALL			
1st XI	v	Oakhill	10.15 Lawrence Oval
2nd XI	v	Oakhill	9.00 Lawrence Oval
3rd XI	v	St Pius C	2.30 SPC 3
4th XI	v	St Pius D	1.30 SPC 3
5th XI	v	Newington 6	12.30 SPC 3
6th XI	v	Newington 7	11.30 SPC 3
7th XI	v	Reddam House	10.30 SPC 3
8th XI	v	Newington 8	9.30 SPC 3
16A	v	Oakhill	8.00 Lawrence Oval
16B	v	Oakhill	12.00 Lawrence Oval
16C	v	St Andrew's B	8.00 Wentworth Park
16D	v	Newington D	10.00 Tempe Reserve 1
16E	v	Newington E	11.00 Tempe Reserve 1
15A	v	Oakhill	2.00 Lawrence Oval
15B	v	St Spyridon B	8.00 Mason Park 3
15C	v	St Pius C	8.00 Walsh Oval
15D	v	Knox G	1.00 Curagul 2
15E	v	Knox H	2.00 Curagul 2
15F	v	Knox I	3.00 Curagul 2
14A	v	Oakhill	1.00 Lawrence Oval
14B	v	Oakhill	3.30 BC Oval
14C	v	Oakhill	2.30 BC Oval
14D	v	Shore D	12.00 Mason Park 3
14E	v	SPC 13E	2.00 Mason Park 3
14F	v	Sydney Boys High F	9.00 Centennial Park 9
14G	v	Sydney Boys High G	10.00 Centennial Park 9
13A	v	Oakhill	1.30 BC Oval
13B	v	Oakhill	12.30 BC Oval
13C	v	St Pius C	1.00 Mason Park 3
13D	v	St Pius D	8.00 Chaplin Oval 2
13E	v	SPC 14E	2.00 Mason Park 3
13F	v	Shore E	11.00 Mason Park 3
13G	v	Knox G	10.00 Mason Park 3
13H	v	Knox H	9.00 Mason Park 3

RUGBY			
1st XV	v	Oakhill	3.15 Damian Oval
2nd XV	v	Oakhill	2.00 Damian Oval
3rd XV	v	Oakhill 4th	1.00 Damian Oval
4th XV	v	Oakhill 5th	12.00 Damian Oval
16A	v	Oakhill	11.00 Damian Oval
16B	v	Oakhill	10.00 Hermann Oval
15A	v	Oakhill	8.00 Damian Oval
15B	v	Oakhill	9.00 Hermann Oval
15C	v	Reddam	9.00 Parade Ground 6
14A	v	Oakhill	10.00 Damian Oval
14B	v	Oakhill	12.00 Hermann Oval
14C	v	Oakhill D	8.00 BC Oval
13A	v	Oakhill	9.00 Damian Oval
13B	v	Oakhill	8.00 Hermann Oval
13C	v	Oakhill D	9.00 BC Oval
13D	v	Barker D	12.00 Taylor Field

TENNIS			
Div 1	v	Redlands	8.00 Cammeray Tennis Courts
Div 2	v	Oakhill	8.00 Oakhill Courts
Div 3	v	Oakhill	8.00 Strathfield Sports Club
Div 4	v	Oakhill	8.00 Oakhill Courts
Div 5	v	Oakhill	8.00 Strathfield Sports Club
Div 6	v	Oakhill	8.00 Oakhill Courts
Div 7	v	Chevalier 1	8.30 Strathfield Sports Club
Div 8	v	Oxley	8.30 Bowral Tennis Courts
Div 9	v	Oakhill 7	8.00 Strathfield Sports Club
Div 10	v	Redlands	8.00 Cammeray Tennis Courts

Reminder
P&F Term Three Meeting
Next Tuesday 8 August
7.30pm in the
Robson Auditorium
All welcome

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT WEEKLY DRAW ROUND TEN 5/08/17

Rugby Union

TEAM	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
PREP 1 ST XV	St Pius X	Breen Oval	8.45am
PREP 2 ND XV	St Pius X	Breen Oval	8.00am
PREP BLACK 7's	Arden	Koola Park 4	9.00am
	St Andrews	Koola Park 6	9.40am
PREP GOLD 7's	Grammar St Ives	Koola Park 1	10.00am
	Trinity White	Koola Park 2	10.20am
11A	Shore	SPC NO 2	9.30am
11B	Shore	SPC NO 2	8.45am
11C	Shore	SPC NO 2	8.00am

Football (Soccer)

TEAM	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
PREP A	St Pius X	Bark Huts 1	8.00am
PREP B	St Pius X	Bark Huts 1	8.45am
PREP C	St Pius X	Bark Huts 1	9.30am
PREP D	St Pius X	Bark Huts 1	10.15am
PREP E	Barker	Bark Huts 1	11.00am
11 A1	SPC A2	Bark Huts 2	8.00am
11 B1	SPC B2	Bark Huts 2	9.00am
11 C1	SPC C2	Bark Huts 2	10.00am
11 D1	SPC D2	Bark Huts 2	11.00am
11A2	SPC A1	Bark Huts 2	8.00am
11 B2	SPC B1	Bark Huts 2	9.00am
11 C2	SPC C1	Bark Huts 2	10.00am
11 D2	SPC D1	Bark Huts 2	11.00am
10A	Grammar Edgecliff	SPC No 3	8.45am
10B	Grammar Edgecliff	SPC No 3	8.45am
10C1	Grammar Edgecliff	SPC No 3	8.00am
10C2	Grammar Edgecliff	SPC No 3	8.00am

AFL

TEAM	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
A	Riverview	Tramway	8.00am

Venues:

Breen Oval/SPC No 2, 3 – Edgar St, Strathfield (inside school grounds)
Bark Huts – Elliott St, Belfield
Koola Park – Koola Ave, East killara



Winter Season Update

Congratulations to all Tennis teams on their outstanding performances last weekend, again taking a clean sweep of all matches played. To date, nine of the ten teams are placed either 1st or 2nd in their division, sitting in strong positions leading into the ISA Finals on 12 August at Barker College.

Likewise, all bar one ISA Football teams are currently placed in the top 4 of their respective competitions with one round to go before the semi-finals. Oakhill will bring tough competition in this last regular season round so good luck to all boys involved.

The Rugby fraternity have two weeks left of the 2016 season – away at Oakhill this weekend and, for the most part, away against St Stanislaus' on 12 August. The 15C and 13D teams WILL NOT travel to Bathurst on 12 August, all other teams will play against St Stanislaus'. A note will go home this week regarding the bus if students need assistance with travelling to Bathurst.

Year 12

For most Year 12 players the next couple of weeks will see them play their last fixture for the College after eight years of wearing Blue, Black and Gold. My message is simple – enjoy the games, be proud of what you have achieved and make sure you finish in the right manner. Thank you for all your efforts over the last eight years.

Mitchell Kearsley—Head of Secondary Sport

The 2017 Pierre de Coubertin Award

The Pierre de Coubertin Awards provide our youth with an opportunity to share the true spirit of Olympism. The award program is named after Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics. The Baron believed international competitions between amateur athletes would promote friendly relationships between people from different countries and this has proven to be most evident in many, if not all of the modern day Olympiads.

The Pierre de Coubertin Award is designed to recognise students who demonstrate attributes that are consistent with the fundamental aims of the Olympic movement through participation in a variety of sporting activities. The Award aims to emphasise participation and sporting behaviour.

Congratulations are extended to this year's recipient, **Dominic Thomas**. Dominic has represented the College in Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Football and Cricket during his time at St Patrick's. Dominic is a shining example of one who consistently works hard on improving his skills in a quiet and diligent manner, whilst at the same time always demonstrating excellent sportsmanship irrespective of what grade he has been chosen to represent the College. Dominic has been an excellent role model for our younger students and is a most worthy recipient.



Steve Fochesato—Director of Co-curricular

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.