

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,

Disappointment

When one of my children was in their teens, I had cause to need to have a serious talk with her for her behaviour. I resisted the urge to shout and carry on, which would have made *me* feel better (for a short time anyway) because if truth be told, I was angry. Instead though, I did what I knew was more appropriate and effective and sat down with my daughter and we talked. During this event, I apparently said how disappointed I was in her behaviour. To this day, my adult daughter recalls that this one word was more powerful than any other disciplinary tool I had ever used. Above all, my daughter did not want me to be disappointed in her. The word disappointment seems innocuous enough on its own, but it has such a powerful latency that seems to last. To be disappointed in something or someone is not anger, it is not harsh, but it is powerful because one feels let down.



When we experience disappointment in ourselves there can be a degree of self-consciousness attached to it. I think that emotions like this spur one of two responses: we can wallow in it, or we can seek to do something about the feeling, or the situation, so that it does not happen again. When our own children feel disappointed in themselves it is perhaps



because they have let themselves down. We try to give our children (and our students) the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and shortcomings, and to do better next time. There is a tendency as a parent, at

times, to want to shield our children from these experiences, but in so doing, we are actually doing them a disservice. If we do not feel disappointment as a child, then how do we ever learn how to deal with it? What self-reflection and soul-searching takes place if we rob our children of the opportunity to grow in maturity in dealing with their feelings and emotions?

Good parenting is difficult; tremendously so. And, there is more than one correct way to go about it. One of the hardest things we do is to watch our children make mistakes, and experience difficulties, but we must do it. Disappointment is a tricky feeling to navigate. One thing we can do is to talk it through and ask what strategies the child might come up with (by themselves) so that he doesn't feel disappointed in himself next time. If it is to

do with exam marks for example, then what might happen in the preparation phase for the examination, in classroom time, or with study patterns that might avoid disappointment next time the marks appear on the exam paper? Perhaps another strategy might be to make a list of the people to whom the child can go to seek assistance, and so on. Our job as parents is to prompt possibilities, not to solve the problem. We can probe the pathways to solutions, but not to do it for them. When we parent in this way we are encouraging meta-cognitive strategies that can be generalised in the future to other unfamiliar situations and circumstances.

No doubt there will be some elation, excitement and disappointment experienced by our Year 12 boys as Trial HSC Exam results are revealed in the coming weeks. It is never too late to seek to improve one's learning and nothing is ever so bleak that we cannot find a way out of it. Poor exam results require temerity, tenaciousness and guts: to find out what went wrong, put in the hard work and time, and incrementally, get better at it next time. There are no magic study fairies that come and sprinkle our children in the middle of the night to make them work harder and be committed and self-disciplined, there is no silver bullet. Rather, there is hard work, consistency and strategic approaches to learning.

Dealing with disappointment is not easy regardless of what age we are. Let us not though turn disappointment into regret. Edith Piaf warns against this in her famous "Non Je Ne Regrette Rien". Regret is a wasted emotion.

Condolences

We extend our prayers and condolences to Dominic La Greca (Year 6) and family on the passing of his grandmother, Concetta Corallo on Wednesday 16 August. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

We also extend our prayers and condolences to the Biscotto family. Mrs Jeanette Biscotto, mother of Adrian (Year 7) and Anthony (Year 9), recently lost her mother Carmela Cortiana and her sister Elvia Magnone over a two week period. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal

Junior School

The busyness and varied nature of events certainly keeps things bustling along here in the Junior School. Along with the many and varied classroom activities and opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding; boys have many opportunities to participate in many positive community events. Book Week is one such event. Each year across Australia, The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) brings children and books together. Since 1945 the CBCA has grown from a small Sydney-based group to a national organisation which continues to have a profound impact on children's literature. The boys, as well as some teachers took on the appearance and persona of the many characters in the books they have read or are currently reading. Well done to all students for their participation as well as capturing the theme for this year "Escape to Everywhere".

A final reminder that Grandparents' Day, is this Thursday 24 August and commences at 9.15am with Mass in the College Chapel, followed by morning tea in the College Hall. The boys will then accompany their grandparents to the classrooms for a visit. **Please remember that Year 5 boys are asked to bring a plate for the Morning Tea. There will be parking on the tennis courts.**

Dan Fields—Acting Director of Junior School

Junior School Sport

Congratulations to all the boys who performed at the BPSSA and Newington Invitational Athletics Carnival last Friday and Saturday. In trying conditions the boys worked really hard to improve their skills. Good luck to all boys this weekend at Kings. A reminder that it will be busy this Saturday and to leave plenty of time to get to your events.

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster

YEAR 7 HISTORY EXCURSION

Recently, the Semester 2 Year 7 History cohort went on an excursion to the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour and the Nicholson Museum at Sydney University. At the Maritime Museum, we studied marine archaeology and investigated artefacts related to a shipwreck. We got to hold and identify particular objects and we categorised them. The cohort then went on a tour around the museum exploring various exhibits including one which examined the 1857 Dunbar shipwreck and the archaeological processes associated with this event.

At the Nicholson Museum, we saw the sarcophagus of a 6-year old mummified child. It was amazing! Also, there was a hands-on area, where we held ancient artefacts from Rome, Greece and Egypt. I held a sculpture of a hand holding a scroll from Ancient Rome. The highlight of the day for many was the huge Lego display of Pompeii!

James Fitzgerald (Year 7 Student)



A Fond Farewell to our Roman Exchange students

St Patrick's has recently played host to 7 Italian Exchange students from Rome. The boys participated in all aspects of College life and found the experience both at the College and living with their host family very different to life in Italy but they all agreed that they learnt a great deal from the entire experience and found it very enjoyable and rewarding. As a Language Faculty we look forward to hosting more students in the future. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our St Patrick's families who opened up their homes to these boys despite their gruelling schedules and personal commitments. Your generosity of spirit is very much appreciated.

Below are two emails received from two of our host parents which indicate the deep bond forged through this exchange.

Teresa Valente—Acting Language Coordinator

'Alessio and Vincenzo left this morning and we are all extremely sad. They will be missed. Sebastiano & Vincenzo have an amazing bond and were both in tears all morning. Alessio, the sweetest boy was overcome with emotion last night as we gave him a gift and also a small token for his mum. Having the opportunity to host these two boys has been beyond beautiful. Vincenzo is a charming, polite, funny and bright young man. Our son has gained a best friend and we have gained another family. Alessio is a strapping young man who is still so very innocent and beautiful and tried so hard with us. Sebastiano and Vincenzo were amazing with him and took him under their very protective big brother wings. I want to thank you and all the staff of the College for supporting this experience. The magnificent opportunity it has given our boys is inexplicable. Thank you so very much. Stefania Montesano'

'I wanted to say a big "thankyou" for allowing our boys to host the Italian students. It has been the most rewarding time for Joshua on so many levels and has built on his own experience when on the St Pat's Italian Tour in April this year. The exchange programme has broadened Joshua's view of the world and has really taught him to adapt to change. Joshua has found a friend for life in Riccardo and he has also formed a wonderful new network of friends from the other side of the globe. Riccardo was such a gentle, polite and well behaved young man and a true pleasure to have in our home. We had the opportunity to meet many of the other Italian students who were also very well-mannered and appreciative of their Australian experience. I sincerely hope that St Pats continue the exchange programme with Italian students as the benefits for both Australian and Italian students are invaluable. Antonella Cautela'



Edmund Rice Camps

Edmund Rice Camps is a “Profit-For-Purpose” organisation that provides amazing opportunities for disadvantaged kids, in the form of action-packed holiday and weekend experiences. The programmes are run by young volunteers who attend camps, organising and facilitating all the fun activities, including art and craft, sports, and fantastic excursions. Some of the sites visited include beaches, museums, and more places that the kids from ages 6-14 would normally not be able to see.

Through my life-changing experience as a volunteer on the Autumn 2017 camp, I have realised the great opportunities we have, as well as our responsibility to serve others. The kids at Edmund Rice Camps all come from difficult upbringings, and often the greatest gift that volunteers can give them is to give them someone to talk to, and bring a smile to their face. The organisation can be helped through volunteering or donating. Many St Pats’ boys and Old Boys currently participate in the programme as volunteers, and have in the past. As a school, we have contributed an extraordinary amount to this wonderful cause during our 2017 Lenten Appeal, and are creating memorable holiday experiences for kids who deserve them. We also loan our bus and venue for various events.

The organisation has camps all around Australia in six states, and also in New Zealand. They run all year round in all the school holidays, and weekends, as well as the chance for reunions with past groups on picnic days. One of the latest additions are the Big Outdoor Adventure Camps (made possible from the SPC fundraising), which will start soon.

Edmund Rice Camps is a brilliant organisation that has been inspired by the work of Edmund Rice in helping the less fortunate, and broadening the opportunities of kids who just want a good life. I would encourage everyone to get involved in this great cause. Everyone who has been involved is so grateful for the experience, and knows that it honestly changes lives for the better.

Tobias Pickett (Year 11 Student)

“Eddie Rice Camps is so grateful to the SPC students who have dedicated their time to volunteering on a programme this year. You have all proven yourselves as incredible young men, we look forward to having you on camp again soon, and seeing your leadership skills develop even further.” (Emily Banks, Program Officer)



To ensure the safety of members of our community and in consideration of our neighbours, all parents are asked to comply with the following request when dropping off and picking up students before and after school. Between the hours of **8.00am and 4.00pm** the only place where students can be picked up and/or dropped off is along the Edgar Street ‘Kiss & Drop’ area on the western end of the Junior School Westcourt Library.

Kiss & Ride zones provide:

- Drivers the opportunity to stop their vehicle within close proximity to the College gates on the corner of Fraser & Edgar Street.
- Students the opportunity to enter the school premises without having to cross roads or driveways.

For the safety of all drivers, passengers and pedestrians please:

- Approach the ‘Kiss & Ride’ zone from Shortland Avenue, up Fraser Street and then around the bend to the end of the ‘Kiss & Drop’ zone on Edgar Street.
- Do not ‘double park’ or stand your vehicle in this zone from 8.00am – 9.30am and 2.30pm – 4.00pm.
- Enter or disembark from the vehicle as close as possible to the top of the zone. Entering and disembarking from vehicles along Fraser Street is not to occur in order to best enhance traffic flows.
- Ensure that the driver does not alight from the vehicle while in the zone.
- Ensure that passengers enter and disembark from the vehicle via the KERB side door, preferably the rear door. Items should not be collected from the boot.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE



‘Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organising our curiosity’ – Tim Minchin.

Last Thursday 17 August, 18 students, accompanied by Mrs Chander and Miss Benham, arrived at school at 6.00am to board a bus headed to Newcastle. The state final of the Science and Engineering Challenge was a day filled with laughter, nerves, tiredness, but most importantly it taught us that no matter how hard a task is, it can always be completed. On this

day, students were put in pairs and partook in many different activities ranging from building catapults which fire tennis balls 30 metres across a basketball court and creating a bridge from balsa wood to hold various amounts of weight to figuring out a way to provide power to a whole city at the lowest cost and creating a bionic hand to lift different objects. Toward the end of the day, the bridges were tested and to our ‘bridge builder’s’ delight, they passed many tests and carried the third highest amount of weight. As the day drew to a close, students were physically and mentally drained from the early wake up and tasks throughout the day, but this did not stop them from enjoying the bus ride back and the late afternoon arrival of 5.00pm. Overall, the day was a great success with SPC receiving fifth place. Many thanks go to Mrs Chander and Miss Benham for both putting in much effort to organising the day and for always willing to be a helping hand to the students.

Christian Bejjani (Year 10 Student)





Year 11 Students attend WWII Commemorative Services

From the black and white photos of charismatic RAF pilots to the American battlecruisers lined with brave navy personnel. These are the common images we associate with WWII. However, on **Sunday 6 August**, Anthony Assaf, Andrew Azize, Daniel Chalker, George Kannan, Georgio Khoury and I along with students from local schools such as Homebush Boys, Burwood Girls, Trinity College and PLC as well as members of the local community, congregated in Burwood Park to commemorate a lesser known part of the war. The **Sandakan Commemorative service** honoured the soldiers who died on the Sandakan Death Marches. In 1945 as the war drew to an end, over 2300 Australian, Canadian and British men who were Japanese captives were marched from Sandakan on the east coast of Borneo through the dense and malaria infested forests, to Ranau on the west coast. Only 6 Australians survived this ordeal, escaping into the jungle but living to tell their tale of the incredible cruelty they experienced. What was particularly poignant throughout the ceremony was the intimate recounts and poems of these men. As the last post resonated across the morning air I believe that for everyone there, it put into perspective how lucky we are to have men and women who have, and will always be ready to fight for everything we know and love. By **George Maksour**



Sandakan Commemorative Service Burwood Park 6 August (left to right) Jodi McKay MLA Member for Strathfield, Colonel Michael Miller Official Secretary to the Governor of NSW, Craig Laundy MP Federal Member for Reid, Andrew Azize, George Maksour, Daniel Chalker, Georgio Khoury, Anthony Assaf and George Kannan, John Faker Mayor of Burwood (and father of Cameron in Year 6).



VP Day Service Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway 15 August (left to right) Remi Perrin, Enrico Schizas Valenti, Andy Nguyen, Mr John Haines AM Chairman Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Toby Pickett, William Halloran.

On **Tuesday 15 August**, Mr Newman and five Year 11 boys including myself attended the **Victory in the Pacific Day Commemorative Service at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway**, near Concord Hospital. It was a moving experience for all involved, as we listened to sobering addresses by war veterans, as well as Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO, as she reminisced on her own experiences of war in Australia. As part of the service, we witnessed a video about Australia's role in World War II and specifically in the Pacific. We observed a minute silence, heard the recitation of The Ode, and listened to The Last Post and The Reveille. Wreaths were laid by servicemen and women, politicians, veterans, and other school students as we remembered the unbelievable sacrifice that past and present Australians made for us, in order to ensure our freedom, security, and way of life. After the ceremony we were

given the opportunity to talk to Marie Bashir herself, veterans, and other figures, who all emphasised the importance of the ANZAC spirit and the importance of understanding past conflicts. We studied the spectacular display of war weapons and clothing replicas, and other artefacts from World War II. Upon leaving the Kokoda Track Memorial, we all reflected on the incredible experience we had, and truly realised the responsibility we have to remember the remarkable human beings that have gone before us, and laid their lives down for us. By **Tobias Pickett**



Youth Review Forum

On Monday 14 August, as part of the preliminary celebrations for Book Week 2017, some Year 10 students participated in the Youth Review Forum hosted by Santa Sabina College.

The forum is an annual event involving representatives from Santa Sabina College, Meridan, St Joseph's College and St Patrick's. The representatives prepare for the forum months in advance by reading as many of the books shortlisted in the Older Reader category for Book of the Year and discussing their thoughts on the books. On the day of the forum, the students are asked broad questions about the books by Mr Paul McDonald owner of The Children's Bookshop at Epping, who is the moderator of the panel. This year questions ranged from whether the students liked particular books, to discussion of the cover art and queries about genres and author's motivations. The forum concluded with the representatives and the audience (Year 10 cohort from Santa Sabina) voting on which book



they believed will win the coveted award. This year's top books amongst students were *The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillon and *Words in Deep Blue* Cath Crowley.

This year SPC was proudly represented by Patrick Buckley, Joshua Iacono, Joseph Iannella and Hayden Serrao. The boys participated with integrity and approached the day with open minds and some nerves. Their responses were thoughtful and insightful. And they were rewarded with lunch! The experience has challenged the boys to read books they would not normally pick, as well as enhanced their ability to discuss reading and books with greater confidence. They are to be congratulated for the participation and their conduct in the Youth Review Forum in 2017.

Kerrie Backhouse—Acting Librarian

SPC Football 2017 – Grand Finals Results and Report – 19 August

After a trial round, 10 rounds of competition and the Semi Finals last week, we were finally (but very quickly) at the Grand Final day which is held annually at Oakhill. The nerves were in the air as I turned up at Oakhill at 7.30am to settle in for what was going to be an exciting, albeit cold day. Of the 13 games to be held on the day, St Patrick's College was represented in 11 with a total of 14 teams playing on the day.

Due to the nature of the draw this year, we had five combined competitions in the various age groups. In these combined competitions, SPC teams were able to make an appearance to contest in all of these, and in three games on Saturday we had SPC come head to head with other SPC teams. It is definitely a challenge to go head to head against your friends in normal competition, let alone in the Grand Final but the manner in which each of the teams entered into these contests is to be commended. This was characterised by the many joint war cries at the conclusion of matches on Saturday. Congratulations to the **13 C's**, **14 C's** and **15 B's** who were victorious in these matches achieving the premiership in their competition.

The **Third XI** were also the only Opens team to make it to the Grand Final and represented the College extremely well. They were up against the toughest team in their respective competition, St Gregory's 1st XI. Previously when the two teams met during Rounds 2 and 6, our Third XI's were defeated 5 – 1 and 6 – 1. The boys coming out of the change rooms were nervous but they wanted a win. Early in the first half St Gregory's had managed to put 2 goals in the back of the net. Towards the end of the first half though, we were looking really good. Our shape and passing game was strong and a come back was in the air. Returning to the pitch after half-time, the boys in the gold jersey were hungry. St Gregory's scored another goal off an early opportunity – and then the tide turned. The boys played with something deep that I have only witnessed a few times. They came together as a team and played with pride and integrity for the College. They showed the world what it means to be part of the SPC community and **Ajay Germanos** and **Jeremy Lopes** managed to score beautiful goals in the last 10 minutes of the match. Another 3 minutes on the field and I think we could have equalised and gone into extra time. Unfortunately the final whistle blew before this could happen and the Year 12 boys in the team had played their last game for the College. The war cry which was sung at the end was amazing.

Overall on Saturday, St Patrick's won 9 of the 11 Finals which we were contesting. Well done to all those boys and coaches who took out the premierships. Commiserations go to the **Third XI** and the **16 A's** after such a fantastic season this year lost on Saturday. All of our boys played well and should be very proud of their Football achievements across the season. The ISA Championship shield was also up for grabs this year and after our **13 A's**, **14 A's** and **15 A's** all came out victorious in their Grand Finals, St Patrick's was awarded with the shield for the 2017 season for the ninth year since 2007.

Many thanks to all those who came and supported our teams on Saturday. It was a special day made even better by your presence and on behalf of all of SPC I thank you.

Greg Sciortino—Football MIC

Upcoming Events

- Saturday 26 August** Invitation Athletics Carnival 2 at SOPAC
- Saturday 2 September** Invitation Athletics Carnival 3 at SOPAC
- Tuesday 5 September** ISA Athletics Championships at SOPAC

Grand Final Round

Total Wins: 9 **Total Losses: 5**
Total Goals For – 34 **Total Goals Against – 21**

TEAM	OPPOSITION	RESULT W-D-L	SCORE SPC	SCORE Opposition	W-D-L	FOR	AGAINST	WIN %
Third XI	St Gregory's 1 st XI	L	2	3	8-1-4	42	16	67%
16A	St Pius X	L	0	1	12-0-1	29	6	92%
16B	St Pius X	W	3	1	10-2-1	65	4	91%
15A	Oakhill	W	2	0	10-1-1	39	11	91%
15B	SPC C	W	4	0	10-1-1	47	7	91%
15C	SPC B	L	0	4	9-1-2	57	14	82%
14A	St Pius X	W	3	1	11-0-1	54	10	92%
14B	St Pius X	W	4	0	12-0-0	71	1	100%
14C	SPC D	W	4	1	11-1-0	66	4	100%
14D	SPC C	L	1	4	9-1-3	61	19	75%
13A	St Pius X	W	3	1	12-0-0	73	11	100%
13B	Spyridon	W	3	0	12-0-0	80	2	100%
13C	SPC D	W	5	0	12-0-0	104	4	100%
13D	SPC C	L	0	5	10-0-2	67	13	83%

SHOWCASE PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT 2017

The Annual Performing Arts Showcase concert was held on Saturday evening in the College Gymnasium. The gym was transformed into a concert arena with performances by over 200 aspiring young musicians from Years 5 to 12. The Concert provided the opportunity to showcase the many varied and different music ensembles, both instrumental and choral within the co-curricular and extra-curricular music programme at St Patrick's. Congratulations to all boys on their hard work and dedication to the performing arts at the College.

Derek Rose—Bandmaster



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.