



Especean

Vol 30, No 36 – 22 November 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,

Master Plan for the College

During 2017 members of the College Board and the College Executive have been working with a Sydney architectural firm to create a new College Master Plan. This exercise, while time consuming, aims to produce an ambitious vision for the future of learning and teaching and community amenity in the College. By the end of the year, it is hoped that our draft Master Plan will be ready to take out to our community for consultation. Given the year-end is fast approaching and people are extremely busy, it is our hope to conduct a parent information and consultation presentation on the draft plan in February next year. Similarly, an opportunity will be provided for staff and students to comment on the plan as well. More information will be provided in the New Year.

Vandalism at the College

On two separate evenings last week we had intruders into the College grounds where acts of vandalism took place. We have had windows smashed, graffiti on buildings, small trees destroyed, statues defiled and equipment moved and damaged. This senseless activity costs the College money as well as time and energy to clean up. We have reported the matter to police and are in the process of investigating our CCTV footage. If anyone knows anything about a group of male youths damaging our College property, we would be grateful if you would please report it to the police and the College. It is disappointing to have to report this to you but I feel important to have our community aware that this has taken place.

Kintsugi

In Japan, there is an art form that is about 600 years old, of repairing broken pottery with a gold infused lacquer. It is called kintsugi or kintsukuroi. It literally translates as "golden repair" or "golden joinery." I knew nothing about this until recently. From my reading, the art form emerged as ceramicists could not afford to throw away pots that had cracked or broken, so a gold dust lacquer was used to make the pot whole again. In so doing, there was no attempt to hide or conceal the breaks or cracks, but rather to use the golden lacquer as a feature. The newly created whole is then more beautiful than the original. Its imperfections are precisely what makes it so lovely. The cracks or breaks become the feature of the piece and they are celebrated. There is a branch of philosophy that accompanies this art form called wabi-sabi. It suggests that we must see and look for beauty in that which is flawed.

This really struck a chord with me I must confess. Sometimes we get caught up in aiming for perfection. This can be really quite destructive if taken to extremes. We want everything to be "just so". I am not suggesting that aiming for excellence is a bad idea, but rather, if we are trying so hard to be perfect, then we are bound to fail. I guess it also begs the question of what is perfection and according to whom? Our failures then can only lead to disappointment. This disappointment is manifested most often in ourselves.

Rather than aiming for perfection, perhaps we can aim to improve ourselves as decent Christians, not aiming to merely do good deeds, but to do them with our hearts as well – in other words, we've got to be fair dinkum about it. Despite our lack of perfection, our task is to try to be better. We can do this by getting off our own case and helping others.

Embracing our flaws whether they are literal or figurative, makes us more comfortable being who we are. Perhaps we may even get to celebrate them at some stage. None of us is beautiful enough, smart enough, rich enough or generous enough... for what? And for whom?

The person we bring to our relationship with Christ is intrinsically flawed and imperfect. We bring who we are. A theology of brokenness would suggest that Christ loves us precisely because we come as fragile

and imperfect beings. We bring all that we are to Christ, in humility. We then wear our brokenness as a virtue, not a shortcoming. It is Christ who makes us whole again, but perhaps differently to how we were before. Like the art of kintsugi, perhaps this makes us all the more whole and beautiful and unique. I am reminded of the hymn that starts out with the lines "Come as you are, that's how I want you, come as you are, feel right at home." If we make our home in Christ, then we can be comfortable in our own skin, for God already knows us intimately. God therefore knows we are imperfect!



Photo: Wikipedia

I am going to try to wear my cracks and imperfections more boldly. This doesn't mean I am going to give up on trying to be a better person, it simply means I am going to try to own my brokenness and accept it.

Safe Schools Program

It has come to my attention that some parents have been discussing, and in a couple of instances have expressed concern, that we are teaching or are introducing the Safe Schools Program at St Patrick's College. I am not sure where this misinformation has come from. Let me be clear on the facts:

- 1) The Safe Schools Program comes out of Victoria. The Victorian Department of Education and Training invites state schools to access some or all of the resources it provides. **We have not used this program and have no intention of introducing this program.**
- 2) Earlier this year EREA produced a statement entitled "Live Life to the Full". This statement is neither a program nor is it a curriculum document nor is it even a process. It is a statement. This statement has been on our College website for some months now for all to access. The front page of this statement says that it is "Edmund Rice Education Australia's response to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students, in particular for same-sex attracted and gender diverse young people." Essentially, as we are all made in the image and likeness of God, we are all loved by a God who knows us intimately. We value the worth and human dignity of every individual in our school. We are called to love one another. This statement also calls us to recognise, as inclusive communities of students, parents, care-givers and other family members, as well as staff, the value of one another in all of our diversity. This statement has no connection with the Victorian Safe Schools Program.
- 3) As an EREA school we have made this statement available to community members and we support it.

If you have any questions or concerns then I invite you to make an appointment to speak with me directly on this matter. Please phone my PA Ms Denning on 8705 9202 if you would like to avail yourself of this invitation.

It is not helpful to have what I can only describe as rumours travel around our community. These rumours have the potential to cause angst and even distress.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Waffam
Principal



Some members of the Class of '59 met for lunch last week.



Junior School

It is an extraordinarily busy time of year.

Our Year 5 Instrumental Concert was held last Thursday in the Duffy Music Centre and went off extremely well. The boys gave a very polished performance, showing off their newly acquired skills with some very difficult instruments. Given the short amount of time the boys have had to learn the basics of strings, woodwind and brass, to be able to manage a number of pieces and put together a full concert is remarkable. Now, having begun their musical journey, I am sure lots will take up the chance to be a part of the College Band programme in the upcoming years. A big thankyou goes to the boys' tutors and Mr Derek Rose, the College Bandmaster.

This Friday night is our Sports Presentation Dinner. The dinner commences at 6.30pm in the College Gymnasium and the boys are to wear full College summer uniform, but no cap. There will be raffles during the night with some amazing prizes, proceeds going to our partners in India, Chetanalaya and also to the amazing people at Catholic Mission.

A reminder, of course, that there is a formal aspect to the night, with coaches addressing the gathering to introduce their undefeated teams and with best and fairest awards being given out. We will remind the boys this week about showing respect to the speakers by being silent when someone is speaking on the microphone and ask that parents lead by example here.

On next Tuesday 28 November, Year 6 has its Thanksgiving Mass. Please note the Mass commences at 9.15am in the College Chapel and parents are welcome to attend. Once more, parking will be available on the Tennis courts.

Jim Walters—Director of Junior School



Junior School Sport

This Friday is the Junior School Sports Presentation Dinner. It starts at 6.30pm sharp – parking will be available on the Tennis courts. It is expected to be a warm day so please bring plenty of drinks and nibbles for your table (dinner and dessert is provided). We have a raffle after dinner with some excellent prizes: PS4 Pro, signed Israel Folau Wallabies jersey, John Eales framed memorabilia, Electric Scooter, signed Cricket bat “the captain’s choice”, \$200 Westfield gift card, \$100 Rebel gift card, Kookaburra Cricket bat, signed Cricket ball by Steve Smith and Mitchell Starc. Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or 8 for \$10. Please support the raffle and pick up an excellent early Xmas present. All money will go to our Junior School Fundraiser.

Well done to all teams last Saturday on the way you finished off your season. It has been tough for many teams, especially in Basketball, but it is important to realise why we play the game – to make friends and to always try to improve. Well done to the teams that did remain undefeated. In Cricket the Year 6 Super 8’s A team, the Year 5 Super 8’s A Team, Basketball J, K and L teams. Well done to the Prep A Cricket team who had an excellent win over Waverley, especially after a long four days at camp. A big thank you to all staff and coaches for your time and expertise over the season. Your commitment to the Junior School programme is greatly appreciated.

On Sunday, James Stewart, as part of a Throwing Relay, representing Canterbury Little Athletics won the Gold Medal in the State Championships at Homebush. James threw the Javelin 25m. Congratulations on an outstanding achievement.

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster

**Festival of Carols & Readings
Tonight at 6.30pm in the Chapel
ALL are welcome!**

St Patrick’s College Strathfield Annual Speech Night & Prize-Giving

Thursday 30 November 2017

Sydney Olympic Park Quaycentre

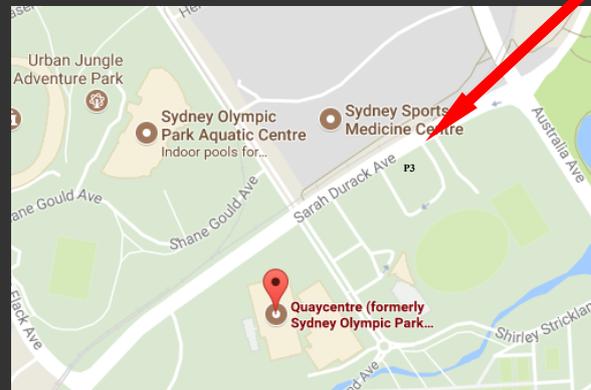
Attendance in College summer uniform is compulsory for every student.

Please be seated by 7.00pm for 7.15pm start.

SPEECH NIGHT PARKING & ROAD CLOSURES

Parking at Sydney Olympic Park Quaycentre Homebush (formally known as Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre) for Speech Night will be available in the **P3 parking area only**.

The cost will be \$5.00 per hour, with a maximum cost of \$25.00. The parking station available to the College is indicated with an arrow on the map.



The below link will direct you to Sydney Olympic Park road closures.
http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/for_business/parking/event_parking

NORMAL START TIME—1 DECEMBER

ALL boys across Years 5 to 11 will commence classes as normal at 8.35am on Friday 1 December. Weekly Mass in the College Chapel will also commence as normal on Friday morning before school.

AMENDED 2018 TERM DATES

Term	First Day	Last Day
1	<i>Years 5 & 12 & New Students only:</i> Tuesday 30 January <i>Students: (Years 6-11)</i> Wednesday 31 January	<i>Students:</i> Friday 13 April
2	<i>Students:</i> Tuesday 1 May	<i>Students:</i> Friday 29 June
3	<i>Students:</i> Monday 23 July	<i>Students:</i> Friday 28 September
4	<i>Students:</i> Monday 15 October	<i>Students: (Years 5-11)</i> Friday 7 December

YEAR COORDINATORS 2018

The allocation of Year Coordinators for the Secondary School for 2018 is as follows:

Year 7	Oscar Texeira
Year 8	Lisa Michael
Year 9	Melissa Hickson
Year 10	Gaetano Castiglione
Year 11	Tom Kirby
Year 12	Justin Newman

LANGUAGES NEWS!

It has been a busy term in the Languages Department and for the elective classes.

The Year 11 Italian students were hosted by Santa Sabina for our annual study skills day where they honed their Italian skills in preparation for the HSC. "Speed Dating" saw the boys put into practice their speaking skills, proving to be a challenging yet rewarding activity. The day continued with small group sessions concentrating on listening, reading and writing skills, which was led by both the Santa Sabina and St Patrick's teachers.

Year 9 continued the tradition of hosting girls from Santa Sabina for our annual Year 9 Languages Day. This day focused on interaction and communication. Between 'Speed Dating', Ms Williams' Digital Scavenger Hunt activity and trivia, the students put their language skills to the test and made some new friends. A very big thank you must go to Ms Williams and Ms Fiscaro who organised and ran the entire day. Thank you!

Students of Year 9 and 10 participated in the NSW MLTA Linguafest Competition where students from across the state produce short, original films in their target language. Therefore our students competed against a wide variety of films in many languages. This year students were guided by the theme "A Second Chance". Again this year, as in all the years that we have participated in this event, one group has advanced to the finals having their film "E Domani" screened in front of a large audience at Events Cinema George Street. Congratulations to Joshua Cosgrove, Gianluca Pecora, Emilio Campana and James Mastroianni. Bravissimi!

Natasha Mascolo—Languages Coordinator



THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOKODA TRACK

"This was the place where I believe the depth and soul of the Australian nation was confirmed" - Paul Keating, 1992



Most Australians have heard of the Kokoda Track, but few truly understand the significance of the campaign. In 1942, Australian and Papuan land forces navigated mountainous jungle terrain in order to halt a Japanese offensive. Their service and sacrifice protected our country from further attack and ultimately saved lives.

On 3 November, student leaders, accompanied by Mr Newman, attended the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Track in Concord. By carrying banners and laying a wreath, boys paid their respects to servicemen and women who died protecting our country.

Thank you to Concord Hospital for organising the event and giving us the opportunity to honour our nation's heroes.

Justin Cordi—Student Welfare Prefect



SCIENCE NEWS: MySCIENCE PROGRAMME UPDATE

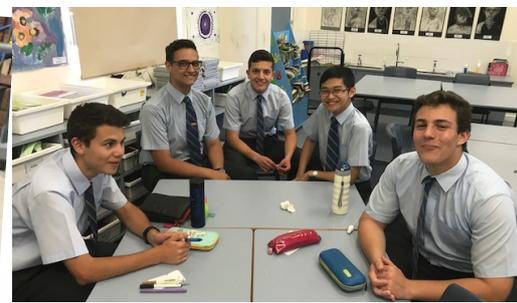
'In learning you will teach and in teaching you will learn.' A group of Year 10 boys truly grasped the meaning of this quote throughout the duration of the MyScience programme. Over a consecutive three-week period, a select group of Year Ten students travelled to Marie Bashir Public School and became *mentors* to the students of 5/6B. It was quite daunting at first, we were all a bit nervous to discover what activities we would be partaking in and how much knowledge each of the students held. Upon meeting the students, us, the MySTics, became comfortable and were able to share our knowledge with them. They were eager to learn and develop their sense of understanding in regard to the world of Science. It opened our eyes to the intelligence of younger students and the way in which they are able to grasp so much information in such a short amount of time.

"The best part was forming great relationships with the students and being able to share everything we know." - Christopher Farag

"The eagerness of each and every student was a really great help in our role as their mentors, it allowed us to extend them as much as we could, without becoming their teacher." - Philip De Pasquale

Overall, the experience was one that enriched each of us involved, it proved the wonders of sharing our knowledge with those of the younger Year groups, but most importantly it allowed us to build a bond with each and every one of our group members, creating handshakes and group names along the way.

Christian Bejjani (Year 10)



PASTORAL CARE

In preparation for 2018 please note the following dates where compulsory attendance is expected of all students:

Friday 9 February:	<i>Opening College Mass</i>
Tuesday 13 February:	<i>Junior School Swimming Carnival (Auburn Aquatic Centre)</i>
Friday 16 February:	<i>Years 7-12 House Swimming Carnival – 8.30am – 3.15pm</i>
Tuesday 20 March:	<i>Annual House & Age Athletics Championships (SOPAC)</i>
Wednesday 28 March:	<i>Easter Liturgy</i>
Wednesday 6 June:	<i>Junior School Athletics Carnival</i>
Friday 8 June:	<i>Founder's Day</i>
Thursday 6 December:	<i>Annual Speech Night & Prize Giving – 7.00pm (State Sports Centre)</i>

Additionally, key dates for events where parents are expected to be in attendance are provided below:

Information Evenings: Each of these will have a specific academic, formation and wellbeing focus for the Year group.

Tuesday 6 February:	<i>Years 8 & 9 Parent Information Evening – 7.00pm</i>
Thursday 8 February:	<i>Year 7 Parent Information Evening & Welcome BBQ – 6.00pm</i>
Tuesday 13 February:	<i>Years 10 & 11 Parent Information Evening – 7.00pm</i>
Tuesday 16 October:	<i>Year 12—2019 Parent Information Evening – 7.00pm</i>

Parent- Teacher Interviews:

Tuesday 6 - Wednesday 7 March:	<i>Junior School Parent/Teacher Interviews – 3.30pm – 8.30pm</i>
Tuesday 10 April:	<i>Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 3.40pm – 9.00pm</i>
Tuesday 5 June:	<i>Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 3.40pm – 9.00pm</i>

Please note the variations and times:

Tuesday 26 June:	<i>Years 7 & 9 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2.05pm – 9.00pm</i>
Thursday 28 June:	<i>Years 8 & 10 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2.05pm – 9.00pm</i>

Please note that requests for Leave or Exemption from Attendance, unless exceptional circumstances exist, will not be granted for these dates. Students absent on these days will be required to provide a medical certificate. The College reserves the right to issue a consequence if a student is absent without a satisfactory reason.

Students are also expected to attend camps, work experience, co-curricular presentation evenings, and the Reflection/Spirituality Day for their respective cohort. Dates for these events will be distributed by Year Coordinators at the beginning of 2018.

Semester 2 Bullying Survey

As part of the College's commitment to building a safe and inclusive school community based on positive, respectful relationships, students in Years 5—11 will be emailed this week, inviting them to take part in the Semester 2 Bullying Survey. This survey provides students the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on their perceptions or experiences of bullying behaviour at the College during 2017. It is a follow up to the Relationships, Safety and Bullying surveys conducted in Term One.

The survey results will be used to review and guide current practices in addressing bullying behaviour. There is an optional question that permits students to identify students who have engaged in bullying behaviour in a variety of forms.

The survey will be open to students until 8.00am Tuesday 28 November.

Robert Simpson—Director of Pastoral Care

SPC GOLFERS FLY HIGH



After five rounds of the Interschool Golf competition, St Patrick's sits at the top of the table after some extremely exciting Golf. Last weekend the Strathfield, boys after getting some late advice from former Prime Minister John Howard, beat Knox Grammar 3 games to 1. Arthur Barakat defeated his opponent convincingly 5 and 4, Liam Vane-Tempest won his match 2 up while Alex Yallouridis lost his match 3 and 2 but never gave up in a see-sawing game. However, the match of the round belonged to Travis Elmir. He fought back from two down to level at the half-way mark.



From there the lead changed hands hole by hole. One down playing the 17th Travis held his nerve and played a great approach shot to set up a makeable putt while his opposing player left his shot short. Travis holed the putt to win the hole and take the game to the 18th. Both players hit good tee shots but Travis pushed his a little to the right landing in the rough while his opposition hit straight down the fairway. A great recovery

shot saw Travis land his ball just short of the green. The Knox player was going for the knockout blow but pulled his shot way left of the green putting it in the bushes. Taking an unplayable lie he pitched on to the green only to see his ball roll down past the flag. Travis calmly chipped on to the green landing 1 metre from the hole. The Knox player missed his putt conceding the hole to Travis giving SPC a 3 to 1 win for the day. The SPC team played with great conviction but more importantly with great sportsmanship, never once getting angry or frustrated, playing in the true spirit of the game. Congratulations to both Arthur and Liam who are both undefeated at the half-way point.

Peter Findlay—Golf Coordinator



Sports Draw - SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2017

CRICKET				
1st XI	v	St Pius X	10.00	Breen Oval
2nd XI	v	St Gregory's	10.00	St Gregory's College 1
3rd XI	v	Chevalier College	10.00	Chevalier - Main Oval
16A	v	Sydney Grammar A	9.00	Hudson Park
15A	v	Concord Briars	8.30	North Ryde Park
15B	v	Sydney Grammar C	9.00	SPC 4
14A	v	Dundas United	8.00	Curtis Oval
14B	v	West Ryde	8.00	Rydalmere Park
13A	v	West Epping	8.30	Mason Park 2
13B	v	West Epping	8.30	Strathfield Park 1

BASEBALL				
1st IX	v	Greenway	8.30	Greenway Park Dia 1
2nd IX	v	Greenway (Friday 24/11)	20.15	Major's Bay Dia 3
16A	v	Kissing Point	8.30	Major's Bay Dia 3
14A	v	Five Dock	11.00	Major's Bay Dia 1

BASKETBALL				
1st V	v	St Pius X A	11.30	Oxford Falls Gym 1
17A	v	St Pius X A	2.00	Oxford Falls Gym 2
17B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	2.30	BMGS Ct 2
17C	v	Oakhill College Navy	12.00	Auburn 2
17D	v	Oakhill College White	11.00	Auburn 1
17Black	v	Oakhill College Yellow	12.00	Auburn 1
15A	v	St Pius X A	1.00	Oxford Falls Gym 2
15B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	3.00	BMGS Ct 1
15C	v	Oakhill College Navy	11.00	Auburn 2
15D	v	Oakhill College White	10.00	Auburn 1
14A	v	St Pius X A	12.00	Oxford Falls Gym 2
14B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	1.30	BMGS Ct 2
14C	v	Oakhill College Navy	10.00	Auburn 2
14D	v	Oakhill College White	9.00	Auburn 1
14 Black	v	Central Coast Grammar B	12.00	CCGS Gym (RLC) 2
13A	v	St Pius X A	9.00	Oxford Falls Gym 2
13B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	2.00	BMGS Ct 1
13C	v	Oakhill College Navy	9.00	Auburn 2
13D	v	Oakhill College White	9.00	Auburn 3
13 Black	v	Central Coast Grammar B	11.00	CCGS Gym (RLC) 2
13 Gold	v	Oakhill College Yellow	8.00	Benildus Hall (Oakhill)

GOLF				
Squad	v	NO MATCH		

Head of Secondary Sport

Good luck to all teams competing this weekend – for some teams it is the last round for the year so make the most of your time on the pitch/field/court!

End of Year Training/Playing Arrangements for End of Term:

- Please note that all regular training sessions for Cricket, Baseball, Basketball and Swimming are to continue as per normal up to and including Wednesday 29 November.
- All Basketball teams will cease playing after the round on 25 November.
- 16A and 14C Cricket teams will play up until 25 November.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI Cricket teams will play up until 2 December.
- NDJCA Cricket teams will play up until 9 December.
- At this point in time, our Baseball teams have fixtures scheduled to take place up until 16 December.

Congratulations

I wish to acknowledge the achievements of Adam Doueichi who recently represented Lebanon in the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. Adam, who has been the College's only Australian Schoolboys player since 2003 graduated from St Patrick's College last year. 2017 has proven to be an exciting year for Adam and his family, signing a contract with the South Sydney Rabbitohs and gained himself selection for the Lebanon National Rugby League Team. Adam scored a try in last weekend's quarterfinal match against Tonga; unfortunately 'The Cedars' will not progress to the Semi-Finals after a narrow 2 point loss. Well done Adam, we wish you all the best for your bright future ahead!



Anthony Calavassy—Acting Head of Secondary Sport



Woollen Cricket Vests are now available at the Uniform Shop, cost \$90.



YEAR 6 CAMP



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.