

Especean

Vol 31, No 03 – 14 February 2018

Principal

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

Once again the Church season turns us to Lent. In this part of the world, we do things a little backwards-way-round. The word Lent actually comes from "lengthen", where the days progressively get longer in the northern hemisphere and we come out of the darkness of winter and approach the light of the coming summer. The resurrection is that light for us in a symbolic sense. So how do we make sense of this when we live Down Under? Perhaps, firstly we take the mandate of Ash Wednesday to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" and try really hard to make this a part of our daily existence as we approach the darker times of the approaching winter. I am always conscious that Lent commences



during the hottest part of our year. As Lent progresses, the heat of summer dissipates and we enter that beautiful autumn time that we are blessed with in Australia. The leaves begin to die and everything starts to slow down, as we attempt to die unto our old selves, and make ourselves anew in the same way that winter remakes the earth as preparation for next summer. Autumn and winter as seasons, allow this to happen. Our hope is that we create a new or clean heart during this season.

Making prayer a priority – even for a short time each day – can be renewing and enlivening. Praying together at the dinner table each night and taking time to be with one another is a good reminder to our children where our priorities are in terms of our faith. Quiet time alone with God can be meditative and also revitalising. Sometimes I think we try too hard with our prayer life. I think it is okay to just sit there in the presence of God and let the prayer emerge without forcing it. A relaxed relationship with God is one where we allow God to do the communicating with us – rather than us attempting to provide all the answers. I try and pray for anyone but myself during Lent – let's really make



it about others as Jesus did and Edmund Rice encouraged us to do. My daughter sent my wife and me a text last week that said a friend of hers just lost his dad and would we please remember the family in our prayers. I have no idea who the friend is or their dad who has just died, but I am ready to pray for them.

Lent also calls us to alms-giving. What can we do for the poor? Any one of us who has traveled to a majority world country will know just how incredibly privileged we are to live in this country. We are blessed and fortunate in so many ways. What we can give to others from our personal wealth will not make much of a difference to our lives, but can potentially make an enormous

difference to someone else's. I know that our College community has always been so generous when it comes to giving to others. Giving of ourselves does not need to be limited to money either. Our time is a valuable commodity and is often appreciated when it is donated in the service of others.

Lastly, during Lent we are asked to fast: to abstain or do without. It is easy to give up chocolate or that glass of wine for 40 days, but it is more than that. Fasting is about the connection we make with our prayer and almsgiving. They come as a set for a reason. These pillars are interdependent. Fasting on its own does not satisfy our hunger and thirst for God in our lives. While there is nothing wrong with going without for a time, (and I would encourage it for our boys as a sensory deprivation if nothing else, so that they understand that not everyone has the luxury of a healthy and plentiful meal every day), it must be understood in the context of our faith journey to Easter. Fasting is part of this preparation. We cleanse our bodies as well as our minds and hearts.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day. We are reminded of our mortality and the dust unto which we will return, and we prepare ourselves for the crucifixion, death and then the resurrection of Jesus. We are after all an Easter people and therefore a people of hope. We suffer with Jesus as each and every one of us endures our own personal sufferings, and we rise again from the ashes on Easter Sunday and rejoice.

May your Lenten period be one of conversion: where prayer, almsgiving and fasting are entwined in an experience of God in your daily life. My prayer for our boys during this time is one of other-centredness; that they come to know the work of God in their lives *for the benefit of others*.

Master Plan Consultation Meetings

We will be holding consultation sessions on our Draft College Master Plan in the coming weeks. During 2017 members of the College Board and College Executive together with architectural firm PMDL have developed a new Master Plan to meet the current and future needs of our College. The consultation session will be held on Thursday 22 February at 7.00pm in the Hall. I would ask interested parents to RSVP to my PA Agnes Dening via email: agnes.dening@spc.nsw.edu.au if you would like to attend. We do need to know firm numbers so that we can provide an additional session on the same day (at an earlier time) depending on the level of interest.

Condolences

Please pray for Lorenzo Cavallaro (Year 12) and his family as they mourn the loss of their grandfather and father. George Daidone died on Thursday 8 February aged 95. Please also pray for Jonah Clarke (Year 9) and his family as they mourn the loss of their father Rodney Clarke. 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

UNIFORM SHOP

We have received a full size range of our:
Woollen Jumpers
Cotton Jumpers
Tracksuits

Junior School

I am privileged to announce the election of our Junior School Leaders. Hearty congratulations to the following students:

Junior School Captain Michael Sakr
Junior School Vice Captains Steven Saliba & Christian Katrib

Berg		Hanrahan	
Captain	Jack Roberts	Captain	Mitchell Woods
Vice Captain	Jack Dinham	Vice Captain	Jamie Carroll
Coghlan		Hickey	
Captain	Jacob Chidiac	Captain	Alex Conti
Vice Captain	Nicholas Shehata	Vice Captain	Samuel Avvenevole
Crichton		Rice	
Captain	Jesse Brusolino	Captain	Ethan Basseal
Vice Captain	Isaac Abounader	Vice Captain	Patrick Miholic



I am pleased to say that the boys have accepted the offer of these positions. Throughout the discernment and voting process we have been clear that Christian leadership is both an honour and a great responsibility. Our role model is Jesus, the ultimate 'servant leader' who washed the feet of his disciples as an act of service to those he led. I ask you all to please pray for the students who have taken on this responsibility.

I extend my congratulations to all the boys who put themselves forward for consideration. I also wish to thank the families of boys who assisted them in the discernment process.

I am sure you will join me in celebrating the election of these fine young men.

Ben Munday—Director of Junior School

Junior School Sport

Congratulations to all boys for the fine start to the summer season. If you are unsure of times and venues for fixtures please look at the Especean every Wednesday and also check the website/Sole on Friday for any changes. We had 7 out of the 8 Cricket teams victorious on Saturday, both Tennis teams won and Softball drew. In Basketball we had 9 out of the 12 teams securing victories against a strong Knox College and the Prep A's only going down by a point. Now that it is week three, all training schedules have been finalised and the draw for the season is also on Sole. Good luck to all teams this Saturday.

Lucas Martin (Year 5 Blue) was one of 4 boys who made it through at the IPSHA Tennis trials last week. He will now compete at the NSW CIS Championships on, Monday 26 February. An outstanding achievement given he was competing against the best Year 5 and 6 boys from all IPSHA Schools.

A big thank you to all boys for your wonderful participation at the Junior School Swimming Carnival yesterday. Thank you also to staff and parents for your support at our new venue. Any feedback on the day would be greatly appreciated. Congratulations to all the House captains and Vice captains, especially Alex Conti and Samuel Avvenevole from Hickey who took out the Championship Shield.

Points:		Age Champions:	
1 st Hickey	340	U10's	Nicholas Macher
2 nd Hanrahan	310	U11's Yr 5	Jack Taylor
3 rd Coghlan	292	U11's Yr 6	Jaiken Poon
4 th Rice	284	U12's	Ethan Harb
5 th Crichton	170		
6 th Berg	160		

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster



This week the Year 7 to 11 Assessment Handbooks and the Year 12 Assessment Tasks Calendar for 2018 will be available on the relevant *Canvas* Year pages. Year 12 received their handbook at the start of fourth term last year. Each Assessment Handbook covers the course assessment programme in all courses for the academic year. Included in each Assessment Handbook is the College's Assessment Policy, Assessment Schedules and Assessment Tasks Calendar. Also on *Canvas* are the Examination Rules for Years 9 to 12.

The handbooks serve as official notification for all assessment tasks for the whole year. Additional specific course and/or assessment task requirements may be issued by individual teachers and Studies Coordinators as deemed appropriate to the nature of the task. It is expected that all boys would familiarise themselves with this information in order to plan and organise an effective study regime that will assist them in achieving their academic potential. The College has put together a thorough assessment programme that will provide opportunities to excel in a variety of assessment tasks.

Despite the College's best intentions it is possible, as with any large assessment programme, that changes may occur. Any change, if it does occur, is expected to be minor and ample forward notice will be given to the relevant students.

It is important to note that the College's assessment policies and procedures are drawn up in accordance with those of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and have the clear intention of being considerate and just to all students and their teachers.

Essentially, these policies and procedures ensure a level playing field and ensure justice to the great majority of students who consistently do the right thing by:

- applying themselves with diligence to all set tasks;
- thoroughly familiarising themselves with the academic expectations of the College;
- submitting their own work by the specified due date;
- providing advanced notice, where possible, of absence for an assessment task;
- providing appropriate medical documentation to the relevant teacher immediately on return to school when absent for an assessment task or when work is not submitted on the due date; and
- discussing the result of a task, with the relevant teacher, at the time the task is returned.

Students who are absent on the day an assessment task is due or to be completed, can expect to submit the task or complete it on the day of their return to school.

Ignorance does not constitute a reasonable or valid excuse to breach any of these basic common sense procedures and will invariably result in a penalty or a zero mark being given.

I urge parents to read with their sons all the relevant assessment information issued by the College. It is through its assessment policies and procedures, along with good teaching and pastoral practices, that the College is able to set and maintain its high academic standards. The College's consistently excellent results in all external tests and examinations, such as NAPLAN and the Higher School Certificate, are testimony to this fact.

Michael Cutrupi—Director of Curriculum

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Lenten Fundraising at St Patrick's College in 2018

Today marks the beginning of our 40 day journey to the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter – God's promise of salvation for all. This season is a chance for us to take stock of our lives and particularly our relationship with God. We are offered the opportunity to fix problems and to stop and reconnect with the various elements of our lives we often sadly neglect, particularly the earth. We are called to deepen our connection with God through **PRAYER**, to connect with others who may be less fortunate through **ALMSGIVING** and to reconnect with ourselves and our blessings through **FASTING**. We are also called to **ACTION** at St Patrick's College this year – action that helps reduce the harmful effects of humanity on the environment. We need to fast from some of our luxuries, not just our food. As we have done for many years we promote the *Lenten Carbon Fast* [from The Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW (CLRI)], but this Lenten Season we ask you to pay greater attention to it as a family. You can access the instructions for each day of Lent on the College Website under Our Identity – Justice; follow this link <http://www.spc.nsw.edu.au/our-identity/justice/>. What cost is our carbon footprint having on the beauty of God's creation? A lot! Our main Lenten Partner this year is the Edmund Rice Centre in Homebush, with a focus on sustainability. We will help with the programmes that care for our earth and care for the poor who are most readily affected by climate change. *The earth is one of us – we would all care for our family members so let us care for our 'brothers wind and air' and 'sister water' (St Francis of Assisi – Canticle of Creation)*

This season is one of preparation – working on ourselves to be ready for when Christ returns and to be ready for the joys of Easter. Sundays are not part of the Lenten season as every Sunday is a mini-Resurrection, and Fridays are a particular day of sacrifice for us to reflect the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

PRAYER—We, the students and staff of the College have been engaged in liturgies in the Chapel to mark Ash Wednesday – all wearing the mark of ash on our foreheads to remind us to 'turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel', as well as tying some string around our wrists to remind us of our Lenten promises. Every Wednesday in the Chapel at 1.30pm the Rosary is said and every Friday at lunch time the Stations of the Cross will be remembered. (We are unfortunately unable to offer Reconciliation this year, but urge you to attend in your parish – this is the time of year we should make the effort to reconcile ourselves with God.)

ALMSGIVING—Throughout Lent the whole community will raise funds for our 2018 Lenten Partners – *The Edmund Rice Centre*, Homebush as mentioned above. More will be shared about our partners throughout the term, but you can take a look at their work at <http://www.erc.org.au/>. There are various ways to contribute, from the various stalls students run at lunchtimes to the College's Blue, Black and Gold Dinner. **Most importantly**, however, is the concept of giving without expecting anything in return. We need to have an element of sacrifice in our giving. All donations are accepted and every cent goes directly to our partners – no processing charges or diversions. That coffee or chocolate doesn't mean much to most of us but the cost of it can make a big difference to someone else.

FASTING—Tradition has required us to give up meat on Fridays. In more recent times if we do not give up meat then something else is to be sacrificed on a Friday. As a tangible expression of fasting, no meat or meat products will be sold at the College on Fridays in Lent.

We are a faith community. The majority of Term One allows us to strengthen our individual and communal relationship with God who has blessed us with so much. God bless each of you in your journey and reflection.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

Gillian Daley—Director of Identity

ENGLISH – WIDE READING

It almost goes without saying that reading is the key to all learning in an academic context. It makes self-actualisation possible. If we can read and comprehend sufficiently well, there is no limit to what we can teach ourselves in a whole variety of contexts. It is one of the primary aims of English as a subject to produce capable, confident and critical readers who not only comprehend and evaluate what they read but seek out, of their own initiative, a whole range of texts for enjoyment and for learning.

One of the ways in which we encourage this is through our programme of wide reading in the senior school. All boys in all year groups are expected to be reading a book of their own choice throughout the year as part of their English studies. Every student should be reading every day as part of their homework study.

For some students this comes naturally and they love reading, therefore this expectation is easy to fulfil as it is already a source of enjoyment for them. However, we all know as teachers and as parents that this is not the case for many students, who either do not enjoy reading, or struggle to read (or have struggled in the past). So, how can we address this? In short, we need to make access to reading and the encouragement of reading easier.

When we talk about reading as a skill, we are actually referring to two different skills. The first is decoding: that is understanding the combinations of phonemes (or sounds) formed by the letters on the page and our ability to translate these symbols into sounds and words that convey meaning. The second is comprehension and critical thinking: that is, understanding the complexities and nuance of meaning communicated through language.

Comprehension and critical thinking presupposes the ability to decode. And yet many students still struggle to decode text, especially as it becomes longer and more complex; or, although capable readers now, they lack confidence with decoding because they have had negative experiences with it in early schooling. For these students decoding difficulty becomes a barrier to accessing text for enjoyment and learning. But there is a way around this with the technology we have available today. First of all, I would encourage students who struggle with reading (or say they do not like reading) to use audio books. Our College library has a range of books available in this format as do all public libraries. This is a perfectly legitimate way to “read” a book that removes the problem of a lack of decoding fluency, and enables the reader to concentrate on comprehension. Some parents may find themselves asking, is this really reading? The answer is yes. It is not decoding, but if you listen actively and critically it is comprehending, which is the higher order skill.

For those students who are confident decoders of text, the purpose of wide reading should be to improve their comprehension and critical thinking skills. This is achieved by encouraging a growth mindset when it comes to reading. Students should challenge themselves not to be merely passive readers, but to question their own understanding of what they read. For instance, when they encounter new or unfamiliar words, are they satisfied to guess or assume the meaning of a word from the context of the sentence in which it appears, or do they seek to understand its meaning in full? Again, technology is our friend here. Students have the ability to teach themselves new vocabulary, literally, at their fingertips. They all have internet enabled devices (in most cases even voice activated) that make it so much easier to learn new vocabulary for themselves.

Technology, of course, is not the answer to everything. When was the last time you asked your son to read to you? As parents, we all enjoy reading to our children when they are young, but there often comes a point when we think they are too old for this. Secondary school students are not too old to read to you, nor are they too old for you to read to them. But when you do listen to them read, encourage the development of critical thinking by asking questions about what they have read that require deeper engagement. For example, you might ask: why do you think that character said that? Or, that character just said, but how do you think they really feel? This way you are encouraging inferential thinking which will help to improve their comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Reading is the key to learning in so many areas of life and thinking critically about what we read is probably the most important transferable skill of all, especially with the pace of change facing young people today. Try to make a point of encouraging wide reading by asking your son what he is reading this week.

Adam Leslie—English Studies Coordinator



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
Parents' and Friends' Committee
PRESENTS



Tuesday
13 March
2018
7.00pm
Robson
Auditorium

**MANAGING STRESS
AND ANXIETY**
**Guest Speaker:
Ms Melissa Harkin**
SPC COUNSELLING COORDINATOR

We warmly welcome you to join us for what promises to be an informative evening, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

**ST JOSEPH'S ENFIELD
SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2018**

Anyone who lives near the parish is welcome to participate in the following sacramental programs. Please contact St Joseph's for more details on 9747 4884.

RECONCILIATION Year 3 and older.
Enrolment Date: Saturday 5th May 2018 at 4.00pm.
Sacrament Date: Thursday 28th June at 6.30pm.

CONFIRMATION
Enrolment Date: Sunday 6th May at 4.00pm
Sacrament Date: Saturday 23 June 2018 10.00am & 2.00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
Enrolment Date: Saturday 4th August 2018 at 4.00pm.
Sacrament Dates: September Sat & Sun weekends 15th, 16th, 22nd & 23rd.

RECONCILIATION Year 2 and older.
Enrolment Date: Saturday 27th October 2018 at 4.00pm.
Sacrament Date: Thursday 29th November 6.30pm.

Sports Draw - SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2018

CRICKET

1st XI	v	Oakhill	10.00	Breen Oval
2nd XI	v	Oakhill	10.00	Damian Oval
3rd XI	v	St Stanislaus	10.00	SPC 2
16A	v	Kings	1.30	TKS Old Boys
15A	v	Epping District Red	8.30	Meadowbank Park 10
15B	v	Waverley	1.30	Queens Park 3
14A	v	Concord Briars	8.00	TBC
14B	v	West Epping	8.00	TBC
13A	v	Epping District Blue	8.00	Tuckwell Oval
13B	v	Sydney Grammar	9.00	Phillips Park 2
13 Green	v	Sydney Grammar	1.00	Phillips Park 2
13 Blue	v	Kings	9.00	Massie Fields
13 Black	v	13 Gold (T20)	9.00	Hudson Park
13 White	v	13 Red (T20)	12.00	SPC 4

BASEBALL

1st IX	v	Rangers	8.30	Rofe Park
2nd IX	v	Kissing Point	8.30	Major's Bay
16A	v	Westboomers	8.30	Glover St 1
14A	v	Rosebank	11.00	Major's Bay

BASKETBALL

1st V	v	St Augustine's	10.00	Nth Beaches ISC 1
17A	v	St Augustine's	11.00	Nth Beaches ISC 2
17B	v	Oxley College	10.00	Oxley College Ct 2
17C	v	Oakhill	1.00	SPC Gym
17D	v	SCECGS Redlands	9.00	Nth Beaches ISC 4
17 Black	v	Oakhill	9.00	CSC2
15A	v	St Augustine's	10.00	Nth Beaches ISC 2
15B	v	Oxley College	9.00	Oxley College Ct 2
15C	v	Oakhill	12.00	SPC Gym
15D	v	SCECGS Redlands	8.00	Nth Beaches ISC 6
14A	v	St Augustine's	9.00	Nth Beaches ISC 2
14B	v	Oxley College	11.00	Oxley College Ct 2
14C	v	Oakhill	11.00	SPC Gym
14D	v	SCECGS Redlands	8.00	Nth Beaches ISC 4
14 Black	v	St Andrew's Cathedral	9.00	SPC Gym
13A	v	St Augustine's	9.00	Nth Beaches ISC 1
13B	v	Oxley College	11.00	Oxley College Ct 1
13C	v	Oakhill	10.00	SPC Gym
13D	v	SCECGS Redlands	8.00	Nth Beaches ISC 5
13 Black	v	13 Gold	8.00	SPC Gym
13 Gold	v	13 Black	8.00	SPC Gym

GOLF

Squad	v	Riverview Blue	12.00	Strathfield Golf Club
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JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT WEEKLY DRAW SUMMER ROUND TWO 17/02/2018

CRICKET	OPPOSITION	VENUE	TIME
TRAD 6A	Barker	Cooke Park	8.00am
TRAD 6B	Barker	SPC No 4	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6A	Waverley	Phillips Park	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 6B	Newington	Rudd Park	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 6C	Waverley	Phillips Park	8.00am
TRAD 5A	Riverview	SIC 5	8.00am
TRAD 5B	Riverview 6	SIC 6	8.00am
SUPER 8'S 5A	Waverley	Queens Park 4	9.30am
SUPER 8'S 5B	Waverley	Queens Park 4	8.00am
BASKETBALL			
TEAM A	Riverview	Auburn 1	9.00am
TEAM B	Riverview	Auburn 1	8.00am
TEAM C	Riverview	Auburn 2	9.00am
TEAM D	Riverview	Auburn 2	8.00am
TEAM E	Riverview	Auburn 3	9.00am
TEAM F	Riverview	Auburn 3	8.00am
TEAM G	Riverview	Regis 1	11.00am
TEAM H	Riverview	Regis 1	10.00am
TEAM I	Riverview	Regis 1	9.00am
TEAM J	Riverview	Regis 1	8.00am
TEAM K	Riverview	Regis 2	9.00am
TEAM L	Riverview	Regis 2	8.00am
TENNIS			
TEAM A	Kings	SPC Courts	9.30am
TEAM B	Sydney Grammar	SPC Courts	8.00am
SOFTBALL			
TEAM Black	Trinity Junior	Bressington East	8.00am



Head of Secondary Sport

Pink Stumps Day

The College will be hosting a 'Pink Stumps Day' on Breen Oval on this **Saturday 17 February 2018**. 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 awareness in young people.

The day will consist of:

- ◇ 1st XI fixture on Breen Oval and 3rd XI on SPC 2 with a 'pink flavour'
- ◇ Raffle/Guessing Competition
- ◇ BBQ and Drinks
- ◇ High catch challenge on Breen Oval (lunch break)



I would encourage all members of the College community to endeavour to come to Breen Oval this weekend in support of this cause. To further support the event you can donate at <https://pinkstumpsday2018.gofundraise.com.au/page/AndrewSimone>



Commitment to Sport

When a boy signs up for a sport, he makes a binding commitment to that sport for the duration of the season. Parents and boys would understand that teams, coaches and opposition are organised well in advance and St Patrick's has a commitment to other schools. Any requests for leave from Saturday sport should be directed to Mr Fochesato or myself in the first instance. Boys are not to inform their coaches that they simply will not be at a game without having asked permission.

May I remind everyone that all referee's and umpire's decisions must be accepted without negative response by players, coaches and spectators. No matter what the sport or venue travelled to, it is never right to express disapproval of a referee's or umpire's decision, irrespective of his/her age. All spectators and students are expected to set an example by their self-control and deportment at matches.

Congratulations

Matthew Rennie of Year 12 has once again gained selection in the NSW U/19s Beach Volleyball squad. We wish Matthew all the best for the Australian Junior Beach Volleyball Championships to be held in Bunbury, Western Australia during the last week of the April school holidays.

Anthony Calavassy—Head of Secondary Sport

VENUES:

- Auburn Basketball Centre: Wyatt Park, Church St, Lidcombe
- Cooke Park: Madeline St, Belfield
- SPC Courts, No 3, No 4: Edgar St, Strathfield
- Rudd Park: Clarence St, Belfield
- Phillips Park: Nicholas St, Lidcombe
- Regis – Regis Courts: enter Regis Campus gate Riverview Street.
- SIC 5 and 6 – Riverview 5 and 6: enter Regis Campus gate Riverview Street.
- Queens Park: Darley Rd, Waverley
- Bressington: Underwood Rd, Homebush Opp the DFO

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.