



# Especean

Vol 31, No 11 – 11 April 2018

## Principal

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

During the year prior to your son's enrolment at St Patrick's College you will have been interviewed by a member of the College staff. During this interview you will have been asked about the reasons why you would like your son educated at St Patrick's and also about your faith practice as a family. I always find the responses to why people choose a particular school quite enlightening.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, clearly we focus on two fundamental yet seemingly obvious concerns. Without these, we have no reason to exist. They are:

Firstly, we are Catholic. This means we participate in the life of the broader Catholic Church and we attempt to continue the faith formation of your sons that has been commenced and practised in the home by you as parents. We are unapologetic about our commitment to living the Gospel message and for standing with the poor and the marginalised. This is an expectation that we have of all boys. I will come back to this later.



Secondly, we are a school. Our job is to educate your sons. We are a learning institution and we take learning and teaching seriously. What we commit to is an improvement journey for each boy with his learning. Everything else we offer after these two fundamental concerns either complements them, or is another opportunity for a boy – much like the icing on the cake if you will.



I was reflecting on how I nurture my own spirit recently, and it gave me pause to renew my commitment to taking my faith more seriously. I then asked myself the same kinds of questions that schools ask parents about what they seek in a faith education. Where is God in my life today? Where do I find the Spirit at work in our students and families? And what is the absolute essence of who we are as Christians? These are all big questions I know! If you had to sum up God in one sentence what would it be? For me, there is no need to consult a single textbook, or even the Bible to know the answer. It is so simple and so straightforward. Three words only are needed:

God is love.

In a world where hate is so prevalent and people seek to destroy one another, we can easily become cynical and negative. One often wonders if there will ever be peace in some regions of the world, or whether people in many countries will have enough to eat, or feel safe in their own homes. We still persecute others for their beliefs, their race or their gender and slavery and

poverty is so very real for too many. However, we are all blessed in ways that we may never even fully understand, such is the Paschal mystery.

God loves each one of us so much, he died for us. His resurrection brings renewed hope every day. God's love is unbounded by limits or conditions and lets us know that we are all made in his image and likeness. When the going gets tough, I rely on the fact that God indeed loves me, warts and all. If we all took stock and held our tongue just once in a while, we would refrain from diminishing someone else with our complaints, our petty bickering and our judgements. Then what we would find is a little more love just got spread, because a little less negativity was allowed to be given voice. A tough ask in a fast-paced world where we are easily seduced into finding fault.

As we enter the school holiday period let us try and be the messenger of love in little and large ways. If our task as Christians is to be the bringers of Good News – and really to go out and tell the world, then our model is Christ himself; the one who forgives, the one who aligns himself with those who others shun and ridicule and judge, and the one whose heart is so full of love it is fit to burst. Sounds corny I know, but give it a whirl! If we are true to our vocation as those who work in school education, our wholesome task is to love each and every boy in our school, just like a mother or a father does. We do this out of selflessness and from a good place. The best way for us to spread the Gospel message is to love our neighbour as we do ourselves, forgive our trespasses and to see the Godliness in each other.

Happy holidays to all. School resumes for all boys on Tuesday 1 May and boys are to come back in full winter uniform, including the wearing of the blazer to and from the College.

### Condolences

Please pray for Helen Sharkey from the Science Department as she mourns the loss of her father Neil McGonagle aged 77, in Donegal, Ireland. 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



**MOTHERS DAY MASSES**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Friday 11 May—7.45am and 9.30am**

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

On Monday 9 April, the Junior School student leaders represented St Patrick's at the *RSL and Schools Remember Anzac Ceremony* in Hyde Park. It was a moving and interesting time to reflect on 100 years since World War I ended. I was proud to represent my College at this ceremony, especially when getting asked what school we were from while helping out. Steven and I handed out official programmes to guests, while Michael assisted VIPs with the laying of wreaths.



We saw the Premier of New South Wales, Gladys Berejiklian, as well as the Education Minister Rob Stokes and many people who had gone to war.

One man I would like to talk about is a man we met named Mr Ray James. His whole life has been dedicated to helping out our country: from signing up for war at the age of 15, he served in both the Navy and the NSW Police Force for his whole career. His brother and father, and now his son, also served Australia through the Navy and Police. Mr James encouraged us to continue to serve the community and our country and praised us for the work that we did yesterday.

We honour all those who have served and especially those who gave their lives. Lest we forget.

*Christian Katrib—Junior School Vice-Captain*



## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

Congratulations to the X-Country squad who competed on a very hot day last Saturday at Kings. Well done to Nicholas Macher who came 15th in the U10's, Luke Costello 3rd and Bailey Leighton 9th in the U12's. All three boys will now represent IPSHA at the CIS Carnival later in the year.

Good luck to Nicholas Macher, Jack Taylor (Swimming), Markus Parinetto and Anthony del Popolo (Diving) who will compete this week at the CIS Championships.

We wish the boys travelling to Armidale all the best for their annual Rugby tour. The boys have been working hard in preparation for a very competitive State Championships. A big thank you to Mr Davis, Mr Leary and Mr Clarke who will be travelling to Armidale with me and giving up their first weekend of the holidays.

I wish all boys and families a safe and relaxing holiday. A reminder that our first round of winter sport is on Saturday 5 May and the Junior School is also involved in supporter's duty that day at the College from 1.00pm—4.45pm, cheering on both the 1st XI and 1st XV.

Please download TEAM APP, spcsport, to keep up to date with all the latest in draws and training schedules.

*Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster*



## UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop **will not** be trading during the school holidays.

We will close: Friday 13 April and re-open Monday 30 April from 8.00am – 12.00pm

## BUSES

From Sunday 6 May, there will be changes to a number of bus routes and timetables to reflect customer demand and improve the reliability of services. These changes to regular route services may also impact connections to school specials. Please go to [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info) to check timetables. New timetable information will be available from Monday 23 April 2018.

If you have any questions regarding transport please email [damian.chase@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:damian.chase@spc.nsw.edu.au)

*Damian Chase—Deputy Principal*



## MCGLADE LIBRARY BORROWING

Students and parents should be aware that books are available for loan over the coming holiday period. Just a reminder that the normal loan period is two weeks and students should consider others by returning all loans promptly. Ebooks and audiobooks are also available 24/7 from <https://spcs.wheelers.co/>. The lifelong benefits from regular, sustained reading are well documented: Reading develops language skills; exercises the brain; enhances concentration; develops imagination and creativity; helps to develop empathy.

*Catherine Azar—Senior School Librarian*

## WELLBEING

Many thanks to the students, parents and staff who have taken part in the recent Relationships, Safety & Bullying surveys. Further information will be distributed during Term 2. The survey has been one of several wellbeing initiatives undertaken during Term 1. Please read below summaries of other key events that have taken place across the College community.

**YEAR 11 DRIVER EDUCATION** — On Wednesday 21 March, Year 11 took part in the Road Safety Education Programme run by Burwood Council. The programme focused on educating young people on making safe decisions while behind the wheel on our roads. Students listened to presentations by the NSW Police Crash Investigation Unit, the NSW Ambulance Service, a local magistrate and a road trauma survivor. Hearing from people who have witnessed or suffered from horrible road incidents allowed students to understand the lifelong consequences that irresponsible driving can have on an individual as well as on the people around them.

Participating in the day with students at this stage of driving was absolutely beneficial, especially being in Year 11, as many students have qualified for their Learner licence, with many soon to attempt their Provisional P1 licence (red P's). According to the Young Driver Factbase, the biggest killer of young drivers is speeding and around 80% of those killed are males. Educating young students about this issue is a good start in an effort to decrease the number of tragic road incidents. The information and lessons taught in this excursion are ones that will personally stick with me forever. Many thanks must go to Mr Simpson and Mr Kirby for organising the experience and to the teachers who accompanied us on the day. **Daniel Francis (Year 11 student)**

**YEAR 10** — Year 10 recently witnessed the drama production, *Wired*, during their Year meeting about Depression and Anxiety. Performed by Brainstorm Productions, the play followed the story of two teens struggling with the different aspects of school as well as relationships, who started to struggle with anxiety. The story showed two different paths, and highlighted how a simple decision could completely alter the course of someone else's life.

This extremely educational performance taught us how to prevent anxiety by identifying the factors that lead to it, in addition to teaching us how to deal with anxiety if we ever come across it, as well as and just as importantly, teaching us how to help others suffering from anxiety. **Matthew Taweel (Year 10 student)**

**YEAR 9** — On 14 March, during the Year 9 Pastoral Care Period, the theatrical group 'Brainstorm Productions', gave an enlightening performance entitled, 'The Flipside' to the Year 9 cohort. This performance was not only hysterical, but it was educational at the same time. The performance covered Cyber Safety and Cyber Bullying, in particular, how to be safe on social media and promoted the wellbeing of students.

The performance reinforced the idea that inappropriate online behaviour can have disastrous consequences both now and in the future and can impact our online reputation. Overall, the performance was engaging and informative and it provided strategies that we could use to counter the negative use of social media. **Luke Vaccher (Year 9 student)**

**YEAR 8** — In week 4 this Term, Year 8 was fortunate enough to be presented with a Cyber Safety performance from Brainstorm Productions. The performance was called "The Hurting Game" which told us the story about a boy who was a victim of peer pressure but was also a bully. We also looked at the story of a young girl who was new to a school and the struggle she went through to find friends and form good friendships despite experiencing bullying behaviour.

The performance highlighted the effects that bullying can have on our peers and also taught us that ongoing negative relationships at school and social media can affect students' self-esteem and their future. This presentation taught us to be aware of peer pressure, rumours, body image and self-esteem. This was a very successful production that should be shown to Year 8 boys for many years to come. **Adrian Biscotto (Year 8 student)**

**YEAR 7** — On Wednesday 11 April, Year 7 had a Cyberia performance, by "Brainstorm", during our Pastoral Care Period. The performance was focused on Cyber Safety and social media awareness and the consequences that come with every action or decision we make - good or bad. It was based on a true event that had happened to real people. Kelly and Harry were very relatable as they knew how to engage with the cohort by using video games and situations that we have witnessed, experienced or heard of in our everyday lives.

In summary Tim and Ruby both made some foolish decisions. Tim had developed an addiction to the game he was making and had lost contact with the world surrounding him. Ruby also made some irrational decisions, when she tried to get into Tim's business. We learnt not to trust people we have never met and to think about every decision we make and how it can come back to bite us. **Alessandro Romeo, George Kazzi & Oscar Manuel (Year 7 students)**

**Robert Simpson—Director of Wellbeing**

## 2018 YEAR AMBASSADORS

A warm congratulations to the newly elected 2018 Year Ambassadors of Year 7-11 who were presented with their badges and certificates at the College assembly last Friday. These students have been elected by their Year group into a significant student leadership role, entrusted with a distinct responsibility and commitment to authentic service.

I wish our Year Ambassadors every success throughout their leadership this year and look forward to seeing the ways in which they will positively contribute to their College community.

Year 7 Ambassadors	Year 8 Ambassadors	Year 9 Ambassadors	Year 10 Ambassadors	Year 11 Ambassadors
Oscar Manuel	Adrian Biscotto	Dean Laggis	Jakob Turner Jensen	Mark Herro
Martin Quach	Jake Milligan	Alexander Sleiman	Anthony Biscotto	Iban Elhorga
Alessandro Romeo	Blake Timillero	Darcy Patterson	Billy Francis	Christian Bejjani
George Kazzi	Michael Bejjani	Sebastian Cevenini	George Sofy	Daniel Francis

**Adriana Lazkin—Student Leadership Coordinator**

## CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

The Canteen would like to extend an invitation to the SPC community for potential volunteers from the commencement of Term 2. Duties will primarily consist of serving our students at recess and lunch and some food preparation. Those interested or would like to find out more can contact the Canteen Manager Rose on 0410 481 150.

**Richie Chacon—Assistant Director of Business Services**

## 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> (SOLE > Parent Portal > Important Forms).

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 what is not covered as the College does not cover any gap.** The College cannot advise you about matters to do with your own medical insurance. For further information, parents may wish to contact the insurer directly on 1800 672 721.

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.

*Richie Chacon—Assistant Director of Business Services*

## INJURIES AND COLLEGE UNIFORM

As we enter the winter co-curricular season, unfortunately but inevitably, there is an increase in the number of students who may be injured playing sport at the College and in their outside ventures. Can I please impress upon all parents that students being out of normal full College uniform when injured should very much be the exception. Students are required to be in their full College uniform even if injured. The College would advise of two exceptions to this. Firstly, if the student is physically unable to put their uniform on. Students in “moonboots” or with casts or in slings should still be in uniform unless this is physically impossible. Secondly, if wearing the uniform presents a real risk of harm for the student. Students who are unable to wear a shoe due to a sprain etc. and are on crutches should be in full College uniform with a black sock rather than their school shoe on the injured foot. In the rare situation that a student needs to be out of uniform, please be aware that students must wear their FULL College tracksuit, supporters (crested) black shorts, supporters shirt white socks and clean sandals. No College “tour” gear is to be worn. Any student who arrives out of uniform needs to present to their Year Coordinator with a note from their parents explaining the need to be out of uniform. As indicated previously this should be the rare exception.

*Steve Fochesato—Director of Co-Curricular*

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS MELBOURNE 2018

During the Easter long weekend the Wind Ensemble competed in the Australian National Band Championships in Melbourne. Students represented the College in both the Marching and On Stage Competition. The Bands were successful in placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Concert Band Marching Championships, with Rhys Hughes receiving the Drum Majors Award. In the On Stage competition we received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the Free Choice Category and 4<sup>th</sup> place overall for Open ‘D’ Grade Division Championships, one point behind 3<sup>rd</sup> place. It was a fantastic result with all boys representing the College in an outstanding manner and deserving of huge congratulations for their effort.

*Derek Rose—Bandmaster*



## FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

Well done to our Future Problem Solvers from Years 9 and 10 who last week completed Round One of the Global Issues Problem Solving Program for 2018.

The competition involves working in groups of 3-4 to identify various problems in a given futuristic scenario, and present viable solutions. The program aims to extend the communication and collaboration skills of the participants, and allows for critical and creative thinking to find ways to approach and solve problems. While the problems presented are set in the future and are fictitious, it is easy to imagine these could be issues that human society may face in years to come.

The Round One problem was set at the Olympic Games in Switzerland in 2050 where an outbreak of a highly contagious and potentially fatal flu virus has taken place. The groups had to think about all the potential challenges that would be faced and find solutions in order to minimise the impact of the disease spreading.

The Round Two scenario takes place in 2038 in Myanmar and involves an issue with toxic materials found in food products. Our FPS teams will certainly be keen to sink their minds into that one! Good luck boys!

*Janine Timillero & Heidi Viney—Diverse Learning*

## HEAD OF SECONDARY SPORT

### Good Luck!

On behalf of the College community, I take this opportunity to wish the North American Rugby Touring party all the very best for their trip in the holidays. On Saturday, we will farewell 51 members of the Rugby fraternity along with many family members who will also be travelling overseas as part of the supporters group tour. We wish you all safe travels and look forward to hearing many stories upon your return.

### Winter Season

The winter season commenced last Saturday with traditional fixtures against Sydney Grammar. On a fine and sunny Saturday, all fixtures that were played in Rugby and Football were carried out with respect and good sportsmanship. Well done to all who competed.

I remind parents and students to download for free the SPC Sport Team App. You will now be able to view all winter sports training schedules for the remainder of the winter season under the "Training Schedules & Cancellations" tab. As part of the feedback from the Co-curricular survey, families would like to be provided with more notice of fixtures in advance. In line with this I wish to inform you that upon the commencement of Term 2, I wish to have published via Team App a copy of all Season's Fixtures Draw. More information to come on this.

In the meantime, you will now be able to view the summer season End of Season Reports for Cricket, Basketball and Baseball through Team App under the "Newsletter" tab. If you wish to download and keep a copy, this can be done through signing into your Team App account via computer. <https://www.teamapp.com/>

*Anthony Calavassy—Head of Secondary Sport*

## TRAINING OFF SITE – PROTOCOL

Given the large number of summer and winter sports teams currently representing the College, certain teams have been allocated training sessions at nearby Hudson and Airey Parks along with the Marie Bashir School Playing Field/Basketball Court in Albert Road. In order to ensure boys make their way to and from the grounds safely they are instructed to meet with their coaches at 3.25pm so that they are supervised along the journey.

Ordinarily, boys making the return trip to school will leave their school bag at the College for the duration of the training session. I would ask you to remind boys that they should take their valuables, such wallets and phones with them or leave them in their secured lockers. Clearly, boys being picked up at these grounds will need to take their school bags with them.

Parents wishing to pick up their son/s from the above-mentioned playing fields may do so once they have reported to the relevant Coach at 4.50pm at which point teams will commence their return trip to the College. **Please note that under no circumstance will a boy be permitted to remain at the training field in order to wait for his parent/s. Furthermore, students are not permitted to drive to and from these venues on training days.**

In some instances, parents may wish for their sons to be left at the venue in order to attend their outside training commitments. In order for that to occur, parents will need to inform the relevant MIC and Coach prior to the training session, who will be at the venue to assume the supervisory responsibility for their son/s from 4.50pm onwards.

**The College's duty of care ceases at either 4.50pm when the boys are handed over to the parent and/or approved adult or when the boys return to the College Campus at approximately 5.00pm**

*Steve Fochesato—Director of Co-curricular*

## Football – 17 & 18 April

1st XI

v St Andrew's Cup

Valentine Park

### SPC SPORT

### NOW HAS ITS OWN APP

Download our awesome new app now and stay up to date with all the latest information!

Install the SPC Sport App on your smartphone or tablet now!

#### Follow these steps:

1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.



2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.

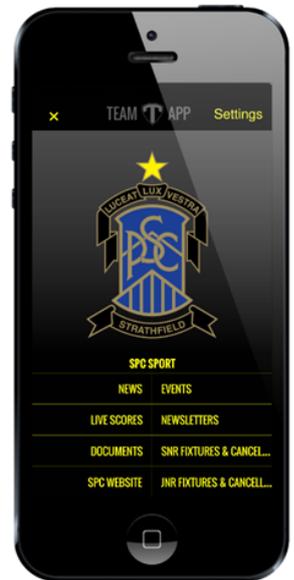
3. Log into the App and search for "SPC Sport".

4. Choose your applicable access group(s).

5. If you don't have a smartphone go to [spcsport.teamapp.com](https://www.teamapp.com) to sign up and view this App online.

#### Need help?

Contact: Sportsmaster



**WALK ALL OVER  
BREAST CANCER**

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY 13 MAY 2018**

[mothersdayclassic.com.au](http://mothersdayclassic.com.au)



Major Sponsor

