



Especean

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Principal

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

About 30 parents joined us for the Parent Forum at the P and F meeting last Tuesday evening to listen to Phil Glendenning from the Edmund Rice Centre speak on *A Liberating Education*. Much of our Lenten Fundraising this year has been donated to the Centre to assist in the continuation of their good work. It is a shame more parents could not be there on the evening to listen to the absolute wisdom that Phil had to share. He beautifully articulated what a Liberating Education means for you and me, but also even more importantly, what it might mean for our boys now and for their future. I provide for you a snapshot (in summary form) of some of what Phil had to say. Here are some of the pearls that Phil had to share with us:

- We aim to develop their (the boys') dispositions and values as well as their capacity to understand what is going on in their world.
- We should be working for the liberation of those who are oppressed but also for the oppressors: for the liberation of all.
- This school is very good at offering a liberating education – for these things that matter.
- A liberating education is not just something a school does – parents are the prime educators of their children.
- Partnership that can be formed with parents and teachers is so important – we can together provide a liberating education.
- We are not about party politics, we are about people politics.
- We stand with those the rest of the world excludes and even more importantly we seek to understand "why". We stand with Jesus and we stand with Edmund Rice.
- Our work is about education, research and advocacy. We need to ask questions like: How could the Holocaust happen? How could Rwanda happen? How could Cambodia happen? How could Sri Lanka happen? And then be empowered to do something about it.

Challenging to listen to, and accompanied by some heartbreaking stories of Phil's recent trip to Afghanistan.

Education more locally has certainly been in the media lately. From Gonski 2.0 schools funding to NAPLAN to Gonski again with his chairmanship of the Review into Australian schooling which is entitled "Through Growth to Achievement". And, as of Monday of this week, a wholesale review of the curriculum in NSW has been announced by Minister Stokes. If you have been following the stories, there are multiple opinions offered varying from "How Private Schools Make Everyone Nastier (Farrelly, E., SMH, 4 May 2018) to reports about equity and inequity in Australian schooling, the uses and misuses of NAPLAN and the missed opportunity that yet another schools review has potentially served up. Frankly, it is exhausting being an educator at the moment!

As a school leader, I am keenly interested in, and aware of the potential implications of, any changes to the funding of schools in the non-government sector. Naturally, we rely as much on government funding (both Federal and State) as we do on the payment of school fees. Without these combined sources of funding, we simply could not exist.

And, naturally, I have closely followed the debate about NAPLAN. Given that our students are facing this raft of testing in Years 5, 7 and 9 this week, it is timely to perhaps understand what the original intention of NAPLAN was when it was introduced. It was designed as a diagnostic tool. One tool, in amongst many others that teachers and schools might use to inform student learning. NAPLAN, given that it is a national test, is a line of best fit across each state and territory. It does not match exactly, the learning that has taken place in classrooms. Unfortunately, we have seen the abuse of NAPLAN in the lead-up to the test, in the educational marketplace and also in the way in which the results have been employed.

NAPLAN has certainly become highly politicised. Perhaps the worst thing that ever happened to NAPLAN was the My School website where each school's results are posted online with colour-coded graphs to represent the degree of success with respect to scores for

each measure. In its original form, this website was supposed to provide information and transparency to parents about a school's performance in NAPLAN over time, with comparisons offered with like schools, and all other schools, a school's growth and the distribution of a school's "index of socio-economic community advantage". No-one I know can ever really explain the formula that is used to calculate this incredibly complex index. In addition, a school's finances are reported as well as student attendance data. Unfortunately, some of this data has been used for marketing purposes in some jurisdictions, or has been used to shame some schools. NAPLAN on its own, tells a very narrow story about a student's learning, and about a school's performance. Remember, any test only tells us about what was tested! And NAPLAN cannot hope to test everything a child learns in English and Mathematics at school. NAPLAN tells us nothing about a child's learning in any other discipline, their attitude to learning, their effort or their acquisition of a host of other very important skills, competencies and understandings. NAPLAN has become a money spinner for tutoring Colleges, and it costs the nation millions of dollars per year to write, implement, mark and report. Sadly, many schools have embedded NAPLAN-style teaching as far back as Year 1, in fear of not making the grade when students hit Year 3. This was never the original intention I am sure, but here we are. Students at the tender age of seven years are worrying themselves sick about NAPLAN. And if we introduce a national phonics test in Year 1, I wonder what this will actually achieve.

Teacher professional judgement has been eroded and ignored along the way. We need to trust our teachers to make informed decisions about a child's learning and the course of action they take as practitioners. Of course data plays a role in making these decisions. Evidence-based methods of instruction also play a significant role. To be fair, education has fallen prey to many fads (shiny new approaches that have not borne any real results in improvement in learning) over the years. Interestingly, in light of the recent review chaired by Gonski, another round of motherhood statements and edu-speak language appears yet again with little concrete strategy attached.

Explicit teaching (direct instruction) I think has always had its place and is not going out of fashion any time soon. Explicit teaching of new concepts and skills is vital for students. The thinking skills and capabilities spoken of in the Gonski review are indeed important, but cannot be taught in isolation. Deep content knowledge is also important. We do not want to produce students who have a superficial, soup-dish understanding of their chosen disciplines.

We are committed to doing our best by your sons with their learning. Good learning is best achieved by good teaching. We do this best, together. We are not merely coaches, nor facilitators; we teach.

Commitment to Co-curricular activities reminder to all families

It has come to my attention that a number of families have not fulfilled their commitment to Saturday sport in favour of boys playing for their local clubs last weekend. I remind all families that a condition of enrolment at this College is that the first commitment is to the College (in any co-curricular activity) and that interests in any other outside club or organisation come second to the commitment to St Patrick's. It is both unfair to teammates when boys simply do not turn up (and the majority of others do) and let their team down as well as abrogating a responsibility that parents signed willingly at the point of entry to this College. We go out of our way to try to avoid known clashes with other organisations, however, from time to time, these will be unavoidable. In these circumstances every boy and his family is expected to uphold the primacy of playing for and/or representing the College. Consequences will be imposed for those who fail to fulfil their obligation.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal



CONDOLENCES

Please pray for James Kozub (Year 8) and his family as, sadly, his grandmother Maureen Anne Kozub passed away. Please also pray for Gianluca Pecora (Year 10) and his family as they mourn the loss of his grandmother Grazia Pecora. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Next week you will sit your first NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know:

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people who score these tests don't know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad or that you play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and that every day you do your best. Because these attributes cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can't tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can't tell you that you brighten up your teacher's day. They can't tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to 'test' all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU!

Kind regards,

Mrs Egan, Mrs Schluter and Miss Bailey

JUNIOR SCHOOL

I want to share this letter with you in NAPLAN week. It comes from some teachers in Queensland and was shared online by a happy parent.

I'm not one of those teachers who bag NAPLAN. I don't see it as mindless, high-stakes standardised testing, with no benefit for students.

I value NAPLAN for the excellent, detailed information it gives us about what your children can do on a particular day, and what we need to teach them to move forward from there.

However, I definitely do not see achievement on NAPLAN as the great goal of education. There are so many things that make your children special and wonderful, and that's what the teachers who wrote this letter were getting at.

At St Patrick's we value the whole person, because we believe that each and every one of us is created in God's image. So let's value NAPLAN for what it is, and keep it all in perspective. It's just another day of great learning for us at SPC!

P.S. Year 5 Parents Save the Date—Thursday 21 June 2018—11.00am—Instrumental Concert Performance by 5 Green, 5 Black and 5 White.

Ben Munday—Director of Junior School

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

CIS Boys win NSW PSSA Tennis Championships and Combined Teams Don Moon Trophy.

Lucas Martin (5 Blue) was selected in a team of 5 boys and 5 girls to represent CIS at the State Tennis Championships, in Albury last week. The event brought together 13 teams, from across NSW to battle it out all week for the John Ferguson Cup. CIS were undefeated in their pool and beat Mackillop 6-0 in the semi finals. They played defending Champions Sydney North in the final, last Friday. CIS won a gripping final to take out the John Ferguson Cup for 2018. The CIS boys and girls team also won the overall Don Moon cup, which combined results from boys and girls competitions. Lucas played in every round and all finals and was undefeated in all his singles matches. He also won all but one doubles, including the last, deciding doubles final which secured the overall win for CIS.



Sam Groth (Australian Tennis Star) & Lucas Martin

In what was the first Saturday playing in cold and sometimes wet conditions it was another solid round of SPC Junior sport. Well done to the Prep A and B Rugby teams who played well to beat Kings on Breen Oval. This was the first time the boys got to play on Breen and they didn't disappoint. Well done. Congratulations to the Rugby team of the round, the 11A's who beat Riverview and the U10's winning their first game against Redfield College. Another impressive victory for the AFL team might see them move up a division for stronger competition. The U10's Football had another clean sweep against Newington with some excellent team play. The honours were shared in the U11,2's against Waverley and yet another clean sweep against Cranbrook in the 11,1's. The Prep's won all games except for a tight loss in the A's against Barker.



It is important to mention again how important it is to act responsibly on the sidelines. Having parents yell and scream and use abusive language will not be tolerated here at St Patrick's. Our good name was tarnished last week and this disappoints me greatly. We are not playing for the World Cup, let the boys enjoy their sport and create lifelong mates. I have placed on SOLE and TEAM APP (which all parents should have signed up to now) the Code of Conduct for IPSHA sport. Please read and make yourself familiar with it as we can't have a repeat of last Saturday.

I had the privilege of watching the Junior School Debating team compete against All Saints last Friday. The boys did St Patrick's proud, not only winning their two debates, but the manner in which they carried themselves. Well done Mrs Compton and the boys.

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster

PHOTO DAY

Parents are reminded that Senior School photos will take place on **Wednesday 23 May**, and on **Thursday 24 May** for the Junior School, in the College Hall. Students need to be groomed as per College guidelines and wear their College winter uniform – no jumpers are allowed to be worn in the photo. Details relating to the purchasing of photos have already been sent to parents via email. Please ensure your son brings their photo envelope with them on the day, regardless of whether photos are being purchased. Family photo envelopes need to be completed separately for sibling photos. Your son can collect this from the office.

Ilham Ayoub—Administration Coordinator

NEW EBOOKS/AUDIOBOOKS

Check out some of the new additions to the collection.

Follow this link to read or listen to hundreds of great stories !!!! <https://spcs.wheelers.co>



CURRICULUM

Year 11 Parent/Teacher Interviews and Student Interim Reports

The Year 11 Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the evening of Tuesday 5 June. It is a College expectation that every student is in full College uniform and is accompanied by at least one parent or other primary caregiver. Parents book interview times online via *Edval Interviews* and it is also a College expectation that parents book interviews with all their sons' subject teachers. Parents should check their emails for communication over the next couple of weeks regarding interview schedules.

The interviews are an opportunity for parents to meet their sons' teachers and to discuss their sons' progress and adjustment to senior studies, including aspects of the upcoming interim reports, but more importantly to discuss strategies and recommendations for preparing for the Preliminary course examinations held in third term.

The Year 11 Interim Reports will be issued online via the *Parent Portal* on *SOLE* by Friday 1 June. In order to access their sons' reports, parents will be required to log on to *SOLE* and under the *Parent Portal* menu, select *Student Reports*. Parents may view and/or print the report. Only parent accounts can access student reports. Parents who have forgotten their passwords can go to the 'forgotten your username or password' link on the *SOLE* login page.

Michael Cutrupi—Director of Curriculum

ST JOSEPH'S ALICE SPRINGS VISIT ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

From 18 to 26 May the St Joseph's Mob from Alice Springs will be coming to stay with us. They will join in many classes, be around in the playground, come to assembly and be part of our **Reconciliation Round of sport on 19 May**. While the fellas are here they will see some of the sights of Sydney, attend a Swans match and get to know many new people while reconnecting with some familiar faces. We look forward to the shared wisdom they bring as well as the opportunity for us to be good hosts. As our relationship grows we learn new and different ways of being united in our common and varied goals. No doubt the whole community will make them feel welcome in their time here and all of us will continue to see things through a different lens—understanding, compassion and love embedded in who we are. **Gillian Daley—Director of Identity**



SPC WINTER APPEAL

The College will hold its annual Winter Appeal on **Tuesday 22 May** (next week). We ask that families send in blankets (used or new), sleeping bags (most popular), new warm men's socks, new woollen gloves/beanies and toiletry items (like we did last year).

All items will be gifted to Sydney's homeless persons throughout the winter months. Please see the email to all parents and students from Gillian Daley that explains what toiletries to bring – they need to be small with secure lids. Each House will be allocated an item to bring in next Tuesday along with the warm items. Please **DO NOT** bring in clothes or items that are soiled or in poor condition. Students will bring all donations to the *Bangawarra Room* (previously known as Coghlan 4) during Homeroom on Tuesday.

In preparing for this collection let's stop and put ourselves in the shoes of those who live on the streets and often don't see human love.

Thank-you for your generosity.

Harrison Armour—Social Justice Prefect & Gillian Daley - Director of Identity

BLUE, BLACK & GOLD DINNER - FRIDAY 25 MAY

Last Chance to purchase tickets. Get in quick.
<http://www.trybooking.com/utlr>



YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO ST MARTHA'S PARISH FOR A SPECIAL EVENT SATURDAY 19 MAY 6PM—SAM CLEAR 'WALK4ONE'

The man who walked around the world for Christian unity is coming to St Martha's Parish to share his amazing journey. You will not want to miss this event! "Let Sam intrigue you as he navigates through one of the most extraordinary stories you will ever hear, filled with humour, disaster, heart-stopping moments and encounters with the very essence of what it is to be human." (www.walk4one.com)

Everyone is invited – family, friends and neighbours. Sam will speak in the school hall straight after St Martha's Parish 5.00pm Mass. Refreshments will be served, please RSVP for catering purposes to info@stmstrathfield.com.au

Ms Judy Gastin & Ms Sharene Connolly—St Martha's Catholic Primary School



SPORTS FIXTURES – SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018

RUGBY				FOOTBALL				JUNIOR SPORT FIXTURES									
1st XV	V	Joey's 3rd	3.15	Breen Oval	1st XI	V	St Pius	1.30	SPC 3	FOOTBALL							
2nd XV	V	Joey's 4th	2.00	Breen Oval	2nd XI	V	St Pius 2nd	12.00	SPC 3	Prep A	v	St Aloysius	Bark Huts 1	8.00am			
3rd XV	V	Joey's 6th	1.00	Breen Oval	3rd XI	V	Oakhill 2nd	9.00	Hermann Oval	Prep B	v	St Aloysius	Bark Huts 1	8.45am			
4th XV	V	Joey's 7th	12.00	Breen Oval	4th XI	V	Sydney Boys High	11.00	Centennial Park 9	Prep C	v	St Aloysius	Bark Huts 1	9.30am			
16A	V	Joey's C	11.00	SJC No.1	5th XI	V	Riverview 7th	11.00	SPC 3	Prep D	v	St Aloysius	Bark Huts 1	10.15am			
16B	V	Joey's E	10.00	SJC No.2	6th XI	V	Riverview 8th	1.30	Mason Park 2	Prep E	v	Coogee	Heffron Park	8.00am			
16C	V	Joey's H	9.00	SJC No.2	7th XI	V	Barker 8th	12.30	Mason Park 2	11A1	v	Trinity JS	Cooke Park	8.00am			
15A	V	Joey's B	9.00	SJC No.1	8th XI	V	Barker 9th	11.30	Mason Park 2	11B1	v	Trinity JS	Cooke Park	8.45am			
15B	V	Joey's D	8.00	SJC No.1	16A	V	St Pius	8.30	Mason Park 1	11C1	v	Trinity JS	Cooke Park	9.30am			
15C	V	Joey's G	10.00	SJC No.4	16B	V	St Pius B	9.30	Mason Park 1	11D1	v	Trinity JS	Cooke Park	10.15am			
14A	V	Joey's A	11.00	Breen Oval	16C	V	Redfield	8.30	Redfield 1	11A2	v	Grammar Edge	Wyatt Park	8.00am			
14B	V	Joey's C	9.00	Breen Oval	16D	V	Riverview C	9.00	Riverview 1B	11B2	v	Grammar Edge	Wyatt Park	8.45am			
14C	V	Joey's F	11.00	Hudson Park	16E	V	Riverview D	10.00	Riverview 2A	11C2	v	Grammar Edge	Wyatt Park	9.30am			
13A	V	Joey's B	9.00	TGS No.1	16F	V	Riverview E	9.00	Riverview 2A	11D2	v	Grammar Edge	Wyatt Park	10.15am			
13B	V	Joey's C	12.00	TGS No.3	15A	V	St Pius	1.15	Walsh	10A	v	Cranbrook	SPC No 3	8.45am			
13C	V	Joey's E	10.00	TGS No.3	15B	V	St Pius B	12.15	Walsh	10B	v	Cranbrook	SPC No 3	8.45am			
13D	V	St Augustine's E	8.00	Pittwater Rugby Park 2	15C	V	St Spyridon	12.00	Chifley 2	10C1	v	Cranbrook	SPC No 3	8.00am			
TENNIS								RUGBY									
Div 1	V	Central Coast Grammar	8.30	Gosford Tennis Academy	15D	V	Joey's B	9.00	SJC No.3	Prep 1 st XV	v	St Pius X	Oxford Falls	8.45am			
Div 2	V	Barker	8.30	Strathfield Sports Club	15E	V	Sydney Grammar E	12.00	Weigall 1	Prep 2 nd XV	v	St Pius X	Oxford Falls	8.00am			
Div 3	V	Central Coast Grammar	8.30	Gosford Tennis Academy	15F	V	Sydney Grammar F	1.00	Weigall 1	Prep Black 7s	v	TBC	Koola Park	8.00am-9.00am			
Div 4	V	Chevallier	8.30	Strathfield Sports Club	14A	V	St Pius	2.15	Walsh	Prep Gold 7s	v	TBC	Koola Park	8.00am-9.00am			
Div 5	V	Central Coast Grammar	8.30	Gosford Tennis Academy	14B	V	Redlands B	12.30	Mason Park 3	11A	v	Knox	Airey Park	10.15am			
Div 6	V	Barker	8.30	Strathfield Sports Club	14C	V	St Pius B	11.30	Mason Park 3	11B	v	Knox	Airey Park	9.30am			
Div 7	V	Central Coast Grammar	8.30	Gosford Tennis Academy	14D	V	Riverview C	10.30	Mason Park 2	11C	v	Knox	Airey Park	8.45am			
Div 8	V	Chevallier	8.30	Strathfield Sports Club	14E	V	Joey's C	10.30	Mason Park 3	10A	v	Knox	Airey Park	8.00am			
Div 9	V	Central Coast Grammar	8.30	Gosford Tennis Academy	14F	V	Knox H	10.00	Curagul Field 2	AFL							
Div 10	V	St Augustine's	8.30	Strathfield Sports Club	13A	V	St Pius	12.30	Mason Park 1	Team A	v	St Aloysius	ELS Hall	9.15am			
CROSS COUNTRY								Venues:									
Scots Invitational		8.30	North Ryde Common	13B	V	St Pius B	11.30	Mason Park 1	Bark Huts—Elliot St, Belfield	Airey Park—Bates St, Homebush	Wyatt Park—Church St, Lidcombe (between Pool and Basketball Centre)	SPC No 3—Cnr Francis St & Merley Rd, Strathfield	Koola Park—26A Koola Ave, East Killara	Cooke Park—Madeline St, Belfield	Heffron Park—Robey St, Maroubra (Oval – end of Des Renford Pool car park)	Oxford Falls—Cnr Dreadnought Rd & Wakehurst Parkway, Oxford Falls	ELS Hall—Kent Rd, North Ryde
				13C	V	St Andrew's C	10.30	Mason Park 1									
				13D	V	Oakhill C	11.00	Lawrence Oval									
				13E	V	Riverview C	9.30	Mason Park 3									
				13F	V	Barker F	9.30	Mason Park 2									
				13G	V	Barker G	8.30	Mason Park 3									
				13H	V	Barker H	8.30	Mason Park 2									

HEAD OF SECONDARY SPORT

One of the key themes to come out of the co-curricular survey responses from parents was that of communicating information relating to Fixtures lists and training/trial periods earlier. I am pleased to inform parents that the Winter Season Draws can now be viewed on the College website under the 'Sporting' page. After clicking the link you can flick between the various sports via the tabs down the bottom. Often opposing schools do not provide us with times and venues until the week prior to a round of fixtures. The 'live document' will be updated frequently once information is received from them to assist families in forward planning. Please note however, times and venues are subject to change right up until just hours before the scheduled fixtures take place. This is for a variety of reasons, not least of all the weather. It is also important to note that TBA or TBC is not to be interpreted as being a Bye. I wish to also clarify to all families how to find addresses of ground locations for Saturday's fixtures. When viewing Fixtures on the College website, venues will be displayed in blue writing which is hyperlinked to the location of all grounds. Simply click on the hyperlink and you will be directed to a Google map with the grounds location. This is the same if viewing the fixtures document on the College Sports Team App.

CIS and ISA Representatives:

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing the College in the near future after gaining selection for CIS or ISA Representative Squads.

CIS AFL – Austin Ball and Antony Eussen

ISA Football – Alessio Incampo, Ben Gould, Giovanni Strati, Luke Dimeo Luca Trinco, Joshua Brereton and Alex Beraducci

ISA Rugby – Mark Nawaqanitawase, James Roumanous, Harrison Armour, Daniel Failla, Julian Failla, Matthew Taweel, Mathew Maronese, Marcus Frigo and Dominic Micallef

Congratulations:

to all those who represented the CIS Swim Team at the All Schools Swimming Championships at SOPAC and to the following boys who achieved outstanding results: Tomas Kapocius, Se-Bom Lee and Finn O'Connor.

Anthony Calavassy—Head of Secondary Sport

SUPPORTER'S DUTY – 19 MAY

A reminder that **Years 7 and 8** have been designated supporter's duty on **Saturday 19 May**. All boys are to report to the Powell Pavillion dressed in their correct College attire between 1.00 and 1.15pm to have their names marked off. Once this has been completed, boys will move to SPC No. 3 to support the College 1st XI and await further instructions. Boys will be dismissed at the conclusion of the 1st XV game, approximate time is 4.50pm.

SENIOR SCHOOL SUMMER SPORT PHOTOS

Parents are advised that their sons will be informed of the Photo timetable for the College Summer Sports activities via their Homeroom Noticeboards. Photos will be taken in the College Hall on **Tuesday 22 May**.

I would kindly ask that parents ensure that their son's Summer Sports uniform is clean and in good condition for the photos. Details relating to the purchasing of photos online will be forwarded to parents via the Especean in the near future.

Steve Fochesato—Director of Co-curricular

FIXTURES AND GROUND LOCATIONS are published live online (includes cancellations):

Go to <http://www.spc.nsw.edu.au/co-curricular/sporting/> or visit the College website and select Sports Fixtures on the Quick Links menu or via the Team App.

WET WEATHER UPDATES: call 02 9763 1000 and follow the prompts; Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SPCSeniorSport>; or on the Fixtures Pages above.