



Especean

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Principal

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

One of the many privileges I cherish in my role is meeting Old Boys of the College. At the recent Back to Breen Day I had the chance to catch up with Old Boys who graduated in more recent years, including some from 2017, as well as Old Boys who graduated in the 1950s and lots more in between.

Last Friday I traveled to Canberra and met with an Old Boy, Mr Philip Robinson, who was a student at St Patrick's from 1940 to 1947. I was delighted to hear stories of his time here and his fond, as well as not so fond, memories of the College. The visit was a true blessing. I was touched by the clarity with which Mr Robinson recalled his classroom lessons, the landscape of the College site and how he listened with rapt attention to Br Crichton tell stories about the war. As a boy he sat under a big tree near Edgar St and he recalled for me being fascinated by Brother's stories and near escape during the war years. Br Crichton allegedly told Mr Robinson and his classmates that he prayed to our Good Mother that if he got out of the war alive, he would show his gratitude by joining the Christian Brothers. He obviously survived and kept his promise!

I was truly humbled by Mr Robinson's life story; his humility and wisdom was something to behold. I found myself listening deeply to a man who has lived a long life, not without its troubles and difficulties but one for which he is deeply grateful. A man whose faith is steadfast: Mr Robinson prays selflessly for the lives of others every day.

I was reminded during this visit of how quickly time seems to pass by. We look in the mirror and expect to see ourselves as still-young, and are shocked to realise we are getting older. I wonder what that will feel like when I too am in my eighties (God willing of course!). Mr Robinson exudes gratitude and authenticity. He showed me a photograph of his late wife Veronica and spoke to me about his many and varied career opportunities and adventures.

I am fortunate to have my mother and my mother-in-law still with us. My mother-in-law turns 90 in a few weeks' time. She too has many stories to tell; some of which we may have heard before, but nonetheless ones we are so fond of hearing. They wrap around us like a blanket. And there is something comforting about listening to the stories of older people. We often associate wisdom with old age and there is a good reason for that. Older people have a wealth of stories and experiences from which to draw. They have lived through difficult times – and these are usually told with honesty and frankness. They are not glossed over and forgotten but they form part of the fabric of a real life. Most of us have some battle scars and we harbor fears and disappointments, and as we age, we get more comfortable in admitting we don't know the answer to everything and we are more ready to forgive. I think that old age often softens our once-hardened opinions. Perhaps we become more malleable and pliable because we know that life is a complex web of relationships and experiences.

There is much we can learn from our elders. I know that there is often a special spark that the young ignite in older people. That's why grandparents are so important! So often we think that when one gets to a certain age, there is little to offer. Quite the contrary; older people's thoughts are most often considered and measured because they are the product of deep thinking and living.

Our Old Boys present us with myriad opportunities to connect with our boys who are currently at the College. They can offer so much not just in terms of their career wisdom and support of our initiatives and plans for the future, but they can also offer their time. The sharing of stories with the binding commonality of this place is a good enough starting point. The strength of feeling about wearing the blue, black and gold is still alive and well.

I left my visit with Mr Robinson feeling like I was such a small cog in a very big wheel. My time at the College has been miniscule compared with the tapestry of experiences that this place has forged over the last 90 years. In our own small way, let us all be responsible for continuing to create a history of which our College community can be proud. Not just for now, but for posterity.

To all dads, grandads and those in fathering roles I wish a very happy Fathers' Day on Sunday. As males we provide such important role modelling and we nurture loving relationships with the young men in our lives. I pray that Sunday is a wonderful celebration of who you are for these hope-filled and tremendous men of tomorrow.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal



Thank You to the many generous
St Pat's families who donated
clothes for drought affected families.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

MARY MACKILLOP COMPETITION

To celebrate the recent feast day of Mary MacKillop the Junior School boys took part in this term's Religion Education competition. Proving you are never too old to colour in, it was wonderful to see over 300 boys enter their work to be judged. All work submitted was of a very high standard, making the task of deciding the winner most difficult. After a rigorous process the top 6 were decided and the trophies awarded. Thank you to all the boys who entered and thanks also to the Junior School teachers for their continued support of Religious Education.

Philip Davis—Junior School Religious Education Coordinator



BOOK WEEK

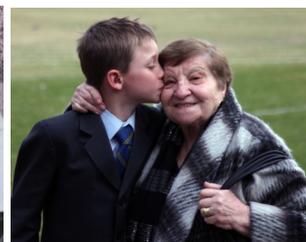
As I wrote last week, Book Week is a very special time in primary schools. And let me tell you, this year was one of the best I have been part of. So many families have told me how their sons raved about Science after Monday's talk from Ruben Meerman. And I don't mind telling you that even Mr Chase's jaw was on the floor while listening to Mark Greenwood spin a yarn about searching for treasure. What a raconteur! And this week, Morris Gleitzman imparted some deep wisdom to our Year 6 students about author craft – no small thing for me, since his books *Two Weeks with the Queen* and *The Other Facts of Life* were significant in my own schooling. Special thanks to Mrs Gibson for her relentless advocacy for literacy and reading, and making this all happen!

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

There is much I could say about last Thursday – suffice to say that occasions like this make me reflect with gratitude on the richness of our community and how blessed we are. Some Year 5 classes stayed inside well after recess started and ended to hear the stories Grandparents told!

I felt Fr Jack preached from the heart, the choir lifted our worship, and the children serving their elders at morning tea warmed my heart. There is so much to be grateful for – praise God for these days and what they mean to us.

Ben Munday—Director of Junior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

In the past few articles I have written, I have mentioned (numerous times) that the Junior School has had a very successful winter season. This has got me thinking about what success really is.

Often in sport we draw direct links between winning and success. But is this really the case? There is a saying in sport that 'if you want to be a good team, you have to learn to win ugly.' If you are relying on not playing well and hoping that the other team hands you the victory, can we say that the team is in fact successful? On the flip side, is the athlete that records a personal best in their event and still comes out of the placings unsuccessful? The more I think about it, the more I come to understand that winning is only a small part of being successful.

Don't get me wrong, I love winning and I feel it is important and we should have a desire to taste victory. No one competes not to win. I just think that there are better indicators of success. So how do you gauge if you have been a success outside of winning? Well there are many ways I believe to see success. It could be the acquiring of a new skill, or executing a game plan well. It could be completing a goal, whether it be short term or long. It could be stepping out of your comfort zone and experiencing something new. Ultimately, it is up to each individual or team to determine their own understanding of what success means to them, plan for it and work hard to achieve it.

Simone Biles' (American Olympic Gymnast) mum told her from an early age, 'if you do your best and come 4th, that's great. If you do your best and win gold, well that's good too.'

Good luck to the Junior Athletics team who are competing at the IPSHA Carnival today and for Friday at the Brothers Carnival. We also wish the debaters the best of luck, as they complete their season this Friday against PLC Sydney.

John Locke—Junior School Coordinator of Co-curricular

**UNIFORM SHOP
REMINDER:**

SPC Supporters Jackets are now in stock, don't miss out on your size, call the Uniform Shop to put one on hold.

Long sleeve shirts are available, for those chilly days that are ahead.

New—SPC white sports socks.

CURRICULUM

Year 11 Preliminary Course Examinations—The Preliminary Course Examinations begin next week, Thursday 6 September and conclude on Tuesday 18 September. The assessments are all written examinations.

The examination timetable is available on the *Canvas* Year 11 page and students are reminded to note dates and times of their examinations. Students are also reminded to thoroughly familiarise themselves with the College's *Year 11 Assessment Handbook* and *Examination Rules for Senior Students* posted on *Canvas* at the beginning of the school year. Ignorance of the College's Assessment Policy or examination rules will not constitute a valid excuse and penalties will be incurred for breaches of policy and procedures.

In particular, in the event of absenteeism due to illness or misadventure during the examinations, parents and their sons are reminded that a telephone call to the Year Coordinator, Mr Kirby, must be made prior to 9.00am on the day of the examination. Where possible, the missed examination or a substitute will be arranged within the examination period. Immediately on the student's return to school, a medical certificate for the illness/misadventure must be given to the relevant Studies Coordinator and Year Coordinator.

Michael Cutrupi—Director of Curriculum

KISS & DROP PROCEDURE

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

Kiss & Ride zones provide:

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

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

- ◆ Approach the "Kiss & Ride" zone from Shortland Avenue, up Fraser Street and then around the bend to the end of the 'Kiss & Drop' zone on Edgar Street. Do not park in the No Parking area and do not stop in the No Stopping area.
- ◆ Do not 'double park' or stand your vehicle in this zone from 8.00am – 9.30am and 2.30pm – 4.00pm.
- ◆ Enter or disembark from the vehicle as close as possible to the top of the zone. Entering and disembarking from vehicles along Fraser Street is not to occur in order to best enhance traffic flow.
- ◆ Ensure that the driver does not alight from the vehicle while in the zone.
- ◆ **Ensure that passengers enter and disembark from the vehicle via the KERB side door, preferably the rear door. Items should not be collected from the boot.**
- ◆ **In the afternoon if your son is not there you are required to move off, do a lap of the block and join the end of the queue.**
- ◆ No student is to be dropped off on Fraser Street or Merley Road during the above times.

Please note: Parents driving to the College are asked not to park in Hydebrae Street (the street that runs perpendicular to Francis Street).



SPC ANNUAL WINTER SLEEP OUT

Every night, approximately 116,427 people in Sydney will sleep rough, a 13.7% increase over the last 5 years. Of those, a staggering 39% will be young people under the age of 24. These are just some of the damning statistics which our nation faces regarding the issue of homelessness. Last Friday after school, more than 50 eager students, accompanied by over 15 teachers, took part in the annual Winter Sleep Out. Aiming to raise awareness for the widespread issue

of homelessness and for our community to empathise with those who may sleep rough, through reflecting on our fortunate lives in comparison to the homeless, the night was a huge success. In addition the group raised over \$3,500 for homeless services in Sydney through donations and sponsorship. Despite the minimal food available for dinner and the inevitability of having to spend the night on the cold, hard floor, everyone was in high spirits – the boys passed the time in conversation, meeting new people in the process, and played card games. These activities mirror those that the homeless take part in, and helped the students empathise with them. From experience, I recommend all students and teachers to volunteer for next year's Sleep Out as it is a truly eye-opening night and will change your views on homelessness. Finally, many thanks must go to Ms Daley and Mrs Rodricks for their tireless efforts in organising the event.

Philip De Pasquale—Year 11 Student



TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS

On Monday 30 July, St Patrick's College hosted our first TeachMeet. A TeachMeet is an informal mini-conference hosted by teachers, for teachers, with teachers speaking on some aspect of their practice for anywhere between two and seven minutes. In keeping with our Learning Framework principles of Growth Mindset, Critical and Creative Thinking and Collaboration, the TeachMeet grew out of our strategic focus this year on staff personalising and sharing their own professional learning journeys.

We had outstanding support from our staff as well as some visitors from other schools. We had over 70 attendees, with 18 staff presenting and additional presentations from four teachers from other schools. Presentations included such diverse topics as Robotics in Modern Control Systems, OneNote in the Maths Classroom, use of Direct Instruction in Maths and Religion, use of online formative assessment tools Quizlet Live and Plickers, approaches to Project Based Learning in Art, Religion, Science and Maths, and forms of inquiry to support learning and writing in the humanities. Dr Jane Hunter attended to observe and support our teachers as part of our tertiary collaboration with UTS embedding her High Possibility Classrooms Framework for effective use of technology.

The afternoon was a great success. Common themes emerging across the presentations were the importance of problem solving, thinking and student ownership of learning. Educational researcher Dylan Wiliam often speaks of the importance of teachers being researchers in their own classrooms. Our TeachMeet was evidence of the way many teachers are consistently looking to improve their own practice by knowing their students better and create engaging, meaningful and effective learning experiences in their classrooms. The SPC TeachMeet was a fantastic opportunity for teachers to share their practice, celebrate their own journeys, and celebrate our profession and our community.

Denise Lombardo—Director of Learning & Innovation

SPORTS FIXTURES — SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

HEAD OF SECONDARY SPORT

ISA Football

Congratulations to the following Football sides that claimed ISA premierships after winning their Grand Finals last Saturday at Oakhill College; 2nd XI, 4th XI, 16A, 16B, 15B, 14A, 14B, 13B and 13D. Commiseration to the 1st XI Football side that had an unbelievably close finish in their 3-2 loss to St Spyridon's College who won the Division 1 Shield for the first time. It was a brave performance from the men in black and while they didn't walk away with the title, they have done themselves, the College and their families proud. Well done to all members of the Football fraternity which contributed to St Patrick's retaining the ISA Schools Championship Shield.

Congratulations

Well done to Jonathan Meaker of Year 8 who had a great experience at the Nationals Cross Country Championships last weekend on an extremely hilly course which saw him placed 28th out of 78 competitors. While away in Queensland, Jonathan also competed as a member of the NSW 5 x 1500m relay team. It is with great pride that the College congratulates Jonathan and his team mates for placing second behind Qld in this event.

Summer Sport Trials will take place in the coming weeks. I ask that all students who have signed up for a Summer sport, be aware of trial details to be posted soon via the daily announcements and Team App.

Anthony Calavassy—Head of Secondary Sport



2018 RUGBY SEASON WRAP

On Saturday 18 August the College Rugby season concluded for another year. The 2018 season saw the College increase its playing numbers and teams, meaning that St Patrick's had the second highest number of teams participating in the ISA competition. With a heavy focus on recruitment of quality, external coaching staff, furthering our development programme and taking 46 boys away on a pre-season North American Rugby tour, the College was full of cohesion heading into the season.

2018 saw the introduction of a new pre-season format with fixtures between schools from the GPS, CAS and ISA. For the College it meant having a greater exposure to a higher standard of schoolboy Rugby which would only benefit our preparation for competition games. With two games remaining in the season, the College had six teams in contention for premiership titles, only for results to not go our way in one of these games, and these teams finished in the top three. When measuring success of a season it could easily be overlooked by the number of competitions won, however when looking at the following statistics it is evident that the Rugby programme continues to grow and that 2018 was a very successful season. This season saw:

- An increase in participation by two teams (reduced to one due to injuries in the opens squad).
- An increase in our win rate in the Senior School, up 19% from 2017.
- An increase in our total points scored, up 893 points from 2017.
- A decrease in our total points conceded, down 1017 points from 2017.
- 4 boys gained selection in the Opens ISA representative teams, an increase of 2.
- 6 boys gained selection in the U/16 ISA representative teams, an increase of 4.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our coaches this season, the support of the College executive towards our sport and thank St Patrick's Old Boys' Rugby Club for their continued contribution to the growth of Rugby at the College. To the boys and parents, thank you for your participation this year. I hope it has been an enjoyable experience and I look forward to your continued participation in 2019. I would also like to thank all those involved with our recent fundraising effort in support of Rural Aid for their work assisting those affected by the drought. Collectively the Rugby community raised \$2,100 which is indicative of the strong culture in this sport at the College. Lastly a big thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who officiated matches this year. The referees' adjudication of matches is pivotal to the College Rugby programme.

Patrick Hilgendorf—MIC Rugby

NEWS FROM THE BANDMASTER

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE 2018

The Annual Performing Arts Showcase was held on the evening of Thursday 23 August in the College Gymnasium. The gym was transformed into a concert arena with performances by over 200 aspiring young musicians from Years 5 to 12. The Concert provided the opportunity to showcase the many varied and different music ensembles, both instrumental and choral within the Co-curricular and extra-curricular music programme at the College. Congratulations to all boys on their hard work and dedication to the performing arts at the College.



NSW STATE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

On Saturday 25 August the College Wind Ensemble competed in the NSW State Band Championships. The boys staged an outstanding performance winning 1st Place in the Test Piece and Hymn, 2nd Place in the Free Choice Selection, and were awarded the overall Champions for Open D Grade Division. The boys should be immensely proud of this wonderful result.

Derek Rose—Bandmaster



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

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