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

While having breakfast in a café in Sydney late last year, I saw this sign above the counter. I couldn’t resist taking a photo of it.

It got me thinking about what many of us frequently witness these days in restaurants, on trains and buses and in many so-called ‘social’ circumstances, and that is, that people inhabit the personal world of their smart phone or other device when in a public space. I have often seen a whole table of diners interacting with someone who isn’t physically present as opposed to the real-life human beings sitting opposite them and wondered why they just didn’t invite their phone out to dinner! Not only does it seem counter-intuitive to a middle-aged man like me, but it also just looks like bad manners. Perhaps I’m just old.

Parents have sometimes expressed concern about the paradox of the 24/7 connected anytime, anywhere world, where young people seem at times, to be more disconnected and lonelier than ever. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and the like) is the prime way that young people communicate with one another. There is little empirical evidence (as yet) that our teens and young people are any less able to connect and interact in real-time and with real people than in generations past. While it may seem that they are never off their phones, indeed, they just didn’t invite their phone out to dinner! Not only does it seem counter-intuitive to a middle-aged man like me, but it also just looks like bad manners. Perhaps I’m just old.

Parents have sometimes expressed concern about the paradox of the 24/7 connected anytime, anywhere world, where young people seem at times, to be more disconnected and lonelier than ever. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and the like) is the prime way that young people communicate with one another. There is little empirical evidence (as yet) that our teens and young people are any less able to connect and interact in real-time and with real people than in generations past. While it may seem that they are never off their phones, indeed, they just didn’t invite their phone out to dinner! Not only does it seem counter-intuitive to a middle-aged man like me, but it also just looks like bad manners. Perhaps I’m just old.

Rightly so, we worry about what our children are exposed to, and get up to online. As with all things to do with our children, balance, education and good modelling can be helpful when it comes to their online behaviour. I would suggest parents actively monitor their children’s internet use, set reasonable limits for online or gaming time and establish with them priorities for the completion of homework, family time and other activities. As with lots of things in life, time and place is important. School students should not be taking their device into the bedroom with them when it is actually time for sleep. The charging table in the kitchen or dining room is a good way to relieve the temptation for them to be online in the wee small hours. At our house, even with adult children, we have a “no phones at the table” policy. This is where we not only break bread together, but talk about our day and share stories rather than respond to messages or Facebook posts.

It is only anti-social when it interferes with our ability to connect with others in real, authentic relationships that are mutually beneficial and satisfying. Is our children’s internet use any different though, than the 1980s equivalent of coming home and spending the evening on the phone to friends, until Mum or Dad yelled for us to hang up? I can distinctly remember stretching the cord from the yellow landline telephone into my room so I could have a private conversation with friends, hoping that Mum or Dad weren’t waiting for a call from someone else. Technology is changing at an exponential rate. What will be available and what wasn’t waiting for a call from someone else. Technology is changing at an exponential rate. What will be available and what we will be using in five or ten years’ time we cannot fully imagine. What I suspect though, is that good habits, balance and a common-sense approach will still be in vogue.

For information regarding online safety this website may be helpful: https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues

Condolences
Please remember in your prayers Daniel Fields’ grandmother Pat Webster who died recently and Christina Vaccarella’s father-in-law Mario Vacarrella who died on the weekend.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let eternal light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

Craig Wattam
Principal
The Junior School Captain for 2017 is Alessandro Romeo. The Junior School Vice-Captains for 2017 are James Bellamy and Alex Purser.

The boys will be officially acclaimed at the College Assembly. The role of the Junior School leaders is to represent the Junior School and the College at special events, to welcome visitors, to be a voice for the Junior School student body and to act as a link between the boys and the teaching staff. Congratulations and the best of luck to our new leaders as they take up their roles. I know they enjoy the strong support of the other boys and the staff of the College.

Next week is a significant week for the boys with our Welcome Mass being held on Tuesday night 21 February commencing at 7.30pm in the College Chapel. This is a compulsory night for the boys of Year 5 as they will form the choir for this liturgy. We are asking the boys to be here at 7.00pm. Following the Mass there will be a supper in the College Hall where you will have the chance to meet your son’s class teacher for 2017. There will be parking on the tennis courts.

Next Thursday, 23 February, Year 5 will be taking part in their 2017 Belonging Day. 5 Blue, 5 Gold and 5 Red will be travelling to the Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall at Hunters Hill for their day and 5 Black, 5 White and 5 Green will be travelling to St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Hall, Parramatta for their day. The boys will wear neat casual clothing on this day and bring their recess and lunch. A letter with all necessary details will go home to you shortly.

Jim Walters—Director of Junior School

This Friday we have our Junior School Swimming Carnival in the College Pool starting at 9.15am. It looks like another hot day is predicted so I ask that all boys bring a hat and sunscreen and make sure they are wearing their house coloured shirt when not swimming. All boys have been told the lane and division in which they are swimming. The Junior School Swimming squad will be chosen from the results at this Carnival. They will go on to represent at the BPSSA Carnival at St Ignatius’ on Friday, 3 March and a select few at the IPSHA Carnival at Homebush on Tuesday, 7 March. Congratulations to all the House Captains and Vice Captains. I’m sure that you will do a great job and do your House proud. Decorating of your area can start at 7.30am on Friday.

Last week was unprecedented with the extreme heat cancelling all games in the College. Hopefully this Saturday will be slightly cooler and the boys can represent the College in their first match of the season. Good luck to all teams this Saturday.

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected as Sports House Captains and Vice Captains for 2017. I look forward to working with all these boys at the upcoming Carnivals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>CAPTAIN</th>
<th>VICE CAPTAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RICE</td>
<td>Noah Doran</td>
<td>Jaden Samaan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERG</td>
<td>Blake Wilson</td>
<td>Dominic Taffà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANRAHAN</td>
<td>Archer Gray</td>
<td>Sean Saade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRICHTON</td>
<td>Noah Kite</td>
<td>Lorenzo Bilotta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COGHLAN</td>
<td>Cooper Edwards</td>
<td>Simon Barzan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HICKEY</td>
<td>Marco Gariglìano</td>
<td>James Stewart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grant Andrews—Junior School Sportsmaster

Night Patrol Donations

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the SPC Night Patrol Food Roster over the summer break. It was a very busy time for the Night Patrol service with increasing numbers of people sleeping rough on Sydney streets. Your contributions were very much used and appreciated.

On several nights we were short of supplies and these had to be supplemented at the last minute by our volunteer parent drivers and teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mynett family for allowing drop offs to be made to their home over the holidays and for making most of these last minute purchases.

The current roster can be viewed on SOLE in the Parent Portal P&F section. Please take a moment to check if you are on the roster and if so, mark your dates in your calendar as you will not be sent a reminder. If you are not able to contribute regularly, could you please contact our parent volunteer coordinator Robbie Boyle on boylefamily@jaramas.com or 0419 263 270 so that your name can be removed from the next roster. If you have any questions about the roster, please do not hesitate also to contact Robbie Boyle.

I thank all of our wonderful parents for their organisation of and contribution to the Night Patrol Food Roster. We are indeed very lucky.

Gillian Daley—Director of Identity
Years 7 to 12 Assessment Information for 2017

By Monday all students will receive via email their relevant cohorts Assessment Handbooks for 2017. Year 12 will receive their Assessment Calendar which covers Terms One through to Three.

Each Assessment Handbook contains the course assessment program in all courses for the academic year. Included in each Assessment Handbook are the College’s Assessment Policy, Assessment Schedules and Assessment Tasks Calendar. 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 the Studies Coordinators as deemed appropriate to the nature of the task. It is expected that all boys would familiarise themselves with this information.

If a student has not received his Assessment Handbook by Monday, please ensure I am informed immediately via email.

Regards,

Andrew Brennan – Acting Director of Curriculum

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Absence from School

If your son is absent from school, the only time parents are required to phone the College is if it is for an extended absence, for example: surgery; broken limbs; chicken pox; head lice; conjunctivitis.

Following NSW health guidelines, it is also a requirement to advise the College if your son is suffering from one of the following vaccine preventable diseases: Diphtheria; Mumps; Poliomyelitis; Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib); Meningococcal disease; Rubella (“German measles”); Measles’; Pertussis (“whooping cough”); and, Tetanus.

SMS messages are automatically sent to parents each morning to advise if their son was absent in Homeroom. The College would ask that if this SMS message is incorrect, then a phone call to the Office is warranted.
Year 7 Cricket

Year 7 Crichton Cup Cricket starts this weekend with four teams playing at home and one playing away. The format this year will fall back to a more traditional Crichton Cup concept, where the majority of games are inter-House.

Other boys in Year 7 will get their opportunity to become more involved as the Winter Trials commence in March.

Extreme Heat

With all games being cancelled last weekend due to the extreme weather conditions, ISA fixtures are recorded in the same fashion as a washout. No team, therefore, was disadvantaged. Unfortunately, games cannot be replayed as the calendar simply doesn’t allow for that flexibility.

I would take this opportunity to remind boys to wear sunscreen and hats where appropriate and remain well hydrated well in advance of their games.

Swimming Carnival

A letter was emailed home on Monday to all Secondary School parents providing details for this Friday’s Swimming Carnival. I would encourage all boys to immerse themselves in the Carnival atmosphere and involve themselves as much as possible. I am looking forward to another successful House Swimming Carnival.

Mitchell Kearsley—Head of Secondary Sport

Sports Draw - SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2017

CRICKET

1st XI v Central Coast 10.00 CCGS Cricket 1
2nd XI v St Pius 10.00 Oxford Falls
3rd XI v Central Coast 10.00 Green Oval
16A v Sydney Boys High 1.30 Moore Park West 1
16B v BYE
15A v Epping Bulls 8.30 Curtis Oval
15B v Epping Bulls 8.30 Doyle Park 2
14A v Concord Briars 8.30 Rydalmere Park
14B v Dundas United 8.30 Strathfield Park 1
14C v Newington D (T20) 1.30 Old Boys 2 (Newington)
13A v Dundas United 8.30 Mason Park 2
13B v Holy Cross 8.30 Brutha Farm
13 White v 13 Gold 1.30 SPC 4
13 Gold v 13 White 1.30 SPC 4
13 Red v 13 Blue 1.30 Mason Park 2
13 Green v Sydney Grammar D (T20) 9.00 Rushcutters Bay 1
13 Blue v 13 Red 1.30 Mason Park 2

BASEBALL

19A v Greenway 11.00 Greenway Park 1
16 Blue v Rosebank 8.30 Major’s Bay Reserve 3
16 Black v BYE
14 Blue v Greenway 11.00 Major’s Bay Reserve 1
14 Black v Macquarie 8.30 Pioneer Park

BASKETBALL

1st V v St Pius 1.00 SPC Gym
Open B v Oxley 1.00 Aubum 2
17A v St Pius 12.00 SPC Gym
17B v Oxley 12.00 Aubum 2
17C v Oakhill Gold 1.00 Aubum 1
17D v Oakhill Red 1.00 Benildus Hall
15A v St Pius 11.00 SPC Gym
15B v Oxley 11.00 Aubum 2
15C v Oakhill Gold 12.00 Aubum 1
15D v Oakhill Red 12.00 Benildus Hall
15Black v St Plus F 2.00 Oxford Falls Gym 2
15A v St Pius 10.00 SPC Gym
14B v Oxley 10.00 Aubum 2
14C v Oakhill Gold 11.00 Aubum 1
14D v Oakhill Red 11.00 Benildus Hall
14 Black v St Plus F 2.00 Oxford Falls Gym 3
13A v St Pius 8.00 SPC Gym
13B v Oxley 11.00 Aubum 3
13C v Oakhill Gold 10.00 Aubum 1
13D v Oakhill Red 10.00 Benildus Hall
13 Black v St Plus F 11.00 Oxford Falls Gym 3
13 Gold v Oxley B 10.00 Aubum 3

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT WEEKLY DRAW

CRICKET

TRAD 6A v Scots 9.00am
TRAD 6B v Scots 9.00am
SUPER 6’S 6A v Newington Lindfield 9.00am
SUPER 6’S 6B v Newington Wyvern 9.00am
SUPER 6’S 6C v Newington Lindfield 9.00am
SUPER 6’S 6D v Newington Wyvern 9.00am
TRAD 5A v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TRAD 5B v Knox C 9.00am
SUPER 5’S 5A v Newington Wyvern 9.00am
SUPER 5’S 5B v Cranbrook 9.00am

TEAM A v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM B v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM C v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM D v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM E v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM F v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM G v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM H v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM I v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM J v St Ignatius 9.00am
TEAM K v Newington Wyvern 9.00am
TEAM L v Newington Wyvern 9.00am

TEAM A v Grammar St Ives 9.30am
TEAM B v Internal 9.30am

TEAM A v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TEAM B v Internal 9.00am

TEAM A v Grammar St Ives 8.00am
TEAM B v Internal 8.00am
TEAM C v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TEAM D v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TEAM A v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TEAM B v Internal 9.00am
TEAMS A v Grammar St Ives 9.00am
TEAM B v Internal 9.00am

VENUES:
Auburn Basketball Centre: Wyatt Park, Church St, Lidcombe
Cooke Park: Madeline St, Belfield
SPC Courts, No 3, No 4: Edgar St, Strathfield
Phillips Park – Nicholas St, Lidcombe
Rudd Park: Cnr Clarence & Vindel Strs, Belfield
Rudd Park: Cnr Clarence & Vindel Strs, Belfield
Christison Park South – Old South Head Rd, Vaucluse
Koola Park – 26 Koola Ave, East Killara
Regis 1 and 2 – Tamboourine Bay Rd, Lane Cove

SOFTBALL

TEAM Black v Grammar St Ives 8.00am

SPC Swimmer wins National title

During the Christmas holidays Year 10 student Tomas Kapocius ventured to South Australia to compete in the Australian Open Water Swimming Championships being held in Adelaide. He was racing in the 14 years 5km event. Throughout the race Tomas showed tremendous courage and determination in what is a very gruelling sport. His determination was rewarded with first place and a National championship. Congratulations Tomas on a great swim and a well-deserved win.