

# Especean

Vol 31, No 33—31 October 2018

## Principal

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

We are in the process of planning an ongoing strategy over the longer term to improve the writing standards of boys across the College. We have held a number of meetings with middle leaders throughout the course of the year and have consulted research evidence to assist us in our quest to make our boys better writers. The purpose of this editorial is not to go into fine detail about how we will go about this during 2019 and beyond, but to suggest to all of you (parents, students and others who have influence over young people) that good writers are also good readers. Perhaps the reciprocal of this is also equally true.

In encouraging boys to read we are offering them the chance to not only find enjoyment in the practice of reading, but also to improve their vocabulary, to develop new insights, to learn and to better understand how language is crafted and used to effect. I suspect that our post-modern existence and the ubiquitous nature of technology may have some influence on why our children are reading less and less. We need to reclaim for our young people the joy of engaging in a sustained activity, not one that is produced in alarmingly ever smaller bite-sized chunks in order to excite and entertain. It seems that people readily lose interest if they are not super-stimulated visually or by the power of the screen. The book is a slow-cook version of learning and engaging with text. It allows plot lines to develop over time and the imagination to create worlds that otherwise do not exist. They live in our minds; and they are just for us. The joy of reading is not something we can describe vicariously. It has to be experienced first-hand and it is also a skill that needs to be practised.



I wonder how many parents are modeling the power of reading by showing their children that they too are readers. Do you sit down with a book and read it for pleasure? Do your children see you doing so? If not, they are missing out on cues from you and other adults that *this is what we do around here!* Do you still read to your child or did this stop after they started Kindergarten? Some boys who are 11 or 12 or even older still love being read to, because this then becomes a shared experience. If you are alarmed by your son's lack of general knowledge, his poor vocabulary, or his lack of understanding of the definition of words that you assumed he would know, it might be because he simply does not read unless he has to do so. Short passages are ok, but there is nothing like the long-form narrative to really immerse someone in the business of reading. Surely it will also bring dividends in terms of attention span as well, lest we all become victim to being entertained in a very passive manner. Reading is an active pursuit. It won't get you physically fit, but it might just make you more mentally alert.

If you are looking for ways to build word power I suggest some good old fashioned word games at home such as Scrabble, Boggle and their online equivalents. These can also build understanding. Reading needs to become a discipline and a routine. Recently I had gotten out of the life-long habit of reading before I go to sleep. Lately I have committed to doing this and I am finding that I have no trouble going off to sleep and enjoying a better night's sleep than if I sit there looking at a screen. I do not know the specifics, but I know that the blue light that a computer screen emits actually interferes with our ability to become drowsy and fall into sleep. A hard copy book comes with no downsides, except that you might drop it and lose the page as you nod off to sleep!

Our boys perform at a high level on all measures in external tests by and large. However, we do have a golden opportunity in the area of writing. We have noticed a decline in standards and in boys' willingness to engage in sustained writing. Reading and writing are about everything we do. Without high levels of literacy in terms of our ability to read and write, we do ourselves a disservice. Regular, routine reading should form part of each child's nightly activity. I urge all parents to do likewise.



Consequently, the ability to write well—for a particular audience, for a specific reason or effect and in order to communicate well—is a skill that all of our boys will need in their adult lives. Being able to express one's self in writing in a manner that is articulate and well-considered is so important. The more we practise our writing skills, the better we get at it. Having the patience and resilience to draft, edit, re-read and proof our work is an iterative process. It also speaks to care, investment and a desire to polish our writing. Happy reading and writing.

### Condolences

Please pray for Alessio Pappalettera (Year 12) and his family as they mourn the loss of his grandfather Salvatore Como. Please also pray for Anthony Fasanella (Year 10) and his family as they mourn the loss of his great grandfather Vincenzo Condello, he was 104 years of age. 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 NOTICE

Uniform shop will be closed for trading on Saturday  
3 November, due to the Year 5 2019 Uniform fittings.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 5 Orientation Day

This weekend we welcome some new families, and new students whose siblings are already part of the College, into the SPC family. Please keep all these children and families in your prayers this week, that they may feel immediately part of this community.

Orientation Day last year was my first official function as Director of Junior School, and gave me my first real appreciation for the type of community I had become part of. It's a funny thing to think that it is already a year since that day! In a way it seems to have flown, but on the other hand we are so deep in planning for 2019 that it seems 2018 is already just a memory. There is still much I am learning about the College and the way things are done around here. However, I can say that we have already achieved a great deal together and I am more than excited about the direction learning is headed in the Junior School.

I trust the community you have helped to create will be a great place for all our new Year 5s and their families.

**Ben Munday—Director of Junior School**

## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

Milton Berle (American Comedian) is quoted as saying "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." If this is the case, then the Junior School boys have little else in their houses. This week, once again has seen some outstanding performances from members of the Junior School.

Congratulations to Alex Conti of Year 6 who represented the state in Touch Football last week. From what I have heard it was a challenging week, filled with difficult matches. The boys in blue fought hard only to go down in the grand final to Queensland. This is Alex's third time representing the state this year and his second time representing the state in Touch. Amazing! We also recognise Valentino Romeo of Year 5, who competed in IPSHA gymnastics last Thursday. Valentino did exceptionally well placing on every apparatus. This included 2 first places, one on pommel horse and the other on high bar. Valentino then went on to compete at the State Championships for his club on the weekend. This capped off a successful week with an overall third placing.



This weekend sees the Junior School reach the half way mark for Term 4 sport. I wish all sides competing the best of luck. At this point there are teams across all the summer sports that remain undefeated. The best of luck to you over the closing rounds of the season. With only a few games left, it is not too late for the Year 6 boys to create some final memories before heading off to the Senior School next year. For the Year 5 boys, it is another chance to cement friendships, develop your skills and challenge yourself. To all the boys in the Junior School keep playing hard, fair and above all, have fun.

A reminder that the Junior School Sports Presentation Dinner will be held on Friday 30 November in the College gym. The ticket sales window is coming to an end. Tickets will cease to be available come 9 November, so please get in now before you miss out. There will be no allowances for late tickets to be bought. It will be a great night of celebration, culminating in the presentation of the Junior Sportsman of the Year. We will also have a raffle to help our charity partners. There are many great prizes available, one of which is a GoSkitz electric scooter.

**John Locke—Junior School Coordinator of Co-curricular**

## DONATIONS OF OLD UNIFORMS

We will be collecting old uniforms on one day only each term. The date for this term is **Wednesday 7 November**.

All items can be dropped at the **main reception area**—there will be tubs allocated on this day. (NOT the Uniform Shop)

Items to be donated include—sports shirts, shorts and tracksuits, school pants, shirts, ties, belts, jumpers and blazers. (No socks). Please do not drop off anything that is dirty (soiled, stained) or unwearable (ripped, threadbare, faded)—these are to be thrown in a bin.

These donated clothes will be used for students on a bursary as well as donations to PNG and Alice Springs. Thank-you for your consideration in this area. **Gillian Daley—Director of Identity**



## USA MUSIC TOUR 2019/20

Following receipt of a proposal from the Performing Arts Department and in consultation with the College Executive, approval has been given for a Music Tour to take place in the Term 4, 2019 holiday period. The proposed tour group will consist of students currently involved in the Band and Orchestral Programs and will travel to the West Coast of the United States of America.

In the first instance, interested boys will take part in a selection and interview process, then if successful, assist in fund-raising activities. The touring ensemble will comprise boys who have demonstrated a sufficient level of skill that will enable a commendable performance while representing the College abroad.

Boys being considered for a position on the Music Tour will need to meet certain criteria, not least of all:

- A proven track record of good behaviour both in the classroom and in the performance arena.
- A proven commitment to College Band and/or Orchestral Programs in relation to attendance at rehearsals and performances.
- Previously demonstrated a good attitude to rehearsals and a willingness to follow the Bandmaster's instructions and work co-operatively with their peers.
- A boy will continue to represent the College in the Band and/or Orchestral Programs while he is enrolled at St Patrick's if he is selected to tour. This is non-negotiable.
- A willingness to be actively involved in tour fund-raising ventures.
- All school fees are up to date.
- The College's preference is that boys chosen to tour will be in Year 9 or above at the commencement of 2020.

The selection committee headed by the Bandmaster and the Performing Arts Coordinator will take into account a student's previous performances.

Obviously a tour of the USA will come at an expense that some families may not find affordable. At present the projected cost is approximately \$6500 plus airport taxes and fees.

A student's unavailability to tour would not in any way hinder his chances of being selected in the College's Band and/or Orchestral Programs and hence no student or parent should feel obliged or pressured to accept this opportunity to tour.

Further details from the Bandmaster and Performing Arts Coordinator will be forwarded to relevant families in due course.

**Dr Craig Wattam—Principal**

# CURRICULUM

## The Brother McGlade Organ Scholarship

The College will be offering one Organ Scholarship to one St Patrick's College student who will serve the musical needs of the College Chapel over a number of years. The successful applicant will receive free and ongoing organ tuition. The tenure of the scholarship will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable keyboard competency and the ability to sight-read keyboard music and show a willingness to undertake weekly organ tuition and daily practice to develop knowledge and skills on the instrument.

The successful applicant will be required to assist the College by contributing to a range of College liturgical celebrations, including Friday morning College Eucharist and special events such as the Welcome Mass, Mother's Day Mass, Graduation Mass, Founder's Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Carol Services, etc.

Short listed applicants will be required to present themselves for an audition which will include performance on piano and/or organ and a music sight-reading test. Applications are invited in writing via email to Ms Belinda Angilletta, Performing Arts Coordinator, at [belinda.angilletta@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:belinda.angilletta@spc.nsw.edu.au)

## The Record of School Achievement (RoSA) Credentials

Students in Years 10 and 11 who are leaving the College at the end of the year to enter full-time employment and/or a non-secondary school educational/training institution are eligible for a RoSA from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Students for whom this applies must notify the College Registrar's Office by no later than Friday 23 November, 2018.

The Authority's website contains information about the RoSA at:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/leaving-school/record-of-school-achievement>

and

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/leaving-school/record-of-school-achievement/credentials>

Continuing students who complete the HSC will have their Year 10 and Year 11 grades as part of the HSC Record of Achievement. Students who remain at school to complete their HSC will not receive a RoSA. Information about the HSC credentials may be found at:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/results-certificates/results-documentation>

**Michael Cutrupi – Director of Curriculum**

# WELLBEING

Dear Parents,

Over the course of this year, the College has provided links to various sites to support parents in developing their knowledge and strategies in dealing with their son/s growth. As part of the National Safe Schools Framework (NSSF), there is a complementary site - the **Student Wellbeing Hub** [[www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au](http://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au)]. It has a range of resources that will provide parents with information on a number of different topics such as *Healthy Minds & Bodies*, *Protecting Against Bullying*, *Respecting Diversity*, *Building Positive Relationships*, *Safe & Responsible Choices*, and *Being Safe Online*. For parents of boys in the Junior School I recommend you visit <https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/parents/primary/#/> whilst for parents of boys in the secondary school, please visit <https://www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/parents/secondary/#/>

## Applications for Leave in Term 4, 2018

With the approaching end of the academic year, parents are reminded that ordinarily the College requires 5 weeks' notice of Applications for Leave; this includes requests for the final day of the academic year - **Friday 7 December**. As has been communicated during the year it is an expectation that all students attend the Annual Prize-Giving and Speech Night on **Thursday 6 December**. If a student does not have a valid reason for being absent from either Speech Night or the final day of the academic year, they will be required to complete a Community Service.

The **Application for Leave** and **Exemption From Attendance** forms are now available on the College's website for parents to download, complete and return to Mr. Simpson, Director of Wellbeing.

## Semester 2 Bullying Survey

As part of the College's commitment to building a safe and inclusive school community based on positive, respectful relationships, students in Years 5-11 will be emailed in Week 4, inviting them to take part in the Semester 2 Bullying Survey.

This survey provides students the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on their perceptions or experiences of bullying behaviour at the College during 2018. It is a follow up to the Relationships, Safety and Bullying surveys conducted in Term 1.

The survey results will be used to review and guide current practices in addressing bullying behaviour. There is an optional question that permits students to identify students who have engaged in bullying behaviour in a variety of forms.

The survey will be available to students between 8.00am Tuesday 6 November and 6.00pm on Friday 9 November.

## COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

*Did you know that if your son attended St Patrick's between Years 5-12 and missed as few as eight days in each school term, by the end of his time at the College he will have missed over a year of education?*

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week;
- or a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all College activities, on time. If your son has to be absent from the College, you must inform the College and provide a reason for your son's absence within 7 days. A small number of absences may be accepted; for example, if your son has to go to a special religious ceremony, is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation, is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness. Ordinarily, it is expected that your son will have at least 90% attendance each year.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the Principal, the College will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help.

Sometimes, the College will ask support staff and other agencies to assist. It is important to understand that further action will be taken where students of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from the College. Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences**—The aim of the meeting/conference is to help identify strategies to support the boy and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree. The outcome of an Attendance meeting/compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the boy's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.
- **Applications to the Children's Court**—A Compulsory Schooling Order Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or boy to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.
- Prosecution in the Local Court. If all attempts by the College and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

Adapted from Student Attendance at <http://www.csnsw.catholic.edu.au>

**Robert Simpson – Director of Wellbeing**

# SPORTS FIXTURES — SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018

## HEAD OF SECONDARY SPORT

The first Round of the ISA Summer Competitions began last Saturday with the 1st XI Cricket side travelling away to play Scots All Saints in Bathurst and recorded a more than convincing win to send a strong message to the rest of the ISA. Well done also to the 2nd XI and 16A Cricket sides who both notched up strong wins against St Stanislaus' College and The Kings School respectively.

All Basketball teams also began their ISA campaign last Saturday. An impressive result to the 1st V who recorded a solid 99-69 win over St Pius X. No doubt this will be a real confidence booster for the men in black and we hope they can carry on the momentum into this weekend's fixture in the College Gymnasium against a strong Oakhill College.

After a few weeks interrupted with rain, the First IX Baseball side took to the field and recorded a strong 12-7 run victory as did our 16's Baseball side winning 12-5.

Well done to all other teams and good luck for Round 2 of the ISA. Good luck as well to those in the NDJCA and RHBL competitions.

We also wish our swim squad all the best for their first swim meet this Friday night at the St Aloysius' Invitational Carnival to be held at North Sydney Pool.

### Congratulations

We congratulate our "Footballer of the Year" Augustine Murphy who continues his stellar year, now gaining selection to play for the Australian Pararoos National side in the Asian Cup to be held in Iran in late November. Should Australia make it to the final they will qualify for the World Cup in Spain in July 2019. We wish Augustine the best of luck, whilst wearing the 'green and gold'.

Congratulations are also extended to Jack Dwyer of Year 8 for gaining selection in the NSW U/16 Water Polo side to compete in the Championships in December at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Well done to Lachlan Weir of Year 7 who, over the weekend, became the new Junior Golf Champion at Carnarvon Golf club.

**Anthony Calavassy—Head of Secondary Sport**

## YEAR 7 2019 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER AT 6PM  
ROBSON AUDITORIUM

Everything you need to know to get your son ready!  
Everything you need to know to get yourself ready!  
Please bring your questions.

### Staff attending

Current Year 7 Coordinator, Year 7 Coordinator for 2019,  
College Counsellor and Director of Junior School.

## YEAR 12 STUDENT TAKES ON THE BEST OF THE ASIA PACIFIC

Year 12 golfer Arthur Barakat recently competed in the Asia Pacific Amateur Golf Championship in Singapore during the October holidays. Arthur was chosen from a number of highly capable golfers from around the world to represent Lebanon at the annual championship with the winner gaining entry to a number of the major professional championships.

Up against the cream of the Asia Pacific who each had an entourage of physios, dietitians, coaches and the like, Arthur with none of these resources at his disposal and with only the support of his father, performed exceptionally well. While he did not make the cut, he certainly can hold his head up high. It was a fitting reward for a young man who has spent many, many hours honing his craft. The experience will no doubt make Arthur a better golfer and also give him memories that will last a life time.

**Peter Findlay—Careers Adviser**



## SENIOR SPORT

### CRICKET

1st XI	v	St Pius	10.00	Breen Oval
2nd XI	v	St Pius	10.00	Oxford Falls
3rd XI	v	Oxley	11.00	Oxley College
4th XI	v	Bye		
16A	v	Newington	9.00	Hudson Park
15A	v	Hunters Hill Pirates	8.30	George Kendall Reserve
14 Black	v	West Ryde	8.00	Robin Thomas Reserve
14 Gold	v	West Epping	8.00	Doyle Park 2
13A	v	West Epping	8.00	Pidding Park
13B	v	RHHP Jack Sparrows	8.00	Mason Park 2

### BASEBALL

1st IX	v	Bye		
16s	v	Rosebank	11.00	Major's Bay Reserve 3
14s	v	Westboomers	11.00	Glover St 1

### BASKETBALL

1st V	v	Oakhill	1.00	SPC Gym
17A	v	Oakhill	12.00	SPC Gym
17B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	12.00	Auburn 2
17C	v	Oakhill Gold	1.00	Auburn 2
17D	v	Oakhill Navy	9.00	Oakhill Gym (CSC) 1
17 Black	v	Redlands D	10.00	Nth Beaches ISC 3
15A	v	Oakhill	11.00	SPC Gym
15B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	12.00	Auburn 1
15C	v	Oakhill Gold	1.00	Auburn 1
15D	v	Oakhill Navy	12.00	Benildus Hall (Oakhill)
14A	v	Oakhill	10.00	SPC Gym
14B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	11.00	Auburn 1
14C	v	Oakhill Gold	11.00	Auburn 2
14D	v	Oakhill Navy	9.00	Oakhill Gym (CSC) 2
14 Black	v	Oxley B	10.00	Oxley College Ct 2
13A	v	Oakhill	9.00	SPC Gym
13B	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	10.00	Auburn 1
13C	v	Oakhill Gold	10.00	Auburn 2
13D	v	Oakhill Navy	8.00	Oakhill Gym (CSC) 2
13 Black	v	Oxley B	9.00	Oxley College Ct 2
13 Gold	v	Blue Mountains Grammar	10.00	Auburn 3

### SWIMMING—FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER (PM)

St Aloysius' College Invitational	7.30pm	North Sydney Olympic Pool
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## JUNIOR SPORT

### BASKETBALL

Prep A	v	Knox	Auburn 1	9.00am
Prep B	v	Knox	Auburn 1	8.00am
Prep C	v	Knox	Auburn 2	9.00am
Prep D	v	Knox	Auburn 2	8.00am
Prep E	v	Knox	Auburn 3	9.00am
Prep F	v	Knox	Auburn 3	8.00am
Prep G	v	Knox	Prep Court 1	10.30am
Prep H	v	Knox	Prep Court 1	9.40am
Prep I	v	Knox	Prep Court 1	8.50am
Prep J	v	Knox	Prep Court 1	8.00am
Prep K	v	St Pius X Gold	Oxford Falls 3	10.30am
Prep L	v	St Pius X Gold	Oxford Falls 3	9.40am

### CRICKET

Prep 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	v	Barker	Taylor Field	8.00am
Prep 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	v	Barker	Phipps	8.00am
6A Super 8	v	Kings	Phillips 2	9.30am
6B Super 8	v	Barker	Rudd 3	8.00am
6C Super 8	v	Kings	Phillips 2	8.00am
5A	v	Scots	SPC 4	8.00am
5B	v	Scots	Cooke Park	8.00am
5A Super 8	v	St Aloysius	Anderson Park	9.00am
5B Super 8	v	St Aloysius	Anderson Park	7.30am

### SOFTBALL

Prep A	v	Trinity Green & White	Strathfield Park	8.00am
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### TENNIS

Tennis A	v	St Aloysius	Fullers Rd Courts	9.30am
Tennis B	v	Scots C	Maccabi Tennis	8.00am

## JUNIOR SPORT VENUES

**Auburn Basketball Centre:** Wyatt Park—Church St, Lidcombe  
**SPC No 4:** Edgar St, Strathfield  
**Oxford Falls:** Wakehurst Pky, Oxford Falls  
**Phillips Park 1 & 2:** Nicholas St, Auburn  
**Rudd Park:** Cnr Clarence and Varidel St, Belfield  
**Strathfield Park:** Homebush Rd, Strathfield  
**Cooke Park:** Madeline St, Belfield  
**Taylor & Phipps:** College Cres, Waitara  
**Anderson Park:** located in Clark Rd, Neutral Bay  
**Fuller Rd Courts:** 52 Fullers Rd, Chatswood  
**Maccabi Tennis:** White City 30 Alma St, Paddington  
**Knox Prep Courts:** Billyard Ave, Wahroonga

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.