

# Especean

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## Principal

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

I spent much of last weekend reading reports for Years 7-10. It was wonderful to read reports where boys are obviously making a disciplined and consistent effort with their studies. There are two aspects of school reports that always catch my attention – one obviously is the academic progress and the dispositions a boy brings to his learning and the other is the attendance record of the student. The correlation between academic progress and achievement and time at school is usually not a surprise. It did however disappoint me to read of so many boys who have had such high absences from school (both whole day and partial). Given that our boys get at least an additional two weeks' holidays to most schools, there are plenty of times in the year for rest and respite. Notwithstanding, I know that illness plays a factor with some students. However, it seems to me that too many boys are taking days off and there are too many of these! Please be vigilant about your son's attendance at school. If he is not here, he significantly reduces his chances of progressing his learning.

### On a vocation to teach

When we advertise vacancies for teaching positions for schools in New South Wales, depending on the subject area, sometimes we struggle to get a high-quality and high-quantity field in equal measure. There are many journal articles and research papers being written about the reasons why this might be the case. Some research suggests that between 30-50% of teachers in their first five years, quit the profession due to lack of support, lack of security of tenure and the tensions both with students and the parent community. There are other statistics around threats of, and actual, violence to teachers being somewhere between six and ten times more likely than for the normal population. There has recently been an investigation into the status of teaching. In subject areas like Mathematics, Science and some TAS areas, universities are not attracting students to these courses and therefore we are not producing enough teachers in these subject areas. Something like 70% of all students in NSW alone will be taught mathematics by a teacher who does not have a qualification to do so.

We therefore have a problem that has now been around for some time. Everyone has been to school, so most people think they know something about teaching. This argument does not wash with me. I have been to hospital, but I have never thought for one minute I know anything much about medicine. I leave that to the experts! I think that we need to do something about the status of teaching and teachers. Like many public professions, and I include politicians in this, we seem to have lost societal respect for the position. Becoming a teacher was once a noble career choice and one that people were proud to say they had chosen. I am not so sure whether that is the case today. Perhaps low entry scores into teaching have not helped and perhaps salary and career pathways have also become a disincentive, however, I still firmly believe that it is an excellent vocation. It is more than a job and it is more than a career. It is something to which dedicated people are called to do.

I have said many times and publicly so, that I do not regret my career choice for one minute. I love my job and I relish the opportunity to influence and help shape young minds. I find working with young people energising and life-giving. They teach me as much as I teach them. They also help me stay young-ish and the boys at St Patrick's provide me with enormous hope for the future.

So, I want to encourage our clever, articulate and high-performing young men of St Patrick's to consider teaching as a career. When I talk to boys at our school, very few of them suggest that this is what they are aiming to do at University. In our schools, we need the next generation of teachers to be savvy, smart and committed. We need intellectual property to be top-shelf, and we must have people entering the profession who make it their first choice, not a fallback position if everything doesn't work out. We also desperately need men to enter the profession. With primary teachers, the percentage of males in primary settings has fallen as low as 20% or less, and still falling in many places. I know of primary schools now where there are no men on staff at all. I am not sure this is good for children. Please do not get me wrong; female teachers are needed and wanted, and they are tremendous educators. But we need a balance, especially for children to see and hear different perspectives. In subject areas like English for example, we often get zero male applicants for a vacancy. If we do not take heed, within the next generation, school teaching could become almost exclusively a female domain. I am not sure this is a good thing. While good teaching is good teaching regardless of gender, it is important for students to be taught by both males and females.

Teaching is and can be a most rewarding profession. It is a profound privilege and it should be honoured and respected by all in society. The stronger our teachers are, the stronger the graduates of tomorrow will be. We are investing in the future. Please notice the skills and dispositions that your son might possess that would make him an ideal possible candidate as a teacher and plant a seed with him to consider teaching as a true vocation. If we need high quality teachers in metropolitan areas, the bush needs them even more.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful teaching faculty at St Patrick's College. Our staff are so dedicated and committed. I want to keep it that way. Many of our boys would make excellent teachers.

Happy holidays to all. Stay warm, stay well and enjoy the break. The first day of next term is a Staff Development Day on writing. We will welcome all boys back to the College on Tuesday 23 July.

Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever.

  
Craig Wattam  
Principal



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Michael Snowden (HSIE B teacher) and his wife Isabel who welcomed their first child Emma Patricia, 3.39kg and 59cm long on 6 June.





## CONDOLENCES

Please pray for Mark (Year 12), Luke (Year 10) and Thomas Vaccher (2013) and their family as they mourn the loss of their grandfather Primo Vaccher, he was father to Old Boys Dennis (1979), Franc (1983) and Dino (1988). Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews have been in full swing this week. I am grateful to the teachers who dedicate so much time and effort to preparing for these meetings, which not only celebrate success but give clear direction for the future too. I am also grateful to the busy families who, amongst their busy schedules, make arrangements to be there for their sons, offering both support and challenge. Don't underestimate how much 'presence' matters to a young boy.

I am sure you know, but I would like to remind you that in addition to these mid-year interviews, you are perfectly entitled to request an interview with you son's teacher at any point during the year. It is very important that we are all pulling in the same direction, so if you have any questions or concerns at any point, I hope you will feel comfortable to raise them.

The mid-year extended break is a great chance for a young boy to spend some time mastering a new skill. I hope you will encourage your sons to try something out this school holidays – a new piece of music, juggling, a magic trick, writing a mini-novel or comic book, hand walking, spinning a basketball on his finger – it doesn't really matter what. Having a project can be both engaging and very healthy, particularly if it is an old-fashioned no-device project! I look forward to hearing about these new skills and cool tricks when we return to school in July.

God Bless,

**Ben Munday—Director of Junior School**

## SPC WINTER SLEEP OUT 2019

As part of an awareness raising campaign for homelessness and caring for the genuinely marginalised we will again be running the SPC Winter Sleep Out. It will be held at the College (near the Hall) on **Friday 26 July** – Week 1 of Term 3.

The Winter Sleep Out is open to all students from Years 5 – 12, and will be supervised and supported by a large number of Staff. It will begin after the conclusion of class or co-curricular training on the Friday afternoon and finish at 8.00am or when people need to leave for Co-curricular prior to this. Participants will need a sleeping bag and warm clothes to sleep outdoors and will be supplied a simple meal for dinner and breakfast. SJAG will coordinate many of the events for the evening, building a greater understanding of what homelessness/sleeping rough entails. We will also pack the donated toiletries into packs for those in need. We ask each student to get some sponsorship for their participation – a minimum of \$20 each, but more is encouraged. We aim to raise at least \$2,000 to help SVDP with rental stability, meals and necessities for those in need. Anyone interested in participating can **pick up a letter and sponsorship form from the Front Office**. Permission slips are **due by lunch on Wednesday 24 July**. Parents will be emailed on the Friday as confirmation that their son is participating in the Sleep Out. (If you do not receive an email your son is not with us.) Any students not registered will not be able to attend. If you wish to know more please email me at the College.

This event is an eye-opening one; something I hope many of the community will avail themselves of!

**Gillian Daley—Director of Identity**

## NOTICE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE—THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2019 REQUEST FOR ITEMS AND DONATIONS.

The Annual Performing Arts Showcase is fast approaching. This event will not only highlight the abundance of musical talent that exists within our student cohort but will also help fundraise for the USA Music Tour early next year. Given the high currency rate and the need to transport musical equipment, the tour party is kindly asking the College community to assist them in this quest. If anybody has something they would like to donate, or is able to acquire a donation from the business community to be part of the night, either as a raffle prize or an auction item please email me at [patricia.wattam@spc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:patricia.wattam@spc.nsw.edu.au)

I hope you can support this endeavour and encourage others to come to the event. Watch out for details and times.

Thank you in advance for your support.

**Patricia Wattam—Junior School Teacher**

## PEER SUPPORT REUNION

On Thursday 20 June, the leaders in Year 10 and peers in Year 5 had a reunion at lunchtime to play some games around the Junior Playground. We split up into our groups that we were in during Term 1. My group went out onto the back ovals after ten minutes of some intense and very entertaining handball. While on the ovals playing touch footy, some of the boys from other groups joined in and it was a great experience as we were able to connect not just with our allocated group but a large portion of the Year 5 cohort. This was a rewarding time and I am looking forward to another reunion in the near future.

**Jordan Danaskos (Year 10)**



# CURRICULUM

## The Stage 5 and Stage 6 Prospectuses

By the end of this week the 2020 editions of the Stage 5 and Stage 6 Prospectuses on subjects for Years 9 and 11 respectively will be posted on the *Central Parent Portal* for parents and the relevant *Canvas* Year pages for the boys.

A thorough and sequential subject selection process is in place and details of this process will be given at the appropriate times. As per the College Diary, the information evening will be held for parents of Year 10 on Wednesday 24 July. Subject information sessions will also be held for Year 10 boys in the same week. The purpose of the information evening and sessions is to complement and clarify the information provided in the Stage 6 Prospectus and to provide details of the subject selection process. An elective subject information morning for Year 8 boys will be held on Thursday 25 July.

## The Holidays and the Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations

Year 12 students are encouraged to use the upcoming holidays wisely and not to let the time pass without having done substantial preparation for the Trial HSC examinations which begin Monday 5 August, i.e., the third week back next term.

With just under six weeks to the Trial HSC examination, the following is important information for Year 12 students and their parents.

## HSC Examination Marking Feedback and Sample Answers

Marking guidelines and sample answers for most HSC subjects from past examinations are available on the NESA website at:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers>

Parents of Year 12 ought to know that such resources are available and should encourage their sons to use them as part of their preparation for the Trial and HSC written examinations. It is important to note that the sample answers provided are not student responses from the examinations nor are they intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. Nonetheless, they are a most valuable resource for HSC students.

NESA publishes this information to assist teachers and students in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

## The Sydney Morning Herald 2019 HSC Study Guide

Each year NESA works with Fairfax Media to publish the HSC Study Guide now available at: <https://hsc-study-guide-2019.smh.com.au/>. The Guide has an excellent range of NESA endorsed resources.

**Michael Cutrupi—Director of Curriculum**

# SCIENCE NEWS

K-12 Science syllabi are focused on developing students as scientists. This is aimed at developing future citizens and leaders who understand the importance of scientific evidence in enabling them to make informed and responsible decisions about the use and influence of science and technology in our lives.

At St Patrick's College students actively engage individually, and in teams in scientific inquiry. Students use processes of Working Scientifically to plan and conduct experiments.

Activities range from studying rock samples and investigating chemical weathering in Year 7 to designing experiments to study which factors influence the rate of a chemical reaction in Year 11 Chemistry, dissecting a cow's heart in Year 11 Biology and studying stellar spectroscopy in Year 12 Physics. Students identify questions and make predictions based on scientific knowledge and draw evidence-based conclusions from their investigations.

We also encourage our students to apply for experiences beyond the classrooms to engage with scientific discovery. Many students participate in Astronomy clubs, Maker Model workshops and solar car racing during the holidays.

This year Lemuel Fernandez in Year 11 has been selected by a panel at Sydney University to attend the prestigious Professor Harry Messel International Science School. Every two years the International Science School selects 130 top science students from Australia and overseas (China, Japan, India, New Zealand, Thailand, the USA and the UK) for a two-week residential program of talks by world-renowned scientists, laboratory tours and hands on activities. This opportunity also allows the students to socialise with each other during organised events such as the Sydney Harbour Cruise and talent quests. We are looking forward to Lemuel's report in early Term 3 outlining his experience of this opportunity.

**Surekha Chander—Science Coordinator**



# YEAR 8 LANGUAGES DAY

On Wednesday 19 June, the whole Year 8 cohort was able to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the Italian culture and lifestyle through the Year 8 Languages Day. The day started with us breaking off into our house groups. We rotated around the College to do different activities which included *Serie A* (Football), *Bocce* (Lawn Bowls), *Occhiali Virtuali* (Virtual Reality Experience),



*Tombola* (Italian Bingo), *Carte* (Playing cards) and *Musica* (Italian Music). Each activity was accompanied by an enthusiastic teacher who created a better experience for the group. After a delicious pizza lunch, we enjoyed a *Commedia dell'arte* performance run by Mr Dennis Murphy. He taught us about the traditional Italian masks and brought the characters to life. This day was incredibly well designed for the whole cohort and we can't wait until next time.



**Anthony Corso and Nicholas Lipari (Year 8)**

# SPORTS FIXTURES — SATURDAY 20 JULY 2019

## HEAD OF SECONDARY SPORT

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable break. May I remind you all that training will resume on the first day back of Term 3—Tuesday 23 July for Rugby, Football and Tennis. All families are advised to check Team App for the revised training schedule as there have been a few venue changes now made.

### Rugby Mothers High Tea

Run by the Old Boys Rugby Club, all Rugby Mothers are invited to High Tea at the top of the Crichton Building overlooking Breen Oval from 2.15pm on Saturday 27 July.

The cost is \$15 and for catering purposes we do ask that you book your ticket at the following link:

<https://oldboys.spc.nsw.edu.au/ocd.aspx?code=2&action=showReunion&reunionName=E23>

Bookings close Thursday evening 25 July.

## TERM 2 HOLIDAY FIXTURES

Rugby – Saturday 20 July			
1 <sup>st</sup> XV	Barker College	11.15	Breen Oval
2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	Barker College	10.00	Breen Oval
16A	Barker College	9.00	Breen Oval

  

Football – Saturday 20 July			
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Barker College	9.00	SPC 2 (Synthetic)

**Anthony Calavassy**—Head of Secondary Sport

## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

As per my email to parents today, weather permitting, the annual House Athletics Carnival will now go ahead on **Friday 28 June**. In the event of a further postponement, a message will be sent out via email and Team App. Parents are warmly welcome to come and watch and cheer on their son's House. The day is built around participation and enjoyment for the boys. Please be aware that parents are asked to sit on the benches along the Fraser Street side of Breen Oval. Events are scheduled to start at 9.15am.

This is a normal school day and boys will be dismissed at the usual time, 3.10pm. Boys are to wear their College PE Uniform to and from school on the Carnival day.

I would like to thank all the coaches for their efforts so far this winter season. We have had a very successful first 7 rounds. I hope that you all have a relaxing break and come back re-energized for the last 3 rounds next term. Additionally, I would also like to thank parents for all their support of the boys and for getting to games on time through Saturday morning traffic. I hope you enjoy sleeping in over the coming Saturdays.

While on the break, I would ask all those involved in winter sport to reflect on the type of teammate they are. What do you do well? What could you improve on? What type of teammate do you want to have and be? A chain is only as strong as the weakest link, like a team is only as strong as the relationships of its players.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing term break and look forward to seeing you back out on the grounds for the final flourish of winter sport next term.

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

## YEAR 5 INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT 2019

Last Thursday all students in Year 5 Black, Blue and Gold staged an enjoyable concert for family and friends in the College Gymnasium. The concert is always the highlight of the Year 5 Instrumental Program, with both the String Orchestra and Concert Band performing various repertoire. The concert provided students an opportunity to demonstrate all that they have achieved both individually and collectively as an ensemble throughout the Semester.



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## PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE CONCERT 2019

The Annual Performing Arts Showcase Concert will be held on Thursday 1 August. The evening will commence at 6.30pm in the College Gymnasium. All students involved with College Instrumental Ensembles and Choral groups will be performing as part of the evening's entertainment. Please come along and support the Performing Arts at St Patrick's. This is an evening not to be missed!

**Derek Rose**—Bandmaster

**TEAM APP** FIXTURES AND GROUND LOCATIONS are published live online (includes cancellations): Click on <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.