



Star of Peace

St Patrick's Marist College Newsletter

Number 18

27th November, 2017

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the Advent season; this is the beginning of our Liturgical year and a time of renewed commitment to our faith. During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. We contemplate the First Coming of Jesus as Saviour and anticipate his promised Second Coming. Amid the busyness of Christmas preparations, we look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season in our everyday lives. In this first week of Advent as we pray for Hope, let us take a moment each day to pray for these young people, that through God's grace they will have a life that they have long hoped for, one of peace and freedom.

We recently held our Annual Visual Arts Exhibition for our Years 7 to 11 students. I was very impressed by the quality and creativeness of the works. I thank the many parents, staff and families who attended and I especially thank Ms Lawrence, Miss Kovacic, Miss Bonaventura and Mrs Donnelly for their work and their ongoing passion for and contribution to Creative Arts in our College.

This week Year 10 were involved in a 2 day Careers job readiness conference, where they learned how to improve their chances of finding a job in today's workforce. Some of the skills that they worked on included, cover letters and resume writing, interview techniques, demonstrations and practice. We were very blessed to have 19 visitors to the College who assisted us in the practice interviews and the delivery of some sessions. On behalf of the students and staff a very big thankyou to Ms Lawrence for her outstanding organisation and her commitment to providing quality careers advice and support in the College.

I would like to thank all of the parents who attended our final P&F meeting and celebration for the year. After a short meeting we gathered as a community to celebrate the strong partnership, friendships and the great support the P&F have been to the College this year. This year the P&F contributions will be used to resurface the Basketball courts and a new sound system in the Harrington courtyard.

On the 6th of December we will be holding our Carols Evening from 5:30pm – 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

As you would be aware, there will be staff leaving us at the end of the year. I will send a letter to you shortly outlining the changes to staffing for 2018.

As we come to the conclusion of the school year, I ask that any outstanding fees and monies be paid to the office prior to the 8th of December.

Mrs Angela Hay

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KEY DATES

Friday, 1st December

Year 10 Pastoral Care Day

Monday, 4th December

Year 10 Harbour Cruise

Wednesday, 6th December

Carols at St Pat's

Friday, 8th December

Years 7-9 and Year 11

Pastoral Care Day

Tuesday, 12th December

Awards Night (The Kings School)

Wednesday, 13th December

Term 4 Classes Conclude

Thursday, 14th December

Years 7-11 Parent / Teacher

Interviews

Friday, 15th December

Staff Day

Thursday, 25th January, 2018

College Office Open

Tuesday, 30th January, 2018

Term 1 Commences for

Years 7, 11 and 12

Wednesday, 31st January, 2018

Term 1 Commences for

Years 8-10

Friday, 2nd January, 2018

College Swimming Carnival

Stay Connected:



stpatrunds.catholic.edu.au



facebook.com/St-Patricks-Marist-College-1549337335358979



The Mission of Marist schools is to lead young people in the way of Mary, to know and love God in the belief that they all can become good Christians and good Citizens.

2017 SCHOOL FEES UPDATE

If you are not on a formal payment plan or have made contact with the College, any outstanding school fees need to be finalised within the next 7 days.

Over the next few weeks families with outstanding accounts, including payment arrangements will be sent a current statement showing balance and amount left to pay. This will be sent via email.

I can be contacted on 9638 5644 or email rwadih@parra.catholic.edu.au

Ms Rolla Wadih
School Fees Administrator

Assistant Principal

PRESENTATION EVENING

The College will celebrate with our Semester Two award recipients on Tuesday, 12th December. The Presentation Evening will be held again at The King's School beginning at 7.00pm and concluding at 9.00pm. The evening showcases our students who through their dedication, application and skills have achieved success in either academic, sporting, cultural or co-curricula endeavours. This year, Ms Rachel Neylan, Olympic cyclist and old scholar of the College will be our special guest.

We ask that all award recipients be present at The King's School by 6.30pm. The Futter Hall is located at the main entrance to The King's School and parking is provided on the grounds. Our Senior College Leaders are also asked to attend the evening ensuring that all parents and friends are welcomed and guided into the venue. If your son/daughter is receiving an award you will be provided with a College letter of invitation and details of the evening. However, all members of our College community are most welcome to attend the evening.

Mr J. Scanlon
Assistant Principal - Innovation, Teaching and Learning

Director of Mission

CAROLS AT ST PAT'S

Wednesday, 6th December from 5.30pm - 7.00pm

Next Wednesday, 6th December, St Patrick's Marist will be hosting a community Carols evening. All members of our College and local community are welcome to come along and sing carols with our Choir and help support our Christmas Hamper Appeal. **Entry Fee** - 10 non-perishable items that can be packaged into hampers and delivered to families in our local area this Christmas, or a wrapped Christmas present (*please indicate on the present what age and gender this would be appropriate for*). A sausage sizzle and drinks will be on sale. Bring along picnic chairs or blankets to use in our new area.

See attached flyer for more information.

Mr M. Paton

Pastoral

YEAR 11

As the year draws to a close, there are some important issues I would like to bring to the attention of parents and guardians.

Pastoral Day

Friday the 8th of December, is the Pastoral Day for Years 7, 8, 9 and 11. This will be the final Pastoral Day for this year group. All activities will be at school this year to ensure weather is not a factor in the running of the day. For this day, I have organised guest presenters from KYDS (www.kyds.org.au), a youth development service that runs high energy workshops. The name of this workshop is "Managing the HSC". Specifically the workshop provides strategies and techniques to deal with what is usually a stressful period in the life of a student.

The workshop focus on:

- managing stress;
- relaxation techniques;
- time management;
- challenging negative thinking; and
- motivation.

I firmly believe these workshops will be extremely valuable to all students, and will offer useful information leading into the new year. The afternoon session will consist of lunch together and live entertainment. As this is a normal school day, attendance is compulsory. Finally, classes will conclude for Year 11 the following week on Wednesday the 13th of December.

Student Drivers

As many students in Year 11 are now of a driving age, there are some expectations the school has put in place for the safety of all students and as a courtesy to the neighbours of the school. We ask that all students wishing to drive to and from school have completed a Parental Consent / Registration Form (which they can pick up from myself). The expectations of St Patrick's Marist states that provisional drivers may only have one passenger in the car to and from school. The only exception being where there is more than one younger sibling in the family. All passengers must have written permission from their parents allowing them in the car as passengers. We believe this reduces the chances of negligent driving. If your child is driving to school, I ask you to discuss with them the importance of driving at all times in a safe manner and respecting our neighbours in the area. More information on Student Drivers can be found in the College Student Diary on Page 14.

Mr S. Belcher

Pastoral Leader of Learning - Year 11

STUDENT LEADERS GATHERING

From the 12th to the 14th of November, our newly elected captains Rebecca Ozer, Theo Sugita, Greta White and Jonathan Nakad, along with Mr Moussa, attended the Student Leaders Gathering at The Hermitage in Mittagong. They joined student leaders from all the Marist schools in NSW for a three day retreat to learn about leadership, service and youth ministry.

The retreat began with each school presenting a creative short history of their school. Prior to the gathering, our leaders wrote and practised a short, but humorous role play detailing our school's impressive 145 year old history which began at The Rocks. Judging from the reactions and compliments from the other participating schools, it could easily be said that our performance was the best of the night. At the Mass on the second evening, Rebecca was one of the two students from the gathering selected to offer a reflection on the Gospel reading. Rebecca proudly represented the College with an insightful and profound reflection. The organisers and students were all clearly impressed.

Working together, our four leaders devised a plan about what they wanted to achieve for the College during the 2018 year. With their ideas presented to Mrs Hay, the Year 12 leadership team are determined to leave their mark. Our Captains want to focus on building our Marist connections and family spirit, through continued social justice initiatives. The student leaders have labelled next year with a short but powerful statement, **"Get Keen in 2018"** as their goal for all students at the College.

Mr D. Moussa



Key Learning Areas

BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2017

On Thursday, 30th of November, the annual Year 8 Music 'Battle of the Bands' competition was held in the La Valla Centre during Period 3. This competition saw eight different bands made up of Year 8 students, battle it out on the stage as they competed for the title of 'Battle of the Bands Champions 2017'. The event is the end point of a project that Year 8 music students began working on at the very start of Term 4 this year. In class, students formed bands, selected songs, learnt how to perform melodies, chords and rhythms on the instruments and then collaborated with their peers to create an engaging live music performance.

On Thursday, the top eight bands will be performed their music on a large stage with professional lighting for all Year 7 and 8 students, who were entertained in the audience. These bands are named: Jaaw, Dynamics, Daybreakers, Uber Music, Vivace, The Hissy Fits, Another Day and Magnum. Stay tuned to find out which band is victorious for Battle of the Bands 2017.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2018



Mr Heffernan
Music Teacher

Sport

2018 COLLEGE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The 2018 College Swimming Carnival will be held on **FRIDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY** at the Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush. Students are reminded that it is a compulsory school event which aims to promote both House and College spirit. Students are expected to be at school by 8:30am and will return by approximately 3:15pm.

Students are to wear their full sports uniform to and from the carnival, and are encouraged to bring suitable House theme and coloured attire to be worn throughout the day. See your House Captains for ideas on theme appropriate attire.

A reminder that students will need to bring their own lunch as canteen facilities will not be available on the day.

Participation is expected in at least one event, unless a Doctor's Certificate is provided by Thursday, 1st February to Mrs. Pavlovich.

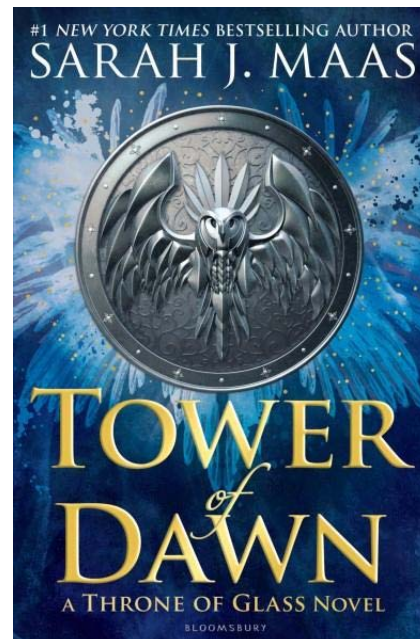
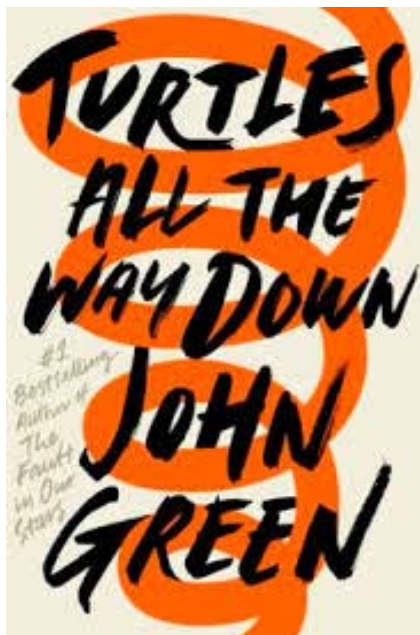
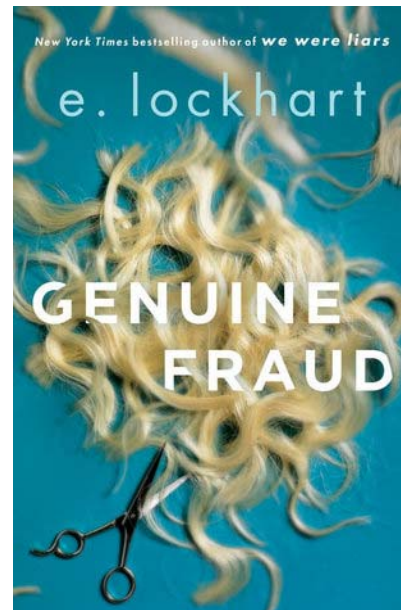
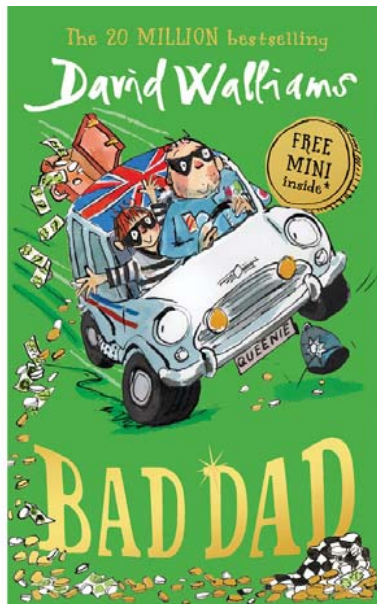
Looking forward to a fun and enjoyable day with lots of College and House spirit displayed!

Mrs D. Pavlovich
Sports Coordinator

ENGLISH

Summer Holiday Reads

Here are some novels you may be interested in reading these summer holidays. For more recommended reads and reviews please visit the St Pats Reads Instagram Page - @stpatsreads! Happy reading!





DEBATING WORKSHOP

We had a fantastic time at the junior debating day last week. Instructors from Masters Academy came and taught us how to 'master' manner, matter and method. In teams we were able to discuss interesting and unusual topics, like 'Should all primary school students be made to visit an abattoir to see where their meat comes from?' and 'Should every school install CCTV cameras?' We were able to present our air tight cases and had to respond to questions from the audience. It was a lot of fun! It was wonderful to have all the grades work together and learn from each other. After the day, I feel more confident and ready to take on debating next year.

Alexandra Harnn

Year 7





Christmas **CAROLS AT ST PAT'S**

December 6, 2017 | 5.30-7PM



ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT GATE ON KIRBY STREET AND
COME THROUGH TO THE NEW SENIOR AREA



COME ALONG AND SING CAROLS WITH OUR COLLEGE CHOIR AND HELP SUPPORT OUR CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Entry Fee: 10 non-perishable items that can be packaged
in hampers and delivered to Families in our local area this
Christmas OR a wrapped Christmas present.

(PLEASE INDICATE ON THE PRESENT WHAT AGE AND GENDER THIS WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE FOR)

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
AND DRINKS WILL
BE ON SALE

BRING ALONG PICNIC
CHAIRS OR BLANKETS TO
USE IN OUR NEW AREA

December 6, 2017 | 5.30-7PM



Battle of the Bands



The first Marist Brothers arrived in Australia on the 'Star of Peace' on 21st February, 1872. On the 8th April, 1872, school commenced at St Patrick's. Our Newsletter is named, 'Star of Peace', as it too, hopefully, brings peace and good news to our community.