



St Patrick's Marist College

151 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117 - Visit our Website: www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au



Star of Peace

Telephone (02) 96385644 • Facsimile (02) 96842120 • Emails: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Number 1

3rd January, 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome back to 2016

A very special welcome to all our new students and their families to the St Patrick's Marist College community in this special Year of Mercy. I hope that the first week has been exciting and you feel warmly welcomed. I look forward to meeting all new families and families of our Year 7 students at our upcoming Cocktail Party in the coming weeks. A new parent handbook will be emailed to all families at the end of this week; however the student diary is an excellent source of information.

As we began the school year last Wednesday morning, our staff gathered in prayer and welcomed our new staff to our College community. We thanked all staff who worked over the holidays to ensure the readiness of our grounds and learning spaces and those in our administration team that made certain we had a smooth commencement to the year. You received a letter outlining the work that has been completed and all upcoming work and I thank our Business Manager Mrs Fran Hawton for her management of all of these works over the break. We will continue to work to improve all areas of the College.

I spoke to the staff about the direction for the College for 2016. In 2015 we worked to consolidate and refine our new Vision for Learning. Staff worked together to clarify and deepen their understanding. As part of that process, we did an analysis of our own pedagogies and knowledge and collectively decided that "Critical Thinking and Collaboration" would be our focus for 2016. We continue our work with our Formation, Literacy and Numeracy plans as well as developing a deeper understanding and capacity to use technology as a tool to support our learning in the classroom. The goal for literacy "Is to improve each student's capacity to read for meaning (inferential skills)". It is not about how fluently we can read; it is how deeply we understand the text with which we are engaged. A key strategy will be the use of "Thinking Note Keys", which can be found in student diaries. Key to this is that reading a text once is not sufficient and we will be working in every classroom to improve the skills of students in this area.

Next Tuesday night at 7.00p.m. on the 9th February we will be holding the first of our Parent Learning Forums. These are designed to communicate to parents the work we are doing and an opportunity to participate in discussions and ask questions. These are not designed to take the place of our P & F meetings, but an addition to build better communication and parent partnerships within the College. A letter will be emailed home today which includes additional information regarding the agenda and future dates. If you would like to attend could you please RSVP on the following link <http://goo.gl/forms/D4vRkc4yxD>. Please enter through the front gate (Gate D).

I would like to congratulate the staff and our Year 12 students of 2015 on their outstanding HSC results with 28 of our 32 subjects above state average. Some notable mentions were Sarah Young who received an ATAR of 99.4, Sarah also made the All Rounders list, Alan Sper 98.5, Christy Baek 98.15, Peter Wooden 97.5, Connor Hoang 96.35 and Sam Hermon 95.85. We had 20 students with an ATAR over 90 and a significant number of the cohort with ATARs over 80.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **From the Principal**
- **Assistant Principals**
 - Attendance and Punctuality
 - Teaching and Learning in 2016
 - High Achiever's Assembly
 - Parent Partnership
- **Leader of Learning Contact List**
- **Business Manager**
 - School Fees
 - Canteen
- **Pastoral**
 - Year 7
- **Curriculum:**
 - Book Review
 - Follow TAS on Instagram
- **Extra Curricular:**
 - Debating and Public Speaking
- **Careers**
- **Swimming Carnival**

KEY DATES

Friday, 5th February

College Swimming Carnival at Homebush

Tuesday, 9th February

High Achiever's Assembly

Wednesday, 10th February

As Wednesday and Commencement Mass

Monday, 15nd February

Year 12 Retreat

Monday, 22nd February

Year 10 Information Evening

Wednesday, 24rd February

P&F Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 2nd March

Year 7 Camp

Monday, 7nd March

Open Day 4.00pm - 6.00pm

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.*

A special congratulations to Brodie Naughton who came 12th in the state for General Mathematics and to current Year 12 student Chris Kim who did Accelerated Mathematics in Year 11 and came 7th in the state in Mathematics (2 Unit).

I remind students as we start the year, that we own our own behaviour. That together we create the great Marist spirit that is particularly evident in our relationships with one another. We are responsible for our own learning and our teachers are there to help us be successful.

I remind all about the College expectations including:

- Tolerance and respect
- Being ready to learn and to be active in that learning
- School procedures
- Rights and responsibilities
- Prohibited substances (refer page 14 of the school diary)

Lastly, we have new permanent and temporary staff, staff that are now permanent, and temporary teachers that have taken different roles. I welcome all new staff to the school.

Ms. Sarah Hagarty	Leader of Learning Science (Acting 2016)
Mr. David Berner	Leader of Learning Pastoral Year 9 (Acting)
Ms. Joanne Wooster	Leader of Learning High Support Unit
Ms. Trudy Andrews	Leader of Learning Performing Arts
Mr. Michael Zaouk	Mathematics (Commencing Week 5)
Mr. Paul Elias	Science
Mr. Joe Liu	Science
Mr. Mitchell Wilson	Science
Ms. Christine Su	Music
Mr. James Connor	HSIE/Religion
Ms. Alisha Samarasinghe	HSIE/Religion
Ms. Megan Williams	TAS
Ms. Jenny Westerbrink	Mathematics
Ms. Kathryn Kovacic	Visual Arts
Ms. Maria Simpson	Drama

We welcome back Mrs Joeline Cheney and Mr Michael Wondracz from leave.

I congratulate Mr Daniel Moussa, Mr Jared Hornby and Mrs Joanne Magner that have moved from temporary to permanent roles within the College.

Mrs Angela Hay
Principal

Assistant Principal

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

(Refer to Student Diary page 12)

NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. Students must complete Year 10 and after Year 10, until they turn 17 years of age, students must be:

- in school or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship)
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must inform the College office and provide a reason for your child's absence. On the first day after an absence the appropriate section of the Student Diary must be signed and dated by the student's parents/guardian giving details of the absence. If an explanation note is not received after 7 days it will be marked and reported as an "Unexplained" absence.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child has to:

- go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Application for exemption

If you consider that it is in your child's best interests to be exempted from the legal requirement to attend school for any length of time, you must apply to the Principal for an exemption. The school will provide an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form, and assist you to complete it, if necessary. The Principal will consider your application and decide whether to grant a Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School.

Punctuality

Students need to arrive at school and to class on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school will be recorded as a partial absence.

It is an expectation that students arrive at school by 8.30am. School commences at 8.40am. Any student who arrives at the school after 8.45am must report to the Office, give a reason for being late and have their Diary stamped. Students arriving after 9am must have a written note signed by their parent/guardian.

Permission to Leave the College

Parents/guardians are requested to avoid making appointments for their children during school hours. This includes Thursday Sport which is an integral part of the curriculum.

If an appointment is unavoidable during school time, the student is to complete the appropriate section of the Diary and have it signed by their parent/ guardian. This is to be presented to their Pastoral Leader of Learning for endorsement.

Before leaving the College, students are to "sign out" at the Office. If applicable, upon returning, students are to "sign in" at the Office before going to class.

Mr W. Waddell
Assistant Principal - Pastoral

2016 BELL TIMES		
	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	Thursday
Homeroom	8:45am – 9:00am	8:45am – 8.55am
Period 1	9:00am – 9:50am	8.55am – 9:38am
Period 2	9:50am – 10:40am	9:38am – 10:21am
RECESS	10:40am – 11:02am	10:21am – 10:46am
Period 3	11:02am – 11:55am	10:46am – 11:29am
Period 4	11:55am – 12:45pm	11:29am – 12:12pm
LUNCH	12:45pm – 1:30pm	12:12pm – 12:42pm
Period 5	1:35pm – 2:25pm	SPORT 12:45pm – 2:30pm
Period 6	2:25pm – 3:15pm	

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN 2016

In 2015 the first formulation of the College Vision for Learning statement was developed. The core focus for 2015 professional learning for teachers was '*student centred learning*'. During Semester Two, staff engaged in exploring and evaluating our Vision for Learning, building a deeper, common understanding of our Vision Statement and to also identify a focus for our teaching and learning for 2016. The decision by teaching staff was to focus on Critical Thinking and Collaboration for 2016. These two aspects will be reflected in each learning area (subject) within, programs, assessments, classroom pedagogy and activities.

Throughout the year staff will also engage in professional learning to deepen their understanding of developing critical thinking in our students so that they can learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical thinking involves students thinking broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives.

Another aspect which will be highlighted in the classroom is collaboration. Students will learn to negotiate and communicate effectively with others; work in teams, positively contribute to groups and collaboratively make decisions; resolve conflict

and reach positive outcomes. They develop the ability to initiate and manage successful personal relationships, and participate in a range of social and communal activities. Social management involves building skills associated with leadership

These two important aspects of our teaching and learning are always framed around our high expectations of all students. Setting the bar high seeks to motivate students to achieve beyond their potential. Success for each student is different, and a core work of our teaching is differentiation of our curriculum so that all learners experience success through accessibility of the content, its texts and its application.

Our Vision for Learning seeks to provide a clear map of how St Patrick's Marist College will engage, support and ensure that all students will leave our College equipped with the skills for our contemporary world, that being life long learners.



A culture of Learning

- Fosters a collaborative learning environment.
- A holistic real world approach to learning.
- Builds a culture of lifelong learning for staff and students.



Learning that is student centred

- Enables students to be critical thinkers who are skilled for the changing world.
- Creates flexible learning opportunities to encourage curiosity and inquiry.
- Empowers independent learning to embrace new and emerging technologies.

Exemplifying excellence

- A climate of high expectations that fosters deep understanding.
- Uses personalised learning to allow students to reach their full potential.
- Engages students through informed pedagogy and effective feedback.

Building strong relationships

- Encourages students to feel safe, valued and optimistic.
- Develops partnerships between staff, students and the wider community.
- Respects diversity and celebrates inclusion.

VISION FOR LEARNING

Building strong minds and gentle hearts

HIGH ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday 9th February at 12 noon the College's High Achievers Assembly will be held in the Courtyard, where we celebrate with our 2015 HSC students who achieved 90 or more in their ATAR. Parents and friends of our 2015 Year 12 class are more than welcome to attend.

PARENT / COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

At St Patrick's Marist we value our parent/guardian partnerships. To enable good communication please find below email contacts of our Leaders of Learning, both Pastoral and Key Learning Areas (KLA). Timely communication builds strong partnerships with parents/guardians and teachers to support each student with their learning and to develop ongoing strategies to experience success, both at school and at home. Please contact our Leaders of Learning if you require any information or further clarification about College life.

LEADER OF LEARNING CONTACT LIST		
	Leader of Learning	Email Contact
Year 7	Miss C. Mollace	cmollace@parra.catholic.edu.au
Year 8	Mrs A. Papoulias	apapoulias@parra.catholic.edu.au
Year 9	Mr D. Berner	dberner@parra.catholic.edu.au
Year 10	Mr S. Belcher	sbelcher@parra.catholic.edu.au
Year 11	Mr P. Quigley	pquigley@parra.catholic.edu.au
Year 12	Mr D. Bonora	dbonora@parra.catholic.edu.au
Creative Arts	Miss E. Brennan	ebrennan2@parra.catholic.edu.au
English	Mrs L. Pett	lpett@parra.catholic.edu.au
History	Mrs J. Whelan	jwhelan@parra.catholic.edu.au
I.C.T.	Mr A. Woelfl	awoelfl@parra.catholic.edu.au
Library	Mr M. Wondracz	mwondracz@parra.catholic.edu.au
Languages	Mrs C. Dunston	cdunston@parra.catholic.edu.au
Mathematics	Mr A. Makram	amakram@parra.catholic.edu.au
PD.H.PE.	Mr B. Gurney	bgurney@parra.catholic.edu.au
Performing Arts	Ms T. Andrews	tandrews2@parra.catholic.edu.au
Science	Miss S. Hagarty	shagarty@parra.catholic.edu.au
Social Science	Mr L. Grech	lgrech@parra.catholic.edu.au
TAS	Mr E. Haddad	ehaddad4@parra.catholic.edu.au
VET	Ms T. McGlenchy	tmcglenchy@parra.catholic.edu.au

Mr J. Scanlon
Assistant Principal - Innovative Teaching and Learning

Pastoral

YEAR 12 STUDY GROUPS

Many Year 12 students now have one or more study periods on their timetable. Some of these study periods are in the Library and others are in classrooms. For those students who have study periods, please be aware of the College expectations for these study periods.

1. All students are to attend the study room that has been assigned to them on their timetable - they are not to go to another room to be with their friends even if the other class has a study period.
2. Like all classes, students are to arrive promptly. The teacher will mark the roll at the start of each study lesson.
3. There is to be no talking. Students are to work in silence and are not to work with another student. Any low-level noise can be quite distracting to other students in the room. Therefore, collaboration in this context is not permitted. If students need to collaborate they are more than welcome to come along to Wednesday study nights and use one of the seminar rooms or meet up in their own time.
4. Students may have organised to meet up with a teacher or do practical work during this time (eg. Visual Arts), however, they need a note from their teacher before the study period and must come along to the study period at the start of the lesson to have their name marked off the roll.
5. Students need to be doing work for their HSC.
6. Students are required to show respect and courtesy to their teacher at all times.

Mr D. Bonora
Leader of Learning - Year 12 Pastoral

YEAR 7

Congratulations to Year 7 - 2016 on a successful start to high school!

As many anxious faces walked into the courtyard, Year 7 were looking very smart in their uniform and big bags. It didn't take long for their anxiety to melt away and we could see the broadening smiles, the occasional laughter and by the end of the day a sense that we made it!

Over the next few weeks we look forward to getting to know our Year 7 students, to settling in to the routines of high school and to begin learning a whole range of new subjects.

We acknowledge that there will be bumps along the way but we remind Year 7 that there is much support for them.

Miss C. Mollace
Leader of Learning - Year 7 Pastoral

Business Manager

SCHOOL FEES - TERM 1

School Fee statements for Term 1, 2016 will be issued on the 9th February, 2016 and due by 7th March.

Detailed instructions will be provided with this statement of ways to pay your fees. If you are experiencing financial difficulty or would like to organise for a payment plan please contact Ms Rolla Van Zeeland on 9638 5644 after you have received your statement.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

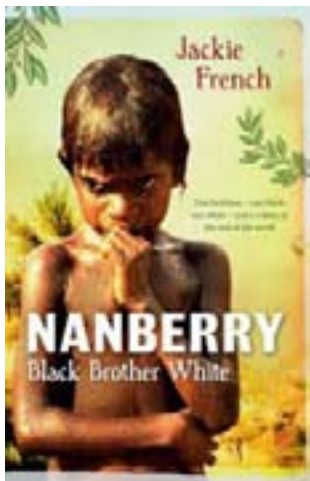
Our College Newsletter is distributed to the College community digitally by email fortnightly. The Newsletter is also published on the College Website and through the Skoolbag App. Please contact Mrs Cathy Le Mottee on 9638 5644 or clemottee@parra.catholic.edu.au if you have any queries regarding the College Newsletter.

Mrs Fran Hawton
Business Manager

Curriculum

BOOK REVIEW

'Nanberry: Black Brother White' by Jackie French



Nanberry: Black Brother White tells the story of a young indigenous boy called Nanberry who tragically loses his family and community to the smallpox outbreak of 1789. Surgeon John White adopts Nanberry and he quickly learns the ways of the English settlers. However, Nanberry feels torn between two worlds: his new English 'family' and his long-departed Eora tribe.

French creates a beautiful tale that follows Nanberry's life. She uses diary entries from historical figures such as Rachel Turner, Thomas Moore, Andrew White, Captain Phillip and Bennelong to create unique and authentic voices for each character. For those that want to learn more about our Australian history through this different perspective of Sydney's colonisation, this is a must read.

I could not put this book down! Even when I had finished the book I was left wanting more. The tale was a great combination of drama, power, love, beauty and tragedy. This book is recommended for readers from Year 7 to Year 10. You can borrow a copy of the book from the Parramatta CEO Online Library via 'classm8'. I'm looking forward to hearing what you think of the book when you finish it!

Miss E. Gray

Assistant Leader of Learning - English

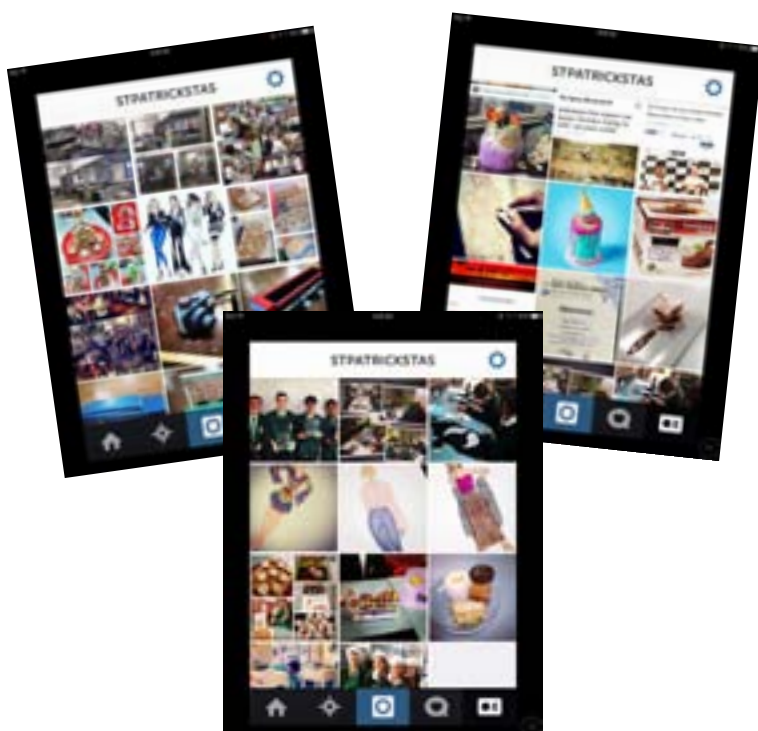
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES



Follow TAS on Instagram

@stpatrickstas

Follow our page to see what's happening in TAS! A range of photos will be uploaded every week for you to check out your work and what is happening in other classes.



#TAS #Likeusoninstagram

New Hospitality Kitchen



Careers

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2015 for your successes in the HSC and for securing job placements, apprenticeships, traineeships, college and university places, scholarships and bursaries for 2016.

Of particular note, some impressive scholarships include: Christy Baek for the 50:50 New Inventors Program where she invented a filter mask and sunscreen; Samantha Go received the UTS BIT scholarship; Carla Newstead received an Internship, money and a fully funded overseas holiday and Angelo Panambalana was awarded the academic scholarship at Western Sydney University. In total, the graduating class of 2015 received more than \$100 000 of bursaries and prizes.

A big thank you to all the students who participated in our destination survey. If you still haven't filled out the form, please follow this link to share your successes with the college: <http://goo.gl/forms/J022er4FDx>

Miss R. Lawrence
Careers Coordinator

Extra Curricular

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Debating Coordinator - Ms Shannon Graham **Public Speaking Coordinator - Mrs Loraine Pett**

Formation of the College Public Speaking team and Years 7 - 12 Debating teams are now entered into the 2016 Catholic Schools Competitions. Tryouts will occur over the next few weeks. Students are encouraged to listen during Homeroom for announcements regarding involvement.

This year we are pleased to announce that each Debating team will have a volunteer Coach who will spend time with their team in preparation for each round of Debates. Each team will have appointed a Chairperson and Timekeeper. For those students who are not confident speakers but would like to be a part of the Debating community, these valuable positions provide excellent leadership opportunities.

Each Debater and Public Speaking participant will be awarded a College badge and recognised for their contribution to the life of St Patrick's Marist College. A Debating Captain will be democratically elected by the Debating Community and announced in due course. At the end of the year, Junior Debater (Years 7 – 9) and Senior Debater (Years 10 – 12) awards will be presented to two outstanding students. The 2015 recipients were Katrina Astalosh (Year 8) and Joseph Elias (Year 10).

The following St Patrick's College staff members have volunteered their valuable time to coach teams this year:

Year 12:	Ms Sarah Hagarty
Year 11:	Ms Shannon Graham
Year 10:	Mrs Sarah Duffy/Mrs Andrea Harney
Year 9:	Mr Chris Lindsay
Year 8:	Miss Emily Gray
Year 7:	Mrs Claire Franke

I encourage parents, ex-students and community members to be involved in this wonderfully academic, socially enriching extra-curricular sport by volunteering their services in an effort to build and develop our growing competitive reputation in the Debating and Public speaking arena. Please do not hesitate to contact me for information or queries regarding Debating/Public Speaking at the College at sgraham5@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Ms Shannon Graham
Debating Coordinator

Sport

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The College Swimming Carnival will be held this **Friday, 5th 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 **8:20am** 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, 4th February to Ms Liska. Looking forward to a fun and enjoyable day with lots of College and House spirit displayed!

Ms D. Liska
Sport Coordinator

Year 7 - 2016



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.

Expand your imagination
by reading this summer and
you could **win** an **iPad mini**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and
you could win one of four iPad minis.
The more books you read, the more chances
you have to win*.

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 5 February 2016.

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

 @CatholicEdParra
 catholicedparra


Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta
*Terms and Conditions apply



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



PENRITH OBSERVATORY

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND
MATHEMATICS

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Saturday 13 February – 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm

The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession / \$50 family

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online:
westernsydney.edu.au/observatory, What's On

Contact: Tel: (02)4736 0135

Email: r.mccourt@westernsydney.edu.au

Website: westernsydney.edu.au/observatory



SHAMROCKS DUNDAS JRLFC

Come play Rugby League

Play in the Combined ICC/Balmain Competition

Play in a Safe, Friendly, Family Environment.

Games Played on Sundays

Contact 9874 9033

Enquiries: shamrocksdundas@bigpond.com