



St Patrick's Marist College

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Star of Peace

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

This week is the fifth week of Lent. We ask more and more deeply to be with and like Jesus. We desire to celebrate the approaching mystery of our salvation with greater freedom and greater joy. Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do and to be generous to those in need. These words deeply connect with our St Patrick's Day liturgy this week. The liturgy offers us the opportunity to reflect on St Patrick's life and how he lived in many ways a life that reflects our Marist pillars of Simplicity, Presence, Love of Work, Family Spirit, in the way of Mary.

What a fantastic couple of weeks here at the College. Last week we had our Open Day. The grounds looked brilliant and I thank Mrs Fran Hawton our Business Manager and our groundsmen Garry Stanwell and Brian Luban for their great work. I was so proud of all of the students (over 250 in total) and staff that were involved in the afternoon. Our staff and students put on some wonderful displays, there were plenty of hands on opportunities, our visitors loved the music and drama, dance and gymnastic displays, the exciting experiments in Science, a chance to see inside the wonderful work of TAS and Creative Arts. There were opportunities to solve maths problems and win prizes and so much more. Our Hospitality students created some beautiful food to share with our guests, it was absolutely divine.

It was wonderful to see students from every year group, demonstrating their talents, sharing their passion for their subjects and assisting our visitors with tours around the school. The feedback from everyone was how well spoken, friendly, well-mannered and knowledgeable our students all were, especially our Year 7's after only 6 weeks at the College. I thank the teachers for their contribution, sharing their passion for their subject area, organising demonstrations and other fun activities for our visitors. Finally thanks to Mr Jason Scanlon our Assistant Principal - Innovation Teaching and Learning for his organisation of Open Day. A reminder that enrolments for Year 7 - 2017 close at the end of the term.

We recently held our Parent Cocktail evening, hosted by our P&F. Once again it was a fantastic night. The food, cocktails and company were wonderful. It was great to meet and talk with many first time parents with students in older year groups as well as Year 7 parents. I thank the teachers for supporting this event, our Year 12 Leaders for their assistance and the P&F for the organisation, enthusiasm and commitment to the College.

Year 7 camp was an enjoyable experience for everyone. The students were wonderful ambassadors for the College. They had the opportunity to challenge themselves and the teachers with a whole range of different activities. I am so proud of this wonderful group of Year 7 students. They have settled into the College so well and I am confident they are going to be an outstanding year group. Congratulations to the Year 11 students who attended as student leaders. The Year 7 students loved having you there and the teachers were full of praise for your leadership, energy and enthusiasm. I would like to thank Ms Mollace for her organisation of the camp and the dedicated teachers, Olivia Matti, Emily Gray, Andrea Harney, Paul Elias, Jared Hornby, Ray Zeaiter, Mitchell Wilson, Jessica Carne, Fiona Beauman, Sonali Tran, Alisha Samarasinghe, Cathy Le Mottee, Denise Weathersten and Ruth Henrisson who attended the camp with the students.

Mrs Angela Hay
Principal

IN THIS ISSUE

- **From the Principal**
- **New Staff**
- **Term 1 School Fees Notice**
- **Lowes Discount Day**
- **Assistant Principal**
 - Reading for Meaning
 - Thinking Note Keys
 - Facebook Page
- **Pastoral**
 - Year 11
 - Year 7
- **Curriculum**
 - Year 10 History
 - English - Wordflyers Program
 - Performing Arts
 - Visual Arts
- **Public Speaking**
- **Debating**
- **Library**
- **Sport**

KEY DATES

- Thursday, 17th March**
St Patrick's Day Liturgy
- Friday, 18th March**
Year 7 Formation Day
- Thursday, 24th March**
Easter Liturgy
- Friday, 25th - Monday, 28th March**
Easter - College Closed
- Tuesday, 29th March**
Year 12 Examinations Commence
- Friday, 8th April**
Term 1 Concludes
- Monday, 25th April**
Anzac Day - College Closed
- Tuesday, 26th April**
Term 2 Commences
- Wednesday, 27th April**
Anzac Day Ceremony

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.*

New Staff

Please welcome some of our new staff to the College. Over the coming weeks, we will be featuring our new staff members in our newsletter. In this issue we have focussed on the Performing Arts Department. Trudy Andrews our new Music Teacher and Acting Leader of Learning - Performing Arts; Maria Simpson who will be teaching Drama alongside Mrs Lyons and Christine Su who also teaches Music. These new staff members also play major roles in our College Bands / Ensembles and Drama Groups.



TRUDY ANDREWS

Trudy is a creative and passionate Music Teacher who combines 16 years of teaching experience across a variety of educational establishments within Sydney and London. She has had the opportunity to hold a number of professional roles including: Music Teacher at Gilroy Catholic College, Abbotsleigh Girls School, St Charbel's College and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, as well as Music Coordinator at Springhallow School in London.

Trudy takes personal pride through producing engaging concerts with students to showcase their gifts and talents. She has produced and musically directed numerous school musicals, cabaret shows and instrumental recitals and written several adapted musicals for primary and special needs schools. Trudy has a passion for making music education accessible and stimulating for students of all abilities and looks forward to sharing future musical experiences with the St Patrick's Marist College community.



MARIA SIMPSON

Maria is an enthusiastic educator who teaches Drama, ESL and English. In 2009 she created DAS (Dance, Act, Sing) 3D learning. The program incorporates innovative ways of improving literacy, whilst building self-esteem and confidence in public speaking, and has been taught in schools across Western Sydney.

Maria has also written, produced and staged over 40 productions providing children with world-class entertainment through television appearances, national theatre productions, corporate events, video & audio recordings and at children's parties.

As a performer Maria worked in international productions such as The Phantom of the Opera, Anything Goes, Opera Australia, Disney Live and in film and television. Maria is thrilled to be sharing her knowledge with students at St Patrick's Marist College.



CHRISTINE SU

Miss Christine Su graduated from the prestigious Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a major in piano. She then gained an outstanding graduate of the year award by the Australian College of Educators and received a Master of Teaching at the University of New South Wales with High Distinction. Christine has been teaching in secondary schools in Sydney ever since and has extensive experience in private piano tutoring. She is extremely passionate about Music and loves to spend her spare time attending concerts, gigs and recitals of all genres. Christine is also currently the conductor of the College's Stage Band where she hopes to inspire students to become active musicians who work together as a team to succeed. She is currently a member of the Inner West Concert Band where she plays mallet percussion. Christine also speaks 6 languages and is currently studying Japanese at the University of Sydney as a hobby. She is looking forward to becoming an active member of the St Patrick's Marist community.

TERM 1 SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW DUE

Thank you to the Parents/Caregivers who have paid fees or who have made contact with the College.

If you are currently on a payment plan, please continue to make payments as per your arrangement.

Payments are to be made directly to the College and can be made via Bpay (please ensure that you use the reference numbers supplied on the school fee statement), credit card, cash or direct debit.

The College is happy to assist those Parents/Caregivers who require more time to pay their children's School fees. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, or are unable to pay the fees in full by the due date please contact Ms Rolla Van Zeeland on 9638 5644 immediately.

Ms Rolla Van Zeeland
School Fees Administrator



LOWES DISCOUNTS - 17TH MARCH

Lowes have announced a 20% Off Sale Day for all their Lowes Schools and Customers. On Thursday, 17th March, there will be 20% Off Day in-store and online for all stock (including Schoolwear).

Assistant Principals

READING FOR MEANING

While the mechanics of reading, such as recognising words and the sounds that go with them, are very important, they are really just stepping stones on the path to literacy. The ultimate goal of reading is to be able to understand the words on a page in a way that is relevant to the reader.

Last year staff took some time to not only explore the data from NAPLAN and also PATR tests but also to undertake aspects of the NAPALN test to better understand the expected levels of literacy for Year 7s and Year 9s.

The data identified that our students require a focused teaching approach to support them with reading for meaning.

Reading for Meaning is a research-based strategy that helps all readers build the skills that proficient readers use to make sense of challenging texts. Regular use of the strategy gives students the opportunity to practice and master the three phases of critical reading that lead to reading success, including

- Previewing and predicting before reading.
- Actively searching for relevant information during reading.
- Reflecting on learning after reading.
- Reading for Meaning builds in all students the skills used by proficient readers to extract meaning from even the most rigorous texts from all subject areas.

THINKING NOTE KEYS

A key strategy for all teachers is Thinking Note Keys. This strategy used key texts used with the lesson to provide students with the skills of deeply understanding all aspects of the texts, both written and implied. This table displayed in each classroom may also be used at home to support your child in deepening their comprehension of a text.

Tier 2 consists of high frequency words that occur across a variety of domains. That is, these words occur often in mature language situations such as adult conversations and literature, and therefore strongly influence speaking and reading.

Tier 3 consists of low-frequency words that occur in specific domains. Domains include subjects in school, hobbies, occupations, geographic regions, technology, weather, etc. We usually learn these words when a specific need arises, such as learning amino acid during a chemistry lesson. Examples of Tier 3 words are: economics, isotope, asphalt, Revolutionary War, and, crepe.

It important to remember that Tier 2 and 3 words are not all clear-cut in their tier classification.

Understanding	Symbol
I do not understand	←
I already knew this	😊
This is a main idea	**
This relates to the main idea	*
This is a great idea	!
This raises a question for me	??
Words I do not know	○
Tier 2 Vocabulary	□
Tier 3 Vocabulary	—



FACEBOOK PAGE

The College now has a Facebook page, please feel free to like it and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the College.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Marist-College-1549337335358979/>

Mr J. Scanlon
Assistant Principal
Innovative Teaching and Learning

Pastoral

GIRRAWEEEN PREFECT AFTERNOON TEA

Prefect Morning / Afternoon Teas are a student leadership initiative run by schools to connect with other leaders from other schools. The Girraween Afternoon Tea was an opportunity for leaders to gather from neighbouring schools to share and exchange events and ideas to be used for each respective school.

Girraween High School hosted an 'Amazing Race' themed Afternoon Tea that brought out the inner competitiveness and determination of each student, aimed to build upon teamwork and communication skills. Working in teams with other schools, each group aimed to complete the set tasks with efficiency and speed to collect all the clues and win. From tasks such as solving riddles to singing songs in french, each group successfully completed each obstacle in order to be a step closer to the finishing line. With like minded goals, all schools were eager to participate while simultaneously developing ideas to improve various aspects to be implemented within individual schools. Overall it was an enjoyable evening that echoed laughter until the end. Students will be looking forward to attending other Afternoon Tea events!

Teressa Sugita



YEAR 11

On Thursday, 10th March, Sarah Ozer and myself attended the Women's Leadership Day at Parliament NSW on Macquarie Street. The day consisted of learning about becoming a leader and meeting politicians who have become important figures and role models. Even though we were interrupted by a brief fire drill, the day continued to surprise us. This experience has inspired us to step up and out of our comfort zone to question ourselves "in what ways can we make this world a better place?"

The women who spoke to us at Parliament inspired us to think outside the box and fight for something we are passionate about. We are both thankful for being a part of this experience which has shaped our perspective on equality and has made us wonder about the many different possibilities this world we live in can improve for the better.

**Stephanie Belford
11 MacKillop**

YEAR 7



Nick Haynes Visit

On 18th February Year 7 were lucky enough to meet Nick Haynes, a professional Australian Rules footballer currently playing for Greater Western Sydney Giants in the Australian Football League.

Year 7 had the opportunity to ask Nick some questions about his sporting career and Nick offered them some great advice on exercise and how to keep fit. By far the best part of the afternoon were the prizes given to some Year 7 students as well as some autographs!

Photo: Sam White, Amelia White and Michael Blazevic

Class Captains

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who were nominated Captain and Vice Captain for 2016. These students have already shown great leadership and have been active members of the St Patrick's Marist community so far this term.

	CHAVOIN	EDWIN	LUDOVIC	MACKILLOP	PAUL	XAVIER
YEAR 7 Captains	Ben Gosper	Thomas Reicher	Beth Langford	Anthony Doueihy	Alexander Bozanic	Chloe Kazzi
YEAR 7 Vice Captains	Annalise Kemp	Sophie Sassen	Marcus Georges	Chloe Belford	Maddison Boulous	William Reece

**Year 7 Pastoral Leader of Learning
Miss Mollace**



On the 2nd of March, Year 7 travelled north to Camp Toukley and spent 2 nights there. During this time, we did many activities such as snorkelling, giant swing, flying fox, leap of faith, abseiling and much more. At Camp, everyone had a good time as it was jam packed with activities and useful free time. We were exhausted by the end of the three days but Year 7 were very lucky to have the opportunity to go on Camp and get to know other Year 7 students.

*Will Reece
7 Xavier*

On Wednesday, 2nd March, Year 7 went to Camp Toukley for 3 days. I really enjoyed camp because it gave everyone a chance to become closer to each other as well as giving us a chance to meet new people. On the first day, my group had oval games which let us meet new friends while playing games like tennis and soccer. Then we went snorkelling at the beach. On the second day we did bush cooking, archery, high ropes and then the giant swing. The best part of that day was the giant swing as I had decided to step out of my comfort zone and do it. It was really enjoyable so I am happy I was encouraged to do it. On the last day of camp, we went raft building which helped us work together as a team. Then the very last activity we completed was abseiling. It was scary at first but with the encouragement of my group I did it. Camp was an unforgettable experience that allowed many new friendships to be formed. Thank you to the staff at Toukley as well as the Year 11 Leaders and Teachers for making Year 7 camp one we won't forget.

**Anthony Doueihy
7 Mackillop**

As soon as I got up that morning my entire body was tingling with excitement. Bag and backpack packed, filled to the brim and ready to go. I was ready, ready to meet new friends and to go on this spectacular experience! Here we go!

Bus trips can be whatever you make them to be. Boring if you are not in a good mood, exciting if you are being positive. For me though it was exciting.

Arriving at Camp Toukley the anticipation was high. Driving down the extensive driveway felt longer than the trip. Although stepping out of the buses, we were organised into groups straight away. Following on from this was lunch, a chicken burger, and then straight into activities.

The Leap of Faith can be underestimated but it will change your confidence if you manage to achieve this. Riding the waves like a pro can make you feel so vigorous and glorious. This is what Year 7 Camp did for me. I hope that the same was felt with everyone I met and made friends with on this trip. Thank you Camp Toukley!

*Alexander Bozanic
7 Paul*

Camp Toukley, was a fun experience for everyone in Year 7! The goal was to talk and meet new people in our grade. On our three days at camp Toukley we did many fun activities such as the Flying Fox, the Giant Swing, the Leap of Faith, canoeing, snorkelling, surfing, archery and many more fun and enjoyable activities. Even though some of the activities were quite scary, everyone overcame a fear and had a try. We had lovely teachers, Year 11 Students and Instructors that made our time at Camp Toukley even more safe and enjoyable and we would like to thank them all.

**Chloe Belford
7 Mackillop**



Curriculum

YEAR 10 HISTORY INCURSION

On the 4th March we had a History Incursion on the Vietnam War and Indigenous Australian culture and what happened when white people took over. For the first two periods Brett Hunt entertained us and also educated us on his father's experiences during the Vietnam War. This was very enjoyable as he used music and acting to tell his story and we were able to learn about the war in a fun way.

They talked to us about indigenous Australians culture and what they believe in and life before the white settlement. We were invited to join in their dances and involved in their performance. This made the performance more enjoyable to watch. We also got visual images of some of the tools that they used to hunt and live with which gave us a better understanding of what they have used to survive and how they use nature in everyday life.

For the last two periods we had a Vietnam Veteran come and talk to us about his experiences during the war and their living conditions. He talked to us about the struggles during the war but also the things that they enjoyed over there, like meeting new people and becoming mates for the rest of their lives. Having a visual image as well as the explanation of what happened helped us to understand and actually acknowledge what they had to live like and their life when they returned home.

Adrian Lizzo
Year 10 Xavier

VIETNAM: "Dusted Off" presented by Brett Hunt

On the 4th March, Year 10 students studying History were able to view a special performance by Brett Hunt. This one-man show was about the Vietnam War and the story of Brett Hunt's father who served in Vietnam. Brett Hunt sat with only a guitar, microphone and pedal board with all sorts of effects. In this show, he talked, sang and acted as soldiers in Vietnam. At times, his guitar was used as a gun firing off, using his effects pedals.

His performance showed the brutal realities and consequences of the Vietnam War, to the Soldiers and their families. It included themes of PTSD, the poor treatment of veterans, and the context behind the song "I was only 19".

I thoroughly enjoyed Brett Hunt's show. I found it entertaining and insightful, as there were jokes and also sad moments throughout. Brett Hunt performed with energy, commitment and compassion to a time very close to him and his family. Vietnam: Dusted Off is a powerful and entertaining show that really portrays the reality of the Vietnam War.

Theo Sugita
10 Ludovic

ENGLISH

Wordflyers Program

This year as part of their English program, all students in Years 7-10 will be completing activities on their iPad using a program the College has purchased called 'Wordflyers'. It is a literacy based program aimed at allowing students to focus, both in class and at home, on the following areas - vocabulary, punctuation, grammar, spelling, reading comprehension and writing. Over the past three weeks students have completed a placement test on their iPad that determines what level they should be working at for the tasks.

Each English teacher will be allocating set tasks each week for the students in their class to complete as part of their homework. Teachers are then able to monitor each child's progress and completion of the tasks. Students can see what percentage of the task they get correct and determine where they need to complete additional exercises to help improve in this area. Students are free to work ahead and complete as many of each task as they wish, aiming to progress to a higher level. It is also possible for students to revise skills from previous years.

The program operates with a travel theme, so students amass points for the questions they get correct and these points allow them to 'travel' to selected destinations around the world. They are then able to learn exciting things about this new destination.

Parents are encouraged to ask their child to show them the program. The information will be useful for parents in monitoring their child's strengths and weaknesses as well as their completion of this weekly homework task. It will be additional to other homework set by the teacher that may be connected to the topic or unit being studied in class. The program can be accessed via www.wordflyers.com.au. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email your child's English teacher or myself.

Mrs L. Pett
Leader of Learning - English

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Open Day Performances



A huge congratulations is sent to our Performing Arts students for their fantastic performances at Open Day 2016. We had 85 elective Music and Drama students from Years 9-12 who entertained audiences with interesting and varied performances throughout the afternoon. Elective Music students performed a variety of musical styles in the music rooms and enthralled visitors with renditions of popular music songs, lyrical classical pieces and extended guitar and drum 'jams'.

The Concert Band could be heard on arrival to the College, performing in the courtyard many of their current repertoire including 'Skyfall', 'Defying

Gravity' and 'Happy'. The Drama room was vibrantly alive with the sounds of Year 10 Drama's comedic skills and street theatre.

A big thank you to the Tech Team led by Mrs Greenaway, who set up all the technical equipment required for the day. These students worked so humbly behind the scenes to provide the performers with the necessary equipment and then quietly packed it away after the Open Day had finished. They really worked so hard for the College and their dedication is very much appreciated.

Well done to all our performers and thank you for sharing your talents with us!

Encore Music Excursion

Year 11 and 12 Music students were lucky enough to secure tickets to the 'Encore' concert at the Sydney Opera House, which showcased the best of the 2015 HSC Music practical performances and compositions. The excursion experience was invaluable, as students were able to observe and listen to exemplary performances whilst enjoying the impressive surroundings of the Opera House. 'Encore' gave students an excellent idea of the standard to which they should aspire, and encouraged them to work to the best of their ability for their own future HSC Music practical exams. Some comments from the experience:

'Encore was awesome! I hadn't been inside the Opera House before and it was inspiring to see students performing at such a high level. It's made me strive to better my performance techniques this year.'

Jackson Dowling, Year 11 Music

'It's great to see the outstanding standard of HSC performances, as it shows how much dedication, practise and commitment we need in order to reach Band 6 in our HSC exams. It was exciting to be in the Opera House for the first time and see the majestic and beautiful interior. I had a fantastic day.'

Bill Johnson, Year 11 Music



Music Tuition Program

Any students wishing to commence private or group instrumental lessons for Term 2 need to collect a permission form from Ms Andrews in the music block. Lessons are offered on the following instruments: Voice, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums, Trumpet, Piano, Saxophone, Flute and Strings. Please direct all inquiries to Ms. T Andrews by email at: tandrews2@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Junior Stage Band

During this term, we have successfully recruited and initiated our exciting new music group – Junior Stage Band – consisting of budding musicians across Year 7 and Year 8. Currently, the ensemble rehearses between 7:30-8:30am every Wednesday morning in the Music Block.

Stage Band repertoire includes music from jazz, funk and rock-oriented genres and already we have been learning songs such as “Viva La Vida” by Coldplay and “Uptown Funk” by Bruno Mars. The Stage Band looks forward to performing for the school community in the near future. If any students from Year 7 to 8 are interested in joining the Stage Band, particularly students who play trombone, alto/tenor saxophone, trumpet or clarinet, please contact Miss Su in the music rooms or email csu3@parra.catholic.edu.au for further details.



Ms T. Andrews
Leader of Learning - Performing Arts

Drama News

On Open Day, the Year 10 Drama class delighted audiences with their amazing comedic skills with a performance of Commedia dell'Arte. The students have been working on both their comedic skills as well as learning about this very popular 16th Century form of Italian street theatre. All of the action was improvised and showcased the incredible talents of these students. The students performed beautifully, entertaining the crowds who passed by and were sheer professionals performing in mask and costume in the hot sun. A commendable performance that was enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to the incredible Mrs Greenaway and the Year 12 Entertainment students for setting up our outdoor stage. It looked amazing!

Mrs R. Lyons
Drama Teacher



Junior Drama Ensemble

Do you love to act? Want to be part of creating a play? Then join the new Junior Drama Ensemble on Mondays at lunchtime. All interested students in Years 7 and 8, should meet Mrs Simpson in the Drama Room, C116. We will play drama games, work on characterisation, develop acting and vocal skills, and work towards creating an original play. The program will be loads of fun and is also aligned with the Stage 4 Drama syllabus to prepare students who choose drama as an elective in Years 9 and 10. For further information please contact Mrs Simpson by email at: msimpson11@parra.catholic.edu.au



Do you love to act?

Want to be a part of
creating a play?

Then join the Junior Drama Ensemble!
Mondays at lunchtime in C116
with Mrs Simpson.

VISUAL ARTS

Artist of the week: Katerina Voutos Year 12

Katerina is a multifaceted artist with her HSC Body of Work so far consisting of both digital photography and painting, and she has plans to include some drawings as well. Katerina has been inspired by a range of artists including Cesar Biojo, Cy Twombly and Jo Davenport. She is currently completing a canvas painting that merges both contemporary abstract painting techniques with more traditional portraiture. Katerina explains *“my Body of Work will consist of three paintings, four drawings and six photographs that all incorporate the theme of decay in the urban world. I aim to document and produce a series of works that embody the change and deterioration of industrial buildings and institutions within Sydney as well as capturing the continuous decay of the human mind due to these events.”*



Edwina Brennan
Leader of Learning - Visual Arts

Extra Curricular

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition

The CSDA Public Speaking Competition got under way last month with the first round held at St Andrew's College Marayong on Friday, 25th February. The competition was over three rounds and was in a knockout format with over 25 Catholic schools from around Sydney participating in the competition.

Our student representatives chose their topic from a very interesting and broad list including Give Me a Sign, Be Afraid Be Very Afraid, Remember, The Public Square and Women's Agenda.

Our team was:

- Year 7: Isabelle Joseph and Adelin Giacomelli
- Year 8: Eve Watson and Joseph Arabit
- Year 9: Anton Sheridan and Katrina Astalosh
- Year 10: Rebecca Ozer
- Year 11: Dominic Gibson and Mariam Melkonyants

All the students prepared well and spoke confidently. The competition was tough but everyone did their best and performed admirably. At the end of Round 1, Joseph Arabit and Dominic Gibson were successfully sent through to the second round which was held on Friday, 4th March at Trinity College at Auburn - a great achievement from both boys. Joseph spoke extremely well and his speech content highlighted the depth of insight and knowledge he possesses. Both Mrs Hay and I were glad we did not have to adjudicate on the night as all the competitors were outstanding and the decision to select the top three was very close. Unfortunately, Dominic had been very sick and away from school all week so he was forced to withdraw due to illness. There is always next year Dominic!

The school community should certainly be very proud of the way all of our students stepped up and took on the challenge to speak in front of an audience of their peers and parents. Developing skills as an orator should be something all students should be working on as being able to speak at a function is something we all must tackle in one way or another during our lives. I thank all the students who participated and I especially thank the parents who transported and supported the children on the night.

The next opportunity to showcase public speaking skills will be at the College Oratory in Term 2 and then ultimately the Marist Schools Oratory Competition in Term 3. Details will follow in regard to both these but I look forward to seeing more students willing to demonstrate their talent and enthusiasm in this extra-curricular endeavour.

Mrs L. Pett
Leader of Learning English

DEBATING NEWS

It is with pleasure to inform you that Nathan Taverniti was elected College Debating Captain for 2016. The announcement was made at Assembly on Wednesday 9th March, 2016 whilst the College Debating Team received their badges.

The Debating Competition will commence on Friday night 1st April, 2016. We look forward to receiving the Debating Draw so further organisation can take effect.

In the meantime Mrs Franke, Miss Gray, Mr Lindsay, Mrs Harney, Mrs Duffy and Ms Hagarty will organise team time in preparation for the upcoming season.

If you have any queries regarding Debating please do not hesitate to email me at sgraham5@parra.catholic.edu.au.



Ms S. Graham
Debating Co-ordinator

One of the benefits of reading is an improved vocabulary. No matter how much we read we will always come across words that we do not know. Here are some strategies that one can use to understand the meaning of a word. The article is taken from "Grammar Girl": <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

For further grammar tips you can subscribe to her weekly newsletter at: <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/newsletters>

Three tricks to improve your Grammar:

Vexatious. Irsome. Rebarbative.

You may not know all those words, but in a sentence, you get the idea. For instance, "I'm so tired of studying these vexatious lists of test vocabulary," should hint that the meaning of that first V-word is "troublesome."

Whether you're studying an English test or any other test where vocabulary is important, there are steps you can take to improve your understanding of unfamiliar words beyond just memorising long lists. Use these tips to up your vocab game:

1. Read, Read, Read

Are you a voracious reader who plows through a book each week? If so, you probably do pretty well on vocab-based exams. The more you read, the more words you learn through context.

However, don't think you can only build vocabulary skills through reading textbooks or classics. Books you read for fun will help too; so will news articles or magazines, especially on topics that are new to you. Better yet, your e-reader probably lets you click on a word to look it up; try that to boost your vocab. You might also consider trying an app like ProfessorWord—it automatically highlights ACT and SAT words on any webpage, and you can click on the word to see the definition. You can save the words you don't know to a list for reviewing later.

2. Practice Seeing the Big Picture

When it comes to figuring out words you don't know, context is key. Remember a few paragraphs ago where you read the word voracious? Maybe you knew that word, maybe you didn't. Either way, I'll bet you understood what it meant in that sentence. Why? The rest of the sentence makes clear that a "voracious" reader has a strong appetite for books.

That's an example of drawing meaning from context, and it's key to acing tests that draw on your knowledge of advanced vocabulary. Here is an example from the ACT's sample English questions that shows why context is important.

I grew up with buckets, shovels, and nets waiting by the back door; hip-waders hanging in the closet; tide table charts covering the refrigerator door; and a microscope was sitting on the kitchen table. Having studied, my mother is a marine biologist. Our household might have been described as uncooperative. Our meals weren't always served in the expected order of breakfast, lunch, and supper. Everything was subservient to the disposal of the tides. When the tide was low, Mom could be found down on the mudflats. When the tide was high, she would be standing on the inlet bridge with her plankton net.

The passage describes the writer's mother as a marine biologist who runs an unconventional household. It includes this sentence:

Everything was subservient to the disposal of the tides.

A question asks you to select the best alternative to the underlined portion of a sentence. The choices for this sentence are:

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. was defenceless in the face of
- C. depended on
- D. trusted in

Maybe you don't know the word subservient, but here's the context (aka the other sentences around it):

"Our meals weren't always served in the expected order of breakfast, lunch, and supper. Everything was subservient to the disposal of the tides. When the tide was low, Mom could be found down on the mudflats. When the tide was high, she would be standing on the inlet bridge with her plankton net."

This conveys that the mother works her family's schedule around her job. So in context, the best answer here is C—everything depended on the tides.

Practicing context comprehension will help you crack the code on these questions. You don't need to understand every word on its own; what's important is that you understand what the passage is trying to say.

3. Target the Toughest Words

Yes, you can make flashcards and review them obsessively, but there are always a few words that are harder to make stick—and for those, you may need to trick yourself more creatively.

Start by making a list of ten words that are giving you trouble. Put it in a spot where you'll see it a lot, and then focus on those words until you've got them down. Try saying them out loud and writing them out; both methods will help you retain them better than just going over them mentally.

For the ones that still won't stick, try a personal association. Here's an example: "Tangent" is defined as "going off the main subject." You probably know a person who does this a lot—say his name is Scott. Think of Scott on an island vacation; he's a "tan gent" rambling about random topics—get it? Now you have a word association that's personal and easier to remember. If you're a more visual person, you can do something similar by drawing a small picture that helps you remember a word's meaning.

Following these habits as a general rule, not just right before test time, should give you a good foundation for understanding vocabulary words and increase your chance of getting better test results.

Mr. M. Wondracz
Leader of Learning - Library

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

2015 AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2015:

Year 7: Lachlan Kwok, Jacob Rodriguez, Tatiana Seruvatu

Year 8: Katrina Astalosh, Renae Cunningham, Eilish Murphy

Rebecca Grundy and Jonathan Joseph (Year 7) were awarded the Platinum Award for participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge for seven consecutive years.

Laura Nipperess and Andrew Nipperess (Year 9) were awarded the PRC Medal for participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge for every year from Year 3 to Year 9 (inclusive).

Premier's Reading Challenge 2016

The College is again participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge during 2016. Details of the Challenge are as follows:

- The Challenge is open to all students in Years 7, 8, and 9.
- The Challenge runs from 7th March to 19th August 2015. Ongoing reading is encouraged. Books read from 1st September 2015 can count towards the 2016 Challenge.
- Twenty (20) books need to be read in order to complete the Challenge. Fifteen (15) books must come from the PRC Years 7-9 booklist, and 5 books can be the reader's own personal choice.
- Access the College website <https://sites.google.com/site/stpatricksmaristlibrary/fiction/premiers-reading-challenge> to obtain a list of PRC books held in the library.
- Students who register and successfully complete the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll.
- Access <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> for more details about the Challenge

If you would like to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge this year, please see Ms Tam in the library.

Sport

MCS TENNIS

On the Thursday, 10th of March, opening to a pleasant morning, the clouds rolled away to reveal a burning sun alike to the determination of the St Patrick's Marist MCS Senior Tennis Team. Our squad consisted of 10 elite players and 2 umpires (our entourage). The competition was run as a round robin tournament, which saw the squad playing many matches throughout the day. With our forerunners Geordie Purdon, Jerick Nubla and Daniel Craig Ross in the Opens division, the day got going with a roasting of Marist Parramatta and all were keen to continue. The senior boys were very competitive winning many matches and Geordie going through to the finals.

Mrs Haddad, head of morale and development made certain to get everyone to their courts on time and scores were tallied throughout the tournament. Balls and shots were flying, aces were hit with amazing matches played demonstrating the great talents of our students. Even between sets, we cooled off with provided beverages from the team esky and some dedicated students completed their school work during the breaks.

Unfortunately, in the 16 years age division Andrew Nipperness went down to an injury during his second game, with the team determined not to forfeit any points, had umpire Hovig step up and played up a grade to fill this position. Mitchell Moses and Paul Morrision had the desire to win, playing up a grade and having many good sets. Jonathan Lee and the two Nathan's (Long and McNamara) and played well and fought hard, but alas did not make it into the finals. Jack played hard, facing many back to back matches and hard opponents, but his spirit was not broken and he fought to the end. Special mention to April Purdon who umpired throughout the tournament in the heat. She did an excellent job, displaying confidence and her extensive tennis knowledge.

The squad



CONGRATULATIONS - LUKE GOSPER

Luke Gosper competed Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Perth last week where he brought away a bronze medal in the U16 boys 2000m steeplechase. Please join us in congratulating Luke on this wonderful personal best achievement.

REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Congratulations to all students who have made MCS & MCCA Representative teams this term. The training schedule and draw can be found on our College Website (MCS Link: <http://stpatsdundas.catholic.edu.au/mcs> and MCCA Link: <http://stpatsdundas.catholic.edu.au/mcca> and we ask both parents and students to please make yourself aware of relevant times.

It is an expectation that students attend all training sessions, unless discussed otherwise with the Team Coach. Parents please be aware that it is expected that students are picked up immediately after training or alternate arrangements made, as there is no supervision once training is finished. The College gates are closed at 5pm.

Miss D. Liska
Sport Co-ordinator

Open Day



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.

Community News



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Can you give an hour a week to help someone who is lonely?

Compeer within the St Vincent de Paul Society matches volunteers in friendship with people living with a mental illness. Your supportive friendship can make a real and long-lasting difference to your friend's quality of life by reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and providing an opportunity to enjoy social outings together.

Compeer volunteers spend one hour per week for 12 months with their new friend enjoying social activities in your local area (eg catching up over a coffee or taking a walk in the park – you can both decide together what you would like to do each week). No experience necessary as full training and support is provided.

Due to our waiting list for participants in need of a friend, Compeer is currently recruiting male and female volunteers aged 45 years and over. For more information please phone Cathleen on 8622 0303, email compeer@vinnies.org.au or visit www.compeer.org.au

**Cover letter
& resume
WORKSHOP**

Saturday 19 March
9.30am—1.30pm
Suitable for graduate & year 12 students

Presented by the moderator team,
Bored of studies

Parramatta Library
book online
www.parramattalibrary.gov.au/Workshops

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A man with glasses is holding a resume titled "RESUME".

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NOT A MEMBER?
APPLY NOW
INSTORE!

AVAILABLE INSTORE & ONLINE

*Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only. Styles and colours may vary from store to store. No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing EzyWay 5% discount. Excludes gift cards. **Must use Ezy-way credit card or Rewards Club card to receive discount.**

A family of four (mother, father, and two children) is shown in school uniforms. A blue circular badge says "NOT A MEMBER? APPLY NOW INSTORE!".



ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE

151 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117 ■ Tel: (02) 9638 5644 ■ Fax: (02) 9684 2120
Email: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au ■ Website: www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au

16th March 2016

Dear Parents

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey.

The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 1 April 2016 all staff and students and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Selected parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

This year we will again be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential and individual survey responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office.

An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement. This will definitely help us in working with all students to improve their learning. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact Jason Scanlon.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Jason Scanlon at the College on 9638 5644.

Yours sincerely

Angela Hay
Principal



MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat