

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dr Peter Casey

Dear Friends

In the midst of great happenings lately, one thing has struck me - the number of decisions that are being made currently that will affect our futures together. Some are happy choices; some are life-threatening but all impact on us individually and collectively.

Decisions I am aware of include:

- Student Leadership applications for Council and Congress;
- The Australian Defence Forces' Long Tan Awards for senior students;
- Selection of our representatives on the Edmund Rice journey to South Africa for Social Justice;
- Debating, public speaking and Swannie Award winners for the best speakers;
- Musicians in Queensland being judged on their performance for bronze, silver and gold awards;
- Year 9 Immersion Week activities choices; and
- 2010 subject selections and re-enrolment decisions.

And then the every day decisions:

Boys and staff choosing to do good things; and
Boys and staff choosing not to do the right thing.

Part of our St Patrick's culture is to ensure that we are accountable for the consequences of our decisions, a vital part of maturing, so choose wisely. Gather good information, seek advice from those we trust, from those who have journeyed before us, take time to reflect and evaluate the different paths that lie before us. Having followed a good process, we can rest assured that we have honestly tried to do the right thing. If things go belly-up later, at least we can have a clear conscience.

As our reflection at Assembly this week reminded us, "be not afraid". Perhaps it is no coincidence that these words form a motto of George Cardinal Pell, one of our more illustrious past students. As I once heard him say he would rather be controversial than irrelevant. If we follow his example then we will ensure that our decisions are grounded in good information, the light of the Gospel and the tradition of our Church. Have a great week.

PeterC

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER

**Student and Staff Wellbeing
Mr Chris Caldow**

School Improvement Framework

It has been some years since the school has been involved in a full school review. This was previously conducted for all non-government schools by the Registered Schools Board. In the case of Catholic Schools, the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne has trained independent reviewers who will implement a process known as the School Improvement Framework (SIF). SPC will undertake the formal review in 2010 and gathering of data will commence this year. During the remainder of the year senior staff will be undertaking a range of survey analysis, self reflection, and training to assist with interpretation of data.

As part of the process, a sample of students and parents will be surveyed. Rather than a one off event the intention is to follow a four year cycle of data gathering, analysis, goal setting and implementation of improvements leading into the next four year cycle. Ultimately the outcome is around school improvement which is something that will benefit students, parents and staff.

A substantial amount of the information gathered will be linked to the SPC Strategic Plan. The SIF evaluation focuses on a number of key areas of school life: education and faith; learning and teaching; student well being; school community and leadership and management.

At various times I will provide families and students with important information about the progress and invite participation in surveys. One aspect of the briefing which was very valuable was the feedback from Principals of secondary schools who undertook their SIF last year. They indicated that one of the most challenging aspects was achieving enough parent responses from the surveys. One school indicated that they only received 25 parent responses. It can be very difficult finding time in our lives today, but I do hope that SPC families will respond in ways that enable us to learn how parents feel about St Patrick's College.

The other valuable piece of information I learned was how valuable the process was. Prior to the SIF process schools undertook very different types of reviews. These reviews focussed on schools presenting sample documents, policies and planning material to satisfy an authority that all was properly in place. Although such a process was useful in keeping documents up to date it was far too static and failed to address what Catholic schools are really about. Which is providing a quality Catholic education, first-rate care for young people, inspiring and relevant teaching and learning and diverse cultural experiences.

The SIF helps us assess how close we are to meeting these aspirations, understand what our community thinks and what we need to do in order to serve the boys better. I encourage parents and students to support us as we undertake the process.

Bus Travellers

With so many students from the Ballarat area catching school buses it is important for all students and their families to be fully aware of behaviour expectations while on the bus and the consequences for breaching these. The majority of the 2009 school year has seen most students behaving in a manner that St Patrick's expects, however, there have been some concerns raised by both students and parents that have resulted in warnings being issued on some buses. Poor behaviour on the buses jeopardises the safety of all and often intimidates younger students. It is the responsibility of bus drivers to transport students to and from school safely and this job is made more difficult if students are behaving in a distracting manner.

The following list includes the expectations of all St Patrick's students travelling on any bus either to and from school or on school based activities:

- Where possible students refrain from moving around the bus and remain in seats at all times.
- Students are not to engage in any physical contact at any time.
- No items are to be thrown around or from the bus.
- Consumption of food and drink is at the driver's discretion however; all rubbish is to be appropriately disposed of.
- The use of offensive language is not acceptable.
- Behaviour that intimidates other students is unacceptable.

Any other behaviour jeopardising the safety of bus travellers is also unacceptable. Students not abiding by this list of expectations will face suspensions from the bus along with other school based consequences.

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER

Teaching & Learning

Mr Stephen Hill

One Headmaster's Excellence Award was presented at this week's College Assembly and it was presented to Year 8 student, **Nicholas Treloar**, in recognition of the excellent standard of his *Careers Report* completed in Year 8 Humanities.

The *Careers Report* required Year 8 students to complete two aspects; a research component and an oral presentation. In completing both of these aspects to the highest standard, Nicholas made use of several learning strategies which all students should be using.

When completing the research aspect, Nicholas made extensive use of the assessment rubric and checklist given to him by his teacher, Ms Karina Dunne as a tool to check-off each of the required elements of the research task and as a way to re-check his completed work. When doing this, Nicholas also paid close attention to what he needed to include in his response if he was to receive the greatest number of marks allocated. Too often, teachers are frustrated by students who don't make use of the assessment rubrics and checklist given as part of assessment tasks and subsequently submit work that does not reflect their true level of skill or knowledge. Tip number one from Nicholas – make thorough use of assessment rubrics and checklists.

Nicholas's oral presentation was also of a very high standard and in reflecting on how he was able to attain this result he believes that the following made a difference:

- his accompanying PowerPoint presentation contained dot-points only, in a conscious effort to reduce the amount of text on the screen;
- he didn't read from the slides rather Nicholas used his working knowledge of the material he was presenting to describe his possible career in medical science; and
- having a good knowledge of this topic was important to Nicholas as he felt that this reduced his nervousness and made him feel more confident.

Congratulations Nicholas, on all your efforts!

College Assemblies usually celebrate the efforts and excellence of a number of individuals; however, at this week's assembly we acknowledged and celebrated the success of the students and staff involved in the Queensland Music Tour. I know that we will read, see and perhaps most importantly, hear a lot more about the Tour in coming weeks however I would like to take this opportunity tell you about some of the other aspects that made the Tour such a great success.

While on the Tour, I had a Priest, a monk, two elderly women from the cabin park we stayed at, support staff from the school hosting the Queensland Catholic Colleges Music Festival and a past pupil from the class of 1952 all approach me to congratulate the boys on their behaviour and manner in which they presented themselves and represented the College. You often hear from staff at St Patrick's telling you about how important it is for the boys to behave in the appropriate way when they represent the College. Being aware of where they are and how they need to behave as representative of St Patrick's results in each of us benefiting from the respect and status that comes from being a student and a staff member, at a school that cares about who we are, what we stand for and how we action these beliefs.

So, to each of the 51 boys who were a part of the Music Tour, well done on all your efforts during your five days in Queensland – many people were watching you and liked what they saw.

Our 2009 Music leaders, Patrick Adeney and Jacob Dalli, took the opportunity to make two presentations on behalf of the students at the assembly. The first to the Director of Performing Arts Mrs Kathleen Plastow to thank her for all her efforts in organising and running the Tour and to Ms Andrea McDonald for her planning and organisational support of the Tour. The efforts of both staff members ensured that the Tour was thoroughly planned, giving the students every opportunity to enjoy a very successful five days.



Transition and Careers Coordinator
Mr Anthony Meehan

Deakin University Open Days
Sunday 23 August - Melbourne Campus at Burwood

If you would like more information on Deakin Open Day and to download a copy of the brochure, please visit:
www.deakin.edu.au/openday.

Monash University Parent Information Evening - Ballarat
Monday August 24, 2009
5.30pm – 6.30pm
Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts
Ballarat Grammar School
201 Forest Street, Wendouree

Are you a parent of a student in Year 11 or 12? If so, we invite you to attend Monash's Parent Information Evening to find out more about the University, and to also gain some useful tips on how you can support your son or daughter as they consider their future and further study options.

This seminar presentation will provide an excellent opportunity for parents to find out more about the range of course and campus options at Monash University, and will also provide valuable information about applications and selection, equity schemes and scholarships, student support services, accommodation options and living in Melbourne.

For more information and bookings visit:
www.monash.edu/study/events
Telephone: 03 9903 4758
Email valerie.foster@adm.monash.edu.au

DIRECTOR OF MISSION
Mrs Maree Moore

This coming Thursday and Friday all staff at St Patrick's will participate in Staff Formation. These days will be facilitated by Fr Chris Gleeson S.J. The theme for the seminar is 'Naming the Spirit'.

In preparation for the seminar I have often thought of myself as 'The Seeker'. The restless search for God can only reveal a glimpse of God's full glory. We all may witness God's grace as the beauty of nature, recognise God's hand with the overflowing joy of family or sense God's presence with the deep peace of a sacred place, but we can never understand the true power of God's love.

Leonardo Boff

Self-realisation is not the work of reason, which discourses from one point to another, but of the recollection of spirit gathering the wealth present in each situation. Spirit is not something alongside the body nor is it the highest form of reason. Spirit is the way of being of those humans who can discover the meaning of each thing. Hence it is characteristic of the spirit to attain the wisdom of life—that is, to live the mystery of God deciphered in each situation. It is the ability to be whole in everything we do. That is what is proper to the Spirit. Spirituality means being able to live in this manner, God in all things. Spirituality is not a science or a technique, but a way of living.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
Ms Elizabeth Till

Senior School Parent/Student/Teacher Evening

The Senior School Parent/Student/Teacher Evening will take place on Wednesday September 9 from 4.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Booking forms will be mailed home with Interim Reports on Friday August 28. Middle and Junior School Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews will be held in Term 4 on Thursday October 8. Booking forms will also be mailed home with Interim Reports at the end of this term.

Year 7 Immunisation

All Year 7 boys will receive their second and final immunisation for the year on Wednesday August 26. If your son is absent, parents are able to arrange with the Council Health Services for the injection at another date.

DIRECTOR OF PERFORMING ARTS
Mrs Kathleen Plastow

St Pat's bring home music awards

On August 12, 51 boys and 4 staff headed off to the warmer climate of Brisbane to compete in two music festivals. The Billy Hyde's Urbane Upbeat Festival was held at the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Exhibition, or the EKKA for short. This performance was in among the hubbub of the noise and excitement of the show and was all about entertaining the audience. Crowds gathered on the grass in the 28 degree sun and enjoyed the performances. Every time St Patrick's College was introduced, the crowd were amazed that we had come such a distance and that we played so well. The fact that it was only 3 degrees when the tour group left Ballarat at 3am was repeatedly mentioned.

All ensembles performed very well and the stage band, under the direction of Mr Carl Alwert, delivered an outstanding performance.

We were lucky enough to have workshops at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) where the boys received guidance from three senior conducting students. The conductors each worked on two of the pieces that St Patrick's performed focussing on phrasing, balance and intonation. This work certainly helped with the boys performances. Thank you to Mr Brad Millard, Director of Music at QUT for organising such a great experience.

The Queensland Catholic Colleges Music Festival is open to Catholic schools nation wide and in 2009 presented 10 000 performances across 5 venues in 4 days. This was the focus of the tour and the boys represented us superbly. The Percussion Ensemble was awarded Bronze, Concert Band, Stage Band, Woodwind Ensemble and Guitar Ensemble all received Silver awards and the Brass Ensemble received Gold. We now head off to the Melbourne School Band Festival and prepare for the Royal South Street Competitions. We gain a lot from the feedback given at these festivals and through watching other schools perform.

The boys were able to enjoy themselves at Dreamworld and the EKKA and had the opportunity to visit the Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art, as well as guided tours of the Mary MacKillop Chapel and St Stephen's Cathedral after Mass on Sunday morning.

HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL Mr Michael Busscher

This week has seen many Year 12 SACs and Year 10 and 11 Assessment Tasks completed across many subject areas. With this in mind have you as parents had the opportunity to ask your son how he is going so far and actually receive an answer that is quantified with some form of formal result. How often do we simply receive a response of; "I am OK or There's no worries" and the like? I maintain that school is a three way process and as such you as parents are entitled to be well informed about the happenings here at the College and it is your son who can become the best messenger if you are able to foster a mature and responsible relationship with him.

Unfortunately this time also identifies boys who are falling behind in their work and as such a number of afterschool detentions have been issued. Can I ask all parents to keep a close eye on their son's and his completion of work, especially at home. The old chestnut; "I don't have anything to do" really does not apply in the Senior School. All boys have some form of homework and study each night whether it be catching up with missed work or simply getting ahead.

This week the Year 12 students were provided with a wide range of Examination preparation techniques via an "Ace Your Exams" seminar. It is a very busy time for all of our Year 12's as Examination preparations begin to take on a high level focus. University Open Days, VTAC application processes, simply finishing off the Unit 4 coursework requirements, SACs and SATs all add to this mix of high intensity education. At this time of high stress, I again ask our parents to keep an extra close eye on their son and if need be please contact the College with any concerns you may have.

DIRECTOR OF SPORT Mr Chris Gleeson

2010 Ireland Tour

Places are filling fast for the 2010 Ireland Tour. The Tour is open to all students in Year 10, 11 and 12 in 2010 and has two major components. Members of the First XVIII Football Programme are invited to apply. There are also a number of places set aside for emerging leaders within the College as there will be significant opportunities for personal development within the itinerary.

One of the great opportunities will allow the touring party to visit the home of Edmund Rice and to explore the heritage of our spiritual leader. There will be three International Rules matches played and an opportunity to spend time in Dublin, Ireland and London.

More information is available on the Football homepage of the College website or by contacting the Director of Sport Mr Chris Gleeson cgleeson@stpats.vic.edu.au or the Director of Football Mr Howard Clark at hclark@stpats.vic.edu.au

Soccer Mr Tony Beggs

First XI

Well done to the 1st XI team who defended their BAS title in 2009 with an emphatic 7 to nil victory over Ballarat Grammar School. The game was played on the Shed Oval in windy conditions, however the skill level of all players wearing the green, white and blue was exemplary. A full report will appear in next week's edition of The Crest.

Galvin House Mr Howard Clark

Edmund Rice Awards are presented to students displaying positive behaviours in line with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.



YEAR 8: PETER OAKLEY

For an outstanding achievements receiving a Regional Public Speaking/Debating Prize - the 'Swannie'.



YEAR 8: CHARLES ROBINSON

For an outstanding achievements receiving a Regional Public Speaking/Debating Prize - the 'Swannie'.

Ryan House Mr Damian McKee

Edmund Rice Awards are presented to students displaying positive behaviours in line with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.



YEAR 7: NICO GUEVARA

For achieving First Place in the Piano Solo in the South Street competition and for being a positive influence within the Pastoral Group of 7RG.



YEAR 7: WILLIAM FAY

For his positive influence within the 7RG Pastoral Care Group since the commencement of the year. William's contributions have been greatly appreciated by staff and his peers.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mr Mark Waddington

2009 St Patrick's College Art Exhibition
September 11 to 13, 2009
Old Collegians Pavilion
Gala Launch
Friday September 11, 7 pm to 11 pm

Tickets for the Gala Launch are selling quickly and can be purchased from the Front Office at the College for \$30. Tickets are strictly limited so please get in early to avoid disappointment. Get a group of friends together and enjoy the finest in regional art, food and wine!

Weekend viewing passes are just \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Entry for all students is free of charge. In 2009 VCE Art Student viewing sessions will be held in the days prior to the Exhibition which will provide regional students with an invaluable learning experience. Students will vote on the inaugural 'Students' Choice Award' which will be another special feature of the Exhibition.

For all ticket enquiries please contact Ms Caitlin Bennett on 53 311 688 or cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au

The College is indebted to event sponsors Xerox Business Centre and the University of Ballarat for their generous support of this significant community initiative.

EVENTS AROUND THE COLLEGE

St Patrick's College Rowing Club

Trivia Night

Come along to a great night on Friday August 28. The St Patrick's College Rowing Club is holding a 'Video Trivia Night' full of fun and games, not just trivia!

When: Friday August 28

Where: St Patrick's College Old Collegians Pavilion

Cost: \$80 per table – refreshments available from the bar.

For more information or to book a table please email Jamie Lynn on jlynn@stpats.vic.edu.au

Canteen

Roster Monday August 24 to Friday August 28

Please, if unable to attend phone Veronica 5335 6244, Cheryl 5339 3655 or the College Canteen on 5322 4481, preferably the evening before your rostered day.

Monday August 24

Colleen Flynn, *Miranda Fraser, Marlene Murphy, Fiona Thomas, *Josie Donegan, Melinda Murphy *Denise Gillingham.

Tuesday August 25

Joanne Dickson, *Nicki Quinlan, *Debbie Hill, *Moirra Devlin, *Marty Forbes, Angela Langdon, Laureen Duffin, Bernadette Martin, *Sarah Sullivan.

Wednesday August 26

Lyn Weightman, Andrea Perkins, Raelene Harty, *Sam Fraser, *Annette Barresi, *Gary Lenneke, *Mark Allan, Robyn Lavery.

Thursday August 27

*Angela Cushing, Gayle Edmonds, Anna McIntyre, Frances Powlett, *Jacqui McMaster, Maree Dodd, Carla Taylor & Liz Quick, Maria McOwan, *Susan Clifford.

Friday August 28

*Francis McDaid, Karolyn Malone, *Carol Callil, *Julie Delahay, *Jenine Leonard, *Robyn Clarke, Anne Jreige, *Janne Ferguson, Doris Razbocan, *Marika Rawlings, *Andrea Tully, *Angelique Stuhldreier.

***Not in attendance for the entire canteen duty**

Uniform Shop

Please contact Annette on 5333 7486 for personal fitting appointments. SPC Scarves are now available to help stave off the chills of winter!

EVENTS OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE

St Columba's Tennis Club

Anyone who wishes to play tennis this coming season, please contact Bernadette Lyle on 5331 3005.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday August 22

OCA Reunion Programme – 40 year reunion 6.00 pm

Monday August 24

2010 Year 9 Student Information sessions 8 and 9

Wednesday August 26

John James Medal Night 7.30 pm
Year 7 and 10 Round 2 Immunisations
Sixth Year 12 RE Retreat leaves

Thursday August 27

Sixth Year 12 RE Retreat returns

Monday August 31

Year 9 Retreat

Tuesday September 1

Year 9 Retreat
College Assembly
Gymnastics State Schools Championship

Wednesday September 2

BAS Lap of Lake
Seventh Year 12 Retreat leaves
7.00 pm OCA Regional Dinner – Warrnambool

Thursday September 3

Seventh Year 12 Retreat returns

Friday September 4

Father's Day Mass and Breakfast 7.00 am
2010 Year 9 Enrolment and elective forms due

Rugby Presentation Dinner

Dear Rugby Parent

You are invited to attend the rugby presentation dinner which will be a celebration of the season for all three teams who competed in 2009.

- DATE:** Monday, September 7
- TIME:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- VENUE:** St Patrick's College Dining Room
- DRESS:** Full College uniform for boys, semi-formal for parents (coat and tie)
- COST:** \$25 per person

Various awards, including Best & Fairest will be presented throughout the evening, as well as the 1st XV being officially presented with a rugby tie by the Headmaster. Numbers are limited and seats will be made available upon receipt of payment.

Would you kindly complete the section below, detach and return to the College no later than Thursday, September 3.

Yours sincerely



Graham Swinton
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

PERMISSION AND DEPOSIT SLIP

Student Name		

Signature:

\$..... Deposit enclosed (please tick):- Cheque Cash

Credit Card Payment

Bank Card Master Card Visa Card

Card Number:-

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Expiry Date:- ____/____ Name on Card: _____

I authorise St Patrick's College to debit my credit card for the nominated amount.

Signature:- _____ Date: _____

(Note: Please return form by Thursday September 3)

Office Use Only: GL Code 8760013 GST Code



Year 11 Biology Trip to the Melbourne Zoo



The boys enjoy some relaxing time at Dreamworld on the Queensland Music Tour.



**2009 ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE BALLARAT
ART EXHIBITION
GALA LAUNCH**

**St Patrick's College
Old Collegians Pavilion
Friday September 11 2009**

**Time: 7 pm
Tickets: \$30**

Featuring the winners of the Flanagan Prize and the University of Ballarat Emerging Artist Prize

Exhibition Opening Times

Saturday September 12 10 – 4 pm

Sunday September 13 10 – 4 pm

**Tickets available at the door
Weekend Viewing Pass \$5**

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