

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dr Peter Casey

Dear Friends

The last edition of The Crest marks the end of our communication for the year and as ever, it has been a year worth celebrating.

I thank our students for their daily enthusiasm and for the way they have taken up the challenges and opportunities a school such as ours is able to put before them. I thank those who are leaving us for their varied contributions to our evolving story. I thank our staff for their professional activities carried out so well, but also for the relationships they have established with our boys and the work they do which is far beyond the call of the salary they receive and the hours reasonably expected of them.

To all the parents who have supported us so strongly- as parents, as spectators, as participants, as volunteers and as messengers into our wider community, I say thank you. You can relax at Christmas in the knowledge that we have appreciated working with you for the good of your sons. To those who took on formal roles within the Board, Board Committees, Canteen, Sport, Parents & Friends, Old Collegians, Rowing Club, Friends of Music and all our other associated groups, I offer my special thanks.

While staff who are leaving us are recognised below, I would particularly wish to thank Mr Steven O'Connor, our outgoing Deputy Headmaster, who is leaving us to take up the Principalship of Trinity Anglican College in Albury-Wodonga. I acknowledge Steven's contribution to our culture, his classroom teaching, his leadership, but above all his support for me as we have worked together to develop St Patrick's College, especially in the area teaching and learning. I wish him well.

As we mop up our year, I wish to point out the immense preparation for 2009 that has been taking place since July. The Heads of School, Year Level Coordinators, Business Office Staff and Administration Staff, bear the brunt of this with our Dean, Mr Stephen Hill and Director of Administration, Ms Elizabeth Till. I know that by the evening of December 19, these gallant staff will be able to sleep the sleep of the just, knowing that 2009 is ready to roll. I thank them for this situation.

While some think that it takes a village to educate a boy, I propose that in 2009 our boys will be indebted for their education to each one of their 1200 fellow students, 154 staff, 825 families and many thousands of Old Collegians. We are all in this together.

Congratulations to each of you on a stellar 2008, enjoy Christmas with those you love and live on thinking happy thoughts of great St Patrick's College.

Staff Farewells

At the conclusion of 2008 we will also say farewell to a number of staff who are moving on to pursue other vocational and lifestyle opportunities.

At year's end we farewell Mr Kelvin Porter, who joined the staff in 1984. Kelvin and his sons are all Old Collegians and the College community wishes him well next year at Catholic Regional College St Albans after his many contributions to St Patrick's as a Year Level Co-ordinator and Director of Pastoral Care.

It is with a sense of awe that we farewell Mr John Cosgriff, the doyen of the Maths Department since 1981 who has also contributed a wife, Jan, eight sons and two daughters to St Patrick's across the years. We wish Jan and John well in their next ventures - in a classic motorbike and sidecar touring the countryside!



John Cosgriff with grandson Samuel Cosgriff

Mr Les Bone, another highly regarded member of the Maths Department is having twelve months leave to undertake personal leave. We wish him well for a happy, healthy and enriching year and acknowledge his contribution to teaching and learning at the College over the past eight years.

We also farewell Mrs Sarah Dwyer (2005-2008) and Ms Bernadette Hogan (2008) after their time of service to the College.

Mr Danny Moore, an esteemed old boy and leader within the area of social justice, will be working full time with the Edmund Rice Network in Melbourne but will still maintain an office and hopefully a presence at St Patrick's.

The College also farewells Sharon Cody (Teacher's Aide 2004-08) who is joining the Australian Defence Forces and Ben O'Loughlin (KRC 2008) who is relocating to Tasmania. We also sincerely thank the 2008 Trainees Alex Blizzard, Ryan Berg, Lachlan McKenzie, Bridie Rantall and Bryn Weadon who have provided great support to staff who manage programmes in areas such as sport, outdoor education, learning enhancement, music, the arts and grounds.

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER Mr Steven O'Connor

End of Year

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the St Patrick's College community a very safe and happy Christmas and summer holiday. For some in the community this time will include receiving VCE results and then confirming plans for 2009 at university or in another tertiary setting or commencing an apprenticeship or other employment. For boys undertaking 3&4 VCE subjects next year, this time should include some form of preparation for the year of work ahead. It is important, however, that we enjoy the time shared with family and friends and that we express gratitude to our Lord for these gifts and blessings.

The year has been marked with great energy and success in many areas at the College. Congratulations to all boys who committed themselves to their studies, to the co-curricular sporting and cultural activities available at the College and also to those boys who were involved in some form of community service activity throughout the year. These are the boys who will gain the most from their time at St Patrick's.

From a personal point of view, I would like to record my thanks to the boys, parents and staff with whom I have worked with in my role as Deputy Headmaster. It has been a very rewarding post for me both personally and professionally. The College has many strengths and I have no doubt that it will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Many thanks and Merry Christmas to all members of the College community!

DIRECTOR OF MISSION Mr Joe Doolan

The Response was Unanimous: Jesus is not God!

In the midst of the Year 9 class on the person of Jesus this year we encountered a certain watershed, if not in the thinking of the group at least in my appreciation of their theological level. The class conversation concerned the power of Jesus in working miracles and healing the sick. I offered the assertion that as creator of grains of wheat and fish in the sea Christ had the power to work such feats as mere multiplication. As creator of human kind he necessarily had power over the bodies of others and could therefore heal and cast out demons.

The group grew uneasy: Was I maintaining that Jesus was God? When I asked the diagnostic question 'Do you think that Jesus and the Father have the same power?'. The response was unanimous; Jesus of Nazareth is not God!

The class had nearly completed when the whole group maintained their stance against me and centuries of Catholic theology. I knew a simple recitation of the Nicene Creed – God from God, true God from true God – would not suffice here. We needed a more systematic approach to the question.

As we approach the great manifestation feasts of Christmas and Epiphany I wonder what these students think when they sing:

*Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord...
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity*

The lofty Christology that the church fathers accepted was clear. Christ and the Father are one. Many of our carols celebrate that fact and marvel in the mystery of God becoming fragile, vulnerable, fully human.

The second arresting moment for me this year has as its basis the same Christian creed. In the Texts and Traditions unit we have looked at the prologue of John's Gospel and noted the translation by Frank Moloney: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was *turned towards God*, and the Word was God.

The sense that Jesus and the Father are united and are turned toward each other is a novel way of translating the Greek but strives to describe the intimacy of the relationship. Later in this gospel he expands upon the passage: "I and the Father are one...to have seen me is to see the Father".

Having studied this passage and conversed about the high Christology of John that became orthodox Christian doctrine, one of my students wanted to sit in on the new class for 2009. He enjoyed the classes but was keen to see the reaction of the new group to this theological line. "Have you told them yet? I want to see their faces when they hear about John's Gospel and how Jesus and the Father are one."

All this underscores the meaning of Christmas for us. Some people find it heretical to say that God can become human and share our existence. Some students, despite years of singing carols and reciting creeds, find this assertion challenging today. It is a good reminder that at the basis of this season is a profound mystery concerning the nature of God and the nature of human kind. Even more arresting is the belief that the Christmas season is an Easter Feast. It not merely looks back to a historical event, the first manifestation of God-as-human, but looks forward to the death and resurrection of his divine-human person.

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE Mr Kelvin Porter

Managing Grief at Christmas Reach Out

Ideas for Coping with Christmas

Christmas may be a time when you get together with family and friends. Often, if you have lost someone you love you are reminded that they are not around. This may be hard and everyone reacts differently to this. Everyone has their own way of coping. It is important that you look after yourself and have your way of getting through the hard bits.

Here are some ideas that may help you better manage the Christmas holidays.

Allow yourself to be sad – Christmas may have been a time you spent with someone you have lost. It may help to take some time out to remember the person you love.

It is Okay to enjoy yourself – It may be hard to celebrate when you are missing someone you love. Getting together with family and close friends may be a chance to remember the good times and it is okay to relax and have a laugh.

Look after Yourself – Remembering that this may be a tough time for you is important, treat yourself with a bit of care and to something you enjoy doing.

Talk to Someone – Having someone you trust to talk to about how you are feeling may be helpful, like a close friend, family member or youth worker. If you are finding it hard to cope with the day-to-day stuff then it may help to talk to a councillor.

Avoid Bottling Stuff Up – Getting ‘stuff’ off your chest is important. Keeping things to yourself may mean that the tension builds up inside you. Finding a way to get out what you are feeling may help you to feel better.

Kids Help Line (free call) 1800 55 1800 of Lifeline 131 114 (cost of local call) also have councillors that are available 24 hours a day and the call does not show up on your phone bill.

More Information

A free call for rural areas: 1800 100 023

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
Ms Elizabeth Till

Final Crest and Mail Out

The final edition of The Crest for 2008 is included in the mail out to all families. The mail out also contains Semester Two reports.

Unit 3 & 4 Results

Unit 3 & 4 results are released on Monday December 15. Mr Anthony Meehan and other staff will be available during the week to assist any Year 12 students and parents with change of preferences.

Key Dates

The College Office will be closed on Friday December 19 and will re-open on Monday January 19 2009. Students will commence classes on Thursday January 29.

SENIOR SCHOOL
Head of Senior School
Mr Hamish McCrum

At the time of writing we are eagerly awaiting VCE results. There are always some good surprises in terms of ENTER scores on the upside and sadly some disappointments. I expect that as in other years, students who have involved themselves most fully in College life will do well. I remind students that they are able to change preferences with VTAC up until 12 noon on December 22. Mr Anthony Meehan will be available until December 19 for students who wish to discuss tertiary options for 2009.

Last week Year Ten students and staff embarked upon the Year 10 University Experience. On Wednesday we attended sessions at the University of Melbourne and RMIT and enjoyed a comfortable overnight stay at International House, one of the University of Melbourne’s Residential Colleges. On Thursday we travelled to Monash University, Clayton. One particular highlight was the group of engineering students explaining how, as part of the racing car team, they had built a formula race car from the ground up which could accelerate from zero to 100 kmh in four seconds. I am not sure if it was the concept of building and maintaining a race car, or the charm of the female mechanical engineering student explaining the process that caused the greatest interest in engineering! Well done to Monash University.

All students appeared to enjoy the trip and believe it will help all of them attempt to look constructively toward the future, regardless of whether or not they are intending to pursue tertiary studies. I encourage all students of the Senior School to attend Open Days (locally and in Melbourne) in July and August each year, particularly if they are unsure of which direction they want to move in post school.

Congratulations to Ethan Stewart who was awarded the LLEN prize in VET-Automotive. A just reward for a sustained, high level of performance. Well done Ethan!

To all students, parents and staff I have enjoyed the privilege of working with you in 2008. Thank you and Happy Christmas.



**The Year 10 University Experience at
Monash University, Clayton**

SPORT

Director of Sport
Mr Chris Gleeson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students, parents, coaches, umpires, managers, first aid assistants and trainers for their exceptional work in supporting boys in taking up the many opportunities that are available at St Patricks College. The College's fine tradition of sport participation and success has again been upheld in 2008. Thank you very much.

Bacchus Marsh Late Bus

All students and parents are reminded that the Late Bus will not run in the first week of 2009 as is the usual practice. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Laurie McNerney for driving the Late Bus each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to enable this service to be provided.

Director of Cricket
Mr Damian McKee
First XI

Br. H.T. Breach Cup: St Patrick's Ballarat 8/405 defeated St Patrick's Launceston 11/135

SPC Ballarat retained the Br H. T. Breach Cup with a convincing 270 run win against our Launceston friends. SPC Ballarat won the toss and decided to bat. After losing two early wickets, including the scalp of Peter Colbourne, we were in some trouble at 2/22. The ball was swinging prodigiously and the new batsmen Mathew Begbie and Matthew Crouch set out to slowly and watchfully build a partnership. And this they did, seeing the team through to lunch with a 66 run partnership for the third wicket. Unfortunately Matthew Crouch lost his wicket soon after the return to play and this brought skipper, Brad Whittaker to the wicket.

Whittaker and Begbie stamped their authority on the innings from the outset punishing any short or wide ball with a partnership lasting 46 overs, resulting in a record 213 runs. A sensational effort, Begbie was watchful at first, intent on building a foundation by wearing the bowlers down. Reaching 50 Begbie started to accumulate runs at ease. His innings of four 6's and thirteen 4's will be remembered for two consecutive sixes when the new ball was taken by Launceston.

Brad Whittaker was determined not to be known as the supporting player. His innings was a determined one, punctuated by two's and one's rather than lofty hitting. Unfortunately Brad was dismissed for 82 when he looked a certainty for a century.

Brad Crouch, batting at six came in at a difficult period in the innings when there was expectation of a big total. He was immediately expected to be the senior partner and for the first time in the First XI he was able to respond with a fine unbeaten knock of 61. With assistance from Justin O'Brien (18) we were able to post a formidable total of 8/405 at the end of the 104 overs.

Unfortunately for the visitors the second day did not go to plan from the very outset. Hoping to carefully build partnerships Ballarat bowlers led by our openers, Liam Young and Peter Colbourne, tore through the Launceston top order. Colbourne took four wickets in three overs with his sharp in-swingers beating the defence of the opposition. Young finished with three wickets and at the same time conceded only one run per over. Launceston lost wickets at 6, 7, 10, 10, 13, 15 and 23 to be in terrible strife seven wickets down. Launceston's only shining light was their skipper Daniel Johncock who was left stranded on 96 not out in the teams disappointing total of 11/135. Ballarat retained the Br H.T.Breach trophy and we look forward to the trip next year to Tasmania. A highlight of the 2nd day was a visit to the match by Br Breach himself.

Best players: Mathew Begbie 156, Brad Whittaker 82, Brad Crouch 61 not out, Matthew Crouch 26, Peter Colbourne 11/0/4/26, Liam Young 11/4/4/3/10, David Dickinson 7/3/0/6, Jayden Hayes 9/3/1/25, Tom McGregor 4/0/1/25

Lord's Taverners Cup Grand Final - Friday December 5 St Patrick's 10/176 defeated by Melbourne Grammar School 8/216

Having forfeited the right to host the final, SPC travelled to Melbourne Grammar to further expand the teams cricketing experiences. After four straight days of competitive cricket SPC won the toss and decided to field after arriving at the MGS ground later than expected. On a hard wicket and equally hard outfield the MGS openers started confidently putting on 61 for the first wicket.

At this point we fought hard to get back into the match and some intelligent bowling changes resulted in immediate success as MGS lost 5 for 30 to slump to 5/91. This was the result of some great line bowling by Brad Crouch and Peter Colbourne who bowled in tandem for 12 overs, conceding only 40 runs. David Dickinson also took up the challenge with the ball bowling a tight six over spell. Tiredness set in during the later stages in the field and there were ten over periods where SPC lost the way only to fight back and reel the opposition in for the next five overs. It was a great game of 'chess'!

To see the conditions at the beginning of the day, SPC were happy to settle on a chase of 216. The innings started brightly at 1/35 off nine overs, when disaster struck. We lost Colbourne (12), Hepworth (0), and Matthew Crouch (5) all within nine balls to be on our knees at 4/36.

Brad Whittaker and Brad Crouch then combined for the fifth wicket partnership after eleven overs. Both batted sensibly aiming to restore the innings with ones and twos and after the 33rd over we were on top again at 4/111. A fine exhibition of left arm orthodox bowling by MGS spinner James Bett witnessed the loss of Crouch (28) and Whittaker followed soon after in similar circumstances, dancing down the wicket in an attempt to smash the ball back over the bowlers head.

From 6/120 and 14 overs remaining it was always going to be difficult and Murphy (10 not out) and Gunn (20) kept the crowd interested until the run rate got a little too much. SPC were all out for 176 in the 48th over.

Best Players: David Dickinson 6/0/2/24, Peter Colbourne 9/1/1/34, Ash Gunn 20 & 10/1/1/39, Brad Whittaker 52, Brad Crouch 28.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE Mr Mark Waddington

College Calendar and The Shamrock

Prior to Christmas all families will receive the final edition of The Shamrock for 2008. Included with the mail out will be a copy of the College's 2009 Colour Calendar featuring some stunning shots of the College's students, unique architectural features and grounds. The Calendar features all major dates for 2009 and should be displayed prominently around the house or office to keep up with all events at St Patrick's. If you require an additional copy of the calendar please contact the Development Office.

From time to time some dates and times of events do change due to factors beyond our control – for this reason it is important for families to refer to the fortnightly calendar contained in each edition of The Crest – both in hard copy format (available from the ERC, Front Office or it can be mailed out if requested) and in the College's e-newsletter, or on the College website.

The Shamrock is a quarterly publication featuring news and events from all parts of the College community – including the Old Collegians section, Green, White and Blue. If you have news regarding the achievements of current and past students or details of significant events please contact the editor, Mark Waddington – mwaddington@stpats.vic.edu.au or 0429 990 980.

We trust you enjoy the final edition of The Shamrock and the 2009 College Calendar and have a safe and relaxing festive season.

Key Development Dates 2009

College Open Morning Tours – each Friday in February and March, commencing February 6, 2009. All current and future parents welcome.

2010 Year 7 Information Night – Tuesday February 17, 7.30 pm

2010 Scholarship Testing Day for Year 7, 10 and 11 entry level Scholarships - Saturday February 28, 9 am. *All scholarship and enrolment information is available by contacting Ms Caitlin Bennett – cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au*

2010 Year 7 Information Night – Bacchus Marsh (St Bernard’s Parish Hall), Tuesday March 3, 7 pm

2010 Year 7 – Close of Enrolment – Friday March 20 at 4 pm.

EVENTS AROUND THE COLLEGE

Second Annual aMAZEing Ballarat

Mr Jamie Bobrowski
Student Leadership and Standards Officer

Eureka Orienteer’s and St Patrick’s College combined to run the second annual aMAZEing Ballarat fun street and park event on Saturday November 29.

Twenty teams from Ballarat, Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo participated in the four hour orienteering and treasure hunt event which had activities and locations centred mainly around Lake Wendouree.

Not only did teams have to solve the cryptic clues to work out where a control point might be located but they also had to take on challenges at many of the check points designed to test their ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Some of the activities were of a physical nature such as rowing two kilometres on a rowing machine. However others tested the brain power of the group through problem solving -an example of this being large jigsaw pieces which had to be made into a square.

Local community groups were involved in the event as well, with competitors having to fill sand bags for the SES and take a short ride on a tram after pumping water for a vintage stream tram.

Local landmarks such as the new Boardwalk at View Point, the Prime Minister’s Busts in the Gardens and the Olympic Rings precinct all had questions which tested the team’s observation and skill.

aMAZEing Ballarat will again be able to make a sizeable donation of goods to a worthy local charity and this year the proceeds will be donated to St Vincent de Paul, who through the staff and students at St Patrick’s College provide a ‘Backyard Blitz’ garden service to pensioners and other needy persons in the community.

The winners for 2008 year are a group of local girls, Virginia and Rachel Ryan, Kara Orr and Elise Middleton who called their team ‘Go Bananas’. They overcame another all-female group, ‘The Magpies’; in third place were last year’s winners ‘The Erwins’.

The organising committee divided entrants up into classes and this meant that a number of family groups and newcomers were able to share in the prizes. A complete set of results is available at the Eureka Orienteering website: www.eurekaorienteers.asn.au.

aMAZEing Ballarat will run again in November 2009, so if you would like to play your own version of the TV hit “The Amazing Race” around the streets and parks of Ballarat, pencil this event in your diary as a must do for next year!

Dobson’s Uniform Shop

Extended Trading Hours

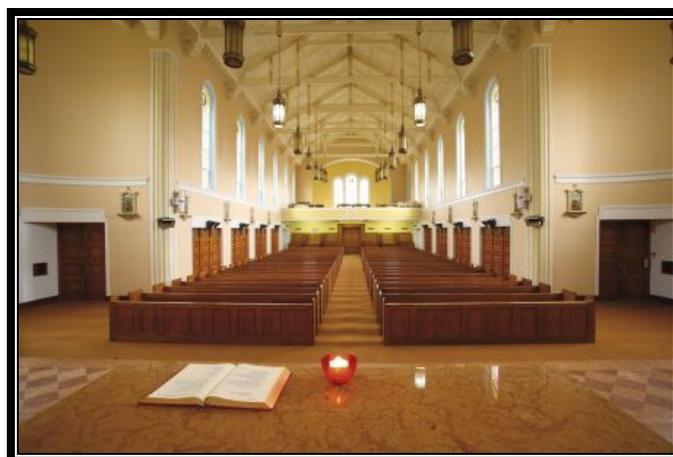
Trading Hours January 2009

Thursday January 21	2.00pm -5.00pm
Friday January 23	2.00pm -5.00pm
Monday January 26	Closed - Australia Day.
Tuesday January 27	1.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday January 28	1.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday January 29	8.30-10.30am & 1pm-5pm. School resumes.
Friday January 30	1.00pm -4.00pm.

Second Hand Book-Sales

Thank you to all members of the College community for your support of the second hand book sales conducted over the past month. Thank you to the many volunteers who have assisted with collecting, pricing and selling books. Please note that with the sale of any book, the funds will be credited to the student’s school fees for 2009. With the sale of any Year 12 book, the funds can be either collected at the Front Reception or, if negotiated with the administration staff, sent by post.

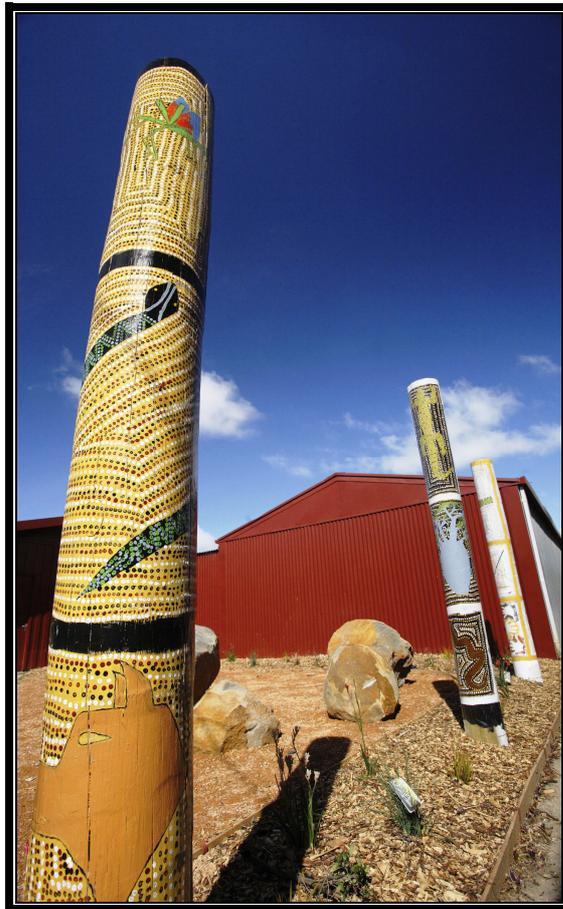
Students will need to check whether or not their books have been sold by going to WIL 001 on Friday December 12 between 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Books still remaining in the College after Friday December 12 at 4:00 pm will be offered to charity.



The College Chapel



Dr Peter Casey with 2009 Student College Leaders; Stephen Kirby, Lachlan Barker and Liam O'Riley



Yimullanburrdoo - Indigenous Space

St Patrick's College Speech Night and Valedictory Dinner 2008

Copies of the Speech Night DVD are now available for purchase
at the following price: **\$25.00**

Copies of the Speech Night and Valedictory Dinner PowerPoint presentations are also available on DVD
which also includes photos taken at Speech Night and Valedictory Dinner.

Powerpoint DVD \$5.00

The last day for orders will be Friday February 13.
(NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED).

Orders can be picked up from Monday March 2. Please be aware that the Front Office will be closed
from 18/12/2008 – 19/1/2009.

CONTACT DETAILS
Student Surname
Student First Name
Year Level 2008
Name of Parent

TYPE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Speech Night DVD		
Powerpoint DVD		
	TOTAL:	

Please tick the appropriate payment selection

Cheques Included Cash Included Credit Card Details Included

Credit Card Information	
Name on Card:	
Card Type: Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>
Card Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expiry Date:	Amount:
Signature:	

St Patrick's College

2009 Term Dates

TERM 1

Thursday, 22 January	Leadership
Friday, 23 January	New Staff Induction Day 2
Tuesday, 27 January	All Staff – Staff Day 1
Wednesday, 28 January	All Staff – Staff Day 2
Thursday, 29 January	Students Commence Term 1
Friday, 3 April	End of Term 1

TERM 2

Monday, 20 April	Classes commence for all students
Friday, 19 June	End of Term 2 classes for students
Monday, 22 June	Report writing day
	Work Experience commences for Year 10
Tuesday, 23 June	Staff PD Day
Wednesday, 24 June	Report Collation and Schools' PD Day
	End of Term 2

TERM 3

Monday, 13 July	Staff PD Day
Tuesday, 14 July	Classes commence for all students
Friday, 18 September	End of Term 3

TERM 4

Monday, 5 October	Staff PD Day
Tuesday, 6 October	Classes commence for all students
Monday, 2 November	Exeat Student Free Day
Tuesday, 3 November	Exeat Student Free Day – Melbourne Cup Day
Friday, 4 December	Last day of classes for Year 7-9 students
Friday, 11 December	Last day for teaching staff
Friday, 18 December	College Office closes