

NEWSLETTER 1/4
Friday October 11, 2013

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dr Peter Casey

Dear Friends

As we prepare to enter the final phases of 2013, I bring good news for 2014. We recently told you of the appointment of Mr Chris Caldwell as Principal of Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows. I am pleased to announce the selection of Mr Jon Franzin, current Deputy Principal at St Paul's College, Gilles Plains in Adelaide as the new Deputy Headmaster: Teaching & Learning at St Patrick's College. Jon is looking forward to the transition after his work at St Paul's and Christian Brothers College Adelaide, both of which are Edmund Rice boys' schools. Jon's qualifications include the degrees of Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Special Education, Master of Special Education (Flinders University), Master of Educational leadership (Australian Catholic University) and a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education from the University of South Australia. Jon is married to Nicky and they have two primary aged children Luca and Isobella.

I am grateful for the excellent work of our panel which accompanied me through the selection process. It comprised Ms Judith Potter-Principal of Loreto College Ballarat, Mr Stephen Russell-Headmaster of St Kevin's College Toorak, Mr Paul Williams- Director Regional Support EREA, and Mr Peter Leuenberger, Deputy Director of EREA nationally. I hope that you will make Jon and his family welcome when they visit us on October 21-22, and in the new year.

The other good news is that I have informed Dr Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia of my decision to retire from the position of Headmaster of St Patrick's College at the conclusion of the 2014 school year. This will bring to a close 13 years at SPC and 29 years of principalship in Catholic secondary schools. I am grateful for the opportunities my roles have afforded me, but I think that it is time for new eyes to envision an even better St Patrick's College. The time for epitaphs will follow late in 2014.

Much joy as we bask in a little spring sunshine.

PeterC

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER

Teaching and Learning
Mr Stephen Hill

Issuing of Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN reports

The 2013 NAPLAN student reports for Years 7 and 9 were mailed earlier this week. The NAPLAN is designed to show how well each boy is progressing in relation to what is expected in the key areas of reading, writing, language convention and mathematics for his year level, and how well he is progressing in relation to expected statewide and national levels of achievement for these areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of School or your son's English and/or Mathematics teacher if you have any questions about any of the information contained in the NAPLAN report.

Diagnostic testing for Years 7-10 students

The College is committed to ongoing annual diagnostic testing of each boy's numeracy and literacy knowledge. The data collected during this testing programme is used to support the learning needs of each boy and to identify broader strategic planning needs and goals across disciplines or year levels.

Part of the diagnostic testing programme includes all Years 7-10 boys completing the Torch test (a test of reading comprehension) and the PAT-Maths test. Students completed both tests as part the Grade 6 transition programme and by repeating each test annually we can collect and monitor student progress in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.

The 2013 testing will take place during week three of this term:

- Wednesday, October 23 – Torch test
- Thursday, October 24 – PAT-Maths test

The test will take approximately 50 minutes to complete. Each boy is asked to bring a pencil, eraser and sharpener to both tests.

Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of School or Ms Rachel Carter, Enhanced Learning Co-ordinator, should you have any concerns or further enquires.

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER
Student and Staff Wellbeing
Mr Chris Caldwell

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everyone for Term Four. I hope that everyone enjoyed a good holiday and that the batteries are charged for yet another busy and productive term. Many staff spent a good deal of time helping our students and preparing other work during the holidays – thanks to all staff for their efforts in this area.

In particular, thank you to Mr Hamish McCrum for overseeing the practice exams for the boys preparing for Unit 4 exams in their VCE subjects. These practice exams are very important as is the next few weeks of revision classes and further practice exams – good luck to all involved.

School Improvement Framework

Thanks to selected parents who completed the most recent School Improvement Framework surveys. The feedback from the surveys will be provided to all staff approximately six weeks into Term Four.

Year 12 Students

This term marks the end of our Year 12 students' journey through St Patrick's College. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with these students over the coming weeks. The last official school day for Year 12 students is on Wednesday, October 23. The first of the Unit 4 Examinations, English, begins on Wednesday, October 30. A letter detailing the arrangements for the next few weeks has been sent to parents of Year 12 students. I have spoken to the Year 12 students this week regarding the College's expectations of their final weeks.

The vast majority of Year 12 students were involved in trial exams on Wednesday, October 2, Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 5. On behalf of the College, I would like to thank all Year 12 staff for their work in setting and marking these exams. In particular, I would like to thank the following staff for volunteering to supervise these exams Tracy Holland, Garry Fitzsimons, Kate Walshe, Shane Murphy, Sandra Clark, Julie Johns, Hamish McCrum and Elizabeth Ryan.

The purpose of the exams at this point was twofold. Firstly it provided students with an opportunity to see where they are at one month prior to the actual exams and secondly to provide an impetus for a regular study program in the lead-up to their final exams. For a number of boys it provides a wake-up call that they have much to do in a short period of time! The danger is that these boys feel as though there is too much to do, and give up.

Transfer of Leadership Assembly

Next week's College Assembly will involve the handover from the 2013 College Captains to next year's College Captains.

I would like to place on record my thanks and congratulations to all members of the 2013 Student Council and Congress. They have made a significant contribution to the College throughout the year as witnessed by the fantastic results for Edmund Rice Day amongst other things. I have enjoyed working with them this year – well done, boys!

Preparing for Exams

I have spent a significant amount of time with the Year 12 boys over the last month in trying to best prepare them for their finish to the school year. This has involved discussion about the fact that Wednesday week being the finish of classes is a signal that the finish is near but not that school is over! The message that we, as a College, have been trying to reinforce is that there is an appropriate time to celebrate the end of our secondary education but it is not until each student completes their final exam that they should turn their attention towards this celebration.

The end of classes signifies a point along the way but that we place much greater store in celebrating at our Valedictory Dinner when everything is complete. Dr Casey often reminds the boys that we set our own standards at St Patrick's College and these standards don't waver or falter regardless of the time of year. All Year 12 boys should be clear regarding our expectations with regards to their behaviour as we lead into our final weeks.

At this stage in a student's life it can be tricky for parents to exert influence because sometimes they are not that terrific at taking advice. However if your son is good at listening then it is very valuable for you to remind him that study should not be passive. What I mean by that is the boys should not be just reading through notes but be much more active. Active study involves undertaking examination questions, re-doing maths problems, rehearsing specific arguments, practicing performances and so on.

There is quite a large degree of data about VCE performance and there is no doubt that boys perform quite well in what we call School Assessed Coursework (SACs), but compared to girls, under perform in examinations. This used not to be the case, boys were really good at exams when I was younger, but for a whole range of complex reasons this has changed. So anything parents can do to support their sons to undertake effective study will make a huge difference.

Air Pollution and Asthma

School age students and young children with asthma can often have breathing difficulties when exposed to air pollution. Air pollution can occur:

Outdoors – smog (made up of nitrogen oxides and ozone), bushfires, cigarette smoke.

Indoors – formaldehydes/resins (some building materials), volatile organic compounds (found in paints, furniture, cleaning products), cigarette smoke, poorly maintained gas appliances. The most important way to reduce the impact of air pollution on your child's asthma to avoid the pollutant completely if possible.

- Stay indoors on high smog days, close windows and external doors
- Make sure you have a bush-fire plan if you live in a bushfire prone area
- Make sure your child's asthma is well controlled and that you and your child know what to do if their asthma gets worse
- Make sure your gas appliances are serviced regularly by a registered or licensed gasfitter and that there is adequate ventilation in rooms containing gas appliances
- Choose building items, furniture, paints and wood items that are certified to emit low levels of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds.

For more information about air pollution and asthma, contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au.

DIRECTOR OF MISSION

Mr Geoff Brodie

May I add my welcome to this final term for 2013.

Maintaining a sense of unity in our community can be a challenge during this term. What I am directly referring to is the staggered finish for the different year levels. Our Year 12 students have only three weeks of classes before they are immersed in the final exam experience. Then year level by year level classes will finish and exams commence. There will also be some of our families entering a new stage of engagement with the College as youngest sons depart and their daily contact with St Patrick's College comes to an end. Other families shall celebrate a first successful year of adventures.

There is also the general busy-ness of bringing a year to an end. Teachers will be marking those exams and writing reports; families will be planning Christmas and anticipating the summer holidays; maintenance staff will be attending to facilities happily wearied by a year's active engagement, just as all our staff will ensure that *t's* are crossed and *i's* dotted with the same care offered all year. To navigate through this let us call to mind why we bother at all with such busy-ness:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16). To accept this perfect revelation means a way of living that is summed up in a favourite scriptural quote of Blessed Edmund: If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. (Matt 5:41-2).

May all we do and complete this term be united in accepting the Spirit of love and generosity that God so freely pours into our hearts (*Rom 5:5*).

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr Paul Nolan

Information Night for 2015 Year 7

An information night for families considering enrolling at St Patrick's College for Year 7, 2015, will be held in the College Chapel on Wednesday, October 16 commencing at 7.30pm. Following a brief address by Headmaster Dr Peter Casey and our Head of Junior School John Richards, attendees will be invited to join a tour of the College before supper is provided afterwards in the Dining Room. This represents a fantastic opportunity for parents of boys currently in Grade 5 to gain a greater appreciation of all that is on offer at St Patrick's College. We request that anyone interested in attending on the night please register their interest with Registrar Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au.

OCA Reunions, Regional Dinners and Annual Golf Day

The months of October and November represent a busy time for the Old Collegians' Association with several important functions being held in the coming weeks.

All Old Collegians are urged to keep track of the OCA calendar of events by liking the OCA's Facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/spcoca

In the coming few weeks the OCA will host:

- A 10-year Reunion for the Class of 2003 on Saturday, October 12 at 6pm in the OCA Pavilion;
- A 20-Year Reunion for the Class of 1993 on Saturday, October 19 at 6pm in the OCA Pavilion;
- A regional dinner in Bendigo for any Old Boys living in the region. The dinner will be held at The Foundry Hotel on Monday, October 21; and
- A regional dinner in Geelong for any Old Boys living in the region. The dinner will be held at The Edge restaurant on Tuesday, October 29 at 7pm.

OCA Golf Day **Sunday November 17, 2013** **Midlands Golf Club**

Finally, the OCA will host its Annual Golf Day at the Midlands Golf Club on Sunday, November 17 with breakfast provided before a shotgun start at 8am. A barbecue lunch will then be provided afterwards.

Players wishing to compete on the day are urged to fill out the attached entry form and return it to the College as soon as possible. Entry fee for the day is \$50 (and \$25 for current students) which includes breakfast, green fees and lunch and the opportunity to win fantastic prizes including a Citroen DS4 valued at \$25,000 which is being provided by Kings Cars. The Golf Day is always a fantastic social day for the OCA network and all are urged to attend.



Sounds like great value? Then simply register your team now by contacting Caitlin Bennett on cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au.

HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Elizabeth Ryan

The big three!! No I am not referring to the top three car producers or the top three banks in Australia or heaven forbid the three most influential politicians in Australia. I am referring to the three most significant events (apart from VCAA examinations) that will occur in the St Patrick's College timetable over the next few weeks, them being; the Thanksgiving Mass, Speech Night and the Valedictory Dinner.

The Thanksgiving Mass is a time when we as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition give thanks for all that has been. We acknowledge and pray for each of the 2013 Year 12 students as their time at St Patrick's College comes to an end. We give thanks for their unique gifts and talents and for all that has transpired during the past six years. For parents it is also a time of overwhelming pride in your son's achievements and tenacity during their secondary school years and, I hope for the boys, an opportunity for them to reflect on the sacrifices made by you in providing your son with an opportunity to be educated at St Patrick's College.

The next event is Speech Night; an opportunity to celebrate the all that has been achieved over the past year, to reflect on the positives and to acknowledge all those who have excelled in any arena during 2013.

The final event is the Valedictory Dinner, a night of celebration. Examinations are finished and it is with an overwhelming sense of joy and achievement that we join with the boys and their parents, to formally acknowledging the end of this chapter of their lives. I look forward to joining you at the Valedictory Dinner.

A reminder to all current Year 12 students who intend attending the Valedictory Dinner to please RSVP with Michelle in the College Uniform Shop by Wednesday, October 23. Please kindly indicate your preferred seating arrangements as failure to do so may mean that you are not sitting with whom you may prefer. Drink prices for the Valedictory dinner will be as follows; soft drink \$2, beer or wine \$5 and a bottle of wine \$25. Tickets for all drinks can be purchased on the night as we will be operating cashless bars.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents of the 2013 Year 12 students for their friendship and support this year and I look forward to hearing the many success stories which the future will unfold.

HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr Neal Arthurson

The beginning of the term is an excellent time to remind and encourage the boys to either continue with or begin good study habits. Important skills the boys need to master include Time Management and Being Organised.

Being organised includes using diaries; noting when all Assessment Tasks are due; Establishing a study/revision timetable for home – beginning this week; and Being on time and prepared for each class. Encouragement from both home and school assisting the boys acquire these skills, will help as they transition from Middle School into Senior School.

Grampians Camps

Preparations for the upcoming Grampians Camp are well underway. Students have been given a camp booklet outlining all of the requirements. We encourage parents to go through the booklet with your son to ensure that he is well prepared in readiness for the experience. A letter has also been sent home which gives details of the camp. The key to an enjoyable and comfortable camp is to be well prepared and the booklet addresses the following areas: -

- Physical preparation
- Gear preparation
- Clothing
- Hygiene
- Sleeping / camping
- Cooking and menu planning

If you have any queries please feel free to contact your son's pastoral teacher.

DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Mr Chris Gleeson

Welcome back to Term Four where the following sports will be on offer. Below is a list of contacts for each sport and meetings have been held this week where required. Competition begins in Week 2.

TERM 4		
SPORT	DAY	STAFF
Cycling	Varies	Matt Taylor / Andrew Chamings
Junior Golf	Wednesday	John Davey
Croquet SPC Blue, Green, White, Gold	Wednesday	Gerard Knoble
Intermediate Volleyball SPC Blue (Year 10)	Thursday	Brooke Brown
Intermediate Volleyball SPC Green (Year 9)	Thursday	Cathy Marchmont Barlow
Junior Volleyball SPC Blue (Year 8)	Wednesday	Juri Kaczkowski
Junior Volleyball SPC Green (Year 7)	Wednesday	Daniel Sutton
1st XI Cricket	Fri / Sat	Luke Corden
2nd XI Cricket SPC Blue	Thursday	Joe Carmody
2nd XI Cricket SPC Green	Thursday	Michael Busscher
2nd XI Cricket SPC White	Thursday	Rick Balchin
Junior Cricket Dev. Squad	Monday	Peter Brady / Luke Corden
Junior Tennis SPC Blue (A Grade) and White (B Grade) (Year 8)	Tuesday	Justin Pelly/Louise Klopak
Junior Tennis SPC Green (A Grade) and Gold (B Grade) (Year 7)	Tuesday	Maria Richards/Therese Mount
Rowing	Varies	John Cumper / Jamie Lynn / Peter Joyce / Roger Knight / Stephanie Parsons
Weights Room	Varies	Damian Kinnersly
Swimming Squad	Varies	Brendon Gilbert

BAS Basketball

Miss Tamara Westwood

2013 Basketball Presentation Dinner

Monday October 14

The 2012 St Patrick's College Basketball Presentation Dinner will be held on **Monday October 14** in the OCA Pavilion. If players have not yet received their invitation, please see Miss Westwood as soon as possible.

Swimming

Director of Swimming

Mr Brendon Gilbert

Swimming training continues in Term 4 and is open to all students. It would be great to see the 2013 BAS swimmers at these sessions to start to build fitness and improve swimming technique for the 2013 campaign.

For non BAS swimmers, if you would like to do some extra training and work on your fitness these swimming sessions will be great for you. Please contact Mr Gilbert for further information.

Cricket

Mr Michael Busscher

The season has begun with our Mildura tour in the second week of the holidays. More details will be available in future editions of The Crest.

EVENTS AROUND THE COLLEGE

Canteen

Canteen Roster, Monday October 14 to Friday October 18. Please, if unable to attend phone Veronica 5335 6244, Cheryl 5339 3655 or the College Canteen on 5322 4481.

Monday October 14

Elaine Collier (9:00am – 2:00pm), Jane Clark (9:00am – 11:00am), Michael Porter, (8.30am – 11.30am), Kim Dummett, Carolyn O'Keefe (11:30am – 2:30pm), Brooke Colley, Debbie Beaton, Carmen Spence (11:30am – 2:30pm).

Tuesday October 15

Kerry Fiegert (9:45am – 11am), Helen Turley (9:45am – 11:00am), Maria Madden (9:3am – 2:30pm), Megan Clark (11:30am – 2:30pm), Loretta Toohey (10am – 2:00pm).

Wednesday October 16

Robyn Lavery (9:00 – 2:30) Molly Martin, Simone Adamczyk (10am – 2:30pm), Dee Smith (8:30am – 11:30am), Monica Wethling, Kathy Macklin (11:30am – 2:30pm), Sue Walsh (12.15pm – 2.30pm).

Thursday October 17

Kerryn Guest (9am 2pm), Christine Jennings (8:30am – 11:30am), Louise Martin (10am – 2pm), Diane Cadman, Lyn Burns, Maria Burgess (11am – 2:30pm), Sallyanne Gaylor (8:30am – 11:30am), Loretta Fisher (11:30am – 2:30pm).

Friday October 18

Barb Peeters, Heather Savage (11:30am – 2:30pm, Karen McPherson, Leanne Keem (9am – 11:30am), Jennifer Walsh, Toni Gillett (11:30am – 2:30pm), Sue Jones (8:30am – 11:30am), Jodie Gilbert (8:30am – 11:30am), Janine Lamb (8:30am – 11:30am) Bernadette Martin (8:30am – 11:30am), Colleen Schreenan (1pm - 2.30pm).

THE COLLEGE SHOP

Ms Michelle Lloyd

New Hours

The College Shop will now be open from 8.15am until 3.45 pm Monday to Friday. All other times by appointment. Please contact the College Shop on 03 5322 4313.

Uniform

A reminder that shorts are now available for all students commencing Term 4. Second-hand items are also available for purchase.

Shirts

There are a limited number of size 32 (small) shirts, short and long sleeve available for \$15 each.

Purchases in The College Shop, CANNOT be placed onto School Tuition Accounts, so please contact the Shop staff directly for payments.



The Jo Walter Field.

2013 TERM DATES

Term 3

Monday July 15
Students Commence

Monday August 26
Student Free Day

Friday September 20
End of Term 3

Term 4

Monday October 7
Students Commence

Wednesday October 23
Year 12 Concluding and Thanksgiving Mass

Monday November 4
Exeat

Tuesday November 5
Exeat

Tuesday, November 26
Year 11 Students Finish

Friday December 6
Year 7 – 10 Students Finish

Friday December 13
Last Day Teaching Staff

Wednesday December 18
College Office Closes

2014 TERM DATES

Term 1

Thursday, January 30
Students commence

Friday, April 4
End of Term 1, Last day Students

Term 2

Tuesday, April 22
Students commence

Friday, June 20
End of Term 2, Last day Students

Term 3

Monday, July 14
Students commence

Friday, September 19
End of Term 3, Last day Students

COMING EVENTS

Monday October 14

Outdoor Education Camp (Class A)
Concert Band 2 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
1st V Basketball Presentation Night (7:30 pm-9:00 pm)

Tuesday October 15

Outdoor Education Camp (Class A)
Outdoor Education Camp (Class B)
College Assembly - Leadership Transfer (10:15 am-10:50 am)
Concert Band 3 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Tennis (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)

Wednesday October 16

Outdoor Education Camp (Class B)
Rowing Parents Meeting and Welcome
Guitar Ensemble 2 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
Concert Band 1 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Golf (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Croquet (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Intermediate Tennis (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Volleyball (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
2015 Parents Information Night (7:30 pm-9:00 pm)

Thursday October 17

Term 4 Sport Photos
Stage Band rehearsal (8:00 am-8:40 am)
BAS Intermediate Volleyball (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)

Saturday October 19

OCA Reunion Programme – 20 Year Reunion (OCA Pavilion) (6:00 pm-9:00 pm)
2014 Year 7 Transition Testing Day (9:00 pm-3:30 pm)

Monday October 21

Year 8 Essential Services Day
Year 12 Folio Exhibition (Pavilion)
Concert Band 2 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
OCA Regional Dinner – Bendigo (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)

Tuesday October 22

Year 8 Essential Services Day
Year 12 Folio Exhibition (Pavilion)
Concert Band 3 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Tennis (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
Friends of SPC Meeting (7:30 pm-9:00 pm)

Wednesday October 23

Year 12 Folio Exhibition (Pavilion)
Year 7 -10 TORCH Testing
Year 7 WaterSmart Summit
Year 12 Final Day
Year 12 Concluding and Thanksgiving Mass (7:30 pm-9:00 pm)
Concert Band 1 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
Guitar Ensemble 2 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Croquet (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Volleyball (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Intermediate Tennis (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)
BAS Junior Golf (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)

Thursday October 24

Year 7 - 10 PAT Maths Testing
Stage Band rehearsal (8:00 am-8:40 am)
BAS Intermediate Volleyball (4:00 pm-5:00 pm)

Monday October 28

Year 9 Grampians Camp (9A & 9J)
Concert Band 2 rehearsal (3:45 pm-5:00 pm)