



# St Patrick's Marist College

151 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117 - Visit our Website: [www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au)



## Star of Peace

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

Number 8

28<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

### *From the Principal*

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

Last week saw the final round of our Debating for 2015. I am very proud of the progress that our Debating team has made this year. While we didn't make it to the semi-finals, four of the six teams were only one win off the next level. This is a great improvement for our team. Our staff have invested time and energy in training and in planning the development of the team and I thank them for their passion and dedication. Over the 6 weeks staff gave up their Friday nights to support our students and I was pleased to see the improvement in each student's debating skills. I thank the parents who came along each week to support the team and I look forward to the 2016 Debating season. Thank you to Ms Graham for her leadership of the Debating team.

Last week we were finally able to hold our Athletics Carnival. While my tug of war team was unsuccessful against the senior girls, the day was a resounding success. The enthusiasm of the students at every event made for a great day. I congratulate every student for their participation and to those who were age champions on the day. A special thank you to the students who came to school at 6:30 am to set up the AV equipment. The carnival ran smoothly and this would not have been possible without an enormous amount of organisation prior to the day. I would like to thank Ms Liska for her work and to all the staff for their assistance.

We continue with our Year 12 study evenings, this week a session on essay writing skills was held by Mr O'Connell. If students were unable to attend this week, he has generously offered to run the session again next Wednesday night. As we are approaching our Trail Exam period, I would encourage as many students as possible to attend.

Musical fever is about to hit. Since Term 4 last year, the Performing Arts team have been in preparation to bring you the wonderful musical "The Wiz". There are currently many people including staff and students working behind the scenes and I thank them for their support. I have had a few sneak previews and I am confident that this is going to be an amazing production. The dates for the musical are the 18th, 19th and 20th of June and tickets will go on sale shortly.

Over the last number of weeks, we have been following up on outstanding sport fees and I thank everyone for their prompt payments, a letter will be sent home to any family with outstanding fees to arrange payment. In 2016 all sport fees will be included in the school fees to alleviate the significant time and challenges we face in the collection of these fees. A reminder once again that at any time, if there is a concern regarding any payments, please do not hesitate to contact the College and as always we will work to assist and support you as needed. Sport notices will be handed out in the last week of Term 2 and payments as usual will be due at the end of Term 3 Week 3, 31<sup>st</sup> July. All sport notes will also be available on the school website.

**Mrs Angela Hay**  
Principal

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Principal
- Director of Mission
- Term 2 School Payments
- Student Lockers
- Year 11
- Keep on Track - Year 7/8
- Young Writers Festival
- Year 9 Cabramatta Excursion
- Year 10 Textiles
- Debating
- Athletics Carnival

#### KEY DATES

##### **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

Photo Day  
Debating (Elimination 1)

##### **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 12 Formal

##### **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Year 10 Parent/Teacher Interviews

##### **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Champagnat Day Celebrations

##### **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Queen's Birthday Holiday

##### **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 11 Work Placement Commences (*Concludes on Friday, 12th June*)

##### **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Sport Photos

##### **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Debating (Elimination 2)

**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.

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## TERM 2 SCHOOL FEE PAYMENTS

Term 2 School Fee payments were due on Monday, 25th May. Thank you to the parents/caregivers who have made payments.

If you are currently on a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP), please continue to make payments as per your arrangements.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, or are unable to pay the fees in full by the due date please contact Ms Lisa McLaren on 9638 5644 immediately.

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## Mission

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### REFLECTION – WHO AM I TO JUDGE?

Perhaps the single, most-often quoted line from Pope Francis is his response to a question he was asked vis-à-vis the morality of a particularly dicey issue. His infamous reply: Who am I to judge?

Although this remark is often assumed to be flighty and less-than-serious; it is, in fact, on pretty safe ground. Jesus, it seems, says basically the same thing. For example, in his conversation with Nicodemus in John's Gospel, he, in essence, says: I judge no one.

If the Gospel of John is to be believed, then Jesus judges no one. God judges no one. But that needs to be put into context. It doesn't mean that there aren't any moral judgments and that our actions are indifferent to moral scrutiny. There is judgment; except it doesn't work the way it is fantasized inside the popular mind. According to what Jesus tells us in John's Gospel, judgment works this way:

God's light, God's truth, and God's spirit come into the world. We then judge ourselves according to how we live in the face of them: God's light has come into the world, but we can choose to live in darkness. That's our decision, our judgment. God's truth has been revealed, but we can choose to live in falsehood, in lies. That's our decision, our judgment to make. And God's spirit has come into the world, but we can prefer to live outside that spirit, in another spirit. That too is our decision, our judgment. God judges no one. We judge ourselves. Hence we can also say that God condemns no one, though we can choose to condemn ourselves. And God punishes no one, but we can choose to punish ourselves. Negative moral judgment is self-inflicted. Perhaps this seems abstract, but it is not. We know this existentially, we feel the brand of our own actions inside us. To use just one example: How we judge ourselves by the Holy Spirit.

God's spirit, the Holy Spirit, is not something so abstract and slippery that it cannot be pinned down. St. Paul, in the Epistle to the Galatians, describes the Holy Spirit in terms so clearly. How does he describe and define the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit, he tells us, is the spirit of charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and chastity. Only when we are living inside of these virtues are we living inside God's spirit.

So then, this is how judgment happens: God's spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and chastity) has been revealed. We can choose to live inside the virtues of that spirit or we can choose to live instead inside their opposites (self-indulgence, sexual vice, rivalry, antagonism, bad temper, quarrels, drunkenness, and factionalism). One choice leads to a life with God, the other leads away from God. And that choice is ours to make; it doesn't come from the outside. We judge ourselves. God judges no one. God doesn't need to.

When we view things inside this perspective it also clarifies a number of misunderstandings that cause confusion inside the minds of believers as well as inside the minds of their critics. How often, for instance, do we hear this criticism: If God is all-good, all-loving, and all-merciful, how can God condemn someone to hell for all eternity? A valid question, though not a particularly reflective one. Why? Because God judges no one; God punishes no one. God condemns no one to hell. We do these things to ourselves: We judge ourselves, we punish ourselves, and we put ourselves in various forms of hell whenever we do choose not to live in the light, the truth, and inside God's spirit. And that judgment is self-inflicted, that punishment is self-inflicted, and those fires of hell are self-inflicted.

There are a number of lessons in this. First, as we have just seen, the fact that God judges no one, helps clarify our theodicy, that is, it helps deflate all those misunderstandings surrounding God's mercy and the accusation that an all-merciful God can condemn someone to eternal hellfire. Beyond this, it is a strong challenge to us to be less judgmental in our lives, to let the wheat and the darnel sort themselves out over time, to let light itself judge darkness, to let truth itself judge falsehood, and to, like Pope Francis, be less quick to offer judgments in God's name and more prone to say: "Who am I to judge?"

### ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT MASS

Parents and friends are most welcome to join us for our Champagnat Mass on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 11am in the Harrington Courtyard. We welcome Father Michael Whelan, a Marist Father and our local Marist Brothers who will be joining us for our celebration. All most welcome.

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## MARIST ASSOCIATION

On the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> May, guests from our local Parramatta and Eastwood Marist Brother's community, and staff and friends from both Marist Eastwood and St Patrick's Marist Dundas Colleges as well as our Year 10 REMAR students came together for the second time as part of our ongoing Marist Association. Br Graham Neist joined us to explain further the Brothers hopes in developing this new initiative, where both Brothers and lay Marist can come together as one Marist community in local areas to support each other in living our Marist spirituality through prayer, friendship and reflection. The evening consisted of a time of communal gathering, shared prayer and reflection and a wonderful dinner. Stay tuned for further gathering next term, all parents and friends most welcome to come along.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

As World Youth Day approaches, Year 10 students have been invited to consider applying to attend the event as part of the Diocese of Parramatta pilgrimage group. Students were given the outline of the journey, first visiting the Philippines to work with a local parish community recently devastated by a cyclone. Part of the immersion is to help build a local parish centre and develop relationships with local students deeply effected by the natural disaster last year. Pilgrims will then depart for Poland for a week of festivities, reflections, Masses and opportunities for reconciliations in preparation for Sunday Mass with Pope Francis. The application form outlines the itinerary, costs, and letters of support which each student will need to submit with their application.

**Mr J. Scanlon**  
**Director of Mission**

# *Pastoral*

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## STUDENT LOCKERS

Each student has been allocated a locker for the express purpose of storing their valuables (mainly iPads) in an effort to protect them. The hire of these is paid for in the school fees. Too many students are not using their lockers. I would advise parents to strongly encourage their children to use their lockers. Students are required to put a padlock on their locker and give a key to their Pastoral Leader of Learning. Any lockers without padlocks on them after the upcoming long weekend will have a cable tie placed on them to stop them being filled with rubbish etc.

**Mr W. Waddall**  
**Assistant Principal - Pastoral**

## YEAR 11

Well done to all Year 11 students on your conduct, punctuality and grooming during the recent examination block. Hopefully, your results will be a true reflection of your efforts and preparation for these examinations.

A reminder to all students and families that all notes and money for the Retreat held early in Term 3 is due by no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Furthermore, Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. You should receive an e-mail regarding this shortly and bookings can be made online. All students and a parent representative are expected to attend these interviews as this is the best way that teachers can communicate progress on your son or daughter's school performance.

**Mr D. Bonora**  
**Year 11 Leader of Learning**

## KEEPING TRACK – YEAR 7 & 8

Keeping Track is an opportunity for students in Year 7 and 8 to receive assistance from teachers in managing homework, assessment tasks and class work. We encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that they are 'on track' and meeting the demands placed on students in their junior years.

**Where:** B111

**When:** Wednesday's

**Time:** 3.20 – 4.15

Students will have their diary signed by their Pastoral Leader of Learning to verify their attendance at the sessions.

If you have any enquiries please email the appropriate Pastoral Leader of Learning at [apapoulias@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:apapoulias@parra.catholic.edu.au) or [cmollace@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cmollace@parra.catholic.edu.au). Alternatively you can contact the College on 9638 5644.

It is great to see so many of Year 7 and 8 students take advantage of this opportunity so far this term.

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# Curriculum

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## YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL

On Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, winners of the short story competition went to the Writers Festival in Parramatta. We hopped on a bus and headed to Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. When we finally got to our seats at the very top of the auditorium, everyone was excited and impatient for the festival to begin. At last the first author came out, Laurie Halse Anderson. She talked to us about some of her books, 'Speak' and 'The Impossible Knife of Memory'. Laurie told us a bit about her life and how she used her experiences as part of her books as well as emphasising how nobody ever thought she would become an author. She joked about how hard it was to get a publisher when she started out, which seemed to be a common problem among the authors. Next was a woman called Melina Marchetta. She showed us lots of photos of her trips overseas and how she used all the beautiful places she saw as inspiration for her novels, such as Finnikan of the Rock and others. She explained her ideas and how research is important. Then we had a break for lunch and book signings. Janika and I even got to have a photo with Laurie Anderson. After lunch, we went back into the theatre for the next author, Brenton McKenna. He is an indigenous graphic novelist. He told us about how difficult it was to find a publisher and all the things you need to go through to get a book published. He talked about his childhood and inspirations for his series called Ubbly's Underdogs. He showed us some drawing techniques and exercises and the steps he takes to draw out his stories. He also talked about experiences he had and how they helped shape his books.



The last author was Garth Nix. Yet again, he talked about how difficult it was at first to find a publisher. He showed us the structure of a book and took some people up on stage to help write one. He talked to us about how to get your readers hooked and come up with heart-wrenching complications. He helped us understand how to sculpt characters and landscapes to make them interesting. He showed us all the books he had ever gotten published and encouraged us all to write our own. All in all, it was an excellent and exciting day for all of us at the festival and if I ever got the chance, I would go again. The Writers Festival was an amazing experience for all us students. We met some famous authors who inspired us deeply with their wise words. During this trip we've learnt more tips and advice to help us achieve and succeed more in our writing. One thing we know is to never give up even if rejected, we have to try harder and then some miracle might happen. We'd like to give a big thank you to Mrs Hay and Mrs Pett as well as all of the College for letting us attend. It was a such a memorable experience we will never forget.

**Janika Fernando and Claudia Ball**

## YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY - CABRAMATTA EXCURSION

Today, the Year 9 Geography classes went on an excursion to Cabramatta regarding their unit about the different communities within our society. Our first stop was the park in Cabramatta, where we got a brief understanding of society and culture within Cabramatta. We split into two groups. One group stayed at the park and completed fieldwork activities. While the other group went deeper into Cabramatta to Freedom Square. Here, we were able to get to get an understanding of the virtues and values within this society. After this, we got a talk about the specific animal sculptures and what they truly mean to this culture. After this, we had the availability to purchase and experience the multicultural food that Cabramatta had to offer. Then we headed back, hopped on our bus and went to the Mingyue Buddhist Temple. Here we were met by a lovely lady named Hong who showed us around the temple. We went to each section of the

temple and the certain sculptures and we were able to understand the true depth and meaning of each sculpture and what they mean to Buddhism. Then we headed downstairs and learnt about death in Buddhist culture. This excursion was amazing and gave us an extraordinary definition of the many different cultures in our today's modernised society.

**Jonathan Nakad and Lily Carroll**

The trip to Cabramatta showed us that the streets themselves were vastly different compared to our local roads and walkways. Statues of animals, Vietnamese food and plenty of symbolism could be seen. The trip to the Buddhist temple provided a different perspective on other religions.

**Jacob Taylor**

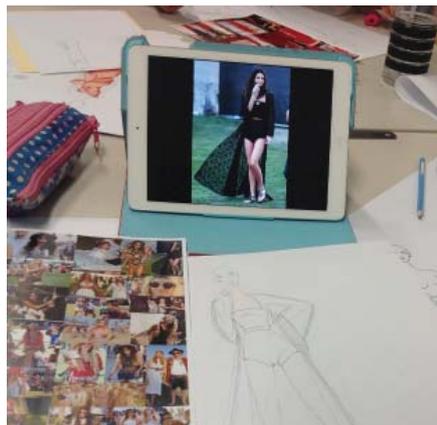
## HAPPENING IN YEAR 10 TEXTILES THIS TERM....

The Stitches and Craft Show are holding a competition for high school students to design and construct wall hangings inspired by 'Under the Sea.' In Year 10 students have used this inspiration to produce their own wall hangings. Students experimented with a range of techniques including silk painting, machine embroidery and solvy.

As the wall hangings were so unique, a voting poll was developed to help decide which wall hangings should be entered into the Stitches and Craft competition. Congratulations to Nicola Elias who won first place, Alex Bywaters who received second place and Kristin Broadhurst for third place.

In Week 4 the Year 10 students attended a drawing course run by Whitehouse Fashion and Design. A designer, Emma visited the College to teach the students how to draw fashion figures. The classes were inspired as Emma demonstrated how to render and make clothes look realistic on a drawing. The skills that the students demonstrated were fantastic and they are definitely enjoying working on their fashion drawings in class.

**Miss Mollace**



# Cocurricular

## DEBATING

### ROUND 6: St Patrick's Marist vs St Ursula's Kingsgrove

Friday night 22<sup>nd</sup> May marked the end of College participation in the Catholic Schools Debating Competition for 2015. However, we won 4 from 6 debates, which made it a very successful finale.

Thank you to Mrs Loraine Pett (Leader of Learning, English) and Mrs Claire Franke who gave up valuable family time to adjudicate and mentor the students.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7 - Win	Year 8 - Win	Year 9 - Loss
Joseph Arabit Harry Simpson Hayden Fowler	Katrina Astalosh Sophia McCaughan Connor Barr	Theo Sugita Jonathan Nakad Rebecca Ozer
Year 10 - Win	Year 11 - Forfeit	Year 12 - Win
Stephanie Belford Joseph Elias Sarah Ozer	Forfeit	Adam Wingate Peter Wooden Teresa Sugita (Year 11)

Our final results from six rounds of debating are as follows: Year 12 achieved three wins; Year 11 achieved two wins; Years 10, 9, 8 and 7 all achieved four wins.

The overall results reflect tremendous improvement on last year's results as many of you realise. The 2015 Debaters made an outstanding team and I have really enjoyed bearing witness to their team spirit, collaboration and sense of sheer delight at the prospect of victory. A special thank you to the English Faculty, Ms Sarah Hagarty (from the Science Faculty), Mrs Angela Hay (Principal) and to the parent body, all of whom have made valuable contributions to our Debating Community's overall success this year.

If you have any queries regarding Debating please do not hesitate to contact me at [sgraham5@parra.catholic.eud.au](mailto:sgraham5@parra.catholic.eud.au).

**Ms Shannon Graham**  
Debating Coordinator





### Year 9 Cabramatta Excursion

## COLLEGE MUSICAL - THE WIZ

### Save the date!

It's that time again, when St Patrick's Marist holds the greatest musical of all time!

For a limited season of only three nights the La Valla Centre will come alive to the beautiful heartwarming story that is The Wiz.

Acclaimed Drama Teacher and Director Renee Lyons brings a modern twist to a much-loved tale of journeying through life to find that there's no place like home. Featuring wizards, witches, flying monkeys and a cast of quirky characters The Wiz draws on a wealth of home-grown talent: Rebecca Barford as the Lion, Liana Roia as Scarecrow, Byron Davis as Tinman and the beautiful vocals of Eilish Murphy as Dorothy who leads these characters on their journey.

Come and join us for a night of entertainment and fun!

**Dates:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 7.30pm (doors open at 7.15pm)

Food and drink available from 6.30pm

**Cost:** Adults \$15, Concession \$10, Family of 4 \$40

Tickets on sale soon – watch this space and listen out for details in the daily announcements!

**Conlan Foley and Jimmy Murad**

## COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Once again, the Athletics Carnival was a huge success thanks to both the staff and the students of our College. The day ran smoothly and despite the weather damage on the main oval, we were able to complete all of the events on schedule. As always, the experience was memorable and a joy to be a part of.

Being Year 12 students, yesterday was the last chance we got to participate in an Athletics carnival. We'd like to express to everyone in the years below that getting involved in these types of school events is something you will not regret. Before you know it, your time here is over and you will miss the hype and the atmosphere of yesterday's occasion. Thanks again to everyone who made it possible.

**Michael Puglisi**

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The first Marist Brothers arrived in Australia on the 'Star of Peace' on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1872. On the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Positive Parenting Program Course

## Dundas Library

In partnership with Community Migrant Resource Centre

### Simple and practical strategies to help:

- Confidently manage children's behaviour
- Prevent problems developing
- Build strong, healthy relationships

4 two hour sessions

Thursdays | June 4, 11, 18 & 25

Participants must attend all 4 sessions

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CATHOLIC CARE SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

SAVE THE DATE

# Faith in Marriage

3rd Annual Marriage Conference

Sunday 23rd August 2015 • 9am – 3pm

at Our Lady of Mercy College, Victoria Road Parramatta

2015 Theme:

*Marriage – A Culture of Love & Life*

Speakers include: Reverend Father Peter Williams,  
Jonathon Doyle and Lara & Tim Kirk

On-site child-minding available



Register your interest at [marriage@ccss.org.au](mailto:marriage@ccss.org.au) or call 02 9933 0222



## Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

**The next workshop in your area will be held:**

TIME & DATE:

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Thursday

11th June 2015

VENUE:

Riverside Theatre  
Corner Church and Market Street  
Parramatta  
in Rafferty's Theatre

BOOK NOW:

Elisabeth Sacco

GLS Presenter

Ph: 0449 247 495

or email

[esacco@sacom.com.au](mailto:esacco@sacom.com.au)

Helping learner drivers  
become safe drivers

