

# Star of Peace

St Patrick's Marist College Newsletter

Number 4 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017

# From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

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

Last Friday was the start of Anti-Bullying week organised by our Assistant Principal, Mr Waddell, and our Pastoral team. We took the opportunity at our St Patrick's Day Liturgy to launch our own Anti-Bullying Campaign. Mr Berner, our Year 10 Pastoral Leader of Learning discussed what bullying is and the effects it has. Students listened to a voiceover which was a personal reflection of a student who had experienced being bullied. It was a very powerful reminder of the impact we can have on each other. Throughout the weeks leading up to our launch, Mrs Mollace had been taking photos of students with their pledge against bullying. Our College Captains Dominic Gibson and Eleanor Dezius presented the school with this book of pledges. Each student and teacher joined in the College's Anti-Bullying pledge and then received a BULLYING NO WAY - TAKE A STAND TOGETHER wrist band while a visual of our student and staff pledge photos was shown. I hope that during this time in Lent we can all reflect on our relationships with others, acknowledge our failings and pray that with God's grace we can do better.

Next week, Year 12 will begin their Mid Course Examinations. It is hard to believe that they are already half way through their HSC year. It has been very pleasing to see the number of students attending study nights on the increase. Those students who have worked consistently, who have been practising questions from past papers, sought feedback from teachers and have study notes already well prepared should be confident as they approach their exams. I wish each student all the very best in the coming weeks.

Parents of students in Years 7 to 11 will shortly be receiving Interim Reports. I have been very pleased with the engagement and work that I have seen throughout the term. There are a small number of students that need to work on organisation and the completion of homework and assessment tasks to a higher standard. If you have any concerns regarding your son or daughter, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant teacher or Leader of Learning.

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

#### Mrs Angela Hay **Principal**

Stay Connected: (





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#### **KEY DATES**

Monday, 27rd March Year 12 Exams Commence

Friday, 7<sup>rd</sup> April Easter Liturgy Year 12 Exams Conclude Term 1 Ends

Monday, 24rd April Staff Development

Tuesday, 25rd April Anzac Day

Wednesday, 26rd April Term 2 Commences for all

Friday, 5rd May **Athletics Carnival** 

Friday, 12rd May Mother's Day Liturgy





### **New Staff**

Please welcome the following new staff to the College. In this issue we introduce Ms Katie Scotford, Mrs Margaret O'Donnell and Mr George Massih who have all joined the High Needs Support Class. Also featured today is our new Leader of Learning for Mathematics, Mrs Valentine Jerald-Alexis.



#### KATIE SCOTFORD

My name is Katie Scotford and I have come to St Patrick's, from Xavier College in Llandillo. I taught for 2 years there in the High Support Class, teaching Stage 6 and across Stages. Previous to that, I taught at Karonga in Epping and in the UK for 4 years at various special schools. I enjoy my teaching and love to make my classes and lessons full of fun and exciting learning opportunities that are relevant to each student. I am excited to start my new adventure here at St Patrick's Marist and look forward to moving into the new learning space with the students. I hope people come to join us for a lesson or a bit of fun – our door will always be open.



#### **MARGARET O'DONNELL**

I have worked in Catholic Schools for many years, both primary and secondary. When I returned to work after having two children, I completed a Masters of Special Education at Macquarie University. I find this to be a very satisfying field to work in. I am very pleased to join the St Patrick's Marist team working in the High Needs Support class every Tuesday. I am a Rabbitohs supporter, I play a djembe and I love exploring nature in the Blue Mountains.



#### **GEORGE MASSIH**

I am working in the High Needs Support Class every Wednesday as the Health and Fitness teacher. My aim to is ensure all students are aware of the importance of exercise, healthy eating, hygiene, a balanced lifestyle and how these apply to students' everyday lives. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2015 and enjoy reading about world history and watching/playing sport. I am a proud supporter of the Cronulla Sharks which has always been hard considering I have lived in Parramatta my whole life. It is a dream for me to one day own my own cafe.



#### **VALENTINE JERALD-ALEXIS**

Teaching Mathematics is my passion! My qualifications include a double Masters in Mathematics and a Bachelor degree in Education. I'm also a trained EMU specialist teacher which has helped me to cater for a wide range of student abilities and to bridge gaps and improve their mental and problem solving-strategies. I've been teaching for 20 years, both in Sydney and overseas, ranging from high schools to University. I'm a proud mother of two children, I expect the best from both my students and my children, not just A grades. I deem it an honour to be part of St Patrick's Marist College and I'm excited to serve this community.



# **Director of Mission**



#### **REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - 18-19 March

The 'woman at the well' is one of the best known of the Gospel stories, a story extremely rich in offering us insights into our own daily life. In fact, we have to be careful not to be so overwhelmed by the length and depth of the story that we do not receive its messages.

At this well, Jesus speaks, heaven forbid, to a Samaritan, and a woman at that — double trouble! In their encounter, she teases him and he engages her in 'imaginative dialogue' that takes her to a new depth of understanding about herself. This offers her a way out of the cycle of emotional abuse in which she has been caught. His greatest gift is to treat her with respect for her personal dignity. Through this encounter she is transformed.

This week we are challenged by the story of some of our First Australians. The survivors of Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) are men stolen as children from their families, their country and their communities. Pope Francis tells us, "Every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity."

Just as the Samaritan woman, encouraged by her encounter with Jesus, moved back into her community, Uncle Richard and the men of KBH walk together with renewed confidence, learning from each other and, with the support of Caritas Australia, sharing the painful stories of their journey of healing. Let us commit ourselves to the good of our First Australian brothers and sisters and promote reconciliation across our land.





#### **Uncle Richard's Story - Australia**

**Love Your Neighbour** 

First Australian Uncle Richard is a survivor of the Stolen Generations, forcibly removed from his family as a child and taken to Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) in NSW. Hundreds of Indigenous boys were incarcerated there between 1924 and 1970, suffering ongoing physical and verbal abuse. They lost every aspect of their identity – their names, their culture and their families.

When Uncle Richard left KBH, he struggled with the legacy of pain, trying to find relief through his work as an artist. But he attributes the beginning of his healing to something even more powerful than his creative work, his reconnection with former KBH boys.

The KBH Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) was established by KBH survivors to reunite with one another and begin healing. KBHAC's Unlocking the Past to Free the Future Program works to restore the social and emotional wellbeing of the survivors and their families. The former KBH boys have realised that their shared suffering has created a brotherhood. They support each other by sharing their stories, and coming to a common understanding of how their experiences have impacted on themselves and their descendants.

Through KBHAC, the men are also opening the door to the wider Australian community, inviting everyone to journey together as neighbours in the healing process. Caritas Australia supports KBHAC and is proud to walk alongside in partnership on the journey to wellbeing.



#### PALMS AUSTRALIA

Communities overseas are looking to provide mentoring opportunities for local personnel and improve processes and procedures for organisations vital to achieving poverty reduction. They need qualified professional or trades people (in all areas, but especially educators) as well as experienced business managers and agricultural producers.

It is one of the greatest opportunities to encourage God's mission of hope for the world in much the same way as Jesus and our missionary saints. As Pope Francis reminds us: "It is not good for us to become accustomed to a closed ecclesial "microenvironment"; it is good for us to share wide horizons, horizons open to hope, having the courage to humbly open our doors and go beyond ourselves."

Palms Australia, the Catholic agency that prepares and supports volunteers in their global mission are holding an Information Session in Sydney.



Building on the strengths of a community means, they remain empowered, thus avoiding aid that encourages dependence.









Sending people can be more important than sending money

Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa are looking to provide mentoring opportunities for local personnel and improve processes and procedures for organisations vital to reducing poverty. To ensure sustainable development they prefer those willing to come for two years, but accept that some are only available for 12 months. If you are an experienced professional, business or trades person, in any area, but especially education, please consider volunteering with Palms Australia.

#### **Information Session:**

Saturday 1 April
Max Webber Library, Blacktown
10:30am to 12pm
RSVP joey@palms.org.au or
call 0431 995 058

Can't make it? Call now about applying for positions currently available. OR Look first via Palms' two-week Encounter. Go with a friend and get great discounts!



Mr M. Paton
Director of Mission



# **Pastoral**

#### **ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March we marked the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence with a school assembly. Mr Berner talked to students about bullying and the impact bullying can have on an individual. Students and staff were given a wristband to wear to show their support and as a community pledged to take a stand together.

Throughout the term students have been invited to take a photo and sign a pledge against bullying. The names of the staff and students that signed the pledge was presented to our College Principal Mrs Hay during our assembly. St Patrick's Marist says NO WAY to bullying and violence.

Miss C. Mollace Year 8 Pastoral Leader of Learning











#### YEAR 7

Year 7 students and parents have had a busy two weeks with Camp, vaccinations, Formation Day and the P&F Cocktail evening for new parents.

#### Year 7 Camp - Camp Toukley Lutanda

Last week Year Seven went on camp to Toukley. We were there for two nights and three days. Year Seven experienced the fun of doing many different activities with the assistance of teachers, camp leaders and some very lucky Year Eleven students. We got to do things like abseiling, go on a giant swing, the leap of faith, flying foxes and much, much more. All of the groups had a chance to experience the fun of doing these activities. They all pushed themselves to their full potential even if it was climbing to the top of the pole and coming back down. At night time, we all got to take a moment and have a minute or two of silence out near the lake, we forgot about everything and just relaxed. We got the chance to do night games like mini Olympic Games, we had a campfire, indoor games and we went for a bush walk, it was so much fun even the teachers joined in. We all learnt important skills like teamwork, collaboration and cooperation. We also got a chance to create more friendships, that will last a lifetime. The whole class had fun with our groups and got memories that will last forever. Once it was Friday no one wanted to leave, everybody had so much fun doing all the different, exciting and adrenalin pumping activities. We all had so much fun playing with each other and meeting many new people. The three days went so quickly and everybody enjoyed it. These will be three days that Year 7 will never forget.



# Year 7 Camp























# **Director of Studies**

#### YEAR 12 MID COURSE EXAMINATIONS

The examinations for Year 12 will commence next week on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Monday and Tuesday are to be used as home study days. We are requesting any parents/friends who can help with the supervision of these exams to check the invitation letter attached to this newsletter.

The morning session begins 8.45am and the afternoon session begins at 12.15pm. Please allow approximately 2 ½ for each session. If you are able to assist in either a morning or afternoon session please contact Ms Therri Ellison as soon as possible, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Parents of Year 12 students are unable to supervise their son/daughter.

#### NAPLAN AND PAT R

A letter was recently sent home to each student in Years 7 and 9 who will be completing the NAPLAN tests in Week 2 of Term Two, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Any student who misses part of the tests will be able to catch up on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May. An information sheet outlining the NAPLAN Examination is also included in this newsletter.

Students will also complete PAT R testing on Tuesday 28th March, Week Nine of this term.

#### YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION

#### **Date Changes - Term 2**

Year 10 students recently received a letter outlining recommendations for their subject selection for Stage 6. This letter contains information about Religious Education and English courses, as well as Mathematics and Science courses. We hope that this information assists in helping to determine the most appropriate pattern of study for your son or daughter. It also outlined the timeline for this process. Please note that the dates for Parent/Teacher/Student Evening and the Subject Selection Evening have been swapped over. Both dates are late in Term Two.

- Year 10 Subject Selection Information Evening is Tuesday, 13th June (instead of Monday 19th)
- Year 10 Parent/Student /Teacher Evening is Monday 19th June (instead of Tuesday 13th)

#### **YEAR 11 EXAMINATIONS**

#### **Date Changes**

Please note that the Year 11 Examinations will start on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May (instead of Friday 19<sup>th</sup>) and will conclude on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May (instead of Monday 29<sup>th</sup>).

# **Key Learning Areas**

#### **PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **Open Day Performances**

Congratulations to all of the Performing Arts students who performed at Open Day 2017. We had approximately 100 elective Music, Drama and Concert Band students who entertained audiences with performances throughout the afternoon. Elective Music students performed a variety of musical styles in the music rooms and enthralled visitors with renditions of popular music songs, lyrical classical pieces and extended guitar and drum 'jams'.

The Concert Band could be heard on arrival to the College, performing in the courtyard many of their current repertoire including 'The Raider's March', 'Defying Gravity' and 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight'. The Drama room was vibrantly alive with the sounds of Year 9 and 11 Drama's comedic skills and street theatre.

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

#### **Music Tuition Program**

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



#### **Encore Music Excursion**

Year 11 and 12 elective Music students were fortunate to secure tickets to the 'Encore' concert at the Sydney Opera House, which showcased the best of the 2016 HSC Music practical performances and compositions. The excursion experience was invaluable, as students were able to observe and listen to exemplary performances whilst enjoying the impressive surroundings of the Opera House Concert Hall. 'Encore' gave students an excellent idea of the standard to which they should aspire, and encouraged them to work to the best of their ability for their own future HSC Music practical exams.





Ms T. Andrews Leader of Learning - Performing Arts

#### YEAR 11 ENGLISH STANDARD

#### Peter Skrzynecki Lecture

On Tuesday 14<sup>ij</sup> March, Year 11 English Standard students were fortunate to have a private lecture from Mr Peter Skrzynecki, Australian poet and author. We are currently studying Skrzynecki's poetry as part of our Area of Study: Belonging. During this lecture, students listened to Peter discussed his personal experiences growing up as a migrant in Australia, which became the inspiration for his poems 'Migrant Hostel', 'St. Patrick's College' and '10 Mary Street'. Peter shared many personal anecdotes as we studied the lines of his poetry, helping to enrich students' understanding of its core ideas. We thank Peter for visiting our school and sharing his knowledge and experiences with us. Year 11 English Standard are now preparing essays to consolidate their knowledge of these poems and the concept of Belonging in preparation for their upcoming examination.

I would also encourage Year 7 students to read Peter Skrzynecki's picture book 'The Rainbow-Birds & Other Poems', illustrated by Andrew Skrzynecki, as a wonderful example of illustrated poetry in preparation for the creation of their own books.





Ms Emily Gray Assistant Leader of Learning English



#### YEAR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION

#### **Long Reef Rock Platform**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, Year 11 Biology embarked on an excursion to Long Reef Aquatic Reserve as a part of our ecology Preliminary Biology studies. The reserve consists of a large rock platform that fringes the prominent headland. A diversity of marine life inhabits the platform due to the tides and different degrees of wave exposure around the headland. Despite the wild wind, big seas and the incoming tide, we conducted various experiments and observations on the reef.

We were able to measure abiotic factors such as temperature, acidity and salinity of the rock pools and sea by using pH strips, data loggers and thermometers. By measuring these abiotic factors we were able to understand the living conditions of the many species who reside there. We also investigated the range of biotic factors across the reef with quadrants and transect to measure the abundance and distribution of certain species. There were many different species that we were able to spot around the reef including starfish, crabs and oysters and one group even managed to find a sea slug. With the variety of life found there, we learned about how different species had adapted to the living conditions of the area. For example, a type of seaweed known as Neptune's Necklace is made up of tiny spheres of air inside a seaweed coating, which allows the seaweed to float on top of the water. This allows the seaweed to move efficiently and photosynthesis as it is exposed to more sunlight and carbon dioxide on the surface of the water.

Mrs Amery, Mr Paterson, Mr Murthi and Miss Botto guided us throughout the day and helped us conduct all our experiments and answered any questions we had about the environment that surrounded us. All in all it, was an excellent day for the students as we gained new skills and learnt so much about aquatic habitats.

#### Lauren Pocknall and Sarah Brown

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, Year 11 Biology classes went on an excursion to Long Reef where we were met with an incredibly diverse range of fauna and flora. Under the supervision of Mrs Amery, Mr Patterson, Mrs Botto and Mr Murthi, we investigated and tested samples from the rock platform and surrounding area, which allowed us an insight into complex and ever changing ecosystems. Looking at the abundance and distribution of various plants and animals, we were able to participate in the practical elements of our Preliminary Syllabus, gaining a deeper understanding of the role of relationships within an ecosystem.

Lauren Suffling











#### **HISTORY**

#### YEAR 8 MEDIEVAL DAY

Last Thursday for Medieval Europe we had a incursion with four different people that dressed up in medieval clothes who talked about four different aspects of Medieval Life. We got to play with foam swords and shields and fight against others for fun. We also got to look at all the different types of weapons and protective gear that was used to fight. We got to learn about medieval medicine and we got to have a turn at using a small version catapult and trebuchet which was very fun. We learnt lots of things about Medieval Europe and this was a very exciting and fun experience.

Imani Cogger and Natasha Goldsmith 8 Edwin









#### YEAR 10 HISTORY INCURSION

In periods 3, 4 and 5 on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, the Year 10 History students went into the theatre to watch several performances by different groups.

In periods 3 and 4 we were entertained by Brett Hunt, son of Vietnam War Veteran Francis Hunt. Brett told us his father's story through a series of songs, stories and music, filled with anecdotes such as picking a fight with Americans in a pub, hitting a landmine and being airlifted by Australian choppers to hospital. This kicking of the landmine is quite well-known, as it features in the Redgum song I was only Nineteen with the line 'Frankie kicked the landmine the day mankind kicked the moon'. Brett informed us that "Frankie" was actually his father. This accident has been forever immortalised in this song. Although presented in enjoyable and exciting ways, Brett's stories of his father were filled with horror and sadness, giving us an authentic account of the effects war had on veterans and their families.

In period 5, two members of the Dunghutti nation came to speak to us about various ways of Aboriginal life and features of their lives including being part of the Stolen Generations. They displayed many different tools and weapons that were used such as picking bags, carrying trays, hitting sticks and boomerangs. They performed multiple dances, including the Brolga Dance in which 10 members of our grade learnt and enjoyed. To finish off the day, one of the men played the didgeridoo for us. He made different animals sounds such as the kookaburra, a kangaroo jumping and a dingo howling.

The entire day was thoroughly enjoyable and let us gain insight into the experience of Vietnam Veterans and also the lives of Aboriginal people.

Katrina Astalosh
10 Chavoin











# Public Speaking

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

Last Friday evening, four of our students took part in the zone final of The Catholic Schools Debating Association's Public Speaking Competition. These students delivered the same speech they presented in the previous round, when they qualified for the final, which was held at St. Ignatius College Riverview.

Once again the competition was very stiff with students from over 70 schools represented in this next stage. Our representatives were most impressive, delivering their speeches with confidence to entertain and engage their audience. Unfortunately they did not progress to the Grand Final which is on this Friday night but they were extremely unlucky not to be selected. I congratulate Anthony Khatchigian (Year 8), Eve Watson and Eliza Arathoon (Year 9) and Claudia Sobral (Year 10) on making it to the Zone final and the College community is extremely proud of their effort in this very prestigious competition. Well done everyone!

I again thank the parents for their support in transporting and supporting their children and to Mrs Hay for her attendance and encouragement.

Mrs L. Pett Leader of Learning English



# **High Needs Support Class**

The last few weeks in the High Needs Support Class have been really exciting. We were all very pleased to see many visitors during open day and Jessica was nice enough to host it with the teachers. She showed them the some of the work we do and offered everybody some of the fresh sweets we cooked during class.

Healthy eating has been a focus during PDHPE and we have all made a pledge to eat healthier. We have also practised cooking healthy foods such as scrambled eggs, some students have even started taking over cooking duties at home. Our gardens are filling up with healthy fruit and vegies such as lettuce, cucumber and strawberries which we all worked very hard to maintain. Keep an eye out for the vertical garden (located near the canteen) which has seen plenty of water as a result of the huge amounts of rain we have had.

Jessica and Theresa went into the canteen this week to help our lovely canteen ladies prepare food. They took on the tasks of stacking shelves, sorting out parsley and lettuce and they even helped chop the parsley. Whilst all this was happening Maroun was hard at work helping the maintenance men put boards up around the school.

With all the work everybody has done in the High Needs Support Class it's hard to believe we have had time to plan our day out at the Easter Show. Students have been given the difficult task of agreeing on what activities we are going to be participating in and what Show Bags they would like to buy. As the senior, Amanda is responsible for ensuring everybody chooses one activity they would like to participate in and the order of events.

Mr G. Massih HNSC Teacher

## Careers

Click on the following link for latest news from the Careers Team:

http://www.careertools.com.au/resources/newsletters/nsw/2017/t1\_w9\_2017\_nsw.pdf

Ms R. Lawrence Careers Co-ordinator

# From the Sport Desk ...

#### **NSWCCC GOLF**

Students interested in the NSWCCC Golf are to see Mrs Pavlovich in the Sport Office for details on how to enter. Entries close on 31st March so you MUST register before then.

Mrs D. Pavlovich Sport Coordinator





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.



# YEAR 12 MID COURSE EXAMS EXAM TIMETABLE

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH *until* WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

All Examinations are in the La Valla Centre unless otherwise stated
An additional 5 minutes reading time is to be added to each exam

DATE	MORNING SESSION 8.45am Exam Start	AFTERNOON SESSION 12.15pm Exam Start			
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	HOME STUDY				
Tuesday 28th March	HOME STUDY				
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	PD.H.PE. (1/2 hr written then Orals) - 3 Hours	Visual Arts - 1 ½ Hours Legal Studies – 2 Hours Construction (VET) - 2 Hours French (Listening and Reading) – 1 Hour 40 mins Music Aural – 1 Hour – C113			
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Hospitality – Food & Beverage – 2 Hours Economics – 2 Hours Senior Science – 2 Hours Earth and Environmental Science – 2 Hours Textiles & Design – 1 ½ Hours Chemistry – 2 Hours	Mathematics Extension 1 – 1½ Hours			
Friday 31st March	Mathematics – 2 Hours + 5 mins reading Mathematics General – 2 Hours	Business Studies – 3 Hours			
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Studies of Religion 1U – 1 ½ Hours Studies of Religion 2U – 2 Hours	Physics – 2 Hours Design & Technology – 1 ½ Hours Ancient History – 2 Hours Industrial Technology – Multimedia - 1 ½ Hours			
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	English Standard - Speeches – All day English Advanced - Speeches – All day	1.30 Start -Entertainment (VET) – 2 Hours			
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Modern History – 2 Hours 15 mins	Hospitality – Kitchen Operations – 2 Hours Food Technology - 2 Hours Society and Culture - 1 ½ Hours			
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Biology – 2 Hours	Mathematics Extension 2 – 2 Hours			
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	History Extension – 1 Hour Music Practical – C113	English Extension1 – 1 Hour 5 mins			

- Students with a morning exam need to be at the examination room **BEFORE** 8.40am.
- Students will be using NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) number for all exams. No names are to be placed on the exams or writing paper.
- Students need to be familiar with the Examination Procedure printed in the College Diary on page 26.
- Students also need to check that they have the necessary equipment for each examination.
- Students who have a morning and afternoon exam on one day must stay at school.
- On completion of an exam students are expected to go directly home from the College and their conduct is to be exemplary. Students staying at school for an afternoon exam will be directed to the library or the senior area.
- In case of illness or misadventure, parents are required to contact Mr Quigley at the College and complete the Illness/ Misadventure

  Online Form that can be found on the College website. Any student absent from an examination must have a Doctors' Certificate to
  cover this absence. The medical certificate must be given to Ms Ellison within ONE week of the absence.
- Students are not required to attend classes on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. They are to use this time to study at home. They are permitted to come to school and work in the library as well.



#### ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE

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

7th March, 2017

Dear Parents.

I am writing to seek your assistance with the upcoming Year 12 End Course Examinations. Volunteers are required to supervise the examinations from Wednesday, 29th March to Friday, 7th April.

Parents are unable to supervise their own daughter/son. The hours required for each exam period are outlined below. If you can assist in either a morning or afternoon session please fill out the details on the reply slip below and ask your daughter or son to return the reply slip to the office. If you are able to assist, more details will be forwarded to you.

It is a requirement of the Diocese of Parramatta that any parent volunteering at our College needs to complete the online Child Protection Volunteer Form – 'Building Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteer' and complete the Online Training Module, This can be done by accessing <a href="http://ehildprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers">http://ehildprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers</a>. The College will receive an email notification when you have completed this Module.

If you have any concerns with the Child Protection Module please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Yours faithfully,

As Therri Ellison

Director of Studies

Please return slip to the College Office

Parent Name: (Mr/Ms/Mrs)		Student Name	¢:	
Homeroom:	Mobile	Mobile Phone number:		
Home Address:				
Email address:				
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#### 2017 information for parents and carers

#### What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

#### Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be improved.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

#### What will be tested and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. NAPLAN content is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this, please see the NAP website:

#### www.nap.edu.au

Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website.

#### Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

### How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

### What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

#### **How is NAPLAN performance measured?**

NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

## What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 12 May 2017.

## Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

#### How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

#### Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website).

For ACARA's privacy policy, go to: www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/privacy

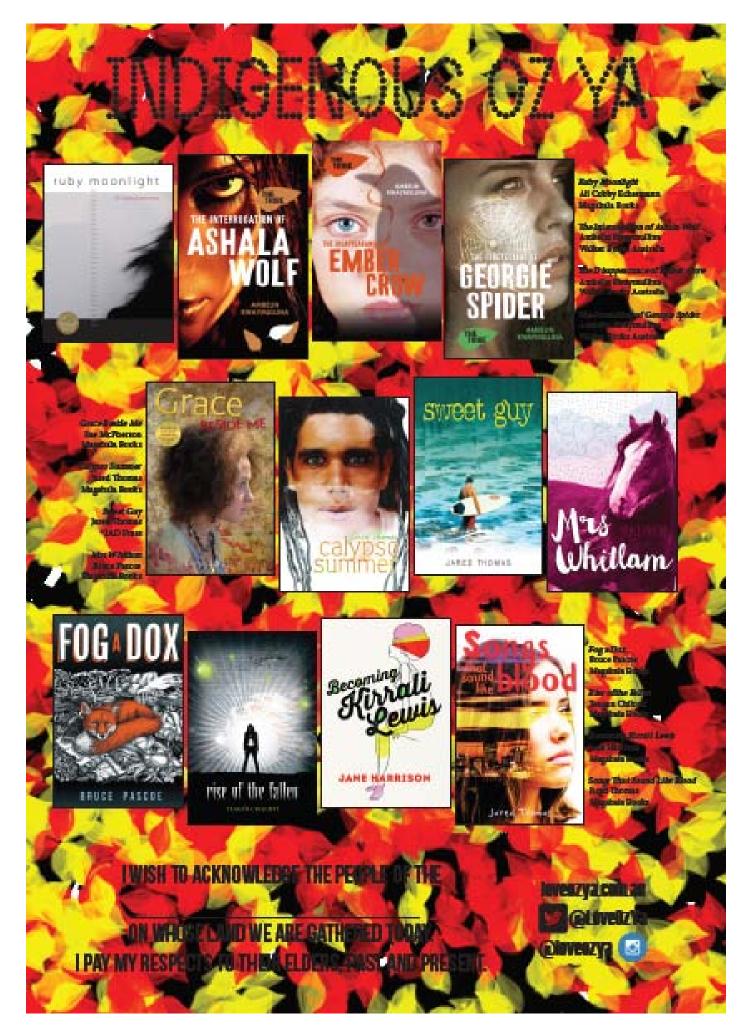
#### **NAPLAN 2017 tests timetable**

	Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May
Year 3	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 45 minutes	numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 50 minutes	numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 60 minutes
Year 9	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 60 minutes

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability.
- Calculators are not permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student will sit one numeracy test. This test will have two parts: one where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.











### LOVE HISTORICAL FICTION? #LoveOzYA

Tudor era ENGLAND

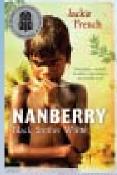


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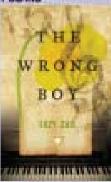
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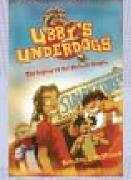
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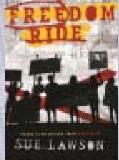
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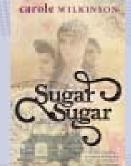
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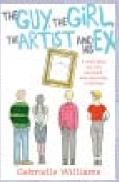
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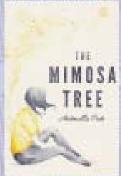
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Sydney's largest school holiday program returns this autumn school holidays? There are 50+ fun-filled activities to keep hids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under \$25, making it affordable to discover Sydney's most exciting playground this holidays.

Archery – School Holiday Programs All Day Holiday Recreational Program Science and writing workshops Gymnastics Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze

Full details at www.bidsinthepark.com.au

ARTEXPRESS at the Armony Mythical Creatures Egg Hunt Sport & adventure camps Space Racing for Kids ...and lots more



#### SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE

#### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, SYDNEY

15 - 27 APR 2017

Free tickets are now available to Australia's largest and most complex travelling exhibition, the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience.

The Award Winning, interactive exhibition displays over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, which tell the story of our nation's involvement in the First World War.

#### Free Children's Activities

As the Sydney Experience falls predominately during the Easter school holidays, we will also be hosting some fun and educational activities, in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, from Monday 17 to Friday 21 April 2017.

Various sessions will take place throughout these dates. Whether you are a vacation care group or family, you will be able to tour the exhibition, participate in craft sessions, explore artefacts and learn more about service men and women from the First World War.

It really is a once-in-a-lifetime, not to be missed experience. www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/marketing/sydney

