



St Patrick's Marist College

151 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117 - Visit our Website: www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au



Star of Peace

Telephone (02) 96385644 • Facsimile (02) 96842120 • Emails: stpatdsundas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Number 5

30th March, 2016

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends,

This term has been jam packed with so many wonderful events and opportunities and I thank everyone here at the College for their hard work and commitment and the many additional hours that our staff have contributed to ensure our students have the best possible experiences here at St Patrick's Marist.

Last week marked a most significant time for us as Christians as we remembered the events and circumstances of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. During last week, as we made our final preparations of prayer, fasting and alms giving we purposefully paused, taking time for deep reflection on our own lives and our response to Jesus' sacrifice. Our long journey to the font culminated in the three days that make up the Easter Triduum. These three days drew us into the mystery of our salvation. On Easter Sunday we celebrated with joy in what God has done for us in his Son Jesus Christ. I thank our Year 10 Drama group, Ms Lyons and Ms Donaghy for their work in making our Easter Liturgy so powerful.

Easter is a seven week season of joy and grace. Starting with the Triduum in Holy Week, and ending with Pentecost Sunday, this 50 day season has been called "the radiant centre of the liturgical year." We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection and to deepen the way it touches our daily lives.

I have had the great privilege of watching the presentations from the Year 10 Elective Commerce and Food Technology classes Term One project. Students were asked to create a business plan for a mobile food service, which included every aspect of the business. I have been so impressed by the quality and depth of the business plans and the engaging way in which the teams have presented their plans to the panel. I congratulate Mrs Matti, Mr Moussa and all of the students involved.

Debating season kicks off again this Friday at St Paul's, Greystanes. Preparation time begins at 5:30pm with the debates starting at 6:30. I know that Mrs Graham, our coaches, Nathan Taverniti our Captain and our teams have been working hard to prepare for the season. If you are free, come along and show your support.

There have been a number of isolated instances of students using mobile technology inappropriately. Technology is a fantastic tool to support learning in the classroom and most students are using their devices responsibly. All students in Years 7 to 12 should have returned their acceptable use agreement for using IT at school. On page 21-24 of the College Diary are clear guidelines for the use of technology and filming, photography and privacy. Please take the time to read these and familiarise yourself with the expectations that we have here at the College. I am particularly concerned with students filming or photographing. No student is to take images, film or still of any member of the College community except in relation to school work. The posting or sharing of any image and/or sound recording of any student or staff member on the internet or any social media is not permitted.

Parents of students in Years 7 to 11 will shortly be receiving their 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.

Our Mother's Day Liturgy will be held on the 6th of May. Further information will follow. As we approach our term one break, I thank you for your support and partnership and wish you all a safe holiday.

Mrs Angela Hay
Principal

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KEY DATES

Friday, 8th April

Term 1 Concludes

Monday, 25th April

Anzac Day - College Closed

Tuesday, 26th April

Term 2 Commences

Wednesday, 27th April

Anzac Day Ceremony

Friday, 6th May

Mothers Day Liturgy

Tuesday, 10th - 12th May

NAPLAN - Years 7 and 9

Tuesday, 17th May

Athletics Carnival

Wednesday, 18th May

Year 10 into 11 Information Evening

Friday, 20th May

Year 10 Careers Day

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.*

New Staff

Please welcome some of our new staff to the College. Over the coming weeks, we will be featuring our new staff members in our newsletter. In this issue we have focussed on Joe Liu our new Science and Chemistry Teacher; Megan Williams who will be teaching Technology and Catholic Studies, James Connor who teaches History and Catholic Studies and Jo Wooster our new Leader of Learning for the High Support Unit as well as a member of the College Leadership Team.



JOE LIU

Having finished high school, I enrolled in a Bachelor's of Molecular Biotechnology while at the same time doing part time work in sales. During the degree, I discovered a passion for both science and teaching and since then, everything has been geared towards feeding those two passions. I have since completed my doctorate in medicinal chemistry and taught in a variety of schools before joining the wonderful environment here at St Patrick's Marist.



MEGAN WILLIAMS

Background: BA Industrial Design (Hons) / Diploma of Photography and Diploma Education (Secondary, Certificate in Religious Education). 10 years design Industry experience.

Ms Williams is a new scheme teacher who is teaching Year 7 Technology and Catholic Studies. She has also taught at Clancy Catholic College and Thomas Hassle Anglican College. She is excited for the year ahead and really enjoying working with the dedicated staff and students at Saint Patricks Marist College.

Her subject interests include Sustainable design and social justice. She has taken up various sporting activities over the years from boxing, swimming, pilates, bikrim yoga, cycling, ju jitsu, tennis, zumba, dancing, etc and she loves trying new things.



JAMES CONNOR

Last year I was working full time at All Saints Catholic Boys College in Liverpool. I am extremely passionate about my profession and love educating young adults. Outside of school I have a keen interest in sport, competing as an elite long distance runner since I was in High School. Personally, my best school memory was my Modern History teacher who always made history come alive, which is what I aim to do in my classroom. I am really excited about the year ahead at St Patrick's Marist.



JO WOOSTER

I am the new Leader of Learning for the High Support Unit. This is an exciting opportunity for me. Although my training is in the Social and Business Studies area, I've always worked in learning support. I recently completed my Masters in Special Education giving me the qualifications to work in the field I love. I have worked in many schools and in a number of different countries. I most recently worked as a reading specialist itinerant teacher for the Parramatta Catholic Diocese. Whilst doing that job, my travels took me here, to St Patrick's Marist, to work with a couple of students, including one in the High Support Needs class. I find it hard to sit still, so I love being active and outdoors. In fact, I have my first ever (and probably last!) triathlon coming up this weekend. It's only a small one, but I still think I'll have to remain in bed for the whole of the next day!

COLLEGE BLAZERS



Please note that the blazers purchased from Lowes Carlingford with the incorrect embroidered pocket (*name of the College across the top of the emblem is missing - see image of the correct pocket*) must be returned as soon as possible so the embroidery can be re-done. There will of course be no extra charge to the parents. If the blazers are in store by Tuesday 5th April, they will then be available for pick up from Lowes by Thursday, 21st April. If it is inconvenient for parents to drop the blazers into the store, they are able to drop the blazers off at the College office by Tuesday 5th April. Please pin the student name and contact phone number to the blazer.

For those parents that have already brought their blazer in, they will be available for pick up from Lowes after Wednesday of next week (6th April).

Mrs F. Hawton
Business Manager

TERM 1 SCHOOL FEES ARE OVERDUE

Overdue notices have been sent out to a large number of families who have not paid their Term 1 fees by now or who have not made contact with the College to work out a payment plan.

Please organise payment of your fees as soon as possible. If payment has already been made after notices were posted please disregard it.

If you wish to pay your fees off in instalments an official arrangement needs to be organised in order to avoid receiving a late notification.

As previously advised, the College is happy to assist those Parents/Caregivers who require more time to pay off their child's school fees. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, or are unable to pay the fees in full by the due date please contact Ms Rolla Van Zeeland the School Fees Administrator on 9638 5644 immediately or email rvanzeeland@parra.catholic.edu.au

The Schedule of Fees can be found on our website, information on our fees is also outlined in the College Diary on page 47. Please take particular note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. This information is also included on every enrolment form that was signed when your son/daughter was enrolled in the College.

Ms Rolla Van Zeeland
School Fees Administrator

Assistant Principals

STUDENT ABSENCE – SMS SYSTEM

Major Changes Beginning Term 2

Beginning next term the following procedures will apply for student absences:

1. Parents will **no longer** be required to ring and inform the College before school begins unless the student has an assessment task, excursion or the like. In this case, the parent will still receive an SMS message to respond to.
2. If a student is marked absent during the morning Administration period, an automatic SMS message will be sent to the designated family mobile to verify the absence.
3. If you receive an attendance SMS please respond by either:
 - Replying to the SMS with a reason for the absence (this satisfies as the parental note), or
 - Call the College as soon as possible (96385644) to indicate that the student should be at school.

Hopefully this process will begin Term 2.

With a new system there may be some initial 'bugs' that need to be worked through. We ask for your patience during this time and welcome any feedback to ensure its successful implementation.

Mr W. Waddell
Assistant Principal - Pastoral

PAT-R TESTING

This week students from Years 7 to 10 will be sitting the PAT- R standardised tests. These tests are completed online. The PAT-R tests are used to monitor progress in reading comprehension and provide teachers with diagnostic information for setting realistic learning goals and planning effective programs. This assessment enables us to:

- Track students' literacy progress from Year 7 through to Year 10.
- Identify students who require help to develop literacy skills and students who would benefit from literacy extension.
- Use results to confirm school-based assessment.
- Use information, based on the question types, to plan literacy teaching strategies.

Teaching staff have throughout 2015 been developing various Literacy and Numeracy skills to support student learning of these skills in all their subject areas. NAPLAN and PATR data provide valuable insights into student literacy and numeracy and their analysis support all teachers to know their students and how they learn.

FACEBOOK PAGE



The College now has a Facebook page, please feel free to like it and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the College.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Marist-College-1549337335358979/>

Mr J. Scanlon
Assistant Principal
Innovative Teaching and Learning

Director of Mission

MOTHERS DAY LITURGY

As a core focus of our Marist community and spirituality is the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus and the first disciple. Mary's response to Jesus is what we seek to model as both staff and students reflecting our Marist charism that was inspired by St Marcellin Champagnat. As a mother, Mary experienced the joys, blessings, challenges and hardships of any parent. It is this journey of motherhood that we celebrate on Mother's Day as sons and daughters.

We would like to invite you, especially the mothers and grand mothers of our College community to join us in a special Mother's Day Liturgy here at the College. It is hoped your son and / daughter will also join you to celebrate this Liturgy as well.

The Liturgy will be held at the Mary Our Good Mother Chapel at the College on Friday, 6th May at 2:30pm.

We look forward to you joining us on this day and celebrating the gift and blessings of motherhood.

A note will be placed in your child's homeroom box with all the necessary details. Please return the slip attached to the note placed into the homeroom boxes by the 2nd May if attending to help us prepare and also inform us of which students will be absent from class.

Mr M. Paton
Director of Mission

Director of Studies

NAPLAN 2016

A letter was sent home to each student in Years 7 and 9 with regards to the NAPLAN testing which will take place from 10-12th May. The letter is also contained in this newsletter.

REPORTS

Term One Reports will be posted home to parents of Years 7-11 students in the last week of school. The Term One report reflects the student's approach to their studies and not their academic progress. Academic reports will be issued at the end of Semester 1. Please contact the relevant Leader of Learning - Pastoral if you have any concerns.

Year 12 Mid Course Reports will be available to parents at the Parent Teacher evening on Tuesday 10th May.

Ms T. Ellison
Director of Studies



OLMC LEADERS AFTERNOON

On Thursday the 10th of March, four of our senior leaders were invited to a leaders afternoon tea by OLMC Parramatta. Dressed in flannel and cowboy boots under the dress-code of 'Barnyard' we were instantly presented to a highly decorated hall and tables of food indicating the effort that had gone into organising the event as well as the fun to come. Socialising with leaders from High Schools as close as Parramatta to as far as the Blue Mountains gave students insight into the different leadership roles and responsibilities schools possess.

The leaders of OLMC guided us through a variety of active, enjoyable games that put a smile on everybody's face. A 'speed dating' type activity gave us the chance to talk to several members from different school bodies in a fast question guided situation. A round of 'clumps' forced students to make quick groups of people with a certain amount of body parts (i.e 7 knees) whilst "Trees, traffic light, toilet" brought out the competitive edge in all as elimination was avoided.

Organised into random groups each under the category of a barn animal, we were enlightened with trivia. Categories such as sport, movies, 'who am i?' and 'finish the lyric' had many cheers, exclamations of 'I told you so' and arguments over the correct pronunciation of lyrics as each team battled it out for a packet of Tim Tams. A pizza dinner was eagerly appreciated as the afternoon drew to a close. The enthusiasm and participation of everyone involved made the afternoon thoroughly enjoyable to attend and be a part of. This experience has motivated us to perhaps try our hand at hosting our own afternoon tea, with OLMC leaders insisting they be on the guest list!

Kira Moriarty
12 Edwin

Careers

Upcoming Year 10 Careers Information Day

Year 10 have a Careers Information Day coming up on 20th May. The day consists of a career profiling activity, presentations from KLA Leaders of Learning and then an opportunity to find out about various career options from people in different fields.

The focus of the day is for students to consider their career aspirations and the pathways to achieve their goals. The day coincides with the subject selection timeline.

Year 10 has been surveyed to gauge interest in what occupations they would like to do when they graduate. These are the results of the survey.

An Invitation to Parents and Community members:

If you have an exciting career and you are interested in presenting to Year 10, please do not hesitate to email the Careers Coordinator, Miss Lawrence (rlawrence@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Administration/Office Support	3	2.6%
Advertising/Arts/Media	20	17.5%
Banking/Accounting/Finance	16	14%
Customer Service	3	2.6%
Construction	9	7.9%
Community Services	0	0%
Design and Architecture	21	18.4%
Education/Training	13	11.4%
Engineering	24	21.1%
Farming/Agriculture/Environment	2	1.8%
Government and Defence	20	17.5%
Healthcare/Medical	25	21.9%
Hospitality/Tourism	12	10.5%
Human Resources/Recruitment	4	3.5%
Information Communication Technology/IT	14	12.3%
Legal	25	21.9%
Manufacturing/Transport	4	3.5%
Marketing/Communications	10	8.8%
Mining/Resources/Energy	2	1.8%
Real Estate	11	9.6%
Retail/ Sales	11	9.6%
Science/Technology	27	23.7%
Sports/Recreation	27	23.7%
Trades/Services	9	7.9%
I am unsure	13	11.4%
Other	17	14.9%

Library

Parramatta City Library Service is hosting workshops for HSC Students in the April school holidays on essay writing and 'Ye Olde' Shakespeare.

These workshops by Dr Keagan Brewer will run on the 12th and 13th April from 10am to 2pm on both days. Please note further information and links to registration page below.

ESSAYS: Many students are stressed out by essay writing and having a good structure goes a long way to solving stress and boosting marks. In this seminar, Dr Keagan Brewer explains how to structure an English essay, and shows exactly what the HSC markers are looking for step by step with sample essays. NOTE – lunch is not provided. <http://j.mp/PCLessays1>

SHAKESPEARE: High School Shakespeare: Ye Olde Shakespeare. Who is this old guy anyway? Why do English teachers rave about him? Whether you love him or hate him, everyone has to study Shakespeare. In this seminar, Dr Keagan Brewer explains Shakespeare's context, language, techniques, philosophy, and meter. NOTE – lunch is not provided. <http://j.mp/PCLshakespeare>

Mr. M. Wondracz
Leader of Learning - Library

Curriculum



VISUAL ARTS

Artist of the Week - Jeanette D'Cunha

The artist of the week is Jeanette D'Cunha in Year 11

Jeanette is quite the talented artist! She has worked across a variety of media to create a range of self-portraits, both accurately and expressively. In this artwork, Jeanette was experimenting with power, depicting herself holding a world globe. She has used a variety of blending techniques, hard and soft pencil compounds, paper stumps, cue tips and artists erasers to create an extraordinarily realistic portrait.



SCIENCE

What's that smell.....

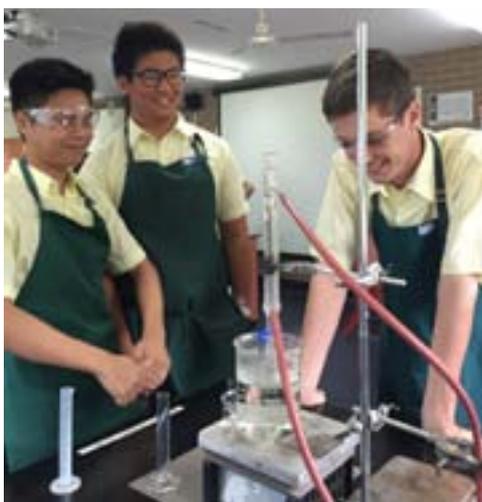
If you were walking past the science labs at any time last Tuesday you would have heard the cry's of "What's that smell???" The smell was actually caused by Year 12 Chemistry and their experiment to make esters.

An ester is an organic molecule that is made from the reaction between an Alcohol and a Carboxylic Acid and is responsible for all our scents. Esters are found in perfumes and deodorants and even banana lollies!! Esters are naturally occurring in roses, the smell of cut grass and even the smell of nail polish remover.

As part of the Year 12 Chemistry course, students need to be able to describe the reaction to form an ester as well as explain the natural occurrence and use of esters. Students made esters such as Pentyl Butanoate - apricot smell, Pentyl Ethanoate - banana and Methyl Pentanoate - Flowers.

The photo's are of the Year 12 Chemistry students and their experimental setup to make their esters.

Miss S. Hagarty
Leader of Learning - Science



YEAR 11 BUSINESS STUDIES



On the 18th of March, the two Year 11 Business Studies classes were fortunate enough to attend a series of business lectures at Luna Park Sydney. It is the second year that this excursion has run and judging by the reviews from all of our 50 business students, the excursion was a great success.

Year 11 are currently studying 'The Nature of Business' and 'Business Planning'. The excursion was an excellent opportunity to see many of the concepts studied in class being carried out by a real company in an ever-changing business environment. Luna Park Sydney is more than an amusement park. It operates as a function and event centre with a wide variety of restaurants and sight-seeing opportunities. It was these aspects that our students investigated and explored in their day at the park. The business lectures were highly informative explaining how the park, as a private business, has seen periods of decline and renewal in its seventy years of operation. The students were keen to investigate the key functions of the business, making detailed notes about the venue which will form a part of their upcoming assessment.

Many thanks to Mr Bonora and Miss Carne for attending the excursion and to the students for representing the school with great pride and demonstrating great enthusiasm for the excursion.

Mr D. Moussa
Business Studies Teacher

HISTORY

Year 8 Medieval Day

On Tuesday the 15th of March, Year 8 History students took part in Medieval Day which involved lots of educational content and much more comedy...

Ben, our medieval expert and court jester, spoke to us about different medieval weaponry, war tactics and took us through a timeline of medieval events, in particular, the Battle of Hastings. A few of us even got to be a part of the show, pretending to be the Knights, Kings and Ladies. Students got the chance to hold and use, to a certain extent, weapons, and shields and wear chain-mail and helmets. Ben then told us about medicinal beliefs of the medieval people. These included beliefs such as the fact that our blood does not flow and that a bruise was 'angry blood' and so they thought that they had get rid of it. Students had a great time during the first part of the show and definitely got a lot out of it.

After our recess break we came back to the Theatre only to find Ben dressed as a jester, also known as a fool during the Medieval days. He had told us about how the jester was the only person in the kingdom who could make a joke about the King and still keep his head attached to his body. Jesters also talked to the peasants and would then tell the King about what was being said around the villages. Jesters, or fools, were regarded highly but not the same as royalty. However, they were still treated that way by all and sat next to the King at banquets and feasts and the jester also got to live in his own suite at the Royal Castle.

Ben showed us many amazing tricks and the power of near hypnotism. We were all in awe at his talent.

Once lunch concluded, we came back again and we finished the day watching 'The Black Knight'. It was quite funny and entertaining, definitely a great way to finish an amazing day.



Vlada Manchenko
Year 8 Chavoin

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Tuition Program

The Music Tuition program has been very successful this term, with many students making beautiful music throughout C-block!

Any students wishing to commence private or group instrumental lessons for Term 2 need to collect a permission form from Ms Andrews in the music block as soon as possible.

Lessons are offered on the following instruments:

- Voice
- Piano and Keyboard
- Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar
- Drums
- Trumpet
- Saxophone
- Flute



Please direct all inquiries to Ms T Andrews by email at: tandrews2@paradeauone.ca

Ms T. Andrews
Head of Performing Arts

MCS TENNIS

After a heavy night of rain, 11 boys accompanied Mrs Haddad attending the MCS Tennis tournament at Barton Park. Delayed an hour and a half later than scheduled, the tournament was under way at 10:30, cutting all matches to 10 minutes each. Though this wasn't the worst of the news. As word was thrown that 3 courts were out of action, the solemn news was delivered to the Under 15s doubles team that their official competition would be cancelled.

After the late start, the competition commenced, balls were hit and scores were added. 2016 saw a fantastic win rate for all teams, many of which were undefeated including Samuel Sassen and Austin Roia. The undefeated boys won a total of 13 points and losing only 2 points. Matthew Raish and Alex Skocic both had an excellent first taste of MCS tennis. Remigiusz Lewandowski and his partner Alex Johnson felt the taste of victory winning two matches. Lin Xu bravely took on the challenge playing up an age division in the Under 14s singles. In the 2 games Joseph El-Badawi and Patrick Nasr could fend for, they won both, not even losing a point. Finally James Broekmans, our team's most dominating player, lost narrowly in the semi finals but had played with good sportsmanship and great effort giving his very best.

Well done to all the squad for a great day of tennis



Patrick Nasr
9 Edwin

P&F Cocktail Evening



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

Community News



HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH RYDALMERE

HOLY NAME OF MARY YOUTH GROUP

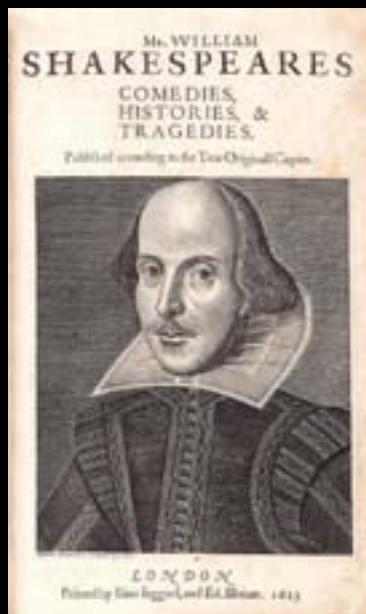
Attention Year 7 and Year 8 Students

Following a successful year in 2015, Holy Name of Mary, Rydalmere will be holding our next youth group this Saturday (2nd April) following the 5:30pm mass. We have a few additions to our leadership team and have expanded to be in the Parish Hall (opposite the Church in Myrtle St). We will continue to use our faith program "edge", have fun activities and conclude with a meal at 8pm. Parents - It is a free night and will be held on the 1st Saturday night of each month.

If you have any questions please email Anne-Marie Hewkins (ahewkins@yahoo.com) or contact Fr Peter in the Parish office.

Ye Olde Shakespeare

Who is this old guy!



Dr Keagan Brewer explains Shakespeare's context, language, techniques, philosophy & meter.

Wednesday 13 April

10am -2pm | Bookings essential | \$5

www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/library

PARRAMATTA CITY LIBRARY
PARTICIPATE | CONNECT | LEARN

Behaviour and Learning

Presented by Vivienne Branch

Principal - Positive Behaviour for Learning

Macquarie Park Educational Services, NSW Department of Education

Tuesday 5th April 2016

Term 1
Seminar

www ldc org au

VENUE:

Auditorium, **Parramatta Leagues Club**, 13-15 O'Connell St, Parramatta

TIME:

Registration 9.30am, Seminar (with question time) 10am-12pm

PARKING:

Free parking at the Club

COST:

Seminar Payment Only

\$30 Seminar - LDC Member
\$65 Seminar - Non LDC member

Seminar & Membership Offer

\$60 Seminar entry & NEW Individual m'ship (until 31 May 2017)
\$75 Seminar entry & NEW School m'ship (until 31 May 2017)

Vivienne Branch is the leader of the Macquarie Park Educational Services Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Team. In this seminar she will give an overview about PBL, an evidence-based whole school approach implemented in schools across NSW to improve learning outcomes for all students, including those with learning difficulties. Vivienne will then discuss a range of behaviour management strategies and positive behaviour supports, that can be adopted by parents and teachers from all school systems. As always there will be time allotted for questions and discussion.

2 registrants @ member rates per Individual Membership
6 staff @ member rates per School/Organisation Membership

Register online @ www ldc org au OR complete this form and send with payment to the LDC Office. Seats are limited.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT must be received by Tuesday 29th March

Name: _____ School Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Ph: _____ Email (**PRINT CLEARLY**): _____

Payment type (please tick)

GST FREE

TAX INVOICE

ABN 93 046 401 929

FAX: 9689 2871

Paypal OR credit card (go to www ldc org au)

Cheque/Money order (Made out to "Learning Difficulties Coalition")

Post to: LDC Office, PO Box 140, Westmead, 2145

Direct Deposit (St George Bank, BSB 112 879, A/C No: 044 050 245)

Please insert your surname as the reference to verify payment

Office Use Only	
Date:	Receipt No:
Reg List:	Email Reg:
Contact:	Email Paid:

Payment amount (please tick)

Seminar Payment

\$30 Seminar entry LDC Member

\$65 Seminar entry Non LDC Member

Seminar & Membership Offer

\$60 Seminar entry & NEW individual membership (until May 31, 2017)

\$75 Seminar entry & NEW school membership (until May 31, 2017)

Refund of fees, less 30% administration, will be available up to 14 days prior to conference commencement. No cancellations accepted later than 14 days to conference. Substitute delegates welcomed at no extra charge.



ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE

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Email: stpatdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au Website: www.stpatricks.nsw.edu.au

23rd March, 2016

Dear Parents,

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 10-12 May 2016:

Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May	Friday 13 May
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	Reading	Numeracy	A 'catch-up' day scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day
Writing			

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the Director of Studies and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Please email Ms Thern Ellison (Director of Studies) on telison@parra.catholic.edu.au to apply for adjustment or exemption.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Director of Studies. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Please email Ms Thern Ellison (Director of Studies) on telison@parra.catholic.edu.au to apply for your child to be withdrawn.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.



Continued Over

PAT-R Testing

The Catholic Education Office of Parramatta continually seeks to improve students learning across its schools by information teachers about each students learning especially in literacy and numeracy. This year students from Year 7 to 10 will be sitting the PAT- R standardised tests in Weeks 10 and 11 this term. These tests are completed online. The PAT -R tests are used to monitor progress in reading comprehension and provide teachers with diagnostic information for setting realistic learning goals and planning effective programs. This assessment enables us to:

- Track students' literacy progress from Year 7 through to year 10.
- Identify students who require help to develop literacy skills and students who would benefit from literacy extension.
- Use results to confirm school-based assessment.
- Use information, based on the question types, to plan literacy teaching strategies.

Since 2014 teaching staff have been developing various Literacy and Numeracy skills to support student learning of these skills in all their subject areas. NAPLAN and PATR data provide valuable insights into student literacy and numeracy and their analysis support all teachers to know their students and how they learn.

Yours sincerely,



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Director of Studies