St Patricks Day

Many in our community will have celebrated St Patrick’s Day on Monday the 17th of March. Saint Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and the day itself has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck, music and songs and the odd Guinness or two. Most importantly St. Patrick’s Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for men and women worldwide who have become missionaries like Patrick. Our own church history in Australia is littered with these unsung heroes and on the 17th of March it is fitting that we raise a toast in celebration of the lives they lived and sacrifices they have made on our behalf.

2014 – St Peter’s College Board Annual General Meeting 29th of April

At the annual general meeting of the College Board on the 29th of April the terms of three of our Parent Representatives will expire, Mr Robert Carboon, Mr Stephen Van Der Velden and Mr David Williams. Mr Robert Carboon, Mr Stephen Van Der Velden and Mr David Williams are fully eligible to re-nominate as a Cranbourne West Parent Representative for a further 3 year term. Consistent with the Constitution of the Board, other parents who are members of the Parish Community may also wish to nominate.

In accordance with the constitution current Board Member, Mr Ken Barnes is understood to be entering the second year of his three year term as parent representative for the Cranbourne East Campus.

Nominations for the vacant Parent Representative positions on the College Board will open as of today and close on Monday the 31st of March. Nomination forms are available from the college office and from the St. Agatha’s Parish Office until the closing date.

Nominations forms can be submitted to the Parish Office at St Agatha’s, which is open from 8.30 am to 3pm Monday to Friday or to the front office at St Peter’s College – Cranbourne West.

In accordance with the constitution of the College Board, the newly elected parent representative must be a member of St Agatha’s Parish Community and have a son or daughter enrolled at the Cranbourne West Campus of St. Peter’s College. Polling if necessary will take place at Parish Masses on the weekend of the 5th and 6th of April.

Student Attendance

I include the following information from the Victorian Government which has introduced new measures to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling. Educational research highlights the importance of consistent school attendance as a factor in student achievement and the Government has sought to apply renewed emphasis on this by adopting measures that apply to all Victorian schools, stemming from the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.
Every day counts – school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Parent Teacher Interviews

The Church supports us as parents in recognizing that parents are “the primary and principal educators” of their children. Parent Teacher Interviews are seen as an opportunity to strengthen this partnership between teachers and parents. Ideally students should attend these interviews with their parents. This allows for clear and open communication and the establishment of common learning goals.

For some parents the change to Secondary Education is a time when students ask for less involvement with their schooling. It is no longer cool to have parents volunteer for reading programmes and opportunities to work in the canteen are no longer available. A connection with school however is still possible.

- Parents asking their child how their school day was and showing genuine interest in the learning that they are undertaking can have the same impact as hours of private tutoring
- Parents sharing about their day
- Monitoring homework – regular signing of the Student Record Book
- Making sure children get to school
- Rewarding the efforts and talking up the idea of going to university

(Franklin Schargel, 2014 OECD Report)

Attendance at Parent Teacher Interviews sends a strong message to students that parents are interested in their learning. Parents can seek clarification from teachers and establish strategies to assist their sons and daughters to achieve the best possible results at school. By taking time out from busy schedules to meet with a child’s teacher a parent teaches the student that education is valuable and worth spending time on.

Parents will soon receive a letter outlining the booking instructions for Parent Teacher Interviews. Interviews are 5 minutes in duration and provide valuable feedback regards student learning to date. Parents who have more in-depth queries may need to make an alternative appointment time.

All bookings can be made online using the Parent Teacher On-Line ( PTO ) booking system which will be open to parents on 27th March. Parents who do not have access to the Internet may ring the College to arrange appointments after 27th March.

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place during Week 10 of this term
Thursday 3rd April from 4.00p.m until 8.30pm
Friday 4th April from 9.00am until 1.00pm

East Campus – Lyons Building ( Upstairs )
West Campus - Hall

For further queries please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Marlene Jorgensen - Deputy Principal- Teaching and Learning
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – HEAD OF WEST CAMPUS

City of Casey Student Leaders Reception

On the afternoon of Thursday, 13 March, I was privileged to take two of our school leaders, Jessica Cottrell and Danielle Ellis to the City of Casey Student Leaders Reception. The Mayor, Cr Geoff Ablett welcomed the school leaders and Tiffiny Hall, from the television show The Biggest Loser, was the Guest Speaker. Tiffiny's inspiring message for any leader was to develop four qualities – passion, resilience, confidence and health. It was a message not just for leaders but a challenge for all of our students. We are all called to lead in various situations, whether we have a badge or not. It is beneficial for each of us to develop an optimistic enthusiasm, a capability to carry on through adversity, positive self-talk, healthy eating habits and an exercise regime.

A number of young leaders also spoke and it was terrific to hear a former student, Emily Oostveen (Class of 2011) tell of having lived her dream last year when she worked at Disneyworld in Florida. The consistent message from all these young leaders was to overcome fear, believe in yourself and act. It sounded very much like our Saint Peter’s motto: “Be not afraid”.

Harmony Day – Thursday, 27 March

Our student leaders are currently organising Harmony Day, which we will celebrate next week on Thursday, 27 March. This is a very important celebration of our cultural diversity within one community of peace. The day will involve a campus assembly, a concert, fashion parade of cultural dress, staff v. students soccer match, and of course food from around the world. Students are asked to bring a $2 donation for the work of Caritas and some money to purchase something exciting for lunch. Parents are asked to remind students of the following dress code:

- National dress of country of your heritage and/or ancestry.
- Day respecting our cultural diversity- NO disrespect to any culture, race or religion.
- Either national dress or full school uniform- no combinations of both.
- No less than a T-Shirt (ie no singlets).
- No Footy shorts.
- No Footy Jumpers (Unless national colours-eg. Australian Soccer Team, All Blacks Rugby Team). This means no AFL Team Footy Jumpers.
- No Thongs- appropriate footwear must be worn.
- No Face Painting.
- $2 Coin donation.

Mr David Hansen - HEAD OF WEST CAMPUS

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – HEAD OF EAST CAMPUS

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate the diversity of culture we have within our community and stamp out all forms of racism. Next Thursday the 27th of March, we will celebrate Harmony Day with a number of activities at both recess and lunch and an assembly with a guest speaker. Students have the opportunity to celebrate their heritage by coming dressed in clothing that identifies their national heritage. They have been asked to follow the guidelines below and I ask for your support in this matter.

- National dress/costume
- Nationally recognised sporting uniform. If only wearing the top, the remainder is to be full PE uniform
- Clothing that depicts the national colours
- National flags are NOT to be worn as capes or as items of clothing
- Normal hair, makeup and jewellery rules apply
- Students who have PE or sports classes must have PE uniform for these classes.
- Students who have practical classes (Science, Integrated, Food Technology, Design Technology, Art etc) must have enclosed shoes.

Maths Help

Maths Help will commence this week On Thursday afternoons in Lyons LA5 from 3.30-4.30pm. It is designed for all students who are either struggling with maths in general or need help with a specific topic.

Building Update

- Stage 3A building – consisting of Visual Arts Studios and Technology Workshops has gone out to tender. It is hoped that the successful builder will be on site and start towards the end of April.
- Temporary Staff rooms and PE changing rooms are due to be erected on site towards the end of this month and ready for use at the beginning of term 2.
- Stage 2 landscaping is coming to close and will very quickly change the external appearance of our new Graham building.

Mr James Roberts - HEAD OF EAST CAMPUS
TEACHING AND LEARNING

In the previous edition our Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning), Ms. Marlene Jorgensen, detailed some strategies to overcome the problem of procrastination. Among these was the advice to ‘put your head down for 20 minutes and just start!’

To follow from there, I thought I’d look at the question – **where to start?** I recommend spending that first 20 minutes looking carefully at the question or task outline. How many parts of the question/task are there? What are the key terms you need to understand and use in your response? Knowing what it is you need to do makes the task itself a whole lot easier.

As example, the following is a question from the Year 9 Core History course.

**What were the effects upon Aboriginal people from early contacts with Europeans and were these effects intended or unintended?**

This question has 2 parts;
- first, students must identify and outline the effects that early contact with Europeans had upon Aboriginal people;
- and second, they must classify these effects as either intentional or unintentional.

The second part of this question demands that students make a judgement and they would need to support their judgement with factual evidence.

Some key terms include;
- effects - what were these?
- contacts - what was the nature of some of these contacts?

These words are plurals - indicating there were more than one contact and effect.
- intended/unintended - clearly state your opinion.

Knowing what to do and where to begin is empowering, but students are encouraged to use the various support mechanisms available through the college. These include;
- **Teachers** - ask us questions!
- **Homework club** - a learning focussed environment with access to a teacher-aide
- **Rubrics** - read these in conjunction with the question, the knowledge and skills needed are outlined for you
- **Moodle** - Access Moodle for course and assessment documents and other learning resources.

Mr Justin Dee - Years 7 - 10 Curriculum Leader - East Campus

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ST PETER’S COLLEGE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

TRAVELLING TO JAPAN...

An information night for students who have expressed interest in joining this year’s study tour to Japan will be held on 31 March, 2014. All parents and students are invited to attend this information session which will be held in the Global Learning Centre at 7pm. Letters will be sent home in Japanese classes

ARRIVING FROM FRANCE...

We have a group of 15 and 16 year old French students who will be arriving in July and a group arriving in August. They will be staying for 4 weeks and will be attending school at both St Peters East and West campuses.

We are looking for interested families to host a student during their 4 week stay. A fee for out of pocket expenses is offered.

Further information about this program can be obtained from French teachers or from Miss Olimpia Rosenblum, Exchange Coordinator.

Miss Olimpia Rosenblum – Exchange Coordinator

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Japanese Study Tour 2014
Informatio Night
Monday March 31st
7pm
Global learning Centre
**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Congratulations** to St Peter’s College Year 12, MacKillop student Jaide Collins on making the School Sport Victoria Victorian Tennis under 18 Team again in 2014.

Jaide will represent her state and St Peter’s College at The Pizzey Cup Championships which will be held in Perth, Western Australia from 3rd May. Jaide is currently ranked 79th by Tennis Australia in the Australian Women’s Rankings.

**Congratulations** to past St Peter’s College student, 19 year old, Ben Ashkenazi has been honoured with two Leader Sports Star Awards.

Ben, a pace bowler, was awarded for his 2013 campaign with Australian Cricket in the under-19 team in a quad series against India, South Africa and Zimbabwe in September and October.

Since then Ben, has had a very busy summer competing over the last 2 months as a member of the ICC Under 19 Australian World Cup team, playing in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai against teams such as England, South Africa and West Indies. Then returning home to play in the Under 23 Victorian Team.

In the Cranbourne Leader, in their write up on the recent Awards ceremony held at Etihad Stadium, they state that Ben was a deserving senior winner, taking home the award for Cranbourne/Berwick Leader senior Sports Star Award as well as the overall senior Sports Star Award for the Southern District.

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**SIS Performing Arts Concert**
The SIS Performing Arts Concert is an annual event which brings together many of school in the SIS network to perform at the Drum Theatre in Dandenong. Students only have two days of rehearsals to develop and perfect items in a number of different groups. This year St Peter’s College has students from both the West and East campuses involved in the Choir, Concert Band, Hip Hop Dance, Contemporary Dance, Show Dance and the Guitar Ensemble. St Peter’s very own Miss Robertson is choreographing the Show Dance routine. Our brilliant VCE Music Performance class will also performing on the night, representing just the tip of the iceberg of talent at St Peter’s College. All of this culminating in what promises to be a fantastic and entertaining evening. The concert is on Tuesday the 25th of March at 7:30pm. Bookings as essential, so call the Drum Theatre on 9771 6666 to book.

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**ST PETER’S COLLEGE FAMILY PRAYER GROUP**

We are inviting each family to take the challenge to join us here at St Peter’s East Campus ONCE A MONTH on a Friday night to pray together. Our next meeting is scheduled for FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.30 P.M. in the Lyons Building, where the St Thomas Parish Mass is held every Sunday. We will have the opportunity to pray “With the Family” and “As a family”. Hopefully this will help to bring members of each family closer to each other and build stronger links among themselves and more importantly to put Jesus at the centre of each family.

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**MACKILLOP HOUSE REPORT**

As a new arrival to St Peter’s, it has been a real pleasure to take up the role of House Leader for Mackillop. This term I have been getting to know individuals in the house. Our main theme has been centred on developing our house identity and house spirit. House Captains and Forum representatives are working with tutor groups to come up with ideas for improving the look of our tutor rooms and locker areas to better reflect the personality of our house.

Mackillop students are a diversly talented and caring group of young people.

I was happy to share with the house at our assembly, two recent theatrical successes;

- Jessie McGuigan 7MKB has been performing in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with the Young Australian Broadway Tour at Adelaide Fringe Festival.
- Sarah Heys 10MKF will join the chorus of Annie the Musical at Frankston arts centre during the holidays.

The house is working hard at present raising funds for project compassion. Many students have taken additional boxes in addition to those already in tutor rooms where spare change is being collected. We are off to a great start; Perri McLean as already raised over $180 which is an amazing figure. The house also plan to sell hotdogs in the coming weeks to raise further funds for this very worthy cause.

Mackillop students are developing into a wonderful team. I am very proud to be a part of that.

Ms Amanda Kerr - Mackillop House Leader
As far as we know, St Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family’s estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, very often alone. But he learned the Irish language, and more than likely Irish legends and mythology while he was observing the pagan practices of the locals. Lonely and afraid, he found comfort in the Christian God he had previously scorned.

After more than six years as a prisoner, a voice—which he believed to be God’s—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. Patrick escaped, walking nearly 200 miles to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. So Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to evangelise the Irish." (Jim Quillinan, Along the Track)

St Patrick was an amazing man who was able to interpret Christian Faith within the people and culture of his time. Our role as parents, students and staff in the Catholic School is continue the great tradition of St Patrick.

Mr Stephen Nash - Religious Education Leader
CAREERS NEWS

VCE and VCAL pathways and subject survey for 2015 at St Peter’s East Campus

Students in Years 9 and 10 will be attending an information session relating to choice of subjects available for their future studies. This will be held in period 1 on Friday 21st March with Ms Dillon delivering information relevant to course selection in both the VCE and VCAL options. It is most important that students consider and discuss with their families their current interests, future goals and career ideas in preparation for this session. NB THIS IS NOT THE ACTUAL SUBJECT SELECTION FOR 2015 (which will be completed later in the year).

General Career Information

StarNow
StarNow lists a range of jobs and open auditions for actors, dancers, film crews, musicians, and more.

Smartphone Apps to Help with Studying
This article features some smartphone apps that can help students to improve their study habits.

Raffles Photography Competition
Term 1 closing date is Wednesday 9th April.
High school students are invited to submit a photo to this competition. Entries are limited to one photo per person per term. There is no theme to this competition.
Contact: photocomp@raffles.edu.au
http://www.raffles.edu.au/photography-home/competition

‘The Under Age’
The Under Age is a fortnightly online newspaper written entirely by Victorian high school journalists. Each fortnight the group of 13 young people workshop their story ideas with each other and with selected industry professionals. The newspaper will include articles on news, sport, politics, art and culture.
For more information, visit:

Ms Mellissa Dillon – Careers Coordinator

TERM 1 2014 CRANBOURNE WEST AND EAST CALENDAR

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HEAD LICE
Head lice have been reported to the school - please check, and if necessary treat your family for head lice. There is no need to treat everyone if no head lice are found but you need to look for the head lice.

If you find head lice in your family please tell anyone who has had head to head contact with the family member.

Accurate information on treatment and control of head lice can be found at http://health.vic.gov.au/headlice

Remember keep a balanced view and don’t put your child’s health at risk.
MEETING SCHEDULE:

Tuesday 6th May
AGM (Annual General Meeting)
7.15 Tea and Coffee
7.30-9.00 pm St Peter's College West Campus, Staff Room
Cranbourne-Frankston Road, Cranbourne Enter via Navarre Drive

GUEST SPEAKER – MS MARLENE JORGENSEN – DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
TEACHING & LEARNING WEST & EAST CAMPUS
(Home Economics)

Ms Marlene Jorgensen joined St Peter's College at the beginning of 2013 as House Leader for MacKillop House. This year she has taken up the newly created position of Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning across both the West and East Campuses. A passionate educator Marlene will talk about our goals for Teaching & Learning at St Peter's in 2014 and beyond.

Other dates to note in your diary:

Tuesday 10th June – Meeting- Parents Forum
Tuesday 24th June St Peters Days Celebrations Sausage Sizzle Lunch - Volunteers required (athompson@stpeters.vic.edu.au)
Saturday 19th July, Bunnings Cranbourne Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser - Volunteers required (athompson@stpeters.vic.edu.au)
Tuesday 29th July, Meeting
Tuesday 2nd September, Meeting
Tuesday 28th October, Meeting
Tuesday 2nd December, Meeting

We would like to invite you to consider the opportunity of participating in one or more of the Parents & Friends Meetings and/or Activities in 2014. Our College Principal attends all meetings and it is a great opportunity to not only meet him, but to talk about and become involved in all issues relevant to the College, your family and our students.

You might not be able to attend all meetings, but we will be happy to welcome you when you can.

FUNDRAISING 2014

2014-15 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALES

We will again this year be fundraising via the Entertainment Book, where 20% of each sale value is donated directly to our fundraising efforts. LAUNCH DETAILS COMING SOON…………………

RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFITS CARD

Your P&F Association receives donations from Ritchies Community stores when you present your card.
A Reminder that 1% of your spend will be donated to St Peter's College P&F Association. Thank you for your support of this program.
For full address locations visit www.ritchies.com.au

Members of the Executive of the Parents & Friends Association may be contacted:
College P&F Liaison April Hampson, Marketing Officer
Phone: 03 5990 7777
Fax: 03 5996 8277
Email: office@stpeters.vic.edu.au or athompson@stpeters.vic.edu.au

ST PETER'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Find details on how to register to get your College Newsletter on-line. Remember anyone can register to receive the College Newsletter on-line, so sign up extended family members and friends. Grandparents particularly love to keep up to date with your children’s school day to day activities.

ST PETER'S COLLEGE WEBSITE

Visit our College website www.stpeters.vic.edu.au for all up to date information on the College structure and activities. You will also find in ‘News and Events’ numerous current and past stories and pictures of the ‘Day to Day’ College life of our students.