



The Focus



26 November, 2021
Term 4 Issue 4

Diary Dates

**Monday 29 November -
Friday 03 December**

Year 9 Lifesaving
Program

**Wednesday 01 - Friday
03 December**

SUISS Program for Year
10

Tuesday 07 December

Year 12 Graduation
Assembly

Thursday 09 December

Year 12 Formal

Monday 13 December

Year 7 2022 Orientation
Day

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Languages

From the Principal Leader

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

Advent

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. The Church calendar begins with the Advent season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Advent is the preparation for the coming of Christ. The Gospel tells us how people can be caught up when they are not ready. Jesus tells us that we do not know when he will return so we should always be ready and prepared for his coming. Advent is a time to think about how we live our lives, so we need to be mindful of the needs of others and be ready to respond to them. One way our community can respond to the needs of others is through our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.



Year 12 Higher School Certificate

Our senior boys are continuing with their HSC examinations at the moment. Please note that the last HSC exam is on 3 December, 2021. As a College community, we keep the Class of 2021 in our prayers during this time.

Student Expectations

As the end of the 2021 academic year approaches, I would like to thank all parents who have supported the College in ensuring that their son is meeting the College's expectations in relation

to uniform and grooming. With only a few weeks of school remaining, I have asked Student Formation Leaders to be especially vigilant in relation to these issues and I ask for parent support in maintaining our standards.

Parent Education Forum – Term 4

The College facilitated an online Parent Education Forum this week. The theme of the event was *Understanding NAPLAN*. Our Assistant Principal – Learning, Teaching and Innovation, Cathy Molloy, provided high quality information and there was also an opportunity for a Q & A.

Community Liturgy

As a reminder, the College has an online Liturgy for students every Thursday morning. It commences at 8.15am. This is a lovely opportunity for the College community to pray together. I hope to see many students attend this Term.

Reflection

Last Sunday was the Feast of Christ the King which brings us to the conclusion of the liturgical year. The Gospel reading for the Feast of Christ the King gives us a powerful reminder of how Jesus envisaged the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, the "kingdom" had nothing to do with power and status but a rule of justice and peace for even the lowliest. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Mt 25:40

God bless,

Frank Chiment
PRINCIPAL LEADER

Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care

December is almost upon us, and the local Blacktown traffic is starting to increase as the inevitable rush towards Christmas begins.

The last fortnight has focused on the HSC Examinations, conducted this year in most unusual circumstances across multiple rooms, wearing masks and with a health bubble. Our Year 12 students have been unfazed. Reports after each session of the examinations have been very positive. We have also commenced the orientation process for our Year 7, 2022 students, with a welcome video and information handbook distributed last week, and Orientation Day in the last week of school this term. The other notable event was our final Parent Education Forum for 2021, expertly presented by Ms. Cathy Molloy.

In the next two weeks, we look forward to the completion of HSC Examinations, Lifesaving Week for Year 9, SUISS – Step Up into Senior School program for our Year 10 students who are moving into Year 11, Allwell Testing for Year 7 2022, and our Year 12 Graduation Ceremony and Formal. As you would understand, all events in the coming weeks include some variations to normal arrangements due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. Hopefully, 2022 will provide some clear air in this regard.

Finally, thanks to all parents who supported the College in the last fortnight as we worked our way through the list of students who needed to address hair and grooming issues after lockdown. Our expectations in this regard are well publicised.

Thanking you for your ongoing support.

Brian Edmonds
Assistant Principal – Pastoral Care

Assistant Principal - Learning, Teaching and Innovation

It is a very busy and interesting time of year. Whilst we have been back at face to face learning for a few weeks, we are also now in the process of finalising 2021 and getting ready for 2022. It is important for our students to finish the year well given the considerable interruptions that have occurred during 2021.

Courses for Year 9 and Year 11 2022

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and students who have returned their confirmation of subjects for 2022 - 2023 in the last few weeks. A reminder that all confirmations are to be returned next week as these are now overdue for return.

HSC Examinations

As we move into Week 9 next week, we will see the last of the 2021 HSC examinations finalised. Our Year 12 2021 students have approached these exams with due diligence and commitment. They are to be commended for their conduct before, during and after each exam. The NESA HSC Exam Supervisors have made specific comments about the fine young men who have presented for their examinations this year.

Study Skills Handbook

Getting set up for a successful 2022, we are delighted to let you know that our school is now a subscriber to the study skills website

www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

This is a website that will help students develop essential skills for academic success with resources for parents, carers and teachers to assist students in this regard. There are units of work on topics such as improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarizing, technology use, brain and memory. Basically everything students need to know about becoming a powerful learner can be found on this site. For example, learn the best study techniques for you, how to improve your handwriting and useful software and apps to block yourself from technology distractions.

You will also see lots of useful handouts, grids and planners at the bottom of the THINGS TO PRINT page.

To access the handbook, go to :

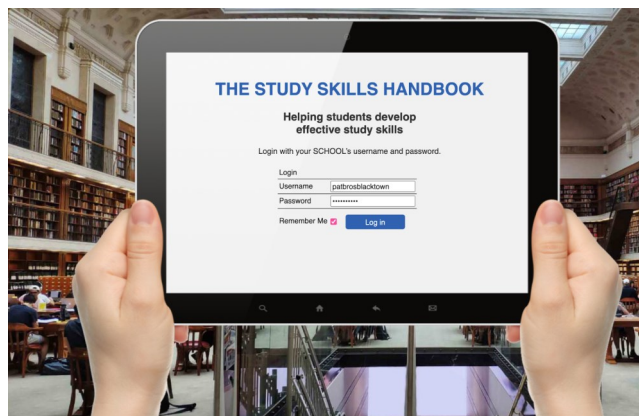
www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

and **login** with these details:

username: **patbrosblacktown**

password: **100success**

The more of this website you can work through, the more you will set yourself up for academic success. Attached is a sheet where you can record the login details as well as your personal tracking details when you set them up for the quizzes.



Cathy Molloy
Assistant Principal - Learning, Teaching and Innovation

Religious Education and Mission



Thursday Morning Liturgy

Until we can gather together we will be replacing our Thursday morning Mass with an online liturgy. The Zoom link and readings will be sent each week on Compass. All staff and students are welcome to the liturgy.

Parramatta Diocese Home Resources

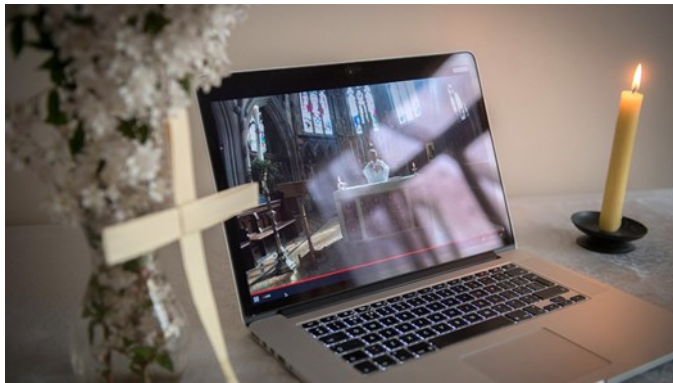
The Diocese has set up a page of resources and information for the people of the Parramatta Diocese. This will support you in your faith life while at home. You can find this on the following link

<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

Online Masses

As we return to Mass, a number of the parishes in the diocese are providing online support for worship. You can find these parishes and times on the following link

<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

With Advent starting on Sunday 28th November, we will commence our annual Vinnies Christmas Hamper appeal. These hampers will go to the St Vincent de Paul Blacktown Chapter which will be distributed to our local community. We will be collecting through Weeks 9 and 10. Thank you for your support.

Victor Hunt
Dean of Religious Education and Mission



**We are looking for uniform
Donations**

**If you are happy to donate
to the College**

**Please bring in your used
and clean uniform to the front
office.**

Cashless Schools

CEDP have asked all schools to move towards a cashless environment.

We kindly ask families not to bring large amounts of cash to the College.

Fees can be paid at Australia Post and by BPay, BPoint (Direct Debit) and credit card at the office or over the phone.

Dean of Studies

Year 10 Step up into Senior School - Orientation and Preparation for Years 11 and 12

Next week, Year 10 will be taking part in a variety of activities in order to prepare them for the demands of Senior School. One very important activity that they will need to do is HSC All My Own Work. This is a mandatory course that, if not completed satisfactorily, will prevent them from being enrolled into senior courses. This is one reason why they need to be here at school during next week. **Elevate** will provide them with using study and learning hints. And there are many other activities that will allow the boys to have a better understanding of what senior school involves.

Semester 2 Reports

Reports will be published over the next two weeks and will be available on Compass.

Year 10 - 3/12/2021

Year 9 - 2/12/2021

Year 8 - 7/12/2021

Year 7 - 8/12/2021

The reports will give students and parents a good idea of the learning growth that has taken place since Semester One. Obviously this has been a very challenging year for some boys, through home schooling and the other social and emotional impacts of COVID. We need to congratulate all the boys for the way that they have handled a difficult situation and to put everything into perspective. Next year, they can focus on recalibration and setting themselves goals that will lead to success and improvement.

Semester 2 Prize Giving

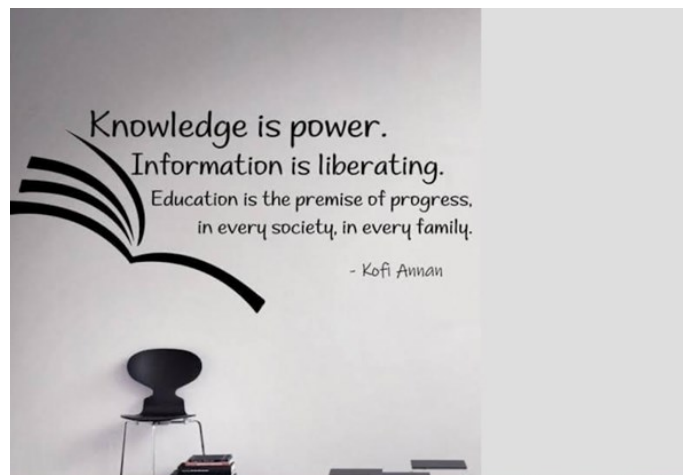
This will have to be a single cohort activity as we still have COVID restrictions that need to be adhered to. There will be more information forthcoming next week, as we collect the data from the student reports.

HSC 2021

After a very rocky start where we were not even sure that the exams would go ahead, the Year 12 boys are nearing the finishing line. Many teachers from the College are HSC marking a variety of subjects and from this activity our school obtains invaluable information about the marking process and what makes a successful, competitive HSC student.

HSC 2022

Year 11 students have already commenced the HSC component of their work towards this qualification. The first round of assessment tasks are about to start. A reminder that tasks need to be submitted on time. If illness occurs, the student needs to ask for an illness/misadventure form, and a student must not be absent the day before a task is due, as that can be considered mal-practice in having extra time to complete a task. The Calendar of assessment tasks for Year 11/12 is live and easily accessible to parents and students. Make sure that the diary is used to record the dates of all tasks due. Organisation is often the key to success.



Danuta Paton
Dean of Studies

Resource Centre Update



2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students that **completed the Premier's Reading Challenge** in 2021:

Year 7

Jackson Bond
Jeremy Espinas
Tanush Oberoi
Jared Ragasajo

Year 8

Amish Acharya
Jason Attard
Jay Vora

Year 9

Edward Paul

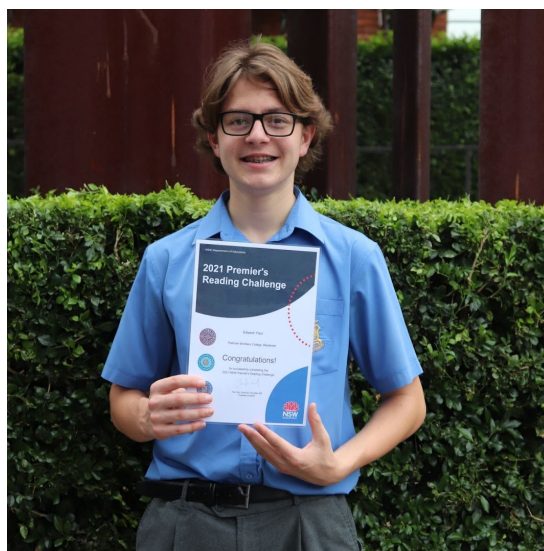
We were so excited to hand out their certificates and we are so proud of their achievement - especially in this challenging year when access to libraries was limited.

These students each read 20 books between March and September.

Special recognition goes to Edward Paul of Year 9, who has completed this Challenge every year since Kindergarten.

Well done!

We encourage all students to get involved in this challenge in 2022!!



The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is ON NOW!

Prizes on offer include one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30 each.

Check out Compass Newsfeed, visit the Resource Centre or the [Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge](#) Website for more information on how to enter.

Resource Centre Update cont.



RETURNING OF BOOKS

As we near the end of term, we also ask **all students to check if they have any books that need returning to the Resource Centre.** We ask that all books are returned as soon as possible to the Resource Centre.

Career Pathways



For many of our students, an apprenticeship or traineeship is their post school destination pathway.

In times gone by, if you wanted to enter an apprenticeship, you commonly left in Year 10. However, with many changes in both the educational and construction sectors, it is more common for students to complete their HSC before entering into an apprenticeship or traineeship. In fact, some companies are specifically looking for students who are Year 12 school leavers.

This does not mean that students cannot begin to prepare for their entry into an apprenticeship whilst still at school. There are many skills and requirements that companies are looking for when hiring apprentices.

The College receives regular emails from Group Training Organisations with apprenticeship and traineeship vacancies, which are regularly posted on Compass for Years 10, 11 and 12 students. Here are some insights into what these Group Training Organisations are looking for in an apprenticeship/traineeship applicant.

- The Construction industry mostly wants applicants to have a Driver's Licence (not L's) and possibly their own car.
- If students are interested in entering the Construction industry, they should aim to have their L's at 16.
- Employment whilst at school is favourable - students are encouraged to have a part time job.
- Excellent attendance and punctuality at school is something employers are looking for.
- Make sure you have a suitable and appropriate email address and voicemail.
- Experience is not required, but related subjects are highly regarded e.g. Studying Construction in Years 11 and 12 means you obtain a White Card plus complete Work Placement, making you very employable.
- A sound work ethic, time management and showing initiative are all strong qualities employers are looking for.

If you have any questions regarding apprenticeships or traineeships, or about post school destination pathways in general, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Marie Lane at mlane1@parra.catholic.edu.au or on (02) 8811 0316.

Marie Lane & Stephanie Hunt
Resource Centre Leaders

Languages

Mangiamo! Let's Eat!

This term, Year 8 Language students prepared an assessment task involving delicious Italian dishes. The boys were set the challenge of creating videos or presentations of an Italian dish, using the language that we have learnt about food over the past two terms. The results were fantastic and the Languages Faculty was thrilled with the level of detail and care taken by the students to prepare this assessment task. We have included a selection of exemplar responses below, for your enjoyment. Buon appetito!

OGGI RICERCO PASTA CARBONARA

IL PIATTO ITALIANO CHE STO RICERCANDO È LA PASTA CARBONARA. È UNA PASTA TRADIZIONALE ITALIANA CHE HA POCHISSIME INFORMAZIONI SUL SUO LUOGO DI ORIGINE. HA UN SAPORE MOLTO RICCO ED È UNO DEI MIEI TIPI DI PASTA PREFERITE CHE MANGIAMO A CASA.



Josh Jurgeit (8F)

CON CHI MANGIO IL PESTO GENOVESE

Pesto alla genovese

nella fine settimana cucino il pesto alla genovese, cucino questo piatto con mia madre, e usiamo questa salsa per la nostra pasta e come salsa per molti altri piatti

Di solito mangio il Pesto alla Genovese durante il pranzo, per lo più con la mia famiglia o a volte con i miei cugini

Mangio il pesto alla genovese con i miei genitori, che sono mia madre e mio padre

A volte cucino questo piatto da solo

A volte cucino questo piatto anche per i nostri ospiti

AUTORE SPECIALE



Rubal Sraw (8E)

Aislinn Cook
Leader of Learning—Languages



Per prima cosa ho aggiunto insieme lievito, acqua e zucchero.

Poi ho aggiunto la farina e il sale insieme.

Poi ho unito il tutto.

Mario Missak (8G)

CIAO!

OGGI CUCINÒ IL SPAGHETTI.

GLI INGREDIENTI SONO...

Toby Stevenson (8C)



PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE, BLACKTOWN



ENROL NOW

YEAR 7 2022/2023

Enquiries on 8811 0300

100 FLUSHCOMBE ROAD, BLACKTOWN

Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith



Extended Trading Hours for 2021 & 2022

Tuesday 14th December - 8am - 12pm
Thursday 16th December - 8am - 12:30pm

Monday 17th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Tuesday 18th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Wednesday 19th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Thursday 20th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Monday 24th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Tuesday 25th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Thursday 27th January - 8am - 12pm & 1pm - 4pm
Friday 28th January - 8am - 12pm

Normal trading to resume - Tuesday 1st February - 8am - 12pm

Please note, all days above will be by appointment only, via the current link & QR code -

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/ah36z>



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

SUGGESTED ITEMS INCLUDE:

LONG-LIFE
MILK OR MILO

CANNED TUNA,
FISH OR HAM

SNACKS AND
PREPACKAGED FOODS
(BISCUITS AND CAKES)

CANNED SOUP,
BAKED BEANS,
SPAGHETTI, FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES

LONG-LIFE
JUICE OR
CORDIAL

TEA, COFFEE
OR MILO

BABY FORMULA
AND BABY FOOD

DECORATIONS,
SERVIETTES ETC

VEGEMITE, HONEY,
SPREADS LIKE JAM
AND MARMALADE

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS AS WELL



WEEK 9-WEEK 10

TEACHERS WILL COLLECT HAMPER
DONATIONS DURING HOMEROOM

Settle into the spirit of the season

Christmas

Gala & Concert



Hosted by **Mary, Queen of the Family Parish**

Food Festival | Christmas Raffle | Christmas Concert* | Christmas Workshops**

Saturday **11th December** from **12:00 noon**
St Michael's Church, 58 Orwell St, Blacktown

Call: **(02) 9622 1125** – Or scan QR code to visit
www.mqofblacktown.org.au

*Limited seating, hurry tickets on sale for \$10

**Some funds raised will be for charity in PNG

Sponsors call: **0434 626 237**

