The Focus

16 December, 2022
Term 4 Issue 5

Diary Dates

Tuesday 31 January 2023
Years 7, 11 & 12 Return

Wednesday 01 February 2023
Years 8, 9 & 10 Return

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From the Principal Leader

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends,

Lord God, may we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday
of Christ
experience the joy of salvation
and
celebrate that feast with
love and thanksgiving.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Advent signifies the season of new beginnings. During this time, the Church requires us to prepare for the celebration of the feast of Christmas, the anniversary of the birth and coming of Jesus Christ. In essence, this period in the calendar of the Church provides followers with a great sense of hope and transformation.

The season of Christmas is always a busy one. We are saturated with sophisticated marketing campaigns connected to the purchasing and giving of gifts, socialising with friends and being with family. However, in the tradition of Jesus Christ and Bishop Daniel Delany, we must also remember the disadvantaged, marginalised and poor. Based on the Gospel teachings, it is incumbent on all of us to not only pray for others less fortunate than ourselves, but to actively support them in some meaningful way. It is by challenging ourselves in this fashion that a sense of hope and transformation may shine – and reinforce God's love for all.

Higher School Certificate 2022

As you may be aware, our students received their Higher School Certificate results and ATAR information yesterday. We are certainly proud of the results at an individual and collective level. The Year 12 class worked well with their dedicated and highly qualified teachers to achieve their best. Another pleasing aspect is that, as with previous years, these results were achieved by a group of students who were characterised by both the quality and generosity of their involvement in the life of the College: Retreat and Service programmes, Music, Debating and a myriad of sporting activities.

The students continued to provide impressive leadership to the College and were good role models for those who will follow in their footsteps. The task of the formation of the whole person, which lies at the heart of a Catholic and Patrician education, was strongly reflected in the experience of the Class of 2022.

We are confident they will approach their future endeavours with the confidence gained from their experience at the College. They will be exceptional ambassadors for our school as they follow their dreams and aspirations.

Annual Prize-giving Ceremony

The Annual Prize-giving Ceremony for 2022 saw the culmination of academic achievements of students at the College. We can be proud of the manner in which these fine young men presented themselves during the special assembly. The boys demonstrated that they have impressive qualities of friendship, strength and leadership. A special thank you to our guests, Fr. Regie, and CEDP Learning Leader, Mr. Attila Lendvai, who attended the event. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the Dean of Knowledge Management and Analytics, Mr. Robinson, for his overall co-ordination.

Sports Assembly

The College held a Sports Assembly this week in the Hall. This was a most appropriate opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding effort and achievement by numerous boys in a range of sports. I was most fortunate to watch various sporting games this year and I continue to be impressed with the good spirit and fair play demonstrated by our players. I thank the many staff members who undertook a role as coach. Additionally, I thank the Representative Sport Leader, Mr. Meares, for his outstanding leadership of our programs this year.

Farewell

The College farewells some staff members who will be leaving this term. We thank them for their wonderful contributions to our community and wish them the very best in their future endeavours. We farewell the following: Brittany Tynan, Aislinn Cook, Jessica Toomeh, Charlie Cherfan, Francesca Cassar, Ray Camilleri, Anthony Hrvatin, Denise Grzelj, Caitlin O'Hehir, Michael Benitez, Holly Read, James Benton, Irene Ringland, Stefanie Furnari.

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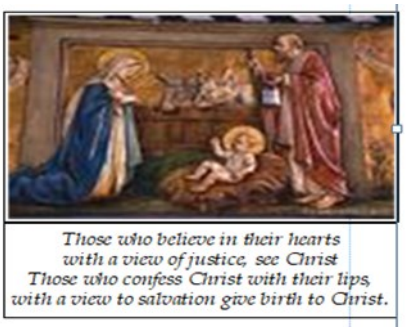
May I take this opportunity to thank parents, staff and students most sincerely for your generous support throughout the year.

May the miracle of this Christmas season bring wonder and joy to you and your family through the coming year.

God bless,



Frank Chiment
PRINCIPAL LEADER

Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care

The 2022 school year has all but drawn to a close and staff and students are looking forward to a well-earned break after a busy but successful year.

The last two weeks have included the Step Up Into Senior School (SUISS) program for Year 10 continuers, Lifesaving Week for Year 9 at Riverstone Pool, and our Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony. The SUISS Program included a series of workshops covering study skills and self-management, wellbeing, careers, respectful relationships and mental health, supplemented by two outstanding guest speakers – acclaimed motivational speaker, Daniel Merza, and Matt Cameron, who is very well known in Western Sydney, as a former staff member at our College, and in his current role as the Head of Football at the Penrith Panthers. Lifesaving Week was an outstanding success again this year. Reports from staff indicated that the students were outstanding, whether it be the struggling swimmers looking to improve their stroke and survival skills, or the advanced swimmers working on the rescue and resuscitation skills. Interestingly, students invariably rate this event as one of their best experiences they have during their time at the College.

We also received the HSC results for our class of 2022 and once again our students have done extremely well, with several students scored very high ATARs and a significant number achieving strong HSC packages of results, in many cases exceeding their own expectations. We wish all our Year 12 students every success as they move into university, apprenticeships or other career pathways in 2023 and beyond.

In terms of thanks for this year – on behalf of the Student Formation Leaders – I would like to express our genuine thanks to all the parents who have been so supportive of our efforts to guide and encourage their sons this year, especially on those occasions when students have been struggling with or avoiding school. In many ways, this work lies at the heart of our mission as a Catholic school, however, we are fully aware that without your support, we are far less likely to have success in turning around the prospects of these students.

Once again, we remind parents to start planning for 2023 in terms of organising uniform and laptops for their sons. In the last 2 years, supply issues caused by the lockdowns in Australia and overseas had a serious impact on delivery times for these items, so we recommend that parents place orders as early as possible. Laptops are a crucial learning tool, for staff and students at Patrician Brothers' Blacktown, and we ask all parents and students to make sure that device purchases are prioritised in coming weeks. We understand that these purchases have a significant impact on family budgets, but we also know that Christmas and Boxing Day sales offer some of the best deals all year.

Thanking you for your ongoing support.

Brian Edmonds
Assistant Principal – Pastoral Care

Assistant Principal - Learning, Teaching and Innovation

As 2022 draws to a close, we have had many opportunities for celebrating the achievements of our students and their learning this year. Many students receiving awards and recognition for their hard work, effort and aptitude in a range of academic, sporting, service and cultural aspects of school life.

Yesterday, the 15th December, was the scheduled date for HSC results to be released and thus an important time for our Year 12 students and their families. The hard work and commitment of students over many years pays the greatest rewards in receipt of the Higher School Certificate (HSC). The HSC is a solid credential in its own right. The completion of this milestone is one to be celebrated.

We are very proud of all of our students who approached their HSC studies with clear focus. Many students who undertook a HSC+ pathway were able to attain a HSC and also gain dual credentials in one or more VET courses. To gain the credential students are required to complete all course competencies over a two year period. Many students who undertook these courses gained full completion in the Certificate II and Certificate III VET courses, which are the same nationally accredited courses that can be undertaken at TAFE and private providers. We congratulate all of these students.

Many students who undertake their HSC and seek to attain an ATAR also engage with one VET course as a part of their studies. To be eligible for an ATAR the students must also complete an optional HSC exam in their course. This year, we are thrilled to share that our student, Adalrico Liu, who completed the Certificate II in Construction Pathways course and undertook the HSC exam was placed 5th in the State of NSW. This is a most wonderful achievement.

Our HSC class of 2022 have attained most impressive results, which we believe may be the best results achieved by any previous year at the College. The College Dux for 2022 is Pavithran Visakesvaran. Pavi has been noted on the NESA HSC All Rounders List and received an ATAR of 99.60. As a community, we congratulate and celebrate with Pavi this amazing achievement. The College also has 35 mentions on the NESA Distinguished Achievers List. We are delighted that these Band 6 results are from across most courses and from a broad representation of the Year 12 group as well.

We will be spending some time over the coming break and early next term to delve into the results analysis as a staff, in KLA faculty groups and as teachers. We will provide more details in The Focus in 2023. I wish to thank and congratulate all of the HSC teachers in 2022 who have taught, cared for and supported the students so well and for their part in these exceptional results.

Cathy Molloy
Assistant Principal
Learning, Teaching & Innovation

Religious Education and Mission

Thursday Morning Mass

Thank you to all people that attended and were part of our liturgical ministries for our Thursday morning masses. Your support and attendance lifted our liturgies.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you very much to our College community for your support in the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. All donations have been sent to our local Vinnies Chapter.

Victor Hunt
Dean of Religious Education & Mission

Dean of Knowledge Management & Analytics

This year has been a busy year at Patrician Brothers' College. The students have demonstrated their skills and understanding in many different ways. On Monday and Friday this week, we celebrated those students that have involved themselves in their education and have achieved their personal best. On Wednesday this week, the Years 7 to 10 reports were published and we trust they were another celebration of your son's achievements this year. I am looking forward to the achievements for 2023 being even better than 2022. Merry Christmas!

Mark Robinson
Dean of Knowledge Management & Analytics

Resource Centre Update

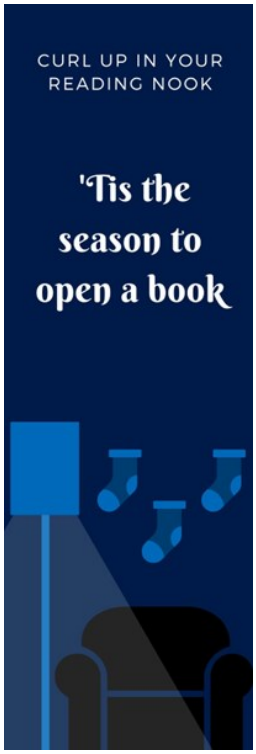
Merry Christmas from the Resource Centre

As we end a fun and busy year, we reflect on all the wonderful things we have celebrated together in 2022.

We have enjoyed being a part of the reading journey and experiences of our students. We loved welcoming our Year 7 students to the Resource Centre each week to take part in their Reading and Discovery Program and we appreciated being able to help students right across the College find their next great reading adventure.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is always a highlight for us and we loved supporting and assisting students as they undertook the challenge to read a great variety of books. We offer congratulations to the students that participated - especially those that completed the Challenge. We especially congratulate two of our students who received special awards this year. Congratulations to **Jay Vora** for receiving his Gold Award for four successive years of participation in the Challenge and to **Jason Attard** who received a Premiers' Reading Challenge medal and a letter from the Premier for ten years participating in the Challenge. What a fantastic effort from both boys. We hope to help many more students take up this opportunity in 2023.

This year also saw us host some fun activities and events. The Patties Spelling Bee was a great success, as were our fun games and activities in the Resource Centre to celebrate Book Week. We appreciated being the hub of the NAIDOC week celebrations and in Term 4 we were happy to recognise the effort and work of the students who participated in the Writer in Residence Program with Scott Monk. We feel so fortunate to have been a part of their writing experience.



A highlight this year, of course, was the refurbishment of our entire Resource Centre space. We know that our new space offers a calmer and more inviting place for students to come to read and study.

As we look back, we realise that we have shared many wonderful, fun and engaging opportunities together - and that has been the best part - that we have been able to do all of this in person, surrounded by our wonderful Patrician Brothers' College community.

We wish all of our students and their families a safe, happy and holy Christmas. We hope that each member of our community finds some time for prayer, reflection and connection these holidays - and of course we hope that everyone finds time to read a good book.

See you in 2023.

Career Pathways Update

Step Up Into Senior School (SUISS) - Careers Session

As part of the recent SUISS program, Year 10 students attended a careers session called *Preparing for your future*. The aim of the session was for students to see the next two years as an opportunity to get ready for the world of work. In order to do this, students learnt the importance of having a sound knowledge of the labour market, understanding trends in industries, occupations and skills, so as to help them make informed decisions about their post school destination pathway.

After brainstorming what job they expected to do when they were 30, students realised that the range of jobs listed was very limited. We then reflected on a quote - *You cannot be, what you cannot see*. The students realised that if they do not know a job exists, then they won't aspire to take on that occupation. This reinforced the need to understand the world of work.

Another area explored were the skills needed in every profession known as enterprise or employability skills. Students were encouraged to take every opportunity throughout their senior schooling to build upon these skills. Working a part-time job is another important way to build upon these skills.

The boys were enthusiastic and actively participated in the session. They are to be congratulated for their mature approach to discussing their future and for their insightful input. I look forward to working with this cohort throughout 2023/4 as they continue to prepare for their future.

Step Up Into Teaching (SUIT) - Australian Catholic University (ACU)

As you may be aware, two of our Year 11 students **Samuel Milonakis** and **Joachim Tabone** were successful in gaining a place in the early entry scheme - Step Up Into Teaching (SUIT) with the Australian Catholic University (ACU). The boys completed their first university unit in the October holidays, completing an essay, group task and an examination within an intensive course. Recently the boys received their results and I am incredibly proud that both boys achieved a distinction. This is an exceptional achievement for anyone, let alone two high school students. Samuel and Joachim will complete their next unit in the January holidays. We wish them all the best for their future studies.

Marie Lane & Stephanie Hunt
Resource Centre Leaders

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who are the recipients of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Silver and Gold Awards will be presented at the College Assemblies.

Silver Awards

Aaran Srimurugathas 8 - D22

Shiv Patel 7 - C18

Bronze Awards

Cooper Golder 7 - C15

Jaeden Kavana 9 - E9

Gian Pereira 7 - C11

Riley Eato 8 - D20

Dominic Sant 7 - C14

Samuel Gashaw 7 - C12

Giuseppe Novella 7 - C11

Aiden Medina 8 - D25

Ethan Refalo 7 - C11

Taani Akauola 8 - D16

Cohan Bonanno 7 - C16

Enrique Monses 8 - D15

Tobias Stevenson 9 - B3

The a College office will be unable to receive payments - electronic or otherwise after **13 December**.

For 2023, the College will no longer accept cash payments for fees, events and activities with CEDP schools.

Over the counter payments can be made via EFTPOS only.

The College will be rolling out QKR for events and activities to provide other methods of payment.

The College office will reopen on

18 January 2023.

Back to School NSW Vouchers

About the vouchers

The Back to School NSW Vouchers program provides 3 x $50 vouchers, totalling $150 for each eligible student.

The vouchers can be used:

- towards the cost of school uniforms, shoes, bags, textbooks and stationery
- at registered businesses
- before 30 June 2023.

To apply and check for eligibility,
visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-back-to-school-vouchers

Reminder to parents and carers to apply now for 2023 School Opal cards

Getting to school by bus in 2023
Will your child be catching the bus to school in 2023? Applications are now open for a School Opal cards. As it's a busy time of year, we highly recommend you make this application before the end of Term 4. It's also good to check the bus timetable to make your child's journey to school as easy as possible.

Here is how it works:

School Opal cards
All students catching the bus in 2023 will need a School Opal card.
Under the School Student Transport Scheme, eligible students can apply for free or subsided travel between home and school.
For more information about the School Student Transport Scheme and how to apply for a School Opal Card, visit https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/ from a desktop computer, and click 'apply for a school travel pass'. Applications for 2023 opened at the start of Term 4.

Bus timetables
Busways is the school bus operator that runs your schools' bus services. To find your child's school bus timetable visit the Busways website by using the following steps:
1. Go to busways.com.au/nsw
2. Click on 'school services' in the navigation bar and then proceed to 'school timetables'
3. Enter the school's name in the field that says 'enter a school name'
4. Select the school's name and the timetable should open on your device.
   If you are unable to find or search for the school's name, use the drop-down menus on the same web page to find the school.
5. Once the timetable is opened, you will be able to identify which school bus services are available in your area for your child to use.

Shop On Campus

100 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown

Contact: Madeleine Saad

Email: PatricianBrothersC@theschoollocker.com.au

Trading Hours During School Term

Tuesday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday 8:00am - 12:30pm

Appointments & Extended Trading

For extended trading hours and to book an appointment please please scan the Appointments QR code or use this link.

https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/trpj7

Student Advantage Membership

Be sure to set up your free Student Advantage Membership. Login each time you shop online to access special pricing and ensure your school earns revenue from all your purchases.

theschoollocker.com.au/customer/account

Shop Online

Patrician Brothers College uniforms are available from the School Locker website. A size guide has been included on the website to help you with your size selection.

Shop online and choose to have your order shipped directly to you or collect it from the uniform shop during trading hours.

The website also stocks a great range of other items for school including stationery, technology, footwear, musical instruments and sports equipment.

Online payment options include Visa, Mastercard, PayPal, ZipPay and LatitudePay.

Scan the SHOP ONLINE QR CODE to view your school's uniform range at ***theschoollocker.com.au/schools/patrician-brothers-college-blacktown***

CODE : trpj7

APPOINTMENTS

SHOP ONLINE

BRING YOUR OWN SHOPPING BAG

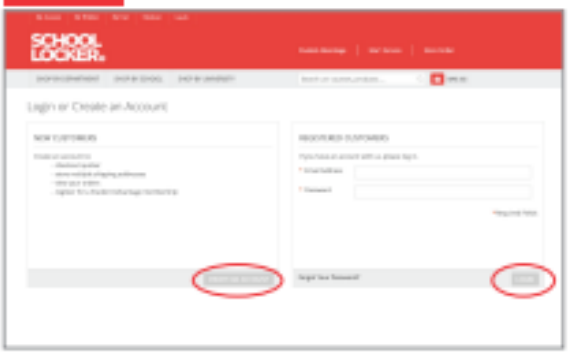
SCHOOL LOCKER

GET THE STUDENT ADVANTAGE

Follow these simple steps to access the School Locker's Student Advantage Program.

THESCHOOLLOCKER.COM.AU/CUSTOMER/ACCOUNT

STEP 1



Are you a new customer?

Click CREATE AN ACCOUNT and go to Step 2.

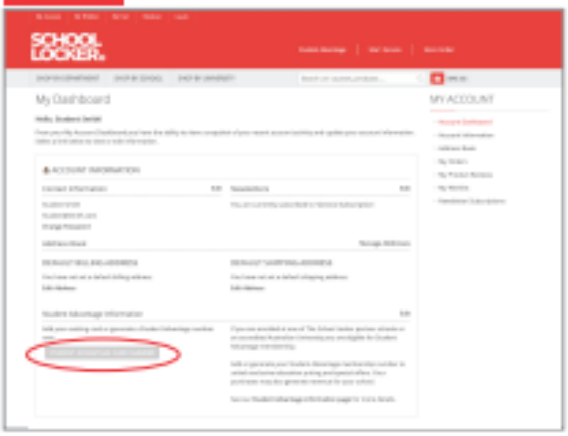
Do you have an account but need to set up your Student Advantage Membership?

Login to your account using the REGISTERED CUSTOMERS form. Refer to Step 3 instructions.

STEP 2

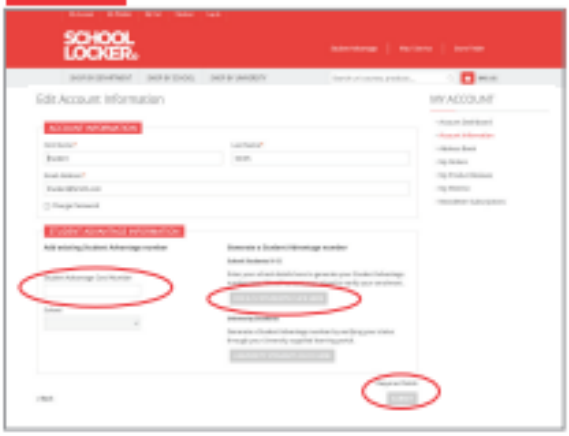
Complete the CREATE AN ACCOUNT form.
You will be re-directed to the MY DASHBOARD page.

STEP 3



Click on the STUDENT ADVANTAGE CARD NUMBER button. You will be re-directed to the EDIT ACCOUNT INFORMATION page.

STEP 4



If you DON'T have a Student Advantage Number, click on the FOR K-12 STUDENTS CLICK HERE button. A pop-up window will appear. Complete your details including parent/guardian name, email address, student name, school and year level. Click SUBMIT. This will immediately assign your Student Advantage number to your account. Click SAVE and you will see Student Advantage pricing each time you login.

SCHOOL LOCKER

EXTENDED TRADING HOURS

(VIA APPOINTMENT)

Monday the 16th January (10 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 2 pm),

Tuesday the 17th January (8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm),

Wednesday the 18th January (8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm) and

Thursday the 19th January(8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm) for the first week.

The second week it will be open:

Monday the 23rd January (8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm),

Tuesday the 24th January (8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm), and

Wednesday the 25th January (8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm to 4 pm).

Additionally the store will also open

Monday the 30th January (8 am to 12 pm).