



The Dove

"IT'S ALL ABOUT LEARNING
AND HAVING HIGH EXPECTATIONS
OF OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER"

Term 1
Friday 6th March, 2015
Volume: 43 No: 3

In this issue:

1. Principal's Address
2. Student News
3. Sport
4. Careers
5. Diocesan News
6. Community Announcements

Upcoming Events:

Week 7

- Behaviour Interviews - LOM's
- Catholic Schools Week
- Year 12 Assessment Period
- Year 6 Visits

Mon 9 Mar 2015

- Year 10 Commerce Excursion

Tue 10 Mar 2015

- PDSSSC U/15 Rugby League selections day

Wed 11 Mar 2015

- 16:00 PDSSSC Open Rugby League selections @ Gilroy College

Fri 13 Mar 2015

- Yr 11 Geography Excursion to Penrith Lakes

Week 8

- Year 12 Assessment Period
- Quality Catholic Schools Survey Period

Mon 16 Mar 2015

- NSWCCC Golf
- Yr 11 Study skills Day
- PDSSSC Basketball Girls Gala Day

Tue 17 Mar 2015

St Patrick's Day

- Years 11 & 12 Visual Arts + Photography - Moran Photographic Workshop

Wed 18 Mar 2015

- 6pm Year 11 2015 Assessment Info night
- PDSSSC Touch Football Gala day & selections

Dear members of the St Columba's community

At our assembly last week, we formally welcomed the new students to our college and in doing so I reminded all the students that their attitudes shape the very fabric of each one of their lives and that they alone are responsible for the impact that these have on their lives and the decisions they make each day. To illustrate this, I shared with them this simple story.

You reap what you sow

A wise old person was sitting in the sun on a bench outside a school. Along came a new young student who said, "I have just shifted to this town. Please could you tell me what this school is really like?" The wise old person thought carefully, and, after a moment's silence replied, "Tell me about your previous school. What was that like?" The new young student didn't hesitate. "It was pretty boring. Nothing much ever happened. The teachers weren't any good. We'd just muck about most of the time. Nothing to do. Yeah, overall, just boring." The wise old person said, "Well, I think that's pretty much what you'll find here."

A short time later another new young student came along and asked the wise old person, "I have just shifted to this town. Please could you tell me what this school is really like?" Again the wise old person paused, thought carefully and said, "Tell me about your previous school. What was that like?" The new young student didn't hesitate. "It was great. Lots to do all the time. Terrific teachers. Good fun. Lots to learn. Great friends. It was a really good place to be and I loved it." The wise old person replied, "Well, I think that's pretty much what you'll find here."

Our attitudes shape the way we respond to everything we say and do, and each one of us is responsible for these alone.

Having heard the story today, how have you responded to everything that has happened in the College so far this year regarding:

- Class work
- Learning preparation
- College expectations
- Your teachers
- Uniform
- Keeping our College clean, inside the classroom and outside the classroom

Now remind yourself that you alone are responsible for the way in which you respond to all these areas - are you satisfied or can you do better?

And remember at all times, your attitudes are shaping your future!

Paul Ryan
Principal

Media release

Friday 27 February 2015

NEXT NSW GOVERNMENT MUST LIFT CAPITAL FUNDING TO ALL SCHOOLS

Enrolments in NSW schools will grow by 267,000 students by 2031, putting more pressure on both the government and non-government school sectors to expand.

Catholic Education Commission NSW Executive Director Brian Croke said the NSW Government must increase capital funding to all school sectors to accommodate this growth in enrolments.

"The NSW birth-rate is now 10,000 per year higher than it was in 2010," Dr Croke said.

"That means 500 extra kindergarten classes are needed each year - which must then become 500 additional Year 1 classes the following year, then 500 Year 2 classes the year after that, and so on.

"This growth rate will be sustained, if not increased, in coming years and it will affect all sectors - government, Catholic and independent.

"The NSW Government and Opposition have already announced several new government schools during this election campaign - which we support - but the government sector alone will not be able to meet this growth in enrolments.

"Catholic and independent schools currently educate 400,000 students or a third of those enrolled in NSW.

"The NSW Government needs non-government schools to grow so that they can continue to enrol their current proportion of this increase - otherwise, taxpayers will be forced to foot the bill for far more classrooms and teachers than is currently envisaged."

Dr Croke said the NSW Government must first reverse its 2012 decision to cap capital funding to non-government schools at \$11 million per year and put in place a sustainable, long-term funding framework that grows as enrolments increase.

"Catholic schools, which enrol more than 251,000 students, need to build more than 2,300 new classrooms to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031.

"For decades, these building projects have largely been funded by parents - and they will continue to be - but the NSW Government must now ease the pressure on parents by lifting its funding support.

"Catholic schools educate 21% of the state's students, but receive just 2% of the capital funding allocated by the NSW Government to all schools.

"Last year, Catholic schools received just \$7.6 million in capital funding from the NSW Government. That's less than what was received in 2011 - and since then, Catholic school enrolments in NSW have grown by more than 10,000, or the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools.

"By comparison, government schools will receive \$399.1 million for capital works in 2014-15.

"To put it another way - that's \$524 per government school student and \$30 per Catholic school student."

Dr Croke said Catholic schools save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year because Catholic school parents met most of the capital costs.

"Without Catholic schools, taxpayers would have to fund hundreds more government schools because those students have to be educated somewhere."

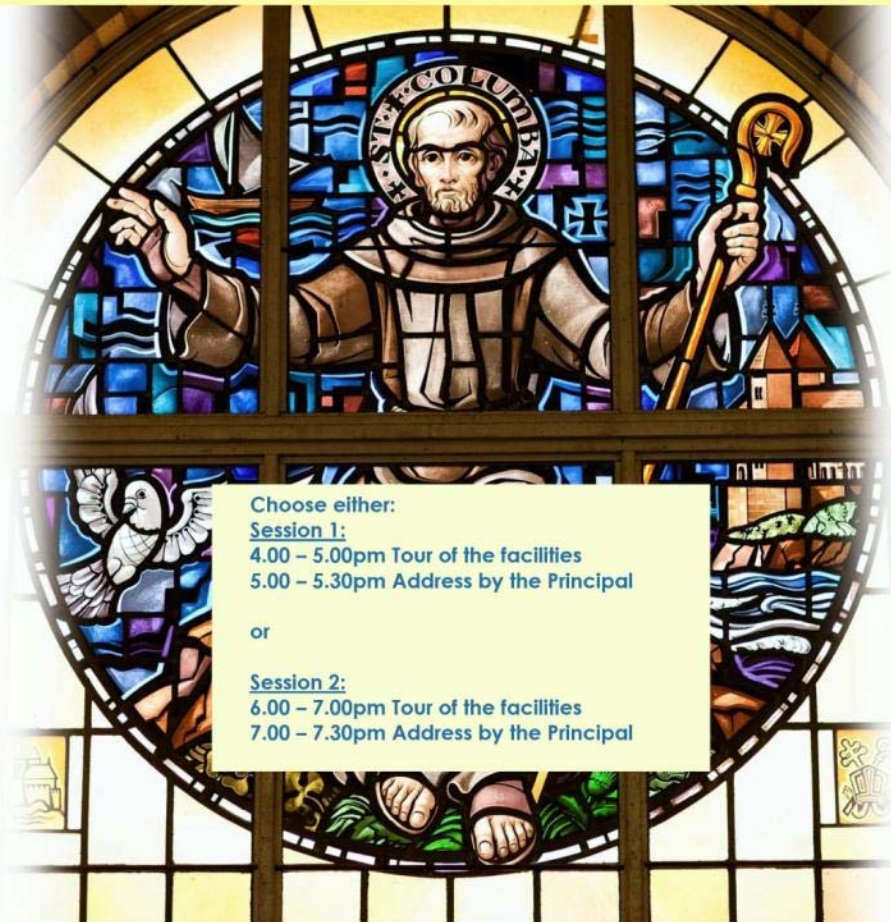
Media contact: **Jim Hanna 0414 828 629**





Year 7, 2016

Enrolment Information Night

Wednesday 25th March, 2015

Choose either:

Session 1:

4.00 – 5.00pm Tour of the facilities

5.00 – 5.30pm Address by the Principal

or

Session 2:

6.00 – 7.00pm Tour of the facilities

7.00 – 7.30pm Address by the Principal

Prospectus and application forms will be available on the night.
Bookings not required, register on arrival.

St Columba's Catholic College 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777
Enquiries: Enrolment Secretary - Mrs Sandra O'Brien 4754 8907

From the Office

School Fees

The due date for payment of Term 1 fees is Friday 6th March 2015. If you have not yet received your statement, please contact me as soon as possible on 4754 8902 to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made, fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued."

If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees it is important that you contact either me or the Business Manager to discuss payment options. The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship.

All outstanding fees will be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office for their attention.

School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, EFTPOS or cheque.

Roselee Vion
Senior School Officer

Student News



Jenna Jones - the Story Continues

As some of us may be aware, Jenna Jones from Year 8.3 is an accomplished para-swimmer with vision impairment. Jenna is going for international classification as an S13 vision impaired swimmer on Thursday 26th February 2015. This will place her into the international swimming ranking and allow her to compete in upcoming international events, such as the Rio Paralympic Games in 2016.

Jenna is also competing in the State Open Championships for para and able-bodied swimmers, from Friday until Sunday 1st March 2015.

Jenna started swimming in her early years and has become her passion as swimming is really the sport she can undertake as an individual without extra support. Obviously the support of her mum and dad and other family members is greatly appreciated by Jenna over the days, weeks, months and years already gone.

There will be further information on Jenna after her weekend activities so that we can follow her progress.



World Irish Dancing Championship Representative

Georgie Purcell, Year 7.6 is competing in the World Irish Dancing Championship in Montreal, Canada. Georgie will be competing on 29th March 2015 in the 11-12 Category representing Australia.

Georgie has been learning Irish Dance since Year 1 (2009). She had her first competition in 2009 and is now considered an Open Contestant having won many aged and open competitions. Georgie had wanted to study Irish Dance from a young age but was prohibited because of cost and time constraints within the family.

Georgie is fully funding her Competition in Montreal by selling mascara which can be purchased by contacting Mrs Kristine Purcell on 0419 188 655 or by emailing kristinepurcell@bigpond.com. Cost of the mascara is \$27.00 for a natural look and \$24.00 for a bolder look. If you know Georgie you may speak with her about your purchase. To date, Georgie has raised funds to pay for her airfare and some of her accommodation. Any purchases would greatly assist her in having a stress free time allowing her to concentrate on her dance.

We at St Columba's Catholic College wish Georgie well in her competition and look forward to her return, hopefully showing great success apart from the accolade of having represented Australia.

Sports News

Basketball is Back

Last week our school fielded three teams in the PDSSSC Basketball Championships at Cambridge Park. Each player represented the school with pride.

Year 7-8 Results

Game 1

St Columba's vs St Mark's final score 13-0 our way. Solid defence by the whole team. Good start for St Columba's 7-8 boys.

Game 2

St Columba's vs St Agnes final score 17 all. We were down 14-5 in the early stages of the second half but we came back 17 all with Cameron shooting a game tying three pointer in the dying seconds of the game.

Game 3

St Columba's vs St Andrews final score 30-15 their way. It was a good performance but not good enough to win. Our defence let us down in this game.

Game 4

St Columba's vs St Gilroy final score 21-19 our way. It was a slow start being behind by a few points up to half time. We picked up our performance in the second half winning us the game. We drew within a minute to go but with a good layup by Harrison Wood-Parsons winning us the game.

Game 5

St Columba's vs St Bishoy final score 58-7 our way. Noah Tracey with two cracking 3 pointers. Zac Briggs flying high with 22 points. Paddy Daley and David Cant with solid defence only letting 7 points in and Sam Moore with a deep three. OUTSTANDING team work!!! Also a special thanks to Louise De La Harpe for coaching us in this match, the team appreciated it.

Game 6

St Columba's vs Xavier final score 31-8. It was a great final game ending up with a 23 point lead putting us in 3rd place for the day. It was an outstanding performance from the team with great offence and defence. We would like to thank Miss Nyburg and Mr Malone for taking us and coaching us on the day.

Year 7-8 Team

Luke Cook, David Cant, Grady De La Harpe, Zac Briggs, Patrick Daley, Lachlan Britton, Noah Tracey, Cameron James, Harrison Wood-Parsons and Samuel Moore.



Year 9-10 Results

Game 1 vs St Marks 15-18 loss

Game 2 vs St Bishoy 27-1 win

Game 3 vs St Clare's 15-7 loss

Game 4 vs Xavier 31-23 loss

Year 9-10 Team

Sebastian Moore, Henry Cox, Matthew Field, Kyle May, Dylan Walton, Owen Gordon, Sam Fuller, Lachlan Slatford, Harry Davies, and Harry Falchi

Year 11-12 Results

Game 1 vs St Marks 15-12 win

Game 2 vs Loyola (Red) 21-10 loss

Game 3 vs St Andrews 36-6 loss

Game 4 vs Gilroy 23-12 loss

Game 5 vs Emmaus 21-14 win

Game 6 vs Loyola (Black) 19-11 win

Year 11-12 Team

Alex McNeill, Tom Williamson, Ben Norman, Lachlan White, Dan McAndrew, Brendan Lotz, Rob Jinks, Gabriel French, Alex Roberts and Zane Lockley

Noah Tracey, Zac Briggs and Patrick Daley

We congratulate each player on their sportsmanship and effort shown throughout the day, your school and teachers are proud of you.



School Swimming Carnival

Our first carnival of the year could not of gone any better. This year's swimming carnival will be remembered for the outstanding competition and drive shown between competitors, the loyalty and passion shown within each house, and the encouragement and support given to each other throughout the day.

Our 2015 swimming carnival had more students attended the day than previous swimming carnivals. We had more heats held in every race and more people dress up to support their house. The house captains and other year 12 students were very organised and enthusiastically led their teams. Our new year seven students were in awe on the day, with the colour, competition and fun that filled the event.

The competition was very close at the top of the point score table with Gilroy and Lawrence both having the lead at different stages on the day.

A huge congratulations to the following students who broke a number of records on the day.

Zac Konstantinoff broke the 13 boys' 50 m Breaststroke record with a time of 35.12L. Previous record was held at 40.25L in 1993 by P. Cross.

Elijah Plowman broke the 13 boys' Backstroke record with a time of 34.62L. Previous record was held at 34.84L in 2011 by J. Tomczyk.

Brenna Tarrent broke the 13 girls' 50m Freestyle record with a time of 29.56L. Previous record was held at 30.61 in 1994 by J. Hill.

Noah Cariolato broke an outstanding 3 records.

The 14 boys' 50m Freestyle with a time of 28.06L. Previous record was held at 30.07 in 1994 by P. Cross.

The 14 boys' 50 Breaststroke with a time of 35.94L. Previous record was held at 36.40L in 1994 by P. Cross.

The Junior 100m Freestyle record with a time of 61.85L. Previous record was held at 1.03.84L in 2011 by J. Tomczyk.

Our 2015 Age Champions are:

2015	12 years	Girls	Age Champion	Sarah Sharp (G)
2015	12 years	Girls	Runner up	Laila Devine (H)
2015	13 years	Girls	Age Champion	Natalie Hill (G)
2015	13 years	Girls	Runner up	Rebecca Fawkes (L)
2015	14 years	Girls	Age Champion	Breanna Tarrant (G)
2015	14 years	Girls	Runner up	Tegan Murphy (B)
2015	15 years	Girls	Age Champion	Rachael Goodwin (L)
2015	15 years	Girls	Runner up	Isabelle Poulter (M)
2015	16 years	Girls	Age Champion	Courteney Hills (M)
2015	16 years	Girls	Runner up	Madison Higgins (L)
2015	17+ years	Girls	Age Champion	Tilly Clement (G)
2015	17+ years	Girls	Runner up	Sidney Homulos (L)
2015	12 years	Boys	Age Champion	Angus Hayden (G)
2015	12 years	Boys	Runner up	Luke Springett (L)
2015	13 years	Boys	Age Champion	Zachary Konstantinof (G)
2015	13 years	Boys	Runner up	Elijah Plowman (L)
2015	14 years	Boys	Age Champion	Noah Carialato (C)
2015	14 years	Boys	Runner up	Riley Williams (H)
2015	15 years	Boys	Age Champion	Kieran O'Rourke (G)
2015	15 years	Boys	Runner up	Harrison Kildea (H)
2015	16 years	Boys	Age Champion	Rowan Martin (B)
2015	16 years	Boys	Runner up	Harry Davies (M)
2015	17+ years	Boys	Age Champion	Adam Goodwin (B)

Championship results

1st	Gilroy	329
2nd	Lawrence	300
3rd	Bradman	236
4th	Chisholm	209
5th	Mackillop	202
6th	Henson	171

Participation results

1st	Gilroy	113
2nd	Chisholm	105
3rd	Mackillop	100
4th	Lawrence	93
5th	Bradman	92
6th	Henson	80

20 students will be representing our school at the PDSSSC Swimming Carnival on the 24/3/12 at Homebush. We wish each of these students the very best of luck at the Championships.

School Cross Country Carnival

This event will be held at our school week 9, Thursday 26th March. All students in year 7-10 will walk the course in PDHPE lessons prior to the carnival. Every student who competes in the Carnival, running or novelty events, will earn a point for their house in the 2015 Columba Cup.

The top 6 students in each age group will progress to the next level. See your PDHPE teacher for more information.

**Mr Greg Malone &
Miss Lisa Nyburg**









LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a busy start to 2015. Year 7 students have been attending their library orientation and will have received their Red library card so that they can begin borrowing and many seniors have taken advantage of the library seminars to learn some additional researching skills.

- Senior Study from 7:30 each school day
- Senior Seminars (by appointment)
- Y7 Library Orientations

Click here for
new titles
in the library this term

Printing in the Library
Printing is available to all students but only from the library laptops. Remember to email any work from your iPad to your school email and then borrow a laptop. Ask a staff member in the library to assist you.

10c per B&W page
50c per Colour page

To access you email from home go to
classm8.parra.catholic.edu.au

Book of the week!

'Paper Planes' by Steve Worland

Twelve-year-old Dylan Webber lives in outback Western Australia in a small country town. When he discovers he has a talent for folding and flying paper planes. Dylan begins a journey to reach the World Junior Paper Plane Championships in Japan.

Now available for loan



**‘Reading in Strange Places’
photo competition - coming soon
in the library!**

Careers

Construction Induction Card Training

These are the entry level courses required to access employment in the Building and Construction industry. HIA offers a variety of training options with special rates for students throughout the year. To request further information or to register visit <http://hia.com.au/Training.aspx?Region=ACT> or email act_training@hia.com.au

Sydney Science Forum - House of Karls

29 April 5.45pm-6.45pm.

Eastern Ave Auditorium, University of Sydney.

Presented by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Julius Sumner Miller Fellow, the University of Sydney. Topics will include: why bank robbery is a terrible economic decision, Big Data watching us, the healing power of swear words and the creation of the Ultimate Solar System.

Bookings essential: <http://Sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/events>

Charles Sturt University MyDay Program 2015

Bathurst

Exercise and Sports Sciences 27 February

Communication and Creative Industries 13 April

Nursing and Paramedics 23 April

Contact CSU on: (02) 6338 4000

Actors College of Theatre and Television Auditions

9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 10 June, 6 July, 31 August, 7 September, 7 October, 30 November, 7 December, 21 December

<http://www.actt.edu.au/admissions/auditions/>

HTN Apprenticeship Services

Gain a hospitality apprenticeship or traineeship.

Contact: 1300 139 108 or apprenticechefs@htn.com.au

<http://www.htn.com.au/>

AFTRS April School Holiday Filmmaking

7 April to 18 April

Australian Film Television and Radio School

Building 130, The Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park, Surry Hills

Up to 17 years. Short courses in Filmmaking, Digital Animation, TV Presenting, Game Design, Screen Acting, Screen Music .

<http://www.aftrs.edu.au/short-courses/short-courses-list?&f.Category:%7CI=School%20Holidays>

UTS Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship Program

14 April Round 1 Applications Open

\$15,500 per year + two six month industry placements.

<http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/find-a-course/courses/c10143/how-to-apply>

UNSW Future Students Key Dates 2015

Medicine Information Evening 12 March

Engineering and Science Information Evening
11 June

Scholarships Information Evening 15 July

<http://unswfuturestudents.tumblr.com/post/110503983827/key-dates-for-2015>

Applying to the Australian Defence Force Academy

Apply in Year 11. Can take 12 months processing.

<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/adfa/howToApply/admissionProcess.aspx>

Engineers Australia Career Expos

Sydney 4 March, 2.30pm to 5.00pm

Sydney Masonic Centre

Level 1, 66 Goulburn St

Resumes and interview help and meet industry leaders.

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/career-development-centre/careers-expo>

Free MedStart Seminar – Secrets of Getting into Medicine

Epping 1 March, 4.15pm – 6.30pm

Hurstville 14 March, 4.15pm – 6.30pm

Chatswood 21 March, 4.15pm – 6.30pm

Epping 29 March, 4.15pm – 6.30pm

UMAT and exam explained.

<http://www.medstart.com.au/#courses>

Casual, Part Time Employment

One Shift Jobs

Casual or part-time jobs.

<https://oneshiftjobs.com/>

CADETSHIPS available for current Year 12s

Do you want a degree, earn a salary and have a professional job all in one? Then a cadetship may be for you. Cadetships available in areas such as Business, Humanities, Economics, Engineering and Technology.

Applications open March 9 2015 and close May 13 2015

www.businesscadetships.com.au

10 TIPS TO HELP TEENAGERS PREPARE FOR THE WORKFORCE

1. Obtain the best possible careers guidance to assist you with accurate vocational analysis and planning. Your trained High School Careers Adviser can provide this assistance.

2. Be aware of your innate gifts. Innate gifts are what you do naturally, easily or well. Ask others (family and close friends); i.e., if you don't know what they are

3. Carefully choose your Electives in Years 9 and 10. Selection could involve the results of your careers assessments, innate gifts, personal interests and previous class results

4. In relation to your subjects, skills, interests and favourite electives, research the possible professions which align with them. See www.myfuture.edu.au and go to the bottom of the home page and view the "Bullseye Posters."

5. Once you have decided on five (5) specific vocations:

Research specific information about the vocation at www.jobguide.education.gov.au

Understand the required skills and tasks for the job

Discern the required tertiary institution qualifications

6. Carefully choose your Electives in Years 11 and 12. Technical College and Universities may sometimes require specific prerequisites from Senior School studies. Therefore, Elective choices may need to be looked at closely when choosing to progress to the next level in Tertiary education

7. Prepare yourself for the transferable Employability Skills:

Verbal Communication; Teamwork; Commercial Awareness; Analysing and Investigating; Initiative/Self Motivation; Drive' Written Communication' Planning and Organising; Flexibility; Time Management

8. With respect to your CV, make a list of all of your casual and part-time jobs, noting in each job the specific: Roles, achievements and skills acquired

9. It will also be beneficial for your CV if you gather as much information about your involvement in your school-life, for example: leadership positions, sporting teams, clubs, music bands, fund-raising events, mentoring activities and student associations.

10. Whilst you're in High School, take the opportunity to put your efforts into achieving the best possible education. There is always a Plan B & C when it comes to after High School options, but usually Plan A offers the easiest path to your future; but generally requires the most effort!

"The only place success comes before work is in the Dictionary"; "There's no long term gain without short term pain"

Dr John Taccori, Careers Advisor

Term 1, Volume: 43 No: 3

Page 14/18

Email: www.stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: <http://www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au/>

Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with our God

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Government contributes 57.5% of the cost of educating a child in a NSW Catholic school, and the NSW Government contributes 19.7%. The remaining 22.8% comes from parents and the parish community through school fees and private fundraising. This is why funding support from Federal and State Governments must keep pace with rising education costs - to maintain education quality and to ensure a Catholic education remains affordable for all families.

Kath's Miracle



The Josephite Associates wish to extend an invitation for you to attend a Talk given by Kathleen Evans. Kath's miraculous recovery from terminal lung cancer led to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop and the declaration of Mary MacKillop as Australia's first saint. Kath and her husband Barry are on a continuous pilgrimage around Australia as Kath shares her story. Even with this extraordinary event in her life she is a very ordinary woman and we now have been given this rare opportunity to meet her and listen to what has happened and how it has changed her life.

When: Monday, 4 May at 11.30am or Friday, 8 May at 7pm.

Where: Our Lady of the Nativity School Hall. (Behind the church at Lawson.)

Donation: Kath and Barry do not ask for any money, however, to help them in their ministry and as a way of showing our gratitude there will be a small donation box in the hall if you would like to make a donation.

Please indicate your expression of interest by Friday, 27 March by phoning Lorraine on: 0403523353 or emailing on lp72811@bigpond.net.au (Places are limited).

Also, if you are interested in learning more about this extraordinary story there is a book written by Kathleen Evans and published by Penguin Books called "Kath's Miracle". Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the talk. We welcome Kath and Barry to Lawson and look forward to their visit.



CATALYST FOR RENEWAL

A joint venture of Aquinas Academy and Catalyst for Renewal
BLACKHEATH REFLECTION MORNINGS 2015 (10am-1pm)

SACRED HEART PARISH HALL:
Corner of Sturt and Wentworth Streets, Blackheath



March 21st	David Patterson	'The Return of the Prodigal Son': A Story of Homecoming, Affirmation and Reconciliation	
April 18 th	John Kelliher MSC	Heart Spirituality: 'Homing in ... Homing out'	
May 16 th	Leonard Blahut	Jesus the Man ... Life on the 'Streets'	
WINTER BREAK			
September 19th	Bernadette Corboy SGS	Praying with Images and Symbols	
October 17 th	Carol Teodori	Honest to God Prayer	
November 21st	Dr Tim O'Hearn	TBA	
*You are warmly welcome	*Entry by donation	*Morning Tea provided	*No need for bookings

For more information contact Carmel (02)47878706 (Blackheath)

Program will also be on the CFR website www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au



PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL Partners in learning

March 2015

An Open Letter to all Catholic School Parents in Diocese of Parramatta

Dear Parents and Carers

On Friday last week, Rev Fr Peter Williams (Administrator of the Diocese of Parramatta), Rev Fr Chris De Souza (Priest Responsible for Education), Greg Whitley (Executive Director of Schools), and I met with MPs and candidates from both the Labor and Coalition parties. Our aim was to ensure that both sides of politics were aware of the key issues affecting Catholic schools and families particularly:

1. To ensure future legislation did not prevent our schools maintaining their Catholic identity and ethos
2. To ensure a commitment to ongoing funding of Catholic schools (the state government contributes about 25% of all government funding to Catholic schools)
3. To seek a commitment to a coherent educational policy (pre to post school)
4. To seek a commitment to an increase in capital works funding and a decrease in local council charges to support the growth of Catholic schooling in western Sydney.

Are you concerned that there is no guaranteed government funding to build new schools or expand and improve existing schools in western Sydney?

At present, neither the NSW Coalition or Labor parties has made a long term commitment to fund capital works programs for new and expanding Catholic schools in western Sydney.

The Facts

- Across NSW Catholic schools educate 21% of the state's students, yet receive just 2% of the capital funding currently provided by the NSW Government to schools for new projects. Expressed another way, Catholic schools receive \$30 per student in capital funding from the NSW Government while government schools receive \$524 per student.
- To keep up with demand, the Diocese of Parramatta will need at least \$19.3 million in 2015-17 to build new schools and learning spaces in the north west sector to respond to growth. The Diocese will need an additional \$7.1 million to upgrade schools in Holroyd and Blacktown.
- Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs.
- Over the past three years, the metropolitan-based dioceses paid \$18.5 million in levies and bonds - almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools.

Locked Bag 4
North Parramatta NSW 1750
RCPPR@stcolumbas.parramatta.catholic.edu.au
www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Support - Educate - Celebrate



PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL Partners in learning

The Facts (continued)

- Local council infrastructure charges for developments at Westmead have been quoted at \$464,000. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves e.g. the cost of nearly five teachers.

This issue goes beyond party lines - this is about equality and fairness and our rights as parents to be supported in our choice of Catholic schooling.

In the meeting, one MP noted he hadn't received any indication from any parent in his electorate that they needed a new Catholic school or that their school would require expansion

Catholic school parents were INSTRUMENTAL in major changes to proposed cuts to NSW state funding a couple of years ago.

DON'T LET YOUR VOICE AS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT GO UNHEARD.

What can you do?

Contact your school principal about inviting local MPs and Candidates to your school prior to the election. Even if you think that your school requires no assistance at this time, it is the collective voice of Catholic school parents that can make the difference, so write or contact your local MP and candidates.

If you want to some assistance in what to say or write to your sitting MP or candidate or just want to stay in touch about proposed MP visits near you, please email: prcparrapresident@gmail.com.

The election is just a few weeks away on 28 March 2015. Don't let the opportunity slip past!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Selina Callea
President, PRC
Parramatta Diocese

Website: www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PRCParramatta

Twitter: @PRCParramatta

Support ~ Educate ~ Celebrate

Locked Bag 4
North Parramatta NSW 1750
RCPPR@stcolumbas.parramatta.catholic.edu.au
www.prc.catholic.edu.au

Support - Educate - Celebrate



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS
PENRITH OBSERVATORY ASTRONOMY NIGHTS IN MARCH
Saturday 14 March - 8pm – 10 pm
COMETS AND THE ICY OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM

Recent exciting space missions to icy bodies in our solar system have brought us more information about these remote and mysterious objects. We will discuss some of the findings for our distant dwarf planet neighbours and our comet cousins as well as what this means in the context of life on earth and in the solar system.

Saturday 28 March - 8pm – 10 pm

DADS & KIDS NIGHT

Kids and dads also include grandfathers, kids and grandkids. So it is for everyone. Age is no barrier to spending an evening with the family and the stars.

These nights will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and 0.6m telescope and an opportunity to view celestial objects through the university's telescopes. Our programs will run regardless of the weather.

Cost: \$18 adult, \$12 child/concession and \$50 family

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What's On

Contact: Tel: (02)4736 0135 Email: penrithobservatory@uws.edu.au

www.uws.edu.au/observatory,

www.twitter.com/uwsobservatory

www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory

Cabaret for Cambodia

A fund raiser for The Bush School in Siem Reap

<http://bushschoolcambodia.com>



A Winmalee Lions Club Project



Date: Saturday, March 7th at 7.30pm

Venue: St Finbars Church Hall, Levy St, Glenbrook

Cost: \$20 per person, \$40 per family [or by donation]

Tickets: Ring Doug Frewer on 47015459 or purchase tickets at the door

Supper will be provided: Coffee/tea and cake

Please bring: Nibbles and drinks for your table



Experience a delightful evening:

- Wonderful musical acts
- Amazing raffle prizes – including overnight holiday getaways
- Lucky door prizes
- The pleasure of supporting a school started by Glenbrook locals



Springwood Neighbourhood
Centre Co-operative Ltd

Ph: 4751 3033
Web: sncc.org.au

RHYTHM STIX AT WINMALEE



The new Rhythm Stix drumming sessions at Winmalee Public School on Tuesday afternoons will be a great opportunity to come together, make music and enjoy the healing power of drum rhythms.

This group will be a family activity and will be a great opportunity for parents or carers to actively participate along with their children aged 5-12 years.

When: Tuesday 3.30pm—4.15pm in school terms from March 17

Where: Winmalee Public School Hall

Cost: By gold coin donation

Everyone is welcome to this group, even if your children do not attend Winmalee Public but you must book as numbers are limited.

Striving for a vibrant, caring and inclusive community

facebook: facebook.com/springwoodneighbourhoodcentre



THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

- ✓ Relaxing
- ✓ Great value
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Safe

Entertain the kids this school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids' and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip'n'slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids' Day Camps start from \$47. Family Camp weekends start from \$63 per day for kids and \$96 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free; cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

Bonus! Residential Kids' Camps include supervised transport from:

- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.



dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps
dsr.nsw.gov.au/familycamps
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