



# Xavier College

From the Principal

**Volume 16 Issue 3**  
**7th March 2014**

## The Companion

*One of the most pleasurable things for me as a Principal is when I read or hear about the successes of our graduates. It either comes through a note or email or as a story that someone passes on to me.*

*Last week I received such a note. It was short and to the point and began, "We begin small and with kindness and guidance we grow." It was written by the inaugural Chief Editor of the UWSLSA Law Journal, Marija Yelavich, a graduate of Xavier College in 2012 and our College Captain in that year. Currently, Marija is in her second year of a Law/International Studies degree.*

*On reading her editorial I was taken not only by her excellent artistry with words but also by her sentiments. Quoting both Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis in referring to the 'unnaturalness of hate' and the champion 'of gratitude and understanding', she writes that 'Like you, their acts were inspired by passion and fuelled by education.' In concluding, she writes that 'This is a journal where Law is brought back to The People, and most importantly where diversity of culture, intellect and opinion is celebrated.'*

*Marija is not alone. Similarly, our male captain in 2012, Trent Hunter has also made his mark in the world in a very significant way. On leaving school Trent was successful in gaining a scholarship from the Smith Family to study to become a teacher. On Thursday evening he spoke to the assembled members of State Parliament on the importance of education and the impact that important women have had in his life. In concluding he said, "One day I will run my own school and then I can really build the walls in education that I described for you today on a solid foundation of compassion, wisdom and care for staff, students, families and communities alike." The response was a standing ovation!*

*I have often quoted a famous Jesuit saying that 'The education of youth is the transformation of the future,' and how true this is in the case of these two young people. But they are not alone. I could recount similar stories about so many of our graduates. They have made their mark in this world; in law, in medicine, in government, in the community and service professions and, most importantly, in education. And this community should stand tall because of it.*

*Yours in Xavier,  
Tricia Maidens*

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***From the Assistant Principal***

Every day at Xavier we take the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection. I recently read this wonderful poem, which I share with you here. If only we could remember at all those challenging times to be "kind":

*Before you know what kindness really is  
you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment ...  
Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,  
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.  
You must wake up with sorrow.  
You must speak to it till your voice  
catches the thread of all sorrows  
and you see the size of the cloth.*

*Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,  
only kindness that ties your shoes  
and sends you out into the day to mail  
letters and purchase bread,  
only kindness that raises its head  
from the crowd of the world to say  
it is I you have been looking for,  
and then goes with you everywhere  
like a shadow or a friend.*

*(Naomi Shihab Nye)*



### **Busways Update**

Two weeks ago, Mrs Maidens, Mrs Hackett and I met with Mr Ross (a very experienced Busways Inspector) for over an hour, and gave him a copy of each and every piece of feedback (email, typed and handwritten notes from parents and students) from the Xavier community (over 80 individual submissions).

Mr Ross assured us that this information would be sent to head office and each issue would be addressed or at the very least a response given to the request.

No response has been received at this time. I will wait until Monday (10<sup>th</sup> March) to hear a response, and if none is received I will contact the Busways Head Office and request that Mr Ross visit us again to explain why our concerns have not been addressed.

### **Quality Catholic Schools Survey (17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March)**

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) project in 2014.

QCS will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships

*... continued next page*

and learning community, the results of which will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement through building on our successes to date.

From March 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> all staff and students, as well as 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete a survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Each school will receive an information report at the end of May and will use this report to inform their planning.

If you are selected to complete the survey, a member of the School Leadership Team will contact you and I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please email [pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### **Notes available on the Xavier Website or on Moodle**

This year all notes will be available for students on the Xavier College Website and their year group Moodle page. It is essential that families take the time to read our fortnightly newsletter to ensure no events are missed.

If you are experiencing any difficulties or have concerns regarding this process please send an email to [pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfinnerty@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### **Some Important Reminders...**

- If your child does not feel well at school please encourage them to go to the front Office and speak to the Office staff. Office staff will make contact with you if required.
- If you need to pick up your child early from school please write in their diary so that we have advance notice. It is important that the diary is then signed by their Homegroup teacher so that we can mark this as a partial absence.
- Please be aware that if you come to the front office to pick up your child without notice there will be a delay. This practice should only occur in an emergency.

If you have a question or a concern regarding the education of your child please make contact with their Homegroup teacher. It is always better to ask rather than wait.

Thank you for your continued support

*Patrick Finnerty*  
Assistant Principal

## ***From The Leader Of Administration***

### ***Vaccinations***

I would like to thank all of those Year 7 students and Year 9 Boys who have brought back their paperwork for the upcoming vaccination clinic on **Monday, March 17th**. Those students who have not returned their paperwork need to do so before next Tuesday, March 11th.

### ***School Photos***

School photos this year will take place on Friday, March 28th. Early next week students will be given a personalised envelope with details of different photo pack options available. Details of payment options are also outlined on the envelopes. We ask that students bring their envelopes on the day of the photographs to present to the photographers.

*Mr Lee McCrorie*

Leader of Administration

## ***From the Leader of E-Learning***

### ***Digital Footprints***

Last week in my Year 9 Information and Software Technology Course, I introduced my class to the Way Back Machine web site on the Internet. This is an archive of web sites that have been compiled since the mid-1990s and can be found at <http://archive.org/web> Run by the Internet Archive, a non-profit organisation, the site focuses on preservation and providing access to digital cultural artefacts. By using this web site, students were able to “go back in time” and view their favourite web sites as they appeared years ago. One student thanked me for letting her relive her childhood as she found a website she used to access when much younger! The students saw text and images on these web sites that were still around after all these years.

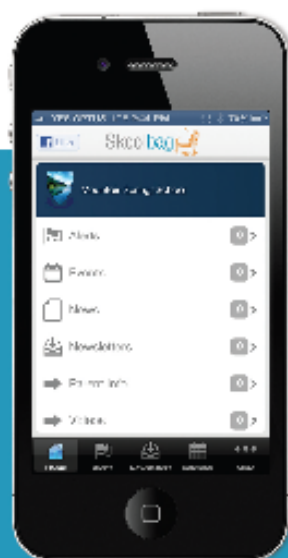
The activity with the Way Back Machine web site provided the class with much thought in relation to what they have been posting online. It made them think about what they had said online and what photos they had posted. They soon realised that by using a social network such as FaceBook or Twitter for example, they leave behind a digital footprint that could easily be found some years in the future by a potential employer or researcher. They soon realised that every game and app they use or web service they sign up for, has the potential to widen their digital footprint. This digital footprint can then remain with them for life, as evidenced by the reactions from my class when they used the Way Back Machine on the Internet.

By using the Way Back Machine, my class discovered the ongoing issue of *data permanence* and the issue of how we can preserve our reputations in the digital era. Recently, an article appeared in *Wired* magazine that examined the issue of preserving our reputations in the digital era and the need for parents to talk to their children about the digital footprint that they are leaving behind. Of interest, was the following paragraph: “It’s always been the case that teenagers in middle school and high school can be pretty brutal to each other. But there used to be a limit to how far an embarrassing situation could travel, and perhaps more importantly, there was little cost, long-term, for these mistakes in the days before data permanence. Few 12-year-olds, posting data online, consider the fact that what they post may be readily accessible when they are 30-year-olds applying to their second or third or fourth jobs, or to graduate school — simply because no 12-year-old (or 30-year-old) ever had reason to think this way before.” The simple activity I had completed with my Year 9 class, brought this fact home to them. I encourage all parents to read the *Wired* article located at: <http://www.wired.com/opinion/2014/03/privacy-talk-new-sex-talk-2/>

On a different note, all parents are encouraged to download the Skoolbag app from the iTunes Apps Store or the Google Play Store. The Skoolbag app has links to the school newsletters. You will find in this newsletter a brief information sheet about the Skoolbag App.

*Mr Andrew Wonson*

Leader of E-Learning



## Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones



## How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

### iPhone Users


Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



### Android Users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones





## ***From the Leader of Learning***

### ***Feedback for students and parents***

At Xavier we have a commitment to the learning gain of every child. We believe that every child has the capacity to learn and to improve. A fundamental element of achieving our goal is achieved by providing feedback to students and parents; parent-teacher interviews are an important component of this element.

Last week saw the first of our parent-teacher interviews for the year with Year 12 receiving valuable feedback from their teachers. It was pleasing and encouraging to see many of our students and parents in attendance. Parent-teacher interviews are an invaluable experience for students and parents. It is the primary opportunity for you, as parents, to hear the same message as your child in relation to his/her progress, strengths and areas of concern. This communication means that we are all on the same page – parent and child hear the same message and have the opportunity to ask questions to assist learning.

Research by many notable academics, most recently Hattie and Timperley (2007), has proven that feedback, formal and informal, “emphasising learning goals” leads to increased student learning gain; imagine, then the power of feedback when we combine it with parental commitment to the process. Although your child may appear to rile against your “interference” in their education as you supportively encourage them to apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort, enquire about their learning and achievement and attempt to engage in general chit-chat about school, they do appreciate your love and concern, or at least they will in hindsight, and, more importantly, it makes a positive difference to their learning and achievement.

Our next **Parent-Teacher evening** is for **Year 11, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. I look forward to seeing all our Year 11 students and parents then.

Thank you for your commitment to your child’s education.

*You can access the aforementioned resources via:*

*<file:///C:/Users/aroach2/Downloads/redding.pdf>*

*Hattie and Timperley, The Power of Feedback, <http://rer.sagepub.com/content/77/1/81.short>*

### ***EM4 Professional Development Conference***

Last Monday and Tuesday the Mathematics and English teachers of Year 7 and 8 attended an inspirational and extremely practical conference with Lyn Sharratt. Lyn is a highly acclaimed educationalist, researcher and author. Her work spans decades and focuses on how to improve student learning outcomes.

The conference was the ignition of a dynamic diocesan project, EM4 that will span the year. This project aims to improve all students’ learning outcomes through the implementation of a number of “high yield strategies”. The primary element of Lyn’s strategy is to know every child. In knowing our students we come to understand the ways they learn, inhibitors to their learning and, as such, devise best practice strategies to teach them.

We look forward to working further with Lyn and the Parramatta Systems Learning Team to provide better learning opportunities for your children.

*Alyssa Roach*

Leader of Learning

## ***Ways to Encourage Students to Boost their Academic Results in 2014***

By the end of the term, students often find themselves overloaded and overwhelmed, having to rely on cramming for final exams and assessment tasks to get through to the break. They are exhausted and in survival mode. Thriving academically no longer matters. All that matters is the break at the end. If you've ever felt this way, you've experienced what we call the "Cram Cycle."



### **Solution: Break the "Cram Cycle" Before it Starts**

Students get busy during the term, which leads to exhaustion. When you're exhausted, the only thing you want to do is zone out for a bit. After an afternoon of zoning, students are forced to put all their effort into completing assignments that are due tomorrow. We call this "cramming." As students work on only that which is due tomorrow, long-term assignments pile up and create even more busyness, which leads to exhaustion, and the "Cram Cycle" begins to accelerate.

Most students only get out of the "Cram Cycle" when the term ends.

But 2014 can be different. If you want to stay out of this dreaded cycle, commit yourself to studying at least five days a week, even when you don't have anything due the next day. Use every day as a review day, spreading out your study sessions for big tests and projects across multiple days instead of letting them pile up. This approach takes more effort initially to create these habits, but you'll reap the benefits when you're free of the "Cram Cycle" and the stress that follows it.

*Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au).*

*Our school's access details are:*

*Username: xaviercollege*

*Password: 64success*

*Mrs Sandy Hazell*

*Year 7 Well Being Co-ordinator*

## **Year 7 Reflection Day**

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February, our lucky Year 7 students took a trip to the extravagant Mount Schoenstatt in Mulgoa. It started out with your typical thirty minute bus trip, and although we were extremely unlucky to have it “rain and rain and rain and pour” on this remarkable day, nobody seemed to mind the drastic change in climate. When we first arrived, we were greeted by the lovely faces of Mrs Moylan, Miss Phillips and of course the extremely welcoming nuns.

The house we were about to enter had extremely strict house-rules. We had to take off our shoes, line them up in the hall and, only then were we to enter the room in which we would continue with our day. To start things off, Mrs Moylan read us a familiar story entitled Noah’s Ark. After this, we proceeded to do a colouring-in activity in which we needed to colour in certain animals/objects that we thought represented ourselves. Next, we were put into groups, which we would be working with for the rest of the day. Before recess, we proceeded with our first group activity, which was paper aeroplane throwing. We needed to construct our own aeroplane to use for the activity. In the activity, we would all line up in our group with the paper aeroplanes in our grasp and try to throw them into a hula hoop. The prize was a chocolate for each member of the group.

### **\*RECESS\***

The first thing we did after recess was play tunnel ball. With our group members, we lined up in a straight line front to back and had to pass the ball through all member's legs without it going off track. One member had to stand right at the back to receive the ball and when in hand, ran to the front and replaced the former leader.

We then played a game called body balloon, where we had to keep the balloon in the air only using the body parts that were called out to us by Mrs Moylan. Some students were finding it more difficult than they thought.

After the body balloon, it was constructing time. We needed to build an ark resembling the ark in the story we read earlier on. The aim was not to speak but to continue to communicate with one another. The equipment we used were a blown balloon, two cups, ten straws, sticky tape, scissors and newspaper. Everybody contributed well.

### **\*LUNCH\***

After a damp lunch, we relaxed with a soothing meditation held by Mrs Moylan. Pupils were told to remain on the floor with closed eyes and to listen to the music while we thought of ourselves as artworks of the Lord. We reflected on our different talents, and on the gifts that were given to us by Our Father, the Lord, Jesus Christ. After thanking the nuns for our stay, we then proceeded on the bus back to Xavier College.

We would like to thank the teachers that came with us and all children that contributed to making the day such a good one.

Written by students from 7 Blue:

*Zoe Hall, Emily Beesley-Chiariello, William Maclean and Nick Kuschert*

View Reflection Day photos on the Xavier College Gallery:

<http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/galleries>



## **Art Club News**

Featured Artist: **Amy Brabin**

Year 8 Task: **Animals**

*I was given the task of creating a picture of a hawk with an ink-spattered background.*

*I started off by outlining the hawk, from top to bottom, then using lines, dots and cross hatching and stipplings. Following that, I drew the rock that the hawk was standing on.*

*I felt confident using a felt-tipped pen as I had experimented with this during Year 7.*

*I really enjoyed this task.*

*Amy Brabin*  
Year 8 White



## **Student Representative Council Report**

On Thursday, February 20th, the representatives from the SRC gathered to conduct their fortnightly meeting.

At the meeting the SRC firstly discussed the new canteen lines format, an idea which had been brought up at the previous meeting. A sketch of the new layout was formulated, with each of the three canteen windows being allocated to Stage 4, Stage 5 and Stage 6 during the first half of lunch in an attempt to prevent disorder and unfairness. The SRC plans to announce the implementation of the new format to the school at the next assembly.

Secondly the SRC brainstormed ways in which Year 10 could have more responsibility within the school. The SRC agreed on a rotating roster for lunch orders and canteen duties that could also serve as an opportunity for Year 10 to fulfil their required five hours community service commitment. Furthermore, Year 10 brought up their ownership project for the school, which they had previously discussed with Mrs Maidens. The project was originally intended as a way to get involved with supplying the school with extra handball courts, however other SRC members argued that the school has enough handball courts as it stands. The SRC then agreed to ask the student body their opinions and report back at the next meeting, when the verdict will be decided.

The final topic addressed at the SRC meeting was the option of purchasing a sign that could display the bus numbers in the afternoon in an effort to bring a higher level of order to the afternoon bus system.

*Joshua Hauville*  
McCormack House Leader

## Sport Reports

### Swimming Carnival 2014

On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Xavier College held its annual swimming carnival at Ripples Swimming Complex in St Marys. The skies cleared, the sun was plentiful and the students and teachers participated and cheered in all their colourful glory.

MacKillop House won the overall points tally for the 2014 Swimming Carnival. Under the lead of their new leader, Miss Lee, and with the assistance of many senior house leaders who showed some great leadership, MacKillop House also won the cheer competition with their refreshingly new cheers. The rousing cheers from all House groups and the abundance of colour on the day showed a real effort to participate and enjoy the day from all students attending.

The Champions of Champions race proved a very entertaining part of the carnival, with seven of the fastest students from all the 50m freestyle events competing to determine the outright fastest male and fastest female at Xavier College. Congratulations go to *Michael Cappadona* of Year 11 and *Holly Sparks* of Year 7 who were this year's Champions of Champions.

The 2014 Swimming Carnival proved to be a very competitive carnival overall, with some excellent results. Below are the age champions for 2014.

12 boys	<i>Jason Muscat</i>	15 boys	<i>Kasper Daignault</i>
12 girls	<i>Jacinta Yardin</i>	15 girls	<i>Dahna Carley</i>
13 boys	<i>Thomas Walton</i>	16 boys	<i>Kenneth Fuller</i>
13 girls	<i>Holly Sparks and Chloe Spears</i>	16 girls	<i>Isabella Biordi</i>
14 boys	<i>Callum Elliott</i>	17+ boys	<i>Alex Moore</i>
14 girls	<i>Sarah Fitzpatrick</i>	17+ girls	<i>Courtney Cowen</i>

A huge congratulations to all our winners, to all those who participated, to our teachers and especially to those who brought our College house spirit to life.



More photos of the Swimming Carnival can be accessed on the Xavier College Gallery:  
<http://www.xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/galleries>

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## Cross Country 2014

On Wednesday, April 2nd, Xavier College will be holding its annual cross country carnival at Jamison Park in Penrith. Students will be transported there via bus during their sport time.

All Year 8 and Year 10 students will be competing in the cross-country. Any other students who would like to compete have the opportunity to put their name down during Week 7 (that is, the 10th to the 14th of March) on the Sports Notice Board.

On the day of the cross country carnival, the timeframe for students to attend the Cross Country is as follows:

**Periods 1 and 2** – all Year 10, plus 14 and 15 boys and girls, 16 girls, 17 girls and the 18+ boys

**Periods 3 and 4** – all of Year 8, plus 12 13 girls and boys, 16 boys, 17 boys and the 18+ girls

The agenda for the day is that at the start of sport all competitors will leave their bags in the DM classrooms at school. They will then line up on the courts in their colour classes. Once their names are marked off, they will be transported to Jamison Park. Students will only need to take a hat and a bottle of water with them. Sunscreen will be provided.

Race distances that student groups will run on the day are as follows:

12 years girls and boys, 13 girls and boys	3 km
14 years girls and boys, 15 girls and boys, 16 and 17 years girls	4km
16 and 17 year boys, 18+ year girls –	6km
18+ boys	8km

The five top placed competitors from each age group will go on to compete at the PDSSSC Cross Country Carnival at St Columba's on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014.

## Girls Futsal Competition

Congratulations to the Xavier College girls FUTSAL team who recently won the grand final.

The team consisted of Jess Stofmeel, Rhiannon Gobourg, Charlotte Reba, Britney Halfpenny, Gabrielle Pace, Britney Pelle and Paula Mitchell. They were undefeated on the day, scoring 52 goals in total. Special mention goes to Paula for her outstanding efforts in goal. She managed to save 47 goals, with only three scored against her on the day.

The winning streak continued with the team going through to win the grand final.



## Other Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to Kate Sunter and Ashleigh McGann who represented Xavier at the recent **PDSSSC Tennis Tournament** at Woodriff Gardens in Penrith.

Kate played six matches in the Junior Tournament, winning five of those in a convincing fashion. She went on to win her quarter finals 7-0, but lost her semi final (10-8) after a tie break. Kate came third overall, from a field of 16 participants.

Ashleigh played five matches in the Senior Tournament, winning one, but losing her others after tie break deciders. Ashleigh went on to play her quarter final against the eventual winner of the tournament, but lost 4-0. Ashleigh came 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

Congratulations also go to the following students for being selected in the **PDSSSC Baseball Championships** who will play at Panania this Tuesday, March 11th: *James Dare, Travis Kelly and Mitchell Skinner*. We wish you the best of luck.

*Elissa Kitchin*  
Sports Coordinator



# *Xavier College Mandilo*

## Open Night

**Monday, 10th March, 2014**

*The education of the young is the transformation of the future*



**Displays and Tours of the College**

**5.00pm to 7.00pm**

**Information Session 7.00pm to 7.30pm**

### **SCHOOL FEES**

Term 1 school fees statements were due on Friday, March 7th 2014. Payment arrangements can be organised if Term 1 fees cannot be paid in full by this date.

Please note that any payment arrangement you had last year is now invalid. A new arrangement can be organised, if you wish to do so, by contacting Steve Hackett, School Fees Officer at Xavier College, on 02 4777 0924 or by email at [shackett@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shackett@parra.catholic.edu.au)

*Steve Hackett,  
School Fees Officer*

**XAVIER UNIFORM SHOP  
AND  
SECOND HAND SHOP**

**TERM 1 OPENING HOURS  
THURSDAY  
8.00am - 4.00pm**

### **REMINDER TO PARENTS**

Parents are asked to notify the College if your child will not be attending school.

Phone: 4777 0900



# P & F Executive 2014

Congratulations to the following P&F members who were elected to executive roles for 2014 at the recent P&F meeting:

President:	<i>Karen McGann</i>
Vice President:	<i>Belinda Villettri</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Lorrae Green</i>
Secretary:	<i>Michelle Dawson</i>
Fundraising Committee:	<i>Katherine Kassimatis</i> <i>Laura Mueller</i> <i>Rodney Pringle</i>
PRC Representative:	<i>David Rose</i>

Please support your P&F Executive in their endeavours as they strive to support the College on your behalf.

## ***P & F President's Report***

I would like to start my report for this year by thanking the school executive for their ongoing support. While we have continued to see transformational changes take place with regard to the education of our children, the College has also farewelled some long standing members of staff and had others experience devastating loss. Through all of this, Tricia and Patrick continued making themselves available to share information with us, ensuring we were kept informed of any potential impacts for our children.

As for our fundraising efforts, it was disappointing that we couldn't get numbers early in the year to hold our trivia night but we did have good results from our two Bunnings BBQ's during the year. We continued our support for the walkathon, donating prizes again to recognise the students' creativity with their costumes for the day. We also supported the fundraising of Year 12 to establish a memorial garden for the College and made contributions to assist in recognising the works of the HSC students as part of the evening to display their major works.

None of this happens on its own, so I'd like to thank the P&F executive for their ongoing support during the year. On a personal level, last year was particularly challenging—as such the support of each member of the executive to pitch in and coordinate, source supplies, arrange equipment, organise prizes, reconcile fundraising outcomes and generally be there to make things happen was greatly appreciated. You are an amazing group of people and it's great to know that we are there to support each other.

It has also been pleasing to know that as a College, we continue to have such a supportive group of parents, both on the executive and also as regular attendees at our meetings. The open sharing of information that occurs during our monthly meetings puts us in a quite a privileged position, enabling us to support our children from a position of knowledge rather than second guessing. While I'm sure our children wouldn't want to admit it, I'd like to think the interest we take and our active involvement in the school community shows them our support, helping keep the channels of communication open.

On a final note for the year, we farewell a couple of members of the P&F Executive who would have been key supporters over the years: Both Tracy Newman and Darren Lackey have held a number of different positions on the P&F Executive, covering the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and Fundraising Committee members. To both of you, your generosity and willingness to pitch in and help in any way required has been very much appreciated and it has been a pleasure to have been involved with you during my years with the College. As with everyone who has spent time as a part of our P&F family, we would love to have you stay in touch. It is the Parents and Friends' Association after all!

*Karen McGann*  
President





# Important Dates for 2014

## Term 1 and Term 2

<i>Monday, March 10th</i>	<i>Mary MacKillop Museum Excursion: Year 10 Yellow, Orange, Green PDSSSC Boys Basketball Year 7 2015 Open Night, 5.00pm to 7.30</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 11th</i>	<i>Mary MacKillop Museum Excursion: Year 10 White, Crimson</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 12th</i>	<i>HSC Assessment Block 1 ends Preliminary Assessment Block 1 commences Mary MacKillop Museum Excursion: Year 10 Red, Blue</i>
<i>Monday, March 17th</i>	<i>Vaccination Day PDSSSC Girls Basketball</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 18th</i>	<i>Preliminary Assessment Block 1 ends</i>
<i>Wednesday, 19th March</i>	<i>PDSSSC Touch Gala Day Selections</i>
<i>Friday, March 21st</i>	<i>PDSSSC Swimming Carnival, Homebush Year 11 Dance Excursion, Sydney Dance Co</i>
<i>Monday, March 24th</i>	<i>PDSSSC Girls Football Gala Day</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 25th</i>	<i>Opening College Mass. Parents welcome.</i>
<i>Friday, March 28th</i>	<i>School photo day PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day</i>
<i>Monday, March 31st</i>	<i>Year 11 Parent-Teacher Interviews PDSSSC Boys Football Gala Day, Jamison Park</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 2nd</i>	<i>School Cross Country Kirinari Family Picnic Day Years 9 and 10 Drama Excursion</i>
<i>Thursday, April 3rd</i>	<i>School photo catch-up day</i>
<i>Friday, April 11th</i>	<i>Final day of Term 1</i>
<i>Monday, April 28th</i>	<i>Professional Development Day for staff</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 29th</i>	<i>First day of Term 2. Students return</i>



*faith in our future*  
PLANNING TOGETHER IN CHRIST FOR THE  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



## **Diocese of Parramatta on Social Media**

Connect with the Diocese and find out the latest news and events on Social Media:

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic>

**Twitter** @parracatholic

## **St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta**

Recruiting male and female singers in all voice parts. Develop vocal skills and learn more about the Catholic faith and liturgy. Scholarship payments available to singers aged 16-35 who demonstrate music leadership skills. To arrange an audition, contact the Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick tel 0430 431 884. For further information, visit [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

## **Preparing Music for the Easter Triduum**

These workshops organised by the Office for Worship include ministerial chants for clergy (priests and deacons), cantors and choir, with particular focus on the new translations and chants for the Unveiling of the Cross (Good Friday) and the Exsultet (Easter Vigil).

From 7.30pm-9pm on these dates:

13 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Plc, Parramatta. **RSVP 10 March**

20 March at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith. **RSVP 17 March**

27 March at St Patrick's Parish, 51-55 Allawah St, Blacktown. **RSVP 24 March**

RSVP to the Office for Worship tel (02) 8838 3414, [liturgysupport@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:liturgysupport@parra.catholic.org.au)

## **Faith at the Fiddler: 13 March**

A forum for young people aged 18-35 to gather together to discuss issues of faith and spirituality in the friendly and warm atmosphere of Sydney's most famous pub. Speaker: Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College, Toongabbie. Topic: Theology of the Body – Answering the Deeper Questions; the Meaning of Sex and the Body. Time: 5pm-7pm. Venue: The Greenway Room at the Mean Fiddler, cnr Commercial & Windsor Rds, Rouse Hill. Details: Steven Buhagiar – Catholic Education, Parramatta, [sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sbuhagiar@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## **Connecting Peace, Ecology and Justice: 14-15 March**

This Culture of Peace Formation Program is suitable for parish social justice groups, young adult groups, parish workers, educators and interested participants. An initiative of the Diocese of Parramatta's Social Justice Office, Institute for Mission and Columban Mission Institute. Cost \$80 includes meals and materials. Friday 14 March from 4-8pm and Saturday 15 March from 9am-4pm. Venue: Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. For more information and registration contact Sr Louise McKeogh FMA, Social Justice Coordinator, Diocese of Parramatta tel (02) 8838 3429, [LMckeogh@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:LMckeogh@parra.catholic.org.au)

## **Living Lent Daily Retreat Day: 15 March**

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer retreat opportunities for single Catholic women aged 18-35 who are seeking to deepen their spiritual life. Join the Sisters for a Retreat Day of Lent reflections and prayers followed by a social gathering. Lunch and dinner provided. Where: 116 Quakers Rd, Marayong. Cost: free but registration is essential. **RSVP: 11 March** to Sr Margaret tel (02) 9626 9200, 0420 754 727, [margaretcsfn@gmail.com](mailto:margaretcsfn@gmail.com) Visit [www.csfn.org.au](http://www.csfn.org.au)

## **Australian Catholic Historical Society Colloquium: 16 March**

God in the Lodge: The religious beliefs of Australia's Prime Ministers. Speaker: Roy Williams, lawyer and author of the international best-seller *God, Actually*. Starts 2.30pm, admission free, no membership required. Crypt Hall of St Patrick's at Church Hill, Grosvenor St, The Rocks. Inquiries: Dr John Carmody, President ACHS, (02) 9417 2082, [john.carmody@sydney.edu.au](mailto:john.carmody@sydney.edu.au)

## **Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 March**

Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick's Cathedral, Marist Place, Parramatta.

To find out more about priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta contact Fr Warren Edwards – Vocations Director: tel 0409 172 700, [vocations@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@parra.catholic.org.au)

# Community News...



**NSW Police Force**

## **Community Event**

You are invited to the St Marys Local Area Command

### *Parent & Community Forum*

#### Topics of Interest

- Cyber Safety
- Road Trauma – Causes & Effects – Crash Unit
- Alcohol & Violence in the Community
- Safety in the Community
- Graffiti – Localised Issues – Police Response

**DATE:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

**TIME:** 6.00pm

**LOCATION:** St Marys Community Centre, located at St Marys Corner.  
(Cnr Great Western Highway and Mamre Road St Marys).  
The entry to this venue is via Swanston Street.

To assist with planning, if you are attending this forum could you please RSVP to Constable Kim SINDEL or Senior Constable Danielle CORLISS via one of the following:

Email: [sindelkim@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sindelkim@police.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [corl1dan@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:corl1dan@police.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: 9677-7527 or 9677-7528



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# Community News...

## BreakThrough



SMART LOVING Workshop

Luddenham NSW

on their own or as a couple

SUNDAY, MAR 23  
2-5PM



BreakThrough Over

hip Gridlock

### Workshop Details

Sunday, March 23  
2-5pm

Holy Family School Hall  
32 Willowdene Ave  
Luddenham NSW 2745

Donation at the door  
(afternoon tea provided)

Bookings essential

Call Jess: 02 9319 6280  
info@smartloving.org

\*Check website for more details

www.smartloving.org

- Identify your conflict triggers
- Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument
- Understand what the real issues are
- Find constructive ways to re-establish connection

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