Eamon Hannan – Principal

Partnerships
Our college mission statement has partnership at its core.

St Patrick’s College is a partnership between students, staff and parents providing an environment of learning, personal growth and faith development while recognising students as young adults.

Partnership has a number of important aspects. Each partner needs to have respect for the others and make their own contribution by playing their role.

Parents are the supporting partners, teachers are responsible for their role with the learners and students are the ones who are actively engaged in the processes of learning. The student role is that of doing. It is imperative that students keep everyone, parents and teachers up to date with their progress. The “meet and greet” BBQ next week discussed in detail below is an important part of beginning the partnership and the communication.

The other significant wording in our mission statement is the idea of recognising students as young adults. With the rights of young adulthood come responsibilities. All students by choosing to be part of St Patrick’s College have both rights and responsibilities as learners.

It is very important that students take the opportunity to belong to St Patrick’s community and to take on the young adult role of professional student. In other words as I am fond of saying – “we are all St Patrick’s people now, please grow up” is a core message to our students.

Parents and Friends Association
Tonight all interested parents are also invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends Association tonight at 6:00 pm in St Patrick’s College Board Room, in the Administration Building on the corner of Gregory and River Streets. The P & F meets monthly and is an opportunity for parents to have input into college life and assist the college with disbursement of the funds collected through the P & F levy. The Parents and Friends Association is always welcoming of new members.

College Board – First Meeting of the Year
Tonight also all interested parents are invited to the Annual General Meeting and Inservice of the College Board at 7:30 pm in the St Patrick’s College Board Room, in the Administration Building on the corner of Gregory and River Streets. The College Board serves an important function, writing policies and having input into the finance and future planning of the college as well as acting as a sounding board for the principal. The College Board is always open to new members as well. If you are unable to attend tonight but are still interested please contact Jenny Staples (Board secretary) at the college either by phone or email enquiries@stpats.qld.edu.au.

Other Events Coming Up…

Meet and Greet BBQ
You will shortly receive a letter from me inviting you to the Meet the Teachers and Success in Senior Schooling night coming up on Tuesday 11 February. The evening begins with a barbecue at 6:00 pm where parents have a chance to meet all the staff followed by a seminar for parents at 7:30 pm about ways to help your student achieve in their senior studies. The venue for both the barbecue and seminar is St Patrick’s Hall on River Street.

Dazzle – a Space-tacular Musical
Auditions for our college musical will be held this Sunday 9 May from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be many and varied opportunities for parents to be involved with this Space-tacular musical. More details in next week’s newsletter.

St Patrick’s Family
We welcome Mrs Denise Stewart to the staff of St Patrick’s. Denise will be working in the office assisting with Facilities two days per week.
Opening and Investiture Mass  
The Investiture Mass is on Friday 14 February at St Patrick’s Church at 9:00am. All parents are invited to attend the Opening Mass. At this mass we will see the investiture of our college leaders. There will be morning tea in St Patrick’s Hall for parents and invited guests following mass.

McGarry Bursaries  
At the conclusion of the Mass we will be awarding the McGarry Bursaries to those eligible seniors from 2013 who have enrolled at tertiary studies.

For those who don’t know the history. A bequest by the late Miss Joan McGarry has established perpetual bursaries to be presented each year to St Patrick’s College students. The trust is established in honour of Miss McGarry’s parents, the late Fred and Rose McGarry and her brother, the late Jim McGarry. Fred McGarry was a prominent hotelier and bookmaker, the licencee of the Queen’s Hotel which stood on the corner of Wood and Victoria Streets on a site now occupied by Westpac Bank. Jim McGarry was tragically killed in a motorbike accident in 1949 aged 19. Joan McGarry herself was a nurse which is recognised by the college in a bursary to the student with the highest OP who are studying Nursing each year.

The trust fund has indicated that there will be $35 000 distributed in bursaries this year. We are extremely grateful for the bequest that Joan McGarry has made and the continuing support it provides to our students as they embark on their senior studies.

Cyclone Emergency  
Thank you to all for your support and cooperation in the potential emergency on Friday. In the emergency situations, ABC local radio is the emergency broadcaster. It is quite possible that due to power failures or access the college will not be able send SMS alerts or emails. Decisions about schools being open are made at Diocesan level in cooperation with Education Queensland.

Readings for this weekend’s Mass  
First reading, Isaiah 58 : 7 - 10: Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, Psalm, Psalm 111 : 4 - 9: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.  
Second reading, 1 Corinthians 2 : 1 - 5: … I came among you in great ‘fear and trembling’ …  
Gospel, Matthew 5 : 13 - 16: … ‘You are the salt of the earth…

Lesley Fraser – Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education  

As is the tradition at St Patrick’s College we will come together as a school community through the celebration of Mass on Friday 14 February. I hope as many parents and friends as possible will come along to be with the students and staff as we ask God to bless our endeavours during 2014 and we welcome our new student leaders and award the McGarry Bursary recipients. Parents are invited to join the student leaders; McGarry Bursary recipients and staff in the Hall for Morning Tea after the Mass. ALL students are to wear their full academic uniform. If you have PE or REC Pursuits on that day please bring your other uniform and change into that before your lesson.

Reflection:  
Mother Teresa of Calcutta often reminded people that each of us is unique, and each has our own contribution to make. Mother Teresa often said: “I cannot do what you do, and you cannot do what I do, but together we can do something beautiful for God.”

Let’s pray that each of us makes good use of our talents, and that we set out to work well with others:

   Lord, you have enriched our lives in many ways,  
   and we remember with thanksgiving all who have loved,  
   cared for, and supported us over the years.  
   Show us how best to use the time and talents you have given each of us,  
   and lead us to grow in appreciation of the contribution that others make.  
   May your Spirit empower us to work well with others  
   and bring out the best in those with whom we share our lives. Amen.
Reverend Father Johnson Mathew – College Chaplain

How to Grow!
“Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and men”. (Luke 2 : 52)

Back to school again, greeting class mates and swapping stories of the holidays.

As we start the academic year, parents give high priority to the secular side of education. Do parents give the same emphasis to the child’s faith formation? Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states that parents are the principal and first educators of their children. At your child’s baptism, you accepted the responsibility of training your child in the Catholic faith. It is within the family that your child first witnesses daily Catholic life.

We get the faith as we sit on the knees of our parents as infants; we get the faith from their personal witness and above all from their example of knowing the Lord and the Church and creating a prayerful environment in the home. The family that prays together stays together. The role of Catholic schools and the Church is to support parents in fulfilling their role as the first educators of the child. By your home example and bringing your child to Sunday Mass and regularly partaking in the sacrament of Eucharist and Reconciliation, your child witnesses your faith and learns from you. If they really learn to pray and make the home a school of prayer, then all else that needs to happen in faith formation will have its proper foundation.

Edna Galvin – Assistant to the Principal: Curriculum

QCS
Our Year 12 students continue the journey to QCS this year. We began the year last week by explaining to the students the process of the entire system of senior assessment. This is not a simple system – nor should it be as we do not get simplicity and fairness in 2014.

The Core Skills Test is used to scale the school results. This means that the results of each student on the test (A, B, C, D, E) are put into each subject group and the average or mean calculated for that subject. This often leads to the mistaken belief that some subjects are better for the OP than others – this is NOT the case.

Students who select the subjects they are good at, and work hard at those subjects, do the BEST. This pattern is repeated year after year. While ALL subjects cover the skills tested on the QCS Test – extra training is very helpful and students should apply themselves to this in Year 12. The test does NOT cover content it is a skills test – however, a good general knowledge does assist as this would be expected of students who in mid-year 12 have completed 12 and a half years of education.

The QCS Test is not used for the awarding of the Queensland Certificate of Education. Both OP and non-OP subjects contribute to the awarding of this very important qualification. If you have any questions, please contact the college.

QCS Test Dates:

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<th>Tuesday 2 September</th>
<th>Wednesday 3 September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Writing Task (2 hours)</td>
<td>Short Response (2 hours)</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Multiple Choice I (1½ hours)</td>
<td>Multiple Choice II (1½ hours)</td>
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Debating 2014
One of the strengths of St Patrick’s is the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities. Tomorrow at lunch students will be invited to nominate for the 2014 Apex secondary schools debating competition. Students will need to be prepared to debate on Tuesday evenings on a fortnightly basis. Depending on nominations they will be required to prepare and present up to 5 debates in the round robin phase of the competition with the possibility of a finals series.

Debates are a very effective extension English activity, and develop research, writing and speaking skills. However, they are also labour intensive, with a debate taking some hours to prepare. Students who nominate will be expected to be available for the whole competition.

Futsal 2014
Nominations will also be called for Futsal soon. St Pat’s has won the local competition for the last three years under the guidance of coach and past student Joel Ikupu. Joel is coaching again this year and will be assisted by another past student in Roberto da Silva. On behalf of students and parents I extend very sincere thanks to them both for their generous donation of their time and expertise. Boys and girls are welcome to nominate in their respective competitions in the open section only. The futsal draw is yet to be announced, but the competition will take place in the week of the 18 March.

AMart rewards scheme
There is a scheme currently operating at A Mart All Sports whereby bonuses for purchases may be allocated to nominated schools. Parents and students who choose to shop at A Mart might like to consider nominating St Pat’s as their school of choice when making purchases.
Kerry Braby – Pastoral Coordinator

Year 11 Induction Camp - Hamilton Island 22-24 April
This week, all Year 11 students will receive a package of information and forms regarding the Hamilton Island Induction Camp. This camp is compulsory for all students. If extenuating circumstances prevent your child from attending you are asked to contact the college and speak to Mr Geoghegan or Ms Braby.

Students are asked to adhere to the important dates listed on the back of information letter:

- **Wednesday 19 February:** Permission/Medical Form, Activity Selection Form and Water Sports Disclaimer must be returned to the office. All forms must be signed by a parent or guardian. Students must also have completed their roommate selections on the sheet outside of Ms Braby’s office by this date. Students are asked to think very carefully about their choice of Activities, these cannot be changed after 19 February.
- **Wednesday 26 February:** Invoices for the cost of the camp plus the chosen activities are sent home. No money is to be sent to school before these invoices are received.
- **Wednesday 12 March 12:** Final Payment is required by St Patrick’s College.
- If anyone has any special dietary requirements could they please contact Ms Braby as soon as possible?

Any student who does not receive the information package on Hamilton Island in class, please collect one from the St Patrick’s College office.

Brendon Brauer – Sports Coordinator

Coaching Staff Needed
2014 looks to be another successful year in sport after the success of many individuals and teams in 2013. The coaching staff for our 2014 teams is currently being finalised to ensure students are given a wide variety of opportunities to represent the college. Our coaching staff consists of both teaching staff as well as members of our college community. It is through the generosity of these individuals that we can continue to compete in many competitions, which allows us to experience a high degree of success. If there are any parents interested in coaching, managing or assisting one of our many teams, please contact Mr Brauer at the college on 4944 7220.

In the coming weeks, a number of our teams will commence training for their respective competitions. Coaches will hold sign on meetings to provide students with the details of the competitions including training and financial commitments. Students who sign on for a team **must be committed** to the team for the duration of the competition. This commitment includes regular attendance at training and the payment of fees. Interested players should give their names to the coaches / managers of these teams at the sign on meetings that will be held soon. Students who are absent when these meetings are held should give their names to the respective coaches as soon as possible.

Rugby League Sign-on
A sign on for St Pat’s Rugby League was held last week. Interested students who were unable to attend the sign-on must see Mr Boumford ASAP to obtain a nomination form. Training for the college Firsts and Seconds will commence in the coming weeks.

Sports Trials
Trials for a number of Mackay District sporting teams will be occurring in the next few weeks. Students who are interested in attending sporting trials must ensure they return nomination forms to the sports coordinator by the due date. Late nominations will not be accepted. Students must also ideally collect nomination forms at both morning tea and lunchtime breaks.

Parents must be aware that students should attend school before and after sporting trials. On many occasions, trials are held in the middle of the school day. Students will need to sign out of the college if they are being taken to a trial by a parent. They will then need to sign in upon returning.
Mackay District 19 years Volleyball and Touch Trials
Trials for Mackay District 19 years Touch and Volleyball teams will be held on Thursday 13 February. Nomination forms for these trials are now available and must be returned by the end of this week. Students should return their nomination form and levy to the college bursar by the end of second break on Friday. Only students who are at a representative level in these sports should consider attending these trials.

Mackay District 19 years Tennis Trials
Congratulations to Year 12 student, Jamaiah Hutchinson who has been selected in the Mackay District 19 years Tennis team following trials that were held on Monday. Jamaiah will now travel to Rockhampton on Monday to compete in the Capricornia trials. Good luck Jamaiah.

Important Dates
10 February Capricornia Tennis, Softball and Cricket trials
13 February Mackay District 19 years Touch and Volleyball trials
18 February Mackay District 16 years Girls AFL, 18 years Rugby League and Basketball, 19 years Soccer and Hockey trials.
27 February Capricornia Touch and Volleyball trials

Glen Smith – Mathematics Coordinator

Mathematics Tutoring
The Mathematics Department will be offering tutoring for all mathematics subjects again this year. Tutoring will begin on Monday 10 February and will be held in room D7. The session will begin at approximately 3.10 pm and finish at approximately 4.00 pm (if students are in need of some specific extra help then the finish time may be a little later). There will generally be between two and four mathematics teachers available at this time to help students.

If a student needs further help with their Mathematics they are more than welcome to approach their class teacher for help either before/after school or at lunch times.

St Patrick’s Family

Congratulations to Year 11 student Jack Gray. Jack and Mercy student Tia Gostelow, spent 10 days at the Tamworth Country Music Festival recently, competing in talent quests, busking on Peel Street, also known as the Boulevard of Dreams, and also having the opportunity to perform at a local venue to a packed crowd in The Young Stars of Country Showcase. As a Duo, Tia and Jack placed second in the CCMA National Talent Quest, and were runners up in the Toyota Landcruiser Busking Championships (see news report below). Jack also placed second in the male vocal section. Whilst Tia and Jack were busking and singing a Busby Marou song, Tom Busby and Jeremy Marou happened to walk past and watch them perform and spent some time talking with them both, which was a huge highlight of the festival for them both.

Toyota LandCruiser Busking Championships
Some 6,000 people watched a fabulous display on Saturday night (25th January) of raw busking talent at the Toyota LandCruiser Busking Championships Best of the Buskers Concert in Toyota Park, Tamworth. Teenage duo Tia Gostelow and Jack Gray took out second place performing a brilliant cover of Busby Marou’s Biding My Time. Last year, Gostelow won the People’s Choice Award in the Busking Championships. More than 600 buskers registered for this year’s competition, with the winners sharing a prize pool of over $7,500 and the title of 2014 Toyota Country Music Busking Champions.
REMINDER: ACCOUNT AND DISCOUNT INFORMATION FORMS ARE NOW OVERDUE!

Term accounts will be distributed in the coming weeks and to enable us to calculate your eligible level of discount on your 2014 school fees, the Account and Discount Information forms MUST BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY to the college office. It is extremely important that you complete this form as tuition discount for each term in 2014 depends on this form. Even if you do not have any students at other Catholic schools, please check the data in Section 1, complete Section 2, sign and have your student return to Reception as soon as possible.

TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEERS

Our Tuckshop Convenor, Mary Vassallo, is still looking for more volunteers to assist in the tuckshop. If you have any spare time and would like to help, please phone Mary on 4944 7226 or 0438 166 403. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Southern Cluster Parish Office (based at St Mary’s Church)

POSITIONS VACANT

Secretary - Permanent/Part time

A vacancy exists in our Southern Cluster Office for a permanent part-time Secretary. The applicant must possess good computer skills and a pleasant phone manner. Duties include producing a weekly bulletin, handling enquiries and preparing the paperwork for Baptisms and Weddings. The hours are Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 9:00am to 1:00pm and Wed 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Applications with a CV are to be addressed to the Southern Cluster Parishes Administrator, PO Box 32, Mackay QLD 4740. Applications close on Friday 14 February 2014.

Cleaner - Permanent/Part time

A vacancy also exists for a part-time Cleaner at the St Mary’s Parish & Southern Cluster Office. This is a paid 2 hour position and times are negotiable. Please contact the office on 4957 4807 if interested.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Making Stepfamilies Work: A Course for Couples

Stepfamilies face unique challenges for all family members, which are not always recognised.

Making Stepfamilies Work is a course specifically for couples either in a stepfamily, or considering forming one.

The course covers central issues faced by stepfamilies, including:
- past histories
- disciplining children
- and divided loyalties

An emphasis is placed on strengthening the couple relationship.

What the Course offers
- An opportunity for individuals to express and acknowledge their emotional responses to living in a step family
- Creative options and solutions based on a step family model rather than a biological one
- Learning through both educational and experiential processes
- Opportunities to meet with others in a step family thus gain a sense of belonging.

Aims of the Course
- To encourage an awareness of the need to forge new ways of being in a stepfamily, which demands different expectations and roles
- To provide participants with strategies for coping with difficult stepfamily dynamics and relationships
- To promote an acceptance of each individual’s current and prior situation no matter how complex or difficult these are
- To present a perspective which celebrate the viability and positives of step family life

For all appointments and enquiries please call:
FRC on 1300 783 544 or Centacare on 1300 523 985