This week as a college community we celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of a period in the life of the church called Lent. This is a time of reflection and trying to improve ourselves in preparation for Easter. Traditionally people have done without aspects of their lives in order to both improve ourselves and also to give to the poor or needy.

Students at this time would do well to give up TV (or FaceBook, computer games etc) as they move towards the exam block just prior to Easter. During Lent we will have opportunity to make donations to Caritas – which is a Catholic Overseas Aid agency.

Coming Up
There are a number of events coming up in the next few weeks:
- Mocktails for Year 12 students at the MECC on Friday 14 March.
- St Patrick’s Day Mass at 9:00 am on Monday 17 March. We will also have celebrations during the day and a special awards night for Year 12 students based on their Year 11 results at 7:30 pm in St Patrick’s Hall. On St Patrick’s Day we will also be celebrating Fr Stephen Hanly’s 25 years jubilee as a priest.
- The Aquatics carnival is coming up on Thursday 20 March at Pioneer Pool. Mr Brauer will have more details in his section.

Exam block and Industry Placement
During the exam block period at the end of term, students are required to attend only when they have exams. If students have industry placement, that is their first priority and they are required to attend their exams in the evening at the college.

St Patrick’s Family
Congratulations to Cody Blucher who has received high praise for his refereeing of basketball. He recently was awarded the bronze medal game in a national carnival.

Readings at Mass this Sunday
First reading, Genesis 2 : 7 - 9,3 : 1 – 7 …The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Psalm, Psalm 50 : 3 - 6,12 - 14, 17 … Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Second reading, Romans 5:12,17-19 … As by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.
Gospel, Matthew 4 : 1 – 11 …Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness …
Weekend Masses

**Southside Cluster**
- **Saturday Vigil Mass**
  - 6:00 pm St Francis Xavier
  - 6:00 pm St Mary’s
- **Sunday**
  - 7:00 am St Patrick’s
  - 7:00 am St Therese’s
  - 9:00 am St Michael’s
  - 9:00 am St Francis Xavier
  - 9:30 am St Francis of Assisi
  - 6:00 pm St Patrick’s

**Northside Cluster**
- **Saturday Vigil Mass**
  - 6:00 pm St Joseph’s
  - 6:00 pm St Brigid’s
- **Sunday**
  - 7:30 am St Brendan’s
  - 9:00 am St Joseph’s

**Walkerston**
- **Saturday Vigil Mass**
  - 6:00 pm St John’s
- **Sunday**
  - 7:30 am Eton

**Marian**
- **Saturday Vigil Mass**
  - 6:00 pm Holy Rosary
- **Sunday**
  - 9:00 am Mirani

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Lesley Fraser – Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education

We begin the season of lent with ashes on our foreheads. What is symbolized by this smudging? Perhaps the heart understands better than the head because more people go to church on Ash Wednesday than on any other day of the year, including Christmas. The queues to receive the ashes in many churches are endless. Why? Why are the ashes so popular?

Their popularity, I suspect, comes from the fact that, as a symbol, they are blunt, primal, archetypal, and speak the language of the soul. Something inside each of us knows exactly why we take the ashes: “Dust thou art and into dust thou shalt return!” No doctor of metaphysics need explain this. Ashes are dust and dust is soil, humus; humanity and humility come from there. It is no accident that ashes have always been a major symbol within all religions. To put on ashes, to sit in ashes, is to say publicly and to yourself that you are reflective, in a penitential mode, that this is not “ordinary time” for you, that you are not in a season of celebration, that you are grieving some of the things you have done and lost, that some important work is going on silently inside you, and that you are, metaphorically and really, in the cinders of a dead fire, waiting for a fuller day in your life.

All of this has deep roots. There is something innate to the human soul that knows that, every so often, one must make a journey of descent, be smudged, lose one’s lustre, and wait while the ashes do their work. All ancient traditions, be they religious or purely mythical, abound with stories of having to sit in the ashes. We all know, for example, the story of Cinderella. This is a centuries-old, wisdom-tale that speaks about the value of ashes. The name, Cinderella, itself already says most of it. Literally it means: “the young girl who sits in the cinders, the ashes.” Moreover, as the tale makes plain, before the glass slipper is placed on her foot, before the beautiful gown, ball, dance, and marriage, there must first be a period of sitting in the cinders, of being smudged, of being humbled, and of waiting while a proper joy and consummation are being prepared. In the story of Cinderella there is a theology of lent.

Adapted from an excerpt by Fr Ronald Rolheiser

To help us in our Lenten practice, the Church offers three things to guide us on our way: praying, fasting and sharing with those in need. The extra time we spend praying during Lent leads us closer to God.

Loving God,
As we begin our Lenten journey let us take the time to recognise your will in our lives.
Help us to acknowledge the importance of silence as the time and place where we can be attentive to Your voice in our hearts.
We pray that with the help of the Holy Spirit we may turn back to You and believe in the Good News.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our model of strength.
Amen.

God Bless, Lesley Fraser

Edna Galvin – Assistant to the Principal: Curriculum

Special Provisions for the QCS Test

The QSA may make special provisions available for the QCS Test. For example, people with recognized disabilities that might seriously affect their achievement on the test may apply to have the test conditions varied, or to be exempted from sitting the test. Provisions may also be made for candidates who are absent on the day of the test, or for those who, because of special circumstances, wish to have a test grade declared null and void. See Ms Galvin for further information.
Lions Youth of the Year

Congratulations to Michael Goode who represented the college last week at the Sarina Lions Club Youth of the Year competition. Michael was successful in winning both the public speaking and overall sections. On Monday evening, Lachlan Carroll, Eleanor Fordyce, Isabella Poots and Kate Richards represented the college at the Mackay Lions Club competition. Isabella was successful in winning the public speaking and overall section as well. Both Michael and Isabella will contest the district final this Saturday. Our best wishes go with Michael and Isabella as they represented the college at this long running event.

Brendon Brauer – Sports Coordinator

St Pat’s Aquatics Carnival

House Nominations for the St Pat’s Aquatics carnival will be held on Thursday with students being given the opportunity to nominate for various events, in particular the triathlon and age championship 50m races. Students are still eligible to nominate up until the end of next week. All students are encouraged to consider competing in the college triathlon event either as an individual or as a member of a team. This is an excellent opportunity to be introduced to the sport of triathlon.

College House Captains Announced

House Captain Elections occurred last week with the following students being successful:

- McAuley: Gabrielle De Boni and Hayley Giles
- Rice: Ryley Lappin and Toby Dovenden
- Chisholm: Emma Young and Shakira Williams
- Colin: Khern Shingleton and John Mulherin

Officiating Success

Year 12 students, Cody Blucher has recently returned from the Australian Country Junior Basketball Championships in Victoria, where he was rewarded with the opportunity to referee the girls bronze medal game.

Cody was identified from recent refereeing performances at Basketball Queensland state and regional championships. This was his second trip to Victoria after officiating at another national tournament in Nunawading in 2013.
Cody will now officiate at the under 16 Queensland state championships being held in April and is hopeful of a Queensland Basketball League call-up in the near future. Cody also officiates local Mackay Division One games which include QBL players.

Cody is a product of the Mackay Basketball referee program which is coordinated by Chanelle Steggles. Congratulations Cody on your refereeing achievements.

**Important Dates**
- 6 March: Capricornia Basketball, Rugby League, Football and Hockey trials
- 13 March: Capricornia Rugby Union, Squash and netball trials
- 20 March: St Patrick’s College Aquatics Carnival

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**Sarah Regan – Cultural Coordinator**

I would like to recognize and congratulate the following students who have been chosen to represent each of the cultural groups of St Patrick’s Senior College. They have been chosen because they have shown good leadership qualities, musical skill and commitment. They are also very approachable and responsible, always willing to give a hand and help when needed. Overall, it is the positive attitude they give under pressure that really made it easy for Mr Lyle Denman and myself to choose our cultural leaders. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Group</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukulele Club</td>
<td>Demetry Malahoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s College Choir</td>
<td>Victoria Burton and Logan Ahern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>Sophie Tulloch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handbell Ensemble</td>
<td>Mikyla Colleton, Meghan Everett and Celeste Veitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s &amp; Mercy College Combined Stage Band</td>
<td>Brodie Madden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I’d like to also congratulate those students who auditioned for Mackay’s Got Talent last weekend. According to Demetry Malahoff (last year’s winner and member of the judging panel for 2014), there were many talented students from St Patrick’s College who displayed great courage and skill. Among the successful applicants were Brianna Brett, Breanna Norman, Jack Gray, Aaliyah Warren and William Anderson. Well done, and we wish you all the best!

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**Mackay’s Got Talent**

Mackay’s Got Talent will occur on Saturday, April 5. Auditions will be called in early March 2014. Like the [Mackay's Got Talent Facebook page](#) to receive notification on when and where audition will occur.

Mackay’s Got Talent is proudly bought to you by Mackay Regional Council, Community Solutions, Sensory Circus Tribe, Headspace Mackay and Mackay Youth Connections Network Inc.

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**KMEIA 22nd Regional Choral Festival**

The Regional Choral festival is an exciting, non-competitive opportunity for choristers to join in voice under the direction of the energetic Anthony Young from St Laurence’s College, Brisbane. Dr Debra Shearer-Dirie, Director and Conductor of the Brisbane Concert Choir and the Queensland Conservatorium, will also be a guest conductor.

If your child would like to join 400 choristers in a massed choir for KMEIA’s 22nd Regional Choral Festival, please let me know. They must come to the following two rehearsals and concert:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REHEARSAL:</th>
<th>Sunday 23 March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME:</td>
<td>3.00 pm – 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>VENUE:</td>
<td>Mercy College Stage area of the Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REHEARSAL and CONCERT:</th>
<th>Monday 24 March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME:</td>
<td>5.30pm for a 7.30pm Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENUE:</td>
<td>MECC Stage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is no cost involved for participating students!
Tickets for the Monday 7.30pm concert go on sale Saturday 1 March at a cost of $15.00 for parents. You are urged to purchase these early as they sell out very quickly.

William Cassells – Diocesan VET Coordinator

As a teacher it is not always possible to have the opportunity to follow an individual student’s career pathway beyond school. Most often this is done through a chance meeting with a former student or parent before this information is available.

During one such chance meeting with Wayne and Stacey Simpson last week I learned of their son Brett’s success in his Technician Apprenticeship at Vanderfield. In the last year Brett has achieved apprentice of the month and most recently Apprentice of the year, determined by the Motor Institute of Technology. This follows Brett’s successful completion of his VET studies as a school based apprenticeship with this company in Years 11 and 12 (2009 – 2010) at the College. Vanderfield’s newsletter article is included.

Four school based apprentices have been signed to their contracts in the past fortnight. The College congratulates: Tom Halpin “Baker”, Jamaiah Hutchinson “Boilermaker”, Rachael Moore and Madison Gribbin “Hairdressers”, and appreciates the time and effort of the respective businesses for employing, training and guiding these students toward their chosen career.

Year 12 work placement students should have completed their initial interviews and contract signings by now. It is timely to remind all students that the completed contract must be in the College for WorkCover and indemnity insurance cover to be activated.

SHAVE FOR A CURE

Mr Schulze will be participating in the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave on 22 March. He is aiming to raise $500 for this worthy cause. If you would like to support Mr Schulze in his fundraising venture, click on the link below to his personal fundraising page.

Every 46 minutes, someone in Australia gets the news they have blood cancer.
The money you give funds emotional and practical services to help lessen the impact of diagnosis and treatment.

All Leukaemia Foundation’s services are provided free of charge.
Your donation helps to keep it that way.

Blood cancer research is urgent and vital.
Blood cancer is Australia’s second biggest cause of cancer death. The money you give will also help fund leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma research.
To donate to me online
Click on this link to my personal fundraising page.


Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to:
Learn what it's like to live in another country?
Learn a new language and experience a different culture?
If you are in years 9, 10, 11 or 12 now
Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more.
Contact; David Prince, ph 0427 038 153

www.rotaryyouthexchange.org.au