This week we celebrated St Patrick’s Day with a college mass and a number of activities throughout the day involving “all things green”.

Fr Fitz-Herbert spoke at mass of the fact that St Patrick was trafficked as a sixteen year old and kept as a slave for six years until he escaped. Fr Fitz-Herbert asked all those who are sixteen to stand and all of us to think about what that experience would have been like. He then went on to make the point that millions of young people are still being trafficked today. St Patrick could have been bitter about his experience but he followed God’s will in faith and Ireland and the world are significantly different because of God’s work through him.

Congratulations and thank you to Ms Fraser for her organisation of the mass and our musicians led by Ms Regan for the wonderful music which really made the mass quite special.

**Industry Placement**

Our Year 12 Vocational students begin placements next week. This is always an exciting time for our young people as they get a real taste of industry and opportunities that often lead to apprenticeships and traineeships. Students are reminded that they are to do their exams on the evening indicated on the exam timetable as their work placement is their first priority.

**St Patrick’s Day Activities**

Congratulations to the SRC for their organisation of the various activities on St Patrick’s Day. Students and staff organised boat races, a ping pong ball game, dunking for apples and tug-of-war where in a disputed results students won 2 – 1. Many wore green and all had a great time celebrating St Patrick’ Day.

**Swimming Carnival**

We have our swimming carnival on Friday. Students should remember to be sunsafe – sunscreen, hats, shirts and sunglasses for this event. We have serious sport and serious fun at this event.

**Academic Awards Evening**

Last night we celebrated the achievements of our Year 12 students in their studies last year. Below is a list of the students and the awards they achieved. The students are to be congratulated. We hope that these awards will serve as encouragement for them to continue to work hard as they complete their final year of school. Thank you to Ms Galvin for her organisation of the evening. Thank you also to Mrs Berenice Wright who was our special guest presenter of awards.

**Students receiving Academic Effort Awards**

Leira Albarracin, Marli Allan, Regan Baldwin, Georgia Camilleri, Aidan Cureton, Alexis DiBenedetto, Olivia Giannangelo, Toni Hackney, Tia Harrison, Rachael Hibble, Breanna Howell, Lauren Krause, Harithra Krishnadeva, Rebecca Leach, Lexi Morgan, Chain Petts, Tariq Rea, Shanae Valigura, Erin Van Iersel, Jacob Williams, Claudia Wooley, Rebecca Wootton

**Students receiving Academic Merit Awards**


**Students receiving Academic Effort and Academic Merit Awards**

Student receiving Academic Excellence Award

Eliza Fordyce

Students receiving Academic Effort and Academic Excellence Awards


Students receiving Subject Awards in conjunction with Academic Effort, Academic Merit / Excellence

Sheldon Byrnes - Marine & Aquatic Practices
Niamh Connelly – Effort, Religion & Ethics
Shannon Eastment – Effort, Marine & Aquatic Practices
Julia Randazzo – Effort, Early Childhood Education
Georgia Rogers – Effort, Information Communication & Technology
Cody Lisa – Merit, Furnishing
Kaitlin McLennan – Merit, Home Economics
Jordan Beard – Merit, Construction, Engineering, Industrial Graphics
Kieran Reitano – Excellence, Graphics
Eli Cappello – Effort, Merit, Economics
Nixon Carlyle-Brauer – Effort, Merit, Mathematics A
Danielle Caruso – Effort, Merit, Business Communication & Technology
Meagan Fitzsimon – Effort, Merit, Film, Television and New Media
Bridget Franetovich – Effort, Merit, Accounting
Zed Kretschmer – Effort, Merit, Aerospace Studies
Annaliese Mauchline – Effort, Merit, Film, Television and New Media
Gabrielle Torrisi – Effort, Merit, Geography
Thomas Quinn – Effort, Merit, Recreation Studies
Evangelene Barfield – Effort, Excellence, Music
Amelia Orr – Effort, Excellence, Drama
Ryan Powell – Effort, Excellence, English Communication
Emma Young – Effort, Excellence, Hospitality Practices
Alyssa Moochin – Effort, Excellence, Ancient History, Modern History
Maddison Thomas – Effort, Excellence, Science 21, Christian Ministry
Sarah Whitson – Effort, Excellence, Legal Studies, Visual Art
Shakira Williams – Effort, Excellence, Pre-Vocational Maths, Business Procedures
Veronica Macatulad – Effort, Excellence, Japanese, Information Technology Systems, Information Processing and Technology
Michelle Keane – Effort, Excellence, Mathematics C, Chemistry, Physics, Study of Religion
Michael Gilbert – Effort, Excellence, English, Mathematics B, Physics, Biology, Physical Education

Readings at Mass, Sunday 22 March 2015, Fifth Sunday of Lent

First reading, Jeremiah 31:31-34 ... See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), ...
Psalm, Psalm 50:3-4,12-15 ... A pure heart create for me, O God.
Second reading, Hebrews 5:7-9 ... and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard...
Gospel, John 12:20-33 ... I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest...

Lesley Fraser – Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education

On Tuesday 17 March the College came together with the Parish to celebrate the Solemnity of St Patrick. We prayed for all Irish people and for the St Patrick’s community. Thank you to Fr Fitz-Herbert, the mass musicians our lectors and all else who helped make this a special occasion.

Patrick was born towards the close of the fourth century, in a village called Bonavent Taberniae, which seems to be the town of Kilpatrick, on the mouth of the river Clyde, in Scotland. In his sixteenth year he was carried into captivity by barbarians, who took him into Ireland, where he was forced to shepherd cattle in the mountains.

During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote: “The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rose, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same." "I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."
Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family.

He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more." He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years.

Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461 at Saul, where he had built the first church.

Edna Galvin – Assistant to the Principal: Curriculum

Awards Night

Congratulations to the many awardees recognised at our Annual Awards Ceremony held on Tuesday Night March 17 as part of the College’s St Patrick’s Day celebrations – a very important day for all of us in this community. This night is to congratulate and recognise the scholars and hardworking students in our school. We would like to thank all our students on their efforts in 2014 but particularly those who were acknowledged on Wednesday night. Of special mention are the following medal winners:
Bronze Excellence

Evangeline Barfield  Amelia Orr  Ryan Powell  Emma Young

Silver Excellence

Alyssa Moohin  Maddison Thomas  Sarah Whitson  Shakira Williams

Gold Excellence

Veronica Macatulad  Michelle Keane  Michael Gilbert

The 2015 group of seniors have produced some excellent results and they are to be congratulated on these excellent achievements.

Special Provision for QCS

Please read the notice attached to this newsletter in case you need to Special Provision for the Queensland Core Skills Test. If unsure please see Ms Galvin. See brochure on pages 10 – 11.

Sean Geoghegan – Assistant to the Principal: Student Welfare

Autotelic students

So much time is wrongly spent, in attempting to motivate students by using externally driven factors such as security, comfort, money, power, or fame. The answer lies elsewhere – getting students to be internally driven, so that the activity is not a means to an end but end in itself.

Researcher Michael Csikszentmihalyi spent years studying something he calls flow states. In his book *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience* he described the flow state as one in which an athlete or other person performs at his or her best, seemingly without effort, but with total concentration, feeling totally in control without thinking about it. Self-consciousness recedes into the background as total focus is upon present activity.

An avid rock climber, Csikszentmihalyi took note of the special feeling he got while inching his way up a challenging rock face, and began thinking about it in terms of his psychology studies. Why, he wondered, was the entire field of psychology focused exclusively on the study of human dysfunction? What about the positive states, the moments when human beings are at their absolute best? He spent hours interviewing and observing exceptionally creative people, including leading chess players, rock climbers, composers, and writers, and ordinary people as they did their
work. Using a research tool in which his study subjects carried pagers for a week at a time and which beeped randomly throughout the day, they wrote down what they were doing and feeling right at that moment.

Csikszentmihalyi discovered that the times when people were most happy and often most productive were not necessarily when they expected they would be. Passive leisure activities such as TV-watching consistently ranked low on participants’ scales of satisfaction -- even though they often sought out these experiences. Instead, people reported the greatest sense of well-being while pursuing challenging activities, sometimes even at work, and often while immersed in a hobby.

In the flow state, people engage so completely in what they are doing that they lose track of time. Hours pass in minutes. All sense of self recedes. At the same time, they are pushing beyond their limits and developing new abilities. Indeed, the best moments usually occur when a person's body or mind is stretched to capacity. People emerge from each flow experience more complex, he found. They become more self-confident, capable, and sensitive. The experience becomes autotelic, meaning that the activity actually becomes its own reward.

To improve life, one must improve the quality of all experience and learn to live in and appreciate the moment. One of the chief advantages of flow is that it enables teenagers to escape the state of distraction that so often threatens to overwhelm them. During the course of this term, the library has been open from 9am to 3pm, every Saturday. Upward of thirty students were fastidious in their attendance and indeed, for many, the experience became autotelic – its own reward. Consistent intellectual endeavour and teenagers, normally such uncomfortable bedfellows, befriended one another!

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**Michael Comerford – Sport Coordinator**

**Aquatics Carnival**
The St Patrick’s College Aquatics Carnival will be held this Friday. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Triathlon, Swimming Age Championship as well as a variety of fun aquatic events. A reminder that all students need to come to school first on Friday morning. They will then be transported by bus to the Pioneer Pool. Students will then return to school in the afternoon.

A reminder to all bike riders in the Triathlon that you will need to have your bike dropped at the Pioneer Pool on Friday morning. Mr Comerford will be there from 7:00 am onwards.

The theme for the carnival is ‘Tropical’. It’d be great to see as many people as possible dressing up along with the theme. If students are not dressing up, they are encouraged to wear their house colours.

All Triathlon and Swimming Age Championship information will be posted on the door of the Sports Office tomorrow. Could all competitors please make sure they check this information is correct and familiarise themselves with Triathlon course.

Hope you are all ready for a fun and enjoyable day. Which house will come out on top???

**Netball Draw for Wednesday 24 March 2015**

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**Dorota Cook – Science Coordinator**

Two great Science Competitions are open to all students.

- **The Big Science Competition**
  It will be held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 during Assembly time. It will take 50 minutes and will be done online. The cost is $7.00. After the competition you will receive a diagnostic report showing how you performed on each question. Your achievement is recognised with certificates detailing your performance, and you could win iTune and movie vouchers just for taking part.

- **2015 International Competition and Assessment for Schools (ICAS)**
  It will be held on Wednesday 3 June 2015 during the assembly time. It will be a supervised test (multiple choice format) which will take 60 minutes. The cost is $8.80. Medals are awarded to the top students per state and achievement certificates are awarded to all students.

The above competitions provide excellent preparation for QCS. You are encouraged to take part in them (one of the two or both).

You need to see Ms Cook (Science HOD) to register your participation by the end of this term.

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**William Cassells – Diocesan Vocational Education and Training Coordinator**

Work Placement for Year 12 students commences next Monday. Students are reminded that interviews and contracts need to be completed before close of business Friday as the contract must be in the College’s possession for insurance arrangements to become active.

Students are reminded that in the unlikely event of sickness, both the employer and College must be notified. For those completing evening exams, be prompt and prepared. You are welcome to arrive and start as soon as you have finished work.

Thank you for the effort with obtaining and supplying the Unique Student Identifier (USI) numbers. The few students still to complete this very important exercise will again be reminded.

We have received the following information from MRAEL regarding a Hairdressing apprenticeship and Administration work experience over the holidays. See Mr Cassells if you are interested in either of these positions.

1. MRAEL has an employer interested in offering some admin work experience for the first time if there is a student who would like to have a go over the holidays. It is at a mechanical workshop and there is a possibility that the position could turn into a School Based Traineeship.
2. Image Hair Studio is interested in seeking resumes from students interested in a potential Full Time Hairdressing apprenticeship. They are looking for that someone special to join their team in a very busy salon.

They have asked if students who are interested could please drop a resume to Holly or Rebecca at the salon at Central Square – Oak Street. From this they would like to select students to do some work experience to show their interest and enthusiasm for the career path.

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**Kylie Bowman – Japanese Teacher**

Mackay’s most active Sister City relationship is with Matsuura City in Kyushu, Japan. The relationship is fostered by the Mackay / Matsuura Sister City Community Committee, in Mackay, and the Matsuura International Friendship Association, in Matsuura. This relationship has encouraged many visits between the sister cities in past years with a wealth of information and cultural awareness exchanged. Each year Mackay Regional Council sends a group of Japanese-studying secondary students and two chaperones to Matsuura as part of a partially-funded scholarship program. This eight-day student exchange visit to Mackay’s sister city of Matsuura, Japan, has proved a life-changing experience for many local students and this year, St Patrick’s Year 11 Student Chelsey Thompson will take part.
Chelsey started the rigorous selection process last year and was rewarded for her efforts last week when she received news of her inclusion in the exchange scholarship programme which will visit Matsuura in September this year. Chelsey’s hard work in procuring her position will allow her to experience the positive and enriching experiences that the scholarship has to offer. Congratulations Chelsey.

**Warren Bolton – Industrial Technology & Design Teacher**

**Try a Trade Event**

Recently, seven of our students went to a Construction Skills Queensland and World Skills “Try a Trade Event” held at the Mackay Christian College. Students to attend this event were: Lachlan Baker, Riley Borg, Izac Brown, Rhys Cunningham, Vincent Fuller, Taylor Lamb and Hayden Pace.

The day involved hands on activities in the areas of Bricklaying, Dry Wall Plastering, Cabinetmaking and Levelling. Each student spent one hour participating in each of the four areas.

It was hot and hard work but the students enjoyed the opportunity to ask relevant questions towards a construction industry career path.

Glen Carey (Pre-Trade Engagement Officer) from Construction Skills Queensland offered the students’ advice on how he can assist with placing students into school based apprenticeships on offer. Hayden Pace was the first student to show great initiative and seized the opportunity toward a career in brick laying with a potential employment placement. Well done Hayden.

**Bree Sinn - Regional Indigenous Education Liaison Officer**

Most Australians enjoy one of the highest life expectancies of any country in the world — but this is not true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indigenous Australians can expect to live 10–17 years less than other Australians. Babies born to Aboriginal mothers die at more than twice the rate of other Australian babies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience higher rates of preventable illness such as heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes. The mortality rates for Indigenous Australians is on par with some of the world’s most impoverished nations.

On 19 March each year National Close the Gap Day is highlighted to bring awareness to all Australians of the health, education and employment issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The cause of the life expectancy gap is deeply embedded in a number of social determinants. Indigenous Australians face a number of basic disadvantages in comparison to non-Indigenous Australians. Chronic disease and disability are amongst the most significant factors affecting Indigenous Australians. These factors are caused by poor living conditions, a lack of safe and supportive communities, restricted education and training opportunities, and lower economic participation all which contribute to lowering life expectancy.

Historical events including land dispossession, The Stolen Generation and stolen wages have all played a part in Indigenous life expectancy. The perpetual cycle of dependence and poverty and the psychological trauma and grief of separation has had significant consequences for the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and their families.

Following Prime Minister Rudd’s 2008 Apology to the Stolen Generations, the government made a pledge to lead a national effort to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Close the Gap Prime Ministers report 2015 states that ‘Despite good intention and considerable investment by successive governments, the disparity in outcomes remains.’
The Close the Gap Coalition is a grouping of Indigenous and non-Indigenous health and community organisations. Together with nearly 200,000 Australians they are putting pressure on government to take real, measurable action to achieve Indigenous health equality by 2030. Change will take a generation. We need sustained action from Federal and State Governments. Take action now and show your support by going online at https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap/ and signing the petition to keep pressure on our Government.

“Statistics of shortened life expectancy are our mothers and fathers, uncles and aunties who live diminished lives. We die silently under these statistics”

Professor Mick Dodson, 2009 Australian of the Year and Aboriginal activist and lawyer

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**Mass of the Oils**

Everyone is invited to attend the Mass of Oils on Wednesday 25 March 2015.

You may travel to Rockhampton to participate in the Mass at St Joseph Cathedral, Rockhampton at 7.00 pm. Alternatively you can be part of this very special time at St Joseph’s Church North Mackay, at 7.00 pm, where the Mass from St Joseph’s Cathedral will be live streamed.

We will follow and participate, along with the congregation in Rockhampton. We will begin with the Stations of the Cross at 6.30 pm.
Students are asked to note the exam timetable below and see Mrs Agius for alternative times if they have an exam clash. All students are required to be in attendance at least 15 minutes before the start of the exam with all materials.

**Note:** Wednesday 18 March - 12 MAP (45 min) @ 8.35

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<td>Catch up Exams</td>
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<td>Students go to QCS groups</td>
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EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL PROVISION APPLICATIONS

Before the test
Ally has retinitis pigmentosa (a vision impairment). She applied for, and was approved, A3-size test materials and extra time.

Lachlan has dyslexia. For his class tests he is allowed extra time and uses a computer.

Lachlan was approved the use of a computer (without spellcheck and voice recognition facilities) and test session instructions in writing. We will approve extra time only for students who are severely affected.

Jiao has cerebral palsy and uses a scribe and a computer with voice recognition technology at school.

We do not allow the use of a scribe or voice recognition technology. Jiao applied for, and was approved, exemption.

Benjamin has depression and takes medication that makes him drowsy.

He was approved a number of special arrangements including extra time to complete the test.

Kirsten plays soccer and has been selected to represent Queensland in Victoria during the week of the QCS Test.

Because students cannot sit the QCS Test outside Queensland, exemption was approved.

After the test
Abdul sat the Writing Task and Multiple Choice I test papers but became ill with a virus and was unable to attend the second day of the test.

He applied for, and was approved, absentee exemption.

Emily sat all four test papers even though she was recovering from the flu. She realised afterwards that her illness significantly affected her performance.

She applied to have her test grade declared null and void. Her application was approved.
DO YOU NEED
SPECIAL PROVISION
FOR THE QCS TEST?

If you have a medical condition or an impairment, or if another factor could make it difficult for you to sit the test, you may be eligible for special provision.

There are four types of special provision that may be available to you:

Before the test
- Special arrangements are practical adjustments to the test conditions (e.g. rest breaks, A3-size test materials, computer).
- Exemption allows a student to be absent from the test and remain eligible for an Overall Position (OP).

After the test
- Absentee exemption allows a student who was unavoidably absent from the test to remain eligible for an OP.
- Declaring a test grade null and void allows a student who sat the test to choose not to receive a test grade.

FAQs

How can I find out what might be approved in my situation?
First, think about the factors that may make it difficult for you to sit the test. Then, talk to your guidance officer or teacher for some advice. You will find information about specific situations in the special provision handbook.

I receive special provision at school.
Will I automatically receive special provision for the QCS Test?

No. You will need to apply for special provision for the QCS Test. The special arrangements we approve may not be the same as the arrangements you are allowed for your school tests. For example, being allowed extra time for a test at school doesn’t necessarily mean you will be approved extra time to complete the QCS Test.

How do I apply?
Talk to your guidance officer or teacher. A school staff member will help you decide what sort of documentation you will need (e.g. a medical certificate) and will submit your application for you. Your school will give you a copy of our response letter.

What sort of documentation do I need?

It will vary depending on the type of special provision you apply for and your reason for applying.

See the application requirements in the handbook for detailed information about documentation types and time limits.

If you apply after the test because of a medical condition, you will need to see a doctor on the days of the test or just after.

When can I apply?

If you are applying before the test and you have a long-term impairment, e.g. colour blindness, diabetes, the closing date is 21 May. (If the impairment is diagnosed after this date, apply as soon as possible.) If you have a short-term impairment such as an illness or a broken arm, see the category-specific dates in the handbook.

If you are applying for absentee exemption or to have your test grade declared null and void, the closing date is 1 October.

Where can I find out more?

Go to www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/1102.html to access the special provision handbook and additional information.

How will special provision affect my OP?

Special provision will not affect your OP and there will be no mention of special provision on your Senior Statement/Statement of Results. If you are approved exemption or have your test grade declared null and void, you will not receive a QCS Test grade.

If you are eligible for an OP and do not sit all four test papers, you will become ineligible if you do not apply for, and receive, exemption.
MERCY COLLEGE PRESENTS
“A big musical for big kids”

Bugsy

MALONE

April 30,
May 1 & 2
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Play by Alan Parker
Words & Music by Paul Williams
An amateur production by arrangement with
Warner/Chappell Music Limited
Red Giraffe Theatre Presents...

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BOOK MUSIC, LYRICS
BY JOHNATHON LARSON

MUSICAL AARRANGEMENTS
STEVE SKINNER

MUSIC SUPERVISION
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TIM WEIL

ORIGINAL CONCEPT/ADDITIONAL LYRICS
BILLY ARONSON

DRAMATURGE
LYNN THOMPSON

Paxton's Warehouse River St Mackay

WEDNESDAY 25TH TO SATURDAY
28TH MARCH 2015

8pm (door and bar opens at 7pm)
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0468 823 406 or 0418 728 161

Rent was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop

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