So over these school holidays, I pray we can put aside some time to meet God, wherever you find him. Maybe even try going to the beach and see if you can feel His presence there! Go with friends, have fun! After you’re worn out, lay down for a little bit, and listen to the voice of God and feel His very presence wash over you. So let us give thanks to God!

Let us pray:

Lord God, thank you for your generous creativity! Help us to enjoy the simple pleasures in life, and help us to recognize Your fingerprints all over this beautiful world You created for us! Amen.

PRINCIPAL
Eamon Hannan

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. I know a number of students are doing work experience during the holiday period. I hope this is rewarding for them.

Students have completed one of the biggest exam blocks that they will ever do. They are deserving of a well earned rest. Results are being compiled by our teachers preparing for the QSA verification meetings that will be held in October.

Year 12 students should be mindful of the various cut-off dates for applications to QTAC, to some courses and to accommodation in Brisbane, Townsville and elsewhere. You should possibly look back over the notices that Mrs Weiss has put in the newsletter over recent weeks.

St Patrick’s Family

Please remember Mrs Melissa Fletcher-Toovey in your thoughts and prayers. Her grandmother, Mrs Nita Allen, aged 79 years passed away in Moree earlier in the week.

St Patrick’s Basketball team

Ms Amalie Carroll and Mr Chris Brown are taking our boys basketball team to participate in the Senior Boys section of the Queensland Champion Schools Competition in Brisbane. The team finished fifth last year. Five boys from last year’s team are going away again this year and their goal is to make top four or better. We wish them well.

Enrolments

Enrolment notifications will be sent at the end of this week. There may be the possibility of limited places depending on a student’s subject choices. If you know of someone who has missed our enrolment process they should contact the office urgently.
Next Step Survey Results

Accompanying this newsletter is the NextStep survey results for the college. It shows, as in previous years that the college and region outperform the state particularly in students gaining apprenticeships and traineeships. We are slightly below state average in terms of students going immediately to tertiary study which is probably reflected in the number of students taking a gap year prior to studying away from home.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>First day term four</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>Board Meeting, Board Room, 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7-8</td>
<td>Year 11 and 12 Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>QSA Verification— STUDENT FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>P &amp; P Meeting, 7:00 pm, Board Room</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>Arts Showcase, St Patrick’s Hall</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Professional Day</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Year 12 exams commence, Board Meeting, 7.30 pm, Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Year 11 exams commence, Board Meeting, 7.30 pm, Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Sports Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Valedictory evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>P &amp; P Meeting, 7:00 pm, Board Room</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>Graduation Mass</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Orientation Day</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
<td>Last day Year 11</td>
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</table>

ASSISTANT TO PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM

Ms Edna Calvin

Verification

Once exams and marking are complete Heads of Department, along with staff in each of the OP (Overall Position) subjects, will be putting together Verification submissions for Panel meetings. These meetings will be held after the September holidays on 18 October. Each submission that is sent to these meetings has at least nine sample folios. These represent the following: highest ranking folio in the subject; a representative of the middle of each level of achievement plus a sample folio on the lowest rank of each level of achievement. This allows the panel to match the evidence in the folio to the criteria and standards in each syllabus.

Every panel in every district of Queensland then sends samples of those to the State Panel for comparability meetings to ensure standards are all the same around the state. Any areas where the match of the evidence in the folio to the result awarded by the school is in contention, the school and the District panel negotiate until agreement is reached. If the District Panel and school cannot agree the evidence goes to the State Panel. This process allows a great deal of transparency on behalf of the system. Externally moderated school-based assessment allows all stakeholders to see how levels / results are arrived at — this is not the case in external exams where students sit for exams they never see again and results are posted without students seeing the match of their work directly to the awarded result / standard.

While we are all keen to see the National Curriculum implemented so we are all teaching from the same documents — we are also very keen to see that our method of assessment and certification continue.

ASSISTANT TO PRINCIPAL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms Lesley Fraser

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." — Marcel Proust

Holidays give us all a chance to renew the body and hopefully the soul. Whether we go to far-off places or stay at home, we can always take the time to see things differently; to be inspired...to even get closer to God. I was chatting with another staff member last week about where I feel close to God. I grew up in Far North Queensland where I used to go swimming at a beach called Etty Bay. It is spectacular; the rainforest comes down to the beach and when you are floating on your back in the water looking up through the rainforest to the gorgeous sunset, you know that you are in the presence of God. I have a photograph of this scene on my office wall and look at it whenever I feel stressed. The staff member upon hearing my story brought in a photograph of an amazing sunrise over the ocean. I now have two pictures in my office that I can look at when I need to get closer to God.

For the students next term, we will be providing them with the opportunity to encounter God through our Retreat days. The details of the Retreats are as follows:

Year 11:
- The retreat is compulsory.
- It will be run by the Passionists from Brisbane.
- It will be a one day retreat and students will be allowed to wear appropriate casual clothes (things are not allowed) on the day of their retreat. On the other day they are expected to wear their full academic uniform to school for QCS practice.
- Students with surnames starting with A – J will be on retreat in non-uniform on Thursday 7 October and working on QCS wearing their full academic uniform on Friday 8 October.
- Students with surnames starting with K – Z will work on QCS in their full academic uniform on Thursday 7 October and will be on retreat wearing non-uniform on Friday 8 October.
- The retreat and QCS practice will be held at school in normal school time.

Year 12:
- The retreat on the 7/8 October is compulsory.
- It will be run by Michael Fitzpatrick.
- It is a two day retreat being held at school in normal school time.
- Students are to wear non-uniform; appropriate casual clothes (things are not allowed).
- Please bring a cushion to sit on.
- Bring some pens.
May your holidays be filled with encounters with your God in the expected and unexpected.

God Bless, Lesley Fraser

ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL
STUDENT WELFARE
Mr Sean Geoghegan

In a recent interview with Time magazine, Britain’s former Prime Minister Tony Blair had this to say:

During my time as Prime Minister I came to love America—loved its sense of aspiration, the notion of coming from nothing and making something of yourself. I didn’t start that way..... I had a touch of that British raised eyebrow at our American cousins. My view of America had been formed from countless movies and TV shows and the odd interaction with American tourists. In 1985, I was part of a delegation sent to meet the US treasury secretary James Baker over an issue regarding double taxation..... I knew nothing about James but was confident that I would give him a tough talking-to. I came out of the meeting feeling a little like a boxer who had been told that the fight was fixed and the other guy would go down in the second round, only to find he was in the ring with Rocky Marciano and no one had told him about the deal. Jim Baker was focused, on top of the detail, erudite, answered my points one by one, threw in a few of his own, took my warnings of tough action and exposed them as a series of paper tigers and sent me out of there reeling and seeing stars. Above all, he was smart. What I learned that day is that Americans can be really, really clever.

He goes on mention that as British Prime Minister he saw two US Presidents close-up and often. Bill Clinton he describes as the most formidable politician he had ever encountered. He then goes on to describe George Bush as follows: "George Bush was straightforward and direct. And very smart. One of the most ludicrous caricatures of George is that he was a dumb idiot who stumbled into the Presidency."

If ever a view on an individual has been offered that is strongly counter-cultural and opposed to what appears to be the commonly accepted global view of George Bush, it is this one offered by Tony Blair. Tony Blair has faced many accusations, stupidity however, has never been one of them, so we are compelled to reconsider the accuracy of the media construct as it pertains to Bush. What Blair is relying on is the soundness of his own judgments based on his own experience. He would know that this observation of George Bush would not be well received. In fact quite the opposite, it would limit the sales of his memoir. If he had chosen to excoriate Bush he would immediately find a willing and receptive audience.

I have to admit, that I waited until I was well nigh 50 years old before I decided to travel to the US and it was pretty much because I had chosen to travel everywhere else first. Contrary to what I have always told people about the necessity of travel, I felt, like Tony Blair, that somehow I ‘knew’ America. In fact I could take it one step further. Having taught and studied American history from the Revolutionary period to the Cold War, for many years, yet I felt there was little mystery left in it.... if you come from Africa, you believe there are few countries that can compete with its wild and dramatic beauty. I knew the US had impressive scenery, but I had seen it in so many movies! It could not hold any surprises and one travels largely, or at least partly, in order to be surprised. In short, it was never enough to compel me to make a transatlantic flight. Besides, I had seen literally dozens of countries in Africa, Europe and Asia on multiple occasions, so I suppose I thought my sense of wonder was dulled.

Having said all that, I have to tell you that when I first gazed at southern Utah, no sight, previously witnessed, prepared me. I can only echo the words of William Curtis who said “it is impossible to exaggerate the grandeur, the sublimity, the impressiveness of the scenery.” So, even if you think you have seen much and there is not much out there that could re-ignite a sense of pure wonder and delight – please think again. I can only restate what Indian writer M. Scott Momaday said: “The West has to be seen to be believed, and believed to be seen.” Please pay a deposit of $1000 soon to Mrs Hurley and join us for our tour in 2011. (The Itinerary is on the opening page of the College website.)

CULTURAL COORDINATOR
Mrs Blanca Johnston

Mackay Eisteddfod 2010

Reminder!

Own Choice material:
All own choice material must be submitted
THIS WEEK at the Eisteddfod Office,
Parish Hall, corner Gordon and Wood St.

Own Choice material can be submitted from:
Wednesday 15 September - Saturday 18 September
from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm; Friday 17 September
(exam period) 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: 4953 0747 for further queries.

College Group Performances at the 63rd Annual
Eisteddfod

Throughout the first three weeks of term 4, students from the College will
be involved in a number of events at the annual local Eisteddfod. We wish
all students involved in the fields of Dance, Speech and
Drama, Piano, Instrumental, Choral / Vocal and Irish and
Highland dancing all the very best for their solo and
group performances. We look forward to hearing of the
successes of the talent within St Patrick’s College.

The college Drama and co-curricular groups will be
involved in performances on the following dates and
times. The directors of each group will advise students of
requirements and meeting times during rehearsals.

1:30 pm - Tuesday 12 Oct – Session 41 (MECC Theatre)

- Handbells (Section 179) Any Acoustic Instruments
- Small Group Secondary School Students
SPORT
Mr Brendon Brauer

Champion Schools Basketball
Good luck to Ms Carroll and Mr Brown who are taking our Open Boys Basketball team to Brisbane today to compete in the Champion Schools competition that involves some of the best Queensland Basketball Schools competing over four days of intense competition. Both Ms Carroll and Mr Brown are confident that our boys will perform well in this competition. St Pat's finished fifth in this competition in 2009 and the team is hoping to improve on this placing.

College Sports Uniforms
A number of our college teams will finish their competitions in the coming weeks. All students must ensure that they return all college sports uniforms to the team coach ASAP after the competition is completed. Failure to do so will result in a bill being sent out to pay for the replacement of these uniforms. These uniforms are often quite expensive.

St Pat's Touch
Congratulations to the Ms Carroll's Destroying Divas who recorded a 5-2 win against Mr Drury's Patty's Penguins which was perhaps not a reflection of the game with the Divas hanging onto a 3-2 lead before running in two late tries. Mr Drury was particularly impressed with the skills of Erin Doyle who provides many attacking opportunities for his team. The Ms McLeod's ABC's went down 7-6 to an Over 35's men's team in a game that was closely contested with Ayden Daniel scoring 4 tries involving some individual attacking flair. St Pat's Cats suffered their first defeat of the competition by going down 6-3 against the competition favourites, 'Bosa Boys' (Pioneer SHS), who were dominant in the middle of the field. St Pat's Cats were without try scoring dynamo, Matthew Surha and playmaker, Harrison Khulu who were absent due to study commitments. All team will now enjoy a well earned rest and will hopefully return after the holidays ready to stamp their authority on the open competition.
COUNSELLOR
Mrs Edie Weiss

Year 11 students interested in nursing
The University of Queensland (UQ) in St Lucia and Ipswich are offering Year 11 students interested in pursuing a career in Nursing and Midwifery the opportunity to attend a Nursing Enrichment Studies course in January 2011. The Enrichment Studies Course is a one (1) week, intensive course which introduces students to Nursing and Midwifery. On successful completion of the course and providing that University entry criteria are met, the student will access priority entry into the BN and BMid Programs at the University of Queensland, and be granted a bonus rank point.

While there are no fees associated with the course delivery, any transport and accommodation arrangement and cost need to be met by individual students.

For further information and application details visit www.nursing-midwifery.uq.edu.au

### NEXT STEP information

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* Included in Total VET

Main destinations of Year 12 completers for St Patrick's College - Mackay, Mackay SD and Queensland
YEAR 12 2009
STUDENT DESTINATIONS
St Patrick's College - Mackay

Introduction
This report is based on the findings of the Queensland Government Next Step survey, which targeted all students who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2009, whether they attended a Government, Catholic or independent school, or a TAFE secondary college. The Office of the Government Statistician conducted the survey between 30 March and 12 May 2010, approximately six months after the young people left school. Responses were predominantly collected via computer-assisted telephone interviewing with a paper-based survey collected from a small number of students for whom telephone details were not available.

The statewide and regional reports of the Next Step survey can be located at the Next Step website at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep

Response rate for St Patrick's College - Mackay
Table 1 below reports the response rate for St Patrick's College - Mackay. It expresses the number of respondents from this school, as a percentage of all Year 12 completers attending St Patrick's College - Mackay in 2009.

It has not been possible to ascertain how representative these responses are of all students at this school.

Table 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Number of students who completed Year 12</th>
<th>Response rate (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>90.5</td>
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</table>

Definitions of main destinations
The pathways of Year 12 completers were categorised into ten main destinations. Respondents who were both studying and working were reported as studying for their main destination. A table defining these categories can be found in the statewide report at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep

Summary of findings
In 2010, 60.7 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 at St Patrick’s College - Mackay in 2009 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.

The most common study destination was university (30.4 per cent). The combined VET study destinations accounted for 30.4 per cent of respondents, including 6.8 per cent in campus-based VET programs, with 1.0 per cent of Year 12 completers entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.

23.6 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (13.1 per cent) or trainee (10.5 per cent).

In addition to the above study destinations, a further 12.6 per cent of respondents from this school deferred a tertiary offer in 2010 (deferrers are shown in Figure 1 in their current destination).

39.3 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (32.5 per cent), seeking work (6.3 per cent) or neither studying nor in the labour force (0.5 per cent).

Figure 1
Main destinations of Year 12 completers

- University (degree) (30.4%) *
- VET Cert IV+ (1.0%) *
- VET Cert III (2.6%) *
- VET Cert I/II/other (3.1%) *
- Apprentice (13.1%) *
- Trainee (10.5%) *
- Working FT (17.8%)
- Working PT (14.7%)
- Seeking work (6.3%)
- Not studying/NILF (0.5%)

* included in VET total
VET total = 30.4%
F1 in Schools
Haiti Concert
QCS workshop
Jive
Japanese visitors
QCS breakfast
Haiti concert audience