Dates to remember:

February
2  Board Meeting, 7:30 pm  
   St Patrick’s Hall  
   Meeting Room – postponed until March meeting
8  Rugby League BBQ, St Patrick’s Hall, 5.30 pm
11 Investiture Mass, 9:00 am  
   St Patrick’s Church
15 Meet and Greet BBQ,  
   Introduction to Senior Schooling, 6:00 pm, St  
   Patrick’s Hall
16 Bishop’s Inservice – student free day
16 P & F Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
   Meeting Room St Patrick’s Hall
21 QSA Monitoring Day – student free day
23 Physics in Motion

March
2  Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Board Room
3  Music Camp, departs 3:30 pm, Halliday Bay
4  Music Camp
5  Music Camp
9  Ash Wednesday
11 Mocktail (Year 12),  
   MECC, 8:00 pm
16 P & F Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
   Boardroom
17 Aquatics Carnival
25 Exams commence
28 Year 12 Industry Placement commences

Eamon Hannan – College Principal
As I am writing this we have been advised that the college will be closed Wednesday due to Cyclone Yasi. In regard to school closures please listen to local ABC radio for advice. They will always announce which schools are open or closed in the event of emergency situations.

Whenever possible the college will also send text messages advising of the situation at St Patrick’s. Our prayers are with all who will be affected by this cyclone. We pray that there is no loss of life and minimal damage.

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. 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.

This week at assembly I intended to remind the students what a good student looks like in class. I was going to tell them the first part of Mr Hannan’s Handy Hints. The Year 12’s are quite familiar with them. In short the five things students need to remember to do at school in every lesson are summed up in the acronym PPPQR.

- P – Be Prepared – have your homework done, be in the correct uniform and have all writing implements and textbooks required for the lesson.
- P – Be Punctual – be on time for class – you can’t learn if you are not there.
- P - Put Pen to Paper – every lesson should involve some writing to help remember what was done. It is expected that students to have a written record of most of their lessons. These should include notes or exercises that have been done.
- Q – Ask good Questions – for the sake of other students in the class – if you don’t understand chances are that someone else doesn’t understand either. Teachers appreciate good questions.
- R – Respect – show respect to the teacher and other learners in the classroom. Everyone else in the room should be able to achieve their goals.

Opening and Investiture Mass
The Investiture Mass is on Friday 11 February at St Patrick’s Church at 9:00 am. All parents are invited to attend the Opening Mass. At this mass we will be investing 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 2010 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 enrols to study Nursing each year. We expect to distribute $11 000 in bursaries this year.

Br Tom Higgins and Sr St Luke prizes
Due to the benefaction of two past families of the college there will be an award to two Year 12 students after mass next Friday. The Br Tom Higgins Bursary is to encourage a student to continue with their Vocational studies. The Sr St Luke prize is to encourage a Year 12 student to persist with their studies.
College Board
Parents can be involved in the college by becoming part of the Board or the Parents and Friends committee. The initial Board meeting which was to be held Wednesday night has been postponed due to the imminent cyclone. This meeting will now take place on 2 March, 2011.

Student Leadership
On Monday the Student Leaders who will be invested at mass on Friday 11 February, had a day of seminars on leadership. They participated in discussion and activities about the nature of Christian leadership, integrity, leadership styles and public speaking. The students are an excellent group of young men and women and we look forward to working with them in 2011. In the photo they are very proud of their radio towers that they constructed in an activity.

Parents & Friends Committee
Wednesday (16/2/2011) will be the first meeting for the Parents and Friends for 2011. It is in the Meeting Room of St Patrick’s Hall at 7:00 pm.

Meet and Greet and Success in Senior Schooling Seminar
On Tuesday 15/2/2011 there will be a barbeque for all staff, parents and students starting at 6:00 pm at St Patrick’s Hall. It is an opportunity to meet teachers of your student. At 7:30 pm there will be a seminar on how to support your student over these senior years.

Student Free Days
We have two student free days coming up in the next three weeks.

- **Bishop’s Inservice Day – Wednesday 16/2/2011** – is a day of seminars attended by all teachers in catholic schools in Mackay. There will be no students in attendance on this day. The seminars will be held at Holy Spirit College this year.

- **QSA monitoring – Monday 21/2/2011** – is a day where teachers from throughout the district meet to monitor standards in subjects across the district. There will be no lessons for St Patrick’s students on this day.

St Patrick’s Family
Brittany-Elise Johansen’s debut album release, which was postponed due to Cyclone Yasi, will now be at 6.00 pm on Thursday 10 February at the MECC Foyer stage.

Newsletter
A reminder that the college newsletter is sent home every Wednesday. It is also available on the college website [www.stpats.qld.edu.au](http://www.stpats.qld.edu.au) each week. If parents would like their copy of the newsletter emailed to them please contact the office 4944 7200 or email to enquiries@stpats.qld.edu.au.
Lesley Fraser: Assistant to the Principal – Religious Education

On Monday our student leaders underwent a training day, preparing them for the year ahead. They covered many aspects about leadership, from discussing the differing styles to the skills of public speaking. Throughout all of this, one word seemed to stand out, integrity. As student leaders, they need to be people of integrity, but most importantly, as student leaders in a Catholic school they need to be people of integrity who uphold Catholic values.

Beside the head of the Queen on British coins appear the letters “F.D.”. They are an abbreviation in Latin for the words “Defender of the Faith.” This was a title given by the Pope to King Henry VIII, (the eighth) recalling how, in his first years as king, Henry had written a book about the Sacraments, “defending” what Catholics believe. Some years later he would be executing Catholics. February 7th was the birthday in 1478 of Sir Thomas More, who became a man of great learning, a lawyer, and the father of four children. King Henry VIII valued his friendship, appointing him Lord Chancellor - the main government minister of the time. The king knew that Thomas More was above corruption; he was a person of integrity and honesty at a time when money bought what was thought of as ‘justice’. The king wanted to divorce his queen (Catherine of Aragon) and marry Ann Boleyn instead. When the Pope proclaimed that that was wrong, the English parliament passed an Act declaring the king to be “Supreme Head of the Church in England”, and Henry decided he could do as he wished in many things. This action also led to the destruction (“Dissolution”) of many monasteries and cathedrals in England as the king confiscated and sold their lands and possessions. Thomas More knew that he could not agree with what the king was doing and, even though many bishops supported the actions of the king, Thomas remarked that “their consciences must speak for them; mine must speak for me.” Thomas still considered himself loyal to the king and, when he was condemned to death, he said: “I die the King’s good servant, but God’s first.”

Let us pray:

God our Father, teach us to distinguish clearly between right and wrong, that we may grow in character and develop a true sense of values through following Jesus, your Son and our Brother.
We pray, too, for all who are in positions of leadership in our school community that they may be inspired by the values of the gospel.
We pray that they may live as people of integrity and honesty, growing in a sense of duty and responsibility, always being aware of the needy, and ready to be of service to others. Amen.

Edna Galvin: Assistant to the Principal - Curriculum

OP / QCE

Please ensure that you are fully aware of OP and QCE requirements. We keep a very close eye on all changes to subjects but it is STUDENTS’ responsibility to ensure their enrolment is in order. We still have students who are unsure of requirements to meet these important certificates.

Subject Changes

All subject changes are now finished – now all students should be in their correct classes and fully organised to begin serious senior study. Timetables should be complete and homework and home study sessions organised for a successful year.

Results 2011

Many students have already been asking about OPs etc for this year so we are repeating our OP Myths section over the next few newsletters.

MYTH: Students with five or more VHAs and an “A” on the QCS Test automatically get an OP1.

TRUTH: Levels of Achievement cover fairly board ranges of achievement. Not all students awarded Very High Achievements (VHAs) are at the same standard. Some students may be at the top of the VHA range, while others may be doing just well enough to get a VHA. In addition, Levels of Achievement in different subjects do not represent equivalent standards. To be awarded an OP1, students must be in the top 2% of all students in Queensland. There are many more students with five VHAs than there are OP1s.

MYTH: Students with five SAIs of 400 will get an OP1

TRUTH: Not necessarily. In fact, usually not. An SAI of 400 only indicates that the student was the school’s highest achieving student in that particular subject. This student may not be the best student overall in the school, nor among the top 2% of students in Queensland overall.
MYTH: To get an OP1, it’s better to study some subjects than others

TRUTH: All subjects are treated equally in the calculation of OPs. Any apparent inequality is the result of scaling, which takes into account the different overall capabilities of students in different subject groups and schools. To get a good OP, students must be ahead of strong competition. If the competition is not strong in some subjects, then a student needs to be a long way ahead of the other students to achieve a good OP. It is possible to obtain an OP1 from any combination of subjects. However, students need to perform much better than other students in subjects where the competition is weak. An OP1 student must perform at the level of the top 2% of students in the state.

Sean Geoghegan: Assistant to the Principal – Student Welfare

American Tour – 9 places left!

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 was 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, 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. ScottMomaday said: “The West has to be seen to be believed, and believed to be seen.” If you have not already joined the 45 people who have already paid the deposit of $1000, please do so asap. For those who have paid the deposit, an additional payment of $2000 is due by February 15, with full and final payment due before school breaks for the Easter Holiday. (The itinerary is on the opening page of the College website.)
Bianca Johnston - Cultural Coordinator

Throughout the week students have begun exploring their talents and registering for the different cultural groups. This week, interested percussion students tested their rhythm and beat during the try out sessions. Stage Band tryouts will be held on Thursday at lunch time in C23. Interested students are required to bring their instrument and present a prepared song. Good Luck!

We look forward to announcing the groups next week. Watch this space!

Brendon Brauer – Sport Coordinator

St Pat’s Netball Trials
The St Pat’s netball trials will be held in the next few weeks with a date still to be confirmed. The trials are held to assist in placing students into one of our netball teams. The St Pat’s First VII will be selected at these trials. This is the only St Pat’s team that will compete at the QISSN competition in Brisbane in the first week of the June/July holidays. More information about these trials will be available in the next week.

Mackay District Volleyball & Tennis Trials
Mackay District Trials for these sports will be held tomorrow. Students who have nominated for these trials are reminded that they must sign out when leaving the college to attend the trials and then sign in when returning from the trials.

Mackay District 19 years Touch Trials
The Mackay District 19 years Touch trials will be held on Thursday February 17 at the Norris Road Touch fields. All interested students should see Mr Brauer this week for a nomination form. Nomination forms for these trials close on Thursday February 10. Students should return their nomination form and levy to the college bursar ASAP. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Sports Coaching Staff Needed
Sport coaching staff will hopefully be finalised within the next week. Parental support may be required for some of our sporting teams to be nominated into their respective competitions. Please phone Mr Brendon Brauer at the college on 4944 7220 if interested in assisting with any of our teams. A more detailed list of sports requiring coaching assistance will be available in next week’s newsletter.

Important Dates

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Date reminder: Music Camp at Halliday Bay Resort from Thursday 3 March from 4:00pm concluding with a culminating concert at 2:30 pm on Saturday 5 March. All students involved in the college Choir, Stage Band, Drama Club and Percussion Ensembles will be required to attend this camp.

Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.
Maths Tutoring
The Mathematics department will commence free mathematics tutoring on Monday afternoons between 3:00 – 4:00 pm commencing Monday 7 February in Room D16. This is a great opportunity for students to access extra help with class work and assignments.

CATHOLIC DEBUTANTE BALL
A reminder that the Catholic Debutante Ball will be held on Friday 27 May, 2011. Year 12 Debutantes and their partners need to be attending either St Patrick’s College or Holy Spirit College only. Further information regarding the ball will be distributed in Week 3.

Welcome to our new teaching staff of 2011

Ms Jodi Campion
Learning Support Coordinator

Mr John Clarke
Mathematics A & B teacher

Mrs Kerry Fetters
Chemistry, Biology and Marine Studies teacher

Ms Nicole Graham
English / SOR teacher

Mrs Natalie Pyke
Social Science Coordinator

Mr Robert Sparks
Business Coordinator