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 the doing. It is imperative that students keep everyone parents and staff 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
All interested parents are 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 also has a number of parents who are finishing with the committee and as a result there are vacancies to be filled.

College Board – First Meeting of the Year
Tonight all interested parents are also 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. We have a number of parents retiring from the board as their students have now graduated from the college and as a result there are a number of vacancies for the board. 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…

Opening and Investiture Mass
The Investiture Mass is on Friday 8 February at St Patrick’s Church at 9:00 am. All parents are invited to attend. At this mass we will have the investiture of our college leaders. There will be morning tea in St Patrick’s Hall for invited guests, parents, student leaders and McGarry bursary winners following mass.

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 12 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
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.

McGarry Bursaries
At the conclusion of the Mass we will be awarding the McGarry Bursaries to those eligible seniors from 2012 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, bookmaker and the licensee 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 is studying nursing each year.

At assembly today we were able to congratulate the students who are eligible for the McGarry Bursaries. The trust fund has indicated that there will be $22 000 distributed in bursaries this year. Next week we will publish the students names, and their awards and course of study. 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.

Flood Appeal
Accompanying this newsletter is a message from Bishop Brian regarding a St Vincent de Paul flood appeal that has been set up and ways in which we can help and support members of the affected communities. As you would be aware there are many in our Diocese in Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg regions severely affected by recent weather events. In Bishop Brian’s letter there are indications as to where you can make donations.

The director of Catholic Education has also set up a fund for direct support to members of the these communities. Miss Leesa Jeffcoat recently launched the Catholic Education (Diocese of Rockhampton) Flood Appeal 2013 in support of those communities most severely impacted by the floods. Miss Jeffcoat indicated that we did something similar following the Emerald Floods and we were able to raise funds that went to support families of our Catholic Schools in a direct way. To donate to the Catholic Education Appeal, please contact the college bursar Mrs Deanna Hurley.

This Sunday’s Readings
First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8 …Then I said, “Here am I! Send me,” Psalm: Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8 I give thee thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11 “But by the grace of God I am what I am Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men."

Lesley Fraser – Assistant to the Principal: Religious Education

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.

An Open Invitation to the St Patrick’s School Community:
As is the tradition at St. Patrick’s College we will come together as a school community through the celebration of Mass on Friday 8 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 2013 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.
We keep in our thoughts and prayers all of those people who have been affected by the recent floods and fires throughout Australia.

**Prayer For Natural Disasters**

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

**Investiture Mass**

*Friday 8 February at 9.00 am*  
*St Patrick’s Church*  
*Followed by Morning Tea for parents, invited guests, staff and student leaders in St Patrick’s Hall*

**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 2013. The old 1960s way of senior exams was the best available at the time but a far cry from the complex way education operates today.

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 3 September</th>
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<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
<td>Writing Task (2 hours)</td>
<td>Short Response (2 hours)</td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon</strong></td>
<td>Multiple Choice I (1½ hours)</td>
<td>Multiple Choice II (1½ hours)</td>
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Mark Gibbs – Assistant to the Principal: Administration

Neuroplasticity
The mysteries of the human brain have fascinated philosophers and physicians for centuries, and parts of the brain have been matched quite clearly with various functions. For example, the pre-frontal cortex has been associated with intelligence, personality and decision-making. However, researchers such as Norman Doidge (The Brain That Changes Itself, Penguin, 2010) have developed the concept of neuroplasticity, which asserts that brains, unlike bodies, can grow by developing new neural pathways (ways of thinking) until death.

Neuroplasticity is now generally accepted as a characteristic of the human brain and has tremendous implications for education. Repetition of thought processes associated with specific tasks or situations will assist embedding. This, of course is common sense- we will always remember what we do most often (remember rote learning times tables?). However, the explicit acknowledgement of the benefits of repetitive practice are obvious. We are, in reality “training” your brain to learn what we do most often. Repetitive practice will include extended writing on a range of topics, regular practice of types of Maths or other problems and regular reading of a range of materials.

To learn new things we must also be prepared to change our focus and embark on thought processes that may be uncomfortable because they are unfamiliar. That sense of discomfort is a good sign- because learning is about making the unfamiliar familiar. Successful students are those who search for solutions to the unknown before turning to others for help. When we take what we accept to be a “truth” and consider a new way of viewing that concept, we are forging a new neural pathway.

It has also become obvious that our brains operate optimally when young. We always have the capacity to learn new things, but during childhood and adolescence neural pathways are formed that are particularly strong, and may be positive or negative. Habits of mind are formed along with academic thought processes. Optimism, reliability, faith, honesty, punctuality, loyalty are all ways of thinking that can be reinforced or weakened, especially at this early stage.

Alcohol or drug use in adolescence builds neural pathways that are very difficult to change as adults.

Neuroplasticity is really the scientific rationale for instinctive understandings about how we learn, and is useful because we can show our students exactly why and how they are learning. A very simple illustration of neuroplasticity that I will share with the students on assembly can be found on Youtube by searching for “sentis Neuroplasticity”.

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 Friday 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!

Mrs Carmel Daveson returned to St Patrick’s College this week to meet with the handbell team of 2013. We look forward to the musical sounds of this new team.

This year, we are proud to introduce the formation of the co-curricular Ukulele Club. Ukulele Club provides students with the opportunity to explore elements of sound and popular music in a social setting. Mr Lyle Denman will work together with other staff members on a Monday lunch in C23 at 12:50 pm. This group will start in week 4 this term.

All co-curricular groups will start rehearsals next week (week 3) at the following times:

- Drama Club – Monday 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Choir – Tuesday 7:00 am
- Percussion – Wednesday 7:15am
- Handbells – Wednesday 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Stage Band - Thursday 7:00 am
Date reminder:
A reminder that the Music Camp will be held at Halliday Bay Resort from Thursday 21 March from 4:00 pm concluding with a culminating concert at 2:30 pm on Saturday 23 March. All students involved in the college Choir, Stage Band, Drama Club and Percussion Ensembles will be required to attend this camp. Forms are available from the College office.

Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

Brendon Brauer - Sport

Coaching Staff Needed
2013 looks to be another successful year in sport after the success of many individuals and teams in 2013. The coaching staff for our 2013 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.

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

The netball sign-on will be held on Thursday, February 7. This sign-on will be held in Jubilee Hall during second break and all interested netballers, both competitive and social are encouraged to attend. Information will be given out about the trials for the First VII, Second VII and the Third VII.

First XV Rugby Union Sign-on
A sign-on for the First XV Rugby Union team will be held next Monday, February 11. All interested players should attend this meeting to find out more about the 2013 Rugby Union season. No experience is required, just a willingness to develop your rugby skills.

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, Tennis and Touch Trials
Trials for Mackay District 19 years Tennis and Volleyball teams will be held on Thursday February 7. Nomination forms for these trials have now closed. Nomination forms for Touch are still available this week only. Students should return their nomination form and levy to the college bursar by the end of lunch on Thursday. Only students who are at a representative level in these sports should consider attending these trials.

Important Dates
7 February    Mackay District 19 years Volleyball and Tennis trials
12 February   Mackay District 19 years Touch trials
27 February   Mackay District 19 years Rugby League, Soccer and Hockey trials.
28 February   Mackay District 19 years Basketball trials

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31 January 2013

ROCKHAMPTON DIOCESAN RESPONSE TO THE JANUARY 2013 FLOODS
A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRIAN HEENAN

With so many people from throughout Central Queensland and beyond suffering from the recent flood disaster, our own Diocesan Disaster Response Team has posted some practical information:

Financial support

The St Vincent de Paul Society offers help to those in need and has an established presence in many towns and communities throughout the Diocese of Rockhampton. For assistance, visit a Vinnies centre in your local area (note that some Vinnies centres are currently flood-affected).

The Queensland Government website provides advice on how to access, not only financial assistance, but also temporary accommodation, food, essential clothing and medication. Accommodation assistance, emotional support and counselling may also be available. If you know of any person, business or primary producer in need of financial assistance in the wake of the flood, please direct them to or obtain relevant information on their behalf from http://www.qld.gov.au/disaster/.

Safety

The following are important safety considerations particularly in the clean-up after Ex-cyclone Oswald:

• Returning to an affected house or building

• Food safety in an emergency

• Dealing with mould after a storm flood or cyclone

• Ensuring safe drinking water

• Cleaning and removing asbestos containing materials

• Controlling mosquito breeding after floods, storms and cyclones
For those who are able to help:

Volunteering

For those whose homes have been flood-affected, the burden of cleaning up will invariably place a huge physical and emotional toll on them. There are many ways in which we, as a community, can support those who have been affected. One of the ways to help is to register to volunteer in an individual capacity or perhaps as a group, at: http://emergencyvolunteering.force.com/Register.

Catholic Organisations

Please be assured that all Catholic agencies in the Diocese of Rockhampton, including Centacare, Catholic Education, Mercy Health and Aged Care, Diocesan Pastoral Services and Diocesan Financial Services, as well as our Parishes in affected areas, are working to support and assist their respective staff, volunteers and local communities in this time of hardship.

Centacare: Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton, can offer counselling to those who need help dealing with the emotional trauma of this natural disaster. Contact Centacare on 1300 523 985 or www.centacare.net for assistance.

Donations

All funds received by the Rockhampton Diocese will be directed to St Vincent de Paul Queensland Flood Appeal (Phone 13 18 12) or visit www.svdp.org.au/home-qld). I would encourage anyone who can, to generously give to this appeal or to the Red Cross’ Queensland Floods Appeal 2013 (Phone 1800 811 700 or visit www.redcross.org.au). A Flood Appeal, Second Collection, will be taken up at all Masses throughout the Diocese of Rockhampton in coming weeks.

Prayers and emotional support

I ask each of you to pray for those who have been affected in any way through this natural disaster. In addition, I would encourage you to reach out to your neighbours and to be aware that we can all do something to assist. Besides being as generous as we can with our financial giving, a word of encouragement and assistance to members of our family and friends will aid them in their suffering.

May our God bring comfort to our sisters and brothers in their need and courage and hope as they begin to rebuild their lives.

Yours sincerely

Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton
What do we need to know about the Holy Spirit?

Find the answers we always wanted about the Holy Spirit.

Inviting one and all to participate in
an e-Conference on

The Holy Spirit: Giver of Life


Followed by Discussion, Question and Answer Session with
Fr Peter Tonti
at The Adult Faith Centre
on Macalister Street
on the 7th and the 14th of February 2013 from 1:00 pm to 2.30 pm

Contact : Leenore Reddy 0422105971 or email at marieleenore110@gmail.com

Mackay Catholic Debutante Ball
24 May 2013

Information / Application Forms were distributed to intending debutantes and their partners today. As a follow-up to this, a COMPULSORY meeting for debutantes’, their partners’ and their parents’ will be held at St Patrick’s Hall, River Street, on Sunday 17 February, from 10:30 am –12:00 noon.