from the principal

Reflection... Last Thursday a group of our Year 11 students attended St. Mary’s Cathedral to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron of Australia. Principal Celebrant Bishop Julian Porteous led this very moving occasion. The Cathedral was “packed” with school students and staff from Catholic Secondary schools across the Sydney Archdiocese. The occasion was truly one of great celebration, and I was impressed by the way our students participated reverently, and spoke of a deep sense of connection they felt with our faith, and as a part of our Catholic school system. In and around our College community our students are very much active participants in their expression of faith and I had a sense they felt united in their ministry by joining in this celebration with other students across Sydney. My thanks go to Mrs Courtney Fraser who organised our College’s participation in this celebration. The following prayer was offered at this celebration:

Eternal God, you chose the Virgin Mary to mother your only Son who is the light of the world.
By the help of her intercession, let the light of Christ shine over this land, guiding us in our faith, justice, and love.

Amen.

Parent Advisory Board – Project... This group of parents met last Tuesday 23 May to discuss College related issues and plans. Aside from discussion around the “day to day” happenings, we have agreed to take on a special project: the development of a Sacred Space within the College grounds. This would serve to:

- Make explicit our Catholic Faith and be an ever-present reminder to staff and students that we are called to model our life and work on Jesus Christ
- Perpetuate the life and image of our Founder – St. John Baptist De La Salle
- Provide a suitable place for prayer with small student groups, or whole school assemblies.

The first action of our PAB is to look for suitable people in the following areas that would be willing to offer their expertise and support to the College for the project:

- Landscape design & gardening
- Commemorative paving

Tuesday Afternoon Student Assemblies... Please be aware there is now a slight variation to our finishing time on Tuesdays for those students who do not have timetabled classes.

As a general rule, students and families should plan for a 2.00 pm dismissal – not before. Each Year group will meet on an alternate weekly basis: Year 11 students in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9, and Year 12 students in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10.

While I understand some families may have made a commitment that requires their son/daughter leaving at the end of period 4, I remind all that the College has had for some time a practice of meeting with the students on a Tuesday afternoon, prior to dismissal. We now wish to make this more formal. Your cooperation with this is appreciated.

Half-Yearly Examinations and Assessments... The preparation, sitting, and subsequent “getting back of results” at exam or assessment time can be a little stressful for parents, students, and teachers! However, as teachers do, I urge students and parents to consider these times as assessment for learning. The challenge in preparing for and completing a task for assessment helps to guide us in developing further skills, sharpening areas for focus on improvement, and helping us to be both realistic and yet to aim for achievable goals.

...PTO
Many of the quotes and words of “desperation” sometimes perpetuated around exam times are not necessary, realistic, or helpful. I can assure you that:

- All is not lost
- You/we haven’t “failed”
- It is not the teacher’s fault
- It is not the student’s fault

I also offer encouragement in suggesting:

- Some aspects of school are meant to challenge us – that’s how we grow!
- Coping with, and using stress positively is a great skill to have in all aspects of our life – we can develop this skill at school!
- Home environment plays a major influence in improving students’ “results”!

Celebrating Service – Founders Day... Our Founder’s Day celebration of service takes place on Friday 8 June. We have confirmed that Bishop Terry Brady (ex-student of the College) will lead our Mass, which is dedicated to our De La Salle Brothers. This will be followed by a day of service in the community for all students and staff. Again I stress, this is a most important date and celebration in our College calendar, and I expect every student to attend. Before you consider requesting leave to attend a long weekend holiday, I ask that you first consider whether you would do the same to miss your son/daughter’s Year 12 Graduation?

Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening – online booking system... The College will trial an online booking system for the upcoming Year 11 parent/Teacher evening on Tuesday 26 June. Further details follow in this Newsletter, however, please be aware that the same principles apply: we encourage all parents and students to attend the evening.

SMS MESSAGES - RE: STUDENT ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

When a Student is Absent from school unexplained an SMS will be sent to a parent/guardian informing them of the Absence – Please ring the School on 8522 1503 when you receive this message – please do not reply to the message by texting – the office does not receive SMS messages. Thank you
The De La Salle Community… is busy preparing for Founders Day on June 8. This is a very special day in the school year. On this day we begin the day with Mass at 9am in the College, celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady, an ex-student of the College. Parents are welcome to join us on this special occasion. After this the students and staff spend time working in the community. While this is a high point and a demonstration of College spirit, I have seen a number of such examples in the school in the last two weeks.

Congratulations to the students who worked on the Red Shield Appeal collecting for the Salvation Army. This is a wonderful demonstration of selflessness, helping those in need.

On Tuesday, 24 Year 11 students volunteered and facilitated the Year 7 Reflection Day at De La Salle College Caringbah. These students demonstrated exceptional leadership and shared aspects of their faith with the Year 7 students. I was very impressed with the efforts made by our students.

Tuesday evening the Year 12 music night was a wonderful display of musical talent, yet more significantly, it was a wonderful display of our students supporting one another. I am very proud of these many demonstrations of College spirit at work in our College. As we work toward Founders Day I am confident that it will be yet another opportunity to demonstrate the Lasallian values of Faith, Service and Community.

Maree Cullen
RE Coordinator

from the careers department

New Course Guides -- UOW and USYD -- have arrived in the Library.

Upcoming Events:

NIDA Open Day - 2/6 - Kensington, go to www.nida.edu.au
Sydney Morning Herald HSC & Careers Expo - 31/5-3/6 - Moore Park Go to www.hscandcareers.com.au
UWS Open Day - 5/6 - Campbelltown more info at www.uws.edu.au/uwsday

Early Entry Applications - are now open for Notre Dame University, Go to www.udn.edu.au for more info on criteria etc.(Note ‘Early Entry’ Application is NOT available at all uni’s or for all courses. Students should go the individual Uni websites and find out specific details as they may all differ considerably.

Apprenticeships for would-be Chefs are available with ATEL Group Training Go to Peter.adamski@atel.com.au

UMAT Registrations close Fri. 1/6/12 (the actual UMAT Test date is Wed. 25/7/12) for 2013 are due in schools mid July and will be issued to Yr. 12. Students considering applying to Uni in 2013.
from the pdhpe department

NSW ALL SCHOOLS WATERPOLO REPORT...Recently we had 2 students Mathew Schweighoffer and Sam Cocokios represent our College at the School Sport Australia Waterpolo Championships in Canberra. NSW came away with the girls and boys gold medals on the final day.

In the boy’s final, NSW fired in the first three goals to take control of the game. It wasn’t until the last minute of the first half that Queensland scored their first goal, giving a 3-1 lead to NSW at halftime. The second half saw both teams defend strongly which resulted in a 2-2 half and a final score of 5-3 in NSW’s favour. Congratulations to both Mathew and Sam for being part of the winning team.

Congratulations to Sam Cocokios who was also selected into the Australian Schoolboys Waterpolo Team – this is an outstanding achievement. He will travel with this team to New Zealand in December – Good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS to JORDAN JACKSON who has been selected to umpire at the NSW CHS AFL State Carnival at Wollongong 29th – 31st May.

CONGRATULATIONS to BEN RYAN for being selected into the CCC Rugby Union Open Team.

PDHPE Year 11 First Aid Course
Year 11 PDHPE students are currently completing their St John First Aid Certificate. This is a very important life skill for these students to learn and is also part of the Preliminary Course. We wish them well with the upcoming assessment.

Monday 28th May 8am-5.30pm
Tuesday 29th May 2-5.30pm
Tuesday 5th June 2-5.30pm
Tuesday 12th June 1.35pm – 4pm Assessment

Cronulla Rugby League Knockout... De La Salle College Cronulla chalked up another Cronulla Knockout rugby league title recently when they defeated Aquinas College Menai in the final 14-6.

The final, like the rest of the day, was played under a scorching sun on the Endeavour Fields next to Shark Park at Wollooware.

De La Salle raced to an early lead in the game when Ben Ryan shrugged off some would-be defenders straight from a scrum and ran 50 metres to score under the posts. Right on the stroke of halftime fullback Josh Hannon slotted a penalty goal to make it 8-0.

Joseph Chisolm barged over early in the second half, dragging several Aquinas defenders with him, securing a 14-0 lead.

Late in the game Aquinas peppered the De La Salle line with several repeat sets on the back of four straight penalties but Cronulla managed to hold two of those attempts up over the line until a dubious third attempt was eventually awarded. The final score 14-6.

Man of the match in the final and future Rhodes Scholar, Ben Ryan proved hard to pull down all day and confirmed rugby league and academic success can go hand in hand. Ryan was also full of praise for the great team effort; “we worked hard all day on our defence and it paid dividends,” he said.

“With such short games and the knockout format it was important that we didn’t have points scored against us.”

“We managed to play the games down in our opponent’s territory most of the day and our tries came on the back of patient ball control,” he added.

In the first game of the morning De La Salle defeated Caringbah High School 22-0. The team scored two early tries to Jake Leavers and Sam Harris before Josh Hannon returned a kick-off to score under the posts. Joseph Chisolm snared another late in the game after some good lead up work from Nathan Sprate.

Next up was St. Patrick’s College Sutherland. Sam Harris opened the account after a break midfield from Joseph Chisolm. Ben Ryan scored soon after pulling up under the posts after another break from a scrum. Fullback Josh Hannon showed some speed to score the final try of the match and secure a 16-0 victory.

With one game left to qualify for the final, De La Salle Cronulla lined up against Lucas Heights High School. Front-rower Peter Shanahan, who had taken the ball up strongly all day, ran over the top of several would-be defenders making a 40 metre gain before Jake Leavers made the most of the resulting quick play-the-ball to score out wide. Jack Parker, not to be outdone by his front-row partner, barged over for the second try of the match. Sam Harris, who proved dangerous out of dummy-half, scored the third try of the half locking in a 14-0 lead going in to half time.

Harris scored again early in the second half with a clever run-around play and front rower, Parker also nabbed a double after a barnstorming run. The final score 26-0.

The only low light of the day was injured centre Andrew Faddy’s performance as assistant coach and gear steward. After struggling to retrieve our football on any number of occasions he managed to eventually lose it and a kicking tee.

This year’s squad included: Joel Elton, Josh Hammon, Jake Leavers, Zac Holman, Joe Chisolm, Nathan Fletcher, Peter Shanahan, Sam Harris, Jack Keppel, Dean Holmes, Ben Ryan, Nathan Sprate, Daniel Glossop, Jackson Jobe, Liam Ryan, Matt Crealy, Jack Parker, Alex Haagana, Andrew Faddy

Dave Callander
**Music Performance Night**. Congratulations to Mrs. Fuller’s Music class who recently presented their HSC performances to family and friends in the college drama theatre. Everything from show tunes to instrumental solo pieces was presented to a very appreciative audience. I can say with certainty that we have a few contenders to follow in the footsteps of the other great entertainers like Mark Vincent and Toni Pearson, who have attended the college. Mrs. Fuller has a method of teaching and learning for practical performances that involves real life experience presenting to audiences as frequently as possible. By the time our students meet the HSC markers in Term 3 they will have the confidence of knowing they can stand up in front of an audience and perform.

Byron Hurst  
Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator

---

**The School Library**  
will be open from  
8am to 4pm  
Everyday in May & June

**Maths Tutoring**  
Tuesdays Week B  
Year 11 General Maths  
Learning Centre, Library

**With Mrs Purcell**

---

**SVDP WINTER APPEAL 2012**

A global economic crisis, an increasing unemployment rate and high rents mean many will struggle to make ends meet. This winter, Vinnies commitment to helping those affected by poverty will be more essential than ever.

In support of the 2012 SVDP Winter Appeal, the College is asking each student to donate at least ONE of the following items, to help those in our local community who are struggling: *beanies, scarves, jumpers and blankets.*

We will be collecting the items during Roll Call this week, and up until Founders Day. Please get behind this most important cause. #
a conversation with

the executive director

CATERING FOR DIVERSITY: Meeting the needs of students at both ends of the learning spectrum.
Addressing the challenges facing 'Gifted and Talented' students and children with 'Special Learning Needs'

All parents are warmly welcomed and schools are encouraged to send at least two parent representatives.

Tuesday 5 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Southern Region
300 The River Rd Revesby
(02) 9772 7000

Tuesday 12 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Eastern Region
33 Banks Ave Daceyville
(02) 8344 3000

Tuesday 26 June 2012
7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Catholic Education Office
Inner Western Region
3 Keating St Lidcombe
(02) 9643 3600

RSVP: pos@ceosyd.catholic.edu.au

These evenings are great, Dan explained how important it is for families and schools to work together.

Dr White is one of the most engaging speakers I have ever listened to, his input and the ideas of other parents makes this night a must!