from the principal

Reflection... This week we remember in our prayers Br Luke Coyle, who died late last week. Br Luke had a long association with De La Salle Caringbah, and our College community, between 1997 and 2010, when his health eventually deteriorated. His work with the boys at Caringbah was characterised by an extraordinary dedication to the education of students and a genuine care for their well-being. Many of our families and ex-students would have fond memories of Br Luke. At the Eucharistic celebration in thanksgiving for his life, we heard: 

_In 1948, Brother Luke was received into the Brothers of the Christian Schools. In all the years since then, he has given life to our community through his fidelity to God, his commitment to us, his Brothers, and his service to God’s people._

As we celebrate Catholic Schools’ week next week, we pray that the life and work of Br Luke serves to inspire us in carrying on our ministry.

St. John Baptist De La Salle . . .
Live Jesus in our hearts . . .

A very positive start to the year... The College year seems to be off to a “flying” start. Our students have been very positive and committed to their work. Year 12 students would by now, be preparing for their Half-Yearly Examinations. Many members of staff have made comments to me reflecting how pleased they are with the way Year 11 students have adapted to the challenges of senior school. We greatly appreciate the encouragement and direction you give to your son/daughter in support of College policies and expectations.

However, we do need to make some improvement in two areas and I further seek your support. Perhaps you could have a conversation around the issues mentioned on the following pages? As young adults our students need to be far more responsible and proactive in caring for their (College) environment and local community. Secondly, the over-use of mobile phones will not be accepted. Some students are developing an unhealthy dependency on these, and inevitably, this leads to mis-use or anti-social behaviour. It certainly can impact negatively on their education.

Embedding good practices...At the start of this year we invested heavily in helping our students to develop a good work ethic and study practices. In addition, we have completed the Year 12 Parent Teacher evening, and by now everyone is aware of what they need to do, and can do, to meet the academic challenges ahead. It is time for you and your son/daughter, to re-connect with this learning, and embed those practices that will make a difference. We aim to have good practices become good habits!

Catholic Schools Week and Lasallian Ministry...This College has a very strong tradition of Lasallian youth ministry. One example of this is the program where around 40 of our Year 11 students spend a full-day training as Lasallian Youth Leaders. They then spend a second day leading a “mini-retreat” program for our Year 6 students at the sites of our two Feeder Catholic junior secondary schools. This program clearly reflects:

- The fun, excitement, and reward around Youth ministry.
- Our commitment to the Lasallian charism: Faith, Community, and Service.
- The pathway available for Catholic children in the Eastern Shire who will receive a high quality Catholic education from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Thank you to those students in Year 11 who have enthusiastically put themselves forward for this program. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Catholic schools week.
from the principal cont...

Parent Advisory Board (PAB)... The College has a small group of parents who meet once/twice per term to discuss current issues and plan for future development. We have a vacancy for a parent of a Year 11 student. If you would like to contribute through this forum you are invited to contact me using the email address below. It would be helpful if you included a very brief account of previous experiences/work with Catholic schools or parish.

Email: principal@dlscronulla.catholic.edu.au

Live Jesus in our hearts...

Phil Gane
Principal

from the assistant principal

Thank you for all the positive feedback around the Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interview evening. It was great to see so many parents exchanging information with staff concerning how to support their sons/daughters through their studies this year and more immediately what they could do to help them prepare for the Half Yearly’s which will commence Monday 25th March through to Friday 5th April.

May I remind all students and Parents that the College prides itself on providing a safe, friendly and inviting environment for students and staff to enjoy. To this end we continue to ask for your support in encouraging your son’s and daughters to follow our rules and policies around:-

- Wearing the uniform correctly while travelling to and from school as well as during the school day. This includes tucking shirts in and wearing belts for the boys and correct length of skirt and white socks worn by the girls as well as adhering to the correct footwear and appropriate jewellery (check school diary if unsure).

- Students are not allowed to be using their mobile phones during class or they will be confiscated. To encourage appropriate social behaviour we are extending this to recess and lunch. In addition we ask students to not put ear phones in we prefer students to be speaking with their friends in the playground, than listening to individual music or texting.

- We are still very concerned about the volume of traffic with the large number of P platers we now have travelling to and from schools. Parking around the school is congested and care needs to be taken not to park incorrectly. Students need to be extremely careful particularly driving in the afternoons with large numbers of students crossing roads and parents in the local area picking up Primary school children nearby. Courtesy and driving well within the speed limit is a must. Please discuss with your son/daughter having other young people in the car as this is often an added distraction and pressure to young, inexperienced drivers. Ultimately, it is the driver who is responsible if any mishap occurs.

Mrs Michelle Morrison
Assistant Principal

from re department

Youth Minister... Mr Chris Pocock is our Youth Minister for 2013. In this capacity, Chris is able to connect with our students and provide opportunities for our students regarding youth ministry. This year’s focus is on World Youth Day. He also works with our Lasallian Youth Minister.

Lasallian Youth Minister... Ruby Crowe has been appointed as our Lasallian Youth Minister for 2013. Ruby completed her HSC in 2011 and is currently studying at Wollongong University. Ruby is responsible for coordinating many Lasallian events at both De La Salle Cronulla and Caringbah in the two days she works each week.

Lasallian Leadership Training for Year 11 students will take place Monday at the College. Ruby has prepared a training day in leadership for our 40 Year 11 volunteers. Mr Pocock, Lasallian Youth Ministers and ex students work together to deliver this training. I commend your sons and daughters for taking up this leadership opportunity. Students will be able to put this training into practice on the 21 March when they facilitate a Spirituality Day for year 6 students from St Aloysius, St Francis De Salles, Our Lady of Fatima and Star of the Sea primary schools.

Youth Mass – Sunday 10 March, St Aloysius Cronulla 6pm Your sons and daughters have been invited, as part of the College community to contribute to the wider community at this Mass on Sunday. Parents are also welcome to join members of staff and the student body.

Mrs Maree Cullen
RE Coordinator

from the year 12 coordinator

It was wonderful to see a full capacity in the Hall last week for the Year 12 Parent/Teacher Night. This speaks volumes and reinforces our partnership in striving for success for your sons and daughters. With only a few weeks before the Half Yearly’s, your children should be focussed in all classes and studying most evenings. On average, they should be studying at least three hours per evening. Please contact me if you need assistance creating a workable study timetable. Full Summer uniform is to be worn and please be punctual to all exams.

Mr Peter Geaney
Year 12 Coordinator
from the year 11 coordinator

Study Skills Day and Parent Information Night... Our recent Study Skills Day proved to be a great hit with Year 11 students. The two sessions conducted by "Elevate" taught our students the importance of time management, the workability of a study timetable, the importance of concise note-taking and the very valuable advice of nightly revision of daily study notes. The "Elevate" instructors also taught our students some simple exercises and games designed to improve memory during stressful exam periods.

Year 11 Year Meeting... We recently held our first Year Meeting for 2013. The agenda for the Meeting was varied and entertaining. We started off with a beautiful reflection on selfless giving. This was followed by the awarding of certificates to students who had provided leadership and taken photographs on our Interaction Day. Certificates were also awarded for academic excellence and for sporting endeavours. We were encouraged to support our Lenten Project—"De La’s Got Talent". Finally we were treated to a professional video presentation of Interaction Day put together by Sam Chivers and Jherome Dulguime. It was a great way to begin the year!

Leave... Parents/Carers requesting “Leave” for their sons/daughters need to apply in writing to the Principal. This letter needs to be given to myself and I will facilitate the necessary paperwork. Please allow ample time to request “Leave” as many things need to be considered before “Leave” can be granted.

Mrs Josie Raftery
Year 11 Coordinator

from student services

Please label clothing & belongings with student name on all jumpers, blazers, pencil cases etc.

All notes regarding absent, late & early leave to be written on separate piece of paper and not in the DIARY.

Student diary information:-

Page 13 dispensing medication (Panadol only) please sign if you agree.

Page 18 What to do if... Please check this page so students can follow correct procedure.

Transport... No changes will be made to transport passes after Thursday 21/3/13 except in the case of change of address.

Mrs Judy Cannen
Student Services

from the sports coordinator

NSW CCC Blues Awards for 2012... Congratulations to Sam Cokkios (Year 12 2012) for receiving a Blues Award in Waterpolo. Congratulations to Sam Fowler (Year 11 2013) for receiving a Blues Award in Swimming.

Boys Tennis... Congratulations to Patrick Hall and Juan Gutierrez who have progressed to Round 2 in the Knockout Tennis. They played in a combined team with DLS Caringbah and defeated Aquinas. Good luck with the next round against St Pats. Congratulations to Juan Gutierrez for being selected into the CCC Open Boys Tennis Team.

Rugby League... Congratulations to Andrew Faddy, Joshua Hammon, Patrick Driscoll and Joseph Chisholm for being selected into the Eastern Southern Sydney Rugby League Open Team. Congratulations to Andrew Faddy, Patrick Driscoll and Joseph Chisholm for being selected into the Southern Sydney Rugby League Open Team.

Waterpolo... Congratulations to Angus Lambie for being selected into the CCC Open Boys Waterpolo Team.

Golf... Well Done to Sean Liddy & Dean Inskip who recently competed in the CCC Golf Championships. Awaiting results.

COMING UP

Swimming... Southern Sydney Swimming Carnival is on Friday 22nd March at Caringbah Pool. Good Luck to our swimmers.

Soccer KO Carnival... Eastern Southern Sydney KO Soccer and Eastern Southern Sydney Soccer Team Selections will be held on Thursday 21st March at Woronora Heights. Good Luck to our soccer players.

DON’T FORGET

Students/Parents need to check on both the Southern Sydney CCC Sports website www.ssccc.com.au & NSW CCC website www.csss.nsw.edu.au

Students wishing to attend trials will need to visit www.csss.nsw.edu.au and parents will need to register their son/daughter and receive a student ID number.

If having trouble registering go to the help tab on the website. An email will be sent to the College’s Sports Coordinator for confirmation of entry.

Mrs Belinda Westwood
PDHPE Coordinator
6 March 2013
For immediate release

State education reforms get three ticks and a cross from Catholic schools leader

Big ticks for the mentoring of young teachers, the provision of more quality work placements and internships for emerging teachers and the aligning teachers with the Australian Professional Standards, was the reaction by Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools Dr Dan White to today’s education reforms announced by Minister Adrian Piccoli. However, Dr White put a cross against enforcing a ‘three Band 5s benchmark’ to obtain entry into a teacher training course.

“We have known for a long time that good mentoring is the key to successfully inducting beginning teachers,” Dr White said. “It is something our Catholic schools have been focused on for some time now, so I am pleased to see this acknowledged in today’s announcement.

“Losing potentially outstanding teachers very early in their career is a real prospect if they are not supported and nurtured when they start. The data is clear on that. As far as I am concerned, good mentoring for beginning teachers is a ‘no-brainer’!”

Dr White also endorsed the alignment of all teacher pathways to the attainment of professional teaching standards. He added that “the idea of the ongoing maintenance of accreditation being an expectation for all teachers as part of their professional learning makes good sense.”

Dr White affirmed the notion of paid intern partnerships for students in their fourth year of training. “This is something we are already doing in partnership with the University of Notre Dame and the Australian Catholic University,” he said. “The arrangement is proving very successful. The internship program is popular with the emerging graduates and with schools. It is a ‘win/win’ outcome.”

What Dr White was less impressed with in today’s announcement was the nominating of three Band 5’s for entry as a requirement for entry into a teacher training course.

“1 strongly support the objective of attracting high-performing HSC students to teaching,” Dr White said. “However, a simplistic benchmark like needing 3 Band 5’s in the HSC is too blunt an instrument. In fact, it could prove counterproductive by distorting the subject selection process and encouraging students to choose less demanding subjects.

“The idea of testing students in literacy and numeracy as they approach their final year of teacher formation has more merit,” said Dr White. “It is the standard of the graduates at the end of their course that is more important than the entry levels at the beginning of it.”

#ends

For media inquiries, or to arrange an interview with Dr Dan White, contact Mark Rix on 0417 440 018.

Catholic Education Office Sydney
www.ceso.sydney.edu.au