from the principal

Reflection…

The College continues to unite with all Sydney Catholic Schools in pausing at midday every day to pray the Angelus. I hope your son/daughter are allowing themselves to be fully present in this quiet reflective time of communal ritual and prayer.

Last Tuesday 13 October, a National Rosary Day was held to pray for Australia, the youth of our country, and to promote the popular Marian prayer, given that October is the month of the Rosary. On the initiative of College Assistant Principal, Mrs Morrison, our College joined in and prayed one decade of the Rosary at 10:45am during the pastoral lesson. Our pastoral classes were invited to do this regularly over the month of October.

Parent Forum…
Wednesday 18 November:

I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of parents and students who attended the Year 12 – 2016 HSC Information Evening. I am sure you agree it was a most worthwhile evening – brief, but very necessary and informative.

In my introductory remarks on this evening, I spoke briefly about my concerns around a small minority of students who are engaging in high-risk anti-social behaviour. The Term 4 Parent Forum planned for Wednesday 18 November (6.30 – 7.30 pm) will aim to hear your views on this topic. We will also aim to begin a focus on how we as a secondary catholic college community can bring a more positive focus to our celebrations and social activities. I acknowledge this is a complex issue and that parents face many challenges in finding the balance between providing boundaries around our children, while at the same time building trust and responsibility. However, we can find strength and resourcefulness in forming a common voice. If this topic interests you, come along and begin the conversation.

Year 12 Graduation…
HSC Examinations:

Most things seem to have gone very smoothly for our Year 12 students as they complete their HSC examinations. I again congratulate them on the calm and studious way they are preparing and sitting the examinations each day.

If you or your son/daughter have any concerns related to the exams or need guidance around Special provisions or Illness and Misadventure claims please contact the College immediately. The Year 12 pastoral coordinators: Mr Geaney and Mrs Fuller, or the College Curriculum Coordinator Mr Ginestra would be the first points of contact.

Phil Gane
Principal
from the assistant principal

Year 12
During the last school holiday break the College library was open for our Year 12 students to work individually and in small groups to prepare for their HSC in a familiar and safe environment, supported by numerous staff making time to provide support & guidance, all in an effort to help them achieve their personal best.

I would like to acknowledge our Year 12 students for the exemplary way they are conducting themselves during their HSC examinations: the College is very proud of your commitment and effort.

Year 11
Our Year 11 students have also started the term well receiving the feedback from their final Preliminary exams. Year 11 reports will be issued Week 5 of this term. Students need to acknowledge and celebrate their successes and reflect on the challenges ahead to improve and achieve their personal best during their HSC year.

Teaching and Learning is not an object to be gained merely by the asking; it relies on building positive relationships between the learner and the teacher for growth to occur.

How do we achieve this?
- Listening and acting on teacher feedback
- Working together with teachers and peers in class to create and maintain the best learning environment
- Studying regularly at home and in the College library
- Taking care to respect our beautiful school environment and one another
- Relying on family and friends for support - especially if or when you hit a rough patch with your studies

If we all work together on this HSC journey in the true spirit of a Lasallian Community we will not only fulfil our own goals but actively contribute to the goals of our peers.

To this end, let me make it quite clear that no student’s behaviour that infringes on the learning in a classroom will be tolerated. Year Coordinators and KLA Coordinators will be supporting all classroom teachers in their teaching and learning goals and students who are unwilling to contribute positively to our learning culture may lose the privilege of being part of it.

I wish to again remind all students driving to and from school of their responsibility to act in a safe manner at all times, especially in Cross Road and Gunnamatta Street where there is traffic congestion and many pedestrians. Could parents please discuss and re-emphasise with their son/daughter this issue of being a responsible driver. Please be aware that parking inspectors frequent the streets surrounding the College and a number of parents and students have been booked for illegal parking and picking up or dropping off students in areas that are deemed illegal, especially the bus stop at the front of the College. You are also requested not to park in Grosvenor Place as it is too narrow and often trucks cannot gain access. Compliance with this request is appreciated.

from the assistant principal cont.

I look forward to working with our Year 11 students over this term as we set our expectations high and work together towards the achievement of their HSC in 2016.

Michelle Morrison
Assistant Principal

from curriculum coordinator

Thank you... to all Year 12 2016 Parents and students who attended the HSC information evening in the first week of this term. The presentation is now available on the college website. The HSC College Assessment Handbook and Assessment Schedules have been emailed to all students. These documents can also be found on the College website. Any student or parent who was absent and did not receive a copy of the ‘Understanding HSC results’ guide and the BOSTES 2016 HSC Rules and Procedures booklet can collect these from my office.

The HSC 2015 Fact Sheet (below) was published on the BOSTES website on Monday 12th October.

HSC 2015 Fact Sheet

The internationally regarded NSW HSC is run by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES). The HSC is a huge logistical effort involving more than 77,000 students and 118 HSC written exams, held over four weeks in over 750 exam centres staffed by more than 7,500 supervisors and presiding officers.

This year more than 300 students are sitting HSC exams overseas. This includes students at high schools in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. There are a further 13 students who, due to exceptional circumstances, are sitting their exams in places such as Baghdad, Tehran, Budapest, Connecticut and Barcelona.

The three most popular elective courses are Maths, Biology and Business Studies. French, Japanese and Chinese are the most popular languages studied. Hospitality, Construction and Retail Services are the most popular VET courses. Students have already completed 50 per cent of their HSC assessments at school. Over the next four weeks, in completing their exams, they will have the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills learnt in their HSC courses. To be awarded the HSC, students must complete at least 12 units of preliminary courses usually in Years 11 and 10 units of HSC courses, including English.

Following the last HSC exam on Wednesday 4 November and the marking of around 1.2 million scripts, students will receive their results from 6am on Wednesday 16 December. Exam papers, student responses and marks awarded are kept secure at all times using measures such as tamper proof packaging, electronic tracking and sophisticated reconciliation systems.

Cont.
from curriculum coordinator

**HSC facts:**
- More than 77,000 students are enrolled in one or more HSC courses.
- Around 69,000 students will complete their HSC program this year.
- 118 HSC written exams totalling around 300 hours are scheduled for 12 October to 4 November.
- 85 exam committees and 300 committee members were involved in developing the written exams.
- Each exam is reviewed at least six times before more than 700,000 exam papers are printed.
- More than 5,500 markers will mark HSC exams from 10 marking centres and homes across NSW.
- Around 45% of HSC markers will mark online with 64 courses (an increase of 13%) to be fully or partially marked online.
- Each student will have their English exams marked by at least 11 markers, and their Mathematics exam by at least six markers.
- HSC exams were first held in 1967.
- The HSC Rules and Procedures underpin the integrity of the world class HSC. BOSTES treats breaches very seriously. Students found to have cheated may not be awarded their HSC.

Further facts, figures and information about the HSC are available in the 2015 HSC Media Guide on the BOSTES website.

**At DLS Cronulla**
- 213 students were enrolled in 37 Board Board Developed courses including a number of courses delivered by external providers including Electrotechnology and Retail Services, Indonesian beginners and Hungarian continuers, and Dance.
- 8 Year 11 students were enrolled in the accelerated mathematics program, completing their HSC studies in Mathematics this year.
- 168 students were eligible to receive an ATAR.
- 97 students were enrolled in at least 1 Board Endorsed Course (Catholic studies, Marine Studies 1 and 2U, Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation 1 and 2U, Exploring Early Childhood 1 and 2U, Work Studies 1U).

**Q&A**
Our College Captains Liam Maccan and Shannon Hatheier were invited to be part of the QandA studio audience On Monday 12th October On the panel were Australia’s first indigenous Federal Minister Ken Wyatt Tasmanian Labor Senator Lisa Singh Greens Member for Melbourne Adam Bandt Entrepreneur and soprano Tania de Jong High school chaplain and Muslim community leader Sheikh Wesam Charlawi.

The program was predominantly focussed on the recent tragedy of the Parramatta shooting. Muslim community and religious leaders have united to denounce violence following the murder of police employee Curtis Cheng by teenager Farhad Jabar.

The *Grand Mufti* of Australia has warned Muslim extremists to “stop messing with Australia”, while Parramatta Mosque chairman Neil El-Kadomi has told his congregation "If you don't like Australia, leave it.” Panellist Sheikh Wesam Charlawi, who works as a chaplain with Muslim schoolboys in Sydney’s west, very eloquently expressed the universal message of peace, inclusiveness and social cohesion, and of compassion and empathy. He passionately spoke of his role and that of other spiritual leaders who are “literally sweating” to break the spell of groups such as ISIS.

**Discussion also centred around offshore changes to asylum seekers detained on Nauru.** Whilst the Nauruan Government has announced accelerated processing of detainees who will now be allowed to come and go from the detention centre at will, even those found to be genuine refugees cannot enter Australia, so the question of what the future holds for those in limbo on Nauru and Manus Island remains unresolved.

Whilst our two questions (below) provided by Mrs Cullen and Mrs James from the hundreds submitted were not selected by the producers of the program, they reflect the flavour of the conversation on the night and the broad themes and issues explored in our Religious Education courses and which underpin our Catholicity.

1. Father Chris Riley has recently spoken out about our young Muslim youths need to feel a sense of belonging in our community. While Muslim leaders are actively speaking out against terrorism and terrorist groups do you agree with his claim that more specific action needs to be taken with our young people?

2. As Australians we acknowledge the need for a continued focus on Reconciliation. Being the first indigenous Assistant Federal Minister for Health, what do you see as the next steps in this process?

The opportunity to attend this event provided our students with **authentic learning.** It focused on connecting what our students are taught in our catholic schools to real-world issues, problems, and applications, in this case, for example, the radicalisation of alienated young men in Australia and the importance of interfaith dialogue and community awareness and understanding. The basic idea is that students are more likely to be interested in what they are learning, more motivated to learn new concepts and skills, and better prepared to succeed in college, careers, and adulthood if they are learning mirrors real-life contexts, equips them with practical and useful skills, and addresses topics that are relevant and applicable to their lives outside of school. I have no doubt that our experience on Monday night immensely contributed to this.
The Music students provided a memorable and moving accompaniment to Father Tom Carroll’s celebration of the Mass.

The College wishes the graduating students all the very best for their exams and their futures. We also bid farewell to the families who have seen the youngest of their children complete their schooling in 2014.

De La Salle Spawns Strong Literary Tradition
Another of our Alumni in Print

De La Salle College has a very strong tradition of producing great writers as well as great sportspeople, politicians and clergy. Tim Griffiths of the class of 1974 is the latest to be published with his book on Australian adventurer and photographer, Frank Hurley. Tim has written an historical fiction about the life of the man who recorded Mawson’s and Shackleton’s expeditions to Antarctica. He also was a war photographer on the Western Front and in Egypt during the Great War and later in the Second World War.

Tim is one of a line of published Alumni. A more recent graduate, Brendan Cowell has received critical acclaim for his play, Ruben Guthrie, which has recently been made into an Australian film.

Class of 1972 student, Peter Stewart is another of our historical authors with his hard hitting book on the Myall Creek Massacre, Demons at Dusk.

The College still has a strong Literacy program underpinning its great HSC results in a wide range of subjects. It is always gratifying to see skills learnt at school contributing to Australia’s broader cultural and academic life.

From arts

Year 12 Graduation 2015... class of 2014 Celebrates a Beautiful Graduation Mass

The Class of 2014 have made a wonderful finish to their senior education in both the Graduation Assembly and the Farewell Mass. St Aloysius Cronulla was at capacity as families joined with their graduates to celebrate 13 years of schooling.

As per the College tradition, the Candle ceremony was held at the conclusion of Mass and the students were exhorted to take the light of Christ out into their future lives.

Cont...
Combined Performance Night.
The last weeks of term have been very busy with marking of HSC performances. This did not stop Yr. 11 however from joining with our feeder colleges to put on a combined performance night at De La Salle Caringbah.

This new initiative, compered by Mrs. Fuller, showcased a good number of rising stars from our group as well as spotlighting some of the amazing talent on its way through from De La Salle Caringbah and OLMC. Drama students tackled everything from Shakespeare’s Macbeth to the Australian classic “Cosi”, whilst our musicians (pictured) entertained the large audience with song.

De La Salle Archibald Prize.
This week Yr. 11 artists stepped up and put on an exhibition for teachers and students of our own Archibald Prize. Students ran their own version of the famous portrait competition, painting, drawing or photographing their favourite teacher.

Pictured is Rachel Johnstone with her portrait of Ms MacNamee. HSC artworks are due to be marked in the coming week allowing us to stage a graduation exhibition in November. Watch this space!

from arts cont.

Creative arts news... busy times for Actors, Artists and Musicians.

from careers cont.

University websites - for further Course enquiries, Orientation Day info.

TAFE: CAREER Information Days - for prospective Apprentices/Trainees - all faculties will be represented for enquiries: Gymea Campus Tuesday 10/11/15, and Ultimo Campus Thursday 12/11/15

TAFE Degree Course - ‘B Early Childhood Education & Care’ birth—5yrs, will run at Randwick campus. For more information phone 1300360601 or go to syney.degree@tafe.nsw.edu.au

SSBEN: (Suth.Shire Business Enterprise Network) - will run ‘CAREER CONFIDENCE, Essential Skills Workshops’ for senior students for more information email info@ssben.com.au or phone 9521-0500

AFTRS: (Aust.Film, Television & Radio School) will run Short Courses Nov 15-Feb 16 in the areas of Film, Documentaries, Radio, TV & Radio Presenting, Writing for TV, etc. Classes offered in Term time, School holidays and weekends. For more information, go to www.aftrs.edu.au

UTS: LAW Discovery Day - for Yr.11 students, Thur 19/11/15 & Thur 26/11/15 to Register and more info: email law@uts.edu.au or ph 9514-3747

WSU: (new name previously called University of Western Sydney) will run ‘WesternUday’ on Weds.28/10/15 at Campbelltown and Th.29/10/15 at Blacktown. Information opportunity for Courses, Scholarships, study Pathways etc.

UNSW: 2016 Mining Summer School - Applications CLOSE 31/10/15 Information on Courses, Careers etc.


ICMS : (International College of M’ment), Manly - offer Management courses in the areas of Business, Hospitality and Sports. SCHOLARSHIP Applications CLOSE 4/12/15. See website for more information.

Summer Master Class, for Yr.12 students, called - ‘in2uni’ - will run at UOW early in 2016 go to www.in2uni@uow.edu.au for more information.

All students should remember there is a wealth of job and course information available. Look at websites of Educational Institutions, and prospective Employers, hard copies of Course Guides, attend information sessions, Orientation Days, etc., to name a just few. For Yr.11 students, it is not too early to begin considering your own post HSC Study and Career options - you can definitely be researching now too.

Students needing to obtain a Tax File Number TFN - should go to the website ato.gov.au for instructions (these are no longer done through the schools).

I am available most days to discuss both possible Study and Career pathways with students, see me in the Library to arrange a suitable time.

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Information from careers cont.

HSC… Good Luck to all our Yr.12 students currently sitting their HSC exams.

UAC in brief:
HSC results will be released Wednesday 16/12/15
ATARs will be released Thursday 17/12/15
Main Round OFFERS will be released Wednesday 20/1/16
Remember for more information and details, go to the UAC Guide or Website itself.

Cont...

Byron Hurst
Arts

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