



Principal: Mrs Ida Pinese
Deputy Principal Curriculum: Ms Andrea Chiesa
Assistant Principal Religious Education: Mrs Laura Gilbert
Assistant Principal Administration: Ms Anja van Hooydonk
Business Manager: Mr Hadyn Flynn
College Leader - Pastoral Care: Mr Matthew Draper

Fostering Positive Relationships

The year 7 cohort spent three days at Camp Paterson where they enjoyed many team building and bonding activities. Camps and retreats are just some of the enrichment opportunities available at St Stephen's which help students develop socially, academically, emotionally, spiritually and physically.



"This camp was really fun and the activities were great but you needed to use your brain. My favourite activity was the canoeing because we got to go fast." Neil Prince



Year 7 Cohort.

NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Exam Week

Monday 14 March

Just Leadership Day

Tuesday 15 March

Easter Liturgy

School Finishes Term 1

Thursday 24 March

Good Friday

Friday 25 March

TERM DATES 2016

Term One: January 27 - March 24 (Years 7 and 12)
January 28 - March 24 (All students)

Term Two: April 11 - June 24

Term Three: July 11 - September 16

Term Four: October 4 - November 18 (Year 12)
October 4 - November 25 (Years 7 - 11)

CHESS CLUB

with Mr Harnischfeger (Mr H)

Room: S8

Monday and Tuesday Recess 2
Thursday morning before school

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



ABSENTEE E-MAIL

The college now has an absentee email address.

If your child is absent, please email
absentee@sscc.qld.edu.au

Happy Easter

The Principal and staff wish the college and wider community a safe, happy and holy Easter.

Please note that term two begins on
Monday 11 April.



LUNCHTIME HELP



Available at MCR recess
two Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday.

Need to print, do some catch up computer work,
or have a quiet place to do your assignment, then
come along!

Tutoring for Years 10 - 12

- MATHEMATICS
- ENGLISH
- SCIENCE



Wednesdays from 3-4 pm in the Library

Scholarships for 2017



Academic, sporting and cultural
scholarships are available for
Year 7 students in 2017.

Applications open 10 March and
close 24 March 2016.

Application forms will be available on the
college website or from the college office.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Stephen's

"I cannot teach anybody anything; I can only make them think." (Socrates)

Reflection

As the first term of 2016 draws to a close, it is an opportune time to reflect on the journey since the start of the academic year. For most year 7 students, the transition from primary to secondary schooling has been a positive experience. They have whole-heartedly embraced our culture, improved their organisational skills and enjoyed their first term of high school, including their very first secondary school camp which was held at Camp Paterson during week six of term one. Their presence has enriched our college community and I extend my gratitude to parents, teachers, supporting staff and the older students for assisting our new arrivals to settle into our St Stephen's family.

In keeping with the philosophy of the college's Mission Statement, our teachers have the challenging task of assisting our students to become independent learners and to make them think. In early March, I attended the National Future Schools Expo and Conference in Sydney where educators from Australia and overseas presented the latest research on future schooling. A dominant theme of this conference was the importance of teaching students how to think, and supporting them to become creative and collaborative learners who are adept at working in teams to solve problems which are relevant to their context. These qualities have been identified as those relevant for the 21st century. While there are numerous examples of students at St Stephen's embracing opportunities for extension such as the Youth Parliament, Lions Youth of the Year, Brain Bee and Enterprise Education, others are content to be spoon-fed. We are not doing our students any favours with this approach and I strongly encourage all parents to have high expectations of their children to achieve their best in all aspects of college life. While narrowly losing the championship by a mere sixteen points, the college's swimming team demonstrated this trait admirably at the recent District Swimming Carnival.

Feedback

Constructive feedback is important for continuous improvement. I welcome feedback from our parents about our practices so that we can review and refine what we do. One avenue for such feedback is the Parents and Friends Association, and I thank those parents who attended on 8 March, for their valued input. Another opportunity for feedback will be the parent/teacher interviews in the second week of term two. This feedback is twofold where parents and teachers are able to have a constructive dialogue about a student's progress based on observations and interim reports. I urge parents to attend this important event as a way of building more positive relationships between the school and the home.

In this very short first term, many of our teachers have been involved in professional development to enhance their pedagogy. While this has been beneficial for their professional learning, the downside is the disruption to the routine of the college with replacement teachers taking classes. We are very grateful for our small band of relief teachers who stand in when our normal class teachers are absent. It is a very fine line between providing opportunities for our teachers to be the best they can be, while also ensuring that disruptions are kept to a minimum.



Holy Thursday: 24 March

In keeping with the Catholic ethos of our college, during the day on Holy Thursday, the college community will gather for the Stations of the Cross which remind us of the great sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. Several students across the year levels will lead us through the fourteen stations, relating Jesus' suffering to our actions in the school context. I sincerely thank Mrs Gilbert and Miss Sugars for the time and effort they have devoted to the organisation of this important event in the Church's calendar.

Updates for term two

On Thursday 22 April, the college community will commemorate Anzac Day. Our college leaders, choir and cadets are currently preparing for this annual event and I thank the Anzac Day Committee for its organisation of this ceremony.

As in previous years, the college community will be a presence at both the dawn service and the downtown march in Mareeba on 25 April. Those who have a leadership position and other students who wish to join us, will be invited to attend the morning march in Mareeba. I thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child is available. For those students who reside in Mossman, Dimbulah or Atherton, our feeder Catholic schools in these towns would appreciate our students marching in the St Stephen's uniform with the relevant primary school. The commitment which students demonstrate by attending the services in their towns each Anzac Day is commendable.

In conclusion, I wish you a Holy Easter as you spend quality time with your children. Thank you for your support and assistance this term, especially for ensuring that your child is in attendance until 3 pm on 24 March. I look forward to working with you all in term two.

With Trust in the Lord

Mrs Ida Pinese | **Principal**
principal@sscc.qld.edu.au

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM

Our Mission Statement encourages our students to become independent learners and to achieve their personal best. The focus in the remaining weeks of this term is on the completion of tests and assignments. While all students desire success, not everyone is prepared to work hard to achieve this goal. In particular, our year 7 students may find it difficult to adjust to the assessment structure and demands of secondary education. Our students need to be organised, to focus on their schoolwork, and to work towards achieving their personal best. They will require good time management skills to balance the different demands on their time. Parents are encouraged to support their children to form good study habits in the home environment. If we work together, we can assist our students to achieve their potential and learn from their mistakes.



Teachers are currently preparing interim reports which will be posted at the end of term. These reports are based on assessment and teacher impressions of the student's work in class, homework and general attitude to the subject being reported on. The Interim Report has been designed to provide students and parents with an overview of the student's progress, behaviour and work ethic during the first term of 2016. The report provides a summary of the student's performance and attempts to highlight positive progress or bring attention to potential concerns.

The College has organised a Parent-Teacher Interview session during week two of term two on **Wednesday 20 April**, from 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm. This is a time for parents to meet teachers, to discuss their child's progress and to gain some knowledge of the behaviour and work ethic of their son or daughter. The College will be using web-based electronic system to allow parents to book meeting times with their child's teachers for term one subjects. Details on how to book will be mailed home with the students' reports.

Information about NAPLAN testing will be inserted in the Year 7 and 9 students' reports. Students in these cohorts will participate in national numeracy and literacy tests on **10, 11 and 12 May 2016**.

Parental co-operation is sought in ensuring that students attend school on these days, and that any medical or other appointments are scheduled outside of these dates. Students will be given a list of materials which outlines what they require for the tests, and in the coming weeks will be completing practice tests to ensure that they are well prepared to undertake this national test.

Warm regards

Ms Andrea Chiesa
Deputy Principal Curriculum
achiesa@sscc.qld.edu.au

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATION

As we are nearing the end of term one, students are working hard to complete assignments and exams in their various subjects. It has been a short, but very busy first term. We had the swimming carnival, school photos, year 7 camp, Gifted and Talented events and lots of district sports. Congratulations to the students who competed in the District Swimming Carnival and came second with just 16 points behind first place. Well done!



The end of term also means that students need to tidy their lockers for the Easter holidays. The clean-up of lockers will start at the beginning of week nine.

I wish the St Stephen's Catholic College community a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Ms Anja van Hooydonk
Assistant Principal Administration
avanhooydo@sscc.qld.edu.au

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS?

To ensure communication is received, please advise the college if you have changed your email address. Email office@sscc.qld.edu.au or phone 4086 2500.

FROM THE COLLEGE LEADER PASTORAL CARE

UNIFORM

- Shirts - Senior students have had some minor changes to the way in which the College uniform has been worn this year. A reminder that our senior boys are to present with shirts tucked in.
- Term two - Ties are to be worn by senior boys (years 10 – 12) in terms two and three.



Water Bottles: This week on assembly students were reminded to bring plastic water bottles to school and not glass bottles as there have been instances recently where students have inadvertently dropped and broken their bottles.

Jewellery – Students are reminded that only signet and plain band rings are allowed. Rings with other designs and stones are not permitted.

Wishing everyone a happy and holy Easter.

Mr Matthew Draper
College Leader Pastoral Care
mdraper@sscc.qld.edu.au

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Five students from St Stephen's participated in Clean Up Australia Day on March 6 in Mareeba with the local Lions Club.



Josiah Draper, Jonah Williams, Georgia Santucci, Arosh Heenkenda, Gordon Yates and Ben Struthers (absent) with Mr Draper.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

JUST LEADERSHIP DAY

On Tuesday 15 March our college hosted 51 students from Catholic Schools in the Western Deanery for the annual Just Leadership Day. This exciting social justice initiative was facilitated by Susan Bentley, Caritas QLD Global Education Adviser. Our Social Justice Committee spent the morning considering how to transform our Catholic Social Teachings into action and planning how to engage our communities in building a better, more just world. Students also enjoyed having the opportunity to network with other like-minded young people who strive to be counter-cultural in our consumerist society.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for your generous support of Project Compassion. The appeal will conclude next Thursday 24 March. Congratulations to Deacon who are still winning the race for House Spirit points.



Danielle McCormack, Leah Ryle and Celina Spena.

HOLY THURSDAY

Our college will gather during Period 5 and 6 on Holy Thursday to reflect on the Stations of the Cross through music, drama and art. Thank you to those students who have volunteered to lead us in this occasion to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus and how it connects to our everyday experiences.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Congratulations to Connor Coghlan (Year 8) and Paige Koliijn (Year 7) who participated in their First Reconciliation last week. Our prayers and best wishes are also with Claudia Roeser (Year 11) who will be baptised in the Catholic faith during the Easter holidays.

EASTER MASS TIMES

You are invited to gather at St Thomas' Parish throughout Holy Week at the following times:

	St Thomas' Mareeba	St Anthony's Dimbulah
Holy Thursday (24/03)	7.00 pm - mass of the Lords Supper	7.00 pm - mass of the Lords Supper
Good Friday (25/3)	3.00 pm - celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00 pm - celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday (26/3)	7.00 pm - vigil mass	7.00 pm - vigil mass
Easter Sunday (27/3)	10.00 am mass	8.00 am mass

CATHOLIC EASTER PRAYER

**Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.**

Mrs Laura Gilbert
Assistant Principal Religious Education
lgilbert1@sscc.qld.edu.au

What a great start to 2016. Our new year 7 students have settled into their first term of high school with great ease and confidence. They are currently in full-swing of assessment - assignments and tests - which can cause a little stress and anxiety. It is very important that students discuss any issues with their classroom teachers during class time or via email, have an organised SRB and term planner and of course eat and sleep well. The new challenges of high school, especially in term one, can be somewhat overwhelming at first; however, as the year progresses, year 7 students will be able to handle life as a secondary student without any dramas.



Earlier in the year, students began making new friends, coping with different teachers and moving around to different classrooms with the correct items a little daunting and at times it was a little challenging for some. However, in the last few weeks most of the year 7 students have mastered their timetables, locks and lockers, are more organised for the different lessons and can now find their way around the school with great ease. Well done year 7!

As it is assessment time, it is essential that students and parents are familiar with the policy and procedures for submitting assessment tasks. This document can be found on the school's web-site under policy and procedures. In section one it clearly outlines the procedure for submitting tasks and states what is expected if a student is absent the day it is due.

From *Assessment Policy and Procedures*: Assignments must be submitted on the due date during the scheduled lesson.

- If a student is absent on the day the assignment is due, arrangements must be made to have the assignment hand delivered to the school office or submitted electronically via the subject teacher's email, no later than 3 pm on the due date.
- Parents need to contact Student Services on the day to explain the circumstances regarding the absence.

In week six we had the excitement of camp. Students were involved in a variety of fun and exciting activities which allowed them to demonstrate a variety of teaming building skills and develop new friendships. Some of the fun activities were archery, survivor shelter, obstacle course, water wipe-out, canoeing, raft building, damper making, building construction, disco, night spotting and many more. Students should be congratulated on their effort and behaviour during the hot, tropical weather conditions. A huge thank you to Scott and Lyn Mahaffey and Tarah Alison from Camp Paterson for providing a fantastic venue, amazing hospitality and great activities. Also a special mention to Mrs Nunes, Miss Sugars, Ms Torres, Miss Nozaic, Mr McLennan, Ms Stevens, Mr Donovan and Mr Draper for giving up their time to be on the year 7 camp. Their help and support was greatly appreciated and valued.

Congratulations to the Blue team (girls) and the Red team (boys) for taking out the camp championship.

Blue team: Jamilah Hansen, Linda Emmerick, April Wilson, Samarah Casey, Dayna Terranova, Ricki-Lee Fraser, Charlotte Lennon, Kendra McCarthy, Annabel Rogers, Shannade Hall and Danae Tosoni

Red team: Jett Prien, Toby Burns, Joshua DeMarzi, Daley Taylor, Justin Smart, Lochlan Phillips

The following students were awarded the Camp Paterson Award for displaying great team work, enthusiasm with all activities and being very helpful and considerate: Tom Adams, Chase Burns, Angel Burley, Calain Cocco, Annabel Rogers and Sinead Wolff

"They had an absolutely smashing time doing night activities, obstacles courses, orienteering and playing in mud."

Sara Donovan

Enjoy the upcoming break and I hope families are able to spend quality time together enjoying the company of their loved ones. I know the year 7 students truly deserve the break that is coming. Term two will be a long and jam-packed term. I look forward to seeing all year 7 students refreshed and ready to tackle term two.

Mrs Jayarani Salerno
Year 7 Pastoral Leader
JSalerno@sscc.qld.edu.au



THE ARTS AND LOTE

For the Arts and LOTE department this first term has been very busy and eventful. I take this opportunity to welcome a new addition to our department: Miss Laita Nozaic who has joined our team to teach Italian and French from years 7 to 9.



I also wish to extend my gratitude to Mrs Simone Gillies, Mrs Margaret Russell and Mr Rohan Priestly who have graciously offered to look after Ms Kendra Todd's Media arts and Visual Arts classes in her absence. We all wish Ms Todd a prompt recovery.

In Arts as well as in LOTE, students are constantly challenged and required to stretch their skills and imagination. In a safe environment, under the expert guidance of their teachers, students learn to take risks and build up their confidence by trying new techniques and showing off their new skills. In Arts as well as in LOTE, students learn how to open their mind to new ways of thinking and new ways of expressing themselves.

I thank all the teachers involved in Arts and LOTE for their hard work and dedication this term and I wish everyone a safe and relaxing Easter holiday.

Mrs Françoise Nozaic
Curriculum Leader - The Arts and LOTE
FNozaic@sscc.qld.edu.au

VISUAL ARTS

In the absence of Ms Todd this term, the year 7 and year 8 Media Art, under the direction of Mrs Gillies and Mr Rohan Priestly, have had a lot of fun in creating a digital game and a short digital movie.

Year 8 Visual Arts, under the expert guidance of local artist Mrs Russell, have been introduced to the **elements of Arts** by sketching, drawing and painting a variety of natural and organic elements. They have also created and decorated a ceramic plate.

In comparison, Year 9 Visual Arts have extended their knowledge by studying in depth the Principles of Arts. Students now understand how artists such as Picasso and Braque manipulated art elements and principles to create a new art form such as **Cubism**.

Year 10 Visual Arts students have given way to their imagination whilst studying the strange and nightmarish art world of the Surrealist movement dominated by artists such as Salvador Dali, Andre Mason and Rene Magritte. Students have also been introduced to the art of juxtaposition and collage as well as lino printing.

Year 11 and 12 Senior Visual Art students are focusing on the theme of **Identity**. Whilst year 11 are concentrating on studying the **Australian identity** throughout the eyes of Australian artists, year 12 students have to devise a **body of work on their own identity** by defining their own context and demonstrating their skills.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Parents and Friends Association for their generous donation of a subscription for an online Study Skills handbook (www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) which teachers, students and parents can access. We will be sending information home which will include the logon and password with the end of term one report cards. If your child uses the excuse that they have no homework, you will be able to get them to log onto this site and look at the units, worksheets, games, suggested APPS. It is worth checking out.

Mrs Michelle Hall | **Guidance Councillor**



ITALIAN AND FRENCH

In French and Italian, we have had a very busy term! The year 7 Italian students have learned how to express themselves in a new language. Each one of them is now able to introduce his or herself in Italian! In comparison the year 8 Italian students are learning how to order a meal in an Italian restaurant. They are also able to compose a menu. They might even be lucky to taste some delicious Italian food.. Mmm delizioso!! The composite year 9 Italian and French students are learning about French and Italian fashion. They have created posters about their favourite designers and they will soon be hosting their own Italian/French fashion show!

Miss Laita Nozaic
Language Teacher
LNozaic@sscc.qld.edu.au



Debroah Hermanus, Mikaela Millerd, Arwen Rose.

JAPANESE

The year eight elective class is building on their knowledge of Japanese from year seven. The students have done a great job of remembering everything from last year and extending their listening and speaking ability.

The year nine and ten composite class are very close to being able to read and write the forty-six hiragana symbols and the variations. They will be able to read Japanese which will be handy as the reading test is written using only the symbols. This is quite an achievement that should make them feel proud.

The anime club meets on Fridays each week and has a group of about ten students sharing their interest in Japanese animation and manga (comics). Any student with an interest should come along on Fridays and enjoy the relaxing community.



Mr Rohan Priestly
Japanese Teacher
rpriestly@sscc.qld.edu.au



SPELLING BEE

Students from St Stephen's are one letter away from becoming FNQ's greatest spellers after wording their way through to the next round of the 2016 Mount Sheridan Plaza Spelling Bee. Both the year 7/8 teams did extremely well last Saturday and will travel to Cairns this weekend to compete in the finals.



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Congratulations to Sabine Conolly and Kate Wilcox (pictured) who have been nominated to attend the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament in Brisbane next month. As well as providing an important link for Youth to influence Government, QYP is a fantastic opportunity for participants to improve confidence through interacting with participants of varying backgrounds and opinions. We wish Sabine and Kate a rewarding experience.



DRAMA

What a great start to the year it has been for our year 7 and year 10 Drama students this term. The year 7's have been working on Melodrama, which is a fun and exciting type of theatre from the early 19th century that allows students to explore basic story lines such as good vs evil and stock characters including the hero, villain and a damsel. They have also been introduced to the elements of drama such as movement, space and tension to enhance their performances.

Year 10 Drama have also been working on an interesting topic called Documentary Drama, which has allowed them to push past their own self-awareness and to delve into topics they might not necessarily look into such as bullying, suicide, mental health and teen pregnancies. Each group has been given the opportunity to explore and to mould their chosen topic to create a documentary that will bring awareness to the people around them.

Mrs Samantha Malcolm
Drama Teacher
SMalcolm@sscc.qld.edu.au>

UNITED NATIONS

Three students last Saturday attended the United Nations Conference at James Cook University in Cairns. Sabine Conolly represented Japan while Rebecca Hermanus and Kate Wilcox represented Norway and won the Evatt competition round. As winners of the regional Evatt round, Kate and Rebecca will progress straight to the State grand final in Brisbane in June. Kate also received the Best Speaker Award.



Sabine Conolly, Rebecca Hermanus and Kate Wilcox.

YEAR 10 NEWS

It has been a busy start to the year and already the end of term one is fast approaching. We have seen many special events occur including the swimming carnival, SRC nominations and the new pastoral house representatives. As well as these events, students have also had the opportunity to compete in many different activities outside in the wider community including chess, cricket, peninsula sport and the spelling bee. Congratulations to all students who competed in these events.



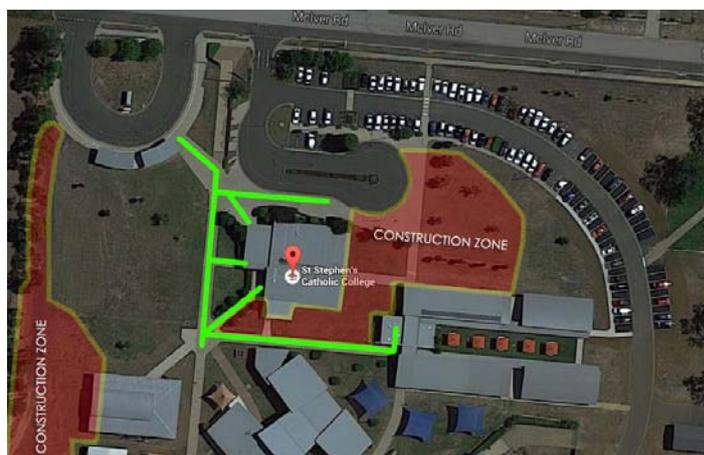
During term two and three the boy's uniform will see some changes for the first time. Year 10 boys will be required to wear a tie to school. This change has been put in place to align the year 10 students with the senior section of the school.

I would like to wish all a safe and happy Easter holiday and look forward to the start of term two.

Mr Keith Pelka
Year 10 Pastoral Leader
kpelka@sscc.qld.edu.au

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

On Thursday 17 March, construction will begin on Stage 7. The works will run for approximately 19 weeks and will include extensions to the Library, Staffroom and Administration building. Consequently, access to the administration building will be limited. We thank you for your patience and co-operation while upgrade our facilities. Please see work site map below.





SOCIAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS

The Social Science and Business Department has started the year by providing opportunities for students to be challenged and extended. This is occurring through a variety of stimulating in-class activities, guest speakers, competitions and field work. Upcoming opportunities for this semester include: Tableland Schools Moot Competition, Bond University High School Mooting Competition, Australian History Competition, Australian Geography Competition, Junior and Senior Geography field trips.

Mr Dwayne Miller

Curriculum Leader - Social Science and Business

dmiller2@sscc.qld.edu.au

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY

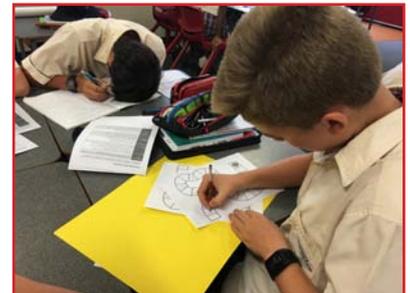
In February, Year 11 Geography students examined the health of the Basalt Creek sub-catchment through scrutiny of a range of physical, chemical and biological indicators. The scale of the investigation is appropriate to students developing their expertise in field work and the report genre. Students achieving a B or better, whilst referencing nominated water standards in their report, may be eligible for submission to the Ports North – Environmental Award, with a \$1250 first prize.

Year 12 Geography students will be completing a field trip after the Easter holiday to examine ways people can be 'connected to place'. This will involve field work in Atherton, with presentations from representatives of the Queensland Police Service, Tablelands Regional Council and an Atherton hotel. Students will be examining strategies and making recommendations to revitalise the Atherton CBD to make it more vibrant and family friendly after dark.



YEAR 9 HISTORY

This term Year 9 History students have been learning the history of the Qing Dynasty of China. In order to prepare for the exam in a fun and engaging way, the students worked in groups to develop a board game. Students used their new knowledge from the unit to create and answer revision question cards to go with the game. The students showcased not only their creativity, but also their depth of knowledge about the Qing Dynasty in a fun and unique way.



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This term our 'Business Management' students have been learning all about marketing and how important having the correct marketing mix is for a business' products and services. They have gained an understanding that advertising is only one of the many concepts of marketing management. As always, managers need to have both theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, so the group were set a task to develop promotional packaging for a single egg that would also protect it from breaking during the "selling to consumer" process. The students had a great time testing if their packaging protected their eggs, and in turn have learnt specific marketing strategies. Whether they go into a large or small organisation, they will leave St Stephen's with a good grounding in successfully managing marketing for business.

YEAR 9 ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

This year sees the introduction of the National Curriculum for Economics and Business in Year 9. The topic currently being covered is Resources Allocation and Making Business Choices. The students were placed into groups and had to cut up a real banana into different size segments to depict both the participants within a product's supply chain and how much they earned by being part of chain. This led to a very interesting discussion on the subject of free trade and why retailers are charging the consumer such high prices. The general consensus was, "No wonder our farmers are struggling!"



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HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 12 Physical Education students participated in a gruelling aquathlon at the scenic Lake Eacham. Usually an ideal location for picnics and lazing about, the lake set the scene for far less sedate activity that involved swimming 400 m and then running three kilometres. The race was won by Chris Stack in a time of 24 minutes and 43 seconds. Second place went to Liam Kerr, closely followed by Aleysha Genge in third. Next term the year 11 Physical Education class will participate in the same event.



Mr Steven Groves
Curriculum Leader - Health and Physical Education
sgroves@sscc.qld.edu.au

SECOND PLACE AT DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The St Stephen's spirit of doing one's best has become ingrained in our culture. Showing the passion required to back up last year's performance, we set off to the Atherton Swimming Pool with a full strength team.

After the first round of 50 m backstroke events, it became obvious that we were in for another tight battle. All day there were only a few points separating St Stephen's and the other high schools. Even though our depth shone through in the relays and the less renowned swimmers fought for every point, it wasn't enough to catch Mareeba State High School. We are grateful to our competitors for once again putting up such a great battle.

I wish to congratulate all members of the team, as much for their determination and team spirit, as for their performance. Special mention must go to Alaina Smith, Thomas Jackson, Nadia Falvo and Jake Priestly who each swam in every event in their age group, including the 200 m individual medley relay.

AGE CHAMPIONS

Alaina Smith 2nd in the 12 years girls
Joanna Elliott 2nd in the 13 years girls
Marina Prince 3rd in the 14 years girls
Thomas Jackson 2nd in the 14 years boys
Nadia Falvo 1st in the 15 years girls
Jake Priestly 2nd in the 15 years boys
Sara Liaver 2nd in the 16 years girls
Ashlee Zugno 2nd in the open girls

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

1st Mareeba State High School (478)
2nd St Stephen's Catholic College (462)
3rd Malanda State High School (448)
4th Atherton State High School (440)
5th Dimbulah State High School (89)

Miss Deanne Morrow

Middle Leader – Sport and Activities
dmorrow1@sscc.qld.edu.au

Important information for Year 11 and 12 students wanting to apply to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA)

Year 11 students considering applying for a place at the ADFA are encouraged to commence their applications when 16 years and 6 months of age. To start your application, call 131901 or apply online at <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/> (click 'Apply now' on the top right-hand corner of the home page). It is not too late for Year 12 students to apply, but you need to start your application as soon as possible.

Join the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)

Any young Australian who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years and is physically fit enough to participate in the activities, is welcome to join the AAFC. Through this organisation you will gain important life skills in leadership, self-reliance, self-confidence, self-discipline, self-respect, good communication, teamwork and citizenship. You will also have an opportunity to experience life in the Air Force. Visit <http://www.aafc.org.au/> to find out more.

Work experience with CSIRO scientists

Work experience is a great way to explore your career interests. If you are interested in a science career, you could consider applying for a work experience placement with the CSIRO. The CSIRO offers students in Years 10 - 12 the chance to gain first-hand experience of research in a scientific environment. Applications for 2016 will open on Monday 21 March. Visit <http://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/Student-and-graduate-opportunities/Work-experience> for details.

Job Outlook [<http://joboutlook.gov.au/>]

- Information previously found on the 'Job Guide' website can now be found at Job Outlook. On this site you will find information on almost 400 occupations
- Includes the skills, knowledge, abilities, interests, and activities relevant to each occupation.
- Information on wages, trends and prospects for occupations is included.

TAFE pathways to university study

TAFE provides several pathways that can be used to gain entry to degree courses at university. These include:

- Credit transfer agreements with universities - You complete a diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree at TAFE and apply through QTAC for a related degree course at a university with which TAFE has a formal credit transfer agreement. This means you receive credit from your TAFE course towards your degree course.
- Upgrading - Successful completion of any diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree at TAFE may improve your tertiary entry score when applying through QTAC for entry to university degree programs. For example, a completed diploma at pass level will receive a QTAC selection rank of 82, which was comparable to OP 9 in 2015.
- Dual awards - You apply through QTAC for a dual TAFE/university qualification. Once you have completed your TAFE qualification you commence your university degree studies without reapplying through QTAC.
- Degrees at TAFE - Some TAFE institutes partner with universities to deliver a degree program on the TAFE campus. TAFE Queensland Brisbane at South Bank has been accredited to offer its own degree program - B Dental Prosthetics.

Check out TAFE Queensland degrees and pathways to higher education guide 2016 at <http://www.tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/school-students/university-pathways/> for a listing of degree programs offered by TAFE Queensland and for a list of pathway options to universities and other higher education providers.

QTAC OFFER 2016/2017

This year brings a big change to how QTAC offers Year 12 students a tertiary placement. Students will start receiving offers as early as 12pm, 18 November 2016, the day they finish school. From this year onwards, if a student applies for a non-competitive course, there's no need for them to wait until January for their offer. They could receive their offer within days of applying. Offers for competitive courses will still be made on major offer rounds. The first being 16 January 2017.



14 March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will be aware of recent industrial action taken by some staff at our schools in the Cairns diocese. The industrial action arises from negotiations for a new enterprise agreement concerning wages and work conditions for our staff.

I am aware that the Independent Education Union of Australia (the union) has recently contacted some parents to provide information about the claims it is making on behalf of some staff and I am writing to provide you with more information about the Catholic Education employer's position in order to provide balance on these important issues.

While it is the right of all staff to take industrial action, it should be acknowledged that across Queensland the majority of school staff (about 83%) decided not to participate in the union's last strike action on 25 February 2016. Indeed, fewer than 25% of all school staff in Queensland voted for the strike action in the first place. It is apparent that more and more staff simply want a resolution to this process so they can continue to focus on the education of our students.

It is also important to acknowledge that there are in-principle agreements to 17 employee claims. In terms of current negotiations with the union, the following four points capture the employer's position:

Wages

- Employers have tabled a fair wages increase of 2.5% which is in line with current conditions in the Queensland market place. The cost of living (CPI) index has risen 1.7 per cent in the last 12 months. This wage offer is also consistent with similar wage offers to teachers in other states.
- In 2015 Queensland state school teachers received the equivalent of a 2.5% annual wage increase also and Catholic school staff, historically and presently, are generally paid the same as state school staff.
- The increase comes with an offer of backpay and a commitment to match any further increases provided to state school teachers.
- The union has changed its claim in the last month. It has departed from its original claim for an across-the-board increase of 3.25% to a claim that varies according to a teacher's classification – their new claim, which is viewed as being unfair, has teachers receiving between 2.53% and 4.48% in the first year depending on their classification level .
- Employers have offered to conduct a joint review of the current teachers' classification structure. The union have not as yet agreed to this offer.
- In the Cairns diocese boarding schools staff received a 7.5% wage increase after negotiations with the union on boarding school staff and conditions fell over with the union disagreeing to continue participating in a joint working party.
- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to the consolidation of working conditions and the modernisation of the classification structure for our Services Staff. For many, this will result in a higher level of remuneration.

Comparisons with other states like NSW

- The union continues to argue a case that Qld Catholic teachers be given wage parity with NSW without considering the obvious and stark differences in employment conditions.
- The wage classification systems and work conditions in NSW are quite different to Queensland. For example, in NSW teachers have conditions based on different working hours and different finishing times each year.
- It is misleading and wrong for the union to claim that all NSW catholic school staff receive higher wages than Queensland Catholic school staff for performing equivalent duties.
- Under the current employer wages offer, as at 1 July 2016 our most experienced classroom teachers could be earning \$96 070 . In NSW, as at 1 July 2016 the classroom teacher level used in union comparisons could expect to be paid \$95 466 .
- In NSW teachers received only 2.27% wage increase in 2015 and received a 2.5% wage increase in 2016. The offer by Queensland Catholic schools exceeds or matches these percentage increases.

Workloads

- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to enhanced arrangements with regard to teacher access to Preparation and Correction time. (non-teaching time)
- Employers have provided agreement in-principle to implement measures to address increased workload associated with electronic communication. (e.g. emails)

Term-Time employees

- The union continues to demand 4 weeks annual leave be paid to term-time employees who are employed for 39-41 weeks/year, claiming this is the 'community standard'. This is not correct. The national employment standards, applying to many Queensland workplaces including Catholic schools, is for annual leave to accrue according to the employee's ordinary hours of work. This means that employees working less than 52 weeks per year (e.g. part time or term time employees) will be paid 4 weeks annual leave on a pro rata basis. This is already provided to all term-time employees in our schools and they are paid the equivalent of 4 weeks leave on a pro rata basis.
- Queensland Catholic school employers are complying with the national employment standards contained within the Fair Work Act 2009.
- The adoption of the union claim in this instance would result in instances of inequitable working conditions within our schools.

I am conscious of the impact that industrial action has on our schools wish to assure you that I remain committed to negotiating with the union in good faith to bring the bargaining process to a conclusion. Thank you for taking the time to consider these important issues.

Yours sincerely



BILL DIXON
Executive Director
Cairns Catholic Education Services

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Please inform the college if your child has achieved success in an extra-curricular activity not directly related to school, so that the college community can celebrate these achievements. Please contact the Marketing Officer: rblake@sscc.qld.edu.au with any information and photos.

BENDIGO BANK OBSERVER

Annalisse Troncione has been selected to be Bendigo Bank's School Observer for St Stephen's. Annalisse attends meetings and is involved in community discussions as a student observer.



MATHEMATICS TUITION

Students seeking help with their Mathematics may attend a tuition/homework class on Tuesday and Thursday lunch time in MCR. Mr Ellison will be in attendance on Tuesdays and Miss Sugars will be in attendance on Thursdays to assist students at both Junior and Senior levels with any difficulties they may be experiencing. All welcome!!



St Stephen's now subscribes to Options Career Information and receives bulletins with up-to-date information on tertiary courses, VET training and other opportunities for secondary students. Items of relevance to our students will be included in our regular newsletter, but parents wishing to read the full bulletin can do so by accessing the 'Careers' tab on the St Stephen's website and scrolling down to the 'Information for Parents' section. This is a great resource and is partnered with many other great resources for parents and students on our website.

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EXCITING NEWS! YEAR 11 & 12 Students

TGT and Granite Engineering are offering the following opportunities for school-based apprentices and trainees:

- School-based Apprentice Sheet Metal Worker - Granite Engineering, Mareeba
- School-based Agricultural Traineeship - TGT Dimbulah
- School-based Agricultural Traineeship - TGT Tolga
- School-based Agricultural Traineeship - TGT Mareeba (Reynolds St)

Students are able to apply for these roles via skillsroad.com.au.

Further information on these opportunities can be obtained from Mrs Goleby. Good Luck!