



St Stephen's News

Issue 19 - Term 4 | Wednesday 27 November 2015

Principal: Mrs Ida Pinese

Deputy Principal Curriculum: Ms Andrea Chiesa

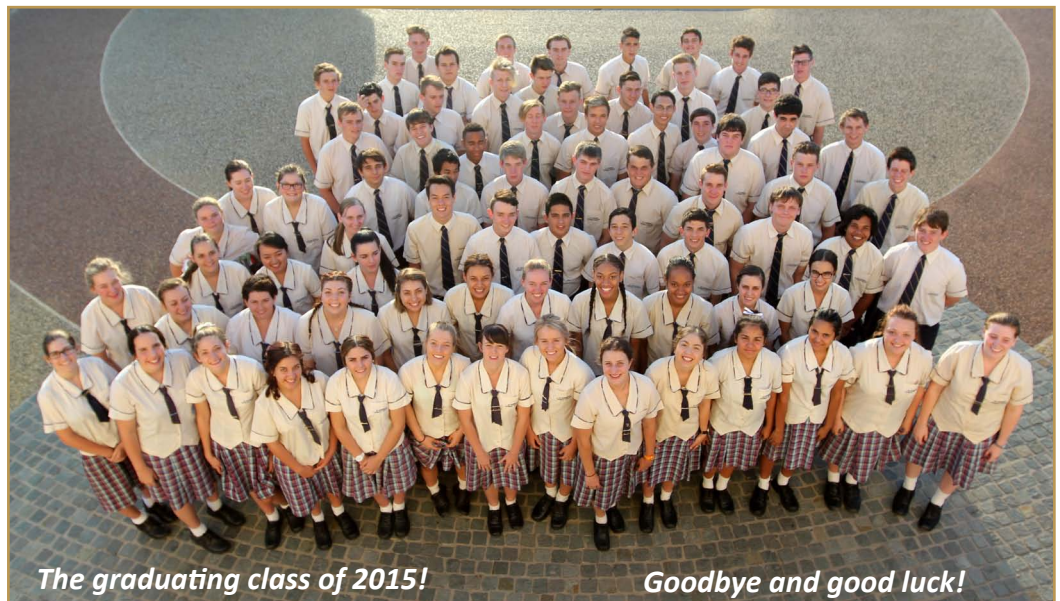
Assistant Principal Religious Education: Mrs Laura Gilbert

Assistant Principal Administration: Mr Lance Helms

Business Manager: Mr Hadyn Flynn

Bright Futures

The college community gathered to farewell the graduating class of 2015 last Friday. After an emotional farewell assembly, the 77 graduates walked through a guard of honour before gathering one last time for a special mass and graduation ceremony at St Thomas' Catholic Church.



The graduating class of 2015!

Goodbye and good luck!



Zoe Feher, Celie Henderson, Katherine Rossi and Tahlia Avolio.

FROM THE Principal



Dear Parents and Friends of St Stephen's

As the 2015 school year comes to a close, it is important to celebrate the positive relationship that continues to exist between our teachers and parents in achieving the best possible outcomes for our students. The following poem expresses this sentiment so eloquently:

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.

The clay they used was a young child's mind and they fashioned it with care.

**One was a teacher; the tools being used, were books and music and art, one a parent with a guiding hand
and a gentle, loving heart.**

**Day after day the teacher toiled with touch that was deft and sure, while the parent laboured just as hard
and polished and smoothed it o'er.**

**When at last their task was done they were proud of what they had wrought, for the things they had
moulded into the child could neither be sold or bought.**

And both agreed they would have failed if they had worked alone:

For behind the parents stood the school and behind the teacher, the home. (Anon)

The sense of belonging to the St Stephen's family can only be achieved by a strong connection between the home and school, where expectations are clearly articulated and communication is effective. Teaching the curriculum content is important, but if we do not also educate the heart, we are not instilling the Gospel values in our students. This connection was clearly evident at the college's farewell assembly and later Graduation Mass for the year 12 students on Friday 20 November. At both events, our senior students demonstrated pride in their college and spoke eloquently from the heart of their experiences at St Stephen's. I sincerely thank their parents for providing our community with the privilege of educating these fine young people. We wish them the very best as they go forth from the security of St Stephen's to make their mark as global citizens of the future.

The end of the school year is a time for farewells to both departing students and staff. We wish our departing students the very best in their new environment. Some are leaving to take up wonderful opportunities in a much larger arena, while others are entering the world of work. We look forward to following their careers and hope that St Stephen's will always hold a special place in their hearts as part of their extended family. To our departing teachers and non-teaching staff, Mr Howe, Mr Greene, Miss Marino and Mrs Reedy, I thank them for their commitment in providing rewarding learning experiences for our students and wish them the very best. To our Assistant Principal, Administration, Mr Helms, who leaves us to take up the position of Director of Studies at St Augustine's College in Cairns, we thank him for the significant contribution he has made to our college over the past nine years in so many areas and wish him a rewarding time in his new role in 2016.

While it is so easy to become caught up in the material trappings of the festive season, we need to reflect on the significance of this time for Christians. The happiness we feel at Christmas comes from the giving of ourselves to the ones we love. It is a reminder of the birth of Christ and his selfless love for our salvation. I hope that you are able to be with family at this very special time of the Advent calendar to appreciate the importance of others in our lives.



Without the valued input of teachers, parents and the broader community, St Stephen's would not have experienced another successful year. I am very grateful for the support, loyalty and hard work of so many people, including the leadership team of Ms Chiesa, Mr Helms, Mrs Gilbert and Mr Flynn and my personal assistant, Mrs Szerstuk, all teaching and non-teaching staff, the College Board, the Parents and Friends Association, Catholic Education Services, our parents and most importantly, our students.

Thank you all for your continued confidence and faith in our college. God bless you all. I wish you a holy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you all in 2016.

With trust in the Lord,

Mrs Ida Pinese
Principal
ipinese@sscc.qld.edu.au

FROM THE Deputy Principal Curriculum

REPORTING

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will receive a semester report. These reports are based on a student's achievement for an entire semester, and comprise the overall level of achievement for each subject studied as well as comments about a student's work ethic and behaviour.

We aim to have the reports printed and mailed by Friday 11th December. Included with the report will be information concerning subject selection (Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 only) and stationery lists for 2016.



SUBJECT SELECTION 2016

Year 8 and 9 students will receive confirmation of their subject choices with their report. Every effort has been made to ensure that students received their first or second choices based on their subject preferences. Due to high demand for some subjects, wait lists will be created should students wish to change their elected subjects. Students are reminded that subject changes must be completed by the end of Week 2 in Term 1, 2016. Some students have already started the process to ensure that they are placed in the class of their choice for the start of Semester One. Senior students are required to complete a 'change of subject form' and organise an interview with me, before transferring to a different subject. Parents should be aware that their signature is mandatory for these subject changes. If there are any questions about subject changes, feel free to telephone me at the college. In addition students undertaking school-based apprenticeships and traineeships will be contacted early in 2016 to discuss implications of their work placement dates on their timetable. Year 11 results in terms of students' progress towards achieving a Queensland Certificate of Education are being monitored, and if necessary, parents will be contacted for interviews.

I wish all members of the college community safe holidays, and a holy Christmas season.

Ms Andrea Chiesa | **Deputy Principal (Curriculum)**
ACHiesa@sscc.qld.edu.au

The Social Justice Committee

2015 CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

Thank you for helping those less fortunate this
Christmas!



Mr Graham Morrow from St Vincent De Paul with the 2015 Social Justice Committee Executive: Alex, Zoe, Ben and Emily.



Young Athletes Travel Subsidy Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

Visit: <http://www.qld.gov.au/youth/sport-recreation-leisure/young-athletes-travel-subsidy/> to apply!

FROM THE

Assistant Principal Religious Education

Advent – Waiting in Joyful Hope

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Church calendar and the First Sunday of Advent. The term “Advent” derives from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival”. During the four weeks preceding Christmas, the Catholic Church prepares for Jesus’ coming as the Christ child as well as his Second Coming. While many of us spend this time adorning our homes with decorations, shopping up a storm, and cooking Christmas goodies, we often lose sight of the real focus of the Advent season: waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.



So, how can we prepare our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus this Christmas?

- Seek Jesus in the silence
- Give of your presence rather than presents
- Reconcile relationships in need of restoration
- Pray for peace
- See ‘Christ’ in Christmas

You might also wish to reflect on and pray this Advent prayer.

*Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.*

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, often walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”

Amen

May the joyful hope of the Advent season dwell in your hearts throughout the coming weeks, and the peace of Christ be with you all this Christmas.

End of Year / Advent Mass

Parents are warmly invited to attend our final College Mass for the year to be held this Friday 27 November at 11 am in the Undercover Area. At this mass we will give thanks for the year that has been and begin preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Donations for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal will also be presented to a representative of the society.

Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all those families who donated goods to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Together, we have filled 23 tubs/hampers of goodies for those in need. Congratulations to our Social Justice Committee for this fantastic effort!

Parish Youth Club

The Parish Youth Club will meet this Saturday 28 November at St Thomas’ School after 6pm mass for an evening of games, prayer, discussion and reflection on the theme of ‘Advent’. Dinner will be provided and the night will end at 8.30 pm. All students from years 7 – 12 are invited to attend. Please register your interest with Mrs Gilbert (lgilbert1@sscc.qld.edu.au/40862500) or the Parish Office (4092 1077) for catering purposes.

Mrs Laura Gilbert

Assistant Principal (Religious Education)

lgilbert1@sscc.qld.edu.au

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)

FAREWELL FROM THE

Assistant Principal Administration

As students are gearing up for the end of the school year, the members of the Administration Team are finalising Term 1 of 2016. The first day of school for Years 7 and 12 is Wednesday, 27 January. Year 7 students will have special program for the day, collecting books and continuing to familiarise themselves with secondary school contexts, while all Year 12s will have practice QCS exams and collect their textbooks for the term.



On Thursday, 28 January, the whole school resumes with normal classes. All students are to wear their formal uniform and ensure that shoes are cleaned and polished as well.

Once students receive their timetables, they will need to take note of the day they have Activities or a double PE lesson in order to know which day they are allowed to wear the sports uniform. As a gentle reminder for all, it is college policy that students come to and leave school in their formal uniform except on the one day they have the above classes.

The college's Opening Mass and Leadership Induction will be held on Monday, 1 February. All parents are welcome to attend, but we would appreciate knowing in advance if you are coming so that we can have adequate seating arranged prior to the Mass.

On a final note, I would like to thank the staff, students and parents for helping make my time here at St Stephen's a truly memorable one. Nine years has passed very quickly, and I feel very fortunate for having been part of this wonderful college.

Wishing everyone a safe and merry Christmas - God bless.

Mr Lance Helms
Assistant Principal (Administration)

YEAR 7 NEWS

It is hard to believe that 11 months ago we were welcoming 112 year 7 students to high school.



At first, this change seemed a little daunting, but it did not take the year 7 students long to have life as a high school student under control. These students have adapted to life as high school students admirably and have mastered timetables, lockers, moving between classrooms and being organised for each subject. They have also made new friends and have developed excellent relationships with staff. The confidence and enthusiasm they demonstrate consistently is a credit to them, and they deserve to be commended for successfully making a smooth transition without too many hiccups.

As these Year 7 students approached their final term of the year, they have continued to excel both in class and in extra-curricular activities. Students have also demonstrated a greater level of responsibility for their learning, and have managed their time effectively to develop study habits, complete homework and submit assignments. Many students have embraced such challenges enthusiastically and have displayed significant improvement in their organisation and time management skills. These skills will need ongoing monitoring by parents in the coming years to ensure continued success as they progress through secondary school.

As the year draws to an end, I encourage all students to recuperate and have a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break. I hope that families will enjoy time together to reconnect in a less stressful time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 7 students for their support in helping me in my own transition from primary to secondary school, and they have been a wonderful cohort to work with. We have worked together to deal with the demands and pressures of high school, and I am very proud of their achievements. I wish them all the very best for the coming years. Have a great break and let the love, joy and peace of Christmas shine through.

Jayarani Salerno
Year 7 Pastoral Leader

YEAR 9 NEWS

As term 4 comes to an end it seems like only yesterday they started year 9. It has been a busy year for the students with many different events occurring. This term has seen events including the INTAD awards and the annual Awards Night. Both of these events highlighted many great achievements by year 9 students.



The INTAD awards recognise students' hard work in the area of Technology and Design. Dayna Scapin placed second in the Junior Design category, showing great craftsmanship and design when creating her CO2 Dragster. I would also like to congratulate the award recipients who received accolades during Awards Night.

Next year students will step into year 10 and become part of the senior school. This means that there will be some changes to the uniform. Boys will be required to have their shirts tucked in and wear long socks at all times. They will also be required to wear a blue or black belt. During terms two and three all students in year 10 will be required to wear a tie. The white bucket hat that students have been wearing for the past two years has now been phased out and all students will be required to wear the blue bucket hat.

I would like to wish Trent Baldwin, Hayden Reppel, Alyse McRobb, Giulia Rogato, Megan Wakefield and Kyle Soenario the best of luck for the future as they will be departing the St Stephen's community at the end of 2015.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period and I look forward to working with the year 10 cohort in 2016.

Mr Keith Pelka
Year 9 Pastoral Leader

YEAR 11 NEWS

As the school year comes to an end, I would like to spend some time and reflect on how far the year 11 cohort has come.



Year 11 appeared daunting to many at the start. Words like challenges, demands, responsibility, visions, goals, fears, success, rewards, leadership and self-belief were just some of the terms that awaited them. As their pastoral leader I am pleased to say that students welcomed the chance to prove that obstacles, like new subjects, were challenges to be conquered and not barriers to defeat them. How far they have come! However, the journey is not finished yet! As the seniors of 2016, their lives will be a learning curve and each future challenge they face will create new situations that will need to be managed.

I would like to congratulate the following students who were presented with subject and/or academic excellence awards at our annual Awards Night: Natalie Bambino, Carl and Joel Cassaniti, Kayla DeMarzi, Rebecca Hermanus, Jacob Kemp, Abbie Kent, Vivek Kolala, Dannielle McCormack, Grace Officer, Antonio Palumbo, Rhys Pozzebon, Leah Ryle, Rebecca Sellwood, Celina Spena, Kate Wilcox and Caitlyn Wright. Their drive, determination and hard work serve as an example to all of what can be achieved with the right mind set.

Congratulations to Kate Wilcox, Rebecca Hermanus, Vivek Kolala and Christopher Stack who will lead our school as 2016 school captains. I know that they will do a sterling job. I would also like to congratulate those who were elected for other leadership positions in 2016.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and festive holiday period and look forward to greeting the year 12's for a busy and rewarding year in 2016.

Carlo Veschetti
Year 11 Pastoral Leader

SCHOOL FEES

All school fees must be finalised during
December 2015.

Gifted and Talented

Twenty-fifteen has been a busy year for St Stephen's. Our students have achieved success across a variety of platforms. They have also had many opportunities to extend themselves beyond the school walls.



Students attended writing festivals, in Cairns and Brisbane. They have had success in Science competitions (Brain Bee) and Reading competitions (Readers Cup) and participated in many other competitions. Brian Falkner (author) visited our school and engaged the students with reading and writing.

Next year looks to be just as busy. Enrolments for the Emerging Entrepreneurs Program have opened with the course starting week 2, term 1. Please send in forms and payment before the end of the school year. Enrolment forms are available from the library.

Applications for the Lions Youth of the Year (open to interested year 11 students) are now available, with the first round of the competition scheduled for February 27, 2016. Please return forms as soon as possible, though we will accept applications first week, term 1, 2016.

Application forms are available from the library.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Simone Gillies
Curriculum - Gifted and Talented

TEXT BOOK RETURN

Please ensure that ALL textbooks are returned by the last day of term. Failure to do so may affect the receipt of your child's semester two report.



The Arts & LOTE

It is this time of year already! It is surprising how time flies when we work with a great team. I take this opportunity to thank the Music teacher, Miss Janai Sugars, the Visual Art teacher, Ms Kendra Todd and the Drama teachers Mrs Samantha Malcolm and Miss Deanne Morrow. I am also grateful to the LOTE teachers Mrs Pinese and Mr Rohan Priestly for their great work in Italian and Japanese.



I have been truly blessed to be the Curriculum Leader of very committed and dedicated teachers. I offer my best wishes to the Drama and Visual Art year 12 students who have just completed their school years at St Stephen's. It was a privilege to watch them mature and develop their skills and talents. I wish particular good luck to Kaya Sawyer who is going to further develop her studies in Visual Arts.

I am already looking forward to 2016. Many students, from grade 7 to 9 will undertake LOTE studies in Italian, French and Japanese. Many St Stephen's students are artistically very talented. 2016 Art exhibition, "by the chapel", looks quite promising.

Till then, I wish everyone a happy and a very relaxing Christmas. God bless you all.

Françoise Nozaic
Curriculum Leader - The Arts and LOTE



Year 12 Drama.

Visual Arts

Throughout Term 4 students have been kept busy across all year levels and we have seen exciting developments occur, especially for some of our Senior Art students.

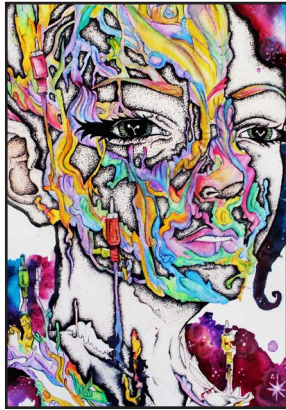
Six students from Years 10 – 12 will have their art work shown at the SNAP exhibition at the Tablelands Regional Gallery from the 1st – 24th December. This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their work alongside students from other Tableland schools. Congratulations go to Tahlisha Macmillan, Kaiya Sawyer, Arielle Durano, Abbie Kent, Ruby Kohler and Jaicee Sabatino for their efforts.

Year 9 students were thrown the challenge to create photographs that explore the theme of “Australia”. They rose to the occasion to produce some thoughtful photographs that were well-presented and demonstrated an awareness of composition.

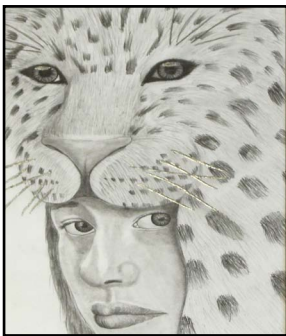
Students in Year 10 were pushed to the limits of their creativity this term when asked to create installation artworks, which are highly conceptual artworks designed to change a space and become an immersive environment for the viewer. Despite being a big break away from traditional artmaking practices, the class delivered some creative and conceptual installation artworks.

We are truly blessed to have such talent in our school.

Kendra Todd
Visual Arts Teacher



Kaiya Sawyer (Year 12)



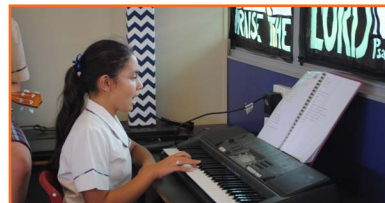
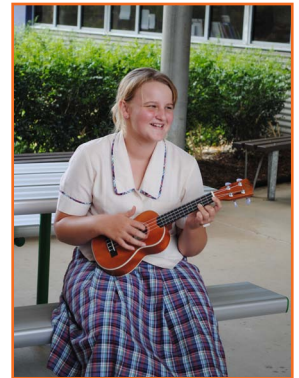
Tahlisha Macmillan (Year 12)



Arielle Durano (Year 11)

Music

Year 7 students' final rotation.



Gingerbread Houses

Year 10 Food Technology creations.

