

St Stephen's
Catholic College



Trust in the Lord

St Stephen's News

Issue 19 - Term 4 - Friday 30 November 2018

Principal: Mrs Ida Pinese

Deputy Principal: Mr Simon Vaughan

Assistant Principal Religious Education: Miss Janai Sugars

Assistant Principal Administration: Mr Rohan Priestly

Business Manager: Mr Hadyn Flynn

College Leader Pastoral Care: Mr Matthew Draper

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The Spirit of Giving!



At the college's final assembly and thanksgiving mass today, the 2019 Social Justice Committee presented the Christmas hampers to St Vincent de Paul for distribution to local residents. Incoming President and Vice-President, Sienna Cheesman and Arwen Rose presented the hampers to representatives from St Vincent de Paul. From left to right: Mrs Eileen Rains, Mrs Brez Goulding, Arwen Rose, Sienna Cheesman and Ms Davina Dansie.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends of St Stephen's

"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

(Michelangelo)



As the 2018 school year comes to an end, it is important for our college community to reflect on the above quotation. Have we been inspirational in our goal setting or are we content to remain in our comfort zone? This not only applies to our students, but also to the strategic priorities of our college.

Upon the completion of five years of secondary school on Friday, 16 November, the year twelve students may question how many times they have set their aim too high and surprised themselves of what they were able to achieve. Certainly, the Queensland Core Skills Test results are a testament that many students possessed the talent to achieve at a very high level with 28% of those who sat the test attaining an "A" result and 64% receiving between an "A" and a "B". They are to be congratulated for this outstanding effort. The graduation celebrations on Friday 16 November were moving events for students, their parents and teachers, and the culmination of a year marked by signature events, assessment, spiritual formation and positive relationships. We wish them the very best for their future aspirations and encourage them to aim high.

With our college entering its fourteenth year in 2019, our community is implementing its strategic directions for the next three years. Feedback from parents, staff and students has been part of this process over the past year and we look forward to the changes in senior curriculum and the completion of major projects such as covered walkways to protect students in inclement weather and the construction of the multi-purpose hall and auditorium. In addition, the college will be mapping out our next master plan for the next ten years, as it is important that we look into the future to envision the requirements of a school in 2028 and beyond.

While the excitement of imminent holidays is being felt by the remaining years seven to eleven cohorts, commitment to doing one's best in final assessment tasks should be a priority for all students. Students will undergo tests until the very last day when school officially ends at 3.00 pm on Friday, 30 November. Our staff will be busy finalising results, preparing for 2019 and welcoming our future year seven students in the final student free week. The challenge for next year will be the implementation of the new Queensland Certificate of Education with year eleven, while year twelve are the final group to undertake studies under the current system. Launching the Catholic Faith in Action program will also be an exciting undertaking and a first, not only for the Diocese of Cairns, but across Australia.

Student leadership positions for 2019 were announced at assembly on 12 November. All students who nominated for leadership are to be congratulated on the manner in which they delivered their presentations to their peers and their demeanour during the election process. It was a rigorous, democratic process which respected the students' voice. We are indeed blessed to have students who are willing to aim high and be of service to our college community.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of a school year is a time for farewells to both staff and students who are relocating. While our staff remains stable, some students are moving to other schools or taking up apprenticeships. We wish them the very best in their new locations and hope that their experience of St Stephen's has been a rewarding one.

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 Mr Vaughan, Miss Sugars, Mr Priestly, Mr Draper 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 for your continued confidence and faith in our college.

God bless you all. I wish all families a holy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2019.

With trust in the Lord

Mrs Ida Pinese | Principal
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"Honest communication is built on truth and integrity and upon respect of the one for the other".

Benjamin E. Mays



- How do we measure well-being of our college?
- Is it in a set of data as a response to specific questions?
- Or is it in the fabric of collective conversations that occur between staff, students and parents every day?

With “well-being” much more than a buzz word, it requires at the very least, one of the many versions of the definition offered to be considered. One definition for well-being that is closely aligned with our college's mission statement is that “every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community”.

How can students be set up to do their best? How can they work productively and contribute to our college? The very basis of realising one's potential, working productively and being able to contribute, is founded on respect. Respectful interactions in the classroom, in the playground and in the broader college community provide the platform for our students to flourish.

Flourishing is the act of growing or developing in a healthy or vigorous way. This year the pastoral team at the college has worked systematically to identify areas of improvement in attending to students' academic, behavioural, social and emotional needs. This team is assisted by our diverse learners team comprised of myself, the college Counsellor - Mrs Michelle Hall and Student Diversity Middle Leader - Mrs Gail Musch.

It is with the notion of flourishing in mind that the diverse learning team ensures that identified students' needs are addressed and supported in a timely manner. The team receives referrals from teachers who request additional support for students who may present with a range of needs, from students with low literacy or numeracy, behavioural concerns, new students, a student whom English is an additional language or a student presenting with social and emotional concerns.

I want to thank the team for their vigilant input this year, which has seen many students supported and encouraged to flourish as learners. I want to thank our college parents for the significant role they play in the shaping of student success and the promotion of positive well-being. Partnering with you to achieve this is not only a shared goal, but a privilege.

Finally, I wish the seniors of 2018 all the best for their future endeavours and congratulate them on their hard work and dedication and I welcome our year seven students of 2019 and look forward to many rewarding times ahead.

Mr Matthew Draper
College Leader Pastoral Care
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FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

FACILITIES UPDATE

Covered Walkways

The start up meeting for the installation of covered walkways was held on Wednesday 14 November. Ian Byrnes Building will commence construction as soon as students depart for Christmas holidays.



Multi-Purpose Hall

The tender process is ongoing, with construction due to start in early 2019.



FINANCE MATTERS

College Fees

It is very important for the college, operationally, to keep the fee collection rate high. Please ensure your fees are fully paid by the end of the year.

2019 Budget

The budget was presented to the Diocesan Board of Governance in October. The budget was within all benchmarks set by the Diocese and approval will allow us to continue to deliver excellent educational outcomes in 2019.

Mr Hadyn Flynn
Business Manager

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BUSINESS LIAISON ASSOCIATION: ARWEN ROSE - YEAR ELEVEN

The ANZAC spirit has been an integral part of Australia's culture since 25 April 1915, and is a significant part of our modern Australian identity. One hundred and three years ago, soldiers from Australia and New Zealand landed on the shores of Gallipoli. It was then, during the first major campaign that Australia fought as a young nation, the ANZAC spirit was born. The valour and sacrifice of the soldiers fighting in 1915 forged the basis of the ANZAC ideals. As evidenced in the brave and selfless acts of our soldiers in World War One, the ANZAC spirit stands for the qualities of courage, endurance, discipline, resourcefulness, sacrifice and mateship. It describes the unwavering willingness to fight for your country and for the person beside you with unbreakable resolve - others before self. The essence of the ANZAC spirit has not really changed from one generation to the next. Since that fateful day in 1915, the spirit of the ANZACs has been evident repeatedly in times of conflict and adversity. This continuity shows that for today's young Australians, the ANZAC 'spirit' is the single most important legacy of World War One.

The ANZAC spirit visibly influences the youth of this nation. Each year, up to 8000 Australians travel to Gallipoli to attend the Dawn Service and pay their respects to those who fought in World War One (SBS News, 2013). Each year, on our televisions, many young Australian faces can be seen in the light of the Turkish dawn. It is evident that the spirit of the ANZACs is still an integral part of Australian identity for many young people. Robert Larkin, president of the Caulfield RSL, describes the enduring ANZAC spirit in his 2011 ANZAC address, stating '...the ANZAC spirit of can-do is still with us today' (ABC News, 2011). This implies that the ANZAC legacy has become an embedded and positive part of our national modern psyche. Entrenched in Australian history and culture, the ANZAC spirit is a shining example of resilience, courage and mateship, set by Australian soldiers, firstly at Gallipoli and then replicated by the generations to follow. The sustained relevance of the ANZAC spirit is obvious in its continuity. The youth of Australia are visibly influenced by the ANZAC story.

In 1915 at ANZAC Cove, Private John Simpson, an ordinary stretcher-bearer, became a vital part of the ANZAC story. With the help of his donkey, he carried injured men from the front line down to safety. Selflessly exposing himself to enemy fire in order to save his comrades, he was killed less than four weeks after arriving. This story is one of the best examples of mateship and sacrifice for Australians (Australian War Memorial, 2017). The ANZAC spirit was also present in the Second World War, as Australians held strong in the Kokoda Campaign, showing grit and determination in a harsh, unforgiving environment. In 1951, during the Korean War, Australia's army battalion, 3RAR, again displayed true ANZAC spirit by holding off the advancing Chinese army. From 1962 to 1975, almost 60 000 Australians served in Vietnam. Their loyalty to their allies and determination to help those in need displays the presence of their ANZAC spirit. Acts of selflessness and courage have become key characteristics of the Australian mindset due to these events.

War memorials have been built in Australia to honour those who served in all conflicts. One such recent memorial is The Afghanistan Avenue of Honour, built in Yungaburra in 2013. The Avenue of Honour is a living tribute to the modern diggers who have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The ANZAC spirit has truly embedded itself in the psyche of our nation and in times of conflict or need, Australians and our fellow New Zealanders stand up to answer the call for help. This spirit extends beyond the anniversary of the Gallipoli landing and ANZAC Day is now the day all Australians who have served and died in conflicts, both past and present, are remembered. ANZAC Day is a public holiday in Australia and businesses are restricted in their opening hours. This illustrates the gravity and respect in which modern Australians hold the ANZAC legacy and spirit. The ANZAC spirit has become the bedrock of our nationhood. For this reason, it will always be an essential and important part of our nation's identity. The ANZAC spirit has remained steadfast over the years, passed down through generations and communities nationwide. The qualities of the ANZAC have grown to include the wider community, as now those who have not served can uphold the ANZAC ideals.

BUSINESS LIAISON ASSOCIATION: ARWEN ROSE - YEAR ELEVEN

A recent statement by The Returned and Services League (RSL) of Western Australia suggests that the spirit of ANZAC is still seen today in times of crisis or hardship. During cyclones, floods, and bushfires, Australians come together "to rescue one another, to ease suffering, to provide food and shelter, to look after one another, and to let the victims of these disasters know they are not alone" (Australian War Memorial, 2017). Arthur Bourke OAM stated that the spirit of ANZAC is not only demonstrated on the battlefield, but is also an intangible moral code. He describes the ANZAC spirit as "a powerful driving sensation that can only be felt. It is a feeling that burns in the heart of every Australian and New Zealand countryman. A warm, tender, fiery, even melancholy ideal that nurtures intense patriotism in the innermost soul of everybody." (Australian War Memorial, 2018). This patriotism and sense of comradeship can be seen when Australians travel overseas. An Australian accent abroad triggers strong feelings of mateship and loyalty amongst ex-patriots. In all of these circumstances, the same set of values has been present and can be summed up by the ANZAC spirit. The courage of our past Australian and New Zealand troops still inspires young Australians to do their best and look out for the next person.

The ideals of the ANZAC spirit are deeply ingrained in Australia's national identity, and the ANZAC ideals have become the values that every Australian aspires to. The apparent reverence and regard for the ANZACs in today's society, along with the folklore of their sacrifices has truly come to define the Australian identity. The continuity of such a relevant legacy confirms the ANZAC spirit as an essential aspect of identity for young Australians today.

Arwen Rose Year Eleven



Year eleven student, Arwen Rose wrote the essay for the Business Liaison Association - Modern History Competition. Arwen received the runner-up award for the year eleven section. Congratulations Arwen!



BUSINESS LIAISON ASSOCIATION - ASPIRE AWARDS

Congratulations to year twelve students, Thomas Hallam and Dayna Scapin on their success at the Business Liaison Association - Aspire Awards held in Cairns on Wednesday 28 November.

FGF Design Awards

Dayna Scapin - Runner Up

Jacobs Engineering Industrial Technology and Design Awards

Thomas Hallam - Winner

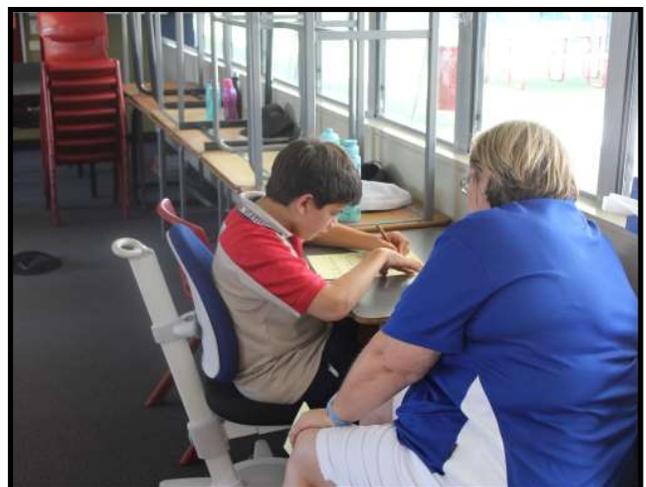


From left to right: Thomas Hallam, Mrs Ida Pinese and Dayna Scapin at the Aspire Awards.



YEAR SEVEN - HEADSTART WORKSHOP AND THE YOUNG COMPANY THEATRE

During the first week of school this year, year seven students attended Headstart workshops and enjoyed performances from The Young Company Theatre. Yesterday, year seven students were fortunate enough to meet with The Young Company Theatre again, to follow up on their first year of high school.



TERM DATES 2019

Term One: Year seven and twelve commence Tuesday 29 January 2019, with all students returning Wednesday 30 January 2019- **Term One ends:** Friday 5 April.

Term Two: Tuesday 23 April to Friday 20 June.

Term Three: Monday 15 July to Friday 20 September.

Term Four: Tuesday 8 October to Friday 29 November.
(Year 12 finish: Friday 15 November)

Public Holidays / Student Free Days

Monday 28 January - Australia Day

Friday 19 April - Good Friday

Monday 22 April - Easter Monday

Thursday 25 April - ANZAC Day

Monday 6 May - Labour Day

Friday 19 July - Cairns Show

Monday 7 October - Queen's Birthday

Friday 26 April - Student Free Day

Monday 21 October - Student Free Day



2019 TERM ONE - SOME DATES TO NOTE

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 February

Year 11 Retreat

Monday 11 February

Opening Mass

Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 12 February

Year 11 Catholic Faith in Action - St Augustine's
P and F - Annual General Meeting

Monday 18 February

Meet and Greet for Year 7 Families

Monday 25 February

Year 12 Information Evening

Wednesday 27 February

Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 6 March

Ash Wednesday

Monday 11 March

Open Evening

Friday 29 March

Cross Country

Monday 1 to Friday 5 April

Year 7 Camp

Monday 1 to Wednesday 3 April

Year 12 Retreat

Friday 5 April

Stations of the Cross Liturgy

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

St Stephen's Catholic College extends its appreciation to our parents and the wider community for their support during 2018.

It has been another successful year in which our students have learnt life lessons and grown in responsibility and confidence.

Best wishes for a Christmas filled with joy and peace.

Mrs Ida Pinese
Principal
St Stephen's Catholic College



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

MAREEBA ROTARY

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 2nd December
6.30pm – Mareeba Turf Club

Staring local performers & a visit from Santa & his Elves!

Candles, food & drinks available

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