



# St Stephen's News

Issue 15 - Term 3 | Monday 21 September 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

## St Stephen's Day!

The St Stephen's Catholic College community gathered last Friday to celebrate the dedication of the College Chapel by the Most Reverend James Foley, Bishop of Cairns. Originally from Watsonville, the historic building was moved to Tolga in 1921 where the Atherton Parish occupied it for many years until part of the original structure was relocated to Mareeba earlier this year. The dedication of the chapel also coincided with the College's annual St Stephen's Day celebration.



*College captains Mellory Aitken and Joshua Priestly, Bishop James Foley, College Principal, Mrs Ida Pinese and Executive Director of Cairns Catholic Education Services, Mr Bill Dixon.*



*Jessyk Ernst.*



*Bishop James officially opened the chapel gardens with Ty and Chase from Inspired Gardens.*



*Tahlia Avolio.*



*Above: Chantelle Hall, Alexis Daven and Lauren Davis. Right: Siblings Mark and Kate Wilcox stole the show winning this year's talent quest.*



*For the first time in the college's history, the seniors won the St Stephen's Day netball game with only one point ahead of the teachers' team.*



*David Bin and Giovanni Gallo enjoying the day.*



# FROM THE Principal



Dear Parents and Friends of St Stephen's

**"Change is the only constant in life." (Heraclitus)**

In the past few weeks there has been information in the media about the changes which are proposed for Queensland secondary education. Understandably, parents may be concerned about how these changes will affect their child's education. Based on a review of senior assessment and tertiary processes by the Australian Council for Educational Research, certain recommendations were made for senior schooling, effective for students entering year 11 in 2018. This is the current year 8 cohort. For the present years 9 to 11 students, the existing system, which includes the Queensland Core Skills test, will continue to operate.

At this stage, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), is preparing the foundation work for this change to senior assessment and tertiary entrance. The strength of the Queensland system has always been the school-based assessment which allows for work programmes and assessment to be relevant to the experiences and environment of students. While retaining this aspect, the change will also involve external assessment which is developed and marked by the QCAA. In addition, there will be a move from the existing Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) so that Queensland will be in line with other states and territories. A new Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce will lead changes and advise on operational issues for a new system. Chaired by the Hon Kate Jones MP, Minister for Education and Training, the taskforce will include representatives from schooling sectors, parents, teachers, principals, the tertiary sector, the QCAA and the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

While this is the most significant change in Queensland's senior schooling since external exams were abolished in 1972, it is important to remember that the student's well-being is always the prime focus of schools. At St Stephen's we will continue to have a holistic approach to education so that in keeping with our Mission Statement, "We seek to develop compassionate, whole people who are morally autonomous and have an awareness of God's presence." The implementation of the Australian Curriculum from year seven to ten has provided opportunities for a review of our offerings and students have a diverse range of subjects to study. In the senior school, the broad range of subjects, based on demand, will continue to be available to students and changes to the senior curriculum will be informed by QCAA's time line. For parents who may wish to obtain more information, the QCAA website is a reliable source. ([www.qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au))

Just as schools do not always have control over curriculum, there are also human resources changes which are inevitable. As with any organisation employing a significant number of people, there are times when teachers are required to take leave which may mean a change of teacher for students. I thank you for your patience and support during these occasions. As change is constant in life, students who develop the skills to be adaptable and accepting of different styles of teaching will be better prepared for the future. I would like to congratulate the year 12 students who demonstrated resilience under pressure, and adaptability to the change in their routine during the recent QCS test.

On Friday 18 September, the college celebrated two important events—the dedication of the beautiful college chapel and St Stephen's Day. I sincerely thank all parents who supported these events by ensuring their children attended school on this day. The respect you continually demonstrate for our college is greatly appreciated and I wish you a rewarding break with your children.

Trust in the Lord  
Mrs Ida Pinese | **Principal**

## FROM THE Deputy Principal Curriculum

Earlier in the term parents and carers of year 7 and 9 students received their child's NAPLAN results. Although this is only one measure of a student's progress, we are very proud of the efforts of these cohorts—attaining results above both the state and national means is a commendable achievement. Our thanks are extended to the students for their application to the testing process and for their teachers who prepared them well for the tests, by covering the required skills in everyday teaching.



### National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Results for year 7 and 9 2015

Year 7	Numeracy	Reading	Spelling	Writing	Grammar and Punctuation
SSCC	555.96	565.88	543.60	515.60	567.30
Cairns Diocese	550.80	553.60	547.90	515.30	551.30
QLD	539.20	542.90	544.30	504.50	538.00
National	542.60	545.90	546.40	510.50	541.30

Year 9	Numeracy	Reading	Spelling	Writing	Grammar and Punctuation
SSCC	602.99	593.70	582.26	562.43	585.82
Cairns Diocese	596.80	588.00	593.00	553.20	583.90
QLD	584.90	572.30	579.50	537.40	565.90
National	591.70	580.40	583.30	546.20	567.70

Please remember that although assessment tasks are completed in term three, no interim reports are prepared. A final report will be issued at the end of semester two.

However, parents who have concerns about their children's progress are encouraged to contact the College to speak to the relevant teachers.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish all members of our community a safe and refreshing break.

Ms Andrea Chiesa  
Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

## FROM THE Assistant Principal Administration

Term three has quickly come to a close, and I would like to thank students, parents, and staff for their cooperation throughout the term. It was especially pleasing to see the respect the students gave the Year 12s during their QCS and block exams, creating a peaceful environment around the testing areas so that the seniors could do their best at these crucial times.



Term four will commence on Tuesday, 6 October. Year 8 students will have their final round of immunisations that morning with the HPV3 injections. Any catch-up vaccinations for students in years 8 and 10 will also be done at this time.

Special events taking place in term four include: The Year 12 Formal (9 October), Awards Night (28 October), and the Year 12 Graduation (20 November). We know that students and parents alike look forward to these occasions, and we at St Stephen's look forward to seeing many of you there.

Parents of students in years 9 to 12 will have received information about the Activities electives being offered in term four. All students participating in activities which cost more than \$3 per week should have paid in advance by now. There was an extension granted to students in years 11 and 12 until Tuesday, the first day back of term four. Students who have not paid in advance will be allocated a school-based activity instead.

For those students leaving campus for their activities, they are reminded that their behaviour must be impeccable. For students who cause disrepute to the college, they will be removed from their chosen activity and be allocated a school-based activity. We know that our students can meet our expectations, and we look forward to having them all enjoy these activities.

Hoping a safe holiday for all, and God bless.

Lance Helms

**Assistant Principal (Administration)**

## FROM THE

### Assistant Principal Religious Education

#### ST STEPHEN'S DAY

St Stephen was a deacon commissioned by the apostles to preach and care for the poorer members of the Christian community. He was an influential speaker and a man of good character, who even when ridiculed and stoned to death, asked God the Father to forgive those who had wronged him. St Stephen is also considered the Church's first martyr.



St Stephen was an influential person in the early Christian community, and a man who was committed to building God's church on earth. That is why it is fitting that we marked our college celebration of his feast day with the dedication of our college chapel. A church is a place where a Christian community can gather to hear the word of God and praise Him, to pray for those in need and to celebrate the holy mysteries. While it is a physical building, it stands as a special representation of the people of God as church, and in this case, our college community and the faith that we share. The altar, which also played a large part in the dedication, stands as a sign of Christ himself, and the sacrifice he made for us.

We are blessed to have such a beautiful sacred space in our college grounds.

#### YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP DAY

On Monday 14 September, our Year 11s gathered for a day of fun and reflection to consider and grow their leadership potential. Mr Terry Power led the students through an engaging session which challenged them to reflect on the values and mission of our college and various leadership styles, with a particular focus on servant leadership. Students also took part in a range of team building activities with Deacon proving to be a mighty force in the team tug-of-war. The day ended with a reflective liturgy in the college chapel where students spent time considering their leadership capacity, set personal leadership goals for 2016 and drew on the lives of the patrons of their pastoral houses for leadership inspiration. We wish all of our Year 11s the very best as they prepare to take on their roles as the senior leaders of St Stephen's Catholic College.

Mrs Laura Gilbert

**Assistant Principal (Religious Education)**

**Wishing everyone a safe and  
happy holiday!**

**Classes resume  
Tuesday 6 October 2015**

**St Stephen's Catholic College**

proudly presents our annual

*Awards  
Night*

**Wednesday, 28 October 2015**

**7.30 pm**

**Mareeba International Club**

## FROM THE Guidance Counsellor

It is important that parents are aware of the social media sites their child is accessing and also the pros and cons of social media. This week, I want to share a Cyberbullying website with you: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au). This site has an interesting video which shows a Quick Guide to Popular Social Media sites and apps. The website has cyberbullying resources, phone numbers and guidelines on how to lodge a complaint.



Since July 1st, 2015, there is a newly formed 'Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner'. This Office can explain the cyberbullying complaints scheme which is administered by the Office under the Enhancing Online Safety for Children Act 2015. The Act allows children suffering from serious cyberbullying to contact the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner to have the content removed if social media companies do not remove the offending content after it has been reported to them.

I hope you enjoy the school holidays with your children and that you get them off screens to enjoy some family time together.

Mrs Michelle Hall | **Guidance Counsellor**  
[mhall3@sscc.qld.edu.au](mailto:mhall3@sscc.qld.edu.au)

## Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Mr Dwayne Miller and Ms Leah Aplin who were nominated in the Australian Scholarship Group National Excellence in teaching Awards. ASG NEITA are the only community based awards giving school communities and boards of management an opportunity to recognise and thank teachers for the crucial work they do making a real difference in education.



## The Arts & LOTE

For the Arts and LOTE Department the highlight this term has been the Arts Exhibition. On behalf of Ms Sugars, Mrs Malcolm, Ms Todd, Ms Morrow and Mr Priestly I take this opportunity to congratulate all the students who participated in this year's Exhibition.



Thank you to the Music students: Emily Hallam, Amber Rankine, Lilian Legge, Timothy Fraser, Brienne So Choy, Annalisse Troncone, Jamie Malcolm, Kealan Boyd, Sarah Mirarchi, Katie Vohland and Cooper Mc Grath for offering us such a pleasant evening, entertaining us with your songs, your compositions and a variety of musical pieces played on the piano, the guitar and the ukulele.

Drama students: Jacinta Carusi, Olivia Sturgiss, Skyla Daven and Daniel Houlihan gave a great performance of Greek Theatre. Thank you to Alex Snell, Jamie Malcolm and Lillian Legge for the delightful Children's theatre.

Maddison Leonforte and Tulani Lea'uanæ gave us a lively dramatization of the poem, "A city of Yes and a city of No". Congratulations to Mathilde Gargan for her exceptional rendition of Ophelia.

Thank you to the year 7 to 12 Visual Arts students for the impressive display of their skills. Congratulations to Kaiya Sawyer and Tahlisa Macmillan who have been selected to participate in the Cairns Energy Exhibition and the State Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art. We wish them good luck.

Finally, we would like to say thank you to the Japanese students and their teachers from Noah School for sharing their culture with us during their visit. We also wish a wonderful trip to all the students and teachers who are going to Japan.

Françoise Nozaic  
**Curriculum Leader - The Arts and LOTE**  
[fnozaic@sscc.qld.edu.au](mailto:fnozaic@sscc.qld.edu.au)

## YEAR 7 NEWS

Term three has flown by, with students fully embracing the life of a high school student, taking all school has to offer in their stride. All year 7 students have settled back into semester two with great ease. Many events have taken place this term, with students representing Mareeba district in athletics, netball, chess, soccer, and touch football, Mathematics, playing in the school band and even attending the state championships for Readers Cup. Students have been very keen to take on school life fully displayed through their efforts towards study and extra curricula activities. It was great to see the work ethic and enthusiasm of many year 7 students during term three.



Last Friday we had St Stephen's Day celebrations and it is one of the best school days in the year. Each homeroom prepared an activity or a stall for the rest of the school. It is really a great day and every year it is enjoyed by all of the students. Students from years 7-9 competed in a knock-out tug of war competition between pastoral teams. It was a tough competition and allowed our junior secondary students to develop better relationships and sporting skills within the different pastoral houses.

In term four, parents are encouraged to work along side their students to create a term planner which includes the days that homework will be completed, assignment due dates, tests and all assessment items, extra curricula activities and even social events. Having a planner allows students to plan their work over the term and reminds the students about deadlines and upcoming commitments. Students often think they have 'no time' to study, but many of them think of study time in terms of two hours or more. While long time slots are necessary in higher year levels, medium and short time slots can be used just as effectively, especially for year 7 students. A well-used 15 minutes is more effective than a wasted two hours. Using time on bus and car trips home or lunch times is an effective use of time.

Parents are also encouraged to thoroughly monitor their student's SRB (student record book) and keep track of assignment due dates, homework and teacher's comments. The SRB is a great source of information and a great way to see what is happening in your child's school life.

If for some reason your child is not in the correct full uniform, a note must be written. Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the uniform policy. Girls are expected to be wearing blue, white or beige hair-ties or have a blue, white or beige ribbon covering the hair-tie.

Moving into term four, it is important that a positive parent-teacher relationship continues with open communication as this benefits students, parents and teachers and is what makes learning successful.



*"A positive parent-teacher relationship helps your child feel good about school and be successful in school," advises Diane Levin, Ph.D., professor of education at Wheelock College.*

*"It demonstrates to your child that he can trust his teacher, because you do. This positive relationship makes a child feel like the important people in his life are working together."*

Enjoy the break and I hope families have time 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 four will be interesting and quick. I look forward to seeing all year 7 students refreshed and ready to tackle term four.

Jayarani Salerno | **Middle Leader Pastoral (Year 7)**  
JSalerno@sscc.qld.edu.au

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 13 2015 at 5.30 pm

St Stephen's Catholic College  
Administration Block

## Readers Cup

On September 2nd, Jack Burnside, Arosh Heenkenda, Emily Perrett and Gordon Yates, travelled to Brisbane to compete in the Readers Cup State Finals. During their stay in Brisbane the students visited the Queensland Museum, competed in the finals and experienced Nitrogenie, an ice cream shop that makes ice cream in front of your eyes using liquid nitrogen. The highlight was the day spent at the Brisbane Writers festival attending sessions hosted by well-known authors.

For the last 8 weeks, these students have been avidly reading five new texts (different from the first round of the competition) and spending their lunchtimes working on analysing the novels. They are to be commended for their dedication, determination and their love of reading.



*Gordon Yates, Jack Burnside, Mrs Gillies, Arosh Heenkenda and Emily Perrett.*

The students themselves have written about their experience.

'We qualified for the state finals of the Readers Cup 2015. These finals were held in Brisbane at the State Library of Queensland on Wednesday September 2nd. Author James Moloney was the guest presenter of the night and the writer of one of the five books we had to read for the competition.

The competition was brain teasing and very difficult. Although we didn't place overall, we were able to score the highest points in one round and win a collection of books.

On Thursday, we attended the Brisbane Writers Festival. We were fortunate to be able to participate in author workshops during the day. We met Deb Fitzpatrick, Christine Bongers, Cassandra Cale and Holly Black. At the book signing table we sighted many well-known authors, such as Emily Rodda, Andy Griffiths and Nick Earls.

This was an amazing and insightful experience. We hope to compete again next year.'

**Jack Burnside, Arosh Heenkenda, Emily Perrett and Gordon Yates.**

## Past Student Success



College Dux and OP 1 student in 2012, Meg Donovan recently presented at the annual UQ Undergraduate Research Conference in Brisbane. Meg discussed her research on the dynamics of intercellular calcium levels with response to glucose stimulation in a model for mouse and pancreatic beta cells. The Biomedical student was one of three students who received an award in recognition of her dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to excellence in research. The St Stephen's community congratulates Meg on her outstanding achievement and wishes her the very best for further studies.

## Hitting the High Notes

Congratulations to Amber Rankine, Celina and Ellana Spina who all received Honours for the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) piano exams recently.



## Sporting Success

Eden Brandon recently competed in the national Cross Country and placed sixth in Australia for the 2 km race. Well done Eden!



Hunter Liebold (Year 10) broke the high jump record, clearing 1.80 m jump at Little Athletics regional championships in Cairns last weekend. Hunter qualified for the State championships which will be held in Brisbane next year. Congratulations Hunter!



## Great Wheelbarrow Race 2015

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Quality Timbers Mareeba Pty Ltd  
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*St Augustine's*  
 COLLEGE



presents

## PARENTS IN TOUCH

TERM 4, 2015

### An Evening with Sue Roffey



**"PROMOTING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND WELLBEING"**

**WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2015**

Dear Parents and Friends

You are invited to our special Parents in Touch evening presented by Sue Roffey. Sue is a psychologist, academic, author, activist and speaker. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Western Sydney and an Affiliate of the Wellbeing Institute at Cambridge University. She is currently part of the *Growing Great Schools* project team which addresses whole student-whole school wellbeing. Sue will be asking some challenging questions about what we really want for our children's future and how we can help young people to really flourish.

**Date:** Wednesday 28 October 2015  
**Time:** 7.30pm start  
**Venue:** Lennon Hall  
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person  
 Payment can be made at Reception  
 or over the phone with credit card  
**RSVP:** By Friday 23 October  
 Telephone: 4051 5555  
 Email: [reception@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:reception@sac.qld.edu.au)

**THIS EVENT IS FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

We are bringing Sue from Sydney for this event, so I look forward to a large turnout of parents and friends. I know parents will enjoy her presentation and look forward to you joining us on the night.

Br Darren Burge FMS  
 Principal



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