

St Stephen's
Catholic College



St Stephen's News

Issue 18 - Term 4 - Week 6

Principal: Ms Kerry Manders
Deputy Principal: Mr Simon Vaughan
Assistant Principal Religious Education: Ms Janai Sugars
Assistant Principal Administration: Ms Toni Smith (Acting)
Business Manager: Mr Hadyn Flynn
College Leader Pastoral Care: Mr Matthew Draper

 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Year 7 Camp!



The year seven cohort have had the opportunity to attend Camp Patterson this week. A full recap and more photos will be published in the next newsletter.

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Website: www.sccc.qld.edu.au

NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS:



TERM DATES 2020

Term 4
Tuesday 5 October
to
Friday 27 November

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 email the principal (ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au) with any information and photos.

Change of Details

To ensure communication is received, please advise the college if you have changed your email address. Please email the office: ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au or telephone: 4086 2500. This also applies to any other contact details.

ABSENTEE EMAIL

If your child is absent, please email:
ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au

Maths Tutoring Available

Tuesday and Thursday

Recess 2 - MCR

(all students welcome)

Wednesday

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Library

Years 10 -12 only



Coronavirus (COVID-19)
UPDATES AND RESOURCES



Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 by clicking on the link above.

CHESS CLUB

with Mr Harnischfeger (Mr H)

Room: MCR - during Recess 2
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

On Wednesday, we commemorated Remembrance Day, we remembered all those who have died or suffered for Australia in all wars and conflicts. We did not celebrate; we took time to commemorate and that is very different. A celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge a significant event with a social gathering and enjoyable activities. We might celebrate a graduation with a family dinner. Celebration is about recognising the significant event in a joyful way. We do not celebrate on ANZAC Day or Remembrance Day - we are called to show our respect and give thanks for the sacrifice that was made. This is exactly what we do on Remembrance Day – we recall often retelling the story, show respect and gratitude with silence. We remember all those that have represented us in the armed forces, in the past and in the present; for those that came home and those that did not. What makes it so powerful is we do this in such a simple act by standing together in silence.



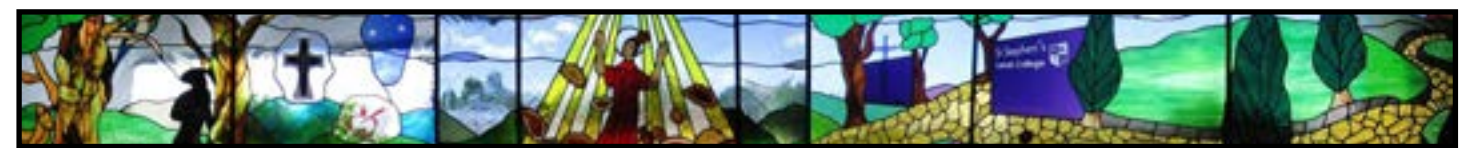
I have been to many commemoration services and I am always struck by the solidarity and simplicity of this act. I believe that the simple gestures are often the most powerful.

Let us think about why it is so powerful. In a world of constant connection and noise, the act of being silent is often tough. It is a small sacrifice that reflects a much larger one. So, it is important for each of us to undertake to do this with absolute focus. It is a time for others, not for me. This act of silence and restraint shows an attempt to understand a much greater sacrifice. I started to wonder how these simple acts of respect and self-control could be replicated in our day-to-day lives to make our community a better place. The first line of our Mission Statement says, "St Stephen's Catholic College is a community which strives to create a sense of family". I wonder how each one of us feels a sense of family? For me it is about a welcome with 'figurative' open arms (COVID-19 safe). This leads me to the next question – what simple act would create a sense of family? We have looked to make our school frontage a welcoming place with shaded park benches and our Mary Garden to follow. What else do we need to do there to say welcome to all and nurture our St Stephen's family in light of the charism of St Stephen?

Charism is the gift from God reflected in the story created by a Patron's life. St Stephen's charism is the spirit of our College, that helps show us how to know God and to live with each other. We know St Stephen wanted to bring people to know Jesus, we can see that it was a spirit of service. This type of service is about having courage, faith and hope. It is about knowing that we can help others and make a difference. Service is faith and hope put into action and this takes courage. There is a simple act that demonstrates a spirit of service and welcome - it is 5 simple words - "Hello, how can I help?" A simple act we can all do together. It will take courage to welcome each person with a simple act of service "Hello, how can I help?". In asking this question, each one of us tries to make a difference in our world and thereby creating a community of welcome and a sense of family and living out our mission statement.

Preparations for 2021

2021 will bring about several staff changes. Mr Priestly has resigned from his role as Assistant Principal Administration. As a result, we have decided to modify the Leadership Team structure. The role will now be Assistant Principal Students and the focus of the role will be the pastoral care of students. We are currently recruiting for the role and will notify you of the successful applicant in the next newsletter.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONT)

In addition, this semester we have been consulting with staff on the Middle Leadership structure for the next triennium. There has been some restructure and we will move to advertise the incumbents in the next newsletter. We also have four new staff starting. Ms Ashburton in Art and Humanities, Mr Milevskiy in IT, Maths and Science, Ms Kleyn in Maths and Business and Mr Paolacci in Humanities and Business.

As well, we will have 120 new year 7 students and approximately 20 new students in years 8 to 12. It is a joyful time and we look forward to welcoming them and continuing to build our St Stephen's family. We will introduce them all at the start of next year.

Parent Portal

St Stephen's provides an online Parent Portal for all families. This portal is the "one-stop shop" for information on all happenings at the College. In 2021 we will provide more details and information regarding report cards and parent correspondence being available on the Parent Portal. Each parent will be able access our online portal with a username and password. If you are unable to locate your username, please contact the office for further assistance.

Road Safety

Student safety is a top priority for us, as such, we insist that students follow our road safety rules and these are:

1. Students cross Mclver Road at the designated zone near the Cater Road corner.
2. Students wait for parents in the designated "pick up" zones.
3. Student drivers register their vehicle with Student Services.

In light of some recent "near misses", I ask that parents DO NOT collect students from the other side of Mclver Road in front of the college. Instead they wait further up the road near the pedestrian zone to allow students to cross safely. I thank you in advance for prioritising student safety.

SchoolTV

As mentioned in previous newsletters, I would like to thank the College P & F for funding the SchoolTV program. It is a "one-stop shop" for all questions related to raising teenagers. The information is curated from a range of leading Australian experts. One section that I think is timely is advice from Michael Carr-Gregg on "exam jitters". (sccc.qld.schooltv.me/newsletter/exam-jitters). As we are entering the exam period, parents can find more information on how to support their child as they navigate this term four exam period.

I wish you all the best for the last few weeks of school as we head into the summer months. May the peace, love and patience of Christ be with you.

God Bless.

Ms Kerry Manders

Principal

Email: ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au

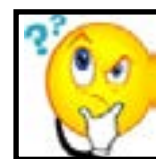
MIDDLE LEADER - YEAR 11

Week six already - only two weeks to go!

It has been reassuring to see the way in which our year eleven students have taken up the responsibility of being our "senior" students. While the senior area around S-Block is certainly somewhat quieter since the year twelve students finished at the end of week three, the year eleven students have not wasted any time in rising to the expectation that comes with being year twelve students. As I said to students recently, they have very much commenced their final year at St Stephen's - in less than twelve months, it will be them doing their final exams.



Although year eleven students are heading into their final weeks of the school year, it is important to remember that, in many subjects, they have in fact commenced their year twelve units of work. Work commenced now,



carries over to the commencement of 2021 so it is important that students maintain appropriate levels of work ethic and attendance. Remember that staff are here to assist you as your child's first educators and can be contacted should you have any concerns about your child's progress.

Who Do We Contact? A good starting point is me as their Pastoral Leader, particularly in cases of pastoral, social, emotional, wellbeing and behavioural concerns. I will always direct you to other, more relevant, staff if necessary. Curriculum matters can be directed to subject teachers or the subject Middle Leader (the head of that department) or Mr Simon Vaughan (Deputy Principal) as the College Curriculum Leader. Vocational and/or career questions can be directed to Mr Vaughan or me (ie: traineeships, apprenticeships, tertiary options, vocational pathways). Our Guidance Counsellor, Ms Murat, is also available for contact regarding social, emotional, organisational and general guidance matters for parents/carers and students. The front office and student services staff are also more than willing and able to direct your concerns and questions to relevant staff. Remember that staff emails are available from the college website.

Student Drivers: Students driving to and from school in their own vehicles (and their parents/carers) are reminded that the college has a policy in place to help ensure, essentially, driver safety. Students must complete a student driver form, available from student services, before being permitted to park on school grounds. The policy outlines expectations and consequences of breaches of the policy. Matters concerning breaches of the policy will be discussed with parents/carers as necessary. For now though, I remind you all that student drivers are not permitted to transport anyone else other than their own siblings.



Keeping It Uniform: I continue to be pleased with the standard of uniform among the year eleven students. The college uniform is outlined in the student diary (otherwise known as the SRB) and I thank parents/carers for their support of the expectation of a correctly and neatly worn college uniform. It remains that, in cases of incorrect uniform, students may be issued a ten minute uniform and grooming detention during second recess (or similar) with repeat concerns attracting increased penalties. Areas of concern of late have been around unshaven; hair length and hair being worn off the face; and the number and type of earrings. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's uniform.

Great Wheelbarrow Race 2021: Year eleven students have been asked to consider registering their name as a member of the Saints Wheelbarrow Race Team in 2021 (term two/week four). This is a great opportunity for students to volunteer their time and effort for a worthwhile community fundraising event. Past teams have done the College proud over the years. Students have been asked to let me know as soon as possible their interest in being considered for this team. Students have been issued further information via email.



Until next time, take care.

Mr Paul MacCallum

Middle Leader Pastoral - Year 11

Email: pmacallum@cns.catholic.edu.au



This term at St Stephen's we're collecting hamper donations for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Donations can be brought to home form each morning.

WHAT TO DONATE

Hamper foods:

- Tinned food
- Cereal
- Pancake mix
- Biscuits
- Dried beans, lentils
- Instant noodles
- Pasta, rice
- Vegemite and other spreads
- Christmas cake, fruit mince pies
- Long life juice/ cordial

- Pasta sauce
- Jelly
- Gravy mix
- Chips and snacks
- Candy canes
- Confectionary
- Long life custard/ custard powder
- Long life/ powdered milk
- Tea, coffee, sugar, Milo

Christmas items:

- Bon bons
- Tinsel
- Christmas cards

- Gift tags
- Decorations
- Small toys/ gifts

VET AND PATHWAYS

It has been a busy couple of weeks with year twelve students completing their final exams (externals) of secondary education. There is the typical mixture of those who are keen to join the work force, those seeking tertiary study and everything in between. Regardless, it is an exciting time, or at least it should be as these great students embark on the next chapter of their lives.



We also have a number of students across years nine and ten looking to undertake school-based apprenticeships or traineeships in 2021. Additionally, a number of year ten students have already enrolled in TAFE-At-School courses, or similar, in preparation for their senior years of study in 2021.

Pathways Talk – Occupational Therapist: what do they do? how do you get to be one? Would you like to know more about what an Occupational Therapist does? Students have the opportunity to ask questions of Mrs Margaret Snell, a CES-employed occupational therapist. Margert is generously offering her time this coming Monday 16 November, during second recess in S1. All students are able to attend and find out about this type of work.



Job Jumpstart: Casual Job Opportunities For The Christmas Break: Job Jumpstart is an Australian Government initiative that provides tools and articles for jobseekers at all stages of their career but is centred around the three stages of work: 'Looking for a Job', 'Building a Career' and 'At Work'. With the Christmas period fast approaching, Job Jumpstart sets out four tips for maximizing your chances of landing a Christmas casual opportunity:

1. Start early – Do not wait until December as some employers may have already started the search.
2. Be honest about your availability – be upfront about days you will not be available. Do not rule yourself out of a position because you think they are expecting staff on call 24/7.
3. Make an effort on your personal presentation – The short employment period does not mean they are looking for sub-standard staff. Tailor your resume to the job and make a good impression by presenting well.
4. Use this as a stepping stone – Use your time in the job to show you are a great asset to the business. This will either give you more opportunities in the future, or at least a good reference.

[Read the full article on the Job Jumpstart website.](#)

The Seven Types Of Work: Which type suits you? Can you enjoy a combination? It is generally agreed that there are seven types of work. Knowing about each of the types of work can help you make a good decision about the career path/s that best suits your interests. The seven work types are:

- Analytic & Scientific - Work out solutions to problems through theories and ideas and by investigation and experimentation.
- Creative & Artistic - Express yourself and your ideas through your work.
- Helping & Advising - Help people, often through advising, teaching, guiding or treating them.
- Nature & Recreation - Many occupations involve working outdoors and are active and physical.
- Organising & Clerical - Occupations that gather facts and figures and recording and interpreting them.
- Persuading & Service - Selling, or promoting ideas or a point of view, often industries involving people.
- Practical & Manual - Working with a lot of tools and equipment, and their hands, to make things.

Go to <https://www.aapathways.com.au/career-research/interest-explorer-page> to read a definition of each of the work types.

VET AND PATHWAYS

Community Care And Disability Sector? This sector is one of the largest in Australia and is growing. It provides a range of services aimed at improving the quality of life for people with support needs, including those who:

- Are elderly, frail or infirmed;
- Have physical or intellectual disabilities; or
- Have mental health issues.



The sector employs people from a broad range of occupations, from project managers to community care assistants. Do the Career Quiz on the [Care Careers](#) website to find jobs within a sector that suits your personality and work goals.

Upcoming Events

- Barista Training – for registered students, Saturday 21 or Saturday 28 November; students are currently completing their initial hygiene unit before their practical session on one of the above dates.
- Career Talk – What does an Occupational Therapist do? Want to find out more about this line of work? Come to S1 during second recess on Monday 16 November.

Until next time, take care.

Mr Paul MacCallum

Middle Leader VET and Vocational Learning

Email: pmaccallum@cns.catholic.edu.au

ST STEPHEN'S ALUMNI: ALEXANDRIA STRUTHERS

Alexandria Struthers graduated from St Stephen's Catholic College in 2015. Alexandria recently graduated with a Bachelor of Digital Media from Central Queensland University, with specialities in the Graphic Design and Video and Animation. Alex is currently working in Townsville as a Website Designer/Stylist with Mitchell Creative.

Congratulations Alexandria!



Alexandria was part of the Social Justice Committee and also received the Sr Mary Stephen - Award for Character.

SCHOOL TV - HAVING THE ALCOHOL DISCUSSION

With the impending festive season and end of school celebrations, some teenagers may be feeling ready to party, wanting to put the disruptions, frustrations and disappointments of this past year, behind them. To ensure our young people stay safe during this time, parents and carers are encouraged to have the alcohol discussion - no matter how difficult or overwhelming it may be. It is important to outline the rules and boundaries around age-appropriate alcohol consumption and what the legal implications may be.

Young people are at greater risk of alcohol-related harm than adults because their brains continue to develop until their mid-twenties. The safest level of alcohol consumption for teenagers, is no alcohol at all, but this may be difficult to enforce and may not prevent them from experimenting. However, parents and carers can influence sensible drinking habits and help minimise the risks. In this Special Report, a series of discussion points are offered to help make the conversation about alcohol consumption a little easier. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

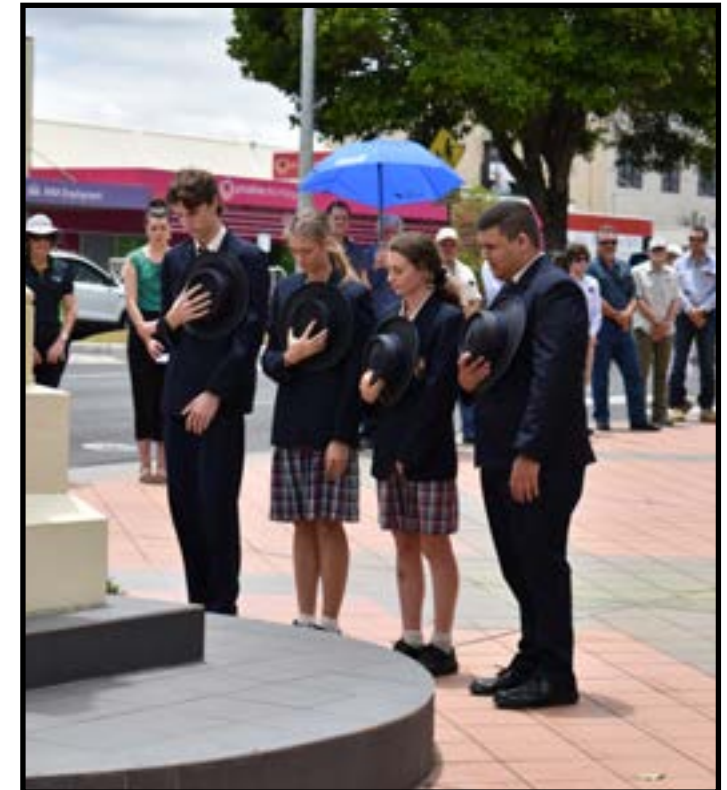
Here is the link to your special report https://scc.qld.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-having-alcohol-discussion-au



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REMEMBRANCE DAY - WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020



The 2021 College Captains, along with the College Choir and Bugler - Luke Rantucci, attended the Remembrance Day Commemoration Service at the Mareeba Cenotaph - Lest we forget





- Celebrating 15 years of Quality Catholic Secondary Education -