



TRINITY
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
AUBURN/REGENTS PARK

College Newsletter

2 May 2017



From The Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of the Trinity Catholic College community,



Happy Easter to all of our families. While we finished the term with a solemn ceremony outlining the passion of Jesus Christ that led to his ultimate crucifixion, we need to always remember that Christ died for us and importantly rose again on the third day. As such, our challenge is to be focused on hope and the meaning of Christ's resurrection for us and our lives.

Upcoming Events

Term 1, Week 2

- **Thursday, May 4**
Year 9 Drama Incursion
- **Friday, May 5**
5pm - Debating Round 2
REMAR Camp - Year 11

Welcome back!

I welcome all students and their families back for Term 2. I am most impressed with the way our students present themselves, it is wonderful to see how our students take such great pride with their uniform and presentation. Importantly, in a recent enrolment interview, a parent disclosed just how impressed she was with our students as she drives down Park Road each day. Well done Trinity!!

Reflection

Every few years I like to share one of my favourite poems with both our staff and parents. This poem is called **"The Average Child"** by Mike Buscemi

*I don't cause teachers trouble;
My grades have been okay.
I listen in my classes.
I'm in school every day.
My teachers think I'm average;
My parents think so too.
I wish I didn't know that, though;
There's lots I'd like to do.
I'd like to build a rocket;
I read a book on how.
Or start a stamp collection...
But no use trying now.
'Cause, since I found I'm average,
I'm smart enough you see
To know there's nothing special
I should expect of me. I'm part of that majority,
That hump part of the bell,
Who spends his life unnoticed
In an average kind of hell.*

This poem reflects about 60-70% of students and the greatest danger we face as teachers and parents is to convince these children that they are not just average. **In fact, they are each unique, beautiful and immensely talented, they just need to believe that they are.** The well regarded educational expert John Hattie identifies “student expectations” as one of the most powerful contributors to educational success. When school and home work together in partnership, we have a wonderful opportunity to help our children reach far beyond their potential.

I can see at Trinity this is not the case for by far the great majority of students, who are safe, happy and indeed, very well taught. It is always important though to remember those students who sometimes fly just under the radar, attracting no great attention. As parents and teachers, what more could we do to recognise and encourage them to be confident, courageous and hopeful?

Mother's Day Mass

Our Mother's Day Mass will commence at 11am on Friday, May 12. As we will be providing a light lunch after the Mass, it is imperative to have an accurate numbers for catering purposes, as such a letter will be sent home this week and we ask that you return the response slip advising us of who will be attending from your family. I remind all parents that all students will be required to return to class for periods 4 and 5. Please don't ask for your child to leave early with you on this day as this will be politely declined.

Enrolments for 2018 & beyond

I would like to advise that we will have a wait list again for Year 7, 2018 and 2019 is filling fast. We will be conducting interviews for Year 7 2018 in the next few weeks and once these are finalised we will complete our interviews for Year 7, 2019. From 2018, we will be conducting all enrolment interviews when students are in Year 5. We have adopted this approach to fall in line the the requirements of Sydney Catholic Schools enrolment policy.

We currently have over 250 applications for Year 7, 2018. I ask all parents to ensure that sibling applications are sent to our office early (**In Year 4**) to ensure that your child can be accommodated.

Whilst we give preferences to our feeder schools and siblings, if we don't have your child's application by the start of Year 5, we may not be able to accommodate your application at a later stage, as positions may have been offered to other students.

May: Month of Mary



A few years ago I attended a Marist conference where this image painted by Frank Mesaric (oil on canvas) was used to support the theme of the conference “She went in haste to the Hill country”. Br.Tony Butler FMS offers the following reflection:

“In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.” Luke 1:39-40. Mary has just become pregnant with Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit and at the same time she hears that her older cousin Elizabeth has unexpectedly become pregnant (her son is to be known as John the Baptist). Mary hastens to visit Elizabeth on a journey of about 100 k. Elizabeth's needs are of greater concern to Mary than her own safety: she goes as quickly as she can to be of service to her cousin, as well as to bring the good news of the coming of the long awaited Messiah.

Br. Tony challenges us to try to do the same: in our daily actions, let us be of service to one another and also bring the good news to others by our care and selflessness. Others? Everyone we encounter – people of many beliefs or none, however they dress, whatever their colour (especially in these days of heightened anxiety in our own country, let alone the world).

During May, we will be reciting the Rosary at lunch-time, I ask parents to encourage your sons and daughters to participate in this wonderful opportunity and to reflect on how “they will go in haste to their hill country”.

Semester 1 Exams

Over the next few weeks our students will be involved in range of exams and assessments. I encourage all students to develop comprehensive study notes, set aside time for study and revision and to pay close attention to the assessment requirements as described in their Assessment notifications.

Unfortunately some students who have not attended to this revision and study program will be tempted to take days off school to prepare. I advise parents to challenge this behaviour, it is not fair to gain an advantage over other students by taking days off school to prepare for exams. Students who gain unfair advantage may jeopardise their own results in the event of an appeal.

I wish all students well in their preparation and the exams themselves.

Attendance Update

At the start of the year I challenged all students to be at school unless they were genuinely sick. I am pleased to report that our attendance rate is already higher than the same time last year! Well done to all students and your PC teachers. As we approach the winter months, let's keep a close eye on our attendance and lateness! I remind students in years 9 & 10 of the end of year incentive for **Perfect Attendance** (Wet & Wild or possibly a Movie afternoon)

God Bless,
Daniel Delmage, Principal

NAPLAN reminder

A reminder that Year 7 and 9 students will be sitting their NAPLAN tests on Tuesday May 9, Wednesday May 10 and Thursday May 11. As students complete their tests at the start of each of the days, it is important that they are not late to school on these days.

Students are reminded to bring the following equipment to the tests:

- A HB or 2B pencil
- A sharpener
- A black biro
- A calculator (numeracy tests only)
- An eraser

NAPLAN Mythbusting and Demonstration Tests for Parents and Students in Year 9

NESA have released further information on their website, busting some of the myths being reported by various media outlets. You can review their updated FAQs [here](#).

You can also review Demonstration Test questions for the online literacy and numeracy tests [here](#). Students and parents are reminded that if a student achieves the minimum standard (i.e. Band 8) in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in Year 9, they are not required to sit the online tests; students need only attempt tests in the domains for which they did not achieve a Band 8 in 2017 before they can be eligible for the award of the HSC in 2020. Students will have up to two (2) opportunities each year between Years 10 and 12 to sit the online tests and can up until five (5) years after they complete the HSC in 2020 to demonstrate the minimum standards.

We have included **advice to Parents** about these changes in the following slides.

HSC MINIMUM STANDARD

ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 9 STUDENTS 2017

March 2017

In 2020, your child will need to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to qualify for a Higher School Certificate (HSC).



PRACTICAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS



The minimum standard will ensure that your child is ready for further education and training, employment and life after school.

The standard is set at Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), a nationally agreed standard of functional literacy and numeracy.

It means students can do things like:

Find the time and date of a music concert on an online ticket website

Calculate the quantity of paint required to paint a room

Estimate distance, travel time and costs for a transport route

Take notes from a lecture or training session

Create a personal weekly budget in a spreadsheet

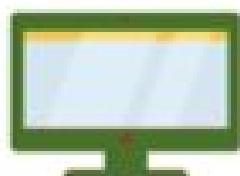
Write a job application letter

Measure quantities to follow a recipe

Follow safety instructions in an equipment manual

Enter data in a computer-based management system

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE STANDARD



Your child will show that they have met the standard by passing new online reading, writing and numeracy tests.

They will take the online tests at school. Your child can take the tests up to twice a year in:

- ✔ Year 10
- ✔ Year 11
- ✔ Year 12
- ✔ for up to five years after they start their first HSC course.

Students can take the tests from next year when they are in Year 10.

Visit the demonstration site to see sample test questions:

<https://hscliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

YEAR 9 NAPLAN: A CHANCE TO PREQUALIFY FOR THE STANDARD

Your child can prequalify for the standard by achieving Band 8 or above in their Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests this year. This means that they won't have to take the online tests.

It is important for you to know that not all students are expected to achieve Band 8 in their Year 9 NAPLAN tests this year.

Your child will not be stopped from getting the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results.



Your child's literacy and numeracy skills will continue to develop and it is expected that they will meet the standard either by the end of Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12.

Your child's school will provide support for them to meet the standard to get the HSC.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your school principal for more detailed information about the minimum standard, or visit the NESA website:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au>

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Exciting Year 8 & 9 Personal Development Workshops at School next Term

On May 24th we will hold a special day here at the College for our students in year 8 and 9. The boys will take part in a day entitled '**Goodfellas**' and the girls will complete a mini-course called '**Girls Essentials**'. This day revolves around building student's respect for themselves and others as young people, and developing their knowledge and skills in successfully and safely interacting and building friendships with others. Very importantly, the workshops aim to help the boys and girls understand that they are valuable individuals who are all different and that they can make sensible and informed decisions in their behaviours and conduct, when using the internet, the media and in dealing with others in person. Personal safety, including in the online world, is a particular topic of both the boys and girls workshops.

There will be separate workshops for boys and girls and the issues that affect them will be dealt with sensitively and constructively, building their confidence and resilience.

There will also be a **free parent workshop** on the evening of the 24th to help parents in understanding their teenagers and how to support them in today's world.

All of Year 8 and 9 will be based on the Auburn campus for this important day and we look forward to your support of this very important initiative. More details will be sent to families shortly.

With thanks for your support,

Donna McLaughlin,
Assistant Principal

Stage 6 Parent/Teacher/Student

A reminder Tuesday May 30 (8:30 am until 8:00pm) has been set aside for Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews for Year 11 and Year 12 students in the College Hall. Please note that the online bookings close on Friday May 29. An email and note has been sent home with details on how to book.

Wellbeing - Headspace Resource – How to talk about suicide with young people


Exposure to traumatic and distressing content via various forms of media can leave the viewer feeling emotionally impacted. Australia's leading government funded adolescent mental health support service, Headspace has received an increased volume of contact from people impacted after viewing a popular Netflix television series. There is controversy in the narrative and graphic content surrounding a range of issues, particularly suicidality.

Please take the time to read the resource by Headspace to assist parents/carers to appropriately support students who may be impacted by exposure to the show.

<https://headspace.org.au/assets/School-Support/How-to-talk-about-suicide-with-young-people.pdf?platform=hootsuite>

Stations of the Cross (from our local Parishes)

In preparation for Holy Week and in remembrance of Jesus' Passion, Year 10 REMAR students offered a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross, through the eyes of Mary, for the school community. The solemnity of the occasion was captured wonderfully by these students, who portrayed the last moments of Jesus' life and the anguish experienced by his mother Mary. So powerful was their work that they were asked to reprise their roles on Good Friday at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Sefton.



Triple P
Positive Parenting Program

A free, 7-part series workshop designed for parents of teenagers

In partnership with Uniting Bridges for Youth program

The course includes information on:


- Positive parenting
- Encouraging appropriate behaviour
- Managing problem behaviour
- Dealing with risky behaviour
- Implementing parenting routines

Dates: April 26th and May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st 2016
Workshops are once a week with telephone support sessions included.

Time: Wednesdays 10am-12pm (please arrive 9:45am for registration)

Where: Tahmoor Community Centre – 6 Harper Close Tahmoor
Limited Child Care Available – Bookings Essential

For information and bookings,
please contact Luke or Vida on 46832776 or 0427488599

 **Uniting**