



Above | Ms Paulina Skerman with our PNG girls, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Independence.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE TOWNSVILLE

Newsletter

Term 3 | Week 10 | 2015

Principal's Message

Upcoming Events

Term 3 finishes
Friday 18 September

Term 4 commences
Wednesday 7 October

P&F Meeting
Tuesday 13 October
6.30pm

Student Free Day
Monday 19 October

Sportswomen's Awards
Tuesday 27 October

Year 12 Awards Night
Monday 16 November

Year 12 Graduation Formal
Thursday 19 November

Year 7 Transition Day
Tuesday 24 November



Our final week of the term has been very busy. The weekend saw our girls participating in the Relay for Life to help raise vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, information and support services. Several of our boarders also attended the St Teresa's College, Abergowrie Formal and from all reports it was a lovely occasion. On Tuesday we welcomed lyla Davies, Principal of Women's College at the University of Queensland and former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Sallyanne Atkinson AO to the College to speak

with the senior students about residential scholarships on offer to girls who are planning to attend university in Brisbane. Then on Wednesday we hosted a special assembly to honour our students from PNG to celebrate the PNG Day of Independence. The school community joined in by wearing Meri blouses and I was thrilled to be given my very own blouse to wear in honour of this occasion.

We also hosted our very first focus group session this week to begin the process of reviewing the College uniform. Girls, parents, Board members and staff were involved in these preliminary discussions to get the ball rolling. As we progress through this consultative process, I will keep you updated as to the direction we will take. In any event, once we select a new uniform style, there will be a two year transition period towards the wearing of the uniform. There will be very little impact from this decision on girls who are currently in Years 10 to 12.

As I farewelled our girls this week as they commence their September vacation, I reminded them to be thankful for their blessings: loving families, a safe and joyful school community, food and shelter and the gift of good friends. While we are all generally safe, we do pray for those whose lives are in turmoil, whose stories have been profiled in the media, particularly those who are suffering from family violence. I also talked to our girls about the plight of the refugees as they flee from Syria to seek asylum in other countries. The terrible image of the refugee child bereft of life on a beach in Turkey reminded us in the most brutal of ways that this child could have been our brother or son. We are reminded in Hebrews Chapter 13, Verse 2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

God Bless, *Paulina*

WHERE AMBITION MEETS COMPASSION

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FAITH & IDENTITY

The humanitarian crisis that has been going on for months in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe cannot be ignored. In discussing this with our girls, they are coming to realise that the people caught up in this just want a safe place to work and earn a living to support their families in the hope that one day they can return to their country. Pope Francis has urged Europeans to open their doors and provide a meal, a warm shower, a comfortable bed to people passing by. He has called on European religious communities to take in a refugee family.

From Matthew 12: 28-31

“Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. And the second is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

The question has been posed to the girls, “Who is our neighbour?” They recognise that as God’s children, we are all brothers and sisters. Their frustration comes from a feeling of helplessness in not knowing how they can help.

From a Year 9 reflection, “When I think about the refugees I feel many emotions. These include sympathy for the innocent people risking their lives to find somewhere safe to live, disheartened that I have little ability to help and angry that those people who have the power to help or even stop this situation are not doing enough.”

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Social Justice Sunday is on Sunday 27 September. The 2015 Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement *“For Those Who’ve Come Across the Seas”*, will be delivered at masses on this weekend. The document can be ordered from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council’s website.

WORLD CHALLENGE

Four of our girls are participating in a World Challenge expedition to Vietnam departing on December 1 and returning on December 24. During this trip the girls will engage with the local Vietnamese by staying in their villages and assisting in a community project. The girls will also undertake two, four day treks through spectacular National Parks. World Challenge expeditions develop leadership skills as the girls need to organise much of the trip themselves (food, accommodation, travel), broadens horizons, develops resilience and overall life skills through real life experience. It is a first step to becoming a global citizen. Next term the girls will be conducting fundraising activities to assist with their community project which is a rehabilitation centre for disabled children just out of Hanoi.

World Challenge will be coming to the College in Term 4 to give a presentation to the Year 9, 10 and 11 students who may be interested in participating next year. Keep an eye out for more details.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Last weekend, 45 St Patrick’s College girls participated in the Cancer Council’s Relay for Life Walk for Cancer event at Tony Ireland Stadium. The event is aimed at raising money for finding a cure for cancer. The girls walked around the track in a relay fashion for the 18 hours and many of the girls did not sleep overnight at all. The event was a huge success overall with Townsville raising \$230,000. The girls represented the College with great pride and passion! Congratulations must go to College Captain Tiffany-Ann Alfred for being the driving force behind getting the team together and organised.



SCIENCE NEWS - Think Ladies

Think Ladies members in Years 10, 11 and 12 who study Mathematics B, Physics and ITS subjects are invited to sign up for an after-school robotics program in Term 4. The course is called *Electronic Interfaces: Bridging the Physical and Digital Worlds* and is offered online by Berkeley University.

Students will be required to complete online modules (involving activities such as quizzes and discussion forum posts) as well as the practical task of designing and building an automated robot. The course will be facilitated by Mrs Van Homrigh, Head of Faculty – Science in weekly workshops held in the computer lab at school from 3.15pm to 4.30pm each Tuesday in Term 4. There is no enrolment cost for the course, however each student will need to purchase a course kit, which will be hers to keep, that contains all the parts required to build a robot. These kits can be ordered from the College and cost \$90 each. Interested students need to collect an information pack from the Student Reception. Permission notes and money needs to be returned before Thursday, 8th October 2015 as orders for course kits will be placed that day.

MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations to music student, Julia Macario-Slatte, on achieving a Credit in her recent Grade 5 AMEB exam on Violin. Julia participates in the String Ensemble at the College, and plays both Violin and Viola. She is also a valued member of the Sisterhood Vocal Choir.

What instruments do you play, and how long have you been playing?

I play the Violin and Viola. I have been learning the Violin for nearly eight years and Viola almost three years.

How often do you practise your instruments, and do you have any tips you would like to share?

I try to aim for at least an hour a day, unless there is something coming up, then it's usually two to three hours. In regards to tips, what I have personally found helpful is practising during lunchtimes at school.

What are your favourite pieces from String Ensemble?

My favourite pieces to play in the String Ensemble are the jigs, which are fun, and Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

What do you enjoy about singing with the Sisterhood Vocal Choir?

The question should be what don't I enjoy about choir. I love everything about Sisterhood. It's always fun, the songs are cool and just the energy is awesome. It makes me feel good, and I always look forward to choir.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about learning an instrument?

To anyone thinking about learning an instrument, just do it. You'll never know what could happen if you never try. Even if you need to change, you can. Not everyone continues with the first instrument they learn.

SPORTS NEWS - NQ Athletics

On Friday, 4 September, students from St Patrick's College participated as part of the Townsville team in the North Queensland Athletics trials. From this event six students were selected in the NQ team to travel to Brisbane in October. These students were:

Jasmine English – high jump

Ella Evans – 400m

Coleen Kabere – shot put

Tyanna Gabori - Javelin

Taum Ahmat – shot put

Francesca Jakis – long and triple jump, 100m

This is a massive effort for a school of our size. It is very exciting to see this talent flourish in our school and we look forward to future carnivals where we can develop and discover more of this athletic talent. We thank Miss Naz who supported the girls on the day. Well done to all involved!

YEAR 7 & 8 GALA SPORT DAY

On Thursday, 10 September the Year 7 and 8 students participated in the Gala Sports Day at Murray Sporting Complex, along with students from Ignatius Park College and The Cathedral School. The event is an opportunity for our girls to mix with students of the same age from other schools in the region. Girls were mixed into teams and played a round robin of modified AFL, Soccer and Netball at their respective venues throughout the day. The girls were challenged to meet ten new people during the day. Although they started very quietly, all appeared to have surpassed their ten person quota by the time they boarded the bus! A big thank you to Mr Tim McCluskey, Ms Dot Rush, Ms Benita Bowles, Miss Sandra Carter and Mrs Maria Franettovich.

COLLEGE & COMMUNITY NEWS

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Students will see quite a few changes on their return in Term 4. The tuckshop menu is being revamped with a view to offering as many healthy choices as possible. Parents will be aware that research shows students learn better when they are well nourished. Healthy eating has been linked to better results, better memory, more alertness, faster information processing and improved health leading to better school attendance.

Without proper nutrition and enough calories, students don't have enough energy to power the brain, resulting in fatigue. In 2016, our main break will be before midday as a response to the times of the day when students need to power their brains. Stay tuned for more news next term!

JCU LANGUAGE IMMERSION COURSE (Monday 28 September - Friday 2nd October)

The Academy of Modern Languages at JCU is offering young people aged 12-17 to participate in a short immersion language course. This course provides students with an opportunity to enhance their foreign language competency, develop their leadership skills and increase their international knowledge. Cost is \$275 per person and a minimum of ten students per class is required for the course to go ahead. Registration closes Monday 21 September. All participants will receive a certificate of participation upon completion of the course. Register online at <http://alumni.jcu.edu.au/AMLHols> or email AML@jcu.edu.au

TOWNSVILLE FIRE: FREE two day School Holiday Camp at Townsville Basketball Stadium

Staged on September 21 and 22, the Camp is being conducted for girls aged between 10-17 with elite coaching from members of the Fire including Olympians Suzy Batkovic, Micaela Cocks and Tamara Tatham.

Highlights of the Camp include:

- Hands-on coaching from members of the JCU Townsville Fire;
- A participation pack including their own full-size basketball; and
- On-going coaching as part of the club's Fire Bugs or Camp Property Developments Fire Starters for the 2015/16 season overseen by Kate Gaze. (Please note, on-going coaching is once again free but requires participants to complete four sessions over the course of 2015/16).

The Camp will run from 9am to 3pm on Monday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 22. Participants can register by contacting the JCU Townsville Fire office on (07) 4729 0091 or community@townsvillefire.com.au.



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Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Townsville by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.