

Volume - 2020.6

Date 27 November 2020

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

PENOLA

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Courage Compassion Integrity Hope

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WESTERN SYDNEY
PENOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

P-TECH
PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY





Walking in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of the Penola Community

We have been flying through Term 4 with great speed and energy with our college events. Year 12 came back at the start of the term for week 1 of Term 4 with great commitment to their final study sessions with their teachers and HSC Learning Coaches to prepare for the upcoming HSC exams.

As a school community, we have all been very impressed with the focus and commitment of our Year 12 2020 despite the challenging year that they have endured. The week concluded with a beautiful farewell blessing gathering and a Guard of Honour leaving the college. Thank you to all families and friends for your understanding and support at this time. It was wonderful to see you all eagerly awaiting year 12 leaving the college for the final time!



Year 12 approached their exams in a calm and conscientious manner and deserve high praise for their positivity throughout the exam period.

On the 12th November 2020 we were able to have a Year 12 Graduation liturgy and Awards ceremony at Our Lady of the Way Parish church celebrated with Fr Paul Roberts (Parish Priest) and the family members. It was such a momentous occasion after a turbulent year of COVID there was so much to celebrate together. Thank you to all families for your understanding as we were organising the event and needed to make changes based on new guidelines for NESA and NSW Health. In the end, we were able to have a COVID safe event and each family was able to have two family members present with them.

My personal thanks and appreciation to the following students who also made the Year 12 Liturgy extremely special by their participation and involvement:

Liturgical dancers:

Chloe O'Hara, Melissa Giugovaz and Brooke Morgan (Year 9 students) who choreographed their movement to welcome the Gospel reading in a meaningful way.

Acknowledgment to country: Samantha Gamage (Year 8)

National Anthem and the Graduation Song: Ella Dunlop (Year 8)

Thank you to all staff who assisted in the organisation and preparation of this event making it one that is truly memorable and reflective of our Mackillop charism of courage, compassion, integrity and hope.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Mrs Sparkes and Mr Feeney for their tireless work ensuring the event was one that had been specifically designed for this amazing year group and would allow them to be celebrated and acknowledged accordingly.

Our new Penola perpetual trophies and our McCarthy Catholic College (1986-2019 trophies) will now be proudly displayed in our new Trophy cabinet in our Library Learning Centre. We look forward to presenting our ATAR HSC Dux trophy once the HSC results are announced on 8 December 2020.

Congratulations Year 12 2020 we are all very proud of you and all that you have achieved !

Our prayers and blessings are with you always.

**Mrs Tania Cairns
Principal Leader**

Congratulations to our Award Recipients for HSC 2020

College DUX

Sharna'e Tanti

Perpetual Award Winners

High Achievement in Culture, Arts and Performance
Mackenzie Brown

High Achievement in Sport
Rileigh Bartle
Rosie Kaufusi

Building Community Spirit Walking in the Footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop
Thelma Kwaramba

James and Mary McCarthy Award
Raymond Limbaga

Penola All-Rounder Award
Rosie Kaufusi

FIRST IN SUBJECT AWARD

Sharna'e	Tanti	Biology
Nicholas	Pike	Business Studies
Sharna'e	Tanti	Community and Family Studies
Mikayla	Morgan	Drama
Max	Prendergast	English Advanced
Lucia	Vinci	English Standard
Clare	Rowley	English Studies
Mikayla	Morgan	English Extension I
Clare	Rowley	Learning For Mission
Joshua	Lancaster	Learning For Mission
Joshua	Lancaster	Legal Studies
Max	Prendergast	Mathematics Standard II
Harrison	Morgan	Mathematics Advanced
Max	Prendergast	Modern History
Mackenzie	Brown	Music
Sharna'e	Tanti	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Liam	Ferguson	Physics
Payton	Sibary	Society and Culture
Mikayla	Morgan	Studies of Religion I
Max	Prendergast	Studies of Religion II
Max	Prendergast	Visual Arts

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Rileigh Bartle	Annabelle Burrell	Morgan Douglass
Rosie Kaufusi	Thelma Kwaramba	Joshua Lancaster
Mikayla Morgan	Nicholas Pike	Max Prendergast
Jesse Sawyer	Payton Sibary	Angelina Simmons
Sharna'e Tanti	Lucia Vinci	

P-Tech Graduate Award

Marc Spokes

Bishop's Medal

Raymond Limbaga

St Vincent de Paul

Morgan Douglass and Thelma Kwaramba

Josephite Justice Award

Joshua Lancaster

Nepean Rotary Youth Award

Hannah Ruxton



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Hello to all our Penola Catholic College students, families and friends,

In our final term of 2020, Mrs Miller (Stage 4 Leader of Learning) reminded all of our students and staff about World Kindness Day on Friday 13th November 2020. Mrs Miller's theme of '**Be Kind**' has been the basis of Year 7 and 8 Pastoral Care lessons and she often wears a shirt with these words printed on it as a reminder to all of us.

In this newsletter, I'd like to tell you of an action of kindness, adaptability and courage that we have observed from our students at school during the past 3 weeks of the Year 12 2020 HSC examinations.

Year 12 HSC

We all understand the hardship that has been encountered by each of us and by our HSC students in NSW. The HSC exams at our school ran in the mornings and afternoons, and often during our school recess of the first break. Everyday, in the online student notices, we communicated to our students if the oval and basketball courts were open (with no HSC exam) or closed, and sometimes for both recess and lunch. In addition, you may not know that our students also have NSW Health COVID precautions on the oval to play in Year group sections for their games during breaktime.

I am so proud to share with you, the deep respect and kindness shown by all of our students and staff towards our Year 12 2020 which has enabled our Yr 12 students to do their very best in such a difficult year. I'd also like to pass on to all students their deep gratitude to every student who was quiet and considerate during their exams (Note: many reported to Mr Stein and I how much this helped). We look forward to their continued success and sharing their news, when they receive their results on 18th December 2020 from NESA.

Year 12 Creative and Performing Arts Students

I hope you have also heard about the incredible success of our Year 12 HSC 2020 Creative and Performing Arts students. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta shared a wonderful story of our 5 students who have earnt honours for their performance and major works. Check out the story using the following link to hear about Mackenzie Brown (Music- taught by Mrs McDonald and invited to perform at HSC Onstage), Mikayla Morgan, Rahul Wakankar & Liam Ferguson (Drama- taught by Mr Conway and also invited to perform at HSC Onstage) and Payton Sibary (our College Captain 2020, for Visual Arts and taught by Mrs Petrovski and her Major work has been selected for the HSC Art Express Exhibition).

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/News-and-Events/Latest-News/2020/11/10/00/58/CEDP-students-excel-in-the-arts>

Our Year 12 Graduation Liturgy and Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday 12 November 2020. We are incredibly grateful for Fr Paul Roberts inviting us to our Parish at Our Lady of the Way Catholic Church and beginning and ending our ceremony with his beautiful and encouraging words to our students.

From the Assistant Principal Continued

A special thank you to all of our families for your attendance and to Mrs Cairns for a special streaming service of the graduation for families, friends and staff that could not attend as a result of the 120 person limit at our church. In addition, our new 2020/21 College Captains Tia Auld and Jesse Warner assisted admirably as our Masters of Ceremonies. Samantha Gamage (Year 8) led the Welcome to Country acknowledgement with poise and great articulation, and Ella Dunlop (accompanied by Mr Nekic) sang our Australian Anthem and a beautiful new tradition for Penola 'The Graduation Song' by John Jacobs as our Year 12 2020 had their Graduation Candle lit for the last time as Penola Catholic College students. Ella is a gifted and talented musician and we look forward to hearing her perform for many years, in the fine footsteps of our 2020 HSC Graduates (Mackenzie Brown, Carissa Jones and Clare Rowley) who have sung at many ceremonies and led us with such grace and humility. Furthermore, Annelise Shapcott read the citation for the Bishop's Award to Raymond Limbaga (Our 2020 College Captain) and our liturgical dancers (Chloe O'Hara, Melissa Giugovaz and Brooke Morgan) who dressed the altar during the Year 12 graduation, alongside Fr Paul, were incredibly talented as they adorned the altar with their dance, acrobatics and flow with our Penola colours of blue, white and fuchsia lengths of fabric.

Mrs Cairns and I would also like to thank our amazing colleagues for all of their organisation of our Year 12 and Year 11 award ceremonies.

On Friday (16/11/2020), **Year 11 2020 had their Semester 2 Award Ceremony** after receiving their reports in Term 4 Week 4. The following students received awards and congratulations to each student for their outstanding efforts in 2020. We now formally refer to them as Year 12 at school and they are 5 weeks into their HSC courses.

YEAR 11 AWARDS

Building Community Spirit Walking in the Values of Saint Mary Mackillop

Tia Auld

Jesse Warner

Anneleise Shapcott

P-Tech Graduate Award

Broc Geronimi

Principal's Award For Exceptional Academic Achievement

Tia Auld
Gabrielle Grimaldi
Ryan Koenig
Abbey McAlister
Jack Prendergast
Ebony Sorini
Jesse Warner

Hannah Cladingboel
Grace Hopton
Jayden Loughman
Emma Moses
Anneleise Shapcott
Christian Thompson
Abbey Watson

Christopher Elliott
Sierra Irvine
Maegan Mathew
Carla Patterson
Holly Smith

High Achievement in Culture, Arts and Performance

Christian Thompson

VET Course - Most Outstanding

Adrian Jones Samantha Rowe

First In Course Year 11

Studies of Religion II	Jesse	Warner
Studies of Religion I	Sierra	Irvine
Accelerated Studies of Religion II	Torrance	McLean
Accelerated Studies of Religion I	Maya	Grantham
English Advanced	Hannah	Cladingboel
English Standard	Sally-Jo	Fornasier
Mathematics	Jesse	Warner
Mathematics Standard	Gabriella	Grimaldi
Biology	Jesse	Warner
Chemistry	Jesse	Warner
Physics	Jesse	Warner
Business Studies	Carla	Patterson
Legal Studies	Tia	Auld
Modern History	Emily	Savic
Society and Culture	Emily	Savic
Work Studies	Joshua	Harrigan
Community and Family Studies	Hannah	Cladingboel
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	Hannah	Cladingboel
Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation	Abbey	Watson
Music	Christian	Thompson
Visual Arts	Lily	Gleeson
Technological and Applied Studies Industrial Technology Timber	Ryan	Koenig

From the Assistant Principal Continued

Stage 4 and 5 Award Ceremonies

Currently, Year 7-10 and been working very hard to complete final assessments and showcase their learning for Semester 2 2020. Our teachers are working hard to assess and report on student progress and we look forward to:

Year 7-10 reports coming home	Monday 7 December 2020
Stage 4 Semester 2 2020 Award Ceremony	Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 10am
Stage 5 Semester 2 2020 Award Ceremony	Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 9am
Year 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews	Wednesday 16 December 2020

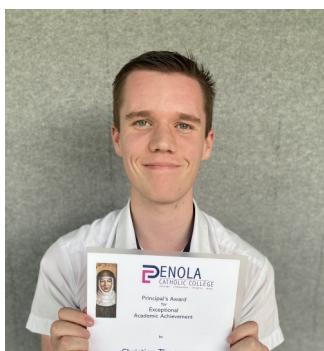
Information about the organisation of the Award Ceremonies and Parent Teacher will be available on your Skoolbag app as we hope our cases of COVID in Australia stay low and enable parents to be invited, whilst considering feedback to help families using online parent and teacher interviews for those who this assists.

Tell them From Me

Finally for this newsletter, I just wanted to thank our many parents who participated in the 2020 Tell Them From Me survey in early Term 2, 2020. The feedback from parents, students and teachers assists us to improve our care and educational practices, but the kindness and gratitude shown by so many parents in the extended comment section has really lifted all of our staff. We are all so grateful and will continue to be the dedicated and caring Penola staff you know us to be.

**Mrs Peta Sparkes
Assistant Principal**

YEAR 11 AWARDS



PENOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE UNIFORM 2021

We are extremely proud of our Catholic identity and the values of courage, compassion, integrity and hope that form the basis of our relationships our learning culture and the student uniform that is worn with pride.

2021 will be our first year wearing our new uniform that reflects a co-ordinated approach to young men and women as juniors (Years 7-9) and Seniors (Years 10-12). It is expected that all Year 7 and Year 10 students will be wearing the new Penola Catholic College uniform.

Thank you to all parents who represented our Penola parents at our recent Parent Engagement Forum and we have received a great deal of positive feedback about the uniform. I would like to share a few encouraging comments from parents and students in particular:

- *The new blue shirts for junior girls are far more practical and co-ordinate well with the junior boys in the same colour (Year 7 parent)*
- *The uniform is classy and modern (Year 9 parent)*
- *I am looking forward to wearing the new uniform and will be very proud (Year 9 student)*
- *The skirt is practical with pleats only at the front and straight at the back. The elasticised waist band is very comfortable too! (Year 10 student)*

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Will my child in another year group be able to still wear the McCarthy Uniform and for how long?

Yes your child can wear this until they reach Year 10 and they will then wear the Penola Senior Uniform. We will co-exit in both uniforms during the next 2 years. By 2023 all students will be proudly wearing the Penola Uniform.

2. Can my child wear parts of each uniform together?

No, your child must wear the full uniform of either Penola or McCarthy.

3. Are the uniform expectations consistent for uniform presentation in relation to hair, jewellery, make up, nails and shoes?

Yes, we have lifted our standards to ensure that both uniforms will meet the same high standard in how we present to school for learning, as well as the broader community when travelling to school and attending school events/excursions.

4. Do the same uniform rules apply with respect to hair, jewellery etc to all students Years 7-12?

No, our rules are slightly different for Years 11 and 12 HSC students who have some privileges given their age and maturity. This is outlined more specifically in our Uniform Policy. Students in Years 7-10 must adhere to safety rules for hair and leather shoes for WHS reasons studying mandatory courses (e.g. science, PDHPE and TAS) requiring such protection. It is an expectation that ALL students (Years 7-12) are well presented in their uniform that reflects a high standard of dress for this Catholic learning community.

Frequently Asked Questions Continued:

5. What does my child do if they are unable to wear a part of the Uniform? (damaged, lost etc)

Your child needs to have a note requesting consideration for the day in which they present to school. With this issue that is signed by you as the parent.

The note should explain the reason and outline the solution to rectifying the problem e.g. my son does not have a black belt today and he will be wearing the correct uniform tomorrow. The note is presented to the Stage Leader of Learning before school or during homeroom for approval.

The Stage Leader of learning will sign this if the request is approved.

We appreciate your support in following this process to ensure a high standard of presentation by all members of our school community.

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR 2021 UNIFORM

- ⇒ All Year 7 and 10 students will be wearing the new Penola Catholic College Uniform
- ⇒ All other year groups (Years 8, 9, 11, and 12) may wear either the new Penola uniform or the current McCarthy uniform.
- ⇒ Students may not mix and match parts of either uniform
- ⇒ **Year 7-10 Hair:**
 - Boys and Girls: Hair needs to be clean, neat and tidy at all times.
Number 2 or higher clipper cut only is permitted for short styles
No extreme hairstyles are permitted
No colour differences/variations within the style. Hair must be of consistent natural hair colours. If dyed a natural colour, this style has to be maintained with roots to be in the same ONE natural colour
 - Boys: Are required to have short hair that is not touching the collar. Hair longer than the top of the collar is to be cut. Boys will not be permitted to tie back hair.
Boys are not permitted to have facial hair.
Facial hair must be shaved.
 - Girls: Are required to have all hair tied back if longer than the top of their Collar of their blouse.
Simple hair accessories in school colours (navy blue and white) may be worn.
- ⇒ **Year 11-12 Hair:**
 - Girls: They can wear their hair out but must have the hair accessories to be able to tie all hair up in practical subjects, such as PDHPE, TAS and Science or whenever deemed necessary by their teacher for safety.
 - Boys: They may have facial hair that is neatly groomed and hair longer than collar length but their hair must be tied back.

⇒ **Year 7-12 Jewellery:**

We ask that your child wears limited jewellery to school for safety and loss reasons. Please ensure your child understands and follows our jewellery expectations:

One SMALL set of gold or silver plain studs in lower earlobe only
Studs with gemstones are not acceptable.
Sleepers or hoops are not acceptable either due to risk of accident and injury in practical classes.

⇒ **Year 7-10 Makeup:**

Make up is not to be worn to school in Years 7 to 10.
Year 7 to 10 students with makeup will be asked to remove it immediately
Eyelash extensions should not be worn by students.

Year 7-12 Makeup:

Make up may be worn by Year 11 and 12 if applied in a light and natural manner.
Eyelash extensions should not be worn by students.

⇒ **Year 7-10 Fingernails:**

Short, natural nails with only clear nail polish is permitted.
No artificial nails are permitted.

Year 11-12 Fingernails:

Natural nails with length appropriate to satisfy WHS responsibilities for their course of studies and activities.
Neutral nail polish (pale natural pink, nude or clear) is permitted.
No artificial nails are permitted.

In summary, whether your child is wearing the current uniform or the new Penola Uniform we ask that their uniform is clean and meets the College standards reflecting high expectations.

Thank you to all parents once again for your amazing support of this College and your continued positive feedback allowing us to further strengthen our Mary MacKillop values of Courage, Compassion, Integrity and Hope.

YEAR 7 - 9

Girls Uniform



YEAR 7 - 9

Boys Uniform



Senior Uniform

Years 10 – 12

The Blazer is worn by all students Years 7-12

- The College Uniform is purchased through **LOWES** at their Penrith store located in Westfields shopping centre.
 - The store is open 7 days per week and late on Thursday nights

Supported By

LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MISSION



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

OLOW Parish Eco Project

It's so powerful to see how our students take every opportunity to bring faith into actionable outcomes. On 21 October our Year 8 and 9 students Byron Gillon, Alyssa Merriman, Mason Jasmine and Ella Dunlop visited Our Lady of the Way Parish to help Fr Paul re-imagine the grounds of the parish with a view to sustainability and Care of Our Common Home. A big thank you to our students and to the staff members who have been and will be involved at any stage in this exciting project.



"Live Life to the Full:" Bishops' Mental Health Statement

October is Mental Health Month and in keeping alive the message of our Bishop Vincent of "living life to the full" our Year 9 have taken part in a Diocesan Immersion Day. Thank you to all staff that assisted in the planning of the event and the organisation for the day. We will continue to work on a mental health focus in our Learning for Mission Projects and Action Plans. You might have noticed, our Year 11 student leaders Jack Prendergast and Chris Elliot prepare some very simple, though meaningful posters to raise awareness about looking after our own mental health.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020 SCHOOL RESOURCES

Support families through a Christmas like no other



Vinnies
good works

This year, Christmas will be like no other. After the year that no one saw coming, many families are without jobs and under increased financial stress, some for the first time in their lives. With more families facing uncertainty, no one knows what to expect for Christmas Day. Family feasts, presents and festive gatherings with loved ones will all look incredibly different for many people this year as we celebrate Christmas.

Vinnies is committed to making Christmas a time to renew hope. But we need YOUR help.

The Penola school community can play an important part in renewing hope for the thousands of people who face an uncertain Christmas. Together, we can continue to bring financial relief, Christmas hampers and smiles of love and laughter to the people who need it most this season. [Individual donation portal](#) - This link is shared with the Penola students' families to model kindness and acting for justice.

LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MISSION Continued..

Year 8 & 9 Project for OLOW Parish and Primary School

Big Ideas for the Parish Sustainable Garden:

Indigenous yarning circle with benches (Year 9 wood) native trees and a prayer symbol (or inspirational signage - quote from Mary MacKillop or JTW)

Timber bench with the Penola symbol burnt

Vege patch with compost and worms which uses recycled materials for anything we need to build



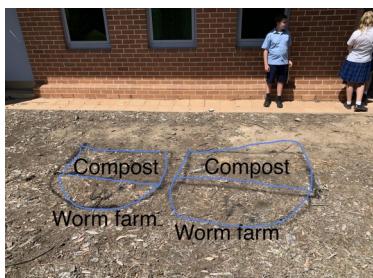
Line Marking of Proposed Yarning Circle:



Seats to be made of wooden logs

Proposed installation of garbage and recycle bins throughout the surveyed area

Line Marking of Interested areas and proposed items



Positioned so that they can be serviced by OLOW Primary

Allow passage from the Church's doorway/emergency exit.



Pathway made either of stones or wooden circles, leading to yarning circle area



Area for Year 9 wooden seats



Marked proposed vegie patch

A Reflection on the Year 8 Prayer - The Beatitudes

In Mrs McDonald's Religion class Jimmy Cremen's (8-5) thoughts on the Beatitudes.

Jimmy portrayed the meaning of each Beatitude with reference to his own life as a Year 8 Penola Student

Blessed are the poor in spirit

Blessed are the people who recognise when they need help from God.

Blessed are the people who humble themselves and don't consider themselves as better than others.

Blessed are those who mourn

Blessed are those who cry for loved ones and ask compassion from God.

Blessed are those who feel sad for a loved one and who are comforted by God.

Blessed are the gentle

Blessed are those who are kind and those who are selfless and put others before them.

Blessed are those who think of others before themselves and are caring for others.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right

Blessed are those who seek justice, not only for themselves but for all.

Blessed are those who stand up for what is right and who help others in their time of injustice.

Blessed are the merciful

Blessed are the people who don't hold grudges.

Blessed are those who forgive the wrong being done against them.

Mr Robert J Feeney



The New Curriculum - Learning for Mission

During Term 3, Penola Catholic College led the diocese in the implementation of one of the units of work for the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education entitled “*Why should I pray?*” for Stage 5 and ‘*What is my Truth?*’ in Stage 4.

Extensive professional development was undertaken by staff on the Rationale and Dispositions of the New Curriculum. It is based on the idea that faith is lived out through the *Head, Heart and Hands*, and that the understanding of the truths of our faith should be presented to meet the students where they are at, all the while keeping up to date with pedagogy, using an inquiry-based learning approach. So, what better introduction to the new curriculum with one of the timeless questions asked by young people!

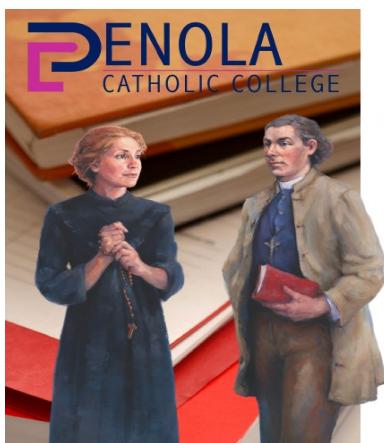
The teaching and learning experiences developed by the teachers utilised the students’ wonderings about each of the essential content, which covered aspects of prayer including public and private prayer, how the Our Father and the Psalms influence prayer, and how prayer influences us to become Christ-like, in essence living out an *Incarnational Spirituality*. Students also learned how, if they are to be people of integrity, what they believe should align with both how they pray and how they act.

Students found the learning not only engaging, but stimulating and meaningful:

- “This unit has helped fill my curiosity of the meaning of prayer … the depth and variety has surprised me.”
- “The unit we are learning is a fun unit to work on … [it made me more] interested in religion.”
- “I’ve learned about other people’s ideas, knowledge and beliefs.”

We look forward to the full implementation of the Draft New Curriculum within the coming years, as we continue to develop resources and programs tailored to the students of our local community.

Students who have excelled in the new learning can look forward to receiving an Academic Award from their RE teacher very soon.



*When you are in any doubt, invoke the Holy Spirit
and then do what you think is best.
Let nothing disturb your peace.*

Julian Tenison Woods 1887

Fr. Julian Tenison Woods Academic Achievement Award

THIS IS AWARDED TO

for showing excellent
academic performance in the
New Religious Education
Curriculum
Learning For Mission.

Class Teacher

Mr Robert J Feeney
Leader of Religious Education & Mission

Mr Daniel Nekic
New RE Curriculum Team Leader

LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND LEARNING

Student Wellbeing And Learning (Nov 11)

Our Graduating Class of 2020 have been diligently sitting the HSC Examinations over the last 3 weeks. They have endured a very challenging year and have at the same time shown the grit and strength of character to be able to apply themselves to the learning, the study and the community.



The Graduating class of 2021 have started their HSC journeys and are feeling the pressure of the step up in the demands of learning for the HSC course. I look forward to seeing their growth and development over the next 12 months.

The Positive Wellbeing of all young people can be enhanced by the language we used and our interactions daily of believe in the way that we speak to them. How can we as parents help our children have a go and not be worried about getting things wrong or making mistakes? There are many things we can do to help. The first is being able to recognise effort. Recognise the work that has gone into completing a given task rather than just recognising the actual final product. Look for special steps that have been made and celebrate the effort with your child. Secondly, when they are not successful at something, help them take that as a learning experience. "What do you think you could have done differently?" "How can I help you to achieve better next time?" We do not tell them how to fix the issue but we help them to come up with solutions. Carol Dweck calls this the power of "YET". She says that rather than saying "you can't do it", the language changes to "You can't do it yet but let's keep trying."

Penola Points Update

As we move towards the end of the school year, it is important that all students strive to be the best they can be. Whilst it has been a very challenging year, our students have well and truly stepped up. As of the end of week 4, we have 85% of the student population in Level Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. That is an amazing achievement as teachers have been recognising the great effort of our students as they have gone through the year.

Congratulations to all students achieving well as demonstrated by your child's Penola Points.

Mr Martin Stein

LEADER OF INNOVATION AND DIVERSITY

From Mrs Anna Keogh

Applications for 2021 HSC Disability Provisions

Disability provisions information for parents of students completing the HSC in 2021:

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) grants Disability Provisions to some students for the Higher School Certificate. Please read the following information carefully, it may relate to your child.

Who should apply for disability provisions?

Students with:

- A hearing or vision impairment
- A physical disability; a back problem; a writing-hand issue, etc.
- A learning difficulty – dyslexia or other problems with reading or writing
- Difficulty with reading or slow handwriting due to a diagnosed disability
- An intellectual disability
- A medical condition – diabetes, ADD/ADHD, serious headaches or other illness, etc.
- Anxiety, depression or other mental health conditions that are diagnosed and supported by specialists in an ongoing manner.

What are some of the provisions?

- A reader and / or writer
- Extra time allowance
- Rest breaks
- Separate supervision
- Special seating within the exam space
- Diabetic provisions.
- Individual provisions for students with a hearing or vision impairment

How does my child apply?

- Students can visit the office of the Leader of Diversity and Innovation in the Mary courtyard and speak with Ms Keogh or Mrs Voutos. Otherwise, our School Counsellor's Mr Jae McCarron and Mrs Cynthy Iniguez can provide information in relation to provisions.
- A series of official NESA documents need to be completed as part of the application process, such as: specialist reports validating diagnosed conditions and student statement forms.

Applications are due into NESA by the end of Term 1 2021, however, we begin the process during Term 4 2020. The earlier the application is completed, the sooner we know the outcome. Students who are granted HSC Disability Provisions have them for the whole of Year 12 (assessment tasks and all examinations).

Students HSC papers are not marked with any notation that indicates provisions have been used.

If you have any questions, or are unsure whether your child may be eligible to apply, please contact the Leader of Innovation and Diversity through the school office: 02 47 28 8100

L e a d e r o f P e d a g o g y &
I n s t r u c t i o n a l C o a c h



Exciting Partnerships



Here at Penola we are excited to announce our *partnership with university standard Studiosity*. Our senior students Yr 11 and 12 will have access to this 24/7 support in two forms: receiving feedback on their writing techniques and through connect live where a university level academic is on hand 24/7 to assist in working through: subject questions, scientific methods, mathematical equations or any other area where the student may be feeling challenged or frustrated.



This is to assist our students in time of need when they may be in a study and subject teacher is on class or if they are working on homework late in the night after a work shift, they have a guide on the side 24/7 outside the domains of the classroom teacher. Further to this, each student will be encouraged to have submitted their main assessment tasks to studiosity to receive feedback on their writing.

2021 will see the partnership with *Become Education* for our Yr 7 -10 students. Become supports our students to develop their skills to explore, design & navigate their future. As well as, assist in developing their critical skills in our rapidly changing world by making connections with what they are learning at school to their future aspirations.

Celebrating Learning

So much enthusiasm filled the air during our book week with the theme 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds' amongst both our staff and students. Each day saw something new and exciting take place somewhere within the College that allowed for a true sense of community building and spirit. The list of activities developed catered for all levels of student involvement and participation.

2020 Creative Arts Trifecta Success

Congratulations to the following 2020 Yr 12 students who have been pre-selected for their major works in the fields of Music, Drama and Art.

This is no easy task for each subject. To have students selected from every creative class demonstrates the high level of skill and learning taken place. A very special congratulations to *Payton Sibary* whose artwork 'I exist only when I don't sleep' made the final selection process to Art Express and will be exhibited at the Hazelhurst Arts Center in 2021.

Mrs Julie Petrovski



Book Week Activities

- Flash Reading Mob
- Dress up as a character photo booth
- Write a book in a day
- Reading knockout challenge
- Play -- Where the Wild Things Are

Art - Payton Sibary



Drama - Mikayla Morgan



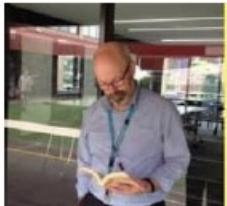
Music - Mackenzie Brown



Drama - Liam Ferguson

Drama - Rahul Wakankar

Book Week



Reading Knockout Challenge



Book Mob



Welcome Year 7 2021



One of the most exciting times of the year at Penola Catholic College always proves to be Orientation Day. It is such a thrill to get to know the fine young men and women who have chosen Penola Catholic College as their school of choice for the next six years.

Each and every student embraced the day with absolute enthusiasm, positivity and a genuine determination to get to know one another and ease each other into a positive start to High School.

Recently, we held a 'Head Start' introduction day for a small group of Year 7 2021 students. On both days our Penola Catholic College student leaders stepped up proudly to introduce their school to its newest members. Conversations and friendships were struck readily. Nerves turned into laughter and teamwork. Teachers shared their joy as they got to know this amazing year group. Collectively we were so impressed by our new students' motivation, their care for each other, their gratitude and of course their excitement about the years ahead.

We know that in the years to come you will embrace every opportunity to become your best! Your best learner, a best friend, mentor, innovator, motivator and champion of dreams and aspirations.
Welcome Year 7 2021, graduates of 2026. Dream big. Be more!



Finance Matters

School Fees

Continued thanks to those families that continue to pay the school fees through what can only be described as the most challenging year anyone has experienced in recent memory.

Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP) has sent out the final instalment statements with a **due date of 18 December 2020**. If you have any queries about your statement please contact Mrs Julie Jones at the College on 4728 8100 Option 2.

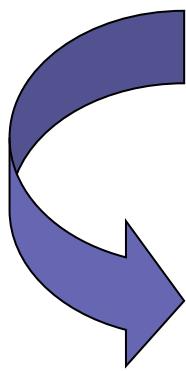
CEDP has also set a process for families seeking financial assistance during this difficult time. We have communicated this process in previous correspondence via SkoolBag. If you require assistance through CEDP please click this link for further information on how to apply.

Penola is Cashless

CEDP has advised that all Diocesan schools are to go CASHLESS. Therefore we are no longer accepting cash or cheques. All payment options for school fees are listed on the statement please refer to these and choose the best for your situation. Alternatively, cash payments can be received at any Australia Post Office/Shop. Please ensure you take your statement with you.

Please note this does not include the School Canteen on site here at the College, this is a privately owned company independent of the College. However we would encourage students to use their EFTPOS card when purchasing from the School Canteen.

*Mr Sean McNally
Business Manager*



MATHS HELP



In the library
Every Monday
afternoon
during school terms

From 3.15pm until 4.15pm
All Welcome

2021 School Travel Applications Are Now Open

Applications for student travel in 2021 are now open.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now apply online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should re-apply or update their details.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new eligibility criteria, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will receive a notification to re-apply. Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2020.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address.



Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We all know the importance of reading and how a great book can spark imagination and creativity too. These summer holidays, the Executive Director is again launching his Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.

Taking part in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter online by visiting the CEDP website.

Entries open on 23 November 2020 and close at 5:00pm on 1 February 2021.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



DECEMBER 2020	
Wednesday 2 December 2020	Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) Semester 2 Awards Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) Semester 2 Awards
Monday 7 December 2020	Reports for Years 7 to 10 go home with students
Wednesday 16 December	Parent / Teacher Meetings for Semester 2 Information on how to book your on-line interview with your child's teachers will be included in their school report. Final day for students
Thursday 17 to Friday 18 December	Staff Professional Planning for 2021

Looking Ahead 2021 Term Dates for 2021

Term 1	27 January to 1 April 2021
Term 2	19 April to 25 June 2021
Term 3	12 July to 17 September 2021
Term 4	5 October to 17 December 2021

START DATES FOR STUDENTS 2021 TERM 1

Wednesday 27 January 2021	All Staff Return
Thursday 28 January 2020	Years 7, 11 and 12 students return
Friday 29 January 2020	Whole school in attendance (Years 7-12)