

18 October 2023, Volume 16

ST PETER'S NEWS

CHALLENGING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH A FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Message from the
Principal - 2

Representative Sport
Wrap Up - 6

CSBB Young Achievers
Scholarship winner - 7

Upcoming Events and
Important Dates - 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

Welcome back to Term 4; another busy yet exciting 10 weeks at St Peter's. Our Year 12 students commenced their Higher School Certificate Examinations last week and our students have been happy with the exams, and they are feeling confident in what they have done so far. We wish them every success for the next 2 – 3 weeks as they complete this final stage of their secondary schooling. For the rest of the school, we also have assessments scheduled throughout this term which we use to put together final school reports for the year as well as to collect relevant information that informs us of the quality of the learning that has occurred at school this year.

The term is also full of exciting events and opportunities for students in all years. We have upcoming study skills days for some year groups, we have a group of our senior students regularly visiting our local primary schools to assist with both reading and creative arts; our student leaders will attend a training day in Newcastle as they take over the leadership of the school. We also have our meet and greet evening for our new incoming Year 7 cohort and their first orientation day. Year 8 have a reflection day coming up; our Aboriginal students will attend a pathways information day; Year 10 complete First Aid training; Our annual Surfarama competition will take place in November and a group of students will travel to Lady Elliot Island for a science and geography emersion. This is only a selection of what this term has in store.

My hope is that during this final term all our students take the opportunity to live out our guiding principles by embracing all the opportunities that they are presented with and pursuing excellence in everything they undertake.

Mobile Phones

You may have seen in the media that the NSW Department of Education Schools have a new mobile phone policy they have implemented in all

department schools commencing this term. The policy effectively bans the use of phones on the school site unless explicit permission is given to use the phone for a specific purpose.

As a Catholic school, St Peter's is not obligated to impose the same policy and at this stage we have not made a change to our current mobile phone policy. There are many mixed opinions around mobile phones in schools and when we have asked our parents at St Peter's about phones in the past, we have had mixed responses. In most cases phones are not a problem at school. Many of our teachers actively use phones in the classroom as learning tools and this proves very successful in most cases.

Our current policy only allows phones in the classroom when the teacher gives explicit permission for this to occur. At other times they are banned. The main difference between our policy and the new Department of Education policy is that we don't enforce the banning of phones in the playground as well as the classroom. For many students and families, contact during the day is important to arrange pickups, work schedules etc and most students use their phones responsibly.

I say most because we do understand that there is some inappropriate use occurring by a small number of students and we are looking at how we can address this without disadvantaging and punishing those students who continually do the right thing with their phones. In my experience a ban often just moves the activity underground, it still occurs, it is just harder to police and monitor. I have colleagues in state schools who are worried about the new policy and the different issues that may arise once the wider ban is imposed.

At this point we are monitoring the implementation in the state schools to gauge its effectiveness and to identify any issues with the new policy. We will look to then amending our own policy in time to best suit the needs of our students and families, while always putting both the safety and the educational needs of our students at the forefront of any decisions.

Tim Hildebrandt
Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL

EVANGELISATION & CATECHESIS

Welcome to Term 4, a time of fresh beginnings and exciting opportunities for our students as we welcome warmer days. The start of this term has been nothing short of wonderful, with enthusiasm radiating from every corner of our school.

October holds a special significance for us as it marks Mission Month. We are thrilled to announce that some of our dedicated students will be embarking on a meaningful journey to partake in the Mission Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral on Thursday 19 October. This event not only allows them to deepen their faith but also offers a chance to connect with the young minds of St. Cecilia's Primary, our valued feeder school. This interaction is a crucial step in nurturing the transition process for these students, who will join us at SPCC in 2024. To learn more about Mission Month please use these links [Catholic Mission Homepage](#) and [socktober.org.au](#).

As we gear up for this enriching experience, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to both Fr. Raul and Alex, who are currently abroad. They are celebrating an extraordinary milestone - their 25th Anniversary in the clergy. Their tireless dedication and unwavering service to our school community have been a cornerstone of our success. We eagerly anticipate their return and look forward to commemorating this significant achievement.

During their absence, we will temporarily suspend the class masses. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this period. Rest assured, once Fr. Raul and Alex return, we will resume our cherished class masses with renewed energy and devotion.

In the spirit of unity and growth, let us embrace Mission Month with open hearts and minds. Together, we can forge stronger connections and create a vibrant community that thrives on faith, compassion, and learning.

Distressing Content Online

We are aware of disturbing content that may be circulating on social media in connection with the situation in Israel and Gaza.

Please refer to the advice below from the eSafety Commissioner:

- eSafety has contacted social media companies about this content and will continue working with them to identify and remove illegal and restricted material wherever possible.
- To support this work, we encourage you to make yourselves aware of eSafety's guidance www.esafety.gov.au/report/illegal-harmful-content and report content where appropriate
- We recommend avoiding raising the issue with students explicitly unless it is apparent that they are already aware of it or have been exposed to it. Drawing students' attention to the content may cause unnecessary worry or distress and increase exposure.

Support services

If a life is in danger call Triple Zero (000) right now. Please encourage anyone who may be at risk or experiencing emotional distress, including worried family and friends, to contact one of the following services:

- Kids Helpline, for 5–25-year-olds, on 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au (webchat is also available).
- headspace support for young people and families
- Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au/
- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au/
- More support services, including state-based services aimed at parents and carers, are listed on esafety.gov.au/counselling-support-services.

This [factsheet](#) has more information.

In Christ's love

Candice Little and Owen 
Acting Assistant Principal - Evangelisation & Catechesis

#SOCKTOBER



STAGE 4 NEWS - TERM 3 DONE AND DUSTED

The last term has arrived with 10 weeks remaining of their journey in Year 7.

Year 7 Sports Achievements

The Junior AFL Broken Bay Champions were represented by Year 7 students Maurie M and Ethan L who joined the team of Year 8 students. Congratulations to the whole team on a wonderful achievement!

Lexi R is an extremely talented snowboarder. She has been selected to join Thredbo Mountain Academy being a pathway for Elite athletes.

Recently Lexi represented St Peter's at the Northern NSW Interschool championship placing 2nd in the Giant Slalom and 4th in the Snowboard Cross and allowing her to qualify for State Championships. Lexi went on to place inside the Top 10 and progressed to Nationals!

She has also competed in the Thredbo Series and finished 2nd overall in the Junior female division (under 15). Lexi received an award for the Most Improved athlete for the season.

We congratulate Lexi on her achievements thus far and look forward to many more in the future, well done!

Harry S also deserves congratulations for achieving his First Dan Black Belt in Shotokan Karate after a mammoth 10 hour grading session. He achieved his Black Belt 12 months ago after 4 years of training.

Along with consistent training throughout the year Harry was invited to grade for his 1st Dan which had a 8 week prep cycle that covered various challenges.

One week was a cold shower for 2 minutes every day. Not much fun in the middle of winter!

Congratulations Harry, such a wonderful achievement at a young age!

ILP

This semester, we have 37 students participating in a Dance specialisation for ILP under the talented guidance of Miss Sarah Heywood, the students are enjoying learning new dance styles and collaborating together in group compositions. During Term 3 the group learnt a dance to Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from the famous Mary Poppins musical and a beautiful lyrical dance to a song from the musical Dear Evan Hansen.

If any student has participated in an activity outside of school and would like to share with the St Peter's Community, please let us know.

Until next time stay safe.

Tony Grosnan & Sue Briggs
Leaders of Wellbeing - Year 7



STAGE 5 NEWS - THAT'S A WRAP ON TERM 3!

Welcome Back!

A huge warm welcome back to you all. We hope your holidays were happy and restful, and that you really got to enjoy your break away from school. It seems crazy to be saying this, but one more term to go! This year has flown by and you're now in the final term of Year 9.

Term 4 is always one that moves very quickly, and its another reporting term so assessment tasks will come your way quite soon. It's a good time to make sure you're organised and focused in class in order to give yourself the best opportunity to show off what you've learn this year.

Reminders

Some small (gentle) reminders for our first week back.

This term is full summer uniform- which still means no hoodies or non-school jumpers for those cooler morning while the weather changes- and sports uniform should ONLY be worn on Friday's.

This also means that haircuts need to be school appropriate, and if you've enjoyed colourful nails in your holidays, they need to be removed for the school term.

You've come back into school really well this week and we encourage you to keep up that positivity as we move through the last term of the year.

Sporting Success

Congratulations to our Year 9 girls who participated in the Rugby 7's Gala Day: Eloise L, Zara M, Ayden P and Indie W.

We also need to give more congratulations to our boys who participated in the AFL Gala Day: Dylan B, Killian B, Tadhg C, Kobi C, Ryan C, Brady M, Nate M and Nate W.

They represented our school proudly and showed some excellent skill and success throughout the day- with our representatives in both the Junior Girls 7's team and Intermediate AFL team taking out runners up in the tournament.

Well done everyone!

Czgos Lawicki & Jessica Moroney
Leaders of Wellbeing - Year 9



SCHOOL SPORT & REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Year 7 Sport is fun!

During Term 3, a group of our Year 7 students participated in Gymnastics as part of the School Sports program.

Students enjoyed learning a range of individual, partner and group skills and built upon their core balance and gross motor skills.

Well done Year 7, we are blown away by your enthusiasm for gymnastics and school sport! Thank you to Ms McNicol for capturing these fantastic photos!

Duncan Little
Sports Co-ordinator

Representative Sport

During Week 1, the College had a number of teams in action. Both the Rugby 7s and AFL teams headed to RAT Park.

Congratulations to the Junior AFL team and Mr James Dennis who are now champions of Broken Bay.

Congratulations also to the Intermediate Boys AFL team and Mrs Pana and the Junior Girls Rugby 7s team and Ms Jess Moroney who both finished runners up!

Congratulations also need to be passed on to Eliza T who captained the Central Coast Representative Cricket Team to victory in the NSW Country Championships during the holidays whilst also receiving Player of the Final honours!

Jacob Hawkins
Representative Sports Co-ordinator



CSBB YOUNG ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE



Congratulations to Raya S of Year 12 who has been awarded one of five available CSBB Young Achievers Teacher Training Scholarships.

The Young Achievers Teacher Training award is a combined scholarship/internship for Year 12 leavers from Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Broken Bay, with a strong academic record and a demonstrated passion for working with children, seeking to enrol in select undergraduate teaching degrees.

The scholarship was awarded to five (5) students across Catholic Schools Broken Bay and is worth \$20,000 across the life of her university degree. To apply Raya was required to undergo a rigorous application process including a panel interview.

This is literally a life changing achievement for Rays and she has decided she wants to teach Modern History and Religious Education and will commence her study at Australian Catholic University. Congratulations Raya!

Mitchell Dryden
Acting Director of Wellbeing

YEAR 12 CALLBACK NOMINATIONS



The College would like to congratulate Amelia B and Georgia-Rose S of Year 12 for their HSC Dance Callback Nominations. Both students received two (2) nominations each!

The annual HSC showcase season celebrates student achievement by reflecting on the creativity and innovation of HSC students. Encompassing OnSTAGE (Drama), Callback (Dance), Encore (Music), SHAPE (Design & Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles & Design) and ARTEXPRESS (Visual Arts), the season celebrates student achievement of HSC students across Creative Arts and Technology subjects.

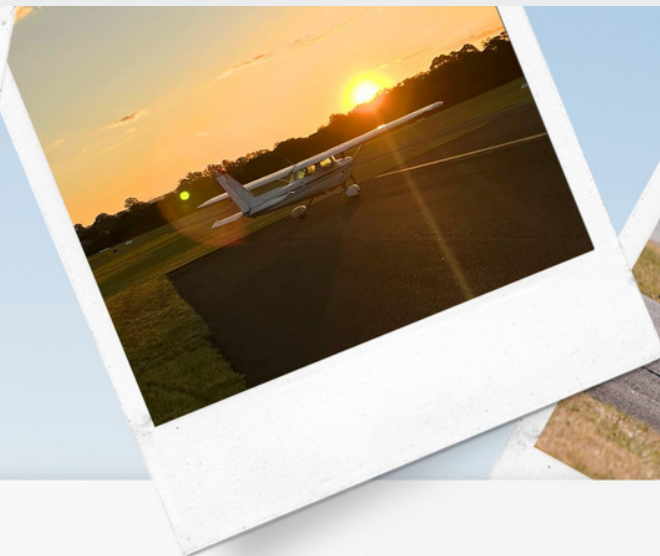
We are very proud of their hard work and the long hours in rehearsal for these Major Dance works and thank you to everyone who supported our students during their HSC including our composition dancers!

We look forward to hearing great things from these two talent dancers!

Sarah Heywood
Dance Teacher

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ST PETER'S

Wednesday 18 October	•	North Challenge Presentation
Wednesday 18 October	•	JSC Schools State Final
Wednesday 18 October	•	Ignite Maths Day
Thursday 19 October	•	Youth Ministry Year 5 Student Leadership Day @ St John Fisher
Thursday 19 October	•	Hospitality Barista Training Day
Thursday 19 October	•	Mission Mass
Friday 20 October	•	Year 10 into 11 Interviews conclude
Friday 20 October	•	USYD Indigenous Study Skills Day
Monday 30 October	•	Christmas Appeal 2023 Launch
Wednesday 1 November	•	GRIP Student Leadership Conference
Friday 3 November	•	Higher School Certificate concludes
Monday 6 November	•	Year 5 Student Taster Day
Tuesday 7 November	•	Year 11 Awards Presentation
Tuesday 7 November	•	Year 12 Formal
Wednesday 8 November	•	St Vincent House Day
Wednesday 8 November	•	Year 7 2024 Homeroom Meet & Greet
Friday 10 November	•	Year 8 Reflection Day
Monday 13 November	•	Year 10 Camp commences
Monday 13 November	•	VET Week 6 Work Placement commences
Wednesday 15 November	•	Year 10 Camp concludes



Are you ready to
**PUT WINGS ON
YOUR DREAMS?**



BECOME A STUDENT PILOT | LEARN NEW SKILLS | MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS
TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP VISIT CAMP.ROYALAERO.COM.AU