

ST PETER'S NEWS

CHALLENGING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH A FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

Bring joy to people in need this Christmas

DONATE TO OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL



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2023 ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, it's essential that we remember the true meaning of the holiday season: giving, compassion, and coming together as a community.

This year, we have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need through the Mary Mac's Christmas Appeal.

Mary Mac's, a local charity dedicated to supporting the homeless and disadvantaged in our community, has been a beacon of hope for many individuals and families. They provide social, community and friendship opportunities for men, women, families, young people, the elderly and the socially and economically disadvantaged.

Mary Mac's provides meals for those in need every weekday, but it's more than just a place to get a meal – it provides connection, value and belonging without judgement. Mary Mac's offers a place to shower and to wash clothes. They offer friendly support and companionship to address the experience of isolation and loneliness of some vulnerable people in our community and they provide pathways to support services.

Our partnership with Mary Mac's is a testament to our commitment to making a positive difference in our community. This Christmas, we have set an ambitious goal to help them in their mission to provide warm meals, companionship, and essential resources to those in need.

Starting this week, we are launching a donation drive within the St. Peter's community, and we invite each and every one of you to join us in this noble cause.

Your contributions, no matter how big or small, will go a long way in making a meaningful impact on the lives of those less fortunate.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Donate Non-Perishable Food Items:** We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items to your child's homeroom teacher labelled with your child's house. Canned goods, rice, pasta, and other non-perishables will be greatly appreciated.
- **Clothing and Blankets:** Bring new clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags to the collection points.
- **Financial Contributions:** If you prefer to make a financial contribution in the form of gift cards. All donations will go directly towards supporting Mary Mac's initiatives.
- **Spread the Word:** Encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to join us in this initiative. Together, we can make a difference.

The collection period will run until Friday 8 December, so there is ample time to gather your donations. Across the next 6 weeks donations can be delivered to your child's homeroom teacher.

*"Let's come together
and show the power of the
St. Peter's community
in spreading hope and love
this holiday season."*

Remember, even a small act of kindness can make a world of difference. Let's make this Christmas a memorable one for those who need it most.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Warm regards

Tim Hildebrandt
Principal

EVANGELISATION & CATECHESIS

Dear Parents and Students

As we near the end of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to highlight an often-underestimated factor in student success: attendance.



The Foundation of Learning

Attendance is the bedrock upon which a student's educational journey is built. It's not just about being physically present; it's about being mentally engaged, participating in discussions, and actively developing knowledge. Regular attendance helps students stay on track with their coursework, ensures they don't miss vital information, and allows them to form strong connections with their teachers and peers. The Education Act of 1990 requires students at school no less than 90% of the school year. This equates to up to 20 days off per year. Absences need to be explained no less than 5 days after the absence.



The Domino Effect

A consistent attendance record has a ripple effect on a student's overall academic performance. Regular attendance leads to better understanding of material, improved retention, and increased likelihood of achieving higher grades. It also cultivates a sense of responsibility, time management, and discipline, skills that are invaluable both in academia and in life beyond the classroom.



Fostering a Supportive Environment

At St Peter's we are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment that encourages students to flourish. We understand that life can throw curveballs, and challenges may arise. If you or your child are facing circumstances that are affecting attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can explore solutions and provide the necessary support. School Refusal is usually a symptom of poor mental health please alert us to the issue and seek support from your GP and counselling.



Parental Partnership

We firmly believe that the partnership between parents and the school is crucial in fostering consistent attendance. We encourage open communication, and we're here to listen, support, and work together for the best interest of your child's education.



Beyond the Classroom

Consistent attendance not only impacts academic success but also sets the stage for future endeavours. It instils a sense of commitment, accountability, and work ethic that will serve students well in their future careers.

Legalities

When attendance drops below the 90% rate at any time through the school year The Australian Government requires us to address the issue with you. In the first instance your child will receive a Compass entry alerting you to the issue. If the pattern continues a letter will be sent via email, highlighting the concerning pattern and next steps if it is not rectified. A second letter will be sent if an Attendance Improvement Plan is required, a meeting date and time will be provided on the letter.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that each student at St Peter's Catholic College reaches their full potential. Students will be learning up until the final day of school, please ensure your child attends each day when not unwell. Holidays during school term needs permission from the principal, for illness and misadventure to apply to assessments. These days count in the attendance rate. It is discouraged for your child to miss school for family holidays during the school term, however, Mr Hilderbrandt will review each application based on individual circumstances. Please contact your Child's Leader of Wellbeing for support if your child is having difficulty coming to school.

In Christ's love

Candice Little and Owen
Acting Assistant Principal - Evangelisation & Catechesis



SOMETHING BIG IS COMING IN 2024

A NEW MUSICAL

©Disney

**WANT TO BE PART OF THE FUN?
GET INVOLVED NOW!
CHECK COMPASS FOR MORE EXCITING DETAILS**

STAGE 5 NEWS - THIS IS THE FINAL TERM OF STAGE 5 YEAR 10!

Welcome Back!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome each and every one of you back for what promises to be an incredible final term of Year 10 and Stage 5 here at St. Peter's. We trust that you all had a restful and enjoyable break, and it's fantastic to see you return with such enthusiasm.

This term marks the last stretch of your journey as a junior, and for some of you, it will be the final term spent with us at St Peter's. We understand that time has a way of flying by, and we want to encourage you to fully embrace every moment of learning and every moment spent with your friends so that you can look back on them with fondness.

As Term 4 tends to pass by in the blink of an eye, with the end of the year in sight, we encourage you to maintain your happy and respectful demeanours within the school environment. Let's make sure you end Year 10 with a bang, leaving behind a legacy of positivity and camaraderie.

With the assessment period drawing to a close, it's important to remember that the normal expectations regarding effort and behaviour in class still apply. We commend you for your outstanding efforts throughout the year, and we urge you to carry forward the same positive enthusiasm into your classes until the very end. Your teachers will continue to provide feedback and write reports, so your behaviour will be a reflection of your dedication. Keep up the excellent work!

Year 10 Camp

Year 10 Camp is right on the horizon, and it's time to start finalizing all the exciting details. If you have decided not to attend, kindly take a moment to get in touch with Mr. Lomax or Miss Moroney at school to inform us. This will ensure we have accurate numbers and can plan accordingly.

For those who haven't filled out the Camp Registration form yet, this is an absolute priority and should be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Lomax has sent this form to your email multiple times, so please be sure to check your inbox for it.

Sport Successes

We'd like to take a moment to celebrate our students' exceptional achievements in sports this term. They recently secured a remarkable 5th place in the U/15's AFL State Finals held last week at Tuggerah Sporting Fields.

Our students represented our school with immense pride, showcasing outstanding skills and determination throughout the day. This culminated in a thrilling play-off against Endeavour Sports High, resulting in a well-deserved 5th place finish.

A huge congratulations to Zak H-G, Aleks L, and Declan N for their monumental efforts! Your dedication and achievements are truly commendable. Well done! We couldn't be prouder.

Once again, welcome back, and let's make this final term of Year 10 a memorable one! Embrace every opportunity for learning, growth, and fun. We're here to support you every step of the way. Here's to a fantastic Term 4!

Andrew Lomax & Jessica Moroney
Leaders of Wellbeing - Year 10



STAGE 6 NEWS - YOU CAN REST NOW YEAR 12

Year 12 Formal

Formal season is fast approaching, and we are excited to announce that tickets are now available for purchase through Compass.

If you encounter any issues during the process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. O'Keeffe, who will be more than happy to assist you with any concerns or questions you may have.

As a reminder the formal will be on Tuesday 7 November with photos commencing at 5:30pm and the formal commencing at 7pm.

The event is a ticketed event for Year 12 students only.

Final message to Year 12

HSC warriors, As we enter this final week of the HSC exams, we want to take a moment to congratulate those of you who have already completed your exams. Your determination and hard work have been commendable, and we applaud your efforts.

For those who are still in the midst of testing, we want to offer words of encouragement. Stay focused, stay positive, and remember that you've got this! Believe in your abilities, trust in your preparation, and success will undoubtedly follow. This is your moment to shine, so own it! Wishing you all the best of luck in these remaining exams! ✨

Year 12 2024 Wellbeing for Learning

In Week 5 of our Wellbeing for Learning program, we are delighted to welcome representatives from Newcastle University. They will be here to provide invaluable information and guidance for those of you who are considering higher education or planning

your future careers. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in pursuing a university education to ask any questions you may have about the programs and opportunities they offer.

Additionally, it's a great chance to delve into details about the various courses available, admission requirements, scholarships, and any other aspects of tertiary education. Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage with these representatives and gain insights that can be instrumental in making informed decisions about your educational and career path.

Dropping Classes

As we progress through the academic year, students are now in the process of dropping classes. It is crucial to be aware of the potential severity and impact that dropping certain classes may have on your HSC/ATAR. For more detailed information about which classes may have an impact on each student, we encourage you to reach out to Mr. Stretton or our Stage 6 Coordinators for further assistance and guidance.

Common Study

We are pleased to inform Year 12 students that you now have the opportunity to sign yourselves out three days a fortnight during period 5 for independent study at home. These designated periods are at the beginning of break 2. We trust that you will use this time wisely to focus on your studies in the comfort of your chosen study environment.

Overall, Mr. Beavis and I would like to express our continued encouragement to all of Year 12 to maintain your dedication to your current classes and to lead by example as outstanding young leaders for the Junior school. Your commitment and exemplary behaviour serve as an inspiration for your peers and set a high standard for our entire school community.

Keep up the great work!

The Stage 6 Team



THE LIBRARY BUZZ WHAT'S ON IN TERM 4?

ILPs RSG Harvest - Students reaping the rewards for their efforts!

Ready, Set, Grow! (RSG) is one of several new ILP Growth Projects for 2023. From humble beginnings in Term 1, Year 7 ILP RSG students have now finally realised their long-term goal of growing fresh food here at school.

Over the past few weeks, these students have begun to harvest silverbeet, potatoes, leeks, carrots and strawberries, with more to come (including snow peas, tomatoes, cabbages and watermelons) between now and the end of term.

All this fresh produce has been shared amongst appreciative staff or taken home by individual students so they can cook it at home. The boys who grew the amazing potato crop decided to give around 5kg of potatoes to the canteen, who then turned them into yummy potato bake for students to buy.

It's been a bumper harvest, matched only by the excitement of seeing all of the hard work resulting in amazingly healthy vegetables and fruit.

Congratulations to 7RSG!, you have worked exceptionally well as a team; learning so many new skills, acquiring new knowledge, and gaining an appreciation for the work of our amazing farmers who grow and supply the food we eat.

Ian Burke
RSG ILP Teacher



SCHOOL SPORT & REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Representative Sport

Congratulations to Wil KS (Year 10) who recently represented Australia in the Baseball5's World Cup in Turkey. The team was lucky enough to be able to finish 12th in the tournament. What an achievement!

Baseball5s is a new urban version of baseball/softball developed by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) in 2017. The game is a five-on-five discipline based on the 'four corners' game played in Cuba. The style of play was launched at the Friendship Games in Burundi in the same year.

The World Cup was held this year during October in Ankara, Turkey and included 12 countries from across every continent and included the reigning champions, Cuba who went on to claim the major prize.

Wil's team finished the tournament with an overall world ranking of 40th in the World.

Congratulations Will!

Jacob Hawkins
Representative Sports Co-ordinator

DANCE TROUPE COMPETITION SUCCESS!

Shine Bright Dance Challenge

Since 2022, the College Extra-Curricula Dance Troupe has been training and dancing together, developing the skills of our budding dancers. Students from Years 7 through to Year 12 have come together with Miss Nakhoul to learn from each other and improve their fitness, co-ordination, stage presence, group and individual performances! The troupe of highly committed young ladies, train before school each Friday at 7:30am to further their dance technique and abilities.

Last Sunday, 29 October, the Dance Troupe competed at their first external dance competition, the Shine Bright Dance Challenge in Swansea.

The girls placed 3rd in their section and qualified for State Championships in January 2024!

I am so proud of this talented group of girls and commend them on the commitment and hard work they put into this troupe each week.

Thank you to Miss Rooney and Miss McVeigh for coming and supporting the girls on the day.

Jaylah Nakhoul
Dance Teacher



THE LIBRARY BUZZ WHAT'S ON IN TERM 4?

Makerspace

We are looking forward to a very busy Term 4 in the Library.

Makerspace activities during this term are available to all students, with many exciting items able to be created. This festive craft activity attracts many students who explore their creative side by making a range of cards and ornaments to take home.

The Chess Club

The Chess Club is held in the library each Wednesday during Break 1 led by Mrs Fortmann and Mrs Rodriguez and has given students another fantastic reason to access the library.

A number of new chess sets have been purchased to meet the demand. Every student is very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Games & New Book Titles Galore

The Library also offer a large range of games to the students each break:

- Scrabble
- Connect 4
- Cluedo
- Guess Who
- Gone Fishing
- Up words
- Word Yahtzee
- Trivial Pursuit
- Uno, plus many more.

Please don't hesitate to drop by and borrow some of the wonderful new titles available or ask our friendly staff for their favourite, great read recommendations.

Marit Skarstein
Head of Library Services





CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



St Cecilia Relic

As a College, St Peter's is lucky enough to have contact with two local Parishes - Wyong and The Entrance. Wyong Parish have been blessed with the gift of an extremely important and rare relic by a relative of the Parish.

Over the next twelve months a Parish Committee will be working to prepare a Reliquary for our relic of St Cecilia. The final step in this process will culminate on 22 November 2024.

Why is this process so important?

It is very important everyone understands the significance of this process. Three questions need to be answered to help in this understanding.

1. *What is a Relic?* A relic is the tangible remains of a saint, or any object that has been in contact with the saint.
2. *What is a Reliquary?* A reliquary is the container that stores and displays the relic.
3. *Why do we venerate relics?* Relics are physical, tangible, and concrete reminders that heaven is obtainable for us. We express gratitude to God for those members of our spiritual family as we recall their holy lives, ask for their intercession, and pray to achieve what they have achieved—eternity with God in Heaven.

What is the St Cecilia Relic?

Our relic of St Cecilia is described as sacred pearls from the veil of blood and its authenticity has been signed and sealed. The relic was donated to the parish by a parishioner's relative who visited St. Cecilia's, Wyong for her weekend Mass when she was in the area.

Why is our Church named in honour of St Cecilia?

Our Church was named in memory of Cecilia Ann Woodbury.

Cecilia was a young woman who was highly respected in the town of Wyong in its early days. She raised much of the money necessary for the building of the church but died at the young age of 33, on 27 April 1905.

What will be happening in our parish over the next month?

The Church bulletins for the next three weeks will record the life St Cecilia and at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday 26 November, the official launch of our journey will commence. We would like to extend an invitation to all St Peter's families and community to attend the Mass to commemorate the beginning of such an exciting journey.

Transport for NSW



School Student Travel

Term 4 2023

2024 school travel applications are now open

Students who need a new or replacement School Opal card or travel pass for 2024 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement because of a new shared parental arrangement (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, have repeated a year or received an expiry notification for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details **before the end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications, and travel passes remain valid for the start of the 2024 school year. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade (i.e. grade two to grade three), the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), we will send an expiry notification via email.

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

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2024.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. Note: some R&R operators do not issue travel passes.

Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Changes to your bus service provider

Within Greater Sydney, a number of bus service providers have changed their names.

Parents intending to lodge an application for a School Opal card will need to visit [transportnsw.info](#) [trip planner](#) to obtain the correct bus operator name servicing your area prior to lodging an application.

Travel from Term 1 2024

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney), or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for 2024 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel open at the start of Term 4 2023, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a busy period for local transport operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations difficult.

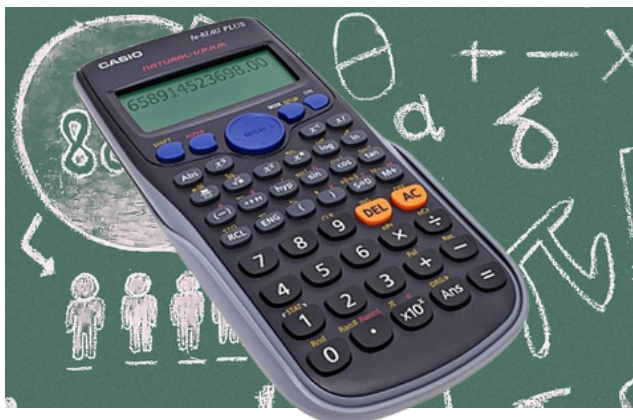
We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Students using School Opal cards are also reminded that they must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).

Further information can be found at [Plan your trip to school | transportnsw.info](#). Enquiries can be submitted at [Fares, concessions, tickets & top-up feedback | transportnsw.info](#)

MATHS HELP EVERY TUESDAY BREAK 1



Maths support is available every Tuesday during Break 1 in the Explore Zone of the Library.

If your child is struggling with concepts or particular topics we encourage them to come along and discuss with Ms Mitchell and her team of Maths whizzes.

Calculators are also available for daily hire from the College Library, for more information please see Ms Skarstein & the Library Staff.

Teresa Mitchell

Leader of Learning - Mathematics



YEAR 7 2024 MEET AND GREET

Just a reminder to Year 7 2024 families that the Year 7 Meet & Greet session is happening next week on campus and will involve both parents and children.

**YEAR 7 2024 HOMEROOM
MEET & GREET
WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2023
5.30PM TO 6.30PM**

This session will give students a chance to meet their homeroom teachers for next year and will also be the first opportunity they have to introduce themselves to other students their homeroom.

Updated information about your child's House and Homeroom will be sent out in the next few days via COMPASS.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus. Should you be unable to attend the event please email our Enrolments team to advise on: sspctenrolments@dbb.catholic.edu.au

BYOD Portal

The JB Hi-Fi Education BYOD Portal is now live. To access and view the devices on offer use the BYOD link below and enter the SCHOOL CODE (all one word in uppercase letters) into the box marked "Enter School Code" on the left side of the portal window.

<http://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod>

School Code: STPETERSDBB

Linda Selfridge
Registrar

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ST PETER'S

Thursday 2 November	●	Pathways - TAFE Taster Days (Hospitality)
Thursday 2 November	●	Downie Shield Senior Cricket Game
Friday 3 November	●	Higher School Certificate concludes
Tuesday 7 November	●	Year 12 Formal
Wednesday 8 November	●	St Vincent House Day
Wednesday 8 November	●	CSBB Battle of the Business Assistants Competition
Wednesday 8 November	●	Year 7 2024 Homeroom Meet & Greet
Thursday 9 November	●	Year 11 Awards Presentation
Friday 10 November	●	Primary Schools Touch Gala Day
Friday 10 November	●	Year 7 2024 Hit the Ground Running Program
Monday 13 November	●	Year 8 Reflection Day
Monday 13 November	●	Year 10 Camp commences
Monday 13 November	●	VET Week 6 Work Placement commences
Tuesday 14 November	●	Year 12 Dance Excursion
Tuesday 14 November	●	Pathways - Year 9/10 STEM Changemakers Incursion
Wednesday 15 November	●	Year 10 Camp concludes
Thursday 16 November	●	Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Pathways Day
Thursday 16 November	●	26th Annual Primary and Secondary Chess Competition
Thursday 16 November	●	Year 10 First Aid (Day 1)
Friday 17 November	●	Pathways - TAFE Taster Days (Automotive)
Friday 17 November	●	Year 10 First Aid (Day 2)