



RECTOR'S REPORT TO P & F Meeting No.2 May 2017

Prayer

O God, you bless your people with holy men and women who inspire us by their lives of holiness. May the example of Saint Francis, your peacemaker, be a shining light to those who work to foster the values of peace, joy, courtesy and respect in the Paduan community. This prayer we make through Christ our Lord.

REPORT

1. Staffing

We welcome Linda Weber to our teaching staff. Mrs Weber is a Teacher Librarian and she replaces Mrs Phillips who left at the end of Term 1. I also note that Mrs O'Driscoll has taken on Mrs Phillips' Pastoral Care Class duties

2. ANZAC Day

We had around 140 boys represent the College at the Kedron Wavell RSL Sub Branch march on ANZAC Day. There were also a number of boys at the Dawn Service at Kedron and other local services.

We also had Mr Anderton, Artie Stower, Riley Clarke, Max Spokes, Edward Jenkins and Flynn Pearman represented Padua at the 2017 Canberra Anzac Tour sponsored by the Kedron-Wavell RSL sub branch. They travelled with staff and students from Wavell SHS, Craigslea SHS, Kedron SHS and Mt Alvernia College. This initiative was started in 2012 by staff at Padua and has been expanded through the support of the Kedron-Wavell RSL sub branch. The program requires our students to act as student liaisons between the RSL and the College.

3. College Strategic Plan

Since our last meeting, Damien Brennan has worked with a reference group at the College to review the College Mission and Vision Statements. He has also led consultation with the College SLT, teaching staff, support staff and student representatives. Damien also plans to meet with the P & F and Friars. There is a planning weekend dedicated to the Strategic Plan for the College Board on May 27/28.

To this point there has been construction feedback and general consensus around the way the plan is taking shape. A draft strategic plan will go out for further consultation in Term 3. The Plan will be launched in Term 4

4. Teaching and Learning Update

Last week we completed the second Parent/Student/Teacher interview evenings. We also asked students to complete a learning attributes review prior as part of an end of Term 1

reflection task. Next week we launch the Learning Nest and after school academic support program for students in Years 7 – 12.

Staff are currently finalising the College Learning Framework. I hope to have a copy of this available for parents by the next meeting. Staff are also undertaking professional learning around a whole College initiative to make learning more visible. This should be introduced into classrooms over the coming term.

In the Easter holidays, myself, Barry Keagan, Jason Pacey and Paul Mansfield undertook a visit to schools in Parramatta CEO. We looked at teaching and learning initiatives and classroom design.

5. Federal Government changes create uncertainty for school funding

Over the last week, there has been significant discussion in the media about school funding and Catholic schools in particular. The funding package announced by the Prime Minister and the Education Minister includes a number of changes that should be of concern to us as a Catholic school community.

While the package includes a base funding increase beyond what had previously been proposed by the Federal Government, it also alluded to a number of changes to the existing funding system which may impact on the overall level of funding to Queensland Catholic schools.

The Catholic education sector is concerned the Federal Government has, to date, been unable to provide the necessary detail to allay concerns about potential funding reductions.

Some key points of concern include:

- The absolute failure of the Federal Government to consult with the Catholic sector before announcing its proposed changes
- The lack of detail and so a heightened sense of uncertainty about our future funding position
- Proposed changes to the funding model which target Catholic school systems and which will potentially reduce our funding and impact on fee levels in schools.

The Catholic education sector has urged the Federal Government to urgently meet Catholic education representatives to provide more detail about how the proposed changes will impact on schools, teachers and parents and to negotiate an acceptable outcome.

6. Asbestos - Greccio Campus

As reported to the community, two small pieces of bonded material containing asbestos were discovered under the trees near the Greccio cricket nets. There has been a number of searches conducted and no other pieces have been discovered. The origin of the material has not yet been identified. The College is waiting for one more report before deciding on a treatment plan for the area.

7. Revised arrangements for early finishes – Tuesday and Thursdays

In order to accommodate training on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons, there is an early finish to the school day – 20 minutes. This is time from lunch and pastoral care and in the past the boys have waited under Lone Pine for the end of the school day. Teacher/coaches

and boys training for rugby and football use the 20 minutes to catch buses to Banyo for training. Last week boys were given the option of supervised study rooms.

8. Review of some key College events

- Year 8 Camps this week
- NAPLAN Testing this week
- Start of Rugby, Football and Chess- Games against Ashgrove and St Edmunds
- School Photographs
- Sports assembly – Rugby, Chess, Debating and Football
- Easter Liturgy – Due to loss of last two days of Term 1.
- College cross country – Kirby House the winner
- Grigg House Eucharist

9. Easter Holiday Sport

Many staff who were involved in activities over the holiday break.

- First 15 Rugby Camp – Scott Maguire, Ty Casey, Matt Anderton, Gerald Parle, Sam Toolis, Fr John
- Ballymore Cup – Evan Donaghue, Ty Casey, Scott Maguire, Matt Anderton, Gerald Parle, Sam Toolis
- West Ham Soccer Clinic Banyo - Tom Lunn
- England Football Tour - Kieran O'Connell, Dan Cull, Michael O'Rourke, Michael Out
- Armidale Year 6 Rugby Tour – Scott Maguire

Peace and all good,

Peter Elmore

