



FROM THE HEADMASTER



WELCOME

I hope that you had a blessed Christmas and were able to have at least a little time off over the New Year period. It was fabulous to welcome back the students after such a long break; it has been so quiet around the School without them.

Summer is a great time to catch up on some reading. One book I really enjoyed was a classic, “The Road Less Travelled” by Scott Peck. Peck’s opening sentence is a truism (and a funny statement to make in my beginning of year newsletter): “Life is difficult.”

Peck talks a lot about suffering. Sadly, the reality of life is that we will be faced with difficult issues, with grief, hardship, pain.

Peck believes that the purpose of life is growth; growing as a person, growing spiritually to become more human, more like God. Suffering is not something that should be avoided, nor welcomed, but rather embraced as a chance to grow. He says that people who shy away from suffering, who avoid conflict at all costs, are stunted as people, they never really grow and flourish because they avoid the opportunity to become fully human.

At Paul’s School we believe that an education worth having is one that grows resilient, global citizens, who are innovative thinkers with a heart for servant leadership. Resilience is connected to suffering and growth – how we face life’s difficulties and learn from them.

Often as parents we fall into the love trap; we falsely believe that to truly love our children we should protect them from all of life’s hardships. While it is true that a parent’s role is to act as protector, it is primarily to grow the character of a young person so they can become independent people, ready to make their mark on the world.

*“True love does not look to protect from all of life’s ills,
but to walk beside a person, empowering them to solve their own issues
and problems so that they can become confident, resilient people.”*

FROM THE HEADMASTER (CONTINUED)

True love does not look to protect from all of life's ills, but to walk beside a person, empowering them to solve their own issues and problems so that they can become confident, resilient people.

In another great book (Visions of Vocation) Garber makes an equally true statement, "It is possible to get all A's, but still flunk life". What is the purpose of a great education? I believe it is to work in partnership with families to equip a young person for life, a life of flourishing.

DR PAUL BROWNING
HEADMASTER



Photos: Student Leader & New Staff Induction Service



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY



LESSONS FROM DOLLY...



This image captured the attention of a nation... and broke our hearts. It is the shy, smiling face of Dolly Everett. Tragically, as a troubled 14-year-old, Dolly took her own life a couple of weeks ago. It appears that she was overwhelmed by the on-line bullying she was being subjected to, and felt so hopeless that suicide was the response she resorted to.

I knew Dolly – I used to teach at the school she attended - and so for me and my friends at SCOTS PGC, the shock and grief has been especially acute. “How could this have happened?” “Could we have done anything to prevent this?” “Why?”

Much has been written in the media and on social networks about the tragedy. Some of it was unhelpful; much was just an outpouring of grief; some of it, though, can help us to ensure that we learn from this loss, and try to minimise the chance of it happening to our children.

I thought the best response I read was a blog from Rebecca Sparrow. Rather than just suggesting a simple solution, to this most complex issue (eg. take away their phones), Rebecca went to the heart of the matter by asking where bullies learn that it's okay to treat other people unkindly. Where do children learn that it's appropriate to respond in fury if some little thing doesn't go your way? Where do children learn that sledging opponents on the sports field is acceptable? Where do they learn that it's okay to take advantage of a power imbalance (which could be physical strength, or emotional resilience, or academic prowess, or skill with words) to hurt or humiliate somebody else?

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

She suggests that we, as the adults who model acceptable behaviour to our watching children, may need to examine our own words and actions. All of us, children and adults, could benefit by taking on board some or all of the following recommendations Rebecca makes –

1. Let's cut each other a little more slack and realise that most "injustices" done to us aren't personal and don't require a big stick response. Take a breath before you race to admonish someone whether that's in traffic, on court or at the school P&C.
2. Let's communicate better. Think about the tone of your emails or text messages. If you have an issue with someone speak to them in person or pick up the phone. Emails and texts messages are easy to misread - you are leaving it up to the recipient to decide on your tone and most of us choose the worst case scenario!
3. Never underestimate the power of a sincere apology.
4. As parents it is our job to teach our kids to be empathetic. Ask yourself what kind of behaviour you're modelling to them. Are you mocking other people in front of your kids? Are you inclusive often inviting new people to join your group? Do you show concern for the feelings of others?
5. Pay attention to what your child is doing online. Random spot checks on their social media is a good idea - sit with them and take a look together to see what types of conversations they're engaging in. (It was brought to my attention this week that a private Instagram account called SPS8gossip has been created. I'd love to see that account close down due to lack of interest.)
6. If you're spreading gossip - breaking confidences - at work or school - you are part of the problem.
7. Jono Nicholas from ReachOut points out that sometimes it's really hard for kids to articulate their feelings. So instead of asking, "Are you okay? How was school? How are you feeling?" - ask them to rate their day out of 10. And rather than ask them the moment they get home - it's often later at night when they're willing and ready to open up.
8. Can we all try and get a bit more sleep? Sleep deprivation unravels you.

You want to stop kids being bullied? It starts with us. You and me.

At St Paul's School, we are committed to stamping out bullying in all its forms. We believe that the best way to do this is by helping students to develop virtues which include kindness, patience, humility and respect. However, we also recognise that we are dealing with children who, like us, are fallen creatures. Sometimes children do hurt one another – either intentionally or unintentionally. And sometimes, as the grown-ups in the situation, it is necessary for us to intervene and sort out conflicts.

If you become aware of a bullying situation involving your child, I encourage you to contact their Tutor or classroom teacher, in the first instance. It may be that Mrs Connolly or I become involved or, in other situations, one of our counsellors may assist. In extreme situations, students should also know that they can call Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Let's make sure that Dolly's life was not lost in vain.

MR NIGEL GRANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & COMMUNITY

SECONDARY SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES

Welcome to Term 1!

Please see important dates for 2018 to the right.

More details can be found in the School Calendar, accessible via Parent Lounge.



Activity	Date
Australia Day Public Holiday	Friday 26 January
Honours Assembly	Monday 29 January
School Photos	Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 January
New Families Welcome Event	Friday 2 February
Year 10/11 Information Evening	Wednesday 7 February
Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday 13 February
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday 14 February
Year 12 Information Evening	Wednesday 14 February
Music Camp	Saturday 24 – Monday 26 February
Inter-House Swimming Carnival	Wednesday 28 February
Year 7 Camp	Wednesday 7 – Friday 9 March
Year 10 Camp	Monday 19 – Friday 23 March
Year 11/12 Block Exams	Wednesday 21 – Wednesday 28 March
Easter Service	Thursday 29 March
Last Day of Term 1	Thursday 30 March

IMMUNISATIONS (YEARS 7 & 10)

Our school is participating in Queensland Health's Immunisation Program.

It is important that parents/guardians read the information letter sent home with students on **Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January**. The letter can also be viewed [HERE](#).

Only students with a signed and completed consent form will be vaccinated. **Please return forms to Tooth Reception by Wednesday 31 January.**

SECONDARY SCHOOL

YEAR 10 SAILING CAMP

Do you have a Year 10 student next year that is keen to participate in the camp of a lifetime?

Expressions of interest are now being taken for Year 10 Sailing Camp 2018.

Please find [attached FAQ's sheet](#) and links to the South Passage [website](#).

Payment of confirmation deposit will be required at the beginning of February 2018.

Please contact l.bolger@stpauls.qld.edu.au should you require any further information.

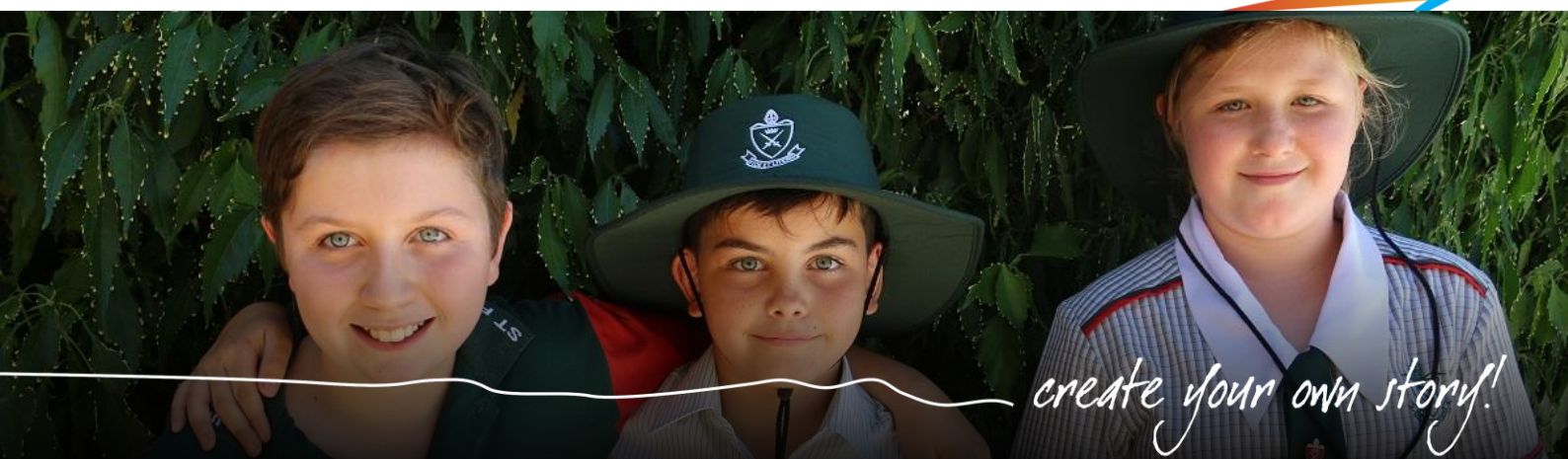


EXTRA-CURRICULAR SIGN-ON

Sign on for all Extra-curricular clubs and activities is happening now! This year all registrations are to be completed via an online form. Students, please check your emails for this.

A full list of all clubs and activities on offer can be found [HERE](#).





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the 2018 school year! We have had a great start to the year with a very calm and settled feel about the place. The children were excited to be back with friends and be able to share all the holiday adventures. We are all looking forward to the year and all the amazing events we have planned.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 30th January – Parent Teacher Information Evening

Tuesday 30th January – Uniform Swap

Thursday 1st February – JSSG Meeting

Thursday 1st February – Year 4 Excursion

Friday 2nd February – JS Captains Induction

MRS MARIANNE CONNOLLY
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



*“We have had a great start to the year with a very calm
and settled feel about the place.”*

SPORT

TAS SWIMMING

St Paul's will be participating once again in the annual TAS Swimming Carnival in 2018.

Swimming training will tentatively be from 7.00am – 8.00am Tuesdays and Thursdays and 3.30pm – 4.30pm Mondays and Wednesdays. (Junior School will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons).

To be eligible for Team selection, Age Championships, Colours Points and possible Embellishments, swimmers should attend **all of the Friday evening Time trials/Championships**.

More information including training times and Championships can be found [HERE](#).



MET NORTH SPORT TRIALS

Met North trials are happening soon. Students should see Daily Notices for details regarding which sports are trialling and when registration forms need to be returned to Ms Fraser.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS GALA DAY

Sunday 11 February - 12.00pm-4.00pm

All families and friends are welcome

Free Barbecue and Cold Drinks

Raffle and prizes to be won

Hit the Target Competition

Hosted by the Tennis Supporters' Group



MUSIC



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to Week 1 of 2018! We are excited for another great year of Music and can't wait to see you all.

As always, ensemble rehearsals and instrumental lessons will begin in Week 2, with the exception of Year 2 Strings and Year 4 Band as these ensembles begin in Term 2. Music Tutors are currently finalising their lesson timetables and you will hear from them this week. If you have not had contact from your teacher by the beginning of Week 2 please let Music Reception know and we will follow this up for you.

2018 ENSEMBLES

Please check this 2018 Ensemble member list to confirm which ensembles you are in this year:

2018 Ensembles

(If your name does not appear on here but you think it should, please email your relevant conductor.)

Please also check rehearsal times on the rehearsal schedule below:

2018 Rehearsal Schedule

For those who indicated on their lesson enrolment form that they would like to hire an instrument this year, these instruments are now ready for collection. Please collect your "Instrumental Loan Agreement 2018" form from Music Reception, and once signed and returned to us, you can take your instrument home. If you do need to hire an instrument and haven't yet let us know, please email Ms Davidson (t.davidson2@stpauls.qld.edu.au) to advise, and Music Reception will let you know when the hire form is ready to collect.



TERM DATES

See Music date claimers listed adjacent.

Activity	Date
New Families Welcome Event	Friday 2 February
Music Camp	Saturday 24 – Monday 26 February

MRS KELLEEE GREEN
HEAD OF MUSIC

GENERAL NEWS

SCHOOL PHOTOS

REMINDER:

School photos: Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 January in the Lecture Theatre.

Photo envelopes went home with children this week; spare envelopes are available for collection at Junior School or Tooth reception areas.

We would ask your assistance in ensuring that your child's appearance is in keeping with our SPS approved uniform guidelines which can be found on our website: <https://www.stpauls.qld.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Uniform-Policy.pdf>

Sibling/family photos: 7.45am-8.30am on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday

For your convenience, you can visit the MSP Photography website and order online; <http://www.msp.com.au/>

Please return the envelope with your child for photo day, even if you are not purchasing any of the photo packages

You are welcome to contact MSP Photography production@msp.com.au (3865 4291) if you have any further questions.



BUS INFORMATION

As communicated last term, St Paul's School is providing a shorter, dedicated, bus service from Bunya to St Paul's (via a hail and ride service along the current route including McDowall and Bridgeman Downs). This new service is in partnership with Brisbane Bus Lines (BBL).

Bus tickets for the Bunya service are only available for pre-purchase via our St Paul's Accounts department. (Unfortunately tickets are not available for purchase via Flexischools). Any parents interested in their children catching the bus, please purchase tickets prior to utilising this service. Tickets pre-purchased will cost \$3.85 per journey but will cost \$5 per journey if purchased on the bus itself.

For families in the Bunya region who may wish to utilise the new Bunya School service, Brisbane Bus Lines has requested you complete a BTA (Bus Travel Assistance) Form, in order to qualify for a reduced fare. This does not commit you to daily travel, or require you to pre-purchase tickets now, but by completing the form your family details are registered in the BBL database, to enable travel as and when convenient to your family at the reduced rate.

Further information, and the BTA Form is available to download on our website.

<https://www.stpauls.qld.edu.au/frequently-asked-questions-for-changes-to-st-pauls-bus-service/>

If you are considering utilising this service at any stage, please forward the completed form to Errol at errol@brisbanebuslines.com.au (3354 3633).



SAFER INTERNET DAY – 6 FEB

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual, worldwide event held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 to help encourage a better internet, with this year's theme 'Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you'.

St Paul's School is an eSmart school and values the safety of our students, including online, as an utmost priority.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has provided 5 simple ways we can all show respect online. See [HERE](#).

GENERAL NEWS

READING/LIBRARY NEWS

You may have seen a recent story on the news, highlight a new study that looks at how children's improvement in language is influenced by the involvement of their dad. You can view the clip [HERE](#).

2017 YEAR BOOKS

2017 Year Books were distributed on the final school day of 2017.

If your child/ren did not receive a copy, they are available from their tutor (Years 7 – 12) or Junior School Reception (Pre-Prep – Year 6).

Year 12 graduates are able to pick up a copy from Tooth Reception.



2018 TERM DATES

2018 Term Dates can be found on our website [HERE](#).

RETAIL SHOP

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm

For a list of 2018 uniform requirements, see [HERE](#).

PARKING & TRAFFIC POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to facilitate effective, consistent and equitable management of parking and traffic on the School campus. It is also to inform employees, students, parent/guardians, contractors and visitors of their responsibilities when parking and driving on the School campus.

You can view the policy [HERE](#).

WELLBEING CENTRE

COUNSELLING

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed some relaxation, feeling recharged for the term ahead.

It has been great to see all the students back after the break. The beginning of the new school year can sometimes bring about a mixture of emotions, some more uncomfortable than others. New classes, new teachers, friendships, workload etc can mean some students can feel stressed, angry and/or overwhelmed. As parents, we all want our kids to be happy and it can be helpful to know how to handle these big emotions in our children. Parenting expert Michael Grose explores this topic in his blog "How to talk to your child when they are highly emotional."

<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/2018/01/how-to-talk-to-your-child-when-theyre-highly-emotional/>

Karen, Ken & Rexina Counselling Team

*Beyond Blue
Kids Helpline*

1300 22 4636
1800 55 1800

*Lifeline
Youth Beyond Blue*

13 11 14
<http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/>

CAREER NEWS

This service provides students, parents and staff members with up to date career information. The information is updated fortnightly and we highly recommend that you scan it regularly for items of interest, especially for students in the Senior School.

Please click on the [attached](#) to access the latest Career News.

USEFUL CAREERS WEBSITES

My Future www.myfuture.edu.au
Job Outlook www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook
Job Guide <http://www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au/>

