

Volume - 2020.7

Date 18 December 2020

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

PENOLA

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

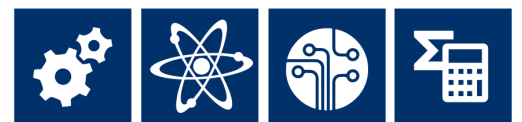
Courage Compassion Integrity Hope

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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

Congratulations to each and everyone of you for your continued support during 2020. We are pleased that the 2020 school year is behind us and we can now look forward to the New Year of 2021 with great excitement and anticipation.

Our Higher School Certificate (HSC) results were released today and I am delighted that despite the fact that our Year 12 students were studying during their HSC during the most challenging time, the year of the COVID pandemic. Year 12 were strongly supported by you as parents, the teaching and support staff and their HSC Learning Coaches.

High commendations to our first graduating class of Penola Catholic College who have excelled in achieving exceptional results which have earned them early offers to University commencing in 2021. Thank you for your commitment and dedication throughout the most challenging and unpredictable year.

As a College, we have achieved an exceptional level of both Band 5 and 6 results which is testament to their willingness to listen to feedback and apply this to their study program. All high achievers will be invited to our Awards assembly in early February 2021. Your high standards have reflected our College mantra of Believe, Achieve, Succeed! Year 12 students please stay in contact with the Penola Community and become part of our newly formed Penola Alumni.

Once again, please take the time to re-charge and revitalise during the Christmas holiday break with your family and friends.

Thank you sincerely for your incredible support, kind words and encouragement that have been a source of motivation and inspiration during 2020. Your partnership is critical in forming positive relationships enabling high quality learning and successful learning opportunities for your child.

May God bless each one of you during this festive season at the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

A Happy and Holy Christmas to all our Penola families, students and staff.

Stay Safe and we look forward to reconnecting with you all in January 2021.

Tania Cairns
Principal Leader



FAREWELL TO STAFF FOR 2020

The following staff members are leaving Penola and we wish them every blessings and all the very best for their future. We thank them sincerely for their dedication to the students during their time here at the College.

Mrs Alison McDonald Retiring after 20 years of teaching at the College

Mrs Jane Fonmau Retiring after 19 years in administration at the College

Mrs Marian Samuels

Mr Daniel Conway

Mr Nathan West



School Counsellors:

Mr Jae McCarron

Mrs Cynthia Inrguez

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF FOR 2021

We welcome in 2021 the following new staff members and know they will bring many new gifts and talents to our Penola Community:

Mrs Samantha Berridge Business & Community Partnership officer and HSIE teacher

Ms Michele Glynn Diversity Team Teacher

Miss Alina Goro English Teacher

Miss Sarah Holt HSIE Teacher

Mrs Judy Peters Mathematics Teacher

Mr James Dwyer IT Trainee

Mr Stephen Hare Counsellor



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Season's Greetings to students, families and friends of Penola Catholic College,

Who could've imagined that 2020 could have happened the way it has for our community and communities beyond our local towns and city. We knew the first year of Penola was would be a year of working hard to build connections from our history and continue the learning transformation whilst creating new traditions and new ways of working for our school. Little did we know that our guiding principle of being a safe, supportive and caring learning environment would need every person connected to our school working together with courage and a belief in the 'greater good for humanity.'

This time last year, some of our families and staff prepared their homes or volunteered to confront or fight bushfires that surrounded our suburbs. We admired the courage and bravery of people experiencing terrible bushfires and then the devastating loss of life and property in NSW and in other states. We looked forward to visiting these towns and trying to support people in those towns, but we then heard news of COVID-19. Each of us changed the way we all went about our daily lives in an effort to protect one another.

I would like to express my gratitude and pride for our community. As teachers, we have always known the central importance of relationships to learning and well-being. During COVID, we missed our students everyday, as we tried to connect online and solve the complex new ways of supporting learning. Our parents, grandparents, relatives and friends all tried hard to support our students to learn from home. We all worked together as teams to adapt and solve problems as educators that we had never experienced in our lifetimes. The communication and understanding within this community has brought forward the best of who each of us are, and I cannot thank this community enough for working hard together and showing understanding, determination and kindness.

We also thank our students, families and staff for feedback that has helped us build upon the teaching and learning this year. The new reports and award structure has been very successful and the 'zoom' assessment meetings, subject selection web pages, recorded award ceremonies and parent teacher events have also a way to share information and celebrate learning success. However, we have missed one another and look forward to embracing these new ways of working together in an adaptive way into 2021 and beyond.

The new Penola uniform is almost here with our new 2021 Year 7 students. We are very excited for the next big step forward for Penola Catholic College. We will see all of Year 7 and our senior Year 10 students in our new uniform. In addition, other students from other year groups next year may choose to wear the Penola uniform next year as well.

I would also like to thank families for sharing their 'used and out-grown' uniforms and resources to help other families on the Facebook Penola Parent group. In addition, we have responded to student, parent and teacher feedback to make our uniform standards simple and less complicated. COVID has taught us that our relationships are central to learning and wellbeing, and making things less complicated increases the personal connection and peace within our community.

I hope your child has enjoyed their learning this year. I also hope that the Semester 2 reports (sent home 7/12/2020) and Parent Teacher interviews (16/12/2020) has provided families and students with effective feedback to help students reflect on their learning, celebrate successes and also make adjustments or goals to progress their learning or reach the next achievement standard next year.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Continued

I look forward to sharing some other improvements to our Student Learning Performance profile section of our school reports that we have been working on to improve the way we communicate the social and emotional capabilities that we observe whilst your child learns at our school.

Attached at the end of this report are lists of students who achieved success at the Term 4 Week 8 Academic Award ceremony. Next year the Penola Award System will be outlined in the student diary, along with our Merit System and we look forward to many of our students experiencing great success and joy in their learning next year.

In closing, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas where you are able to reconnect with family and friends that you may have been distanced from, travel to places your heart has longed to find and enjoy the blessing of a warm embrace from those you hold dear.

God Bless you and your family in this season of Advent.

Mrs Peta Sparkes
Assistant Principal

Principal's Awards for Exceptional Academic Achievement



STAGE 5



STAGE 4



Community Awards

Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards:

Year 10	Bailey Gregory
Year 12	Raymond Limbaga

ADF Future Innovators Awards:

Year 10	Lachlan Desira
Year 12	Gabriel Hughes



Community Awards Continued:

Stuart Ayres All Rounder Award: Jack Prendergast

Lindsay Quiet Achiever Award: Anneleise Shapcott

Principal's Award for Exceptional Academic Achievement

Stage 4

Year 7:

Ayvah	Atkins	Anthea	Karavas
Maddison	Auld	Heidi	Kowalczuk
Zoe	Cladingboel	Morgan	Leita
Ethan	Cook	Tye	McCabe
Eryn	Currie	Mariella	Nardi
Isla	Darwen	Sophie	O'Leary
Ava	Dobson	Breha	Pearson
Brooke	Enman	Sofia	Prybysh
Jenna	Fisher	Jake	Ravello
Sienna	Footman	Olivia	Talbert
Jack	Healey	Alyssa	Troy
Tahnee	Hine	Amarlia	Wallis
Jacob	Ilijeski	Elysia	Zinghini-Silva
Leilahni	Isaia	Olivia	Zirn

Year 8:

Daniel	Baigorria	Shriya	Lal
Maya	Bailey	Harry	Lewandowski
Neave	Bottrill	Keisha	Maskell
Emily	Car	Luca	Musumeci
James	Cremen	Kavya	Nalamati
Rory	Davis	Emma	O'Toole
Blake	Desira	Charlyse	Russo
Ella	Dunlop	Faith	Ryan
Selina	Dura	Charli	Small
Brock	Grima	Tracy	So
Jazmyn	Haes	Chloe	Watson
Mitra	Kaur	Elizabeth	Wilson
Sethumi	Kodippili	Imelda	Wright
Montana	La Rosa	Julianna	Yu

Principal's Awards for Exceptional Academic Achievement Continued

Stage 5

Year 9:

Ezthrella	Berthriz
Zavier	Button
Georgia	Donney
Jack	Duggan
Gabrielle	Flanagan
Byron	Gillon
Melissa	Giugovaz
Julia	James
Shay	Kennedy
Ryan	Kruger
Jessie	Lustri
Aleks	Maksimovic
Cooper	McLean

Brooke	Morgan
Chloe	O'Hara
Chaya	Ott
Jai	Poulton
Damon	Psathas
Tori	Robertson
Luke	Sammur
Shreya	Singh
Zac	Stevens
Lachlan	Troy
Julia	Trunzo-Elia
Taylor	Whana
Josephine	Yu

Year 10:

Emily	Attard
Olivia	Auddino
Harrison	Bolton
Cooper	Brennan
William	Burrell
Emily	Ciber
Isabella	Coey
Lachlan	Desira
Brenton	Donnelly
Arsh	Dossani
Tanisha	Dutt
Emma	Fowler
Jessie	Galea
Broc	Geronimi
Maya	Grantham

Bailey	Gregory
Lauren	Haly
Zoe	Hyde
Adrian	Jones
Holly	Lampard
Torrance	McLean
Prabesh	Nepal
Harrison	Payne
Ramya Sri	Raparthi
Samantha	Rowe
Claire	Silva
Zac	Thompson
Jovana	Trifkovic
Ella	Wickenden
Danielle	Yates

LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MISSION



“A Christmas like no other” was our theme as we embarked on a giving campaign using Woollies Grocery Gift Cards. Our total gifts to the local families supported by Vinnies was \$1,550, not including the stocking full of personalised gifts. An amazing effort celebrated during 3 Christmas liturgies, one for each Stage of Learning. Students led the celebration with great confidence and dignity.

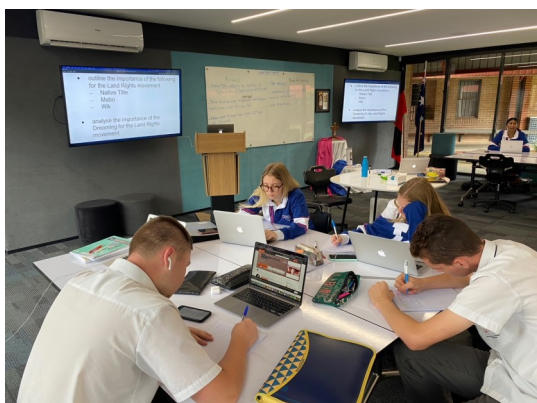
We were joined by Mrs Barbara Ryan, from St Vincent de Paul, Emu Plains. Thank you all and as we hear the stories of Christ’s birth this Christmas, may we treasure our time here in this place and be grateful for all our relationships that have flourished in 2020. Our Christmas message was simple, using St Joseph as our model of how to the “right with God”.



Year 7 Religious Education & Mission

Year 7 students learn about the **‘Culture of Waste’** proclaimed by Pope Francis. The annotations we created enabled a depth of understanding about how we can act sensitively to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

ASOR



Seventeen Year 10 students have completed the Accelerated Preliminary Course in Studies of Religion and have begun their HSC course in Term 4. Joining with the Year 12 cohort the ASOR students are able to articulate that writing is the focus, coupled with high expectations and being able to assess their own performance against criteria the students have developed the confidence to write with precision and purpose receiving peer and teacher feedback.

Congratulations to all our students who continue to be challenged to find the next improvement.

LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MISSION Continued..

Welcome to the Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis in a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father and a working father.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

As Penola continuing to investigate how to be a successful member of the Josephite Schools across Australia and New Zealand, the Year of St Joseph is an effective vehicle for continuing our journey with St Mary of the Cross and Fr Julian Tension Woods.

Mr Robert J Feeney

“The Dream of Saint Joseph”, c. 1642–43.

Oil on canvas, 209.5 x 155.8 cm.
The National Gallery, London. Public Domain.

INTEGRITY
is to
do what is right,
not
what you like!

St Matthew calls Joseph a “just” man, a righteous man. In the Scriptures, righteousness was a quality which reflected God’s Covenant with his people. A person who was “right” with God was one who sought to do God’s will in every situation.

**Act with justice
and know
your HOPE
will be
fulfilled**

Joseph is called a just man because he did the right thing with regard to Mary, his wife. Somehow, with love’s insight, he knew Mary’s innocence and holiness. So, when Joseph accepts someone else’s son as his own, it is not a frustration of his hope for paternity, but rather a marvellous fulfilment of these hopes. Joseph’s fulfilment surpasses that of Abraham, for he receives Jesus, Abraham’s Son who is God, whereas Abraham received Isaac who was only a promise of the greater Son to come.



A just man is essentially a man of faith who hopes in God. Of Joseph, as of Abraham, it can be said, “He put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). A just man is open to receive the fulfilment of God’s incredible promises. And so, faith is really a complete surrender to God that he might accomplish in him whatever he wants. This is why St Paul speaks of faith as obedience (cf. Romans 1:5).

**Love,
Compassion
and Holiness is
emulated by
St. Joseph**

St Paul assures us, “All baptised in Christ ... you are one in Christ Jesus. Merely by belonging to Christ you are the posterity of Abraham, the heirs he was promised” (Ga 3:27–29). If Joseph is the father of Jesus in a real sense, then he is father of all who are “one in Christ Jesus”. By his self-sacrificing faith, Joseph has become the father of us all, inheriting this title more fully than Abraham himself.

**It takes
true Courage
to give fully to
the other and
live faithfully**

LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND LEARNING

Leader of Student Wellbeing and Learning

What a year - so many challenges and so many highlights. Learning has been well and truly the focus in our classes and that has been very inspirational for us a community

The fact that we were have a relatively normal year of teaching and learning, especially for our senior students, that we were able to celebrate the:

- Year 12 Farewell assembly;
- Year 12 Graduation;
- Year 12 Formal; and
- Year 10 Dinner Dance.



We were able to hold our

- Stage award ceremonies (videotaped so therefore viewable by our community)

In the Penola points program, 89% of students achieved higher levels:

- Bronze Level (13%);
- Silver Level (20%);
- Gold Level (48%); and
- Platinum Level (8%).

Vote of appreciation Marco Testa and Jacob Waldon

On behalf of the staff and students I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mr Testa (Stage 5) and Mr Waldon (Stage 4) for their tireless work as the Assistant Leaders of Learning.

Your determination in being advocates for the students and our team has been appreciated and we look forward to your contributions to the stage teams in different roles for 2021.

Leader of Student Wellbeing and Learning Continued

Thanks to Rachel Miller and John McKnight

Again, on behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank both Mrs Miller and Mr McKnight for their ongoing influence in supporting the wellbeing of our student community. The job is demanding and so rewarding when we see the positive impact we are able to make in the lives of our students.

Welcome to Nathan Bryant

For 2021, Mr Bryant has accepted a position as Leader of Learning Wellbeing. Mr Bryant brings a wealth of experience to the team in supporting the learning of our students and will be working with Mrs Miller, Mr McKnight and myself as a member of our wellbeing team.

Well-being and learning are inextricably linked.

Student wellbeing and voice has always been an important part of what we have done at Penola and previously at McCarthy. There is extensive research (ASG Student Social and emotional Health Report 2007) (Australian Student Wellbeing Framework) on the importance of high expectations coupled with the development of positive relationships to promote wellbeing for all members of our community so students can feel challenged, happy, safe, heard and productive at school and in life.

We will be continuing to work with our students to give the skills to further develop positive, life giving relationships with everyone from all walks of life. We will be working to encourage even more connection to each other, to the learning and to the college.

There will be consistency amongst the staff in regards to the high expectations in how students learn, interact, wear their uniform and participate in activities at the College. There will be alternative programs developed to support all students, lunch time clubs and special projects. We are implementing the BE-COME program to help the student develop awareness of their interests and strengths whilst also thinking of opportunities for their futures.

Our pastoral care work is systematic and based on student needs and interests. There will be term by term mantras that the Stage Leaders of Learning will be promoting. The messages for our students will be community building and learning focused at all times.

It is an exciting time to be moving forward with the community to be able to help our students become the best people they can be for themselves, their families and their community.

Mr Martin Stein

LEADER OF INNOVATION AND DIVERSITY

Diversity 2020: A Year of Striving and Thriving

It is with great pride that we reflect on 2020 as a year of innovation, resilience, collaboration, vision and accomplishment.

As we wrap up another incredible year at Penola Catholic College, we acknowledge that the vast array of projects, interventions and accomplishments of 2020, could not have been achieved without the readiness of our students to respond to challenge and lean on self belief. It is this growth mindset that enables our learners to become all they can be, starting of course from their personal strengths, aspirations and strong character traits.

To our parent community for working so closely with us on common goals and from a point of belief. Your support has been pivotal and your honesty and trust admirable. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2021 and sharing in the journey of each child as they ready themselves for living, learning and exploring beyond their HSC.

In 2020 we have seen 7 groups of students graduate from our literacy program R3 and another 5 groups of students graduate from our numeracy program, EMU. Additionally, 22 students were involved in daily targeted intervention and many, many students across multiple year groups received mentoring in relation to assessment readiness, 1:1 and small group support in class daily or received disability provisions for tests conducted throughout the year. Our Year 10 students graduated from the Post School Options program and we have launched the same program with Year 10 of 2021 very recently. In total, we have worked alongside 45, Stage 5 students exploring employability, communication and collaboration skills for their future.

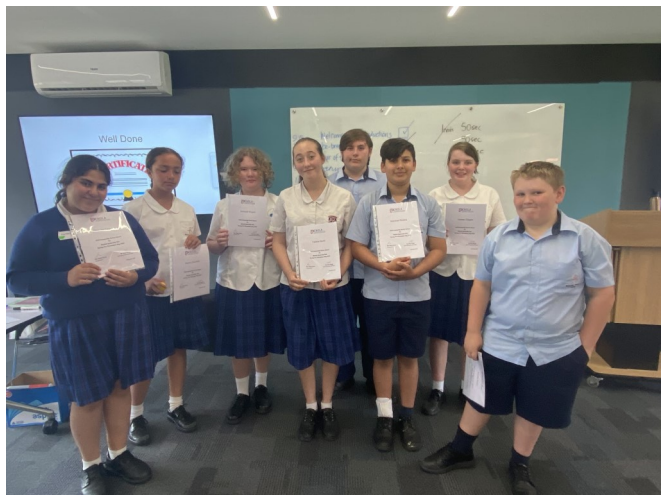
I would like to thank all the members of the Diversity Team who believe wholeheartedly in the gifts, the potential and the value of each and every child they teach. Each member of the team brings their own highly valued expertise and inspires their students to identify and strive for the possibilities that new learning and 'stretching oneself' can bring. What an amazing team.

Thank you Mr John Durkin, Mrs Cynthia Maruziva, Mrs Connie Voutos, Mrs Fran Sidoruk, Mrs Liz Heggart, Mrs Margaret Marathakis, Mrs Annalise Pittman, Mrs Monica Sharp, Mr Jacob Waldon, Mrs Kathy Gadzev, Mrs Joanne Daggar and Mrs Madeleine Pusic.



It is through this targeted learning ingrained with engagement, risk, depth, empowerment and transferral to real life, that we consistently witness students feeling proud, hopeful and openly discussing their aspirations. Well done students of Penola Catholic College and congratulations on a year of hard work and absolute achievement.

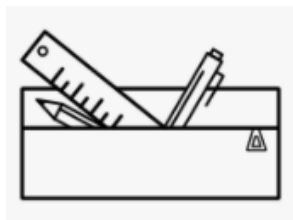
Ms Anna Keogh



LEADER OF PEDAGOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

Celebrating the great year of learning

Although 2020 will always be the year remembered for COVID-19, it will not define the **collaborative, student focused learning** that has taken place here at Penola. This is evident of the current awards ceremonies held in Week 8, as well as, the talent showcased from our students. In a year of hardship, our **students have built resilience, grit and determination** which has resulted in exceptional results within all subject areas and in particular the Creative Arts -- Visual Arts, Drama & Music all having been pre-selected to their exhibiting shows with one of our students having made Artexpress. This was also further evident in the talented skill set of our student performances at our end of year Penola's got Talent show.



Preparing for learning 2021

To ensure our students have no barriers in the way of their learning upon return, it is extremely important in the 2 weeks prior to returning to school our students should be starting to prepare and pack the correct equipment and materials for learning. Please refer to the **Skoolbag app** for the **list of required equipment** your child needs to make certain they are **set for the best possible learning experience**.

Mrs Julie Petrovski

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

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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



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)

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.