

Delany News



Term 4 Issue 1

26 October 2017

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Events in October

To 6th November
HSC exams

Friday 27th
Year 9 "Top Blokes"

Monday 30th
Year 11
Elevate Study Program

Tuesday 31st
Sculpture by Sea

Events in November

Wednesday 1st - 3rd
Patrician Student
Leadership Retreat

Friday 3rd
Year 7 ACU
Aspirations Day

Dear Delany Community,

I had the privilege of attending a Patrician Immersion, led by Br Aengus Kavanagh and Br Peter Ryan., during the holidays with other school leaders to gain a deeper understanding of our Patrician heritage. The visit included meeting teachers and students from Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge and "The Bish" Secondary School, Galway. Both schools extended a warm welcome and we were able to gain insights as to how they kept the Patrician spirit alive in their respective schools.

As a way of connecting with our Patrician roots we visited the Church of the Holy Rosary, Tullow where the body of Bishop Daniel Delany is interned. It was a special occasion as we had Mass and prayers over his crypt surrounded by stained glass windows depicting his mission in Ireland. We also had time to visit the Delany museum attached to the church that housed different exhibitions displaying personal artefacts of Delany and illustrating the history of the Patrician story.

We all took great pleasure in meeting many Brothers actively working across Ireland and celebrating their achievements in education or social work. We also heard stories of legends like Br Paul O'Connor who, in the mid-nineteenth century, walked for four days from Tullow to Galway to establish a school for boys. This school is still there today!!

We are forever indebted to the commitment and energy of the Brothers in establishing schools in Ireland and to men like Br Aengus who, in leaving their families behind to answer God's call, travelled to Australia with the view of providing a Catholic education for all.

I take this opportunity to thank staff, student and parents for their generosity in collecting \$6000.00 for the Delany Foundation. This money will be spent in supporting the building of a Patrician school in Ghana and developing learning resources for the children in that school.

God bless,
Robert Muscat
Principal



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Delany College in the tradition and spirit of the Patrician Brothers

"Pride, Persistence, Passion!"

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Term 4 at Delany College. I trust the two week holidays gave everyone a break from routine - but it's time to resume teaching and learning as we head towards the end of year exams.

THE DELANY COMMUNITY

There are a number of significant events approaching, and I invite all our community to participate wherever you are available.

On Tuesday 24th October we took be taking our 2018 Student Leadership team to ACU for a day of reflection and planning. This was the first time this team of students sat together and really thought about what their goals will be for the up-coming 12 months. During the day we challenged the students to develop a vision statement for the year. I look forward to sharing this with you in the near future.

Wednesday 25th October saw the second of our Delany Open Learning days for 2017. You might have seen this publicised in the mail or on billboards, and its purpose is to continue building enrolments for next year. Parents were invited to attend between 10 - 11am to view classes in action, and then from 2:30 - 5pm to attend presentations and meet with staff and students.

A date for your diary is Wednesday 22 November. On this evening we will be hosting our Year 12 Creative and Performing Arts exhibition of HSC works. I strongly encourage you to attend this evening and see the amazing work that our students have produced.

THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The Higher School Certificate is now in full swing. The last few weeks have, no doubt, been busy for our Year 12 students as they hone their knowledge and skills. It is a stressful time! There are a host of resources available to students (and parents) including Headspace (in Parramatta), Kids Helpline, Beyond Blue and Reach Out, are just some of the organisations that provide advice and assistance. Mrs Anne Bezzina, our school counsellor, is also available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the College. Behind the scenes are our Delany staff, working hard at developing engaging and rigorous units of work. A great deal of energy, creativity and effort has been invested throughout this year in preparation of class work, assignments and examinations. This is also true of correcting and providing feedback to students. In particular, we have been preparing for the 2018 school year for the past months. I would like to acknowledge the work that our staff produce to create our teaching and learning environment.

THE PATRICIAN COMMUNITY

Throughout term 3 our College has been running cake stalls, BBQs and fundraising events in support of the Delany Foundation, named after the founder of the Patrician Brothers, Daniel Delany. The Foundation provides schooling and support for communities around the world, particularly in developing countries.

On Wednesday 18 October we had the great privilege, at our College assembly, to present a cheque to Br Stephen Sweetman and Br Paul O'Keefe for the Delany Foundation. In a measure of generosity and effort by our students we have presented Br Stephen and Paul with a donation in excess of \$6000.



Ms Donia Shwan, Maryanne & Francis proudly presenting Br Paul, Australian Provincial with the donation to the Delany Foundation.

SCHOOL DIARIES IN 2018

At the beginning of the 2018 school year students will be given a school diary for the year. At the moment only Years 7 & 8 have a diary because we had adopted an electronic version in 2017. A key feature that we have found missing from an e-diary is the opportunity to communicate with parents using a quick handwritten note in a diary, and for you to then respond. A physical copy also keeps learning and planning in front of students eyes all the time.

SKOOLBAG

Are you using SkoolBag on your iphone or android? If not you should try it!

The best person to assist you with the setup of this app is your resident IT expert - your son or daughter.

St Patrick, pray for us.
Mr Anthony Blomfield
Assistant Principal

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

The image below is a snapshot of Delany's student attendance as at Monday 16 October 2017.

Term 3 Week 6

Scholastic Year	Sch Yr Attendance Level %	Attendance Category	
07	● 78.4%	19.3%	78.9%
08	● 68.4%	21.9%	67.1%
09	● 63.1%	26.0%	63.0%
10	● 59.7%	28.4%	59.7%
11	● 67.6%	22.9%	67.1%

We can see that the attendance level for all year groups is below where it really needs to be. To put it in a practical perspective consider a student who has an attendance level of 80%. This means that the student would be missing (on average) **one day every week of the year**. We know that successful students are those who attend classes on a regular basis and minimise days lost from school.

Everything we do at Delany College is important: classes, excursions, exams, sports carnivals and activities. Each one of these is a building block for a successful and engaged student which is underpinned by students' attendance at school.

Target: so close to 90%

Looking inside our school data it can be seen that there are many students who are just below our 90% target. At this level it is just a day or two of accumulated absences that make the difference.

- 17 students are at 89% attendance
- 12 students are at 88% attendance
- 12 students are at 87% attendance

I challenge all students to attend every possible day of learning during term 4.

In particular, attendance is required by all students up to and including the last day of term 4 - Friday 15 December.

Please contact me if you would like to clarify attendance issues, discuss strategies for getting students to school, or collaborate on an attendance plan for your children.

Mr Anthony Blomfield
Assistant Principal

CURRICULUM

LEARNING TO LEARN

Developing critical thinking skills is emerging from the educational literature as a skill that students need to learn for the twenty first century. No longer are students called upon just to remember facts but they are required to synthesise their knowledge and apply it to many different and changing real life situations like you and I have to do in our jobs every day.

Until a few years ago, most teachers thought that teaching simply involved filling a student's head with information. Knowledge was 'transmitted' from the teacher to the student, generally by lecture. This thinking and practice are firmly entrenched in most classrooms despite the fact that the ineffectiveness of lecture-based teaching had been known for quite some time.

Modern cognitive psychology tells us that learning is a constructive, not receptive, process. This theory states that understanding comes through experiences and interaction with the environment, and that the learner uses a foundation of previous knowledge to construct new understanding.

Consequently, the learner has primary responsibility for constructing knowledge and understanding, not the teacher. In a constructivist classroom, the teacher is no longer the "authority" but instead is a guide or facilitator who assists students in learning.

It is our commitment at Delany College to provide your children with the best education that we can provide to set them up for great success at University, TAFE or work. Switching to a more constructive approach and using technology in learning is the way, we believe, will allow your children, our students, to develop the skills that they will need to thrive outside school.

*Mr Mark Robinson
Head of School Learning & Diversity*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This week our Student Leadership Team went to ACU to explore what it means to be a leader at Delany College. One of the activities that they undertook was an examination of St Paul's mission and 'value tool kit'. This was an excellent opportunity to examine St Paul's letter to the Romans and look at how we prioritise faith in leadership. Some of the photos below demonstrate the way in which students ranked the values indicated by St Paul.



It was especially interesting listening to the way in which they justified their decisions from a leadership perspective. We have a lot to look forward to with this upcoming group of leaders!

God Bless
*Mrs Karina Stow
Religious Education Co Ordinator*



FROM THE PEDAGOGICAL LEADERS

Learning is everything at Delany. Each day presents a new opportunity for teachers and students to expand their horizons and their learning.

Already this term, we have had twenty students involved in a Coding Workshop using Unity software to design and develop a game platform. Students were able to utilise their critical and creative skills to work with experts in game coding.



Delany was also host to a teacher workshop on Cuberider. The Cuberider Space Program transforms an everyday science class into mission control whilst teaching students core science and mathematics, as well as workforce-critical problem solving skills. This exciting and innovative program is project based learning with real world outcomes with schools sending experiments to the International Space Station to be tested, data recorded, and results analysed in the classroom.

Delany teachers are always looking for new and effective ways to challenge and engage students and to make learning relevant and meaningful.

Sharon McManus and Jo McKeown



THE ANZAC SPIRIT

Mary travelled to Anzac sites as a representative of the NSW Government. She travelled to significant Australian battlefields in Belgium and France on a 12 day tour of the Western Front, along with students from other schools.

This is Mary's story.

"Nearly 4 weeks ago I was fortunate enough to embark on my journey to find the true meaning of what the ANZAC spirit is about. My experience was to gain a glimpse of what war was like, and although I had a glimpse of what it would have been like that glimpse was so much more than I could've ever achieved or appreciated from the internet, textbook or an image.

The first stop in the commemoration of the soldiers was London, England or as I like to call it Shakespeare land. One of my favorite memories was having the ability to be embraced in the rich cultural history, standing in front of the remake of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, being so close I could touch it. Likewise on the same level, I enjoyed examining the Australian war memorial in London, where 102,000 killed Australian heroes of the First and Second World Wars were commemorated.



Mary sharing her experiences with her Delany community.

of proteins and vegetables combined and mashed up into one plate. It was close to abysmal, the experience led me to further appreciate the sacrifice of all the servicemen and women. That day in Belgium also consisted of wearing the Australian WW1 uniform and carrying only half the weight they would have carried whilst travelling on the road to Passchendaele for kilometers upon kilometers. From marching, doing drills grenade throwing and aiming rifles this was one of the experiences that gave me a glimpse of the struggles endured by soldiers.

The final destination was Paris, France my most memorable experience was seeing the Eiffel Tower in person, which was overwhelming, seeing the Eiffel Tower on a 13 inch screen is one thing but seeing meters upon meters in another, having the experience to cruise around and be embraced in such detailed architecture and history was remarkable.

From all the spectacular experiences, one experience that was so overpowering for me was visiting over 10 cemeteries each containing more than 100 bodies and or names of soldiers. What made it difficult for me was putting a name to a number, so often we hear that 5, 200 men died in this battle, and another 10,000 in this battle, but so little do we ever hear the names of these warriors, the life of these heroes and the experiences of these Australian patriots, being a part of this journey allowed me to reflect on each name that I walked past, and further understand their life not only on the battlefields but also in Australia.

Another aspect that I gained was the development of spirit, friendship and a sense of community in a group, much like the comradery of soldiers at war who kept each other upbeat despite the difficulty of their circumstances. These are now new bonds that I will never forget.



After being a part of the Premier's ANZAC Scholarship 2017, I now have a greater sense of appreciation of what our soldiers did for us. It really opened my eyes to see and further acknowledge the sacrifice they made. I am so fortunate and thankful that Delany College had the faith in me to make my journey and discover the true meaning of the ANZAC spirit and I am honored and privileged to have been selected as a scholar and a part of the 2017 Premier's ANZAC Scholarship representing Delany College.

The final message that I'd like to leave with is that this is now not only my legacy to remember but ours, Delany College, to make sure that our generation remember. "In the face of unimaginable sadness, it's easy to look away. But the only thing we can do to honour those who were left behind is to remember them."

By Mary Ghribian Year 10 Student



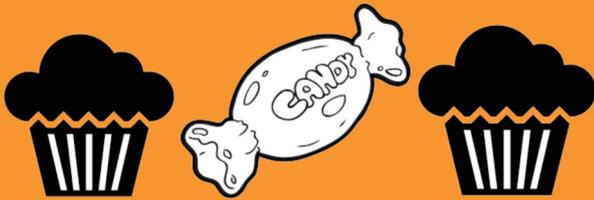
Departing England and entering Belgium was where I truly came to appreciate our dedicated service men and women. My favourite memory was being a part of the Menin Gate Ceremony, where I laid a wreath amongst many other spectators, I didn't feel nervous or embarrassed, I felt so honored and proud to be representing not only Australia and Delany College but also our diligent ANZAC's who fought 100 years ago.

I was also fortunate enough to gain a real taste of what war, and being a part of war was really like, metaphorically and literally as one of my experiences was having a meal that consisted of a variety





HALLOWEEN CAKE STALL



**MONDAY 30th
OCTOBER**

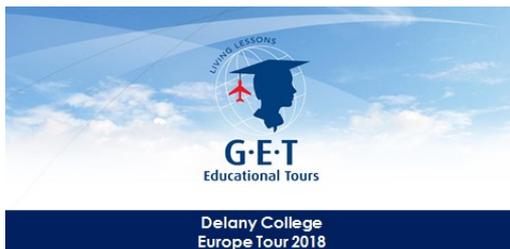


RECESS & LUNCH

EUROPE ART/HISTORY TOUR 2018

Delany College is organising an Art/History tour to Paris, Belgium, Berlin and Rome. Students in Years 9 and 10 who are interested in attending the tour need to obtain a permission note from the front office and pay the deposit by the due date. Payments can be made in instalments.

If there are any questions, students should speak to Mrs Broue or Mrs Venhuizen. Parents are welcome to telephone if they have any questions.



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our Year 9 students have been fitted for their senior uniform this week and these need to be collected by Thursday 23 November, 2017.

Please note our preferred supplier for our boys grey trousers are: Merrylands West School & Workwear Centre, 455-457 Merrylands Road, Merrylands.

This company is offering Delany College students a special discounted price of \$40 each. These discount vouchers need to be collected from our uniform shop and presented at the time of purchase to receive the discount.



**FUTURE SCHOOLS!
FUTURE READY!
WHERE TO NEXT?**



Monday, 13 November 2017

The Parent Representative Council Diocese of Parramatta

welcomes

Mr Mark Holyoake

DIRECTOR OF ENTERPRISE – CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE PARRAMATTA

Term 4 PRC Meeting

Where: Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown NSW

When: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start

(PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our speaker session)

Register FREE at PRCParra on Facebook or at
<https://goo.gl/forms/m7vK9Tv210A0ogLf2>



RAFFLE

JOHNNY ROMEO

AUSTRALIA POP ARTIST



"Tempo Riots", 2017. Giclee Print. Framed and signed by the artist.

\$2 per TICKET or 3 for \$5

To be DRAWN 22nd NOVEMBER 2017

at

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NIGHT

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM COLLEGE OFFICE,
VISUAL ARTS STAFF and**

Mary G, Leo D, Zac D, Andrew F, Louis C, Marie P of Year 10
and Donya H of Year 11

PASS A

Pass A Class doing a session at Breakthrough Fitness. They did a number of exercises to test their fitness and skill levels such as the Agility Run and the Bike Cardio Ride. This excursion was part of their PASS program in which they participated in a fitness program run by a local gym. Teachers attending the excursion were Mrs Natalie Roberts and Mr Warren Johnson



SILVER AWARD

Congratulations to Yara Fakoua for receiving a silver award. Yara achieved her Silver Award through academic achievement and College community service. Yara completed 10 hours of community service covering books in the library and helping with Mock Trials. Yara received her award at assembly from Br Paul Australian Provincial.



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CONGRATULATIONS

To Maryanne as she fundraised and donated her hair to the World's Greatest Shave. With the support of the Holy Trinity Parish Maryanne raised in excess of \$2,500.



Algebras
Who:
Students seeking help with Maths
Where:
Maths Space
When:
Wednesday afternoons
3:15pm - 4:15pm
NOT SURE IF MATH TEST WAS EASY
OR I DID EVERYTHING WRONG