Dear Parents, Guardians, Friends and Students

Term 4 is an incredibly busy time for any school and Catholic Agricultural College is no exception. We started the term with a whirl of activity preparing for Presentation Night. This was a wonderful evening which enabled us to acknowledge all of our students and staff for the work they have done this year and in particular celebrate the achievements of those who had put in outstanding efforts throughout the 2014 academic year. It was wonderful to see so many students and families present, in particular all of our year 12 students.

Week 2 was tempered with sadness at farewelling our wonderful year 12 students who have led the College so well throughout the year. They took on all the challenges which were presented and did the best they could to achieve their goal of Year 12 Graduation. They have set a high standard for those who will follow in our future year 12 classes.

Each of them can leave the College with their head held high knowing that they will always hold a special place in the hearts of all of us and the knowledge that we are extremely proud of them. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers over the next few weeks as those who are sitting the WACE exams sit their final exams and for those starting to prepare for work and/or further study.

Please look through the Chronicle for all the reports of activities which have been taking place since the last edition of the Chronicle. There have been 3 camps, 3 retreats, the Royal Show and so much more. We have also been visited by Trinity College, CBC Fremantle and Holy Rosary School, Derby. The list seems endless and we are only able to do this because of the wonderful group of staff who put in over and above what is written in their duty statements. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Parents of Year 10 and 11 students

It is currently a legal requirement for students to remain at school until the end of year 12. For those of you who may be considering transitioning your students who are currently in year 10 or 11 to work or an apprenticeship we are required to keep your son/daughter on our register until such time that we receive from another school a transfer note or Notice of arrangements.

I have copied from the Department of Education Services the following which is on their website for your information.

A Notice of arrangements is an approval for a child to participate in an alternative combination of activities that equate to full-time participation in schooling.

It applies to children in the final years of the compulsory education period (in the birth date range of the typical year 11 and 12 student).

An alternative education programme prior to years 11 and 12 requires an exemption from full-time schooling.

What do I need to do?

A parent/legal guardian must complete the required Notice of arrangements form (available from the Western Australian Department of Education) and submit it to the Department of Education at 151 Royal Street, EAST PERTH, 6004.

If you require a Notice of arrangements please contact the office and they can forward one to you or alternative they are available on the Department of Education website.

God Bless,

Marie Barton
Principal
From the Deputy Principal

With the recent events that have occurred in the world, I thought it appropriate to share with you the following reflection.

We know that it takes all these type of people ...

**Prophet people** who dare to lay bare the fallacies that choke and bind us;

**Parent people** who look with love at the work of their creation and refuse to leave their children only a heritage of destruction;

**Nurture people** who grow plants and feed birds and love what is green, fresh and growing;

**Poet people** who call us beyond where we are;

**Fun people** whose role through time has been to nurture, to empower others, to make grow, to make new again.

**Soul people** whose eyes are clear and open, inviting trust and the kind of bonding that draws us together;

**Justice people** who cry out against the oppressors of people and the destroyers of the Earth;

**Little people** who don’t know themselves as special but who are the salt of our Earth.

It will take people: Spirit people fired with a holy madness who believe our world can be transformed into a place of joy and hope and love.

Live Jesus in our hearts ... Forever.

Jason Sutton
Deputy Principal

Important Enrolment Information for 2015

The College is accepting enrolments for next year. If you intend sending siblings of current students to the College in 2016, could you please collect an Application Form from the Registrar and submit it asap. Similarly, if you know of families considering the College for their child, then please encourage them to contact the Registrar on 9576 5508 as soon as possible.

Students not returning for 2016 need to give a term’s notice as per the enrolment agreement. Failure to do so could result in being penalised a term’s fee.

School fees for 2015 are required to be paid on or before the end of Term 4. If you are having trouble in making your payments, please contact the Accounts Department on 9576 5506.
In the lead up to All Souls Day, a number of students across year levels, reflected and penned a prayer response.

This month, I’d like to share with you a prayer by a year 8 student, Akume.

It is a prayer of generosity, hope, faith and thoughtfulness. The prayer is raw and unedited, intentionally. It is about affirming the pure heart of his conversation, in his words and style. The accompanying picture is also chosen by Akume.

If our community identity is about anything, it’s about acknowledging and caring for each other. Akume’s prayer ticks all the boxes and in many ways inspires.

Thank you Akume.

Paul King
College Identity Leader

Dear God

Just praying about the upcoming liturgy about someone people may have lost through their childhood or adult hood. It’s especially hard losing someone that you are close to like your parents or relatives I would know because I lost my dad not long ago but I just want everybody to realise that they still love you even if it doesn’t look like it.

AMEN
Year 7 Retreat

One aspect of orientation at Catholic Agricultural College that functions well is student identification with Edmund Rice values. So the intention of the year 7 retreat was to give students a wider view of local Catholic Church. So we chose a visit to the Cathedral in Perth, followed by some lunch in King’s Park.

The year 7’s chose hospitality and humility as their retreat themes. This choice of themes was no surprise as the year 7’s are a very open group and accept guidance thoughtfully. They began the day superbly dressed and in good spirits. After being safely delivered to Perth by Mrs Kay, we sat on the lawns of the Cathedral and began our Liturgy. It was a nice time for students and staff to share their experiences of sharing and receiving hospitality from others. Mr Resuggan has become a regular on the retreats and his summing up of the student prayers and his own contribution, was very much valued by all.

What was truly amazing about the day was how interested and engaged the students were as they followed the Cathedral tour. They listened to historically significant stories from the early days of the local church, developed architectural insights, and marvelled at the art works. Their behaviour and attention almost matched the year 8’s for intensity! It was a great visit, and with positive student feedback.

Our retreat culminated with a visit to King’s Park for lunch and then a Joondalup ‘snack stop’ on the way home. Thank you very much to Mrs Kay and Mr Resuggan for their help, and to the year 7’s for sharing their hospitality, humour and day.

Mr Paul King
Head of Religious Education

The following is a letter received by the Principal from a visitor to the Cathedral on the same day the year 7 students attended for Retreat.

Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon
338B Bindaon-Dewsarts Pool Road
Bindoon WA 6592

Tuesday 20th October, 2015
To the Principal,

I wanted to send you an email today commending the behaviour of a group of your students I encountered. On failing to find an email address on your website, I have decided to write instead.

I attended a tour of St Mary’s Catholic Cathedral in Perth City today. I must admit I was initially disappointed that I would be sharing the tour with a school group as usually I am left irritated and disappointed after such encounters.

However, the behaviour of your students was exceptional. They were polite, engaged, quiet and seemingly interested in the content of the tour. They were all a credit to your school and their teachers present.

One student had a sweet little rabbit with her for the whole tour, which proved a source of great delight to some of the other, much younger, children present.

We are all quick to speak up when teens act in ways that are disagreeable. I think it is also necessary to speak up and give praise where it is due. Well done and God bless.

Sincerely,
Miriam Maynard

“Year 7 Retreat

“What was truly amazing about the day was how interested and engaged the students were as they followed the Cathedral tour.”
The year 9 retreat was a powerful learning experience for this teacher. One of the theoretical tensions in teaching is getting a balance between developing student acceptance of your guidance, while also promoting independence. This is best addressed through planning that is responsive and inclusive of students, being honest, being authentic and setting boundaries.

Our retreat to New Norcia, was a complex experience. This might sound like a long winded introduction to a retreat report but it is necessary in setting the background to our day.

Our pre retreat planning centred on the students getting a choice of theme, one that was meaningful to them. The location and emphasis was already decided and the rationale for this explained. Our student theme couldn’t be narrowed down to any agreement and hence our focus was everything from wisdom to friendship. It’s only upon reflection that the lack of an ability for students to listen to each other, and begin a consensus dialogue of our retreat direction, that I realise the full meaning of students not being able to decide on and commit to a direction.

Our liturgy and retreat day experiences, even during the post retreat reflection, pointed to a group of students who could benefit from social/emotional skills to enhance listening and cooperation. In hindsight, the day fell very flat because of a lack of community identity. As a teacher one can only offer direction and keep chipping away. At the end of the day, these retreat experiences are about making a connection between the Spirituality of an Edmund Rice school, and our practical capacity to individually and collectively respond to others with care.

I’ll go back and share and listen to this group and see if we can’t move toward a sense of community responsibility. It is no use ‘sugar coating it’, the retreat was a disappointment. Can the ‘Phoenix’ rise from the ashes? I am sure it can. Individually, the student’s in this year group have outstanding qualities. Sometimes all it needs is for adults to prompt with a challenge.

Paul King
Head of Religious Education
On the 30th of October the Year 7 class decided to have some fun with the art of face painting. The 31st of October is celebrated as, all Hallows Eve, which is a time of the year that the spirits are known to roam the earth with us mere mortals. Many would not think this links to our Catholic School, however it is linked to the celebration of all Saints day and all Souls day (where we celebrate those who have passed from this world before us). We started the day by finding a design we liked and then got to work. Overall it was an exciting day and every single year 7 student looked spooky.

Mrs Courtney Clark
Friday, November 13 was the College’s free dress to raise funds for Pregnancy Assist and as it happened to coincide with Friday the 13th students and staff decided to unleash their creative flair with makeup and fake blood. We had car crash victims, dolls, sugar skulls, bloody open gashes and bullet wounds scattered throughout the community as staff and students enjoyed the day together with all money raised going towards a very worthy cause.

From lunchtime onwards, students who had maintained their good standing for the term downed their pens and books and participated in a range of activities which acknowledged their ongoing exemplary behaviour. Activities included: tip n’ run cricket, trail ride, Xmas arts & crafts, a poker tournament and water polo and from the laughter and smiles it looked like the majority of students enjoyed the activities organised.

For students who had not maintained their good standing the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and think about how they can continue to build their capacity as learners and members of our College community was encouraged and facilitated by staff. The intention of the activity was around students making a connection with their actions and how these actions affect the people around them and the College community. This reflection will be followed up with additional interviews between individual students and their year coordinators and it is hoped that these students will be joining the rest of the College community for the final good standing activity of the year in a few short weeks.

Mrs Tracey Crisp
Head of Pastoral Care
Agricultural Shows

Annually the College attends the local agricultural shows. This year the Toodyay Show started out hot and steamy with a very tropical feel to it, with this in mind the start of the day was slow but gradually we met with prospective students and parents. It was also lovely to catch up with a lot of our past students who came to say hello as well. By the end of the day the storm hit and the rain fell, so it was a quick pack up to return to the college.

Bindoon Show was a bright sunny day with our Cattle Club students competing and winning in the arena. We had more visitors to the stand coming to discuss their options for future enrolments at the college as well as our current students popping in to say hello.

Both shows did very well with the sales of college olives; these are much sort after by our community with many people coming each year to buy them. Br Frank who is the driving force behind the olive enterprise, recently picked up a Bronze Medal again for his oil at the Perth Royal Show.

These shows are a great way to meet and show case the College with our future students in a relaxed environment and to catch up with everyone in the community and I must say a big thank you to all who helped at both shows.

Sharyn Jenkin
Registrar
On October 29th the year 11 biology class completed a rat dissection that is tied into anatomy which we were learning about this term. The dissection helps us to get a 3-dimensional picture and a better understanding of how the systems of a body work together. Also the placement of the organs in rats which are also similar to humans. Everyone in the class had one rat each; some had pregnant rats and the others male. We followed strict steps from a power point to ensure we didn’t cut any of the main organs that needed to be viewed. The process differed in the males and females because you had to cut different sections in order to view the reproductive organs in the rats. The smell at first wasn’t very pleasant; it smelled like chemicals for the most part due to preservative juices used in storing the rats. But after a while, the smell grew on you and majority of our class carried on with the experiment. Some of us kept the internal organs aside for later viewing under the microscope.

This gave us a better understanding of the anatomy of a rat and all the different organs, and helped us to learn more.

Rania Edwards, Ethan Rozario & Grace Drummond
Year 11 Biology Class
During week three of this term the year tens participated in the annual *This is Your Life* camp. The focus of the camp is on the preparation of students for senior school with emphasis based on personal reflection and exploration of higher educational and employment opportunities once they have completed Year 12.

Camp started with *Welcome to Country* and a storytelling experience facilitated by Robyn Collard at Walunyga National Park and was concluded with students completing a personal reflection of what they had witnessed and participated in and then sharing this reflection with a peer during a walk and talk.

Upon arriving at Eagles Nest Retreat Centre, Gidgegannup, students were asked to reflect on what they hoped to learn over the course of the camp, their strengths and areas for future development. Once completed students participated in team building activities which were facilitated by the College psychologist, Mrs Michelle Sladen. After these sessions students had some opportunity to relax and eat dinner. After dinner students and parents attended the College information session on course selection for year eleven and twelve and whilst many parents were unable to attend due to distance or work commitments it was nice to have some families there participating and assisting their children.

Thursday was an extremely busy day as students participated in a tour of Central TAFE and the underground mine simulator. This tour was extremely jam-packed with information as students were provided with information in the following course areas: design and technology, mining, beauty, photography, radio, visual arts and many more. Oh and keep an eye out on television as three of our students were interviewed for an advertisement promoting “Movember” ...possible movie stars in the making.

We then travelled to Edith Cowan University where students completed a 2.5 hour walking tour of the campus. Areas which were explored included: Engineering and Robotics which was awesome as we got to play with a seriously cool robot! The Racing Team - again another highlight as students were allowed to jump in a race car and our presenter was awesome and very knowledgeable. Students were also taken through the residential village and saw firsthand how university students lived on campus and the facilities available. The day was concluded with dinner at Hogs Breath and bowling at AMF.

Camp concluded with students participating in individual counselling sessions with staff to select their course subjects for year eleven and once the retreat centre was clean and tidy we headed back to Walunyga National Park to reflect on what students had discovered about themselves and each other and to enjoy a picnic lunch together before heading back to the College.

*Mrs Tracey Crisp*
HOLA English & Humanities
I recently spent a week up north visiting some remote Aboriginal Communities, I stayed at Ngalapita for 3 days, where I attended classes at the school, met students and worked with them in class. I was overcome with the generosity and interest shown by the students, and the questions and curiosity they showed about Catholic Agricultural College. Many of the students hope to be a boarder at the College in the future. I also visited Yakanarra community and met with the staff at the school, spoke to around 20 students, parents and guardians about Catholic Agricultural College, some of whom will attend next year. I also spent some time in Broome and visited Christ the King School Lombadina, where I met some parents of current college students, as well as prospective students and their families.

We welcome Brett Nelson to Boarding this term, he is working in Mary MacKillop with the boys, next year he will be fulltime in classes in his role as an ATA. Brett comes to us from Kununurra, his son was a student at the College, and his other children have attended boarding schools in Perth, so he has the added benefit of understanding boarding from a parent’s perspective as well as a staff member’s. Brett has many years experience as a football coach and working in the Mental Health field.

Basketball season has started, we have a junior and senior team playing in the local Bindoon competition. Both teams have started the season well and are showing some excellent skills as well as supporting and helping one another on the court.

We shortly will be returning to our own homes, families and communities as the Christmas break quickly approaches. Can I ask that parents contact me in regards to finalising the students travel plans, even though it is the end of the year, I still require leave forms for the students before they leave. Students must take all their belongings home, or put them in storage so that the dorms can be cleaned ready for the new year.

Sam Godfrey
Head of Residential Care
Cattle Club Report

We arrived on Thursday the first day at the show grounds. We unloaded the cattle at the show and settled them into their beds. We then finished unpacking the other equipment and once that was all done we bought the cattle out to be washed for the student parading class on Friday.

Friday morning we got up early and made our way to the show grounds to do the daily clean and sweep the lane, water the cattle and feed the cattle. Once they have eaten, we than give them a wash to prepare them for the parading competition. In the junior parading Harrison Davenport placed second, in the senior parading Nicole Maindok placed first, Kate O’Neil placed second and Graeme Maitland-Smith second in another class.

Saturday we did the usual morning routine, and led in the cattle in the grand parade. Sunday we competed with the steer and parading competition and Nicole was placed first.

Monday we lead the steers in the auction and lead them out to the trade pens to be sold to butchers. We received good prices of $1500.

On Tuesday we woke up at 4.30 am to get ready for the day as we had Shorthorn Judging at 9am. We had to get down to the show grounds early to make beds and feed and water the cattle. The cattle had to also be washed before 9am.

By 9am the kids and cattle were ready to start showing. The cows were placed very well, with one of the cows and calf getting Grand Champion breed for the shorthorns.

Wednesday morning at 5am it was time to get up again for another day at the show. The routine is the same, water, feed and bed making and washing cattle that were being used by the seniors for the States competition.

Graeme and Nicole were in the first heat for parading and unfortunately they didn’t place. Christine and Kate were in the second heat and luckily Kate made it into the top 10 paraders in the state. Next it was time for state judging which Graeme, Nicole and Christine Stephens, where in Nicole made it into the top 7 for state judging.

The next couple of days involved a number of grand parades and getting ready to leave the show on Saturday afternoon.

I congratulate the cattle club students on a great 10 days at the show. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

Abigail Lindsay
Cattle Club Coordinator