

Delany News



Term 4 Issue 4

6 December 2018

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Upcoming Events

Friday 7th

- Delany Stay-cation
- R3 intervention testing & Maths MAI
- Yr12 Construction Training

Monday 10th-Tuesday 11th

- Yr 10 alternative Program

Tuesday 11th

- Yr 7 Swim Program

Wednesday 12th

- Yr 7 Swim Program

Thursday 13th

- Yr 12 SLR Excursion

Friday 14th

- End of year Mass

Tuesday 18th

- Last day for students

Friday 21st

- Last day for staff

Tuesday 25th

- Christmas Day



Dear Delany Community,

After more than two decades at Delany, Br Charles is retiring. I have included the tribute I gave at Br Charles' farewell Mass on Wednesday, 5 December;

The gospel passage, which we have heard today from Luke, is one of a series in Chapter 12 that describe encounters between Jesus and his followers as they journey to Jerusalem. In this passage Jesus is admonishing the apostles for being preoccupied with their appearances and constantly worried about their needs. He explains to them that God would provide for all their essentials if they just trust in him. Moreover, they should stop spending time on worrying about what God will provide and redirect that energy on building the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus knew the end was coming and wanted his followers to strengthen their resolve to prepare for his resurrection.

The message of the gospel is relevant to us today, even more so, as we are compelled to have the latest gadgets and conform to the recent fashion trends or we are deemed outsiders. We live in a time when we expect our desires to be instantaneously satisfied or we feel unjustly treated. We succumb to watching banality on TV consisting of programmes that present amateur cooks dealing with stressful dinner parties and DIY home renovations gone wrong.

When will it stop! Who can we turn to as examples of the human endeavour searching for meaning? Who, in our lives, can we look upon as an example of God's instrument on earth? Who has shed the cloak of superficiality and walked proudly wearing but the breastplate of St Patrick and impacted on the lives of thousands? It is our own Br Charles!

Br Charles took his first profession as a Patrician in 1955 and within four years left his beautiful Ireland to venture across the other side of the world. Sydney back then was a prosperous place and larger population was needed to service this economic boom. Many migrants were calling Australia home and the majority of them were Catholic. They demanded a Catholic education. Br Charles was right in the middle of this cultural explosion as Principal of Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield. Yet, when he thought all was certain he heard a new call – God needed him in PNG to bring Christ to a new community.

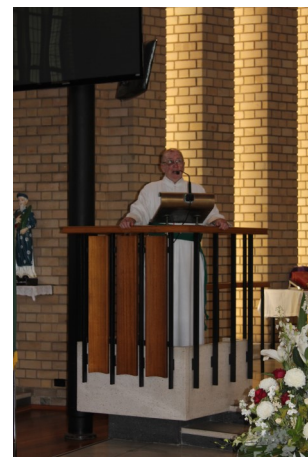
For 26 years Br Charles and his fellow Patricians served the educational needs of remote tribes in the western highlands of PNG. This area was so secluded that there was no electricity, plumbing, roads, or telecommunications. The brothers had to clear the land by cutting down the jungle then use the timber to build classrooms and accommodation. Meanwhile, Br Charles and his companions endured extreme humidity, mosquito borne diseases and wild animals. This was not a life for the faint hearted. Yet, Br Charles was steadfast in his duties as he trusted in God. He never worried about his appearance or the things God would provide. His was committed in building the kingdom of love for God's people.

On his return to Sydney in 1994, with the experience of PNG and, in particular serving as Principal in four different schools, he willingly accepted his appointment at Delany College. It was a far cry from his experiences in PNG but, nevertheless, it brought its own challenges. Br Charles quickly adapted to his role as counsellor. His witty sense of humour helped to sooth even the most despondent student. Br Charles has a saying - that the best gift you can give any person is to listen. As time went on he emerged as the wise elder that everyone sought out for advice - including myself!!

Br Charles would never admit that what he did was anything but normal. He would never admit that he is special. But for the many thousands of young people, and those not so young, who have been touched by his compassion, we know he is an angel of mercy. We have been so blessed to have Br Charles in our Delany community. He is a man of substance, a man of humility and integrity. He will always be remembered when we speak the College motto – Love, Serve and Hope. We thank you Br Charles.

As the year draws to an end, I take this opportunity to thank all our parents for trusting us in educating your children. We wish you the most holy Christmas and an enjoyable summer break. The following staff members are leaving Delany and I wish them the best in their future endeavours;

Mr Derek Wales	Mrs Belinda Killick	Ms Emily Biddle
Ms Tanya Whiticker	Mr Daniel Spehar	Mr Paul Donovan
Ms Cecilia Hoang	Ms Naomi Booth	Ms Misty Waihape



God Bless,
Mr Robert Muscat

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Advent is a time for waiting. As a Catholic school we are waiting for the birth of Jesus with anticipation. The focus of our current society is, instead, largely focused on Santa, gift giving and holidays - and these are worthy celebrations! But four weeks out from Christmas we try to remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season". This preparation began on Sunday with the lighting of the first Advent candle at Mass. Reflecting on my pilgrimage in October, I imagine Joseph and Mary, four weeks away from the birth of their child, worrying over the journey they were required to take from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It's a journey of over 150km through valleys and over hills, through dust and dirt, and on foot and cart and donkey - a super tough for a woman who was heavily pregnant! We keep all expectant mothers in our prayers.

The Delany community

The Delany College community was on show yesterday, Wednesday 5 December, as we formally farewelled Br Charles from the College. After 23 years of faithful and faith-filled service at Delany he is retiring from active service. Moreover, Br Charles has been serving communities for well over 50 years in Australia and Papua New Guinea. I imagine Br Charles might be feeling a bit like Mary and Joseph - preparing for this event with a fair amount of both excitement and worry. It's good to finish the daily commitment, but what comes next? We gave thanks for Br Charles' service to our College with Mass in the morning. As a sign of his significance, we were joined by several past Principals and Assistant Principals, RECs and past staff, a number of ex-students, and 10 of his fellow Patrician Brothers. The Delany students were outstanding throughout the morning and gave Br Charles a rousing send off. Many of our staff, Brothers and friends joined Br Charles for a celebration dinner that evening. It was a joyous affair and a perfect way to end the day.

On a different note, it was once again highlighted to me today that the Delany community extends well beyond the fence around the College. I visited Holy Trinity with two of our student College leaders - Mary Ghribian and Francis Asabre - who had been invited to speak to the Year 5 class about leadership. They spoke with confidence and passion about leading a school community. As we returned I met approximately 30 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 who were just boarding the College bus. They, together with a number of staff, are working at St Patrick's Primary school to help and encourage Year 5 and 6 students to read and write. This is the third visit to the primary school, and we have received glowing praise for the impact our students are having with their students.

The academic community

Exams and assessments are complete for 2018 (with the exception of one or two unfortunate HSC classes). School reports will be distributed on Friday 14 December, or earlier by request.

I only ever have one question to students about their results. "Does this result show me your best effort?" The actual mark a student receives might be high or low, but if it represents their best effort then I am satisfied.

What holiday homework should students be doing? I think it's fair to put away the study books for the holidays (although not completely for our HSC students). However, please encourage your children to read, read and read some more. Looking for Christmas presents? Give a book. We want to encourage enjoyment of and confidence in reading. Take your child to a good bookstore and ask for recommendations that meet their reading level and interests. If every child at this school returned from the Christmas holidays having read at least two books, that would be a wonderful outcome and the best "homework" we could expect.

The Patrician community

The big event of the fortnight was, of course, focused on Br Charles. Further afield, Mr Muscat, Mr Wales and I attended the annual Patrician schools leadership meeting last Friday. Each of the five Patrician schools were represented, along with a number of the Patrician Brothers and members of the Delany Foundation. We use this opportunity to hear about the work that is being done throughout the world by the Brothers and the Foundation. In particular, we see where our fundraising efforts are directed. I assure you that our hard work in Sydney is making a world of different to communities around the world.

Thank you

I would like to extend my thanks to the many parents who regularly contribute their time, energy and resources to the various events that occur throughout the year. Your support is invaluable. Thank you to every family who entrusts their child to our care.

I wish for you and your families the peace and joy of the Newborn Christ to be present with you and keep you safe over the Christmas, and that you return to College ready for a new year of learning.

St Patrick, pray for us.



*Mr Anthony Blomfield
Assistant Principal*

FROM THE HEAD OF LEARNING

With the end of the year fast approaching, I would like to congratulate all the students that have approached their studies with Persistence, Pride and Passion. It was my privilege to be part of the celebration of our top students at our Awards Ceremony on Wednesday. In the report envelope we have placed the Term Effort Awards and the First Place certificates for all subject. This was a big job, and a testament to how well our students have achieved this year. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.



Mr Mark Robinson
Head of School Learning and Diversity

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Dear parents, carers and students of Delany College,

I hope that this article finds you well.

This week, we commenced Advent. Each year, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day or the Sunday which falls closest to 30 November. Advent continues to Christmas Eve. However, when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, that day becomes the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, and it is a season of both repentance and celebration in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The word 'advent' is derived from the Latin term 'adventus', meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. Having originated in sixteenth-century Germany, the lighting of an Advent Wreath is a traditional Christian custom. On the branches of the Wreath are four candles: three purple and one rose, representing hope, love, peace and joy. The white candle, lit on Christmas Eve and situated at the centre of this wreath, is the Christ Candle, symbolic of the light that the new-born Jesus brings into our lives. Furthermore, Advent is a time of hope, love, joy and peace. So, how will you be hopeful, loving, joyful and peaceful in your day-to-day interactions throughout this season of preparation for the coming of Christ?



On another note, this week, you would have received a pamphlet from the Diocese of Parramatta, titled "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time? Your voice matters". Moreover, between now and 6 March 2019, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) is inviting us all to share our ideas about the future direction of the Catholic Church in Australia in what is called Plenary 2020. Hence, I encourage you all to engage meaningfully and authentically in this significant process.



Finally, with the end of this year near, I wish you and your families a safe, happy and holy Christmas.

Best wishes and prayers,

Mr Derek Wales
Religious Education Coordinator

FROM THE PEDAGOGICAL LEADER

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Delany community a very happy and holy Christmas. At this time of the year many of us are busy with lots of activities and events that celebrate the occasion both at school and at home. Yet, it is also the end of the 2018 academic year and so a time for reflection.

It is with great pride that I recount the achievements of our students who strive to meet the many demands of the curriculum as they strive to exhibit the key 21st Century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work this year. This, as always has been a year of changes and our teachers have embraced each initiative with goodwill and continued to provide the best education for your children.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support this year. A great deal of what we do in the Delany community cannot be achieved without your cooperation. On behalf of the teaching staff, we look forward to working more closely with you in 2019.

So, from my family to yours, I send you the warmest Christmas wishes. May you receive God's blessings as you prepare to welcome him into your homes and hearts.

Ms. Sharon McManus
Pedagogical Leader

2019 SCHOOL FEES

All outstanding school fees are due immediately. If you do not have a confirmed arrangement your fees are due now. Thank you again to families who have made arrangements and continued their ongoing payments to finalise all outstanding fees.

2019 School Fees

Apologies for any misunderstanding regarding the Jacaranda Bundle Plus that will be introduced next year. This new introduced fee is **not included in school fees** and all details are in the note sent home.

Bishop Manning Scholarship

Thank you to all families that submitted applications. Correspondence has been sent regarding the outcome of your application.

If you are enrolling students at Delany College for 2020 please click [here](#) for further information or contact me directly :
Sheryl Temu Ph 8633 8107

Wishing you warm Christmas Greetings looking forward to all that's in store for 2019

Mrs Sheryl Temu
Senior Finance Officer

Parent Data Validation Survey

Having accurate, up-to-date information on our students is an important part of maintaining their safety and wellbeing, and supporting their learning. It also assists schools to make good decisions about how best to support and care for all students. To ensure that the data we currently hold is current and accurate, CEDP is conducting a **data validation survey**.

What does this involve?

It is pretty straight forward. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) will send you an email, SMS and/or letter with a link to the survey. Please note that in some cases you may need to confirm visa details, arrival and school starting dates in Australia, so please have this information with you before starting the survey.

The survey will ask you to confirm or change the information the school currently has about your child/children. This could include names, addresses, email addresses etc. In the majority of cases, the information will not have changed. If it has, it is important you record this in the survey. Letters sent to parents will include instructions on how to access the survey online.

Completing this survey helps to ensure that we have the right information about your child in the case of an emergency and for programs that best suit your child's needs.

Reminder emails and SMS will also be sent.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact your school. You can also contact the CEDP Helpdesk at :

enterpriseservicedesk@parra.catholic.edu.au

or phone 98405620.

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Mr Robert Muscat
College Principal

Delany Influencers

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet" - Jhumpa Lahiri

The Delany Influencers are a team of students from Year 7 - 12 who share a love of literature. Driven by their mission statement; 'to promote the library and foster a reading culture at the school', the Delany Influencers plan to launch a student run Delany Library website for reviews on novels, films, music and other vlog content. To initiate the project, students met with Lisa Nash from the Learning Exchange at CEDP, on Wednesday the 28th of November, to discuss ideas that can be implemented in the website and next steps to achieving their goal. As a result, the students engaged in a video conference with students from Nagle College who were involved in the development of the Nagle Library website. This provided the Delany Influencers with the opportunity to ask questions about the process of establishing and running the website and well as assessing the impact of the initiative at their school.

The following Delany Influencers are to be commended on their initiative; Ayla Fahed, Scarlett Lawler, Ethan Dogra, Joseph Koroma, Lyriah Filo, Rhys Ramos, Naomi Habib, Asli Yerlikaya, Simon Doumit, Brenda Karam and Aiden Dagher.



Delany Engagement and Enrichment Partnership

As part of the Stage 4 and 5 Delany Engagement and Enrichment Partnership, a number of students from Year 7-9 were invited to participate in an ongoing mentorship program at St Patrick's Primary Guildford.

The purpose of the partnership is to create a rich learning experience for both primary and secondary students where students are challenged as they work together to write and illustrate a book. Not only does the program provide Delany students with the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership and communication skills, but it also enables students to celebrate reading and writing in the wider community.

The program launched on Wednesday the 28th and Thursday the 29 November with Delany students facilitating teams of Year 5 students. Students worked together to unpack the narrative text type and plan a story based on specific parameters.



Miss Alena Ieroianni
School Intervention Teacher

The Delany Creative Writing

The Delany Creative Writing group launched at the beginning of term 4. The group was established to provide students with the opportunity to share their writing and participate in discussions on improving their writing and developing their ideas. This writing can be in any form including short stories, poems and songs.

The group meets with Miss Whiticker and Miss Ieroianni every Wednesday during lunch time in the English rooms. It is open to all students.



Miss Alena Ieroianni
School Intervention Teacher



Mary Gharibian
School Captain

PDHPE

On the 5th of November Delany College participated in the 5th Annual PDSSSC Gala Day at the Penrith Regional Valley Sports Centre at Cambridge Park. The day started well with all team members arriving at school well before they needed to be there. I knew they were itching to take advantage of the opportunity they had been given. On the bus ride we discussed tactics and relaxed before an intense day.

When we arrived at the venue we immediately walked into our first game against Gilroy. After a tough first few minutes where we conceded a goal, we switched gears and started looking like the team we knew we could be and ended up with a 4-2 victory. After the game, the team discussed flaws in our game and some adjustments that needed to be made in order to improve our performance for the next game.

In the second game we came up against St. Andrew's, we went well ahead early but dropped our concentration at the end walking away with another 4-2 win in the process. We tweaked our system to focus more of our attention on our movement off the ball and then walked into game 3. Should we win or draw this game we would end up top of the table and the advantage walking into semi-finals. Our third game of the day was against Xavier. This game was a really tough encounter, which resulted in a 4-4 draw, the number of games was piling up and our fitness was dwindling.

We walked into the semi-finals to face 4th place St. Andrew's. They came into this game fully aware of our capabilities and performed really well in comparison to our previous match. They fought hard and ended up with a 3-2 lead in the last two minutes. Our heads dropped, but we were given a slight hope when we received a free kick in a very difficult area. Abdul Jalloh stepped up to the ball and somehow managed to put the ball into the net through a wall of defenders. We had tied the score at 3-3. There was still a chance that we could win this game. Sure enough, we were awarded another free kick in a much more promising position. This would be the last kick of the game. Abdul stepped up once again to slot the ball perfectly into the net to award us a 4-3 victory and a spot in the grand final.

We would go into the final against Xavier, the team we had previously earned a draw against. We knew this was going to be a difficult game and that they were going to walk in with every belief that they would be coming out as champions. We needed to switch on and lift our intensity to a new level. The game started and their game plan was very clear from the get go, lobbing the ball down field to their tall striker who possessed a tremendous ability to hold the ball up even under pressure from our defenders. We adjusted our game plan after he was able to expose our lack of defence and score 2 goals against us. We were able to score two goals just before half time and get the score to 2-2. The second half began poorly on our side, as we conceded a goal early so that we were trailing by one goal. For the majority of the half we fought hard but could not make the most of two excellent chances that we squandered and struggled to create any more. We needed to score, and we needed to score soon as time was quickly running out for us. Thankfully we were blessed with a mistake from the opposition and were able to score an equaliser with 3 minutes to go. Suddenly they started to panic, they knew we were going to be looking for another, and their energy to keep us out could not last much longer. We then scored the winning goal with 1 minute to go and were able to hold them out for

the remainder of the game to become champions!!!

We did it the hard way, but the team showed a lot of heart and resilience throughout the day, and were justly rewarded for their effort. The bus ride back to school was heart warming, the team was in high spirits singing victory songs, lead by John Koroma. A big thank you goes to all the players: Cuneyd Kocagoz, for being an exceptional goal keeper and scoring an absolute belter of a goal; Masoud Rashvand, for working hard to score his goal for the day and showed tremendous acceleration to get himself back on defence just in the nick of time on many occasions; Umaru Bah, for having the first touch of an angel and the vision of Andres Iniesta providing a lot of assistance in build up play and scoring some goals too; Ali Barri, for his ability to match the performance of the rest of the team even though he is much younger than them and a having very inspired performance in our first game; Salvador Castillo-Gomez, for his ability and confidence to take players on in a 1 on 1 situation, usually getting the better of the defence and creating some scoring opportunities by doing so; John Koroma, for his leadership skills, goal poaching ability, helping us open up some space with his movement at the top of the court and being the heart and soul of the team; and finally, Abdul Jalloh, for being blessed with a natural gift at football, gliding past players with tremendous ease, scoring freely and with ease and single-handedly earning our spot in the grand final.

Job well done boys, you have done our College community proud!



*Mr. Alexander Peronace
Boys to Men Leader*

Parent's Representative Council School Representative

Role of the PRC School Rep

The Parents Representative Council (PRC) is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Executive Director of schools, Parish Priests and Catholic School Principals and School Parent Bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey within the Catholic Education System.

Every Primary and Secondary Catholic School in the Diocese of Parramatta can have one PRC Parent Rep and an Alternate Parent represented. These Representatives speak on behalf of their School's Parent Body and community representing their Parents within the PRC. This provides the important two-way communication between local school parent communities, their local school and the greater Diocesan Parent body of the PRC.

The PRC School Representative are encouraged to:

- Attend the PRC General Meetings held once a Term. PRC meetings are mostly held in each Term on Monday Week 6 of the School Term. These meetings consist of Executive Committee Members reports by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Council of Catholic School Representative. Guest speakers with relevant up to date educational issues are provided. These speakers will range from a keynote presentation of a Professional Academic, Educational Leader, Psychologist and/or an Educational Leader within the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.
- Liaise with their school community about the work of the PRC – report back to their parent bodies on the Term meetings, content, speakers and issues that were raised
- Liaise with their Cluster leader and attend Cluster Meetings. Cluster meetings/gatherings are held within the PRC Term Meeting. These meetings are led by a Parent Cluster Leader. School Reps have the opportunity to network with other parent reps within the geographical area of their own school. Hear about the work of other parent bodies and parents in your area.
- Disseminate information to their school about upcoming meetings, speakers etc. and encourage other parents to attend with them. Information should be disseminated through their school's parent meetings, newsletter, website and social media site etc.
- Provide feedback to the PRC on type of presenters, topics and relevant educational and parenting issues that they or their school may want to hear about.
- Nominate yourself to become further involved in parent leadership and collaboration by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the PRC.

