



the vine

NEWSLETTER OF PENRITH ANGLICAN COLLEGE
Ph: 4736 8100, Fax: 4736 8300
enquiries@pac.nsw.edu.au
www.pac.nsw.edu.au

13th March, 2008

No 4, 2008

Introduction

All parents and friends of the College are invited to our College Easter Service on **Thursday 20th March**. The service will commence at 12:00noon and will be held in the Rev. Gregory Lees Gymnasium.

At the end of the Easter service all students are permitted to leave the College to begin the Easter break (approx. 12:50pm). There will be no afternoon classes that day but students who are unable to be picked up by parents will be supervised by College staff until the normal end of the school day. After school care will operate as usual.

Parents and friends of PAC are also warmly invited to attend the following Easter services at Christ Church:-

Good Friday Service **9:30am** Rev. Greg Lees Gymnasium
Easter Sunday Service **9:30am** Rev. Greg Lees Gymnasium

"When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God."

Matthew 27:54

Traffic in the College Car Park

We have nearly 300 car park spaces in the College grounds yet we all know that before school and after school are still difficult times for parents driving to the College. I am urging all parents who live near bus routes that service the College to allow their children to catch the bus to and from school.

Obviously the more students we have travelling on buses the fewer cars there will be coming to the College each day.

Junior School Prefects' Investiture

On **Thursday 6th March** the 2008 Junior School Prefects' body was inducted into office. I congratulate the following students on their opportunities to the Prefect body:-

Junior School Captains

Monique Andreatta, Joshua Karp

Important dates for your diary

Friday 14th March

Period 1 Junior School Chapel
Year 7 Camp – Collaroy
Years 8 -10 C.E.P.
Years 11 – 12 Study Camp – Merroo

Sunday 16th March

9:30am Christ Church @ the College Recital Room
6:00pm Night Church @ the College Recital Room

Monday 17th March

NASSA Senior Open & Years 7 – 8 Boys' Cricket vs TIGS Dalton Park, Wollongong

Tuesday 18th March

pm Choir Camp
7:30pm Year 7 – 2009 Information Evening – Gymnasium

Wednesday 19th March

NASSA Senior Open & Under 15's Girls' Netball Trials – Hawkesbury Netball Centre
Choir Camp

Thursday 20th March

12:00noon College Easter Service – Gymnasium
12:50pm Formal classes end for Easter

Friday 21st March

9:30am Christ Church @ the College
Good Friday Service – Gymnasium

Sunday 23rd March

9:30am Christ Church @ the College
Easter Day Service – Gymnasium

Monday 24th March

Easter Monday (Mid-term break)

Tuesday 25th March

NASSA Open & U/15 Boys' & Girls' Touch Football Trials – Wollongong

Thursday 27th March

Ryle House Charity Day

Friday 28th March

P.1 Chapel
ROCK Camp (after school)

Saturday 29th March

ROCK Camp

Sunday 30th March

9:30am Christ Church @ the College Recital Room
6:00pm Night Church @ the College Recital Room

Junior School Vice Captains

Bronte Alcaino, Jacob Freeman

House Captains

Cranmer- Jay Holdsworth, Alessandra Bizzanelli

Latimer- Jack Graydon, Alannah King

Ridley - Lachlan Hubble, Emily Caws

Ryle - Aidan Payer, Meaghan Hill

Year Captains

Year 5 Joel Edwards, Keiran Cooper
Gracie Grinham, Tiana Lackey

Year 4 Benjamin Gray, Sean Payer
Kaitlin Brull, Melanie Kirk

Year 3 Linden Arkle, Thomas Loos
Sophie Hogan, Alexandra
McDonald

National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy 2008

Attached to the Vine is a letter to parents of students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 explaining the testing procedures that all government and non-government students in all states of Australia will undertake this year.

I would encourage all Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 parents to read this letter.

Scholarship Entry to PAC in 2009

Students who are presently in Year 6 or Year 10 are able to seek scholarship entry to the College next year.

Details about scholarship entry can be found on the College's website.

As well advertisements have been placed in the local press this week.

Both academic and music scholarships are available.

College Trivia Night: change of date

Please note that the College Trivia Night which was originally set down for **Saturday 29th March** has been moved to **Saturday 5th April** (same time, same location).

Clean Up Australia Day 2008

Thank you to the 186 participants who turned up at Emu Plains Regatta Park to clean up the park, riverside and around the Hunter fields.

Together we collected about 80 large garbage bags of litter, 6 shopping trolleys, child's stroller, bicycle parts, roofing and fencing materials, heavy railway metal, tyres, clothing, fishing rods,

road signs and posts. Plus one family found 2 sets of snow skis!!

Students are awarded 2 John Lambert Award points for their participation by their class and PCG teachers.

Ms B. Hazell and Mrs J Stubbs

Clean Up Co-ordinators

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parents are reminded that Parent - Teacher Interviews are available at the following times:-

Tuesday 1st April

K – 6 3:30 – 5:50pm; 7:00pm – 8:50pm

7 – 12 3:50 – 5:50pm; 7:00 – 8:50pm

Monday 7th April

K – 6 3:30 – 5:50pm

7 – 12 3:50 – 5:50pm; 7:00 – 8:50pm

Interviews are by appointment only. Please contact College Reception for appointment times.

It is imperative that parents know the names of their child's teachers before phoning Reception.

From the Music Department

Firstly a big thank you to the concert bands who have performed recently at the Senior School Headmaster's assembly and at the Junior School Prefects' assembly. The bands performed an arrangement of "The Shrek Dance Party", which was very well received by audiences at both assemblies.

- On **Friday 22nd February** Mr Potter and Mr Lawrence conducted the first of this year's PPP nights (Practise, Pizza, Performance). This PPP was held for the members of the Development Band. A great night was had by all and there was some very impressive music made.
- On **Friday 7th March** the College's Senior Choir performed at St Philip's Anglican Church, Kingswood in a service for the International Day of Prayer. The choir sang "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" from the recent movie Amazing Grace. The performance was very well received and the school was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

- On **Tuesday 18th March** the annual Senior School Choral Camp is to be held at the Winmalee Christian Conference Centre. The camp will conclude with a concert on the Wednesday Evening at the camp site. Watch out for the notes that have already been distributed to students involved.
- On **Friday 9th May** students at P.A.C are extremely privileged to be performing in a concert with the world renowned jazz musician James Morrison. This concert is being held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre on High Street and tickets are available at reception (see flyer attached). This will be an outstanding night of entertainment. The program consists of approximately 45 minutes of James performing with PAC students, interval followed by a performance by James Morrison with his quintet. Please support our students in this project by booking your tickets quickly.

Hannah Forrell – Year 9

Congratulations to Hannah who recently competed at the NSW Stage Age Diving and was awarded 1st place on platform and 2nd place on 1 metre and 3 metre springboard. Hannah will now compete at the National Age Championships in Hobart later this month.

Samantha Dimond – Year 9

Samantha has qualified for the 5km Open Water event at the Australian National Age event in April.

Congratulations Samantha.

NASSA Junior Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the swimmers from Penrith Anglican College who swam at the NASSA Junior Swimming Carnival held at the Sydney Aquatic centre (Homebush) on **Wednesday 5th March**. PAC finished a gallant 3rd behind St Luke's Grammar (Dee Why) and the Illawarra Grammar School (Wollongong).

PAC competitors swam to the best of their abilities which is all you can ask and represented our school with pride. A special mention must go to Laura Hinrichsen who experienced the disappointment of a DQ in the Junior Girls Breaststroke but regathered her composure to swim a fine leg in the Junior Girl's Relay team. Talk about the highs and lows of sport.

Special mention must also go to Cassandra Galea, Ben Hartsuyker and Kayla Bentley who qualified to represent PAC and NASSA at the Combined Independent Schools' Carnival to be held in April. Best wishes at CIS. A big thank you to Mrs Grinham, Miss Hinrichsen, Mr Bentley and Mr Leicester for assisting with timekeeping on the night. Also thank you to Miss Palmer for acting as the Team Manager. Finally a huge thank you to Mr Jono Beggs (Macarthur Anglican College) who convened the carnival and made sure it ran to time and was a wonderful success.

PAC NASSA Swimming Representatives 2008

GIRLS

Year 3

Kayla Bentley
Tara Holdsworth
Renee Hanson
Larissa Gagen

Year 4

Hannah Bird
Caiti Brown
Rebecca Wahlen

Year 5

Brearne Strachan
Laura Hinrichsen
Gracie Grinham

Year 6

Cassandra Galea
Kirsten Keightley
Chloe Tinsley
Sarah Raffan
Ellie Busby

BOYS

Year 2

Gus Grinham

Year 3

Jack McAlister
Curtis Hartsuyker
Mitchell Herring

Year 4

Hayden Perry
Jayden Irwin
Aidan King
Luke Busby

Year 5

Ben Hartsuyker
Jake Yalden
Keiran Cooper

Year 6

Jay Holdsworth
Troy Dimond
Andrew Wahlen
Michael Wahlen
Bradley Leicester
Aidan Payer
Ryan Morley

Mr J. Rodgers

Junior School Sport's Co-ordinator

Junior School Swimming Champions 2008

Congratulations to the Penrith Anglican Swimming Champions listed below.

8 Year Girl	Kayla Bentley
8 Year Boy	Jack McAlister
9 Year Girl	Larissa Gagen
9 Year Boy	Hayden Perry
10 Year Girl	Caiti Brown
10 Year Boy	Luke Busby
11 Year Girl	Cassandra Galea
11 Year Boy	Ben Hartsuyker
12 Year Girl	Kirsten Keightley
12 Year Boy	Ryan Morley

NSW Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Award Winners 2007

The following students have been presented with CIS Awards as a result of their exceptional sporting abilities:-

Tom Whiteside Year 6, 2007
Red Award – Soccer

Kyle Maurer Year 6, 2007
Medallion – Swimming

Will Rodgers Year 9, 2007
Medallion – Athletics

Congratulations to our 2007 CIS Award winners.

Youth of the Year – Rhys Dunn Yr.11

Congratulations to Rhys Dunn who was a finalist in the Lions Club “Youth of the Year” Quest. Rhys was runner-up, unfortunately missing out on winning by 1 point! He competed with other students from the local high schools and was up against some tough competition.

The Quest has 2 parts to it. The first involves an interview with a panel of judges where the students are tested about their general knowledge and are also given an opportunity to discuss their community involvement and their future aspirations.

The second part was held on Monday night 25th February at the Lions Club monthly meeting. Here students were asked to give a 5 minute prepared speech and also two short impromptu speeches. Some of the speeches included “Budgerigars”, “What it means to be Australian” and “The psychology of handbags!!” just to name a few.

It was a very entertaining night and congratulations again to Rhys for a wonderful effort.



NASSA Junior Basketball Gala Day 2008

The PAC Boys and Girls teams played at the NASSA Junior Gala Day on **Thursday 28th February**. The venue was the “Snake Pit” or better known as Berkley Stadium (Wollongong). The day was a fun day with many PAC students playing their first games of basketball. Both teams performed above expectations and played some great basketball. The boys and girls teams both finished 5th out of the 7 NASSA Schools. This is a fine effort.

A huge thank you to Ashley Costa and Emma Phillips (Year 11) who gave up many hours of their time to coach the teams. They taught students the fundamentals of basketball, including skills and rules. Most importantly they taught the kids to have fun and play as a team. Well done girls! Special mention to Ben Costa who was selected to trial at the CIS Trials on **Friday 7th March**. Congratulations Ben!

Girls Team

Monique Andreatta
Nicola Brooks
Leah Chapple
Gracie Grinham
Isobella Halcrow
Tiana Lackey
Brooke Morehead
Sarah Raffin
Kathryn Robinson
Brearne Strachan

Boys Team

Mitchell Atkins
Callum Beaton
James Behringer
Ben Costa
Jay Holdsworth
Jack Kennedy
Bradley Leicester
Braydon Letta
Aidan Payer

Mobile Phone Use at PAC

Attached to this Vine is an extract from a talk presented by Mrs Graydon, the Dean of Students, to Senior School students at the Headmaster’s Assembly on **Friday 29th February**.

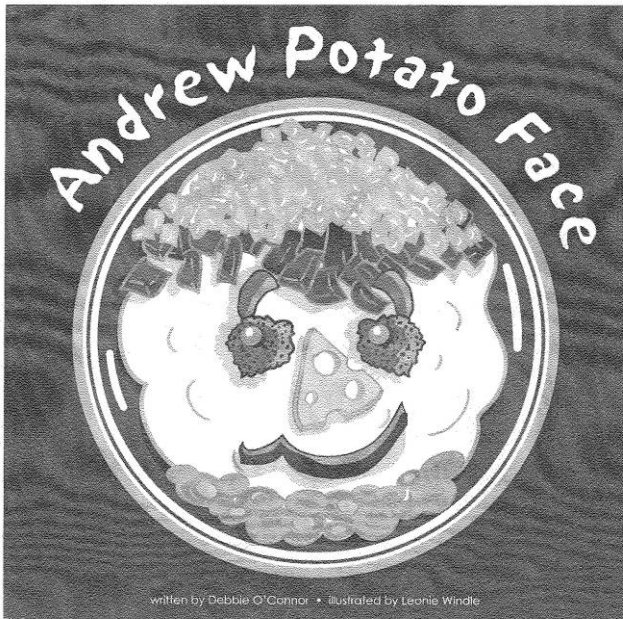
Mrs Graydon had some very important things to say to all families about mobile phones.

I commend this article to all readers of the Vine.

Autumn Concert

An Autumn Concert featuring the Concert Band, Acoustic Band, String Band, small ensembles, Choir and Soloists will be held next month in the College Gymnasium.

Andrew Potato Face



Do you know of any parents that have trouble getting their youngsters to eat a healthy meal? Of course you do! There are plenty of us out there.

That is why Debbie O'Connor, local Glenmore Park resident and mother of two decided to write a book to encourage children to eat a healthy meal.

Based on the concept of making up a face on a plate, Ms O'Connor soon realized that that wasn't enough to spark her children's interest in eating their veggies. "I decided to give the character a name", explains Ms O'Connor "it's surprising how much fun eating an eyeball can be when you are a little person."

With obesity so rife in our society today, healthy eating is a hot topic. The book 'Andrew Potato Face' has the main aim to make meal-time enjoyable, so that children are not afraid to experiment and try new foods. Grassroots education on healthy food is essential if the kids of today are going to grow into healthy adults

The bright illustrations with repetitive and positive messages keep the children entertained, while the colour recognition helps them to learn. Designed for ages 2-6 this is an exciting new book to add to every bookshelf.

'Andrew Potato Face' (ISBN: 978-0-646-48561-4) is currently being sold at Dymocks in Penrith or online through www.fishpond.com.au for \$14.95.

Alternatively you can contact Debbie directly on 4733 7668.

Earth Hour 2008

Earth Hour is an annual event that began in 2007 and is a major campaign of WWF-Australia. The event is an opportunity for organizations, businesses and individuals to raise awareness about climate change while also pledging to do something practical about it. It aims to encourage businesses, communities and individual to take the simple steps that are needed to cut our greenhouse gas emissions by 5% in 2008.

The major highlight of Earth Hour will take place between **8 and 9pm on Saturday 29th March, 2008** when participating homes and organizations will switch off their lights for the hour.

I encourage all College families to become part of Earth Hour 2008 (see www.earthhour.org).

The College for its part will be turning off all non essential lighting and equipment between **8:00pm and 9:00pm on Saturday 29th March.**

It will be wonderful if all PAC households can do the same.

Date: Friday 4th April at 7:30pm

Entry is free so mark the date on your calendar and invite your family and friends to come along.

NASSA Senior Basketball Trials

On **Thursday 21st February** ten students travelled to Bankstown Basketball stadium at Condell Park to trial for selection into the NASSA Basketball team.

There were three teams to be selected on the day - the Open Boys' team, the Open Girls' team and the Under 16 Girls' team. PAC was represented by students trialling for the Open Boys and the Under 16 Girls.

Although narrowly missing out on selection into the Open Boys' team, Jake Shelley (Yr.11), Luke Phillips (Yr.12) and Matthew Rau (Yr.12) displayed excellent skills and sportsmanship and should be commended for their positive attitude and exemplary representation of PAC.

The Under 16 girls had more success with students from PAC making up more than half of the selected team. The successful girls were Jessica Lambert (Yr.10), Ashley Lambert (Yr.8), Kirsten Duffy (Yr.8), Lauren Evans (Yr.8) and

Maya Manojlovic (Yr.8). These girls were selected to play at the AICES tournament on 5th March.

Year 9 – 10 Rugby – Home and Away Series

On **Thursday 21st February** PAC travelled to St Paul's Grammar School looking to make history in winning the Home and Away series in this age group for the first time. They encountered a fired up St Paul's team who were eager to avenge their 14-6 loss the previous Thursday.

The opening exchanges to the match were brutal with a number of players feeling the effects of some heavy defence work. A well worked line move saw St Paul's take an early lead of 5-0.

At the half time break PAC regrouped and discussed the need for more commitment. This led to an improved performance that allowed PAC back into the match.

The lineouts and scrums were much better in the second half with the work of James Beech, Luke Middlebrook, Nimer Trabolssi and Matt Green most notable. Special mention to Alex Nikestitch who made a try saving tackle in the dying stages of the half to prevent a PAC loss. The ball was then carried down field and some quick thinking from Aaron Carrasco resulted in a try. The conversion from the sideline to win the game was unsuccessful and the game finished 5-5. This was enough for PAC to win the shield. Congratulations to all of the players on this history making event.

Mr L Toland

Director of Sport

NASSA Tennis Day

On **Monday 25th February** 8 students from the Senior School travelled to Campbelltown Tennis Centre to compete in the NASSA Tennis day. PAC had not fared well in 2007 but were confident of turning things around in 2008.

The girls team played Bankstown in the first round and started strongly winning both doubles matches. In the singles, victories to Morgan Woodland (Yr.10), Julia Jones (Yr.12) and Stephanie Bayly (Yr.11) ensured a successful opening tie. In the second round PAC again began strongly winning both doubles matches against Macarthur.

In the singles, wins to Morgan and Stephanie booked a grand final show-down with Thomas Hassall. The grand final began with a doubles win a piece. From here Thomas Hassall proved too strong with only Emma Davis (Yr.12) winning her singles match.

The boys played Macarthur in the first round both doubles matches to begin. In the singles victories to Michael Cramer (Yr.12) and Viktor Zlovic (Yr.9) saw PAC move into the second round. In the second round a pair of doubles wins against Thomas Hassall gave PAC an impressive start. In the singles MacGregor Robertson (Yr.10), Victor Zlovic and Jordan Sidhom (Yr.10) all won to send the team to the grand final. The boys were outclassed by a very strong TIGS team in the grand final but had completed a fantastic turn around from the previous year.

Wanted: Native French speaker for one morning per week

PAC is looking for a native French speaker to assist with conversation classes for Year 12, 11 and 10 French, preferable on a Monday morning. This would be a paid position.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, please phone Mrs Gordon (Head of Languages) on 4736 8100 or see Mrs Gordon in F staffroom



Thoughts from the Pastor

Everyone needs recognition for their accomplishments, but few people make the need known quite as clearly as the little boy who said to his father: "Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say 'Wonderful!'" *Bits & Pieces*, December 9, 1993, p. 24.

Our capacity to encourage and uplift each other is truly an amazing human characteristic and just the right word at just the right time can change lives and give real meaning to the way we approach life. In the Bible we see the theme of encouragement being raised numerous times and in the letter to the Hebrews we read these words:

*²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:25.*

Here the writer knows just how vital regular contact with other Christians is and as we start a new year together, I'd like to encourage us all to keep meeting with other Christians so that we will model the partnership God has called us to as he continues to promote the message of salvation through His people.

Get Connected !

Come along to one of our events

April 4-5 – Trail Bike Weekend

If you like riding trail bikes or just coming along for the friendship, we'll be taking a bunch of guys to Lithgow for the week end. Please enquire about details below.

Christianity Explained Course

"Christianity Explained Courses are run throughout the year", one-to-one or in groups. This is a great time to ask any questions at all about Christianity in an informal, non-threatening environment.

Good Friday Service – 21st March – 9.30am in the College Gym

Easter Sunday Service – 23rd March – 9.30am in the College Gym

Rev Mark Bonnici-

Meeting in the B-Block Recital Room each Sunday:

(Morning family service) 9.30am -10.30am

(Evening Service) 6pm -7pm.

enquiries@christchurchatthecollege.com.au

www.christchurchatthecollege.com.au

Praise and Prayer Points

Praise:

- give thanks for the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ
- give thanks for the outworkings of the new Tabitha Diploma program in Years 11 & 12
- give thanks for the efforts of all the staff who prepare our weekly Chapel services
- give thanks for the rain that has impacted so positively in many parts of our nation.

Prayer:

- pray that many College families will choose to come and worship in church this Easter
 - pray for the newly appointed Junior School Prefect body
 - pray for wisdom for all staff in leadership positions in the College
 - pray for families who are feeling extra financial pressures at this uncertain economic time.
-

Last week I received a letter from Sarah C in Year 2.

Amongst other things Sarah told me-

*"I have bene lorning about God
And I have herd the story about Gideon.
I hope you have a good time on Saturday and Sunday
And I hope you pray to him on the holiday."*

It is wonderful to be reminded about what is really important in our lives. Thank you Sarah.

"He answered their prayers,
because they trusted in Him."

1 Chronicles 5:206

Barry Roots,
HEADMASTER

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy 2008

Letter to Parents

In 2008 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be introduced for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This program, which has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

In New South Wales the NAPLAN tests will replace the Basic Skills Tests (BST) English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the agreed national benchmarks of student achievement.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of this national assessment program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

Tuesday 13 May – Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing test.

Wednesday 14 May - Reading test

Thursday 15 May - Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Chance and data, Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students **do not** require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 16 May - A make-up day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual delay.

Students with confirmed disabilities or difficulties in learning are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school's learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website: <http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html>

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like further information about your child's participation in the National Assessment Program.

MOBILE PHONE USE AT PAC

Most of us access mobile phone technology every day. Well over 80% of Australians own a mobile phone, including 89% of 13-19 year olds in Melbourne and Sydney. A quarter of 8-13 year olds also make regular use of one.

In Australia, as well as making basic voice calls, 85% of mobile users send SMS, with over 5078 million SMS sent in 2003-2004. Worldwide, in 2004 over 500 billion SMS messages were sent. This generates in excess of \$50 billion for mobile telephone operators and represents close to 100 text messages for every person in the world.

I am very concerned about the way that mobile phones are often misused. Let me give you some tips first on mobiles and parents. We know that your parents allow you to have a phone for a variety of reasons. The main one being so that they know where you are and so they can contact you about a variety of things. It might be a change of plans, or they're running late. Your parents may expect you to ring them when you change your plans, or if you miss the bus, or for other emergencies. It gives them peace of mind knowing you have a phone. We as parents get very irritated when we anticipate you are going to have your phone and when you are out and about you either can't call because you've run out of credit, or we go to make contact with you and we can't because your phone's not charged. Please, for the sake of your parents and your well-being, make sure you leave enough credit on your phone to make those important calls to your parents. It causes us great anxiety when we can't reach you, and I dare say many of your parents would express some anger in your direction because they were unable to reach you. Save the angst, and make sure your phone is charged.

Unfortunately, some people are using mobile phones to bully other people by spreading rumours, and sending insulting or threatening messages. What can you do to protect yourself:

Prevention's better than cure

Protect your number: Do what you can to stop anyone from sending you nasty or unwanted messages in the first place. If they don't have your number, they can't send you messages. So:

- Only give your phone number to your friends
- Don't leave your mobile where someone can see your number
- Consider using the caller ID blocking to hide your phone number when you call someone.

1. If you do get unwanted calls/SMS:

- Don't respond. People who bully get their kicks from knowing they've upset their victim.
- If you get an insulting message (or just one you don't want), don't respond. Keep the message as evidence, and tell your parents, teacher or another adult. If you decide you want to respond, wait until you are no longer angry or upset. Give yourself time to calm down. A calm, considered and delayed message from you won't 'reward' the bully like an immediate and upset response would.

2. Don't know (or want to know) the caller? Don't let them know who you are.

- Unless you are sure you know-and want to know- the caller, don't give anyone information about yourself, including your name.
- Don't leave your name on your voicemail. This confirms to the person doing the bullying that they've called the right number.

3. Turn your phone off.

- Remember that your phone doesn't need to be on all the time. Turn it off sometimes. Give yourself a break from hearing/seeing the bully.

4. Stealing: safety first

- It's best not to flash your phone around and let others know you've got one. If you are physically threatened by someone wanting to steal your phone, don't fight to keep it. Your safety is more important than your phone.

5. You can get help. The law is on your side.

- People who use mobile phones to bully do so because they believe their actions to be anonymous- that they can't get caught. They're wrong. It's a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace or harass or offend another person. Almost all malicious calls can be traced.
- Report the basic details of the call (keep the message, record the date and time) to your parents and to school. We can help you.

6. If you feel physically threatened, and all this is happening outside of school, then contact the police.

One particular area of concern to me is the use of camera phones and phones with the latest technologies. Some students at the College own phones with blue tooth and infrared capabilities, MP3 and radio access, internet and some may even have TV access. Some of those phones have been handed to me because students are gaining access to these services whilst at school. These phones are very expensive to run, and sometimes students find themselves in financial difficulty because they have run up a huge bill whilst accessing these services. It is best not to purchase such phones whilst you are at school, particularly, with no regular income. Some of you may find you need to get a job, just to pay for the phone bill.

In relation to camera phones, there is no place at school for such phones. We don't want anyone to be in trouble for taking photos of someone without their permission or using the camera in appropriate places. In cases I have read from other schools, sometimes these photos and videos have been downloaded onto the internet without the person even knowing there has been a photo or video of them taken. If camera phones are seen at the college being used they will be confiscated. Students should be aware that inappropriate use of any imaging technology including mobile phones with built-in cameras, is a crime in Australia.

Here at PAC we want all students to feel safe and know their possessions are safe at the college. It is your responsibility to look after your phone if you have it at school. My advice to you would be to keep it switched off and zipped away safe in your pocket. If for some reason you need to call Mum or Dad, for something urgent, seek permission from a teacher and do it in view of that teacher. Quite simply, if you are caught sending text messages or receiving them during class time your phone will be confiscated. We do not want to see your phones while you are here at school.

Here are some very wise tips for all of us about mobile phone manners. These are taken from the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association.

These simple courtesies include:

1. When in Doubt, always go out:

When possible go outside or to another room to make your call if your call might disturb others also. Features such as text messaging answering services, call diversion and vibration alert can be used to receive important calls without disturbing others.

2. If you can't turn it off, use silent mode:

If you need to keep your phone on for important calls, then turn it to silent or vibrate mode. It's the ring of a mobile phone in inappropriate places and times such as at school assemblies, in restaurants and at the tennis which annoys people the most.

3. When required turn your phone off and check its off:

There are some places where people should never talk on a mobile phone or send text messages and where the ringing of a mobile phone or message alert is considered highly unacceptable, such as, movies, stage shows, weddings, funerals, concerts, speeches, classrooms and lectures. In these cases turn your phone off and remember to check its off before you enter the venue.

4. Keep your conversations private:

People's sense of personal space varies in each situation. Making a call in a busy shopping centre may be okay, but talking loudly in a confined space like a lift, or train tends to infringe on others space. Be aware of where you are and who you are with and what others are doing before deciding to make or accept a call. In some situations it may be better to send a text message.

5. Speak Softly:

Mobile phones have very sensitive microphones that can even pick up the softest voice, so there is no need to shout. If you are having trouble hearing the other caller, check that you have the volume on your phone set high enough.

6. You don't always have to answer – use your messaging service:

It's a natural reflex to answer your phone if it rings, however if you forget to put your phone on silent or vibrate mode and it rings at an inappropriate moment, send the call to voicemail or your answering service (usually by pressing the hang-up key).

7. Talk to the one you're with

If you receive a call during a conversation, send the call to your voicemail or answering service. Your first priority should be the person you're with. However, if you are expecting an important call let the person you're with know before the call arrives and excuse yourself before accepting the call.

Mrs C Graydon
Dean of Students
29/02/08