FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It doesn’t feel so long ago that I was welcoming you to a new school year and already a new term is upon us. I’m sure our students would concur, Time flies when you’re having fun...

This is a significant point in time both for our current students and our prospective students.

What are Loyola students up to?

Year 11 Trade Training students, having now completed their first block work placement, are settling in to their chosen trade or industry with a very real sense of what it involves. I am happy to report that a number of them have successfully gained school based apprenticeships and traineeships, a critical aspect of their program.

Year 11 Senior High students are about to embark upon their first block of exams, a telling difference from their peers in the Trade Training Centre. This experience, though not anyone’s idea of fun, also aims to provide students with a very real sense of what the HSC requires, particularly for students who are seeking university entrance. Like it or not, the New South Wales HSC is still very driven by examinations as a critical form of assessment. And as teachers, like it or not, it is imperative that we ensure students are adequately prepared for them.

Year 12 Trade Training students are currently completing a block of work placement which I hope reinforces their initial career choice and deepens their experience of the world of work which they will soon be joining full-time. Half-Yearly Reports will be issued to families within the next week, and Student – Teacher Conferences will be conducted on Tuesday, May 19. More information will be issued on this event. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Year 12 Senior High students should, by now, have received their Half-Yearly Reports. May I ask parents and guardians to examine these reports carefully and discuss the directions and advice they contain. May I ask students to reflect on the feedback in these reports, as well as the conversations had with your teachers at the Student – Teacher Conferences conducted in March, particularly the goals you
set yourselves in each course of study.

Enrolment Period

Term Two is a very busy period in the school calendar for enrolments. During this term we will:

- Meet with **Year 10 students** from St Clare’s Catholic High School and St Agnes Catholic High School
- Advertise through local **parishes** and **media**
- Hold our annual **Subject Expo and Information Night on Tuesday, May 26**: all Year 10 students and their families welcome!
- Request the **return of enrolment forms** by the end of term

Thank you very much to the communities of St Clare’s and St Agnes for your warm welcome, to our local parishes for assisting in promoting key steps in the timeline, and to our own staff and students for the great volume of work it takes to enact the enrolment process. I am very aware and very grateful.

The First Spiritual Exercises

We are very fortunate to have the services of **Fr Brendan Kelly SJ**, who is currently facilitating a **retreat with staff** over the weeks between Easter and Pentecost. Brendan is the second principal of Loyola and current Novice Master, and brings a great wealth of wisdom and experience in leading us through a very rich exercise in prayer and reflection. Thank you Brendan!

Daniel Juco RIP

Very sadly, the Loyola community lost one of its own on the evening of Monday, April 20. Daniel was a Year 12 student who had courageously battled the ravages of cancer from the age of nine. It is a testament to Daniel’s character, courage, tenacity and faith that he never gave up, continuing his studies from hospital, home and at school. The tributes paid by family and friends at his funeral service attest to the great love he had for his family and friends and the complete selflessness he displayed throughout his life. He will forever be held in our hearts as the epitome of being a person for others.

The final statement shared at his funeral service by Daniel’s best friend, **Al Fernando Altobano**, was quite profound. It consisted of two words and was, in fact, one of Daniel’s final statements. Daniel said, **Shots Loyola**. I had to confess to staff that I did not know what this meant… but Loyola students reliably inform me, THIS IS A GOOD THING MISS!! They tell me that Daniel was saying thank you for all Loyola had done for him, beyond his expectations.

I find it extraordinary that Daniel would think of his school in the last hours of his life. But the truth is, I shouldn’t. Daniel’s acknowledgement of his school simply reflects the deep esteem in which he held all who supported him. And that’s no surprise to me at all.

Vale Daniel Juco.

Mrs Cathy Larkin
Principal

**DICK SMITH VISITS LOYOLA**

The students of Loyola Senior High were buzzing with excitement on Friday April 24 when the great Australian entrepreneur **Dick Smith** made his fourth visit back to the school. The school sprit was in overdrive with excitement as he arrived by helicopter, landing on the school’s oval. After exiting the craft he was bombarded by cheers and applause from the staff and students. This was an extremely warm welcome that set the benchmark for his time at Loyola.

Mr Smith was very keen to meet with the school’s new leadership team and had a brief meeting with them all to discuss...
Loyola is very grateful to have such a renowned and avid supporter such as Dick Smith and it was a “...testament to the students and staff for him wanting to return” Mrs Cathy Larkin the school’s new principal said. This message was reinforced throughout the day as he met and greeted students as he walked through the facilities that Loyola has to offer. He spoke at length with the school staff and students about his philanthropic deeds and his adventures. His advice on risk taking and business acumen was what the students learnt most of all. He gave some clear and concise examples about how to be successful in business ventures, saying the keys to success were to be a good communicator and a calculated risk taker amongst other things. Throughout his speech he commented on the fine opportunities that Loyola gave its students and reminded them of the duty they have to help others in need. Dick Smith once again departed in fine spirits and after having seen the great spirit that embodies Loyola, left with cheers and waves. It was a great day and a memorable occasion for all at the school.

As published in the Mt. Druitt Star by Kylie Stevens

INTRODUCING THE HISTORY DEBATING COMPETITION

At Loyola, our students have the opportunity to participate in a number of extra-curricular activities. For instance, they can sign up for public speaking, YCS or Vinnies. This year, Loyola has been able to offer a new activity for our students - History Debating. This competition is aimed at students in Year 11 and requires them to discuss contentious issues in ancient and modern history. Our History Debating Team is made up of six students, each one of whom brings their own skills and talents to the activity. They are Tori Barendregt, Stacey Mailo, Lauren McAdams, Virginia Ng Lam, Michele Piper and Devina Verma.
Unlike traditional debating, where students do not know what the topic will be until they arrive at the venue, our students are told the topic before the debate takes place. Consequentially, they are required to give up a substantial amount of their time to undertake research and prepare for the debate.

During this year’s competition, we will be taking part in three debates. As such, we will be opposing James Ruse Agricultural High School, The King’s School and Sefton High School.

Over the coming year, we will be debating the following topics:

- Round 1 - That Museums are more productive than destructive for history
- Round 2 - That the League of Nations was doomed from the start
- Round 3 - That the USA provoked Japan into war in 1941

We wish our students the best of luck and look forward to a great year of debating.

**Miss Sally Johnstone**
History Debating Coordinator

**ROUND ONE OF THE HISTORY DEBATING COMPETITION**

April 2 was the first round of History Debating. Four representatives of the Loyola History Debating team travelled to James Ruse to take part in the first history debate for the season. The topic of discussion was: "Museums are more destructive than productive for history."

We had several weeks to prepare for this debate but nothing could really prepare us for what awaited. As the negative team, we argued that museums were more productive than destructive to history in the way of preservation, conservation, education, recording and reconstruction of the past. However, James Ruse had a well prepared argument how museums distort the past with biased views, being destructive to the education of history, and how they literally destroy the past by damaging and losing artefacts of past cultures.

Both sides debated this topic well but unfortunately, we lost. It was a fair debate and equal at some points. Nevertheless, it was a rewarding experience to all debaters, gaining new insights and learning new skills.

**Tori Barendregt**
History Debating Student

Caption: Michele Piper, Stacey Mailo, Tori Barendregt and Devina Verma outside James Ruse before their first debate.
LOYOLA’S HAIR CASTLE FUNDRAISING
Loyola’s talented hairdressers operated a stall at the Holy Family Fair on Saturday May 2. The hairdressers showcased their skills, knowledge and experience by offering a wide variety of services such as princess upstyles, braiding, hair chalking and hair straightening. The services were carefully planned with diligence and enthusiasm. The team leader Ashlee Harris has coordinated the hair supplies, marketing and human resources for the amazing stall.

Thank you to our young entrepreneurs.

Mrs Judy Smith

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS
Our senior Rugby League team recently competed in the Australian Schoolboys Trophy Penrith qualification carnival. Our first game was against a strong Chifley High School team who have a few representative players within their lineup. After being up at half time, we found out that the lack of match fitness had a toll on us and we unfortunately went down by 2 points.

In our second game, we met Richmond High School. We were dominant from the start and defeated the school by 20 points. The result gave us the confidence we needed and also kept us alive.

This brought us to the final game where we needed to win to get a start into the next round. We came across St. Clair High School who like us won a game and lost one as well. We started strongly and at half time we were up by 4 points. The second half was a struggle and being such a hot day made it harder for us to keep defending. In the end we got up and won by 20 points to 12.
Our team ended up finishing first on the ladder, with thanks to our strong points difference over the three games. We now play St. Dominic’s College for the right to represent Penrith in this competition.

Congratulations to the team for such an amazing effort considering the lack of training and match experience. The team consisted of the following students:

- Anthony Leo
- Tom Cardines
- Denis Erupi
- Lisiate Taihu
- Chris Kaliappa
- Ayden Carling
- Brayden Tyburski
- Ben Falefoou
- Renato Erupi
- Clinton Aiono
- Richmond Tima
- William Pietracci
- Daniel Pale
- Edmond Kailahi
- Tui Vave
- Phillip Salanga
- Kane Hoggart
- Herman Schmidt

**TOUCH FOOTBALL RESULTS**

The girls recently took part in the PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day. The team was combined with other students from other schools due to the lack of numbers we had. However, we were well represented. The results were as follows:

- vs Nagle College, Blacktown - won 1-0,
- vs Caroline Chisholm College - lost 4-2,
- vs St Patricks Marist, Dundas - lost 3-1,
- vs Emmaus College - won 4-2,
- vs St Columbus, Springwood - lost 4-3

The team consisted of the following students:

- Tegan Carroll
- Rebecca Johnston
- Dana Kennedy
- Shannon Willmont
- Sarah Hemmings
- Skye Bennett

**YR 12 SHOPFITTING ON DISPLAY**

The Year 12 shopfitting students over the last two terms have achieved several competencies creating and constructing the jersey display case. The students developed a deep understanding when using construction tools, reading plans, cutting glass and preparing surfaces for the display case. The students were self directed many times throughout the semester and the structured learning activities also kept the students engaged with their studies. The students solved problems using discussion and research activities to ensure
that the project was of the highest quality. An awesome effort by this very talented class of students.

Mr Steve Hansen

WORK PLACEMENT TERM 1 2015

In early March I went out on my first two week block of Industry Placement for Childcare. I was placed at Graceland’s Early Education Centre, Kellyville. I thoroughly enjoyed the weeks I spent at the centre. I was nervous but excited to experience my chosen trade for the first time. The staff eased my nerves and made me feel welcome and part of the team.

During my placement I was able to work in all the rooms, which covered the age groups of 6 weeks to 6 years. I arrived each morning with a positive attitude, showed enthusiasm and interest in the children. I believe this has helped me gain the opportunity to earn myself a possible school based traineeship.

Laura McKinnon
Student

ANCIENT HISTORY EXCURSION

In HSC Ancient History, we learn about the cities destroyed by Mt Vesuvius in 75AD, how the great Roman Republic fell and about Minoan Crete, the only known society ruled by women in ancient times. However, in the process of learning, analysing and memorising, we often forget that these were actual people and societies. On our recent excursion to the Nicholson Museum, we were able to connect this information with physical remains.

Our tour began in Egypt, when we saw a surviving sarcophagus fashioned from a Lebanese tree. The symbols that remained on its surface told the story of Osiris and Isis. Our guide told us that this sarcophagus had been used by the brother of Horus, to trap his brother the Pharaoh and seize power for himself. Isis grew wings and saved her husband, releasing him from the sarcophagus.

We also saw a more modern exhibition that we were able to recognise. Technicians have created a Lego replica of Pompeii, telling the story of its history from the eruption to contemporary use and excavation of the site. We were able to find the riot between Pompeii and Nucerians in the Amphitheatre as well as film crews working on the 2014 movie, “Pompeii.” This was the most interesting part of the exhibition for many of us, showing how simple items can communicate history of thousands of years.

After the exhibitions, we were able to get a taste of the work of an archaeologist, handling and examining artefacts from as far as ancient Greece, Egypt and Britain. We had to discern what the
object was fashioned from and from its features, determine its use and what this revealed about its society of origin. Among the objects were Egyptian totems used after death to secure passage to the afterlife, a marble hand of a statue from ancient Greece and an decorative oil lamp from Rome.

Many of us wonder what the point of learning history is, let alone history of 2000 years ago. It can be difficult to make the history of ancient worlds relevant and meaningful for students today. The excursion to the Nicholson Museum helped to bridge the gap between the past and the Year 12 students learning about it. We are especially grateful to Mr Fleming and Miss Johnstone for providing the opportunity for us to remember the story of history.

Johanna Larkin
History Student