From the Principal

It is with great pleasure and pride that we farewell our Class of 2015.

As young women ready to now launch into the world beyond school I say to the girls - find your future but be wary as you may have to make compromises. The Hon. Pru Goward, Member of Parliament for Goulburn, spoke at a College assembly about the illusion that young women can fall for believing they can have it all and thus find satisfaction. Her words were very challenging. Essentially she said it is not possible for you to have it all and achieve it all. The Minister went on to say that while there is choice, you must decide what you want, how you want it and when you want it. Perhaps you want a career, to study, to travel, to work, to earn lots of money, to be famous, to have a loving relationship, to have a family, to own property and to be independent. If you choose any of these, compromises will need to be made so that you can achieve just some of them.

This is both the weakness and strength of a woman in the 21st century. Not that long ago woman had little or no choice in their future. They got married, were expected to start a family and then retire from work to raise the family. Women now have far more flexibility in their choices and in the direction of their lives but it comes with strings attached.

Our girls have the privilege of a very specific education. They are women who can draw on a different perspective and can imagine a different possibility than young
women who have been in a co-educational school. St Pat's girls have had the freedom to consider all possibilities and no one at this College has stopped our students because of their gender. They have not had to squeeze themselves into the corset of being cute or to muffle an opinion because it would compromise popularity with the other gender or because that is what is 'expected'. Like Rebel in the film ‘Pitch Perfect’, our students have had the liberty to be as they are and be accepted for who they are at St Patrick’s. Although a little guidance and tempering along the way may have been needed at times, St Patrick’s College girls have been able to remain authentic to who they really are. As our girls complete their St Pat's journey, they are looking forward into a world where human issues, particularly women’s issues of gender inequality, live at the very core of the global problems that everyone suffers from. From poverty to human trafficking and human rights abuses and the rise of fundamentalism, our girls have the opportunity and obligation by virtue of their education at St Patrick’s to challenge these issues and work towards a resolution which involves change. The need is very great and the urgency is paramount. Your children and your children’s children are depending on you.

You have an opportunity to make a difference and have a positive influence on the world we live in.

Sue Lennox - Principal, St Patrick's College Campbelltown

Gallery
Senior School

Year 12 Celebrate Final Day of Classes

To the Year 12, as you leave the four walls it is only proper that we give you one last farewell.

Your time here has been affected and touched all in the St Pat's community. On the behalf of the College we would like to say congratulations!

Today as we gather with family and friends to celebrate your past 6 years, we reflect on who you have become and who you can be. The girls sitting around you are lifelong friends. You have journeyed together, through all the hardships, laughter and of course, the tears.
As a community, we hope you will always be yourself, to be principled, and be worthy of trust. Follow your passions and don't be afraid of challenges as enduring success is guaranteed by hard work. You have become role models and leaders to the rest of our school community and your passion and encouragement has encouraged us to participate in carnivals, fundraisers and other events and to achieve its very best.

Your constant enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to the school has been admirable. And we wish you good luck as the weeks to come may be your hardest. Your achievements you make will make us proud.

Today I encourage you to let your guard down and to really embrace and savour this feeling, the feeling of the day. Let it sink in. I would like you to look around, to your teachers, parents and friends. In everyone today they have a feeling of pride...joy...triumph...and a feeling of completion for getting you through your high school years. They have cared for you for the last 6 years, hoping you will fulfil your hopes, dreams and aspiration. Remember to always thank these fellow supporters as they have been a big part of your journey and have made you into the person you are today.

We have no doubt in our minds that you will succeed wherever you find yourselves. There is a saying that everything that has a beginning must have an end; your journey at this school is now at the end. We shall miss you and wish that you achieve your best in all your life’s endeavours. “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” So as you step out to meet the world with your mind prepared and your skills tuned, I urge you to set your direction with a positive attitude and strong spirit.

As you go, may God bless all of you!

Myra Qayyum - College Captain 2016

Gallery
Year 12 Graduation Celebrations Begin

Year 12 thank teachers and staff with a superb morning tea

Year 12 girls hosted a superb morning tea to thank teachers and staff. This marks the beginning of the official farewell celebrations to the *Class of 2015*. 
Once a St Pat's Girl, always a St Pat's Girl

Excerpts from the College Captain's address, 2015 Graduation Dinner.
I am not ready to say goodbye. I am not ready to leave all that I have known for the past 6 years. I am not ready to leave the school I have grown to love and most importantly I am not ready to say goodbye to the 115 beautiful young women seated here tonight.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has helped us reach this point in time, our Year Coordinators Mrs Baker, Miss Tilott, Mrs Cornett & Mr Quigley. A special thank, especially to the humble and wise Mr Quigley for his guidance and never-ending support throughout the past two years and to our teachers for the gift of education and for putting up with our never ending questions. Thank you to the College community for the endless opportunities to strive for our best and to shine. Thank you for embedding the Benedictine values in each and every one of us. Thank you to our parents, for all your support and love. Thank you for continuing to be a driving force in each of our successes.

Together we've laughed and cried, stressed over exams and formal dresses, made fun of all our teachers, danced and cheered at the most random times; and together we have discovered the value and gift of friendship - a friendship that I have found to run so very deep. I will never forget the feeling of walking into the College grounds knowing that I have 115 amazing young women who are ready to begin the day with me. The gift of friendship comes with trust and support. I can honestly stand here today and proudly say that the support, trust and love the Year 12 girls have shown me will be forever valued.

Each and every one of you have touched so many lives throughout your time at St. Pats. From a simple hello to the vigorous and supportive cheering at carnivals and PACMAN, every one of you has made an impact.

As our journey comes to an end, I dare you to keep being the person St. Pats has shaped you to be. I dare you to push yourself and pursue your dreams. Strive for your very best, do not limit yourself, be who are you, when you want and how you
want. There are endless opportunities. As our paths begin to move in different directions, I know that somewhere upon the face of the earth I have 115 intelligent and successful women who I can proudly stand up and call my sisters.

You should all be proud of the young women you have become, because I know that I am. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to you all. Thank you for the unconditional support and encouragement. It has been an absolute privilege and honour to have known you all.

I wish you all the best for all your future endeavours and remember that “Once a St. Pats girl, always a St. Pats girl”.

Eleanor Ve’e - College Captain 2015