

## Penrhos College

<i>Moderator, as visitor</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Chairperson</i>	Paul Owen
<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	Professor Chris Brook
<i>Principal</i>	Meg Melville
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kelvin May
<i>Foundation Representatives</i>	Sondra Anderson
<i>Secretary</i>	Margaret Horne
<i>Councillors</i>	Geoff Fry
	Ian Harris
	Evan Hillard
	Felicity Kermode
	Ian Parker
	Associate Professor Lina Pelliccione
	Professor Peta Sanderson

### I. THE PENRHOS COLLEGE CONTEXT

#### I.1 Core Shared Values

As a faith community within the Uniting Church in Australia, and inspired by the motto 'Strive for the Highest', Penrhos College aims to provide an environment conducive to the establishment and nurturing of Christian faith, and the adoption of sound moral and ethical values. With this in mind, we are committed to the following Core Shared Values: Respect, Integrity, Empathy, Knowledge, Growth and Synergy. These define the very essence of who we are, what we believe and what we stand for as staff and as students, and together as a community.

#### I.2 Purpose

To inspire girls to become extraordinary women – helping each girl to be the best she can be given her unique gifts, talents and passions. It is based on a sense of her making a meaningful contribution to the world, at whatever level and in whatever unique way she can. Penrhos College is committed to an educational philosophy which acknowledges student phases of development that aim to provide a balanced and diverse education.

In order for each girl to be the best she can be, the College programs are committed to developing the whole person. Our academic, pastoral, co-curricular and spiritual programs integrate aspects of heart, mind, body and spirit.

To inspire our girls to become extraordinary women, our strategic and operational goals are developed through:

- Inspirational Student Experiences
- Inspirational Staff
- An Inspirational Environment
- An Inspirational and Enduring Community

### 2. THE MISSION OF GOD

In John 20:21, Jesus declares to his disciples: "...as the Father sent me, so I send you." In these few words, Jesus captures the *missio Dei* – the mission of God for the world. God sent Jesus first and then, through Jesus and with the power of the Spirit, God sends the church – the gathered disciples and followers of Jesus Christ. Our God is a sending, missioning God.

The Uniting Church in Australia discerns and delineates in the Basis of Union that both Jesus and the church are sent by God to reveal the intent and purpose of God for the

whole creation – its reconciliation and renewal.

“In Jesus Christ “God was reconciling the world to himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19 RSV). ... In raising him to live and reign, God confirmed and completed the witness which Jesus bore to God on earth, reasserted claim over the whole of creation, pardoned sinners, and made in Jesus a representative beginning of a new order of righteousness and love” (Basis of Union, para. 3).

“The Church’s call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself” (Basis of Union, para. 3).

As a faith community within the Uniting Church in Australia, Penrhos College recognises, reveals and engages in the mission of God through various programs and activities: worship services, administering the sacraments, pastoral services, pastoral care, teaching and community service. These programs and activities bring together and involve past and current community members (students, staff and families) and the wider community. These programs and activities are coordinated and undertaken by the Chaplaincy Department, and the Community Service and Service Learning Department.

### **3. CHAPLAINCY AT PENRHOS**

The Chaplain represents the life of faith within the College, particularly as it is conveyed and lived within the Uniting Church in Australia. The Chaplain proclaims the gospel in word and deed, promotes the Christian ethos, and provides opportunities for religious and spiritual development.

The Chaplain, with help and support from the Chaplaincy Assistant, organises worship services, sacraments and pastoral services, contributes to assemblies, and coordinates For Others (fundraising) activities. Also, each day, the Chaplain is available to Junior School and Secondary School students for pastoral conversations and care.

To undertake these responsibilities, the Chaplain works closely with the Head of Junior School, Deputy Head of Junior School, Dean of Pastoral Care, Assistant Dean of Pastoral Care, College Counsellors, Community Service and Service Learning Coordinator, Heads of Year, Form Teachers and Classroom Teachers. The Principal and the Chaplain meet on a fortnightly basis to review programs and monitor the wellbeing of students and staff. They also meet informally on a needs basis, depending on circumstances arising in our community.

The Chaplain also works closely with the Year 6 Chapel Captain and Team Captains, other Year 6 Captains, the Junior School and Secondary School Tech Team, the Secondary School Chapel Representatives, the Secondary School Community Service Representatives, the Year 12 Chapel Captain and Vice-Captain, and other members of the Year 12 Leadership Team.

Our Chaplain, Claire Pickering, commenced the role in May 2016 and was officially Commissioned in April 2017. The Chaplaincy Assistant, Angela Pok, commenced the role in April 2017.

#### **3.1 Worship Services**

During term-time, each week, four worship services are held in the Chapel for Junior School and Secondary School students.

Over the past year, the key themes explored have included The Life of Jesus and Courage in Action: Apostle Paul (scriptural), Advent Wreath (liturgical), P.A.T.H. to Prayer and Core Shared Values (practical), Sustainable September: Creation (topical) and Anniversaries 2017 (historical). During Term 3, the key themes that will be explored are First Peoples Spirituality and Sustainable September: Stewardship with Junior School students, and The Nature of God and The Parables of Jesus with Secondary School students.

Also, each term begins with a worship service for all staff, and across the year, there are several special worship services for past and current community members, including for Ash Wednesday (whole College), Easter (whole College), Founders Day (Alumni),

Grandparents and Friends Day (Year 7 students and families), Valedictory (Year 12 students and families) and Christmas (all staff).

These weekly and special worship services provide opportunities for students, staff and families to hear, know and respond to the Word of God through the Bible reading and message, the prayers, hymns and other liturgy. The participation of community members in these worship services is fostered and vital.

### **3.2 Sacramental and Pastoral Services**

The Chapel is available to past and current community members (students, staff and families) and past students of other Uniting Church Colleges for the following sacramental and pastoral services: Thanksgiving and Blessing of a Child, Baptism, Marriage, Reaffirmation of Marriage, and Funeral or Memorial. These services are overseen and arranged by Chaplaincy, and typically conducted by the Chaplain using Uniting in Worship orders of service and liturgy.

Over the past year, one Service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for an infant, five Services of Baptisms for infants and a child, and four Marriage Services have been held in the Chapel. A further one Service of Baptism and two Marriage Services are scheduled for later this year and early next year. These services provide opportunities for students, staff and families, within the faith community, to participate in and be nourished by these expressions of Christian faith and life.

Currently, the Chaplain and Chaplaincy Assistant, in collaboration with the Marketing and Community Relations Department, are redeveloping the information and booking processes for these services, to cultivate and foster a better understanding and to enhance the accessibility of these services for community members.

### **3.3 For Others Activities**

Each year, the Chaplaincy Department manages and coordinates a range of For Others (fundraising) activities, spanning Junior School and Secondary School. These activities provide opportunities for community members (students, staff and families) to explicitly respond to the Word of God and

participate in the mission of God – reconciliation and renewal for the whole creation.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus commands his disciples: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples...”

Over the past year, For Others (fundraising) activities have supported UnitingCare Australia (Pancake Day), UnitingWorld (Lent Event), ‘Razzamatazz’ and ‘Circus Quirkus’ (Easter Service), UnitingCare West Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal (in collaboration with Community Service and Service Learning), Compassion Australia (child sponsorship), World Vision Australia (child sponsorship), Santa’s Workshop (Year 9 EMAN), and TEAR Australia (Junior School, School Banking Program). During Term 3, the Chaplaincy Department will be organising a ‘Book-raiser’ to support The Footpath Library, providing homeless people with new and near-new books.

Also, each term, a financial offering is collected during the weekly worship service for Junior School students and is allocated to a specific charity or agency. Over the past year, the organisations supported have included TEAR Australia, Birdlife (Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo), Perth Zoo (Wildlife Conservation), and the Fred Hollows Foundation. During Term 3, the offering from Junior School students will be donated to Wheelchairs for Kids.

These For Others (fundraising) activities are promoted and discussed in worships services for Junior School and Secondary School students, to increase awareness of the various projects and charities or agencies supported, and to inspire service.

## **4. COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE LEARNING AT PENRHOS**

Community service is defined as activities undertaken for the benefit of individuals and/or the community for no financial reward. Such activities may be school-orientated – providing a service in an area of need within the school environment; or community-

orientated – providing a service in an area of need within the broader community.

Service learning is a method of teaching that combines formal instruction with a related service in the community.

#### **4.1 The Learn Live and Give Program**

Penrhos College has a strong ethos of service to others. The Learn Live and Give Program has seen the expansion and enrichment of a wide and varied range of activities across the Secondary School since its inception in 2013. Community Service will continue to be an integral part of our students' learning journey, along with the implementation of service learning into the classroom.

The Program combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical thinking and reflective thinking, as well as personal and civic responsibility. The Program involves students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.

Through their participation in the Learn Live and Give Program, students experience opportunities to develop and apply leadership and communication skills. Students utilise their interpersonal skills in learning to problem-solve, deal with conflict management, understand ethics and values, develop time-management skills, build on perseverance and gain a greater awareness of self.

The Learn Live and Give Program aims to empower our students to make a positive and productive difference in society, as well as foster a greater connectivity with the wider community by working in partnership with individuals and outside services and organisations – the goal being to promote life-long advocacy.

Through the Program we seek to develop in our students, a spirit of giving and social participation, a recognition of human need, an understanding of self and others in the context of the local and global community.

Through the Program students will have the opportunity to establish and foster positive relationships with teachers, other students and members of the wider community.

The Learn Live and Give Program also provides opportunities for student leaders and the Year 12 Student Leadership Team to provide support for others in the community and develop projects of student and community interest. This allows our students to utilise their leadership skills for school and community development in partnership with Penrhos Service Learning Strategic Partnership organisations, such as, UnitingCare West.

Students in Years 7-11 have the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills in this area by nominating for the position of Community Service Year Representative. Students elected into these positions will work closely with the Community Service Coordinator to investigate, plan and action ways individuals and other girls in the year group can support community organisations and services.

Community Service and Service Learning activities include: UnitingCare West Winter Appeal, UnitingCare West Christmas Appeal, Amanda Young Fair, Knit a Square, Rugs for Hugs, Uthando Dolls, 40 Hour Famine, Relay for Life, Rotary Club, Vampire Club, World Vision Global Leaders, UnitingCare West Convention and The Laos Tour.

**Meg Melville**  
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**Paul Owen**  
**Chairperson**