One of the most successful sporting clubs in Australia is the Collingwood Australian Rules Football Club. As a lifelong Carlton supporter I am certainly no fan of the Collingwood Football Club. However, I certainly am an admirer of that club, and all that they have achieved, particularly in the last decade. One thing that I admire is the club’s theme song, titled ‘Side by Side’. The Club Song says much about what Collingwood is on about, and how it strives to conduct its affairs, both on and off the football field. The theme for this year’s Presentation Night is ‘Side by Side - Growing and Learning Together’. In many respects this theme says much about a St Andrews Education. At its very core a St Andrews Education is all about learning and growth, and we do so in relationship; together, side by side. Teachers and students side by side; Students and Students; Staff and Parents; Parents and their children. In 2014 we have striven, promoted and celebrated, side by side, growing and learning together across the entire St Andrews community.

Academic Growth and Learning is a core tenet of a St Andrews Education. We began 2014 with the news that the Year 12 class of 2013 had achieved excellent academic results. 97.4% of the cohort attained an OP of between 1 and 15, making St Andrews among the very top performing schools in the State on that particular measure. Pleasingly, 99% of St Andrews students that applied for tertiary study were offered places, with just under 90% being offered their first preference; allowing them to continue their growth and learning. In relation to NAPLAN, back in June of this year ‘The Weekend Australian’ published its annual lists of the highest performing schools across the nation based on the previous year’s NAPLAN Test results. Whilst the way in which ‘The Weekend Australian’ compiled its various tables is somewhat arbitrary (and as Principal I always question the nature of these tables), nevertheless it was highly pleasing to see St Andrews ranked 43rd in the State of Queensland for the 2013 NAPLAN Results. When one considers that there are approximately 1300 State Schools, and another 450 Independent and Catholic Schools in Queensland, this places St Andrews in the top 1% of schools - a most meritorious achievement. This year’s NAPLAN results were equally pleasing, with just over 98% of the Year Levels tested exceeding the national standards, and exceeding the State Average on every single test.

Academic Learning and Growth is of course no accident. The PYP Teaching and Learning framework in the Junior School, complemented by the Dimensions of Learning Framework that we have begun to implement in the Middle and Senior Schools, provides teachers and students together with a consistent and intentional focus on learning. It is this intentional focus on learning - teachers, students and parents, side by side together that enable the results just mentioned to be achieved. I thank the teachers of St Andrews for their willingness to embrace change, and continually seek to get better at their craft, and in particular their willingness to learn side by side from each other - the most powerful source of professional growth. I also acknowledge the hard work and focus of our students - your willingness to set learning goals, to work with your teachers, to strive to achieve personal bests in your learning, and in the case of secondary students, to embrace target GPAs and EPAs - is an important part of the Academic Growth and Development we have seen throughout 2014.

Parents too have played an important part in the Academic Growth and Achievement of 2014 as you have journeyed side by side with your child and your child’s teachers. Good parents, good families, help to make good schools. This year we have introduced the concept of ‘Partnerships for Learning’ for the Parent Community. It has taken on different forms across the College. In the Junior School a parent workshop for the teaching of reading to your child was held; in Senior School, Ms Stewart, Head of Senior School organised an ‘Empowering Young Women to make Good Choices’ Workshop, and in Middle School, Mr Casey, Head of Middle School ran a series of parent forums, the most recent being ‘Raising Boys’. These ‘Partnerships for Learning’ are a demonstrable example of the College’s commitment to our theme tonight of ‘Side by Side: Growing and Learning Together’, and I would encourage parents to take advantage of these opportunities as they arise in 2015.
Academic enrichment and extension continues to be an important part of learning and growing together at St Andrews. The Year 6 Science Extension Program taught in the Senior School Science Labs continues to go from strength to strength. A record 11 teams entered the Griffith University Science Competition as part of National Science Week, with the Year 6s finishing 3rd, and the Year 8s finishing 2nd. The innovative Middle School vertical electives program was further enhanced, with the introduction of STEM - a subject that is a combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The College entered the Thiess Engineering Competition for the first time, and placed third in our first attempt. Language Students from Year 9 to 12 had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Japanese language and culture as part of the Study Tour of Japan in September. About a quarter of the Year 8 cohort piloted an innovative Personal Project which allowed students to study an area of interest in depth in their chosen field. Year 11 and 12 students again had the opportunity to study a university subject at Bond, Southern Cross or Griffith University as part of the College’s ongoing relationships with those Universities. In English, the creative writing group continues to grow and flourish, as has the Book Club. Debating made a successful re-emergence in 2014, with our Year 8 team reaching the semi-finals of the Gold Coast Schools Debating Association competition. And in Chess, St Andrews again dominated the AGCC Competition. This year, under Mrs Polentas’ passionate tutelage, Robotics has grown from a small after school club, to a fully-fledged subject on the cutting edge of this field. The PYP Exhibition in Year 6 continues to be a leading light in showcasing the incredible depth and richness of student learning in the Junior School. Our Year 3s even had the opportunity to take part in Home Economics lessons with the Year 9s - now that is really Learning and Growing together side by side.

A St Andrews Education, is not merely concerned with Academic Growth and Achievement, important as this is. A St Andrews Education is not limited to short-term achievements. Its’ focus is the full development, the life-long development of the students entrusted to us. It is concerned very much with what type of person our children and young people will become. It is why what goes on beyond the classroom is as important as what transpires within it. The Edge, the Kokoda Challenge, Girls with a Purpose, and the Growing Good Men Project are powerful programs beyond the classroom that enable staff and students to learn and grow together side by side. Growing Good Men, for example, is one of the opportunities we as a College provide to systematically address some issues about the development of adolescent males. For many of the young men who have been involved so far, it has been an integral part of their learning and growth to maturity, confidence and wellbeing. Drawing upon what we know about Bringing up Boys, Manhood, Boys in Schools, Leadership and Rites of Passage, Growing Good Men is a deliberate attempt to give young men a clearer sense of their identity, their dignity, their values, their leadership potential, in the context of a physical challenge and creative work project, under the mentorship of staff they respect and trust. The Year 10 City Experience, developed for the first time this year by Mr Nelson, Director of Student Development is part of the learning and growth of students as they prepare for the challenges of Senior Studies. This experience involves a self-guided tour of our State’s capital. It aims to take students out of their ‘comfort zone’, and push them into their ‘challenge zone’ by being focussed on building Team Work, Problem Solving, Independence and Competence, as students navigate their way through Brisbane’s CBD and engage with key civic and educational institutions.

The College’s Co-curricular Program - Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts and Sport continues to be an important vehicle for students to learn and grow together. It is on the sports field or on the stage, side by side together that our children and young people grow and learn. As the ‘Highlights of 2014 Powerpoint’ showed this year St Andrews students have achieved to the highest levels in Sport, Music and the Performing Arts. However far more importantly than the achievements has been the participation. Through their participation St Andrews students have learnt that anything worth achieving in life takes hardwork and commitment. They have learnt that something extraordinary can be achieved when we all work together for a common purpose; that at times it is critical to put the interests of the whole group before their own; and in those times where things don’t go according to plan, that persistence in the face of setbacks should never be underestimated.
As we Grow and Learn together the importance of nurturing the individual in such a way that people can identify their God given gifts and talents, and seek to do their personal best and use these gifts in community to serve God, their family, each other and the wider global community is a reoccurring theme of a St Andrews education. Developing real partnerships with local community and global organisations is critical to this. Through the College's Service Learning and Community Service programs in 2014 we have seen this over and over again amongst the student body. From the Year 9 Edge Program, to the ALWS Cambodian Tour, to Taking Action as part of a Junior School PYP Unit of Inquiry, visits to the St Andrews Aged Care, LEOs Club, Coats for a Cause, Year 8s reading to Year 4s, Club Red, Australian Youth Climate Council, the Year 8 and 11 Food Drive, and the Year 4 ‘Take 3 Clean Beach Initiative’, St Andrews students are challenged with the question - what does the world need and what gifts and talents do I have to meet that need? We want our children and young people to be ‘others-centred’, and to understand their role as citizens of not only St Andrews, but also of the Gold Coast community, and of our Country, through working alongside people and ‘getting their hands dirty’, understanding the needs of another and standing up for others in a knowledgeable and caring way. St Andrews children and young people know they are never too young or old to make a difference, and the College is immensely proud of them as a result.

Our College Captains, Kelsey Caruana and Joshua Prince, and Vice-captains John Hamstra and Virginia Guthrie have provided excellent leadership to the student body in 2014. I thank them for their positive leadership and the difference they have endeavoured to make to St Andrews this year. They, and all of the class of 2014 leave St Andrews with a positive legacy. I would ask this year’s College Captains to come forward to assist in the transition of leadership for next year’s leaders.

I am pleased to announce:
The College Vice-Captains for 2015 are - Braden Cosier & Jacinda Pagels
The College Captains for 2015 are - Finn McLynskey & Melissa Maessen
The handshakes between the outgoing Captains to the incoming Captains is a symbol of the transition of student leadership from one year to the next. Through this handshake the mantle of leadership is passed on, and our outgoing student leaders offer their encouragement to our 2015 Captains to provide leadership to the student body just as they have striven to do so this year.

As this year’s Captains leave the stage they will be presented with a Captains Award to acknowledge them for their leadership and service to our community over the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students that leadership amongst the student body is not restricted to those students who have formal leadership positions. Not everyone can be a in a formal leadership position but every one of our students can influence and make a difference; each student has the opportunity to show the fine qualities that they have. Their different strengths means all bring something very special to St Andrews. In fact, there are hundreds of examples in the history of St Andrews where young men and women who were not formal leaders nevertheless, had a profound impact on those around them.

This year the College lost one of its longest and staunchest supporters, Mr Brian Schmidt. Mr Schmidt, a long serving member of College Council, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last month. Mr Schmidt had loyally and humbly served this community, and stood side by side with it, as, over the past 21 years we have learnt and grown from very humble beginnings to the community we are today. We thank Mr Schmidt for helping to make St Andrews ‘St Andrews’, and extend our sincere condolences to his wife and three children.

At the end of the year we say farewell to a special and much loved member of our community - Pastor Terry Unger. Pastor Terry, having served the Lutheran Church for over 40 years, 25 of them in schools, the last 10 at St Andrews will retire at the end of 2014. Pastor Terry truly has journeyed side by side with our community, always finding a way to be present, and a listening ear in times of need.
We will miss Pastor Terry's gift of story-telling, his strong identification with those at the margins, and his desire for every person in our community to know that they truly are a loved child of God. We thank Pastor Terry for all that he has done, and wish him and his wife Grace, who also retires after many years of faithful service in the College Library, God's richest blessing in the next phase of their life.

So, as we have travelled through 2014 what has been the result of our side by side journey of learning and growing together? Five simple words - ‘fine young men and women’. As we journey side by side together St Andrews students are empowered to learn and grow to become fine young men and women. Describing our students as ‘fine young men and women’ is not some throwaway line, nor is ‘fine’ some bland generic word. It is a deliberate and carefully chosen word that encapsulates and conveys a number of things:

- To be described as a ‘fine’ young St Andrews man or woman is a badge of honour. It is honourable to be described as a ‘fine’ young person.
- It sets us apart as a College that values the depth, breadth and diversity of character of each person.
- It speaks of strength of character, yet at the same time humility. We want to be the best we can be, because we have something to offer and want to make a difference in our community.
- It signals our desire to be aspirational and at the same time comfortable. We want to keep on striving to be better, but at the same time we are comfortable in the knowledge that each of us is a loved child of God.
- It conveys respect - respect for ourselves, respect for our peers, respect for the adults in our community.
- It communicates the importance of service, of being other-centred. There is great significance in the small gestures of daily life at St Andrews: a student saying thank you to a teacher after a lesson, or senior students tutoring younger students after school in the library.
- This is what ‘fine’ young St Andrews men and women do.

So, In 2014, Side by Side: Learning and Growing together at St Andrews has been about providing an education that empowers the students of St Andrews to be fine young men and women - people that their mums and dads are be proud of, people that this College is proud of, and that our community and nation are proud of.

**Outstanding Achievements of 2014**

**Academic**

**Year 12 Academic Awards**
Runner up for Year 12 - Virginia Guthrie
Top Academic Achiever for Year 12 - Chloe Ivak & Joshua Prince

**Year 4 Academic Awards**
Runner-up - Georgie Hacker
Top of Year - Sienna Dalby

**Year 5 Academic Awards**
Runner-up - Elijah Friebel
Top of Year - Sara Allan

**Year 6 Academic Awards**
Runner-up - Soham Kale
Top of Year - Freya Sambain
Year 7 Academic Awards
Runner-up - Kye Shield
Top of Year - Hannah Schooley

Year 8 Academic Awards
Runner-up - Benjamin Allan
Equal Top of Year - Harrison Craig-Ward & William Dower

Year 9 Academic Awards
Runner-up - Jessica Palfreyman
Top of Year - Alexander

Year 10 Academic Awards
Runner-up - Maddison Good
Top of Year - Zac Irwin

Year 11 Academic Awards
Runner-up - Lara Santi
Top of Year - Jacinda Pagels

Ruth Butler Peace Prize
Junior School - Alexandra Holloway
Middle School - Amara Butterworth
Senior School - Anabel Lamburd

MSP Photography Scholarship Award - Ebony Shield
Bond University Collegiate Scholarship - Virginia Guthrie
Bond University Collegiate Leadership Scholarship - Joshua Prince
Bond University RSL ANZAC Scholarship - Chloe Ivak
Michael Hart Future Leader Award - John Hamstra
Caltex Best All-Rounder Award - Chloe Ivak & Jason Ryan

Junior School Gold Citizenship Awards

Year 6
Lauren Barratt
Kalindi Porter
Callum Ahern
James Martin
Madison Taylor
Jack Read

Stephen McGrath Junior School Citizenship Award - Bronte Good

Middle School Gold Citizenship Award

Year 7
Sean Martin
Zac Micallef
Lucy Turnbull
Middle School
Gold Citizenship Award
Year 8
Khai Bowie
William Dower
Leilani Frost
Jaimee McEwen
Hayden Verschuure

Year 9
Amara Butterworth
Nicole Richards
Anna Tyrrell
Zahra Whyte

Middle School Outstanding Citizenship Award - Zahra Whyte

Senior School Gold Citizenship Awards

Year 10
Maddison Good
Jon-Ross Gordon
Zac Irwin
Izak Schache
Ty Sheers

Year 11
Morgan Atkins
Ashley Hayes
Melissa Maessen
Thomas Marshall
Finn McLynskey

Year 12
Kyle Bergwerf
Ashleigh Blake
Kelsey Caruana
Taylor Garlick
Virginia Guthrie
John Hamstra
Chloe Ivak
Anabel Lamburd
Dakota Leschke
Emily Looke
Joshua Prince
Jason Ryan
Annika Schache

Outstanding Citizenship Award For Senior School - Dakota Leschke

Junior School Gold Cultural Award - Isaac Thorpe
Junior School Cultural Award - Charlee Cosgriff
Middle School Gold Cultural Award - Jarrod Yates
Overall Cultural Award for Middle School - Alina Clark
Senior School Gold Cultural Award
Jonathon Aiello
Elliott Baylis
Izak Schache
Tia Lightbody
Mitchell Wynter

Overall Cultural Award for Senior School
Jason Ryan

Junior School Sports Star Award
Sarah-Anne Hornsey
Jack Read

Middle School Gold Sports Award
Max Indriawan
Mia Jenkins
Katie Hayward

Middle School Sports Star Award
Katie Hayward
Max Indriawan

Senior School Gold Sports Award

Year 11
Lachlan Irvine
Natalie Roberts

Year 12
Tia Faulkner
Kane Richards
Kye Wylde

Senior School Sports Star Award
Tia Faulkner
Kane Richards