Class Parliament

St Patrick’s School seems to be the breeding ground for future politicians! Yesterday, I had the pleasure of sitting in Mr Moraschi’s class (house) parliament and witnessed a number of students who could make fine young politicians possibly a Minister for Education or even a Prime Minister. I was in awe at the running of parliament, and you would be pleased to know that no one got “thrown out of Parliament!” The class parliament included a speaker who managed everything from government whips to Senators and members of the Representatives with leaders included! Down the back of the classroom was the Senate that even included an Independent! It was poetry in motion, to see our students raise motions such as school improvement ideas for the grounds, to having a High Tea party and even motions about having a day off school. Both houses in the classroom determined motions by voting—and there is a presiding officer who announces the results. In some cases the bell is rung throughout Parliament House summoning Senators or Members to the chamber. During a division, members who favour the motion move to the right side of the chamber (classroom), whereas those opposed move to the left. They are then counted by the Government and Opposition whips, and the motion is passed or defeated accordingly. The students would love to run their parliament every day of the school week, but a decision by the Governor General (Mr Moraschi) decided that three days was enough! Now that is the spirit of a democratic system!