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Lumina

Issue 10 · 17 Jun 2021

Welcome to Issue 10. It is great to be back on campus after lockdown. With our students return the College is again bursting with energy, added with the vibrancy and colour of our magnificent gardens, as our camellias come into bloom. As Term 2 is coming to an end, this issue provides many study tips for students to prepare for their exams next semester.

We are very excited to announce Friday 23 July as the new date of the Walkathon.

Wishing, students, staff and families a rejuvenating school break and look forward to an actioned packed Term 3

Director of Development | Elaine Doyle

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From the Principal

Terry Blizzard

It is wonderful to have all students back on-site following Lockdown 4. As I stood in the school yard on the first day back for the Years 7 to 10 students, I was interested to hear a boy tell another that for some reason he found this lockdown the hardest of all. I suspect he is not the only one feeling this way and we pray this is the end of them and we can get on with some normality in our lives. As parents and teachers, we are attuned to the emotions of the young people in our lives and I would encourage everyone in our community to be proactive in offering support and guidance to those around us. For some, it has been a tough end to the term.

Uniform

School uniforms are an important part of the experience of any school. They provide us with a sense of time and place and a sense of identity and belonging. They have a wonderful capacity to break down social divide. When we wear the uniform, we are all equal.

As we consider what changes may be needed to establish a St Mary's College identity, we do so remembering our origins and the things that bind us together, we considered how we could celebrate the identity of both boys and girls, whilst retaining something of the history of the uniforms across the generations.

The review of the College uniform must factor all of this in, as well as the financial considerations for families. We are fortunate that the CBC uniform and the Presentation

uniform work so well together, as this gives us time for our deliberations. Now, being a co-educational college, has made us acutely aware of how dress and skirt fabrics become a key element in the identity of the school and must be given due consideration before changes are made. In our two Community Consultations responses to suggested fabrics of the dress and skirt were divided. Time will not permit us to create a new fabric prior to the start of 2022. We have decided to remain with the current PCW dress for the summer of 2021/2 as we investigate fabric options and conduct further consultation for a new dress and skirt available for later in 2022.

Our hope is that progressively we will be able to make subtle changes as new items are introduced. We encourage families to purchase the new uniform as it becomes available but there will be a phase in/phase out period for Years 8-12, with some students able to wear their current uniform if they choose, for the remainder of their time at the College.

In the coming weeks we will release the details of an arrangement with our suppliers for those who wish, to update their blazer with a St Mary's College pocket. This will be available for both the CBC and PCW blazers. The 2022 Sports Uniform for boys and girls will also be branded as St Mary's College and be available through the Uniform Shop.

Refugee Week

This week we recognise World Refugee Day. We live in a world of extremes and the education we provide has an important role to play in how we respond to these extremes. At this time, each year I am reminded of an address to students by Dr Wayne Tinsey, former Executive Director of EREA in which he said:

'We want you to learn that the liberty you enjoy through the good fortune of your birth, is not license to do whatever you want. Rather, it is freedom to do what you must do for the making of a fairer and more just society. We want you to know that freedom and service are inextricably linked and with privilege comes social responsibility. In a world of emerging walls and closing borders, we hope that you will be free from narrowness and intolerance.'

Let us pray that our students will grow to become women and men who live lives of empathy, tolerance and authenticity. Let us hope that our young people grow to become adults who are committed to making a better world for all.

Sport

We are hopeful that with the easing of restrictions the ACC Grand Finals for Term 2 will be conducted next week. We wish our Senior and Intermediate Football and Soccer teams and their coaches well for their games.

Principal | Terry Blizzard



Around the College

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

The last couple of weeks at the College have been totally consumed by all students being in remote learning, then some students returning to the College and now all students being back on site, in classrooms and learning the way they know best. I have been astounded by the flexibility and ease with which our students and staff moved in and out of remote learning this time around. It is fair to say that really high-quality preparation usually makes difficult things seem easy and I believe this to be the case here. Thankyou also must go to the parents and carers for the significant role you play in supporting your son or daughter. Learning can occur anywhere, so long as the desire to learn is fostered in each student at home and at school.

Our Unit 1 exams are underway, and our Year 11 and Year 10 accelerating students are conducting themselves as expected – with a high level of energy and attention to detail. It has been great to see these students arrive for each exam session on time, in uniform, well rested and well prepared. Congratulations to all staff for working with students remotely and at school to be ready for these exams.

Well done to all students for navigating these challenges and it must be acknowledged that for many of these students, this is their first exam experience. You should be very proud, as

are we, and we look forward to seeing the results in the coming days/weeks.

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire



Identity

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston

We believe that compassion and empathy can change lives

The recent lockdown impacted everything we know about daily life and our students have been amazingly quick to respond to new challenges.

The Year 12 Community Service class, unable to physically serve in the wider community responded by making soup for those who have been most impacted by the lockdown. They have taken to heart the words of Blessed Edmund Rice, *'give to the poor in handfuls'*.

The Community Service class is based on Catholic Social Teachings (CST). CST offers a way of thinking, being and seeing the world. It provides a vision for a just society in which the dignity of all people is recognised, and those who are on the margins are cared for.

The soup, prepared in the Presentation Food Technology rooms, once onsite learning had resumed, has been delivered to the group, [Reaching out to the Inner West of Melbourne](#). Since 2005 this organization has been providing home cooked vegetarian meals along with non perishable food items, toiletries, sleeping bags etc. to those most in need. The group *'believe in selfless service to anyone in need and treating all with respect, love compassion and non judgement'* which aligns beautifully with our own College Mission Statement.

Our amazing staff members Sandie Saundry and Avril Martinelli, our kitchen angels, along with groups of students have been cooking to support this charity all year. Charities have been inundated with requests during this most recent lockdown and the conclusion of JobKeeper payments. The St Mary's College community also continues to generously

support the Father Bob Maguire Foundation and Christian Brother communities in COVID ravaged India through our walkathon donations.

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston





Learning

Reflection as a learning activity

Reflection is a powerful learning activity that can improve performance and develop strategies for success. In its basic form, reflection is thinking about what has been done and how it can be done better. Making time for reflection is a way to create some silence and space for deep consideration. This may seem a bit mystical, but research has shown that short reflection sessions at the end of each day increases performance significantly in a short period of time.

We need to develop reflective practices in our students' daily routines that will enable them to pause, analyse and evaluate their performance. The next step in this process would be to encourage them to apply what they have learned from their experiences.

An important outcome of structured reflection is the ability to set realistic and achievable goals. 'Self-reported grades' is a practice that has a high influence on student learning. John Hattie explains that if you ask a student to predict their grade before an assessment, they will work toward achieving it and subsequently build their confidence.

There are many forms of reflective practices, and it is beneficial for students to find one that suits them. In a classroom setting a teacher may guide students to write, journal, discuss, their experiences to allow them time to organise their thoughts, compare their performance to what was expected and make informed decisions about future performance. This

opportunity to pause empowers student to take ownership of their learning, it builds their self-confidence, and it gives them the opportunity to articulate where they need assistance.

Director of Learning Development | Bev Pettit

We found ourselves in lockdown yet again but this was a smoother process as we engaged the systems we had in place from last year's experiences. This ensured we provided as smooth as possible transition from onsite to remote learning for students. It was great to see the students again on site and back to the regularity of school.

The GAT

All students who are undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 sequence are required to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT is an extremely important moderation tool and is an important test for the students to take, especially as the students have been affected by the lockdowns.

Unfortunately the GAT which was scheduled last week was postponed and a new date is to be announced. As the GAT has been postponed to another date, it is best for students to ensure that they explore and trial past tests which are available on the VCAA website.

The VCE students have all been given a brochure which outlines information of the upcoming GAT. It is a test of general knowledge and skills in these broad areas:

- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology
- humanities, the arts and social sciences.

Home Study Program

Students have also been given a link to the VCAA exam timetable at the end of the year. The exams are creeping up very quickly so it is vital that students utilise their study periods and home study program effectively. Holidays are a great way to ensure notes are collated and a home study program is begun. Students are encouraged to speak to their teachers for any study strategies for their subjects that may be useful as they embark on their study

programs. Some Unit 3 holiday classes may be running, so please ensure your child informs you if their teachers intend to run a class.

The stress of assessment tasks, SACs and exams can affect your child so it is important that they also ensure they have a balance between study and breaks. These holidays are a great way to get organised and also ensure that they have a well deserved break for what was a busy term. Using these holidays to set up their home study program is a great way to get in the routine. To ensure they have an effective study program, they should remove any devices that are not required for their study as this can be a distraction. Also regular breaks to go outside for fresh air is a great way to ensure that they balance study and breaks.

We will be providing more strategies next term to assist with students effective study programs, however, students are always welcomed to chat with their teachers or myself to provide guidance on how to start and set up a regular routine.

We wish all the students a restful holiday and encourage them to ensure that the holidays are balanced with a break as well as some study.

VCE/Digitech Co-ordinator | Sylvia Pastore



Sport

Director of Sport | Lucy McKeown

We are hoping restrictions are further lifted on Thursday 17 June and inter-school sport is allowed to resume, this will see Week 10 of Term 2 ACC host Grand Finals only.

Congratulations to the following teams and their coaches:

Intermediate Soccer: #1 ranked team hosts – Mr Russell Wynne

Associated Catholic Colleges - Soccer Year 10 Division 2

RANK	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	POINTS
1	St Mary's	6	5	1	0	50	9	41	16
2	St Bernard's 2	6	4	1	1	31	13	18	13

Senior Soccer – Veneto Club – Mr Rosario Genovese

Associated Catholic Colleges - Soccer Senior Division 2

RANK	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	POINTS
1	St Mary's	6	5	1	0	20	7	13	16
2	De La Salle	6	4	1	1	24	10	14	13

Intermediate Footy - #1 ranked team hosts – Mr Alex Luscombe and Mr Nick Burgess

Associated Catholic Colleges - Football Year 10 Division 2

RANK	TEAM	P	BYE	W	D	L	F	A	POINTS	%
1	St Joseph's FTG	4	1	4	0	0	519	155	22	334.8
2	St Mary's	6	0	5	0	1	714	267	20	267.4

Senior Footy – venue Elsternwick Park – Mr Edy Cavolo and Mr Nick Burgess

Associated Catholic Colleges - Football Senior Division 2

RANK	TEAM	P	BYE	W	D	L	F	A	POINTS	%
1	St Bernard's	5	1	4	0	1	520	141	20	368.8
2	St Mary's	5	1	4	0	1	596	299	20	199.3

Both soccer teams in the Grand Finals are defending their 2019 titles. Junior Footy finished 6th (coached by Mr Simon Hawkins and Mr Nick Burgess) and Junior Soccer also finished 6th (coached by Mr Phil O'Connor) so unfortunately no finals for those players.

Director of Sport | Lucy McKeown



Pathways

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood

DIVERSITY AND NEURODIVERSITY

We all know that every person is unique. Each of us has our own way of working, of seeing the world, of thinking and of learning. We have different interests, skills, preferences and personalities. Diversity gives our human world its colour.

There is a large group of people whose brains function quite differently, and this is now known as *neurodiversity*. Instead of labelling certain conditions, such as autism or Asperger's, we now consider a whole spectrum of ways a brain can work, and, most importantly, we recognise the benefits to the individual, the workplace and society of such a variety of 'operating systems'. However, managing the transitions to a world of work, where such matters are not so well understood, can pose some challenges for young people.

Recently my Careers Practitioner Group ran a workshop where a number of organisations that assist neurodiverse young people to make the transition to further study and work explained their work and programs.

***Echo** is a not-for-profit Employment Services Provider for people with disabilities and mental health issues, operating in the inner and eastern suburbs. They work with the individual and tailor programs to their needs, with job readiness coaching, resume building and other skills to support their transition. They also seek out employers and*

*provide training for them to ensure that the young people have proper support, flexible arrangements and are able to maintain their employment. There is also a **Basketball Leadership & Employment Program!** Have a look at www.echoaustralia.com*

***Asperger's Victoria** is an organisation with a wealth of current information and research, as well as programs for young people on the Autism spectrum. There are peer mentoring programs and groups, Mentor Meets with Deloitte and Google, skill building workshops, World of Work Employment and Work Experience programs. Explore the website at: <https://aspergersvic.org.au/>*

***Untapped** is a local social enterprise, set up to assist neurodiverse people show their skills in the arenas of tertiary study and employment. They work with employers to identify opportunities to implement neurodiverse employment programs and then integrate them as business as usual. A few of the many other initiatives **Untapped** is also driving **Neurodiversity Hub** - <https://www.neurodiversityhub.org>. A community of practice amongst universities, employers and service providers to assist neurodiverse individuals with the transition to university, success in their courses and assistance in increasing their chances of securing a job and commencing a career.*

The link to extensive resources for students, employers, universities, COVID19 remote study and work, mental health, entrepreneurship, inclusive building design and primary school teachers can be found [here](#).

***"GeniusArmoury"** - <https://geniusarmoury.com> This platform aims to attract and identify a **cybersecurity talent pool** within the autistic community. This project is supported by BHP, DXC, Splunk, La Trobe University, Curtin University and AustCyber. The materials provide an introductory cyber security course that is accessible for autists with minimal or no prior knowledge of cybersecurity. It is geared towards people who may be interested in further learning or commencing a career in cybersecurity and ethical hacking. The course provides a foundation syllabus in an inspirational and understandable manner that is intended to spark interest and the pursuit of further learning.*

All these organisations are working hard to support the mental health of young neurodiverse people and people with disabilities, learning issues and other barriers to employment and study. These young people especially need the support of their schools, counsellors, careers counsellors and parents to find their paths into satisfying careers. There is plenty of material for all of us here to learn about the latest understandings of those in our care and the opportunities available to them. I hope you find it useful!

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood



From our Students

St Mary's College: The Reimagined School

The first semester of the reconstructed school, now known as St Mary's College, has been a rewarding and, at times, difficult one. With consistent interruptions due to COVID-19, students were uncertain if they would be able to attain the opportunity to get to know the new peers in their year levels and learn important coursework required for each student's future. However, throughout these difficult times, our community aspired to achieve higher, through academics and being socially and emotionally connected to our peers more than ever before.

This year is going to be one remembered by all the following generations of this school. Unity has been a core component of success in the new college where we all hold each other up so that we can succeed. For VCE students, it has been a rollercoaster of stress, constant tests, meeting new people and dealing with the pandemic. This has put a lot on our shoulders, however, alongside the teachers VCE students of St Mary's College have been accounted for and looked after.

For VCAL students, it has been difficult to maintain on the job work with restrictions, but due to the new collaboration and teamwork of our peers, the attitude of the VCAL students has been lifted whereby every VCAL student aimed to make sure they could, at the minimum complete their coursework to get their degrees.

Overall, the transition has been smooth. Of course, there have been bumps along the way but as a proud school we are all looking out for one another, getting along with others and accepting differences as best as each student can.

Year 12 Prefect | Lachlan S



Our Community

View our College Calendar for events and important dates



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

Walkathon 2021

DONATE NOW

Sponsor our students

Congratulations - we have currently raised \$23,528.00

Our 2021 Walkathon has been **rescheduled to Friday 23 July**. It will be the 53rd Walkathon for our College community. Every year we put into action our commitment to support those in our society who are living on the margins by raising funds and advocating for justice.

We are still collecting donations and this year our donations will go to the Fr Bob Maguire Foundation and our continued support of charities for school children in India who so desperately need our help during these COVID times.

Walkathon ID Numbers:

Students and staff please use your Walkathon ID number

Parents & Friends use ID 709

Alumni and Community use ID 708

Our next Talk and Tour will be held on Thursday 12 August at 10:30am.



Midford Uniform Shop

School holiday trading hours

The St Mary's College Uniform Shop will close for the school holidays on Thursday 24 June 4pm. **School Holiday Trading hours will be Thursday 8 July 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

The uniform shop will return to normal trading hours on Tuesday 13 July 2021.

Tuesday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

First Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm *(of each month but will not be open on 3 July)*

Did you know you can order online uniforms from the Midford Uniform Shop?

Online orders are welcomed and provide a COVID safe way to purchase uniforms

<http://www.midford.com.au/>

(enter **SMC2021**).

Ph **9520 8519**



School Holiday Camp

Camp Blue run a holiday program at Presentation Campus during the upcoming Term 2 holidays as per the attached flyer. The program will run from Monday 28 June to Friday 2 July from 7:30am to 6:00pm each day.

Please visit www.campblue.com.au for further details.



Parents & Friends Association

P & F Committee Meeting

Next meeting 19 July 2021

Recycled Uniform Shop

Join the team of helpers at our recycled uniform shop on the first Saturday of each month. Please email Julie on gallagherja@hotmail.com to find out more. It is a great opportunity to meet other St Mary's College parents and to make a meaningful contribution to our College community.

The Recycled Uniform Shop will not operate on 3 July (School Holidays)

The next opening day will be on the first Saturday of Term 3 being:

Saturday 17 July

Saturday 7 August

Saturday 4 September

Walkathon 2021



It is with great excitement that the new date of Friday 23 July has been announced for the 2021 Walkathon.

We look forward to having as many parents involved on the day and invite all St Mary's College parents to put your walking shoes on (and your apron) to participate in this whole community event.

A BBQ at the finish line will be supported by the P & F. On the day we need volunteers to set up, cook and help pack up. See the volunteer sign on sheet if you are able to assist on the day. At this stage, register your interest to assist by clicking on the link below and we will contact you to confirm your availability on the rescheduled day.

Walk with the P & F



We hope to meet up on the day prior to the start of the Walkathon for a quick coffee and start the walk and will send more information out on this.

Looking forward to seeing you

Enquiries: Jane Leroi 0412632527



Notices

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund

2021 Applications Close 25 June 2021

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Funding (CSEF) is a \$225 annual payment to schools that can be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of eligible students.

To qualify for the CSEF your family must satisfy the following criteria or be an eligible beneficiary of one of the following cards:

- Veterans Affairs Gold Card
- Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC)
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, or
- be a temporary foster parent, or
- the student is 16 years or older and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card).

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists.

For more information, see:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

The CSEF is paid directly to St Mary's College and will be credited against your Fee Account at St Mary's College to contribute towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. If you believe that you may be eligible for the CSEF, please complete and return the CSEF Application Form, which is available through the above link.

Please note that 25 June 2021 is the last date that St Mary's College can lodge an Application Form on your behalf for the current year.

2021 Fee Accounts

All 2021 Fee Accounts were due and payable by 31 March 2021, unless an approved Payment Plan was in place by this date. All families wishing to enter a Payment Plan arrangement should have already completed, signed and lodged a 2021 Fee Payment Agreement Form with the Finance Office. If you have not done so, please lodge the relevant documentation as soon as possible.

All payment arrangements must be finalised by 31 October 2021.

Documents in relation to Fees and Payment Arrangements can be found in the Parent Access Module PAM (SIMON)

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien