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Lumina

Issue 14 · 26 Aug 2021

Welcome to Issue 14. Hope this issue finds your family well and enjoy reading this lockdown Issue of Lumina. Our online communications are more important than ever as we stay connected as a community. Take care and stay safe.

Director of Development | Elaine Doyle

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From the Principal

Terry Blizzard

In times like these there is always a tendency to move into management mode, organising the day-to-day of something as complex as remote learning, being distracted from many other important day-to-day elements of school.

I was so please to hear that our ACC Chess and Debating Teams were able to participate in their tournaments online last week, offering some semblance of normality for the students and supervising teachers involved.

Like last year, this lockdown has coincided with subject selection season, when we start considering what could be for the following year. Our very creative staff and supporting parents and students have embraced the online model and have commenced this very important annual school activity that would normally take place in person. Equally impressive have been the online Year 10 Pathways interviews and the online Parent Teacher Interviews conducted last Thursday. I would like to commend the extraordinary staff, parents and students who have been so adaptive in embracing new ways of doing “normal school things”.

Further to focusing on more than the here and now, I am pleased to say that we are well into the planning phase for the construction of a lift and new staircase for the McCartney Wing, along with an accessible ramp at the front of the school to ensure disability access. This

considerable construction work is scheduled to commence following the end of the 2021 school year and may go into Term 1 2022.

Although we may be entering the fourth week of lockdown, being physically apart, we stay connected as a school community with our thoughts and prayers, the strong tie that keeps us together.

God Bless

Principal | Terry Blizzard



Around the College

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

It is great to continue to connect with you via the newsletter; to check in, and to keep you (as the title of this page suggests) up to date with what is happening around the College. Whilst we have just a small number of students and staff onsite each day, 'around the College' has become our online community, and there is certainly plenty happening.

Learning and teaching is sometimes not the feature discussion when reflecting on the events around the College in recent weeks. Particularly whilst we are online, this is most certainly the main event. The way we deliver our learning and teaching program whilst online is viewed by all at the College as evolutionary. Teachers continue to find innovative ways of engaging with their students, using the technologies available, and are able to be increasingly responsive to what their students are telling them works best for them.

Year 12 students continue to be at the forefront of our mind. School Assessed Coursework (SAC's) continue to take place online, utilising the platforms that we have become accustomed to. This presents unique challenges, with regard to the integrity of the work submitted. When a test is completed in class, mobile phones are turned off and placed at the front of the room or in lockers, every student can be visually observed, and the conditions for the completion of the test are identical for every student. Each one of these 'norms' are

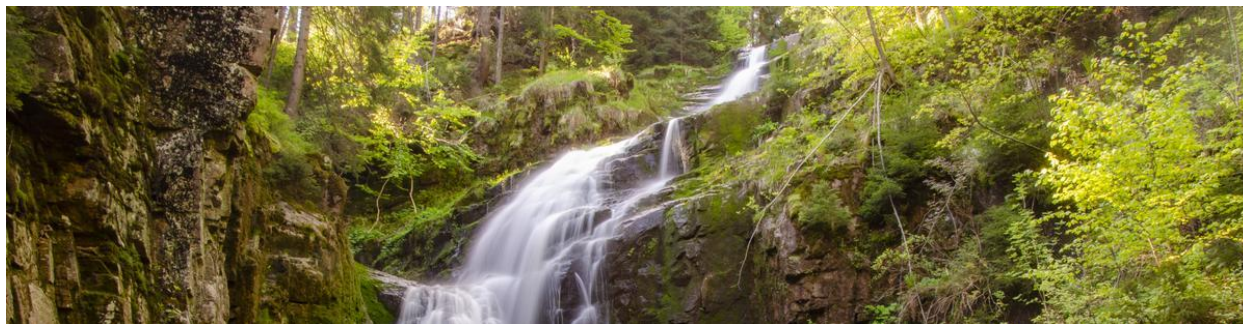
challenged by the fact that they are being conducted online. However, I have been impressed and am very grateful to the students engaged in SAC's at this time, for working with their teachers so productively. Congratulations to all involved for the collective effort and positive learning outcomes it is producing. There are just a few short weeks to go!

We were fortunate to connect with parents and students last week at the online Parent / Teacher Interviews. These interviews, alongside formal written reports and task feedback accessed via SIMON (students) and PAM (parents), make up our approach to reporting student academic and pastoral progress to parents. Thanks to all staff and families for engaging successfully with our online platform.

On a final note, please know that the most important thing to us at this time is the wellbeing of all who identify as belonging to the St Mary's College community. We are here for you and welcome any contact with parents and students that might help our endeavour to work together.

Stay safe, God bless.

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire



Identity

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston

For a second year we have not been able to gather physically to celebrate Social Justice Sunday, August 29. Again, we can engage virtually with The Australian Catholic Bishops declaration, Social Justice Statement 2021-22: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, which calls on us all to have a change of heart, mind, and behaviour. The statement asks us to care for creation and in doing so respond to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded members of our community. There is also an emphasis on listening intentionally to each other and our earth in particular from our First Nations people who cared so diligently for our earth.

Each of us is capable of change but sometimes those old habits are hard to break, so let's start small! Practical action is the response required so can I suggest the following actions if you are not already doing them?

- Minimise food waste. (Melburnians waste enough food annually to feed an extra 2 million people)
- Recycle more
- Avoid purchasing fast fashion
- Support a Social Justice Enterprise
- Learn some words of your local Indigenous language
- Pray for those in need. Especially at this time for those impacted by COVID.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvLX2BQiOjM>

If you would like to watch Bishops from across Australia reflect on what creation means to them, please use the link above.

A prayer for Social Justice Sunday

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

*Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the bush grown more silent, the birdsong less vibrant,
the stream's sluggish ripple.
Have mercy and open our ears.*

*Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the soil depleted,
the sky smudged,
the oceans rubbished and the great currents slowed.
Have mercy and help us to see.*

*Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the workers who struggle to get by,
the women subjected to violence,
the people who are excluded.
Have mercy and help us to see.*

*Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the sound of hungry children,
the distress of the mentally ill,
the silent pain of homeless women and men.
Have mercy and open our ears.*

*Send your Spirit upon us Lord to renew our sight, to restore our hearing, and to
reclaim your reign of justice for all people and peace for creation.*

AMEN

CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR



*By listening with an open heart
to those who are most affected,
we can begin, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
to discern the signs of the times.*

Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor



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Twitter [@justicecatholic](https://twitter.com/justicecatholic)
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Unsplash/Steve Bittinger



Wellbeing

One of the more difficult things about COVID lockdown 6 is helping our students remain motivated with their schoolwork. I'm sure mums, dads and carers would agree!

Fortunately, there are many places to visit for a helping hand. One of these is [ReachOut.com](https://www.reachout.com) which covers an array of topics for parents and carers.

Your son or daughter might be anxious, confused and fearful of COVID. They might feel that school isn't so important and simply tune out during lessons. The best thing to do is talk about the positives – the subjects they enjoy, the on-line connections they have with their classmates and the successes they have achieved during the day.

Working with school is also key. Encourage your son or daughter to communicate with their teachers. They are the people with whom students connect on a daily basis, and they are the people where frequent connections can be maintained in each lesson. This in itself can help motivate our students and keep them connected while they singularly face a screen. If they are struggling, all they have to do is email their teachers and support staff. Help is close at hand.

One of the best ways to boost motivation is to have a structure in the day. This is determined by the structure of the school timetable, but there can also be structures in place after

school hours to cultivate a sense of predictability. These might involve exercise, relaxation and schoolwork.

If there appears to be too much work, then breaking it down into small steps can help. This can be done by working with the teachers and even negotiating new deadlines for when work can be submitted.

For parents who are interested, [ReachOut.com](https://www.reachout.com) has Parent Forums where parents can ask for help and advice. There are also great articles like *Helping Your Teen Cope with Study Stress During COVID 19* and *Supporting Your Teen Through Year 12 During COVID 19*.

For the students there are also some great links to help during COVID. Some of these include *10 Ways to Take Care of Yourself During Coronavirus*, *5 Apps to Help You Study at Home* and *Stressed About Study During Coronavirus*.

You may wish to have a look at [ReachOut.com](https://www.reachout.com). It has a wealth of information and support for all members of the family during these COVID times.

Student Counsellor | Catherine McMahon



INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY ZONE PREMIUM

family zone

Resource Pack

Please use this Resource Pack to quickly access relevant information and useful resources for Family Zone Premium.

Feature Guides & Videos

-  [How To: Get Started](#)
-  [How To: Install Family Zone](#)
-  [How To: Block Adult Content](#)
-  [How To: Manage Screen Time](#)
-  [How To: See What Apps Your Children Have](#)
-  [How To: Manage Social Media](#)

Resources

-  [Family Zone Cyber Safety Hub](#)
-  [Events Calendar](#)
-  [YouTube Channel](#)
-  [Family Zone Blog](#)
-  [Getting Started with Family Zone Webinar](#)



Manage your Family Zone account by downloading the app through the App or Google Play store.

Download on the  **App Store**

GET IT ON  **Google Play**

 [Contact us](#)

St Mary's College is a *Premium School Parent* partner with Family Zone. Family Zone provides St Mary's College parents with a free internet filtering app to control, block sites or restrict internet access times on their child's devices. It can be used on unlimited devices, such as phones, Ipads or laptops. It also provides parents with expert articles on cybersafety topics and online game reviews.

It is not compulsory to use but is available for parents who would like to help their children develop good online habits and become good digital citizens.

Last week Mr Beale emailed all parents information about Family Zone with instructions on how to download it. More information with the *Resource Pack* live links are available in the attachment below.

 [St MArys - intro Family Zone_ PREM_ Resources Pack.pdf](#)

Mr Beale has installed Family Zone for his own family and with children in both primary and secondary school, has found it an invaluable way to ensure his children are safe online. He has kindly prepared a demonstration video to share with you.



Co-curricular

ACC Open Chess Tournament

On Thursday 19 August, St Mary's College competed in the ACC Chess Tournament. The competition took place online with competitors playing rounds of chess with students from other schools via Zoom. Our two teams consisted of 18 students including two girl competitors. It's great to see our girls participate in ACC competitions and represent St Mary's College as a truly co-educational school.

All played well, as strong competitors, our Team 2 held the lead up until the final round. We congratulate Khoi N and Lachlan S for achieving the highest number of wins in the individual player standings.

Chess Coach | Les Tomazi

ACC Intermediate Debating

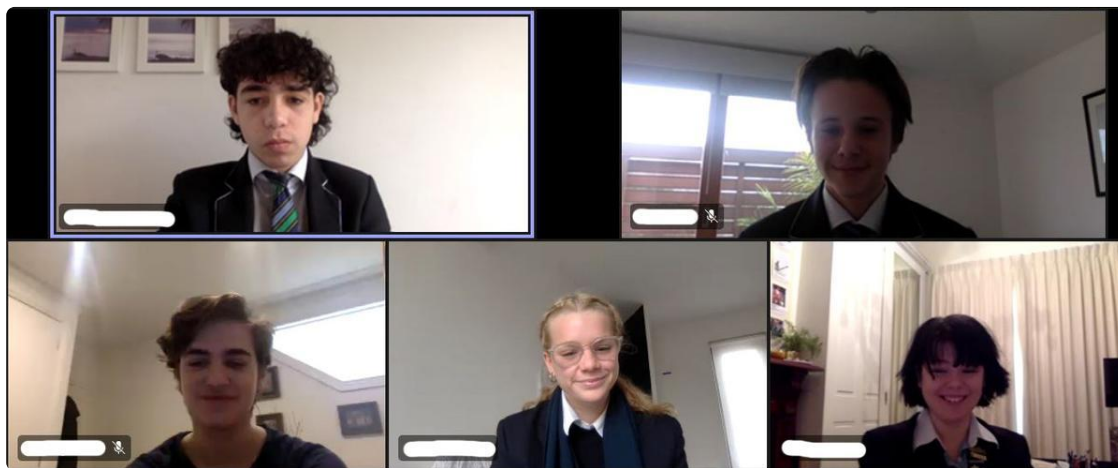
Last week St Mary's College competed in the ACC Intermediate Debate Competition. Our students competed in three online debates and were runners up in a close competition, with

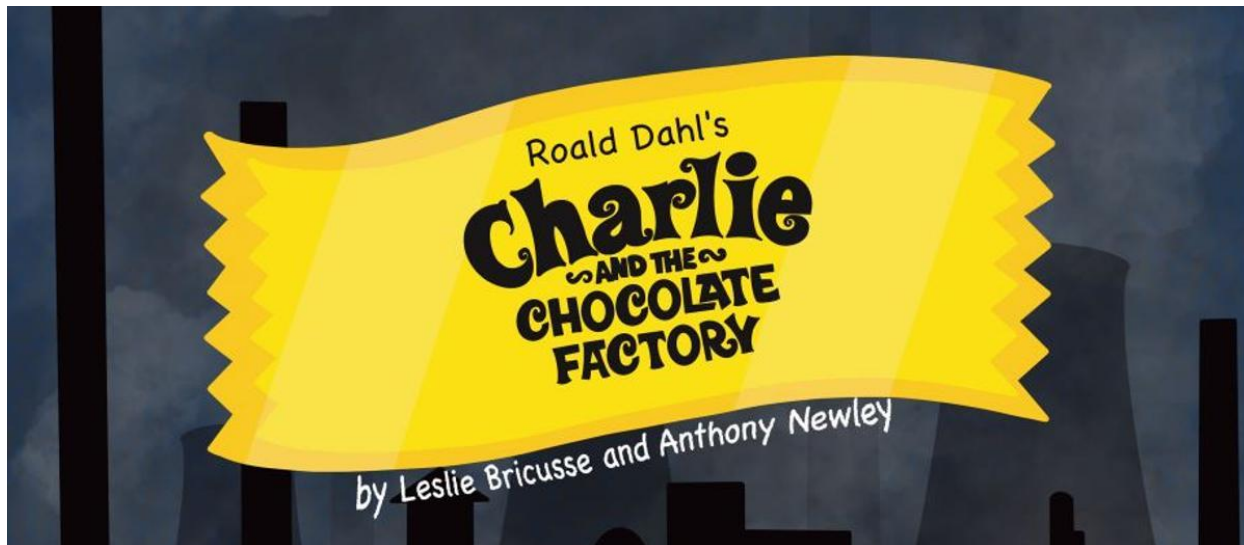
just one point separating the winners. The first St Mary's College debating team are excellent persuasive speakers.

It was a challenging journey to prepare for the competition that was originally meant to be face to face but was shifted to an online format. With the lockdown 6 called, the students also missed out on a debate workshop day. The first debate which was '*prepared*' meaning we had been given the topic that '*Voting should not be compulsory for Australian Federal elections*' a few weeks prior and our team was allocated as Affirmative. Our team's carefully crafted arguments were all supporting the affirmative stance in this debate.

However as chance would have it, the organisers swapped St Mary's College from being the Affirmative team to the Negative team just two days before the competition. Talk about resilience! Our students adapted well by flipping their arguments and finding new arguments.

Thank you to Ms Vandrine for organising and preparing the students and Ms Doyle for specialist debating coaching.





Musical

Production Manager/Musical Director | David O'Meara

A Musical For All!

St Mary's College Production Team is committed to presenting our musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* this year to showcase our talented and hardworking students. The recent lockdown and COVID restrictions have impacted upon our preparation, consequently we have decided to postpone all shows until November.

Our performances will now be on Wednesday 24th (Opening Night), Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th of November. I thank all our wonderful cast members and their parents/guardians who have been so committed and supportive during these challenging times. Trusting in your understanding and patience I look forward to seeing you all at Rahilly Hall (Presentation Campus) for our performances during November.

Believe me when I say this, is a show worth waiting for!

Production Manager/Musical Director | David O'Meara



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Crew



Our Students

Positive Mindset During Lockdown

Remote learning has been a struggle for everyone. However, it is important to keep a positive mindset while in remote learning. As a Year 9 student going through the sixth quarantine, I have had some time to develop positive routines and found ways to maintain a positive mindset. Both factors are extremely important to maintaining your wellbeing, especially through a time that is hard for everyone.

Here at St Mary's College, the teachers help to encourage students to set themselves a routine that they should work to. This creates a positive mindset as students can create some certainty during such an uncertain time. Positive routines help you to define time for schoolwork and then time for recreational activities such as going on walks or runs and getting outside as well as talking to friends, whether online or meeting up with someone in person. While going outside is important for you, so is completing your assigned work. By creating these routines, it also helps you to keep up with schoolwork and complete it to have more time for your own wellbeing. Factoring both of these into a routine along with your other personal activities helps you to maintain a positive mindset.

Although lockdown has its negative factors, it always helps to look onto the positive side of things. There are positive factors to lockdown such as being able to sleep in for longer on school days and having the ability to spend more time with your family. These two things also help to maintain your wellbeing.

Lockdown is not a situation that anyone wants to be in but this doesn't mean that you should sacrifice your own wellbeing dwelling on the thought of lockdown. Even out of lockdown it is important to maintain your wellbeing and setting routines is a great way to do that. It helps you to maintain a positive mindset and ensures that you make sure to spend some time outside and keep up with your studies. I hope that we can be out of remote learning soon and back into the classroom, so remember to wear a mask when outside and hopefully we can be out of this soon!

Year 9 Student | Tim H



Our Community

View our College Calendar for events and important dates

Please note that due to COVID restrictions it has been necessary to move the date of many events.

You can visit us online

Tour Dates for 2021

Please pass on to friends and family who are interested in a co-educational Catholic education. We now have online and on site ways to visit our College.

Wednesday 1 September 12:30 - Conversations with the Principal (online)

Monday 13 September at 10:30am - Talk and Tour (on site to be confirmed)

Thursday 14 October 10:30am - Talk and Tour (on site to be confirmed)

Thursday 11 November 12:30 - Conversations with the Principal (online)



**TOURS
SCHOLARSHIPS
ENROL TODAY**

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

Enrol Now for 2023

Midford Uniform Shop

The Midford Uniform Shop trading hours

Tuesday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Check in, hand sanitizing and wearing masks are conditions of entry with 1 customer capacity limit.

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**



Parents & Friends

P & F Meeting

Next meeting: **Monday 6 September** - Online

Please join us for our next P & F Meeting via Teams at 7:00pm on Monday 6 September.

Hear from our Principal, Terry Blizzard, and Deputy Principal, Shaun Lancashire, and other members of our community. Have your say and take the opportunity to raise any queries you may have - we are always keen to hear from our community. No ongoing committee or fundraising commitments are expected.

We always welcome interest and engagement from our families. If you are interested, add the meeting details to your calendar and we hope to see or hear from you on the night.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+61 2 7208 4605,,687675921#](#) Australia, Sydney

Phone Conference ID: 687 675 921#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

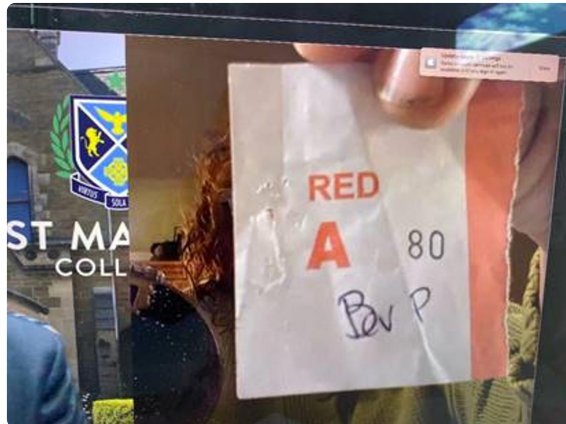
[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

P&F AirPods Pro Raffle

In conjunction with our Principal, Terry Blizzard, and P & F President, Jane Leroi, we conducted an online Raffle Draw for this highly anticipated prize draw.

Congratulations to **Ms Bev Pettit** who's winning ticket was drawn for the fabulous AirPods Pro prize.

Thank you to all the families, students and staff who supported this raffle. The funds raised will directly go towards providing extra resources and opportunities for our wonderful students.



President of Parents & Friends | Jane Leroi



Notices

Enrolments for 2022

Please note that we have commenced our planning for 2022 and confirming places for new students to start in Term 1, 2022. Unless we have already been advised, we are presuming that all current students will be returning to the College in 2022.

If a student is not returning to the College, in line with the enrolment policy, one term's notice in writing is required. If the notice is not received on time, one term's tuition fees in lieu of notice will be charged. This requirement is clearly noted in the General Terms & Conditions of Enrolment which forms part of the Application for Enrolment signed by all parents/guardians when their child(ren) was enrolled.

To assist our planning, please advise the College by Friday 17th September 2021 if a student is not returning to the College in 2022. The notice should be addressed to the College Registrar and can be sent via email to registrar@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au It will be helpful to receive this notice as soon as possible as it will allow us to offer any vacant places to students on our waiting lists.

If there are siblings of current students wanting to enrol at the College, it is important that parents submit an Application for Enrolment two years prior to the planned year of entry. Siblings are not guaranteed a place if the Application for Admission is late. Late applicants will be placed onto the waiting list.

Please do not hesitate to speak with the Registrar, Mrs Leah Mason, if you have any concerns regarding this information or if you need further clarification.

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** unless otherwise agreed with my office. Documents in relation to Fees and Payment Arrangements can be found in the Parent Access Module PAM (SIMON).

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien