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Lumina

Issue 15 · 28 Oct 2022

Over the last few weeks St Mary's College has welcomed students from some of our local Catholic Primary Schools. It was a great opportunity for these groups to take part various activities in drama, science and art, with the help of some our Year 7 students.

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From The Principal

College Principal | Terry Blizzard

This week saw the start of VCE exams at St Mary's College. Examinations can bring about stress to some students, whilst others thrive with the challenge. Tackling exams is no different to how one would approach anything they are about to undertake. It all comes down to preparation. Those who prepare well can go into an exam and be confident that they have done all that they can to take on the challenge. Those who haven't prepared well, will go into the exam knowing that the challenge won't be easy. The good news is that the exam and its result is not what defines each student as a person. What does define each student more than any exam, is the type of person they go on to become after the exam is long finished. Whilst we spend a lot of time at school preparing students for those exams, we spend equally as much time preparing students for the person they will become once they leave St Mary's College.

Our core values are the foundation of the type of students/people we want to produce as a school.

- Treating others with respect.
- Acting justly.
- Showing compassion and empathy.
- Being inclusive.
- Having courage.

If they succeed in all of these, then they can hold their heads up high and say I am a truly successful person.

Primary School Visits

As we wave goodbye to our Year 12's we welcome into our school our new year sevens for 2023 as their Fun Club commences. There is a certain ebb and flow in schools that have a sense of regeneration. My thanks to all of our staff who have given their time to this important orientation activity. Thank you also to the staff who have so warmly welcomed groups of Grade Four students who have come to experience secondary school for a day. Maybe in years to come we will be writing of their farewell as Year 12 graduates too.

Terry Blizzard

College Principal



Deputy Principal Report

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

Year 9 Retreat Day

Last Friday the Year 9 cohort had their annual Retreat Day. Time was taken at the start of this day to pause and come to a deep understanding of the purpose, within our Catholic setting, of reflecting on who we are individually and as a community. Thanks to all Year 9 students and the staff present who made this such a special day.

Exams Begin

VCAA (Year 12 externally assessed) exams commenced this week, with English on Wednesday morning. Despite the rainy conditions and the somewhat nervous energy amongst students, they were very calm and well prepared by their teachers, and through their own study. These exams run up to and including Wednesday 16 November. The support of the whole College community is with our Year 12 students at this time.

Important Dates

Year 11 classes finish today, with a day of study next Wednesday (**No Year 11 classes Wed 2 Nov**) prior to the commencement of their exams on Thursday 3 November. Year 11 exams will run until Thursday 10 November.

Year 10 classes finish next Friday November 4, with a day of study the following Monday (**No Year 10 classes Mon 7 Nov**) prior to the commencement of the Year 10 exams. Year 10 exams will run from Tuesday November 8, until Thursday November 10.

All students in all Year levels will have a student free day on Friday November 11 (assessment and report writing day) before the Senior (Year 11 and 12, 2023) **Headstart** classes commence on **Monday 14 November**, which run for two weeks.

Child Safety

Please find below a summary of the sixth new Child Safe Standard, which came into effect from July 1, 2022, and a summary of our action plan for this standard.

Child Safe Standard 6: Suitable staff and volunteers

Schools must ensure that people working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice

- Selecting suitable people to work with children is vital to protecting children
- Good recruitment practices:
 - create a safer workplace
 - reduce the opportunity for harm to occur
 - prevent, screen out or deter people who are unsuitable to work or volunteer with children
 - recruit staff who uphold the school values
- Rigorous selection processes and appropriate induction, training and supervision helps keep staff and students safe

At St Mary's College, we are working towards the implementation of Standard 6, by:

- Recruitment Procedure:
 - Recruitment of all positions to begin by notifying Director of Staff, Nick Whitlock who oversees the process for all positions. This includes recruitment of casual personnel, e.g. assistants, exam supervisors, etc.
 - Child safe compliant advertising of positions.
 - Child safe screening of all prospective staff, contactors, casuals and direct contact volunteers.
 - Reference checking of all staff.

- Supervision – embedding a 'line of sight' culture.
- Induction of staff, contractors, casuals and direct contact volunteers.
- Ongoing child safety training for all staff, contractors, casuals and direct contact volunteers.

Shaun Lancashire

Deputy Principal



Prefects and Leaders

College Principal | Terry Blizzard

The Prefects and House Leaders for 2023 have now been established and I would like to congratulate all of those elected.

This week Mr Lancashire and I met with the whole group and posed some challenges for them as leaders, in particular the need to stand up against inequality and to stand up against unfairness and to celebrate our inclusiveness and our diversity. By definition of being elected a leader at St Mary's College we expect these leaders to have courage and confront issues such as these if they arise. Not always easy for young people but very powerful when it happens. I am extremely confident in this group that they will have the strength of character to influence others because they understand that we belong to a community that stands for justice for all.

So as I always say the easy bit is to use the role of leader for the betterment of themselves: the hard bit is to use it for the betterment of others in our community. The easy bit is to wear the badge: the hard bit is to deserve the badge. The easy bit is to do what's popular: the hard bit is to do things because it is the right thing to do.

We should be very proud of these young people and confident that they will lead our community with courage next year.

Terry Blizzard

College Principal





Student News

Director of Students | Chris Pye

Finishing Well

You get told a lot of things when you are a kid don't you? Many wash over us, some resonate for a short period of time, some stick like Velcro on those tiny shoes we used to wear. One such piece of advice for me came from my grandfather one Saturday afternoon when we were taking a walk. I remember seeing a netball player getting chaired off the court – it was the first time I had seen such an activity take place. I asked my grandfather what was happening and he replied *'Looks like she's finishing up.'* He then turned to me and said, *'It's really important to finish up well.'*

For some reason, this sentiment has stuck with me. On balance, perhaps strangely, I think it is better to finish well than start well. A slow start can, typically, be recovered. However, a sluggish finish tends to highlight that a malaise struck and, most likely, will be evident in the next iteration of the endeavour. A strong finish – especially when there has been adversity along the way - denotes real character. For example, if we are leaving a job in unhappy circumstances, the temptation to check-out, via curtailed desultoriness, is apparent. However, character will disallow this and push us to finish up well. Even if there hasn't been real difficulty, it is admirable when people fight through the temptation to ease up. More often than not, as things come to an end it is best to avoid languidity and push yourself to give even more effort.

For our students, the end of the year is nearly here. Exams are coming into view, there will be transition days and, before they know it, they will walk out the gates into nearly two glorious months of freedom. We are really looking forward to students positively hitting the finish line – enjoying each other’s company in the yard, working hard in the classroom, keeping connected with their teachers and...did I mention working hard? When they do these things, the freedom felt on the last day is amplified as it has been earned. It’s an incredibly enjoyable feeling, one we would love all of our students to experience, And it gives them real momentum and expectation when it comes time to start again in 2023.

Chris Pye

Director of Students



End of Year Production

Drama Leader | Brendan Tollit

DARK WONDERLAND

“The Darkest Sky Can Be Lit Up By The Smallest Star.” – Cheshire Cat

Written and published in 2011, ‘Dark Wonderland’ is the unofficial sequel to Lewis Carrol’s famous children’s story ‘Alice in Wonderland’, where a young girl named Alice travels to a fantastical land and encounters strange and unusual creatures. But as children grow older, so too must Alice and ‘Dark Wonderland’ sees Alice return to Wonderland ten years later only to discover Wonderland has been torn into two factions and that most of her original friends are either captured or worse...

Over the past two months, students at St. Mary’s have been rehearsing tirelessly and are ready for you to see Wonderland for yourself. Only watch your step; nothing is quite as it seems....

‘Dark Wonderland’ is a 2 hour play and is recommended for persons aged 8 years and up.

All tickets are \$14 each and can be purchased by clicking below

All performances will begin at 7pm and will be performed at Logue Hall, St. Mary’s College
Monday 14th November,

Tuesday 15th November

Wednesday 16th November.

Don't be late for this very important date! Limited Seats Available Each Evening

Brendan Tollit

Pastoral/Drama Leader



Parents & Friends

Parents and Friends Chair | Jane Leroi

Parent Engagement – Dinners and Meetings

During the year our St Mary's College P&F plan several informal meals for parents, together with members of our Leadership – wherever possible supporting our families with restaurant businesses. On Wednesday, Terry Blizzard and Shaun Lancashire joined parents for a meal at Park Bar in Balaclava, which is owned by year 9 parent Grace Park. There was plenty of great conversation as we were treated to delicious Korean cuisine. Our next parent meal together is our end of year dinner, to farewell the year as well as some year 12 parents, on Tuesday 22 November at 6:30pm. Please use this booking link to RSVP and reserve your place, <https://www.trybooking.com/CDONA>.

P&F support for Year 12 Students



Our P&F were more than happy to support our Year 12 students again this year with both healthy, as well as some indulgent, treats following the first exam this week. This partnership between the P&F and senior studies staff and students has become quite a tradition, as we wish our Year 12's well in this last stage of their formal education.

Join Our P&F

Another opportunity to increase community engagement, enhance school/parent partnerships, and meet new people along the way is to drop by any of our twice per term P&F meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to be involved in decision-making and participate in relevant discussions. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to contact Jane Balme at jbalme@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au with any queries you may have.

P&F final meeting for 2022 will take place on:

Mon 14/11/22 - Incl. AGM at 7:00pm (in the Presentation campus Staffroom)

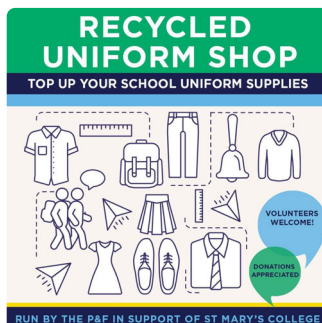
College Uniform

Uniform Shop Openings

A reminder that all students are required to wear the St Mary's College Summer Uniform in Term 4. We are fortunate to have two on-site uniform options at St Mary's College. To support families with their uniform needs, both the Midford Uniform shop and the P&F Recycled Uniform shop. Below are the times these shops will be available in the coming weeks

P&F Recycled Uniform shop:

- Saturday 05/11 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm.



During school terms, the P&F Recycled Uniform shop is run by P&F volunteers from 12:00pm-2:00pm on the first Saturday of the month (donations of uniform items are always gratefully accepted).

Jane Leroi

Parents & Friends Chairperson



Careers News

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood

As Year 12 draws to a close...

As I watch our VCE students and staff finally settling into the exam period, I wonder who has the most stress and who the most benefit from the whole experience.

Students are working hard from early morning to evening in the study hub. At times there is an unearthly quiet, at times much productive discussion and even laughter as students help each other to grasp the difficult concepts and work out answers together. *There* are the study groups we have encouraged all year! *There* are the maths students solving problems on the white board!

Often staff are there to offer last-minute assistance and advice to students, as they too are keen to see the students they have coached and cajoled all year to their very best in exams. The VCE Coordinator, Sylvia Pastore, is a constant presence, supporting and encouraging each student on a personal basis, endlessly chasing forms, meeting with students, meeting with parents, as well as providing nutritious snacks to help the students keep up their energy levels throughout the stress of exams. On top of this, she efficiently manages all the administrative tasks involved in running the exams, ensuring that each student is where they should be, organising the supervisors and liaising with the VCAA.

Students emerge from exams, some exhausted and quiet, most pleased to have had the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned all year. I wonder about those unfortunate flood-affected students across the state, who will never have the satisfaction of doing so. They will receive derived scores, so their ATARs will not suffer, but the exams are a conclusion, a rite of passage they will miss out on. Our students are lucky, as they get to work

through to a logical conclusion, using the adrenalin that healthy stress provides, to give the exams their best shot and prove something to themselves. It is an opportunity to achieve their personal best.

Yet behind this scenario are the parents. I suspect their stress levels are even greater! They do so much to help their child through the year: providing nutritious meals, sage advice and emotional support. They might read the English novels so they can discuss them with their student; they might quiz them on the areas of the brain for Psychology, the circulatory system for PE or the table of Elements for Chemistry. They might discuss law, religion, politics, philosophy and current events to help their young person expand their world and develop their ideas. Then they can only wait and hope! I know what it is like as I have done this three times. It is a difficult and emotional time for parents too! You no longer have much control over what happens – you need to rely on hope and prayer, to trust in all you have done so far to raise this precious bub to adulthood. Whatever the outcome of Year 12 - VCE, VCAL, unscored VCE - all the options are open to them. Work, study, TAFE or Uni - they all lie in their future. There is a pathway for all. Whether they take the direct or the scenic route, they will be engaged in their 'career' from this moment on. A listening ear, help, suggestions and advice are always available from the Careers Counsellor. Please refer to the ***Beyond Year 12***, the school leavers' handbook that was emailed to you recently for all the details on how to take the next step.

"Not all who wander are lost."

Tolkien

Mandy Ellwood

Careers Counsellor



College Uniform

Midford Uniform Shop

TRADING HOURS FOR END OF YEAR TERM 4 2022 & TERM 1 2023

The St Mary's Uniform Store will close for the school holidays on Saturday 10th December at 1:00 pm 2022 and will re-open for Term 1 on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 9.00am.

New families can make early fittings in November & December on any Tuesday & Thursday during the shop operating hours between 9.00am -3.00pm - up until 9th December

All new families must make their own uniform fitting appointments using the link below

Extended Term 4 Holiday Trading Hours 2022

Tuesday 29th November to Friday 2nd December	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 3rd December	9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday 6th December to Friday 9th December	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday 10th December	9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Extended Term 1 Holiday Trading Hours 2023

Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th January	9:00 am to 4:00pm
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Saturday 14th January	9:00am to 1:00pm
Tuesday 17th to Friday 20th January	9:00 am to 4:00pm
Tuesday 24th to Wednesday 25th January	9:00am to 4:00pm

Please note Thursday 26th January - Closed Australia Day

The store will resume normal trading hours on Tuesday 31st January 2023

Throughout the year we are open **Tuesday & Thursday 8.00am to 4.00pm**

 [St Marys College Melbourne Price List.pdf](#)



St Mary's College Sport

Director of Sport | Lucy McKeown

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Junior Golf Team, on becoming ACC Division 2, Junior golf Champions. An outstanding performance by all of our player.

The team was superbly lead by Anton Kovacevic who shot a 77 the best score of the tournament.



ACC Tennis

Round 3: Oct 20th 2022, St Mary's 7 sets 45 games defeated De La Salle 5 sets 49 games at Albert Park.

Sweet home Alabama, Where the skies are so blue, Sweet home Alabama, Lord I'm comin' home to you.

Lynyrd Skynyrd

On a beautiful spring afternoon, under an azure sky, the dappled shadows of the gum trees overhanging our wonderful home venue we took on one of the giants of the ACC and slew him in a real David and Goliath performance. To top the day off their Year 8 students were no match for a fired-up Year 7 St Mary's contingent. Starring with the racquet were Seb Maddams (6-0, 6-3), Bailey Penna (6-4, 6-3) Liam Craig, our marathon man (7-5 in a hard fought tie break, match lasting 60 minutes), Jack Miocic (6-3), ably supported by Tom Taylor (6-3) and Lucas Dascalos (6-1). A great performance from the lads with great sportsmanship and tennis etiquette all round.

Coach Wynne

Best of Luck

We wish the following students the best of luck in future sporting pursuits.

Xavier Magnanini from Year 9 has been selected for the Australian Gymnastics Team competing in the upcoming Austrian Future Cup. Xavier will be travelling with the group to Austria from the 18th to the 29th of November this year.



Noah Chapple from Year 7 on his selection into the Swimming Victoria Performance Pathway Program as a Junior Talent Athlete.





Fortnight in Photos

Images of our school in action.





