



Read online: <https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/qM2yG2J>

# Lumina

Issue 13 · 12 Aug 2021

*Welcome to Issue 13. Hope this issue finds your family well and enjoy reading Issue 13 of Lumina. Our cover image this edition is of our Girls AFL team who played in an invitation competition at St Kilda Football Club and wore for the first time, our new St Mary's College team sport uniform... read the sports page for more.*

**Director of Development | Elaine Doyle**

## In this issue



From the Principal



Musical



Around the College



Our Students



Identity



Our Community



Wellbeing



Parents & Friends Association



Learning



Notices



Sport



# From the Principal

Terry Blizzard

Oh what a time in which we live! Who would have thought that LD6 would become a part of the vernacular? It was only 18 months ago that the thought of students and staff interacting in their learning from their homes was a fantasy. We would never have considered that students would so naturally convert to a different style of learning with little or no notice.

Once again, I can only marvel at the vast majority of students who have taken on the challenge of remote learning in our ever-changing environment. This happens in large part when they are so supported by dedicated teaching and support staff and of course parents. What we have learnt along the way is that the expectation of the 'discipline of learning' must be as present remotely as it is in a regular classroom. As the adults in the lives of these young people we should have high expectations of them, for lockdowns are not an excuse for lowering standards. After all, we should be getting good at this!

What a joy to see 22 wonderful young women proudly posing for their football team photo following their debut matches as St Mary's College last week. As we have seen throughout this year in other sporting competitions, our girls, up against much larger girls' schools, surprised everyone with their spirit and skills. Special mention to Mr Justin Paul for his commitment and guidance to the girls sporting program.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of Mary MacKillop, also known as Saint Mary of the Cross, the founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, who are characterised by

an emphasis on welfare and education for the poor, particularly in country areas. Mary's legacy has gone well and truly beyond the beginnings in Penola. The Sisters of St Joseph affirm the growing recognition that, right throughout the world, God is gracing many with the spirit of Mary MacKillop. This is evidenced by so many taking up her call to 'never see a need without doing something about it' which of course resonates so well with the Edmund Rice and Nano Nagle spirit. With St Mary in mind, we offer the following blessing on us all:

*With the bounty of the fig tree and the graciousness of the vines, with the yield of the olive and the abundance of the apple harvest, with the industry of the honey bees and the fatness of the cattle, with the sturdiness of the mountain and the agility of the gazelle, with the responsiveness of Mary and her creative imagination - bless us, live graciously with us, and hold us in your heart, Living God. Amen*

God Bless

**Principal | Terry Blizzard**



# Around the College

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

As we all navigate the way that yet another lockdown impacts our lives and our community, my thoughts are with our Year 12 students in particular. As the year commenced there was some comfort amongst them that despite the losses of 2020, they would have a fair go at things, in this their final year. This is panning out to not be the case, with their experience of school, and the natural progression in their learning being seriously challenged.

As a school we are constantly thinking about what we can do. We maintain commitment to supporting our most vulnerable students through learning support, pastoral and wellbeing support/services, and the natural care of teachers, which extends, as always, beyond the classroom (or screen!).

In considering 'what more we can do' I am constantly brought back to the most significant thing that we already do. That is, connect on a personal level with our students, teach as dynamically as we possibly can and challenge them from day to day to be inquisitive, creative, hope-filled learners. These sentiments of course extend to all St. Mary's College students, who we know will have vastly different experiences of learning from home.

I encourage all parents/carers that might read this to find ways of emphasising the positive in relation to school and life. Encourage your sons and daughters to reach out to the people that care about them at school, including friends and teachers. Encourage them to see value in interacting with other people, in regular exercise and through embracing the gift of life; which is different, not removed when we are confined to our homes.

**Deputy Principal |** Shaun Lancashire



# Identity

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston

***Never see a need without doing something about it.***

(St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - 1871)

Last weekend we celebrated the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Australia's first and only Saint. She was canonised in Rome, 17 October 2010, nearly one hundred years after her death on August 8, 1909.

Mary Mackillop was born on Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne in 1842, not far from St Patrick's Cathedral where she was baptised. Her parents were Scottish immigrants who provided a loving home to Mary and her seven siblings. They were not a wealthy family, and from a young age Mary was involved in supporting her family. This led to her awareness of the lack of education and medical care amongst the Catholic families around her. She dreamed of addressing this injustice which became a reality when at 24 years of age she opened her first primary school in South Australia. A year later she took religious vows and by 1869, two years later, 60 sisters had joined her.

This story is very similar to that of our own Blessed Edmund Rice. He also saw a great need amongst poor children and worked hard to right this social inequality.

Mary Mackillop, like Edmund centered their lives on God. This may be unfashionable these days however there are many in our community who see a need and respond. Donating their time, money, resources, and compassion to those living on the margins of our society.

In January 1995 Pope John Paul II, while in Australia, celebrated the beatification of Mother Mary MacKillop, the first Australian formally declared by the Catholic Church. He said, '*Think*

*of Mother Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion to one another, for all Australians and for the world'. There are many in our community who are this gift of love and compassion, can you name one?*





# Wellbeing

## Resilience

Last week, when the students were happily engaged in face to face learning, they were able to complete their on-line Resilience Survey for 2021. The survey was sponsored by the City of Stonnington who partnered with Resilient Youth Australia, who designed it.

This survey is delivered to hundreds of thousands of students Australia wide, every two years. It looks to see how young people feel about themselves, school, home and their future.

Once complete, Resilient Youth Australia prepares a comprehensive report on how resilient our student cohort is and offers comparisons on how they were feeling in 2017, 2019 and 2021.

According to Resilient Youth Australia, resilience is based on three aspects: whether young people feel connected, protected and respected. To have all three, we can say young people are resilient.

To feel **connected**, young people need to feel they have the love and support of their family, have adults they can talk to and who listen, have adults who set a good example, have teachers who encourage them and when young people feel they are doing as well as others. These resilient young people would also spend time with friends and be able to talk about things when they are upset.



To feel **protected**, young people would need to feel safe at school and home, have at least 8 hours sleep, keep physically fit, not be too self-critical, have an interest in doing things they enjoy, try hard at school, and believe that school has clear rules that are fairly enforced.

To feel **respected**, young people would need to feel good about themselves, feel they can trust others and are trustworthy themselves, take responsibility for their actions, help others, make valuable contributions, be safe and keep others safe.

The 2021 Resilience Survey Report should be available for our school community near the end of the year. The survey results will be published in a later newsletter, once known.

**Student Counsellor** | Catherine McMahon



# Learning

Another lockdown and it seems that we are now taking it in our stride. The students again have shown resilience in reverting to remote learning in a mature and focused manner.

While the GAT Exam has been postponed to a date yet to be announced, VCE students have been provided the timetable for their end of year exams. They should use this time now for revision of their subjects to prepare for these exams. It is important that even in lockdown that they maintain a routine and include study in this routine. The VCAA exam timetables are available at: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/Key-dates/Pages/VCE-exam-timetable.aspx>

We are mindful that lockdowns can have an adverse affect on mental health so we encourage our students to ensure that they have regular breaks throughout the day. This week we had two students who completed Year 12 last year share their personal insights of being in lockdown in their final year of high school. Omar Ramadan and Christopher Hesslop spoke to our Year 12 cohort about their experiences in Year 12 and being in lockdown since Febraury 2020. They provided an insight in how to achieve a balance with school and how to remain focused, yet balance it with regular communication with friends and being physically active. They provided a wealth of advice to our current Year 12 cohort and I sincerely thank them for taking time out of their university schedules to provide some worthy advice to our students.

## Premier's VCE Award



One of the pleasures I have being the VCE Co-ordinator is being able to be part of the success of our VCE students. Despite the year we had last year, our students worked extremely hard and achieved some wonderful results. It is with much pleasure to advise that Jacob Lavender has been recognised with a Premier's VCE Award for his outstanding academic results in 2020. Jacob received a Study Award for Further Mathematics.

The annual Premier's VCE Awards recognise the top-performing students in the state. This year, 297 students were recognised with awards for their outstanding results. Unfortunately due to lockdown, we were not able to attend the ceremony however, on behalf of the school, I would like to congratulate Jacob for being a recipient for such a prestigious award. To read more about the Premier's VCE Awards, visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/awards/pages/vceawards.aspx>

**VCE/Digitech Co-ordinator** | Sylvia Pastore



# Sport



Last Thursday we played in an invitational round robin competition of Girls AFL, organised by the St Kilda Football Club. This was played at the Trevor Barker Oval in Sandringham.

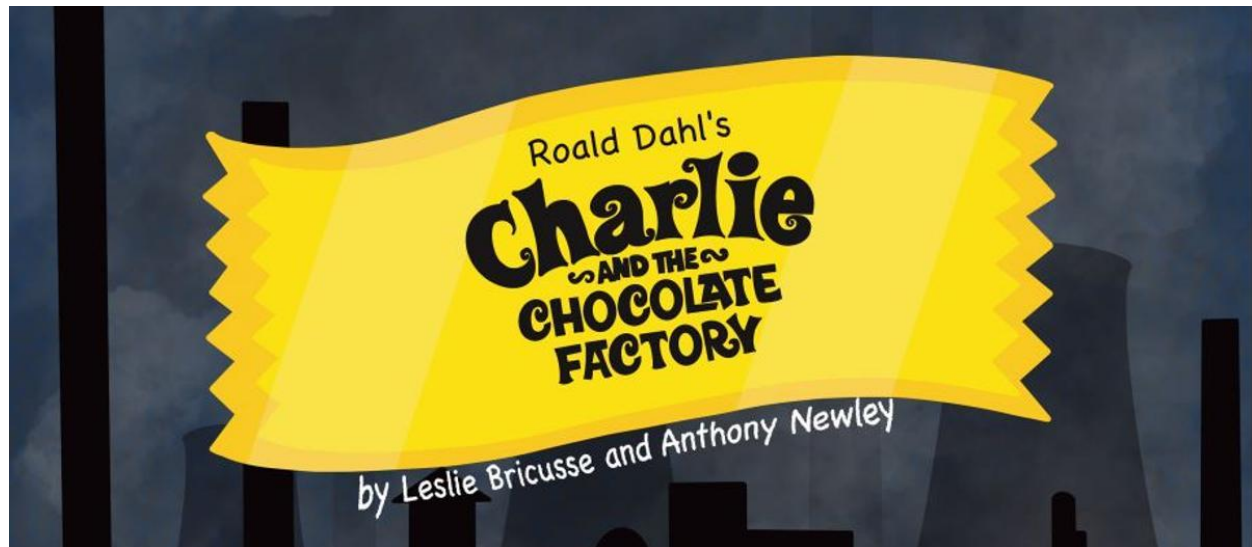
We played two games, one against Mentone Girls Grammar and the other against Siena.

Our girls who were very competitive in their newly formed team played well and although left without a win they gained experience that will see them as a team and as individual players, play next time with courage and conviction.

Two St Kilda AFLW players spoke to and spent time with our girls. One of these was an 'All Australian', an inspiring influence to our emerging girls AFL players.

Having coached both our girls footy and cricket teams this year I am amazed with the sporting talent we have amongst our girls.

**Girls AFL Coach | Justin Paul**



# 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

## How I'm approaching remote learning

They say that we should appreciate the little things in life the most, but I think many people agree that it's becoming increasingly harder to stay motivated and take time out for ourselves as we now embark on Lockdown 6.0. Don't get me wrong, there are benefits of staying at home - no commute to and from school, not having to wear a uniform, nice lunches. However, none of those outweigh the benefits of us being in school: socialising with our friends, and learning in the classroom.

Personally, I'm trying to stay disciplined and keep up good habits, which are mostly simple things such as submitting work on time, attending and participating in Teams calls. I am also looking after my own wellbeing by spending some time each day exercising outdoors and trying to avoid spending too much time on screens once I've finished my work for the day.

Good luck and stay safe, St Mary's College community!

**Year 10 Campus Captain | Raj J**





# 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.

---



**ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE**

# Walkathon 2021

## DONATE NOW

### **Sponsor our students**

**Congratulations - we have currently raised \$27,313.00**

Our 2021 Walkathon has been **rescheduled to Thursday 9 September**. 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

---

## Talk and Tour Dates for 2021

Please pass on to friends and family who are interested in a co-educational Catholic education. The following dates are for onsite tours. Additional online tours may be included.

*Monday 13 September at 10:30am*

*Thursday 14 October 10:30am*

**Book Now**



**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**

---

### PCW Class of '81 40 year Reunion

PCW Past Pupils Association are organising a 40 Year Reunion of the Class of '81 (*those who graduated in '81 or attended the College along the way with these ladies*).

Planned for Saturday 4 September 2-4pm at Presentation Campus, then afterwards at the Flying Duck in Parhran.

If you know any former PCW students who would be interested in attending contact:

[hangwin@hotmail.com](mailto:hangwin@hotmail.com)



# Parents & Friends Association

## P & F Committee Meeting

Next meeting: Monday 6 September  
*venue to be advised*

---

## Dates for social and fund-raising events for 2021

'Nolan Cup' Family Day, Albert Park Driving Range: Saturday 9th October

**Stay tuned for more information about:** An Afternoon at the Movies, Bunnings BBQ, Family Picnic/BBQ, Guest speakers

**President of Parents & Friends** | Jane Leroi



# Notices

## **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability**

The Learning Diversity department at St Mary's College supports a broad range of students with specific learning difficulties. The funding for this support is provided by the government and is based on evidence of disability provided by the school. We rely on families informing us of the functional needs of students with disability and appreciate the provision of diagnostic reports that provide recommendations of support strategies to be implemented. Please refer to the document below for further explanation and make contact should you have any questions.

 [NCCD-Information-Sheet-parents.pdf](#)

**Learning Diversity Leader | Chris Sodaitis**

---

## **Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund**

### **2021 Applications Close 3 August 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**