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Lumina

Issue 19 · 18 Nov 2021

With a busy Term 4 and exams now almost behind us we bring you Issue 19 of Lumina. Our cover reflects a day of celebration at St Mary's College for the graduating Class of 2021. Best wishes for your future!

Director of Development | Elaine Doyle

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From the Principal

Terry Blizzard

Today was a special day as we farewelled our Year 12 VCE and VCAL students. Within the limitations of COVID and with the support of Fr Jerome, we gave thanks for our students, families and staff and wished our Year 12's happiness, fulfillment and success. We were blessed to be able to celebrate our Liturgies in the Presentation Chapel which added a lovely sense of reverence to the occasion. At the conclusion of the ceremony each student was presented with a personalized candle and encouraged to go out and be the light to the world.

I would like to acknowledge our Director of Identity Mrs Kate Johnston for the vision, planning and organization of this truly lovely occasion. We hope parents are able to get a sense of the occasion when they receive the film of each Homeroom's Liturgy. We were blessed also to come together with the graduands and their families in the evening to enjoy each other's company as we paid tribute to a resilient and upbeat group of young people following what has been an amazing two years.

As we sent them on their way we did so with this message:

You have the capacity to be and do whatever you want, but understand, the future depends on what you do in the present. Don't waste time wondering what a good person should be – just be one. Become a person who does more for the world than the world does for you. Become the person we know you could be.

This week we were delighted to welcome Fr Bob Maguire to the Edmund Rice Campus to present his Foundation with a cheque for \$15, 000 resulting from the proceeds to our Walkathon from our incredibly generous community. This amazing effort is made more so, due to lockdown, we were not able to conduct the walk. It is humbling to think that in a time like we are experiencing when so many of our families are impacted by the pandemic that our community could be so generous.

My thanks to our Social Justice group who have persevered all year in spite of the constant setbacks.

God Bless

Principal | Terry Blizzard



Thank You P & F

We are blessed with a strong and committed community. During this difficult year our Parents and Friends Group (P & F) have remained committed in their support of St Mary's College in raising funds for our College, supporting families and students. We could not do this without the P & F and our success as a college is built on the strong relationship we have with our community.

I encourage all families to get involved with our P & F group who are welcoming to all families, happy for occasional or regular involvement. The P & F group meet twice a term, a schedule of meetings will be [published early in 2022](#). It is a great way to make friends and a contribution to the St Mary's College community.

The following are list of the many projects the P & F have supported our College with in 2021.

- Food stalls at the Open Day
- Ovens replaced in the Food Technology rooms at the Presentation Campus
- Library Chairs replaced
- Art Room Tables and chairs
- Student Outdoor Table Settings x 3
- Year 12 Exam Cards and Care Packs
- Blazer Pockets for 2022 College Prefects and Year 7's
- P & F Logos and Banners

- Volunteer site created
- Sustainable school shop subscription



*On behalf of the St Mary's College community we thank you
with all our heart.*

Principal | Terry Blizzard



Around the College

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

The two weeks prior to this newsletter being published and the two weeks after are filled with a range of important events, many of them focusing on 2022, which is quite an exciting prospect.

The Year 11 exams are now completed. This was an important experience for our Year 11 students, who have had less opportunity to complete examinations in a formal setting than other year levels that have come before them. The attendance and dedication to achieving personal best was admirable.

There were two Year 9 camps held over the last couple of weeks. Congratulations to Mr Joyce and his team for pulling these camps together with extremely short notice, with confirmation that they could go ahead only coming a week or so prior to them taking place.

Senior Headstart has commenced for all Year 11 and 12 2022 VCE and VCAL students. Over the first couple of days of Headstart a range of questions arise, from subject allocations to new classroom locations, to booklists and more. There are people in place to answer these questions at the College. Please don't hesitate to make contact with Bev Pettit, Director of Learning and Teaching, Sylvia Pastore, VCE Coordinator, Grant Godbold, VCAL coordinator or Mandy Ellwood, Careers.

Year 12 Graduation takes place on Thursday. This will involve the students coming to school for a homeroom based liturgy at staggered times throughout the day and a cocktail function

in the evening. Thanks to all involved in the organisation of this day/night.

Junior (Year 7 – 9) Headstart this year will run as orientation activities over the last couple of days of the year. A detailed plan for these two days will be released in a couple of weeks.

The 2022 calendar is well underway. From 2022, the College Calendar on the website will be the main source of information relating to events taking place in the College. This calendar will be a live document updated frequently as new events arise or changes are made.

Last Friday the senior Prefect Team took part in their first leadership day. The day was based around writing the position descriptions for each of the Prefect portfolios' and then assigning each prefect with a portfolio that is theirs for 2022. We look forward to working closely in 2022 to ensure student voice and leadership is a real feature of our school.

EREA child safeguarding standard 4 is titled ***Equity is Promoted and Diversity Respected***. This standard informs families that the College is committed to ensuring in both policy and practice, that the diverse, individual needs of every student will be actively recognised in relation to child safety. We have a diverse school, and all students have the right to the same opportunities, as supported by our policies and procedures. Please click on the link to access the full version of EREA child safeguarding standard 4.

 [S4 Equity_Diversity.pdf](#)

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire



Identity

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston

This week our Year 10 girls engaged with *The Big Sister Experience*. A social enterprise business established by sisters Kritz and Bianca Sciessere who run workshops to empower young people.

The girls participated in 3 workshops –

- Prioritising Wellbeing
- Body Image
- Supporting the Sisterhood

The girls sessions were partially funded by the City of Stonnington and were originally part of a whole year level retreat day. Remote teaching and learning meant many of our planned face to face activities had to be cancelled however, with eased restrictions the College was able to invite Kritz and Glenn onsite for a mini retreat.

We all hope and pray that next year we can return to our normal retreat program. Retreats are an important part of the school journey. It is an opportunity to spend some time away from the normal school program to reflect on the individuality and dignity of each student whereby their unique potential and spirituality can be fostered.



During this time, the boys listened to Glenn Manton, a former Australian rules footballer who played for Carlton and Essendon. These days Glenn is an author and youth advocate who works with schools to inspire and motivate young people.

A banner for the Australian Catholics Education Hub. The background is a photograph of several young people in school uniforms smiling. The text "Australian CATHOLICS" is in white on an orange background. Below that, "EDUCATION HUB" is in large, bold, white letters. To the right, the tagline "Bring RE and faith formation to life." is in smaller white text. In the bottom right corner, there is a red square logo with a white cross and the text "AC PLUS" in white.

Australian
CATHOLICS

EDUCATION HUB

Bring RE and faith formation to life.

AC
PLUS

Just a reminder that all St Mary's College staff, students and St Mary's College parents have digital access to the Australian Catholics magazine.

Student login: students@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Password: **stmaryscollegestudents**

We also have access for our parents

Parent login parents@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Password: **stmaryscollegeparents**

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston



Learning

This week sees the final VCAA exams being undertaken by the Class of 2021, our first St Mary's VCE cohort, and what a journey it has been to get to these exams. With the GAT exam being cancelled three times and the fear that the exams may not take place, our students have gone through a lot to get to these exams. The English Exam, our first exam, saw how responsive and resilient our students are with following strict protocols. The sight of them wearing masks and keeping their distance on the oval is quite different to previous exams where students are normally chatting and laughing in the plaza with no distance between them. However, despite this, the students were able to continue the traditions of prayer before the exams, which became something the students used to ease their minds, to have a few moments to compose themselves before entering the exam.

When the exam was over, the Plaza was filled with the sound of students leaving the hall and the sense of relief, while they graciously accepted the many treats waiting for them. Exams making teenagers very hungry, is something that the COVID protocols didn't change.

The VCAA supervisors commented on how well behaved and respectful our students have been in each exam. This is a testament to all our students' motivation to do the best they could. It is a privilege to be with the students before they enter the exam, filled with trepidation, and then see them leave the exam with a sense of relief. While the students work hard to achieve a good result in the exams, the score they receive is not a true reflection of the hard work, dedication and resilience they have endured to get to the exams. The score

they receive will not show the obstacles our students had to overcome over the past two years while they were adapting to a new way of learning while being in lockdown.

The results will not show:

- how many opportunities were missed, or how many milestones were not experienced.
- how our students became more and more resilient with each lockdown
- how motivated they were to continue to complete their work in conditions that no one will understand if they weren't in VCE
- how the students were able to find other ways to stay connected
- how the students became more self sufficient and had self drive
- how much extra work and motivation was needed to continue in what was a never ending ground hog day
- how adaptable our students became
- how the girls had to endure the closure of their school and the need to adapt to a new school and environment
- how the students embraced their new school and had hopes for an exciting year of firsts
- how the students have been able to form relationships quite quickly
- how many obstacles our students had to overcome these past two years to get through these exams
- the comradery they had with each other
- how we take for granted the daily interactions that were missed with friends and teachers
- the growth our students experienced during this pandemic
- that these students will persevere and maintain focus when it gets hard
- the growth they experienced during this pandemic

They may have missed out on some of the milestones that VCE students experience, however, they have gained so much more. Their mindset is more focused and the relationships that they have formed have become more meaningful than ever. I am truly inspired by the drive that each of the students has shown when completing their studies and then by the focus they have demonstrated for their exams. They have shown that they are adaptable, resilient and willing to persevere. They are determined young people who will succeed in whatever they put their minds to. This year has shown that whatever comes their way, they will be able to overcome any obstacles and work to their potential. These are

values that they will leave St Mary's College with and will ensure that they are successful in all their endeavours.

Each year I read "Oh the Places You'll Go" by Dr Seuss to the Year 12 cohort and this year I had to do it via Teams online and it amazes me how no matter how old our students are, they listen attentively to the beautiful words of Dr Seuess. I believe the students will succeed, yes, indeed! (98 and $\frac{3}{4}$ percent guaranteed)

"Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

I wish our 2021 Year 12 students all the best for their future endeavours and I wish our 2022 Year 12 students all the very best for the coming year and hoping you will be able to experience more of what St Mary's College has to offer in 2022.

VCE Dignitech Co-ordinator | Sylvia Pastore



VAPA

Due to lockdown this year we were unable to run our VAPA week as we have done in previous years. Please find featured in each newsletter a selection of some of our talented students' works.

Year 10 Media

As part of the Film Production component in Year 10 Media Arts, students produced two videos over the course of semester. Their first task was to animate a painting using the Ken Burns Effect; students could then use camera shots and angles to pan, tilt and zoom in and out to create their interpretation and control the narrative through editing. Pacing and sound effects were essential decisions that also needed to be made that would impact mood and meaning.

Students chose from a selection of landscape paintings, mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe, that enabled them to explore art and music from these times.

Liam C selected a contemporary work by the British Australian artist Peter Booth which he interpreted as a post-apocalyptic artwork, referencing the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, which matched the painting's sombre narrative. Liam's choice of harpsichord and choral music added to the mystery of the artwork.

Christian S animated painting of "Landscape with Charon Crossing the Styx was suitably dramatic; his choice of music with its swells of loud and soft tinkering piano enhanced the

mythical narrative of the painting. Christian's editing communicated the grandiosity of the landscape and lent the panoramic views a sense of theatricality.

The second video task "How do you have your jellybeans?" was inspired by a quote by the late and former actor and American President Ronald Reagan who maintained that "You can tell a lot about a fella's (or woman's) character by his/her way of eating jellybeans."

Characterisation through action can reveal something about the personality and motivation.

Audrey S "The Last Jellybean" seems to have been the popular choice by students. **Audrey** ramped up the excitement by referencing Bizet's music for "Carmen - Habanera" to suggest a sense of the theatrical and foreboding.

Christian D's video captured the drama of the last remaining jellybean up for grabs. A well-chosen cast of mother and son provided a highly competitive and suspenseful atmosphere.

Media Teacher | Susan Lopez



Pathways

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

As we prepare to farewell our Class of 2021 this week, our Classes of 2022 and 2023 are starting their VCAL and VCE journeys in Headstart.

We began on Monday with Presentations to both the Year 11 and 12 groups. Ms Pastore and I pointed out some of the key information about achieving a successful outcome in each year level, but we focused a lot on the need for consultation and collaboration with teachers and support staff as the key ingredient. We are really here to assist our students to achieve their personal best by supporting them through any issues that may occur.

In particular, we asked Year 12 students to note down any concerns they might have for the year we have just begun. I have done a brief analysis of these, and I find that two major concerns arise:

1. A lack of confidence about their study skills
2. A number of students uncertain about their future pathways.

The second issue is relatively easy to solve: students can easily arrange a meeting with me to discuss their career options. There is a link to Careers Appointments on Simon. I am available both this year and next year to help students in the process of setting some flexible goals for their future. I usually find that this helps greatly with their motivation to study.

We will be holding a Study Skills session for Year 11 and 12 next week. This will be the first of a number of Study Skills sessions to be held for both year levels over the coming year. It will get them started thinking about how they will prioritize the demands on their time, organize their work and notes, and plan their schedules.

As for our Class of 2021, it has been a tough two years. However, they are well equipped, with the perspective on what matters in life, the resilience to overcome any obstacles and the determination to achieve their goals. The world is opening up just in time for them to work, study and travel in ways that have not recently been possible.

It is important that those intending to study next year spend some time now considering the options they have applied for and consider any changes, in preparation for the Change of Preference period coming up from 16-20 December. Again, I am available for Careers Meetings over the next few weeks for both parents and students with any concerns regarding employment or study options.

Much of the information you will need is available in the School Leavers' Guide, found on the St Mary's College Careers Website. The link is on Simon.

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood



Our Students

Finishing off the Year Well

Year 8 has been a busy year - we've had everything in it. Now we're at the end of the year and we have to finish off strong. It's been a tough year with all of our lockdowns but now we only have three weeks of school left. It has been an unusual year, with lots of lockdowns and then half of this term being online learning and the other half onsite learning. We have had to adjust to being back onsite and getting into that rhythm and at the same time finishing off all our important assessments for the year.

It has been great to see our friends each day again, for the first time in over a term. It has made the year much more enjoyable to finish off with our friends. We have almost finished the year and to finish it off well, you need to get into a rhythm and focus on each day ahead, one at a time, enjoy the simple things that you've missed, with your friends and push through to the end of Year 8 and look forward to Year 9.

Year 8 student | Gerard G.



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.

Thank you to the St Mary's College Community.

From your generous donations to our 2021 Walkathon we have donated **\$15,000.00** to the Fr Bob Foundation, to directly feed and support those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.



Fr Bob visit 17-11-21

Today we welcomed Fr Bob Maguire to St Mary's College to present him with a cheque for **\$15,000.00** raised by the St Mary's College community 2021 Walkathon. Fr Bob a CBC Alumni is dedicated to assisting those in need in Melbourne through the Fr Bob Maguire Foundation @frbobmaguire find our more at www.fatherbobs.com

Book now for Term 1, 2022 tours

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.



**TOURS
SCHOLARSHIPS
ENROL TODAY**

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

Enrol now for Year 7, 2023

Please share with your community interested in St Mary's College, a reminder to enrol online for Year 7, 2023 as interviews and places are currently being finalised.

[Apply Today](#)

Midford Uniform Shop

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8.00am – 4.00pm

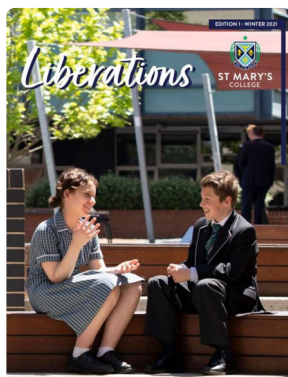
First Saturday of every month 9.00am – 1.00pm

A reminder, also that all full uniform fittings require a Midford appointment, which can be made at

<https://MidfordBooking.as.me/StMarysCollegeStKilda>

If required, the Midford shop can also be contacted on those dates by calling 9520-8519.

Alumni stories welcome for *Liberations*, Edition 2.



Call for content for *Liberations*, Edition 2 from our Alumni Network please email the editor, Elaine Doyle edoyle@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au. We look forward to publishing stories of the Class of '21 next year as they become the first graduating cohort of St Mary's College.

Online copies are found on the College website on the [Publications](#) page or [Alumni](#) page. Printed copies are available at reception of our Campuses, and at future onsite Tours, Open Days and Reunions.



Parents & Friends

P & F 2021 AGM and Final Meeting

We recently held our final P & F meeting for the year, including an AGM. Despite 2021 being a year of interruptions and limited opportunities to raise funds, we were proud to have supported the College community with the following – with an expenditure focus on items which benefit the experiences of our students:

- A food stall at the Open Day
- Ovens replaced in the Food Technology rooms at the Presentation Campus
- Library Chairs replaced
- Art Room Tables and Chairs
- Student Outdoor Table Settings x 3
- Year 12 Exam Cards and Care Packs
- Blazer Pockets for 2022 College Prefects and Year 7's
- P & F Logos and Banners
- Volunteer site created
- Sustainable school shop subscription

End of Year Dinner

And what a year 2021 has been! We are very much looking forward to farewelling it with an end of year dinner on **Tuesday 23 November 6:00pm, upstairs at the Dick Whittington Tavern at **32 Chapel St, St Kilda VIC 3182.**** All College parents/carers are invited to attend this event. To book your place, just use this

link, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aa4ad22a1fec70-pfend>. If you have any queries, please contact jbalme@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au.

P & F Recycled Uniform Shop Opening this Saturday

Donated CBC and PCW uniform items, cleaned and in good condition, are also gratefully accepted and can be dropped off at either College Reception. The next two opening times are listed here and please be aware that all attendees and volunteers will also **need to provide proof of full vaccinations.**

- **Saturday 20 November from 12:00-4:00pm**
- **Saturday 4 December from 9:00-11:30am***(extra openings will be made available and advertised prior to Term 1)*

President of Parents & Friends | Jane Leroi



Notices

2021 Fee Accounts

All families are reminded that all outstanding 2021 Fee Accounts and outstanding account balances are required to be finalised in October, unless you have an approved payment plan.

Families are requested to ensure that Fee Accounts are settled by the end of October or contact the Finance Office to discuss an approved payment plan arrangement.

Families who currently have approved payments plans or have settled their Fee Account balances; please disregard this notice.

We appreciate your assistance in settling outstanding Fee Account balances as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Marina Gutnik in the Finance Office on 9529 6611 or fees@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au.

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

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien