



BUILD A BRIDGE – WITH PURPOSE



Take this challenge and share it with loved ones and friends. Question: "What are your six favorite bridges – seen or unseen?" Please allow me to share my six favorites:

Charles Bridge in Prague
Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco
Tower Bridge, London
Rialto Bridge in Venice
Brooklyn Bridge, New York City
and
Sydney Harbor Bridge, Sydney, Australia

My wife, Enza, and I have been blest to cross each of these bridges. Some are small, old and elegant; others are huge, expansive and grand; others are renowned for their sheer beauty. Each serves a purpose, to transport pedestrians, and sometimes vehicles, from one side of a body of water to the opposite bank.

In our own life, we become happier people when we build metaphorical but meaningful bridges. We can act as a bridge that brings folk together; we can be bridge-like as we provide the pathway from one episodic event to a better experience through our advocacy, tact, and by adopting reconciliatory practices.



Bridges are engineered, that means that they are planned, tested for strength, balanced and steadied, and they must be planted on firm foundations. Actually, that is a nice way to

describe a life well led. God brought us to life to live and return to Him in Heaven after a good existence. That is the Holy Plan. At times in life we must be strong (that is how perseverance and prayer come into focus); balance beats toppling over and falling every time; and each of us inherits and personally builds foundational values that shape and determine our life choices.

This week we bid farewell to our Year 12 students. They are crossing bridges in their life – from school to work or tertiary studies, from adolescence to soon-to-be young adults, from dependence for basic needs on others to maturing into independent, responsible citizens. On behalf of the College community, I extend warmest wishes to our VCE and VCAL senior students as they cross these and other bridges in life.

Equally, I remind students from Years 7 through to Year 11, that there is still time to ensure that 2020 is not a wasted, squandered year due to COVID-19. From 26 October, they are taking tentative but important steps to cross from remote learning to face-to-face instruction. This return to normalcy is a very important bridge to cross.

Jesus Christ was and remains the ideal bridge



towards ultimate glory and eternal happiness. Jesus is quoted in John 14:6:

'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'

MUSIC NOTES

Return to on-site music lessons

Face to face lessons will return for all students enrolled for Semester 2 lessons from Monday 26 October. Students are asked to refer to their timetable which has been sent via email.

Due to COVID restrictions, all Brass and Woodwind lessons will continue to operate as remote lessons from an on-site location, with students being supervised by Mr Hatherell.

Please contact the Music Office if you have any queries regarding Music lessons.

Ensemble rehearsals

The following ensembles will return to normal rehearsals from Monday 26 October:

Senior Guitar Ensemble, Junior Guitar Ensemble, Senior Rock Band, Junior Rock Band, Percussion Ensemble.

The following ensembles will continue with remote projects due to COVID restrictions:

SMC Singers, Senior Vocal Ensemble, Year 7 Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Saxophone Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and Stage Band.

Virtual Choir Performance

A virtual performance of "And Wherever You Go (A Choral Blessing)" is available to view via the College Facebook page and website. The performance has already been enjoyed by many and the following students are congratulated on their participation:

Ashly Reji, Aaliyah Mathias, Rhea John, Prerna Chopra, Leanne Sebastian, Rosemary Lombardo, Ava Villella, Aliya Awad and Alexandra Matula.

Thank you to Mrs Jane Murone for her musical direction and production of the virtual performance.

SMC Piano Competition

Entries are currently being accepted for the Piano Competition. The online event is open to pianists of all levels of experience (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced).

Video performances are due on **Friday 30 October**. The award winning performances will be announced and made available to view in the first week of November.

All entries must be submitted via the link: <https://forms.gle/PeDXqzxXjQmTRR328>



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) ELIGIBILITY

EXTENSION FOR 2020

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School **camps** provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors; **excursions** encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and **sports** teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested Concession Card, Veterans' Affairs or Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount based on the extension per student will be:

\$112.50 for secondary school students.

How to Apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Accepting applications

Parents (including guardians) no longer need to submit a new application form each year in most cases.

Parents only need to submit an application form in 2020 if any of these changes have occurred.

- New student enrolments: students who have started or changed schools in 2020 or if the parent did not apply for CSEF at the school in 2019.
- Changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either **Term 1 (28 January 2020)** or **Term 2 (14 April 2020)** and **Term 3 (5 October 2020)**.

Closing Date

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by **27 November 2020** for eligibility. For more information about the CSEF, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

For any further queries, please contact Miss Andrea Moon 9409 8800.

CAREERS CORNER

From a Careers Department perspective, an exceptionally busy time for Year 12 students has passed and our students did exceptionally well in attending to all that was required of them. All VCE students, without exception, completed their VTAC application before the "timely application" closing date of 30 September. SEAS applications (Category 4 – remote learning) was something extra to be done this year and once again the response to this was excellent.

The majority of VCE students have already submitted their University course preferences, with many also applying for 'early entry' programs.

The number of 'early entry' applicants that were accepted is impressive and it has been exciting to get confirmation of the offers from the Universities.



Students in Year 12 made good use of the Careers service during remote learning. They are reminded that we are here to assist even though they are no longer on campus as they prepare for and sit exams. Our service will also be available to them during the 'Change of Preference' period after ATARs are released on 30 December. More information on this will be sent via email to Year 12 students.

Our Year 12 VCAL students have also been frequent visitors to the Careers Centre as they seek assistance and information about the many options available to them as they move on from secondary education. Their choices such as TAFE courses (including many free ones), apprenticeships, traineeships and paid employment are many. They are also reminded that we are here to assist now, and well into next year, if they need us.

Congratulations and well done negotiating this most unbelievable year.



FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

We thank all families who have re-enrolled their children for 2021. For those who have not attended to their re-enrolment this can now only be done at College Reception at Augustine House. We ask that if you have any concerns or questions that you contact Mrs Enza Sinopoli, College Registrar or Mrs Alison Pisani, Finance and Business Manager.

We remind all families of our extended due date for fee payments until **30 November 2020**. For any family on a payment plan we are offering a further extension to 15 January 2021. For those families who are not on a payment plan but feel they need additional time to make payment of fees, I encourage you to contact the Finance Office to discuss the varying options available.

The Fees Office is committed to providing support and assistance to our families in managing their school fee commitments for 2020 and beyond. Please contact Alison Pisani, Finance and Business Manager at fees@stmonicas-epping.com

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK (ASH) PROGRAM TUTORS

This is an invitation to current Year 11 students to make application to become After School Homework (ASH) Program tutors for 2021! We are looking for two students to work two nights a week each in the PCL assisting Year 7 to 9 students with completing homework. The sessions run from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm Monday to Thursday and there is a small payment attached to this role. Application forms are available from the SJQ Library and need to be returned to DSC Campus Reception by 20 November. Interviews will be conducted after this date. If you are interested in becoming an ASH Tutor and would like more information or to discuss the role, please contact Mrs Joan Leach, by e-mail. This is a rewarding part of SMC life and I encourage you to become part of it.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Monican Carols by Candlelight

LATE NOVEMBER

CASTING CALL!

To audition for this event, complete the Google Form via this link;
<https://forms.gle/jg9MFDzkYNCpPudu5>

Auditions close Tuesday 21 October. Good luck!

SMC
PRAY AND PERSEVERE

PRINCIPAL'S TROPHY FOR TECHNOLOGY

St Monica's College, Epping

PRINCIPAL'S TROPHY FOR TECHNOLOGY



Tuesday, 17 November 2020
7.00 PM

SAVE THE DATE



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED MONICANS



Our annual Memorial Mass will be streamed online on Monday 2 November to provide all Monican families with the opportunity to unite in praying for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed. To view the mass, please visit www.stmonicas-epping.com/memorial-mass. The liturgy will feature contributions from current students and alumni and be celebrated by Fr Nathan Rawlins, assistant priest of St Peter's Parish, Epping and chaplain to St Monica's College.

Our faith in the goodness and love of God enables us to persevere through the great challenge of losing loved ones whose departure from this life we recall each year in November. Yet, this Memorial Mass is much more than an opportunity to express sadness and grief. It provides us with an important opportunity to support one another and give thanks for the lives and faith of those who now rest with God.

The names of the recently deceased have been added to our Memorial book, which will feature as part of this Memorial Service.

IMPORTANT DATES FROM NOW UNTIL END OF TERM 4

OCTOBER

- 26 Year 8-10 students return to onsite learning.
- Year 12 Last Day of Classes
- 27 Year 12 Last Day
- College Assembly (Virtual)
- 29 Broadcast of Year 12 Graduation
- Principal's Gift
- 30 Piano Competition

November

- 2 Mid-Term Break
- 3 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- 4 St John Cadets Ceremony (Virtual)
- 10 Year 12 Exams Commence
- 17 Principal's Trophy for Technology (Virtual)
- 24 Year 10 – 11 Classes Conclude
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences (Student Free)
- 26 Hello Year 11 and Year 12 (2021) Begins
- 27 Christmas Carols (Virtual)

December

- 2 Year 9 Classes Conclude
- 3 Year 10 (2021) Hello Program
- Final day for all students (Homeroom – Period 5).

SPORT

SMC



2020
PRINCIPAL'S
GIFT



THURSDAY
29 OCTOBER

DALTON ROAD
ATHLETICS TRACK
@ 1:13PM

LIVE STREAM
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
@smcepping.sport

Instagram LIVE

St Monica's College, Epping is proud to proclaim itself as a School of Educational Enterprise, serving the families of the northern suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne. Our philosophy commits the College to remaining connected to our ever-growing alumni base and parent network. With strong and ever-increasing enrolments predicted to be a minimum of 2000 in 2021, we have a large and solid community network. The College's Strategic Plan 'Towards the Future 2020-2024' identifies the goal to strengthen community and business relations, particularly with the difficulties most Victorian businesses have faced in 2020. Now is the time to come together.

I am pleased to announce that we have launched SMC Business Connect. This will be a service that assists businesses as they seek to attract new work and re-establish links with regular customers. SMC Business Connect will be aimed towards businesses that have a connection with the College through an association with a past student, current parent or regular supplier of the College.

Essentially, we are offering a free advertising service through three different platforms: Social Media, Principal's Bulletin and College Website. Currently, our Facebook page has over 5000 likes that stretch from Epping to all over Melbourne and throughout Victoria, across Australia, and internationally to countries such as Italy, Greece, Asian locations and even as far as Africa. Our monthly reach is in excess of 100,000 people. The Principal's Bulletin is electronically sent to our 1597 families every fortnight, and our College Website will have its own SMC Business Connect section.

Through our Promotions and Events Office, the College can produce an advertising package through all three platforms, or one based on your needs. As it is a free service, we are very happy to discuss how we can advertise and cater for your business objectives. It will be our pleasure to meet you to discuss how SMC Business Connect can work for you.

To register your interest and to obtain further information, contact our Deputy Principal (Operations) Mr Cameron Whitford at the College on 9409 8800 or via email c.whitford@stmonicas-epping.com

We look forward to strengthening our connections with you now and into the future.

Yours faithfully,

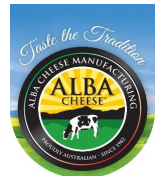
B.E. Hanley
College Principal



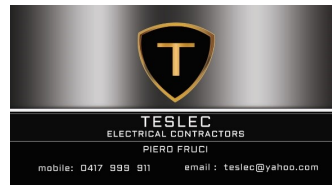
Margaret Borg – Parent at SMC
Avante-Garde Cakes
Phone: 0402 563 695
Email: mborg77@bigpond.com



Priscilla Brincat – Parent at SMC
Priscillas Cakes Melbourne
Phone: 0425 760 611
Email: info@priscillascakes.com.au
Website: www.priscillascakes.com.au



John Bongiorno – Alumni
Alba Cheese Manufacturing Pty Ltd
Address: 27-33 Assembly Drive, Tullamarine VIC 3043
Phone: (03) 9330 2282
Email: john@albachese.com.au
Website: www.albachese.com.au



TESLEC
Electrical Contractors
Piero Fruci
Mobile: 0417 999 911
Email: teslec@yahoo.com



Paul Janevski
Northern Home Finance
Phone: 0400 545 554
Email: pauli@nhf.com.au
Credit Licence: 394126



Alan Cho
Bluetop Property Investments
Phone: 0412 034 059
Email: alanc@bluetopproperty.com.au
Website: www.bluetopproperty.com.au

MARVELLOUS MONICAN

Marko Ciantar (Year 10) is a true Monican. From a very young age, Marko has faced a number of personal medical battles. He often feels disappointed and let down when he cannot achieve or give his best at school. He is a true Monican who is very keen to learn new things and is always so happy to be at school. His medical condition appears to be his biggest hurdle. Can you imagine the exposure of Marko's medical condition to the current pandemic? The gravity and feeling of living a life threatening condition, risk of catching COVID-19 and keeping up with the school work. Marko has never let himself or any of his teachers down. He has attended every lesson remotely and is always so keen to share his experiences and stories.

Even during the pandemic, Marko volunteered to share his screen presenting on the teacher's behalf even when a teacher faced challenges with heavy network-data traffic slowing the presentation. In the face of pandemic compounded with his own personal medical battles, he always takes the time to inform teachers of his absence. His incredible eagerness to complete missed and catch up work was truly inspiring for students and teachers who faced their challenges working remotely. Most importantly, Marko goes about his school life with such normality that he inspires the whole school community as a "Marvellous Monican" quietly moving ahead during one of biggest challenge, we as a community, have faced as Victorians.