



WALKING the VIA DOLOROSA in 2023

In the final two editions of the Principal's Bulletin in Term 1, I shall share thoughts on the suffering of Christ on the Cross on Mount Calvary through reflecting on the Stations of the Cross which led up to His death. Then, the final edition this term will be on the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus.

My wife, Enza, and I were fortunate to walk the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) a few years ago in Jerusalem. Known too as the Via Crucis, the walk is a type of pilgrimage following in the footsteps of Jesus. That awful journey of Jesus to Calvary to which he was condemned by Pontius Pilate is commemorated by the 14 Stations of the Cross.

Most Churches display a set on surrounding internal walls. At St Monica's College, our beautiful wooden Stations carved by Leopoldine Mimovich were gifted to us by the Gleeson Family and they hang in Our Lady's Chapel.

The Stations cover that agonising journey of our Saviour, and each recounts an incident along the way. They begin with Jesus's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and later Stations commemorate His betrayal by Judas, Peter's denial, Pilate's judgment, the horrific scourging and crowning with thorns, the walk itself, comfort from supporters, the actual crucifixion, and the final Station is Jesus being laid in the tomb.

The death of Jesus was generations before the actual cross our Messiah was God was taunted, spat upon, was real. It was overcome resurrection from death three

What can we learn from the Certainly walking along the provokes great emotion within laneways, dark awnings, along the sides of the experience – a crowded and of sorrows.



prophesied and foretold event. There on a wooden hoisted, hung, and died. Our whipped, and His suffering and conquered through His days later.

Stations of the Cross? rough cobbled Via Dolorosa the pilgrim. Narrow stalls, and people and animals pathways is the felt depressing place, a true place

Yet Jesus was persecuted and died so as to save us and bring about the Kingdom of God on earth through His resurrection. Jesus died so that we might live eternally. Jesus showed the way to salvation and His Gospels are the light to everlasting life. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. The Stations of the Cross depict the journey He endured to be the Messiah.

Imagine if you were there when they nailed Jesus to a tree. See the blood and the gore, the sweat, and smell the putrid air of death from crucifixion. Watch His mother weep at the foot of the cross as the soldiers pierced His side and out flowed blood and water. Yes, this scene of the death of Jesus Christ is gruesome.

And so it would have remained but for His resurrection three days later when light shone bright that Easter morning.

Brian E. Hanley OAM

B.A., Dip. Ed. Grad. Dip. Ed. Admin., M.Ed., MACE, FACEL
College Principal



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

In this edition, I share with you, an excerpt from an article that appeared in AccessEAP's online newsletter earlier this year about initiating courageous conversations. I found it of particular interest because of its constructive tips that have application, to most situations, not just employment scenarios. In fact, I believe it could be of use and particular relevance, when working with young people or being the parent, guardian, or carer of an ever changing and evolving, adolescent.

From time to time, we all encounter situations where we need to have a constructive conversation with someone. It may be that your job requires you to have these conversations with people on a regular basis. A common myth is that raising the issue might make things worse. However, a carefully constructed conversation might save things from getting worse.

Here are some tips for initiating a potentially difficult conversation:



Be Confident with your Concerns

It can be easy to stop ourselves from raising concerns by minimising their importance. For example, we may tell ourselves we are “just being silly” or we are “being too sensitive” or “it’s not such a big deal really”. If it is impacting on you or someone else negatively, it is important. Be clear with yourself about the reasons why you are initiating the conversation.

Focus on the Behaviour

Let the person know that it is their behaviour which is upsetting or concerning to you.

Be Clear and Specific

Anxiety about how someone might react can lead to messages being “watered-down”. We may give a lot of positive feedback in amongst the negative, or we might talk generally to a group about behaviour that bothers us without speaking directly to the person involved. The risk is that your message will not be heard by them.

Listen

This can sometimes be the hard part because people can be defensive or angry after hearing your concerns and your feedback. They may attack. They may deny that there’s an issue. Let them talk. Don’t interrupt, explain, justify, or defend. First, listen. There will be time to respond later.

Respond Calmly

Depending on how the person has reacted to your concerns remaining calm can be tricky, however, focus on clarifying the factual accuracies of what the person has said. Their feelings are subjective, and you can’t change these. Confidently re-state your concerns. If you can, come to a resolution or compromise. You may need some time to think about what each other has said.

Constructive conversations are about more than winning an argument or getting your point across. They are about deepening understanding and building ways forward.

If we regularly remind ourselves that we are the constant role models in the lives of young people, the potential benefits of using the suggested tips, are limitless. Modelling calm, considerate and considered dialogue that is invitational, sets the tone for the rest of the conversation. As adults, our actions, and interactions with others, are always being closely monitored by the impressionable young people we educate, raise and support. We are consistently explicitly and inexplicitly, training the next generation of adults, workers, community contributors and thinkers, and often they are reflecting our actions. Remember, young people will follow the lead of the adults they trust most in their lives. Let’s ensure that our role modelling reflects the wonderful societal contributors we want the next generation to be.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

A reminder to all Parents and Guardians, that parking in the allocated staff parking areas is not permitted. Students are reminded that they are not to walk through the staff car park before or after school hours, due to safety concerns.

Parents/Guardians are kindly asked to not park over or block access to driveways at both Dalton Road and Davisson Street Campuses.

DRC & DSC Campus Leaders



Please be advised that due to a security feature known as Conditional Access, it is important that parents notify the IT department if you are planning to go on holiday and travel outside of Australia, if your child requires access to College IT resources whilst overseas (e.g. Email, OneDrive).

Access within Australia remains unaffected.

Conditional Access prevents unauthorised people from making attempts to gain access to the account from outside of Australia. For example, a potential hacker from a rogue nation state.

If your child requires access whilst overseas, please notify the IT department of your travel plans via the ITSupport@stmonicas-epping.com to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that you have access to the resources you need while you are away.

Sustainable Scarecrows School Competition Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show 2023





2023 Term 1 Fees Payments

We kindly remind families of their fee obligation. It is a requirement of the College that you make regular payments throughout the school year, due by the second week of each Term. Instalment 1 payment due date was 17 February, 2023.

If you have not made an instalment on your Tuition account at this stage, we ask that you please attend to this.

The College requires all families to meet their fee commitments so we may continue to provide the highest level of education to our students. The College offers a number of payment options to enable parents to meet their fee obligations:

- a) School Administered Payment Plan (weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly) - Parents that would like to enter into a payment plan will have a further extension to pay up to 8 December, 2023
- b) At Reception (Augustine House) – Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card
- c) Online Payments via the community (fee) portal, or via BPAY

Please refer to your emails for fee Statements and Tax Invoices, these will be emailed at the beginning of each month. If you have not received your March Statement, please contact the Fees Office so that we can update your information. Please note, extra-curricular activities and additional charges will not appear on your Tuition Account Statement, these charges will be billed via a separate Tax Invoice as and when they fall due, whereby different terms and conditions apply. If you wish to discuss this with our Fees Office, please contact fees@stmonicas-epping.com or directly on 9409 8800.

Payment Plans

We would like to remind families that it is never too late to sign up for a school administered payment plan. St Monica's College offers both Direct Debit and Credit Card payment options.

Extended tuition account due dates are in place for families on a St Monica's College school administered payment plan.

Application forms for Direct Debit or Credit Card can be completed online using the following link: <https://www.stmonicas-epping.com/payment-plan/> or can be completed in person at College Reception at Augustine House (400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076). Should you choose to sign up to a school administered payment plan, you will be opted- in for future years unless you choose to opt-out.

Financial Assistance for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) 2023 \$225.00

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 card, 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 is \$225 for secondary school students. 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 2023 if any of these changes have occurred.

- New student enrolments: students who have started or changed schools in 2023 or if the parent did not apply for CSEF at the school in 2022.
- Changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2023.

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 one (**30 January, 2023**) or term two (**24 April, 2023**).

Closing Date

CSEF applications can be lodged at Augustine House, Dalton Road Campus on or before 23 June, 2023 for eligibility as no late applications will be accepted by DEET after this date. For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

For any further queries please contact Miss Andrea Moon 9409 8800 in the Fees office or fees@stmonicas-epping.com

Welcome to the LIBRARY



AUSTRALIA
READS

On Thursday 9 March, the entire Dalton Road Campus celebrated Australia Reads by spending the first period of the day reading a book of their choosing.

Organised chaos reigned in the PCL first thing in the morning as excited students came in to borrow their selections. The beginning of Period 1 saw the whole campus settle down into a quiet, relaxed atmosphere as students quickly became absorbed in their books.

Our thanks to Mrs Johnson for organising, and the Campus Leader, Year Level Leaders, HR and classroom teachers for supporting this wonderful national initiative here at St Monica's.



STEM

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

Year 7 Digi STEM

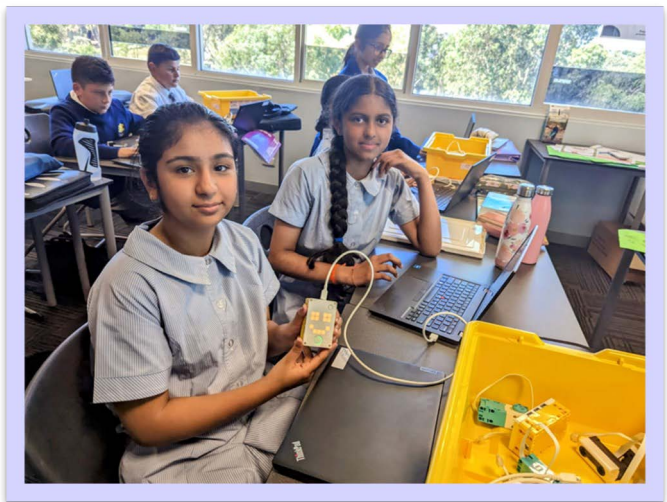
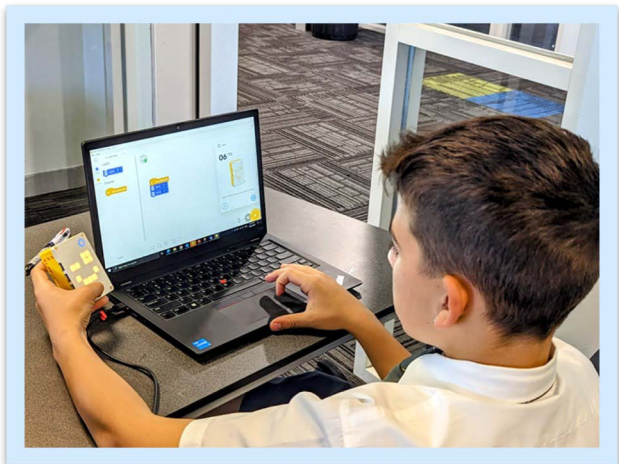
Students are continuing their STEM Skills and Knowledge in Year 7 DigiSTEM which follows on from their introduction to Engineering Principles and Systems with the application of Simple Machines using LEGO BricQ.

Students have now commenced coding and robotics with LEGO Spike Prime. This interactive resource allows students to build and program their own robots and explore the world of STEM in a fun and engaging way.

LEGO Spike Prime is a set of building bricks and a companion app that enables students to create and program their own robots. The set includes a variety of sensors, motors, and other components, as well as a hub that connects to their laptop and allows them to control their robots. The app provides a simple drag-and-drop interface for programming, making it easy for students to work collaboratively and learn how to code.

We commend the Digital Technologies Faculty educators for their innovative approach to Teaching and Learning and our Monican learners for embracing 21st Century skills.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator



Youth Leadership Conference—Melbourne Exhibition Centre



On Monday, 27 February 2023, the Senior Student Council, accompanied by Ms Cheriyan and Mrs Falcone, set off on an excursion to the Melbourne Convention Centre for the Youth Leadership Conference.

With 60 different schools in attendance, leaders of different year levels came together and learnt many new things about leadership from different successful organisations including the CEO of the Youth Leadership Academy Australia, Wil Massara. Wil told his story of his many failed attempts at being successful and how he accomplished so much beyond failure. Wil is a 20-year-old social entrepreneur dedicated to inspiring all those who cross his path to understand their true potential, regardless of their age.

The Senior Student Council was very inspired by all the guest speakers and their different perspectives about leadership. The day was enjoyable and an incredible learning experience for all future leaders in attendance who took home very exciting ideas. One idea that stood out to me was “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting the same result is pure insanity.” I learnt that leadership is not defined, but proven through actions and the way one presents itself in times of struggle. This conference is a learning curve for not just the Student Council members, but anyone who wants to learn more about leadership and apply it to their everyday lives.

Nefiz Attie – Vice College Captain - Student Council Member



SMC STUDENTS: Thinking of having a Careers Interview?

FAQ:

How do I make a booking?

From SIMON, go to “Links”, then click on “Careers”. This will take you to a “make a booking” button.

Where do I go for a Careers interview?

Upstairs in the Cooina building. Walk through room C109. The Careers Office is C111 and is in the back of C109. Where possible interviews will be held in meeting room C107, so do check this room first before entering C109.

Should I bring anything to the interview?

Yes, please bring your laptop. Why? Because you will be shown various links and other online tools.

Do I have to prepare for the interview?

No. That is not necessary. If you have no idea, that is fine. Students who have already done some research may find this very helpful too.

What happens in the interview?

We have a conversation. You will be asked questions about your interests, goals, strengths, experiences. You will be listened to, provided with some advice, given information and resources to help get you started on your career journey.

What are some common things students want help with?

Everything from having no idea about future careers to wanting advice on achieving a specific career. You are welcome to come!

Who can make an appointment?

Any student in Year 7, 8 and 9 at SMC.



Term 1 Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

[Click here to Register](#)

Join us and Elevate Education for
FREE 60-minute webinars designed to
help you overcome specific challenges
that you and your child might be
facing across the term!

In Term 1 we'll cover:

- 1. Memory
- 29th March 2023***



ANNUAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION CREATIVE ARTS PRESENTATION EVENING



On Thursday 16 March, the Annual Catholic Education Creative Arts presentation evening was held at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.

This year four Year 12 students of 2022 proudly represented the College.

Lorraine Chow and Ava Villella both received awards.

Lorraine Chow received the **Creative Arts Committee Year 12 Highly Commended Award** for 'Transience'.

Ava Villella received the **Creative Arts Committee Year 12 Award** for 'Casa' and the **Melbourne Museum Still Life Award** for 'Cucina'.

Many congratulations to Lorraine Chow and Ava Villella on their achievements. Arya Sandeep and Christina Nguyen are also commended on having their artwork selected to be part of the Creative Arts Exhibition.





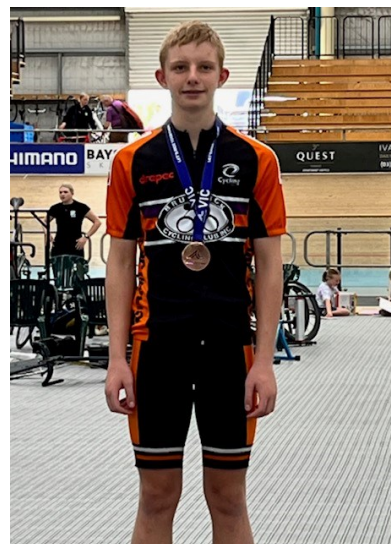
World of Sport



Sporting Monicans



Congratulations to ADP Athlete Lachlan Trentin of Year 8 who recently collected his first State medal with a Bronze in the U/15 Keirin! Great work Lachie, keep up the good work!



Congratulations to Levi Robertson of Year 7 who competed at the State Little Athletics Competition on the weekend and won a Silver medal for the 1500m race walk. He also competed in the High Jump, Hurdles and 1500m.



If you would like more information about Business Connect, please contact the Promotions and Events Office

promotions@stmonicas-epping.com

lighting leaders E P P I N G

Tony Alessi
Lighting Leaders Epping
Address: 102-120 Cooper Street, Epping 3076
Telephone: 9408 5700
Email: info@lightingleadersepping.com.au
Website: www.lightingleadersepping.com.au



Chris Belfiore
Allegria Interiors
Phone: 0400 056 598
Email: chris@allegrainteriors.com.au



Daniel Bonora
Best Choice Gardening
For all your garden maintenance including mowing, edging, hedge trimming, weeding/poisoning, single story gutter cleaning, small rubbish removal.
Phone: 0450 005 090
Email: daniel.bonora@hotmail.com



Nicholas Liparota
Jim's Mowing
Phone: 0432180498
Email: nick.liparota@jimsmowing.net

MARVELLOUS MONICAN



Joshua Licastro has been selected to represent the College at World Youth Day which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal at the beginning of August, 2023. He recently participated in the College Conversation event, at which he spoke about how grateful he is for the opportunity to attend and celebrate his faith with other young people from around the world. Joshua contributes on a regular basis to his local community as an Altar server for St Luke's Parish, Lalor and he is actively involved in the Youth Ministry program at St Monica's College.

B.E. Hanley OAM
College Principal



400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076
Telephone: 9409 8800
Email: admin@stmonicas-epping.com
www.stmonicas-epping.com