

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING

Principal's Bulletin



St Monica's College - A School of Educational Enterprise | Serving Catholic Education Today and Tomorrow

Volume No. 33 | Number 5 Monday, 3 April 2023

JESUS CHRIST, SUFFERING SERVANT

One of the most well-known and significant titles under which Jesus Christ was and is recognised throughout the ages and throughout the world is Suffering **Servant**. This title comes from the texts found in Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-6; 50:2-9; 52:13 and 53:12.

In the Book of Isaiah, the Suffering Servant is sent on a mission from God. Second, the mission involved suffering on behalf of another. Third, although the Servant will suffer and be rejected, he will, in the end, be exalted and vindicated. Finally, his suffering will bring justice, salvation and blessing to all nations.

We read many references to the Suffering Servant through scripture from writers and followers of Jesus such as Peter, Paul, Philip, Matthew, and from these writers we are familiar with their words:



'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth' (1Peter)

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb silent before his shearer; so he does not open his mouth' (Acts) 'Took our infirmities and bore our diseases' (Matthew)

And, of course, there are numerous other references.

Easter is celebrated with the greatest feast on Sunday, 9 April. It is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from death and the bringing of justice, salvation and blessing to all nations. Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant, achieves the work of His Father, God, and teaches us that God is love - we know it because Jesus came into the world as the Suffering Servant; for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 1:16). This is the fulfilment of the Suffering Servant achieved by Jesus.

ALLELUIA, THE LORD IS RISEN



Easter morning is the culmination of Holy Week which was Palm Sunday (Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph); Holy Thursday (Jesus shares the Eucharist and then is betrayed); Good Friday (Jesus scourged, crucified, died and buried); Holy Saturday (day of sombre reflection and repose). Easter Sunday is the Glorious Resurrection of Jesus, Alleluia, the Lord is Risen.

I extend to all Monicans a blessed and holy Easter and I invite all to take this time of the year not only as a time for relaxation and innocent, frivolous activities like hunting for and eating chocolate eggs, but seriously to take the opportunity to pray for peace in the world, for goodness to reign, for justice to be served, and for harmony amongst all peoples, regardless of nationality, religion or culture.

Our Churches will conduct religious services on each of the days in the Paschal (Easter) Triduum, families may gather to share the Good News of Easter, and school holidays begin for Monicans. Jesus is the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BRIGHT at EASTER ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

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

Enhance your happiness



Do you regularly find yourself wishing your day, week, month, or even the year away? I would imagine that a large proportion of readers will have answered, a resounding YES! Unfortunately, people in schools are notorious for doing this, more frequently than necessary and then we find ourselves asking, "Where did this week, month, term go?".

As we approach the end of Term 1, 2023, I invite you to consider the following strategies to *Let Your Light Shine Bright*, as we prepare for the Easter break and in anticipation of the term ahead.

- 1. Express gratitude for what you have and for those around you, either through contemplation or conversation
- 2. Foster optimism by taking a glass half-full approach to life
- 3. Avoid the temptation to overthink or catastrophize situations maintain perspective by considering the bigger picture
- 4. Strengthen relationships particularly those that deliver joy, energy, and positivity and nurture those that may require an element of repair, healing, or cultivation
- 5. Invest in acts of kindness do something nice for someone, either planned or spontaneously, openly, or anonymously
- 6. Engage in activities that bring you enjoyment allow yourself to be absorbed in the moment and consent yourself to have fun
- 7. Recall moments that made you laugh replay those times in your mind and allow them to bring a smile to your face again, or share the encounter with another
- 8. Commit (or recommit) to your goals whether they are school, or work related or from a social or health perspective, make these a priority
- 9. Forgive allowing yourself to let go of anger or resentment towards another, and forgiving them (or yourself), can have a tremendous healing capacity
- 10. Look after yourself caring for your body and mind, is your responsibility. Partake in physical activities that generate positive endorphins, and adopt good practices of mental self-care, such as meditating, praying, smiling, and laughing.

Whether you choose to consider the listed strategies for yourself or wish to share them with your child or other family members, remember that the greatest challenges in life are often sent our way to allow us to learn, develop and refine new skills and capacities that add to our tool kit towards an enriched and fulfilled life. Whilst we cannot (nor should not) expect to always be happy, we should consciously attempt to be present, enjoy what we do and avoid, where possible, the tendency to wish our lives away.

Have a great break and may the joy of Easter, echo amongst families and loved ones during this faith-filled period of cleansing, rebirth, and renewal.

Miss P Di Maria Executive Deputy Principal



Respectful Communication

Respectful and cooperative school-family relationships provide an effective channel of pastoral care for students. Schools and family share responsibility for developing and maintaining respectful and trusting relationships with each other.

Healthy and strong relationships are built on a foundation of respectful interactions and communication. We understand that at times, we feel overwhelmed, worried or angry about our children. The method or tone of communication that can be delivered in these emotionally heightened conversations can be detrimental to achieving the desired outcome and maintaining healthy and positive relationships.

A challenge with verbal and electronic communication in particular, is that we can be tempted to compose emails in response to an event that is upsetting and evokes emotions, and then send it to a staff member before ensuring the content and tone is respectful and appropriate.

As we continue to emerge from a prolonged period of lockdown and isolation, we would like to remind parents and guardians of the importance of respectful communication in working towards a positive outcome. We ask all staff, students, parents and guardians to continue to work in partnership, as we support and nurture the students of St Monica's College.

Ms A Xerri DRC Campus Leader Miss N Meade DSC Campus Leader

COLLEGE UNIFORM

At St Monica's College we take pride in our uniform standards. This important aspect of College life depends on the cooperation of students, the support of parents, and the vigilance of staff to ensure adherence to the uniform guidelines. How the uniform is worn is critically important. Students must wear it with pride and in accordance with College guidelines. The personal grooming and demeanour of all students, in public and on the school grounds is a shared responsibility. Our grooming expectations ensure that Monicans are well presented in the community, taking pride in themselves and the College they represent.

A reminder regarding winter uniform:

For girls:

• Regulation wool blend St Monica's skirt worn on or below the knee, in blue, grey & gold check, with grey tights (2TT's brand- light grey) - no socks permitted

OR

- Regulation wool blend St Monica's trousers, in blue, white and gold stripe, worn with plain navy or black socks.
- White, long-sleeved, peter-pan collar school shirt.
- College jumper, blazer and school shoes (plain black lace-up school shoes without silver or any colour eyelets).
- Grey College scarf, beanie and grey gloves (optional). No other items are permitted.

For boys:

- White peaked collar regulation shirt (Fairmark or Midford), long or short-sleeved, buttoned to the neck
- Regulation mid-grey school trousers with grey or black socks
- Regulation black leather belt with plain buckle
- College jumper, blazer and school shoes (plain black lace-up school shoes without silver or any colour evelets)
- No short tennis style anklet socks. All socks must be above the ankle
- College Tie
- Grey College scarf, beanie and grey gloves (optional). No other items are permitted.

Students will be reminded of regulations in addition to the uniform including deportment, personal grooming and demeanour in public and on the school grounds.

Ms A Xerri DRC Campus Leader Miss N Meade DSC Campus Leader



Easter Holiday Reminder

The Fees Office will remain open throughout the school holidays between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. (Closed on Good Friday, 7 April and Easter Monday, 10 April). Any queries can be directed to 9409 8800 or fees@stmonicas-epping.com. All payment options will remain available during this time.

2023 Term 1 Fees Payments

As we have now approached the end of Term 1, we kindly remind families of their financial obligations.

It is a requirement of the College that you make regular payments throughout the school year, due by the second week of each Term. For those families not on a school administered payment plan, instalment 1 was due by 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 before the end of Term 1.

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. 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.

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 and lodge together with a copy of your valid concession card.

Accepting applications

Parents (including guardians) no longer need to submit a new application form each year in <u>most cases</u>. 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.educationvic.gov.au/csef

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



Read the SMC Careers Newsletter!

All SMC students should read the SMC Careers Newsletter each fortnight! There is a wealth of information in it to help students start to gain valuable career insights. The newsletter will tell you how the world of work is changing, where the jobs of the future will be, provide news from universities, highlight a few attractive careers, advertise part time jobs available in the local area, and much more! The <u>SMC Careers Newsletter</u> can also be accessed through Simon/Links/Careers/Important Information.

Which Jobs will be in high demand?

Are you wondering where the jobs in the near future will be? Government website, <u>Labour Market Insights</u>, says that Healthcare and Social Assistance will be the fastest growing industry over the next three years. The next two fastest growing areas will be Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, followed by Education and Training. The three fastest growing specific occupations (in percentage terms) in order over the next three and a half years will be Database Systems Administrators and ICT Security Specialists, followed by Management and Organisational Analysts, and finally, Aged and Disability Carers. Open the link above for full details.

SMC Students Attend Careers Expo

Almost 50 Year 10 SMC students attended a Career Expo held at The Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre recently. Universities, TAFES, Apprenticeship Groups, the Australian Defence Force, Local Government and many others serviced stalls to distribute information and chat to students from the Northern Suburbs about potential careers. SMC students participated enthusiastically with providers, gaining valuable new insights and perspectives.



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.

Year 10 Exodus Service



On Monday, 20 March our Year 10 Community Services students spent the day learning about and immersing themselves in the world of intergenerational poverty and service. We began our day by learning about Victoria's 6th poorest community in West Heidelberg, and met some of the locals who were kind enough to share their stories

to help our students form a greater understanding of what is means to live through disadvantage.

We finished our day by fixing up the homes and yards of some of the

residents, jobs in which we may take for granted but would make a world of difference to those unable to do so themselves.



A big thank you to Damian and Anastasia for their support and helping hands.

The Debaters Association of Victoria Schools — Debating Competition

The second round of The Debaters Association of Victoria schools debating competition was conducted at Loyola College on Monday, 20 March. The results were:

Topic: That we should regret the rise of AI

SMC 1 affirmative 228 lost to Eltham College 1 negative 229

Topic: *That political donations should be banned*

SMC 1 affirmative 223 lost to Eltham College 1 negative 224

C Grade

Topic: That students should have to complete compulsory volunteering hours every year

SMC 1 affirmative 226 defeated Parade College 1 negative 224

(Best speaker Yenuli Peiris)

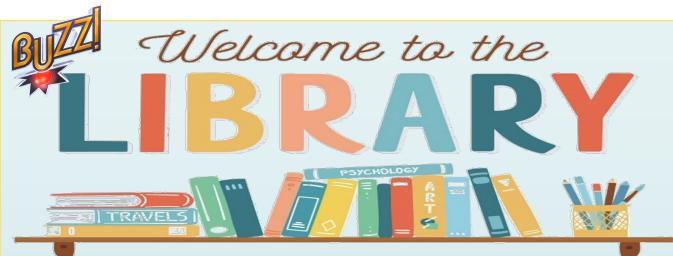
D Grade

Topic: That we should ban uranium mining in Australia

SMC 1 affirmative 227 defeated Parade College 2 222 (Best speaker Anna-Maria Constantin)

SMC 1 affirmative 223 lost to Plenty Valley CC 1 224

Next round of debating is scheduled for Monday 29 May.



What's the buzz in SJQL?



Although known more as a serious study library, the Sister Julian Quaine Library (SJQL) has been extremely busy of late with activities and displays.

Regular gatherings occur for book lovers with the Beyond the Book Club, giving students the opportunity to discuss what they do (or do not!) like about the books they have been reading. They now also participate in Journaling, where they can decorate and write in journals, a popular activity for Mental Health benefits in teens (and adults alike!)

This year has seen the introduction of a Student Reading Challenge, along with the regular Staff Reading Challenge, be developed. Students are invited to list the books they are reading, write reviews and as with the Staff Reading Challenge, prizes are up for grabs!

Terrific displays have lifted the visuals of the library, some of these being Library Lover's Day, International Women's Day, Clean Up Australia Day/Earth Hour, the regular Archives Display, the beautiful "Read,

Grow, Inspire" display for the Children's Book Council of Australia, and of course, the school theme "Let Your Light Shine Bright".

New books are often on display for our students to peruse, along with Wide Reading Themes, Study Guides and other Curriculum based book displays.







The Australian Grand Prix Supersonic STEM Challenge

In 2023, a combined team of Year 10 and 11 students from the Senior Campus collaborated to compete in the BAE Systems Australia Supersonic Challenge that is held annually on the eve of The Australian Grand Prix. This challenge requires the students to use Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines to design a jet fighter capable of travelling greater than Mach 1.0 and less than Mach 5.0 (1482–6174 km/hr).

The Challenge aims to encourage young minds to think like engineers and scientists by engaging them in STEM skills, inspiring innovation, self-confidence, communication, and teamwork. During the design challenge, the students investigated aerodynamics, aircraft material, thrust vectoring (manoeuvring), engine types and computing technology that will be implemented in their proposed design (figure 1).

To gain a thorough understanding of what impacts aircraft at high altitudes the team of students undertook a STEM scientific inquiry where they designed, developed, experimented, collected data, and made modifications to parts of the plane. The collected data was analysed the team was able to gather valuable information on factors that impacted flights at high speeds. Finally, the students were able to

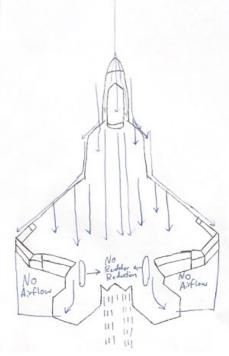


Figure 1 Proposed Design

transfer their knowledge of Formula 1 such as the aerodynamic principles and proposed the use of carbon fibre to build their supersonic jet, in addition, to drag rudders to create adverse yaw (a twist on the vertical axis) while flying. Finally, the team proposes the use of artificial intelligence and advanced computing and sensing to make decisions and assist the pilot when the jet travels more than the speed of sound. The work of the Senior SMC students and the facilitation of STEM educators Chris Macnaughtan and Josh McQuade is acknowledged.

Mr S Bagh Senior Teacher Futures Technology and STEM







ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

STEM Centre Opening

Year 7 DigiSTEM and Year 9 STEM Elective Students enjoyed their first classes in the newly opened STEM Centre. Year 7 DigiSTEM students, designed, built and programmed their Robotics solutions in purpose-built facilities. The Year 9 STEM students developed solutions to real world problems in the Science Inquiry Lab. Equipped with resources such as a laser cutter, 3D printers, and a podcast studio the use of emerging technologies is intended to enhance the classroom experience and meet the needs of 21st-century students and help them achieve their full potential.

Mr S Kalantzis





Whittlesea Tech School Student Ambassadors Program

Whittlesea Tech School held its first Student Ambassador Day for the year recently.

There were a total of thirty students from the City of Whittlesea and three of our Monican STEM Co-curricular students attended. The day started with some fun activities for the students to get to know each other. They created a Student Code of Conduct and worked on projects of their interest in groups. It was great to see the students working together and embodying the STEM Skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration as a Student Ambassador. They will be supported in developing their interactive projects which will be displayed at the Tech School exhibition space. These projects enable them to develop their leadership capabilities.

Mr S Kalantzis Senior STEM Educator









Make a difference in your community.

School Crossing Supervisor positions now available. Enjoy the benefits of permanent part-time work!

There are so many great reasons to join the City of Whittlesea team as a Crossing Supervisor:

- Starting hourly rate of \$31.96 (work 40 weeks but be paid for 52 weeks a year)
- Work 15 hours per fortnight during school terms (Annualised salary paid 12.6hrs per fortnight)
- Paid public holidays that fall during school terms
- 10.5% superannuation (updated from 1/7/2022)
- Pro-rata sick leave
- Receive on-the-job training and uniform is provided

- Reduced price memberships available at Mill Park Leisure and Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre
- Join the City of Whittlesea's active social club and attend organised events
- Health & Wellbeing Programs available

TO APPLY visit the City of Whittlesea website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings

For further information please contact the School Crossing Team on 9217 2508 or email school.crossing@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



If you would like more information about Business Connect, please contact the Promotions and Events Office promotions@stmonicas-epping.com



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MARVELLOUS MONICANS

Ethan Ajeesh and Gurmaan Singh from Year 8 have been awarded first place for the Asia Pacific Global Innovators Challenge for their App design; Food Support.

'Food Support' was designed for the Whittlesea community, connecting food insecure individuals with food banks, as well as promoting donations of food to food banks and directly to food insecure peoples. The App incorporated many innovative and practical components, and Ethan and Gurmaan excelled at justifying the purpose of their App and the benefits of making this assistance localised.

On Friday, 17 March, Ethan and Gurmaan presented their App design, to a panel of international innovation experts and were awarded first place. Ethan and Gurmaan have now qualified for the International Grand Finals of the 'Global Innovators Challenge', competing against the best App ideas from Northern America, Asia, India, and South America regions.

These Marvellous Monicans are recognised and commended for their ability, willingness, and passion, to combine Social Justice and Digital Technologies to creative an innovative solution to a prevalent problem in our local community.





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