

**THE ARTS – SONG, DANCE & DRAMA IN PRAISE OF GOD**

In three editions of the *Principal's Bulletin* we are discovering and reflecting upon the Arts about how our voice, our movement and our theatrical performances can give great praise, glory and worship to our Creator God. These are truly the effective and creative means through which we can 'Let our Light Shine Bright' whilst enjoying ourselves as we honor God.

This edition we concentrate on dance. This is a talent, skill and gift many Monicans possess in great abundance. Thank God for that. I sometimes imagine the Resurrection scene when the angels moved the stone from the front of the tomb and the Risen Lord, Jesus, emerged. What fabulous and joyous dancing those angels would have performed – arms swinging, legs literally

elevated off the earth, heads swinging and swirling in absolute joy. A joyous dance to behold.

There is a well-known religious song composed by Sydney Carter entitled *Lord of the Dance*. Its catchy melody will be familiar to so many. It begins:

'I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
I danced in the Moon and the Stars and the Sun.
I came down from Heaven and I danced on the Earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.
Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.....'

When we dance liturgically, we are as Jesus was at the time of Creation – alive, vibrant and glorious. Interesting that the Lord nominates dance as the action that brought Him to earth. We walk and we run, we climb and we hop, skip and jump, but dancing is different. It is using one's body to convey a message, the dancer's limbs drawing us in, the flow either exciting or quietening us, style, grace and purposeful message always.

There are beautiful dancers in this world and even the Bible makes mention of dancers in various settings, providing entertainment to guests. Forms of dance lend themselves to a rich variety of worship from the gracefulness of ballet, gentle stepping forward, the embrace between dancers, rhythm, fluidity and that incredible paradox of stillness amidst action.

At SMC we invite our senior Dance students to introduce the annual St Monica's Day Mass and they undertake this ministry and privilege so elegantly and beautifully. They draw the community into the celebration of the Eucharist. Dancing glorifies God as the second element of The Arts at our College.

'Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance said He!
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!'

**Brian E. Hanley OAM**B.A., Dip. Ed. Grad. Dip. Ed. Admin., M.Ed., MACE, FACEL
College Principal

Partnerships

When parents decide to send their children to Catholic Schools, they do so with the understanding that they enter a partnership with the school to co-educate their child. Catholic School communities are made up of all staff (teaching and non-teaching), students, parents, who together, aim to uphold Catholic values, principles of social and natural justice, reciprocal respect and collaboration, transparency whilst respecting privacy, high-quality education and instruction, accessibility, and equity.

Successful working partnerships promote open and honest communication. They accept that challenges exist at times that may warrant respectful phone conversations between individuals, written correspondence, or a face-to-face meeting. Successful partnerships in Catholic Schools acknowledge the expertise of others and aim to provide accessible and informative details as required. Courteous partnerships consider the mutual commitments of others when arranging interactions and accommodate the time, date, and venue accordingly when possible.

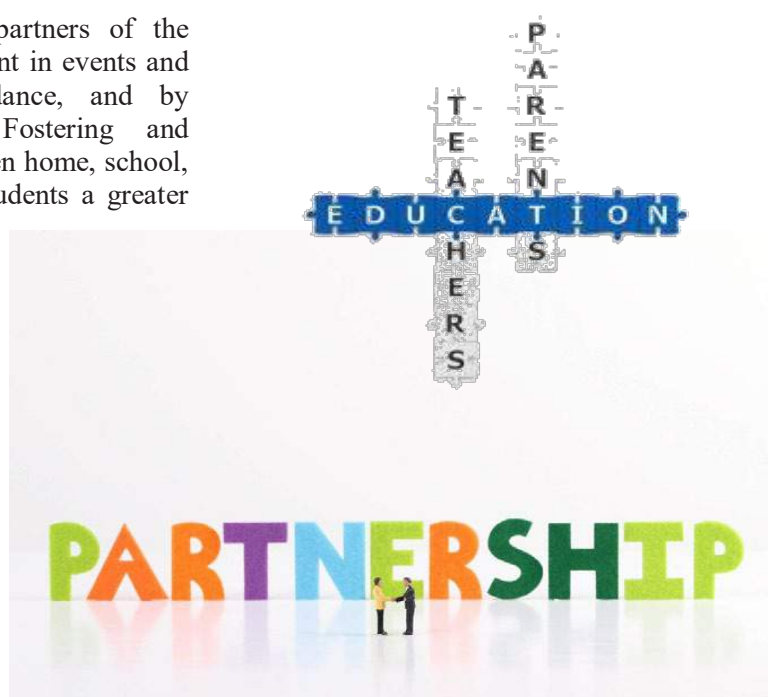
St Monica's College, Epping is very proud of and is committed to, its strong and positive partnership with parents that has continued to evolve and enhance over almost 6 decades, because at the core of every decision taken, every plan devised and consideration made, is one child. When the partnership between parents and the school community is aligned, our young people reap the greatest benefits and have opportunity to flourish because they are well supported, secure and safe to learn.

In recent weeks, St Monica's College has worked in partnership with local members of the Victoria Police, to educate, inform and safeguard our students. Senior Constable Wendy Shields presented the facts on cyber security, safety, and responsibility, to our Year 7 and 9 cohorts early this term, not to alarm our students but to assist us in protecting them by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions. It is always an absolute privilege to have Wendy work with SMC students and staff, and her service to the local community and our College is highly regarded and appreciated.

In coming weeks, presentations to alternative cohorts will be held about the threats of vaping and engaging in risk-taking behaviours that have the potential for long or short-term health implications. Our partnership with the Victoria Police Protective Service Officers (PSOs), has also extended to a joint visible presence at local transport hubs as required, to assist in deterring the gathering of uncooperative members of the community, at school dismissal times. Our ongoing partnership with Victoria Police and other external authorities and organisations, are effective examples for our students and their parents, to witness and find comfort in.

Parents are called to be collaborative partners of the College by encouraging student involvement in events and activities, by supporting strong attendance, and by modelling cooperation with others. Fostering and continuously nurturing relationships between home, school, and members of our community, gives students a greater chance of success.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal



Digital Technologies and the 2023 Classroom

Digital technology drives the modern economy, enriching education, connection and communication. In the three decades since IBM launched its brick-sized smartphone in 1992 and mobile phones attained wider wireless internet access in 2000, the pace of change, and the power of its effects, have been enormous. But there are pitfalls in a tech-savvy world in which smartphones and digital devices can be used to bully, harass or intrude, to access or distribute harmful material, or to continually distract from productive work or education.

The phenomenon of smartphone addiction – so-called “nomophobia” is real and can be particularly insidious for young people in their formative years. Today, almost 87% of the Australian population owns a smartphone - 82% of teenagers but also 33% of children aged 6 to 12. Smartphones are everywhere, and whether walking down the street, at home on the couch, at cafes, or in classrooms, eyes are continually fixed on the scrolling screens.

From 2022 in Victorian public schools, a new ministerial policy was brought in to ban mobile phones from classrooms. The edict required that devices brought to schools be switched off and stored in student lockers.

At St Monica's College we expect that students follow staff direction regarding mobile phones and headphones, and we only allow the use of these devices during teacher-led learning activities. We do this to ensure that the learning that occurs in our classrooms is free from the distraction of mobile phones, and to encourage and promote connection between our students. We see the impact of this decision in our students, without these devices, students are engaged with their learning, they are active contributors in the classroom, and they are forming genuine connections with their peers.

Mobile phones will continue to be a central part of modern lives, including for secondary school students. The encyclopaedic information available, the social connectivity, and convenience have changed lives across the planet for the better. However, these advantages also carry a significant downside if misused, interrupting rather than enhancing education, damaging relationships instead of building them, channelling abuse instead of assistance, exposing people to harmful images and spreading misinformation.

Habitual smartphone reliance can be addictive. For adults, it's all about self-regulation. For students, it requires not just self-control but the disciplined application of straightforward school policy. At St Monica's College, we know that our students appreciate our efforts to support their learning, and a desire to provide every student the opportunity to flourish.

Ms A Xerri
DRC Campus Leader

Miss N Meade
DSC Campus Leader

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2

May		June	
18	Principal's Ribbon for Cookery	6 – 8	Year 8 to 9 Examinations
19	Dance Showcase	8	Year 7, 2024 Interviews
30	Year 7, 2024 Interviews	9	Report Writing Day (Student Free Day)
30 May – 8 June	Year 10 to 11 Examinations	12	King's Birthday (Public Holiday)
		13	Start of Unit 2 and 4 Year 7 – 10 Changeover of Electives
		13 – 17	Production Week
		15	GAT
		22	Principal's Dinner
		23	Term 2 Concludes

As part of the College's 2022-2025 Reconciliation Action Plan, the College has committed to raising funds for the Open the Doors foundation. The foundation supports First Nations children access educational opportunities by providing financial support for basic school supplies such as textbooks, uniforms and stationery. Members of our College community can learn more about the foundation's work and make a donation by accessing this link <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice





2023 Tuition Fees and Payment Options

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.

Should you decide not to sign up for a school administered payment plan, please keep in mind that payments are due and payable in four equal instalments by the second week of each term. If you have not yet made your second instalment towards your tuition fees, we kindly ask that you tend to this as this is now considered overdue.

- Instalment 1 – 17 February 2023
- **Instalment 2 – 5 May 2023**
- Instalment 3 – 21 July 2023
- Instalment 4 – 13 October 2023.

A requirement of enrolling your child at St Monica's College is that payments are made on a regular basis from the commencement of the school year. Tuition Fee Account Statements were emailed to all families on Monday, 8 May 2023.

Extra-curricular activities 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.

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.

Camps, Sports and 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. 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.

Careers CORNER

DRC

Interviews

Many DRC students are currently using the opportunity that is available to make 1:1 career interviews, to discuss their future. It has been impressive to witness the enthusiasm and interest in careers that many of our students already have. This early interest in self-reflection and in learning about the opportunities in the world of work is highly advantageous for students and may help them with motivation and engagement in their studies. Quite a few of our students on DRC already have ideas of what they may like to do in the future and seek clarification or refinements on their goals. Numerous students also attend, seeking some help in getting their career exploration started. Another large category of students sought some advice about subjects, with yet another group interested in part time work while still at school. Bookings for Career Interviews can be made through Simon/Links/Careers/Make a booking.

DSC

The Year 10 Cohort recently attended Latrobe University, Bundoora campus on an SMC excursion. The excursion was supported by many SMC staff who gave up precious time in their busy schedules to help provide our students with a first-hand experience of a university environment. It is hoped that this visit has helped our students to feel reassured, encouraged, motivated and optimistic about the prospect of attending university.

Welcome Session



Fossils in Archaeology



Archaeology



Moot Court

Anatomy





Italian Cooking Workshop



TIRAMISU

On Thursday 11 May some members of staff learnt how to make 'Tiramisu'. They were fortunate to be guided by the 2022 Principal's Ribbon for Cookery winners Bianca Scuteri and Laura Yildirim. Our two Year 11 students shared their talent and passion for Italian cuisine.

Finally, our desserts were easy to make, thanks to our teachers (the students) but also delicious. I am sure there would not have been many leftovers in the morning.





Welcome Back **SMC - TAKADA** **Homestay Program**



Homestay programs can be a wonderful way to immerse oneself in a new culture, learn a new language, and make lifelong connections with host families and other participants.

St Monica's College remains committed to providing beneficial and memorable experiences to all Monicans. We want to ensure that Monicans are reminded that the world is larger than Epping. Together, we provide our students the opportunity to contribute to both the local and global community.

As an avid supporter of homestay programs the College is excited to resume the SMC Takada Homestay Program. The program which was established in 1994 was unfortunately impacted by the recent pandemic. However, through commitment and perseverance, the program is returning in 2024. The College will ensure the program continues to be a highlight of a Monican education.

It should be noted that our homestay programs are not possible without the generosity of families. If you are interested in hosting a Japanese student, please contact the College by emailing the International Perspectives Assistant (e.sinopoli@stmonicas-epping.com).

An information session will be hosted to all interested families on Monday 19 June.

As all our homestay programs, we anticipate much interest to host and travel. Host families will be offered first preference to travel to Japan.

An Experience of a lifetime

Solar Vehicle Challenge

STEM Solar Vehicle co-curricular activity students are participating in the Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge (VMSVC). This prestigious competition involves students from across Victoria, where they will design and construct their own solar-powered vehicles, be it a car or a boat. The challenge is a great opportunity for our students to learn valuable skills in design, engineering, problem solving, sustainability, and teamwork.

The challenge will cover a comprehensive range of STEM content, including numeracy, design, applied mathematics, measurement and geometry, number and algebra, electric circuits, forces and energy, motion, and much more. Our students will have the chance to showcase their engineering skills and be exposed to various scientific concepts and practical applications that will broaden their horizons. Solar Vehicle meetings are facilitated by Mr Chris Macnaughton, Mr Sid Bagh and Mr Spiro Kalantzis.

To inspire and offer expert advice to our students, St Monica's College Alumna, Paris Mascetti, visited them recently. Paris competed in the Victorian Solar Vehicle Challenge and placed first, then went on to win the Australian Solar Vehicle Challenge when she was in Year 11. Her passion for these fields has led her to study in this area.

The best designs from the challenge will go on to compete in the Australian International Model Solar Challenge (AIMSC), making this a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn, grow and demonstrate their creativity and innovation.

We encourage all our students to participate in this exciting challenge.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator



Primary School Principals Visit to St Monica's



Recently, St Monica's College was visited by five Primary School Principals who were given a tour of the school's new Science and STEM Building by our Principal, Mr Brian Hanley.

They were shown the Science super lab, the STEM rooms, and emerging technology rooms, among other things. It was a great opportunity for our current students to showcase our school's state-of-the-art facilities and for the Primary School Principals to see the amazing work happening at St Monica's.

Some students had the pleasure of recognising their own Primary School Principal and share the exciting developments happening at our school.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator



*Performing
Arts*



SMC

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PERSEVERE

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Book by Chris D'Arienzo, Arrangements and Orchestrations by Ethan Popp
By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc., A Concord Theatricals Company



St Monica's College, Epping

Enrol Now for Year 7, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers,

If you have a child presently in Grade 6 and have not yet enrolled into St Monica's College for **Year 7, 2024** please do so immediately as **places are limited.**

Applications for **Grade 5 students starting Year 7 in 2025** are now open and will close on **Friday 18 August, 2023.**

Application for enrolment is available on the St Monica's College Website www.stmonicas-epping.com/apply. Click on the apply button to complete your online form and submit with documentation required.

If you would like to attend a school tour, please visit our website to make a booking.

For enquiries, please contact the College Registrar, Mrs Lina Sirianni on 9409 8800 or email registrar@stmonicas-epping.com.





World



Cristian De Felice:




Will Kengni



of Sport



 **SACCCSS Senior Boys & Girls AFL**

SENIOR GIRLS:

Rd 1 SMC vs St Francis
10.15.75 - 0.0.0

Rd 2 SMC vs CRC Sydenham
7.9.53 - 13.9

SENIOR BOYS:

Rd 1 SMC vs Marymede
11.11.77 - 5.9.39

Rd 2 SMC vs CRC Sydenham
29.16.190 - 2.2.14





Andrew
GILES_{MP}

SCULLIN



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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ARE YOU STILL NEEDING TO
ENROL YOUR PREP CHILD FOR
2024 ?



The Lord Is My Light

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Catholic
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Lalor West**

Known for academic
excellence, inspiring
children to love
learning and be the
best they can be in
partnership with a
faith filled
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If you would like more information about Business Connect, please contact the Promotions and Events Office



Talia Pulls, Nicole Stella & Makayla Rao
(Director/Speech Pathologist)
Northern Kids Therapy Service
Phone: 0400 758 132
Email: info@northernkidstherapy.com.au
Website: www.northernkidstherapy.com.au



Amy Ross
Psychologist MAPS
Telephone: 1300 454 737
Email: Amy@brainy.services
Website: www.brainy.services



Sarah Connor
(Maternity, Newborn, Children and Family Photographer)
It's All You Photography
Phone: 0430 835 244
Email: itsallyouphotography@outlook.com
Website: www.itsallyou.com.au



Nick Critelli
Managing Director/Producer
Mode Video Productions
Phone: 0417 359 567
Email: nick@modevideo.com.au
Website: www.modevideo.com.au

MARVELLOUS MONICAN



Yash Balyan has been selected in the 12 and Under Victorian Cricket Team. He is one of only 13 boys in the team. Yash has been playing cricket since he was 5 years old and considers himself to be an all-rounder although he enjoys being a batsman on game day. On the weekends, Yash plays for the Darebin Chargers and trains 6 times per week. Yash is keen to play on the new Multi-Sports Pitch with the new cricket nets and start training with the SMC Team. As a part of the Victorian team, Yash is heading to Darwin for the National Championship in June.

B.E. Hanley OAM
College Principal



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