

# ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING Principal's Bulletin



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

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#### **MURRAY RIVER MUSINGS**



Some Monican families may have been fortunate enough to take a break from Melbourne and the city and enjoy some travel or make a visit elsewhere for a while during the recent holidays. This is always a worthwhile thing to do: a change of scenery can often bring about a much appreciated change of mood or looking at life.

My wife Enza and I visited the Murray River towns of Swan Hill and Echuca in the second week of the holidays. Both bustling towns are located on the river which runs through both, thus separating the States of Victoria and New South Wales. Australia is blest to have the Murray River flowing through so much of its countryside.

To stay with the Murray River at first, here is a little information about this waterway. It is Australia's longest river of 2508 kilometres with a basin size of 1,061,469 kilometres. This Murray - Darling basin incorporates from both left and right many other rivers from both States.

The Murray flows through numerous Aussie towns including Albury, Mildura, Renmark, Murray Bridge and Yarrawonga. It is home to many varieties of fish including the famous Murray Cod and also golden perch, carp and silver perch. It provides irrigation to many communities despite carrying only a small fraction of water compared to other similarly sized rivers in other parts of the world.

It does both flood and become dry according to the seasons and weather conditions. It provides recreational facilities for millions of Australians such as speed boat racing, fishing, rowing, rides on paddle steamers and water skiing. It supports this nation's second largest wine-producing region along with products including cattle, sheep, grains and fruit. The Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Scheme generates large quantities of electrical power.

The Murray has considerable cultural relevance for First Nations people, for example according to the people of Lake Alexandrina, the river was created by the tracks of the Great Ancestor, Ngurunderi as he pursued Pondi, the Murray Cod fish.



Let us thank God that our country, Australia, has been created and endowed with wonderful natural features such as the Murray River. We have vast plains, high, lengthy mountain ranges, both oceans and streams, from a sunburnt country to snowfields.

Conservation is key and Monicans are urged to be worthy and vigilant custodians of our natural resources. Dangers lurk in all forms from pollution, salinity, floods followed by droughts often due to careless land management and irresponsible practices.

The world is bigger than Epping. We know that as a Monican truism. At the same time, it is good to make visits to our various States, regions and coastal areas, to learn just how beautiful this land is, and how blest this lucky country actually is by our creator God.

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

# The primary purpose of assessment is learning. Time to Reset.

During the latter weeks of Term 2, Monican students were heavily involved in the completion of Semester 1 assessments. Much of this was summative in nature and commonly adopted the form of end of topic practical, oral, aural, or written tests, examinations, and in the case of our senior students, competency-based tasks, and/ or SACs (School Assessed Coursework) to conclude Unit 3.

Assessments have multi facet advantages for learning because they do so much more than test our ability to recall information. When preparing for assessments, we need to draw upon and develop numerous skills such as those associated with forward planning, organisation, revision, and recall of acquired knowledge. It is also important at this stage to consider, what are the areas requiring additional understanding, and how to ensure that support is sought and accessed prior to completing the scheduled task.

Further to this, it is important that the planning stage, includes having the correct mindset when preparing for assessments and when completing them. Having a positive mindset about what you can achieve rather than a negative one that focuses on inadequacies or deficits, can significantly impact the outcome.

Being open to having a positive outlook requires effort. For adolescents who are still learning to regulate their emotions, it is especially important for the adults in their lives – College staff and parents – to assist them to build positive ways of thinking and operating. Much research suggests that positive emotions can lead to greater creativity, wellbeing, and improved problem-solving capabilities. When we feel optimistic, we are more inclined to explore our world, enjoy doing so, and value new experiences. Optimism and interest generate curiosity, and both are essential drivers for learning.

Encouraging learners to focus on their strengths and avoid comparing themselves to others is also very important. Ensuring that wins are celebrated, no matter how small they may seem, and that effort is acknowledged, supported, and commended, provides learners with the encouragement to persevere. When failures are experienced, it is equally necessary to note and learn from the feedback provided. Mistakes are an opportunity to learn more, and to seek clarification or alternative agency for understanding. No point, doing the same thing the same way if the outcome is not desirable. Achieving a positive mindset comes from making lots of small changes rather than one main modification. Establishing new habits also takes time and effort, and often, the best time to set these are when we want to effect positive change.

Adolescents who have mentor-like relationships with trusted adults, are increasingly more likely to complete tasks they start, remain calm in the face of challenges and display interest in learning new things. Encouraging our young people to connect with their teachers, Year Level Leaders, College Counsellors, and many other invested individuals at school, can help them identify and access the ignition switch contributing to their own positive mental health and wellbeing. Being in a productive and healthy environment can assist young people to feel more positive about themselves and provides the tools they need to be clear and future-focused thinkers. Regular sleep patterns, exercise and school routines all contribute to building a balanced environment for adolescents who require structure and stability, as they navigate the changing complexities of the world around them.

When young people find their igniting spark, they are learning through something that is relevant and purposeful to them. Finding joy, experiencing small successes, and nurturing future hopes in one or more areas of their lives, all contribute positively to building self-esteem, and encourages greater passion and value for learning.

So why is this important and particularly whilst preparing for, and in the aftermath of assessments? Because it provides the ideal opportunity to reset.

I wish everyone a productive Term 3 and successful Semester 2.

Miss P Di Maria Executive Deputy Principal





#### School Culture

Our students at St Monica's College will continue to be provided many fantastic opportunities throughout 2023 for learning, developing relationships and co-curricular. We encourage families to support our school community and ensure their children are guided and encouraged to make the most of these opportunities through active and positive participation. As a College, we welcome parents and guardians to engage in conversations with their children about the importance of feeling connected to our school community. Attendance at whole College events such as College Assembly and Mass are key to sustaining this connection. So too is respecting and appreciating College grounds, buildings and furniture. This will strengthen the learning and active participation culture, enhancing student outcomes.

A strong school culture is supported by active and positive parent involvement. Parent attendance at school events such as Parent Teacher Conferences and Principal's Awards, communicates an important message to students regarding the value of the partnership between family and the College. In turn, you will be better informed about our programs, student progress and have the opportunity to meet staff members.

Working with our students, we seek to develop the skills necessary for engaged, safe and respectful behaviour. At St Monica's College, we seek to foster this culture by -

- Treating one another with dignity
- Speaking and behaving courteously
- Cooperating with others
- Developing positive and respectful relationships and being mindful of the effect our actions have on others
- Valuing the interests, ability and culture of others
- Wearing our uniform with pride, ensuring adherence to College uniform and grooming guidelines
- Valuing our classroom and College property.

Promoting the learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students at St Monica's College is a high priority for members of our community and we look forward to working in partnership with families to ensure this.

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



#### Delivery of items, Messages and Unplanned Departure of Students

Parents and Guardians are reminded that timely delivery of messages and/or personal items is not always possible due to constant student movement in a Secondary Multi Campus School.

Whilst every reasonable attempt will be made to deliver important messages/items, parents are advised that we cannot guarantee timely delivery.

It is expected that parents requesting their child leave school early are required to provide a note for the student to present to their teacher or enter this information on PAM prior to 9.00am as a Parent Notified Absence. Students <u>MUST</u> report to Campus Reception to sign out before exiting the College.

Parents/Guardians arriving unexpectedly requesting to collect students for urgent appointments, may face a delay of up to 50 minutes. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to the appointment.

Parents/Guardians are also kindly reminded that students involved in offsite activities (excursions, sport, etc.), are expected to return to the College for dismissal. Parents/Guardians are encouraged not to present to venues, requesting early dismissal for their child from supervising staff.

As part of the College's 2022-2025 Reconciliation Acton 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 <a href="https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/">https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/</a>



#### OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice





#### Welcome to Term 3

A warm welcome to Term 3. We would like to start by thanking our families for their continued support in meeting their financial obligations over the past two terms. At St Monica's College, we pride ourselves in being a leader of Catholic Education in the northern suburbs. We aim to be more than a school, but to be an Educational Enterprise, and this starts with our valued families and our loving community.

We have a short but very exciting Term ahead of ourselves, between the St Monica's Week festivities, Languages Week, and the Year 12 formal, we are expecting many incredible memories that our students will cherish.

Re-Enrolment is also around the corner for you to confirm your child/children's place at St Monica's College in 2024. More information will be provided in time.

We are looking forward to seeing how we can assist you in meeting your fee commitments in Term 3.

#### **July Statements**

Tuition Fee Account Statements were emailed to all families on Monday, 17 July 2023.

This is a friendly reminder that if you are not on a school administered payment plan, your third quarterly instalment is due 21 July 2023.

If you have not received a copy of your tuition statement, here are some tips to correct the issue:

- Check your spam/junk folder: Often legitimate emails end up getting incorrectly marked as spam. Check these folders and ensure you mark emails from St Monica's College as "not junk" or whitelist the email address to prevent from happening again.
- Check your email storage: If your inbox is reaching capacity, it can prevent you from receiving new emails. Be sure to review your inbox often and delete unnecessary emails. You may also wish to consider increasing your storage limit.
- Review any email filters in place: Check to see if you have any filters in place that may be incorrectly diverting or deleting emails.
- Verify your email address: Contact the Fees Office to see which email address we are sending your statements to. Our system is limited and generally only sends your monthly statement to the primary debtor on the account, we can update/override this email address as requested.

Additional Charges invoices/statements were emailed to relevant families on Monday, 3 July 2023. Extracurricular activities do not appear on your Tuition Account Statement, these charges are billed via a separate Tax Invoice as and when they fall due, whereby different terms and conditions apply.

#### Tips to Stay on top of your School Fees

Staying on top of Tuition fees is essential to ensure a smooth academic journey, it can however feel daunting at times.

Please find some tips & tricks to making this journey as seamless as possible:

- Sign up for a school administered payment plan: Your payment plan will be opted into for future years until your child graduates and fees are finalised. You have the choice to sign up for a quarterly, monthly, fortnightly, or weekly plan. You are able to opt out of a payment plan at any time.
- Make note of Deadlines: Tuition Fees payments are due and payable in four equal instalments by the second week of each term. Should you opt to pay more frequent instalments, this is welcome. Note, if you have not paid a second instalment on your tuition fees account, this is now considered overdue.
- Keep up to date: Most correspondence is sent via email so please ensure that you check your email regularly for communication as well as the latest Principal's Bulletins

Most importantly the Fees office is here to assist you in any way we can, please do not hesitate to reach out to talk to one of our knowledgeable staff.



## THIS MONTH IN

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2023

10 July

13 July

14 July

14 July

14 July

17 July

17 July

18 July

20 July

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21 July

21 July

24 July

24 July

25 July

25 July

27 July

27 July

28 July

28 July

31 July

31 July

31 July

Staff Spirituality Day

DRC Be More Meeting

DSC Be More Meeting

DSC Youth Ministry Meeting

Class of 2018 Reunion

Student Council Meeting

**DRC Youth Ministry Meeting** 

Mission Team Meeting

DRC Be More Meeting

DSC Student Archives Committee Meeting

DSC Be More Meeting

DSC Youth Ministry Meeting

Junior Council Meeting

**DRC Youth Ministry Meeting** 

Liturgy Planning Meeting

Alumni Committee Meeting

DRC Be More Meeting

**DRC Archives Committee Meeting** 

DSC Be More Meeting

DSC Youth Ministry Meeting

Senior Student Council Meeting

**DRC Youth Ministry Meeting** 

First Nations Awareness Committee Meeting

# Acknowledging Country Reconciliation in Action at St Monica's College

St Monica's College recently released their *Reconciliation Action Plan* (RAP) and this can be found here: <u>Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 - 2025.pdf</u>.

Part of the journey of reconciliation here at St Monica's and across Australia is acknowledging that First Nations people have cared for the land and waterways for over 65,000 years and remain the traditional custodians today. St Monica's commits to the ongoing journey of reconciliation with First Nations people, and each of our formal events here at the College begin with an *Acknowledgement of Country*.

From the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council* (NATSICC):

An 'Acknowledgment of Country' is a way that all people can show awareness and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the traditional owners have with their land. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can perform an 'Acknowledgement of Country'. It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the land (or sea) where the event, meeting, school function or conference takes place. It can be formal or informal.

#### Welcome to Country:

A 'Welcome to Country' is a small ceremony where traditional custodians, usually Elders, welcome people to their land. This is a significant recognition and is made through a formal process, although it's up to the Elder how they decide to carry out the ceremony. It also depends on the location of the event and the practice of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community which can vary greatly according to region.

#### **More information:**

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

https://nce.catholic.org.au/acknowledgement-of-country/about/acknowledgement-of-country

ACBC and the Uluru Statement from the Heart

https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishops-endorse-uluru-statement-from-the-heart/

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) https://www.natsicc.org.au/acknowledgement-and-welcome-to-country.html

Reconciliation Australia:

https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/acknowledgement-of-country-and-welcome-to-country/

Australian Government:

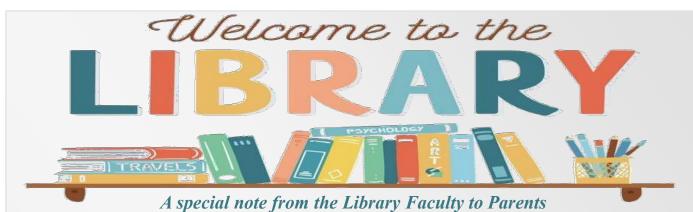
https://www.indigenous.gov.au/contact-us/welcome\_acknowledgement-country

Walking Together - Good Samaritan Sisters, *The Good Oil*: <a href="https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/walking-together/">https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/walking-together/</a>

Ms Dyball

Coordinator of Liturgy, Faith and Mission





Parents, have you received an email informing you of your child's Overdue Library Book? This has been part of the Overdues Procedures for several years now, and it is our way of informing you via email several weeks prior to the book's replacement cost being charged to your School Fees account. Please do not disregard these emails.

All we ask is you assist your child to locate the outstanding item and return it as soon as possible. Following up from your end is of great assistance to our Library records and avoiding charging you the replacement cost is our aim.

To those of you who have assisted in the past, we say thank you, and to those who may find themselves assisting in the future, we thank you in anticipation!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to those students who have shown commitment and dedication to their responsibilities as a Library Monitor in Semester 1.

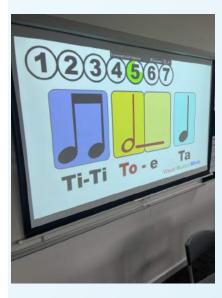
A number of students have now completed their training and are keen to get behind the desk to assist Library Staff each day.

Here we see Miley, Philippa and Annie learning the procedures of the Loans desk at PCL.



Students, if you would like to commence training to be a Library Monitor in the Pamela Coyne Library, please see Mrs Pattison to organise. This usually occurs on Tuesdays at lunchtime in the Research Room and can continue into Term 3 and 4.

#### MONICANS IN RHYTHM



As a new staff member at St Monica's College, it comes with great pleasure to congratulate our Year 8 Classroom Music students for successfully beginning Classroom Music in Semester 2 As a new Classroom Music and Language teacher who joined the college at the beginning of the year, I have been so impressed with the enormous musical talents of our students who are all, in their own way, positively shining their light through their musical talents and performances.

As an ongoing Music teacher at the College, I am very excited to walk along our Monicans in helping them foster an appreciation for music and a belief that each and every one of them is able to develop musicianship skills and experience a sense of musical success through practice and perseverance.

In the last two weeks of Term 2, with the changeover of Semester 2 subjects, Year 8 students worked diligently in developing their musical journey by learning how to read music notation in the classroom and collaboratively performed their rhythms to the whole class. The performance of their composition was showcased in class using various instruments and the result was amazing. Congratulations Year 8 on a great beginning to Semester 2 Music

and St Monica's College looks forward to seeing you all develop your musical talents by letting the light of music shine bright. I am looking forward to sharing the musical journey and successes of our young talented Monicans in future editions of the Principal's Bulletin.

Mr R Talarico Music/Italian Teacher









#### St John XXIII Primary School, Grade 5 Students' Virtual Reality Adventure at St Monica's College



Grade 5 students from St John XXIII Primary School went on a virtual reality adventure during their recent visit to St. Monica's College. The STEM Building experience was filled with fascinating destinations and important lessons.

As part of the virtual reality experience, the students remained seated throughout the adventure, while exploring different virtual locations and everyone had an opportunity to use the VR headsets.

During the journey, the students were transported to various captivating places. They explored Mars, the moon, rainforests in Thailand and Madagascar, the

breathtaking Alps, vibrant Sydney, and even bustling Hong Kong. Interesting facts and features were highlighted in each location, making the experience both educational and engaging.

An essential theme discussed during the adventure was environmental conservation. The Virtual tour emphasized the significance of protecting the environment and introduced the students to the concept of renewable energy specifically harnessing solar power to maintain a green planet.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Grade 5 students for their enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour during this remarkable virtual reality trip. They displayed great curiosity and respect for the technology and knowledge shared by Mr Kalantzis and Mr De Cata. Such immersive learning opportunities enhance students' understanding of the world and promote their curiosity and love for exploration.



### French Virtual Exchange



On Thursday 17 May Mrs Christine Buhagiar hosted a Zoom meeting with students from St Benoit. Students from Australia and France shared what it means to live in our respective countries. The excitement of our 2023 homestay program was shared by all students involved.





### Happy Cocoa Market Test



Since Term 1 our junior Be More students have been working alongside STEM to develop their own sustainable and ethical blend of hot chocolate mix to hopefully be offered across the College. Our blends affectionately dubbed as 'Happy Cocoa' were tested on DRC, and resulted in the largest live data collection processes undertaken at the college to find out which blend our students preferred. It was also a completely sustainable affair with 0 waste, as students were served mugs which were washed for tasting.

The blend developed by Saheb Singh, Nathan Murer, Benedict Murer and Alex Nguyen was the most popular pick in a landslide.

We are so proud of our students who worked so hard in designing and serving their mixes, but now they have their eyes set on DSC and our

senior cohorts to establish which blend is the one worthy of our next phase of development.

An enormous thank you to Mr Bagh, Mr Topolscanyi, Mr Fleischmann and Mr Monaghan for all of your support and coordination for without it this would not be possible.

Keep your eyes peeled for Happy Cocoa coming to a campus near you!





#### Invitation to School Community



On Wednesday 16 August we are pleased to host Kathryn Gillespie who will lead our second meditation workshop for 2023. Kathryn will introduce, guide and lead staff through Christian Meditation in the John Main tradition. John Main was a Catholic Priest and Benedictine Monk, making his teachings most suitable in our school and he states,

"The important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do,

everything we are"

In Kathryn's view, it is arguably most important today, as humans have an in-built need for spirituality. The session will allow participants to question, "Why aren't we giving this to our kids?". The ability to understand, practise and share this knowledge is not only appropriate for a Benedictine school, but one that embraces our foundation.

This session will involve, a discussion that will validate Christian Mediation through prayer and scripture. This will be followed by an opportunity for staff to practise and experience its benefits.

RSVP is essential. Please notify Mrs Enza Sinopoli (e.sinopoli@stmonicas-epping.com) to register your attendance in this fantastic session.



#### Caroline Chisholm Collection

Each year our College commits to donating goods to The Caroline Chisholm Society - an organisation that aims to support vulnerable mothers living through disadvantage.

Items we appreciate being donated are as follows:

- 1. Nappies/Nappy Pants
- 2. Wipes
- 3. Lotion
- 4. Clothes (good condition if second hand)

As always we aim to find meaningful and impactful ways to contribute to our community and our college has been fortunate enough to be working along side Caroline Chisholm Society for quite some time. So, please if you can, any donation would be enormously appreciated.







If you would like more information about Business Connect, please contact

the Promotions and Events Office

promotions@stmonicas-epping.com

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.

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.



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Facebook https://www.lacebook.com/studiolipilatesepping/
instagram.https://www.instagram.com/studiolipilatese\_/

#### NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING RAIL REPLACEMENT BUS OPERATIONS -Wednesday, 26 July - Wednesday, 2 August

Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers,

We have received information from Whittlesea City Council's traffic and transport team regarding the rail replacement bus operations that will be impacting parking on Dalton Road, directly in front of Melbourne Polytechnic in Epping.

This may impact the students, parents and employees of St Monica's College, Epping.

Please see below the dates and locations that have been provided to council by Metro Trains. Parking will be temporarily changed to 'Bus Zone' from 26 July 2023 to 2 August 2023. Should you have any queries please contact Metro Trains.

Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time	Road Name	Suburb	Zone	No. of Spaces	Action	Reason
Wednesday, 26 July	04:00	Wednesday, 2 August	3:00	Dalton Road	Epping	On Street Parking	18	Parking Spaces (18) to be changed to Bus Zone	Bus Operations

Street view of impacted car spaces are below.









#### A NOTE OF THANKS

I have recently started working in Epping and wanted to express my praise over one of your students. I was ordering a coffee this morning from the train station cafe, and was having difficulties with my Apple pay.

I stepped to one side to figure out the issue, and then returned over to the cashier, I was informed that a lovely girl behind me had paid for my coffee order and had walked off without even letting me know. And I believe this may have been one of your students. I wanted to take the time to email the school incase you have regular assemblies and could maybe give this anonymous student a shout out, and some form of appreciation from me.

Most individuals will do gestures such as these so as to lap up the praise, and I am aware it's very popular to do 'random acts of kindness' whilst recording them so as to make it go viral - and again reap in the praise. But this gorgeous student had no one watching this, and simply walked off on her own after paying for the order - and it has quite genuinely made my day.

I'd give anything to tell her how amazing a person she is, and tell her how far that act of kindness really went!

Thank you very much!

Warm regards,

Kat Archer



## **MARVELLOUS MONICAN**



We would like to award the Marvellous Monican to Alice Xue (12 Gold).

Alice is an amazingly talented Opera singer and recently competed in the Water Cube Cup where she was chosen to represent Melbourne against other states and countries. With an outstanding effort, Alice was placed in the top 45 singers and will now compete against more international competition in the semi-final, where she will potentially be chosen for the finals in Beijing. A truly amazing achievement while balancing her Year 12 studies and we believe that Alice is very deserving of being named Marvellous Monican. A wonderful example of hard work, determination, focus and talent. Well done, Alice!

B.E. Hanley OAM College Principal



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