



SPRING INTO STEP



Most Victorians love Spring, that wonderful season of the year when the grass is greener, the flowers are full of color, the sun shines more, and baby lambs frolic in the fields. It seems to have a lyrical step about it that rejuvenates us after the coldness of winter and the darkness that descends so early in the evening.

As the trees begin to sprout new leaves and as our winter clothes are gradually replaced for lighter garments, may Monicans feel more inspired to let their light shine bright. May we cast away any gloom that we might have felt over the past three months, put aside the boredom of being stuck indoors and instead walk and stroll in the morning Springtime, look ahead to sunny, mild days

that refresh our minds and bodies just by being a better climate allowing for greater freedom of movement.

Spring leads into a brighter life on many levels. In Melbourne, we enjoy the AFL Grand Finals, the Melbourne and Caulfield Cups, music festivals, outdoor theatre in the gardens, longer evenings to enjoy and more mild mornings for that 6.30 am walk or exercise on the bike.

Springtime positivity certainly makes it more easy to focus on the good things in life like growth and more chance to meet and greet. A sunlit day cancels out in terms of enjoyment a cold, dark and rainy day every time. A physical spring in our step is a joyful action: a warm breeze negates the harshness of the cold wind that blows us away.

At St Monica's College, the months of Spring are filled with interesting times for every student and staff member. By now, subjects for 2024 have been selected, positions of leadership applied for, applications for enrolment accepted, preparations for Year 12 Graduation well and truly commenced, and Year 7 camps have been experienced and enjoyed. In Spring we pray and persevere at times, we continue to leave no child behind, and always we reach out to others and welcome them into our Monican community.

It certainly is more possible psychologically to let one's light shine bright when the skies are clear, the daylight is extended, the breezes are more tepid, and the anticipation is growing as we advance daily towards Summertime. It is logical that a more settled natural feeling due to the weather and conditions allows for our true identity and self to shine bright. Who really wants to be gloomy and glum when the days are warm and the nights are mild?

Monicans, I hope that throughout September, October and November 2023 you will let your light shine bright and, in the true spirit of Spring, may you bloom where you are planted!

Brian E. Hanley OAM

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



Checking In

The benefits of checking in with people you care about, are firstly to ensure that they are doing ok and secondly, to identify if there is any way that you can contribute to making their day, or your own, brighter by willingly offering your service toward enhancing their wellbeing.

The traditional meaning of “checking in”, was normally associated with handing over your baggage at an airport or transport terminal, prior to a flight or journey, and hoping and even praying, that it would be there waiting for you on the other side of your destination.

Today, the phrase more commonly refers to reaching out to someone you know or choose to encounter, and informing yourself of how they are travelling on their journey through life. In a sense, you are offering your services to walk alongside and extend your support to carry their baggage and lighten their load. When we do this, we seek to establish a positive and safe environment through honest, kind, and continuous communication.

Why is this important? The points below, are just a snapshot of what can be achieved, when we check in with someone we care for, work with, go to school with or even, someone who may just benefit from sharing their story.

Checking in boosts engagement and connection. Even the loudest, happiest person may experience loneliness at times. Reaching out to someone and enquiring about their day or family, or something that you may know specifically about them, can boost a person’s sense of belonging. When someone feels as though they belong, they tend to be more present and engaged in what they are doing. Feeling part of a team, does wonders for mental health, which subsequently, can make someone feel more capable of performing their daily tasks. Increasing someone’s engagement through kind and considerate communication, can also lead to improved productivity.

Checking in increases efficiency. Making sure your loved ones, colleagues, or classmates, have everything they need to successfully complete a task, especially if you know they are experiencing some challenges, can make a world of difference for them. Of course, supporting someone does not necessarily mean doing something for them, but can mean, doing something with or alongside them particularly during times of need. This can also be in the form of providing feedback that is constructive and timely, and that may also have the added benefit of developing their skills.

Checking in can prevent miscommunication. Regular check-ins can assist with the provision of direction and clarity to keep people we know or care about, on task and can keep plans going. Ensuring someone is clear about what is required of them and assisting to create a to-do list or action plan, can reduce that sense of feeling overwhelmed with a vast or weighty burden. This can also have the benefit of clearing misunderstandings before they become less manageable.

However you choose to check in with those around you, always ensure that you too are open to welcoming or accepting check ins from those who care for You!

Whether we are the ones offering or attracting the support from others that check in, the load of baggage we all carry, tends to lighten, and our day tends to brighten.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal



Student early departure from the College

Parents and guardians are reminded that timely delivery of messages and/or personal items is not always possible due to constant student movement across both campuses.

If a student needs to leave school early, it is expected that the following process is followed by parents/guardians/students:

- Students MUST present to Campus Reception if they enter the College after 9.00am or leave the College prior to 3.25pm
- Parents can enter an early leave pass on PAM (Parent Access Module) for the time the student is required to leave and the reason. This option is open daily until 9am and can be entered up to 5 days in advance.

In the event this cannot happen,

- Parents must send a signed note with the student, advising what time they need to leave and the reason for the early departure. This note needs to be signed by Year Level Leader during Homeroom. When leaving school this note must be presented to Campus Reception and the student must sign out using the Kiosk.
- In the event there is an unplanned early departure, parents must call the College to advise student's name and time they are required to leave.

We remind parents and guardians that Campus Reception cannot page a student during class time and that it can take up to 50 minutes to collect a student.

Parents and guardians who arrive unexpectedly, requesting to collect their child for an urgent appointment, may face a delay. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to the appointment.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and guardians that students involved in offsite activities (excursions, sport, etc.) are expected to return to the College for dismissal.

Ms A Xerri
DRC Campus Leader

Miss N Meade
DSC Campus Leader

Primary School Reunion

We are trying to contact as many of our former classmates from the year level Grade 1 1968 - 1973 Grade 6 that attended St Gabriel's Primary School, Reservoir. We will be holding another reunion later this year. This is the link to our Facebook group <https://m.facebook.com/groups/663159725025349/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvF> or email rosettalaveglia@gmail.com

Kind regards

Rosa Laveglia



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





2024 Re-Enrolment

We would like to thank all families who have completed the re-enrolment process.

If you have not completed or paid your Re-Enrolment deposit or submitted your Re-Enrolment Family Information Form yet, we ask that you notify the school of your intentions immediately.

To pay your Re-Enrolment deposit use the following steps:

1. Choose the Events tab
2. Select “Attending” to Re-Enrol for each student
3. Follow the payment prompts
4. Complete the process again for any remaining students
5. After re-enrolment deposit has been made on the Community Portal, follow the hyperlink to take you to the Re-Enrolment Agreement Form: https://stmonicascollege.formstack.com/forms/re_enrolment_agreement

Re-Enrolment 2023 is open until Thursday, 31 August 2023.

This process secures your child’s place at St Monica’s College for 2024.

Finalising Term 3 Tuition Fees

As we are approaching the end of Term 3, we kindly remind families of their fee obligations.

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. Please keep in mind that payments are due and payable in four equal instalments by the second week of each term if you are not on a school administered payment plan:

If you have not made an instalment on your Tuition account in Term 3, we ask that you please make a quarterly payment.

Extra-curricular activities will not appear on your Fees Account Statement. Additional charges may apply as and when they fall due. These will be charged on a separate Tax Invoice with different Terms and Conditions.

To those families who are up to date with their fee obligations, we thank you for your continued support.

Should you need assistance bringing your account up to date, please feel free to contact the Fees Office on 9409-8800 or contact us via fees@stmonicas-epping.com.

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 automatic payments can be completed online using the following link: <https://www.stmonicas-epping.com/payment-plan/>

Careers CORNER

DRC

Careers Newsletter and STEM Corner

The SMC Careers Site has a wealth of great information to help you. The Careers Newsletter which comes out every two weeks includes advertisements for part time work in Epping. It also includes a regular section about STEM careers called Stem Corner. You will find the Careers Newsletter this way. Simon/Links/Careers/Important Information/Careers Newsletter. Or just click here: [SMC Careers Newsletter](#). Better still subscribe to the newsletter to have it sent to your email.

JOBS, APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

JOB - NOW HIRING!

Membership Officer - Crunch Fitness, Epping

Swimming Instructor - State Swim, Craigieburn

Customer Service Assistant - Target, Various Locations

Christmas Casual Sales Assistant - Peter Alexander, Preston

Christmas Casual Sales Assistant - Under Armour, Uni Hill

STEM

STEM Corner

Want a career in STEM but not sure what to study? Careers With STEM could help.

ROBOT WHISPERERS WANTED

The age of AI is here, and engineers are going to play a crucial role in navigating us through it. Check out these five careers that integrate robotics and AI in engineering.

DSC

YEAR 12's HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A GAP YEAR?

Year 12's, have you considered a gap year when you finish VCE? Students who choose to take a gap year typically work, travel or volunteer. They may also do a combination of these. Work options include being an au pair (Nanny), agricultural work, summer camps or snowfields work. Another good option is undertaking a gap year in the Australian Defence Force working in its Logistics section. The [Army Logistics \(ADF\) Gap Year](#) role allows VCE graduates to experience life in the Army, without needing to make a long-term commitment. The skills obtained through this program will provide you with valuable work and life experience, which are transferable to civilian employment opportunities. In this role you will be involved with making sure soldiers receive the supplies that they need. Taking a gap year could really be great year to freshen up before further study, but there are pros and cons to evaluate. There is guidance about taking gap years in the [SMC Careers Site](#). Login and then go to: Career Journeys/Post School Options and Planning/Gap Year Options.



Interested in Health Careers?

ACU is running online guest speaker sessions with graduates from its courses in various health degrees including speech therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, social work, dietetics and paramedicine. If you have a health-orientated degree or occupation in mind, click the link to find out more and to register: [Talk with Industry Series](#). This is a great way to explore careers. You can ask questions too.

Faith and Service Breakfast



Staff and students gathered on Friday, 4 August for the inaugural Faith and Service Breakfast. Our focus is always to enable every Monican to use their gifts to serve others, whether it be in the classroom, the school yard, in the workplace, family, parish or our wider community. We acknowledge that it is in this way, we can be a positive influence for those around us.

We welcomed faith leaders from our local area including our Chaplains, Fr Anh Nguyen PP, Fr Anthony Girolami PP, Christine Paterson the President of the Catholic Women's League Epping Parish, and leaders of the Plenty Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church, City Life Church and Enjoy Church North. We gathered together in fellowship, representing varied groups and organisations. We were united by our dedication to faith and service in the local area.

The Faith and Service Breakfast was a wonderful celebration, emphasising how we are united by our shared Christian values and are driven by our commitment to the service of others. Determined to build and maintain a harmonious and cooperative environment for those to whom we minister, work and serve, we hope that our inaugural breakfast will foster and spread the



light of our faith for many years to come.

It was great to meet our local faith leaders and better understand what they do. It allowed me to speak to Father Anh, as he was the Priest at my Primary School. The wisdom and insight I got from conversation with him and others was invaluable and will help on my journey to be a servant leader in the community. Thank you for this amazing opportunity. Alex Pullanthyackal Year 7.

The Faith and Service Breakfast was an event full of light and enthusiasm in the atmosphere! We were provided with excellent hospitality, food and drink from staff and students. It was a great experience to be able to mingle with fellow classmates and teachers, as well as being provided with the opportunity to network with members of the wider Christian community. I was able to engage in meaningful dialogue with many of the guests, where we discussed topics career pathways, personal faith and belief, and life experiences. In turn, I gained a marvellous insight on how religion can positively shape the services and actions in daily life. Bianca Diaz – Pavon Year 12

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the Faith and Community Breakfast event, being able to meet our fellow leaders and being able to spend time with them. I felt like this event helped me grow individually as a servant leader and see other ways which leaders in faith serve the community. I really do hope we get to have a special event like this again. Lucas Mircevski Year

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The Faith and Service Breakfast was an informative event which allowed different points of view and our local practices to be explored. Speaking to various of church leaders allowed me to be aware of how different experiences can be, and how faith impacts individuals differently depending on your perspective. This breakfast was enjoyable as well as enlightening. Caitlin Dines Year

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Welcome to the LIBRARY



Book Week in the Library

Monday, 14 to Friday, 18 August was Book Week in the Pamela Coyne Library and over the course of the week we celebrated the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book Week Theme of READ, INSPIRE, GROW.

Once again Staff Dress-ups entertained the students, along with a Where's Wally (aka Ms Carbone) Competition, a Staff Book Chat, a visit by author Nina Kenwood (It Sounded Better in my Head and Unnecessary Drama) and our annual book giveaways to our very excited students.



All in all, it was another very successful and enjoyable Book Week at PCL.

Fostering STEM Skills: St Monica's College's Enterprising SMC Outreach Program

St Monica's College is igniting STEM passion through its innovative STEM Outreach program. The initiative aims to encourage Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills in feeder primary schools, beginning with St Peter's Primary School Epping. Grade five and six students from St Peter's engaged in the program, displaying remarkable twenty-first-century skills as they worked on inventive STEM projects.



Guiding these students was Ms E Italiano, a skilled STEM expert specializing in Textiles Product and Design. With her mentorship, a group of primary students tackled homelessness by designing portable shelters. This endeavour not only imparted technical knowledge but also life skills like collaboration and communication. The STEM Outreach program bridges the gap between knowledge and real-world application. It equips students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities while shed light on the potential of feeder primary schools.

Finally, St Monica's College's STEM Outreach program, exemplified by St Peter's Primary School, Epping, is providing a pathway to our young learners into a future where STEM skills shine, shaping a brighter and more innovative world.

Mr S Bagh
Senior STEM Educator



St Peter's Primary School, and St Monica's College, "Putting the M in STEM"

St Peter's Primary School, Epping recently hosted their "Putting the M in STEM" Showcase, displaying the seamless integration of Mathematics and STEM activities. The event featured activities such as coding and drone flying.

St Monica's College staff, Mr De Cata and Mr Kalantzis, were pleased to offer St. Peter's Primary School students and their parents an opportunity to build their own Balloon Powered Car. This hands-on project enabled students to test their cars' performance and record units of measurement such as their car's time and distance travelled on a scoreboard.

Students, staff, and the community participated, discovering the explicit connection between Mathematics and STEM processes, emphasising the practical application of Mathematics in real-world scenarios, which was well-received by attendees.

We extend our gratitude to St. Peter's Primary School for organising the event and inviting St. Monica's College, to present an engaging balloon car activity. Overall, the event was a success, sparking curiosity and promoting innovation among students and parents alike.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator





Music Notes

SMC Singers Eisteddfod

On Monday, 14 August the SMC singers participated in the Monash Youth Music Festival Eisteddfod.

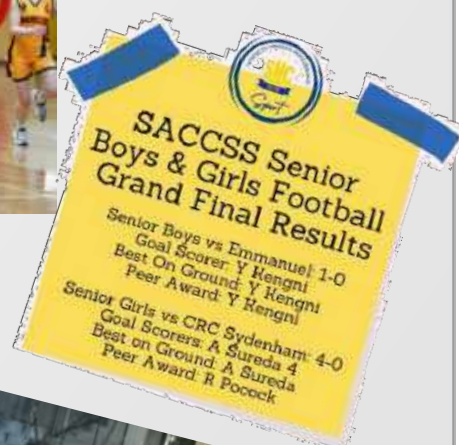
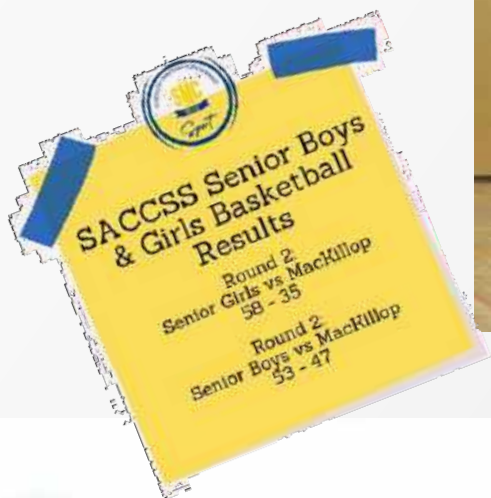
The choir competed in the secondary school choir division, performing 2 songs, *The Wanderer* by Dan Walker and *Waving Through a Window* by Pasek and Paul.

The choir sang exceptionally, obtaining a total score of 91/100 and being awarded an honourable mention. Adjudicator Mark Puddy complimented the choir on their blend of sound and ability to change between genres and styles effectively. Congratulations to the SMC singers and their Director, Jane Murone.





World of Sport



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 MONICAN

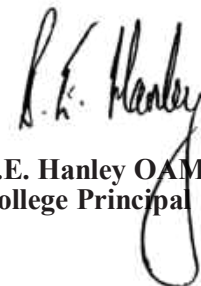


Chesna Fernando (8 Blue) is a valued member of the Monican community. She is a role model to her Year 8 peers, effortlessly combining schooling achievements with a contagious sense of positivity.

Chesna showcases a commitment to her academic studies, displaying a strong work ethic that allows her to excel in all of her subjects. Her dedication to learning is evident through her exceptional results that she has maintained throughout her time at St. Monica's College. She was a recipient of the 2022 Sister Therese Quinn Award for Academic Excellence.

Chesna is a Class Captain and also participates in the Netball team, Writer's Club, Youth Ministry and Youth Parliament. She participates in College events such as the Italian Poetry Competition, National Reconciliation Week and the Principal's Art Prize, where she was awarded the Highly Commended award for Year 8. She regularly attends ASH and is often helping others when she is there. Chesna's bright, happy personality shines through as she is always seen with a smile on her face.

Her genuine kindness and willingness to help others contribute significantly to the overall positivity of the school community.



B.E. Hanley OAM
 College Principal