



## LET US BE SENS(E)IBLE



In another Principal's Bulletin three-part series, this time I concentrate on our five natural senses: Taste, Touch, Smell, Speech, and Hearing. Each has equal importance in the makeup of individuals, and each makes us unique human creatures, created by God.

Taste comes from our tongue as we consume or lick or drink. There are many sensations of taste such as sweet as raspberries, sour as lemons, hot, spicy, peppery, acidic and a range of other sensations.

Taste is a great sense for it makes consuming food or experiencing the refreshment of drinking a delight physically. How horrid it would be if we were never to appreciate the sweet, juicy bite into a mandarin or savour the delight of a MacDonalds Big Mac? I am sure that taste is made up of many components which a scientist could explain. How wonderful that God thought about our pleasure and did not leave food as bland or drink as dry as bones.

Those matters which we taste are either grown in the ground where they are blest by the sun and watered by the rain or manufactured in the factory through the mixture of a range of ingredients, some natural whilst others are artificial. We call them man made. Some delicacies come free as in picking an apple off its branch whilst others are expensive and considered luxuries – the red lobster from the sea or the French champagne for those who like it at a celebratory toast..

Whatever and wherever, taste is a great gift. The substances we devour or drink give life sustaining energy whilst being delectable.

When we touch we feel. We know that some items are soft – a baby's skin, silk, smooth cotton fabrics yet others are rough and scratchy like an oak tree's trunk, sandpaper, hard rock surfaces. Through touch we obtain some understanding of another gift from God – physical feeling. Generally it is through our hands, but we can rub an item on our face, kick a stone down a hill, react to the heat of a burning coal, give ourselves a blister from an ice block.

From the gift of touch we gain great comfort such as being held in the loving arms of another, from the gentle snuggling up of an infant, depending on the rough rope as we pull it or tie it. Even in the darkest corner we can reach out and touch the wall and search for the door handle. Touch can guide the way forward.

Touch can heal as in hands, sting as in grasping a prickle. Touch can be a human action of love or a sharp slap in the face. Touch might be the caress of an animal that we need in times of loneliness.

So many images surround both taste and touch, and both are senses gifted to us by our loving Creator. We touch the Eucharist as we accept it from the minister at Mass and we taste the goodness of God as we consume it. We praise the One who provides such spiritual food.

**Brian E. Hanley OAM**

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



The Six Senses Of Taste

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### *Punctuality*

*Punctuality – the act of arriving or doing something on time.*

Have you ever wondered why some people are always on time, fully prepared and effortlessly make it seem that they are ready to take on the day or the task ahead? Are you that type of person or are you someone who regularly struggles to beat the clock, rushing in at the last minute or later?

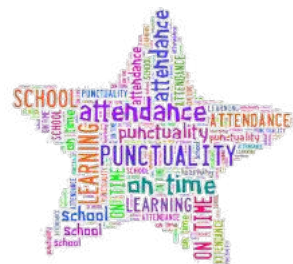
Punctuality, the act of arriving or doing something on time, is one of the most important traits that can assist you to gain success in any aspect of life. This is particularly important for students who are learning the skills to operate and successfully function in their future workplaces. Being punctual not only demonstrates commitment and professionalism, but it also reflects your respect for others. Punctuality can boost efficiency and can positively impact expected outcomes.

Good time management is an in-demand skill, both as a student or as an employee. You should always aim to be punctual because:

1. It shows you are organised – regularly showing up late emphasises “disorganisation”. Being organised is a precursor to punctuality, making it easier to complete tasks, every time.
2. It demonstrates dependability – committing to punctuality assists you in building your reputation as a reliable person. It also allows you to build the reputation of the school or organisation you represent.
3. It characterizes attention to detail – having everything you need to be able to successfully contribute to a lesson, meeting, or task, demonstrates your preparedness and your willingness to be considered in your actions.
4. It demonstrates respect for others – ensuring you are punctual and prepared, allows you to avoid interrupting something already in progress, or slowing down procedures because of your tardiness.
5. It reduces stress – arriving late is a known stressor and can make people feel isolated, ill-prepared, inefficient, and anxious. Being punctual gives you time to adjust to the surroundings, and steady yourself.

Aim to be on time every time! There are many ways to learn how to be punctual, all of which centre on learning how to better manage and respect time. Try the tools, strategies, and resources listed, to ensure you are known for your punctuality, not your lateness.

- Use a diary – digital (phone or email) or hardcopy version
- Download apps
- Set clocks and timers
- Always allow for extra time
- Avoid pre-departure distractions



While being punctual is an expectation at school and in the workplace, the reality is you will experience times when matters beyond your control, prevent you from being on time. When this happens, ensure to notify ahead that you are running late on this occasion and apologize for your lateness upon arrival. Do not allow this to be a regular occurrence and commit to being punctual next time.

All students are expected to be on campus no later than 8.50am for homeroom attendance. Senior students with scheduled later starts according to their timetable, must always aim to be on campus, no less than 10 minutes prior.

Miss P Di Maria  
Executive Deputy Principal



## 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 rules. How the uniform is worn is critically important. Students must wear it with pride and in accordance with the rules. 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.

Please note the reminders below regarding Summer Uniform:

### GIRLS' UNIFORM (Summer)

- College Summer Dress (to be worn below the knee).
- Plain white socks. No short tennis style ankle socks. All socks must be above the ankle.
- Blue scoop-necked jumper, embroidered with College emblem.
- Pure wool, lined blazer with College emblem on pocket.
- Plain black lace-up school shoes without silver or any colour eyelets. No black sneakers, including Nike Air Force.

### BOYS' UNIFORM (Summer)

- White long or short-sleeved, buttoned to the neck.
- Regulation mid-grey school trousers with grey or black socks or plain grey shorts with grey socks. (NB. Black socks may not be worn with shorts)
- Regulation black leather belt with plain buckle.
- College Tie
- Blue scoop-necked jumper, embroidered with College emblem.
- Pure wool, lined blazer with College emblem on pocket.
- Plain black lace-up school shoes without silver or any colour eyelets. No black sneakers, including Nike Air Force.
- No short tennis style ankle socks. All socks must be above the ankle.

A reminder that correct uniform and grooming is an expectation of all students. Any student choosing not to meet College expectations places themselves at risk of being removed from classes. We strongly encourage students to make appropriate choices about how they choose to present to school.

Ms A Xerri  
DRC Campus Leader

Miss N Meade  
DSC Campus Leader

*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*





## **Welcome to Term 4**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Term 4. Last Term, we completed the 2024 Re-Enrolment process, and we are so honoured to have your students join us for another prosperous year ahead. With the stress of examinations and the anticipation of graduation for our Year 12 students right around the corner, we anticipate this term to be as fruitful as the rest of 2023 has been thus far.

We would like to thank our Monican families for their continued support in meeting their financial obligations over the past three 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.

Should you require any assistance in meeting your fee commitments in Term 4, our Fees Office is always happy to assist you.

## **October Statements**

Tuition Fee Account Statements were emailed to all families on Tuesday, 3 October 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, 2 October 2023. Extra-curricular 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.

## **Term 4 Instalments**

Please keep in mind if you are not on a school administered payment plan and you have not already made your final instalment, this is due on 13 October 2023. As payments are due and payable in four equal instalments by the second week of each term:

Instalment 1 – 17 February 2023

Instalment 2 – 5 May 2023

Instalment 3 – 21 July 2023

**Instalment 4 – 13 October 2023.**

If this applies to you, we ask that you tend to this prior to the due date.

Our standardised payment plans have the following upcoming direct debit dates in October:

4 Weekly Payments	2 Fortnightly Payments	1 Monthly Payment	No Quarterly Payments
6 October 13 October 20 October 27 October	13 October 27 October	13 October	

We ask you to kindly diarise the applicable dates. Please ensure funds are in your account one day prior to the above scheduled dates.

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

### ***BOOK YOUR CAREERS INTERVIEW***

Any Year 7, 8 or 9 student at SMC is welcome to make a free appointment to discuss all things career-related with a qualified careers practitioner. A one- to- one interview with a career practitioner typically costs more than \$300, so take advantage of this opportunity.

Follow these links to make a booking: [Simon/links/careers/book](#) an appointment. Alternatively, simply click [here](#) to go to the Careers site.

Students can discuss subjects, career goals, job applications, study skills and many other things that relate to your career. You can have a specific question or issue you wish to discuss, or you may have more of a general sense of wanting some general guidance.

We recommend that you bring your laptop with you to the interview. You will receive a report about the interview, usually on the same day.

We look forward to helping you with your career!



## DSC

### ***TIPS FOR YEAR 12'S WHO ARE UNSURE ABOUT WHICH UNIVERSITY AND WHICH COURSE TO STUDY***

- ✓ Choose a degree that allows some flexibility in selecting a sequence of units that is right for you.
- ✓ Make sure the program offers opportunities for practical work experience (sometimes called Industry Based Learning)
- ✓ Do not base your decision solely on what your friends are doing
- ✓ LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!!! Make sure travel time from your residence to the campus is within what you are willing and able to do on a day to- day basis (Latrobe University and RMIT are very popular with SMC students for this reason)
- ✓ Do not just pick courses based on ATAR alone.
- ✓ The Good Universities Guide has reviews of each university based on student feedback.



### **YEAR 12's, ARE YOU AWARE OF THESE IMPORTANT VTAC DATES?**

Late Applications (\$140 fee)	Friday, 3 November (5 PM)
VTAC Personal Statement	Friday, 1 December 2023
ATARs Released	Monday, 11 December 2023 (7 AM)
Change of Preference (CoP) closes	Wednesday, 13 December 2023 (4 PM)
December Round Offers	Thursday, 21 December 2023 (2 PM)
January Round Domestic Offers	Friday, 12 January 2024 (2 PM)
February Offer Rounds	Tuesday, 6 February 2024 onwards

See the. [VTAC](#) website for more information.

# THIS MONTH IN *Mission*

2023	
2 October	Junior Council Meeting
2 October	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
5 - 6 October	Be More Meetings
6 October	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
9 October	Senior Council Meeting
9 October	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
9 October	Community Service Oxacare Program
10 October	Mission Team Meeting
11 October	College Assembly
12 October	Year 12 Parade, Breakfast and Graduation
12 - 13 October	Be More Meetings
13 October	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
13 October	Class of 1988 and 1989 Reunion
16 October	Junior Council Meeting
16 October	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
16 October	Community Service Oxacare Program
18 October	Mary MacKillop Way Walk
19 - 20 October	Be More Meetings
20 October	DSC Student Archives Committee Meeting
20 October	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
23 October	Community Service Oxacare Program
23 October	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
26 October	DRC and DSC Student Archives Committee Meeting
26 - 27 October	Be More Meetings
27 October	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
30 October	Junior Council Meeting
30 October	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
30 October	Community Service Oxacare Program
31 October	Online Prayer





# *Music Notes*

## *Sounds Of Spring*



The Sounds of Spring music concert was held on Tuesday, 12 September in the Theatre of All Nations. The evening showcased the achievements of our 16 music ensembles during the year. The performances were greatly enjoyed by the large audience in attendance and student musicians found the experience to be extremely valuable as they work towards other performances opportunities and rewarding to celebrate their accomplishments in 2023. During the concert we farewelled our large cohort of Year 12 music students whose commitment and dedication to the music program during their time at the College has been outstanding.

Congratulations to all students who performed at the concert and many thanks are extended to College Music staff for their support of the students.







# FRANCE

INFORMATION SESSION

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

7 - 8 PM

DSC STUDENT FORUM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS 6:15-6:45PM

DEPARTURE

LATE-SEPTEMBER (APPROX. 17 DAYS)

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE EPPING IS  
EXCITED TO OFFER HOMESTAY  
OPPORTUNITIES AGAIN IN 2024.

THESE ARE MEMORABLE  
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR OUR  
MONICANS.

## IT'S TIME TO TRAVEL

### 2024 SMC HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Places are strictly limited.

RSVP is essential, contact Mr Joseph Registro  
([j.registro@stmonicas-epping.com](mailto:j.registro@stmonicas-epping.com)) no later than  
Tuesday 10 October.



The background of the poster features a scenic view of Mount Fuji, partially covered in snow, under a blue sky with wispy clouds. In the foreground, a traditional Japanese pagoda with multiple tiers and dark green roofs is visible. The pagoda has red accents and a long, dark, beaded tassel hanging from its top. The overall image has a slightly artistic, hand-drawn feel.

# JAPAN

INFORMATION SESSION

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER  
5 - 6 PM

DSC STUDENT FORUM  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS 6:15-6:45PM

DEPARTURE  
MID-SEPTEMBER (APPROX. 15 DAYS)

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE EPPING IS  
EXCITED TO OFFER HOMESTAY  
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## Sculpture Club - Eel Lantern

St Monica's College Sculpture Club students from Years 7 to 9 worked collectively to create and build this large-scaled eel, inspired by the volcano creation story of the indigenous eel Budj Bim. Constructed from a frame of willow reeds, and covered in an assortment of transparent papers including tracing paper and layered tissue paper secured with PVA glue, the eel is almost 3.5 meters long and has been finished with a light wash of coloured inks. Strings of fairy lights are secured inside the form to create a subdued illuminated glow.

This work was created for the *Walking Thomastown* night festival in May this year, and was due to be installed in the reeds along Edgars Creek on the walking route of the festival. Sculpture Club was fortunate to have Mahony from the City of Whittlesea visit us during a couple of lunchtime sessions to share her lantern-making skills with students. Due to wind and rain on the night of the festival, the night walk was sadly cancelled. Our eel has found a subsequent home suspended in the Pamela Coyne Library on DRC. The natural light that enters the library from above passes through the transparent paper skin of the eel, providing an illuminated glow at certain times of the day.

Work in progress images:





## Eel Lantern

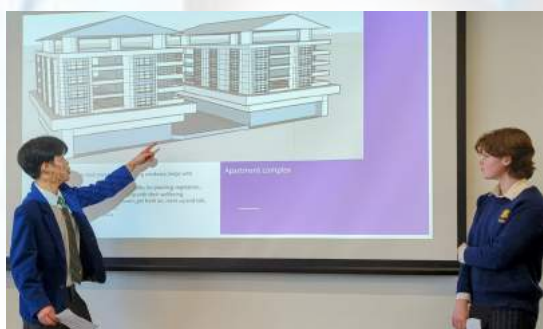
Displayed in the Pamela Coyne Library on DRC



Sculpture Club runs every Monday at lunchtime in room E14 on DRC.



## **STEM Engineering Students At Work**



During the term break, five Year 10 students participated in the Engineering Students At Work program, hosted by Engineers Australia and facilitated by Akorn Education.

Ekin Dang, Claudia Bowie, Gabrielle Malaga, Vu Tran and Yenuli Peiris, experienced a week of learning, developing soft skills including collaboration, communication and leadership. This experience emphasised the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone and highlighted the value of soft skills in professional settings. The week ended with an impressive project report and a multimedia presentation for their parents.

Students were mixed with peers from other schools and engaged with diverse perspectives to develop their decision-making and leadership skills. By applying effective resolution strategies, they enhanced their productivity, creating an environment conducive to creativity.

Following remote presentations by engineers discussing various project aspects, the students completed research projects by applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Student projects included designing a residential building with units that represent diversity and well-being, that accommodate people from different backgrounds, cultures, and abilities, and to foster a sense of community among them. They also designed a sports complex that offers various facilities for physical and mental health, designed to attract a wide range of visitors, from children to seniors, beginners to professionals and individuals to groups. As well as creating community-friendly designs students developed resilience and a deeper understanding of the value of the learned skills.

The experiences in engineering projects were multifaceted, involving technical knowledge, practical application, and interpersonal relations, highlighting the importance of adaptability and continuous learning. These insights are crucial for guiding our students effectively and aiding them in making informed decisions regarding their career paths and shaping their STEM perspectives. Special thanks to Fraser Stehn, Carla Papa and Taryn Kneebone (SMC Careers) and Adam Oldmeadow (Akorn Education).

Mr S Kalantzis  
Senior STEM Educator







ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

### ***Year 7 Light Shining Bright: Prototyping for a More Equitable and Sustainable World***

Early in Term 3, Year 7, DigiSTEM students embarked on a challenge to design and develop working prototypes on the theme of assistive technologies. Collaboratively, they created prototypes that vividly demonstrate how technologies can be developed to enable people with challenges to live fulfilling lives. Throughout the process, student groups welcomed feedback from their DigiSTEM teachers and acquired new twenty-first-century skills. Through rigorous testing and advanced programming skills, student teams enhanced their learning and prototypes. The DigiSTEM Assistive Technology STEM project recognises the continuous support of the Faculty Leader of Digital Technologies and the collaborative efforts of Digital Technology educators. The top Assistive Technology projects from each Year 7 class will be showcased at the upcoming SMC STEM Showcase in November.

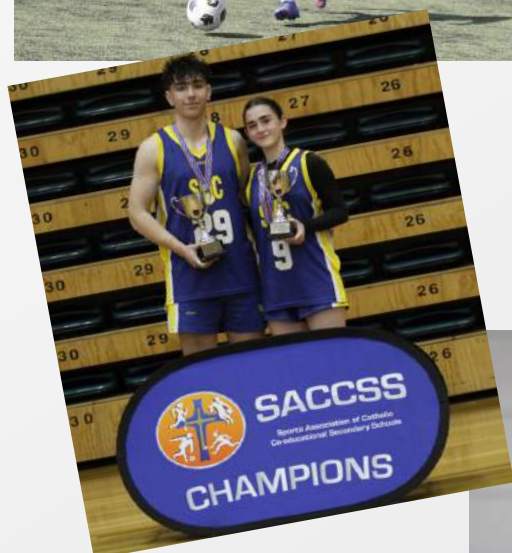
Mr S Bagh  
Senior STEM Educator







# World o









### *Judo Victoria—Great Achievements*

We are pleased to let you know of the great achievement by your student at the recent JV Competition September 2023.

- Ali Al Baghdadi - 2 medal in the Senior Boys age group

This is a great achievement and we are confident that he will continue to improve his judo skills.

Yours,

Christophe Legaud  
Judo Victoria President

Judo Victoria is the home of Olympic and Commonwealth Games judo in Victoria



### *Meeting with an International Spanish School*

On Thursday, 14 September, St Monica's College was proud to make its first connection with a school in Spain. 'Institute Francesc Ferrer Guardia' is a secondary college located in Barcelona. The meeting involved their Principal and members of staff. Mr Asquino and I were investigating whether there was an opportunity for our schools to work together to create further authentic educational experiences.

Watch this space.

Mr J Registro  
(Senior Teacher – Co-Curricular and International Perspectives)



## **MARVELLOUS MONICAN**



Dev Chopra (7 Red) has shone brightly this year as a member of the Junior Band in the Music Department at St Monica's College. Dev has represented the school, playing saxophone at the Spring Concert where he received a Commendation for being an Outstanding Ensemble Member. Dev has also received an award for being an Outstanding Ensemble Member in the Junior Band, on Music Camp. In addition, Dev has represented the school as a member in the Concert Band, at the Victorian School Music Festival and is a finalist in the St Monica's annual Piano Competition. Dev has achieved so much success in music this year and is a respectful member of Year 7.

B.E. Hanley OAM  
College Principal



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# ST MONICA'S COLLEGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN WITH ST LUKE'S PARISH LALOR AND  
THE ST MONICA'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY TO REMEMBER  
AND PRAY FOR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 2023  
7.00 P.M.

ST LUKE'S PARISH CHURCH  
1A DAVID ST, LALOR



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE END OF MASS  
PLEASE RSVP TO [A.VAVALA@STMONICAS-EPPING.COM](mailto:A.VAVALA@STMONICAS-EPPING.COM)