



S IS FOR SIGHT and SMELL

In Part 2 of Sens(e)ible, this time I concentrate on the 'S' senses of sight and smell. The importance of eyes is obvious as we appreciate so much about the best things in life through our vision. Meanwhile, smell brings us great pleasure, maybe a warning at times, but certainly some sensation as we sniff and inhale aromas.



Jesus healed the blind man, Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52) and another in the Gospel of St Luke (18::35-43) due to their faith and their seeing again remain two of the joyous stories in the gospels. Seeing allow us the chance to look out for dangers, entrapments, just as much as our eyes are open to the wonders of the world.

Through sight we discover the face of those we love. Sight is a delightful sense as we stroll along a blue and golden beach admiring the waves, through the forests marvelling at the giant oak trees, as we gaze down from the aeroplane when we approach landing in any country which is our destination. Through sight we know exactly where we are and that is assuring and comforting.

To be blind or to lose one's sight is a very sad state. No thick glass spectacles can fully provide us with the ability to read and write (without the assistance of braille), and even deteriorating eyesight can be a very distressing disability. It does become more likely as we age or if we do not wear protective eyewear when we work or sunbake. It is not 'the end of the world' if our sight is deteriorating or worse, and there are many aides to help, but there must be sadness attached to loss of vision.

How beautiful it is to witness the seeing eye guide dog lead a blind person across a street or through a shop. We should support agencies who train these animals. Blind people have achieved absolutely outstanding feats in life and they include Stevie Wonder, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Andrea Bocelli, Helen Keller, ancient Homer, President Abdurrahman Wahid.



Smell is totally different. Smell is nasal and involves breathing in and absorbing the aromas of whatever the object or matter before us. Some smells give great pleasure as we sniff a rose in bloom, inhale the scent of exquisite perfume, inhale the delectable smell of roasting meat, baking bread, sweet and juicy pineapples.

To have one's smell affected badly can be serious. We might not realise that a food morsel is rotten through its stench or milk curdled or pepper too spicy for our liking. People say that they smell danger ahead, do they?

There are certain things a lack of smell will prevent thankfully – foul body odour after a game or due to lack of personal hygiene, awful gas emissions, offensive vapours emanating from a pile of goodness knows what! Oh, to whiff such unpleasantness.

But God gifted us with smell to enjoy the sensation of fragrant aromas, sweetness, a new born baby, and incense in the Church.

Sight we know is important and a true gift, smell we think of less often but actually its importance cannot be denied. God never makes or creates anything that is less worthy or useless. Let us see light shine bright through Monicans and perceive the smell of success and happiness as we walk on Monican grounds at Ostia and in Epping.

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

Learning from the skilled learners

Over the past few weeks, our Year 10 students have been actively engaged in VCE / VET / VCE – VM study skills and preparation sessions, as part of the Pastoral Program.

St Monica's College was very honoured for the contribution and wisdom shared by distinguished alumni, Olivia Cucinotta, Sienna Bartolomeo, Kavindu Gunasekara, Ava Villela, Nikita Grueski and Nikolas Mitsinikos who generously offered their time addressing the Year 10 pastoral groups. The team shared stories of their senior secondary years and provided valuable insight into navigating their way through their post-SMC experiences to date. The presentation was an opportunity to reflect, offer tips, squash myths and to share the lessons learnt from their very recent experiences, in an engaging presentation and feedback forum.

Thank you to Mr Brad Schubert for his organisation and co-ordination of the sessions for our Year 10 learners, who are at the cusp of moving into their final two years of senior secondary studies.

"All six speakers spoke eloquently and engagingly to provide our Year 10 students with invaluable insight into achieving success, in whatever form that may take for each student, and how to balance their studies with both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. After finishing with a brief Q&A session, our alumni then donated their time to students who were keen to speak to them individually to maximise their VCE potential." Mr B. Schubert



Well done to our fabulous Monicans, who continue to give back to those who keenly follow in their footsteps.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal



Congratulations and Commendations to our SMC Community



At St Monica's College, we understand that true education exists beyond textbooks, classrooms, and exams; it encompasses the nurturing of character, community, and personal development. We are very proud of our students and the way they have commenced Term 4.

Our Year 12 students recently participated in their end of year celebrations and will soon commence their final exams. Their enthusiasm and participation in these events stand as testament to the unbreakable bond that exists within our community. Despite the challenging weather, the spirits of our Year 12 students shone brightly, illustrating their resilience and determination. The pride they exuded during their Graduation ceremony was a heartwarming sight for all. It is during this time that we pause and reflect on the remarkable relationships shared between our students, our dedicated staff, and their supportive families.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt commendations to the Dalton Road students for their outstanding behaviour, infectious spirit, and wholehearted involvement in the inaugural Mary MacKillop Way held on Wednesday, 18 October. The respect, enthusiasm, and genuine smiles displayed by these students made the morning an unforgettable celebration of our shared values.

We are proud of the way our students embraced these significant events. Their active participation and genuine engagement are a testament to their growth as individuals and as a community. We are excited for what the rest of Term 4 may bring and look forward to the continued culture of support, respect, and community that defines St Monica's College.

Ms A Xerri
DRC Campus Leader

Miss N Meade
DSC Campus Leader

Australian Catholic University School Leaders Program



Congratulations to Isabella Calthorpe of Year 11 and 2024 College Captain, who has been selected to attend the 2023 Australian Catholic University School Leaders Program to Rome and London from November 17 to December 10. This study program is offered to a select number of Year 11 students from the Archdiocese of Melbourne and includes visits to key sites:- the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica, Catacombs of St Callisto, Castel Gandolfo, Assisi, Oxford University, the Tower of London, Palace of Westminster, British Museum and many other significant sites. The study tour also includes attendance at an audience with Pope Francis. We commend Isabella on her successful application.

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 <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice





Final Instalments

Please keep in mind if you are not on a school administered payment plan and you have not already finalised your tuition fees account, this is now considered overdue as of 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 as a pressing matter.

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/>

Accessing and Utilizing the Community Portal

The Finance & Business Department provides you with access to the Community Portal to provide you with up-to-date access to your accounts at St Monica's College. The Community Portal allows you to make online payments directly onto your Fees or Additional Charges account, obtain a copy of payment receipts, view Monthly statements, and update your credit card details.

The Community Portal can be accessed using the following link:

<https://commportal.stmonicas-epping.com>

Alternatively, you can access the Community Portal using the following steps:

1. Go to the St Monica's College website
2. Choose the MY SMC tab
3. Choose "Community Portal" link
4. Enter in your username and password.

If you are having difficulties logging into the Community Portal, select "forgot password" and you will receive an automatically generated email. If this does not work, please contact the school at 9409-8800.

To pay an outstanding account use the following steps:

Choose the Payments tab

Select "Account Payment"

Choose the linked account from the drop-down box that you would like to pay, eg: Tuition or Additional Charges

To access receipts and monthly statements use the following steps:

1. Choose the Finance tab
2. Choose the linked account from the drop-down box that you would like to view eg: Tuition or Additional charges
3. Select the PDF Icon to download any receipt or statement.

Piano Competition



On 10 October, 18 students competed in the Annual College Piano Competition. Students competed in one of three sections, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Our 2023 adjudicator, Dr David Kram AM was impressed by the high standard of all the performances. He awarded a highly commended and winner trophy to the following students from each section; Junior section highly commended: Samuel Charles William, Winner: Sakshi Sharma, Intermediate section Highly Commended: Maryna Maqdasi, Winner: Shreyas Moudgil, Senior section Highly Commended: Melissa Huynh, Winner: Anna-Maria Constantin.



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

SMC

**PRAY AND
PERSEVERE**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE END OF MASS
PLEASE RSVP TO A.VAVALA@STMONICAS-EPPING.COM**



Leading into Exams : How your Library can help you!



As we near the end of year exams, the Library can assist students in many ways with Exam Preparation.

Not only do we have the resources to help students study better, relax better and achieve better, we are also skilled in assisting in many aspects.

1. **Study Assistance** : Junior students can attend **ASH** for homework and study assistance, both Staff and Year 12 Tutors are there to help. Senior students, **Study Centre** is there for you after school with staff and tutors to assist you. Our Online resources, such as News Resources, Issues, Libguides for each year level are also readily available via our Library Portal.
2. **Prepare** well in advance. For Seniors, Subject teachers and Library Staff can assist you with the availability of past papers to print up and practise on. Senior students also have access to Binding Machines and are encouraged to avoid the end of year rush and to get in earlier in the year to bind notes.
3. **Time management** : learning to manage time is crucial and the **Elevate Series** is perfect to assist here. Brochures and information about the Elevate Series are available in each of the three Libraries.
4. **Quiet Study** : Small groups or individual study can be highly advantageous. **Study Centre** and **ASH** are available in both Libraries for your assistance. PCL staff will also be supervising quiet study time in the CBL for Year 9 students in the 3 weeks leading up to exams and plans are also underway for a quiet study time in the PCL for Years 7 and 8 students.
5. **Self Care** : Our Wellbeing section of books in each Library can assist students to learn more about meditation, mindfulness, anxiety/relaxation, self-awareness and other skills to help cope with the stresses that exam time can bring. Feel free to ask a Library Staff member for any of the above to assist. Should your concerns be overwhelming leading into or during exam time, please remember SMC has a wonderful Counselling team to assist you.

Finally, best of luck from everyone in the LRF as you move into exams!



Special guests
**BRENT HARVEY
& CHLOE LOGARZO**

BOOK HERE



SMC SPORTS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023

6.30PM - 8.30PM

THE SPORTS AND ASSEMBLY HALL, DRC

YEAR 10 CLASSROOM MUSIC SHOWCASE

On Wednesday, 16 October, the Year 10 Classroom Music students exhibited a musical showcase playing a selection of works both as solo and ensemble performers. The event took place in the TOAN at lunchtime and all students from DRC were invited to sit in and be part of the audience.

The students, directed by Mr Talarico, prepared a half hour performance covering a variety of styles and genres covered within the Year 10 curriculum. This semester students have been furthering their musicianship skills in both theory and performance and have explored Jazz and its musical nuances. All students within the program are now preparing for both their Performance and Theory examinations set in November. There is no doubt that their fabulous performance has instilled confidence in their own ability to shine as musicians and enter the examinations with renewed confidence.

I congratulate Dean Wu, Kabir Singh, James Gasper, Shagun Saharan, Eric Tun, Ella Rankins, Joan Abraham and Issy Rutherford who performed on Bass Guitar on the day.

We are looking forward to seeing more students take up Music in the Senior years both as a VCE or VET course in the future and further showcasing the talents of our Monican community.

Mr R Talarico





Using STEM to monitor Biodiversity - Nestboxes

Technology: nest box camera, wood and woodworking tools, Illustrator/CAD, temperature sensors and Arduino

Aim: Design and build nest box for specific species then monitor temperature and use

How: Research habitat requirements of identified species. Design nest box on paper or computer using illustrator or similar program. Purchase materials and build. Install in tree with correct orientation and height then monitor temperature and with camera

Benefits:

- Natural hollows take more than 50 years to develop so adding nestboxes can quickly improve biodiversity in an area
- Students can monitor nestboxes for temperature and use and use the results to improve on their design, materials use and the placement and orientation of the nestbox in the tree.



Using STEM to monitor Biodiversity – Field Maps & iNaturalist

Technology: phone apps iNaturalist and/or Field Maps, Bluetooth GPS, camera,

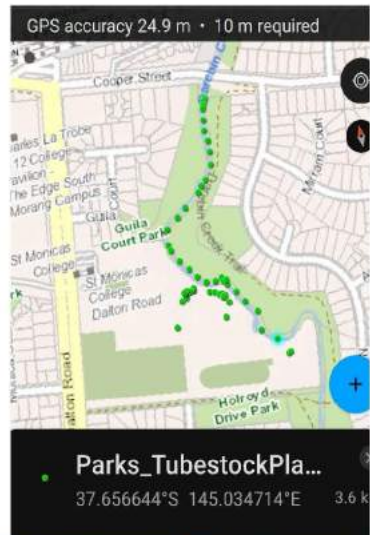
Aim 1: Conduct bioblitz by using iNaturalist to record which plants and animals inhabit your school grounds at different times of the year

Aim 2: Record native plantings using Field Maps and GPS

How: Use phone to take a clear and close up photograph of organism. iNaturalist will use AI to identify the most likely species it is. Multiple photos can improve identification. GPS improves location from phones 10m to around 4m accuracy.

Benefits:

- GPS will improve location accuracy (up to 4m accuracy)
- AI can assist with organism ID for unknown species allowing for future research about each organism
- Record of plantings can be used by organisations like Council, Melbourne Water, local environmental groups and future gardening and science staff



MSV: 2023 Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge.

Congratulations to our Years 7 and 8 students who participated in the 2023 Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge held 15 October at Parkhill Primary School.

This year St Monica's College entered four model solar boats which achieved , 1st , 2nd, 3rd and 5th place, and one model solar car which achieved 2nd place.

Students have worked well over the period of two terms to finalise their vehicles, which in itself is outstanding achievement.

Please congratulate the following students:

1st place – Lucas Petrou (Solar boat)

2nd place - Ira Dewan & Sahasra Dharmavarapu (Solar boat)

3rd place – Domenic Mollison, Bradley Storer & Gian Carlo Frivaldo (Solar boat)

5th place – Arman Hajihashemi, Gurmaan Singh, Ethan Ajeesh & Saathvik Thennarasu (Solar boat)

2nd place – Isaak Kanjo & Ali Al-Baghdadi (Solar car)

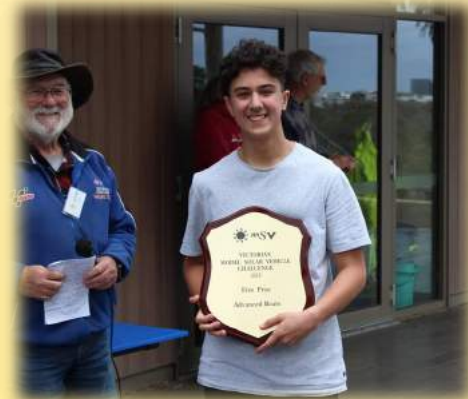
The Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge provides students with valuable learning opportunities, including; exposure to electrical and mechanical design principles, solar panel technology, and investigations related to renewable energy sources.

Students work together in collaborative learning groups and build their vehicles to achieve the best possible outcome.

The 2023 event made for a terrific day out and was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Please keep an eye out for the 2024 program.

Technology, STEM & Enviro-friends.





SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY |

MACS STEM MAD Student Showcase



Congratulations to St. Monica's College students for their outstanding STEM projects displayed at the MACS STEM MAD Showcase, which also includes an award-winning entry. This event offers students from the Archdiocese of Melbourne schools a platform to showcase their STEM learning. Participants, working in teams of up to four, have devised innovative solutions addressing real world challenges.

From the vast array of submissions, the following projects were specially invited from across the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools:

St Monica's College Projects:

Robot Dog: Created by Alexander Falleti, Aarav Kamboj, and Demetri Katsianis of Year 7 DigiSTEM. Designed as a companion, this robot intends to alleviate feelings of loneliness. This prototype, ingeniously constructed from cardboard, responds to voice commands and uses sensors to assess distances, resembling the behaviour of an actual dog. Its overarching goal is to serve as a congenial device to counter solitude.



Automated Greenhouses: Represented by Christopher Giannakoulakos, Lukas Hawken, and Tessa Parel from Year 9 STEM. This project integrates a system automated by sensors monitoring soil moisture and temperature to optimise food production. It aligns with the UN Sustainability Goal 2 and incorporating digital microcontrollers like Arduino and Raspberry Pi.

Sustainable Tiny Houses: Represented by Dominic Kazarian and Markos Alaveras from Year 9 STEM. These are houses designed with both passive and active temperature control systems. Using Fusion 360 and state-of-the-art laser cutting methods, these structures emphasise sustainable urban living, resonating with UN Sustainable Development Goal 11.

Wetlands Habitat Regeneration Nestboxes: An initiative of Year 10 Enviro Friends, Briya Gilbert, Amna Raza, and Gabrielle Malaga. This project concentrates on wildlife conservation via nestbox designs. The aim is to ascertain the variety of species these boxes attract, thereby deriving critical data for environmental preservation.



Award-winning Project:



AI Bird NET Pi: A remarkable presentation by Aira Patel from Year 9 STEM, in collaboration with EnviroFriends. This project, received the Science Works Award for Best Technology Integration and the Communication Award Secondary, harnesses the capabilities of Raspberry Pi and AI to detect bird vocalisations in the College's wetlands. This accentuates STEM's indispensable role in conservation initiatives. We offer our gratitude to Dr Lascaris, City of Whittlesea, Mr Coleman, Enviro Friends, and Mr Kalantzis from 9 STEM for their relentless support.

Our appreciation goes out to all the teaching staff who devotedly guided their students in bringing these projects to fruition, especially Mr Birse from 9 STEM and Mr Bagh from 7 DigiSTEM.

As is evident, STEM education is pivotal in addressing global challenges, and St Monica's College students are leading the way.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator





ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

Rocket Science Unveiled: Igniting Passion for Aerospace Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

The scientific foundations of rocketry can be traced back to around 1642 when the renowned scientist Isaac Newton introduced his understanding of physical motion through his three laws. Newton's laws of motion provide an explanation for how rockets function and can propel themselves in a vacuum. Modern rocketry saw its beginnings in 1898 when a Russian teacher proposed the idea of space exploration and later conducted experiments involving the use of liquid propellants to achieve greater range.

Fast forward to 2023, Ms Thomson, a Science educator at SMC, encouraged her Year 9 HORIZONS Science students to delve into advanced STEM studies and kindle their passion through real-world scientific inquiry processes in the aerospace field. Initially, the students learned to apply trigonometric ratios to determine the height of an object in space and calculate its speed of travel. Working in teams, the students explored plastic model rockets and conducted experiments to analyse the surface areas of rocket fins and the impact of varying fin numbers. Additionally, the students performed a string flight test to ascertain the trajectory and stability of the rockets. Through collaborative exploration, the students gained insights into applying Newton's Law of Motion and grasped key concepts such as the Centre of Mass and Pressure.

In a subsequent article, we will focus on how these students utilized engineering principles to design rockets capable of reaching the highest apogee (elevation) in the sky. The article will also shed light on the use of hydro propellants to launch their model rockets in practical experiments.

Mr S Bagh
Senior STEM Educator





World of



Year 8 Premier League Competition Round 2

- Boys Basketball vs Salesian: 39-48
- Girls Basketball vs Salesian: 46-49
- Netball vs Salesian: 12-49
- Girls Volleyball vs Salesian: 3-0
- Boys Volleyball vs Salesian: 2-1
- Girls Football vs Thomas Carr: 5-1
- Boys Football vs Thomas Carr: 3-0
- Cricket vs Salesian: Washout



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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Terrific Fitness

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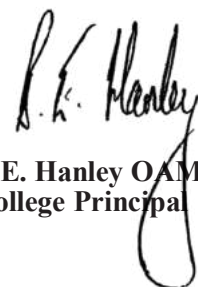
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MARVELLOUS MONICAN



Nasia Damaskopoulos (11 Red) is congratulated on her positive work ethic and excellent standard of work demonstrated across all areas of her VCE Vocational Major studies in Year 11. Nasia is completing a School Based Apprenticeship through Monsoon Hair Salon and Biba Academy and has received outstanding feedback and results from her teachers and employer throughout this program. She has embraced all challenges associated with the VCE VM program and has successfully balanced her school and workplace commitments throughout the year.

Nasia is an excellent role model for any other students considering a school based apprenticeship as part of the VCE VM pathway and we wish her all the best as she continues to work towards her chosen pathway.



B.E. Hanley OAM
 College Principal