

Principal's Bulletin

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING



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21 February
2024

A School of Educational Enterprise | Serving Catholic Education Today and Tomorrow

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS and LENT

We gather information about people in the news from many sources. Years ago, the news was restricted to newspapers, and Melbourne had some of the nation's best with The Herald, The Sun Pictorial, and The Age.

In 1956, television came into our lounge rooms and a feature of every TV station was to have a good news, usually broadcast at approximately 6.00 pm. Channel 9 had famous newsreaders as did the ABC (Channel 2) and the Seven Network. Channel 10 came later. Even to this day, the nightly news is watched by many viewers. Some stations and networks are solely news-focussed.

Of course, the digital age has seen other sources become both available and popular. In 2024, the options are immense. A vox populi question might be: Name three people who have made the news in the last fortnight and why. What about these three?



Taylor Swift

A true musical superstar, Taylor stunned her Melbourne audiences with her singing abilities, presence on stage, and her songs. Tickets were sought after by people throughout Australia; hotels and places of accommodation were fully booked; the MCG was alive with 'Swift Mania'. Taylor enchanted her audiences each night.

His Majesty King Charles III

News spread widely throughout Britain and across the world of the cancer diagnosis delivered to the

King. Great concern was expressed and well-wishers sent messages of support to the King and their thoughts were kind and genuine. His treatment commenced immediately whilst other Members of the Royal Family assumed his duties publicly.



The Missing Ballarat Wife and Mother (Name withheld out of respect)

Alarm was raised as she went missing and police, volunteer searchers, trained sniffer dogs, and her desperate family and friends combed the Ballarat countryside in search of her or some clues. At the point of writing, no trace has been found of her. It is safe to state that Victorians earnestly hope that she is found unharmed.

JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD

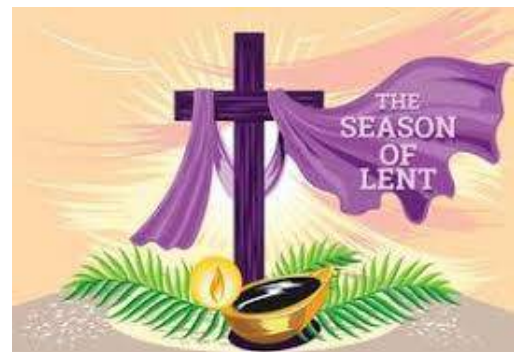
The fact that this week was the beginning of the Season of Lent did not make the headlines much less the press or the internet. Forty days of preparation have begun and ashes were distributed here at SMC on Ash Wednesday morning. St Valentine's Day (recalling a saint who is not widely known) was made much more fuss of in the newsrooms.

Of course, the world goes on during Lent and famous and unknown people will continue to be in the news throughout the days leading to Easter. We can choose to allow Lent to be 'big news' in our life through observance of Lenten practices and making sacrifices leading to repentance for our sins and failings. We can cleanse ourselves to be ready for the glory of the Resurrection.

The Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge writes, "*Lent is a season that wants to turn our world upside down. Lent is a time to reset our thoughts and actions by aligning them with God's Kingdom, not ours. It is a time to let go.*" Now, that is very big news for followers of Jesus as each day of Lent moves closer to His glorious Resurrection.

Mr B. E. Hanley OAM

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



Uniform and Grooming reminders

At the conclusion of the 2023 academic year, Parents/Carers/Guardians and Students were asked to attend to the following requirements in time for the commencement of the 2024 school year. This list is also provided for new Monican families to become acquainted with our consistent College expectations associated with uniform and grooming.

- Only regulation items of uniform purchased from the authorised College supplier may be worn to school
- Students must have the approved St Monica's College school bag
- Make-up and nail polish may not be worn to school. False eyelashes are not permitted. Students unable to rectify the matter at school, will be sent home to address the situation
- Male students must present clean-shaven at all times. Facial hair is not permitted. Failure to comply will result in students being required to shave at school or they will be sent home to address the concern
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times whilst on campus unless engaging in physical play, and whilst travelling to and from school
- Jewellery is worn at owner's own risk. Students are permitted to wear one earring, stud, or sleeper only in each ear; a watch; religious medal on a chain worn under uniform. No other jewellery is permitted
- Facial piercing is not permitted. This includes transparent piercings
- Canvas and casual shoes are not permitted
- The College Pin is to be worn by all students on the left lapel of the College blazer. Replacement pins are available at Campus Receptions
- Students must ensure their hair is neat and tidy at all times. Male students must ensure hair is no longer than the top of their shirt collar. No male student may tie hair back whilst in uniform. Female students must tie their hair up or back fully, using blue or gold accessories only
- Extreme hair colours and styles are not acceptable, including any unnatural hair colours and shaving hair using a blade below a number 2
- For outdoor activities, students are encouraged to use sunscreen
- All items of uniform and other possessions must be clearly labelled
- The College blazer is the only outer garment permitted for all students and must be worn to and from the College daily
- Jumpers are not to be tied around the waist at any time
- Sports uniform is to be worn only on days when students have P.E. or practical sports lessons. Full tracksuits must be worn to and from school. P.E. shorts are not to be worn to and from school. Students are not permitted to wear skivvies or t-shirts beneath the P.E. polo shirt. Plain white singlets may be worn under the polo top provided they are not visible
- Track suit pants must not trail on the ground or be worn rolled or twisted
- Black socks are not permitted to be worn with shorts (P.E or otherwise) or with dresses
- Full College uniform is to be worn by all students every day. In exceptional circumstances, if a part of the uniform cannot be worn, the relevant Year Level Leader must be notified
- Blazers must be worn each morning whilst travelling to school (or full tracksuit if P.E day). On extreme weather days, Campus Directors may call for no blazers required in the afternoon
- Students are to ensure the appropriate wearing of the College uniform, at all times including during morning or afternoon travel, whilst on excursion and at any time when representing the College
- Dress/skirt lengths are appropriately maintained throughout the course of the year, according to College standards.

Thank you to all those who have commenced the year, adhering to these expectations.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal



Students within a Monican Community

Welcome back to what is sure to be a fantastic year for our students! As we embark on a new academic year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead. This year, we are committed to fostering a positive learning environment where students can learn and grow. Our classrooms will be structured and consistent spaces, allowing our students to develop habits that will assist their learning outcomes.

We encourage all students to pause and reflect on what they achieved in 2023 and to set some goals that will help maintain their focus in classrooms and keep them accountable for their progress. We want all students to make a commitment to their studies and take full advantage of the resources and supports available to them.

At St Monica's College we are confident in our ability to guide and support the young people in our care. We work hard to support the individual needs of our students, developing genuine care and connection with our students. We are proud of the way in which our students have started the 2024 school year and encourage them to continue to take pride in the way in which they choose to present to the College each day. Our students should continue to be mindful when they engage with others in our community, ensuring that we always lead with kindness and respect.

For our students to achieve their best, we must work together as parents and educators to challenge, support, and guide these students.

Finally, we take this opportunity to encourage all students to get involved in the extra-curricular activities that St Monica's College offers. These experiences offer students the chance to showcase their talents, connect with others and demonstrate leadership.

We look forward to the continued positive contributions from all within our Monican community in 2024.

Ms A Xerri
Campus Director DRC

Miss N Meade
Campus Director DSC



St Monica's College 60th Anniversary Dimond Jubilee Events

Diamond Jubilee Staff Race Day	Saturday, 23 March 2024 The Valley Racecourse – Moonee Ponds
Past Staff Afternoon Tea	Date: Sunday, 23 June 2024 Venue: Sports and Assembly Hall Dalton Road Campus
Alumni Gathering	Date: Sunday, 18 August 2024 Venue: Sports and Assembly Hall Dalton Road Campus
St Monica's Week ◆ Annual Oration ◆ Youth Parliament ◆ Sports Breakfast ◆ St Monica's Day	Monday, 26 August – Friday, 30 August, 2024
Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner	Date: Friday, 25 October 2024 Venue: Manor on High – Grand Ballroom



Grades 4 - 6 Primary Schools
YEAR 7 INFORMATION NIGHT

TUESDAY, 26 MARCH
BOOK NOW ONLINE

www.stmonicas-epping.com/infonight

Book Tours from - 5:00pm - 5.45pm
Information Session - 6:00pm



400 DALTON ROAD, EPPING VIC 3076



(03) 9409 8800



St Monica's College, Epping

Enrol Now for Year 7, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers,

If you have a child presently in Grade 6 and have not yet enrolled into St Monica's College for **Year 7, 2025** please do so immediately.

Applications for **Grade 5 students starting Year 7 in 2026** are now open and will close on **Friday, 16 August 2024**.

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

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

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



Welcome to the LIBRARY



Get to know your Library Pt 1

Pamela Coyne Library - 2024

A big welcome back to our returning students of 2024 and a special warm welcome to all our new students. We hope you will be very happy here at St Monica's.

We would like to help our Year 7s, (and remind our Year 8s and 9s) to get to know the Pamela Coyne Library. SMC Libraries have a great number of things to assist and engage our students: resources, texts, activities and, of course, friendly staff.

First in our series of three is the Dalton Road Campus' Pamela Coyne Library.

The PCL is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 4.30pm and offers many services along with a number of co-curricular groups for students to join.

At PCL we pride ourselves on providing students with a comfortable space that is safe and enjoyable to be in. Games (eg: Uno and Chess/Checkers) can be accessed by students before school, recess and lunchtime.

Our After School Homework (ASH) program is open Mondays – Thursdays from 3.25 -4.30pm. Senior student tutors and SMC staff from various faculties are on hand to assist students whilst they are at ASH. This is an extremely valuable program to help students with their studies prior to heading home.



The Library based groups at PCL are very popular, namely Journaling Club, The Books & Beyond Reading Club, Library Monitors Club, Writers Club and our brand newest addition, Dungeons & Dragons. There is always something going on in the PCL!

So, as you can see, along with our wonderful collection of both fiction and non-fiction books, the Pamela Coyne Library has much to offer all who walk through its doors, and we hope to see all our DRC students there soon!

Finally, to all our students and families, may this year of “From A Dream to Diamonds” grant many blessings and wonderful moments, Diamonds, to you all.

Careers CORNER

DRC

Thinking of a Career as a Professional Sportsperson?

Many young people have the dream of being a professional tennis player, basketballer, footballer, basketballer, and many other types of professional careers playing sports. How magical to be well paid playing a sport you love! In careers we would encourage two overall pieces of advice if you are serious about a career as a pro sportsperson. Firstly, it will come as no news to most that this is a highly competitive pathway. Leave no stone unturned in making the level. SMC has great programs to help you with this. Follow all the advice you get. Secondly, it is important to plan a second career that complements your sporting aspirations. Complementary careers have the potential for flexible hours and are typically related to your sport in some way. A complementary career can help soften the blow if your sporting dream does not work out, or if you get injured and when the need for retirement happens (which will come usually in your early 30's). One great way to go after a career in your favourite sport while building an alternative career is to secure an NCAA scholarship in the United States. You will need good academic results to complement your sporting ability to have a chance of securing one of these lucrative scholarships. Come in for a careers appointment for more guidance on this.



It is beneficial in many ways to have one foot in the world of sport and one foot in an complementary career if you are planning to be a professional sportsperson.

DSC

Year 12 Goal Setting Interviews

Over the last couple of weeks, our current Year 12's met with careers staff to record their career and study goals. This was an opportunity for every student to meet careers staff, ask questions, gain insights, and possibly make appointments for more detailed enquiries. The interviews were very well attended, and career staff were highly impressed with the level of research and awareness displayed by our 2024 cohort of Year 12's.



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 check balances, make online payments directly onto your Fees or Additional Charges account, obtain a copy of payment receipts, view Monthly statements and edit personal 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.

Please keep in mind, your Community Portal details differ to your PAM log in details. 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 towards an account use the following steps:

1. Choose the Payments tab
2. Select "Account Payment"
3. 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:

Choose the Finance tab

Choose the linked account from the drop-down box that you would like to view eg: Tuition or Additional charges

Select the PDF Icon to download any receipt or statement.

2024 Tuition Fees

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:

Instalment 1 – 16 February 2024

Instalment 2 – 26 April 2024

Instalment 3 – 26 July 2024

Instalment 4 – 18 October 2024.

If you are on a school administered payment plan, refer to your Direct Debit Dates for deduction dates.

The College offers many payment options to enable parents to meet their fee obligations as follows:

- a) At reception (Augustine House) – Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card
- b) Online Payments via the community (fee) portal, or via BPAY
- c) Direct Debit Payment Plan (weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly) - Parents that would like to enter into a Payment Plan, please contact our Fees office. Keep in mind, families opted into a payment plan will have an extended due date of up until 6 December 2024.



Financial assistance for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) 2024 \$225.00

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, veterans affairs or pension card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

\$125 for primary school students

\$225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Accepting applications

Parents (including guardians) no longer need to submit a new application form each year in most cases.

Parents only need to submit an application form in 2024 if any of these changes have occurred.

- New student enrolments: students who have started or changed schools in 2024 or if the parent did not apply for CSEF at the school in 2023.
- Changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2024.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (**29 January 2024**) or term two (**15 April 2024**).

Closing Date

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 28 June 2024 for eligibility. For more information about the CSEF visit www.educationvic.gov.au/csef

All queries are to be directed to the Fees Office on 9409 8800 or fees@stmonicas-epping.com.

We look forward to working together throughout 2024.



WHAT IMMUNISATIONS ARE PROVIDED IN SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Students in Year 10 (or aged 14-16) receive the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Students in Year 7 (or aged 12-13) receive a whooping cough booster and the HPV vaccine.



A



ARE VACCINES SAFE?

Yes, vaccines are safe and thoroughly tested by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration. Immunisations protect children and communities from harmful diseases, safeguarding those who can't be vaccinated. Specialised nurses administer vaccines at secondary schools.



A

YEAR 7 & YEAR 10 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM 2024



WHAT INFORMATION WILL I RECEIVE ABOUT SECONDARY SCHOOL-BASED IMMUNISATIONS?

If you have a child in Year 7 or Year 10, please look out for immunisation and consent information that will be sent to you.

You have the option to decline the free school-based immunisation offer for your child by refusing consent online.

Discuss vaccination with your child and how you both feel about it. For unanswered questions, reach out to your GP or local council immunisation service.

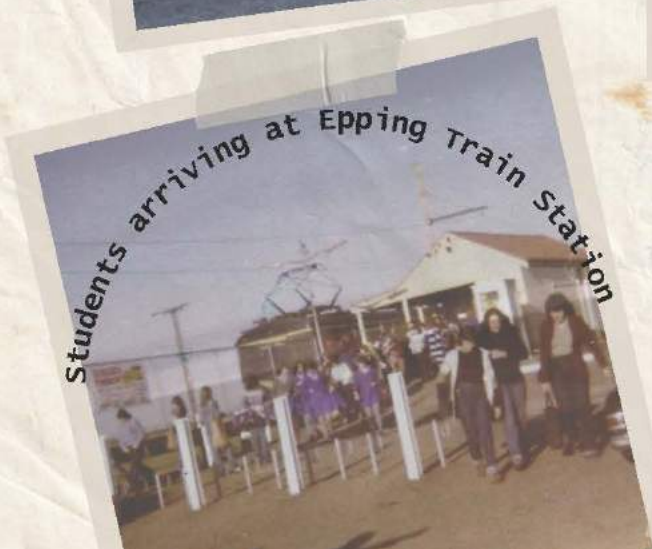
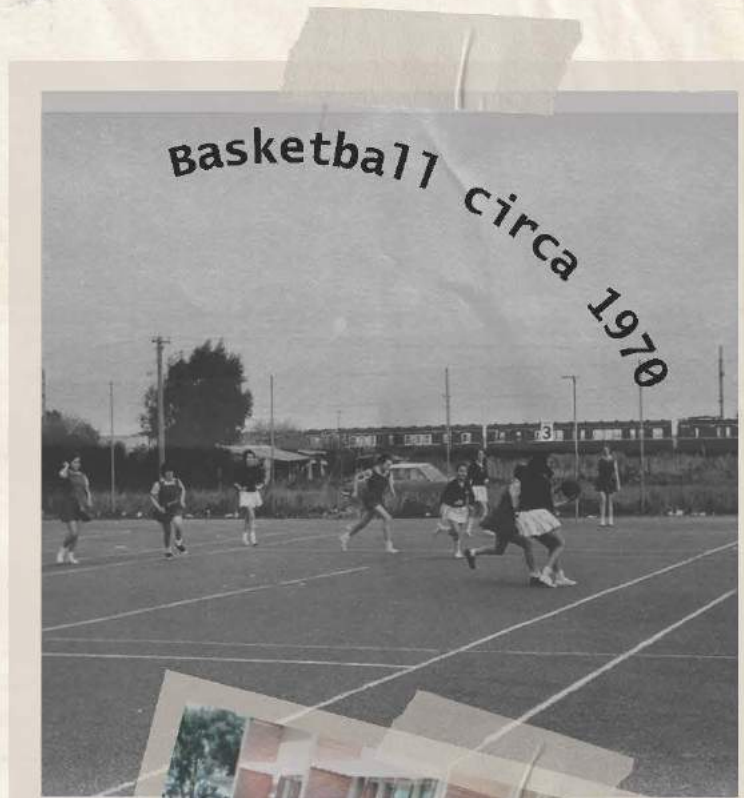
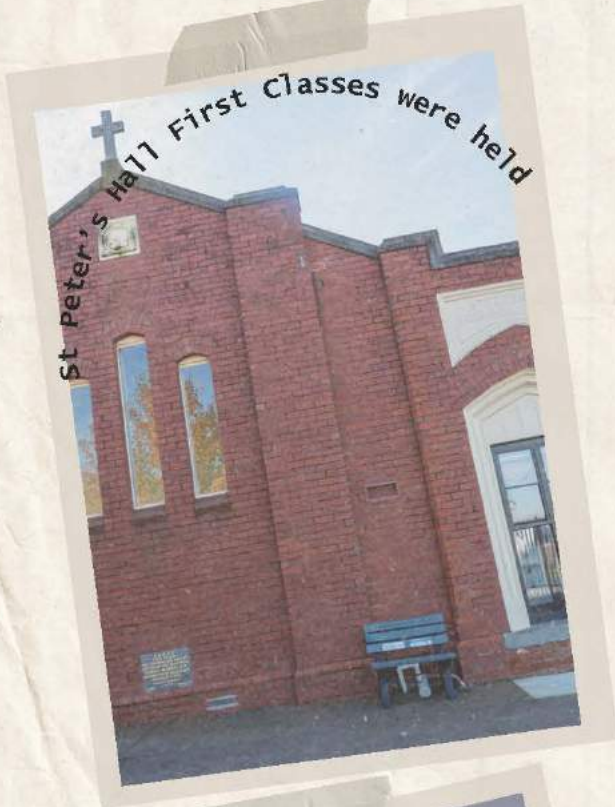
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IF YOU HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES ABOUT VACCINES, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MISS SCIOLA, AT [NURSE@STMONICAS-EPPING.COM](mailto:nurse@stmonicas-epping.com)

Epping Parish Planning 1960s



GLIMPSES OF THE PAST





SACCSS Senior Netball Results

Round 2 Results:

SACCSS Senior Netball vs Emmanuel
37-41

SACCSS Senior Netball vs Emmanuel (B)
25-17



World of





Year 10 Premier League Competition Results Round 1

- Boys Basketball vs Emmanuel: 37-35
- Boys Basketball (B) vs Emmanuel: 41-58
- Girls Basketball vs Emmanuel: 41-10
- Boys Volleyball vs Caroline Chisholm: 1-2
- Girls Football vs Emmanuel: 7-1
- Boys Football vs Emmanuel: 6-0
- Netball vs Emmanuel: 18-31

SACCSS Senior Netball & Cricket

Round 1 Results:

- SACCSS Senior Cricket vs Caroline Chisholm
5/188 (20) def 4/122 (20)
Ritin Raman - 52*
Pranav Jaswal - 50*
- SACCSS Senior Netball vs Marymede
35-26
- SACCSS Senior Netball vs Marymede (B)
17-32

Year 10 Premier League Competition Results Round 2

- Boys Basketball vs MacKillop: 70-22
- Boys Basketball (B) vs MacKillop: 33-41
- Girls Basketball vs MacKillop: 24-27
- Boys Volleyball vs MacKillop: 2-1
- Girls Volleyball vs MacKillop: 2-1



PREP 2025 ENROLMENTS OPEN NOW



The best way
to discover
what we do
is to visit us



BOOK A TOUR

 **9401 1157**

www.stprepp.catholic.edu.au



Homestay Programs

During the month of March, the College is excited to deliver two international homestay programs.

We will welcome students and staff from;

- ◆ St Benoit College (France) from Saturday, 2 March until Friday, 15 March
- ◆ Takada High School (Japan) from Saturday, 16 March until Wednesday, 27 March.

It is going to be an exciting time for our College, as this is a first in Monican history.

However, it must be acknowledged that homestay programs do not occur without the support and generosity of families. The College extends our gratitude to the families, and is proud to offer a memorable experience for all.

During their stay the students will experience what its like to study in Australia and experience a taste of our diverse culture.

Though these programs are popular and over-subscribed, we encourage families to consider hosting in future programs.



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



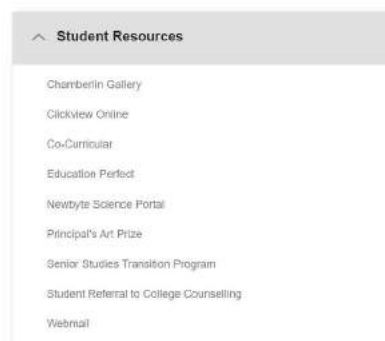
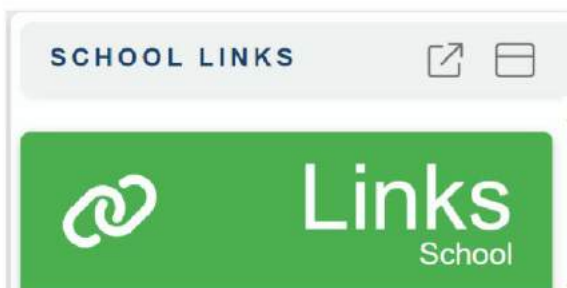
SMC

PRAY AND PERSEVERE

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

Select the 'Links School' tab in SIMON

Select 'Co-Curricular Expression of Interest'. This will direct you to a fillable form.



Please note you must be logged in using your SMC credentials.

Complete all required fields indicating the co-curricular program you wish to register for. The information will be forwarded to the appropriate program leader.



The form contains the following fields:

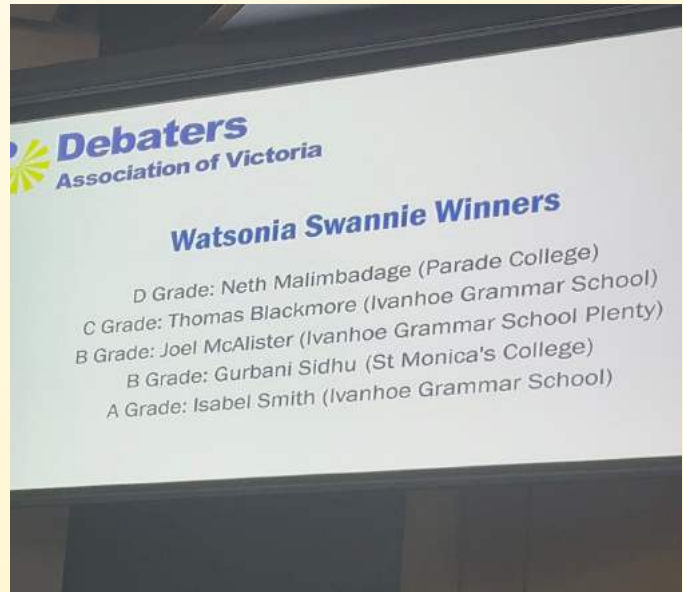
- Student Name:** A dropdown menu with the placeholder text "Select by searching last name or email address".
- Email:** A text input field.
- Username:** A dropdown menu with the placeholder text "Select Username".
- Home Address:** A dropdown menu with the placeholder text "Select Home Address".
- Co-Curricular Category:** A dropdown menu with "Sports" selected.
- Co-Curricular Activity:** A dropdown menu with "Chess" selected.
- Other (Optional):** A text area with the prompt "Feel free to share any information on why you want to participate in the Co-Curricular Program."

"Participation in structured co-curricular activities provides important opportunities for social, emotional and civic development"

Swannie Award



Congratulations to Gurbani Sidhu of Year 11 Yellow who was awarded the prestigious Swannie Award from the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV). Gurbani was awarded the best debater in the 2023 B grade competition of the Watsonia region. Gurbani's efforts placed her amongst the best B grade debaters across the state. A magnificent achievement when one considers the number of schools and students who debate in the DAV competition each year. Congratulations Gurbani on a fine year in debating.



MARVELLOUS MONICAN



For the month of February, we would like to award the Marvellous Monican to Isabella Calthorpe (12 Indigo).

At the conclusion of the 2023 school year, Isabella attended an overseas trip that was part of the Australian Catholic University's Student Leadership Program. She travelled to Rome and London and went on the program to learn more about the history of the Catholic Church as well as develop her own faith and build stronger leadership skills to use in the school community this year.

These leadership skills will certainly be used as Isabella is also our 2024 College Captain. She is a true example of hard work, determination, and endeavour and is deserving of being named Marvellous Monican.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.E. Hanley'.

B.E. Hanley OAM
College Principal



400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076
P 9409 8800
E admin@stmonicas-epping.com
www.stmonicas-epping.com