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Wednesday, 20 March 2024

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

#### EASTER BLESSINGS TO MONICANS



The Easter Season is approaching so Monicans prepare for the Easter Triduum, those special feast and commemorative days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Non-Christian Monicans stand ready to celebrate this time in their own way, ever mindful that they attend a Catholic College and respect Christian traditions and beliefs...

We have come to the conclusion of Lent when many people have made the extra sacrifice, abstained form excessiveness, prayed and reflected on the need to repent of our sinfulness and make ready spiritually for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter has many social traditions and these bring joy to the entire community. They include food items, holidays, high level sport, and time with family and friends. It is good if people take time to relax and be calm at Easter, which is falling earlier in the calendar this year than in other years. Easter is about New Life and salvation.

Just as the Church goes from Season to Season - from Christmas to Lent through to Easter to Advent and back to Christmas, so too do we as humans.

Routine is an important aspect of our life whether we are a youthful Year 7, a busy Year 10 student, a VCE or VCE – VM candidate or teacher, routine is important. Regularity and routine give surety and certainty, organization and stability. However, sometimes our lives are refreshed by newness.

Easter is the time for New Life spiritually, and perhaps at Easter 2024 we Monicans could think of doing new things that intersect our routine in addition to our spiritual life. Well, we know that we shall take possession of the St Stephen's Gaudete Campus, Reservoir as from Term 2, and we have embraced a pedagogical framework that is seeing a new and successful way of teaching and learning.

Individually, it might be invigorating to do something new. Perhaps we could be a first timer at the gym, maybe potter and poke around growing new varieties in our gardens, become a jigsaw puzzle builder, learn a different language, play the piano, buy a dog, resume regular visits to grandparents.

We might expand our interests and involvement - take interest in the forthcoming American Presidential elections, investigate sustainability ideas and implement them, revert to ballroom dancing as exercise, play and dance to Elvis Presley records, on a turntable, and lots of other thoughts. The point is - try something new to invigorate your life and expand and enliven your mind.

Easter ultimately is a religious feast for Christians. I encourage Monicans to attend all or at least one of the Easter Triduum liturgies in their Church and with their religious community and to prayerfully reflect on the death and glorious Resurrection of the Saviour, Jesus Christ.





May all Monicans be safe over Easter, enjoy the holidays, and take time to reflect that we are already one quarter of the way through our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, from a dream to diamonds.

#### B. 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

#### Ask the Questions

When was the last time you:

- Encouraged your child/ren to maintain regular routines, a balanced diet, healthy sleep practices, regular physical activity?
- Promoted positive and respectful relationships between your child and their friendship groups, with teachers and College staff?
- ❖ Insisted on the use of respectful language, behaviours, and conduct not only from your child, but those they surround themselves with?
- Modelled polite spoken and written language for your child, including on digital platforms?
- Supported the development of good life skills such as self-management, resilience, independence?
- Celebrated your child's accomplishments and successes?
- ❖ Demonstrated a positive attitude, good values and behaviours of kindness, courtesy, compassion, and perseverance around your child?
- Inspired your child to aim high, work hard and to do their best?
- \* Reassured your child that you will support their genuine efforts?
- Encouraged your child to be inclusive?
- Supported your child to meet and adhere to College expectations?
- ❖ Attended College requested meetings that are arranged to support your child?
- ❖ Called out behaviours, words, or actions that you did not sit comfortably with?

For many, the response to the questions posed above, will be "often". Monican parents/guardians want their child or children to have the best possible opportunities accessible to them. You understand the importance of working in partnership with College staff, so that students perform well and present their best selves. Education empowers our young people to do better and be better. As the trusted adults in their lives, we educate them together and consequently present a shared understanding of values and social responsibilities so that not only do they optimise their prospects, but also support others around them to do likewise.

As parents, carers, or guardians you want to provide your child with the ideal conditions to support their learning. At times this will mean having to make the tough call to get them off devices late at night, or to ensure their bag is packed and uniform and homework are ready the night before, to avoid morning delays. Taking out the "rush" in the morning, can equate to a smoother transition into the day ahead. Sometimes it is easier to just "do it for them", rather than have to face the eye rolling or more frustratingly, the grunt or silent response! However, we know that they need to take responsibility for their actions, preparedness, and learning. You can support them to do this with positive encouragement and a willingness to hold them accountable for their decisions.

How "often" do you:

- \* Encourage your child to attend school ready and prepared to learn, without the blockers (uniform and grooming infringements, incomplete tasks, enough time to make it to the bus stop or train station)?
- Support your child to increasingly take responsibility for their learning and organisational skills, by not endorsing excuses?
- ❖ Talk to your child about their learning and progress and invite dialogue?
- Encourage, support or model good learning practices at home, such as planning, reviewing, reading, summarising, and note-taking?
- ❖ Keep up to date with continuous reporting feedback, available to you via Learning Areas in PAM?
- Contact College staff if you require information or clarification about your child's learning?
- Encourage co-curricular participation?
- Expect involvement in College activities and not support an opt out attitude?
- Celebrate the unique and wonderful child who returns home everyday a little older, wiser, more aware, and compassionate?

I truly hope that "often" is a common response to many of these questions, and it is my sincere wish that you are able to respond with "regularly" to the last question that focuses on the incredible young person that is developing and growing before our eyes.

Miss P Di Maria Executive Deputy Principal

## End of Term 1

We have had a busy and productive start to the 2024 school year with College events including our first College Assembly where we celebrated the achievements of our 2023 graduates and watched the investiture of our new Senior Student Council and the House Athletics Carnival where many individual records were broken, and incredible team spirit was on display by all students. Congratulations to all individual Year Level Champions, the winners of the Principal's Gift and to all members of the winning Alkira House.

Our students have begun their year with an enthusiasm for their learning that is infectious. We have been pleased with their application and effort in their classes and encourage them to utilise additional supports available to assist their learning. The ASH program on DRC and the Senior Study Centre on DSC provide our students with a space for personal or group study and the opportunity to engage with tutors. It is pleasing to see so many students are already attending these sessions each afternoon.

We congratulate students that have been elected to positions of leadership and look forward to their positive contributions throughout the year. These students will be an example for others to follow. We wish to celebrate and commend the continued involvement from students across all co-curricular programs the College offers. These are a fantastic way for our students to meet new people, develop greater confidence and just try something new – we encourage everyone to get involved!

We are proud of the way our students have commenced Term 1. Their active participation and genuine engagement are a testament to their growth potential as individuals and as a community. We are excited for what the rest of 2024 may bring and look forward to the continued culture of support, respect, and community that defines St Monica's College.

We hope that all students and their families have a restful and enjoyable holiday break.

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

#### TERM HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- \* Thursday, 28 March is a Staff Professional Learning Day Student Free
- \* The College will be closed on Friday, 29 March for Good Friday (Public Holiday) and Monday, 1 April for Easter Monday (Public Holiday).

The Office will be opened Tuesday, 2 April until Friday, 12 April. Operating hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES 2024**

#### Term 2

April

15 – Term 2 Begins

25 – ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)

May

28 Years 10 and 11 Exams Begin

June

- 4 Year 9 Exams Begin
- 7 Report Writing Day (Student Free)
- 10 King's Birthday (Public Holiday)
- 28 Staff Wellbeing Day (Student Free)/End of Term 2





# St Monica's College Immunisation Program is going digital

Year 7 and Year 10 Immunisations 2024

In 2024 your local council is moving to a simple digital system for our schools immunisation program.

This program, powered by VaxApp, will replace the paper consent card system that you may be familiar with from previous years. We'll capture a digital profile and consent for child/ren which covers their immunisations for the year.

No more paper floating around school bags!

# How it works...

## **Booking Link**

We'll send you a booking link or QR code which will take you straight to the VaxApp Parent Portal which is accessible on phone, tablet or computer.

### Parent Portal

Follow the prompts to create a VaxApp profile for your child, record their medical history and provide consent for the vaccines being administered for their year level. You can return to the portal at any time to confirm upcoming appointment dates or to withdraw consent.

#### Communication

You will receive email communication throughout the process which includes:

- booking confirmation and pre-immunisation information
- post-vaccination confirmation accompanied by a side effect fact sheet.

# 3

# What's next?

During Term 1 we'll send you a secure link for the Parent Portal. Registration and consent should only take 5 minutes.

Reach out to the school nurse if you have any issues accessing the portal or don't have access to an electronic device.

nurse@stmonicas-epping.com

(i) Immunisation Information School Name ABC High School Please select the relevant year level for information on the upcoming School Immunisation Program Then select the relevant button below to complete digital consent. Year 7 School Visit 1 Monday, 27 Feb 2022 School Visit 2 Wednesday, 02 Sep 2022 Please review: - Pre-Immunisation Information - Side Effect Fact Sheet For more info, contact City of XYZ Year 10 Already vaccinated

VaxApp

www.vaxapp.com.au

## 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 9.00 am or leave the College prior to 3.25 pm
- 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 9.00 am 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.



# Term 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences Years 7 — 12

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Years 7 – 12 will be held on Wednesday, 27 March from 2.30 pm – 8.00 pm.

All Year 7-12 Conferences will be held online via PAM using MS Teams video conferencing. Using PAM (Parent Access Module), you will be able to book the conference times that suit you best from any internet-connected device.

To facilitate setup for the conferences all students will be dismissed at 12.55 pm.



Get to know your Library Pt 3: Cooinda Bridge Library - 2024

The Cooinda Bridge Library (CBL) was a very exciting and welcome addition to the Library Services Faculty in 2023.

An open plan space constantly used for both structured and informal class settings, it has proven to be extremely popular with staff and students alike.



Most lunchtimes it is home to our Library Clubs as it provides a spacious area for games and activities. **Dungeons & Dragons**, **Writers Club** and **Journaling Club** can all be found there enjoying the surrounds and their specific activities.



Staff can book this space for classes and activities via the school portal's Booking Resource page.

Parents, we hope you have enjoyed our 3 part series on the Library Services Faculty. SMC is extremely fortunate to have these beautiful facilities for our students. As a Faculty, we pride ourselves on offering safe spaces that are conducive for good study habits, whilst being comfortable and engaging to be in.



#### **DRC**

#### Job Applications

Some Year 9 students are already reaching the age where they are looking for part time work. There are many benefits in obtaining a part time casual job. Firstly of course there is the money. Some students who work and save what they earn manage to bank thousands by the time they end their formal schooling. Part time work can also help students to clarify what they might like to do in the future. It also teaches them new skills that they might never gain without part time work. Finally, it can provide great exposure to the values in the workplace. Punctuality and reliability for instance. There are some great resources and activities students who are seeking work can access on the SMC Careers site. Students should log in, proceed to Career Journeys/ Preparing- For -Work/Activities. Finally, students may make a career's booking for further advice on this.

Preparing for Work

What are the things you need to know to be able to get a job? You'll discover these things and also create a winning application ready to snag that position.

Continue Journey

View activities

#### **DSC**

#### What Is the difference between an ATAR and a Selection Rank?



Students can understandably become a little perplexed by the language and detail when looking up university course pre-requisites and entrance requirements. It is a complex system. An example of this would be to look at a course that last year had a lowest ATAR of 70. Students may think they simply need this ATAR. However, they must also consider the lowest Selection Rank for that particular course to gain the full picture. The ATAR is the ranking they receive from VTAC. This ATAR doesn't change. However,

universities will also create their own Selection Rank for each of their

courses, using the ATAR and other factors. Their selection rank often includes "Subject Adjustments" which means they will provide "bonus points" for certain results in identified subjects that are relevant to a particular course. In the example where 70 was the lowest ATAR for a particular course at a university, the selection rank may be higher than this. For more advice on gaining the full picture on the how high the "bar" is to gain admission to the university course of your dreams, contact our friendly and expert Careers staff.

ATAR-based offers only, across all offer rounds	ATAR (excluding adjustment factors)	Selection Rank (including adjustment factors)
Highest rank to receive an offer	97.70	99.50
Median rank to receive an offer	83.55	90.10
Lowest rank to receive an offer	70.70	86.10

An example of the difference between ATAR and Selection Rank.



#### Financial assistance for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) 2024 \$250.00

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:

\$150 for primary school students

\$250 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 <a href="https://www.educationvic.gov.au/csef">www.educationvic.gov.au/csef</a>



All queries are to be directed to the Fees Office on 9409 8800 or <u>fees@stmonicas-epping.com</u>. We look forward to working together throughout 2024.

#### 2024 Term 1 Fees Payments

We kindly remind families of their fee obligation. It is a requirement of the College that you make regular payments throughout the school year, due by the second week of each Term. Instalment 1 payment due date was 16 February 2024.

Instalment 2 – 26 April 2024 Instalment 3 – 26 July 2024

Instalment 4 – 18 October 2024.

If you have not made an instalment on your Tuition account at this stage, we ask that you please attend to this.

The College requires all families to meet their fee commitments so we may continue to provide the highest level of education to our students. The College offers several payment options to enable parents to meet their fee obligations:

- a) School Administered Payment Plan (weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly) Parents that would like to setup a payment plan will have a further extension to pay up to 6 December 2024
- b) At Reception (Augustine House) Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, or credit card
- c) Online Payments via the community (fee) portal, or via BPAY.

Please refer to your emails for fee Statements and Tax Invoices, these will be emailed at the beginning of each month. If you have not received your March Statement, please contact the Fees Office so that we can update your information. Please note, extra-curricular activities and additional charges will not appear on your Tuition Account Statement, these charges will be billed via a separate Tax Invoice as and when they fall due, whereby different terms and conditions apply.

If you wish to discuss this with our Fees Office, please contact <u>fees@stmonicas-epping.com</u> or directly on 9409 8800.

#### **Payment Plans**

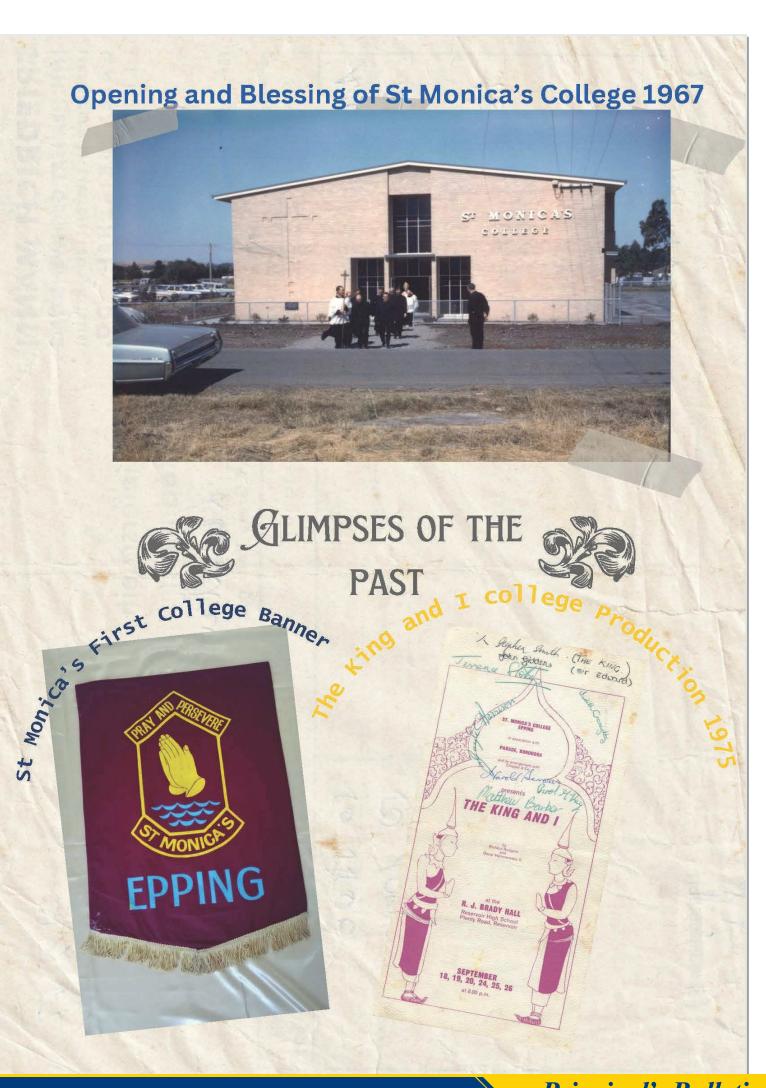
We would like to remind families that it is never too late to sign up for a school administered payment plan. St Monica's College offers both Direct Debit and Credit Card payment options.

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 can be obtained by contacting the Fees Office or can be completed in person at College Reception at Augustine House (400 Dalton Road, Epping VIC 3076).

Should you choose to sign up to a school administered payment plan, you will be opted- in for future years unless you choose to opt-out.









# French Homestay Students Embrace Aussie Culinary Delights at St Monica's College!

On Thursday, 7 March, our kitchens on Davisson Street Campus echoed with laughter and the delightful aroma of freshly baked treats. Our French Homestay students, eager to immerse themselves in Australian culture, rolled up their sleeves and embarked on a culinary adventure.

Aussie Meat Pies: These flaky, golden parcels filled with seasoned minced beef and gravy were the stars of the show. Guided by our talented Food Studies teachers, Mrs Southall and Mrs Dal Cin as well as kitchen assistants Mrs Hazelden and Mrs Harris, the students perfected their pie-crimping techniques. The result? Mouthwatering pies that disappeared faster than you can say "G'day!"

ANZAC Biscuits: History came alive as the students learned about the significance of the ANZAC biscuit. With aprons tied and mixing bowls in hand, they combined oats, coconut, golden syrup, and a dash of patriotism. The sweet scent of these iconic biscuits wafted through the kitchen, while the students made new memories in a country far from home.

Mini Pavlovas: The squeals of delight were audible as students displayed their excitement to try the famous Aussie mini pavlovas. These cloud-like meringue nests cradled fresh berries and a dollop of cream. As they dolloped swirls of sweetness, laughter exuded—a universal language that transcends borders.

The best part? The students did not just create food; they forged friendships. Amid flour-dusted aprons and shared recipes, cultural exchange blossomed. French phrases mingled with Aussie slang, and everyone agreed: food brings people together, no matter where they are from.





# estay Program













If you would like more information about Business Connect, please contact the Promotions and Events Office

#### promotions@stmonicas-epping.com

St Monica's College, Epping is proud to proclaim itself as a School of Educational Enterprise, serving the families of the northern suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne. Our philosophy commits the College to remaining connected to our ever-growing alumni base and parent network. With strong and ever-increasing enrolments predicted to be a minimum of 2200 in 2024, we have a large and solid community network. The College's Strategic Plan 'Towards the Future 2020-2024' identifies the goal to strengthen community and business relations, particularly with the difficulties most Victorian businesses have faced in 2020. Now is the time to come together.

This will be a service that assists businesses as they seek to attract new work and re-establish links with regular customers. SMC Business Connect will be aimed towards businesses that have a connection with the College through an association with a past student, current parent or regular supplier of the College.

Essentially, we are offering a free advertising service through three different platforms: Social Media, Principal's Bulletin and College Website. Currently, our Facebook page has over 6000 likes that stretch from Epping to all over Melbourne and throughout Victoria, across Australia, and internationally to countries such as Italy, Greece, Asian locations and even as far as Africa. Our monthly reach is in excess of 100 000 000 people. The Principal's Bulletin is electronically sent to our 1500+ families every fortnight, and our College Website will have its own SMC Business Connect section.

Through our Promotions and Events Office, the College can produce an advertising package through all three platforms, or one based on your needs. As it is a free service, we are very happy to discuss how we can advertise and cater for your business objectives. It will be our pleasure to meet you to discuss how SMC Business Connect can work for you.



Kayla Naumoski
(Director)
The Beauty Company
Address Unit 2/28-36 Miller St. Epping VIC 3078
Phone: 0.488 809 088
Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/xtendthebeautycompany
Facebook.nttps://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084135090828



Talio Pulis, Nicole Stella & Makayla Rao (Director/Speech Pathologist) Northern Kids Therapy Service Phone: 0400 758 132 Email info@northernkidstherapy.com.au Website: www.northernkidstherapy.com.au



Sarah Connar (Maternity, Newborn, Children and Family Photographer) It's All You Photography Phone: 0430 835 244 Email: itsellyouphotography@outlook.com Website: www.itsallyou.com.au



Vanessa Hatzindinas (Cake Artist) Cakes by Vanessa Phone: 0419529827 Emai: vanessa@cakesoyvanessa.com.au Website: http://www.oakesbyvanessa.com.au/

## The Debaters Association of Victoria — Competition

The second round of The Debaters Association of Victoria schools debating competition for 2024 continued at Loyola College on Monday, 18 March.

The results were:

#### A Grade

**Topic**: That voluntourism does more harm than good

SMC 1 affirmative 230 defeated Mill Park SC 2 negative 223 (Best speaker Niko Shibata)

#### C Grade

**Topic**: That electric cars do more harm than good

SMC 1 affirmative 228 defeated Parade College 1 negative 227 (Best speaker Benedict Murer)

#### D Grade

**Topic**: Victoria should cancel the suburban rail loop

SMC 1 affirmative 227 were defeated by Parade College 1 negative

229

We thank all students for their time and effort in preparing for their debates.

Next round of debating is scheduled for Monday, 20 May.



Thank you to the St Monica's College community.....

We received the 30 laptops you sent us here at the Kinder School.

On behalf of the GSKS Community, I am sending our gratefulness to you and all your staff and students. Words cannot express how thankful we are. It is a big help to all of us, especially in delivering our lessons to our children and now they have a chance to experience how to use laptops.

Again, please extend our thankfulness to all. Hope you had a great experience spending your time here at the kinder school, though I know that you encountered some difficulties, especially with our weather here. We salute your commitment and care to all of us.

Rest assured that our GSKS Community remembers you in our prayers.

Salamat gid.

Please see the attached files.

Kind Regards,

Marites Lagrito GSKS Principal





# **MARVELLOUS MONICAN**



Natasha Smyrnis (11 Blue)

Natasha has demonstrated true Monican values in her acceptance of the lead role in the upcoming College production of "Hairspray". With this being her first time participating in a College production, Natasha has embraced all aspects of the role and demonstrated outstanding commitment to her preparations. Her positive energy and dedication to rehearsals have inspired many younger students to follow her lead and Natasha is commended for the Servant Leadership qualities she has demonstrated. We wish Natasha and all students involved in the production of "Hairspray" all the best as they prepare for the opening night at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC), South Morang in June.

Natasha is also commended for her commitment to her VET Dance studies. Her outstanding work ethic and team work skills are acknowledged and respected by her peers as she works towards preparing her class performances and assessments. Congratulations Natasha.



B.E. Hanley OAM College Principal

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

# EASTER PRAYER

Thank you for the gift of new life

Lord God,

We bless your holy name for the love you've shown us

We bless the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Who was crucified for our sake Today, as we celebrate his resurrection, We are more than grateful to know such

love

Thank you for the gift of new life through his resurrection

Thank you for the privilege to come close to you through your son

Fill our hearts with joy on this day and all the days of our lives

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER