

Principal's Bulletin

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING



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2024

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

THE MONTH OF MARY – MAY 2024

Traditionally in the Catholic Church, the month of May joyously is devoted to Mary, the mother of Jesus and the mother of the Church. It was she, a simple young maiden, who was visited by the Angel Gabriel and invited to be the human deliverer of salvation. Thus, on her humble agreement, the immaculate conception occurred. This is a central teaching in the Catholic faith. The Incarnation, human and divine in one godhead, Jesus Christ through the agency of Mary.

Mary bears many titles, and it is a pleasant exercise as a family to gather and research the vast array by which Mary has been known and called through the ages. The Blessed Virgin is a most popular one used in all countries by Catholics to honor this amazing Jewish girl who matured to be the Suffering Mother of Jesus as she knelt at the foot of His cross.

So many organizations, institutions, agencies, and indeed women, take the name of Mary in honor of our Blessed Virgin. Try to calculate the number of parishes throughout the dioceses of the world that are named in recognition of Mary, or some feast or fact related to her. One finds hospitals, schools and Colleges, welfare agencies, Christian religious movements, and religious orders named or associated with 'Mary', and these all seek her protection and prayer.

Marian movements are prayers and reflections known and much loved prayers such as the call on the Blessed Virgin.

I mentioned that 'Mary' is a very popular name given to fortunate young babies. names are given to fortunate young babies. kindly and tenderly down on them.

There are beautiful qualities associated with Our Lady (another title). A major one is mercy. This beautiful quality is most graciously given and received. May all Monicans live and act with a merciful heart in this anniversary year, and always.

Mary features in numerous Gospel scenes, and the divinity of Jesus, her son. Of course, stable, but throughout the gospels we read of her son; Mary and her spouse, Joseph, marketplaces; Mary at the foot of the Cross. and presents the actual Visitation of Mary to her Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.' It is faithful, Mary was with the apostles after the death

The Roman Catholic Church declared as true, the Assumption of Mary to heaven, in both body and soul. She was born, we are asked to believe by the Pope speaking infallibly, without Original Sin. The Assumption and the Immaculate Conception have become major feast days on the Church calendar.

Reciting the rosary is still occurring in Catholic households around the world. A decade or two nightly is a most worthy and reverent practice. Novenas to Mary praise her liturgically, and Mary's name is mentioned in every sacrifice of the Eucharistic. Mary, Help of Christians, is patron of Australia,

At our College we are proud to have situated our Dalton Road Campus Our Lady's Chapel, and the Mimovich statue, Heart to Heart at the entrance to Augustine House. I urge Monicans to explore and discover the many additional ways and items that honor the Mother of Jesus at our school. Monicans may also have items at home or around their neck as medals.

*'Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
That never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
Implored your help, or sought your intercession,
Was left unaided.'*

Memorare Prayer

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Be pro-active about Wellbeing!

Attending to student wellbeing matters at school, begins with ensuring students feel they are known and valued as an individual and as an active member of the school community. It also draws from providing opportunities where students feel that school life has meaning and purpose for them. This can be achieved in a number of small ways, with the aim of providing a cumulative effect of positive influence, on a student's ongoing sense of well-being.

At St Monica's College, such measures include:

- ❖ *Developing a welcoming environment where everyone can feel connected, supported, and safe* (e.g. Homeroom allocation, access to multiple co-curricular opportunities, transition programs and activities, House activities and membership, Badano Program curriculum, College Counselling provisions, Wellbeing staff, etc.).
- ❖ *Providing opportunities for students to participate or contribute feedback to meaningful decision making* (Senior and Junior Student Council membership, class captains, student leadership/stewardship initiatives, participation in student surveys, in-class discussions and feedback opportunities, subject selection, and career pathway opportunities).
- ❖ *Taking steps to ensure students feel prepared and less anxious for formal assessments* (varied forms of assessment including formative, peer and self-assessed tasks, revision opportunities, online TEAMS accessibility to notes and set tasks, VCE catch-up sessions, After School Homework Program DRC, Senior Study Centre DSC, Student Tutor Program, Academic Counselling DRC and DSC, Acutis Program and learning diversity provisions).
- ❖ *Using pedagogical practices that promote a positive learning and social environment* (cooperative learning, student-centred methods, self-organised time, engaging curriculum design, contemporary learning spaces, Information Technology provisions – including College assigned laptop, professional learning priorities for teaching staff associated with best pedagogical practice, etc.).
- ❖ *Providing curriculum opportunities to discuss or explore wellbeing matters* (healthy eating, benefits of physical activity, positive and respectful relationships, risk management associated behaviours, making informed choices, citizenship, understanding of human rights, etc.)
- ❖ *Integrating respectful relationships, inclusion, and intercultural understanding into curricular and co-curricular opportunities* (Year level assemblies, External presentations (Elephant Education), Badano Program Years 7-10, Religious Education Years 7-12, BeMore, Community Services, Interfaith dialogue, Values based education provisions, Victoria Police presentations, consent education, safe internet usage, Harmony Week activities).
- ❖ *Nurturing partnerships with families and external agencies to build a 360 model of support and care around our young people* (strong relationships between College staff and parents in supporting students through challenges, partnerships with external health providers (Royal Children's Hospital, Northern and Austin Health, Headspace, etc.), Department of Health, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, MACS Wellbeing Unit, etc.).
- ❖ *Systematic approach to conflict resolution and relationship restoration* (Zero tolerance approach to bullying and harassment, restorative practice framework, mediation, etc.).
- ❖ *Provision of student-friendly physical environment* (age-appropriate furniture and building design, well maintained facilities, grounds and learning areas, appropriate consideration of recreational spaces, safe toilet areas, litter management, staff yard-duty rosters morning, afternoon and during break times, first aid and mental health trained staff, etc.).
- ❖ *Regular communication with parents/carers* (written and verbal contact, parent meetings, reporting, attendance data, punctuality, letters of concern for learning, PSGs, Principal's Bulletin notifications, the Monican, SIMON and PAM, updates and applications).

Initiatives like these are not as effective individually, as they are when they work in unison to create a whole-school approach to Student Wellbeing. Giving attention to the provisions listed above, and many others that can easily be added to these points, places Monican students in good stead to thrive, contribute and respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of school-life, and the hopefully flourishing years that await them.

Miss P Di Maria
Executive Deputy Principal

Safe School Crossings

School Crossing Supervisors have a much-valued role in our community, helping students and parents cross the road safely during peak school times.

Children's school crossings are placed at locations to help children safely cross the road, especially on their way to/from school.

Unfortunately, the City of Whittlesea has received a number of public complaints regarding the unsafe crossing of students at the intersection of Cooper/Henderson/ Dalton Road. It has been reported that students are not complying with the pedestrian's walk light, instead continue to cross the road when the traffic lights for vehicles have turned green. Several near misses have been reported to Mill Park Police station.

The College has communicated these concerns and the safe crossing of roads to our students during our weekly year level assemblies.

To stay safe at school crossings students are encouraged to:

- Stand behind the yellow line
- Never follow the crossing supervisor out onto the crossing
- Wait until you hear their whistle (two short blasts) before crossing
- Do not ride bikes across the crossing, bounce a ball, or run
- Do not use your mobile phone while crossing.
- Walk quickly and safely.
- Stay within the lines of the crossing and walk in front of the supervisor (never behind them).

As a College, we ask that you engage in a conversation with your child regarding the safe crossing of roads/ intersection.

Ms A Xerri
Campus Director DRC

Miss N Meade
Campus Director DSC



2024
**PRINCIPAL'S RIBBON
FOR**
Cookery
THURSDAY, 16 MAY
DALTON ROAD CAMPUS
GATEWAY ROOM



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 stationary. 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





St Monica's College, Epping

Enrol Now for Year 7, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers,

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.



St Monica's College, Epping

hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

2024

Plenty Ranges
Arts and Convention Centre

Ticket Bookings

www.pracc.com.au/tickets/

**NIGHTLY 7PM
THURSDAY 13,
FRIDAY 14 &
SATURDAY 15
JUNE**



1964 - 2024

Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan - Music by Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Whittman and Marc Shaiman

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia

THIS MONTH IN *Mission*

2024

1 May	College Assembly
2 May	DRC Archives Committee Meeting
2 May	Online Prayer - Mary the Mother of God
2 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
3 May	DSC 'Be More' Meeting
3 May	Senior and Junior Councils Workshop
3 May	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
6 May	Oxa Care Community Service Program
7 May	St Peter's Literacy Community Service Program
7 May	DSC Archives Committee Meeting
8 May	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
9 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
9 May	Senior Council Meeting
10 May	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
10 May	DSC 'Be More' Meeting
13 May	High Street Bells Choir Community Service
14 May	St Peter's Literacy Community Service Program
15 May	Oxa Care Community Service Program
16 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
17 May	Faith and Service Breakfast
17 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
20 May	Oxa Care Community Service Program
21 May	St Peter's Literacy Community Service Program
22 May	Mission Team Meeting
22 May	Big Group Hug Community Service Program
22 May	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
23 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
23 May	Social Justice - Community Cook up
24 May	Trivia - Opening the Doors and Foundation, The Good Samaritan Philippines Appeal
24 May	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting
24 May	DSC 'Be More' Meeting
27 May	Oxa Care Community Service Program
29 May	DSC Youth Ministry Meeting
30 May	DRC 'Be More' Meeting
31 May	DSC 'Be More' Meeting
31 May	DRC Youth Ministry Meeting

Careers CORNER

Careers in Badano

This term saw the introduction of careers lessons within the Badano program.

Year 7

Knowing ourselves helps us to prepare for future life choices and the decisions we have to make in school and elsewhere. We are all different which is a good thing as we need many different people to have unique combinations of skills, training and personal qualities. They are used in many different jobs.

TERM 2 (WEEKS 2, 3 & 5)



Year 8

Each of us has a distinctive and individual story which has formed us. By understanding yourself and becoming more aware of your potential you can control your education and career plan, your personal beliefs, how you view the world around you and your attitude to life.

TERM 2 (WEEKS 9, 10 & 11)

Year 9

Students will complete a quiz that gives feedback on their interests and makes suggestions about the careers that may suit them based on this. They will then use other online resources to research one (or more) of these recommended careers. It is a good idea to consider our interests and passions when we consider careers.

TERM 3 (WEEKS 1, 2 AND 3)



Year 10

Year 10 students will have their career education and subject selection focussed lessons throughout the term. On Monday 29 April, all Year 10 parents and guardians were sent an email presentation from Mr Paul White. This explores subject options and pathways to assist with planning for Year 11.

TERM 2 (WEEKS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 11)

PISA Field Trial



PISA is coming to our school!

Our school is participating in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Field Trial, which is taking place in Australia between 13 May and 7 June 2024.

PISA is an important part of the National Assessment Program in Australia, which is the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes. All Australian Education Ministers have agreed to Australian schools' participation in PISA, which is reflected in the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

International assessments provide a wide range of valuable information for education policy and review in Australia and overseas and also enable Australia to consider the performance of our education system compared with others.

Since the first PISA assessment involving 32 countries in 2000, the survey has continued to raise interest amongst educators and policy-makers world-wide. In 2022, Australia was one of 81 countries participating in PISA with around 13,500 students (from around 800 schools) representing our country.

What will PISA mean for our school?

A random sample of 15-year-old, from Years 9, 10 and 11, will be sampled to complete a two-hour computer-based assessment consisting of mathematics, science, reading, and Learning in the Digital World. These students will also be asked to complete a questionnaire.

A random sample of teachers will be asked to complete an online questionnaire which will collect information on classroom instruction, teachers' educational backgrounds, training, and teaching experiences.

As an international assessment, every participating school and student has an important role in showing the rest of the world what Australia can do.

ACER will provide our school and participating students with a certificate, recognising our contribution.

Dates of Assessment for St Monica's College: 21, 23 and 24 May 2024



Camps, Sports and 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 www.educationvic.gov.au/csef

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



2024 Tuition Fees and Payment Options

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 enter into 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

Should you decide not to sign up for a school administered payment plan, please keep in mind that payments are due and payable in four equal instalments by the second week of each term. If you have not yet made your second instalment towards your tuition fees, we kindly ask that you tend to this as this is now considered overdue.

- Instalment 1 – 16 February 2024
- **Instalment 2 – 26 April 2024**
- Instalment 3 – 26 July 2024
- Instalment 4 – 18 October 2024

A requirement of enrolling your child at St Monica's College is that payments are made on a regular basis from the commencement of the school year.

Tuition Fee Account Statements were emailed to all families on Wednesday, 1 May 2024.

Extra-curricular activities 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.

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

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

1 Quarterly Payments	1 Monthly Payment	2 Fortnightly Payments	5 Weekly Payments
15 May	15 May	10 May 24 May	3 May 10 May 17 May 24 May 31 May

STEM

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY |

STEM Week Term 1

Science

Day 1: STEM Week's, Science Activity brought an engaging exploration of biomimicry. The session explored the fascinating parallels between evolutionary designs and human inventions, emphasizing how the study of biology informs technology and engineering. Through dissecting a sheep's heart and eye, students uncovered the heart's efficient pumping mechanism and the eye's camera-like functions. The session showcased real-world applications, from sportswear inspired by frog skin to suction cups mimicking frog feet. Overall, it was an eye-opening experience that highlighted the symbiotic relationship between nature's designs and human innovation.

Digital Technologies

Day 2: Our students engaged in a collaborative learning environment, discussing coding objectives, troubleshooting technical issues, and working towards goals with enthusiasm. Teachers guided students through problem-solving processes while encouraging creativity and innovation, exhibiting determination as they navigated challenges seeking solutions. STEM Week showcases the importance of supportive educational environments when fostering students' STEM education. Despite technical challenges, students remained resilient and committed to their learning goals, reflecting the spirit of exploration and growth nurtured during STEM Week.

Technologies and Engineering

Day 3: Students engaged in an activity called the Marble Run Challenge. Led by Mr Gorman, participants constructed pathways using wooden pieces to slow down marbles as they rolled. Mr Gorman provided guidance on arranging the pieces strategically to achieve the slowest descent possible. Students collaborated, experimenting with various configurations to achieve their objective. With enthusiasm and teamwork, they tackled the challenge, ensuring the marbles travelled down the pathways at a leisurely pace. The activity encouraged problem-solving and critical thinking, fostering a deeper understanding of physics concepts in a fun and interactive manner.

Mathematics

Day 4: Students engaged in a lively hands-on activity to estimate pi by measuring the circumference and diameter of various objects. The challenge involved students using strings and other tools to measure these dimensions, then calculating their own values of pi and comparing them with the actual value of 3.14159. The activity was gamified, with accuracy competitions, allowing students to experiment, make predictions, and understand the concepts of percentage error and practical measurement. The session was interactive, with students working independently and discussing their results, promoting a dynamic learning environment.

Special thank you to all the staff for their assistance in facilitating STEM week including Mr F Farchione, Ms W Krishna, Mr D Birse Mr P Gorman and Mr S Bagh.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator



St Monica's College Year 9 Students Join NASA's "Growing Beyond Earth" Program



Year 9 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and EnviroFriends students at St Monica's College are proudly participating in the "Growing Beyond Earth" (GBE) program, an educational initiative operated in partnership with NASA. This program involves a series of plant experiments that simulate the conditions of growing food in space, akin to the systems used on the International Space Station.

St Monica's is among just seven schools selected across Australia to take part in this innovative project. Within the classroom, students engage in scientific processes using a plant habitat, like NASA's Vegetable Production System (Veggie). Their experiments provide critical data that supports NASA's efforts to develop sustainable technologies for future space missions.

This participation not only provides practical experience in advanced agricultural technologies but also gives students a unique opportunity to present their findings at a live, virtual Student Research Symposium attended by NASA researchers and administrators. This allows them to contribute directly to space research, enhancing their learning and potentially influencing future missions.

The involvement in GBE underscores St Monica's commitment to providing innovative educational opportunities in science and environmental awareness, preparing students for future challenges in a global context.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator



STEM Education: Integrating Composting into Sustainable Practices at SMC

Incorporating environmental sustainability into schools is crucial, and composting provides an effective means of waste management while offering valuable learning opportunities for students. Composting transforms organic scraps like leaves, vegetable peels, and cafeteria waste into valuable organic fertilizer, promoting a circular economy by turning waste into a resource that improves soil health and fertility.

At our school, composting starts with collecting organic waste from food technology classes and garden trimmings. These are mixed with wood chips and other materials to create a balanced compost in our bins. Over three months, this mixture turns into nutrient-rich soil. This practice not only reduces landfill waste but also serves as an educational tool, teaching students about decomposition, nutrient cycles, and the science behind composting.

Using the resulting compost in school gardens lessens the reliance on chemical fertilizers and enhances our sustainable practices. It provides a practical example of science and biology applications and fosters environmental awareness among students.

Mr Ben Coleman, Coordinator of Sustainability & Environment, and the students of the EnviroFriends Co-curricular Activity, encourage the entire school community, to engage in our composting efforts. Participation can range from contributing waste to maintaining compost areas or using the compost in garden projects. Such involvement enriches our environmental impact and imparts sustainability lessons to our students, highlighting the importance of responsible waste management and environmental preservation.

Mr S Kalantzis
Senior STEM Educator





World of Sport



SACCSS Senior AFL Round 1 result



SACCSS Senior Boys AFL Result

Round 1: ANZAC Clash
SMC vs MacKillop
9.7.61 def 7.4.46

Best On Ground:
Joshua Caputo

Monicans in the Spotlight



Well done to Royce Ansa and Mateo Carvajal from Year 8. Both boys represented the North Team for the Football Victoria TIDC Program and their team won the State Championship. They went undefeated in all the games leading to the Grand Final. This is a wonderful achievement. Well done to both Monicans!



Mia Mitris & Ela Uzun



SACCSS Cross Country Results

Junior Girls - 1st
Junior Boys - 3rd
Junior Overall - 2nd

Intermediate Girls - 1st
Intermediate Boys - 2nd
Intermediate Overall - 1st

Senior Girls - 1st
Senior Boys - 3rd
Senior Overall - 2nd



SACCSS Cross Country Individual Awards

13 Year Old Girls
1st - Ela Uzun

14 Year Old Girls
2nd - Mia Mitris

Intermediate Girls
1st - Riara Calafiore

Intermediate Boys
3rd - Will Kengni

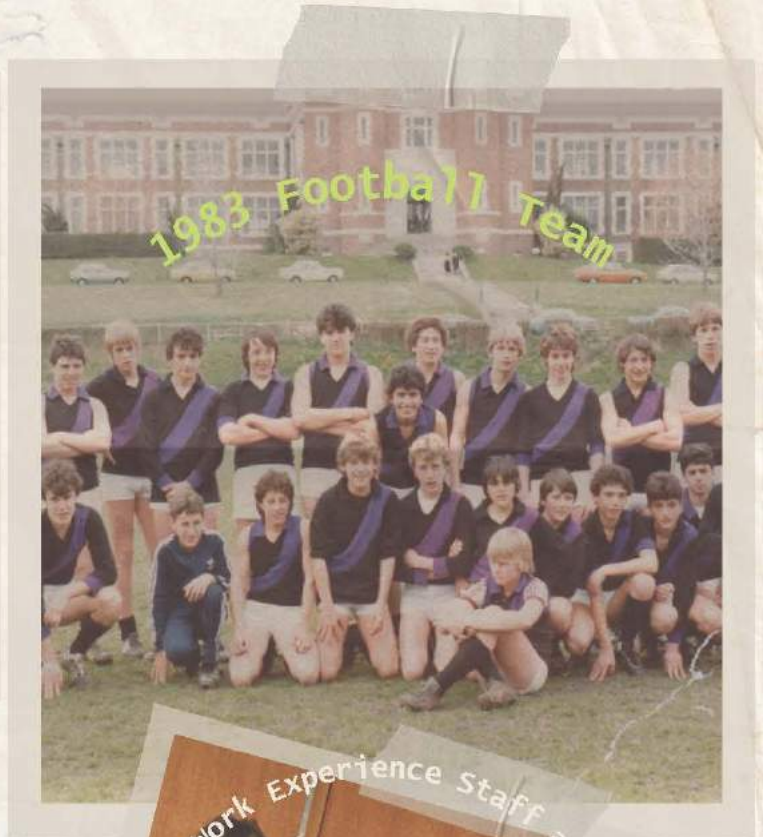
Senior Girls
3rd - Tejana Castro



Tejana Castro, Kiara Calafiore and Will Kengni



GLIMPSES OF THE PAST



Harmony Week



MARVELLOUS MONICANS



Havana Ali (7 Purple) and Ela Uzun (7 Yellow) recently competed at the 2024 Australian Junior Track and Field Championships for 3000 Metre Racewalking in Adelaide. Reclaiming her title, with the time of 13 minutes and 48 seconds, Ela placed 1st in a Meet Record. Havana placed 4th with her personal best time of 15 minutes and 37 seconds.



Beyond the school grounds, Havana and Ela dedicate their time to race walking and swimming training sessions, with the goal of building their strength and stamina. They believe that there is always more to achieve, striving to do their best. Both Havana and Ela are hard workers who show resilience, dedication and perseverance. Within St Monica's College, both students have demonstrated that they are multi-talented by immersing themselves into the community by taking part in the Athletic Development Program and Art Club. Havana is also learning how to play the flute for the first time.

We congratulate Ela and Havana on their achievements thus far and wish them all the best for their upcoming event, representing the College at the 2024 All Schools Road Racewalking Championships on the 19 May.

B.E. Hanley OAM
College Principal



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