

# Principal's Bulletin

ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING



Volume 34  
Number 7

Wednesday,  
22 May  
2024

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

## “FROM YOUR PARENT WHO LOVES YOU”

Monicans are truly and wonderfully blest when they have as their comfort, security and personal assurance a loving parent, or two. Parenthood is indeed a tremendous gift given by God as the mother conceives a child through a loving relationship with the father.

We know how much the child Jesus loved and cared for his parents on earth. Mary, his mother, sacrificed herself to be the Mother of God, and throughout his lifetime Jesus had the love of Mary about whom I wrote last edition. The guardianship and devotion of his father, Saint Joseph is the ideal example of parental fidelity and care. Joseph, as he taught the young Jesus the trade of carpentry; Joseph, who searched for the young Jesus amongst the merchants and traders; Joseph who stood by and loved Mary to whom he was betrothed though not with Jesus as his natural son.

Monica is the epitome of the devoted mother for Monicans. Her perilous pursuit of Augustine from Tagaste, Algeria, across the seas and through the mountains to Milan and later to Rome inspires us. Monica and Augustine at Ostia sharing together a vision of Heaven, captured in words so magnificently later by Augustine, enchants us. Monica deserves the title of the Mother of St Monica's College, Epping.

The stages of parenthood are unique for each existing parent and are awaited by the majority of Monican students who will be parents in the decades ahead of them. From birth to infancy, from the nursery to the school room (primary and secondary); through adolescence; young adulthood; to eventually, God willing, being grandparents. Mum and Dad always alert to the needs of their children and ready to make sacrifices and let their child(ren) thrive.

The images of parenthood abound. Traditionally, mums are associated with care giving at home, in the kitchen, in the early schoolyears: while Dads are portrayed as the reliable wage earner, the rock who supports the family through thick and thin. I emphasise that these are stereotypical images of ages long gone. Today, parents come in different couplings, arrangements, roles, and guises in 2024. Who cares, as long as we are loved by them.

Monicans are encouraged to pray for their parents who will age as time passes. No one grows younger. Parents' work is never done but it does diminish in time. Parents, as they grow old, may be more dependent on their children, less able to be the active caregiver. Never allow our parents to be lonely, abandoned, forgotten or regarded for the inheritance they might bestow.

For some people, their understanding of 'parent' is negative due to a range of circumstances. Others will not love their parents who, for whatever reason, did not love or want them. Parents die, some too soon, sometimes tragically and one parent is left alone to battle on. Our Monican prayers are devoted to families in strife, dysfunctional families, broken families, parentless families.

*“Dearest,,,,, Thank you for being my beautiful child, for the happiness you have given, the joy you still bring into my life, the way my life is enriched through having you as my own. May God bless you and keep you safe always.”*

Your Parent who loves you.

**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**

### ***Situational Awareness***

By definition, “situational awareness” is the ability to directly know and perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events or people around you. It is a crucial skill that can greatly benefit you in various aspects of life, from personal safety to decision-making and communication. In simple terms, it refers to being present and mindful of what is occurring around you.

The components of situational awareness are perception, comprehension, and projection. Perception involves using one or more of your senses to gather information about your surroundings and environment. Comprehension is the process of making sense of and interpreting the information gathered, and projection refers to utilising that information, to anticipate a future outcome. Why is this important?

On a daily basis, our young people travel to and from school, make their ways to sporting activities or part-time work after school, or go about their weekend commitments outside of the direct care and supervision of either family members or other adults in their lives, including College staff. During these times, it is imperative that they are not so engrossed in their digital devices or engaged in other activities that may distract them from potential harm. Whilst I certainly do not wish to be alarmist, I strongly feel that as adults, we would not be doing our due diligence in keeping our young people safe, if we did not broach such topics with them and offer timely reminders of the need to be vigilant.

Situational awareness enhances personal safety. Being aware of surroundings can help you identify changes and potential challenges and allow for appropriate measures to be taken to protect oneself. It enhances decision-making abilities as you have a greater understanding of a circumstance. Situational awareness builds effective communication skills by allowing you to recognise and respond to cues. It is also known to reduce stress and anxiety, by providing a sense of control and readiness for particular circumstances that may present out of the ordinary.

Some practical ways to practise situational awareness in our daily lives may include:

- ❖ Being present and mindful by avoiding distractions such as excessive phone usage, using noise-blocking ear pods, or simply daydreaming.
- ❖ Practising mindfulness techniques such as deep breathing or grounding exercises that focus our attention to the present moment.
- ❖ Observing our surroundings and paying attention to the information our senses are gathering. Notice people, objects, traffic, signals, and out-of-place occurrences that may require us to be more attuned to what is happening, so as to avoid potential risks or threats to our safety.
- ❖ Engaging our senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch and responding accordingly.
- ❖ Anticipating potential risks or challenges and planning ahead. These could include hazards, suspicious individuals or groups, or unsafe situations and consequently, making safer choices or taking alternative actions.
- ❖ Considering different scenarios and having a course of action to activate in response to a threat or hazardous situation.
- ❖ Developing empathy and understanding towards others can also enhance our situational awareness. Understanding and considering others’ perspectives and placing ourselves in their shoes, can provide valuable information about a person’s emotions or intentions.

Being situationally aware is a valuable life skill that can be practised and utilised regularly, in various aspects of life. Practising situational awareness can enhance our personal safety, improve our decision-making and response abilities, assist us to be prepared and communicative, and can alleviate anxiety or stress. The benefits are many and certainly worth the effort.

Be aware and stay safe!

Miss P Di Maria  
Executive Deputy Principal

## Mid-Year Examinations

As many of you would be aware, our students in Year 8 (HORIZONS and Accelerated Maths only) and Years 9 to 11 will shortly begin their mid-year examinations. These exams play an important role in assisting with the identification of students that require additional support and in preparing our students for the demands of their VCE studies.

We understand that our students can experience feelings of anxiousness and stress leading into these exams and are well-resourced to support our students. Our Year Level Leaders support these students by working individually with students and parents to support their personal needs. We also ensure that all students have the resources to revise effectively for their exams. Examinations are a learning experience for all students. We encourage all students to give their best effort in each exam.

We take this opportunity to remind students of the importance of knowing when and where your exams are scheduled. The exam timetable has been placed in Knowledge Banks on PAM and SIMON, is on display in corridors and has also been sent via email.

Some key information that all students must be aware of:

- Students are required to be on campus 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of their exams.
- Students need to be in full winter school uniform. No PE and no Building and Construction will be accepted. All College grooming expectations are required to be followed.
- If a student arrives late to an exam, they must present to their Year Level Leader's office.
- Students need to follow the direction of supervisors in each exam.
- Students are not permitted to have mobile phones and/or electronic devices that are capable of storing, receiving or transmitting information or electronic signals on them during an exam. Such devices must be turned off and will be placed in a basket at the front of the exam room. Students who do not comply will have their device confiscated and retained pending an investigation.
- In line with VCAA examinations, students are not permitted to exit the exam room during the first 30 minutes or the last 20 minutes of an exam.
- A more detailed list of exam guidelines is on display in every classroom. Students are encouraged to read these prior to the beginning of the examination period.

We wish you the best for this exam period. We encourage students to continue to prepare well and revise for their exams. We encourage all students to trust their preparation and give their best effort.

Ms A Xerri  
Campus Director DRC

Miss N Meade  
Campus Director DSC



# Careers CORNER

## Trade & Tech Fit Career Expo

The Trade & Tech Fit is a Career Expo that was held on Thursday, 9 May 2024, with the aim of delivering exciting trade and technology industries, showcasing the rewarding and well-paid career opportunities they provide, and showcasing them to female and gender diverse secondary students. Hosted by the Department of Education, that displays exciting careers in traditionally male-dominated industries. The study opportunities and career possibilities were quickly seen by the small group of students who attended the expo. The event was very hands-on, allowing students to design video games, lay bricks, fly planes, program a robot, safety test equipment, learn to paint and plaster, plus more! All this while learning about the range of career options available to women and gender diverse people.

The Trade & Tech Fit Career Expo provides a safe and equitable space where students engage with tradies, apprentices and industry professionals, providing insight into the breadth of career pathways where female and gender diverse people are underrepresented.

More than 120 schools were in attendance to experience the interactive activities from 85 exhibitors across a huge range of industries, including:

- building, construction and engineering
- refrigeration, electrical and plumbing
- automotive, marine, aviation and aerospace
- solar and wind clean energy
- foundry and mining
- transport and logistics
- agriculture and horticulture
- gaming, cloud and robotics
- civil assets management and infrastructure
- defence, essential services and fire protection.



Stay tuned for other exciting opportunities similar to this one.



# Welcome to the LIBRARY



## *Peer Tutoring in the SJQ Library*

It is fantastic to see peer tutoring happening in the SJQ Library at lunchtimes. Students are utilising the multiple whiteboards throughout the Library to tutor their peers.

It is an effective use of our whiteboards for revision, study, teaching and brain challenges.

Well done students for taking such a great initiative!





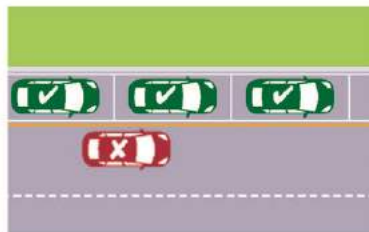
# Parking and safety around schools

## Speed



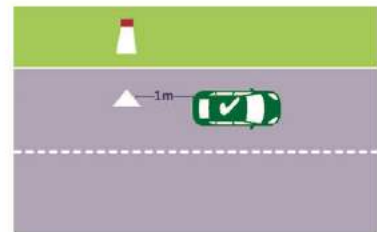
Look out for the reduced speed limit around schools and slow down to improve safety.

## Yellow edge line



A driver must not stop on the side of the road marked with a yellow edge line.

## Fire hydrants



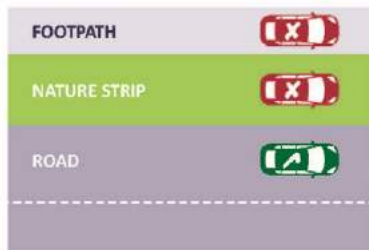
1 Metre clearance is required for fire hydrants, fire hydrant indicators or fire plug indicators.

## School crossings



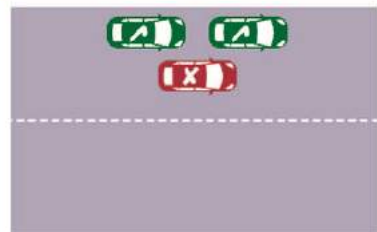
- Look out for flags and crossing supervisors.
- You must stop for anyone waiting to cross, or who has started crossing
- Please remain stopped until the crossing is clear.

## No crossing on nature strips/footpaths



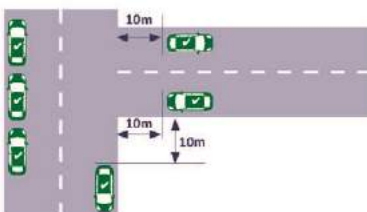
Parking is illegal on nature strips and footpaths.

## Double parking



It is illegal to double park at anytime. This affects the flow of traffic.

## Within 10 metres of an intersection



A driver must not stop with any part of their vehicle within 10 metres of an intersection unless signed otherwise.

## Stopping across driveways



It is illegal to stop/park across a driveway unless you stay in the car and are there for no more than two minutes and move immediately if required to do so to allow entry or exit by the owner/occupier.

## 3 Metre gap from white line



At least 3 metres must be left between your vehicle and the centre dividing line to allow other vehicles to pass safely and not obstruct traffic.



Free telephone  
Interpreter service  
**131 450**

العربية 9679 9871  
Ελληνικά 9679 9873  
हिंदी 9679 9879

Italiano 9679 9874  
Македонски 9679 9875  
简体中文 9679 9857

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ 9679 9879  
தமிழ் 9679 9879  
Türkçe 9679 9877

Tiếng Việt 9679 9878  
Other 9679 9879



# Parking at schools can be challenging due to limited spaces and heavy traffic, but doing it correctly can save lives.

Children are unpredictable and often move quickly, so as adults, we need to ensure their safety. By parking correctly we can do that.



## Follow designated parking areas

Always park in designated areas and follow the school's parking regulations.



## Drop-off and pick-up zones

Use designated drop-off and pick-up zones if available. These areas are designed for quick stops and minimise the time children spend in traffic areas.



## Avoid double parking

Double parking can obstruct visibility and create hazards. Park only in designated spaces to allow for smooth traffic flow and prevent accidents.



## Mind crosswalks and pedestrian paths

Avoid parking in or near crosswalks and pedestrian paths. Ensure that children have a clear path to walk safely to and from school without having to navigate through parked cars. It is illegal to park within 20m before a crossing and within 10m after a crossing.



## Stay within marked lines

When parking, make sure to stay within the marked lines to maximize space efficiency and prevent congestion. This also ensures that emergency vehicles can pass through easily if needed.



## Turn off engines

If you're waiting in your car, especially in drop-off or pick-up areas, turn off your engine. This reduces air pollution and creates a safer environment for children.



## Watch for school zone signs

Obey speed limits and watch for school zone signs. These areas typically have reduced speed limits during certain hours to enhance safety.



## Be mindful of blind spots

Before pulling into or out of a parking space, be mindful of blind spots. Check mirrors and surroundings to ensure no children are in the vicinity.



## Practice patience

Traffic around schools can be hectic during drop-off and pick-up times. Practice patience, follow traffic rules, and be courteous to other drivers to create a safer environment for everyone.



## Encourage walking or carpooling

If possible, encourage walking or carpooling to reduce the number of vehicles around the school. This can alleviate traffic congestion and contribute to a safer environment.

**By following these guidelines, adults can contribute to creating a safer and more organised parking environment around schools, ultimately ensuring the well-being of children.**

## *Healthy Teens Newsletter: Nutrition Tips for Parents*

As partners in your child's education and well-being, we wanted to take a moment to highlight the importance of nutrition for teenagers and offer some tips to ensure your child is getting the nourishment they need throughout the day. You can support your teen's growth, development, and overall well-being by prioritising nutrition and making healthy food choices. Remember, small changes can make a big difference, so encourage your child to make healthy choices one step at a time.

### **Why is Nutrition Important for Teens?**

Your child's body undergoes rapid growth and development during adolescence, making proper nutrition essential for their overall health and well-being. Adequate nutrition supports physical growth, cognitive function, mood stability, and energy levels, all of which are crucial for academic success and overall vitality. Moreover, eating throughout the day helps maintain steady blood sugar levels, which sustains energy levels and concentration. Skipping meals or going long periods without eating can lead to fatigue, irritability, and difficulty focusing, impacting your teen's academic performance and overall well-being. Therefore, it is vital to encourage your teen to prioritise regular meals and snacks to ensure they receive the necessary nutrients their body needs to thrive.

### *Tips for Ensuring Your Teen Eats Well Throughout the Day:*

#### **Start with a Healthy Breakfast**

Encourage your child to kickstart their day with a balanced breakfast with whole grains, lean proteins, and fruits or vegetables. A nutritious breakfast provides the energy and nutrients needed to fuel their day and enhances concentration and focus in class.

#### **Pack Nutrient-Rich Snacks**

Teens often have busy schedules, so providing healthy snacks they can easily grab on the go is essential. Some examples are nuts, yoghurt, fresh fruits, or whole-grain crackers, which can keep hunger at bay and provide essential nutrients between meals.

#### **Promote Balanced Meals**

Encourage your teen to include a variety of foods in their meals, focusing on lean proteins, whole grains, healthy fats, and plenty of fruits and vegetables. Encourage them to experiment with different flavours and cuisines to keep meals interesting and enjoyable.

#### **Stay Hydrated**

Remind your teen to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated. Limit sugary drinks like soda and sports drinks, opting instead for water, flavoured water, or herbal teas to quench thirst without added sugars.

#### **Benefits of Eating as a Family**

In addition to focusing on individual nutrition, sharing meals as a family offers numerous benefits for teenagers. Eating together provides an opportunity to connect and communicate, fostering stronger family bonds and creating a supportive environment. Research shows that teens who regularly dine with their families tend to have healthier eating habits, consuming more fruits, vegetables, and nutrient-rich foods. Family meals promote positive eating behaviours, such as mindful eating and portion control. Furthermore, family dinners offer a chance to role model healthy eating habits and introduce new foods, making mealtime an enjoyable and educational experience for teens. Encourage your family to sit together as often as possible, even just for a quick breakfast or dinner, to reap these valuable benefits beyond just nutrition.





## 2024 PRINCIPAL'S ART PRIZE

The St Monica's College community celebrated the 2024 Principal's Art Prize on Wednesday, 24 April showcasing a remarkable display of student artworks created in 2023. Congratulations to all participants and award winners for their exceptional talent and creativity.

Our guest judge for the event was Mr Dominique Luca who selected the winners of the Highly Commended Awards, the Creative Expression Award, Design Excellence Award, Emerging Filmmakers Award and Principal's Art Prize. Mr Brian Hanley OAM awarded the Principal's Choice Award and Mr Stefan Luca nominated the winner of the Curator's Choice Award.



Highly Commended  
Awards  
Year 7 to 12

The recipients of the highly commended awards for Year 7 to 12 are:

- ❖ For Year 7: Ryan Huang with his drawing 'Bird'
- ❖ For Year 8: Hope Natis with her print, 'Buildings'
- ❖ For Year 9: Jaivalee Nieva with her painting 'Figures in Action'
- ❖ For Year 10: PJ Batsakis with his photograph 'Book'
- ❖ For Year 11: Kimberly Pereira with her painting 'Distorted Reflection'
- ❖ For Year 12: Alanna Tran with her painting 'False Nostalgia'

Receiving the Creative Expression Award, Design Excellence Award, Emerging Filmmakers Award, Curator's Choice Award and Principal's Choice Award were:

- ❖ Creative Expression Award: Mia Traficante with her painting, 'Social Media Portrait'
- ❖ Design Excellence Award: Lily Galgano with her design, 'Teapot'
- ❖ Emerging Filmmaker Award: Chloe Hidalgo her film, 'Promise'
- ❖ Curator's Choice Award: Mannat Kaur with her artwork Portrait with 'Sunglasses'
- ❖ Principal's Choice Award: Illias Kapoulitsas with his artwork, 'Marcus Aurelius'



Finally, the winner of the Principal's Art Prize for 2024 was Laura George with her painting, 'Self Portrait with Mirror Reflection'.



## **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](http://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](http://www.educationvic.gov.au/csef)**

All queries are to be directed to the Fees Office on 9409 8800 or [fees@stmonicas-epping.com](mailto:fees@stmonicas-epping.com).



## **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.

## **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 a number of 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.

*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.*



# St Monica's College, Epping

## Enrol Now for Year 7, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers,

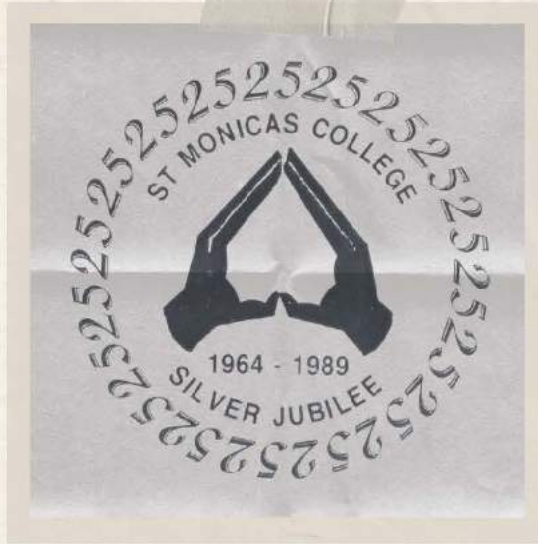
Applications for **Grade 5 students starting Year 7 in 2026** are now open and will close on **Friday, 16 August 2024**.

Application for enrolment is available on the St Monica's College Website: [www.stmonicas-epping.com/apply](http://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](mailto:registrar@stmonicas-epping.com).





# GLIMPSES OF THE PAST



## *Educational Stationery Drive*

Dear Monican Community : Staff, Students, and Parents,

I am appealing to you all for donations of stationery items such as pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, textas, markers, exercise books, pencil cases, colouring books, paper, note pads, plastic rulers, etc. Anything that you can write with, and anything you can write on, as the under privileged children from the Tea Plantation communities of remote Hill Country, Sri Lanka, have none of these very basic items to support their education or learning process.

Their parents are the poorest of the poor, working as Tea Pluckers all day in extreme heat conditions, and are paid very little on the weight of their bags at the end of the day.

They cannot afford to purchase any of the above items for their poor children.

These items can be purchased for relatively small amounts of money here in Australia, as we do our weekly food shopping at our local Coles or Woolies Supermarkets.

Donated items can be sent via your children to school, or feel free to drop them off yourself, to any of our receptions, on either Campus. We will place collection tubs at these locations for items.

Your kindness and generosity will be greatly appreciated by the children, and I thank you in advance on their behalf.

Your blessings will be boundless.

Recipient Schools:           Ohiya Tamil Vidyalaya  
  Haputale No 2 Tamil Vidyalaya

Ms C Brennan  
Visual Arts



St Monica's College, Epping

# hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

## 2024

Plenty Ranges  
Arts and Convention Centre

***Ticket Bookings***

[www.pracc.com.au/tickets/](http://www.pracc.com.au/tickets/)

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



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.

## Year 9 Science STEM Elective: Sneaker DNA



In Mr Farchione's and Ms Thomson's Year 9 Science STEM elective, students are exploring biology, podiatry, and material science through a unique project: designing and producing shoes. Currently, the project involves students layering different fabrics for the shoe's upper, aiming to grasp the intricacies of shoe construction. They select their fabrics, with a focus on factors like comfort and style. They have experimented with various materials, such as bioplastics and honeycomb structures for the sole, to enhance shoe functionality. Through hands-on activities like 3D printing and laser cutting, they are gaining practical insights into advanced manufacturing processes. Guided by their teachers, they are encouraged to explore their creativity. This project offers them a chance to apply scientific principles in a tangible manner. Their collaborative and problem-solving skills shine as they collaborate to bring their designs to fruition. This interdisciplinary approach not only deepens their scientific understanding but also nurtures critical thinking and innovation. As they advance with their prototypes, students reflect on their experiences, realising the value of hands-on STEM education. Beyond learning about shoes, this project instills

a broader appreciation for the intersection of science and everyday life.

Mr S Kalantzis  
Senior STEM Educator





## Immersive Learning: Revolutionising Humanities Education with Virtual Reality (VR)



In recent years, the integration of Virtual Reality (VR) in education has begun to revolutionise the way students learn, offering immersive experiences that enhance engagement and understanding across various subjects. VR promotes active learning and provides students with hands-on experiences and simulations. Mr Antonio, a Humanities teacher, wanted his students to explore physical environments in an interactive way that might not be readily available or feasible in a traditional classroom setting. When asked about his experience with using VR for about a year, this is what Mr Rhys Antonio reflected.

*“Throughout 2023 and 2024, students and teachers have had the amazing possibility to utilise Virtual Reality (VR) within the educational space; usually located within the new STEM Building on Dalton Road Campus. VR assists many classes in reaching beyond the classroom, especially within the Humanities Faculty. As a teacher of the Humanities, I have found VR to be an extremely exciting prospect to allow students to envision places and times that are far away. For example, when teaching students about landscapes and landforms in Year 8, VR headsets can be used to allow students to see the heights of Mount Everest or the Swiss Alps. The students are always enamoured by the 3D photos, giving them*

*the ability to visualise the landscape or landform in ways that standard photos are unable to do. Within the History subject, Year 7 students have been able to visit historic locations such as the Pyramids of Giza or the Great Wall of China. Students are given the task to write down their observations of the images and, in the context of History, evaluate the historical significance of these locations. Through this process, students and teachers can actively engage in the concept of making History come “alive”. Without VR, this can often be one of the greatest challenges. Using relevant and targeted photos can assist in having students engage with this concept in History and Geography, however, VR literally places the students in the centre of grand spectacles, without the need to travel vast distances. There are limitless possibilities to utilising VR in many aspects of education, extending beyond the Humanities. Science classes could discover 3D models of anatomy or the Solar System. English classes can experience 3D recreations of famous novels such as Dracula, Of Mice and Men and 1984. Overall, VR has been an asset to education as a whole as it allows students and teachers to extend beyond the traditional classroom and invoke creativity and imagination.”*

Finally, as the future of virtual reality is increasingly leaning towards multisensory experiences, Monican teachers like Mr Antonio are leading the way with innovative teaching practices.

Mr S Bagh  
Senior Teachers (Futures Technologies and STEM)





# World of



## SACCSS Open Badminton Results

Boys Doubles A Runners Up:  
Uday Bhullar & Ritin Raman  
Boys Doubles B Champions:  
Joel Roney & Sucher Chavaan  
Boys Doubles D Champions:  
Tem Truong & James Inovero  
Girls Doubles C Champions:  
Teena Sabu & Sakshi Sharma



## SACCSS Senior AFL Results

Round 2:

Senior Boys  
SMC vs Salesian  
10.565 def by 149.93

Senior Girls  
SMC vs Salesian  
3.321 def by 9.458



## Basketball

The Year 7/8 boys headed out to Nunawading to compete in the Victoria College Championship Tournament. Congratulations to all teams who qualified for the next round of finals!



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 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*



## MARVELLOUS MONICAN



Christina Boulos (**10 Green**) is a shining example of Monican spirit and an exemplary student in Year 10, representing what it means to be a 'Marvellous Monican.' Christina consistently wears her uniform with pride and treats everyone around her with kindness and respect.

This year marks Christina's second involvement in the College Production, where she has taken an enthusiastic role in the chorus. Christina has significantly boosted her confidence, embracing the challenges of performing and showing remarkable dedication to her role. It is inspiring to see our students like Christina, willingly step out of their comfort zone and thrive.

Beyond the stage, Christina is a member of the 'EnviroFriends' group, contributing to our school's sustainability efforts. Her passion also extends into her academic pursuits, particularly in Literature, which is her favourite subject.

Christina has eagerly embraced life on the Davisson Street Campus, she is now focusing on her future, with a keen interest in pursuing a pathway in Psychology. Soon, she will participate in the La Trobe Experience Day, an opportunity for all Year 10s, that will offer her a glimpse into life on a university campus and further inspire her educational and career aspirations.

Congratulations Christina for your ongoing achievements and significant contributions to our College community!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.E. Hanley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back up towards the end of the name.

B.E. Hanley OAM  
College Principal



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