

Newsletter No.11/22

Friday 5 August 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

The Role of Mistakes in Making a Success of us all

This week our Year 12 students commenced their trial Higher School Certificate examinations. It is a time of critical preparation for their final examinations. A time when they learn from their mistakes and identify "gaps" in their learning. **Learning from mistakes must be recognised as a normal, but necessary, part of the process of learning for ALL students.**

Unfortunately, the curse of perfection has led to too many people being shamed by mistakes and, as a consequence, fear making mistakes and failing. Yet, all of us make mistakes and experience failure in our daily lives precisely because we are imperfect.

We must see and we must educate our children to see our imperfection as a gift. This is so because it grants each of us the opportunity to grow, to develop and to learn from our mistakes and failures.

Studies in the fields of Neuroscience and Psychology continue to demonstrate that making mistakes enhances students' ability to problem solve; to think critically and to analyse their work. It also triggers brain growth, builds their intelligence and teaches them to become more resilient in the face of failure and life's challenges.

Our students must develop the skills needed to become reflective, independent, life-long learners. Making mistakes in the learning process is crucial to developing these much needed qualities for life beyond school.

As educators (parent and teacher) of adolescents, we have a shared responsibility to educate our children/students to value their mistakes as something to be embraced and learn from. ***We must work together to take mistake-making from a position of shame to one that our adolescents seize upon as an opportunity for learning, growing and becoming the best of themselves.***

Learning from mistake-making is a stepping-stone to success in life. It is good to remind our adolescents that ***without making mistakes all we have is "UNTRIED" ability. A wasted opportunity to find out more about ourselves and life.***

Rich blessings

Larry Keating
Principal

ASPIRE

Aspire – 2022 Production – A celebration of the artistic and creative giftedness of our students

Congratulations extend to the College's representatives in this year's diocesan Aspire production "The Cost of Wishes". To share in a musical production of splendid quality 'on stage' in the Civic Theatre is a wonderful achievement. The commitment of time and effort in preparing for such a quality production is immense. It builds students' character as well as developing their creative gifts and talents. Our students are deserving of all the accolades that came their way.

Our Aspire participants were:

- Piper Araujo
- Henry Barnett
- James Bernasconi
- Amelia Bubenicek
- Bronte Carrigan
- Katelyn Dowling
- Riley Freebody
- Daniel Smith
- Patrick Howlett
- Polly Lucas
- Daniel Ollerton
- Remi Druery
- Charlotte Pierchorowicz
- Jesse Harper
- Macy Nash
- Ruby Inglis
- Tia Pezet
- Lucy Wallace



A Snapshot in Time

At the recent celebration of the Federation of Parents and Friends 40th Anniversary Dinner with the Governor, Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, the opportunity was taken to launch the publication *Snapshots in Time 1833-2021. A focus on schools in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle*.

The publication chronicles the history of our catholic schools within the emerging social, political and religious landscape from the early colony of 1833 up until 2021.

The book is also available as an e-publication to share with community members:

https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/34523_cso_a_snapshot_in_time_final_web

Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching

Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations

Year 12 students are currently halfway through their HSC TRIAL Exam period and all students are to be congratulated on the excellent way in which they have conducted themselves this past week. I encourage Year 12 to continue to make the most of this weekend as they maintain focus on the remaining assessments. I also encourage those students with Major Works due over the next few weeks, to continue to engage with teachers, making the most of the offers of additional rehearsal or time. We were very excited this week to see the first of the Major Works, the Society and Culture students, handing in their Personal Interest Projects. We congratulate **Ms Lorenz** and her students on a fantastic effort. Above all, Year 12, keep doing the small things each day, one task at a time. Good luck to all!



Asha and Gabby, Year 12 Society & Culture students, happily handing in their PIPs!

Year 10 – Stage 6 2023 Course Selections

Following the second WebChoice survey of student Course Preferences, Year 10 students, have been finalising subject choices for 2023. Over the coming weeks, **Ms Finlay** and **myself** will continue to speak with students regarding concerns re choices or options. Our role is to find solutions for each student as best as we can within the constraints of the 2023 timetable. Students will receive a Letter of Confirmation regarding subjects prior to the Senior interview, held in Term 4.

Year 8 – Stage 5 Additional Studies

This week, students in Year 8 have been engaging in the **2023 Additional Courses of Study Process**. Students have had several gatherings to talk through the subject options as well as receiving an Additional Courses of Study 2023 Handbook. A Parent Information PowerPoint has also been emailed via student email for further support when making selections. Students will make choices in the following week and I encourage parents/carers to engage in conversation with their children in relation to these selections. This is a significant milestone in each child's education as it is the first time they have had choice in their pattern of study. Given the COVID situation and our inability to hold a parent evening, I encourage anyone with questions to email **myself**, **Ms Katrina Brennan** (Year 8 Leader of Wellbeing), Leaders of Learning or classroom teachers as needed.

Learning Walks & Talks at St Mary's

This term, the teachers at St Mary's, under the guidance of our Pedagogical Mentor, Ms Georgina Lindsay, have recommenced Learning Walks and Talks, visiting classrooms with a focus on ***our students and their understanding of their learning - student self-efficacy***.

Travelling in small teams, teachers are visiting classrooms, observing the learning taking place and asking students the following questions:

What are you learning?
Why are you learning it?
How are you going?
How do you know?
How can you improve?
Where do you go for help?

You can learn more about Learning Walk and Talks, and the work of Dr Lyn Sharratt, via this link: [Learning Walks and Talks ACER Interview Dr Lyn Sharratt](#)

You are encouraged, as partners in your child's education, to ask these questions of your child when you have the opportunity – to support students as they take greater ownership of their learning and move towards greater independence and autonomy.

A copy of the St Mary's protocol designed for the LWTs is shared with you below:

What are the <i>aims</i> of the LWTs?	What it is <i>not</i> .
<p>To continue to build and nurture a culture of student self-efficacy.</p> <p>To reinforce to students that they are responsible for their learning and should be able to answer the five essential questions –</p> <p><i>What are you learning?</i> <i>Why are you learning it?</i> <i>How are you going?</i> <i>How do you know?</i> <i>How can you improve?</i> <i>Where do you go for help?</i></p> <p>To continue to build a culture of shared pedagogical practice where teachers can share and celebrate the skills, expertise and knowledge of their colleagues.</p> <p>To continue to promote an open-door culture of collaboration amongst teachers and leaders.</p> <p>To initiate discussions.</p>	<p>An assessment or overview of professional practice.</p> <p>An interruption of valuable teaching and learning time.</p> <p>A process of judgement.</p>
	How can we safeguard this?
<p>How will we facilitate this?</p> <p>Visitors to classrooms ask a student or students – where possible – the five essential questions.</p> <p>Visitors consider which classroom settings will facilitate the most effective student observation.</p> <p>Visitors wait approximately 20 minutes after the lesson has commenced before visiting, to allow for lesson set-up to take place.</p>	<p>Visitors visit classrooms, not teachers.</p> <p>Visitors do not interrupt direct teaching and instruction, examinations, speeches, etc. Visitors use their discretion when attending a classroom.</p> <p>Visitors simply slip in, walk the walls, engage with a student where possible, and walk out quietly.</p> <p>Visitors do not greet the teacher or students or draw attention to themselves.</p> <p>The feedback form does not ask for the class/teacher/room to be identified. The questions pertain to students only.</p> <p>Visiting groups are limited to three (maximum 4).</p> <p>Visitors respect the classroom climate and act accordingly.</p> <p>Visitors respect the classroom climate and act accordingly.</p> <p>Visits to each classroom last approximately 2 – 3 minutes.</p> <p>The entire LWT should take no more than ten minutes (including completion of the feedback form).</p> <p>Visitors do not talk to each other in the classrooms – wait until you have left the room.</p> <p>Visitors will always demonstrate courtesy and consideration of their colleagues. Obviously :)</p>

Creative Arts and Languages

Over the past week a huge number of our amazingly talented students were a part of the 2022 ASPIRE production “The Cost of Wishes”. These students initially started auditioning over a year ago and since then, have worked tirelessly in rehearsals after the school day is done to perfect their performances. Over the weekend the final curtain was called and the student’s intense week of shows was at an end. As Lucy Wallace put it “It’s the funnest week of fun, where you get to explore your passion”.

Well you creative souls, from all of us at St Mary’s, we are so proud of everything you have achieved and congratulations on an amazing show. Those students are: **Piper Araujo, Henry Barnett, James Bernasconi, Amelia Bubenicek, Bronte Carrigan, Katelyn Dowling, Riley Freebody, Daniel Smith, Patrick Howlett, Polly Lucas, Daniel Ollerton, Remi Druery, Charlotte Pierchorowicz, Jesse Harper, Macy Nash, Ruby Inglis, Tia Pezet and Lucy Wallace.**





Year 11 Drama

Congratulations to **Bronte Carrigan** and **Isobel Negus** (Year 11 Drama) for their fantastic performance, “Bronte Python and the Flying Isobel”. Putting together a two-woman show, drawing on the work of Rowan Atkinson, Monty Python and contemporary pieces such as Kath & Kim, and Ab Fab, the production was a product of commitment, creativity and courage. A small audience of friends and family were present on the performance evening and both students deserve recognition and accolades for a fine piece of theatre - designed and directed by themselves as part of their Preliminary Course work. Well done, Bronte and Isobel!



Cathy O’Gorman
Drama Teacher

GIFTED EDUCATION

It has been great to see so many students from Years 7,8 and 9 sign up for the ICAS Assessments. These globally renowned assessments give students the opportunity to challenge themselves and receive recognition for academic achievement.

The ICAS Assessments will take place at St Mary's on the following dates:

Writing	Wednesday 10 th August 2022 Period 4
Digital Technologies	Thursday 11 th August 2022 Period 2
English	Tuesday 16 th August 2022 Period 2
Science	Monday 22 nd August 2022 Period 3
Spelling Bee	Monday 22 nd August 2022 Period 4
Maths	Monday 31 st August 2022 Period 2



If you have any questions, please contact louise.henderson@mn.catholic.edu.au

Louise Henderson
Gifted Education Mentor

SPC News

“Hoodies for the Homeless”

This August, St Mary's is making a difference in our local community to ensure no one goes without. This term on **Friday the 19th of August** we are doing Hoodies for the Homeless. The “Hoodies for the Homeless Day” is in support of Catholic Care's Community Kitchens. Your generosity will help deliver more meals to people in need.

Since COVID the rates of people living on the streets in our local area have risen astronomically. On the “Hoodies for The Homeless Day” you get to wear a hoodie or jumper of your choice. A gold coin donation is required for you to wear your hoodie or jumper. Cash and card will be accepted for donations. You will be given a sticker to put on your hoodie when you pay.



Article written by Oryn Murphy

Library Matters

Welcome to Term 3! The new term started with our final game in this year's **NSW Secondary School Chess Competition**. We travelled to Callaghan College, Waratah Campus. Our team, **Greg Fabrikanov, Joseph Hogan, Daniel Ollerton** was supported by **Oliver Beath** who stepped up at the last moment when **Ethan Blackmore** was unable to attend. While the score was tied at the end, on a count back the win went to Waratah and our journey in this year's competition came to an end. As always, I am super proud of these boys who represent us so well.

The **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** is due to wrap up on **19th August**. Already I have validated several student's records as they finished the challenge over the past few weeks. If you are still going with the Challenge, please either drop your paper 'Reading Log' into the Library or email me to let me know you have uploaded your books online. I will then validate your record and you will be set for this year's challenge.

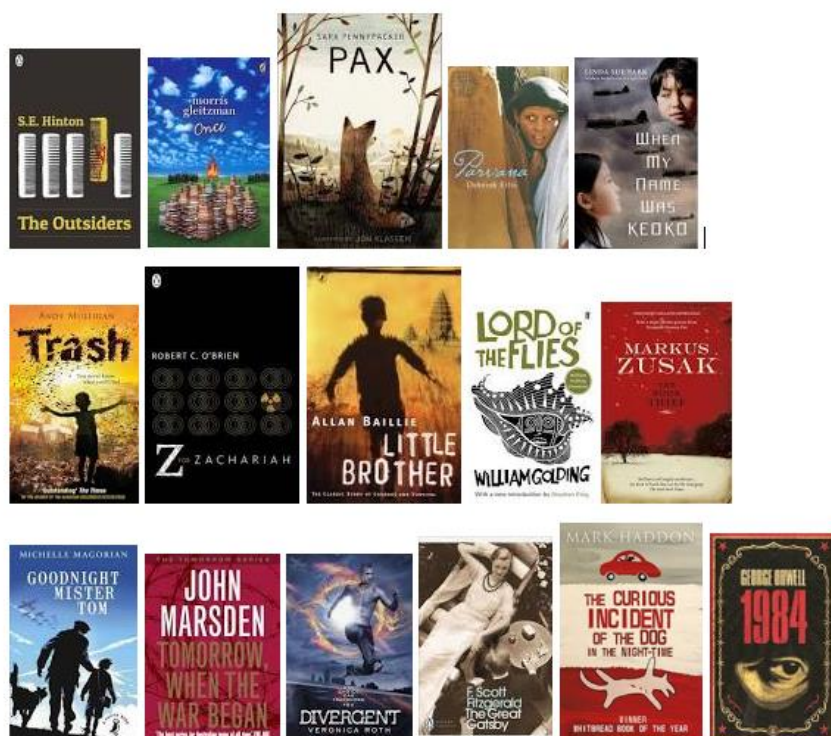
This week we celebrated **Harry Potter's birthday with fun Kahoot** in the library. The winners were **Wendi Harris** and **Matilda Brown**. Well done Girls! And thanks everyone for playing!



The Library is such a flexible learning space, and it is great to welcome so many groups into our realm and seeing them using it for a range of purposes. From group presentations to group and project work. It is wonderful to witness some great learning activities occurring each day.



HELP – Please return our LOST English novels – Parents – if you see one of these books at home – please help get this returned ASAP.



Rosalind Dunn
Teacher Librarian

Aboriginal Education

Aboriginal Art - Textiles

Siarn Staley, a local Aboriginal Artist (and ex-student) shared her skills and knowledge with the Year 9 and 10 Textiles students last week. Siarn showed the class a range of symbols and techniques used in Aboriginal Art.

The students then took the learning with Dr Donna Biles-Fernando about the tradition of Possum Skin Cloaks to tell their own story on calico. Aboriginal students from Year 7-10 were also invited for a session with Siran. Mrs Katia Bunn will sew these together to create three or four community pieces. We look forward to the unveiling!



Possum Skin Cloak

Some students in Year 9 missed out on the recent presentation given by local Aboriginal historian Dr Donna Fernando on the Lake Macquarie Possum Skin Cloak. These students had the opportunity to meet some possums last week (skinned) and learned about the cultural significance of possum skin cloaks amongst Aboriginal people. Then then had a go at designing their own piece on paper for a class 'coat'.

Paul McKay
Aboriginal Education Teacher



*Taj with his Woomera created
for the amazing Year 7
History display*

Landcare News

Last week was National Tree Planting Day and St Mary's Landcare planted (another) 250 native trees, shrubs and grasses into our creek site.

It was a case of many hands make light work with 70 students volunteering. We removed huge areas of Morning Glory weed.



It was a great opportunity for students to reconnect with nature in a beautiful outdoor learning environment!

Any student wishing to be involved in our school Environmental Initiatives is invited to participate in our Landcare Days. Permission notes will be made available closer to the date. Our next planting day is Tuesday 20th September (Week 10)

Together we can make a positive difference to improve our natural environment.

Katrina Piper and Maryanne Murray
Landcare Coordinators

23RD ANNUAL

Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning



Fr Greg Barker, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with The Federation of P & F Associations and The Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families and parishioners for this special celebration.

Sunday 18 September | 2.30pm

Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road Medowie

Followed by afternoon tea.

No RSVP required

For more information please contact

Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000



mn.catholic.org.au

FREEEmail to
receive a
Zoom link

Dr Justin Coulson is back!

31st August and 1st September 2022

...to share with us his wisdom and advice about the issue of

Anxiety and Resilience

The Federation of P & F Associations is very pleased to provide this **FREE** opportunity to the parents and carers of children and young people enrolled in our Catholic schools.



Dr Justin Coulson is the co-host and parenting expert on Channel Nine's *Parental Guidance*, the founder of happyfamilies.com.au, and one of Australia's most trusted parenting experts.

Over the past decade he has helped innumerable families with his 6 books about raising children, his hundreds of media appearances (including all of Australia's major news outlets, and even the Washington Post and the New York Times), and two viral videos that have been viewed a combined 80 million times!

Justin earned his PhD in Psychology from the University of Wollongong. He and his wife Kylie have been married since the late 1990s and are the parents of 6 daughters.

Anxiety & Resilience for parents/carers of Primary school students

Date: 31 August 2022
Time: 6.30pm start – 8.00pm
Venue: via Zoom
Cost: FREE

To receive the link for this event, [click here](#)

Anxiety & Resilience for parents/carers of Secondary school students

Date: 1 September 2022
Time: 6.30pm start – 8.00pm
Venue: via Zoom
Cost: FREE

To receive the link for this event, [click here](#)

St Mary's Catholic College Uniform Shop

Year 10 Blazer Fittings



Dear Parents and Carers,

A friendly reminder to Year 9 boys to visit the Uniform Shop during Term 4 to be fitted for your trousers and blazer.

A friendly reminder to Year 9 girls to visit the Uniform Shop during Term 4 to be fitted for your blazer.

Blazers are required for all Year 10 students from the first day of Term 1, 2023.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

 0435 954 372

 stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au

 The Uniform Shop @ St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead - Pacific Highway, Gateshead NSW 2290



St Mary's Catholic College Uniform Shop

2023 Year 7 Uniform Fittings



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Uniform Shop will hold fittings for 2023 Year 7 students in the upcoming September/October school holidays.

During your 30 minute appointment we will guide you through the requirements for your child and provide you with all the information you need to place your order. Orders can be placed at the time of your appointment or online through our website. Layby is available with a 20% deposit.

We offer size exchange on any garments where needed.

Our online booking calendar will be open from Thursday 1st September. To book your appointment, visit www.alintaapparel.com.au and register an account.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

 0435 954 372

 stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au

 The Uniform Shop @ St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead - Pacific Highway, Gateshead NSW 2290



Calendar 2022

TERM 2 - Week 4 (B Week)	
Mon 8 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 of Trial HSC Exams • Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop • Week 2 of Year 7 (2023) interviews
Tues 9 August	Year Assemblies
Wed 10 August	Year 8 Additional Courses of Study – Web Choices – close
Thurs 11 August	Final Year 11 (2023-24) Line Structure published
Fri 12 August	Spirituality Day (Pupil Free)
Week 5 (A Week)	
Mon 15 August	Last Day of THSC examinations
Tues 16 August	College Assembly
Fri 19 August	Newsletter 12/22 published
Week 6 (B Week)	
Mon 22 August	Visit by Mr Pat Conroy, Federal Member for Shortland, to speak to Senior Legal Studies and Economics Students
Tues 23 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Assemblies • Extended Staff Professional Learning – school finishes at 2.40pm
Wed 24 August	Year 10 Religious Literacy Test
Week 7 (A Week)	
Tues 30 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Assembly • Teaching staff “twilight” Professional Learning – 3.30pm to 6.30pm
Fri 2 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 – Round 2 – Minimum Standards Testing • Newsletter 13/22 published
Sun 4 September	Father's Day
Week 8 (B Week)	
Mon 5 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Child Protection Week • Year 11 End of Course Examinations commence until Friday 16 September
Tues 6 September	Year Assemblies
Wed 7 September	Vaccinations – All Year 7 – Gardasil9 (HPV) – 2 nd (and final) dose
Week 9 (A Week)	
Tues 13 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Assembly • Extended Staff Professional Learning – school finishes at 2.40pm
Wed 14 Sept	Senior College Leaders Mass – Cathedral
Fri 16 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 Last day of timetabled classes • Newsletter 14/22 published
Week 10 (B Week)	
Mon 19 Sept	Year 12 “Service Day” (Giving back to the community)
Tues 20 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 Meeting with HSC Presiding Officer and Preparations for their Graduation Mass • Year 12 Graduation Mass – Students, Parents/Carers, Family members and Staff – St Paul's Catholic Church, Gateshead at 6.00pm (time tbc)
Wed 21 Sept	Year 12 Final Assembly; Morning Tea; Formal Graduation Ceremony; “Clap-Out”; issued with Reports
Thurs 22 Sept & Fri 23 Sept	Year 12 Teachers will be available to assist students in preparing for HSC exams, during timetabled class time
Fri 23 Sept	Last Day of Term 3 – Spring Vacation
TERM 4 - Week 1 (A Week)	
Mon 10 October	Students return to school for Term 4
Mon 10 - Tues 11 October	Year 12 Teachers will be available to assist students in preparing for HSC exams, during timetabled class time
Wed 12 October	HSC Examinations commence – English Paper 1 (Exams conclude Monday 7 November)
Fri 14 October	Newsletter 15/22 published