St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 9.23 Friday 9 June 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Community Members

Struggle Grows Us

Struggle is integral to all our lives. Our authenticity, as a Christ-centred place reflective of Christ's love, is demonstrated in how we reach out to and care for community members who we know are struggling with the challenges, tensions, demands and pain of life's journey. In recent times, I have been sharing with and witnessing members of staff (teacher-support and teaching), students and parents/carers struggling to cope with the challenges, pain, anguish and emotional turmoil of life's journey. Grieving and emotionally distraught people struggling with the death of loved ones; severe illness to family members; the imminent death of a parent; family dislocation; severe financial pressures, social/economic disadvantage, and physical, emotional and mental disability.

To witness and be made aware of and provide support and care to those struggling with life's demands is a reminder that there is no such thing as a life without struggle. As adults, we know this and it is vital to our adolescents' wholesome development that they too come to understand this.

To endure in the struggle of daily life and not be defeated by it, to rise above despondency and despair and be motivated by hope, no matter how dire the situation, enables us to grow. Indeed, to quote from **Joan Chittister**, "Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope, 2003, p43, "*it is the value of struggling that grows us*". It builds the resilience required to endure in the demands and challenges of life's journey.

As Christian educators of our young people, we must educate and encourage them to endure in life's daily struggles, and to do so with a sense of HOPE. A sense of hope, born of Christ's resurrection. We must educate them to sit with the pain that accompanies struggle and look for the seeds of new life. Seeds which lie in the depths of our heart, the place where God resides and love is born. In the words of **Leunig** —

"Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born:
Love is always born."

("When I talk to you – a cartoonist talks to God," 2004, Leunig)

Blessings

Larry Keating Principal

BOB SHERIDAN'S BIKE ODYSSEY

Many of you would be aware that a member of the College's temporary and casual staff, Mr Robert (Bob) Sheridan, is currently cycling from Townsville (Qld) to Newcastle via Broome and Perth (WA). Bob hopes to raise \$100,000 for the Black Dog Institute in support of mental health research and education. His journey continues.....

Since we last spoke at Imintji, we've travelled to Broome and now in Dampier on the west coast of WA. The Gibb River Road was extremely tough. 500ks of tough dirt but a beautiful part of Australia – the walks through the gorges to stunning waterfalls and beautiful swimming holes. At El Questro I swam with a freshwater croc unknowingly. Bit scary.

12ks from the end of the Gibb River dirt road I had an accident and landed awkwardly. Bits of skin off and damaged my right ankle. I can pedal the bike but walking hurts. It's almost better. Getting to Broome took 7 weeks and 4500ks. Had 3 days rest and the guys I was travelling with said their goodbyes. I'm now being supported by Steve Thomson from Louth Park near Maitland. He heard about Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey and volunteered to support me to Perth. I taught Steve at Yanco Agricultural HS in the Riverina in the 80's and his son at SMM in 2016. It's a wonderful gesture on Steve's behalf and he's providing excellent support. We've been on the road from Broome for 5 days and travelled 800ks. On Friday I did my 1st (and last) 200ks day. After we finish a day, Steve drives to the ocean and we've been sleeping in swags right on the coast. It's a beautiful place.

We're now in Dampier and having a rest day Sunday. We're staying with another student I taught at YAHS which is so nice. I'm feeling good and positive, and I appreciate all the wonderful support.

https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/robertsheridan/bob-sheridan--s-bike-odyssey



Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey

I'm raising \$100,001 for Black Dog Institute and I need your help! Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey is my moment for mental health – it's all about raising funds for mental health research and education. Nearly 1 in 2 Australians will experience a mental illness like depression or anxiety in their lifetime, and sometimes people don't reach out for help when they need it. This issue is really close to my heart. Please click and donate what you can. www.teamblackdog.org.au

Broome to Perth

- Day 12. Friday June 9 Mardie to Peedamulla Campground 108ks
- Day 13. Saturday June 10 Peedamulla Campground to Onslow 80ks
- Day 14. Sunday June 11 REST
- Day 15. Monday June 12 Onslow to Talandji 41ks
- Day 16. Tuesday June 13 Talandji to ExGiralia 154ks
- Day 17. Wednesday June 14 Ex Giralia to Coral Bay 125ks
- Day 18. Thursday June 15 Coral Bay to MacLeod 142ks
- Day 19. Friday June 16 MacLeod to Carnarvon 91ks
- Day 20. Saturday June 17 Carnarvon to Wooramel 120ks
- Day 21. Sunday June 18 Wooramel to Hamelin Pool CP 83ks
- Day 22. Monday June 19 Hamelin Pool CP Denham 107ks
- Day 23. Tuesday June 20 REST. Travel to Monkey Mia
- Day 24. Wednesday June 21 Denham Seaside Caravan Park to Hamelin Pool CP 107ks
- Day 25. Thursday June 22 Hamelin Pool CP to Meadow 77ks
- Day 26. Friday June 23 Meadow to Eurardy 80ks
- Day 27. Saturday June 24 Eurardy to Kalbarry 122ks
- Day 28. Sunday June 25 Kalbarry to Northampton 105ks
- Day 29. Monday June 26 Northampton to Geraldton 51ks
- Day 30. Tuesday June 27 REST.
- Day 31 Wednesday June 28 Geraldton to Arrowsmith 105ks
- Day 32. Thursday June 29 Arrowsmith to Cervantes 120ks
- Day 33. Friday June 30 Cervantes to Seabird CP 109ks
- Day 34. Saturday July 1 Seabird CP to Fremantle 112ks
- Day 35, 36 and 37. Sunday Monday and Tuesday July 2, 3 & 4 REST.



MINISTRY

WE WELCOME Year 7 Grandparents and Significant Elders to the

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE GRANDPARENTS LITURGY AND MORNING TEA

on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 9.00am in The Josephite Centre

In support of Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey for the Black Dog Institute
we are also celebrating
"Crazy Socks Day"
Help raise much needed funds by wearing your crazy socks!

We look forward to meeting you.





Message from Fr Tony Potts:

Inviting all interested people to the creation of an exuberant Praise and Worship evening on a regular basis. It will feature excellent traditional and contemporary Catholic music, Scripture, catechesis, reflection, and compelling and relevant testimonies and preaching. The venue will be The Josephite Centre, St Mary's Catholic College, 47-49 Pacific Highway, Gateshead. You are invited to an initial planning meeting at the above venue on Wednesday, 21 June, 5.30pm-7.00pm. Dinner provided.

Please RSVP to Fr Anthony Potts on 0466 140 066. Thank you.

Crazy Sock Day!!! Wednesday 14 June 2023



Next Wednesday, 14th June, students and staff have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to wear "crazy" sock (socks of different colours and designs) in support of **Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey** of more than 11,000km across Australia, to raise funds for research into mental health and suicide prevention by the Black Dog Institute.

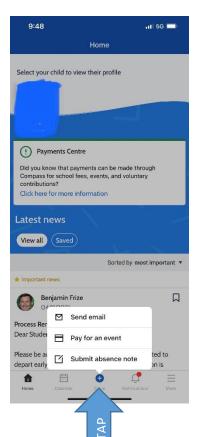
Bob has completed the fist phase of his journey from Townsville (Qld) to Broome in Western Australia (see report in the previous edition and this edition of the Newsletter). He is now pedalling the 3,000kms from Broome to Perth. He anticipates pedalling back to Newcastle at the end of August.

Bob's courage of endurance is truly amazing and is thoroughly deserving of our support. PLEASE enter into the spirit of the day and give generously in support of the research into mental health (depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, etc) and suicide prevention.

Sincere thanks extends to **Henry Burke** in Year 11 for putting forward the suggestion to hold a "Crazy Sock Day" in support of Bob's Odyssey.

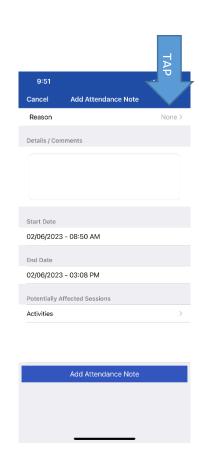
Compass Update – Absence Explanations

To explain your child's absence through the Compass app:



(Left diagram) - Open the Compass app and click on the parent name then tap on the blue dot with the white cross button which is at the bottom of the screen, choose 'submit absence note'.

(Right diagram) - At the top of the page, tap on 'None >' to choose the reason for absence, add any additional comments, choose the date of absence then tap on the blue bar 'Add Attendance Note'.



Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

Our Stage 6 Course Information Evening was held on Tuesday 6 June with great success.

Thank you to all who attended on the evening, and it was great to see so many Year 10 students and families, learning and discussing their options for their study and vocational pathways moving forward. A reminder that Mrs O'Gorman will be in the Gallery Room 101 at lunch times next week to support students in their decision making and submission.

Stage 6 Subject Selections now open on Edval Webchoice. Please see the email sent to all Year 10 students for further instructions. Selections close Friday 17th June 2023.















Year 11 Mid Course Reports

Our Year 11 Mid-Course Reports will be released in Week 9 21st June. A message will be sent once reports are available for viewing in Compass. I wish to acknowledge the work of the Leaders of Learning, teaching staff and support staff, in working together to achieve a quality report for students via the Compass platform.

So, Year 11 students, now that you have your reports – where to next?

For some students there will be celebration – perhaps there has been significant growth; increased effort; noteworthy achievements. For others, there may be disappointment, or a sense of having let yourself down in your learning.

The thing to remember is that feedback is only useful if it is used to set the next learning goal, to ask "Where to next?" and "How do I get there?"

I encourage all students and families to have a conversation about the comments on the reports you receive next week. What direction (feed-forward) is there for you? What advice and support is being suggested to you by your teachers? What small habits or behaviours can you change so as to build upon what you have already learned/can do?

And finally, a reminder that success comes from learning from mistakes, using your failures as ways of learning and growing. I encourage each student to take on board the feedback from your teachers, set some new goals, seek help and push on into the new term! This is the way you will flourish as learners.

Mrs O'Gorman



Cathy O'Gorman
Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

Careers Corner

Subject Selection Evening

It was pleasing to see so many Year 10 students and their parents at the subject selection evening. With the many and varied subjects available for senior study, it is always important to take time to consider the pattern of study that best suits you as an individual. Subject selections should never be rushed. Here are some questions to consider while choosing your senior subjects;

- What subjects have you enjoyed at school so far?
- What do you like doing outside school?
- Do you have any passions?
- What's important to you in your life?
- Have I discussed my options with a teacher of that subject?
- Am I looking to do this subject for someone other than myself?
- Is the subject a prerequisite to get into a course?

Further lunch time Sbat and TVET information sessions will occur for Year 10 students in the near future. Students should ensure that they are checking their emails and Compass announcements to prevent missing any sessions. If any student in Year 10 missed the HNEH Sbat information meeting last week, please ensure that you see me as soon as possible so you are able to receive all the information required to apply.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 work experience has been set for Week 8 of Term 3 – Monday 4th September till Friday 8th September. Please note that this is NOT a compulsory event and those wishing to participate will need to find their own placement. Further information regarding the formalities of the event will be coming early in Term 3.

Year 12 - Free HSC Course Lectures July - ATAR NOTES

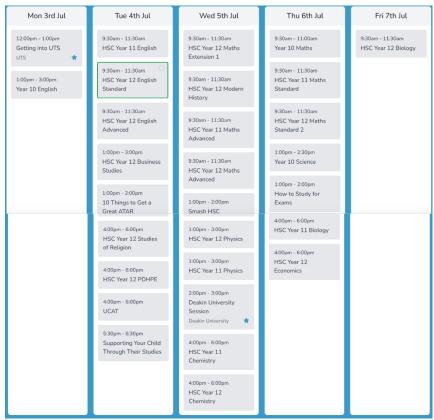
ATAR NOTES is offering Free HSC Lectures during the first week on the July school holidays.

If you haven't heard of ATAR before, they have amazing free resources and videos to assist students navigate their way through Stage 6 courses. They are made by university students from UTS Sydney who have had recent success in their HSC courses.

Click on the website link to register and check out the upcoming lectures. CLICK HERE for LINK

(Thanks to Ms Convery for the resource details).

Ms Vanessa Dews Careers Advisor (Acting)





The perfect opportunity for students, parents & job seekers to speak with potential employers & training providers with opportunities available now

FREE PUBLIC ENTRY - YOUR DREAM JOB AWAITS YOU

NEWCASTLE & HUNTER Tuesday 8 August

3pm to 8pm NEX - Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre **Newcastle West**

CENTRAL COAST Tuesday 15 August

3pm to 8pm Mingara Recreation Club Tumbi Umbi

ILLAWARRA Tuesday 22 August

3pm to 8pm Illawarra Sports Stadium Berkeley

SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY & MACARTHUR Tuesday 29 August

3pm to 8pm Liverpool Catholic Club Prestons

WESTERN SYDNEY day 5 September

3pm to 8pm Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre Cambridge Park

SUTHERLAND SHIRE Tuesday 12 September

3pm to 8pm Tradies Gymea Gymea

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STUDY SKILLS FOR JUNE

HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STUDENTS



Effective students are those who have learnt to study smarter rather than harder. Below is a list of the top habits that effective students do.

- 1. **MAKE THE MOST OF CLASSTIME:** You are going to be sitting in class anyway, so you may as well make the most of the experience! Time wasted in class is lost learning opportunities or time you need to make up at home. To make the most of class time stay on task and be as involved as you can in the lesson.
- 2. **ASK QUESTIONS OFTEN:** Students who are effective will ask questions when they don't understand something, they don't wait until 3 weeks into the topic then say 'I don't understand any of this!'. So if you aren't sure about something, then ask your teacher.
- 3. **COMPLETE ALL HOMEWORK:** Your teachers are giving you the homework for a reason, even if you are unsure what the reason might be! It is all part of building your learning in the subject. Focus on putting 100% effort into completing all homework to the best of your ability.
- 4. DO INDEPENDENT LEARNING: Students who do well academically do more than just the set homework. Rather than cramming just before an exam, they learn as they go. This means the nights they don't have much homework they step up and take responsibility for their learning and ask themselves 'what else could I be doing to help me understand and learn my subjects?'. Often this entails reviewing previous work that was difficult or preparing study notes in advance.
- 5. **ARE FOCUSED WHEN WORKING:** Students who are effective usually work in blocks of time at home, anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour, but in that time they focus on the task at hand. This means they have removed all distractions and commit that when they are working on schoolwork, they are just working on schoolwork no personal activities at the same time.
- 6. **WORK SMART FOR ASSESSMENTS:** Effective students spend time when they are given an assessment ensuring they understand the requirements and the marking criteria. They work to the guidelines of the assessment and approach the task systematically, making a plan and setting targets for when they want to complete each step.
- 7. **NEVER CONFUSE 'READING' WITH 'STUDYING':** Effective learners know how to study properly for a test. They know that just reading your notes over and over is not an effective way to learn. Instead, they read a section then test themselves on it, seeing what they can say out loud or write down. They also do lots of revision questions or past exam papers so they can practise the skills of the subject and identify areas of weakness.

You can learn more about being more effective at <u>www.studyskillshandbook.com.au</u> by logging in with these details:

Username: stmarys Password: 106results

Aboriginal Education Our Local Reconciliation Story ...

Students across all classes have participated in a lesson to understand what reconciliation means to Australians. During the lesson the students dug deeper into the relationship between two men – Biraban, a local Awakabal leader, and Rev Lancelot Threlkeld, a British Missionary who became friends 200 hundred years ago. Threlkeld and Biraban, worked together to help keep Awabakal people safe, as well as record the language and culture.

They created a safe space — Bahtabah Mission. Not a jail-like mission like some missions ended up being, but a place where Awabakal families could safely live their traditional life. Bahtabah mission ran from Redhead across to Eleebana and all the way to Blacksmiths.



BIRABAN and THRELKELD: Finding the Third Space - YouTube

St Marys now sits on the site of the first mission in Australia. These two men created a third space – a space where First Nations people and Europeans people respected each other. Biraban and Threlkeld were so far ahead of their time.

200 years later following on from the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart', Australians will be asked a question in a referendum.' The question Australians will be asked to vote on at a date to be set between October and December is:

"A proposed law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

A huge thumbs up to all the students who have participated in the Reconciliation lesson so far. Each student will create a poster for display in the breezeway – contributing to a combined 'statement from the heart' by St Mary's students.

Dancing with Hilary

Aboriginal students from Years 7 and 8 have continued to join students from St Pauls with a series of lessons on Aboriginal Dancing. The students have learnt a 'Clearing' Dance, while the boys will perform a 'Hunting Dance' and the girls a 'Gathering Dance'. These dances will be performed at St Paul's NAIDOC Assembly on the last day this term, St Mary's Assembly next term and a special performance on Monday 18 July in Newcastle.

Visit to Wollotuka Institute Uni

Some students from Years 8/9 attended the 'Rising from the Embers' Festival recently at The University of Newcastle. Things were looking great until the hail storm arrived! Nevertheless, students were able to watch some performances and take part in a range of activities including clapstick making and weaving - plus an excellent feed!



Some of the girls creating their artwork

Dancing in the rain!

Paul McKay Aboriginal Education Teacher

SCIENCE FACULTY

In late 2022, our Year 8 (now Year 9) students participated in the Water Works program in collaboration with Origin Energy. As part of the program, our students were actively engaged in assembling emergency water filters intended for donation to a refugee camp in central Africa. This program aimed to raise awareness about water scarcity and its impact on communities worldwide, while empowering our students to make a positive difference.

Additionally, our students showcased their artistic talents by designing and creating artwork to be attached to water filters in the refugee settlement, conveying messages of hope and prayer.

I am delighted to announce that these emergency water filters have been successfully distributed to families at the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Camp in the Kyegegwa District of Uganda.

Μ

Below, you will find heart-warming photos capturing the moments when our students' filters and artworks were distributed to appreciative families at the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Camp. These images serve as a powerful reminder of the positive change that can be achieved through the collective efforts of our school community.





We express our deepest gratitude to Origin Energy for their valuable partnership in making this initiative a success. Their support and collaboration have been instrumental in ensuring that our students' efforts reach those who need it the most.

Tracey Flack Science Teacher



2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal Donations

Many people have been deeply challenged by the Cost-of-Living Crisis and are now struggling to provide meals, heating, and clothing for their families. Many are facing uncertain futures with mortgage increases, uncertainty of where to live and family stress.



At this time every year we offer the opportunity for community members to donate good quality winter clothing, blankets, bedding, and towels to the Vinnies Winter Appeal. This year we also welcome good quality second-hand bags eg. back packs, hand bags, man bags. As bills and prices increase, and winter weather takes a toll on the creature comfort of warmth, the St Vincent de Paul Society is calling on Australians to dig deep and donate generously to the Winter Appeal.

Donations now are vital to ensure we can continue to support our local Vinnies chapters to make an impact on the lives of the increasing number of vulnerable people in our communities. **Donations would be appreciated by Wednesday 7**th **June - please hand in during Roll Call or at Student Services.**

I thank everyone for their continuing support and on-going generosity.

Mrs Jo Meagher Vinnies Coordinator

DONATIONS EXTENDED TO FRIDAY 16 JUNE Thank you!

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL DONATIONS

7:1	Packet of Soap	9:1	Packet of Toothpaste	11:1	Children's socks
7:2	Bottle of Shampoo	9:2	Packet of Toothbrushes	11:2	Ladies' socks
7:3	Bottle of Conditioner	9:3	Soap container	11:3	Men's socks
7:4	Bottle of Body Wash	9:4	Toothbrush container	11:4	Children's scarf
7:5	Bottle of Hand Wash	9:5	Packet of Face Wipes	11:5	Ladies' scarf
7:6	Bottle of Hand sanitiser	9:6	Bottle of Mouth Wash	11:6	Men's scarf
8:1	Box of Hand Sanitiser	10:1	Children's gloves	12:1	Children's underwear
8:2	Box of Tissues	10:2	Ladies' gloves	12:2	Ladies' Underwear
8:3	Packet of Hand Wipes	10:3	Men's gloves	12:3	Men's Underwear
8:4	Bottle of Roll-on Deodorant	10:4	Children's Beanies	12:4	Ladies Hygiene products
8:5	Can of Spray Deodorant	10:5	Ladies' Beanies	12:5	Ladies Hygiene products
8:6	Packet of Lip Balm	10:6	Men's Beanies	12:6	Ladies Hygiene products

ICAS COMPETITION

We're delighted to inform you that St Mary's Catholic College will be participating in ICAS again this year, to recognise and reward students' academic achievement. The competitions are now fully online and sitting dates will commence in Term 3. Learn more by visiting icasassessments.com.

Students in the 10 Maths A1 and Year 9 Maths A, will be participating in the Maths competition. The two top streams of Year 10 English, will be participating in the English and Writing competitions.

The following competitions are being offered to students at St Mary's:

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUP
English	Years 7-10
Maths	Years 7-10
Science	Years 7-10
Digital Technologies	Year 7 only
Writing	Years 7-10
Spelling Bee	Year 7 only

If you would like to sign up for any of the ICAS competition subjects please contact me at louise.henderson@mn.catholic.edu.au by the end of week 10, Friday 30th June 2023.

Thank you for supporting our students who have high potential.

Louise Henderson Gifted Education Mentor





DIGITAL TOOLS WORKSHOP

Last week our Virtual Academy students in Years 7 and 8 participated in a Digital Tools Workshop. The day was designed to build student thinking, research, communication, and self-management skills using technology. This experience will support designs and creations for their Virtual Academy Presentation as well as work in other classes.

Abbie Morris and Annie Hardie in Year 7 both participated in the Coding Workshop. Annie had some previous coding

experience before but Abbie was keen to try something new and thought it looked fun. The girls said they thought they could use these new skills when making videos. Wil Schneider chose to work on 3D Modelling and said it was really enjoyable once you got over the initial challenge. All students, including Lacey Joyce and Laura Smith from Year 8, felt they could use their new skills in the future.



MATHEMATICS FACULTY – Inquisitive Minds

On Wednesday, Year 8 took part in the annual 'Inquisitive Minds' event and had a fantastic day today that was full of engaging activities. Year 8 are highly commended on their conscientious, cooperative and respectful manner all day. They certainly displayed their general capabilities of critical and creative thinking, collaboration & communication throughout the 3 workshops.

Mrs Tania Eastcott Leader of Learning - Maths



HSIE FACULTY

"Pizza and PIP Day"

Many thanks for the wonderful staff and incredible Year 12 SOC class who celebrated "Pizza and PIP Day" a few weeks ago. The Year 12 SOC class presented their PIP topics, research completed to date, an overview of their thesis, facilitated discussions between attending staff and asked for specific feedback in relation to aspects they were struggling with or wanted to brainstorm on. It was a very successful event!

Well done girls and thanks to the staff who take some time out of their busy schedule!

Mrs Lorenz



Science Faculty



Jack Gazzard and 'friend'!

Last week, our Year 7 students had an unforgettable experience at the Reptile Show. The event aimed to introduce them to the fascinating world of reptiles while exploring the classification and features of living things.

The reptile display showcased different groups of reptiles, including snakes, lizards, turtles and tortoises. The herpetologist brought in venomous and non-venomous snakes, lizards and turtles. Some students were able to hold lizards and all students were given an opportunity to touch George, the Olive Python.

The herpetologist emphasised the importance of not approaching or handling venomous snakes without proper training and guidance.

In addition to snake safety, students explored the incredible adaptations and behaviour of snakes. They learned about their role in ecosystems and the benefits they provide, such as controlling rodent populations.

The reptile show provided a valuable opportunity for students to appreciate the beauty and importance of reptiles make connections to their science topic on living things.

Mrs Rebecca Morrice Acting Leader of Learning - Science

HSIE greets King Tut

Year 7 went back in time to 'walk like an Egyptian' for a day and immersed themselves in the Tut Roadshow.

Lots of learning was going on with hands on activities and interactive technologies to support our studies this term on Ancient Civilisations. Forensic archaeology, working with cubits and hieroglyphics, making royal seals out of clay and the inside of a Pharoah's tomb were part of the rotational workshops each of us were able to experience. The main attraction was a 'walk through' semi-trailer that housed artefacts, interactive learning experiences and 3D film. Big experiences meant a big day of creative thinking for all.

Belinda Flood Leader of Learning - HSIE



Library Matters

With the Winter weather now upon us, the library is becoming more and more popular for a place for students to start their day. This increase in traffic has provided a wonderful opportunity for those students who don't usually see what we have on offer start to browse the shelves or engage with our themed displays. This week we have some great titles to link with the King's Birthday Long Weekend. On display are all our books with kings, queens, princess and princesses, from fictional stories to non-fiction and biographies. We have a story for everyone and we think this weekend could be well spent laying on a picnic rug in the sun, reading a book. Check out our royal display.



Remember there is also a great range of reading on SORA, and for our Minecraft fanatics we have some excellent choices.



ACEN EBOOK OF THE WEEK

05 JUN 2023 Primary Schools





https://bit.ly/3oPbXOo

The first Graphic Novel in the world of Gaming Phenomenon Minecraft!

Tyler is your everyday kid whose life is changed when his family has to move from the town he's always known. Thankfully, Tyler has a strong group of friends forever linked in the world of Minecraft! Tyler, along with his friends Evan, Candace, Tobi, and Grace have been going on countless adventures together across the expanses of the Overworld and are in need of a new challenge. They decide to go on the Ultimate Ouest—to travel to the End and face off against the ender dragon



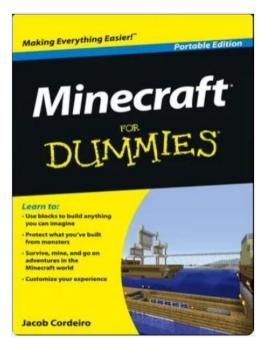




ACEN EMAGAZINE OF THE WEEK

5 JUN 2023

SECONDARY STUDENTS





https://bit.ly/3qt00yv

Craft yourself an amazing game of Minecraft! More than just a game, Minecraft consists of players using an avatar to create or destroy various types of blocks, form fantastic structures, create artwork, and do much more, all in a three -dimensional environment and across various multiplayer servers in multiple game modes.

With this fun and friendly beginners guide, you will quickly grasp how to play Minecraft in the three modes of game play: survival, creative, and hardcore. The easy -to-understand writing style walks you through every step of the way, from downloading the game to choosing a gaming platform to defending your creations against monsters and winning the game by defeating the Ender Dragon.

Explains how to use blocks to build amazing creations and engage in gameplay with other players Details techniques for travelling across the biomes Zeroes in on playing wisely in Survival mode so you can acquire resources to maintain your health and hunger. Shares tips for playing carefully in Creative mode, using your unlimited supply of resources, the ability to fly, and more!







ACEN EBOOK OF THE WEEK

05 JUN 2023

SECONDARY SCHOOLS





https://bit.ly/3orZMaj

Whether you play Minecraft on a tablet, on a desktop computer or on a games console, infinite fun is what you are going to get. Minecraft, though is also a game of secrets. It is a game where clever strategies, lateral thinking and some expert help can really unlock even more possibilities.

That is where this guide comes in. whether you are a new Minecraft player or a very experienced one, we have lots of things to tell you about that we have uncovered while playing the game. We have packed this guide with as many secrets, pieces of advice, tactics and ideas as we can. So whether you want to get on top of the basics of effective building, pillage a Jungle Temple or take down the Ender Dragon himself, we have plenty to tell you about.





Rosalind Dunn Teacher Librarian

Landcare News

Our Landcare students had the pleasure of working beside Lake Macquarie City Council Green Team and Landcare Officers. We learnt how to stabilise creek embankments with coir logs and jute matting. The once eroded area has now been rehabilitated and planted.



For our students, being a part of a Landcare group provides an opportunity to do something to improve the environment. Students are well aware of the environmental crisis that our planet faces but are often not in the position to be an active part in "doing something to make a difference".

We are very appreciative of the ongoing support and supply native plants from Lake Macquarie City Council. They provide us with the resources to give our students the opportunity to learn about ecosystem rehabilitation and to be the ambassadors of our environment in the future.



Next Landcare Day –

Wednesday 26th July

CREATIVE ARTS NOISE!

Yesterday, Thursday 8 June, 2023, some of our amazing elective Music students performed to a packed Civic Theatre in 2023's Diosounds performance. They put their hearts into every song as they took the audience on a journey of hope.

So to: Piper Araujo, James Bernasconi, Olivia Brown, Amelia Bubenicek, Finn Callen, Charlotte Connell, Layla Coulton, Hannah Dezelak, Ariella Doyle, Phoebe Duffy-Smith, Dylan Dunkley, Julian Egan, Kate Erby, Abbey Gorlick, Deegan Griffiths, Joe Jarvie, Angela Johnson, Thomas Kennedy, Amber King, Chelsea and Madelyn Lush, Byron Lynch, Ella McNamara, Elke Mark, Georgie Matthews, Alex Mazzitello, Hayley McDonald, Molly McKay, Alexander McMichael – O'Brien, Macy Nash, Isabella Palamo, Elleni Pedonese, William Reiss, Jared Rixom, Kane Roberts, Mira Tiodin, Adam Turner, Keira Watts, Dylan Wilks and Sophie Windever, we congratulate you on your commitment, your passion and your performances!

Photo taken from rehearsal:



Note to staff from Larry Keating, Principal:

Reading the reports from colleague Principals, fortunate to be present at Dio-Sounds last evening, I am in no doubt that, consistent with past years, it was a special celebration of the creativity of our youth.

The students are clearly deserving of the accolades they receive as are the dedicated and committed teachers who put in extraordinary hours in preparing our students for their time "on-stage '. Your fidelity to your role, as educator, and the way you give so much of yourselves to enable our students to be the best versions of themselves, when performing on stage, is an absolute credit to you.

On behalf of our community, I thank you most sincerely.

Kind regards, Larry

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Swimming - Emily Jack, Year 8

Over the last 6 months, Emily has competed in major swimming Championships across the country with incredible results allowing her to inch closer to her dream of one day swimming for Australia.

In December 2022, Emily won gold at NSW Senior State Age Championships and holds the 14 years, female, NSW title for the 200-metre butterfly.

Emily then went on to compete against Australia's elite age groupers on the Gold Coast in April 2023 at the Australian Age Championships, finishing 3rd in the B final for 14 years, female, 100-metre butterfly, 11th in Australia for 13 years, female, 400-metre Individual Medley and 12th in Australia for 13 years, female, 200-metre butterfly.

After being knocked out in NSWCCC 2022 swimming, one of Emily's biggest goals this year was to qualify for and race at the 2023 School Sport Australia Swimming Championships.

Winning silver in 14 years, female, 50-metre butterfly, and gold in 13 years, female, 100-metre butterfly at the 2023 NSWCCC Swimming Championships, Emily qualified for NSW All School Championships and won silver in 14 years, female, 200-metre butterfly, propelling her into the record books for St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead, and the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, and qualifying for the 2023 School Sport Australia Swimming Championships (LC) this year.

We are so proud of Emily and her achievements, her strength, and her determination, and excited to see where her journey takes her.

I hope you can join Emily's family and friends in cheering her on at the 2023 School Sport Australia Swimming Championships in August and maybe one day swim for Australia.

Article provided by Emma Rolfe





SPORT

On Thursday 1st of June our U13 Rugby League team went to Cessnock, the home of the Goanna's to play in the semi-finals of the Knights Knockout cup after qualifying in the gala day the week before. This game was extended to 25 minutes a half and only one game. Previously the boys had to play 3 games with only 7-minute halves.

The boys played against Rutherford Technology High who had some outstanding individual players and outsized the St Mary's team. It was brave effort from the team, after absorbing early pressure, St Mary's took a half time lead of 8-4. The game sat in the balance in the beginning of the second half and despite a brave defensive effort, a wild bounce allowed Rutherford to score under the post taking a 10-8 lead with 10 minutes to go.

The boys were never flustered and stayed true to their game plan and managed to score a runaway try to take the lead 10-14 which was the end result. The boys represented St Mary's and themselves with class. Onto the final!!! Wings up!





Andrew Burke Assistant Coach

www.eeyouth.org.au

WHEN EMOTIONS RUN HIGH STAYING CONNECTED









Equi Energy Youth

Coach 2 Cope: Families and

Carers

FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND CARERS

WORKSHOP - NEWCASTLE

AN INTERVENTION FOR

Would you like to improve the support you provide your child to develop Are you concerned about your child's mental health and well-being? their coping, resilience and positive ways of seeking help? This is your invitation to join many other parents and carers in our community to learn better ways to respond to your child when they are struggling.

Guest speakers include;

. Dr Stephen Spencer (PhD) (Mental health nurse and Co-founder of Equi

13th of June 5.30pm

to 8pm

At NEX Newcastle

- Adolescent Psychiatrist and Founder Dr Caroline de Vries (Child & of The Base Health)
- Macquarie & Newcastle Suicide **Bradley Dunn** (CEO of Lake

REGISTER OR SCAN THE

QR CODE

CLICK HERE TO

Byron Williams (headspace



Energy Youth)

- Prevention Network)
- Community Development)





EVENT OVERVIEW

(Child, Adolescent and Family Psychiatrist)

Dr Annemaree Bickerton

FACILITATORS

Program Illawarra and Shoalhaven Mental (Clinical Coordinator Family and Carer

This workshop provides carers with additional (between 12yrs to 100yrs) who experiences communication skills to support someone any of the following:

- Has relationship difficulties,
- Demonstrates changing emotions and strong overwhelming feelings that can make communication difficult,
- Sometimes behaves in a way that makes them a danger to themselves or others.

These symptoms can be experienced in those with mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependence, developmental and learning

For further support or information please contact:

Johanna.rowe@onedoor.org.au

Elli Purchase - 0459 023 781

Johanna Rowe – 0498 953 920

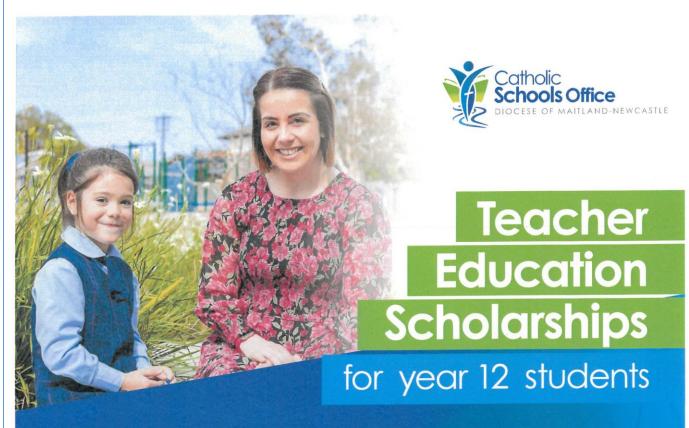
connected-when-emotions-run-high-newcastle RSVP: https://events.humanitix.com/staying-**TICKETS & DETAILS**

Morning tea and lunch provided.

Elli.purchase@onedoor.org.au

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One Door. Many Opportunities.



Up to 5 scholarships available for current Year 12 students in our Catholic schools who intend to commence undergraduate courses in teacher training in 2024.

What's the offer for recipients?

- A total benefit of up to \$7000 per recipient, paid in five lump sum payments over the four years of study
- An internship in a targeted diocesan school that will offer a placement of excellence
- Opportunity to be employed as a school support officer or pastoral care worker while studying
- A permanent position on completion of course in one of our clusters of incentive-based schools
- Support and advice with regard to Accreditation to Work, Teach and Lead
- Program is coordinated and monitored by a dedicated education officer
- Opportunity to complete the Christian Formation Course and Faith Story Witness Course



'Teaching is a beautiful job as it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care.'

POPE FRANCIS

How to apply

- Ask your Careers Adviser for an application form.
- Return the completed form to the Catholic Schools Office by Friday 22 September 2023.
- Submit your ATAR and HSC results to the CSO before Monday 18 December 2023.
- Attend an interview in early 2024. HSC results will be taken into consideration.

For more information, please contact Narelle Cross (Education Officer) 02 4979 1233 or narelle.cross@mn.catholic.edu.au

Getting to school and staying at school

Information for parents and caregivers

What is School Refusal?

School Refusal is a complex issue which can become a source of enormous stress for the whole family. That's why schools want to work with you to come up with a plan to support you and your child.

- Many children and adolescents are reluctant to go to school at some point, but some find it so difficult that they refuse to go.
- The term School Refusal is often used when not going is related to a worry or an anxiety.
- School Refusal can happen at any age, but seems to happen more during major changes in children's lives like beginning kindergarten or the transition from primary to high school.
- There is no single cause for School Refusal, and reasons will differ from child to child.

What might I see?

If your child has missed school twice over two weeks, especially with some of the behaviours below, this may be a pattern of School Refusal.

- Tearfulness before school or repeated pleas to stay at home.
- Tantrums, clinginess, dawdling or running away before school or during drop off.
- Frequent complaints of illness before or during school, like stomach aches, headaches, dizziness or tiredness.
- Difficulty going to school after weekends, holidays, school camps or sports days.
- Long periods spent in sick bay or otherwise out of class.

What are the impacts?

School Refusal is a serious issue and needs to be managed early. Long absences mean that children miss out on both learning and friendships.

- The pattern can very quickly become a habit and very hard to change for children and their families.
- Missing one day of school each week means 2 full months' worth of learning lost over a year. This adds up very fast.
- Missing out on education can impact a child's lifelong learning and their social and emotional development in many ways.

It is important to respond

- School Refusal can also be a sign of an emerging mental health difficulty, so it's important to respond.
- That stomach ache might not be due to a bug, but a real symptom of your child's worry about going to school.
- Research shows that every day absent in high school has an impact on numeracy.
- Frequent absences might also jeopardise your child's relationships with their friends.
- Acting early is the best way forward.
 Seek help as soon as you are concerned.

Find support

You might find support for you and your child through your family doctor, the school counsellor, a family friend, a community-based support worker, an Elder, or a religious or spiritual leader.

Is your child refusing to attend school?

We really understand that this isn't easy!

> Talking with your child's teacher is the best place to start

You might also find it helpful to seek support for yourself



Every minute counts, every day!

What can I do at home?

- Really listen to your child's concerns and fears about going to school issues can be addressed if they're understood.
- If your child is 'feeling sick', check it out with your family doctor.
- If you're worried about their mental health, then your GP or school counsellor can be a great place to start.
- Being firm and kind in getting your child to school regularly and on time will help, including not prolonging the goodbyes.
- Praise your child's positive behaviours to reinforce their success.
- Keep up family and other activities for your child and the whole family wherever you can.
- Seek professional help for yourself and your child.

Where else can I go for help?

At school:

- Try the class teacher or year advisor, the school counsellor/school psychologist, or the school leadership team.
- If you feel you haven't yet got the support you need, don't give up try approaching someone else at the school.

In the community:

 Your GP/family doctor, a community-based support worker, an Elder, a religious or spiritual leader, a friend or relative, are all possible options.

Useful links for families

Family Connect & Support www.familyconnectsupport.dcj.nsw.gov.au

Parent Line NSW www.parentline.org.au 1300 1300 52

Kids Help Line (5-25 years) www.kidshelp.com.au 1800 55 1800

NSW Mental Health Line 1800 011 511

headspace (12-25 years) www.headspace.org.au

Raising children Network www.raisingchildren.net.au

Well Mob www.wellmob.org.au

A local contact for support is:

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!



Your child has arrived in time to settle well and has the best start possible.



Your child has probably arrived just after most children as the school day starts at 9:00am.



Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day. Being late often unsettles children.



15 minutes late = 8 days lost a year



20 minutes late = 11 days lost a year



25 minutes late = 14 days lost a year

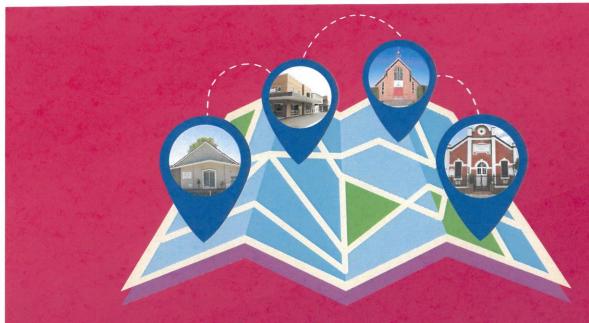
It's not just the full days off, either – Every Minute Counts!

Sometimes just a few minutes late of a morning can set your child back for the whole day - it's all lost time which they can't get back.

Sometimes children worry about their parents when not with them. Reassure your child that you'll be safe while they're at school.

If they do stay home, don't make it more fun than school. Video games, TV, toys, snacks and parental attention are all high reward items for kids.

This isn't easy for parents and you might find yourself becoming pretty frustrated. Remember, it will take patience and time to resolve this. Be open to getting support, and know that occasionally you might have to change your approach to find what will work for you and your family.



Church/Faith Crawl

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to visit four Newcastle faith communities.

You may have wondered about different Faith communities in Newcastle, what are their similarities and differences?

Following on from last year's crawl, we will once again have an opportunity to unlearn, learn and relearn about the faith of others, ask questions and get to know others.

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2023

Time: 9.30am - 3.45pm

Travel: Drive your car or carpool

with others

Food: Lunch will be provided

by the Salvation Army,

cost \$10

Church/Faith Crawl Program

9.30am - 10.15am	Hamilton Baptist Church, 108 Lindsay St, Hamilton - Rev. Andrew Dodd
11.00am - 11.45am	Salvation Army, Hamilton, 67 Cleary St, Hamilton - Major Peter Bennett
1.15pm - 2.00pm	Ukrainian Catholic Church, 105 Gosford Rd, Adamstown - Fr Paul Berezniuk
2.00pm - 3.15pm	Mayfield Mosque, 5 Victoria St, Mayfield - Sheik Mohamed Hamed

Registration is now open and closes on Friday 14 July https://churchcrawl2023.eventbrite.com.au







f in Tube

mn.catholic.org.au

Term 2 - Week 8	(B Week)					
Mon 12 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday					
Tue 13 June	Year Assemblies					
	Year 11 Biological Diversity Day					
	School finishes at 3.08pm – there is no early finish today					
Wed 14 June	Grandparents Liturgy and Morning Tea – 9.00am					
	Open Day – Tours of the College					
	- Tour 1 – 10.17am to 11.34am					
	- Tour 2 – 4.00pm to 5.00pm					
	- Tour 3 – 5.00pm to 6.00pm					
	"Crazy Socks Day" in support of Bob Sheridan's 11,000km Bike Odyssey to raise funds for the					
	Black Dog Institute					
Thurs 15 June	Katrina Fanning 14yrs Girls Rugby League - TBC					
Fri 16 June	Final Day for Acceptance of Offer of Placement for Year 7 (2024)					
Week 9 – Term 2 (A Week)						
Tues 20 June	World Refugee Day					
	Dress for Success Career Day - TBC					
	College Assembly					
Wed 21 June	Year 11 Mid-Course reports published					
Fri 23 June	Newsletter 10.23					
	Society and Culture HSC Study Day					
	Next Stage Correspondence to Year 7 (2024) families					
Week 10 – Term	· · ·					
Mon 26 June	Year 9 Formation Day – TBC					
Tues 27 June	Feast Day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Patron Saint of our Diocese					
Wed 28 June	On the Road with English Studies					
	Years 7 to 10 Semester 1 Reports published					
	Years 7 to 10 Student Parent Teacher Conference Bookings Open					
	Years 7 – 9 Junior Music Showcase – more details to follow					
Fri 30 June	Last Day of Term 2					
Sat 2 July	NAIDOC Week – "For our Elders"					
Term 3 - Week 1						
Mon 17 July	Staff Professional Development – Pupil Free Day					
	Years 7 to 10 Conference Bookings Close					
Tues 18 July	Classes recommence for Term 3					
Wed 19 July	HSC Drama Evening – TBC					
Thurs 20 July	Years 7 to 11 Student Parent Teacher Conferences 3.30pm to 7.00pm					
Fri 20 July	Years 7 to 11 Student Parent Teacher Conferences – Years 7-11 Pupil Free day (Year 12 normal classes)					

WINTER UNIFORM

A reminder that the Winter Uniform comes into effect from Thursday 1 June. Please note the following:

- Boys must have tie, belt and shirt tucked in
- Girls continue to wear tie
- Skirts and girls PE shorts not to be rolled to make shorter

ATTENTION!

Sick Bay has recently been presented with students who have been bitten by ticks.

Parents/carers will be contacted should their child present with a tick.

This link provides information regarding Management of Ticks:

https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/management-of-tick-bites-in-australia?language=en