



St Catherine's School

the blue ribbon

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING PARENTS, STUDENTS, STAFF AND THE WIDER ST CATHERINE'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE 230 27 May 2016 W7 T2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Michelle Carroll

Decades of academic research has proven the benefits that accrue as a result of engaging in debate. St Catherine's School hones these skills in our students from an early age...[more](#)

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COMMUNITY NEWS



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The Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invites you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season' with a fun and casual evening on Wednesday 1 June 2016...[more](#)



Snowsports Exclusive Screening

The Snowsports Auxiliary presents an exclusive screening and Q&A with the Directors of *The Will to Fly* an inspiring story of the Australian Olympic Aerials Champion, Lydia Lassila...[more](#)



SCOGA Women in Industry

Members of the School community are invited to attend the Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event on Tuesday 7 June 6.30pm...[more](#)

SENIOR SCHOOL



USA Exchange, Budget Events and Chinese Dance

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Congratulations to all our students who competed in the Rostrum public speaking event, including Year 10 student Demi Markakis who was awarded a place in the State Final...[more](#)



Senior School Sport

Junior and Senior Netball results, GSV Preliminary Cross Country and Snowsports Cross Country ski hire and bookings...[more](#)



St Catherine's School Annual Giving 2016

This year, we seek your support for our women of the future during our 2016 Annual Giving program. Our primary focus is to establish a Technology and Engineering Lab for our Years 3 to 8 students...[more](#)



St Catherine's School Communication Survey and Uniform Shop News

Take this five minute survey to tell us what you think about The Blue Ribbon. In other news the Uniform Shop will be closed for stocktake on 16 June...[more](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MICHELLE CARROLL



Claire Gifford ('14) with C Grade Debating Team Captain Demi Markakis

The Importance of Public Speaking

Public speaking skills are honed at St Catherine's from an early age, with many opportunities provided to speak at our Barbreck assemblies. Under the watchful eye of Head of Junior School, Mrs Alana Moor, the girls are encouraged to research, rehearse and present to their peers and teachers. This development continues in the Senior School under a more structured format in the Debating and Public Speaking programs. This year, our Senior Debating Teams, made up of 50 girls competing on Thursday evenings at Scotch College in Term 2, have enjoyed considerable success. The younger debaters in Years 7 and 8 will enjoy their opportunity in Semester 2.

Decades of academic research has proven the benefits that accrue as a result of engaging in debate. Debate provides experiences that are conducive to cognitive development and presentation skills. In addition, debaters acquire unique educational benefits as they learn and polish skills far beyond what can be learnt in any other setting. At the very least, debate helps students to see the power of deploying rational, reasoned arguments and compelling evidence in action. It enables them to elucidate their standpoint through rhetorical eloquence. It instils in debaters a great sense of poise and confidence. It teaches them the skills of researching, organising, and presenting information in a compelling fashion.

The Debating Teams are all trained by St Catherine's Old Girls, Kate Clark ('14), Tess Price ('14), Claire Gifford ('14) and Jacquelin Cantarella ('15) with great success. Our A Grade Team 2, B Grade Teams 1 and 2 and D Grade Team 2 are undefeated so far this year with the girls looking forward to the finals season and, in particular, their long awaited contest with the Scotch Senior B Team.

Congratulations to Best Speaker recipients, Greta Chen, Elizabeth Bolt, Brooke Maat and Annie Anezakis in A Grade and Demetria Avdalis, Georgie Sitch, Ingrid Crossing and Alexandra Cullen in B Grade and Lulu Murrell and Kavina Kalaichelvam in D Grade, as well as Henrietta Paterson who has received Best Speaker in both rounds of debate so far.

Over the course of this Term, a number of girls have also participated in public speaking opportunities. The Rostrum: Voice of Youth, held last Sunday, provided Junior Division Entrants, Allegra Dennison and Demi Markakis and Senior Division entrants, Samara Gill, Elizabeth Bolt and Lucy Porter opportunity to deliver prepared speeches across a range of topics. Congratulations to Demi Markakis who was selected as a finalist. Further details are in this edition of the *Blue Ribbon*.

During our recent School Assembly, Brooke Maat stirred the audience with her delivery of 'Girls should not receive equal play in sport'. Brooke, along with Mackenzie Leyden and Amber Chapman had competed successfully in the Rotary Public Speaking Competition.

Continued...

SCHOOL DATES

Friday 27 May

Year 11 Examinations
Years 9 & 10 Study Day
3YO ELC Grandparents' & Special Visitors' Day
Senior School GSV Cross Country Championship Bundoora
Senior School AFL (After School)

Sunday 29 May

Boarders' Exam Study Afternoon

Monday 30 May

Years 9 to 11 Examinations
Years 11 and 12 GSV (Before School)
Years 11 and 12 GSV Match (After School)

Tuesday 31 May

Year 5 Beyond Boundaries Gundiwindi
Years 9 to 11 Examinations
Years 7 & 8 Concert 6.30pm Toorak Uniting Church

Wednesday 1 June

Year 5 Beyond Boundaries Gundiwindi
PFA Meeting 8.30am
Years 9 to 11 Examinations
Years 9 and 10 GSV Match (After School)
Snowsports Season Opening Social Evening

Thursday 2 June

Years 9 to 11 Examinations
Year 5 Beyond Boundaries Gundiwindi
Years 7 and 8 GSV Training (Before School)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MICHELLE CARROLL

In recent weeks, St Catherine's also competed in the Bond University – High School Mooting competition. Congratulations to Sophie Sitch, Eve Alexiadis and Georgina McNab who proudly represented St Catherine's. Located in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the competition is designed to challenge students to prepare, articulate and defend complex arguments in order to solve problems. The legal argument is conducted before one or more judges. Mooting provides an introduction to the courtroom environment and gives an insight into the workings of the legal system. It is not only intended for those students who are interested in a career in law – although they will undoubtedly find the competition to be of particular interest – but for all students keen to expand their horizons. Congratulations to Sophie Sitch who was recognised as a Highly Commended Oralist.

With the guidance of Senior English teacher, Ms Mary-Anne Keratitotis, and Director of Student Wellbeing, Ms Merran O'Connor, the Debating and Public Speaking programs have gone from strength to strength at St Catherine's. This year students interested in becoming involved should visit the Debating and Public Speaking page on [mystcatherines](#).

Snowsports Swap

The Snowsports Auxiliary held a very successful Snowsports Swap over the weekend enabling families in the wider community to equip growing children with Snowsports equipment and clothing. The 'Swap' sold over 730 items with funds raised used to provide lessons and purchase equipment used throughout the School Snowsport season.

The busy team of Snowsports Swap volunteers spent months sourcing, tagging and pricing items in preparation for the Swap with 127 pairs of ski boots, 125 jackets, 78 pairs of skis, 48 goggles, 69 pants, 52 pairs of gloves and 13 snowboards sold over the course of the weekend. This was a tremendous demonstration of recycling and sustainability and the generosity of our community with unsold ski jackets being donated to XTM – Heat for the Homeless, a charity providing winter jackets to the homeless of Melbourne.

The Snowsports 'Start of Season' evening will be next Wednesday 1 June and will be a wonderful night to reconnect with St Catherine's Snowsports families or meet some new friends, stretching across both the Junior and Senior Schools. Further details on this event can be found [here](#).

Thank you to the Snowsports Auxiliary Committee members and the leadership of Mrs Sally Joubert and Mrs Jodie Cody for their early preparation in coordinating the Snowsports Swap and for what will again be a wonderful season for all our St Catherine's families.

Mrs Michelle Carroll

Principal



EARLY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPBELL HOUSE NEWS



Music and Early Childhood Learning

The link between music and effective learning is a fascinating and much researched area. As educators, we value highly the role played by music within the learning environment.

"A new study from Boston Children's Hospital found a correlation between musical training and improved executive function in both children and adults." Christopher Bergland, *Psychology Today*

The definition of executive functioning is the ability to organise thoughts and activities, the productive processing of new information and then utilising it for future use. These are all essential elements for effective learning.

A recent article in an Independent School professional journal, places a compelling emphasis on the impact learning music has upon brain development. This is not at all a new concept, as ancient philosopher, Plato states, "*I would teach children Music, Physics and Philosophy: but most importantly Music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.*"

How does music impact on learning?

Research tells us that through music, children construct strong thinking skills when they are predicting, organising, imagining, anticipating, repeating, extending and inventing. During Music sessions in the early years especially, movement and music are partners. Learners are totally immersed in the activities – both mind and body working simultaneously.

Children with sturdy thinking skills, apply them when processing and acquiring language, memorising, linking information, understanding Mathematics, predicting, hypothesising, visually recognising tasks and indeed also creative expression.

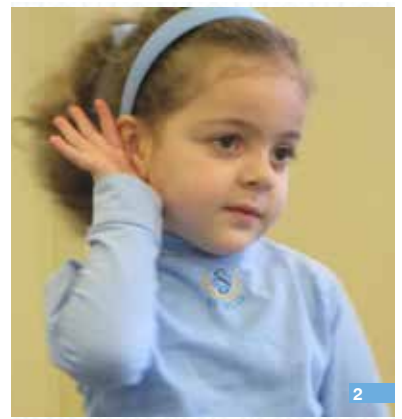
The weekly Music lessons in Campbell House are always eagerly anticipated by our young learners. The role of music throughout the day in classrooms is seen as integral to an effective learning environment.

What are learners doing when engaged in music?

"When children sing or listen to music, when they move or clap or dance to it, they immerse themselves in the experience. When children sing, they listen closely to learn new lyrics and rhymes; they internalise phrasing, predict refrains and mentally organise rhythmic patterns when children sing with their classmates, the sound they create is richer and their experience more broad and inclusive," Elaine Winter, Pre-school Educator

In this week's edition of *The Blue Ribbon*, we showcase the Wattle Room learners enjoying the movement, engagement, attentive listening and rhythm work of our Music lessons.

Continued...



- 1 The Wattle Room children playing with rhythm and experimenting with musical instruments
- 2 Ellie Damiris listening intently whilst engaged in musical play
- 3 Oliver Thomas and Finley Thomson enjoying bodily-kinaesthetic expression and movement
- 4 Willow Rice expressing joy through musical play an expression
- 5 Finley Thomson and Eliza Herold extending their team work skills

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPBELL HOUSE NEWS

DEECD Assessment and Rating Visit

Last week, a representative from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) spent time in Campbell House assessing the seven Quality areas as required by the National Quality Framework (NQF) governing all Early Learning Centres across Australia.

Assessment took place in classrooms, outdoor play areas, and the examination of the Quality Improvement Plan documentation as required by the NQF as well as through discussions with ELC Coordinators Ms Sarah Bethune, Ms Fiona Barker and myself.

As always, staff in Campbell House meet the highest of standards regarding the education and care of young learners. As a staff, we were proud to demonstrate and discuss all aspects of early learning provision as required. We will be provided with a written report from DEECD by the end of Term.

Pedestrian Safety

With winter approaching, darker skies, wet conditions and cold winds, lead us to urge drivers to take extra care on the roads and especially when driving/parking near children.

Adults are asked to be on high alert regarding children's safety as pedestrians. Struggling against cold winds, holding umbrellas and hurrying to avoid the rain can all provide distraction. We ask adults to always hold the hand of the child when crossing the road or around traffic.

Mrs Alana Moor

Head of ELC and Junior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



STEM Sessions in Year 3

The Year 3 students have been exploring the world of STEM with Ms Megan Vu, a Senior School teacher in the Science faculty, in their weekly sessions.

This interdisciplinary approach educates students in four specific disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with hands-on, practical work that truly inspires the students to explore and investigate the many exciting learning opportunities STEM has to offer.

The sessions commenced with students developing their coding skills and completing the 'Hour of Coding' certificate using TYNKER. Students are now exploring Makey Makey and Little Bits to explore electricity and how it is transmitted.

"I have really enjoyed using Little Bits to connect pieces and see what they do. I have been able to turn on a light and make a fan spin by using sound and a dimmer." Millicent Mailer

"I enjoy STEM because there are lots of little fun things to explore. I feel like I am learning about Science and Technology and it is really exciting." Mietta Jenkins

"I enjoyed using Tynker because it is challenging and makes you think. I like creating different codes to get to the end." Callista Galanopoulos

"Using the Scavenger Hunt in Tynker, I found it quite a challenge because you had to move the blocks around to get the correct code and order for the girls to get to the shields. I made it to level 20 but it was quite tricky." Chloé Favaloro

Pop Up Program involving Chess

As detailed in a previous edition of *The Blue Ribbon* we were delighted to welcome Ross Neumann and Veronica Collingwood from Chess Ideas to St Catherine's School on Friday 6 May to talk to interested girls in Years 5-8 about the game of Chess. We were thrilled that girls with a variety of skills attended this session. Some girls had not played a game of Chess before and others exhibited very advanced skills having played in tournaments at a competitive level previously.

Due to the very high level of interest, sessions have now begun in the Senior School on Fridays at lunchtime, and will continue initially up until the end of Term 2. Girls in Years 5 to 8 at all ability levels are welcome to attend these sessions which are led by the very experienced staff from Chess Ideas and assisted by staff of St Catherine's School. Each session incorporates an interactive teaching of skills and strategies and includes opportunities for match play. The staff will ensure all girls are challenged and are provided opportunities to practice the skills of focusing, visualising and planning ahead whilst working with girls at different Year levels.

Farewell to Mrs Rundle

After 25 years of service at St Catherine's School, the much loved Mrs Di Rundle left us at the end of 2015. Upon leaving, Mrs Rundle had very complex knee surgery. It is taking significant time to recover mobility.

We are delighted that Mrs Rundle is now able to travel to St Catherine's and we can farewell her and celebrate what has been an outstanding career in education. On Tuesday 19 July, Barbreck students will hold a farewell assembly for Mrs Rundle. Parents are warmly invited to attend the assembly 8.50am-9.30am and then join Mrs Rundle for morning tea in the Barbreck Library at the conclusion of the assembly. We are really looking forward to the opportunity to thank Mrs Rundle for her huge and numerous contributions to the girls in her care and the School.

Continued...



- 1 Emma Gregory and Eloise Burdett enjoying a game at Years 5-8 Chess Group
- 2 Paula Chen, Year 6 and Lillian Lu, Year 7 working together to solve Chess puzzles at Years 5-8 Chess Group
- 3 Chloé Favaloro and Arabella Richardson using LittleBits
- 4 Mietta Jenkins and Gemma Thorn working together in STEM
- 5 Millicent Mailer and Poppy Maling sharing their creation.

Music and Learning

In this week's Campbell House section of *The Blue Ribbon*, I have written an article regarding the importance of music in early learning. This is equally important in older students as well. Research, past and present is convincing and emphatic. The learning of Music undoubtedly impacts upon so many areas of learning – not the least of which is certainly memory skill building.

"You want higher test scores in Mathematics and Science? Music education will help. You want children with higher mental faculty? Music education will help," Blake Madden, writer and musician.

Madden wrote the book *Why Music Education Actually Matters* in which he quotes John Gabrieli, of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Harvard – MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology:

"The children (we studied), taking Music lessons improved more over the year on general memory skills that are correlated with non-musical abilities such as literacy, verbal memory, visuospatial processing, Mathematics and IQ than did children not taking lessons."

Holiday Offer through GATEWAYS Program

The GATEWAYS mid-year Festivals for students in Years 1 to 6 are now open for enrolment. Festivals are special programs offering a large range of workshops running concurrently over two days, with the emphasis on challenge and fun. Over the course of the two days, students have the opportunity to participate in a large range of workshops from Robotics to Philosophy, Mathematics, all areas of Science, Art, Writing, Literature, Problem Solving, Technology and Engineering.

These workshops are carefully targeted at particular age groups with activities for students in Years 1 and 2, different activities for those in Years 3 and 4, and another set for students in Years 5 and 6.

The Melbourne Festival will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 22 and 23, from 9.30am–3.15pm. All Festival details and enrolment procedures can be viewed on the [GATEWAYS website](#).

End of year Festivals for Junior School students, including a special festival for those in Prep, are held each December. Programs do fill very quickly so it is advisable to book early to avoid disappointment.

Mrs Alana Moor

Head of ELC and Junior School

House Soccer

House Soccer was held Tuesday 17 May and it was Langley Templeton who were quickly out of the box to register a win. Langley Templeton defeated Beaulieu Blair and Davis drew with Holmes Kilbride.

Upcoming Snowsports Dates

House Snowsports Day Monday 18 July.

Snowsports App

Do not forget to sign up for the St Catherine's Snowsports App so you can keep up to date with all the news. Make sure you get your Snowsports entries in early to avoid any disappointment in the upcoming season. For all Snowsports information go to [mystcatherines](#).

Snowsports 'Start of Season' Evening

The St Catherine's School Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invite you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season'

Wednesday 1 June 2016

7.00pm – 9.00pm

at the home of Rebecca and John Clark

79 Rose Street, Armadale

This is a free event however bookings are required for catering purposes, please [click here](#) to make your bookings. We encourage all parents who have an interest in Snowsports to attend. The evening will be an informative and casual night providing a great start to the forthcoming season.

Cross Country Ski Hire Online Booking System Now Open

The School has a number of Cross Country boots, skis and poles available for students to loan. Priority will go to those girls who have represented St Catherine's at the Victorian Interschools Cross Country event in previous years. Only students competing in the Interschool Cross Country event may loan equipment.

Continued...



JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

To hire:

Complete the Cross Country Ski Hire form and payment found on the following link [here](#).

Collect Cross Country skis on Wednesday 8 June, after School in the Junior School. Students must bring booking confirmation email with them to collect.

Please note it is a privilege that we are able to loan out skis to families. The equipment available is only possible through the generous donations of the St Catherine's Snowsports community. We will do our best to provide equipment for as many students as possible but cannot guarantee this.

Mr Tom Crebbin

Junior School Head of Physical Education



SCHOOL NEWS

FROM OUR TEACHING STAFF

Learning About Technology, the Only Limit is Imagination

Imagination, creative thinking and problem solving are some of the skills our children need to take on this ever evolving journey of education.

Good pedagogy cannot be replaced by technology. The connections and relationships we as teachers develop with our students are irreplaceable and will remain to be the most important aspect in students learning. However technology is a must in classrooms of today and if utilised effectively, can enhance teaching.

Always looking for new ideas to enhance student learning led me down the technology pathway. A chance meeting and discussion with a colleague introduced me to several ideas and, in conjunction with my fellow Year 5 teaching colleague, Genius Hour was launched at St Catherine's.

Genius Hour involves students completing research projects on anything they are interested in or passionate about so long as it is a non-google-able question. Many class discussions followed as the girls decided on their topics. This led to more discussions and research on the ways in which they could present their projects.

The girls embraced Genius Hour wholeheartedly and were very excited to explore the different apps. One particular app called Plotagon proved to be quite popular. This involved the students selecting characters, expressions, entering dialogue and scenes. After they had researched their project they then had to decide how they would present their findings to the class. In Plotagon they manipulated the characters to present their findings by typing in the dialogue for each character they chose. Some were in the format of an interview whilst others were similar to a TV show presentation. The topics were quite diverse, from genetics, history of ballet, how their family was affected by war to interior decorating.

One presentation would spark discussions which in turn would create an interest for another project. Their enthusiasm inspired me to seek new avenues for them to present their research project.

Technology is constantly changing and evolving and as educators we need to learn about the latest app appropriate for our students. I have been fortunate enough to attend a two day conference run by Teach Tech Play as well as a Professional Development day on Augmented and Virtual Reality.

As teachers we are always looking for the 'ah-ha' moments from our students. At the Teach Tech Play conference, I attended a session on Google Expeditions using a Google Cardboard 3D viewer. I shared my google cardboard (3D viewer) with my students and they were blown away with what they experienced. Using the 'cardboard' the students can take a virtual tour of anything or anywhere in the world with 360 degree vision. It brings the world to you.

There were also wonderful apps shown to us on the Teaching, Learning and Technology Professional Development Conference run by St Catherine's School. These included 4D Anatomy, Eon Experience, Zaption, Elements 4D and Layer. It really inspired all teaching staff to the wonders of technology and also how we as teachers can utilise these technologies to enhance our students' learning by capturing their curiosity and developing their passion for continuing to think and learn.

Coding activities in our classrooms are also equipping students with the 21st Century skills required for jobs in the future. Coding helps students understand how computer programs work and students engage in various activities to make images move and perform tasks.

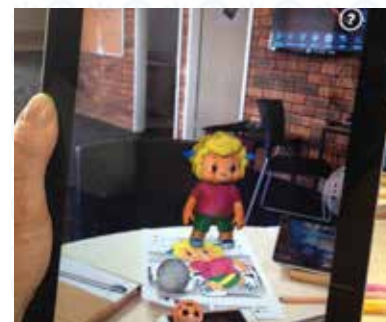
St Catherine's is also trialling some amazing virtual reality technology in the classroom that brings a hands on 3D program to a whole new level. Technologies such as this ensures that future learning for our students will be a very exciting one.

It is so rewarding to have the opportunity to introduce new technologies to my students and to see how quickly they engage, interact and work their way through the various apps. Imagination, creative thinking and problem solving are some of the skills our children need to take on this ever evolving journey of education.

Mrs Jenny De Nardis

Year 5 Teacher

Head of Junior School Physical Education



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

USA EXCHANGE



USA Exchange

Each year St Catherine's welcomes students from around the world into our School community to learn, live and share cultures. In turn, St Catherine's students also go on exchange to our Sister Schools. Recently, Year 10 students Yasmin Spyrou, Caroline Sawers and Emily Kent participated in our inaugural exchange with Tower Hill School, Wilmington, Delaware. The girls hosted the American students in their homes and experienced American hospitality on their Exchange to the USA.

The girls provide a reflection of their USA Exchange Program experiences:

New York and Washington

New York was one of the highlights of the trip for me, although it was very cold. We went to the Empire State Building, Times Square, a tour around Harlem, Central Park, the Broadway show Finding Neverland, the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 memorial, the Brooklyn Bridge, Soho, Greenwich village, Little Italy, Grand Central Station, the Met and we did plenty of shopping. The Empire State Building was amazing. We visited at night and we could see the whole city lit up. From New York we caught a train to Washington D.C. Washington was so beautiful, the streets were clean and there were beautiful cherry blossoms everywhere. We saw countless monuments including the Lincoln Memorial. We also went to the Holocaust Museum, the Space Museum and the White House.

Caroline Sawers, Year 10

Delaware

We left Washington by train passing through Baltimore and New Jersey on our way to Wilmington, Delaware. On arrival we were greeted by a teacher from Towel Hill School who took us on a tour of Wilmington as well as the School. The size of the School was quite similar to St Catherine's in regards to the amount of students.

We then enjoyed a weekend with our host families in Delaware and New Jersey where we enjoyed lots of shopping, sightseeing including Independence Hall in Philadelphia and getting to know our exchange families. Arriving at School we attended our sophomore (Year 10 equivalent) classes and enjoyed teaching the students and teachers how to say 'G'day mate!' We were also lucky to attend Tower Hill's Prom Night, and although it was heavily snowing we arrived in limousines. We all had such an amazing time in Delaware. Our exchanges and their families were amazing and we could not have asked for a better experience.

Emily Kent, Year 10

A Connection Across the Globe

When first meeting the students arriving from America we were all quite nervous. However, as time progressed we all become close friends, almost feeling like sisters, after only two weeks. Hosting our American sisters was such a great experience and also challenged us to balance our homework whilst managing sightseeing around Melbourne and including the girls in our daily routine.

Now that we knew each other it was exciting to arrive in Delaware and gain insights into how students learn in the USA. Our exchange families were extremely nice and so welcoming. We felt so comfortable around them and they made us feel like we were part of their family. This exchange program is one we shall never forget.

Yasmin Spyrou, Year 10



- 1 Walking the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City
- 2 Sculpture Park Washington DC
- 3 Supporting the Tower Hill Soccer Team
- 4 The Delaware column at the World War II Memorial in Washington DC

BUDGET PARTY, ECONOMICS BREAKFAST & CHINESE HANDKERCHIEF DANCE



Years 11 and 12 Economics Budget Party and Year 12 Economics Budget Breakfast 2016

The first two weeks of May were a busy period for the VCE Economics students. On the evening of Tuesday 3 May, students from both the Years 11 and 12 classes gathered in the Nicholas Library to watch the Federal Treasurer present his 2016-2017 Budget at the St Catherine's Annual Budget Party. The students wore party hats and sat comfortably in bean bags as they watched the live coverage of the Budget presentation and enjoyed party food. There were robust conversations about some of the new policies announced and the economic reasoning behind them.

On Friday 13 May the Year 12 Economics class, along with Mr Olsen, were invited to attend the Higgins 200 Club 2016 Post Budget Breakfast at Crown Palladium. The students were met by the Honourable Kelly O'Dwyer, Federal Member for Higgins and Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer, the Honourable Scott Morrison, Federal Treasurer and the Hon Michael O'Brien, State Shadow Treasurer.

The girls enjoyed this opportunity to be surrounded by politicians, members of the business community and students from other schools. After Treasurer Scott Morrison gave his speech, there was a Q&A Panel comprised of the Treasurer, former Federal Treasurer, the Honourable Peter Costello AC, Professor Warwick McKibbin AO and Minister O'Dwyer.

During his speech, Treasurer Morrison explained the policies implemented in the new Budget, primarily focusing on the importance of transitioning our economy away from the investment phase of the mining boom towards a more diversified economy. He discussed the importance of the role small business will play in this transition and explained how changes to company tax rates, increasing the threshold of a small business from \$2million to \$10million and the \$20,000 asset write off will enable small business to add to our economic growth. Treasurer Morrison and the rest of the panel then answered a range of questions from attendees covering topics such as housing affordability, changes to superannuation and the potential impact of prolonged budget deficits on Australia's AAA credit rating and future rates of economic growth.

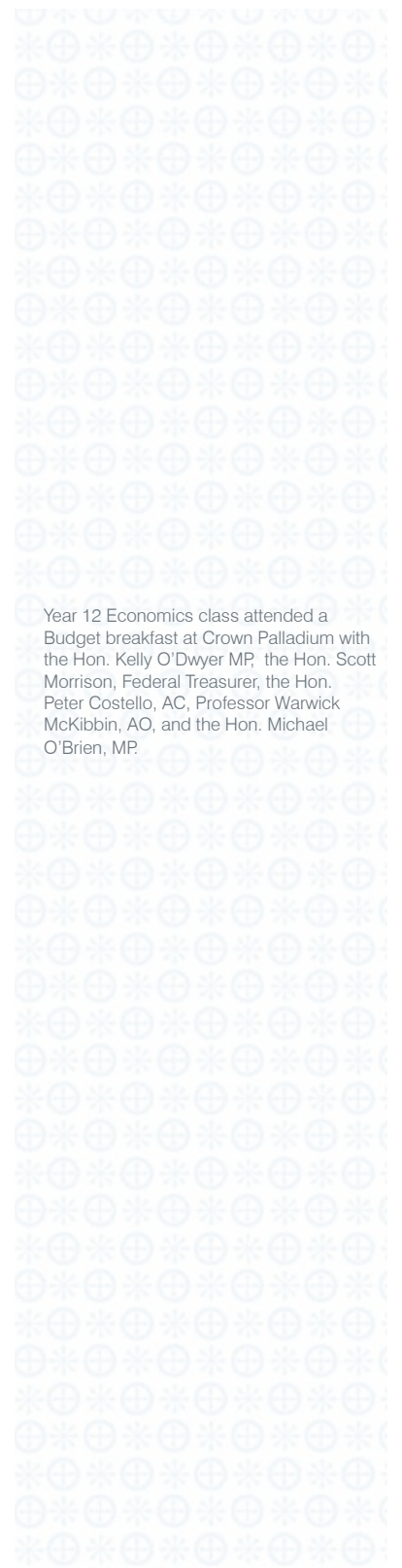
The students commented that the breakfast provided them with a newfound insight into the decision making processes and priorities of the 2016 Budget.

Mr Timothy Olsen
Economics Teacher

Chinese Handkerchief Dance Classes

On Wednesday 18 May 2016, the International Club held Chinese Handkerchief Dance Classes during lunchtime next to the Wintergarden. This was a joint venture between the International Club and the student A Team, so that a range of girls from different Year levels was involved. The International Club members had a great time teaching the local students, who were so clever that they learnt to do the spin after playing with the handkerchiefs for only a few minutes. Everyone had a fantastic time!

Ruo Ming (Cynthia) Jiang
International Club Captain



Year 12 Economics class attended a Budget breakfast at Crown Palladium with the Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer MP, the Hon. Scott Morrison, Federal Treasurer, the Hon. Peter Costello, AC, Professor Warwick McKibbin, AO, and the Hon. Michael O'Brien, MP.



International Club held Chinese Handkerchief Dance Classes during lunchtime

ROSTRUM: VOICE OF YOUTH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



Rostrum: Voice of Youth

On Sunday 22 May, six of our students took part in the Rostrum: Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. Rostrum is a National Public Speaking competition and, as such, attracts a wide variety of students from a range of educational sectors, whose personal backgrounds are diverse, and whose cultural perspectives inform the quality and content of their speeches. St Catherine's students were, therefore, privileged to be able to listen to a range of unique personal perspectives from their peers from around the state.

We were represented in the Junior Division by Allegra Dennison (Year 7) who performed with maturity and a great deal of composure in her first public speaking competition. Allegra's speech, entitled Humble Beginnings, outlined her initially modest fundraising efforts with her sister for CARE Australia which raised sufficient funds for the purchase of a water system in a remote impoverished village in a developing country, thus reinforcing the importance of small goals which can transform the lives of ordinary people.

Demi Markakis (Year 10) whose reflective prepared speech delivered in a natural and charismatic manner saw her progress through to the Semi-Finals. In this section of the competition, students were expected to provide an impromptu speech with 15 minutes preparation. The clarity of Demi's structure and impressive content under the pressure of time made her a clear winner and saw her awarded a place in the State Final on 19 June. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Demi will not be able to take up this opportunity – nevertheless, we congratulate her for her fine performance in the Semi-Finals.

In the Senior Division, St Catherine's was represented by Lucy Porter (Year 10), Samara Gill (Year 10) and our School Captain, Elizabeth Bolt. As an experienced public speaker, Elizabeth's speech entitled, The Eleventh Hour, comprised a warning about the current and potential dangers of artificial intelligence. Her well placed sarcasm and humour were appreciated by the audience and adjudicator, and she delivered her speech with characteristic confidence. Lucy Porter, a newcomer to Public Speaking, articulated her views about the figurative glass ceiling limiting opportunities for women in the areas of equal salaries, professional opportunities and sport.

Building upon her skills as a Public Speaker of previous competitions, Samara Gill's impassioned speech on the invisible barriers impeding the lives of Indigenous people allowed her to reveal her understanding of The Stolen Generation.

The capacity for reflection and compassion of all our entrants made them worthy representatives of the School. The Rostrum adjudicators praised the high quality of all the student speeches, offered helpful advice designed to improve their communication skills, and encouraged all speakers to continue to hone their skills. The adjudicators also reinforced the importance of Public Speaking being about engagement and connection with the audience.

Ms Mary-Anne Keratiotis

Coordinator of Debating and Public Speaking



- 1 Senior Rostrum Division entrants: Samara Gill, Elizabeth Bolt and Lucy Porter
- 2 Demi Markakis, Finalist
- 3 Junior Division entrants: Allegra Dennison and Demi Markakis
- 4 Senior entrants, Lucy Porter and Elizabeth Bolt receiving their certificates.

SENIOR SCHOOL MUSIC NOTES



Sing-Off!

Further to my news from last week regarding the annual student-led Sing-Off! event, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful choreography undertaken by Megane Janssen. Readers are also invited to listen and view some of the work of the girls in their combined item with St Kevin's College which won the best combined item category at the event by following [this link](#).

Bands Blast

Congratulations to all involved in the Bands Blast on Wednesday 25 May. One of the wonderful things about Music in a School is it is so often 'cross-age'.

Whilst this does have its difficulties in co-curricular timetabling, particularly as Sport is understandably, grouped by Year level, it was so lovely to hear the progression from the youngest group, the Year 5s who have been playing their instruments for approximately 10 weeks, to the Senior Concert Band, which includes a number of girls who began in the Year 5 program and are still playing in Year 12.

We were also delighted to introduce the Stage Band and showcased Auto-no-mous. It is important to show our budding Barbreck students the possibilities for making Music in the Senior School. We continue to strive to explain to girls and families that there really is not a difference between Classical and Popular music. It is after all all music.

The girls in our rock band are all highly advanced Classical musicians (for want of a better word) and they have the skills to do a wonderful job in the Contemporary musical world as well.

Music Camp Term 3

All girls involved in co-curricular ensembles from Years 7–12 will have further opportunity to work and socialise together at the Music Camp in Term 3. Information regarding the Camp will be provided to eligible girls shortly.

Years 7 and 8 Concert Band

The Years 7 and 8 Concert Band will have the chance to perform again at the Years 7 and 8 Concert next week. Our aim is to provide this intermediate group as much concert practice as possible and the chance to improve while recent experience is uppermost in their minds.

We are very grateful to our parents who support this important learning and the extra time involved.

We wish all our Senior students all the best for their examination period.

Mrs Jenny Mathers

*"Without deviation from the norm,
progress is not possible."* Frank Zappa

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

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Junior Netball

Over the past two rounds our Junior Netball teams have played strongly, maintaining their excellent teamwork and improving every week on their passing and defending skills. Results were as follows:

- A Team defeated Fairbanks 26–6
- B Team defeated Korowa 11–8
- C Team defeated Lauriston 11–6
- D Team lost to Lauriston 20–13
- E Team defeated Korowa 5–4
- F Team defeated Korowa 20–5
- G Team lost to Korowa 20–15

The following week our Junior Netball players had their fifth round of matches at Duncan McKinnon. In rainy conditions, our girls played smart and controlled netball with some excellent individual performances.

Results were as follows:

- A Team defeated Firbank 17–14
- B Team defeated SAC 8–6
- C Team drew Firbank 5–5
- E Team defeated D Team 10–4
- F Team lost to SAC 12–5
- G Team lost to SAC 12–1

Senior Netball

The final two weeks of Senior Netball came with mixed results. After a season that had some big challenges, it was great to see all three Senior teams work hard each match and stick to their match plans. Well done to Clare Cameron for her leadership as the 2016 Netball Captain. Our small but determined group is to be congratulated on their commitment to Netball and their efforts on the court.

In our second last round of the season, our Senior Netball players rallied against Lauriston to record our closest margins of the season!

A Team lost 24–9. Players: Lucy Church, Chloe Page, Mackenzie Leyden, Elysée Dubois, Georgia Deacon, Clare Cameron (Captain), Alexandra Stopp, Sophie Sitch and Amelia McDonald.

B Team lost 16–6. Players: Catherine Mytton, Brittany Pearson, Sasha Christian, Zara Seyfort, Danae Barbayannis, Brooke Maat, Georgie Sitch, Holly Elstoft, Georgia Bickford and Cluny Gilmour.

All three Senior Netball teams played competitive matches against Toorak College at St Catherine's. In the final match of the season, our girls showed strong defence, consistently accurate shooting and demonstrated an improved ability to work cohesively within their teams.

Results are as follows:

A Team defeated by Toorak 37-13. Players: Clare Cameron, Alexandra Stopp, Georgia Deacon, Chloe Page, Lucy Church, Mackenzie Leyden, Lucinda Kelly and Isabella King.

B Team defeated by Toorak 26-23. Players: Danae Barbayannis, Georgia Bickford, Sasha Christian, Brooke Maat, Holly Elstoft, Elysée Dubois, Cluny Gilmour and Sophie Sitch.

C Team defeated by Toorak 12-10. Players: Zara Seyfort, Rose Hogan, Brittany Pearson, Georgie Sitch, Gretel Newton-Brown, Bridget Lieberman and Catherine Mytton.

Mr Chris Jones

Director of Sport

GSV Preliminary Cross Country

Great team racing from the St Catherine's Cross Country Team saw the School win the Preliminary Cross Country Carnival for the first time since 2005. Confidence, competitiveness and teamwork were key focuses as the group went from strength to strength beating a strong Firbank and 2015 Cross Country Championship runners up, MLC.

Continued...



SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT



The Juniors got the day rolling in style, with nine of the top 15 finishers being St Catherine's athletes. It was a sea of light blue all the way around the course as our Years 7 and 8 athletes worked really hard in their running packs to assist and challenge each other to get the best result for the School.

Francesca Demetriou was the fastest finisher, breaking the 12 minute barrier for three kilometres and placing second overall. However, hot on her heels were Isabella Bufé, Alexandra Demetriou, Elodie Ferrali and Chloe Joubert, who all finished inside the top 10 placing fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh respectively.

Other outstanding efforts of the day included Romilly Walker, Olivia Shergold, Stella Heidenreich and Jennifer Madgwick all having their best races of the season. The Juniors finished the day with 35 points, beating their closest rival Firbank by 64 points (99 points). With another week of good training this group can feel confident in tackling the challenge of taking on Ruyton Girls School to battle it out for the Junior trophy at Championships.

The Intermediate team showed the biggest improvement yesterday. After watching the Juniors storm home to victory, the coaches could see the confidence and belief in the group starting to grow. From the first step, the Intermediates put the race on their terms. With set race plans and race groups established this group ran the course with confidence, overtaking and challenging the other Schools with a sense of purpose. Isabelle Dann was the fastest finisher, running 16.08 for four kilometres and placing an extremely close fourth. Annelise Cody and Imogen Rice both cracked the top 10 for the first time. While Juliet Grant and Sarah Wilson ran their best races of the season running over a minute quicker for the course. Other outstanding performances within the group included Eleanor Millel, Isabel Gray and Harriette Dryden. The ultimate team success for this group was the win of the Intermediate trophy.

One of the day's biggest highlights of the event was the contribution of our Senior team members. With a few girls unable to run on the day, the eight girls who competed showed resilience and commitment to the team to ensure St Catherine's could maintain its lead. Alexandra Stopp, Georgie Gleeson and Ella Swann ran outstanding races, leaving nothing in the tank to finish sixth, seventh and eighth respectively. Mia Lansell rose to the call and battled hard in her first Senior race finishing in 24th place. However, with six scorers required to get the team across line the efforts of Stephanie Wills and Sasha Christian were extremely important to the team. Both girls ran strong races and got the team over the line. St Catherine's finished fourth in the Senior category, however did enough to secure a strong School win in the overall Preliminary Carnival.

This result is an outstanding achievement for the School and all girls should be extremely proud of their efforts. This victory places us in the perfect position to challenge Division 1 at the GSV Cross Country Championships, taking place today. The task will not be easy with strong running schools such as Ruyton, Loreto and Melbourne Girls Grammar all performing well, however with the same level of confidence, competitiveness and teamwork, I know St Catherine's will give the rest of the competition a real shake up. Thank you to our fantastic coaches: Ms Susan Hobson, Miss Tilly Schoeffel and Mr Harry Roubin, and also our supporters on the day, parents, old girls and Head of Sport, Mr Chris Jones.

Mr Lloyd Knight

Sport & Athlete Development Coordinator - Head Coach of Athletics



- 1 St Catherine's School GSV Preliminary Cross Country Winners!
- 2 Intermediates race start
- 3 Francesca Demetriou finishing second in the Junior Race
- 4 Seniors race start

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

Cross Country Ski Hire Online Booking System Now Open

The School has a number of Cross Country boots, skis and poles available for students to loan. Priority will go to those girls who have represented St Catherine's at the Victorian Interschools Cross Country event in previous years. Only students competing in the Interschool Cross Country event may loan equipment.

To hire:

Complete the Cross Country Ski Hire form and payment found on the following [link here](#).

Collect Cross Country Skis on Wednesday 8 June, after School in the Junior School. Must bring booking confirmation email with you to collect

Please note it is a privilege we are able to loan out skis to families, however we are not a ski hire shop. The equipment available is only possible through the generous donations of the St Catherine's Snowsports community. We will do our best to provide equipment for as many students as possible but cannot guarantee this.

Mr Lloyd Knight

Sport & Athlete Development Coordinator – Head Coach of Athletics



SNOWSPORTS EVENTS & ST CATHERINE'S ANNUAL GIVING

Snowsports 'Start of Season' Evening

The St Catherine's School Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invite you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season'

Wednesday 1 June 2016

7.00pm – 9.00pm

at the home of Rebecca and John Clark

79 Rose Street, Armadale

This is a free event however bookings are required for catering purposes, please [click here](#) to make your bookings.

We encourage all parents who have an interest in Snowsports to attend. The evening will be an informative and casual night providing a great start to the forthcoming season.

Snowsports Exclusive Film Screening – *The Will to Fly*

The Snowsports Auxiliary presents an exclusive screening and Q&A with the Directors of *The Will to Fly* an inspiring story of the Australian Olympic Aerials Champion, Lydia Lassila.

The Will To Fly is the story of Olympic Champion Lydia Lassila, who as a young mum, against all the odds competing in one of the most dangerous sports in the world, dares to reach for an almost impossible dream and in doing so, helps pave the way for women in sport.

Saturday 4 June

2.30pm for 3.00pm screening

Village Cinemas Jam Factory, Chapel Street South Yarra

Tickets available [here](#)

Adults \$25 Students \$20

Snowsports Auxiliary

St Catherine's School Annual Giving 2016

Through our 120 year history, St Catherine's School has educated generations of remarkable young women. Over this time, we have also received strong support for all our students through the generosity of our School community – current and past parents, friends, teachers and Old Girls.

Thanks to the generous gifts of our School community in 2015, Annual Giving supported the renewal of the iconic Clocktower classrooms, enabling contemporary learning spaces for our girls to learn new languages and study Humanities.

Annual Giving also provided scholarships to a diverse range of talented young Indigenous and rural girls who may not otherwise have been able to attend our School. Thank you!

This year, we again seek your support for our women of the future by inviting you to make a tax-deductible donation to our 2016 Annual Giving program.

Our primary focus for funds raised this year is to establish an exciting new Technology & Engineering Lab for our Years 3 to 8 students. To capture the imagination of our girls and to build their skills for the future, the Lab will feature virtual reality technology; an Australian first in girls' education.

Through our Annual Giving Program this year, we are also seeking philanthropic gifts for scholarships for rural girls and Indigenous students from across Australia, enabling these girls to receive a quality St Catherine's School education.

By working and giving together, we can ensure that our girls have the best possible facilities and programs for their all-round development and provide the best start for their life beyond School. It is a wonderful investment in our girls and their future.

Thank you for supporting our girls to become true women of the future through these projects. Your generosity will make a real difference to our girls and their education. To view our Annual Giving video [click here](#) or to learn more or donate visit our website [here](#).

Mr Wayne Kent

Chair of St Catherine's School Foundation



SCOGA NETWORKING EVENTS AND SCHOOL SURVEY

St Catherine's Old Girls Association (SCOGA) Women in Industry Networking Events

Throughout 2016, SCOGA, are hosting a series of career specific events to facilitate networking among our members and the School community. Through these events we hope to celebrate talent, share knowledge and experience, and make and maintain connections with each other and the School.

The events for 2016 include:

- Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event
- Women in Banking and Finance Networking Event

Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event

At this event we will host a panel of speakers who will discuss a range of topics, provide an opportunity for Q&A and networking with Old Girls and the School community who work in the fashion industry, including fashion design, photography, modelling, textile and graphic design and brand management etc.

Date: Tuesday 7 June 2016

Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Ellis Street Studios, 16 Ellis Street, South Yarra

Student tickets: \$30 per person

Professional tickets: \$40 per person

To register for this event [click here](#)

Speakers

Clementine Lilley ('02) – Senior Textile/Graphic Designer Product Development, Voyager Solo Distribution

Bridget McCall ('98) – Director, LIFEwithBIRD

Jill Clegg ('64) – HUSK

For further information about any of these events, please contact Mrs Phoebe Norman (Olsen '95) at phoebe_norman@icloud.com

Mrs Phoebe Norman (Olsen '95)

SCOGA President

St Catherine's School Communication Survey

In an effort to gauge the effectiveness of our level of communication with our School community, we invite our School community to please participate in a five minute online survey. This anonymous survey will assist St Catherine's to continue to provide you with School news efficiently. The survey is available [here](#). Thank you for your input.

St Catherine's Marketing and Communications Team

Uniform Centre

Please note that the Uniform Centre will be closed for stocktake on Thursday 16 June.

Mrs Vikki O'Neill

Uniform Centre Manager

