



St Catherine's School

# the blue ribbon

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 228 18 March 2016 W7 T1

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### Michelle Carroll

This week I travelled to Canberra for the National Education Forum, where Professor Ian Chubb, Australia's former Chief Scientist spoke of "igniting the curiosity in every child" [...more](#)

## UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES



### Diary Dates

Important upcoming School dates [...more](#)

## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



### Campbell House News

With only one more week of Term 1 we prepare our young learners for the Easter break and the Term 2 program [...more](#)

## SCHOOL NEWS



### From the Director of Curriculum Innovation and Development

What is essential to teach reveals much about the society we wish to shape [...more](#)

## JUNIOR SCHOOL



### Junior School News

Our Years 4 and 5 students have explored Victoria through excursions and camps. Our Write on Wednesday students provide some literary pieces and we prepare for the Easter break [...more](#)



### School AGM, Ceramic Flowers and Parent/Teacher Interviews

St Catherine's AGM will be held on Wednesday 4 May. There is still time to purchase 120 celebration ceramic flowers. Details regarding Parent/Teacher interviews [...more](#)



### Junior School Sport

Congratulations to our Divisional Swimming Relay Team who have progressed to the Regional Trials next week [...more](#)

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Sports Auxiliary Movie Night

Join the Sports Auxiliary on Wednesday 27 April for the screening of *Eddie The Eagle*. Inspired by true events the movie follows British Ski-jumper Michael 'Eddie' Edwards at the 1988 Winter Olympics [...more](#)

## SENIOR SCHOOL



### MAD Night, International Women's Day, St Catherine's vs Scotch Netball and Music Notes

A MAD Night recap from our Performing Arts Head, read how we celebrated International Women's Day, including a mixed Netball game along with Music Notes from Jenny Mathers [...more](#)



### Uniform Centre News

Winter uniform can be worn from the commencement of Term 2 and compulsory from Tuesday 26 April. Place your orders now in preparation [...more](#)



### Senior School Sport

Round five GSV Tennis results and Head of St Catherine's Aquatic Mr Mark Cooper provides a summary on the Vicentre Long Course Meet [...more](#)



[more...](#)

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL MICHELLE CARROLL



### Ignite the Curiosity in Every Child

Professor Ian Chubb, Australia's Chief Scientist (2011–2016) provided a provocative Keynote Address at the National Education Forum this week in Canberra. He described a need to "ignite the curiosity in every child" and demanded an educational re-focus to increase the number of students studying Mathematics and Science. In 2015/16 the Australian Government launched the National Innovation Science Agenda, recognising the centrality of the STEM/TIDE (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects in ensuring national prosperity well into the 21st Century.

A major objective of the National Agenda is to increase opportunities for women in the STEM career areas; the Agenda further stated:

*Only one in four IT graduates and fewer than one in 10 Engineering graduates are women. Additionally, women occupy fewer than one in five senior research positions in Australian universities and research institutes, and around one quarter of the STEM workforce overall. We need a concerted, national effort to overcome the cultural, institutional and organisational factors that discourage girls and women from studying STEM, and that limit their opportunities to pursue STEM careers.*

Over the next five years, employment is predicted to increase in professional, scientific and technical services by 14% and in health care by almost 20%. The ABS has estimated STEM-related jobs, such as ICT professionals and engineers, have grown at about 1.5 times the rate of other jobs in recent years. Google Australia's Head of Computer Science Outreach, Sally-Ann Williams, said women comprised only 3% of applications to study IT at university, "yet we know that 75% of all future jobs will require STEM skills and the vast majority of them are technical skills."

Echoing Professor Chubb's call for action and deliberation of the Strategy was an article in The Australian last week – Girls Barking up the Wrong Tree (March 10, Natasha Bitá) – highlighting that girls outsmart boys in Mathematics and Science but are shunning the "money-spinning subjects at school." After tracking 58,000 Victorian students between Years 7 and 12, the University of Melbourne discovered boys are five times more likely than girls to study Physics and nine times more likely to study Information Technology for the Victorian Certificate of Education. The study found girls who were good at Mathematics still tend to favour Biology and Human Development, subjects that can launch a career in allied health but limiting to other STEM industries.

The study revealed that despite shunning Science studies, girls outperformed boys in every STEM subject in Senior school. In essence, girls should be encouraged to study Mathematics, Physics and IT, even if they think they are not good enough. In every field, the girls performed better, on average, than the boys.

Continued...

## SCHOOL DATES

### Friday 18 March

ELC Parent Teacher Interviews

Years 3 to 6 House Cross Country 9.30am

Rowing Nationals

Red Cross Door Knock 3.30pm–5.00pm

SCOGA 15 Year Reunion 6.00pm

Music Auxiliary Rocking Quiz 6.30pm

### Saturday 19 March

Rowing Nationals

Senior School Cross Country Running, Mercantile 8.30am–10.00am

### Sunday 20 March

Rowing Nationals

Senior School Musical Rehearsal 10.00am–3.00pm

Boarders' Program 2.00pm–5.00pm

### Monday 21 March

Harmony Day

House Cross Country

Years 11 and 12 GSV Semi Final and Final (After School)

Years 10 to 12 Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm

### Tuesday 22 March

Junior School Choral Assembly 8.45am

GSV Dive and Swim Finals Evening

Senior School French Study Tour Departs (evening)

### Wednesday 23 March

Senior School Easter Service (St John's Toorak) 11.00am

Junior School Easter Service (St John's Toorak) 2.00pm

Years 9 and 10 GSV Finals (After School)

Senior School Italy Study Tour Departs (evening)

### Thursday 24 March

#### End of Term 1

Senior School Final Assembly 12.30pm

ELC End of Term 1, 12.00pm

Prep to Year 12 End of Term 1, 1.00pm

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MICHELLE CARROLL

At St Catherine's, our STEM agenda in our Junior School has included the development of the 2016 STEM Morning program, the introduction of a specific classroom-based STEM subject for Year 3 students and the inclusion of a now well-established CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) program across all Barbreck classes. The CREST Program is written and supported by our Head of Science, Ms Vanessa Jackson-McRae.

In the Senior School, the development of the TIDE curriculum at Years 7 and 8 (Technology, Innovation, Design and Engineering) last year introduced girls to coding in 2015 and this year girls are participating in the Solar Boat Challenge. These subjects will be further extended in Years 9 and 10 Electives next year with offerings including advanced Mathematics and Science programs.

Of our Senior graduates last year, several girls were offered placements at Monash and Melbourne Universities with scholarships specifically designed to encourage girls into IT, Computer Science and Engineering courses. Interested Years 11 and 12 students should seek the advice of our careers practitioner, Mrs Pauline van der Poel, for further information about tertiary scholarship opportunities. The Mathematics Faculty also encourage students to continue studying through to VCE Mathematics and we were delighted to achieve a student with a perfect Study Score in Specialist Mathematics last year.

## Easter Services

With the launch of 120th anniversary celebrations this Term it has been a hectic, but memorable, start to the year. I look forward to some quiet reflection time during our Easter Services next week and an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular music provided by our students at each Service. This is a wonderful showcase of the girls work this Term. Parents are very welcome to attend the Services:

*Senior School Easter Service – Wednesday 23 March, commencing at 11.00am  
St John's Anglican Church*

*Junior School Easter Service – Wednesday 23 March, commencing at 2.00pm  
St John's Anglican Church*

I also welcome the Reverend Dr Peter French to our School community. As the newly inducted minister at St John's Anglican Church, Dr French is also now a member of St Catherine's School Council. Dr French trained for the priesthood at Trinity College, the University of Melbourne and received his Bachelor of Theology in biblical studies from The Melbourne College of Divinity. He completed his Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Melbourne in History and Art History respectively.

Dr French was ordained as a deacon and priest in the Diocese of Wangaratta in 1999, where he served as Curate at St. John's, Wodonga, as Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta, and then as Chaplain at Trinity College, The University of Melbourne.

In 2006 Dr French moved with his wife Robyn Whitaker, a New Testament scholar and Uniting Church minister, to Chicago, USA, for Robyn to undertake doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. Joining the Episcopal Church, Dr French served as Interim Rector of Messiah-St. Bartholomew, an African-American congregation on the city's south side, and then as Associate Rector of Grace Church, Hinsdale, a 700 member church in the city's west.

From 2008 Dr French served as Chaplain of the Episcopal Church at Princeton University, one of the oldest and largest Episcopal chaplaincies in the United States. At Princeton University he taught as the Co-Director of The Program on Religion, Diplomacy and International Relations and was Founding Director of Princeton University's Christian-Muslim Dialogue.

Dr French's experience will make a worthwhile contribution to our School Council and I welcome him, and Robyn, to our St Catherine's community.

Mrs Michelle Carroll

**Principal**

# EARLY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPBELL HOUSE NEWS

## Term One

With Easter in 2016 at the end of March, Term 1 has been short by comparison to other terms.

Given the short number of weeks thus far, it is quite remarkable to observe the way in which our educators have secured the confidence of each young learner. It is a privilege to witness the growth of the children in their self management skills, confidence and learning in Campbell House.

A walk through the playground or the classrooms is always heralded with words and exclamations such as "Mrs Moor, Mrs Moor, Look what I can do" (playground triumphs and mastery of a new skill) or "Hello Mrs Moor, look at this!" (a classroom project, painting, building or puzzle for instance).

Learning commences so young and the motivation to learn more must be truly treasured. Our young learners' desire and innate energy must be encouraged, something which our Campbell House staff do so well!

## End of Term 1 2016

The final day of Term 1 is Thursday 24 March. Children in Campbell House finish at 12 noon on this day. The children do not eat lunch at school on this day but do require their usual morning tea snack.

## Term 2 Programs for 3YO Classrooms

Term 2 will be a very exciting time for the learners in the Waratah and Blue Gum Rooms. Participation in Music sessions is popular! Visits to the Barbreck (Junior School) Library and participation in PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) will see much excitement and learning in Term 2.

Learners in the Waratah Room who attend Campbell House on Tuesday and the learners in the Blue Gum Room, will need to always bring their Library Bag on this day each week in order to borrow a book from the well resourced Junior School Library.

## Parent Feedback Welcome

Parents of children in Campbell House are warmly encouraged to provide feedback regarding all matters including programming, pastoral care, classroom atmosphere and presentation, security, hygiene and cleaning, as well as general organisation.

What matters to parents always matters to us! Educating and caring for children, if to be successful and conducive to effective learning, must see educators and families working in partnership. Parents who wish to comment on any aspect of the Early Learning Centre are most welcome to do so either through our ELC Coordinators or myself. Comments assist us to ensure our service is at the best it can be.

## Learning Spaces in Campbell House

In order to maximise opportunities for learning when our young students are in classrooms, the Campbell House staff work extremely hard to ensure the classroom areas are bright, appealing, interesting, varied and intriguing.

Inviting spaces see young learners eager to enter and enthusiastic to explore, question, discuss, hypothesise, create and ponder. Wonder is a powerful learning tool and joy in discovery is a palpable motivator to learn more.

The photographs in today's *Blue Ribbon* provide a glimpse into our indoor learning spaces in Campbell House. All colourful and inviting, they provide provoke thought and wonder for our youngest learners.

Mrs Alana Moor  
**Head of ELC and Barbreck**



- 1 Portia Carosa-Koziora, Ellie Damiris, Finley Thomson and William McInnes engaged in playful literacy
- 2 The Wattle Room children unveiling their collaborative 'Golden Wattle' canvas
- 3 Marianna Qin practicing her cutting skills.
- 4 Blake Kwong, Joshua Walshe, Casper Bell, Arabella Lutz and Amelie Nahrath building a road together.

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



### Experience and Learning are Perfect Partners

Returning from the Sovereign Hill and the Outdoor Education Group Camp at Anglesea, were extremely happy Years 4 and 5 students who hailed both experiences as “the best!”

Year 5 undertook a three day adventure as part of their History Unit and Year 4 explored Science topics through their three days at Anglesea as well as some Indigenous reflections.

The photographs in today’s edition of *The Blue Ribbon* attest to the learning and the enjoyment! We also provide some of our Year 4 students’ reflections on their Camp experience at Anglesea:

*As we walked through the darkness on our night walk, head torches on, Ms Chalman told us we were heading to some hay bales. Suddenly there they were, five long rows of them, perhaps 25 in all. To our great surprise, Ms Chalman said we could climb up and play on them! It was probably our favourite part of the night walk!!*

Charlotte Wood

*As part of our wellbeing, we decided to make some origami butterflies. The butterflies remind us of happiness and positivity. We got into groups and Ms Barker warned us there were two very tricky folds! We all focused and learnt how to make these beautiful butterflies. We were SO proud of ourselves and so were the teachers! When we got to the tricky folds, we had to persevere and not panic! Our butterflies then went into a net and during Camp, we pulled them out and talked about a positive action! It was a lovely way to focus on wellbeing.*

Mattea Demetriou

*Day One – At the Beach,*

*Year 4 spent the first day at the Point Roadknight Beach. One of our activities was an Irongirl event. First we walked through the course and saw the track. Then we went to the starting line. Mr Crebbin got us ready and said go. We were off and running. We hit the waves and soon we were back on land and running again. Caroline finished first followed by Sophia. At the end, we had a celebration photo.*

*Day Three – At the Dam*

*Year 4 went to see some yabbies at a dam. Allen had put some bait traps to catch the yabbies so that we could have a competition. The teachers were the team captains of each group. The last group was Ms Schilte’s group and they had caught 16. It was great and was a new experience for some of us.*

Millie Nilsen and Jiarun (Karen) Ai

Continued...



1



2



3



4



5

- 1 Catching yabbies at the dam during Year 4 Anglesea Camp
- 2 Year 4 making origami butterflies
- 3 Learning how to care for horses in the stables at Sovereign Hill was very much enjoyed by some of the orphans
- 4 Livia Gowrie and Milla Naylor learning to write with an ink pen
- 5 The children of St Alipius manage neat writing in their copy books despite the primitive classroom

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### Write on Wednesday – extending our writers!

Each Wednesday of Term, students in Years 5 and 6 who attend the after School Write on Wednesday program enjoy being immersed in a variety of vocabulary building activities, investigation of writing stimulus, discussions and speaking activities. Tasks range from games and problem solving with words, to writing paragraphs and poems and stories.

Learning to write well takes effort and time but the journey can be fabulous! Ms Cooke, Mrs Lingard and I lead the sessions and enjoy the way in which the Years 5 and 6 students have traditionally joined together with humour and generosity in sharing stories and skills.

In today's *Blue Ribbon* we provide some examples of student writing completed during Write on Wednesday sessions. Each writer was provided eight minutes to think of a subject and to write. Students completed three such tasks and the results were outstanding.

#### *The lake*

*The beautiful lake was in the centre of the park. The sun was shining down on it. It reflected off the lake, causing a kaleidoscope of colour to dance on the rippling surface. Weeds were growing on the sides, the water was crystal clear, the laughter of children filled the air as they chased each other around and the occasional duck waddled through the lake. The lake! A perfect place for a family picnic.*

Paula Chen Year 6

#### *Spread the smile*

*Smile even if you don't feel like it.*

*Maybe you will put a rainbow in somebody's cloud*

*I felt ten times better when someone smiles at me*

*Live life happily because happy is the best feeling.*

*Everyone can do it, so give it a try.*

Jariyan Patel Year 6

#### *Dreaming*

*I wandered down to the lake in the brilliant, warm, sunshine. I felt drowsy in this weather. I love Spring. As I walked through the gardens of Buckingham Palace, I felt very lucky to be alive. It was not every day that the Queen chose one girl, in the whole world to be her new lady in waiting! I felt amazing. I saw an old swing and I sat down on it. The rusty, old iron creaked lazily as I swung back and forth. Why is it still here I wondered? This is Buckingham Palace after all. I continued my walk until I saw a huge wreath of flowers on the ground. I picked up a white rose from amongst the leaves.*

Emilia Searby Year 6

#### *Lavender*

*Lavender is purple*

*Lavender is small*

*Lavender come in*

*big patches of 4!*

Pippa Shergold

### Choral Assembly Term 1 2016 22 March

Traditionally, the last Tuesday of Terms 1 to 3, Mrs Dods, Mrs Cook and the Music Captains lead a Choral Assembly. Choral Assembly 2016 for Term 1 will be held on Tuesday 22 March at 8.45am – 9.40am. Parents are warmly invited to attend and enjoy the performers and we look forward to hearing performances from the following choirs:

- Langley Singers (Prep to Year 2 Choir)
- Heyington Choir (Years 3 and 4 Choir)
- Barbreck Choir (Years 5 and 6 Choir)
- Epstein Singers (Auditioned Years 4 to 6 Choir)

Continued...

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### Easter Service

The 2016 Junior Easter Service will be held on Wednesday 23 March at St John's Anglican Church ( corner of Toorak Road and Orrong Road) at 2.00pm. The collection this year will assist victims in Fiji affected by the wrath of Cyclone Winston.

Girls not collected from the Church must be collected from Barbreck at the normal dismissal time. Please note Write on Wednesday sessions do not run on the final Wednesday of a School term. The program will recommence in the second week of Term 2.

### Organisational Details

Please note the important organisational details below:

Named Property – it is essential all items of clothing and property are clearly labelled. This includes shoes, hats, lunchboxes, dresses, blazers and jumpers. Please rename all items purchased second hand. All attempts are made to return labelled property to owners.

Sunhats – all students in Prep to Year 6 are required to wear a School sunhat during at least Terms 1 and 4 when outside. Recess, lunchtimes and all outdoor activities require students to be wearing their hat. Sun hats have a brim and are part of our SunSmart Policy.

Parent Information Line: 03 9828 3994 – this line is for parents to phone as a first port of call for messages pertaining to special events of the day including times, uniform required, location and other matters essential to organisation.

In the case of School camps, a message is placed on the line regarding arrival and departure times of buses. This particularly relates to occasions when a bus may be late arriving back to School. Estimated time of arrival will be given if possible.

### After School Care Provider – Camp Australia

All families are encouraged to register with Camp Australia (our Out of School Hours Care provider) by telephoning the Camp Australia head office on 1300 105 343.

Parents are urged to register even if the need to use the service is not apparent. Failing this, it is imperative that parents have made exacting back up plans for any days in which children may need to be cared for or picked up at the last minute. For safety reasons, children must be placed into After School care by the Yard Duty teacher at 3.50pm. Staff often have meetings to attend and there are no other options for supervision. Safety and security must be priorities.

If you need to contact Before and After School care at St Catherine's, please note the parent contact number is 03 9828 3019 or 0412 510 875.

### Last day of Term 1 2016

The final day of Term 1 2016 is Thursday 24 March. The Barbreck students are dismissed at 1.00pm for the holidays on this day. A final Assembly will be held at 12.15pm on this day. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Mrs Alana Moor

**Head of ELC and Barbreck**

## JUNIOR SCHOOL JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT



### **Divisional Swimming Relay**

Congratulations to our 11 Years Relay team of Chloe Nevins, Zara Krause, Madeleine Hooker and Emma Gregory who won their Divisional relay. The team now progress to the Regional trials on Thursday 24 March.

Madeleine Hooker also won her 50 metre Freestyle event to progress on an individual level.

Well done to Zara Bongiorno who finished third in her Backstroke heat.

Chloe Nevins also swam the 50 metre Freestyle placing fifth and the 50m Breaststroke placing seventh.

Mr Tom Crebbin

**Junior School Head of Physical Education**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### What Really Matters?

Recently at a number of School functions, I have had the pleasure of holding conversations with students and parents concerning the subjects on offer at St Catherine's. I have been asked why this subject and why not that – they are always interesting conversations because everyone is passionate about education, everyone has a legitimate point of view and everyone has been to School!

Nevertheless, such conversations, when boiled down to their bare bones, inevitably reveals a person's hierarchy of preferences – whether it be more or less Sport, more or less Mathematics or more artistic pursuits or less. Sometimes the words compulsory and abolish are added to the education dish. These are important conversations, and even more important decisions, because the question of what is essential to be taught reveals much about the society we wish to shape. It is certainly an interesting question – what essentially matters today that needs to be taught?

To perhaps answer this question, I will refer to history. Every day you hear people say 'the world is a small place' and in so many ways it is true – contemporary travel ensures people can reach almost any spot on the planet within 24 hours and, contemporary communication ensures people are almost just a finger push away from chatting to anyone in the Western World.

In a physical and communication sense, the world is now a very small place. But in another way, the world is a large, complex, expanding place, with new challenges and untold frontiers. If, for example, you could imagine the average 13th Century European peasant, their world, on the whole, primarily consisted of three parts: the fields, the village and the Church. They knew little beyond these spheres but they knew each in depth. As late as the early 1990s our 'television world' consisted of only four or five channels. These worlds were indeed comparatively small. Today, our world consists of hundreds of channels and consists of so many complex environments (many physical and as many virtual) that it would be unfathomable to our 13th Century counterparts. Many of us have more Facebook friends than they had villagers! So we live in a 'small world' but also in a much more complex world that is expanding – a paradox if ever there was one.

At St Catherine's this is a paradox we strive to address in many of our curriculum meetings. When looking at new subjects, new technologies, new 'anything' I am always reminded of a concept we might call 'the gravity of tradition' – how 'tradition', keeping things the same if you like, wants to remain relevant in a world that is increasingly changing. How things we regarded as important, as essential, are now being challenged. When I was at school it was content that I learnt - the same content that is now found at the push of a mobile phone button. While the ease of access does not diminish the importance of the information, perhaps the emerging world does. So we ask ourselves, as educators, what is essential to teach? What really matters? Should we know more about Julius Caesar or about Steve Jobs? Should we all learn Algebra? Should mental health be a primary focus? Should creative thinking be a curriculum offering?

Perhaps this simple thinking routine may help in seeking an answer. The routine is called 'plus one, times two, divide by three'. Ask yourself, what one new thing would you add to the curriculum to 'make things better' (my plus one), what one thing that currently exists would you double (my times two) and, to fit everything in, what one thing would you reduce, would you divide by three?

It is an interesting exercise.

Nevertheless, I believe we have a curriculum compass at St Catherine's which directs our thinking – and that compass are our School Values: Integrity, Curiosity, Perseverance and Empathy. These are the four things I would double in our curriculum and that is a goal I have set. Within these four words the compass is aligned, there is no 'gravity of tradition' and certainly there is no paradox.

Mr Adrian Puckering

**Director of Curriculum Innovation and Development**



## SCHOOL NEWS

# SCHOOL AGM, CERAMIC FLOWERS AND PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

### School AGM

The School will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4 May 2016 at 7.00pm.

As a Member of the School (as defined in Clause 3.1 below) you may attend and vote, and are entitled to receive statutory financial statements and reports of the School Council.

Clause 3.1 of the Constitution of St Catherine's School provides for all "persons who accept contractual responsibility for the payment of School tuition fees and charges and expenses of a pupil of the School by signing the School's form of Contract (Enrolment Form) and whether or not the liability is joint or several, are eligible for membership of St Catherine's School and will become Members upon signing an Application Form."

If you wish to become a Member of the School and attend the meeting, please collect a Form from the Business Office or please call the Personal Assistant to the Director of Business on 9828 3047. Forms must be completed and returned by Friday 1st April 2016. If you are currently a Member you need not re-apply.

Mrs Geraldine Ilott  
**Director of Business**

### 120 Celebration Ceramic Flower Sales

Ceramic flowers are still available for purchase as a single or bunch of flowers. Please contact me and you can select your flowers from the Wiltondale Visual Arts courtyard where they have been re-installed. For anyone who has already purchased their flowers we would love to receive photos of where you 'planted' the flowers at home.

Mrs Brigid Weeraratne  
**Head of Arts**

### Semester 1 Parent Teacher Interviews

All parents in the Senior School have received an email with information pertaining to the upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled to take place during the last two weeks of Term 1.

The email confirms not only the date, time and location of the interviews, but also provides parents with instructions on how to log on to the PTO website via [MyStCatherines](#) and make their appointment times electronically.

Please note the schedule is as follows:

Years 10 to 12 Monday 21 March 3.30pm to 8.00pm (Senior School Hall)\*

Boarders only Thursday 24 March 1.30pm to 3.00pm (Sherren House Ballroom)

\*Some staff may be available from 2.30pm

Each appointment is of six minutes duration.

Bookings must be finalised by 3.00pm the day prior to the interviews.

PTO has proved to be most accessible and easily navigable in the past, but should you encounter any difficulties in using the system, please contact Mrs Jane Cox on 9828 3088 in the Senior School for assistance.

Mr Adrian Puckering  
**Director of Curriculum Innovation and Development**



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

# MAD NIGHT



### MAD Night 2016

In the face of adverse weather conditions, our talented girls were able to keep cool and carry on. We were treated to some wonderfully engaging performances and installations, showcasing the diverse talents of our Music, Art and Drama students.

The high energy *Rhythm of Life Church* was well received in the commune of the Hall to promote next Term's performances of *Sweet Charity*. Members of the Drama Club were on hand to encourage participation in the 120 circles – dancing, laughing and competing in 'word Tennis' with great enthusiasm.

The reed ensembles, strings players, singing duets and flautists all took to the versatile performance spaces with musical aplomb and the sounds of the choirs drifting down from the Sherren House stairs washed over the audience with cool delight.

The 120 Year celebration ceramic flowers proved to be a hit and raised over \$1,200 for the St Catherine's Indigenous Scholarship Program. The badge making also saw plenty of interest and, in true altruistic style, the designs were mainly to wish people well for upcoming birthdays.

The annual Staff Concert rounded off the night, with world class musicianship on show in the Ballroom from our talented Music tutors and teachers.

Thanks must go to the students who participated, everyone who attended, and our stoic parent auxiliaries for braving the heat and staying the course.

Mr James Brown

**Head of Performing Arts**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, ST CATHERINE'S VS SCOTCH NETBALL



### International Women's Day

Last week students in the Senior School celebrated International Women's Day (IWD). The Student Executive together with School Captain, Elizabeth Bolt and Vice-Captain, Clare Cameron created a wonderful week long celebration.

Each day a significant female was highlighted to students and staff with a quote and short biography of the notable female to allow for some reflection. These women were selected by our School Captain, School Vice-Captain and staff. The following women were highlighted during the week:

- Mother Teresa – recognised for her dedication to helping the poor
- Meg Whitman – Chairman, CEO and President, Hewlett Packard
- Sheryl Sandberg – Chief Operating Officer, Facebook
- Emma Watson – 2014 UN Women Goodwill Ambassador
- Rosa Parks – notable African American advocate who famously refused to provide her bus seat to a white man
- Grace Hopper – American computer scientist and US Navy Rear Admiral.

### Collaborative Space

The week empowered our Senior School girls and allowed them time to deeply reflect on the impact women have in the world. The girls have been writing their reflections on the windows outside the Nicholas Library under the following areas:

- an inspirational female figure
- an important lesson learnt from a female role model
- why they love being a girl

The responses have been fabulous and there is much to be said for the value of being a female.

### St Catherine's vs Scotch Netball Match

The Student Executive also worked enthusiastically to invite and organise a Netball match on Thursday 10 March against Scotch College at lunchtime. Whilst ensuring an entertaining match took place, spectators were asked to make a Pledge for Parity, the IWD 2016 theme, via the IWD website and provide a gold coin donation for International Women's Day partners.

Thank you to the members of the Student Executive; Elizabeth Bolt, Clare Cameron, Sofiya Hay, Elysée Dubois, Amelia McDonald and Annie Anezakis for generating the opportunity for all of us to reflect on the role of women and the power of women in our society during the week.

Mrs Gina Peele  
**Dean of Year 12**



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

# MUSIC NOTES

### MAD Night

What a festival of fun we had last Tuesday 8 March. MAD Night's usual relaxed feel was once again in evidence as we showcased the Arts for our 120th year. The Drama Department's giant 'live 120', which was originally to be outlined on the pavement between Sherren House and the Mary Davis Centre Café, was held in the lower Wintergarden because of the extremely hot weather conditions. This wonderful idea, I believe the brainchild of Head of Performing Arts Mr James Brown, was ably 'wrangled' by head of Drama Ms Tessa Dunstan. The Hall was also the new venue for *The Rhythm of Life*, as we gave audience members a taste of what to expect in our 2016 Senior School production *Sweet Charity*.

Chamber ensembles played in both the Wintergarden and the Café – a very useful venue for our smaller ensembles. This event kick-started our performance program for the year, which is no mean feat in just five weeks. It also highlights the importance of Chamber Music in our program. The ability to play an individual line in an ensemble without a conductor is highly valuable. Members of Cantanti Belli and Viva Voci performed on the internal staircase in Sherren House, thus fulfilling our wish to use as many of the interesting spaces in the School as possible. I am always so proud of our girls who often juggle an enormous number of commitments to fully commit to their music-making.

Congratulations must also go to the Art Department who raised a significant amount of money for the St Catherine's Indigenous Scholarship Program through the sale of the 120th ceramic flowers, so beautifully displayed in the front garden of our School. Congratulations also to the Senior Art students who organised badge-making. As to the MAD Auxiliaries, thank you SO much. You braved the heat, selling much needed drinks, snacks and the vital sausage sizzle, to tide over the girls and their parents who we acknowledge, make every effort to see their daughters' performances at a time which overlaps with the working day. The joy of all the girls was wonderful to witness.

Because of the shortened, busy Term, we made the decision to hold the Staff Concert at the end of MAD Night, thus bringing parents, students and staff out one less time during the Term. This proved to be very effective, and we were delighted with those parents, students and staff who elected to stay and enjoy this concert. This part of the evening commenced with a newly-formed student piano trio, with Emily Barrington (Violin), Georgina Cheale (Cello) and Lydia He (Piano) performing the beautiful *Londonderry Air* (Danny Boy). The Ballroom was filled, providing a beautiful audience for the varied program. Parents were effusive in their praise after the concert: their acknowledgement of excellence was much appreciated. We are so incredibly lucky to have the experienced and highly professional Music Tutors we have. I must admit, the final item did leave the audience 'on a high'. The House of Bamboo Stage Band supported the incredible singing and dancing of our two Drama gurus Mr James Brown and Ms Tessa Dunstan.

My sincere thanks must go to all staff involved in all parts of the afternoon and evening, with a particular mention of Mr Tim Collins who worked tirelessly to organise the logistics and equipment required for all musical items, and Mrs Carolyn Zimmermann in the Performing Arts Office for her tireless efforts in co-ordinating program details.

Our next event is our Rocking Quiz Night 2 – Rock On! with Brian Nankervis tonight at 6.30pm. We are looking forward to an incredible night of fun, 70's music and the now legendary dessert buffet. There will also be some amazing prizes to be won! We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Jenny Mathers

**Head of Music**



## SENIOR SCHOOL

# SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

### GSV Tennis – Round Five

The last round for GSV Tennis saw St Catherine's host OMLC. With one win and two losses both schools were after a win. The girls did their best against OLMC with Pairs 9–12 convincingly winning. Unfortunately after a tough battle between Pairs 1–8 they just were not strong enough conceding:

Pairs 1–4 Lost 3 sets, 28 games to 1 set, 20 games

Pairs 5–8 Lost 2 sets, 27 games to 2 sets, 22 games

Pairs 9–12 Won 4 sets, 32 games to 0 sets, 10 games

Mr Chris Jones

**Head of Sport**

### Vicentre Long Course Meet Report

Our busy year of racing continued on Saturday 5 March at MSAC. A smaller team this time around, consisting of; Elodie Ferrali, Lucy Bainbridge and Georgia Stoupas. The girls involved raced superbly, and again managed to improve on some recent personal best times. The team racing showed improvement in their race day knowledge by dressing appropriately, eating the right type of fuel, staying hydrated, being organised for warm-up, knowing when to head to the marshalling room, making use of the cool down pool and seeking feedback from coaches.

Eleven of the races were new PBs, out of a total of 13 swims. Times are used as a reflection of performance. Sometimes it is an accurate indication of performance; on other occasions the time recorded does not do justice to the effort or application put into the race. As a coaching team, we always look at how the race is swum, and all the factors/variables that go into each performance. Swimmers receive race feedback for each swim completed after every meet. These individual meet reports should be stored in a safe place, and used as a reference for training focuses, and improvements on race day.

The regular competitors in 2016 will benefit from their competition practice by learning about their swims and gaining huge amounts of confidence at swim meets.

The best thing to remember about competing is everyone is equal, and hard work will always beat talent!

As a Club we are extremely proud of our team's efforts so far in 2016, and we are very excited about;

- Club Night PB Challenge #4 on Friday 18 March, 3:30pm
- St Catherine's Aquatic Presentation Night (more information released soon)
- The start of the 2016/17 Swimming season, beginning with short course racing in June
- Releasing the 'Olympic Club Night Series' information in the coming weeks

Well done to the girls that competed in the Vicentre Long Course meet.

Yours in Swimming,

Mr Mark Cooper

**St Catherine's Aquatic Head Coach**



Elodie Ferrali – National Squad  
Hanna Whiteside – STCA Assistant Coach  
Lucy Bainbridge – State Development  
Georgia Stoupas – State Development

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# SPORTS AUXILIARY MOVIE NIGHT, UNIFORM CENTRE NEWS & 120 CELEBRATION BALL

### Sports Auxiliary Movie Night

#### Eddie The Eagle

Wednesday 27 April  
6.30pm for 7.00pm start  
Nibbles from 6.00pm

Lido Cinema  
675 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Inspired by true events, Eddie the Eagle is a feel-good story about Michael 'Eddie' Edwards, an unlikely but courageous British ski-jumper, who never stopped believing in himself – even as an entire nation was counting him out. With the help of a rebellious and charismatic coach (played by Hugh Jackman), Eddie takes on the establishment and wins the hearts of sports fans around the world by making an improbable and historic showing at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

[Click here](#) to book tickets.

St Catherine's Sports Auxiliary

### Uniform Centre News

We have just received our first orders of winter uniform items, and have a limited selection of second-hand garments. Girls from Prep to Year 3 wear a pinafore and skivvy. Girls from Year 4 wear a skirt, shirt and tie.

Winter uniform may be worn from the start of Term 2, but is compulsory from Tuesday 26 April (Monday 25 April being a public holiday). Either short or long blue socks may be worn, or grey tights. As we are not open during the holidays, we advise shopping early to ensure stock availability.

The Uniform Centre currently has good stock of new blazers, pullovers, long sleeved polar fleece tops, polar fleece vests and spray jackets.

Ms Vikki O'Neill

**Uniform Centre Manager**

### 120 Celebration Ball

Our Celebration Ball provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the 120th anniversary of St Catherine's School with fellow parents and friends. It certainly was a fabulous night of celebration. With such great support received for the night, our Committee was subsequently delighted to make a \$99,397 donation to the School from proceeds raised. These funds will support the vision of the School to provide the best education possible to our girls as part of the Her Future Begins Here campaign.

The night was well supported by so many and we would like to thank all our parents, current and past, along with our SCOGA guests for joining us on the night as well as St Catherine's Marketing and Community Relations Office, Business Office and Head of Arts Mrs Brigid Weeraratne and Art Teacher Ms Virginia Guest for the organisation of beautiful student artwork for the evening.

Our heartfelt thanks also to our 120 Celebration Ball sponsors. Please [click here](#) to view our sponsors.

Mrs Lisa Steven

**St Catherine's 120th Celebration Committee**

