Creative Arts

Dance

2012 has been a busy but exciting year for the Dance students with numerous performances and opportunities and outstanding HSC results. It has been a fun year filled with routines, costumes, rehearsals and shows and all the students have enjoyed being a part of the creating and performing process.

Each Year group was given an opportunity to present their works, both performance and composition, at the Year group performance nights. Stage 4 & 5 Performance Evenings saw Years 7 - 10 present Jazz, Contemporary, Lyrical, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre items along with some self-composed works, whilst the Year 11 Performance evening showcased their preparations for HSC study.

A selection of various works from all Years was showcased at the Performing Arts Evening, the Performing Arts Showcase, the Dance Celebration Night and Stella Alive. These nights also premiered some of the incredible Year 12 HSC works which were exceptional and impressive, and incorporated some of the Dance Ensembles.

The year came to a fantastic close at Presentation Night with performances from Year 12, Year 10, Years 8 & 9 and a combined finale of Years 8 - 11 students which brought down the house! What an exciting way to finish the year.

Along with the Dance Ensemble success the Year 12 students this year have performed beyond expectations. Four of the ten Year 12 students received a Band 6 in Dance for their HSC. Five girls received a Band 5 (most were only 1 or 2 marks off a Band 6) and one Band 4. These are incredible results and Miss Brown and I are so proud of all the students' hard work and achievements. Of the ten girls in the class eight received Callbacks from the Board of Studies and one student, Emma Boydell, was selected to present her Major Composition at the Callback Showcase in February 2013. This large number of Callbacks is exceptional.

Our talented students have also been successful in auditioning for Courses and Companies around the world. Michelle Palatucci and Holly Mandlik were accepted into the Joffrey School of Ballet in New York and Michelle has already moved to New York, has begun classes, and is loving being able to pursue her passion. Holly has deferred her position with Joffrey Ballet to attend the Ev & Bow Studios in Australia for one year’s full time Contemporary course along with Hayley Andrews and Emma Boydell who also auditioned successfully. The remainder of the girls still continue to dance and follow their love of the performing arts.

The talent in Dance at Stella Maris is exciting and at a standard that is truly professional. It is wonderful to be able to work with such incredible students and to see them following their dreams.

Ms Rochelle Jones, Dance Teacher

Callback Nominations:

Emma Boydell – Core Performance, Core Composition, Major Composition
Hayley Andrews – Core Performance, Major Performance
Holly Mandlik – Core Performance, Major Performance
Isabelle Zappia - Core Performance, Major Performance
Erin Seeto - Core Performance, Major Performance
Emma Ashcroft - Core Performance, Major Performance
Michelle Palatucci - Core Performance, Major Performance
Joelle Turton – Major Performance
Drama

Drama at Stella Maris is a mandated subject in Years 7 and 8 where it is taught for one semester in each year. At this stage it is introductory, focusing on the collaborative nature of Drama and developing that understanding through enactment and reflection. Students create their own plays – “playbuilding” – in small groups and perform these to their peers reflecting and testing their understanding of their relationship with the world and the myriad people who inhabit it. Reflection is especially valued as students learn the negotiation of relationships, timetables, moods and ideas that playbuilding requires and articulate their understanding of the world known and hitherto unknown to them.

From Year 9 through to the HSC, Drama becomes an elective. The practices of enactment and reflection are continued at every level as understandings of the world become progressively more sophisticated and knowledge of theatrical forms and traditions and the texts that are exemplars of them become more extensive and richer in texture. Appropriate to its respective level of development, each class practises performance and reflection as students learn to be not just effective and affecting performers but effective and critical audiences. These processes marry with the Benedictine values of Partnership, Community and Listening, all of which are necessary for the effective realisation of activities in Drama.

At the HSC level, the collaboration continues in the mandated Group Performance. HSC students also develop major individual projects in one of their choice of performance, design, director’s portfolio, scriptwriting, video production, critical essays or theatre review.

This year, the Year 11 Drama major production was Dylan Thomas’ Play for Voices Under Milk Wood. All twenty-three members of the class performed in this one public performance work. Six groups from the twenty-seven Stage 4 Assessment Task presentations performed their playbuilt works for the Stage 4 Performing Arts Night.

Mr Geoff Cartwright, Drama Teacher

Music

2012 has been an eventful year, full of interesting concerts, marvellous performances and exciting excursions!

This year, the Music Department was led very successfully by our Music Captain, Year 12 student, Lefan Luu, who studied Music 2 at the College.

Our Music 1 class held its performance night at Lizottes, Dee Why this year rather than in the Theatre. The change in venue provided the students with a more professional environment in which to perform their repertoire as well as being relaxed and fun.

The Music Department was delighted to be able to take students to excursions to enrich the education program to events such as:
- “Annie” Musical (Year 7 and Elective Music);
- “Meet the Music” (Year 10 Music, Senior Music);
- “Encore” (Senior Music).

Mrs Kirsten Macaulay, Performing Arts Coordinator
Photography

The students who studied Photography and Digital Media in Years 9, 10 and 11 have impressed us with their technical development as well as their imagination and creativity in the images they have created.

Stella is fortunate to be one of the few schools to still have a traditional black and white darkroom and the students have enjoyed developing films and printing their photographs. Students demonstrated their digital skills using Photoshop to create a wide variety of digital prints.

Photography and Digital Media is the fastest growing Media area in HSC Visual Arts and many of our students are well prepared for Year 11 Visual Arts due to their experiences in Years 9 and 10 Photography and Digital Media.

Ms Belinda Foss, Photography Teacher

Video Production

2012 was an enjoyable and productive year for the Video Production students. The girls had the pleasure of working with the brand new iMacs and the Final Cut Pro X editing program. The girls really felt at home in their new video room at the College and are really taking ownership of the space.

Once again, the Year 9 students caused chaos around Manly on their music video shoot. The Year 10s had an awesome experience on the tour of the ABC studios in addition to their unsuspected yet thrilling encounter with Guy Sebastian at Sunrise! The senior girls also toured the ABC studios and appreciated some of the wonderfully bizarre works at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

The following girls were commended for their outstanding efforts in Video in 2012:

Year 9 - Photographic & Digital Media: Millie Lohr, Stephanie Agapiou, Maddie Spencer, Cassie Armenio and Felix Hauge.

Year 10 - Photographic & Digital Media: Taelah Saloumidis, Isabella Gilbert, Michaela Burchell, Adriana Bowman and Rebecca O’Brien.

Year 11 - Video Production: Madison Mansion, Lydia Leckie and Zoe Deuxberry

A big thank you to all of the students and staff who have made 2012 so enjoyable.

Mr Lawrence Wong, Video Coordinator
Visual Arts

The tradition of excellence within the Visual Arts at Stella Maris continued throughout 2012. Our HSC students created outstanding Bodies of Work across a range of media areas, themes and techniques. These works were well received when shown as part of Stella Alive and each and every student produced work that was indicative of their passion and enthusiasm. The quality of work was further acknowledged when five students (from a possible twenty three) were nominated for inclusion in the prestigious ARTEXPRESS of 2013. Congratulations to the following students;

- Danielle de Rome for her painting Lapsus Linguae (Slip Of The Tongue)
- Natasha Capstick for her digital photography Time Between Times
- Susan Chen for her drawing Chen Dynasty
- Rose Outred for her painting Within You Without You (Sophie Grace)
- Aylin Rust for her painting Dhuli Rhythm

Further acknowledgement of our students’ high standard of work arrived in the form of selection in the Express Yourself exhibition. This exhibition, held at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum showcases the very best Bodies of Work by HSC students from a cluster of schools in the northern beaches area. The curator for this exhibition, Ross Heathcoat, was very enthusiastic about the high quality and resolution of the artworks from Stella Maris in general and he narrowed the final selection to Natasha Capstick and her digital photography, Time Between Times, Hannah Janssen and her sculptural work White Noise and Laura Stenta’s sculptural work Mother Of Pearl.

During 2012, Visual Arts students were thrilled to attend the annual Year 11 Art Camp at the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre, Bundanon (near Nowra). This two day camp immersed students in a range of art making activities from printmaking, photography, life drawing and landscape painting. The breathtaking Shoalhaven River formed the backdrop for these creative experiences and enabled students to develop skills that will set the foundation for Stage 6 Visual Arts. The art works created as a part of these experiences now occupy pride of place in our Convent Gallery.

Stage 5 Visual Arts (Years 9 and 10) is our elective stream and students enjoy the increased time and autonomy to develop specialized skills and techniques. Year 9 students gained confidence in layering and exploring materials in two dimensional and three dimensional forms. The Year 10 cohort created impressive large scale portraits both drawn and printed. These works grew from an excursion to the Archibald Prize in 2012, held at the Art Gallery of NSW. Year 10 students also attended a lecture delivered by the Gallery’s curators. These rich, direct experiences certainly enhance our students’ learning outcomes.

Years 7 and 8 (Stage 4) students created a range of works which enabled them to learn new skills and establish the connection between materials and concepts. They were engaged in a variety of media which included ceramics, wire sculpture, line printing as well as the traditional areas of painting and drawing. In Year 8 students also used an animation program to digitally manipulate drawings and paintings. These were projected onto the exterior walls of Stella buildings for our Stella Alive event - it certainly was the meeting of tradition with new technologies.

It has been a busy and productive year in Visual Arts and I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm during 2012. I know students have gained a great deal from their teachers’ expertise and dedication.

Mrs Brigati Maltese, Visual Arts Coordinator
Visual Design

Once again, the Art Workshop was a hive of activity for the Years 9 and 10 (Stage 5) Visual Design students.

Year 9 began the year with an Artists Book activity which required them to make, alter or manipulate a book to explore a personal theme of their choice. The girls produced books which showcased a range of skills and these were proudly exhibited during Stella Alive. Year 9 finished the year learning new jewellery making skills and thoroughly enjoyed saw piercing, drilling and polishing metals to create a range of nature inspired jewellery.

Year 10 continued expanding their jewellery making skills in the Built By Design unit with many girls exploring new metal working techniques such as patination and metal forming. In Semester 2, the girls learnt print making skills and developed their own repeat patterns which they printed onto fabrics and clay. The girls created a range of unique designs which demonstrated what a talented, diverse group of girls they are.

Ms Marisa Quick, Visual Design Teacher
In 2012 students were given many opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of English.

Years 7 and 10 students participated in Shakespeare workshops to help them enjoy and understand the plays they studied this year – *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in Year 7, and *Macbeth* in Year 10. Year 11 Advanced English went on an excursion to see a live production of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* at the Opera House.

2012 saw Stella Maris enter the ‘Write a Book in a Day’ competition for the first time. Groups of 5 – 10 students from Years 7 – 10 were given basic plot, setting and character information, and then spent a marathon 12 hours in the Library writing and illustrating a book. Participating in this competition gave the girls a creative challenge and developed their teamwork skills. All proceeds went to the Children’s Hospital Foundation, a wonderful cause.

2012 also saw the inaugural Stella Maris College Public Speaking for Leadership day. This Saturday workshop was open to girls from years 7 – 11 and focused on developing their Public Speaking skills. A combination of drama games, information sessions and practical exercises helped the girls to gain confidence and skills for all types of public speaking situations.

Students in Years 7 and 8 participated in the “Read for Your House” competition throughout the year. Students kept a tally of the novels they read to gain points for their House. Many Stella Maris girls are keen readers, so this was a great way to earn House points whilst relaxing and enjoying a good book.

Here are some comments from students about their experiences in English in 2012:

One Thursday morning we walked into the Theatre for our Year Meeting to find a play set up on the stage. We all sat down and they introduced themselves as a group of actors ready to perform a modern version of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. They acted out the play in an interesting way. I really enjoyed it and it gave me a better understanding of the play to help with my essay.

Gemma Wickham 7.9

What I liked best about English was watching the performance of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. It helped me understand what was happening in the play, and the actors talked us through it while they were acting it out.

Sarah Staples 7.7

When we watched *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, it really helped me understand the story more and it helped me with my essay.

Joanna Calci 7.7

Year 11 Advanced English attended the Romeo and Juliet stage play at the Sydney Opera House by the Bell Shakespeare Company. The day was a success as it cemented our understanding of the visual and thematic components of the play, whilst also ensuring an extremely entertaining day. This really helped us to become more involved and excited about the module. The overall experience of our excursion was a day of learning, experience and enjoyment.

Cassandra Green 11.4

ESL is great because we can improve ways to express ourselves and communication with others. I love analysing the short story as well as creating articles in class and I really enjoy writing essays because it makes me feel very productive.

Winnie So 11.10

On the 26th of May, several Stella girls from across the Years came to school on Saturday for a Public Speaking Day. We covered topics such as body techniques, language that should be included, persuasive techniques and how to use your voice to project and persuade. I’m sure that every girl who participated in the day thoroughly enjoyed it, has used the techniques this year and will definitely come back and do it again next year!

Brigid Mackenzie 9.3

Ms Alison Tedman, English Coordinator
The Gifted and Talented Program, known as Wings, has provided many students with the opportunity to become independent learners or to participate in academic challenges, events and competitions this year.

Thirty girls who successfully completed at least four events or competitions during 2012 received the Stella Maris Silver Award at Presentation Night.

**Highlights of 2012**

The Brainlearning Course was delivered via wikispace where students were able to conduct independent research on brain anatomy, mindsets, learning styles, neuroscience and how the brain learns. The Years 7 and 8 students were provided with links to research sites and communicated with other students via posts. Sarah Torrington’s assessment submission was outstanding and she was one of four students presented with an award with Honours.

As Australia’s only Neuroscience competition for Year 10 students, the Brain Bee Challenge is a test of knowledge about important facts concerning intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movement, stress, ageing, sleep, Alzheimer’s disease and stroke. Thirteen of our students competed in Round 1 of this competition in March. Gemma Walmsley and Jessica Arman were selected to compete in the NSW State Finals at the University of Western Sydney.

Once again we had four teams compete in the Da Vinci Decathlon against 50 other schools in an academic challenge consisting of ten academic events at Knox Grammar School.

Congratulations to all the girls who participated in the following events and activities for 2012:
- Science IQ Online Quiz: Years 7-10
- Rio Tinto Big Science Competition: Years 9-10
- Australian Mathematics Challenge, Enrichment Stage: Years 7 & 8
- Australian Mathematics Competition: Years 7-10
- ICAS Competitions: Mathematics, English, Writing: Years 7-10
- ICAS Spelling Competition: Year 7
- Book In a Day: Years 7 & 8
- Spelling Bee: Year 7
- CSIRO Education Centre Excursion: Years 7 & 8
- 2012 Youth Challenge: Year 9
- ASX Sharemarket Game: Years 7-11

Ms Ruth Longworth, Gifted & Talented Coordinator
History

It has been a very busy year with many interesting and educational History events for all Year groups.

Year 12 Modern and Ancient History students benefited from Sydney University Study Days in June. Later in the year a group of dedicated Year 12 Ancient History and Extension History students took themselves to the "Last Chance Study Day" at Macquarie University. They were pleased with the quality of the lectures which helped with their HSC revision.

Year 8 History students enjoyed a Medieval Incursion organised by Miss Flatt. They were complimented by the presenters for their keen participation in the events. You can see from the girls' comments that the day was a success.

After Recess some people dressed up and acted out life-like scenes from the time period. We could join in and touch the things that were used back then and also try on helmets and look at swords. After lunch they had a tournament fight where they showed us how they fought in the medieval times. Overall it was a fantastic day, we learnt a lot about the medieval period while also having a good time!

Dayna Biasi 8.7 and Lillian Smith 8.4

We all got to wear the helmets and armour, and feel how heavy all the weapons were! This gave us all a better idea of how people lived in the Middle Ages. One activity that we all enjoyed was learning two medieval dances. These dances were considered to be very important in that time period. The dances used to go for hours and hours and were an opportunity for noble women to dance with other men to help them find a husband. It was great for us to experience what it was like in medieval times. We had all enjoyed learning about it in class, but it was really enjoyable learning it through 'living' history!

Emma Collins 8.1, Lucy Martin 8.3, Briana Brown 8.6 & Georgia Josue 8.6

Other groups also had excursions. Year 7 went to the Archaeological Museum at Sydney University and to the Imax Centre to enhance their study of Ancient Egypt. Year 9 visited the Home Front Exhibition at The Museum of Sydney and the War Memorial at Hyde Park and Year 10 were inspired by a visit and talk from Vietnam Veterans.

Mrs Anne Coyte, History Coordinator

History Excursion - Tuesday 28th August

In the morning we walked up to Hyde Park and on the way visited various statues and historical sites before going to the War Memorial and watching a video on World War 1. During our visit we got to meet Tony who was a Vietnam War veteran and he told us the youngest Australian to die in WW1 was 14 years and 9 months. This shocked us as he was younger than some of us. The History Excursion was a fun and educational excursion as we got to visit war memorials and had a great tour through the Museum of Sydney where we learnt many things about World War 2 and what it was like for all the people in that time.

We learnt how the women were allowed to work the jobs which would have been the men's because the men went to war to protect the women in fear of the Japanese invading the country and attacking them. Inside the Museum there were many activities and books that gave us an idea of what it was like for the young men joining the war and how they thought it was exciting through the government's use of propaganda.

Our class thoroughly enjoyed this excursion and learnt lots from it. It was great to be transported into the 1940s and learn how Australians thought about the time.

Grace O'Brien 9.10 and Grace Glasson 9.1

Vietnam Veterans Visit

Year 10 History was fortunate to have two Vietnam Veterans come to Stella to talk about their own experiences during their time in the Vietnam War. Vin was conscripted at the young age of 19 to become a National serviceman. Garry on the other hand was a regular soldier who served in the Australian services in Malaya and Vietnam. Their stories gave us an insight into the reality of the Vietnam War and varying attitudes of Australians during the 1960s. NVAs, Vietcong and Australian Army uniforms were all on display modelled by various Year 10 students. Everyone gained a wonderful insight into the Vietnam conflict through the range of primary sources displayed to us.

Roxana Rogan 10.8
Social Sciences

Lots of activities to keep us busy this year!

Excursions extended to far and near including the Macquarie Marshes in western NSW for Year 11 Geography and Dubbo and Narrumine for Year 12. I think we may have some confirmed vegetarians after Year 12 Geography visited the meat works in Dubbo! The excursions were a highlight for the girls and special thanks must go to Mr Macallister for all the hard work that went into the preparation and execution of these excursions.

Year 8 Geography again visited the Zoo and loved seeing the new arrivals and learning so much about threatened habitats and endangered species from the education officers.

Year 11 Legal Studies visited the Law Courts and the Police and Justice Museum and were involved in a mock trial regarding a speeding offence. Both the Prosecution and Defence team presented their case with particular zeal and were very impressive before the magistrate!

An ex-student, Bev Yakich, was a guest speaker to our Year 12 Legal Studies and Geography students and Year 11 Economics students in Term 1 and spoke to the girls about micro finance; this was a unique opportunity for the girls to see how this type of assistance is empowering for women in the Third World.

Prezzi, webquests and blogs were the ‘flavour of the month’ in presentations this year and were fun to create. Commerce again embraced the stock market game and a couple of the girls made impressive gains in their portfolio! Year 7 Geography designed their own animal able to adapt to the desert environment, as part of their Global Environments unit and were most imaginative in their ideas!

Our staff had some new additions this year, with David Latimer and Brett Foster and a special thank you must go to them for their professional and good humoured approach to their work and the quick rapport they developed with their classes. We also were sad to say goodbye to Katie Price at the end of Term 3, but wish her well in her new venture in Queensland. Katie was a wonderful and passionate Geography and Society and Culture teacher and endeared herself to her students and her colleagues, she will be sorely missed! We are happy to announce that another member of our team, Katerina Stoianovski, became a mum for the first time with the birth of a beautiful little girl. Katerina will re-join the staff in Semester 2, 2013.

Once again a big ‘thank you’ goes to our Social Science team who have worked so hard to deliver quality teaching and learning opportunities for their students this year.

Ms Sally Hunt, Social Science Coordinator

Year 11 Geography and Earth and Environmental Science field trip to the Macquarie Marshes

This term, the Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science and Year 11 Geography classes went on a two-night field trip to the Macquarie Marshes. Located 130km north-west of Dubbo, the Macquarie Marshes is a catchment of the Macquarie River, and was, luckily, in flood when we were there. We walked in the marshes and were able to observe the habitat and resilience of the ecosystem that is so important to the wildlife of the area - but not without all falling in! The marshes may be under threat from regulation of the river and so related to our unit of water issues, it was really interesting to understand and witness flood mitigation at the Burrendong Dam and their hydro-electricity scheme. Another highlight, besides the 12 hour bus trip up and back, was the cotton gin we visited. It was amazing to see the cotton in heaps with sticks, leaves and dirt transformed into compact white bales. It was quite a change from the city but watching the sunrise and sunset, the stars, driving through flooded rivers alongside emus and kangaroos and experiencing such a unique wetland system was definitely THE best excursion I think we have all been on.

Ava Kirkby 11.3
Year 12 Geographers Follow the Sheep!

The HSC 2 Unit Geography class visited the Central Western Slopes of NSW in April to study pastoralism – sheep meat production in particular. We were kindly given access to a sheep property 30 kilometres short of Dubbo at Wongarbon, called ‘Hillview Station’ where the grazier, Mr John Kelly showed us wonderful hospitality and shared with us his extraordinary knowledge.

Accompanying Maddie Jones, Emily Weir, Amber DeLille and Chloe Huggett was none other than the College Principal Mrs Comerford, a geographer from way back and as it turned out she really knew her stuff. The academic mood and behaviour patterns subsequently fell within the realms of excellence with all students strangely subdued and very compliant!

It was a marvellous time, with John Kelly providing an overview of farm operations and then demonstrating clearly the relationship between operational processes and spatial form on the property. The sustainability of the enterprise was central to our research focus and was thoroughly examined. We were treated to the yarding of a mob by the working dogs and their crushing into the shearing stand for shearing; lunch was graciously provided and consumed at the highest vantage point of the property as we lounged under very old eucalypts. John’s property as far as the eye could see in any direction. Centre of attraction in the shearing shed, come machine storage yard, was the header and the massive tractor that all were able to sit within under the guidance of John Kelly, who was by now known as just, John.

We reluctantly left the property late afternoon and headed for Dubbo where we had rented a property; we all bunked down exhausted after consuming lamb ‘back strap’ for dinner which was in theme for the fieldtrip. The confronting surprise was to come with the new day!

Up very early and off to the Dubbo Sale Yards to witness the yarding of the sheep for auction sale. All were a little taken back to see the spring lambs yanked after seeing them at ‘Hillview’ the previous day all cute and full of life. After the sale yard we made our way to the Fletcher International Abattoir where we tracked the processing of sheep from yard to the storage freezer in about 20 odd minutes. Fletchers is an international exporter of sheep meat products, one of Australia’s largest. All coped well with the exception of one who went all shades of green and rapidly withdrew from the kill unit in the abattoir- we won’t name her! (Chloe)

Later that afternoon we headed for the northern beaches satisfied by the experience and understanding of the supply chain for lamb ‘back strap’, Hillview Station, Dubbo Sale Yard, Fletcher International Abattoir and off to markets. That back strap was delicious!
Languages

Achievements

Language Perfect World Championships: 97th in Australia out of 504 schools and 3rd in Spanish in Australia out of 290 schools. 5 Gold, 3 Silver, 6 Bronze and 5 Credit Awards. Awards to all Year 10 French.

ALC Exams: Years 9 and 10 French received 1 High Distinction and 6 Distinctions. Year 9 Italian received 2 High Distinctions and 2 Distinctions.

Accelerating Students: Isabella Altenburger, Year 10, undertook French Continuers and Erika Henry, Year 9, studied French Continuers Preliminary.

Events

Amazing Languages Race: Year 8.

Chinese Club: held at lunch times.

Stella Day: Year 12 Chinese Background Speakers offered dumplings, mah jong and diablos in the Chinese Room, Year 12 Japanese Beginners taught girls to make sushi in the Japanese Room, Year 11 and 12 Spanish students made chiles con carne and nachos, and Italian held a gelato stall.

French Play: Incursion “Concert Pop” for Years 8, 9 and 10 French students.

Spanish Play: ‘Wizard of Oz’ performed by Years 8 and 9 Spanish students.

Crêpe-making: Year 9 French were instructed by Ms Nora Daly on how to make crêpes.

Year Meetings: Talks by current and ex-students regarding exchanges, overseas trips and study.

Excursions

Manly Council / Odawara Student Exchange Programme: Exchange to Japan for Year 10 Japanese students Regan Blackmore and Melissa Currie

Lunch at Spanish Restaurant: Years 9 and 10 Spanish

Tanken Centre: Year 8 Japanese

Italian Lunch: Years 11 and 12 at the Forum, Leichhardt

Retirement of Mrs Shirley Slater

Mrs Shirley Slater, who is retiring after 20 years at Stella Maris College, will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

Shirley has been an inspirational, enthusiastic, positive and dedicated teacher of French and German who has imparted her love of these languages to numerous students. Her first priority has always been her students: providing engaging and meaningful lessons that have inspired many to travel abroad to use their new skills.

The Languages Department has benefited from her calm, rational approach and extensive knowledge. She has mentored new teachers, filled the position of Language Coordinator in 2002; and was pivotal in initiating the College Noumea Trip which continues to run every two years. We will miss Shirley greatly and wish her all the best for the next stage of her life.

Year 8 Japanese Excursion

Year 8 Japanese students went on an excursion to “Nihongo Tanken (Japanese expedition) Centre”. At the centre, the students were broken into teams Samurai, Ninja, Geisha and Maiko. They spent the day playing team games, taking part in a photo shoot and tasting a delicious Obento box. They also learnt etiquette such as changing your shoes to slippers at the entrance of a Japanese house.
Year 9 and 10 Spanish Excursion

In August, Years 9 and 10 Spanish classes went on a ferry ride to the city and had an extremely delicious lunch at the Spanish Tapas bar, ‘Barrafina’. The staff spoke to us all in Spanish; which was definitely a moment that made us all realise that knowing another language is truly beneficial, especially since Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. We all ordered our meals individually in Spanish. We were amazed by how delicious the food was. We all thanked Mrs Gonzalez so much because she organised such an amazing excursion and we all had the best time! It was definitely a great learning experience!

Monica Olivera Year 10.8

It was a great experience and I now feel confident in communicating with Spanish speaking people.

Kaitlyn King Year 9

It was challenging because we had to translate the menu and order in Spanish. I feel a lot more confident in talking Spanish to other people.

Hannah Naylor Year 9

Ms Jennifer Murray, Languages Coordinator

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department moved to a new location in 2012 at the far end of the College. We now have a separate staff and student area, much more conducive to learning. Our Department assists students with special needs either in the classroom and/or through withdrawal. Consultation is ongoing throughout the year with teachers and the College Counsellor, Mrs Kylie Andrew. Our students from Years 7-12 have settled in well to their new ‘home’. They come regularly for assistance with assignments, an examination to complete or simply for a friendly chat. The girls continue to grow in confidence in this welcoming environment.

During the year, the ‘Hour of Power’ with two Learning Support Staff present, continued to be popular with the girls, giving them opportunities in small groups for assistance with assignments or homework, or to master skills appropriate to their learning.

Our Year 12 students have now completed their Higher School Certificate and are looking forward to attending College, TAFE or joining the work force. Many of these students were granted Disability Provisions for the HSC, which provided them with extra time and/or readers and writers. I would like to thank both staff and other students who gave their time so generously to help these students throughout the year.

Learning Support is a busy Department from early morning to well after the end of the school day.

A number of innovations have been introduced this year from individual spelling and reading tuition to the Life Skills Mathematics students learning to take coffee orders, deliver the coffees to staff, handle payment and give change. The girls are thoroughly enjoying this responsibility.

The Duke of Edinburgh Community Service Program was also introduced as a way for the senior students in the program to complete their hours of service and at the same time assist the Learning Support girls in Years 7 and 8. This program runs twice a week after school by invitation. It has been very successful, both for the senior mentors and the junior girls. The seniors have developed a great rapport with the younger students, who have gained immensely from this program and from the expertise the senior girls exhibit in their various subject areas.

In Term 4, Years 9 and 10 Learning Support students dug the beginnings of a ‘Vegie’ Garden at the back of the Chapel. This garden resulted from a grant Mr Evan Browett received from the State Government for the College. It was good to see the girls so involved in initial discussions about types of vegetables, the measurements of the garden and then the practical side of digging and preparation of the soil. We all look forward to a fruitful harvest next year!

2012 has seen a number of teachers assist in Learning Support. I would like to very much thank Mrs Robyn Clarke, Mrs Michelle Fisher, Mrs Suzanne Flatt, Mrs Erica Gilchrist, Mrs Ruth Longworth, Mrs Sarah Metcalfe, Mrs Peta Saunders, Ms Lindy Virtue and Mrs Anne Watchorn for all they have done to help the girls throughout the year. I would especially like to say a huge thank-you to the dedicated Learning Support Team who are always there for our girls: Mr Evan Browett, Sister Pauline Bulluss, Mrs Fran Byrne, Ms Kate McGarty, Ms Dianna Hall and Mrs Browyn Taylor.

Ms Marcia Charles, Learning Support Coordinator
Mathematics

This year has been an exciting year for the Mathematics Department, with many highlights and successes. It has also been a year of change. We farewelled Mr Sebastian Puntillo after 10 years as the Mathematics Coordinator. I know that both the parent and student body join us in wishing him well in his future career.

In 2012 the aim of the department was to allow each and every student to achieve her best in Mathematics, following the Good Samartan Teaching and Learning Framework, “respect for individual differences so that ‘the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from’ (Rule of Benedict 64:9)”. In line with this we worked closely with the Learning Support Department whose assistance in the class room has been invaluable. Mrs Anne Watchorn continued in her role as a support teacher working with students who needed extra help for a variety of reasons. We thank Anne for her enthusiasm and dedication in this role.

The Maths Hour after school on Tuesday and Wednesday has been a huge success. In 2012 we extended this to all the junior years. The whole staff has spent many hours answering questions and supervising assigned homework. We commend this program to students for 2013. All Mathematics teachers at the College are dedicated to ensuring individual students reach their full potential and have all given up many hours to work with students as the need has arisen.

Our gifted Mathematics students have been well catered for this year under the expert guidance of Mrs Ruth Longworth. Forty-eight students from Years 7 to 11 participated in the 35th Annual Mathematics Competition gaining some outstanding results. Twenty-eight students entered the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools run by the University of NSW and also gained excellent results.

Eighteen students from Years 7 and 8 are to be congratulated for their exceptional effort in entering the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians, Maths Enrichment Stage. This required a sustained effort over an extended period of time from April to September. The students worked on the Euler Stage (involving number theory, arithmetic sequences, congruences, angles, counting techniques and challenge problems). The stated aim of this program was to provide “the opportunity to be challenged, stimulated, identified and recognised, and so encourage students to strive for excellence and to achieve their full potential.” Congratulations to all those who completed this challenge!

The Mathematics staff is to be congratulated on their continued dedication. We especially acknowledge the work of Mr Paul Regan in conducting an excellent in-service for staff on Mathematics software. Paul will be teaching part-time in 2013 but will continue to teach our elite mathematicians Extension 2 Mathematics in Year 12. At the beginning of the year we welcomed Mr Mark Cruise to the department and we look forward to Mr Mark Gronow commencing in 2013 as the new Mathematics Coordinator.

Ms Liz Bulman, Mrs Bronwyn Parker & Mrs Rowena Wharton,
Mathematics Coordinators
Along with the variety of sports that the girls participate in, such as surfing, rollerblading and team sports, we included a few more this year. The most popular being Stand-up Paddle Boarding, Cheerleading and the Stunt Gym. All of the sports across every year are embraced enthusiastically.

The Year 7 students created vibrant and informative teen magazines. Year 8 was able to enjoy the surf at the Surf Survival Day. Year 9 PASS classes put into practice their event management skills at the Year 7 Beach Olympics Day. Year 10 learnt how to protect themselves at Self Protection Day and our senior PDHPE students worked diligently and achieved some outstanding results.

It has been a great year for PDHPE at Stella Maris College and we are looking forward to an even better year in 2013.

Ms Cathy Douglas, PDHPE Coordinator
2012 certainly flew with all the activities the Religion Department was involved in. Again our Year 12 students worked extremely hard and achieved some wonderful results in both 1 and 2 Unit classes. Congratulations to all students and staff for embracing our fundraising efforts.

Timeline of Events

Term 1

- Opening College Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.
- Year 11 Caritas social justice day at Santa Sabina focusing on Project Compassion.
- Shrove Tuesday - pancakes sold - money donated to Project Compassion.
- Lenten Appeals - collection of money for Project Compassion and Easter Eggs donated to the Royal Far West Home in Manly.
- Year 7 Benedictine Day at the College with Sr Mag from The Sisters of the Good Samaritan.
- Year 10 Retreat at Merroo at Kurrajong for two nights of activities, reflection and balance in the girls lives.
- Year 11 Studies of Religion visited Temple Emmanuel in Woollahra and the Jewish Museum as part of their Judaism study.

Term 2

- Year 8 Retreat at Narrabroo for one night.
- Rice Day coordinated by a group of Year 11 students. The theme of the day was to 'walk in another person's shoes' eating only rice for recess and lunch. The day was a huge success.
- Year 9 Religion attended a Social Justice Play addressing disadvantaged people in society.

Term 3

- Winter Appeal - A massive thank you to all who donated warm clothes and blankets to our first St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Thanks to a group of girls in Year 8 who packed the clothes, and had fun modelling them as well.
- Year 12 - A small group of students attended a lecture at NSW Parliament on one of the Studies of Religion Course topic - Religion and Peace.
- Year 10 - A group of 20 girls joined other Year 10 students from the Broken Bay Diocese participating in a Social Justice Day. The girls engaged in topics such as Refugees and the Global Environment.
- Year 12 Graduation Mass.

Term 4

- Year 11 Retreat to Merroo at Kurrajong was a great success apart from the shocking weather. All girls enjoyed their final retreat and managed to get something out of the three days.
- Year 9 Religion Classes visited the Mosque at Auburn as part of their Islam study. This was a fascinating experience, that both teachers and girls thoroughly enjoyed.
- Christmas Appeal - This year each PC class was responsible for creating their own Christmas Hampers to be donated to local families through St. Vincent de Paul. We were overwhelmed by the girls' enthusiasm and 40 baskets of Christmas goodies were donated.
- End of Year Mass.

Thanks to the RE Department for their hard work throughout the year.

Ms Rebecca Robin-True, Religious Education Coordinator
The study of Science takes us on a fabulous learning journey through our bodies, our environment and the Universe. We pose questions to direct the journey and follow the paths that lead us to the answers.

Here is a question for you:

**Who Am I?**
I was born in 1944 in Sydney. 
I graduated from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. 
The Navy invited me to be the head of their new oceanographic group. 
I became an exchange scientist to the US Navy specialising in oceanography. 
I worked with NASA in space oceanography. 
I was the first Australian astronaut.

**Answer: Dr Paul Scully-Power**

Even though Dr Scully-Power travelled 3.4 million miles in space, completing 133 orbits of Earth, he found his way to Stella Maris College in November. He gave an interesting lecture illustrated by spectacular photos from the Challenger spacecraft. The girls were excited, inspired and continued on their own scientific journey by posing hundreds of questions!

2012 has been a fabulous year in Science at Stella. Through experiments, research, presentations, YouTube, fieldwork, excursions and even Facebook the girls have been able to discuss, dissect and discover. Well done girls and we look forward to continuing the journey with you in 2013.

**Mrs Louise Yeates, Science Coordinator**

**Did You Know....**

The only planet that spins backwards is Venus.
Saturn's rings are made of ice pieces ranging in size from specks of dust to large houses.
3 days on Mercury can take 2 years to complete.
If you put Saturn in a glass of water, it would float.
One pinhead of the sun's energy is enough to kill a person 160km away.

**Space Quiz**

a) Which celestial objects were once referred to as "hairy stars"?
b) Which planet has the most moons?
c) Which planet is the hottest?
d) How hot is it on the moon?
e) As of 2008, 5 dwarf planets were identified. What are their names?

**Match the Famous Scientist to his Space Discovery**

1) Copernicus
2) Galileo
3) Newton
4) Hubble
5) Halley

A) Proposed the idea of an invisible space force called gravity
B) Calculated a comet's orbit and predicted its reappearance
C) Discovered that the planets orbit the sun
D) Constructed the first Telescope
E) Researched and formulated the theory of the Expanding Universe

**Space Quiz Answers**

a) Pluto, Ceres, Eris
b) 13°C night, 10°C day
(c) Venus
(d) Jupiter
(e) Comet

**Match the Famous Scientist to his Space Discovery**

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Technological & Applied Sciences

Design & Technology

Year 7 were successful at designing and producing pizza recipes, toys and for the first time at Stella Maris College, kooky clocks. Students showed a diverse and creative array of skills and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

There was a wealth of creative energy in Year 8 and the standard of the skateboards and cushions this group produced was outstanding. There were Year 8s in the Tech rooms at lunch every day, tirelessly working on quality design solutions – the staff were very impressed.

Year 9 made some amazing scale model shipping containers. Lily Langman designed her container as a textiles studio. Her attention to detail and ability to make miniature tables, patterns and chairs was brilliant. Year 9 enjoyed finishing the year by making handplanes that they got to test out at Manly. Lots of fun!

Year 10 produced some slick magazine covers. Nicola Bradley’s cover demonstrated skills with both the camera and ICT page layout tools. They made their own perfume fragrances and then joined Year 9 to make handplanes that they enjoyed testing at Manly.

Year 11 had a productive year by firstly making games that they intended to ‘test’ down at Bundanon. Whilst at Bundanon, the Shoalhaven River flooded and so we were too busy planning our escape over the swollen river to think about playing any of the games. We did manage to make the café models and Rebecca Marsh demonstrated her fine craftsmanship to make a sophisticated model. Back in Sydney the class all made LED ecoclips and then their own complementary interior furnishing to cap off a very productive year.

Year 12 worked through their MDPs and we were delighted to hear that Aisha Kirkby got preselected for DesignTECH, an annual showcase of outstanding design and technology projects at the Powerhouse Museum. Well done to Mr Wong and Mr Waters for their excellent guidance.

Mr Scott Mellis, Design & Technology Coordinator
Food Technology

Brasserie Bread Excursion

On the 8th May Year 12 Food Technology and Hospitality visited Brasserie Bread at Botany. They are Artisan Bread Makers and we were given a tour of the factory. Then we made an assortment of breads to take home. Maeve O’Meara just happened to be filming an episode of Food Safari while we were there so we got to talk to her and get some photos. A great excursion that was very informative for our courses.

Sydney Tower Restaurant Excursion

On Tuesday 18th September Year 10 Food Technology went on an excursion to Sydney Tower Restaurant. The day was really well organised and interesting. We caught the ferry to the city and really enjoyed the relaxing ride across Sydney Harbour. Then it was a brisk walk to Centrepoint. We were taken below street level to tour all the commercial kitchens that cater for the restaurants in the tower. Then a scary ride up the tower and we were greeted with amazing views of Sydney and beyond. The guide showed all the levels of dining in the tower. To finish off the tour we had a buffet lunch in the revolving restaurant and look in the sights of Sydney. It was one of the best excursions we had ever been on.

Year 9 Food Technology - Stella Alive Cakes

As part of an Assessment Task for a Unit in Year 9 called “Celebrations” the class produced a decorated cake. Students are required to design a themed party, including an invitation, menu and cake design. The task highlight is the cakes produced for Stella Alive. Prior to the event the girls have several lessons to practice their skills in cake decorating.

Mrs Elizabeth Gallagher, Food Technology Coordinator
Computing and Information Technology

Information Technology

Year 7 were really excited about having their own laptops and have been developing their skills in information technology, including file management, word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, presenting information and basic computer programming. The two focus areas for these students were ‘Keeping Safe Online’ and ‘Environmental Awareness’. Students were able to apply their skills and knowledge about these topics to create some informative brochures and reports. To encourage logical thinking and problem solving strategies, the students were introduced to basic programming using a software package called ‘Scratch’. It was amazing to see the creativity of students and the variety of games that were designed and produced.

Students in Year 9 have been working on a variety of different tasks and projects in computing to extend their skills and knowledge in computing concepts. They have developed spreadsheets, edited and created graphics, audio and video and they have been involved in designing and creating websites.

Year 10 Information and Software Technology

This is an elective, project based course that allows students with an interest in computers to extend their knowledge. Students in Year 10 have been working on projects involving Flash animation and had fun creating a short animated movie to promote healthy teeth. Other projects involved setting up a wireless network and developing small computer programs and games.

Excursions – Women in Technology

Students from Year 9 and Year 10 were again given the opportunity to visit Microsoft for a DigiGirlz Conference, which is designed to help young women gain a better understanding of careers in ICT. It was a busy day packed with workshops, where girls got hands on with the latest technology, learned about technology courses offered at universities, and listened to first hand experiences from a range of Microsoft women, from interns to senior managers, and even Microsoft Australia’s Managing Director, Pip Marlow. All this and lunch and refreshments too!

I absolutely loved the innovative presentations and the “go with what you’re passionate with” motto. Also loved the introduction with the ladies representing Microsoft, it reinforced the “women in technology” aspect. Overall loved the event… and the Kinect!

Taylor Mills 10.1

On Friday 17 August 2012, some of our IT Students attended the Women in Engineering and IT Hands on Day for Smarter Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney. Students participated in a range of activities which were designed to engage them with engineering and IT disciplines. Student volunteers played a vital role in the success of the day by helping the girls in their activities as well as telling them what it’s like to be a UTS female student studying engineering or IT. Whether it was designing computer games, controlling robots or constructing models of Spaghetti Bridges, each student learnt something new and gained an insight into student life at UTS.

We went to the University of Technology Sydney in Broadway for a unique Engineering and IT for Women day. It was a great day! We started off with a talk from female university engineering and IT students and an inspirational professor. This got us excited for the day. We split up into groups and had hands-on sessions learning about all things technical! We used our creative skills in a “which egg can last the longest competition.” STELLA GIRLS CAME FIRST!! We then learnt about the safety and testing of playground equipment and flooring. Our last session for the day was a device circuit board that we created from scratch. We soldered elements together to create a device which reads the amount of moisture within soil. It was a great activity which we all enjoyed. The day was an experience in itself. We learnt new things and discovered more about UTS. It was a great experience!

Amelia Russell 10.7

Information Processing and Technology – Years 11 and 12

Considerable effort is made to provide opportunities for students to study computing and information technology courses for the Higher School Certificate. Excellent results were achieved in the HSC for 2011 and we are hoping for similar success for the students of 2012.

A big thank you to all teachers in the department for their efforts in 2011.

Mrs Linda Clemesha, Information Technology Coordinator
Stella Maris has a comprehensive Vocational Education and Training (VET) program that enables students to learn valuable work skills while still at school. Approximately 30-40% of the students in Years 11 and 12 include at least one VET course as part of their HSC pattern of study and some students elect to study more than one. VET students end up with dual accreditation as the chosen VET course appears on their HSC and students receive a nationally recognised qualification at a Certificate II or Certificate III level which they can use as advanced standing to further study in their chosen vocation. Additionally, in most cases the VET course is included in the calculation of the students' ATAR.

The VET courses undertaken in 2012 include Design Fundamentals, Entertainment Industry, Fitness, Hospitality, and Tourism and Events.

I would like to thank the teachers in the VET Department for their commitment and dedication and congratulate Katerina Stojanovski on the birth of her beautiful baby girl, Sofiye.

**Australian Vocational Student Prize (AVSP)**

Congratulations to Isabelle Stanley (Year 12 2011) who was the recipient of the 2011 Australian Vocational Student Prize. The AVSP recognises Year 12 students who demonstrate exceptional skills, commitment and achievement while undertaking a VET in Schools program. Each year, the AVSP recognises up to 500 outstanding Year 12 students. Students are nominated by their school and each winner receives $2000 and a certificate.

**Mrs Linda Clemesha, VET Coordinator**

**Entertainment**

Entertainment at Stella continues to grow with a huge class of 28 students in Year 11 for 2012. The class has been working hard on completing their Certificate III requirements. We are hoping to achieve more excellent results this year, after the class of 2011 scored 13.48% above the State mean for their HSC.

This year we have bumped in and set up for various performances including Guys and Dolls, Rock the Schools and Sense and Sensibility as well as Rough Hewn productions of A Clockwork Orange, As You Will (or Twelfth Night) and Blithe Spirit. The classes have been working on audio, lighting and vision systems tasks as well as learning about staging and building set pieces.

**Mr Evan Browett, Entertainment Teacher**

I have always loved drama and public speaking, for me, presenting on stage is one of the biggest thrills in life and I have been doing it since I was kindergarten. Nearly every time that I have performed, there have been numerous other roles to be filled - box office, lighting, sound and staging. Being a creature of curiosity, I have always wondered how this aspect of theatre functions. This year I was given the opportunity to discover this through the course Entertainment Industry.

Through doing Entertainment I have gained knowledge about the technical features of theatre, enriched with hands-on experience through our practical lessons and work placement. Our practical lessons varied from learning the basics of lighting and audio, to how to tie knots correctly and constructing a French brace using hand tools. Over the duration of the course, we each had to complete 35 hours of work placement which was a most enjoyable, educating part of the course. I received a great sense of achievement and satisfaction from working with a team to piece a show together, whilst gaining a deeper insight into the performing arts industry.

**Ellie Hills 11.5**

**Hospitality**

This year has been an eventful and busy year. We have learnt many new skills in catering and have a comprehensive view of the industry. The course involves catering events as well as 35 hours of work placement. We achieved our hours at a variety of venues and enjoyed being involved with catering for several school functions.

**Year 11 Hospitality Class**

**Tourism**

This year Mrs Adams took our Year 11 Tourism class on a very enjoyable excursion. We started the day at ICMS College, Manly where we gained insight into university life and the tourism courses they had to offer. We were able to get a feel of the attractions sector of tourism by visiting Madame Tussauds, Australia's only wax figure museum, the highlight of almost everyone's day. We went on Sydney's Hop on Hop off tour bus. It was a different way to experience all of our city's attractions. The Opera House, Botanical Gardens, St Mary's Cathedral and Sydney's red light district Kings Cross were just some of the places we went past. Overall it was a wonderful experience to finish off the Year 11 Tourism course that we have really enjoyed.

**Cara Caterina 11.5 and Isabella Augustyniak 11.10**
24/7 Youth Film Festival

Congratulations to Ava-Maree St John and Monica Olivera who were finalists in the 24/7 Youth Film Festival. They were nominated for ‘Best Overall Film’ and for the ‘Schools Award’ for their film “Down the Memory Lane”. In this competition they had to create a short film in 24 hours, which had to be less than 7 minutes and they had to compose all the music themselves.

Over 35 teams entered from all over the northern beaches from the ages of 13-23, and the quality of the films in the first screening at Manly cinemas was absolutely exceptional, so to make it to be a finalist (top 10) in their first attempt was a wonderful achievement.

I am very proud of Ava-Maree and Monica for this fantastic result but also for their spirit of competition; the manner in which they praised the winners and the gratitude they showed to Mr Lawrence Wong, our Video Production teacher for his inspiration and teaching skill. These could be names to look for in the future!

Mrs Vicki Comerford, Principal

Beading Club

Each week, the Beading Club meets to make beautiful beaded jewellery. This year, the girls in the Beading Club made over 50 pairs of earrings to sell at the Twilight Fair to help raise money for Bear Cottage. The girls who helped out this year were Venus Hauge, Evangeline Mort, Reihana Conaglen, Chloe Douglas, Isabel Andia, Jade Philip, Lily O’Neill, Nina Longfellow, Mia Stubington and Charlie Morgan.

Mrs Kirsten Macaulay

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Youth Ambassador

Congratulations to Chloe Douglas (Year 7) who is an ambassador for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Chloe was invited to speak at a corporate function at The Museum of Contemporary Art. To a room full of two hundred business executives, Chloe gave a very personal and moving account of living with Type 1 diabetes. Chloe spoke extremely well and brought much emotion to the room. Her speech helped everyone there have a clearer understanding of what it is like to live with diabetes.

There is no known cause or cure for Type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes usually occurs in childhood but can be diagnosed at any age. It affects over 122,300 people in Australia alone. To stay alive, people with type 1 diabetes must have a constant supply of insulin through constant injections or an insulin pump (with injections) and they test their blood sugar by pricking their fingers at least four times a day.

Mrs Vicki Comerford, Principal
Dance Ensembles

Under the guidance of Miss Jones, and with the help of Miss Brown, the Dance Ensembles have had one of the most successful years to date. This year we had a total of six competitive dance ensembles from Years 8-12 and two Year 7 dance groups. All of the students involved performed above and beyond expectations as can be seen by the incredible results.

This year the Years 8-12 Jazz Ensemble “Nation” outdid themselves, gaining a position in the Sydney Eisteddfod’s “Dance of Champions”. This is a selective competition for the winners of each category of Dance in the Sydney Eisteddfod enabling them to compete against one another for a prize pool of $20,000. There are judges awards and audience votes and even though we did not place at this event it was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we were very thankful to have been involved. The Event was aired on Channel 10 on November 4th. This group also placed 1st at both the Extreme Eisteddfod and the Sydney Eisteddfod.

A huge congratulations goes to the Years 10 & 11 Lyrical group “The Boy In Striped Pyjamas” who received 1st place at both the Extreme Eisteddfod and the Ryde Eisteddfod with an incredibly moving piece. The Years 8 & 9 Contemporary Group “Gorecki” also did very well this year placing 3rd at the Northern Beaches, Extreme and Ryde Eisteddfods and Highly Commended at Sydney Eisteddfod against over 40 schools. Well done girls, I am thrilled!

Results for 2012:

**Extreme Eisteddfod**
- 1st - Year 8-12 Jazz “Nation”
- 1st - Year 10/11 Lyrical “The Boy In Striped Pyjamas”
- 3rd - Year 8/9 Contemporary “Gorecki”

**Sydney Eisteddfod**
- 1st + $500 - Year 8-12 Jazz “Nation”
- Dance of Champions + $500 - Year 8-12 Jazz “Nation”
- HC - Year 10/11 Lyrical “The Boy In Striped Pyjamas”
- HC - Year 8/9 Contemporary “Gorecki”
- HC - Year 8/9 Jazz “Work Me Down”

**Ryde Eisteddfod**
- 1st - Year 10/11 Lyrical “The Boy In Striped Pyjamas”
- 3rd - Year 8/9 Contemporary “Gorecki”
- HC - Year 8/9 Jazz “Work Me Down”

**Northern Beaches Eisteddfod**
- 3rd - Year 8/9 Contemporary “Gorecki”
- HC - Year 8-12 Jazz “Nation”
- HC - Year 10/11 Lyrical “The Boy In Striped Pyjamas”
- HC - Year 8/9 Jazz “Work Me Down”

I would also like to say a very big thank you to all the students and parents involved who come to school every morning at 7:30am to rehearse and give up their weekends to compete against schools from all over NSW.

Our placements put Stella as one of the top schools for dance in Sydney over other competitors such as Mackellar Girls, Oxford Falls Grammar, Ascham, Barker College, Wernona, Covenant Christian, Cheltenham Girls, North Sydney Girls High, St Catherine’s, Pymble Ladies College, Abbotsleigh and Pittwater House, an incredible result!!! It is such a gift to be able to work with students who are so dedicated and passionate about dance and love being involved. I am so proud of all of you.

Bring on 2013!

Ms Rochelle Jones, Ensemble Coordinator
Drama Ensembles

This year the school ran Drama Ensembles for Years 7, 8 and 9. Rehearsing from 7.30 am one morning a week, these students were tutored by former Stella students Caitlin Pentecost (2 x Year 7 Ensembles) and Louise Harding (Year 8 and Year 9 Ensembles). Both are members of The Rough Hewn Theatre Troupe, the Stella initiative for young adults, now beginning its seventh year.

While the newbies performed short scenes that they built themselves, the Year 8 students prepared preposterous pantomimes and the Year 9 students performed monologues, all to great acclaim.

The ensembles have been a great success if the interest for 2013 is any indication. The Performing Arts nights in Semesters 1 and 2 were showcases for their work. Drama looks to have a continuing bright future. There are many very fine young performers in these ensembles and their love of theatre performance is apparent and infectious. All ensembles will continue in 2013.

Mr Geoff Cartwright, Drama Teacher

Guys and Dolls

Following the success of Romeo and Juliet in 2011, the performing arts connection with St Augustine’s College continued in 2012 with the co-production of the musical Guys and Dolls in the Star of the Sea Theatre in March. With a cast and crew of well over fifty students and staff, Guys and Dolls was a great success with the four performances scoring full houses.

This production allowed the music body in the school to take a central role, as students and staff from both schools, under the musical direction of St Augustine’s Catharina Shepherd, made up the vibrant orchestra. Along with the students were Stella’s Mrs Kirsten Macaulay, Mrs Victoria Williams, Mr Rob Sutcliffe, Mrs Jess Maker and Mr Evan Browett.

The central roles in the show were played by HSC students Nikki Sheppard and Cassie Maguire from Stella and Hayden Croswell and Jordan Vanderheide from St Augustine’s. They were supported by about fifty other fine performances from the student body.

The production provided Stella HSC students Joelle Turton-Scheffer (one of 2011’s Juliets) and Holly Mandlik with the opportunity to choreograph the show as well as perform in it. Managing a cast of fifty or more is a huge ask and they created very fine dance and movement pieces that were integral to the audience’s enjoyment of the production and proved valuable mentors to their charges.

Once again, Laura Gass stage managed exquisitely with her usual grace, doggedness and deftness.

Stella parent and St Augustine’s teacher, Mrs Liz Armenio was a stalwart on costumes and Mr Mitchell Smith created lighting and administration that was invaluable. St Augustine’s design staff provided the production with its unique and evocative set. Special thanks must go to St Augustine’s Mr Chris Hardy, the driving force behind the whole adventure. Without Chris, the production might have fallen on its face.

Mr Geoff Cartwright, Guys and Dolls Director
Debating

2012 was a strong year for Stella Debating in the Sydney Debating Network (SDN). Year 8 won, after making the major semi earlier in the year. Year 7s were runners up and Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC), debating for us, also won.

Year 8 met Roseville College in the final. They were the strongest teams in the competition and it promised to be a hard fought debate. It delivered. The topic was “Space exploration is a waste of time”, with Stella Maris affirming the topic. It was parry and thrust the whole way. The girls talked about space exploration being a great example of the excesses of the first world at the expense of the third world and the advancement of health science. This was maintained and the essential difference. The panel of adjudicators was unanimous in awarding the debate to our team. Edie Bannerman, Venice Warner, Yasmin McFadden and Kirra Kissane were excellent. Well done!

The same topic was debated in the Year 7 final. It was fought between Stella Maris and Riverview. Our girls were strong. However, they were edged out by a polished Riverview team. The team of Lilli Lo Russo, Grace Kendall, Tessa Constantine, Ella Enright and Indiana Garlick were gracious in defeat and a credit to the College throughout the season. Well done on making the final girls!

Congratulations must also go to the OLG Primary B team who debate under the Stella Maris banner. They had a dominant season and finished off in fine winning style.

Other teams performed well throughout the year. Our Senior teams represented well. Senior B debated well, with all close calls going against them. Senior A won their last debate and celebrated fittingly. They were a novice team, save for the captaincy of Sara Connell, and showed true Stella grit, spirit and smarts. Years 9 and 10 also improved immeasurably as the year progressed.

Mr Deryck Pickering, Debating Coach

Food Garden

Back in May, an application was made with the State Government as part of their Food Garden in Schools Program. In late October we received notification that the grant had been successful and that we had $3500 to put towards the building of a Food Garden at the College.

So, two weeks later some students from Years 9 and 10 ‘broke ground’. The day started with a lengthy discussion about where different foods come from, food miles and shelf life. Enthusiasm was high as the girls then worked incredibly hard to remove all the existing turf, covering it with a layer of organic material, newspaper and a large truckload of mulch. Over the holidays this material will break down, feeding the rather sandy soil.

The next stage in the garden will be to plan and prepare garden beds and places for a number of fruit trees. Planting will commence early in 2013 and we are looking forward to learning about how easy it is to grow food.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

Mr Evan Browett
Duke of Edinburgh

2012 has been an exciting year for Duke of Edinburgh at Stella. We had 112 new Bronze enrolments in the award from Year 9, 83 Year 10 students continued onto Silver and 64 Years 11 and 12 students continued onto Gold.

The following Year 12 students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, which involved two 3 night hikes, 12 months of volunteer work, 12 months of learning a new skill and 12 months of physical recreation as well as a 5 day residential project. This all while completing their HSC, well done girls!

Hannah Ledieu
Mel Higgins
Alysha Harrold
Korie Bennett
Rowena Meredith
Casey Eagleton
Natasha Capstick
Holly Graham
Vanessa Teofilo
Hannah Janssen

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh students in conjunction with staff organised the largest school team in the Pub-to-Pub Fun Run and we won $1000 for our chosen charity The Green Gecko Orphanage in Cambodia. The students also raised an additional $3000 for the Green Gecko through Pub-to-Pub fund raising.

Forty three Year 10 girls also had the opportunity of completing the Milford Track in New Zealand which was a lot of fun and a huge achievement.

In December twenty four Year 11 students visited Cambodia and were involved in community work at the Green Gecko Orphanage.

A huge thank you must go to all the staff involved in the program, without the staff giving up their free time to go on hikes and trips the award would not be able to run at Stella.

Ms Andrea Mezger

Milford Track

The Milford track was a very beautiful and tough track to walk. There were many waterfalls and streams, with mountains surrounding us. The cabins were very nice and a great place to relax after a very hard day of hiking. I found the day we climbed the mountain to be the most challenging especially as it rained a lot.

Hannah Ledieu 12.4

Service Looking after Triplets

Korie has obtained skills beyond her years in childcare, responsibility and organisation. Korie has cared for our triplets on her own, day and night, and was extremely capable and reliable. She has assisted with the older children’s tutoring, assignments and study. She has been a wonderful help to our family and has become very close to us all. Her personality is easy going and flexible making her an asset to have around. We thank her for all she has done for us, above and beyond!

Assessors Report on Korie Bennett 12.5
Music Ensembles

2012 saw the expansion of the Music Ensembles to:
- Senior Band – Directed by Mrs Kirsten Macaulay
- Concert Band – Directed by Mrs Jessica Maker and Mr Rob Sutcliffe
- Choir – Directed by Mrs Victoria Williams
- Junior and Senior Vocal Ensembles – Directed by Mrs Victoria Williams and Mrs Leanne Haines
- Stage Band – Mrs Jessica Maker and Mr Rob Sutcliffe
- Clarinet Ensemble – Directed by Mrs Kirsten Macaulay
- Rock Bands (3) – Directed by Mr Evan Browett
- Saxophone Ensemble – Directed by Mr Rob Sutcliffe
- Flute Ensemble – Directed by Miss Jacinta Mikus
- Guitar Ensemble – Directed by Mr Greg Arnold
- String Ensemble – Directed by Miss Naomi Leviton

These ensembles, bands and choirs performed at a variety of functions this year that included Stella Maris functions: the Opening and Closing Masses; Stella Maris Showcase; Stella Alive; the Twilight Fair; Year 7 Music, Elective Music and Senior Music Nights and the Music 1 Performance Night at Lizottes, Dee Why. The students also performed at the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod and St Mary’s Primary School, and the Concert Band went to Southern NSW as part of our value of “Community” with performances at St Mary’s (Wollongong) and Mater Dei (Camden).

One of the highlights of the year was the highly successful “Guys and Dolls” musical which was a joint production with St. Augustine’s College. Our Stella Maris female vocal leads were Nikki Shepherd (Sarah) and Cassie Maguire (Adelaide) who were outstanding in their roles.

Our private Music staff have been working very hard with all student musicians at Stella Maris. A big thank you to:
- Miss Joanne Sharp – Clarinet
- Mr Evan Browett – Drums and Percussion
- Mrs Jacinta Mikus – Flute
- Mr Greg Arnold - Guitar
- Miss Lemin Luu – Lower Brass
- Mrs Leanne Haines - Music Theory
- Miss Emma Phillips – Oboe and Voice
- Mr Ben Dickson – Saxophone
- Mr Nathan Milliner – Trumpet
- Miss Kathryn Crossing - Violin
- Miss Alexandra Page – Voice
- Miss Melanie Pells - Voice

2012 has been a very busy year, and I look forward to Music in 2013.

Mrs Kirsten Macaulay, Performing Arts Coordinator
Representative Sport

What a wonderful year of sport. It has been a privilege to be part of the sporting success that Stella has had this year. We have such talented and dedicated athletes. Below is a list of our achievements this year. We have had over 100 students selected to represent the BBSSSA teams, and over 40 selected to represent the NSW CCC teams. This is outstanding.

**NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Blues Award**
- Bronte Halligan, Year 10, was awarded the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Blues award, the most prestigious award given in the NSW Catholic Schools.

**Athletics**
- 1st Junior BBSSSA

**Basketball**
- 2nd Northern Beaches Year 7 Basketball Semester 1
- 2nd Northern Beaches Year 7 Basketball Semester 2
- 3rd Year 7 State High Schools Tournament
- 4th Year 8 State High Schools Tournament
- 2nd Northern Beaches Year 8 Basketball
- 2nd Intermediate BBSSSA

**Beach Volleyball**
- 3rd Open BBSSSA

**Cross Country**
- 1st Junior BBSSSA
- 1st Intermediate BBSSSA

**Netball**
- Winners Senior BBSSSA
- 2nd Junior BBSSSA

**Soccer**
- Winners Senior BBSSSA
- 3rd Year 7/8 Peninsula Cup

**Surf Life Saving**
- 2nd Manly Daily Teams Challenge

**Swimming**
- Winners BBSSSA Swimming

**Tennis**
- Winners Junior BBSSSA
- 2nd Intermediate BBSSSA

**Touch Football**
- Winners Senior BBSSSA

**Water Polo**
- Winners Junior NSSWPA
- Winners Intermediate NSSWPA
- Winners Open A NSSWPA
- Winners Open B NSSWPA
- Winners Open BBSSSA
- Winners Senior NSW CCC
- Second Junior NSW CCC
- Second Hawaiian Invitational Water Polo Tournament
- Bronte Halligan, Paige Wiseman and Danielle Carr were selected in the Australian Water Polo Squad.

Hawaii Water Polo Trip

A massive CONGRATULATIONS to the Stella Hawaii Water Polo team who finished 2nd at the Invitational Hawaiian Water Polo Tournament. The girls played amazingly. Every game was tough, but our girls out played with class, enthusiasm and Stella spirit and were outstanding representatives of Stella both in and out of the water.

The team had trained hard together since August 2011. They won the Open A division of the NSSWPA competition in first term, won the NSW CCC tournament last year and have now come 2nd at an international tournament.

We had a wonderful trip with time at the start to enjoy some of the tourist attractions of Oahu, Hawaii. We went snorkelling in crystal clear waters, met some turtles, went to a luau and learnt to hula, explored the north shore on bikes, went to Pearl Harbour and did lots of shopping at Alemoana Shopping Centre. But our main goal was our Polo.

The girls played the best they had played the entire year they had been together. Their positive encouragement for one another was commendable. The girls made friends with players from all over America and the crowd we had supporting us in the grand final was huge. Lots of "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie"s going on. It was fantastic... what an atmosphere.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the girls for making our year of hard work so worthwhile and our trip so wonderful and memorable. Bronte Halligan, Paige Wiseman, Danielle Carr, Natasha Carr, Brodie Forsyth, Holly Bray, Taylor Bird, Gemma Walmley, Mieke Kassulke, Siobhan O’Hara, Matilda Griffith, Kristina Key and Carla Woolley. I am so proud of you all and will miss you all so much next year.

Netball and Soccer Fiji Tour

During the September school holidays we took 31 students away to Fiji. This trip was incredible. It was a trip that the girls and the teachers will never forget. It took a lot of preparation and the girls were amazingly dedicated. They raised money, and collected sporting equipment to take over to the less fortunate schools and prepared coaching clinics for the primary school students we were to visit.

Each day we visited a different school and the girls played friendly matches against the home teams. It was quite funny watching our girls go on the field completely kicked out in shoes, uniforms, shin pads and ankle guards to play against the most amazing athletes not even wearing shoes. It really put our lives into perspective. The whole school would come out a cheer during the games. It was very moving, even bringing some of our girls to tears.

The girls bonded with the Fijian students, swapping emails and Facebook info. Our gifts of sports equipment were met with such appreciation, and even brought one of the Principals to tears. They had been fundraising for over two months to raise money for 2 balls and hadn’t even gotten close, and we gave them a bag of 12 different balls and other equipment.

The students were great ambassadors for the College, and were beautifully behaved everywhere we went. We went into a traditional village on the Sigatoka River, and even though we had to trudge through mud to get there, the girls were in great spirits - especially as Ms Ferguson slipped over as soon as she got off the boat. We shared a cava ceremony and lunch, and then joined them in dancing and singing. It was a wonderful trip that will stay in my memory forever.

Ms Vanessa Coman, Sport Coordinator
**Remembrance Day**

Sunday 11th November was Remembrance Day and as usual services were held in honour of this. The College received an invitation from Manly Council to attend a ceremony in front of the Cenotaph on the Corso and Ellessandra Hills, our College Captain, and I went as representatives of the College. As to be expected, the service was very moving and Ellie and I laid a wreath on behalf of the College. Ellie had been asked to read the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae and did so with feeling and reverence. The poem is written here for your interest.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Mrs Shirley Slater, Pastoral Care Coordinator

**Ride 2 School Day**

On Wednesday 17 October, Stella Maris participated in the Ride 2 School Day - Australia’s biggest celebration of bike riding. It was a beautiful morning for it and the staff and students involved were rewarded with a free BBQ breakfast when they arrived at school. Thank you to all those students and staff who participated.

It is lovely to see that there continues to be an increased number of bikes parked at the school following the event, so much so that more permanent bike racks have been installed. It’s worth continuing to cycle when you can – it supports your health and the environment.

Ms Cathy Douglas, PDHPE Coordinator

**Rough Hewn Theatre Troupe**

The Rough Hewn Theatre Troupe, the Stella initiative for young adults ended its sixth year of operation with a diverse programme that began with Anthony Burgess’ controversial play, *A Clockwork Orange*, moved to Shakespeare’s *As You Will* (or Twelfth Night), directed by ex-Stella student, Hayley Schumann-Mitchell and ended the year with Noel Coward’s *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Chris McKay who played Old Montague in 2011’s *Romeo and Juliet*.

We are thrilled to congratulate Caitlin Pentecost, ex-Stella student and tutor of the Year 7 Drama Ensembles who has been accepted into the Actors Centre Academy (ACA) in the degree course in acting. She joins former company members, David Halgren (ACA), Christian Grant, Tom Heath (both Victorian College of the Arts [VCA]) and Josh Anderson (NIDA) who have all graduated from their respective degree courses in acting this year. Alana Kaye will finish her course at the Italia Conti School in London in 2013. Jonny Hawkins, another former company member, completed his first year at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAAPA) this year. The company farewells Kitty Lunny (ex-Stella) who has moved to England to try her luck there and Louise Harding (ex-Stella) who is moving to the USA where she has a scholarship to explore arts-related work.

Mr Geoff Cartwright, Artistic Director
Student Success Project

The Student Success Project is part of the College’s Gifted and Talented Program. Student Success offers high achieving students the opportunity to extend their learning by completing a personal project in their area of interest. These projects cover all subject area and are a fascinating insight into the curiosities and concerns that engage our students.

Congratulations to Lilly Mills on completing her Student Success Project, Fashion of the 21st Century. Completing a Student Success Project takes a great deal of time, commitment, research and organisational skills. The project allows students to research and write about a personal interest over an extended period of time, without the restriction of assessment criteria. There are currently 10 students in the process of completing their Student Success Projects.

Mrs Jocelyn Christensen, Teacher Librarian

Writers’ Group

In 2012 we celebrated the 10th Year of Writers’ Group at Stella Maris. Looking back at the achievements of the girls in our first year, 2003, the first two prizewinners were Josie Davidson (Year 10) having two poems published in the Arrow Junior Voices Anthology, and Caris Bizacca (Year 9) winning the overall First Prize in the UNSW Writing Competition. Ten years later, it is wonderful to note that Caris is now a successful Journalist, and Josie is an English Teacher at Moss Vale High School. I feel very proud that at Stella Maris College we offer this opportunity for girls who love writing to nurture their talent, and that this has led to young women pursuing successful careers where they are able to further their writing skills and the skills of others.

This year Antonia Aronis (Year 7) and Nisha Saini (Year 9) had their short stories selected for publication in the Write4fun Anthology. Hannah Kneipp (Year 9) was awarded First Prize in the Guringai Festival Writing Competition. Matilda Gould (Year 9) won Second Prize for her short story in the Mosman Youth Awards in Literature. Violet Warner and Tara van Herten (Year 11) were both awarded the prize of Highly Commended in the Campbell College Essay Competition.

Congratulations to all girls who participated in Writers’ Group in 2012.

Ms Alison Tedman, English Coordinator

Extract from Meeting Adoni by Hannah Kneipp

Monday finally came as I nervously waited in the convent for the new student to arrive. She looked fearful and overjoyed at the same time and as she slowly began to approach I greeted her with a large smile and at that moment I could feel she felt welcomed and the first day began.

I soon found out her name was Adoni, and she had an Aboriginal heritage. She had travelled from Sydney to Central Australia and was an interstate student looking to further her academic opportunities. Adoni was very limited on details and didn’t want to reveal much about her family or her life. My priority was to make her feel comfortable so I quickly moved on.

Over the next few years of my school life I learnt more about disadvantaged and marginalised people of Australia than I expected. I began to help Adoni with her schoolwork and assignments. She became engaged with the school community competing in State athletics and with encouragement from the school to participate in all academic and sporting activities offered she began to reach her full potential. She became my best friend and we did everything together.

Introduction from Campion College Essay by Violet Warner

‘A nation is an act of imagination and will. In this act we create a place to which we belong – a part of the earth to which we have a collective responsibility. It is a place of memory and tradition. Is this sentiment true of Australia? If so, how? If not, why?’

This statement, though poetic and meaningful does not solely apply to Australia. It could refer to my school, a football club or a religion and does not define what sets a nation apart from these bodies.

Imagination and will are required to run any organisation, as one must predict future obstacles and imagine where that organisation will end up. Will is essential, as without determination nothing would be achieved. In a school’s environment, the principals, teachers and students must have determination and will to run it to its potential. The next part of the definition involves belonging. In a school, every person has a specific role and belongs within friendship groups or a class. As pupils attending come from similar areas, backgrounds and socio-economic status, there is little diversity within the school environment, making it easier for many to belong. Collective responsibility is also present; in a school people are assigned roles. A student’s responsibility will vary dramatically from a teacher’s but all must cooperate to achieve the optimum result.

Schools are also a place of memory and tradition. Therefore, this definition equally applies to a school, as much as it could to a country. What will be examined is what sets a nation apart from smaller groups, and what it must possess in addition to the qualities listed in

Extract from Aurelia and her Sailor by Matilda Gould

Once on a cold winter’s night a mermaid named Aurelia swam beneath the waves. She sang to the fishes to pass time, when suddenly she heard another voice. Aurelia swam to the surface and looked around. There was a human man in a rowboat.

Aurelia could not believe the sounds coming from his throat. So sweet and deep and soulful were they, so very rare in a human. She swam up to his boat and hid out of his sight as she listened secretly to his song. The melody swelled and it surged. It retreated and attacked her ears with such a sweet ferocity it took her breath away. She wanted to sing with him, to open her lips and pour her own tune into the music with him, but she knew he would stop singing himself if she dared. Instead she bobbed silently beside his boat and listened, spellbound, to his voice.

It was dawn when he departed, leaving Aurelia heartbroken. Her mind was clouded with the fractured notes of his melody. She swam distractedly, wondering how she would ever see him again. But that same night, she was in luck. The sailor man came back! And again from dusk till dawn Aurelia listened to him sing in that strange, human language of his, blissfully unaware of his silent audience.
Congratulations

As is now customary at Stella, staff who have given several years of their lives in service to the College are recognised with a presentation of a gift. 2012 saw a large number of extremely loyal and dedicated staff.

There were 10 staff recognised for 10 years of service:
Olivia Barker
Carolyn Collins
Cristina De Souza-Bell
Cathy Douglas
Jane Kemp
Andrea Mezger
Bronwyn Parker
Mika Sennett
Victoria Williams
Louise Yeates

5 staff were recognised for 15 years of service:
Sr Pauline Bulluss
Linda Clemesha
Leanne Haines
Sally Lawther

1 staff member was recognised for 20 years of service:
Shirley Slater

3 staff members were recognised for 25 years of service:
Michelle Fisher
Liz Gallagher
Colin Macallister

A hearty and warm congratulations must go to these staff members for their loyalty and dedication all these years.

Farewells

There were also tears and laughs about the good times for those leaving the College.

Firstly Shirley Slater has to be recognised for her long and dedicated service to Stella as she retires. Mary Ryland spoke about her as a person and as a friend to all and her love of the work she has done at Stella, more recently as the Director of Pastoral Services. She thanked her on behalf of all members of the Community. The College and our Community wish her the very best for her retirement.

Several other staff are leaving and we also wished them well:
Brett Foster
David Latimer
Zoe Elliot
Brigal Maltese
Suzanne Flatt
Annelise Churchill
Vanessa Coman

First Aid

As part of ensuring the safety of staff and students in the College, teachers undergo First Aid training every 3 years. This keeps them up-to-date with the latest techniques in CPR as well as the best responses to spider and snake bites and allergic reactions to a variety of causes.

All teachers currently are trained in First Aid, ensuring that someone is always available on excursions as well as in the College for quick action should the need arise.

Teachers who take the students on the Duke of Edinburgh hikes are also trained in Remote First Aid which adds more specific detail for problems that could occur more often on the treks such as sprains, broken bones and insect and snake bites.

Mrs Jeanette Ferguson, Director of Staff Services and Careers Advisor
Year 7 Camp

Year Seven camp is something that I will never forget! We went sailing, mud world, canoeing, abseiling, giant swing, flying fox, orienteering, high ropes, archery and fencing. The purpose of camp was to enjoy meeting new friends but still keeping our old friends. I know that I have made some new and amazing friends who are nice, loving and caring. Sure the food was not the best but that is not what matters; what matters is that we have all had an amazing time at the Year 7 camp and it will be a time that we will never forget. The best experience was just being able to have fun and meet new friends. The teachers were also amazing! Thanks once again for taking us to this amazing camp - we had the best time ever!

Amy Downing 7.3

For three days our Year 7 class went to Morisset for our camp. The purpose of the camp was to meet new girls in our Year group, have fun, enjoy yourself and try things outside of your comfort zone. The activities were abseiling, giant swing (Mrs Comerford went on the swing, all the way up which was very funny), flying fox, archery, low ropes, high ropes and orienteering. In the end, the camp was really fun and I think all of Year 7 had a fun time.

Zoe Evans 7.8

Year 7 went on camp at Morisset. Once we arrived, the instructors were amazed at how much luggage we had. They were all wondering how long we were going to stay there for (whoops). We all went and sat down to be put in our cabins and activity groups. Once we got settled we met our instructors (Yoshi was the best). We soon got into all of the fun activities that they had planned for us. There was a flying fox, giant swing, abseiling, sailing, kayaking, fencing, archery, and orienteering. The first night that we were there, we played games like they do on “Minute to Win it”. It may look easy but trust me it’s not. On the second night we watched a movie, Monte Carlo. The food at the camp was better than expected but if we didn’t like it there was always an icy drink after it to make it all better. Thank you to all of the teachers and especially Ms Scully-Power, who looked after us and organised the camp.

Rebekah Odgers 7.4
Year 7 Camp

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Rebekah Odgers 7.4
Benedictine Day

On Friday 16th March all Year 7 gathered at the Star of the Sea Theatre. Two lovely ladies, Sr Meg Kahler (St. Scholastica’s College Glebe) and Monica Dutton (St. Benedict’s College Pennant Hills) came in to talk to us about St Benedict and the way he lived his life. We discussed his values and how we can live by these values in our everyday life. We extended our knowledge of Stella Maris College and our values which include Hospitality, Community, Compassion, Stewardship, Love of Christ and Neighbour and Justice and Peace. We also learnt about the saying, “listen with the ear of your heart” and discussed the meaning of it and we said that it means listen to your heart and have an open mind. To follow in St Benedict’s footsteps we must have open arms, welcome people and don’t speak badly about people, follow your beliefs - don’t be persuaded by people, do what you think is right and treat everyone as equals. Be compassionate, love one another as God loves you. We learnt a lot and gained a better understanding of what it means to be a Stella girl.

Sophie Berry 7.1

The Benedictine day was really fun as we learnt about the Good Samaritan parable, Good Samaritan Sisters and Saint Benedict’s Rules. During the day we played games and talked about the parable and what the point of the parable was. Later on in the day we had to make up a rap, song, advertisement, speech or a play in groups of 3-4 and incorporate either the Good Samaritan parable, the Good Samaritan Sisters or Saint Benedict’s Rules. My group did a rap/song which was really funny. I really enjoyed this day as we learnt about many things that I personally did not know much about prior to the day.

Zoe Evans 7.8

The Year 7 Benedictine Day was a great day to learn about the Benedictine values of Stella Maris. Our three main subjects to learn about in the day were The Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Benedict and his life and what Benedict did that made him so significant. It was a really fun day because while we were learning we were still having fun because we were doing such great activities. I learned a lot of things such as how Benedict grew up, being in a rich family, how Benedict helped speak out on the Aborigines to make them have the rights that we have today, and the values that Benedict taught people. I learned a lot of different ways I can show the values of Stella Maris and I am trying to show these every day. Benedictine day was an overall great experience for the Year 7s and I wish we could do it every year.

Isabella Harriott 7.2

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**7.1**

**Top Row:** Charlie Morgan, Olivia Hamilton, Gabriela Wisniewska, Niamh Corbett, Mia Stubington

**Middle Row:** Isabelle Gardner, Molly Marr, Sophie Berry, Kasey Shimmins, Sharon Hung, Isabel Andia

**Bottom Row:** Caitlin Bruce, Abby Ransfield-Hanson, Kenna Lindegger, Charlotte Carr, Selina Noble, Tahlia Watts, Jessica Douglas

**Teacher:** Mr David Ford

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**7.2**

**Top Row:** Natasha Bruun, Lilli Lo Russo, Stephanie Webster, Caitlin Andrew, Breanne Woods

**Middle Row:** Breana Robinson, Stephanie Cramer, Zoya Martin, Yasmin Carter, Tia Morgan, Chelsie O’Brien

**Bottom Row:** Emma Simonsen, Indiana Garlick, Molly-Jane Banchini, Jessica Sutherland, Chloe Douglas, Isabella Harriott, Holly Jarrett

**Teacher:** Mrs Linda Clemesha
7.3
Top Row: Bridget Thomson, Lauren Clements, Elyse Jenkins, Amy Downing, Isabella Harvey, Angela Rogan
Bottom Row: Brooke Mason, Tallulah Lock, Lexie Woolley, Sophie Armstrong, Charli Gerry, Vanessa Morgan, Georgia Crowley
Absent: Jaspa Bickle, Emily Simpson
Teacher: Mrs Suzanne Flatt

7.4
Top Row: Ciara Rogers, Eve Gibson, Venus Hauge, Williamina Lockhart, Brigid Crowley, Rebekah Oggers
Middle Row: Reihana Conaglen, Rachel Driessen, Sophia Tobin, Gabriela Mastroianni, Holly Young, Amelia Jones
Bottom Row: Evangeline Mort, Kate Wheatley, Antonia Aronis, Claire Busse, Devan Burmeister Dickson, Ruby Smith, Caylah Binas
Teacher: Ms Marisa Quick

7.5
Top Row: Hannah Baldwin, Lily O'Neill, Nicole Sammut
Middle Row: Emma Smith, Olivia Turner, Olivia Hay, Lois Morton-Chong, Nina Longfellow, Meaghan Bird
Bottom Row: Catherine Connell, Georgia Mayer, Arabella Young, Sienna White, Codie Jones, Natalie Gillespie, Isabella Darke
Absent: Mia Cabrera
Teacher: Ms Meta Regis

7.6
Top Row: Alison Godbier, Emma Van De Werken, Angel-May Hinton, Emily Smyth
Middle Row: Natasha Munten, Jade Philip, Jazmin Schmatloch, Danya Cahalan, Olivia Heaton, Alana McCredie
Bottom Row: Caitlin Salmons, Caitlin Ballinger, Zoe Connolly, Lucy Davies, Isobelle Blair, Nicola Stutchbury, Sophia Dunne
Teacher: Mrs Jenny Wickham
7.7

Top Row: Grace Kendall, Tayla Beasley, Lucy McIntyre, Elle Preece
Middle Row: Ilyse Govers, Charlotte Mackenzie, Annika Day, Nadia Schraner, Tate Wildash, Kamryn Bock
Bottom Row: Ella Enright, Sarah Staples, Joanna Calci, Georgia Walker-Powell, Tessa Constantine, Janelle Hendriks, Kiara Muolo
Teacher: Mr Rob Sutcliffe

7.8

Top Row: Madeline Press, Alice MacLean, Zoe Evans, Natalie Bekker, Amy Hicks, Hannah Bowley, Olivia Waller, Maya Williams
Bottom Row: Mackenzie Dimond, Niamh Laing, Teagan McVeans, Alyssa Grady, Daisy Nankervis, Naomi Scott, Melissa Candrick, Hannah Cooper
Teacher: Ms Jennifer Molloy

7.9

Top Row: Rachael Ewins, Caitlyn Bell, Isabella Seeto, Claire Domeny, Zoe Carley, Elisha Maguire, Gemma Wickham
Bottom Row: Zoe Grout, Angelica Nati, Gabrielle Hodgins, Katie Cooper, Yein Lee, Elly Wills, Beth Walton, Chloe Stevenson
Absent: Brianna Medway
Teacher: Mrs Erica Gilchrist

7.10

Top Row: Jessica Purvis, Jasmin Sertbas, Phoebe Coram, Tayla Marcus, Emily Lennon, Kessiah Frize, Jemima Stratton, Lily Brown
Bottom Row: Georgia Gullick, Christine Nefodov, Ellen Warfield, Reinga Bennett, Sarah Donaghey, Olivia Wish, Elana Carnevale, Grace Mitchell
Teacher: Mrs Linda Silburn
This year has seen the Year 8 girls really settle into life as ‘Stella Girls’. The Year group contains a diverse range of talents which many girls have displayed at our fortnightly Year meetings. I am so proud of the way they have encouraged each other to share their talents with the Year group and I’m sure I will be seeing some amazing actors, singers, musicians, dancers, writers and athletes in years to come.

We have had a busy year with many excursions and events taking place. A highlight for many was the Year 8 Retreat in May which allowed the girls to form deeper bonds with their Pastoral Care groups and teachers. Many a laugh was heard when the fashion parade took place in the evening; the theme being “The Olympics” as they were just about to begin. The girls were given newspaper and coloured paper to create costumes suitable for the Olympics. I must say, every girl contributed and rose to the challenge, keeping us all in fits of laughter as their “couture” was modelled on the runway to One Direction’s “What makes you beautiful”. I am looking forward to another exciting year ahead in 2013 with this wonderful Year group.

Ms Kristie Ferguson, Year 8 Coordinator

Student Reports on Year 8

To be honest I wasn’t looking forward to Year 8; I was expecting everything to change from Year 7. I thought we would become old news, our friendship groups would change and we would have so much more homework. However Year 8 has been one of the most fun years yet! Our friendship groups have changed however we all still have a strong relationship. We have definitely NOT been forgotten! We have had so much fun together! Last year was when we all got to know each other, it was the year when we learnt everyone’s interests and past memories. This year we are creating new memories! Some of the things that we have participated in have been so fun! We all have a talent; this year we have showcased our talents to the rest of the Year in our Year meetings, WOW! Some of the things people can do are AMAZING!

This year I participated in a dance group involving Years 8 - 12 students. We entered Sydney Eisteddfod and won 1st place; we also won $500 for the dance department. It was such a fun event, great experience and a great way to meet new people. We were then invited to perform in the ‘Champions of the Champions’ Competition, this was also the Sydney Eisteddfod however only the 1st place winners were invited. We were all so excited. It was being televised and the prize was $5000! We didn’t win but we gained a memory that will stay with us forever! This year has been so fun and even though I am going to be upset when this year finishes I am also going to be excited that we are one step closer to Year 9!

Bronite Oldfield 8.9

This year in Year 8 we went on a Geography excursion, had a History incursion, went on Retreat and I’m sure everyone made new friends! The Geography excursion was at the Zoo and was absolutely fantastic and such a fun day! We got free time to wonder around the Zoo for a few hours and look at all the animals and take some notes. Then during the day for an hour we listened to a zoo keeper talk about endangered animals and at the end we got to touch loads of different animals! Earlier this year we had a History day about medieval times. A few actors came to the theatre and put on a play and then a sword fight to give us an insight of what the olden days were like. It was very educational and I had a fun day too! At the beginning of Year 8 we went on a one night Retreat to Lane Cove National Park. It was exciting and filled with many activities! It was a time to reflect, meet new people and enjoy ourselves! One of the activities was a fashion show which the costumes were made of newspaper, the theme was the Olympics! We got to work as a team and dress up a member of our PC as well as laugh at all the other costumes made. Still on Retreat, probably the most memorable event for some of us was at night. There was a small fire not too far away and we thought it would reach our cabins! People started packing and getting ready to leave, while watching the fire from our window! We made it very dramatic because we found out in the morning that it had to cross a creek to reach us! A little bit of drama wouldn’t hurt! I made many new friends this year too in my class and out of my class. It is great meeting new people and finding new personalities to be around! I really enjoyed Year 8 as it was filled with new experiences and I hope the rest of my Year did too!

Emma Whiddett 8.1
At the beginning of the year I was excited to find out what teachers I had and if I was doing Geography or History first etc. The first day went really quickly and after a long holiday school was a nice break. The first term went really fast and soon the swimming carnival was fast approaching. It was a great day with the sun shining and the pool refreshing. After many races and events it was time to cheer for your colour house. It was very loud and there were many great rhymes and chants. Overall I had a great day. A few weeks later we were heading home for a well-deserved 2 week holiday.

cold pool and the car on fire late in the night. It was a great place and I am looking forward to going back in Year 10. On the last day of term we had ‘Stella Day’. It was a fun day filled with music, face paint, laughter, international cuisine and zumba! The theme for the day was ‘International’ and there were many fun activities set up such as sushi and dumpling making sessions and many different traditional games. I had a great time! But once again it was the end of term and a 3 week holiday.

It was now Semester 2, Term 3. We had school photos on a Friday which was intimidating, though all went well. The term flew by and before we knew it, it was ‘Stella Alive’. Some of us were performing dance and some were performing in drama, playing an instrument or singing or showing their talents in cooking and baking cakes etc. It was a fun night for the performers and the public. Soon enough we said farewell to the Year 12s and broke up for yet again another holiday.

Term 4 was stressful, relaxing (towards the end) and a great way to finish off the year. I had a great time at Stella this year and I hope others in our Year did too. I will remember this year at Stella and I will have many stories to tell future generations.

Grace Cox 8.3

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<tr>
<th>Year 8 was…</th>
<th>Enjoyable</th>
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<th>Happy</th>
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Kirra Kissane 8.7, Georgia Staley 8.7 & Megan Gass 8.7

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8.1

**Top Row:** Hannah Saliba, Emma Whiddett, Maddelyn Rafferty, Phoebe Kelly, Ruby Grant, Adriana Mirosevich, Shannon Parker

**Bottom Row:** Abby Harris, Mollie Boyd, Alyssa Adare, Hollie Taylor, Giulia Ferguson, Sydney Shepherd, Emma Collins, Alja Draguns

**Absent:** Natalie Jander, Erin Jenkins

**Teacher:** Mrs Elizabeth Gallagher

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8.2

**Top Row:** Tayla Bracey, Janice Quinn, Racquel Duesbury, Grace Clarke, Nicola Green, Ellie Butler

**Bottom Row:** Kate Mitchell, Danielle Beach, Claire Allen, Coriana Topia, Matilda Kempton-Webb, Michaela Wood, Lucy Rushton, Mia Jennings

**Absent:** Isabella Filacuridi, Brooke Smith

**Teacher:** Ms Vanessa Coman
8.3
Top Row: Jemima Rankin, Phoebe Wynn-Jones, Ava Fletcher, Riley Allen, Caitlin Smith
Middle Row: Mikaela Beattie, Yeri Lee, Molly King, Maddison White, Madeleine Greenwood, Angel Hay
Bottom Row: Sarah Torrington, Grace Cox, Talia Campanella, Zoe Hersee, Ella Mander-Jones, Emmylou Brasser, Lucy Martin
Absent: Sophie Duke
Teacher: Ms Sally Hunt

8.4
Top Row: Georige Grover, Tara Whittard, Sarah Eades, Tylah Allen, Lillian Smith
Middle Row: Alyssa Li, Alicia Hickey, Lara Mueller Sewell, Lana Tramonte, Victoria Mason, Bryanna Jones
Bottom Row: Ella Birrell, Kayla Panetta, Caitlyn Bright, Cristina Crapis, Grace Kirkby, Jennifer Ridgway, Zoe Beetar
Teacher: Ms Wendy Topham

8.5
Top Row: Rebecka Einspinner, Abigail Turner, Chloe Curby, Annika Altenburger, Ella Seaver
Middle Row: Melissa McDonagh, Lauren Fraietta, Natasha Bernard, Madison Hill, Emilia Jones, Maddison Rob
Bottom Row: Alison Candrick, Alexandra Broe, Megan Lawton, Christian Olson, Cara Reedy, Sophia Brinkman, Lexy Wildash
Teacher: Ms Ana Gonzalez

8.6
Top Row: Isabella Wolff, Rebecca Diaz, Riley McDonald
Middle Row: Georgia Josue, Tara Eiford, Rachel O'Brien, Briana Brown, Hannah Yeates, Daisy Woolford
Bottom Row: Chloe Kupczyk, Hannah Solomon, Jenna Gair, Madeleine Wakeham, Sian Jewell, Kathleen Reedy, Tahlia Anderson
Absent: Rebecca Chapman, Rhianna Dodds
Teacher: Ms Linda Mezger
8.7

Top Row: Chloe Vale, Bronte Nattrass, Megan Gass, Lily Hammond

Middle Row: Kirra Kissane, Daisy Icardi, Isabella Denby, Annaliese O’Connell, Caitriona Laing, Dayna Biasi

Bottom Row: Georgia Staley, Stephanie Severino, Jackie (West) Elliott, Eloise Rondot-Wilson, Yasmin McFadden, Abbey Baker, Lucinda Josue

Teacher: Mr David Latimar

8.8

Top Row: Anna McGrath, Chloe Diggin, Teigan O’Shannassy, Alexandra Van Vliet

Middle Row: Katie Shinada-Mudie, Talia Bangel, Lily Irving, Saskia Rorke, Claudia Lanzarone, Tyla Borg

Bottom Row: Samantha Hand, Isabella Hale, Charlotte Staas, Olivia Brown, Imogen Goff, Sophie Chard, Amelia Crawford

Absent: Elyssia Kanellopoulos

Teacher: Miss Zoe Elliot

8.9

Top Row: Jaime Ford, Lara Duncan, Amy Gosling, Georgina Borzi

Middle Row: Ciara Cippindall, Edie Bannerman, Hayley Jago, Kristina Vorobieff, Mia Bourguignon, Gabriella Short

Bottom Row: Jordan Stanford, Kirstin Donaghy, Emma Campling, Isabel Milligan, Rachel Ryan, Bronte Oldfield, Annabelle Lee, Harriet Lightbody

Teacher: Ms Cathy Douglas

8.10

Top Row: Tara Maloney, Isobel Schofield, Elaine Barton, Venice Warner

Middle Row: Sarah Jago, Olivia Clemesha, Sophie Hanrahan, Amy Candrick, Capucine Rymer

Bottom Row: Kate Bowker, Juliana Falasca, Lara Kelley, Annalise Burcham, Lauren Bird, Tiarna Palme, Lilly Mills

Absent: Grier Stewart

Teacher: Ms Lisa Walsh
Year 9 students had a fantastic year in 2012! They achieved a lot both in and out of the classroom. To start the year off, the girls participated wonderfully in both the Swimming and Athletics carnivals. The sporting accolades continued through the year; with State representatives in gymnastics, soccer and cheerleading, and overseas trips to Hawaii and Fiji for water polo and netball respectively. The Duke of Edinburgh program was very popular for Year 9 students. 73 girls participated in the program and enjoyed nearly every gruelling step!

The Drama contingent of the Year group found great happiness on the stage of the Stella Maris College production of *Guys and Dolls*. The girls involved were brilliant; it was hard to believe they were only in Year 9. Their professionalism and commitment to the production as well as keeping up with school work were very impressive.

Each fortnight Year 9 came together as a Year group and met in our Year Meeting. A common segment each fortnight was “Year 9’s Got Talent”. The girls absolutely loved watching their peers get up and shine! The Year is made up of such talented girls! From songs and dances to piano recitals and soliloquys; you name it, Year 9 gave it a go. Watching the girls on stage fill with pride as their friends and fellow Year 9 students cheered, cried and clapped, was something I will take with me forever.

The Great Aussie Bush Camp was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to burn some energy, get to know their friends, make new ones, and challenge themselves on a level they’d never imagined before. The attitude and level of participation displayed by the Year 9 students throughout the whole camp were to be commended.

2012 was a memorable year for Year 9. It was a pleasure to lead them through it.

*Mrs Amy Smith, Year 9 Coordinator*
Year 9 Camp

On Wednesday 12th of September, the whole of Year 9 left on a 3 hour drive to the Great Aussie Bush Camp. We were all able to come together as a Year group and enjoy a break from our day to day school lives. We were able to do heaps of activities like the Leap of Faith, the Team Challenge (high ropes), the Giant Swing, Kayaking, the Vertical Challenge and the Gully Crossing. It was great to see the whole Year group support and guide each other through the challenging activities and conquer some of our greatest fears. There was an overall great atmosphere at camp and it was a positive and fun environment that is to be remembered. A big thanks to all the parents and teachers who organised us going to camp - we had such a great time!

Kaitlyn King 9.4

9.1
Top Row: Estelle Ball, Cassandra De Rooy, Lauren Cappie-Wood, Cara Jacobs, Matilda Griffith
Middle Row: Karlee Gosling, Julia Vogt, Chiara Mocarelli, Siobhan O’Hara, Lucy Knowles, Riley Powers
Bottom Row: Rachel Severino, Grace Glasson, Eve Fussell, Holly Blanshard, Stephanie Agapiou, Mackenzie Sumner, Shannon Abrahams
Teacher: Miss Katie Price

9.2
Top Row: Laura Williams, Sophie Milligan, Simone Carbone, Kayla Choy
Middle Row: Millie Lohr, Ruby Reid, Madeline James, Sarah Akhurst, Manon O’Neill
Bottom Row: Asha Kelley, Eleanor Baldwin, Anna Pride, Philippa Bamford, Emma Riley, Grace Devaney, Madeline Feledy
Absent: Kiera Boag
Teacher: Mrs Melanie Bradstreet
9.5

Top Row: Allegra Monckton, Emma Wiseman, Brigid Mackenzie, Trisha Alamoti, Lily Kain, Olivia-Molly Fielio

Bottom Row: Leah Bousamra, Antonia Di Donato, Charlotte Robbie, Kristina Key, Faith Haeusler, Skye Sydenham, Mia Knight-Jackman

Absent: Natasha Prior, Nicole Saldern, Olivia Taylor

Teacher: Mrs Robyn Clarke

9.4

Top Row: Molly Doran, Audrey Mellor, Angie Schroder

Middle Row: Hannah Papandrea, Amber Roberts, Lana Chryssavgias, Kaitlyn King, Logan Mounsey, Isabella Campana

Bottom Row: Karlee Purkiss, Kate Baselgia, Georgia Wood, Emily Boyd, Ellyanne Stennett, Tayla Campbell, Nina Frazer

Teacher: Mrs Georgina Green

9.5

Top Row: Felix Hauge, Alexandra Kirk, Holly Anderson

Middle Row: Micayla Rossini, Jemimah Dove, Hannah Kneipp, Sophie Bray, Carla Woolley, Sarah Conlon

Bottom Row: Hannah Stubley, Lily Baselgia, Juliana Murace, Eliza Quaine, Danielle De Nysschen, Isabella Tobin, Georgia Parsons

Teacher: Mr Sean Daly

9.6

Top Row: Hannah Naylor, Ashley Bekker, Bridget Paul, Madeleine Spencer, Nikki Henderson

Bottom Row: Gemma Young, Juliette Petracca, Georgina Rafferty, Georgia Mascarenhas, Rebecca Koopman, Georgia Gajardo, Brittany Vesico

Absent: Isabella Anderson, Lucinda Connolly, Emily McNaughton, Sally Zhen

Teacher: Ms Liz Bulman
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Absent: Isabella Anderson, Lucinda Connolly, Emily McNaughton, Sally Zhen

Teacher: Ms Liz Bulman
9.7
Top Row: Erika Henry, Rosie McCaffery, Georgia Phin
Middle Row: Taylah Stain, Sarah Elmore, Caitlin Werakso, Gabriella Kukuika, Mia Gall
Bottom Row: Miku Nedachi, Margot O'Brien, Samantha Bell, Lara Bueing, Daniella Zanko, Megan Connolly, Yasmine Rais
Absent: Tayla Antonopoulos, Rebecca Walter
Teacher: Mrs Tiffany Blaikie

9.8
Top Row: Jomoia Bennett, Matilda Gould, Faith Bulgin, Rosie Steindl
Middle Row: Ellie McLennaghan, Pamela Platt, Amber Wannock, Lily Langman, Elizabeth Smith, Zoe Heyman
Bottom Row: Nisha Saini, Cassandra Armenio, Ruby Costello, Yolanda Dussek, Emily McCabe, Jessica Green, Annie O'Brien
Teacher: Ms Alison Tedman

9.9
Top Row: Tess Stephen-Sudovic, Lucy Eagleton, Georgia Lavis-Rowan
Middle Row: Emma Jacob, Caitlyn Birrell, Meg Plush, Steana Graham, Rebecca Cramer
Bottom Row: Adelaide Cuneo, Maggie Jacobson, Marie Salisbury, Louise Rance, Carla Watts, Madeleine Hickey, Mia Calabritto
Absent: Ashleah O'Brien
Teacher: Ms Kate Slik

9.10
Top Row: Ciara Lennon, Serena Lentell, Jaime Stevenson
Middle Row: Sybil Sweet, Eliza Earl, Taylah Curley, Stella Callintzis, Elisa Bizinger, Laurien Bakker
Bottom Row: Clare Pockaj, Grace O'Brien, Newbie Redding, Annabella La Spina, Alice Holdsworth, Olivia Sandlant, Alana Ellis, Mikaela McNamara
Teacher: Mr Andrew Latham
In March this year, all of Year 10 went on retreat to Merroo Christian Centre in Kurrajong, which was different to the other camps the Year had been on, as it focused on personal growth and development over a three day period. This in some ways was more challenging than the giant swing or the high ropes. Everyone was excited at the alpaca farm on the bus trip in, and then, when we arrived, worried about the prospect of ‘warm and fuzzies’; many people underestimated how many compliments they would receive in their brown paper bag, but were pleasantly surprised at the end of retreat. We were urged to focus on our goals for the future, our current and potential involvement in the community and our individual beliefs. In between sessions of reflection, we participated in fun activities such as swimming and socialising. There was a fashion-forward runway, which required each PC group to construct outfits out of simple materials such as newspaper; which ultimately brought each person in the group, and the Year, closer through involvement. We left feeling relaxed and refreshed, with a renewed awareness of what we desire to achieve in the last years of high school.

DAY OF HOPE

Day of Hope was really different to other excursions and retreat days we have been on as a Year group. Every component of the day taught me something different and broadened my mind. I didn’t know what to expect from the day, as I wasn’t sure what we would be doing, but as soon as I arrived and saw they were making pancakes for us and playing Beyoncé and other artists’ songs across the outdoor area, I thought to myself that the day could turn out a really fun one, and it did.

Students from Stella and about five other schools assembled in the auditorium and sat down. Our guest speaker, Glen was a really inspirational and motivational man. He told us of his ambitions when he was younger and how an incurable disease was a horrific boundary to the things he hoped to achieve in life. For the first 20 minutes he told us about how he turned his life around and how much he has achieved by pushing through the unfortunate stage in his life. I was amazed and so were many of the other girls.

The day was split into three sessions, on each of which we took notes. We focused on our morals and determinations, and Glen told us that the key points in life are aiming higher than what you believe is achievable, so you land above your standards, not below. He also mentioned that repetition is the key to success, and that if we don’t practise, we can’t expect to succeed. He stated that our dreams have price tags on them, and that we don’t truly deserve the dream unless we are willing to pay the price i.e. training, studying.

He really reached out to me. Glen’s examples, stories and inspirational quotes really helped me believe in myself more and not give up so easily. There were jumping castles and slides which everyone enjoyed having a go on during the lunchtime break, and overall the Day of Hope was a massive learning curve and an inspiration to everyone.

Ebony Morrison 10.3
YEAR 10 PICNIC DAY

On the last Tuesday of the school year all Year 10 girls walked to Shelly Beach for a relaxing day to celebrate the times that we have shared together over the past four years at the College. Despite the clouds, the weather was hot so we all went for a swim. Afterwards we shared pizzas and soft drinks and generally mingled with our friends. At the end of the day we all headed home feeling relaxed and rejuvenated.

Isabella, Lucy and Mathilda

10.1

Top Row: Samantha Lynch, Mieke Kassulke, Grace Wheatley, Rebecca O'Brien
Middle Row: Emily Edgar, Taylor Mills, Sophia Washington, Holly Bray, Rachel Stackpool, Rachel Fleming
Bottom Row: Mariah Gajardo, Chloe Patterson, Melissa Currie, Daesun Lee, Bryany Parker, Isabel Abbey, Eliza Earl
Absent: Wai Yin Tong
Teacher: Ms Victoria Williams

10.2

Top Row: Jessica Jarvis, Nicola Jacobsen, Kathryn Godbier, Caitlin Baxter
Middle Row: Yasmin Christensen, Olivia Sutherland, Chelsea O'Sullivan, Alexandra Searl, Claudia Sweeney
Bottom Row: Stephanie Dampney, Annie Kelly, Ashley Raso, Stephanie Simonetta, Madeline Lakeman, Isabella Hyslop, Nina Nedachi
Absent: Shaina Driessen, Courtney Hamilton
Teacher: Miss Rochelle Jones
10.3

Top Row: Sarah Hickey, Mackenzi Wichman, Rachel Duncan, Jessica Sandtner

Middle Row: Taylor Bird, Maddison Kelly, Stevi Ambler, Adriana Bowman, Ebony Morrison, Kavita Naidu

Bottom Row: Eliza Velk, Bella Charlesworth, Samantha Yeates, Lucy Chen, Nichayia Palme, Sophia Mangraviti, Courtney Stailey

Absent: Samantha Page

Teacher: Ms Bronwyn Parker

10.4

Top Row: Regan Blackmore, Jessica Watson, Elise Andrew, Pajie Wigney

Middle Row: Lucy Jordan, Marloek Sweekhorst, Gemma Walmsley, Marta Mocarelli, Nicola Bradley, Jessica Arman

Bottom Row: Victoria Asquith, Abbey Tredinnick, Michaela Burchell, Georgia Peniston-Bird, Acacia Jennings, Yixin Su, Siobhan Nealon

Absent: Bronte Halligan, Emily O'Connell

Teacher: Ms Teresa Milazzo

10.5

Top Row: Georgia Briggs, Olivia Booth, Chloe Dalton

Middle Row: Lauren French, Isabelle Wilcox, Tamar Sweekhorst, Isabella Altenburger, Grace Bonnor

Bottom Row: Alana Rullo, Man Wai (Ashley) Yip, Amy Warne, Alana Croxford, Hayley Constantine, Sofie Cunningham, Lily Austin

Absent: Madeleine Claret, Remy Cramb, Brodie Forsyth

Teacher: Ms Michelle Fisher

10.6

Top Row: Jessica Collings, Lauren Pearce, Ellen Spencer, Dominique Antico

Middle Row: Ricci Newton, Remi Siciliano, Gabriella Bruzzese, Sarah Eagleton, Ashlee Harju

Bottom Row: Isabella Harris, Emily Hill, Isabella Gilbert, Gracen Swavley, Ava Maree St John, Sarah Collins, Mathilda Ebadatt

Absent: Montana Bray, Maggie Speers, Emily Stenta

Teacher: Ms Ann O'Brien
10.7
Top Row: Phoebe Wood, Allison Scott, Natasha Carr
Middle Row: Ruby Tonkin, Jemima O'Dea, Tori Casazza, Molly Cave-Bramwell, Sarah Thompson, Natalie O'Connor
Bottom Row: Georgia Prior, Alex Nasko, Belinda Walsh, Katarina Gomola, Bianca Nati, Sally Doyle, Makayla Smith
Absent: Stephanie Probst, Amelia Russell
Teacher: Ms Bronwyn Parker

10.8
Top Row: Ruby Law, Caitlin O'Shannassy, Melissa Smith
Middle Row: Lauren Campling, Roxana Rogan, Monica Olivera, Felicity Kerrigan, Danielle Carr
Bottom Row: Charlie Carmichael-Rutten, Whitney-May Lever, India Birrell, Isabella Rust, Stephanie Millett, Jacqueline Cooper
Absent: Holly Head, Chantelle Iezza
Teacher: Ms Luci Kelly

10.9
Top Row: Josie Martinuzzo, Monica Postle, Claudia Murphy, Sarah Jarvis
Middle Row: Jacqueline Dossetor, Holly Johnson, Kitty Dubourdieu, Amanda Miller, Jessica Hale
Bottom Row: Larissa Mesiti, Jessica Lawson, Emma Jago, Kayla Biasi, Alexandra Zappia, Kendall Nicholls, Emily Hay
Absent: Olivia Smith
Teacher: Mrs Jeannette Dayeh

10.10
Top Row: Cristina Pelaez-Sanchez, Lillian McCoy, Jordan Bennett
Middle Row: Grace Nixon, Jemma Morris, Sarah McCurley, Jessica Montgomery, Laura Butcher
Bottom Row: Sophia Bulgin, Taelah Saloumidis, Alissa Gigliotti, Evelyn Zervos, Georgia Ashdown, Chloe McGeachie, Catherine Tsianakas
Absent: Belle Mackay, Grace Pope
Teacher: Mr Lawrence Wong
Year 11 Retreat

On Wednesday the 10th of October we set off to Maroo Christian Centre at Kurrajong for our Year 11 Retreat for three days. The location is beautiful – farm animals, bush and fresh air. The theme for the Retreat was 'Balance in Our Lives', perfect theme for commencing the HSC course. There was a variety of activities which involved working together and reflecting on how we can make a difference.

One of my highlights from the Year 11 Retreat was the late night bonfire we had up in the farm area. We sat around the fire singing songs, burning marshmallows and having a laugh with everyone around us. It felt like it brought all of us, including the teachers, much closer and gave us bonding time, to learn something new about someone you might not know well.

Another good experience I went through was on the last day when we wrote a letter to ourselves during our closing liturgy which we are going to open at the end of Year 12. This letter was quite sad to write and brought out a lot of emotions. Overall the Retreat was so much fun and I had a great time with my friends and other girls in our Year. It really brought us all together.

Amanda Luscri 11.6

My greatest experience of the Year 11 Retreat was the second day when we were in PC groups and we were assigned to make Melbourne Cup Day dresses made out of newspaper, string, glue, glitter, sticky tape and any other materials we could find. All the PC groups then had a fashion parade and it was very interesting to see all the designs people came up with. This illustrates how important it is that we work together as a Year group. It was a great overall time away from home spending time with friends and other girls in the Year.

Bethany Lyell 11.1

One of the highlights that I enjoyed the most, was the Trivia Night. It was full of singing, dancing and working as a team. The teachers were playing as well and at the start of the game they were winning because they all cheated.

It was such a fun and enjoyable night just filled with laughter and happiness. My experience for the whole Retreat was amazing and unforgettable.

Sarah Bojko 11.10
Social Justice Leadership Day

On Friday the 2nd of March, we and 8 other girls were given the opportunity to attend a Social Justice - Leadership Day at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield. The day was run by Caritas and with around 20 other schools in attendance it was a fantastic opportunity to talk to other young people interested in social justice and exchange ideas for fundraising.

A guest speaker from Zimbabwe came and talked to us about the conditions in Zimbabwe. We all found the statistics very confronting – out of Zimbabwe’s total population of 12 million, there are 5 million vulnerable children. This 5 million includes 3 million orphans. 56% of Zimbabwe’s population lives on less than $1 a day and the HIV/AIDS rate is one of the highest in the world at 13.6%.

Through this day we were able to understand the responsibility that fortunate people such as ourselves have in making a positive future for those less privileged than us. The day was a real eye opener for us and focused a lot on ways in which we can help.

Year 11 Geography and Earth and Environmental Science
Field trip to the Macquarie Marshes

The Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science and Year 11 Geography classes went on a two-night field trip to the Macquarie Marshes. Located 130km north-west of Dubbo, the Macquarie Marshes is a catchment of the Macquarie River and was, luckily, in flood when we were there. We walked in the marshes and were able to observe the habitat and resilience of the ecosystem that is so important to the wildlife of the area - but not without all falling in! The marshes may be under threat from regulation of the river and so related to our unit of water issues. It was really interesting to understand and witness flood mitigation at the Burrendong Dam and the hydro-electricity scheme. Another highlight, besides the 12 hour bus trip up and back, was the cotton gin we visited. It was amazing to see the cotton in heaps with sticks, leaves and dirt transformed into compact white bails. It was quite a change from the city but watching the sunrise and sunset, the stars, driving through flooded rivers alongside emus and kangaroos and experiencing such a unique wetland system was definitely THE best excursion I think we have all been on.

Ava Kirkby 11.3
11.3
Top Row: Caitlin Bayles, Xiaofang (Fiona) Wang, Hannah Griffiths, Kimberley Allen
Middle Row: Claudia Noone, Lydia Leckie, Kate Carrigan, Grace Nolan, Sophie Ingram
Bottom Row: Shoko Hoshino, Julia O'Brien, Ava Kirkby, Gabriel Imbrailo, Katrina Ross, Olivia Papalia, Yuqi (Ivy) Zhang
Absent: Ariana Cabrera
Teacher: Mr Mark Cruise

11.4
Top Row: Kristie Luchesic, Chloe Campana, Kate McAleer
Middle Row: Meaghan MacLean, Natasha Kukulka, Bianca Murphy, Georgia Quinn, Leonie Antoniou
Bottom Row: Yuwen Pan, Cassandra Green, Jodie Randell, Olivia Wilson, Irene Pi, Monica Cabilao, Ting Hu
Absent: Charlotte Prior, Karina Size
Teacher: Ms Belinda Foss

11.5
Top Row: Jasmin Buono, Clare Sainty-Cope, Elyse Cappie-Wood, Mikki Peters, Ruby Chippindall, Aden Lewis, Rebecca Conlon
Bottom Row: Daisy Jones, Gabrielle Semisi, Cara Caterina, Ashleigh Dale, Holly Barcham, Georgia Hardcastle, Sally Atherton
Absent: Tiarne Epifania, Ellessandra Hills
Teacher: Mrs Rowena Wharton

11.6
Top Row: Sarah Saliba, Rebecca Connell, Kate Lodder
Middle Row: Maddison Smith, Velvet-Belle Templeman, Wanying Li, Georgia Miller, Ashleigh Signorelli, Jiaqi Chen
Bottom Row: Georgina Richardson, Amanda Luscri, Jemma Rob, Alexa Collins, Dana Hardin, Rebecca Marsh, Xiaoyin Qian
Teacher: Mrs Brigiat Maltese
11.7
Top Row: Halamahi Taufalele, Rebecca Tardif, Ellie Gall, Lily Rasdall, Louise Nolan
Bottom Row: Zoe Deuxberry, Jinchu Jiang, Romy Johnson, Catherine O'Grady, Shu Yan Hang, Xian Xiao, Camille Campos
Absent: Alice Edwards, Karina Hunt, Emilie Neal, Kelly Tzintzilos
Teacher: Miss Annelise Churchill

11.8
Top Row: Sophie Jones, Isabella Caterina, Marianne Connors, Tara van Herten
Bottom Row: Sophie Calabro, Megan Lutze, Danielle Robbie, Laura Elliott, Courtney Liddle, Caitlin Walmsley, Ebony Lohr
Absent: Arabella Boyce, Lauren Ingham-Rhodes, Zoe Kanellopoulos, Georgia Van Griezen, Cassandra Vavouris
Teacher: Ms Anna Riley

11.9
Top Row: Eloise Dossetor, Jami Edwards, Kate Turner, Rachel Weatherley, Meaghan Syme, Ella Grattan, Samantha Ball
Bottom Row: Rachel Macri, Annika O'Callaghan, Violet Warner, Chase Clayton, Daniela Tesoriero, Cinzia Tisano, Emma Webber, Mia Washburn
Absent: Georgia Kiernan
Teacher: Mr Geoff Cartwright

11.10
Top Row: Sophie Carlberg, Eliza Parish, Madison Brown, Caitlin Nelson, Paige Wiseman, Laura Woolley, Isabella Augustyniak
Bottom Row: Wing Sum So, Rachael O'Brien, Wantiing Chan, Monica Eastwood, Brae Wildash, Jessica Yeates, Lucy Monteleone, Sarah Bojko
Absent: Georgia Bond, Carmen Bruce
Teacher: Ms Andrea Mezger
The HSC year commences with 4th term of the Year 11 (2011) and our wonderful group jumped into the senior year with delightful vigour and excitement.

We started with a three day retreat at Kurrajong, which was most rewarding and very informative for the Year Coordinator, allowing him to see the peculiarities of personality of form members. There were many peculiarities! The highlight was the year charge from the elevated ground of the basketball courts to the accommodation area, all students dressed in black, at an ungodly hour of midnight! All were screaming and howling like Banshee Indians and the clamour would have woken many in the surrounding suburbs! Another highlight was the football game that took place one afternoon and slowly deteriorated into rugby, perhaps the 40 players on each side had something to do with this. Nevertheless, it was great fun and team building for the group. Overall the three days laid a very good foundation of community for the group to go forward to the rigors of the HSC year.

2012 came around quickly and commenced with the traditional College Mass opening in the city at St Mary’s Cathedral. The form was exemplary in every facet from the Year leaders to individuals who conducted themselves with great poise and decorum. The College opening was followed up very quickly with the Year 12 Welcome to Parents, which is held in the decked area adjacent to the convent. Many parents, students and teachers were in attendance and enjoyed the sumptuous food prepared by the hospitality teams in very balmy autumnal weather.

Term 1 was rushing past and the penultimate event was the Swimming Carnival which was very strongly supported by the form with the leadership group coming to the fore. It was a great day with all walking away with great satisfaction and relief after escaping the rigors of the classroom for an eventful and enjoyable day pool side.

The term concluded with the Easter examination period, the first real examinations that would test and assess the form. The Easter recess came just at the right time.

Term 2 came too quickly and went too quickly; with the second term of the HSC year typically full on with manic teachers driving students to HSC outcomes. No examinations, just hard work and assessments. Some relief was provided with the Athletics Carnival and a public holiday ANZAC day, but it was only ephemeral. There was the Mother’s Day Breakfast in May which was lovely and at times a little tearful, but the sentiment soon disappeared with Parent Teacher Evening to follow, where Year 12 was given the harsh realities of their HSC quandaries. The Diocesan Mass was a feature, where all of the HSC students from our school were in attendance, and Bishop Walker spoke eloquently, articulating the relevance and meaning of faith to our life journeys. The term was drawing to a rapid conclusion and 2012 was disappearing. A day of relief was Stella Day where the form absolutely murdered the Light Entertainment component of the day with their management of the ‘Year of Community’ theme which was cleverly integrated into the House presentations. It will never be surpassed! Term 2 concludes with ominous warning that the winter recess is a ‘stuvac’, not a holiday for Year 12. Stuvac?

Term 3 2012, the last term of school life! We commenced with photos of the form and pastoral groups with the Trial HSC only weeks away and intimidating all, including the teachers. The Trial came and went and the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel was increasing in intensity and size. The end was near! A nice distraction was the thought of the formal and the preparation and thought, required to put it in place. There was a Father’s Day Breakfast which drew similar attendances as Mother’s Day in May, and then the Trial results were released bringing a mixture of emotions and sentiment. The end of ‘schooling’ was very close. The last week of school in late September was a week of celebration with a Mass and the presentation of the form to the remaining students of the College. It was over!

The HSC throughout October and November was uneventful with the results released in December being meritorious and worthy of a group that had elevated the standards within the College. There were many personal stories of triumph and pleasure, and Facebook was out of control with chattering traffic. Mona was the place to go!

Mr Colin Macallister, Year 12 Coordinator
Broken Bay Diocese Mass
Big Year 12 Event (BYTE)

BYTE is a day where all of the Catholic schools in the Broken Bay Diocese come together to reflect on the HSC year and future years to come. The major issues discussed were relationships and making good choices throughout our entire lives. There were many motivational speakers during the day including Bishop David Walker and Jonathan Doyle, who has spoken to thousands of Year 12 students to help them understand the impact and outcomes that come from each decision we make. To conclude, we celebrated a Liturgy of the Word with Bishop Walker, and our Stella girls led the Gospel procession.

The day was really good as we also got to socialise with many other schools and meet new people who are going through the same experiences as us. Overall BYTE was a great day that simply allowed us to reflect on our last schooling year and how we can make the best of it, and more importantly we were reminded that no matter what happens this year, we still have our whole lives ahead of us.

Samantha Chalmers 12.4, Nikki Sheppard 12.5
and Briella Brown 12.7

Marie Bashir Peace Award

Rachel Nunn was one of seven students in NSW to be the recipient of the Marie Bashir Peace Award. This prestigious award was given to Rachel for the enormous amount of great work that she has done in the field of social justice over the past few years.

Mrs Vicki Comerford, Principal
May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home
And may the hand of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you.

Irish Blessing

12.1

Top Row: Holly Graham, Hollie O'Shanassy, Morgan Reid

Middle Row: Hannah Doolan, Sarah Butcher, Michelle Palatucci, Laura Stenta, Antoinette Chinillo, Sheridan Kraljevic

Bottom Row: Caria Christmas, Rose Outred, Aimee Kiernan, Xiaohong Cai, Emilia Akhurst, Simone Charman, Michelle Maio

Teacher: Mr Colin Macallister

12.2

Top Row: Alexandra Naylor, Isabel Zappia, Hannah Grisewood, Emma Boydell, Eleanor Davies, Juliet Bradbery

Bottom Row: Zhang Qin Song, Lefan Luu, Wei Jia Tan, Jasmine Bottrose, Alana Caterina, Macey Nicholls, Wing Kwan So

Teacher: Ms Louise Yeates
12.3
Top Row: Kristi Matea, Claudia Attanasio, Jiamei Liu, Emily-Rose Weir, Alix Pashley, Jodie Trim
Bottom Row: Abbey Gibson, Libby Gair, Rebecca Cavallaro, Georgia Hall, Holly Mandlik, Georgia Thomson, Marlise Latta, Eloise Armstrong
Teacher: Ms Rebecca Robin-True

12.4
Top Row: Jessica Gostelow, Kiri English-Hawke, Rachel Diaz, Samantha Chalmers
Middle Row: Madeline Velk, Elena Knaap, Rachel Van Zyl, Margaret Weir, Susan Chen
Bottom Row: Emily Bobis, Nga Sze Chan, Hannah Ledieu, Emily McConchie, Rachael Zhou, Gracie Hay, Eloise Vozzo
Teacher: Ms Jennifer Murray

12.5
Top Row: Clare Freakley, Annalise Dracopoulos, Catelyn-Jude O’Brien, Kiorie Bennett
Middle Row: Bryony Morgan, Sarah Millington, Rachel Nunn, Ashley O’Donell, Jie Bing Yang
Bottom Row: Sara Connell, Maddison Jones, Amy Rath, Danielle de Rome, Sophie McNay, Nicole Sheppard, Vanessa Teofilo
Teacher: Mr Deryck Pickering

12.6
Top Row: Casey Eagleton, Hannah Paul, Alysha Harrold, Paris Stephenson
Middle Row: Molly Moyles, Jessica Cunningham, Melanie Higgins, Madeleine Papp, Katie Riley, Simone Shearsby
Bottom Row: Savannah Stimson, Charlie Sollo, Shu Hui Zhang, Anika Miller, Stephanie Zervos, Cassandra Maguire, Rachel Gaughan
Teacher: Ms Marcia Charles
12.7
Top Row: Emily Gerethy, Amber DeLisle, Isabelle Horder, Joelle Turton-Scheffer
Middle Row: Emma Ashcroft, Emma Crimmins, Carly Frost, Lucy Bell, Chloe Huggett
Bottom Row: Jiajie Zhu, Briella Brown, Rebecca Hill, Rachael Dudman, Emma Sward, Valentine Guillemin, Yalan Li
Teacher: Ms Lindy Virtue

12.8
Top Row: Hannah Janssen, Amy Pain, Hannah Bester, Rowena Meredith, Sian Maloney, Jiahui Liu
Bottom Row: Esitia Pouhila, Jiayi Wang, Caitlin Richardson, Melanie Hayes, Zoe Couriel, Rebecca Horne, Aylin Rust
Teacher: Mr Ben Waters

12.9
Top Row: Annabel Knowles, Stephanie Kennewell, Madeleine Fysh
Middle Row: Natasha Capstick, Molly McIndoe, Georgina Mailey, Luana Bowman, Charlotte Mayer, Sophie McGrath
Bottom Row: Jennifer Dineen, Hayley Andrews, Nicole Schroder, Lauren Moorhouse, Yan (Jennifer) Chen, Tianqi (Kathy) Lou, Jingfang Gong
Teacher: Mr Colin Macallister

12.10
Top Row: Gabrielle Tesoriero, Jessica Brown, Sophie Ordner, Anabella Gray, Aisha Kirkby, Josie Waller, Laura Peattie
Bottom Row: Erin Seeto, Kimberley Butterfield, Jessica Boyd, Louise Harrold, Camille Rennie, Karolina Gabanyiova, Ying Chu Zheng, Simona Sidoti
Teacher: Mrs Jeanette Ferguson
2012 marked the opening of the Benedict Campus. This is a historic time and a new era for Stella Maris College.

**Official Opening of Benedict Campus**

On the 24th May we celebrated the Blessing and Opening of our new Benedict Campus with Most Rev. David Walker, Bishop of Broken Bay and Sister Clare Condon sgs Superior. It was a delightful evening and we were very proud of our girls who really lived the Good Samaritan value of Hospitality.

Speeches by Sister Clare and Michael McDonald the Chair of the College Board left profound messages with the students, teachers and parents present about the importance of basing all we do throughout life on our values.

I have included a copy of my speech so that those who were unable to be present get a little of the ‘flavour of the evening’.

‘Good evening, Ladies and gentlemen, Bishop David, Sr Clare, Mary Green and our other honoured guests, staff and students.

It is significant that on this the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, we give thanks to Bishop David for blessing our new Campus and to Sr Clare for officially opening the space for use by the 1000 Stella Maris students to which we offer an education in the Benedictine tradition. Our present captain, Gabby, has already highlighted the significance of our special guest Mary Green, a lively woman in her nineties from the first Stella class in 1931.

Although this is not our feast day, that of Our Lady Star of the Sea is yet a week away, but when we purchased the Fischo’s club in 2010 it was nothing like a Star and we did certainly need Our Lady’s help!

This building and the project of development was truly one of Hope. It is no secret that times had been financially difficult for Stella Maris and the sale of the Manly Fischo’s club probably came a year before we could really afford to purchase such an asset but the extraordinary vision and trust of the Board made this a reality. I am grateful to the confidence that the College Members, particularly Sr Catherine Stattery, placed in us and in turn the Board are very conscious of the great trust Sr Clare Condon placed in them in proposing the purchase.

It was far from an easy project and the collaboration of many was required to turn the ugly duckling into a more graceful swan! I would like to acknowledge the sound stewardship of Ron Doman and Zita Brisenes, whose business acumen was vital to the financial management, along with the Finance Committee of the Board, led by Cate Clewett. There were many times when Cate had sleepless nights. I am sure Sr Clare is reassured that we have produced a fine result in providing a legacy for the thousands of Stella girls who will benefit in years to come.

A posse of us attended the auction in July 2010 and with the capable assistance and cool and confident demeanour of Karl Henry from the Broken Bay Diocesan office, Stella Maris was successful in the bid.

While finance was one issue that constrained us, it was the refurbishment of a very imperfect building that brought most challenges and it was the creativity of the architects from Fulton Trotter, Greg Isaac, Isabelle Pfaffli and John Ward who could always find a way to solve the problems that the Fischo’s presented. The builders, David Cowlishaw and Frank Santonoceto from Safin, were consistently calm under pressure and like Isabelle, John and Greg were skilled problem solvers. There was a wonderful sense of collaboration between the Building and Resources Committee of the Board, the builders and architects and every meeting was hope-filled and optimistic with the focus being on how each progressive problem could be solved. We are very grateful to all members of the Building and Resources Committee, to Safin and to Fulton Trotter.

Throughout the refurbishment, there were twists and turns and constant surprises. Who would have thought that in removing the ceiling we would discover the remaining stumps of support beams that had been taken to with a hacksaw to produce a building where roof and walls were disconnected? This revelation was not a happy moment for the Building Committee. However, led by the ever focused Kelly Morrison, the Committee ensured that once fixed, the roof, is now tsunami, earthquake and cyclone proof forever! Kelly and the Committee are to be acknowledged for the dedication, wisdom and expertise they brought to decision making in this process.

This is a time of great optimism in the life of Stella Maris. In 1910, the Sisters had much land adjoining the College but due to demands of the time were required to sell most of it. It was a joyful 100th anniversary present to be able to reclaim some of that land in 2010. Like the great cathedrals of Europe, building over centuries was the norm and through collaboration a way of producing something great. We are in the early years of our great journey at Stella Maris and there will be greater things to come.

We are confident about the future of Stella Maris and it goes without saying that this building is the work of many and could only have become a reality with a team that was filled with hope and were dogged in their determination to always find a solution. I feel privileged to have learnt so much from the team.

This building proclaims confidence in Catholic education on the Northern Peninsula. I am proud of the result and the staff and students have a new energy as they travel between campuses each day.’

**Student Assembly Opening of Benedict Campus**

On the 25th May we held an Assembly to involve all the students in the Opening of Benedict Campus. All staff and students received a small memento of the event.

Mrs Vicki Comerford, Principal
Address Opening the Stella Maris College Benedict Campus on Thursday 24th May 2012 – Sr Clare Condon sgs

Welcome guests and all of you here representing the community of Stella Maris College.

Today is another significant step in the history of Stella Maris College. Good Samaritan Sisters have been here on the peninsula, specifically at Manly since 1881 - some 131 years. The Good Samaritan Sisters commenced Catholic education all along the peninsula establishing primary schools here at Manly, Manly Vale, Baigoliah, Dee Why, Narrabeen, Mona Vale and Avalon and secondary education as well at Warnieewood. Longevity is our strong characteristic – something that we do not see often today in our rapidly changing world.

Stella Maris College as we know it today began in 1931, some 80 years ago. This College is founded on a strong set of values – values based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and articulated by a 5th century monk - St Benedict. These values have survived through all sorts of changes over a history of 1500 years, in a range of cultural and social settings, so they must have something going for them. I am going to name a few. Paramount amongst these values is that first and foremost we each live a life of prayer, a life attuned to God, a life where we know our own place in the universe as creature not master; a life that is daily in touch with the gospel messages.

Secondly, the value of hospitality - an openness to receive the stranger with genuine acceptance and a ready willingness to learn from others as well. There is much prejudice around us, which expresses itself in the public discourse in regard to a number of social issues. For example, with Australia’s responsibility to refugees, to those who have been displaced from their homelands because of violence and war; further the debates around social policy and who should be supported by those who have plenty, i.e. how our wealth could be distributed for a more just and fair society. The students of Stella Maris are challenged to welcome the stranger and to tend to their neighbours’ needs.

Thirdly, a love of learning and an appreciation of beauty. This institution is before all else an educational institution – a centre of learning, a place to question and to seek truth. The minds and hearts of the students at Stella Maris should be stretched to ask the hard questions of life and love. It should not be a place simply for acquiring the necessary knowledge to seek a particular career. When only information gathering happens, education ceases to develop inquiring minds, and assist in forming solid citizens of a truly democratic society. The students of Stella Maris are guided to love learning in all its richness, to question, to seek the truth and not to be satisfied with half-baked theories or merely immediate gratification.

Finally, stewardship - the resources of this planet are to be cherished and used with care and respect. In the Benedictine spirit we are encouraged to use material goods for the benefit of all, with an eye to frugality, integrity of form and function and for the capacity of beauty to communicate the presence and power of God.

This campus is named after St Benedict. It needs, therefore, to epitomize the values St Benedict proposed so long ago. I have mentioned but a few of them. This campus has an obligation to be different: to be a place where prayer is respected, where all are welcome and difference is a gift not an obstacle; where there is an atmosphere of non-competitive and inquisitive learning and a deep appreciation of all that is beautiful and sacred in life.

Stella Maris is dedicated to Mary. Today we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians – this patronage of our country, Australia, was determined in 1844 by the Founder of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Archbishop John Bede Polding at the first pastoral synod in this country.

I congratulate all involved in this visionary move – to Ms Vicki Comerford, Principal, and her staff, to Mr Michael McDonald the Chair of the Board of Directors and all the Directors and their committees. To architects and builders; to Manly Council for its approvals; and to the students and parents who have contributed to enhance the life and education at Stella Maris College. Congratulations!
Blessed With A New Campus

_Benedict Campus, named for St Benedict, on whose Rule the Sisters of the Good Samaritan founded their Order._

Stella Maris is blessed with our new Benedict Campus. First term was one long major event for the new campus. Against the odds (most notably the weather) the building was finished and we were ready for Day 1 classes with only a few minor tasks to bring to a close. There was immediate excitement about the new facility with staff and students responding enthusiastically to the light, space and colour of the rooms. We dealt swiftly with the inevitable, but remarkably few, teething problems that emerged, and the term settled very quickly into a comfortable routine.

The walk between 'Bennies' and 'Stella Main' is around 7 minutes for a class, giving the girls an opportunity for a little fresh air, exercise and perhaps reflection in their day. Even the rain didn't dampen spirits – just ask the local residents about the procession of bobbing green umbrellas up and down Eurobin Avenue!

During Term One the final internal operable walls were installed giving us seven full operational classrooms with interactive projectors as well as a large study space and common area for Year 11 and staffroom for PDHPE and VET staff upstairs. The Fitness Centre has been relocated to the new campus as has the office of Mr Denis Lee, Director of Teaching and Learning. Outside is a large undercover area creating outdoor learning spaces, a wet weather sport option and additional lunchtime seating.

The new campus is paying huge dividends by relieving pressure on the main campus classrooms and by providing flexible space for College functions. At any given moment we can have up to 240 girls on site and we have hosted events such as whole school assemblies, Open Night, Year assemblies, the Year 7 Parent Dinner (a sit down dinner for 500), Year 12 exams, Staff Development Day, Parent/Teaching Interviews, the Class of '79 Reunion Dinner and, of course, the Blessing and Official Opening.

HSC Trials and Final Exams

In years gone by the HSC Exams took place at the Manly-Warringah Leagues Club, Balgowlah RSL or The Factory but Bennies is proving to be a far superior venue in 2012 with the girls feeling very comfortable in familiar territory. The first morning of the first Trial exam the Year 12s entered the foyer to an array of 'Good Luck Year 12' posters created by Staff and by Year 7 students. There were lots of 'oohs', 'aaaws' and 'that's so sweet!' as the pre-exam jitters were momentarily dispelled by the effort of the Year 7 students and Staff to show their support. Many of the Year 7s wrote personal messages to their Buddies in their own words and images and with words of wisdom drawn from some of history's great sages – staff pick being this Danish proverb: 'The gem cannot be polished without friction nor the person perfected without trials', sent to Ashley O'Donell 12.5 from Gabrielle Hodgins 7.9.

Working Bee

What's usually the first thing we do when we move house? We clean it. Cleaning something puts our personal stamp on it, makes it our own. Well, Bennies now belongs to the hard working group of parents who attended the Working Bee! It was immediately obvious what a difference the morning's work made to the appeal of the site, ensuring it looked its best for the Official Blessing and Opening. What was most gratifying about the morning though, was the fun we had doing it, the new people we got to know and the way we now care just a little bit more about Bennies.

Ms Donna Stimson, Benedict Campus Coordinator
Presentation Night Awards

Special Awards
These awards represent the culmination of hard work - not only within the subject areas of the College but some in addition acknowledge extra-curricular involvement and special circumstances.

Stella Award: Taylor Mills
Ex-Students' Award: Hannah Ledieu
Australian Defence Force Award: Rachel Nunn, Laura Gass & Taylor Mills
Australian Vocational Student Prize: Isabelle Stanley (Year 12 2011)
Caltex Award: Gabrielle Tezoriore
Freshwater Community Bank Scholarship: Rachel Nunn
Pierre de Coubertin Award: Clare Freakeley
Scarf Foundation Award: Sara Connell
UNSW Academic Achievement Award: Wing Kwan So
Debating Award: Junior: Edie Bannerman
Senior: Sara Connell
Duke of Edinburgh Trophy: Gold: Korie Bennett & Holly Graham
Silver: Amy Warne & Rachel Slackpool
Bronze: Adelaide Cuneo & Emily McNaughton
Gold Merit Award: Madeleine Hickey, Hannah Knipp & Rosie Steinl
Sports Award: College: Rachel Duncan
Year 7: Tessa Constantine, Gabriele Mastroianni, Naomi Scott & Gemma Wickham
Year 8: Sophia Brinkman, Natalie Jender & Bryanna Jones
Year 9: Nicole Salderon, Caitlin Woraksso & Caria Wooley
Year 10: Meike Kasulke, Ellen Spencer & Bronte Halligan
Year 11: Luceane Cook, Eliza Parish & Isabella Welsh
Year 12: Kiri English-Hawke, Laura Peatley & Stephanie Zervos
Religious Education Award: Junior: Samantha Lynch & Taylor Mills
Senior: Sara Connell
Student Success Project Silver: Lilly Mills & Tori Casazza
WINGS Gifted & Talented Awards:
Year 7: Karimyn Bock, Hannah Bowley, Caitlin Bruce, Charlotte Carr, Tessa Constantine, Chloe Douglas, Alison Goddier, Georgia Gulick, Emily Simpson & Gemma Wickham.
Year 8: Natasha Bernard, Grace Cox, Isabella Filacurdi, Claudia Lanzalone, Yasmin McFadden, Sarah Torrington & Venice Warner.
Year 9: Mia Calabritto, Meg Connolly, Georgia Gajardo, Matilda Gould, Emily McNaughton & Angie Schroder.
Year 10: Jessica Arman, Nicola Bradley, Mieke Kasulke, Felicity Kerrigan, Amelia Russell, Remi Siciliano & Gemma Walmley.

Academic Excellence Awards

Year 7
Reinga Bennett
Hannah Bowley
Tessa Constantine
Chloe Douglas
Ailson Goddier
Georgia Gulick
Gabrielle Mastroianni
Emily Simpson
Jemima Strattan
Emma Wickham

Year 8
Natasha Bernard
Emma Collins
Amelia Crawford
Rebecca Diaz
Sophie Duke
Ava Fletcher
Claudia Lanzalone
Ella Mander-Jones
Yasmin McFadden
Anna McGrath
Sarah Torrington
Venice Warner

Year 9
Meghan Connolly
Matilda Gould
Faith Haeuseler
Nikki Henderson
Lily Langman
Brigid Mackenzie
Charlotte Robbie
Angie Schroder
Elizabeth Smith
Rosie Steindl
Gemma Young

Year 10
Jessica Arman
Nicola Bradley
Bella Charlesworth
Hayley Constantine
Melissa Currie
Kathryn Goddier
Lillian McCoy
Jessica Montgomeri
Rebecca O'Brien
Amelia Russell
Remi Siciliano
Gemma Walmley

Year 11
Rebecca Bourcier
Ashleigh Dale
Lelise Dossetor
Cassandra Green
Dana Hardin
Rebecca Marsh
Claire Sainty-Cope
Velvet-Belle Templeman
Cinzia Tisano
Violet Warner

Year 12
Natasha Capstick
Yan Chen
Casey Eagleton
Jessica Gostelow
Grace Hay
Hannah Janssen
Rachel Nunn
Rose Outred
Nicolle Schroder
Wing Kwan So
Wei Jia Tan

Excellence of Effort Awards

Year 7
Caitlin Ballinger
Natalee Beeker
Stephanie Cramer
Annika Day
Elle Enright
Natalie Gillespie
Venus Hauge
Nina Longfellow
Charlotte Mackenzie
Lucy McIntyre
Naomi Scott
Stephanie Webster
Maya Williams
Arabella Young

Year 8
Talia Bangel
Edie Bannerman
Emma Campling
Grace Cox
Cristina Crapis
Isabella Denby
Aja Dragnin
Lauren Faietto
Ruby Grant
Nicola Green
Kira Kissane
Stephanie Severino
Lovy Wildash

Year 9
Stephanie Agapicu
Lily Baselga
Leah Bousamra
Mia Calabritto
Ruby Costello
Stephanie Cramer
Felix Hauge
Maggie Jacobson
Kailyn King
Hannah Knipp
Ayse Mellor
Hannah Papandrea
Meg Plush
Nisha Saini
Sally Zhen

Year 10
Koro Bennett
Kimberley Butterfield
Annalise Dracopoulos
Carly Frost
Stephanie Kennewell
Amy Naid
Simona Sidoli
Zhang Qin Song
Margaret Weir
Rachael Zhou
Jiajie Zhu

Year 11
Liana Bonner
Ariana Cabrera
Rebecca Connell
Alize Edwards
Laura Gass
Chelsea Karran
Ava Kirkby
Ashleigh Signorelli
Wing Sum So

Year 12
Koro Bennett
Kimberley Butterfield
Annalise Dracopoulos
Carly Frost
Stephanie Kennewell
Amy Naid
Simona Sidoli
Zhang Qin Song
Margaret Weir
Rachael Zhou
Jiajie Zhu

80
These awards are presented to the high achieving students in each subject.

Year 7

Tayla Beesley - Highly Commended History
Reina Bennett - Equal 2nd History, 3rd PDHPE
Sophie Barry - 1st Visual Arts, Equal 3rd English
Isabelle Blair - Equal 2nd Music, Highly Commended Drama
Kamryn Bock - 2nd Mathematics, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Hannah Bowley - Equal 3rd Geography, Equal 3rd Science, Highly Commended English, Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Caitlin Bruce - Highly Commended Mathematics
Elana Carnevale - 2nd Drama
Charlotte Carr - Highly Commended Mathematics, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Tessa Constantine - 1st Drama, Equal 1st Geography, 2nd English, Equal 2nd Dance, Equal 3rd Mathematics, Highly Commended History
Georgia Crowley - 1st English
Mackenzie Dimond - 3rd Drama
Chloe Douglass - 1st History, 1st PDHPE, 1st Religious Studies, 1st Science
Ellie Enright - Equal 2nd Religious Studies
Isabelle Gardner - Equal 3rd Place in Science
Natalie Gillespie - Equal 3rd English, Equal 3rd Geography, Highly Commended Mathematics
Alison Goddier - 1st Music, Equal 1st Geography, 2nd Science, Equal 3rd History, Highly Commended English, Highly Commended PDHPE
Georgia Gullick - Equal 2nd Music, Equal 3rd Mathematics, Equal 3rd Science
Isabella Harriott - Equal 2nd Dance
Niamh Laing - 2nd Technology (Mandatory)
Nina Longfellow - Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Charlotte Mackenzie - Highly Commended English
Elisha Maguire - 1st Dance, Highly Commended Drama
Gabriela Mastrolanni - 2nd Visual Arts
Lucy McIntyre - Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Natasha Munten - Highly Commended Drama
Jade Philip - Highly Commended History
Ella Precece - 3rd Dance
Naomi Scott - Equal 3rd History, Highly Commended Music
Emily Simpson - 2nd Geography, Equal 2nd Music, Equal 3rd History, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Jemima Stratton - 1st Technology (Mandatory), 2nd PDHPE, Highly Commended Geography, Highly Commended Music
Olivia Waller - 1st Mathematics
Gemma Wickham - Equal 2nd Religious Studies, Highly Commended PDHPE
Maya Williams - 3rd Technology (Mandatory), Highly Commended History
Elly Willis - Equal 3rd History, Highly Commended PDHPE
Gabriela Wisniewska - Equal 2nd History, 3rd Visual Arts
Arabella Young - Equal 2nd History
Holly Young - 3rd Religious Studies

Year 8

Annika Allenburger - Highly Commended Mathematics
Edie Bannerman - Highly Commended Drama
Elaine Barton - Equal 2nd Japanese, Highly Commended Geography, Highly Commended Music
Lauren Bird - 3rd Drama, Highly Commended History
Mia Bourguignon - Highly Commended Drama
Kate Bowker - Highly Commended Geography, Highly Commended PDHPE, Highly Commended Science
Tayla Bracey - Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Ermynnual Brasier - 1st Spanish
Brionne Brown - 2nd Dance
Olive Brown - Highly Commended PDHPE
Rebecca Chapman - Equal 2nd Geography, Highly Commended History
Emma Collins - 2nd Music, 2nd Technology (Mandatory), Equal 3rd French, Highly Commended English, Highly Commended Geography, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Amelia Crawford - 1st Japanese, Highly Commended Mathematics
Rebecca Diaz - Equal 2nd Geography, Equal 3rd French, Highly Commended History, Highly Commended Science
Chloe Diggin - 1st PDHPE, Highly Commended English
Sofie Duke - 3rd Visual Arts, Highly Commended Music
Isabella Filacurdi - Equal 2nd English, Highly Commended History
Ava Fletcher - 1st French, 3rd Music, Equal 3rd Science, Highly Commended History, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Lily Hammond - 3rd Dance
Madison Hill - Highly Commended History, Highly Commended Science
Daisy Icardi - 1st Italian
Sarah Jago - 1st Visual Arts
Natalie Jender - Highly Commended PDHPE
Phoebe Kelly - 1st Drama
Kira Kissane - Highly Commended History, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Caltriona Laing - 3rd Technology (Mandatory)
Claudia Lazzaroni - 1st Science, 2nd French, Equal 2nd English, Equal 2nd History, 3rd Mathematics
Eliza Mander-Jones - 2nd Religious Studies, Equal 3rd History, Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Yasmin McFadden - 1st English, 1st Mathematics, Equal 1st Geography
Anna McGrath - Highly Commended English, Highly Commended Technology (Mandatory)
Lilly Mills - 1st Music, 1st Technology (Mandatory), Highly Commended History
Olivia Mitchell - 2nd Italian
Lara Mueller Sewell - 3rd Spanish
Bronnie Oldfield - 1st Dance
Tiarna Palme - 3rd Religious Studies, Highly Commended Drama
Jemima Rankin - 2nd Visual Arts
Elodie Rondot-Wilson - 1st Dance
Saskia Rorke - Highly Commended Mathematics
Katie Shinada-Mudie - Equal 2nd Japanese
Sarah Torrington - Equal 1st Geography, 2nd PDHPE, 2nd Science, 3rd English, 2nd Drama
Lara Tramonte - 3rd Dance, 3rd Italian
Venice Warner - 1st History, Equal 1st Spanish, 3rd Geography
Lexy Widash - Equal 3rd History
Stephenie Agapliou - 3rd Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours
Cassandra Armenio - 2nd Physical Activity and Sports Studies 200 hours
Jamaia Bennett - 3rd Textiles Technology 200 hours
Kiera Boag - Highly Commended Australian History
Lara Buening - 2nd Visual Design 100 hours
Mia Calabritto - Highly Commended Australian History
Stella Callinicos - 2nd Dance 200 hours, Equal 2nd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Lauren Cappie-Wood - 2nd Visual Arts 200 hours
Lara Chryssagis - Equal 1st Australian History, Equal 1st Drama 100 hours, 3rd English
Lucinda Connolly - Highly Commended Commerce 100 Hours
Meghan Connolly - 1st Textiles Technology 200 hours, 1st Visual Design 100 hours, Highly Commended Mathematics 5.3, Highly Commended Science
Rebecca Cramer - Highly Commended Australian History
Taylah Curley - 3rd Science
Grace Devaney - 1st Music 100 hours
Georgia Gajardo - 2nd Australian History, Equal 3rd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Mattia Gould - 1st English, 1st History Elective 100 hours, 1st PDHPE, 1st Science, Equal 1st Australian History, 2nd Mathematics 5.3, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Jessica Green - Highly Commended English
Faih Haesler - 1st Dance 100 hours, Equal 1st Design and Technology 200 hours, 2nd Australian Geography
Nikki Henderson - 1st Commerce 100 Hours, 2nd Food Technology 200 hours, 2nd Science, Highly Commended PDHPE
Cara Jacobs - 2nd Food Technology 100 hours
Maggie Jacobson - 1st Spanish 200 hours, 2nd Design and Technology 100 hours, 2nd English, 2nd PDHPE, 3rd Religious Studies, Equal 3rd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Kristina Key - 1st Physical Activity and Sports Studies 100 hours, Highly Commended Australian Geography
Hannah Kneipp - Highly Commended English
Lily Langman - 1st Design and Technology 100 hours, 3rd PDHPE, Equal 3rd Commerce 100 Hours
Serena Leniell - 3rd Mathematics 5.3
Millie Lohr - 1st Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours
Brigid Mackenzie - 2nd Religious Studies, 3rd History Elective 100 hours, Equal 3rd Australian History, Equal 3rd Commerce 100 hours, Highly Commended Science
Emily McNaughton - Highly Commended Mathematics 5.3
Miku Nedachi - 1st Australian Geography, 1st Mathematics 5.3
Margot O'Brien - Equal 3rd Australian History
Siobhan O'Hara - 1st Dance 200 hours
Mason O'Neill - 1st Photographic and Digital Media 100 hours, 1st Visual Arts 100 hours, Equal 3rd Australian Geography
Georgia Phin - 1st Photographic and Digital Media 200 hours
Pamela Platt - 1st Physical Activity and Sports Studies 200 hours, Highly Commended Commerce 100 hours
Ruby Reid - 2nd Italian 200 hours, 2nd Photographic and Digital Media 100 hours, 2nd Visual Arts 100 hours, Highly Commended PDHPE
Charlotte Robb - 3rd Food Technology 200 hours, 3rd Physical Activity and Sports Studies 100 hours
Angie Schroeder - 1st Food Technology 200 hours, 1st Religious Studies, 1st Textiles Technology 100 hours, 2nd Commerce 100 hours, Highly Commended Australian History
Ellyanne Stennett - Equal 3rd Food Technology 100 hours
Elizabeth Smith - 1st French 200 hours, Equal 2nd Textiles Technology 100 hours, Highly Commended Australian History, Highly Commended Religious Studies, Highly Commended Science
Madeleine Spencer - 2nd Design and Technology 200 hours, 2nd Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours
Rosie Steindl - Equal 1st Drama 100 hours, 2nd Photographic and Digital Media 200 hours
Jaime Stevenson - 2nd Textiles Technology 200 hours
Mackenzie Sumner - 2nd Drama 100 hours
Carlo Watts - Equal 1st Design and Technology 200 hours
Caitlin Wernakso - 2nd Dance 100 Hours
Laura Williams - 1st Italian 200 hours
Gemma Young - 2nd History Elective 100 hours, Equal 3rd Australian Geography, Equal 3rd Design and Technology 100 hours, Highly Commended English, Highly Commended PDHPE, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Isabel Abbey - 1st Visual Design 100 hours
Elise Andrew - 2nd Food Technology 100 hours
Jessica Arman - 1st Commerce 100 hours, 1st Religious Studies, Equal 1st Australian History, Equal 1st English, 2nd Visual Arts 200 hours
Kayla Biasi - 2nd PDHPE
India Birrell - Highly Commended Australian Geography
Nicola Bradley - 1st Design and Technology 100 hours, Equal 2nd Australian History, Equal 3rd English, Highly Commended Australian Geography
Michaela Burchell - Equal 2nd Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours, Equal 2nd Textiles Technology 200 hours
Lauren Campbell - 1st Dance 100 Hours, 2nd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Belia Charlesworth - 2nd Photographic and Digital Media (Photography) 100 hours
Lucy Chen - Equal 3rd English
Hayley Constantine - 3rd PDHPE, Highly Commended Australian Geography, Highly Commended Commerce 100 hours
Jacqueline Cooper - 2nd Dance 200 hours
Alana Croxford - 3rd Physical Activity and Sports Studies 100 hours, Highly Commended Commerce 100 hours
Sofie Cunningham - 1st Food Technology 200 hours
Melissa Currie - 1st Food Technology 100 hours, 1st Japanese 200 hours, 1st Mathematics 5.3, Equal 2nd Australian Geography, Highly Commended Australian History, Highly Commended Science
Eliza Earl - Equal 1st Religious Studies, 2nd History Elective 100 hours
Malintha Ebadat - 2nd Drama 100 hours
Emily Edgar - 1st Textiles Technology 100 hours, Equal 3rd Religious Studies
Isabella Gilbert - 2nd Physical Activity and Sports Studies 100 hours, Equal 2nd Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours, 3rd Mathematics 5.3, 3rd Science
Kathryn Godber - 1st Design and Technology 100 hours, 2nd Food Technology 200 hours
Katarina Gornola - Equal 3rd Dance 200 hours
Bronte Halligan - 2nd Photographic and Digital Media 200 hours
Sarah Hickey - 2nd Music A 100 hours
Sarah Jarvis - 3rd Textiles Technology 200 hours
Acacia Jennings - Equal 1st English
Holly Johnson - 1st Physical Activity and Sports Studies 100 hours, Equal 2nd Science, Equal 2nd Textiles Technology 200 hours
Mieke Kassulke - Highly Commented Australian History, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Felicity Kerrigan - Highly Commended Mathematics 5.3
Madeline Lakeeman - 3rd Food Technology 200 hours
Lillian McCoy - 1st French 200 hours, 2nd Commerce 100 hours, Equal 2nd Australian History
Larissa Mestiti - 3rd Commerce 100 hours
Taylor Mills - 1st Music B 100 hours, Highly Commended PDHPE
Jessica Montgomery - 1st Spanish 200 hours, Equal 3rd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Ebony Morrison - 1st Dance 200 hours, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Kavita Nadu - 2nd Visual Arts 100 hours, 3rd History Elective 100 hours, Highly Commended PDHPE, Highly Commended Science
Ricci Newton - Equal 3rd Dance 200 hours
Rebecca O'Brien - Highly Commended Mathematics 5.3, Highly Commended PDHPE, Highly Commended Religious Studies
Natalie O'Connor - 1st Photographic and Digital Media (Photography) 100 hours, Equal 2nd English
Bryony Parker - 1st Photographic and Digital Media 200 hours
Ashley Rasoo - 1st Textiles Technology 200 hours
Amelia Russell - 1st History Elective 100 hours, 1st Information Software and Technology, Equal 1st Australian History, 2nd Australian Geography, Equal 2nd English, Equal 2nd Science, 3rd Religious Studies, Equal 3rd Textiles Technology 100 hours
Taelah Saloumoudis - 1st Photographic and Digital Media (Video Production) 100 hours
Remi Siciliano - 1st Visual Arts 200 hours, 2nd Visual Design 100 hours, Equal 3rd English
Ellen Spencer - 1st PDHPE
Rachel Stackpole - 1st Drama 100 hours
Sarah Thompson - 1st Music A 100 hours
Gemma Wahlsmey - 1st Australian Geography, 1st Science, 3rd Australian History, Highly Commended Mathematics 5.3
Grace Wheatley - 2nd Mathematics 5.3
Isabelle Wilcox - 3rd Food Technology 100 hours
Alexandra Zappia - 1st Italian 200 hours, 1st Visual Arts 100 hours

Kimberley Allen - 2nd Modern History, 3rd Ancient History
Sally Atherton - 1st Dance
Sophia Bernard - 3rd Modern History
Rebecca Bourcier - 1st Biology, 1st Geography
Madison Brown - Highly Commented General Mathematics
Jasmin Buono - 1st Visual Arts
Ariana Cabrera - 1st Spanish Continuers, 1st Music 2
Camille Campos - Highly Commented English Advanced
Rebecca Catone - 2nd Textiles and Design
Deborah Carr - 3rd Entertainment Industry, 3rd Visual Arts
Kate Carrigan - 1st Ancient History, 2nd Society and Culture, 3rd English Advanced
Cara Caterina - 1st Tourism and Events, 1st Business Studies, Equal 2nd Studies of Religion 2
Ruby Chippindall - Highly Commented Ancient History
Rebecca Conlon - 3rd Hospitality
Marianne Connors - 1st Society and Culture
Ashleigh Dale - 1st Chemistry, 1st Studies of Religion 1, 2nd Biology, 3rd Ancient History
Bonta Demmed - 1st Photography and Digital Imaging (Photography)
Eloise Dosseler - 1st Mathematics Extension 1, 1st Physics, Highly Commended Mathematics
Monica Eastwood - 3rd Community and Family Studies
Tiarne Epifania - 3rd English Standard
Laura Gass - 2nd Business Studies
Elia Grettan - 1st English Standard
Cassandra Green - 1st English Extension 1, 3rd Legal Studies, 3rd Modern History
Shu Yan Hang - 1st Mathematics, 2nd English as a 2nd Language, 2nd Fundamentals of English, 2nd Mathematics Extension 1
Dana Hardin - 1st Food Technology, 3rd General Mathematics
Ellesandra Hills - 1st Drama
Chelsea Karren - 2nd Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Ava Kirby - 2nd Geography
Lydia Leckie - Equal 1st Photography and Digital Imaging (Video)
Courtney Liddle - 1st Information Processes and Technology
Ellie Linaker - 2nd Legal Studies
Kate Lodder - 2nd English Standard
Ebony Loh - 2nd Photography and Digital Imaging (Photography)
Megan Lutz - Equal 3rd Biology, Equal 3rd Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Rachel Macn - 2nd English Standard, 2nd Community and Family Studies
Madison Mansion - 1st Entertainment Industry, Equal 1st Photography and Digital Imaging (Video)
Marni Jo Mantell - 2nd Entertainment Industry
Rebecca Marsh - 1st Design and Technology, 3rd Studies of Religion 1
Georgia Miller - 2nd Food Technology
Jade Mills - 2nd Design and Technology
Lucy Monteleone - 3rd Food Technology
Rachael O'Brien - 1st Textiles and Design
Catherine O'Grady - 2nd Mathematics, 2nd Ancient History
Olivia Papalia - 1st Hospitality
Eliza Parish - 1st Earth and Environmental Science, Equal 3rd Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Irene Pi - 2nd Hospitality
Georgia Quinn - 2nd Textiles and Design
Lily Rasdall - 2nd Visual Arts
Katrina Ross - 2nd General Mathematics
Claire Sainty-Cope - 1st Economics, 2nd Chemistry, 2nd Studies of Religion 1, 3rd Business Studies
Sarah Saliba - 1st Society and Culture
Wing Sum Soo - 1st Japanese Beginners, 1st English as a 2nd Language,
Year 12

Eloise Armstrong - 2nd Textiles and Design
Claudia Attanasio - 3rd Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Klorie Bennett - 1st Textiles and Design
Emily Bobis - 1st Music 2
Luana Bowman - Equal 2nd Chemistry, 3rd Mathematics, 3rd Physics
Emma Boydell - 1st Dance
Britta Brown - 2nd Food Technology, 3rd Business Studies
Kimberley Butterfield - 1st Information Processes and Technology
Natasha Capstick - 1st English Extension 1, 1st English Extension 2, 2nd Visual Arts, Highly Commended English Advanced
Alana Caterina - Highly Commended General Mathematics
Susan Chen - 1st Ancient History, 1st History Extension
Van Chen - 2nd Chinese background Speakers
Antoinetta Chirillo - 3rd Community and Family Studies
Sara Connell - 1st Mathematics, 2nd Studies of Religion 2, 3rd English Advanced
Jessica Cunningham - Equal 1st Business Studies, Equal 2nd Hospitality Curriculum Framework
Danielle de Rome - Equal 2nd Society and Culture
Amber DeLisle - 1st Geography
Rachel Diaz - 2nd Biology
Annalise Dracopoulos - 2nd Community and Family Studies
Casey Eagleton - 2nd Physics
Clare Freakley - 1st Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, 3rd Biology
Carly Frost - Equal 2nd Design and Technology
Madeleine Fysh - 1st Spanish Continuers, 2nd Tourism and Events Curriculum Framework
The Stella Alumni has continued to gain momentum in 2012 as we grow on Facebook, connect with the wider Good Samaritan Alumni network and produce regular Stella Newsletter articles inspired by the work of Lyn Martin.

We have had the privilege of receiving many stories from ex-students who have graciously shared their memories of life at Stella, including many teachers who attended the College. It is amazing that we currently have 14 teachers who are ex-students: Sr Pauline Bulluss, Liz Gallagher, Michelle Fisher, Anna Riley, Kristie Ferguson, Sarah Metcalfe, Vanessa Coman, Amy Smith, Fran Byrne, Mary Ryland, Jennifer Molloy, Alison Tedman, Donna Stimson and Jiani Chen.

Two people who stand out from the year are Frances Elaine Adams (1947) and Pamela Hunt (1962).

An extract from Remembrances of School Days by Frances Elaine Adams 1932-2010

I let my mind wander back to the January day in 1944 when I walked in fear and trepidation through that big gate to my new school. I had come from the country only a few months earlier, so I had no classmates coming up to college with me. I really felt terribly alone.

The school Principal that year was Sister Dolores. I remember her as a slight, petite woman who bounced along, rather than walked.

1944 was the last year that Stella Maris had primary school students, and that year all the primary children were housed in the one classroom (now the 7 blue classroom). The next classroom housed 1st and 2nd years (imagine fitting the present all of Years 7 and 8 into one classroom!). The next classroom along the corridor was for 3rd year, our Intermediate year, and a very important one, as few students in those days went on to 4th and 5th years – in fact only those whose ambitions and abilities took them to university or Teachers College.

The fourth classroom was the "Commercial Class", here business subjects, shorthand and typing, bookkeeping, and business principles – plus all our usual school subjects – were taught. Most of us went from 3rd year Intermediate to Commercial Class.

Oh yes, I’m not forgetting about 4th and 5th year – they were housed in the hat-room.

1945 I remember for four main things –
- Stella Maris became solely a High School.
- I made some of the best friends I could wish to have (I am still in regular contact with four girls I befriended in my class alone, and two of them are still my dearest friends).
- Rainbird won the Melbourne Cup (I remember Mother Superior running down from the convent to tell the girls the news).
- The War ended.

Snapshots of Stella Maris by Pamela Hunt

Taken in the Nuns' garden, by Sr Marie Therese: 1962.
Front: Suzanne Duffy, Patricia Bentley, Lie de Brae, Mary Fischer.

Taken one lunchtime in the rear playground: 1961.

Good Samaritan Schools' Inaugural Ex-Student Luncheon: Our Students Do Amazing Things!

On 21st October 2012 ex-students from all Good Samaritan Schools enjoyed lunch together in order to raise money for the Good Samaritan Foundation. We were privileged to hear fabulous speakers including Elizabeth Proust, Malarndirri McCarthy and Krystal Barter. Krystal attended Stella Maris and founded Pink Hope in 2009 at the age of 28 years after recovering from a preventive double mastectomy. Pink Hope was created as a place where women at a high risk of developing cancer could access support and information any time of the day or night. Krystal has been widely recognised for her charity work, management and creation of Pink Hope. Among many other business awards, Krystal was a 2012 finalist for the Young Australian of the Year. http://pinkhope.org.au/

It was a wonderful event and we look forward to attending the next one in 2013!

Ms Carolyn Collins
Family Fete and Twilight Fair

Stella Maris Family Fete

The Stella Maris Family Fete took place on Saturday 31 March. This was organised by the students from the International College of Management Sydney (ICMS) as a Stella Maris / Bear Cottage fundraiser. The Fete consisted of stalls, activities and a showcase of Stella talent.

Stella Maris Twilight Fair

The Stella Maris Twilight Fair was held on Friday 23 November in an effort to raise money to help Bear Cottage. The evening consisted of carols, great food and exciting stalls and activities for all ages.

bear cottage
an initiative of the children's hospital at Westmead
2012 has been an eventful year for international students at the College. Term 1 began with a welcome BBQ lunch that was organised by the Year 12 students to welcome new international students to the College. Throughout the year, there have been many other events that promote and celebrate multiculturalism at Stella. Our vision is to see each Stella student grow in their understanding of other cultures: practicing inclusion, hospitality and developing understanding of people from different backgrounds.

In 2012, we have had students from China, Japan, Korea, Italy and Germany. We have deep respect for these girls who leave their families for months at a time, study in a second language and face challenges of living in a foreign environment. We also appreciate the richness they bring to the Stella Maris community.

Ms Carolyn Collins,
International Students’ Pastoral Care Coordinator

International Night

In Term 3, the international students held a wonderful night of music and dance in the theatre. They made the stage full of sparkling stars.

Year 8 student, Alyssa Li, was so brave on the stage. We loved her beautiful smile and her courage when she performed confidently. We were amazed by the talents of our Year 11 girls by their professional dance and the meaningful song they sung with their special sign language. The Year 12 girls were a highlight on the night with their entertaining cup game and the unique shallot dance which were our favourite performances of the night. They also performed this at the College Assembly and had the audience amazed.

The most enjoyable part of the night was the game section. We participated in 3 games and we just felt that we couldn’t stop ourselves putting up our hands as volunteers. Overall, everyone who came has enjoyed themselves and it was a really successful night.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 12 girls especially three of our prefects for their great effort in providing us with this marvellous and memorable night: Miranda Tan, Annie So and Hannah Bester. We are so looking forward to the International Night next year.

Winnie So 11.10 and JoJo Qian 11.6

Stella Day & Twilight Markets

The Chinese Club with Ms Jo made Chinese food at Stella Day and Twilight Fair. It was very interesting and we all enjoyed it.

We sold dumplings and noodles made by ourselves at Stella Day and also taught the local girls how to make the dumplings and sushi. That day was very busy; we ran between the Food Tech room and C13, cooking the dumplings. The local girls were really interested in making the dumplings and sushi and they ate the food they made by themselves. We set the rooms up to feel like the Chinese New Year. We put many lanterns and Spring Festival ornaments in the rooms. It made us feel very warm and reminded us of home.

At the Twilight Fair we sold the spring rolls, noodles, pork buns and dumplings. We made the spring rolls with some Year 7 girls together. Before we started, many girls and their parents came to ask to buy the pork buns - they were really popular that night. So many girls came for the pork buns but we sold out! They even came back later when Ms Jo went and bought more from the shops but we sold out again. We were sorry about that.

Thank you to the girls who came and bought our food. The girls and their parents were very friendly and many girls also wanted to learn about the Chinese culture and how to make Chinese food. We are very excited that we can join with the girls in these great days.

Jessie Hang 11.7
As always, another year has flown by. I have to say that 2012 would have to be the busiest year ever in the Counselling Department, but a totally rewarding and enjoyable one.

Once again, the aim is to reach as many students as possible via presentations and guest speakers. This year these included presentations by the local Police Youth Liaison Officer, Brainstorm Productions and day outings such as the Day of Hope for Year 10. One of the highlights for me each year is attending the Year 7 and Year 9 camps. These camps are a wonderful way to get to know the girls in an informal and fun setting.

**Fun trivia facts.....**
- It is impossible for most people to lick their own elbow (try it!)
- A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- If you sneeze too hard, you could fracture a rib.
- Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
- Wearing headphones for just an hour could increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
- In every episode of Seinfeld there was a Superman somewhere in the picture.
- Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
- A shark is the only known fish that can blink with both eyes.
- "Dream" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- Maine is the only US State that has a one-syllable name.
- Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciúncula".
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- In many advertisements, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
- The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- Most people fall asleep in seven minutes.

http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/jokes/trivia.htm

Mrs Kylie Andrew, School Psychologist
The Stella Maris College House Reading Challenge for 2012

Congratulations to readers belonging to Lourdes in Year 7 and Rosaria in Year 8, as their houses won the Stella Maris House Reading Challenge for 2012.

Stella Maris Inaugural ‘Write a Book in a Day’

Four teams of 6, from Years 7, 8 and 10 began at 8:00am and wrote until 8:00pm – a twelve hour writing day. It was wonderful to observe how well the girls worked together, even when they were tired and frustrated. Watching the students gaining knowledge, when they didn’t realise they were learning, is a satisfying teaching experience.

Next year we will broaden the competition because many students would benefit from the ‘Writing a Book in a Day’ experience. 100% of funds raised goes to the Westmead Children’s Hospital Kids Cancer Project.

Giant Cup Cake Challenge

Every Year 7 student contributed to a class novel about the Life in the time of Jesus.

Georgia Walker-Powell introduces her character Ginath to the reader:

‘The land beneath him crunched as he walked along the dry, dead grass to his tent. He didn’t run - he let the rain pound down on his hunched shoulders as the drowning, humid air left a trudge in his step. As Ginath looks to the ground he can see patches of greenery and therefore, patches of hope. Hope that he may someday put his painful grief behind him and carry on with his life. He still feels the sudden pang of pain stretch across his chest reminding him of his son who was taken by Herod long ago.’

Lunch Time

Knowing that students feel comfortable spending time in the SCEIC (aka Library) during lunchtime gives the Library staff a great deal of pleasure. There is also a room available for silent study.
On the evening of Tuesday 4th September we celebrated our Creative and Performing Arts in a real spring atmosphere at our annual showcase ‘Stella Alive’. The warm weather and the fantastic light show certainly lifted spirits and encouraged the visitors to engage with the work of the Stella students. As usual the standard of the HSC Visual Arts and Design works was exceptionally high and the performances in Music and Dance were spectacular.
We celebrated Stella Day on Thursday 31st May as it was the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea, our patron at Stella Maris. This was a lot of fun and very capably organised by the SRC who are developing a wonderful sense of community amongst the students. The day started with a liturgy and had an international theme, with food from various lands, games and activities to interest all. Lots of fun was had and it is always a memorable day for the girls.
Student Exchange to Spain

I am Acacia Jennings, a Year 10 Stella student. When my parents first mentioned sending me away on exchange I thought it was the worst idea ever! But as I slowly got over the shock I decided it could be kind of fun!

I arrived in Spain in January for a 6 month Cross Cultural Exchange. I had come to Spain before on holidays but now I wasn’t here as a tourist; I was going to LIVE in Spain, like a local.

Sure there are a lot of similarities, but I think there are more differences than similarities. They are certainly more interesting. One huge difference in Spain is the time they do things. My school starts at 8:30am and finishes at 2:30pm; we have a half hour break equivalent to recess at Stella. After school we have lunch at 3:15pm. Lunch is a set meal of the day. Lunch is always 2 courses, first rice or soup, and then meat as a second, and lastly we normally have fruit or yogurt. After lunch we always fall asleep in front of the TV for around an hour. Then at 10.30pm we have dinner. Dinner is normally small or nonexistent. Finally at around 12:30am we go to bed.

Everyone here is relaxed and easy-going and it isn’t a big deal if people are late. So what happens is that you get used to coming half an hour after you said you would, because that is probably when they were expecting you to arrive anyway.

At school we call our teachers by their first name. I am not expected to do the exams or homework thankfully!! Everyone at school is really nice. I remember on my first day I was surrounded by girls introducing themselves to me and I didn’t remember any of their names for, like, a week! In class we are not really meant to talk, but the teachers don’t really mind that much. I remember at Stella you are not allowed to chew gum; at my school one of the teachers brings gum in for me because she thinks if I have gum I can’t talk! :)

In Australia I play soccer and a lot of other sports. I am barely doing any sport here, so sometimes some little kids from my village invite me to the park and we all play soccer. I am not a very good soccer player but I was a bit surprised to find that all of the 9 - 12 year olds were way better than me, but then again it is Spain and soccer is like really important here!

In Spain basically every family follows a soccer team and then their kids do too and so on. The best teams in Spain are Real Madrid and Barcelona. Not only are they the 2 best teams, but they are huge rivals! If you go for one you HATE the other, so the other day when Madrid and Barca were playing literally everyone went to the bars to watch the game. Then after the game, which Madrid won, there were celebrations in the street, or rather people were running naked down the streets and skinny dipping in the fountains even though it was only 10 degrees out!! Which was quite interesting....

In Australia when I spend time with my friends it is normally at the beach, the mall, or at a friend’s house. In Leon there is no beach, and although there are malls no one spends time there, and normally you don’t spend time at your friends’ houses. Instead every Friday and Saturday night literally all of the teenagers within Leon are out ‘paseando’ - walking around the city (cobblestoned streets and all the girls with huge heels) where they stop by bars for a few hours and then continue wondering around.

Easter, or in Spanish ‘Semana Santa’, is a very important celebration in Leon. I was told that there would be festivities, and people would dress up; however the festivities were very different to what I thought they would be! It turned out that the streets were closed off. Bands were playing music. People with huge, pointy, white hats and long, formal, white robes walked down the streets in solemn processions carrying enormous statues of Jesus and Mary. These people were called papones which literally means person with a big hat. To be honest the people with huge hats were quite scary and looked really similar to the Ku Klux Klan hats. To my surprise even my host sister was a papon! (It is thought that the KKK took this costume and used it for their crimes so they would be personally anonymous, yet identifiable as a group. There is no other connection.)

Spain is a very Catholic country. Unfortunately, there is a racist tradition left over from medieval times. It says that during Easter if you drink a certain type of alcoholic lemonade, every sip will kill a Jewish person. So, during Easter everyone goes to bars to ‘Kill Jews’?? This custom is so steeped in tradition, that sadly the people don’t realise how bad it is.

On another note, once I brought a tube of Vegemite into school for my friends to try. I had Vegemite on bread as well as plain Vegemite. I warned them that non-Australians normally didn’t like it, but they were still shocked by the taste and acted as though I had poisoned them as they sprinted to the bathrooms! Personally, I thought it was kind of funny. In any case, they convinced me to offer some to our teacher; we told him it was like Nutella. Of course, being a teacher he didn’t accuse me of poisoning him or run off to the bathrooms, but he drank a whole bottle of water and kept sending me sly death glares. Oops!

To sum it up, Spain is really different to Australia. Getting a first-hand experience in a foreign country, and having the opportunity to make Spanish friends is an amazing experience. I would recommend this experience, because I really got a lot out of it! I have already started bugging my parents about coming back next year and I haven’t even left yet!

Acacia Jennings 10A
Parents and Friends Committee

The Parents and Friends Committee (P&F) supported several important functions during 2012 including the Year 7 Welcome Dinner, Year 8 - 12 Year group functions and Stella Alive. Each of these functions provided a valuable point of contact between the College and the parent body. In particular the P&F believes its support enables parents to meet other parents and teachers in a less formal environment. The benefit not only extends to getting to know parents of your daughters friends, but, meeting parents from other Year groups who may share experiences that lie ahead of you.

The P&F organises the annual Trivia Night, which was held for the first time at the Benedict Campus – a fantastic venue. The evening was the best attended to date, with many prizes and a good deal of fun. The support by the local business community by way of prizes was outstanding and demonstrated how the College is viewed by the broader community. We would like to thank the families of students who also donated wonderful prizes. The P&F raised record funds this year at this event and were delighted to make a contribution of $5000 towards landscaping of the Benedict Campus.

My thanks go to our fantastic P&F Executive Committee and other parents who volunteered their time and assistance over the year. I would like to express my gratitude to Vicki Cornerford and Mary Ryland for their support, interest and encouragement towards the activities of the P&F. The success of 2012 rests on the efforts of a dedicated and hard-working Executive and in particular our retiring Secretary, Janette Bobis, who has worked tirelessly for many years – thank you so much Janette, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside you. This special team of people makes it so enjoyable and fun to be a volunteer at Stella.

Mrs Diane Mantell, P&F President

Volunteers

Without the generous support of our volunteers Stella Maris College could not provide the girls with a Canteen open five days a week, a Uniform Shop open three days a week, a tidy Library with covered books, Learning Support assistance, Examination supervision, the various activities organised by the P&F Committee and the wonderful array of sports available to our students.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who give their time and share their expertise, the students love having a family member taking an interest in the school and in the activities they are involved in. We look forward to seeing most of you again in 2013.

A special thank you to our volunteers finishing up at the end of 2012; Janette Bobis, Gail Bonnor, Deb Graham, Peter Hay, Maria Ledieu, Karen Nunn, Gabby Palin, Kathryn Shearsby, Pamela Siciliano and Joe Tesoriero.

Our Volunteers’ Dinner on the 20th November on the deck in the school gardens was such a wonderful night. The weather smiled on us.

Mrs Maree Sewell, Uniform Shop & Mrs Bernie McGrath, Canteen
Name:

Nickname/s:

Subjects Studied:

Extra Curricular Activities:

Favourite Subject:
Most Hated Subject:
Favourite Teacher:
Greatest Achievement:

Funniest Moment:

My best friends were:

Hangout Place:
Favourite Canteen Food:
My current crush is on:
I am obsessed with:

In FIVE years time I hope to ....

In TEN years time I hope to ....
AUTOGRAHPS

MAGAZINE CREDITS
We wish to acknowledge the talent and commitment of our Yearbook team:

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"proud to be Stella girls"

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