



# Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

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Issue 15  
23rd May, 2022

Principal: Mrs. Carmel Barker

**REMINDER**  
**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**  
**WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY - 1.00 PM - 8.00 PM**  
**(PUPIL FREE DAY)**  
**GYMNASIUM**  
**- CNR. MOORE & KING STREETS, ARARAT**  
**BOOKINGS THROUGH**  
**PARENT ACCESS MODULE - see page 8**



**Information Evening**

**IN MY WORDS** - pages 4 - 7

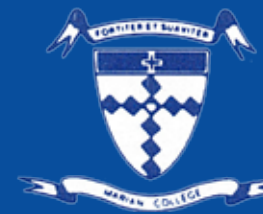
**SPORTS REPORT** - page 12

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# From the Principal's Office



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students of Marian College,

❖ *We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning,*

❖ *We strive for continuous improvement*

## **Dear God**

***We pray today for all of our student visitors and their families.***

***May they feel welcome into our community.***

***May they feel comfortable enough to express their true selves, realising that we are all made in the image and likeness of God.***

***We recognise that there is some fear and trepidation entering into high school - a new environment, a new beginning.***

***May all of our guests today recognise these feelings as normal. Help them, God, to discover and develop gifts.***

***May they do this by recognising that these gifts are from You, and the perfect way to say "Thank you, God" is to use their gifts to benefit and help others.***

This week our prayer comes from Mrs Rhonda North (Transition Coordinator and Learning Enhancement) for our Open Night Expo. Thank you to the many parents and students who attended this very enjoyable evening for our staff and student leaders.

As we begin the process of welcoming prospective Year 7 students and their parents to the college for Open Night and enrollment for 2023, the things that matter most are at the forefront of our thoughts and preparation. It has been a challenging two years through

COVID, with cases remaining with us still. But now as we enter a new phase of emerging into more normal times with greater freedoms and stronger community engagement, it is time to rebuild and reconnect.

Last week we welcomed staff from the Reach program to work with students at all year levels (except Year 9 on camp) on their wellbeing, connection and resilience. This work will be continued in TAs and wellbeing lessons throughout the year.

## **Open Night/Expo**

Our Open Night/Expo last Tuesday was a testimony to the wonderful work, positive relationships and dedication of our staff, and the students they teach. It was a pleasure to welcome so many returning families and those students and parents new to our College. A special thank you to our student leaders who did a wonderful job of leading parent groups on the night. Today and on Monday 30th May we will be conducting College Tours starting at 9.30am until about 11.00am. Interested families with students in Year 5 and 6 are asked to contact the College Office to reserve a place.

## **COVID-19 Update**

We have managed recent COVID cases in the school reasonably well without major disruptions to our classes and curriculum. This week we had more cases than previous weeks among students at all year levels. I am sure our cases will fluctuate over the colder months. To

keep everyone as safe as possible, I ask that if students are unwell they remain home. Please continue to encourage your son or daughter to take the RA test and alert the College if there are any concerns. Thank you for your support.

### **Update on COVID Regulations**

The Victorian Government will continue to provide Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for use by students and staff for the remainder of Term 2.

**From Monday 23 May 2022**, it is recommended RATs are used by students and staff only when symptomatic. RATs are also required to be used for 5 days if a student or staff member is a close contact of a confirmed case and they are attending or working at a school. A mask must be also be worn at school if you are a close contact.

Students and staff must continue to notify the Department of Health and their school if they return a positive RAT result.

Vaccination remains the best way to protect students and staff in school settings and your ongoing support in encouraging children aged 5 to 11 to get vaccinated and staff and 16-17-year-olds to get their third dose remains critical.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

This Wednesday starting at 1.00pm are the Parent Teacher interviews in the College Gymnasium or Applied Learning Centre for VCAL students. Students are not required at school but may attend the interviews with parents or guaridans. Please note that teachers cannot extend interview times beyond the bell without inconveniencing other parents and causing chaos down the line with so many time slots scheduled.

Parent/Student/Teacher interviews are a great opportunity for parents and students to receive direct feedback on your child's current progress and to ask any questions you may have about

further growth and improvement. For parents needing a longer appointment time to discuss matters in some detail beyond the usual parent teacher interview process, I encourage you to make an alternative appointment time with your child's teacher, Teacher Advisor, the Learning Support Coordinator or Head of Wellbeing. We understand there are often unique circumstances that may require a team approach.

To make Parent Teacher appointments for Wednesday 25th May, please book on the Parent Access Module via our website.

### **Applied Learning Innovation Program**

As part of an innovative program introduced this term, Year 8 student Lokan Dollimore has been working on a special welding project that will further enhance the environment around the Applied Learning Centre and build some very useful skills. Thank you to Wayne Dickinson and the Applied Learning team for your support and congratulations to Lokan for the great effort.

Take care, Carmel





# IN MY WORDS *with Mem McSparron*

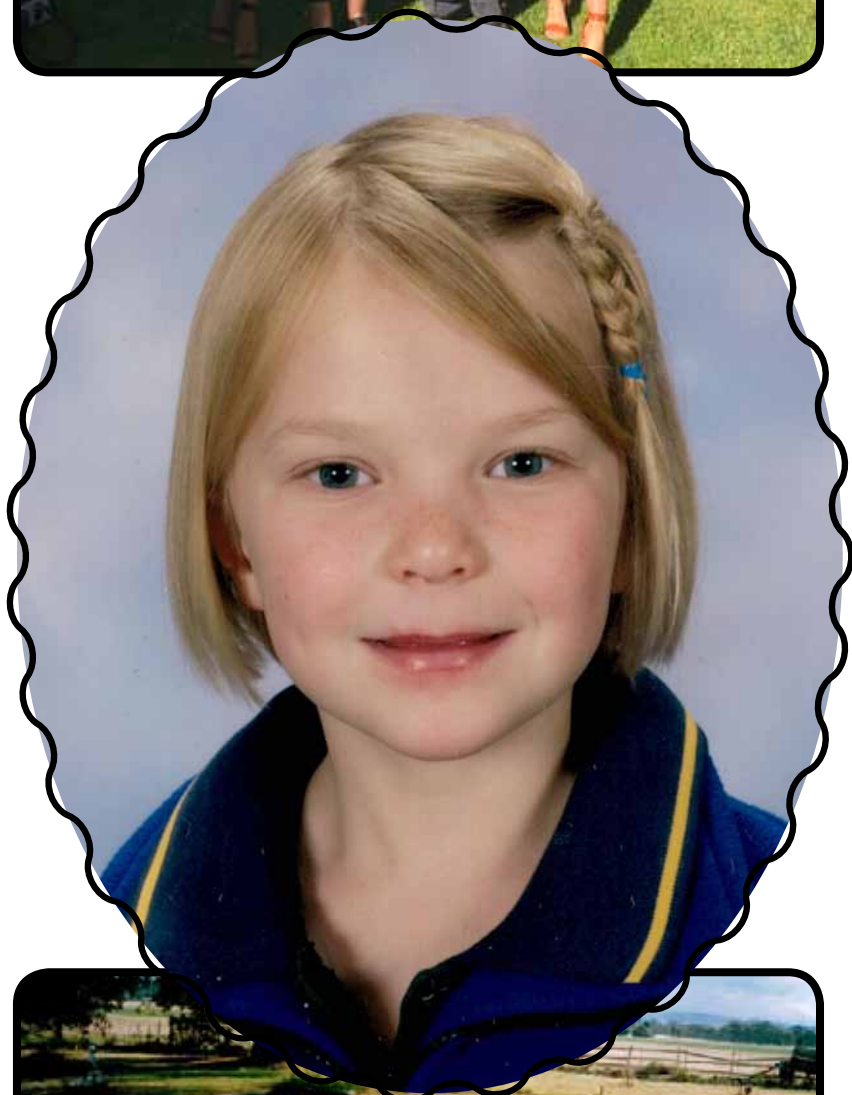
My story begins way back on July 8th 2004, at the St John of God Hospital in Ballarat. I'd like to say I made a grand entrance into the world (which I know everyone says). But my entrance consisted of me not knowing that I was supposed to breathe while being breastfed to which I ended up turning very blue and being transferred into the special care nursery. After my parents Mark and Julie got over that little scare, we picked up my brother Paden and sister Sabelle from my uncle's house and headed off home. I also have another brother, Darcy, who was unfortunately stillborn, who was Mum and Dad's firstborn.



Home has always been in the tiny town of Joel South - which I'm guessing none of you have heard of but it only has about five houses and a hall and is about 25 minutes out of Ararat towards Landsborough. Living out of town on a farm of about 1100 acres definitely had its pros, such as having plenty of room to muck around on with my brother and sister, learning to drive from a young age (one of our gates has a pretty big bend in it now, sorry dad - I'm sure I'm not the first one to get the break and the clutch confused) and being the little helper with all the farm work.

I began kindergarten at Marrang in Stawell. I can't say I remember much from those days but it was heaps of fun! Kinder included lots of painting, colouring, sandcastles and monkey bars and me making heaps of friends. Some of which then coming to primary school with me.

Then making the switch to primary school, at St Patrick's, life seemed to have gotten even better, meeting one of my best friends Jemima Harney on the first day of prep. Primary school started with my being very small (yes, I know I still am) and my backpack being bigger than me. Then in Grade 6, I became school vice-captain with Aylish O'Donohue and Yellow House Captain along with Noah Wineberg - where we lead Yellow House to its first victory since I had been there.





In 2017, myself and nine others from St Pat's transitioned to Marian College. I realised I wasn't one of the big kids anymore but rather one of the smaller ones. But I soon found my friends and haven't looked back. And I've made heaps of memories that I'll never forget. My high school years have honestly flown by and I find it hard to believe that I'm already halfway through Year 12. So please don't take these school years for granted.

I've been asked many times "What do you want to do next year?" and honestly I have no clue. I have heaps of ideas that are all up in the air at the moment. Some of which include going to uni, going to the army or having a gap year and travelling. But I seriously have no idea and I'm just going with the flow.

As I've grown up I have been fortunate enough to travel. In 2016, my parents and I went to America for four weeks, which I honestly loved. But we all made the mistake of eating the horrible aeroplane food, which we all ended up getting food poisoning from. This led us to not seeing much of New York and more of seeing the inside of our hotel room. As a few days pass and Mum and Dad making a recovery, I didn't and was still vomiting and unable to keep any food or liquids down. This saw us being sucked into the American healthcare system and me costing Mum and Dad quite a lot of money. Thank you travel insurance. In 2018, we returned to America for a week, this time to Hawaii with Sabelle tagging along, piggybacking on my favourite child privileges. In 2019, we returned to America (again) and also stopped in England, Ireland and Dubai making many more memories. Aside from all of that I honestly have made so many memories travelling and I can't wait to see more of the world in the years to come.

I also play netball for the Navarre Grasshoppers. And I've been surrounded by the club ever since I remember. But I'm still not lucky enough to win a premiership but hopefully this year is the year!!

A huge thank you goes out to Mum, Dad, Paden and Sabelle you have all seriously done so much for me over the years that I'm forever grateful for, I love you all so much. I'd like to also wish all the Year 12s the very best for this year and the future ahead. I'm sure you will all succeed in your dreams!!

Lots of Love Mem xxxx

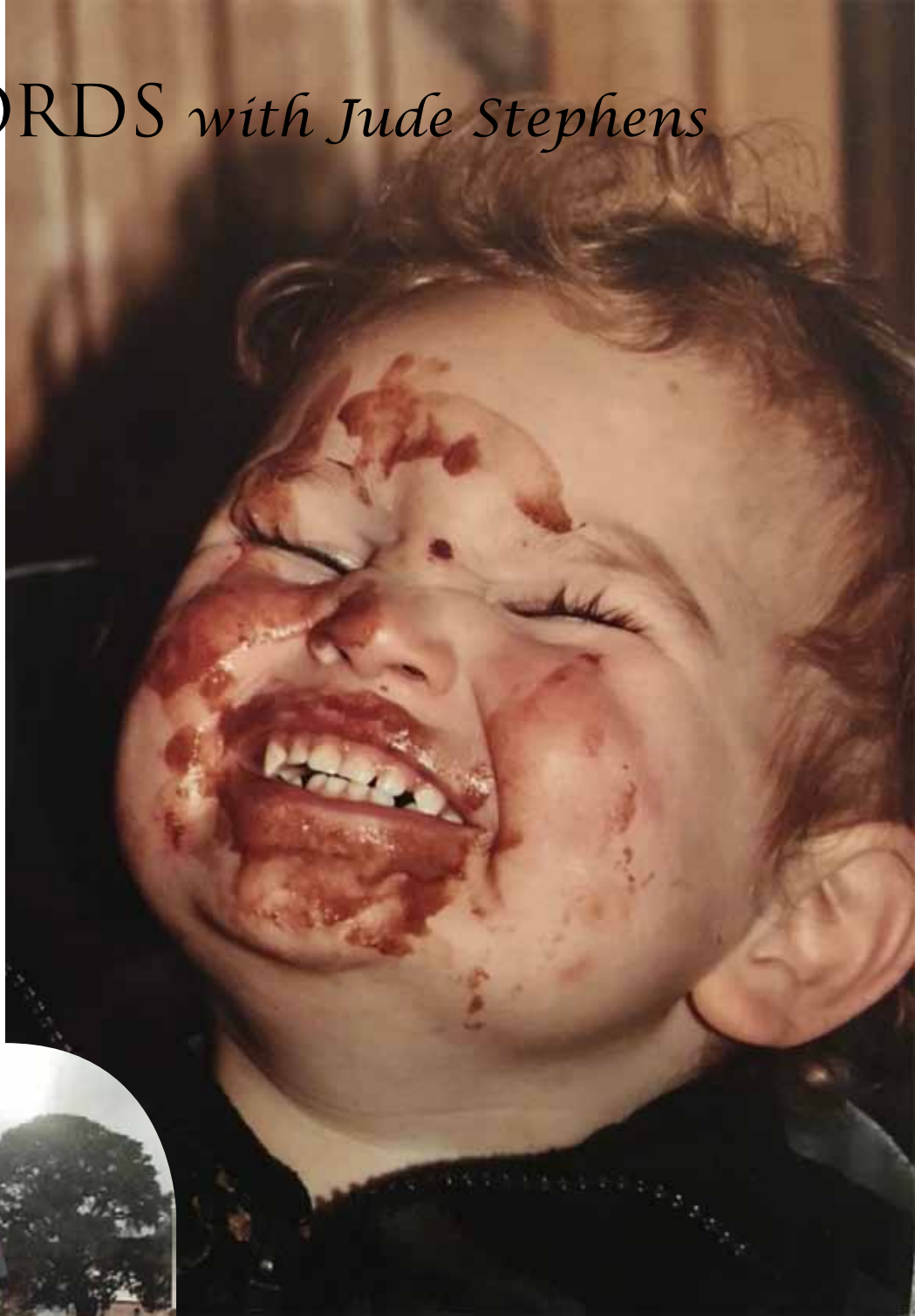




# IN MY WORDS *with Jude Stephens*

On the 21st of October 2004, Silas and Beck's first born was brought into the world at Warrnambool Base Hospital. I lived the privileged life for two years until my world was disrespectfully interrupted when my one of two sisters, Jaylen was born. From what Mum and Dad have told me, Jaylen and I used to run amuck when it was just us, until the last child was born, Eadie, who could commit murder in front of Mum and Dad and still get away with it. Having two sisters is hard sometimes, as I take the banter a bit too far and could either lead to tears or having objects thrown at me.

I have moved around a fair bit in my life. I was born in Warrnambool where I lived for about 2 months. Mum and Dad then decided to move back to Moyston where Mum grew up. Shortly after we moved to Ararat where Dad grew up. Mum and Dad couldn't make their mind up and decided to



move back to Moyston, and then moved back to Ararat a couple of years after and have lived here ever since.

I don't remember too much from when I was younger, but I do remember how much I idolised Dad and would copy everything he would do. I even had a plastic chainsaw to help him when he would cut wood. I also remember playing the drums and thinking I was a rock star.

Sport has always been a big part of my life. My first major memory of sport would be watching Collingwood win the premiership in 2010, after that it has been very frustrating to support Collingwood. I first started doing Aussie Hoops which was my first introduction to basketball. After finishing that, I started to play domestic basketball in Ararat, which then led to playing for the Ararat Redbacks for multiple seasons, taking up multiple weekends of Mum and Dad's time to travel all over Victoria. I first started playing football



in Grade 3 for the Rovers in the local Under 13 league in Ararat. After finishing up in the Under 13s, I decided to go out and play football for Tatyoon, where I played for 2 seasons and then moved to play for the Ararat Rats where I am still playing.

Over the lockdown period, there wasn't much you could do. Fortunately, later into the lockdowns golf was able to be played. I found myself at the golf course frequently during the lockdowns and have developed a great love for the game and still play to this day. I'm there any chance I can get, spending most nights after school there when I should probably be studying.

In 2018 I had the opportunity to go on a family holiday to London and Paris. Going to the top of the Eiffel Tower to using the Underground in London could not beat going to a full capacity Wembley Stadium to watch a Premier League match, which was definitely a highlight of the trip. I am very excited to travel again down the track and will definitely go back to London.

In the summer of 2020, me and several other Marian students flew over to America to take part in the G'day USA program where we visited Los Angeles, San Francisco and spent a day in San Diego. We then flew up to the very cold city of Seattle, which is where we would spend roughly 2 weeks living with an American family and attending a couple of days at their school. Let's just say I am very happy with the Australian school system after having to be at school at 6:30 am. To be a part of their family for 2 weeks was incredible, from going to a High School basketball game to watching a Seattle Seahawks with them and their friends, are things I will never forget. I still keep in touch with the family and they are eager for me to come back over, which is something I plan on doing in the coming years.

I started my education at Ararat West Primary School, which I developed many great friendships from. A core memory from primary school would be being Vice House Captain of Gold House in Grade 6 and winning all three school events, Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country.

Then in 2017 I moved to Marian to begin Year 7. I'd like to say I wasn't nervous at all, given I had spent a lot of time at Marian in my early years as everyone would know Beck in the RTC is my mum. Walking in on my first day thinking everything will be fine until you walk into a group of Year 12s that tower over you was quite daunting. I am sorry to all my teachers that taught me in the lower year levels for all the grief I put you through, I hope I have somewhat changed.

When I have gained some life experience, I would like to become a Police Officer. It has been a lifelong dream of mine to follow Dad's footsteps and join the Police. I have always been interested in what Dad's getting up to at work and used to love going to visit him and work. I'm not too sure what I want to do work wise in the coming years but I'll figure that out at the end of the year.

To the Year 12s, we definitely have a special year level and have definitely made some great memories together. I wish each and every one of you good luck and whatever you put your mind to you will definitely succeed in.

I'd like to thank Mum and Dad for raising me up to be the man I am today. They never stop believing and support me in everything I do.

Cheers Jude!!



# Parent Teacher Interviews

## Pupil Free Day

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 25th May, 2022**. This is an important opportunity to speak to teachers for direct feedback about your child's progress throughout this semester and discuss any issues that may have arisen. It is highly recommended that students attend. Details of the interviews follow:

- Interviews start at 1.00pm and the evening concludes at 8.00pm
- There will be a whole staff break at 5.30pm for 30 minutes.
- Interview times are a strict 8 minutes per subject.
  - If you have teachers who teach multiple classes with your child, **please book only one interview timeslot**. Similarly, if you have a need to discuss an issue in greater depth, please organize a separate meeting time.

Interviews can be booked through the **Parent Access Module (PAM)** from the College website. If you cannot remember your username and password, contact the College immediately. **Bookings through PAM are open.**

Follow these instructions to make a booking.

- From the College Website Homepage, click on the PAM icon.
- Log in to PAM using your current username and password.
- From your PAM homepage, Click on the Parent Teacher Interview Icon. This will open a page where you can make bookings for your child/children.
- Click on the child you wish to make a booking for, then select the subject. The times when that staff member is available will appear. Only available timeslots will appear.
- Click on a suitable time and select 'Book Interview'.
- Booked times will appear at the bottom of the page.
- Continue making bookings for subjects and teachers you wish to meet.
- You will be able to print off all bookings made using the print icon.

**Bookings may be cancelled and changed at any time. Please make cancellations as soon as possible to free up timeslots for others.**

If you require assistance please contact office staff who can make bookings on your behalf.



# VCAL is changing!!!

The **VCE Vocational Major (VM)** will be replacing the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) in 2023. This will begin with Year 11's only next year.

It is still an applied learning program that gives students choice and flexibility, allowing them to tailor their program to their strengths and vocational aspirations. Students complete studies in the fields of Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills, Personal Development skills and a Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate. There are new rules about VET credits for VM and so students will need to choose carefully and I would advise to start discussing options with parents and staff as soon as possible.

The Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major is a new two-year vocational pathway program that will replace Intermediate and Senior VCAL and will be embedded in the VCE system - however it is an unscored option for students. It acknowledges that Vocational and Applied Learning (VAL) pathways are high quality choices for all students and strengthens perceptions and understanding of senior school certificates in the community.

Students enrolled in the Vocational Major will also have access to an enriched curriculum as well as relevant workplace experiences based on their career goals that will develop their real-world knowledge, and technical and transferable skills that will set them up for further education and employment.

You can find more information about VET on the following link. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Dani Smith (Head of Applied Learning) or Lucy Edwards (Head of Student Pathways and Organisation) for more information.

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vet/GetVET/resources/VCE-VET-program-chart.pdf>

Dani Smith  
Head of VET and VCAL

Enrolments now open for 2023



# Marian College



**Attend Today  
Achieve Tomorrow**

Book an interview or tour

53523861

Email: [principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au)



## Marian College Year 7 2023 – Enrolment Interviews

Please note that the College will be conducting Enrolment Interviews for students and their families for Year 7, 2023 on Wednesday 8th June, 2022 3.30pm – 6.00pm. To secure an Enrolment Interview time, applications must be returned to Marian College before this date.

To obtain an Enrolment Pack please contact Meagan Bowen on 5352 3861 or email [mbowen@mcararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mbowen@mcararat.catholic.edu.au)



# Marian College



## College Tours

For Year 7 Students and Families for 2023

Reserve a place for a tour of the college and morning tea on  
Monday 30th May, 2022

“Take the first step in a journey of life long learning”

Enquiries: 5352 3861

Email: [principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au)



## FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Hello everyone, Welcome to another edition of Synnott News.

As we are well and truly into Term 2 learning we need to ensure that we try and keep a positive mindset and continue to approach our learning with enthusiasm. Our students have done a wonderful job so far this term. This time of year is when the weather changes and we need to ensure we are looking after ourselves.

In wellbeing classes there has been a real focus on physical wellbeing. I have been having discussions with students around ensuring they are living a balanced lifestyle. We have focused on the three pillars of physical health. Sleep, Nutrition and Exercise. It's a good idea for students to do an audit on themselves in terms of asking themselves the following questions:

Am I getting 8-10 hours of sleep a night, and aiming to go to bed and awake at a similar time?

Am I aiming to eat healthy and at appropriate times of the day? Starting with a nutritious breakfast?

Do I get enough exercise? The recommended 30-60 minutes of moderate/vigorous activities each day?

If one of these cornerstones of the triangle falls apart, the rest suffers as well. Make sure you're trying your best to get all three of these important staples of health in check.

It's very hard to reach your potential if you aren't looking after your health. It affects the brain greatly, as well as our concentration levels. It might be time to look at making a few changes if any of the above questions made you feel any guilt or made you anxious. It's not possible all of the time, but a bit of consistency can go a long way to helping us get the best out of each day.

Thanks for reading  
Nick Lloyd  
Synnott House Leader.



# SPORTS REPORT

Our Senior students traveled to Horsham on Thursday to compete in the Football and Netball competitions.

The Year 11 Netball team started off with the tough task of taking on eventual champions Horsham. In what was a tough game the girls went down. Game 2 saw them come up against Stawell in a game all of the girls really wanted to win. They started off slowly but eventually overran Stawell to win by 3 goals. Game 3 saw them playing Edenhope for 3rd place and they played their best netball for the day in this game, winning by 11 goals.

The Year 12 team had a tough draw taking on a strong St Brigid's in game 1. They then came up against Edenhope in game 2 which was a tight tussle the whole way through eventually going down by 9 goals. Game 3 saw them take on Stawell which was another really tight game that they unfortunately got beaten by 3 goals!

The boys got off to a really good start beating Stawell by 7 goals. Horsham was a much tougher challenge in game 2 in which they got beaten by the eventual winners on the day. Game 3 was against St Brigid's College and they had another strong win by 9 goals!

There was a lot of great contributors from all 3 teams across the day!!

Michael Harricks,  
Head of Sport





# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

# CAST MEMBERS

It is with great excitement that I introduce you all to the leading cast members of this year's High School Musical! Included are also the Student Directors that are assisting me, so please make sure to congratulate them all.

Always remember that it is never too late to join! If you love dancing and love being on stage, you're always welcome. If you can't make the weeknight rehearsals but can join for Sunday rehearsals when we start them soon, then by all means get in contact and we'll work something out.

We hope you will enjoy the show.

Go Wildcats!  
Bas Otto

TROY BOLTON - NOAH WINEBERG  
GABRIELLA MONTEZ - ERIN PETER  
SHARPAY EVANS - MAIARA BARRY GONCALVES  
RYAN EVANS - GABE TONKS  
CHAD DANFORTH - RACHEL TERRY  
TAYLOR MCKESSIE - AVA HINE  
ZEKE BAYLOR - BELLA SMITH  
KELSI NIELSEN - ELSA MCCONACHY  
MS DARBUS - LUCI GRAYLING  
COACH BOLTON - ISABELLA THOMSON  
JACK SCOTT - EVEALYN JARDINE

STUDENT DIRECTORS  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - JAC GRAYLING  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - GABE TONKS  
ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS - NOAH WINEBERG

# VCE Biology Unit 3 STEM Masterclass Excursion



On Wednesday May 18th the VCE Unit 3 Biology class attended Ballarat Tech to conduct 3 experiments as part of Unit 3 Outcome 2. The group created yeast alginate spheres which were used in two experiments; testing the effect of temperature on cellular respiration and testing the effect of glucose concentration on cellular respiration. The third experiment used algae alginate spheres to measure the effect different wavelengths of light had on photosynthesis. In each experiment data loggers were used to measure pH which indicates the concentration of carbon dioxide in solution.

Students gained valuable hands-on experience and a more in depth understanding of various aspects of the scientific method which will enhance their outcomes for VCE Biology.

Susan MacPherson



# VCE Biology Unit 3 STEM Masterclass Excursion





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## Get a Life!

Department of Rural Health

Public Event

### What you can (and cannot) do to help your child get back into life post-COVID

#### Dr Andrew Wake MBBS, FRANCP, Mast Psych, Cert Child Psych

The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health bring you a public lecture by Dr Andrew Wake.

Andrew is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and former lecturer at Melbourne and Monash Universities. He currently works with a youth outreach service as well as private practice. Andrew contributes to psychwire as an international expert on parenting questions.

Andrew is the author of the highly praised parenting book, 'The 'Good Enough' Parent: How to provide for your child's social and emotional development'. He is due to release his second book 'When you're the adult in the room' a book for teachers to add to their confidence and understanding and managing emotions, behaviours and relationships in students.

Dr Andrew Wake has extensive experience in giving talks and seminars to health professionals, parent groups, schools, child protection agencies and the police.

He has a keen interest in helping parents and care giving adults to understand the emotional life and needs of the child in their life, and helping them to provide 'enough' of the things they need.

Do you worry about your child? Are you concerned about their development and your contribution as a parent? Andrew will provide a basic understanding of motivation and share his knowledge on what parents can do to create change while their kids are dependent on them.

This public lecture is targeted at parents and school teachers to help young people re-engage post COVID.

This is our first face to face public lecture for over 2 years, and it will also be available on webinar if you prefer.

There is the opportunity to ask questions when registering and on the night.



#### Event Details

**Date:**  
Wednesday 8th June 2022

**Time:**  
5:30pm - 7:00pm

**Venue:**  
Online webinar or face to face at:

The Department of Rural Health  
The University of Melbourne  
49 Graham St, Shepparton

**Enquiries:**  
Di Doyle Events Coordinator  
(03) 5823 4512

**Bookings:**  
Bookings are essential for this free public lecture. Register at <https://go.unimelb.edu.au/8h6e>





# Funky Friday

## PAJAMA party



Put on your PJ's and join us for  
a PJ party and wander down  
Main Street for "Out of the  
Box" art experience.  
May 27th 4:00pm-9:00pm.

Stawell Neighbourhood House 42 Sloane Street.



# May 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 VET & VCAL FIRST AID TRAINING	24 BLACK RANGES INTERMEDIATE BOYS FOOTBALL & GIRLS NETBALL	25 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS (PUPIL FREE DAY)	26 MUSIC WORKSHOP	27
30 GREATER WESTERN REGION CROSS COUNTRY	31	<b>JUNE 1</b>	2 VCE FOOD STUDIES MELBOURNE EXCURSION	3 METHODS/ PHYSICS EXCURSION

# June 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>	7 BLACK RANGES YEAR 7 & 8 GIRLS NETBALL	8 YEAR 7 2023 ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS	9	10
OUTDOOR ED CAMP				
13 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	14	15	16	17 STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY <b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
	YEARS 10 & 11 EXAM WEEK			