



# Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

304 Barkly Street, ARARAT VIC 3377

Phone (03) 5352 3861

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

Web: [www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au)



Issue 38

27th November, 2023

Principal: Mrs. Carmel Barker

Marian College  
congratulates  
Year 12 student  
Sabaya Woods  
on being  
awarded  
*The Olympic  
Change Maker  
Award*



**PETER DOHERTY  
SCIENCE AWARD**

- pages 4 - 5

**OUTDOOR  
EDUCATION  
CAMPS** - pages 8 - 11



# 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*

Next week we begin the Advent season as we rapidly progress towards Christmas. The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it was a season that focused on waiting. So, "Advent means something new is coming. The dawn of a new and better era. In 'Pray for Simplicity this Advent' author Whitner Hopler suggests '...the beauty and power of Advent often gets lost amid the bustling activity that fills the Christmas season. But it doesn't have to be that way. If you seek a simpler lifestyle during Advent, you'll discover a host of surprise gifts that simplicity will help you receive and enjoy. Those gifts are more valuable than the most prized Christmas present under any tree, because they're gifts that will enrich your spirit.

She offers a message for the season ahead:

- Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
- Pray for opportunities to learn something new about God regularly.
- Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

At this time of year when the busyness of the days are ever increasing, Hopler's message is a good reminder to take a moment to reflect upon what truly matters. As we end our Year of Courage and begin

the Year of Hope, our priorities, our positive voice and actions for a more peaceful and just world matter more than ever. My message to our graduating class of 2023 was to never under-estimate the values that run deep at Marian College nor the importance of their voice for a positive future. We wish them well.

## **Student Leadership Team 2024.**

Congratulations to our new Student Leadership Team for 2024. Discernment has been a long process with many very worthy candidates. All applicants should be very proud of their effort and presentation. The following are the new leaders for 2024. Congratulations to:

### **College Captains:**

Elijah Dunks and Jaylen Stephens

### **Vice Captains:**

Vince Cusumano and Amelia Fleming

**STEM Leader** - Emma Smith

**CAL Leader** - Nicole Watts

**VCE VM Leader** - Nicholas Mason

**PEAT Leader** - Bridie Giles

### **Barron Leaders -**

Asha Dale and Zoe Buckingham

### **Clancy Leaders -**

Rumi Kelana and Theo Brown

### **Kelly Leaders -**

Chloe Moloney and Sophie Cooper

### **Synnott Leaders -**

Aaron Chaplin and Mackense Evans



Student Leaders will be inducted at the Opening College Mass on the 9th February 2024. Invitations will be forwarded to parents early in the new year. Please note: Save the Date for a 10.00am start.

### **Gap Day - 8th December for Years 7 and 8.**

On the final day of the school year all Year 7 and Year 8 students travel for a fun community day with staff to Halls Gap. This is always a very enjoyable way to finish the year and celebrate together the many great achievements. Students will be required to wear their PE uniform with appropriate closed toe footwear. They will be required to wear a hat and sunscreen and bring their lunch. This can be shared as arranged with their friendship group or individual. Students will be permitted to sign in and out to go over to the shops and purchase snacks or other items. Other activities include fully supervised swimming, bush walks or games in the park. Buses will leave school immediately after TA and return in time for afternoon buses. Any student who lives close to Halls Gap may be dismissed from there with prior written permission from their parents.

### **Early Start begins this Week.**

Well done to all Year 10 and Year 11 students as they complete exams and begin the new year. Students throughout the school move up a class and begin work for the new school year on Monday 27th November. This is an important time to establish routines, understand the expectations of new work and settle into classes. For students who may have missed an exam due to absence, they may be asked to make up exams.

### **Peter Doherty Science Competition**

Congratulations to Year 8 girls (**Eve Jones, Rhianne Guerrero and Lily Dunn**) on achieving first prize for the Peter Doherty Science Communication Award in Ballarat this week. This is a wonderful achievement for the girls who competed against students up to Year 10.

Established in 2009 as a joint initiative of the Committee for Ballarat and Australian Nobel Prize laureate Professor

Peter Doherty, the Peter Doherty award encourages:

- Scientific thought and activity, inspiring students to investigate everyday issues by undertaking experimental research using the scientific method.
- Scientific communication, requiring students to present their findings in scientific poster format and for finalists, at an in person presentation event. Well done on a great achievement!

### **No Phones in 2024 - Off-and-Away in Lockers**

After some thought following a number of recent incidents of inappropriate use of phones or bullying, from the beginning of Term 1 (2024), phones will not be permitted from the first bell for TA in the morning until the final bell for the day. **Phones must be off and away in lockers.**

Students will not be permitted to use phones during the breaks as has been the practice up until now. While we understand this is not a perfect solution, it will provide clear expectations and directions for students, staff and parents.

This lead-in time between now and Term 1 provides students with an opportunity to ensure they have locks on their locker, and that they make other arrangements for payment at the canteen. Security and safety of the phone is a key issue and the sole responsibility of the student. Students will be sent to the office with their phone for a first breach of this rule. For any further breach, the phone will be removed for a longer period and parents contacted. We ask for your support in this matter as we move forward to protect all students from the power of social media and inappropriate use of technology onsite.

Carmel Barker,  
Principal

# Peter Doherty Science Award

## Winners of the Communication Award 2023

The Peter Doherty Science Award is a competition for students from Year 7-10 to use creative science to investigate an everyday question. Students work in small groups to design and carry out an experiment using evidence based scientific methods. They present their findings as a formal scientific poster which is then assessed by the PDSA committee. The top 6 entrants are selected as finalists who then present their findings to a panel of 4 judges and audience. The panel, made up of science professionals and local community leaders, judged the presentation and then, combined with the poster, an overall winner was selected.

Marian College is incredibly proud to have a team selected as finalists for the 2023 Peter Doherty Science Award. The team of Year 8 students, Eve Jones, Lily Dunn and Rhianne Guerrero presented their report on *"Does Eco-Friendly Cling Wrap Hold More Weight Than a Popular Brand"* at the PDSA

presentation evening on 23rd November at Ballarat Tech School.

Both their scientific report and oral presentation were outstanding and a credit to their hard work and dedication to this project. We are thrilled to announce that they won the Communication Award, which acknowledged their engaging and informative presentation. This is a particularly impressive achievement given they are only in Year 8.

The PDSA is one of many STEM opportunities available to students at Marian College. In 2024 we will continue to participate in activities designed to encourage and enhance students' skills and confidence in STEM subjects.

Ms Susan MacPherson  
Head of STEM Hub









# MARIAN COLLEGE AWARDS EVENING All Welcome

(Please note that invitations have been forwarded to the families of nominated students)

DATE: Monday 4th December, 2023

VENUE: Astor Cinema Ararat

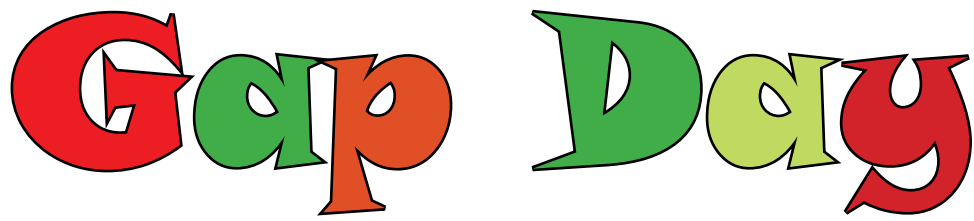
TIME: Years 7, 8 & 9 - 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Years 10 & 11 - 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

## END OF SEMESTER REPORTS ONLINE

The end of Semester Reports will be available online from 12.00 noon on Thursday 7th December, 2023.

Please access your son or daughter's report through the PARENT ACCESS MODULE (PAM) on the school website at <http://mcararat.catholic.edu.au> using your current login and password.



**Friday 8th December  
Year 7 and 8 2023 students**

**Activities include:-**

**Ice Cream Shop**

**Swimming**

**Venus Baths Walk**

**Park and Playground**

**PE Uniform, must wear school  
approved hat and closed-toe shoes,  
bring swimwear and a towel,  
Bring own snacks, money for ice cream,  
drink bottle and lunch**

**Please consent on Parent Access Module (PAM)**



# Outdoor Education Camps

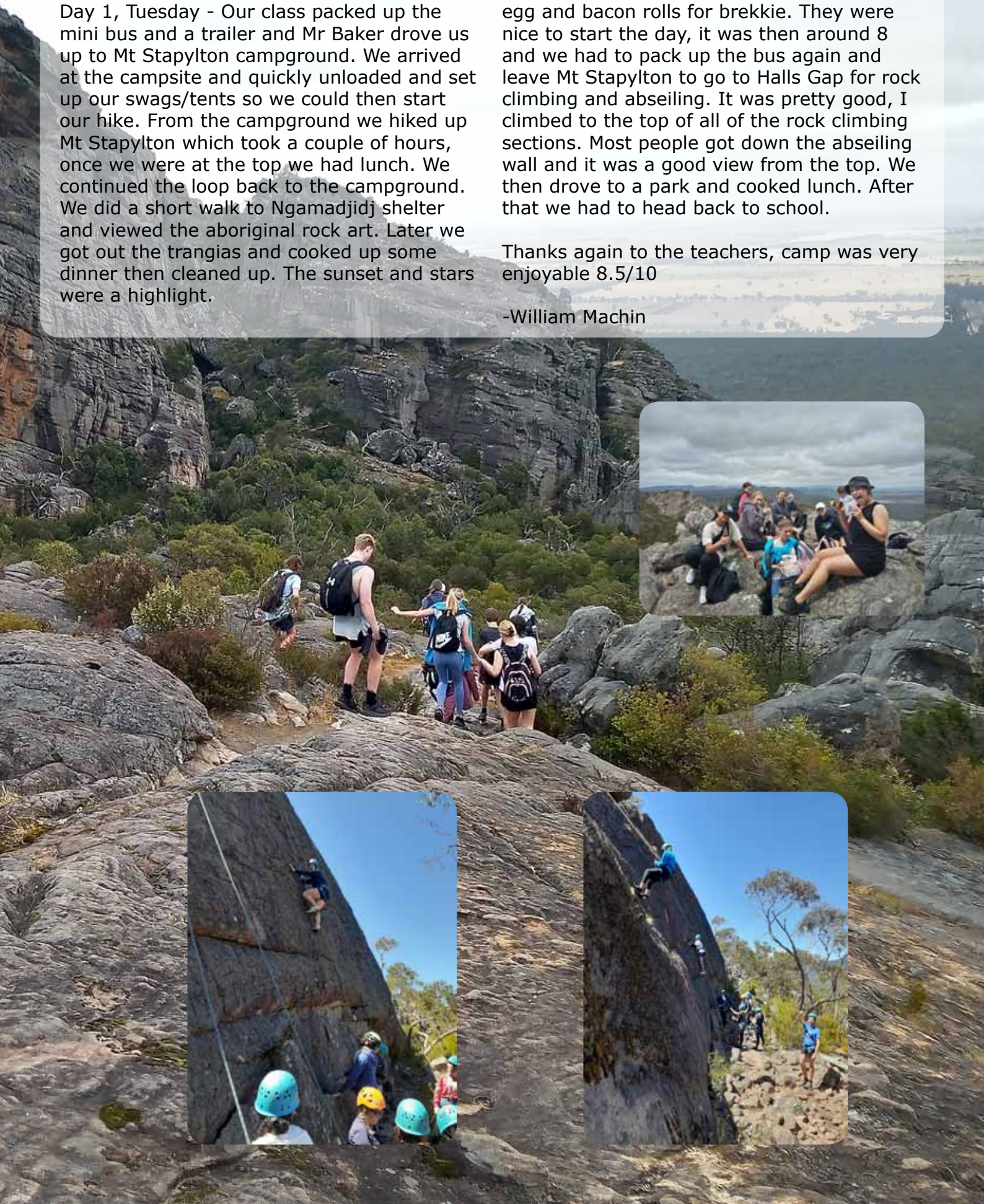
Last week our class went on Outdoor Ed camp with teachers Mr Baker and Ms Wirper.

Day 1, Tuesday - Our class packed up the mini bus and a trailer and Mr Baker drove us up to Mt Stapylton campground. We arrived at the campsite and quickly unloaded and set up our swags/tents so we could then start our hike. From the campground we hiked up Mt Stapylton which took a couple of hours, once we were at the top we had lunch. We continued the loop back to the campground. We did a short walk to Ngamadjidj shelter and viewed the aboriginal rock art. Later we got out the tranguias and cooked up some dinner then cleaned up. The sunset and stars were a highlight.

Day 2, Wednesday - we were woken up by the sound of Cockatoos and Kookaburras at 6.30am so we all got up and cooked up some egg and bacon rolls for brekkie. They were nice to start the day, it was then around 8 and we had to pack up the bus again and leave Mt Stapylton to go to Halls Gap for rock climbing and abseiling. It was pretty good, I climbed to the top of all of the rock climbing sections. Most people got down the abseiling wall and it was a good view from the top. We then drove to a park and cooked lunch. After that we had to head back to school.

Thanks again to the teachers, camp was very enjoyable 8.5/10

-William Machin





10B Outdoor Education class planned their yummy camp meals and packed up tents and swags for our camp in northern Gariwerd (Grampians) on November 9th and 10th. We dropped off our gear at Stapylton Campground and prepped day packs for our hike of Mt Stapylton loop (nearly 14km). Within ten metres of leaving the camp, most students took a wrong turn and, heads-down, trudged off down the wrong track. It didn't take long for them to switch on and do a quick rush back, and everyone (mostly) paid attention to their directions and stopped at junctions for the rest of the day (except for when I forgot to tell Barb which way to go...). They've come a long way in their navigation since early in the term (they know what I mean). The scenery along the way was really stunning, with sweeping views of peaks, cliffs, amazing rocks, and the plains below. It was a hot day for hiking, so we made lots of stops for water. We found a huge, cool cave right near the summit of Mt Stapylton and had our lunch inside the shady cave, looking out at the vistas around us and visiting with the resident lizards.





# Outdoor Education Camps

Everyone set up their tents and swags at camp before we took a quick stroll to the ancient rock art beside the campsite to remind ourselves how significant this area has been to Aboriginal Australians for thousands upon thousands of years. The group made a variety of delicious meals for dinner on the Trangia stoves, before clean-up, a bit of exploring, and our campfire with damper, marshmallows, and camp games. This group has such wonderful humour and energy, the only issue all camp was a few campers a bit too hyper to go to sleep!

After breakfast, pack-up, and ensuring that we had left zero traces of rubbish, we headed ten minutes down the road to Hollow Mountain to rock-climb and abseil at Summerday Valley. It was very hot, and only got hotter, especially out on the rock. The students are incredibly lucky to have had access to this site. Our climb guide, Earl, explained the sacred nature of this area and the reasons for leaving it as undisturbed as we found it, both to protect the natural environment and plant life, and to honour the Aboriginal stewardship and cultural sacredness of the area.

Each student tested and pushed their own boundaries, whether it be via the climb or the abseil, or both. Earl is the abseil whisperer, explaining the psychology of fear and mental barriers, ensuring that students felt secure and made the choice to proceed with the abseil. Students were incredibly supportive of each other, belaying and encouraging each other while rock-climbing, and building confidence in their peers through teamwork and leadership.

Too hot for lunch on the escarpment, we stopped in at Mt Zero picnic area to find some shade for lunch, before heading home. This was truly a group of capable little champions, especially considering that some had never camped before!

A huge thank you to Barb Venn for coming along and for her company.

Erica McConachy





# Outdoor Education Camps





# MEN'S PANEL DISCUSSION

## Men Speaking Up:

Violence Against Women - A community crisis to fix, not a women's problem to tolerate

Wednesday 6 December  
Ararat Town Hall

6.30 pm - 7:00pm - Canapes

7:00 pm - 8.30 pm - Men's Panel Discussion



Greg Little -  
CEO, Grampians  
Community Health



Conor Pall -  
Family Violence  
advocate



Luke Baker -  
Womens Health  
Grampians

**FREE  
EVENT**

Bookings & Info

[www.ararattownhall.com.au](http://www.ararattownhall.com.au)

**1800 657 158**

Tickets required for catering purposes





# FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Hello Marian Community,

Welcome to another edition of the Synnott report.

We have kick started off 2024 with our early start program. Students are in new classes and have rolled up a year level. This is a great way to ensure we come back from the Christmas break settled. Students will be expected to complete the work tasks given to them by their new teachers and complete the holiday homework that will be set.

At times, students may feel anxious about being in new classes, especially as they move up through the school and choose more electives. It's not always possible to be with the friends you want to be with all the time. A focus on learning must come in here. Use recess and lunch times for socialising. Any issues can be discussed with TA teachers.

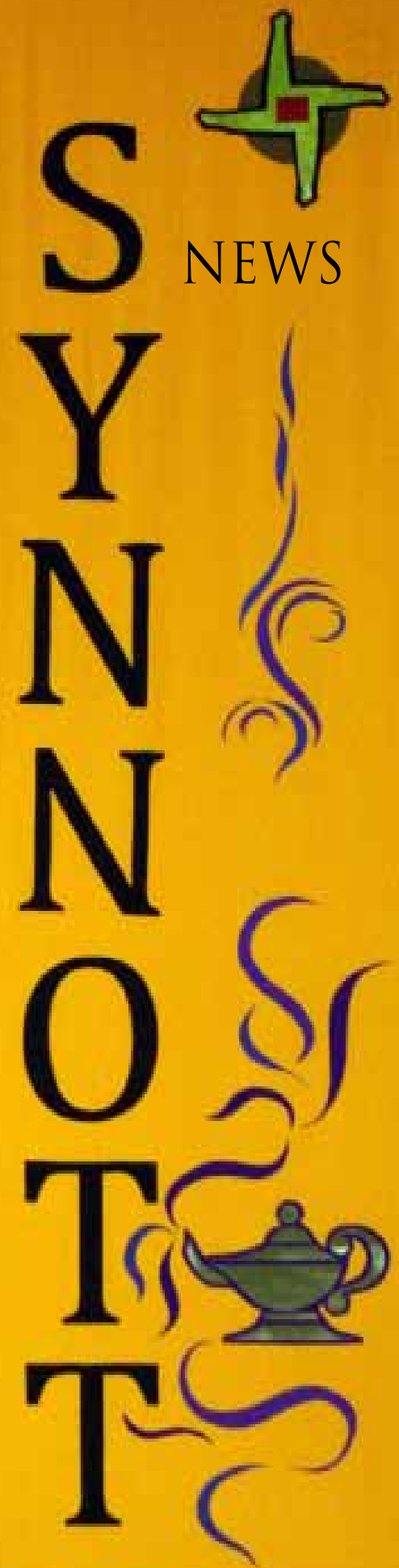
The new 2024 mobile phone policy will be beneficial for students and teachers alike. During the school day all phones will be off and away in locked lockers. We really need parental support with this. During the school day, the front office can be contacted should you need to get in contact with your child.

We have 2 Synnott TA teachers finishing with us in 2023. Thanks to Julia Guan for all your work across the years. Thanks to Julia Walker for your work in TA for the past 2 years. The students will miss you.

Next week, students will finish the school year. Each year level will have a send off activity organised by the house leaders to recognise contributions across 2023.

Let's finish the year strong.

Nick Lloyd  
Synnott House Leader.



# November 2023

| Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday     |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 27<br><br>EARLY START<br>PROGRAM<br>COMMENCES<br>ALL YEAR LEVELS | 28      | 29        | 30       | DECEMBER 1 |

# December 2023

| Monday                  | Tuesday  | Wednesday                  | Thursday                  | Friday   |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 4<br><br>AWARDS EVENING | 5<br><br>YEAR 7 2024<br>ORIENTATION DAY<br><br>YEAR 11s LAST DAY | 6<br><br>YEAR 10s LAST DAY | 7<br><br>YEAR 9s LAST DAY | 8<br><br>YEAR 7 & 8 GAP<br>DAY<br><br>LAST DAY |

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

**TERM 1  
2024**

23rd January 2024 - Office Opens

30th January, 2024 - Years 7 and 12 commence Term 1

31st January, 2024 - Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 commence Term 1

31st January to 2nd February, 2024 - Year 12 Retreat