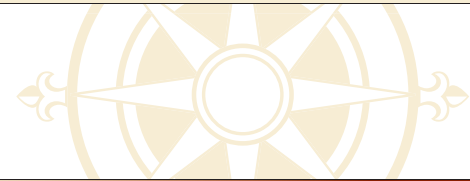


ISSUE 15, SUMMER 2011



SANTA SABINA COLLEGE

AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS K-12, BOYS K-4



SCIENCE IS A BLAST!

IN THIS ISSUE

SPEAKING OF SUCCESS



WRAPPED WITH LOVE



ST DOMINIC'S DAY 2011





Principal's News

The rhythm of College life means that there are key events that occur according to the calendar. In Term 4 we farewell the outgoing Student College leaders on the Secondary campus and commission the newly elected leaders. Reading the history of Santa Sabina shows that preparing students to take their places in the world has a long tradition in this place.

In 1926 Sr Dolores White OP wrote "It is time for us to realise that we must train girls for their own generation... While acknowledging that women have greater freedom, more opportunities for pleasure, independence, endeavour of every kind, let us be glad about this, and try and show our students some ways of making this freedom into the blessing that it should be."

Leadership is a vital skill that schools are able to cultivate and develop. For 117 years Santa Sabina College has produced leaders in fields as diverse as the arts, health, education, law and across the full spectrum of professional life. Over these years, just as our theories and experience of school have changed, so too has our understanding of what good leadership practice looks like.

We know the old 'command and control' model does little to empower people and only works in extreme situations. Our leadership program, across all the stages of schooling, K-12, has an emphasis on working together and appreciating the strengths and gifts of each student; we aim to develop joyfulness, imagination, and social dexterity because we believe that in doing so we are promoting the skills that the leaders of tomorrow need.

At the beginning of this term we held the inaugural Secondary School Student Leadership Conference here at Santa Sabina. Over the weekend I observed our student leaders develop trust, honesty, shared decision making and personal accountability as they worked on their tasks. There was also plenty of humour, now recognised as one of the essential characteristics of good leaders. They demonstrated they are leaders and innovators. I am confident they will make a difference here at Santa Sabina and beyond.



Ms Kate Clancy

While we have the nominated leaders we recognise that some of the most influential leaders are not the ones with the badges. I would like to acknowledge all students who work for the good of the College and who are ambassadors for SSC.

We all have a view on what makes a good leader and many experts have written about the necessary dispositions and skills. Increasingly we are recognising that leadership is about influence and that means relationships. Oprah Winfrey summed it up when she said: 'Leadership is about empathy. It's about having the ability to relate to and connect with people for the purpose of inspiring and empowering their lives.' Thus as we approach the end of 2011, indeed we have much to celebrate and give thanks for as a community!

Ms Kate Clancy, College Principal ✨

Community Generosity & Commitment to our Mission

As 2011 draws to a close, the College Board celebrates a year characterised by community generosity and commitment to our shared mission: an expression of who we are, why we exist, the values that underpin and inform all we do and an optimistic and hope-filled vision for the future.

Each year the Board welcomes to one of its meetings students from Years 9 and 11 returning from either the Central Australia or South African Immersion trip. As Directors listen to the students share their reflections and insights, they are struck by the transformational potential of these Immersion

experiences to challenge students' thinking and attitudes toward poverty and justice. The experiences are a tangible example of the College's commitment to its mission in providing authentic opportunities for students to seek knowledge, critique unjust systems and to act with justice and compassion.

2011 saw the second year of Board Teacher Scholarships. This initiative introduced in 2010 is designed to provide an opportunity, beyond the regular professional learning budget, for teachers to experience, discover and research 'best practice' in education within Australia and across the world. The successful initiative reflects the College mission and commitment to educational innovation and excellence as it promotes a

culture of professional learning and excellence amongst teaching staff.

The Federal Funding Review Task Force comprising members of the parent community, College leadership and Board has continued throughout 2011 to contribute to the debate regarding Federal funding to all schools across Australia. The work of this group demonstrates the College's mission and commitment to our independence as a Catholic College in the Dominican tradition and to our willingness to engage proactively in dialogue to raise awareness, shape opinions and inform public policy for the benefit of all schools.

Mrs Mary Neely, Board Chair ✨



Debating Hat Trick!

Santa's Year 10 Debating Team has claimed the trophy at the Catholic Schools' Debating Competition (CSDA) for 2011, arguing that Independents in government do not allow for fair decision making.

The girls progressed through five rounds, play offs, eliminations, quarter and semi finals to secure a spot in the finals against St Aloysius at Xavier College Llandilo.

For team members Olivia Fehon, Kathryn Garsia, Emilia Anderson and Anna Power this is their fourth CSDA Grand Final win, having won the competition since they commenced Debating at Santa as Year 7 students. Alyssa Trajano, their fifth team member, was named Santa's 'Best New Talent' in 2010.

The students were coached by Santa ex-student Maddie Fraser. ★



Archdale Seniors

Undefeated in the preliminary rounds, our Senior Archdale team are congratulated for achieving 3rd place in this rigorous debating competition. The team comprised Victoria Evens, Darlia Lee, Joanna Strati, Paris Donnelly, Emily Trussell (Olivia Fehon absent from photo) and was coached by ex-student Stephanie Fehon. They are pictured with Elizabeth Phipps, Debating Co-ordinator, and Ms Clancy ★



Del Monte Students Speak Out!

A highlight of Term 3 is the annual Del Monte Public Speaking Competition. How impressive were our youngest speakers who confidently spoke to a packed Del Monte hall in the final on topics as diverse as 'The best thing about our school' and 'Money can't buy everything'. The finalists also gave an impromptu speech, having had only 10 minutes to consider their topic. Shrieks of laughter from the audience accompanied Liam Filby's vivid and entertaining response to the topic that 'Mini beasts are our friends' while Ms Clancy



Angelina Smerdely, Isabella Kalayzich, Jasmin Selim, Liam Filby and Grace Selim

was seen to take notes as several speakers argued strongly the advantages of a laptop for every child!

We congratulate all of our Del Monte children for their wonderful engagement in public speaking. ★

Mock Trial

The Year 11 Mock Trial team have been commended for their hard work and enthusiasm having reached the elimination round of the 2011 competition. In their final case against the King's School, which involved a school bullying incident, the magistrate commended our witnesses for their ability to stay calm and focused during the gruelling cross examinations. She was also particularly impressed by the opening and closing addresses prepared by our barristers. Great team work was demonstrated by all team members: Nicole Ayoub, Jaycee Bechara, Anneliese Catterson, Suzy Habib, Kristina Hewetson, Ashley Kanaan, Joanna Strati, Scolastica Tai, Kristina Wakim. ★



This time next year...

Our Year 11 students have completed their Preliminary HSC and have embarked on the HSC.

Students who gained first place in their subjects were acknowledged at a recent assembly. Special congratulations to Minna Boyle who

gained first place in 4 subjects, and to Nicola Colagiuri and Alexandra Devlin for first place awards in 3 subjects. Accelerants Giselle Capacchione gained first place in HSC Italian Continuers while Gemma Lee was first in HSC Music Extension. ★





Women of Fire

Our Year 12 class of 2011 who have this year donned red fire helmets and been celebrated for their passion and capacity to 'take the HSC heat' were farewelled from the College in a day of celebration which began with breakfast and culminated with Mass and the Graduation Dinner. There were moments of joy and sadness, many expressions of pride, friendship and reminiscence - and so many photos!

Ms Bennett exhorted our graduates to 'Imagine the landscape of your future and create it for yourselves ...Know that you are educated, resilient and spiritual young women, well equipped to meet the challenges that you will encounter... continue to seek ways in which you can actively shape the society in which we live. As women support each other, work collaboratively to achieve justice so that all women can experience the liberation and freedom of choice which you do... Know too that you are forever part of this community and that your story is entwined with ours; this place is your place.'

A quote from St Catherine of Siena, 'Be the person God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire', was the theme chosen by the girls for their Graduation Mass. Ms Clancy reflected in her words of farewell to the girls on its significance:

'You have chosen the theme of fire, a symbol that has been used in religious rites for hundreds of years. It is one of the four classical elements: air, earth, fire and water, essential for life, for growth. Fire can also be a destructive force and as fire fighters you must put out those fires of hatred, cruelty and injustice where ever you find them. For our great Dominican saint, Catherine of Siena, God is a fire of love who gives light, warmth and healing; she reminds us that God loves you unconditionally. As you leave Santa Sabina never doubt your capacity to make a difference in the world. Be confident in your abilities. The noted Dominican theologian Fr Timothy Radcliffe says that each of us has a word to proclaim that has been given to no-one else. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out that word. With the help of the Holy Spirit you can fan the flame of that word into new life and light. With God's grace you have the power to imagine and work for a better world. Be a voice shaped by love, mercy and compassion!' ✨



A Journey of 13 Years

Sixty members of the Graduating Class of 2011 began their education at Kindergarten at Del Monte. Thirteen years later, on the night of their graduation many gathered for a group photo with Sr Judy with whom they began their SSC journey, as did some of our first Mary Bailey House cohort pictured right. ★



From Del Monte to the World Stage

Ten years ago Ashleigh Barnes was the winner of the Year 2 Del Monte Public Speaking Final, as Liam Filby is for 2011 (see story previous page). This year, Ashleigh has completed her 13 years at the College as a finalist in the Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition, a prestigious event held at Parliament House. She was also the recipient of the Archbishop's Award, and of the College General Proficiency and Academic Excellence Award. Ashleigh reached the second round of the SMH Plain English Speaking Competition in 2011, as well as continuing her participation in the CSDA Debating and Public Speaking competitions, undertaking her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and being involved in sport, leadership and outreach, including to Matt Talbot and Night Patrol.

Ashleigh spoke on behalf of Year 12 to thank parents, staff and students at the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. To her peers she addressed the following words:

'Year 12, as women of fire our work does not stop here... we will continue to spread our light around the world. Wherever life takes you... our possibilities are infinite, and it is important to remember that Graduation is not the end; it is the beginning.

We have had years to acquire friendships, and now we have a lifetime to keep them. The friends that we sit with today will be our friends for life. We are bound together by a shared experience that will never come again. We are bound together by the secrets shared, the laughs laughed, the way we carried each other through this fiery year...'



Ashleigh Barnes

When asked about her years at Santa, she exclaimed,

'I love Santa! It has made me who I am; I have grown up here, and had so many opportunities. I love the atmosphere, and so much here, especially St Dominic's Day!'

With aspirations for a career in Law, International Studies or Media/ Communications, Ashleigh's expertise as a speaker, as well as her extensive accomplishments will stand her in good stead for the future. What an inspiration she and so many of the class of 2011 have been for our youngest students! We wish them well and look forward to hearing their news in future pages of *Encompass*. ★



TAS Café Challenge

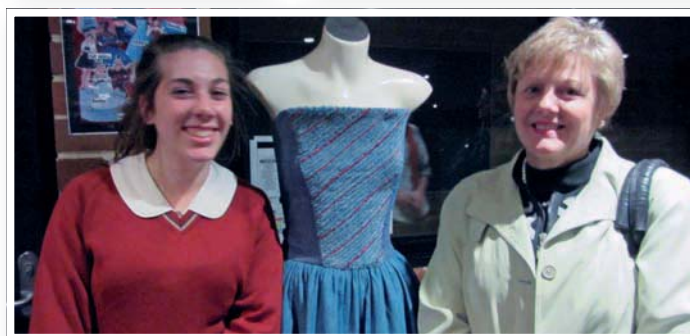
Year 7 & 8 students have tempted their teachers with muffins, slices, fruit tarts and a sweet array of delicacies as part of a unit in which they have designed their own café. The 'morning tea' challenge saw groups competing against each other for the Teacher's Choice Award. The decorated Cup Cake tasting competition was another favourite – with staff and chefs! ✨



Opening Nights!

The opening nights of our exhibitions of Year 12 Major Textiles Projects and the Visual Arts and Design & Technology showcase saw a great show of support from family & friends of our Year 12s. On both occasions the appreciative audiences were treated to stunning displays of student creativity, talent and attention to detail.

Ex-student (2006) Charlotte O'Carrigan officially opened the Textiles exhibition and spoke of her achievements since leaving the College. She completed a four year Advanced Diploma in Fashion and showed her inaugural collection at the Rosemount Australian Fashion Awards this year. In addition her work has featured in many magazines including Harper's Bazaar and Frankie. Charlotte encouraged the girls to follow their passion, as did Jade Oakley who opened the Visual Arts and Design & Technology Exhibition. Jade was a mentor to Cecile Tran who studied both Design & Technology and Visual Arts, and with whom she is pictured. ✨





Night of the Notables

Year 5 students welcomed their parents to their classrooms to view and share their research into a person or organisation that advocates for human rights. The girls showcased the major artwork which they had created to capture a human rights message, and their process diary where they documented and reflected upon the connections between the art, their message and the values they had explored. The girls also spoke in role, confidently fielding questions from parents or staff about themselves as Fr Chris Riley, Fred Hollows, Mother Teresa and Ghandi, to name just a few of their personas. ✨



Drama

The Junior Drama Ensemble have challenged the comfort zones of their audience with their wonderful production of 'The Tree that Held Up the Sky'. Set in a rainforest threatened by a corporation's plans to build a freeway in its path, the play was directed by Year 12 students Monique Yallouris and Eliza O'Donoghue and performed by students in Years 7-9. ✨

Market Day

Year 9 Commerce students have demonstrated their business and marketing skills through sales of an array of offerings which they made and/or sourced. These included glitter pens, dream beads, make up, scarves and bags. Most stalls quickly sold out, with profits going to Westmead Children's Hospital and Ovarian Cancer Australia. ✨



On Stage

As part of the Pastoral program's exploration of 'Head, Hearts and Hands' students have been challenged to consider some important life issues through the viewing of professional performances. Years 7 & 9 were presented with the impact of cancer through a viewing of *The Teenage Alchemist*. Year 8 reflected on cyber safety through *Cybershorts*, while Year 10 were stimulated to explore the role of peers in responding to concerns through *The Pack*. Melinda Tankard Reist provided a dynamic presentation to Year 11 which drew upon contemporary advertising and media images to challenge the girls' awareness of the sexualisation of women. Year 12 has also had a series of presentations, one of which explored their legal rights in a range of situations, such as in relation to driving, alcohol and employment. ✨



Santa Fest

For Santa Fest 2011 Channel 7 News anchor Mark Ferguson and SKB dance group were greeted with cheers of welcome as special guests at a packed concert fundraiser. Students cheered singers, a gym troupe, dancers and a staff act in support of the talent and initiative of their peers on stage.



Student leaders also sizzled sausages, decorated cupcakes and held a boot throwing competition. Lunch time dancing and a 'scissors, paper, rock' competition also brought out the students' generous community spirit. A cast of 25 staff debuted in the comedy play 'Alone At Last' for a gold coin audience donation. Del Monte students also contributed with a mufti day organised by the Secondary school leaders. The girls were excited to announce that they had raised beyond their \$10,000 target for 2011!

Since 1991, Santa Sabina students, led by student leaders, have raised funds to help students at Holy Rosary Secondary School Montebello in KwaZuluNatal gain an education. The Dominican Sisters at Montebello support an orphanage, pre-school, primary and secondary school, a boarding school and a home for the chronically sick. Education provides the opportunity for the students to escape from the cycle of poverty which has oppressed their families for generations. ★



Year 9 Social Justice Day

'See, Judge, Act'. Cardinal Cardijn's model of response to injustice underpinned the program of guest speakers who shared their experiences with Year 9 students. The girls were challenged with the question of how they can be 'good news to the poor' and to consider 'What actions would be best for us to use in this situation?'

Students were engaged by the guest speakers who provoked many questions and new resolves. Fairwear Australia gave a presentation on exploitation of workers. Two Sudanese refugees, one of whom speaks four languages and has been separated from his family for 22 years, shared their life's journeys with the girls. The experiences of our own ex-students from the class of 2004, Alex Kirby in East Timor and of Daniella Sturevski with disabled people in Bali, generated much discussion. Cassandra Gibbs, (mother of Tijarna in Yr 1), an educator with Edmund Rice, used the metaphor of a broken plate, her family's stories and stark statistics to encourage reflection upon the effects of Aboriginal history today, and the reality of 'Being Aboriginal'. ★





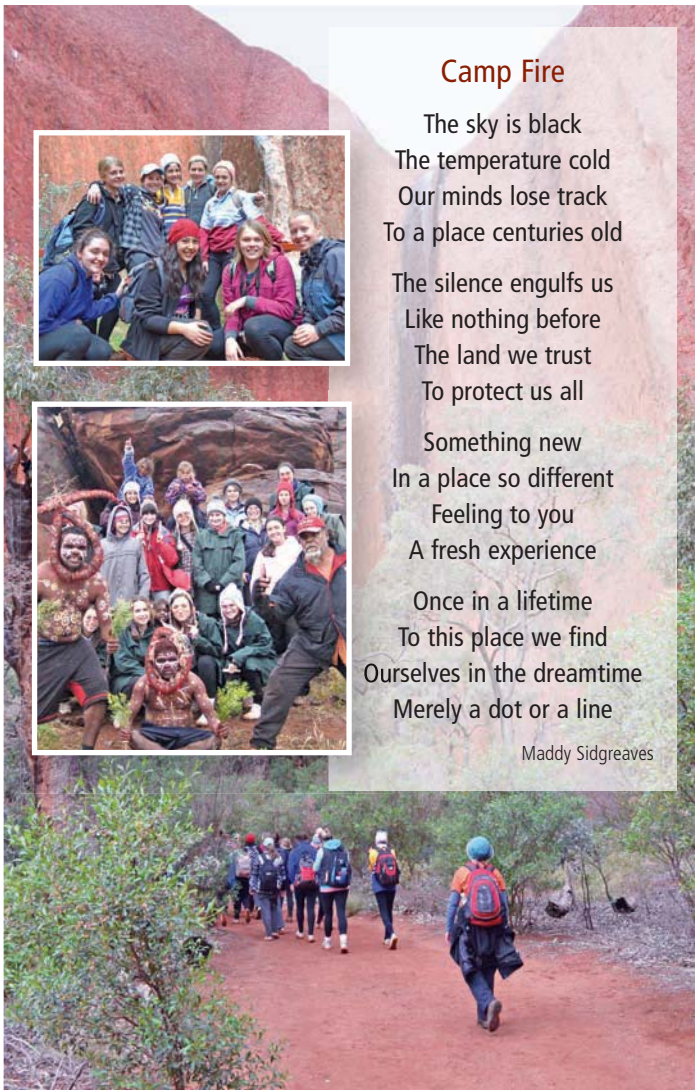
Central Australia Immersion

During the final week of the July holidays, seventeen students and three staff embarked on this year's Immersion Journey to Central Australia. As we flew towards our destination and over Lake Eyre, we witnessed the awesome sight of an abundance of water snaking its way through the land and overflowing from a usually parched lake. We knew at this moment the journey was going to be incredible as we experienced the complexity, beauty and contradictions of the desert.

Leah, an Anangu Elder, shared her art skills through her gentle teaching and quiet way of encouraging and guiding us as we decorated our own clapping sticks. The image of koongas (girls) sitting around the campfire, chatting and learning, chopping, sanding and creating sticks is an image that is forty thousand years old. What a privilege it was to share in the history of this special place.

The Immersion journey to the centre of Australia is not only about place and space. It is about weaving the land through our story, so that the songlines that we learnt, walked and sang became part of our own identity. In the desert, we discarded our watches and learnt to be more observant of our environment. Perhaps this is symbolic of the way we continue this journey in our hearts. ✨

Sue Liddell



Camp Fire

The sky is black
The temperature cold
Our minds lose track
To a place centuries old
The silence engulfs us
Like nothing before
The land we trust
To protect us all

Something new
In a place so different
Feeling to you
A fresh experience
Once in a lifetime
To this place we find
Ourselves in the dreamtime
Merely a dot or a line

Maddy Sidgreaves



Pilgrimage to Spain in the footsteps of St Dominic

Our travellers to Spain for World Youth Day and to the sites of our Dominican heritage have returned inspired by the opportunity to celebrate their Catholic faith, and believing every Santa student should have the experience of walking in the footsteps of St Dominic in places such as Fanjeaux and Calereuga.

'When we put our names down for World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, I'm not sure we anticipated that it would be quite the unforgettable experience that it was! As we celebrated



our youth with new friends and our Holy Father, we each felt God's presence, and by immersing ourselves in the events of the week, we were able to understand what it is to be a part of the community of Catholic youth on a global scale. From the Opening Mass in the scorching hot summer of Madrid, to the Sleep Out where we camped under the stars through a storm, it was almost impossible not to feel at home. The people we met, the places we stayed, the food we ate, the culture we experienced, the stories we heard and the experiences we had were more than memorable, and I know that when we returned home, it was with changed hearts and open minds.

Sara Marie Ayoub

In the midst of exams, masses of school work and the daunting HSC year to come World Youth Day was a spiritually uplifting and reflective time of our lives. I am so grateful for the amazing opportunity where I was able to make friends from all over the world. From attending catechesis, to sharing late night pizzas and being lost in the Prado Museum... I loved being able to share the journey with my peers... ✨

Rebecca Shalala

St Lucy's Camp at Tallong

Year 11 students have camped at Tallong with children from St Lucy's, an experience which made a huge impact on all.

The St Lucy's camp was a life changing experience that allowed me to open my eyes to what I once would have called disadvantaged people. I now realise that they are not the disadvantaged ones. They live day by day in happy spirits and are just late developers in life. We are the disadvantaged ones for not living each day as happily as they do. ✨



Andrea Elias



A Quilt for All Seasons

Seasons for Growth is an Australian program for children, young people or adults who have experienced significant change or loss, conducted annually on all campuses of the College. Using the rich imagery of the changing seasons the eight week program helps students to manage and understand the effects of significant change, loss and grief in their lives and in developing skills and strategies to enhance resilience and emotional literacy.

This year the students in the Del Monte program have been treated to a beautiful 'seasons' quilt, created and hand stitched for the program by Mrs Elizabeth McGee.

This stunning quilt visually reflects the beauty and diversity of each season as well as providing the



added dimension of a kinaesthetic quality. It combines hand quilting, piping, embroidery, hand and machine appliqué. Within the hexagonal shape are colours and symbols of the seasons, and in the centre the Seasons Program emblem.

Elizabeth spent countless hours over eighteen months in its creation, hoping that 'the colours would glow' and that the quilt would offer the children 'a stimulus for their imagination so they can tell their own story and talk more easily about what can be hard for them to express.'

The children were excited by the colours and the design that reflected the different seasons.

'We could wrap ourselves in this and feel so cosy', said one student.

'There are so many interesting things to find in each season', added another.

'This beautiful quilt will definitely enhance the experience of our Seasons program!' added DM and MS Counsellor Gaye Luders.

Elizabeth, a former parent (Helen, class of 1997) and long standing staff member, was taught to sew as a student of the Dominican Sisters in Zambia. Encouraged by family and friends her hobby developed and she is currently a member of a quilting group, the members of which include many former Santa Mums. Elizabeth was a member of the group of mothers who created the wonderful 'Centenary Quilt' in 1994 which hangs today in the Hall foyer – she handcrafted St Dominic, Catherine and the young girl. She has a range of 'works in progress' including a fishing quilt for her brother and a French provincial design for her sister. ✨

Bundles of Love

Students, staff and friends have knitted hundreds of squares for Wrap with Love. Volunteers from the Concord Library knitting group are creating warm wraps from our multi coloured squares for people in Australia and overseas to shelter in and ward off the cold. The girls have been delighted to master the skill of knitting while bringing their care to others. ✨



Hearts of Teangi Quilts

This year, as part of their Social Justice Outreach, the girls of Teangi have raised funds for the Safe Motherhood Program, a Caritas project which aims to improve maternal health for women in Bangladesh. Additionally, they have created cot quilts to demonstrate the work of 'head, hearts & hands' in recognising the needs of others, embroidering symbols of homes and love onto individual squares. The squares have been sewn into beautiful cot quilts to be given to the St Bakhita Centre in Flemington, a community centre for Sudanese people supported by the Josephite Sisters. ✨





Eco Aware Awards

The Environment Committee have been recognised for their initiatives in caring for our environment with a 2011 Community Citizenship Award sponsored by Wests Ashfield Leagues Club. We congratulate Tayla Field, Adele Canturi and their team for this wonderful recognition of their efforts.



Some of their recent initiatives have included the planting of a thriving vegetable & herb garden, a worm farm, composting, paper recycling, and a lunchtime rubbish 'weigh in'.



Across all campuses our 'eco warrior' student leaders, supported by the staff of the Albertus Magnus Team have promoted environmental awareness days throughout the year including 'Clean up Australia Day', 'Earth Hour' and 'Environment Week'. 175 students have signed up to the '1 Million Women' campaign, taking on the challenge to reduce emissions, while the Del Monte community has embraced a 'Nude Food' day to cut packaging waste by half; Kinder Jaekal were crowned the 'Kings and Queens of all things Green' in the Del Monte paper-recycling bin challenge!

Environmental awareness is promoted by involving as many people as possible, as was demonstrated by the girls' presence at Le Cirque De Santa. Mary Bailey House and Tallong also continue their great initiatives for sustainability! ✨



Nadia Hendryani, Year 12 and **Isabella Mercuri**, Year 11 also gained Citizenship Awards from Rotary & Strathfield Council in acknowledgement of their community involvement and outstanding achievement. Isabella was recognised with a Senior Individual Sport Award, while Nadia was presented with the Technology, Environment and Science Award for her involvement in environmental initiatives, interest in technology and achievement in science.

Science is a Blast!

Celebrating the International Year of Chemistry Year 8 have been entertained by the musical comedy performance 'Rain Man' while Middle and Secondary students spent lunch time in the hall amazed by a liquid nitrogen and blazing custard powder demonstration! Kindergarten and Year 1 students donned safety glasses to engage in some fabulous experiments in the labs with Year 9 and 10 students to make slime and mix vinegar with baking soda to bubbling effects! The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all! ✨



Truth and Lies

The Compass integrated teaching and learning program based on 'big ideas' which supports the learning of our Year 7 students has seen students investigate various truths and myths. They have identified how we know they are credible and reviewed techniques that are used to persuade our beliefs as part of a Critical Thinking program.



Students in groups have produced an advertising 'pitch' to persuade an audience that an idea or a hoax is true or false. Using a range of ICT tools they created TV ads, radio interviews and websites. Some of the ideas or hoaxes that the students have investigated include:

- Eating cucumbers increases your concentration
- Aliens are Real
- Giant water bugs are the new super food
- Contact lenses stop you crying when cutting onions
- Vinegar as a cleaner
- Pandas have black eyes because they are tired ✨

Leadership

Secondary School student leaders have enthusiastically embraced the challenges of leadership in a weekend of reflection and action following their commissioning. Students were challenged to view leadership as service, with Jesus as their model. The girls enjoyed Q&A sessions, a great race, and working creatively together in their teams to create iPad movies about their hopes for the year. Parents joined them to view the movies and celebrated with a BBQ. ✨





New at Del Monte!

It is now 12 months since the opening of our refurbished hall, outdoor and learning spaces at Del Monte. Staff and students have journeyed together in the flexible learning spaces towards a vision for our contemporary learning community. They have implemented new arrangements for eating and play, while celebrating many achievements and great learning. They have also taken on the challenges brought by change.

There have also been many successful functions held in our 'new' hall and the children and staff are delighted to be able to have their assemblies and gatherings back on their own campus. The new cricket nets are proving very popular and at last the surface of the field has been renewed and is back in action. The Climate Review Committee has conducted audits of the passive climate control features of the campus and identified short and long term priorities as a 'road map' for the future. Ceiling insulation, roof ventilation and some air conditioning units are included in plans for the future. An educative and awareness-raising process concerning the different ways in which children and staff can contribute to environmentally sustainable practices is also occurring. ✨



SSC P&F: Creating Community Through Partnership and Hospitality!

The highlight of the year has been our P&F's major fundraising venture, our Fair, Le Cirque de Santa. The weather was fantastic, the community spirit amazing, the adrenalin was pumping! Fair day was Fun day! The cake competition and Santa Chef added a new dimension to the day for active participation. Once again our beautiful school showcased the talents of its students, staff and parents. As well as a community event our Fair was a very successful fundraiser making over \$50,000. This money will go towards refurbishing our Science Block.



In recent months the Parents and Friends' Association has been very busy providing supper at Information Evenings, Orientations and at the Del Monte School Musical. Our social occasions have been organised by our very committed Class/Year Reps and many parents have attended dinners, morning teas and suppers. Our committee lives up to its reputation of providing many different types of gatherings serving different purposes. As parents, we make choices about which events we are able to attend, as organisers the P&F offers a variety of events to cater for everyone. The friendships that I have made by attending these events over the years are invaluable. The sense of belonging that this community engenders is a great strength of our school.

In September we celebrated Fathers' Day with two beautiful Liturgies and a breakfast enjoyed by Dads, grandfathers and the children. There was also the stall for Del Monte students to buy that precious gift.

This year we have also made contributions towards shading, class room furniture, a problem solving maths room, iPads, sports equipment and technology. My thanks go especially to my committee, to the Class/Year reps, to the staff and to all the parents for their support. I have really enjoyed the privilege of being part of such a great team. ✨

Elizabeth Pooley
SSC P&F President



Hospitality from P&F Vice President Marisa Pirto and President Elizabeth Pooley



Our P&F host Fathers' Day



'History is Made: A Call for Action'

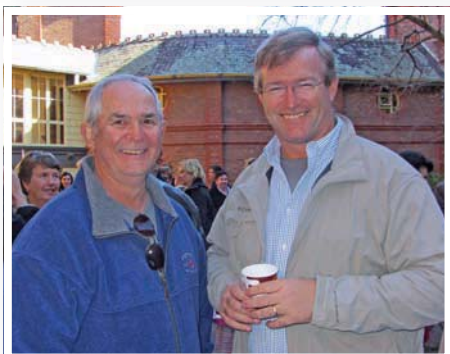
Our annual celebration of St Dominic's Day saw us journey back in time to the Dominican community in Spanish-ruled La Hispaniola. This marked the 500th anniversary of the important stand taken against the injustice of slavery by Dominican Friar Antonio de Montesinos and his community of friars. Through drama and the parallel with the 'digi birds' enacted on St Dominic's Plot we saw how the people spoke out against oppression. We reflected on our call to action in our contemporary world.

Examples of the ways in which the ministries carried out by Dominican Sisters, parents and students to bring about change were explored, showing how God works through each person.

"We must dare to see what is before our eyes; we must believe that it is where God seems most distant and where human beings are tempted that theology may be done... Montesinos invited his contemporaries to open their eyes, and see the world differently".

(Timothy Radcliffe)

Santa's favourite day was further celebrated with much joy as St Dominic was crowned by Year 12 and our students staged a fantastic concert. ★



Hijinks at Haystack Farm!



Children from Del Monte have delighted their audiences with the musical 'The Rooster Who Couldn't Crow'. The preparation for the performances was a community event with staff, parents and students sewing wonderful costumes, painting backdrops and participating in rehearsals over many weeks. Dancers, singers and actors performed professionally and with great skill and humour as they brought to life the engaging story of friendship and fun at Haystack Farm.





Festival of Music 2011

Over 250 students have sung, strummed, beaten, blown and performed at Santa Sabina's tenth annual Festival of Music. The culmination of six weeks of heats occurred with the Finalists' Concert, an outstanding showcase of the talent of our students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Reflecting the extensive talent across the College, the People's Choice Award went to the Year 5 Rock Band, (Mia Brooks-vocal, Daniel Cipolla-guitar, Alexander Ishak-guitar & Lachlan Spratt-drums); second place to Music Leader Gemma Lee on violin, and first place to Year 7 vocal sensation, Michelle Mutyora. The Sr Mary Gregory Piano Scholarship was awarded to Alison Chen, and the inaugural recipient of the Dolores Lenihan Piano Scholarship is Georgia Sanchez. ★



Noisy by Choice

Nine talented students from the College auditioned for Burwood Council's annual talent competition Noisy by Choice. Singers were Celina Pereira, Michelle Mutyora, Sarah Valente, Sabina Aunedi, Miriam Waldron, Morgan Townsend and Elizabeth Quach while our dancers were Lauren Majarres and Kayla Mastroianni. Four students went through to the finals: Michelle Mutyora, Sarah Valente, Lauren Majarres and Kayla Mastroianni, which was a wonderful achievement. ★



Fauré's Requiem

Under the baton of Orchestra Conductor in Residence, Carolyn Watson, the members of the College Choir and Orchestra have presented Fauré's Requiem in the Chapel. The evening was a wonderful showcase of the talents of our young performers. We also welcomed friends from the community and students from St Patrick's College and Marist Eastwood to the cast.

'The glorious harmonies that resounded from the Chapel's stone walls not only sang of paradise but brought the audience quite close to it. The night was truly momentous!' exclaimed choir member and student journalist Krisinda Merhi of Year 10. ★



Talent Watch

Michelle Mutyora, of Year 7, the winner of the Festival of Music who has quickly gained a place in the hearts of our school community for her amazing performances at Assemblies and in the Santa Fest and St Dominic's Day concerts has won the Vocal Performance 13 years section at the McDonald's Eisteddfod. She sang a Shirley Bassey number - "I Who have Nothing" and was particularly commended for her 'beautiful strong voice' and 'great pitch and control'.



Ettienne Montzka-Caceres, Year 6 and **Clare Kennedy** Year 8 have performed as members of the CaSPA Choir at the Spirit Dream Festival at Homebush and again at a showcase evening held by CaSPA. While Clare is new to CaSPA this year, Ettienne, who was encouraged last year at Del Monte to become involved, has participated in dance and next year hopes to gain an experience of the Drama offerings with CaSPA. 'I enjoy it so much!' she exclaims.

One of the College Music Leaders for 2011, **Gemma Lee**, Year 11, who gained 2nd place in the Festival of Music, was chosen to play at the Archbishop of Sydney Awards. Gemma performed the Scherzo Tarantelle (Wieniawski), which she is presenting as part of her HSC Music Extension program. Gemma was successful in attaining a performance opportunity at this prestigious event through a vigorous audition process administered by CaSPA. Gemma was awarded LMusA in Violin in 2010 and she has also achieved AMEB grade 8 for Piano. Amongst the many eisteddfods in which Gemma has performed, this year she was awarded 1st place in the Open Australian Composition in the St George Eisteddfod and 4th place in the Inner West under 25's Marcus Edwards Violin Prize. Gemma was a member of the SBS Youth Orchestra from 2009 – 2010 and she is currently performing as a member of the Sydney Youth Orchestra. ★



Michelle Mutyora 1st place with Music Leaders Gemma and Juliet



Santa's First ever Rep Golfer!

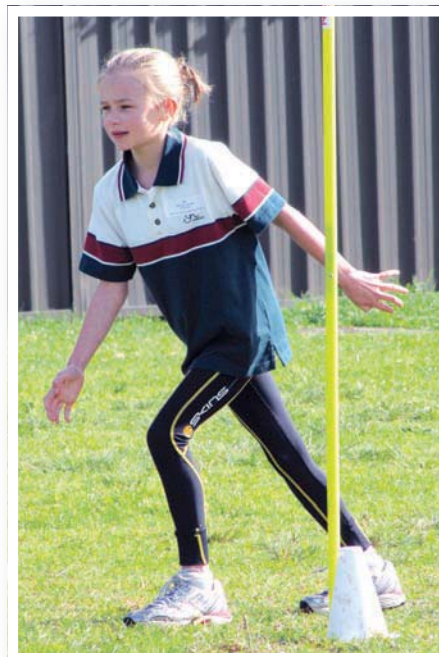
While many other Year 6 students relax at home after school, Doey Choi hits it out daily at the driving range at Homebush and on the greens of Strathfield Golf Club. Having commenced her sport only three years ago, taught and inspired by her father who has been playing for 20 years, Doey will represent NSW in the State Championships in Adelaide at the end of the year.

Doey says she loves practising with her Dad and coach, and with all the friends she has made through golf! ★



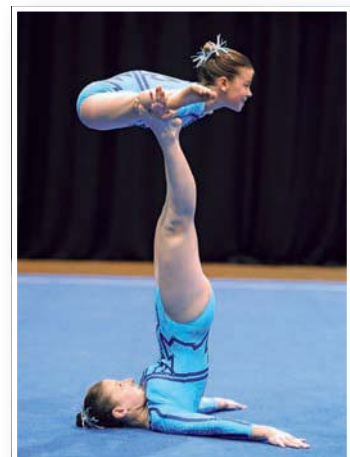
Legs over the Line!

Hannah Moloney of Year 4 is the recipient of Santa's first ever State medal for Cross Country, a bronze! Hannah has enjoyed a sensational season, competing at State Championships, PSSA, with winning runs at every previous level! ★



Katelyn Leaps into Silver for the 3rd time at the Nationals

Katelyn Taylor Year 6 has won a silver medal, along with her partner Sigrid Chambers at the Australian Acrobatic Gymnastic Championships. After many hours of dedicated training at the Gladesville RSL Club, where she began training just two and a half years ago, Katelyn joined the best acrobats in Australia at the nationals in Geelong, competing in the Level 8 women's pairs. Katelyn has competed and won silver at the last two National Championships. ★



CGSSSA Dance Champions

Santa's girls have leaped, jumped and turned their way to victory at the CGSSSA Dance Championships. This year with 14 schools, 54 teams and over 400 dancers involved in the competition, it was a fantastic achievement for Santa to have been named Champion School. Our five dance disciplines and two levels of aerobics competitors amazed the judges and provided some wonderful entertainment for the audience with their creativity, energy, showmanship and technical excellence. ★



Snow Sports

Thirteen students from Kinder to Year 9 took to the ski slopes to represent Santa at the NSW Interschools Snow Sports Championships at Perisher, enjoying the opportunity to ski in some of the best conditions in Australia for many years. Team and individual events saw the students racing against their own age groups and ability levels, while also challenging themselves to be faster the second time down the Alpine and Skier Cross courses. Supported by family and friends the students had a fantastic time, with next year's trip already being planned! ★





Transition to School

The children from the Daintree Rainforest in Mary Bailey House have been joining our Kindergarten children as part of their preparation for the transition to school in 2012. Literacy using SmartBoards, Numeracy with iPads, Creative Arts and Science have been some of the lessons they have attended with their 'buddies' in Kindergarten.

As the photos attest, these children have indeed been engaged by their visits and say they are 'ready for big school!' ★



Board Scholarships

Sharon Portlock and Candice Ferey are this year's recipients of the College Board Scholarship in support of a special project of professional learning.

I felt privileged and excited to receive the Santa Sabina Scholarship for 2011 from the College Board to travel to New York for a five day Summer Institute in Mathematics,



Sharon Portlock

'Mathematics in the City'. This professional learning experience provided me with an opportunity to further explore how to develop a classroom into a mathematical workshop in which learners engage in inquiry, meaningful mathematical investigations and prove their thinking and communicate it to their peers. During the conference I was immersed in mathematics and experienced the process of real and meaningful mathematical investigations. I have already begun to and will continue to share my experiences and learning with colleagues about transforming classrooms into mathematical communities where learners explore, investigate and challenge themselves and others with their thinking.

Being awarded the Board Scholarship for 2011 gave me the opportunity to travel to San Francisco to attend the ASCD education conference and institute days. The experience of having



Candice Ferey

conversations about education and leading learning with colleagues from across the globe – including America, Canada, Mexico and South Africa, was incredibly enriching and invigorating not only for my own knowledge and skills but in what I could bring back for my colleagues here. Being a part of discussions and attending a variety of conference sessions enabled me to reflect on our teaching and learning in order to identify ways in which we can increase our leadership of learning to benefit our students and community. I am pleased that the Board Scholarship is continuing in 2012 and am excited that two other staff members will be given this great professional development opportunity. ★

STOP PRESS

iPads for Year 7, 2012

The appropriate use of technology underpins our approach to learning at SSC and as a Dominican learning community we recognise the importance of 'reading the signs of the times'. For 2012, all Year 7 students will be required to purchase and bring an iPad to school. The move to additional technological tools such as the iPad is a significant step in allowing us to respond to change quickly and effectively in our teaching and learning programs. Many exciting uses for the iPads are being planned for 2012 to promote critical thinking and reflection, collaboration and creativity. ★



Dare to see what is before your eyes

On the first days of the Sept-Oct holiday thirty Santa Sabina College teaching and support staff joined colleagues from Dominican schools across Australia and New Zealand at the Dominican Education Network Conference at Siena College in Melbourne. The theme for this conference was *Dare to see what is before your eyes*, taken from Antonio De Montesinos' sermon delivered 500 years ago in Haiti and the theme of our St Dominic's Day celebration.

The keynote speakers included Dr Rose Marie Prosser who reminded us that for Dominicans the Scriptures are central to our preaching and that like Dominic, we must recontextualise our mission for our times. This theme was continued by Sr Toni Harris OP, International Co-Promoter for Justice and Peace for the Dominican Sisters who stressed the importance of making explicit our Catholic imperative for Social Justice and challenged us to go beyond direct service to social justice that changes systems. Refugee advocate and lawyer, Julian Burnside AO, was another inspiring speaker. The participants

created and signed the following Charter which will become a focus for some of our decisions and programs here at the College now and for the future.



As centres of learning in the Dominican tradition, on the 500th anniversary of the sermon on human rights by our brother, Antonio de Montesinos, we seek to give a voice to God's created who suffer injustice or threat from political, economic, legal, educational, religious or other systems. In a context of consumerism and individualism, with our earth at risk, We seek to lead change in our place of calling, and commit ourselves to:

- *being a voice in the community for just action*
- *providing an education in truth and justice*
- *acting sustainably*
- *maintaining integrity through ethical practices in our schools.* ★



Where are they Now?...

Two members of the 'Santa Team' at Carroll & O'Dea, **Hanaan Indari** (class of 1990) and **Sara Mariniello** (class of 2006) have returned to Santa to talk to Year 12 about their legal rights and responsibilities as young adult women. Sara is working part time as a paralegal at the firm while completing a combined Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of International Studies degree, while Hanaan, who also is a Director on the College Board, is a partner in the firm. Julia Harrison (class of 2001) is also a member of the 'Santa Team' at the firm.



Sara (left) and Hanaan (right) are pictured with Ms Kath McKeel (Condon) and College Leader Victoria Zalloua

Teresa Bell (class of 1990) is completing a Doctorate of Creative Writing. She is a director, actor, teacher and producer. Prior to moving back to Bundeena with her two young children, Teresa had been working in Melbourne as a member of the steering committee to make Melbourne a 'City of Literature'. Her play *Taizé* won the George Fairfax Award in 2007 and was produced at various festivals. Her first book *36; formless writings* was released in 2008 and she will soon be launching her new book of poetry titled *Under a Nightingale's Wing*. As Artistic Director of Playworks she has supported over 40 Australian women playwrights through dramaturgy, commissioning and organizing workshops of their plays. As Director of the Australian Poetry Centre she supported many poets through organising

festivals, readings, films, international tours and publishing opportunities. Always interested in film and writing, Teresa studied at the Ensemble Acting School for 3 years as well as undertaking a Communications degree at UTS.



In Memory of Caroline

Catherine Davies (Jackson, class of 1989) returned to the College for the recent Fair. During a tour of the grounds Catherine observed that the plaque in memory of her classmate and friend, Caroline Perkins, who died from cystic fibrosis when the girls were in Year 10, was tarnished. She subsequently contacted the College and the plaque is being re-plated. Catherine wrote:

'I have never forgotten Caroline. There have been many times that I have thought of her over the years. Having Caroline as a friend all those years ago made such a huge impact on me.'

Staff and ex-students from those years have also never forgotten 'Liney' nor the sadness the school community experienced at her illness and death. Catherine's contacting of the College to ensure the preservation of her memorial plaque was a beautiful gesture of care and a testament to the wonderful spirit of our ex-students.

Catherine has two daughters, Angelique aged 2 and Stephanie who is 7. She is a Vision Support Teacher in primary and high schools assisting children with a range of vision impairments. She advises that her close friend from school Nicole Brennan also has two daughters and is a lawyer.

Felicity Evans (class of 2007) has completed a degree in Journalism, collecting prizes along the way, and this year is working with children with disabilities, while learning French in preparation for European travel. She returns to Sydney next year to undertake a Masters in Law. Felicity is one of many very generous ex-students who gives her time to the College on a Friday night to adjudicate or coach debating.

Catherine Giammarco (class of 2009) has been nominated by the Controller of the SES for a 'Pride of Australia' medal for her outstanding leadership as a "Young Leader". Catherine continues her Engineering Studies at UNSW while also volunteering with the local SES as well as being an avid Dragon Boat racer.

Catherine Gascoigne (class of 2001) has achieved 1st Place in her study of Environmental Law at Oxford University.

Lauren Moses (class of 2009) is one of the faces of the 'School Graduate Stories' published by UWS. Lauren is undertaking a Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery. Lauren has been given the opportunity to be included in the UWS Aspire program, which offers a variety of volunteering, networking and learning opportunities to develop leadership and teamwork skills. This year she has become a mentor in the UWS Indigenous School Student Mentoring program. Of her education at SSC as preparation for her university studies, Lauren is quoted in the Graduate Story as saying:

'I experienced generous guidance from my teachers, seminars on exam technique, fantastic pastoral care and the opportunity to engage in a rich co-curricular program. Santa Sabina fostered in me a love of learning that I've brought to my university studies'. ✨

Online connections

Have you enrolled in our ex-students' networking site on the College website?

Reconnect with friends from years ago, network about career opportunities or come to a reunion - *Ex-Students Online* is the place.

Online photo albums allow you to share in the pleasure of other ex-student activities and the bulletin board will spread the word about events you are holding. Personal profiles help you catch up with what people have been doing - and the photos can be fascinating!

You will discover that **Jennifer Mills** (class of 1978) is the head of primary at an international school in Qatar.

As a Santa Sabina Ex-Student you can promote your business online with an electronic business card offering a discount if you choose, or volunteer to share your knowledge at the Careers Night.

As an ex-student of the College you will be able to access this site but keep your contact details secure. To log onto the website just go to the SSC web address www.ssc.nsw.edu.au, select Ex-Students then click Register. Should you have any queries regarding this site, please feel free to contact Davina Pratt 02 9745 7035 or email d.pratt@ssc.nsw.edu.au ✨



Jane of Aza Playgroup

The inaugural Jane of Aza Playgroup for ex-students met in September on the Del Monte Campus. How wonderful it was to see the next generation of Santa students with their Mums (and Dads) who had walked these halls in stripes and kilts such a seemingly short time ago!

Pictured below are twins Lara & Lana Evtushenko from the class of 1992 with Rebecca Smith from 1991.



Lara and Lana will be fondly remembered by their classmates for their fantastically infectious laughs.

Having both attained the same TER in the HSC they are now both accountants with houses in the same street!

Lana lived in the UK for 10 years and is so happy to be home so her Jake, and baby on the way, can grow up with cousins Rebecca and Matthew, the children of Lara. The sisters are enjoying their time together while both are on Maternity Leave.

Rebecca also has two children, Ben and Emily, and teaches English at Joey's.

Pictured below are sisters Michelle (class of 1996) and Belinda Civiterese (class of 1992) with her daughter Emilia.



Michelle is an Events Manager who has also been working in the UK; she is establishing her own business here while also working with Belinda who has developed her Health Food business.

For further details about the playgroup please contact Margaret Molloy, Registrar on 9745 7030. The next group will be held on November 24 from 10am-midday. ✨

Ex-Students' Careers Networking Night

For students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are wondering what the future holds, what better inspiration could be theirs than to hear from those who have a breadth of experience in their chosen profession or course of study, a generosity of spirit, passion for what they are doing – and a shared connection to SSC! We were fortunate to welcome back to Santa 29 wonderful ex-students of whom we are so proud for this annual event. ✨





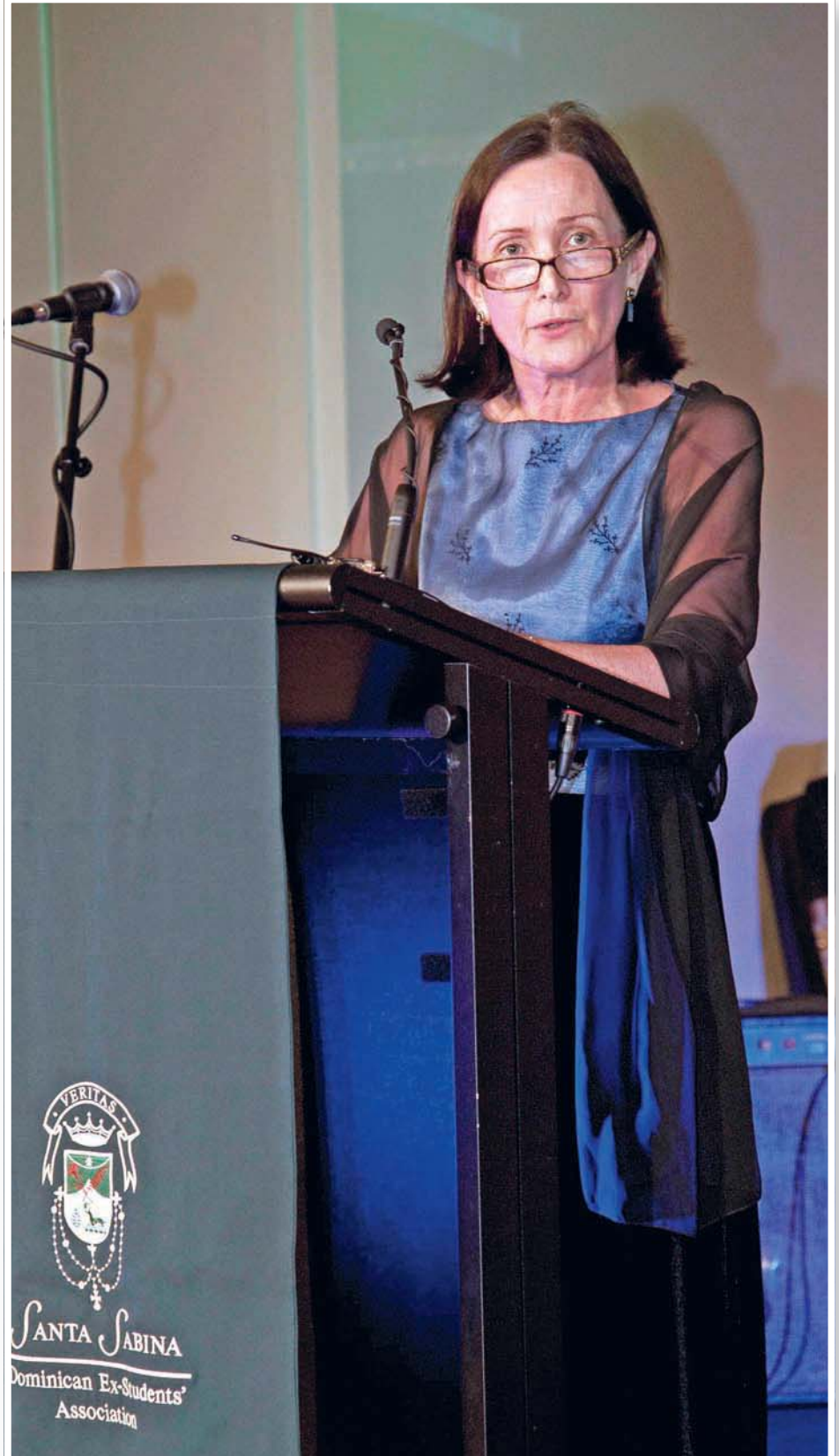
Professor Jane Ingham

Professor Jane Ingham (class of 1975), Director of the Cunningham Centre for Palliative Care, St Vincent's and Mater Health Sydney, and Professor of Palliative Medicine at the University of NSW was the Guest of Honour at the Santa Sabina Debutante Ball this year.

Printed below are some extracts from the inspirational speech which she gave at the Ball; her reflections on life from Kindergarten to Year 12, and beyond, offer a time capsule of the 1960s and 70s.

...I started school in 1963 and in looking at my kindergarten photo am still in touch with at least 5 of the children in that photo. Among them are some of my closest friends. I was the second smallest in the class and thus managed to have a front row seat. I was sitting next to a boarder in that photo - to this day I am amazed that children boarded in kindergarten, how hard that must have been for them, their parents and their carers at the school. At the start of school I lived only three doors away and I cried daily - even though I was going home for lunch every day for the first weeks. Unusual? Yes - legend has it that this privilege had resulted from a moment when a teacher had said to me (after I had spilt my drink at lunch time) "Miss Ingham if you cannot stop crying you will have to go home"...

Looking back on my early years at school I realise now that many of the events that the teachers quietly brought to our awareness in day to day life, even when we were little children, were the events that were shaping the world we live in today. We were not, although it may surprise you, reading the newspapers in infant school and we had to be in bed before the evening news, therefore, I am assuming that, at least in part, those memories are there thanks to the teachers.





As examples, I remember the day when the first Catholic president of the United States was assassinated, I remember a nun whose picture appeared in the paper hugging a soldier in slouch hat - her brother a soldier returning from Vietnam. I remember watching, when I was in sixth class, the first Moon Landing on TV. We had gone with some boys from St Patrick's to Loreto Nursing home to visit the elderly residents there and we all watched together.

The great events continued and we did note them - the Opera House was opened, Gough Whitlam became and ceased to be Prime Minister, President Nixon was impeached and the war in Vietnam ended - but I was moving from del Monte across the road to Santa Sabina. My world was filled with the concerns of growing up and finding my own place in the world - there were great friendships to spend hours immersed in and major parental concerns to deal with, among them that I felt downright "over protected" when I was refused permission to attend a Rolling Stones concert (although apparently Elton John was acceptable). From that time, I also certainly recall some great teachers. Sister Margaret Smith to name one; she firmly believed that education was not a "moment in time" but an ongoing process through life. She insisted we write what we "really felt" about the English novels in our essays - "not what you think you are meant to write". She also embarked on a brave attempt to "teach us some doctrine" instead of "social" issues in religion. I recall her determined effort to have us understand the concept of the Trinity; if she were to write a report card today I suspect a number of us would have "room for improvement" still noted in the report.

Seriously, my education was a gift - it was solid and wide ranging, it somehow seemed to foster, for me and my friends, our interest in the world, our curiosity. To my great surprise - as I continued my

education beyond the walls of Santa - I found this was not "the norm" in all schools. I am not sure how our teachers and families achieved that - inspiring children to take a world view and to be intrigued by the world - but for that I am truly grateful.

The other gift that the school and my family gave to me was an appreciation of the joy that comes of a life that is lived alongside others through generations. For me at least, curiosity about the world, is best shared with others, amidst the bonds of family and friendships. I lived in New York and Washington DC for many years and have met people whose activities have been recorded in history books - one commented to me that "you really begin to feel old when your friends start appearing on the history channel".

I immensely enjoyed meeting these people and hearing their stories, they certainly enriched my life, but stories alone are fleeting and the greatest joy for me has come from simple (or sometimes complicated) long relationships with friends and family - through the ups and downs, the happy and the sad times. In this school I was surrounded by students from all sorts of families from many walks of life - many of whom became my friends. We were bound together in a school where we were taught about the importance of respecting and caring for each other and those around us - as we would each wish to be cared for - with justice and compassion. These were most important lessons.

Since school, my work has involved caring for, and trying to improve the care of, people at the very end of life. There is no doubt I could not have done this work without having had the opportunity to work with extraordinarily dedicated and committed health professionals, scientists and others. In this work we walk alongside people at some of the most precious and most sad times of life. This has been a

privilege. I remain in a constant state of awe at the strength and resilience of human beings and of love in times of crisis. I feel that my time here in this school and within my family helped me to understand that a full life is lived across a breadth of experiences, each to be valued and each to be faced. This understanding has allowed me to engage in a part of medicine that most consider a "bit depressing" and yet I believe is so important.

As to wise advice for the Debutantes - I am not sure I am qualified - however my brother David commented that I should warn you that there is no escape. He suggested that you look around and appreciate that in 30 or 40 years time you may encounter someone who is now in this room. This is not an abstract concept - I have had this happen on many occasions - a fearsome maths teacher popped out of a room in an art gallery in Florence - a shock I can tell you. My sister's debut partner's Dad designed my wedding ring! After a year of looking at what felt like every house in the greater metropolitan area - Michael and I fell in love with a home, on the other side of Sydney, owned it turns out by a Santa Sabina old girl (we only realised that a year later as our friendship grew.) One of the most memorable events of this nature occurred in the Solomon Islands when as a medical student, I was miles away in the Western Solomons feeling confident that I was way out of the world I knew. An American peace corps friend suggested that I fill in my day by visiting an interesting island over the straight. The local priest took me there in his canoe and suggested we visit the school - there I was greeted by a woman saying "Jane Ingham - I have not seen you since you were this high!!" - a nun who taught when I was at Del Monte! There is no escaping. Your paths do not "cross" at Santa Sabina, your paths become entwined...



President's Report

The last few months have seen a variety of occasions providing the opportunity for our ex-students to come together and reunite with old friends and celebrate our Dominican heritage.

In May we held another successful Careers and Networking Night which allows our current senior students to connect with past students who are able to provide valuable insight into future career paths. This year we had approximately 30 ex-students on hand to mentor the current students. We are very grateful to the ex-students for their willingness to participate in this evening.

St Dominic's Day was another beautiful day and it was great to see so many ex-students enjoying the celebrations. Similarly the College Fair provided another occasion for us to come back to Santa. I spoke to a number of ex-students who had travelled quite a long distance to be at the Fair. We had another successful day raising more funds for the Bursary Fund. Thank you to our stall holders who worked so tirelessly on the day.

There have been a number of reunions this year including 60, 50 and 40 year reunions. Thank you Mary Caruana, Dorothy Harrison and Elizabeth Pooley respectively, for all their efforts in making these events so successful. We are still actively building a data base of Del Monte old boys with a view to holding social and networking opportunities and

would love to hear from any "old boys".

The College cookbook is currently a work in progress and I thank all the ex-students who have contributed so far. ✨



Elizabeth Mulcahy
President

Reunions

Class of 1971 40 Year Reunion

A weekend of activities was organised to celebrate the 40 Year Reunion of the class of 1971. About ten of us returned to school on Saturday 10 September for the annual Fair. We reminisced about times past over coffee in St Elizabeth's courtyard, enjoyed a tour of the new facilities and joined in the fun of the day. That evening the boarders organised a dinner for a really good catch up with each other, while the main gathering was at lunch on the Sunday. About sixty



former students and four of the Sisters attended. We shared stories of achievements, careers, families and life experiences. The joy in re-connecting with friends created a positive and vibrant atmosphere.

Elizabeth Pooley

Class of 1961 50 Year Reunion

The recent 50 year celebration for the Class of '61 was an informal lunch in the Bistro at "99 OnYork", Sydney on 21st October 2011. Memories of those halcyon schooldays were relived with laughter and merriment as 24 old school friends settled into warm conversation rekindling that special bond of friendship formed at Santa Sabina long ago.

Twelve of the "Golden Girls" travelled from country areas of Canberra, Wagga, Moss Vale, Nyngan, Narrabri, Orange, Peak Hill, Bolwarra, Dorrigo, Newcastle and the Central Coast to reconnect and celebrate with those who lived in Sydney. They shared their stories about children and grandchildren, careers, lifestyle and travel. Photos were snapped, email addresses exchanged and a promise made to meet again in a couple of years. The time together had gone so quickly!

Amongst this group of married women were three nuns: Sr Judy Lawson of the Dominican Sisters, Sr Elizabeth Gilroy of the Little Company of Mary and Sr Roslyn Carey of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.



Judy, Head Prefect of Boarders in 1961 and Principal of the College for the past 21 years, is now Leader of the Dominican Sisters' community. Roslyn trained at St Vincent's hospital and has nursed in India, Africa and South-East Asia. Elizabeth spent the past 10 years in the UK where she ministered in congregational formation and was director of Heritage Pilgrimages in the UK and internationally. In 2010 Elizabeth's book on Mary Potter, the founder of the Little Company of Mary, was published.

In the true Dominican spirit of generosity and gratitude all 24 women, in their own way, have given of their time and talents to help others, with compassion and understanding. Such is the calibre of the Class of '61 and until they meet again may God hold them in the palm of His Hand.

Dorothy Harrison (Hind)

Class of 1951 60 Year Reunion

On 18 September, 26 'old' girls from the Class of 1951 came to Santa Sabina to celebrate their



60th Reunion. What a celebration it was with old friendships rekindled and memories shared! We began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Denis Minns OP. During Mass, prayers were offered and 11 candles lit in memory of our deceased classmates. Lunch followed in the boarders' old refectory, now St Elizabeth's. Our special guest was Sr. M. Vincentia who taught us in 5th class (1945). We also welcomed Kate Houston, the daughter of the late

Norma Page. After Jill Brooks (Woods) and Colleen Jennings (Gumbley) from the original class (1940) cut the cake, we moved down to the Dominican Sisters' Heritage Centre and enjoyed a power point display of the years 1940-1951 prepared for us by Dominican Archivist Sr. Elizabeth Hellwig OP. Thanks to all who helped prepare this joyful event and to all who came to celebrate.

Mary Caruana (Donnellan)

We will report on the reunions held by the classes of 2001 (10 Year Reunion), Class of 1991 (20 Year Reunion) and the Class of 1981 (30 Year Reunion) in the next edition of Encompass. Those from the classes of 2002, 1992, 1982, 1972, 1962 and any others wishing to hold reunions next year, please contact the College for assistance – d.pratt@ssc.nsw.edu.au or 9745 7035. ✨



SISTERS' JUBILEES 2012

Our congratulations to the Dominican Sisters who will be celebrating the jubilees of their profession next year:

70 years	Sr M. Elizabeth Smith	18-05-42
	Sr M. Germaine Innes	10-08-42
	Sr Patricia Murphy	05-12-42
60 years	Sr Maureen Casey	02-02-52
	Sr Noelle Magree	02-02-52
	Sr Marie O'Regan	15-12-52
	Sr Marie Weeks	15-12-52
	Sr Margaret Hill	15-12-52
	Sr Diana Woods	15-12-52
	Sr Maureen O'Connor	15-12-52
	Sr Kathleen Maher	15-12-52
50 years	Sr Marie Dominique Tran	08-08-62
	Sr Geraldine O'Sullivan	10-12-62

DEATHS

We offer sympathy and prayers of support to:

Frances Whitehead (Somers '81), and her family at the death of her sister Wendy

The family of Loretta Shackley, mother of Caroline ('82)

Karen (class of 1996) & Nicole ('99) Buckley at the death of their mother

Anne Harrison (Clarke '73) and Julia ('01) at the death of their mother and grandmother

Bernadette Mackie (Thompson '90) and her 3 children on the death of her husband, Darren

Daniela Squillacioti ('89) and her children Max and Ruby at the death of their father, Salvatore Valenzisi

The family of Patricia (Pat) Williamson. Pat went to school at Santa Sabina ('46) and remained involved with the Ex-Students' Association for the remainder of her life. Pat also became a member of the Dominican Laity in Sydney and was well known for her devotion and commitment to the Order through leadership and prayer and through fund raising, especially for the Solomon Island Mission.

The Dominican Sisters at the death of Sister Irene (M. St Matthew) Kneipp, a beloved member of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, professed 70 years, minus a week, and at the death of Sr M. Patrick Grant. Sr M. Patrick, 'Paddy' to her Sisters and many friends, was a primary school teacher. Sister taught and looked after children with impaired hearing and sight, and spent a number of years in the Solomon Islands.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Julianne Millar (McCarry '90) and Dave on the birth of Thomas James, a brother for Ruby and Sam

Danielle Funstan ('99) and Nathan Williams, a baby girl, Audrey Grace

Katrina Tuscano (Novak '99) and Domenic, on the birth of their 4th child, a daughter, Mary-Grace Karen

Alexandra (Albani '02) and David Mediati a baby girl, Lilliana Rose

Kelly (Lopez '01) and Ray Garcia a baby girl, Madison

Bryony (Ogilvie '96) and Paul Gliddon a baby boy Lachlan Joseph

Shellie (Deacon '01) and Richard O'Connor a baby girl Sophie

MARRIAGES



Anissa Gordon ('99) to Brian Gordon
Lara Carbone ('02) to Wayne Pratt

Peta Phillips ('99) to Peter Houweling
Danielle Nicholas ('01) to Michael Raad
Danielle McNeil ('99) to Mark Holland
Melissa Mondello ('99) to Michael Ianniello
Kylie Partlin ('00) to Phillip Reeks
Katrina Pisano ('00) to Anthony Musumeci
Elicia De Martin ('01) to Steve Long
Catherine Cummins ('01) to John Giuffre

Dominican Sisters are Farewelled from the Armidale Diocese after 135 years

On Sunday September 11, on the 144th anniversary of their arrival in Australia, the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia & the Solomon Islands took their leave of the Armidale Diocese. Sr Elizabeth writes:

The Northern Daily Leader in Tamworth expressed well the feeling of so very many people about 135 years of devoted service among the people of Tamworth and its environs. There seemed to be photographers at every corner, and Dominican ex-students from Tamworth and beyond who came to make themselves known. Several newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts left no one in any doubt that God's work has been done and amongst people of all denominations. The Sisters' presence not only made a difference, but they were assured repeatedly that the Dominican spirit continues, alive and well, and will be carried forward because of the strong tree tended by generation after generation of faith-filled people.

Forty Sisters travelled from near and far to support the local community and to ritualise the withdrawal of the Sisters from the diocese. On Saturday morning the Sisters celebrated their own moving liturgical farewell, and then took a bus trip around Tamworth, acknowledging schools and parishes in which they had ministered. The cemeteries containing the remains of eight Sisters were visited, and the 'Salve Regina' sung. Finally they arrived at the old convent, now the Conservatorium of Music, for afternoon tea and a concert. The trowel used by Bishop Torregianni to lay the foundation stone of this former convent was presented to the Conservatorium for safe-keeping, in gratitude for all that the Conservatorium has done to preserve the story, and the integrity of the building. This was especially fitting as the Sisters are credited with bringing music and a rich cultural life as they grew with the city when it was proclaimed a municipality in 1876.

On Sunday, the Bishop, the mayor, state and federal members of parliament joined the parish community for a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving at which the Sisters presented their statue of St Dominic to the parish. A parish dinner followed.

The Sisters are keenly aware of the wonderful faith-filled people – clergy, religious and lay people, of all denominations – who shared over 250 Sisters' lives and enriched them by their encouragement and support, socially and financially, through all the ups and downs of this life journey so closely intertwined with the growth and development of the city of Tamworth. Only God can give them adequate thanks.

Sisters will of course, continue to link in to warm longtime friendships, and will continue to accompany the Dominican laity and associates, and to visit our centenarian Sr M. Ursula, so well cared for at Nazareth House. However, with pain and deep gratitude, Sisters realize it is time for them to move on, time to recognise their own liminality, time to meet new needs that God has ready for them.

A book about the 135 years in Tamworth can be obtained from archives5@bigpond.com

If your household is receiving more than one copy of Encompass, please notify the Ex-Students' Association by contacting:

Phone: 9745 7035 Fax: 9745 7032 Email: exstudents@ssc.nsw.edu.au Mail to: 90 The Boulevard Strathfield NSW 2135

Visit our page: ssc.nsw.edu.au/exstudents for more photos, reports and updates.

The Editor has compiled 'Around the Plot' from various sources. While every care has been taken to ensure the information provided is published accurately, the Editor cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies in the content or authenticity of that information.



Cirque De Santa

Cirque De Santa was a wonderful community day with rides, entertainment, food and stalls. The Master Chef competition saw a stunning array of cakes created for Santa's Best Baker competition – from Mary Bailey House, Del Monte, MS and SS, (including the Maths staff) - the cakes were stunning! Our team of House Leaders led students from Years 6-12 to a 'cook off' of talent and creativity. Yetinga's Lovers, Mexican Teangi, Hawaiian Mundawora, Kurrawa's Party Land, Gunagulla's Willy Wonka World and Weelya's Mad Hatters Tea Party were great showcases of the spirit of our students, as was the main stage entertainment from our dancers, musicians and gymnasts. Congratulations to the P&F for a fantastic day! ✨

