SANTA SCHOLARS ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS K-12 2014

Discerning creative scholars, seekers of truth, advocates for justice and individuals of substance.



CONGRATULATIONS 5 HSC ALL ROUNDERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL -CODE, CONNECT AND CREATE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

4 **TOP ACHIEVERS** IN STATE

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2014 on their HSC results, and their breadth of achievements as creative, discerning young women. They have been an inspirational year group who have exemplified the Dominican heritage of scholarly inquiry and education for justice. These young women have demonstrated care for each other, their school community and the wider world.

In this year's Santa Scholars publication we are also showcasing academic highlights from across the College. Education is a journey and great HSC results reflect the commitment, passion and effort of both students and teachers from the very first day of school. We focus this year on exciting developments in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) where 'serious play' engages students in creative and 'real world' learning.

I acknowledge and thank the entire Santa Sabina staff for their shared commitment to students in their care. As one of our graduates states, 'we have a constant network of people helping and supporting us, and their place in our journey is invaluable'.



Dr Maree Herrett









HSC Top Achievers In State. List from left to right above: Victoria Kougias, Natasha Novo, Pauline Russett and Rebecca Portugall.

TOP ACHIEVERS IN STATE

Student Name	Course	Place in Course
Victoria Kougias	Design and Technology	4th
Natasha Novo	Italian Continuers	5th
Pauline Russett	Studies of Religion II	7th
Rebecca Portugall	Business Services Examination	10th

ATAR HIGHLIGHTS

Student Name	ATAR
Pauline Russett	99.20
Josephine Lee	98.70
Philomena Colagiuri	98.35
Victoria Kougias	98.05
Shelley Zhang	97.65
Adrielle Touma	97.50

Stephanie Cincotta	97.45
Laura Kerrison	97.45
Alice Murphy	97.40
Madeleine Sidgreaves	97.40
Julia Racheha	97.25
Sarah Boyle	97.05



HSC HIGHLIGHTS

ATAR

SNAPSHOT



Left to right: Ms Cath Horan - Head of Teaching & Learning 6-12, Pauline Russett, Julia Racheha, Victoria Kougias, Philomena Colagiuri, Mrs Elizabeth Brooks - Head of Students 6-12 and Dr Maree Herrett - College Principal. Absent: Jacintha Shina.

HIGHEST

ATAR

99.20

1 IN 3

ATAR OVER

HSC Top All-Rounders

Five of our students featured on the HSC Top All-Rounders List achieving the highest performance band in 10 or more units in the HSC.

Congratulations to:

- Philomena Colagiuri
- Victoria Kougias
- Julia Racheha
- Pauline Russett
- Jacintha Shina

Course Data Highlights

- In 2014 130 Year 12 students and 12 accelerants undertook study in 43 NSW Board of Studies Developed Courses
- 69 students received a result in the highest band possible for one or more courses and are recognised on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List
- Santa Sabina students appeared 160 times on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List across 37 courses
- In English Extension 2, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, History Extension, Music Extension, French Extension and Italian Extension, 100% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible, an examination mark of 40 or more
- In Geography, Society and Culture, French Continuers and Japanese Continuers, 100% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible, an examination mark of 80 or more.

SCHOLARS' PROFILES



Pauline Russett

At Santa Sabina since 2002

Awards:

- HSC Top All-Rounder
- 7th in State Studies of Religion
 II
- Sr Sheila Flynn Award
- ATAR: 99.20

Contributing factors to your HSC success

The amazing support of family, friends and the Santa Sabina community. Through the highs and lows they were all there for me and that made it so much easier to keep trying my absolute best - even from day one at Del Monte!

What are the most important lessons learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

To never, ever, give up. Working in teams can be a lot of fun. Free hugs are the best policy.

HSC advice for younger students

The HSC can be tough at times, but never give up hope. Hard work will pay off and working together with your classmates can make studying much easier.

Plans for 2015

I'm considering Medicine with the joint Medical Program in Newcastle and Occupational Therapy at University of Sydney.

Co-curricular awards

Motet Choir

- Debating
- Representative Regional Tennis
 - Duke of Edinburgh

Da Vinci Decathlon

• Senior Choir

Philomena Colagiuri

At Santa Sabina since 2009

Awards:

- HSC Top All-Rounder
- VERITAS Award
- ATAR: 98.35

Contributing factors to your HSC success

The healthy competition with my siblings and other students - it pushed me along to try my hardest. The high expectation of my ability from my teachers and parents was another driving influence on my study.

What are the most important lessons learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

Support your friends and they will support you. Always put in 100% effort.

HSC advice for younger students

By putting in a consistent effort in Years 11 and 12 you will have a good study routine established and this will help.

Plans for 2015

Probably psychology at University of Sydney.

Co-curricular awards

Indoor Soccer
 Volleyball



Victoria Kougias

At Santa Sabina since 2009

Awards:

- HSC Top All-Rounder
- 4th in State Design and Technology
- ATAR: 98.05

Contributing factors to your HSC success

Maintaining a balance between studies and recreation is imperative to success in the HSC. Its important to keep things in perspective as your ATAR is merely a number providing you with an express route but here are alternate ways to reach your goals.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Seeing teachers being actively involved in the pastoral activities really emphasises Santa's strong sense of community.

HSC advice for younger students

Success in the HSC is ultimately due to hard work and dedication.

Plans for 2015

Public Communications at UTS.



Adrielle Touma

At Santa Sabina since 2002

Awards:

- College Award for General Proficiency
- VERITAS Award
- ATAR: 97.50

Contributing factors to your HSC success

Participating in all aspects of College life including leadership, sport and music gave me a balanced life and contributed greatly to my HSC success.

Best memories of Santa Sabina

Working and celebrating with my classmates.

HSC advice for younger students

Having a balanced life is essential. It helps keep you grounded, helps you achieve more and makes the journey more enjoyable.

Plans for 2015

Actuarial Studies.

Co-curricular awards

Indoor Soccer
 Orchestra

Julia Racheha

At Santa Sabina since 2007 **Awards**:

HSC Top All-Rounder

• ATAR: 97.25

Contributing factors to your HSC success

Ongoing support from family and friends was paramount to my HSC success. Remembering to see each assessment and exam as part of a dynamic, larger picture allowed me to stay grounded and level headed.

What are the most important lessons learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

Integrity and staying true to personal values whilst helping to assist the wider community. This lesson was filtered through all aspects of life at the College.

HSC advice for younger students

Say thank you. Throughout the HSC we have a constant network of people helping and supporting us and their place in our journey is invaluable. Remember to see each mark and exam in the context of a bigger picture.

Plans for 2015

Study Law and Communications at UTS whilst continuing to participate in the netball and debating life of the College.

Debating Netball • Representative School State Aerobics

Representative Regional Netball

- Netball
- Netball-Umpire

Rebecca Portugall

At Santa Sabina since 2007 Awards:

• 10th in State Business Services Examination

Contributing factors to your HSC success

Constant commitment to be continually focussed and engaged enabled me to strive for my personal best. Also having a social and work balance played a key role in maintaining consistency, focus and enjoyment.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Year 12 as a year is my fondest as all friendship bonds and relationships grew and strengthened. Community Days such as Dom's Day was very special.

What are the most important lessons learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

To be patient. Everything comes in good time. Taking time to complete tasks engage with others and teachers only helps you more.

Plans for 2015

Study Business and major in Marketing at Macquarie University or UTS.







SCIENCE

The 2014 results reflect stronger performances in Science courses. In Physics, 64% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands and students exceeded the State mean by 6.4%.

The excellent Chemistry results produced by the class of 2014 was just reward for a hard-working group of students who demonstrated a wonderfully consistent work ethic and supported each other's learning. This was shown not only by those who gained a Band 6, but by the whole team of students and this explains why over 83% of the cohort achieved a Band 5 or 6. The girls' willingness to persevere in their efforts to master the challenging concepts of Chemistry, their proactive approach to their learning in a well-resourced environment and the manner in which they responded to feedback from their teachers helps to explain these results.



Congratulations to our Chemistry Department: Left to right: Dr Maree Herrett, Mrs Sherine Meteira - Senior Chemistry Teacher, Pauline Russett, Laura Kerrison, Lena Melhem, Philomena Colagiuri, Sarah Boyle, Mr David Brewster - Science Coordinator.

HSIE

Santa Sabina had outstanding results in HSIE. 100% of students in both Geography and Society and Culture achieved the highest two performance bands possible. Students undertaking the History Extension course doubled from 2013 to 2014 and 100% of students achieved the highest two performance bands possible.

EXTENSION COURSES

A real highlight of the 2014 HSC was that over 40% of our students challenged themselves by undertaking an extension course. These courses involve high academic rigour and a greater depth of knowledge and understanding. In English Extension 2, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, History Extension, Music Extension, French Extension and Italian Extension, 100% of girls achieved in the highest two performance bands possible.



Jubilant Geography Students: Left to right: Chanelle Sleiman, Julia Racheha, Jessica Mynett, Alexandra Ratcliffe, Megan Woods and Mrs Lynn Long -Geography Teacher.



Left to right: Mrs Elizabeth Brooks, Ms Cath Horan, Sarah Valente - College Captain, Adrielle Touma - College Vice Captain and Dr Maree Herrett.

A Santa Sabina education has provided us all with the opportunity for growth, networking and learning. Education has allowed us to relish in the future and embark on our own journeys with the Dominican heritage as the foundation of our morals and values. Sarah Valente & Adrielle Touma - College Captains 2014.

HSC EXHIBITIONS

Each year the Board of Studies showcases outstanding student work in a series of exhibitions. The following students received nominations for their Major Design Project in the Design and Technology Exhibition - DesignTECH.



Danijela Dusevic

Sustainable Urban Infill

"My Major Design Project was to design and present a concept for sustainable infill housing in Harris St, Pyrmont".



Victoria Kougias

Sportsearch Online Directory

"I designed and created an online sports directory under the brand 'Sportsearch' for the Inner West Community".







Gabrielle Michael

Santa Sabina Sports City

"I aimed to provide the Santa Sabina community with a facility that reflects a balanced and healthy lifestyle".



Sabrina Sekuloski

Dressing Table

"I designed an environmentally sustainable and minimalistic dressing table".







Dr Maree Herrett and Mrs Sharon Portlock, with Thomas Foley and Jacqueline Leung - Primary School Maths Prize, Faculty of Engineering UNSW award recipients.

DM SPEECH DAY K-5

The Del Monte Speech Day was a time to celebrate each student's own personal growth and an opportunity to acknowledge individual student achievements and excellence this year. It was a privilege to have ex-student from the Class of 1989 Dr Li-Chuen Wong, consultant Dermatologist and Supervisor of Training,



Dermatology at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. She addressed the community and encouraged each of us to be courageous and embrace opportunities and experiences to share our gifts to help others.

STRINGS PROGRAM

The Year 1 Strings Program began in 2014 as part of the music curriculum and the students have shone demonstrating the benefits of listening and the discipline of learning fine motor skills. Our violinists and cellists have progressed very well with this program, which has incorporated singing and bucket band. Year 5 Mini Maestros formed an orchestra and combined with senior students to have the total orchestral experience. Our Primary students are engaged in creative composition



and have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of performance opportunities enhancing their school experience.

NATIONAL MATHS WINNERS

Santa Sabina's Del Monte Kindergarten students are among the finest in the country after being awarded first place for their group project "Carnival of Centipedes" submitted in The National Mathematics Talent Quest (NMTQ). This competition brings together the winners of state and territory competitions recognising students' work on extended mathematical projects.

The Del Monte students were among tens of thousands of students from Pre-school to Year 12 to take part in the annual talent quest. The projects were judged for showcasing excellence in mathematics as well as creativity, presentation and communication.

This investigation was initiated in Term 2 through a field trip to the IMAX theatre to view and participate in the film A Bug's Life. Upon returning to school, the students were intrigued and curious about a Living Things 'curiosity table' - a collection of artefacts of various 'arthropods'

"WOW what's that one...it's long, and has so many legs!" Indeed, the centipede attracted one and all!

Questions and wonderings about the centipede directed the learning for the Kindergarten Term 2 unit of inquiry "All living things go through a process of change." The centipede became the stimulus that allowed the students to apply many mathematical strategies and discover new mathematical understandings, skills and concepts.

"We are very proud of the outstanding achievement of our students and the growth in their learning, their ability to think mathematically and problem solve as a team," said Sharon Portlock, Head of Primary.

The NMTQ aims to promote an appreciation and enjoyment of mathematics. The winning students were invited to the National Presentation ceremony at La Trobe University in Victoria to accept their awards.



Mrs Sharon Portlock with Kindergarten award recipients in Melbourne.

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SPEECH NIGHT 6-12

The 2014 Speech Night at Sydney Town Hall on Monday 17 November was a celebration of excellence across a range of areas and provided the opportunity for the whole school community to farewell our Year 12 cohort. Guest Speaker from the class of 1985 was Lieutenant Commander and Deputy Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Royal Australian Navy Jennifer Macklin. Below is an extract from her Speech Night address.

"It's been 30 years since I graduated from Santa Sabina, however I've never left the College community. My experiences at Santa have shaped me and sustained me throughout my life. Santa gave me a first rate education, lifelong friendships, a sense of duty and a strong moral compass. It also instilled in me the belief that anything is possible.

The education and the moral guidance you have been given is an immense privilege. A privilege not enjoyed by millions of young women around the world. So use your privilege wisely. Use it to become a change agent and a force for good in the world.

Find your voice as a woman of the world and use it. Have the moral courage to speak up for those who have been silenced. Speak out against inequality and injustice wherever you find it. Don't be a bystander – be the change you want to see in the world.

Commit to lifelong learning. It will open your mind, develop your intellect and be an enabler for whatever job or industry you choose to enter. It will mean that you are always employable and therefore financially self-sufficient. Remember, a boyfriend is not a financial plan.

Be open to opportunities that come your way – no matter how seemingly random. Just say 'yes.' Give it a go, take a risk, challenge yourself, go outside your comfort zone. No matter how it turns out you'll learn about your strengths and weaknesses. You will develop resilience. So leap – and the net will appear.

Get involved in activities, community groups and organisations that you care about. You'll meet cool, diverse people. It will open your mind and broaden your horizons. It will take you in all sorts of unexpected directions.

Most importantly - don't compare your journey to anyone else's. Find your own way. Decide what success means for you. Status, money, a glamorous job - these things are important, but in my experience they are not self sustaining. Doing interesting jobs, meeting diverse people, studying, having new experiences, travelling and discovering different cultures – this is what feeds the soul".



Lieutenant Commander and Deputy Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Royal Australian Navy Jennifer Macklin.



Above: Bridget Elias, Christian Leadership Award, Adrielle Touma, General Proficiency Award and Pauline Russett, Sr Sheila Flynn Award.





Coding, connecting and creating with UTS.

CODE, CONNECT & CREATE

In Term 4, Year 7 students participated in an all day event "Code, Connect and Create". The day provided many opportunities for our students to be enriched and to engage with the broader STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) network. Working in partnership with University of Technology Sydney, students heard from several guest speakers with IT and engineering experience. Throughout the day students rotated through three workshops facilitated by university students. These workshops encouraged creative thinking, interactivity, problem-solving skills and digital confidence.

Students took risks and discovered the power of coding using Python. They learnt very quickly that Python is a powerful, flexible and fun programming language that can be used in web development to write desktop applications, create games and much more.

The *Live lights, Smooth sound, Cool code* workshop focused on developing simple code to design a light and sound display using the Powerhouse Museum's Thinker1 boards. Students learnt about the basics of the Arduino programming language as well as some of the key concepts of circuit building used in electronics and robotics.

The final workshop required students to design and build their own robotic arm and then compete against other teams in a modified game of lawn bowls. This workshop was followed by a creative thinking exercise where students developed a project, based on Rube Goldberg Machines.

The day enabled each student to be challenged and it encouraged them to 'think outside the box'. Students took risks and were encouraged to make mistakes in order to develop solutions for challenges posed to them.

IMAGINEERING

Imagine coming up with an idea, creating and designing a model and then pitching your idea to the director of a company?

This is what students from Middle School did as one of their learning projects. The students followed the process used by Disney's Imagineers to create a ride for the new Sydney's Wonderland. Ammar Khan, the Director of Western Sydney Theme Park Pty Ltd, gave the girls their project brief and some background information about the criteria for the rides. In teams, the girls developed an understanding of the physics concepts needed for the design process. They used this knowledge together with their imaginations to create a ride experience in an Australian context. The students then pitched their final product to Ammar Khan.

Engaging students in authentic and active learning is important for students in the Middle Years of schooling. Both students and teachers were excited about the project and with excitement comes great things.

Imagine in 5 years being on a ride that was designed by a Santa Sabina student?



Ms Tania Kolar, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, Mr Ammar Khan, Director of Western Sydney Theme Park, Dr Maree Herrett and Middle School students.

SENIORS EXPERIENCE

Santa Sabina is proud of all the students who graduate from the College and embark on leading a life of significance as educated global citizens. Students in the senior years are provided with a multitude of opportunities, study options and experiences that enhance their final years of secondary schooling, assist them in their further study and provide them with life changing experiences.



Year 11 Students with Careers Counsellor Mrs Kathryn McKee.

At Santa Sabina College, we are passionate about helping our senior students transition from secondary schooling to tertiary education. Having an idea of the end goal upon completion of Year 12 provides direction, focus and motivation. Our students have access to unique resources to help with the necessary investigations, before these important decisions are made.

Beginning with a tailored and personalised program in Year 10, students take part in aptitude and career preference testing. Three-way interviews with a Careers Psychologist, parents and students ensure that informed subject selection choices are made for the senior years of study. This year, the *Career Mentor Network* was launched. Thanks to the generous support of our Alumni community, senior students have direct access to mentors, who have forged successful careers in many fields. These mentors provide students with inside knowledge on life in that career, the pitfalls and rewards. Such discussions are invaluable when students consider options beyond Year 12.

A range of study options are available to students to ensure their learning experience is a truly personalised one. Extension Courses, Acceleration Programs, Pathways, VET courses and online learning cater for the individual needs of our students.

Our Senior students also have the opportunity to participate in learning experiences outside the classroom. Immersion trips to Central Australia, South Africa and from next year, the Solomon Islands provide students with a truly remarkable experience; challenging their approaches to life. Language, History, Music and Art Tours throughout the world as well as exchange experiences to foreign destinations provide our students with global learning experiences.

TECHNOLOGY

Santa Sabina is now in the enviable position of being a flagship school in IT. The AARNet internet connection offers high speed internet access throughout our campuses. Our wireless network is enterprise level allowing for high speed data transmission. Our firewall and web content filtering protects students' internet usage. This ensures teachers and students enjoy technology that enhances and builds on the learning at the College.

Given the availability and use of multiple devices including laptops, smartphones and tablets by students, the College educates students to become responsible digital citizens. As in all areas of their education, we want our students to be discerning in the use of technology, and so become creative and critical users and makers of technology. This educative process is ongoing and occurs both in curriculum and pastoral contexts. Technology has changed the way we all operate in different areas of our lives, and education is no different. We need to ensure that the users rather than the technology tools themselves are in control.



Left to right: Jim Hayden - Apple Development Executive, Dr Maree Herrett and Mrs Angela Thomas.

Apple Award

Santa Sabina College has been awarded an Apple Distinguished Program Award for the second time in consecutive years, one of only 30 to be awarded Nationwide.

The Apple Education Recognition Program recognises outstanding programs and schools that are centres of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments. The submission demonstrated Santa Sabina's innovative use of technology and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment.

SANTA SABINA HSC HONOUR ROLL

Victoria Kougias

The Santa Sabina HSC Honour Roll acknowledges students who achieved a Band 6 or Extension Band 4 within a particular course of study. The following students were mentioned on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List.

Ancient History

Julia Racheha **Dominique Roberts** Biology Philomena Colagiuri Laura Kerrison Jacintha Shina **Business Services** Examination Rebecca Portugall Emma Breen Rebecca Portugall Kate Worner **Business Studies** Natalie Burland Bridget Elias Yuvita le Claudia Messina Pauline Russett Chemistry Sarah Boyle Philomena Colagiuri Laura Kerrison Josephine Lee Lena Melhem Pauline Russett Shelley Zhang **Design and Technology** Victoria Kougias Danica Canoza Danijela Dusevic Victoria Kougias Claudia Messina Bridgette O'Brien Dana Pizzolato **English (Advanced)** Sarah Boyle Sophia Carroll Philomena Colagiuri Nicola Ferguson Freya Kelly

Josephine Le Georgia Martin Alice Murphy Sinead Quinlan Julia Racheha Pauline Russett Jacintha Shina Madeleine Sidgreaves Adrielle Touma Sarah Valente **English Extension I** Stephanie Cincotta **Bridget Elias** Josephine Lee Alice Murphy Julia Racheha Pauline Russett Madeleine Sidgreaves Sarah Valente **English Extension 2** Emma Burrell-McDonald **Bridget Elias** Alice Murphy Pauline Russett Madeleine Sidgreaves Bethan Smoleniec Sarah Valente Entertainment Industry Examination Sofia Costa Sabrina Kang Food Technology Ilana Cullura Alexandra Florio Stephanie Gore Rebecca Jauco Tori Scanlon Samantha Thompson **French Beginners**

Stephanie Cincotta

Hannah Dening **French Continuers** Olivia Burge Jacintha Shina **French Extension** Jacintha Shina Geography Jessica Mynett Julia Racheha Alexandra Ratcliffe Chanelle Sleiman **History Extension** Sophia Carroll Nicola Ferguson Georgia Martin Alice Murphy Julia Racheha **Dominique Roberts** Madeleine Sidgreaves **Italian Beginners** Natalie Burland **Italian Continuers** Natash Novo Liana Bucciarelli Olivia Calandra Alyssa Di Pino Natasha Novo **Emily Rosillo** Sophia Songberg Alexandra Torcoli **Italian Extension** Stephanie Cincotta Japanese Continuers Angela Lee Josephine Lee Legal Studies Sophia Carroll **Bridget Elias** Nicola Ferguson **Mathematics**

Olivia Burge Philomena Colagiuri Bhawana Gangu Yuvita le Sinead Quinlan Pauline Russett Jacintha Shina Lauren Simmons Shelley Zhang **Mathematics Extension** I (1 unit) Josephine Lee Pauline Russett Melissa Srour Adrielle Touma Mathematics General 2 Liana Bucciarelli Natalie Burland Ilana Cullura Bronti De Martin Bridgette O'Brien Siahn Rees Tori Scanlon **Modern History** Victoria Kougias Georgia Martin Alice Murphy Julia Racheha Madeleine Sidgreaves **Music Extension** Jessica Zhu Music I Madeliene Saliba Personal Development, **Health and Physical** Education Alexandra Ratcliffe **Teal Scarfone Physics** Yuvita le

Sarah Boyle

Shelley Zhang **Senior Science** Stephanie Gore Society and Culture Liana Bucciarelli Emma Burrell-McDonald Bridget Garcia **Beatrice Khoury** Sinead Quinlan Studies of Religion I Georgette Abdallah Natalie Burland Stephanie Cincotta Ilana Cullura Yuvita le Laura Kerrison Alexandra Ratcliffe Jacintha Shina Lauren Simmons Studies of Religion II Pauline Russett Sarah Boyle Liana Bucciarelli Philomena Colagiuri Bridget Eli Nicola Ferguson Clare Giugni Freya Kelly Victoria Kougias Pauline Russett Madeleine Sidgreaves **Textiles and Design** Alexandra Ratcliffe Lauren Simmons **Turkish Continuers** Gulden Ayikol **Visual Arts** Emma Breen Freya Kelly Victoria Kougias **Dominique Roberts**



Renee Bandula