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

TOP ACHIEVERS IN STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Place in Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Kougias</td>
<td>Design and Technology</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Novo</td>
<td>Italian Continuers</td>
<td>5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pauline Russett</td>
<td>Studies of Religion II</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Portugall</td>
<td>Business Services Examination</td>
<td>10th</td>
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ATAR HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>ATAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Russett</td>
<td>99.20</td>
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<td>Josephine Lee</td>
<td>98.70</td>
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<td>Philomena Colagiuri</td>
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<td>Victoria Kougias</td>
<td>98.05</td>
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<td>Shelley Zhang</td>
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<td>Adrielle Touma</td>
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<td>Stephanie Cincotta</td>
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<td>Laura Kerrison</td>
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<td>Alice Murphy</td>
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<td>Madeleine Sidgreaves</td>
<td>97.40</td>
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<td>Julia Racheha</td>
<td>97.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Boyle</td>
<td>97.05</td>
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HSC Top Achievers In State. List from left to right above: Victoria Kougias, Natasha Novo, Pauline Russett and Rebecca Portugall.
HSC HIGHLIGHTS

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.

ATAR SNAPSHOT

HIGHEST ATAR
99.20

1 IN 3 RECEIVED ATAR OVER 90
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
• Debating
• Representative Regional Tennis
• Motet 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  
• Netball  
• Netball-Umpire  
• Representative School State Aerobics  
• Representative Regional Netball  

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.
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.

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.

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”.

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.

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.

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.

Mrs Sharon Portlock with Kindergarten award recipients in Melbourne.
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.”
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.

**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?

**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.
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.

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.

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.
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**
Rebecca Portugall
Emma Breen
Rebecca Portugall
Kate Worner

**Design and Technology**
Victoria Kougias
Danica Canoza
Danijela Dusevic
Victoria Kougiou
Claudia Messina
Bridge Cen-Brien
Dana Pizzolato

**English (Advanced)**
Sarah Boyle
Sophia Carroll
Philomena Colagiuri
Nicola Ferguson
Freya Kelly

**French**
Sarah Boyle
Olivia Burge
Philomena Colagiuri
Bhawana Gangu
Yuvita Ie
Sinead Quinlan
Pauline Russett
Jacintha Shina
Lauren Simmons
Shelley Zhang

**Physics**
Yuvita Ie

**Religious Studies**
Pauline Russett
Natalie Burland
Ilana Cultra

**Visual Arts**
Emma Breen
Freya Kelly
Victoria Kougias
Dominique Roberts