



THE MAGAZINE OF THE SANTA SABINA COLLEGE COMMUNITY

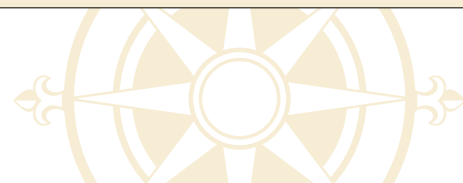
Encompass

ISSUE 14, WINTER 2011



SANTA SABINA COLLEGE

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



YEAR 5'S VERITAS PROJECT

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Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn

A NEW TRADITION FOR KINDERGARTEN



FABULOUS FELTING



OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP





Principal's News

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists." (Hoffner)

Some years ago I worked with a colleague, the principal of a large, multi-campus secondary school that had been identified as one of the top 100 schools in Australia. When asked 'How are things at school? He would reply, "It depends on who you ask". It is a line I have adopted as it is indeed true that on any day here you will get a range of responses to the question "How are things at Santa Sabina?", depending on what is happening, who is involved and who you ask. However glib this reply, it highlights the need for us to have a shared language about what is happening at our school. It means we need to be constantly evaluating our practices and approaches as we aspire to excellence in education.

This year Santa Sabina College is undertaking a professional self-evaluation process, EVALUATING EXCELLENCE, to ensure that the voices and views of all members of our community are heard as we pursue our aim of being an excellent Catholic school. This process, developed by the Association of Independent Schools, is based on the successful 'How Good is Our School?' framework used in Scotland. The framework of quality indicators and performance measures is designed to answer six key questions about the school:

- What have we achieved?
- How well do we meet the needs of our community?
- How good is the education we provide?
- How good is our management?
- How good is our leadership?

And significantly,

- What is our capacity for improvement?

In the 1980-90s there was a lot of interest across the world in what makes an effective school. Improvement was seen as coming from outside schools with standardised testing and curriculum, targets and benchmarks. The accountability agenda was very strong. The learning from those times made it clear that while external measures can bring about compliance with basic requirements, excellence cannot be mandated: it comes from within. Since then quality assurance has evolved into quality improvement. We now must learn to measure what we value rather than value what we can easily measure. External test results are important data but are only one part of measuring quality.

School evaluation is about reflection and improvement for the benefit of the school community as a whole. It encompasses a range of reflective professional processes designed to assist schools to learn about



Ms Kate Clancy is pictured with leaders judging the Harmony Day Photo Competition

themselves, highlight their strengths, identify areas for improvement and promote the development of meaningful and achievable action plans. School evaluation processes also support the maintenance of evidenced high quality practices. Outstanding schools need to be consciously 'outwards focused' with a sound understanding of successful practice and promising new directions locally and beyond.

Santa Sabina College is a futures-focused school, developing a genuine openness to new views and new ways of operating. We are ensuring a culture that is lively, personally and professionally challenging; a culture of adaptability, flexibility and sustainability.

So now when someone asks: "How are things at Santa Sabina?" I am confidently answering "Excellent!", knowing that a rigorous, evidence-based process informs my response.

Ms Kate Clancy, College Principal ✨

The Role of the Board in Preserving and Furthering the Mission of the College

Much is written about governance and the role of boards in exercising responsible governance. The challenge for boards, particularly school boards, is to ensure that they fulfil their responsibilities in such a way that honours the mission and ethos of the College they serve.

At Santa Sabina the Board takes very seriously its governance responsibilities and particularly its role in both preserving and furthering the Mission and identity of the College. Hence, formation of Board Directors in the Dominican charism is a high priority - not just for the purposes of becoming familiar with the Dominican story, but to critically

reflect on and integrate the values of the Gospel in a particular way - in the way St Dominic modelled.

Hence the Board strives to implement processes that reflect the values of dignity, justice and compassion in its search for truth; to explore creative responses to challenges that are part of our 21st century context and to embrace the Dominican commitment to personal excellence, independent thinking and stewardship.

Donald Goergen OP expresses very clearly what he describes as the four elements or pillars that manifest the vitality, diversity and core of Dominican life:

*"The four pillars of Dominican life - **integration, friendship, truth and freedom** - help us to appreciate who Dominic's followers are called to be within the church and what the charism of Dominic is all about: an integrating, free, and fraternal commitment to Truth."*

So as the Board strives to preserve and further the Mission of the College we are conscious of the Dominican story we have joined, the Santa Sabina community to which we belong and our collective and collaborative commitment to 'Inspiring Young Minds; Shaping the Future'.

Mary Neely, Board Chair ✨



A New Tradition for Kindergarten 2011

It was with much excitement that Kindergarten 2011 started a new tradition - walking (and jumping & dancing!) on St Dominic's Plot as part of their welcome to the Santa Sabina College community. This occurred after their Liturgy of Welcome in the Chapel. Bemused Secondary students looked on! The children know that the next time they will be photographed dancing on The Plot will be on St Dominic's Day as graduating students. ★



Better Together: Head, Heart and Hands

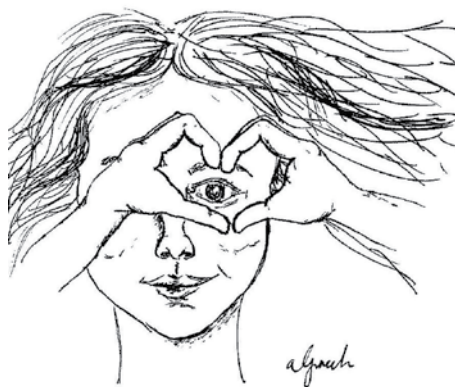
The theme of the Pastoral Program for 2011 suggests that as individuals we become our best selves within relationships and communities which challenge and support us.

'Our theme celebrates the differences between us all; we give our individual flavour to the world. It acknowledges the fact that some of us are better at using our heads; some are better using hearts while others are skilled in the use of their hands. In the end, when we work together, we are better together, and we can make our own light stronger to light up the world for all,' articulated College Leader Victoria Zalloua at the Opening Student Liturgy, at which the theme for 2011 was launched.

'With our heads we think and problem-solve, imagine, remember, decide on a better or different path, pursue truth...

With our hearts we heal and forgive, love and bring compassion, feel the pain and suffering of injustice...

With our hands we caress and repair, offer signs of welcome and embrace, offer nourishment and refreshment...



...Let us use our heads, hearts and hands to support and bless each other, bring life, freedom and hope and change the world.'

As a Dominican learning community we are challenged to engage both the head and the heart in contemplation and prayer, then to use our hands through acts of service and justice to make a difference in this world - to praise, to bless, to preach.

Our theme for 2011 thus invites each member of our community to support each other as together we build a community which richly nourishes the individuals within. ★

Image of Head, Heart, Hands by Alexandra Grech, Year 12





Outstanding HSC Achievement

'Study what you really enjoy and feel passionate about, keep a balance and treasure your last year at school. Anything is possible with hard work and balance.'

Sophie Marshall, one of the High Achievers from Santa Sabina College's HSC class of 2010 offered these words of wisdom as students celebrated their successes with their families and the school community at a special Assembly in their honour. 92 students achieved the highest performance band in one or more of their courses, and 13 girls were recognised as Top All Rounders, having achieved a mark of 90 or above in 10 or more units in the HSC.

Sophie, who achieved an ATAR of 99.65, spoke on behalf of her peers and inspired the students of the Secondary School, suggesting that anything is possible with hard work and a balanced approach to life. She thanked her parents and teachers, noting the importance of their support, encouragement and humour! Like so many of her peers,

Sophie engaged in a range of co-curricular activities as well as working part time and enjoying socialising with family and friends to remain balanced.

Head of Curriculum, Ms Cath Horan commended the girls as 'intelligent, articulate, socially aware young women.' She added: 'We expect that they will use their talents to bring positive change to the world, knowing that it is the journey that is ultimately what matters.'

In her address Principal Kate Clancy expressed her pride in the students, saying that 'Our world needs young women like our graduates - people of courage, integrity and truth to shape the future.' ✨

13 All Rounders
 6 students: ATAR 99+
 55 students: ATAR 90+
 92 students: one or more Band 6
 4 students: Top 10 in State/course



Sophie Marshall

Sophie's Keys to HSC Success

- Study what you really enjoy and feel passionate about
- Balance the two S's: study and social life
- Start on assessments as soon as you get them
- Do a sport or co-curricular activity to keep your mind active
- Take advantage of 'free' study lessons - it's a lot easier to work at school than at home
- Treasure your last year at school

In addition to gaining the College's top ATAR of 99.65, Sophie has been presented with a Certificate of High Distinction from the Society and Culture Association. There were over 4000 candidates who completed a Personal Interest Project (PIP) and Sophie was amongst the 14 to be acknowledged for outstanding research. Her PIP 'Beyond the Paint: Graffiti's Value in Contemporary Society' won a Culture Prize. Sophie's PIP will become part of the collection in the Mitchell Library. ✨





Gretel's Gain

At her graduation from Santa Gretel Janu was recognised for her leadership and teamwork with the Australian Defence Award, and with the Steve Barrett Award for her spirit of adventure and stewardship of our natural environment. (Gretel is also a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award achiever). With an ATAR of 98.10 Gretel has this year been awarded a University of Sydney Entry Scholarship, based upon her academic and co-curricular achievements in the HSC and Year 12.

Gretel has gained entry into the Bachelor of Commerce (Liberal Studies) degree. Having loved her years in the Music Ensembles, the physical beauty of Santa, its strong sense of community and the supportive teachers, she is looking forward to future challenges in her new university environment. Gretel is the daughter of Dr Margaret Janu (Goonan, class of 76) and the sister of Elisabeth, (class of 2007), now studying medicine. Margaret speaks highly of the education offered at the College, noting in particular the co-curricular opportunities and the care and support experienced by her daughters. ✨



Stefanie and Gretel

Stefanie's Success

HSC All Rounder Stefanie

Vaccher, who gained an ATAR of 98.55, has taken up a place in the 'Talented Students Program' at the University of NSW in the Science Faculty. Some of the benefits include being assigned a mentor, internship opportunities and careers counselling.

Another of our very involved students during her years at the College, (Debating, Duke of Edinburgh, Sport, immersion to South Africa), Stefanie is excited about the independence promised by university life. She advises future HSC students to 'enjoy everything at Santa; take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities!' ✨

Historical Accolade

Madeleine Ewing's Extension History Project was judged to be of excellent quality, and has been awarded a Certificate of Merit by the History Teachers' Association of NSW. Madeleine gained a Band 4 for Extension History and an ATAR of 93.3. Her project



Madeleine Ewing

explored 'history from below', looking at the day to day lives of the 'ordinary' people during the time of the Medieval Inquisition. Madeleine is pursuing her love of History at Sydney University, explaining that 'History has always been my favourite subject; the History Department at Santa is amazing!' ✨

Youth Science Forum

Aspirating to a career in Medicine or Engineering, Natasha Koelmeyer of Year 12 has enjoyed twelve days at the prestigious National Youth Science Forum.



Natasha Koelmeyer

Selected from 2,000 applicants to work with Australia's premier research teams, Natasha found the experience to be totally inspiring! As well as enjoying a taste of university life at the ANU in Canberra, Natasha had the opportunity to work with research scientists and doctors. Highlights of her time included learning about emergency medicine from doctors from St Vincent's, and participating in a CERN Conference in Switzerland on Skype on the use of nuclear reactors and the 'string' theory.

'Usually one would never have such access to scientists working at these high levels,' Natasha explained.

Using the high-tech equipment at the CSIRO Plant Phenomics Centre to look at photosynthesis in plants was another great experience during the Forum; it gave Natasha further insight into the many career options ahead of her for the future.

A keen debater who says she is inspired by her Science teachers, and with Physics, Chemistry, Biology & Maths as some of her subjects for the HSC, there is little doubt where her future will take her! ✨



Blogging - Like a Facebook for Art

‘ Collaborative learning is the secret to success,’ concur the nine members of the Year 9 Visual Arts class who are casting body parts and blogging - using diverse resources and computer technologies for their art making.

The students are sharing their research and ideas about surrealism and the ‘sculptured dreams’ work of John Calder in a highly engaging unit of work developed last year by Brian Walker.

‘The blogs are like a Facebook for art,’ explains class member Brigette O’Brien. Visual Arts Co-ordinator Sally Dewar adds that the girls have discovered a blog is more effective for their purposes than a forum, which is a more linear form of communication; the blog allows all

students to be authors and contributors, to add images, link to videos and thus share online useful resources and insights to help each other.

Having commenced with wire modelling the girls are now casting body parts and carving foam blocks, inspired by their research on surrealism and the idea of ‘playing on words’ - hand bag; finger nails; hand cuffs; watch dog. Freya Kelly, for example, has created numbers of plaster eye moulds and is affixing them to a plaster cast of a soccer ball to depict a surrealist-inspired ‘eye ball’.

The spirit of support for each other, their engagement in their learning and use of a variety of technologies - and their delight in their expression of creativity - are palpable. The girls’ finished artworks will be displayed later in the year! ✨

ICT is integral to contemporary learning and to our lives in the 21st century. As our students continue to explore new applications within our technology-rich world, they operate in a wider context whereby their learning is made visible. As digital global citizens they develop their creativity and technical literacy within a developmentally sequenced skills framework; they gain confidence and have so many options for learning - both independently and collaboratively.



Year 9 Visual Art Students



A Scoop on SKYPE

Year 4 students have used Skype to meet renowned song writer and Del Monte ex-student John Burland during his time attending the world's largest Religious Education Conference in Los Angeles. Using their classroom's smartboard the students had the privilege of previewing his soon to be released album, 'And With Your Spirit'. Excitedly they sang one of his songs to him on Skype, and have arranged for him to visit Del Monte when he returns from the US. ✨



Year 4 SKYPE

COMPASS

'I preferred to use Movie Maker as I wanted to incorporate videos and images,' explained Bridget Harrington as the theme from 'Hawaii Five O' plays from her movie of the life of St Dominic. Rebecca Agius describes Prezi as 'a more modern version of PowerPoint' while Chynclia Salerno likes Prezi's interactivity and the way it sequences her project; 'it is more interesting than just a PowerPoint', she explains.

Middle School students have created movies and an audio-visual presentation of the Dominican Story for an audience of children aged 5-10 years using various software applications. The students have responded to the personalised learning opportunity and the challenges associated with directing their own learning.

The Middle School COMPASS program is designed around 'big ideas' or questions that relate to content from multiple subject areas. Students are developing skills related to inquiry, information literacy, communication, critical thinking and problem solving through the rich learning tasks of Compass' integrated curriculum. Emphasis is placed upon students learning about themselves as learners. ✨



COMPASS students

E-News

For those of you who tweet, you would know that the challenge with Twitter is to condense your communication into the 140 character limit! Year 7 English students have been using Twitter and a news blogging simulation as part of an E-News unit of work, examining the news in a variety of online contexts and comparing it to more traditional modes of communication. Class blogging has further allowed the girls to examine how language use and content is being shaped and altered by contemporary modes of communication. ✨



Digi Ed

Our Year 4 claymation moviemakers have once again this year won the Movie of the Month award. Mary Assaf, Daniel Cipolla and Joshua Iacono have taken the prize, while all of Year 4 are to be congratulated for their digital skills and creativity! Year 4 continues to share their learning via SSConnect using wikis and blogs; they have also created animations exploring the narrative text-type. ✨

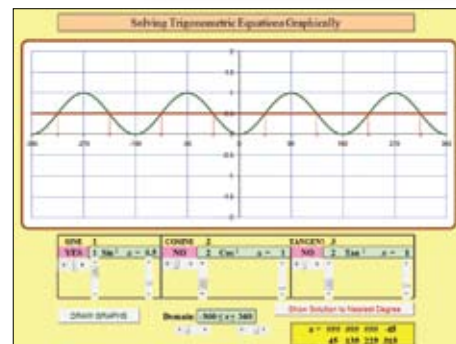
Maths Problem Solving

The brightly refurbished Maths Problem Solving Room is providing a flexible environment encouraging collaborative problem solving and innovation in Maths learning. So too the 'World of Maths' program which has seen students calculating how many worshippers would have fitted into Ms Bennett's office when it was previously a Chapel!



Middle School students found their recent 'World of Maths' incursion highly engaging!

Senior students are using animation software (Autograph) to model and investigate the volume formed when graphs are rotated around an axis. In Yr 7 geometry students are using mathematics visualisation software (Geometers Sketchpad) to discover the relationship between points on a circle and right angles. The concept of locus is thus introduced. Students are also learning that Trigonometric equations can be solved algebraically and graphically through the use of modelling software. ✨





World Youth Day Madrid and Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Dominic

Our World Youth Day pilgrims are counting the days until their departure for Spain! They have been tracking their journey on Google Earth and planning their itinerary. A weekend Retreat at Tallong also provided them with an important opportunity to reflect on the concepts of journey and pilgrimage and to bond as a group.

During their time at Tallong the pilgrims set goals for their pilgrimage and created visual representations. They reflected on the story of St Dominic and Dominican values, which culminated in each of the pilgrims selecting one of the Dominican values to meditate on as they walked the Tallong Labyrinth as a 'pilgrimage-in-place'.

'Our journey is not one we will complete by ourselves, but as part of a big community, a family. Our family begins here between the trees of Tallong where we have grown not only as individuals but as a group of people with a mutual passion. This passion has grown and changed, and is being brought to life through this pilgrimage.'

(an extract from the students' reflection for their closing Liturgy) ★

Right: Walking the Labyrinth at Tallong

Below: Students who are preparing to participate in World Youth Day



Our Year 11 & 12 students who attended the launch of the '10,000 TEENS' initiative.

10,000 TEENS

Under the auspices of the 1 Million Women Project, the '10 000 TEENS' initiative is aimed at informing young women across Australia of climate change and educating them about effective measures to reduce their ecological footprint in everyday life. It is a campaign of daughters, mothers, sisters, grandmothers getting on with climate action.

The launch was attended by a group of our Year 11 & 12 students. It was opened by singer Melinda Schneider, and involved a range of guest speakers including the founder of 1 Million Women Natalie Isaacs, Co-founder of Clean-up Australia Day and environmental leader Kim McKay, and novelist Rebecca Sparrow.

'All the girls who attended found the afternoon to be very rewarding, inspiring and enjoyable. We encourage all students to take a look at the 1 Million Women Project and pledge their support at www.1millionwomen.com.au,' urges Tayla Field, Environment Committee Leader. ★



International Women's Day

In 2011 we have female astronauts and prime ministers, girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family; many have real choices. Students in the Middle and Secondary Schools came together to celebrate the centenary of IWD, marking 100 years of advocacy for equality, justice, peace and development. It was also acknowledged that there are many barriers and obstacles yet to be overcome so that all women may enjoy freedom and justice.

While students gathered in Homeroom and KITE groups for a quiz and activities, including for one Homeroom a celebratory breakfast, Ms Clancy addressed community members at Strathfield Square at the invitation of Strathfield Council. She spoke of the courageous Sisters who established Santa Sabina well before any public recognition of the role of women in society. She noted during her address: 'How proud those pioneering Sisters would be to hear that once again the College has been named as an Employer of Choice for Women for the 10th time, in recognition of the College's family-friendly employment policies.' ✨



For the Future of our Earth

On both sides of The Boulevard the imperative for environmental stewardship continues to galvanise our community to action.

Student leaders and the Albertus Magnus Team have led us to participate in Clean Up Schools Day, Earth Hour and weekly recycling. The compost collected at lunchtime is providing the nutrients for the new Community Garden outside the Santa Hall, (the marigolds, lettuce and herbs are thriving!)



while the DM Eco leaders write regularly in the Veritas Voice to raise awareness in our families. Middle and

Secondary leaders have a high profile at Assemblies and meet regularly at lunchtimes to plan their next campaign. Energy conservation and sustainable practices continue to be integral to life at Mary Bailey House and Tallong. ✨

Crusaders for Caritas

Caritas Australia's 2011 Project Compassion theme invited us to make a difference to emergency relief and long-term development projects in over 35 countries around the world. In the weeks of Lent student leaders held cake stalls, sausage sizzles, donut and pancake days to raise funds for Caritas' Lenten project. ✨



Congratulations

Former artist-in-residence and great friend of the College, Aunty Ali Golding, has been appointed as Australia's first Elder-in-residence to the UNSW Medical Faculty. ✨

Public Speaking & Debating

Again in 2011 there is a high level of student interest in public speaking and debating. We are fielding the maximum number of teams for the Catholic Schools' Debating Association Competition and the AHIGS Archdale Competition as well as offering social debating opportunities for teams in Year 8 and 9.

In addition to the range of Public Speaking events in Term One, which saw 8 of our 11 speakers go through to the Zone Finals of the CSDA competition, and eight speakers involved in the Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition, Ashleigh Barnes of Year 12 has gone through to the final of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Competition. Participants present an 8 minute prepared speech and give an impromptu speech for 3 minutes. Ashleigh will compete in the State Finals of the competition to be held at Parliament House on Friday 24 June. We wish Ashleigh the best of luck!

Japanese Exchange

Melina Ie and Rachel Wong of Year 12 had the opportunity to spend three weeks in Yokohama on exchange to Soshin High school, enhancing their Japanese language skills beyond the SSC classroom experience.



Rachel and Melina on exchange

'There were countless numbers of things that amazed me about the school life and the country,' explains Rachel, 'such as having to change from school shoes to slippers when you walk into the entrance of the school, staying in the same class for all my subjects, and staying back at school till around 5:30pm everyday due to club activities. It has allowed me to see how care-free and slow-paced our lifestyles are compared to the busy Japanese schedules.'

'We rarely left school before sunset,' noted Melina, who also recalled the mandatory daily one kilometre run in PDHPE, and the little differences such as taking baths instead of showering.

The girls made a lot of friends, loved their home-stay families and enjoyed the opportunity to 'delve into the authentic Japanese lifestyle' and experience what a Japanese student's school day is like. They also experienced unique club activities such as flower arranging and baton twirling.

Communicating in Japanese for the three weeks was one of the greatest challenges for the girls. Melina described how she was able to communicate with her host family using 'a really thick and heavy dictionary, and various hand gestures!'

'The challenges with the language inspired me to try harder in my learning, and to practise,' added Rachel.

The memories of this time are priceless and will forever be cherished, the girls concluded. ✨

Cirque De Santa - JOIN US!

Saturday September 10, from 11am

It's the Santa Fete - *but not as we know it.*

This year the fete has a new look, a new feel, a new theme.

There truly is something for everyone with a whole host of hilarious entertainment and hands-on activities unlike anything we've seen previously.

Ex Students - gather at the Cafe at 12 noon for a catch up.

Tours are available at 12 & 2pm - meet at the Cafe.

Bring family and friends - all welcome!



Prayers for Japan

This semester we welcomed two Japanese exchange students to Santa, Ayaka Otani from Fujimigaoka High School and Eri Matsumura from Soshin High School. Additionally we have hosted students from Immaculate Heart College (which is the school that also hosts our students in Kagoshima).

From over 20 years of exchange programs, Santa students, staff and families have many wonderful friends in Japan. Our thoughts and prayers have gone to those who have experienced such devastation from the earthquake and tsunami. ✨



Santa students with the Japanese exchange girls who returned to Japan last week



Year 5's Veritas Project: Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn

What is stewardship?

How have people responded to the needs of the planet?

What are the issues for the future and what is my responsibility?

A visit to a Year 5 class finds students excited to explain their processes of enquiry, and keen to share their learnings about their exploration of some of the questions which are so important for the future of our world.

Having investigated the beliefs central to a range of creation stories - those of science, Aboriginal people and the Book of Genesis - the representations of their learnings are displayed around the walls using a variety of media. Ever resourceful, the students also problem solved their way to use string to measure circumferences and circle radii to create an artistic representation of some



of the cycles of life. Their reflections on the story of 'The Everything Seed' led to the creation of a prayer cloth for their classroom. Their research has included the phases of the development of life in the universe through 13 million years to the present. They have also presented the views and solutions offered by a range of environmental groups to issues of sustainability, culminating in the formulation of an 'action plan' for which they are responsible! Thinking skills and cooperative learning strategies have been central to the enquiries that the students have pursued, through which they have been empowered to question and to act.

Underpinned by Dominican values such as stewardship and seeking truth, 'The Veritas Project' builds on the foundations of the Reggio Emilia approach implemented at SSC in the early years. The program aims to take the learning of students to new levels and deeper understandings. Any discussion with the students leaves one in no doubt that in fact they certainly do have an extensive and deep understanding of so many of these complex issues - and great pride in their learning! ✨

Speaking Japanese

Year 8 Japanese students have visited Year 1 students to teach them some Japanese numbers, colours and greetings. The students played games, learnt a song and demonstrated kimono - traditional Japanese dress. Year 8 recalled their experience of being visited by the Secondary girls studying Japanese when they were in Year 1, and hope that the Year 1 students will remember their visit for a similarly long time. ✨



Harmony Day

Our annual celebration of belonging to a diverse community saw students from K-12, along with friends from Mary Bailey House, work together to create a chain of hearts as symbols of friendship, and share in a Japanese, Brazilian or Tirol dance experience. ✨



Open Day 2011

Students from every campus were outstanding ambassadors for the College as they welcomed several hundred visitors to view our learning community 'in action'. The students shared their pride in the College as they toured the guests and spoke of their experiences of learning and community, both within and beyond the classrooms. ✨



IBBY

Kate Flaherty and Alice Murphy were two fantastic representatives of SSC at an IBBY celebration of books hosted in the Del Monte Hall. The girls met renowned authors Jennie Baker and Nadia Wheatley as well as celebrating the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. ✨





Fantastic Felting and Passion for Design

Professor Susan Greenfield speaks of creativity as 'the ultimate expression of individuality.' For forty elective Textiles students from Years 9 to 11, the inaugural Textiles Camp at Tallong Campus was an opportunity to experience a new expression of each individual's creativity.

A day-long felting workshop run by Claire Brach saw the girls learn new skills of dry and wet felting to create from wool fibres beautiful designs inspired by nature. Up to their elbows in colourful wool, silk and ribbons, (and the nasty needles which provided them with some real challenges) the girls relished the natural environment of Tallong and the many processes involved in the felting, from agitating the wet fibres by squeezing and beating them to microwaving the textile.

'The workshop, which was held in the stables, was an amazing learning experience,' explained Adele Canturi, for whom the highlight of the time away was spending time with the other girls who share a passion for fashion and design.

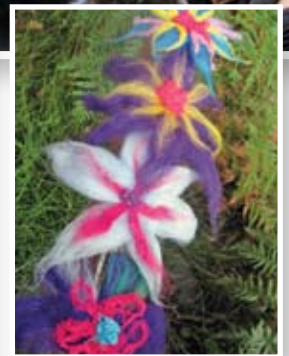
'Our class has been brought so much closer from this time of working together and sharing the same interests,' added Elise Sufferini. 'It will make such a difference now as we prepare to support each other through the HSC.'

'When I told them of Sr Judy's vision for the stables as a place for such workshops, the girls felt very special as theirs was the first to be held there,' explained Director of Tallong Campus, Paul Holmes.



Following the evening screening of 'The September Issue' our aspiring designers were 'visited' by 'the ghost' of Sergei Diaghilev (Mrs Saliba) who outlined the history of 'The Ballets Russes' in preparation for the next day's adventure. The girls travelled from Tallong to the National Gallery in Canberra to view the acclaimed exhibition, which they described as 'amazing!' They were given a guided tour of the range of spectacular costumes and an insight into the intricate textiles techniques that were used in the early twentieth century.

Vogue here they come! ✨



Textiles & Design Exhibition
View the Year 12 Major Design Projects
When:
Tuesday July 19 - Thursday July 21
(Opening 7pm Tuesday July 19)
Where:
Santa Sabina Lecture Theatre
All Welcome!

Year 12 Retreat

The annual Year 12 Retreat, occurring just after the Term 1 Assessment Block is a much anticipated highlight of the year for the graduating class. Eliza O'Donoghue and Monique Yallouris captured some elements of their experience:

We journeyed as a group from what has been a stressful time to a place where we became renewed, relaxed and reflective and this led us to see things in a new light. We were rejuvenated by playing board games, making jewellery and candle holders, doing hand scrubs, yoga and painting with watercolours, just to name a few of the activities. Journaling and reflection allowed us to think about what has been for us these last few months as well as what might come. On the second night of Retreat, with help from our amazing Retreat leaders, we created a unique liturgy based on the idea of our journey. We were surrounded by our long time school friends; it seemed somewhat a moment of significance, a collection of faces, personalities, looks and opinions so magically connected through prayer. ✨



Outdoor Leaders

For the Middle School and Year 5 students there were many highlights of their camp experiences - for Year 5 these included the ropes course, meditation, surveying the Tallong water and sewage systems, bush walking and star gazing; and for Middle School girls sleeping in tents, cooking their own dinner, abseiling and canoeing - to name just some!

While many had experiences and achievements 'outside their comfort zone' the students in both groups were described as resilient, responsible and prepared to meet challenges with determination and enthusiasm.

In recounting their adventures at camp, both staff and students spoke in glowing terms of the involvement of the Year 10 Outdoor Leaders who accompanied the younger students.

The Year 10 Outdoor Leaders undertake an intensive four-day course during the holidays in preparation for their leadership role. Its purpose is to challenge students in many different ways so that they are well prepared to work with the younger students. Snippets of quotes from the reflections of the Year 10 leaders provide much insight into the benefit of the camp experiences for the Year 5 and Middle School students as for those leaders who accompanied them.



Being on these camp programs has taught me about the values of leadership and cooperation that are so integral when working as a part of larger teams. I have also developed a greater sense of confidence in myself.

Olivia Fehon



I had been on both Year 5 and Middle School camps and I had great inspiring leaders. I wished to follow in their footsteps...

Lauren Ha



I taught the girls how to put on their helmets and harnesses, making sure they did it properly to prevent any injuries by providing them with a demonstration. I put all of my leadership training & skills into action while having fun with the girls.

Kate Archer



It is great to know that I have made lasting friends with people from other year groups.

Dominique Monaro



I learnt that you can always push yourself further and harder to reach your goals.

Caitlin Thom



Teaching a girl how to ride a bike was a major highlight and it felt really rewarding, especially when she thanked me afterwards...I've never been challenged more on a camp than I was at the training camp. The off-track mountain bike riding, high ropes and navigation at night really put me out of my comfort zone!

Adele Facchini

We loved the experience and the opportunities that arose from the four day training camp. Back on the road to Tallong, with lots of giggling girls ready for Middle School Camp, we were a little apprehensive though we had done a lot of preparation for the camp. But as we arrived at Tallong, and began the program with our groups, we really felt like leaders, and were ready to take on the challenge. The practical and theoretical activities we had done on the training camp allowed us to face all sorts of challenges with confidence. From dealing with girls with sore stomachs, to tent failures, rainy weather,



I learnt a lot about myself and how I react to different situations and scenarios.

Natalie Tat



stuck canoes, Tallong table duty, showers and conquering the abseiling rock, we believe our enthusiasm and leadership helped to make the camp a great experience for the students.

Katie Garsia ★



Conductor in Residence

Santa has been delighted to welcome our Orchestra Conductor in Residence, Carolyn Watson, who has recently returned to Australia after two years in Europe.

Described in the Sydney Morning Herald in April as a 'rising star', during 2010 Carolyn was assistant to Sir Charles Mackerras with whom she collaborated at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Carolyn was one of four conductors selected to work with musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Interaction 2010. She has recently completed a period of residency at the Staatsoper Berlin with Daniel Barenboim, having spent a similar period with Simone Young at the Staatsoper Hamburg.

Carolyn is the recipient of the Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize awarded via the Australian Music Foundation in London, Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth Opera Award and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship. A doctoral candidate at the University of Sydney, Carolyn is currently Conductor-in-Residence at Sydney's Conservatorium High School, Associate Conductor of the Tasmanian Discovery Orchestra and Assistant Chorusmaster with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

A focus for both the College Orchestra and Choir is the performance of the Fauré Requiem. Students are excited to be working on this fabulous repertoire, which will be performed in the Chapel on August 26 at 6pm. All are welcome to join us for this wonderful occasion! ✨

View the Kopanang Universe Canticle Exhibition in August

Sr Sheila is bringing to ACU Strathfield the 31 panel embroidered work which tells a story of evolution and creation, as interpreted by the craftswomen of Kopanang in South Africa.



The Kopanang Universe Canticle was originally commissioned by the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco for World AIDS Day in 2002. Since then it has been seen in European, South African, North American and Australian cities, to great acclaim.

Guided by Sr Sheila 17 women worked on the tapestries, in a project providing sustainable income to those affected in various ways by HIV/AIDS. It is over 32 metres in length.

During the exhibition Sr Sheila will be here at Santa preparing the Year 11 students for the annual immersion experience to South Africa which this year will occur in December. Come along and meet up with her and other SSC friends at the opening night of the exhibition at ACU Strathfield on **Friday August 12 at 6:30pm.** ✨

Del Monte Musical

There is much excitement and anticipation at Del Monte as rehearsals continue for 'The Rooster Who Couldn't Crow', the musical to be staged on Tuesday September 20 and Wednesday September 21. Our talented cast will be supported by the Year 11 VET students for lighting and sound, while parents are creating costumes and the DM staff are directing, producing, ticketing and coaching. The youngest students are tipping a happy ending, with the rooster re-gaining his voice - come along and see if their predictions are correct! ✨

Gondwana Girls

Students from Years 7-12 have participated in the Gondwana Choirs National Choral School at Sydney University. Georgia Wohlfiel, Laura Edwards, Yulina Walker, Rebecca O'Hanlon and Juliet Marshall joined auditioned singers from all over Australia in the pre-eminent choir for talented young singers in Australia.

For Juliet Marshall of Year 7, who joined the Junior Gondwana Choir for the first time, the diverse repertoire and the friendly peers were highlights. 'We were all there for the same reason: We love to sing!' she exclaimed.

2010 Music Leader, Elizabeth Younan was selected to participate in Gondwana's first National Choral Composer School. Daily her group of 18 were asked to write a new piece, one of which was to be sung by the choirs.

'The piece I wrote which was sung by Gondwana Voices used the text 'On this Peak Alone,' by Robert Gray. It was a tremendous privilege to be accepted into Gondwana's first National Choral Composer School. Working with Stephen Leek, along with such amazingly talented choral composers and singers from across Australia provided us all with great knowledge and inspiration. It was a fantastic experience for all involved!' exclaimed Elizabeth.

Music Co-ordinator Bernadette Bentley has encouraged Elizabeth to enter the Scholar Conductor's Program and the 2MBS Young Composers Award this year. She has also involved Elizabeth and her Year 12 peers Louise Dela Cruz and Gemma Lee in the Sinfonetta 2011 composition project and the CD launch of CD Skins - Piano Music by Australian Women Composers.

We also look forward to the participation of Jessica Zhu (Year 9) and Gemma Lee (Year 12) in the Inner West Eisteddfod. ✨



Santa's Hollywood Stars!



Cheers rang out and toes tapped as our K-12 ensembles took to the stage in a great celebration of our students' musical talents and participation. The Boys' Band and grand ABBA finale were just two of the night's highlights as Santa re-lived the movies! ✨





Blues Awards

Champion Year 12 Water Polo player Morgan Baxter returned from a European tour with the Australian School Girls' Team, to be honored with a prestigious NSW CCC Blues Award. Anna Phillips from the Year 12 HSC class of 2010 was also the recipient of a Blues Award.

The Annual Blues Award evening involves the presentation of awards in recognition of the top students in all sports from NSW Catholic Secondary Schools. The two highest achieving boys and girls from each sport are judged by the NSW CCC Blues committee, taking into account their sporting achievements, which often involve NSW CCC, NSW All Schools and Australian representation.

Last year Morgan participated in the Under 18 National Championships in Perth, one of three Santa Sabina students who won gold for NSW in defeating the Perth home side. She then went on to play for the NSW Waratahs team in Melbourne. The tour with the Australian School Girls' team took Morgan's team to the freezing temperatures of Manchester, Liverpool and London, playing and winning against competitors who included members of the English Olympic Squad. Living with English families,

exploring snowy cities and dinner in one of Jamie Oliver's restaurants were highlights of the experience for Morgan, who added:

'My eyes were opened to a different style of play by the English School Teams in the ESSA Tournament and I learnt a great deal, while also making some great new friends.'

On the way home the team also participated in the National Tasman Shield Test Series against South Africa and New Zealand in Auckland.

In addition to managing her HSC studies this year, Morgan has participated in National League competitions in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. She has also travelled to Hawaii as a member of the Australian Born '93 team.

At her graduation from the College last year Anna Philips was recognised for her consistent participation, sporting behaviour, contributions to sport and outstanding performance with the Pierre de Coubertin



Anna Phillips left and Morgan Baxter right receiving their NSW CCC Award with Mr Pham & Ms Bennett.

Award. Anna played basketball, hockey, touch, netball, tennis as a member of club and representative teams during her years at Santa Sabina, while also refereeing and coaching. Her citation for the Blues award for volleyball noted that she:

'is an outstanding player who gives her maximum effort every time she steps on the court... playing the position of setter, Anna plays the role of team organiser, directing play and point of attack. She is well respected for her leadership by both team mates and coaches.'

Anna continues to coach for the College and is pursuing a career in Physiotherapy. ✨

Aerobics Agility for the Nationals!

During the Easter school holidays 7 Santa Sabina Teams, from Years 3-12 competed in the FISAF NSW State Aerobics Championships. This year the competition was held 3 months earlier than usual which meant that our athletes had to prepare a lot earlier and train a lot harder to be prepared - they have spent many hours of training before school, at lunchtimes and after school! This time was clearly worthwhile as 5

teams which successfully placed in the top 3 of their division will now compete in the FISAF National Final Event in Geelong in July.

Additionally, as a result of their success in the Schoolaerobics NSW State Preliminary Finals at Sutherland in May, 3 Santa teams will also compete in the State Schoolaerobics finals for a place in the Schoolaerobics National Finals in Tasmania later in the year. ✨



Undeclared Premiers 2010



Year 4 Boys Rust Basketball Team: Sean Cliff, Alessio Pappalettera, Jordan Saade, Luke Touma, Nathan Saade, Matthew De Martin, Ramon Carpo (coach)
Absent: Thomas Di-Iorio-De Domeneghi ✨

Dancers' Showcase

Frances Grasso of Year 7 and Gemma Antidormi of Year 9 spend 6 days a week dancing - yes, after school until 8pm, and every Saturday from 8-4! They love it: jazz, tap, ballet, hip hop, contemporary, acrobatics.

'It is really fun and you learn new things every day!' exclaims Frances.

For Gemma, this dedication has seen her win a trip to Disneyland in July as the 2011 Pre Teen Dancer of the Year. Frances also aspires to this reward - she came 5th in the Junior Dancer of the Year competition in Queensland earlier this year, also winning the 11 years' Jazz section. We will continue to follow the great achievements and commitment of the girls. ✨





Babyccino Cafe Capers at MBH

At the beginning of the year a coffee machine (non-functioning) was placed in the dramatic play area in the Daintree Rainforest room of MBH. Daily the preschoolers began to dramatise that they were dining in or serving customers at a café - and so the 'Babyccino Cafe' was born, complete with cash register and cash, glasses and cups, utensils and menus. An excursion to Flower Power to dine in their café became a natural progression - the children eagerly made their own selections from the menu, including Kaitlyn's request for a "babyccino and marshmallow!"

The popularity of the MBH cafe has not waned - pictured below is Lily Johnston writing down Dominique Ashton's request for hot chips and milk, while Dominic Walter, having perused the menu, chooses a cup of milk and some barbecued food in exchange for his cash! *



Dominique Ashton and Lily Johnston



Dominic Walter

Board Scholarships

Newspaper headlines continue to proclaim that 'top teachers' are the 'key' to the best schools. Having long recognised this, the College continues to prioritise highly the investment in the professional development of our teachers.

Sharon Portlock and Candice Ferey are this year's recipients of the College Board Scholarship in support of a special project of professional learning. In Term 1 Candice flew to San Francisco to a conference about leading learning while Sharon will be travelling to New York in August to participate in the Summer School 'Mathematics in the City' Conference, which focuses on deeply understanding the role of context in learning, and how models develop from context in areas such as algebra, multiplication and division. We look forward to reporting their learnings in the next edition of *Encompass*.

Last year's inaugural scholarship recipients, Julie Kadir and Helen Schutz have brought their learning back to the College.

Julie writes: I visited three independent schools in Sydney who have a designated Professional Learning Co-ordinator. I also attended a conference in Adelaide entitled 'Professional Learning Communities at Work-Raising the Bar from Good to Great' and a Workshop at UNSW entitled 'Coaching and Mentoring: Keys to Improved Teacher Performance'. The focus of the visits and conferences was to talk about strategies for the continued development of a dynamic Professional Learning Community at Santa Sabina and how this can enhance student

learning. I have brought back knowledge about developing high performing collaborative teams and how to coach/mentor teachers to find new ways of working in the classroom, which will support the KLA Co-ordinators in their work.



Helen Schutz

Helen writes: I visited Glasgow schools and statutory bodies to investigate the Journey to Excellence framework that is part of the ongoing evaluation of Scottish schools, both independent and state. I gained a much better understanding of the principles, especially of self evaluation using observation as a validation tool. The visits to the schools provided me with a great insight into how this works in practice.

*The new Curriculum for Excellence has much in common with our new Australian curriculum and it was a bonus to be able to discuss this integrated approach to learning with administrators, teachers and students. In this "creative" curriculum capabilities and capacities are more important than a curriculum packed with content and the students are demonstrating learning in many ways. I have returned with an increased understanding of and enthusiasm for our own Evaluating Excellence project which has exciting implications for Santa Sabina College. I am indebted to the College Board for this professional learning opportunity. **

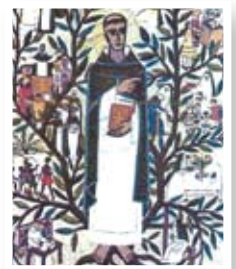
Apple Distinguished Educator

The College is proud to congratulate Mr Jim Hayden who has been named a 2011 Distinguished Educator in the world-wide Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program. The program identifies key educators from around the globe who are emerging as leaders in the field of educational technology. Here at the College Mr Hayden has developed programs to integrate Apple software such as GarageBand into the music curriculum, as well as bringing awareness to staff and students on how better to utilise Apple products such as iTouch and iPhone on a daily basis. *

Education in the Dominican Tradition

22 College staff have enrolled in a Program of Formation in the Dominican Story and Spirit offered this year by the Dominican Sisters' Education Council and accredited by ACU.

During evening and Saturday morning sessions staff are meeting with others from Dominican schools to learn from the Sisters' prolific scholarship. St Dominic and the Early Dominicans, Dominican Spirituality, Justice and Education, the Founding Story of the Dominican Sisters in Australia as well as the Dominican Family and Mission today are just some of the subjects. The course includes exploration of local and global responses to contemporary issues. Central to it is the legacy, vision and charisma of St Dominic and their expression in our Dominican schools and communities today, as we also interrogate the Dominican prophets of our time who continue to inspire our communities today. *





Where are they Now?...

Having finished a 4 yr Adv Dip of Fashion at Sydney Institute, **Charlotte O'Carrigan** (class of 2007) was selected to show her inaugural collection of clothes 'Never Love a Wild Thing' at this year's premier fashion event, Rosemount Australian Fashion Week. She has also been profiled in Harper's Bazaar (June/July). Her sister **Kate O'Carrigan** (class of 2009) has also featured in the 'Shop Til You Drop' magazine.



Emily Potts (class of 2004) is off to New York to undertake a Music Theatre course at the New York Film Academy. Emily has received two scholarships and hopes to secure a role in a Hollywood musical. Emily has recently played Mary Magdalene in Superstar and was profiled in The Catholic Weekly.



Dr Gabrielle Gwyther's (class of 1982) writings about urban issues often feature in the SMH. She is a member of the Social Justice and Social Change Research Group at UWS.

Our very own Masterchef, **Justine Schofield** (class of 2003) has hosted a cooking show on Channel 10, 'Everyday Gourmet'. Her French-inspired recipes are not to be missed!

Mary Louise Williams (class of 1968) is the Director of the Australian National Maritime Museum. She featured in the SMH Spectrum section.

Since graduating from UTS with a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication, **Natalie Adams-Dzierzba** (class of 1999) has been working in many of Sydney's top multi-disciplinary design studios. With a focus on retail and shopper-based design she has recently joined the global thong behemoth Havaianas and is responsible for the company's visual merchandising.

Daniela Pugliesi (class of 2002) and previously featured in Encompass has also hit the press for her design work, being featured on the front page of the Inner West Courier as one of the youngest to have her designs shown at Fashion Week. She specialises in cocktail, evening and bridal wear.

Margaret Cunneen (class of 1976) Senior Crown Prosecutor, is being played by Lisa McCune in the telemovie 'Blood Brothers'.

Mary Foley (class of 1969) is the new Director General of NSW Health. No doubt she will at some stage meet up with fellow SSC ex-student **Dr Sally McCarthy** (class of 1977) who is the Head of Emergency at Prince of Wales Hospital and the newly appointed Head of the Emergency Care Institute.

Elizabeth Condon (class of 1999) is featured in the May edition of Delicious with a selection of her Italian recipes. Liz is the chef at the hatted Cafe Sopra.



Some of you may have seen **Olivia Stambouliah** (class of 1999) on 'Ben Elton - Live From Planet Earth' on Channel 9. Olivia is a talented performer.

Some may have recognised **Dr Georgina Long** (class of 1988) on the 7:30 Report which profiled a melanoma clinical trial. Georgina is a Clinical Researcher and Medical Oncologist at Melanoma Institute Australia and Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney. She is an investigator on clinical trials in adjuvant and metastatic melanoma; her main research interest is in the molecular biology of melanoma. She has led the TEAM Study (Treat, Excise and Analyse Melanoma) across the Melanoma Institute of Australia with the collection of melanoma tissue before and after systemic therapy. Georgina is a collaborator with a number of international melanoma centres; during 2010 she presented over 12 international conference papers on her research in melanoma.

Louise Devlin (class of 1996) has been recognised on the magazine cover as the face of the Fresh Food campaign.

Jacinta Daher (class of 2009) is hoping to be crowned Miss Lebanon at a forthcoming pageant, reports the Inner West Courier. She is studying a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce while also working part time.

Peita Lind (class of 1999) has been featured in the local paper as the recipient of a Job Support Award for her commitment and dedication to her work. Peita has been employed at The Law Society of NSW since 2000.



Danielle Funston (class of 1999) has been working as a Senior Associate specialising in Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency law at international law firm Norton Rose, where she has been employed for the last 5 1/2 years. Danielle continues to play the violin.

Lara Fossati (class of 1999) graduated from Sydney University in Veterinary Science in 2006. She now practices as an emergency clinician at the Small Animal Specialist Hospital. Since graduating she has also completed her Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in small animal medicine.

Victoria Thompson (class of 1999) studied radiography and then trained in ultrasound. Victoria always had dreams to travel and to work overseas, so after completing her Diploma of Ultrasound she travelled and worked in Europe. She is now working on the Isle of Man and is gaining experience and skills in paediatric and obstetric ultrasound. Victoria hopes to come back to Sydney at the end of 2012.

Christina Parasyn (class of 1993) is an occupational therapist who has been working with people with disabilities in developing countries to promote their rights as equal citizens of their countries. She is currently working for the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) as the Regional Disability Specialist (Pacific) based in Fiji. Her main role is to assist Australia's aid program to include and benefit people with disability on an equal basis with others.

Miriam Brooks (class of 1990) is a doctor practising at the Mt Druitt Aboriginal Medical Service and The Women's Health Centre in



Sr Marcia Hall Award



Katoomba. She has two children. Her sister Louise works for the Historic Houses Trust. Miriam is pictured with **Mary Elias** (Tannous, class of 1990) and Amelie, the youngest of Mary's three daughters.

Elizabeth Snell (class of 1991) has attended the UN Human Rights' Council Universal Periodic Review of Australia (UPR) in Geneva as a member of an NGO delegation to lobby and advocate for the improved protection of human rights on the ground. The UPR is a mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council which reviews the human rights records of all 192 United Nations Member States. The UPR provides a significant opportunity for the Australian Government to improve the protection and promotion of human rights and to fulfil its international legal obligations.

Ana Becerra (class of 2006) has been awarded the University of Sydney Medal for her studies in Archaeology. Ana is going on to complete her PhD.

Jan Maree Marshall (Harnett, class of 1979) has been honoured on the 2011 Australia Day Honours List with a Public Service Award. Jan Maree, who lives in Canberra and is married with 4 children has developed a Carers Program in support of young carers, at risk students, pregnant and parenting young people. Her program has twice been recognised as a model of best practice and excellence.

Nicole De Fina (class of 2005) returned recently to Santa to speak to Year 12 students as a Sydney University Student Ambassador. Nicole studied psychology at university. Her sister **Julie** (class of 2000) works in Los Angeles as a scriptwriter, while **Lisa** (class of 1998) is an engineer.

Isabel Chapman (Baker, class of 1997) has recently married. Isabel is a paediatric physiotherapist working in the non-for-profit and NSW health sectors. She has recently completed a Churchill Fellowship in children's acquired spinal cord injury which has been one of her main areas of work and passion. Isabel's best friend since Year 7, **Louise Klamka** (class of 1997) is a successful solicitor working for a law firm in Sydney. ✨

The Sister Marcia Hall Award, established by the Ex-Students' Association in 2008, is awarded annually to a Year 10 student to recognize the wonderful quality of integrity displayed by the student.

Sr Marcia Hall was a woman of great integrity and was much loved by the students of Santa Sabina. The selection criteria for the award includes the student displaying positive relationships with others, striving to work with others while creating mutual respect for all, listening and responding with integrity, justice and truth and living the Dominican motto 'Veritas'. Congratulations to Alexandra Lynch and Philippa Cordi who were previous recipients of the award and to Ophelia Torres who is the current recipient of the award. ✨



Ex-Students Online - Have You Logged On?

Have you joined the SSC Ex Students' own social networking site?

Ex-Students Online is the place to be! Reconnect with friends from years ago, network about career opportunities or come to a reunion. Share in the pleasure of ex-student activities and use the bulletin board to spread the word about events you

are holding. Personal profiles help you catch up with what people have been doing, or you can promote your business with an electronic business card. As an ex-student of the College you can access this site and keep your contact details secure.

To log onto the website just go to the SSC website www.ssc.nsw.edu.au, select Ex-Students then click Register. ✨

Be part of the Santa Sabina Cookbook

All members of the College community are invited to participate in this exciting project of the P & F and Ex-Students' Associations. Submit a recipe which is special to you, which brings your family 'back to the table every time'. It may be traditional, cultural, celebratory or fun!

Whether it's a birthday cake, after-school snack, barbecue idea, dinner party favourite or anything in between, we'd love to hear from you - it doesn't have to be fancy - just delicious! Tell us too the story behind the recipe, why it means so much to you and yours!

Please email your recipe(s) using metric measurements to: cookbook@ssc.nsw.edu.au



Golden Girls

'What a joy to see so many Golden Girls. I even met up with one of my LC class whom I hadn't seen since 1944. That was something!' (Maura Wilcox)

April 1 saw a gathering of the classes of the 1960s, 1950s and 1940s for the second 'Golden Girls and Boys' Reunion', with special recognition given to the 'golden girls' - the class of 1961. One hundred and eighty former students travelled from Canberra and Port Macquarie, from properties in Orange and Cootamundra, and from so many places in between.

Some of the Dominican Sisters joined our celebration (Sr Philippa Jones, class of 1954 won the raffle) and Sr Judy (Lawson, class of 1961) inspired the gathering with her reflection on the Gospel, an extract from which is printed below.

Guests enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Dominican Heritage Centre with Sr Elizabeth Hellwig and to reminisce with old friends, as well as viewing the College and observing the many changes over the years. They shared their pride in their school and their fond memories of their schooldays with all of those privileged to speak with them.

An edited extract from Sr Judith Lawson's Gospel Reflection:

...It is wonderful to see you here and I am delighted to join my class mates of the year of 1961 as we remember that it is 50 years since we left school...

I realise in coming back today you will enjoy the opportunity to see the places and spaces, even though there has been change. But more especially you will recall the faces and presence of friends and teachers, both past and present. Perhaps St Paul experienced this emotion when he writes from his prison to the Philippians, in the words of today's first reading - "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."



I was drawn to thinking about the gift of Gratitude and to ponder it as a gift of the Spirit that shines through in our lives, especially as we grow older.

I am sure you will agree that it is a particularly beautiful gift to experience, when we receive gratitude and express gratitude. And you know, it is a gift that lies right at the heart of what it means to be part of the Dominican Family. St Dominic, father of the Order, spent his entire life building the foundations of an Order whose motto became: to praise, to bless, to preach - Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare. Those early sisters who taught us had a line in their Constitutions which advised them that as teachers, their task was to lead the young women in their care "towards the intelligent

use of liberty". It was an educational approach for which we can give thanks today...

...as I stand before you today my heart is filled with gratitude to God for you, that you would have made the journey today to be here together - what a wealth of strength, empathy and love exists in this chapel this morning among us; each of us with our own life experiences of joy and sorrow, each person trying to live out those two great commandments that Jesus speaks of in the gospel-loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves.

As we continue the journey we are on, may we live in a spirit of gratitude; gratitude to God for the rich blessings given to each of us, allowing each of us to make our own response in freedom... ✨



The class of 1970 - 40 Year Reunion

A look back and forwards - a celebration of our lives and friendships

Who would have believed 40 years ago that so many of us would gather to celebrate our school years together. Our class was characterised by challenging the norms and expectations of "the system", tormenting unsuspecting teachers and generally having a great time.

The class of '70 was remarkably privileged in the era in which we were raised. We grew up in a time that was in many ways liberated - it was the time of the baby boomers - full of optimism and promise for the future - we knew very little of world conflict, terrorism had yet to strike fear into communities and the massive technological explosion was yet to happen. We were lucky to have gone to a school where we were encouraged to see ourselves as women who could contribute to our society in many ways...

Most of us have married or partnered at various stages. Some of us are divorced and some have lived independently. Many have had children - anything from 1 child to 7 generally keeping the population in the positive and bank accounts in the red! We have valued education for our children because we have experienced the benefits of good education and opportunities ourselves... Quite a few have grandchildren who add great purpose and pleasure to our lives. We know it is nice to be able to give them back to their parents.

Our class has developed careers in areas that sustain our communities - teaching at schools, TAFE and universities, guiding research students, medicine, nursing and allied health ...farming, social work, counselling and using alternative therapies such as massage and yoga, hospitality, law, commerce and the public service - the list goes on. Many operate a variety of businesses and commercial enterprises. Our English teachers should be proud of the writings of many of us. Published works include scientific, sociological and historical research, fiction, personal



accounts of life's journey and history text books. Many of us have still to publish our ideas. We are represented in the entertainment industry including film, TV and theatre. Many of us have changed careers over time pursuing new ventures, interests and study as opportunities presented themselves and as we sought to understand who in fact we are and the ways in which we are changing and growing.

Our class has given hugely to the communities in which we live through fundraising and voluntary work to help those who struggle. The achievements and contributions of some have been publicly recognised with two of our group receiving Order of Australia medals for their work and services to the community. Much more however of this valuable work will only be known to those who receive the benefits. Many of us look forward to pursuing more projects with increasing free time.

Travel is a passion and an expensive habit for many... Travel experiences have often been shared with our friends from school with many catch ups in foreign lands. Other passions enjoyed by our year include a widespread interest in food and wine, craft... Underlying all these passions is a love of time spent with our families and friends.

Our class has had our share of life's challenges, adversity and disappointments - very little of which we would have foreseen

40 years ago - breakdown of relationships, struggles and deaths of children, siblings, partners, parents and close friends, ill health, drought and financial strains and general ups and downs. However these challenges for many have resulted in new perspectives, strengths and resilience and different ways forward. Many of us have found tremendous support in the friendships that we have cherished from our school years. It is the same friendships that comforted the young boarders who so often came to live at school, a world away from family and the communities they knew, the friendships that welcomed newcomers to the school, the friendships that supported us in adolescence as we developed into young women. For many of us these friendships are lifelong and are part of the fabric of our lives.

As we sit at the 40 year marker many of us are looking forward to significant changes in our lives as we or our partners retire, or our children leave home or we relocate to downsize or have a sea/tree change or as we embark on adventures for which we never previously had the time. Our stories reflect a spirit of optimism, happiness and hope. They also celebrate our journeys as women, daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and friends. ★

Sandra Samuel (Garsia)
and Chris O'Grady (McShane)
(edited)



President's Report

Much has been happening since my last report. It was wonderful to see so many of our Golden Girls and Golden Boys at lunch in April. There was much chatter and smiles on everyone's faces. Due to the generosity of these wonderful ex-students we raised over \$1000 for the Bursary Fund from sales on the day.



*Elizabeth Mulcahy
President*

We have also celebrated our 87th Annual Debutante Ball and had the pleasure of Professor Jane Ingham as our Guest of Honour. It was a very uplifting night for all who attended and as usual our Debutantes and their partners were exceptional. Thank you to Mrs Sue Bell and her committee for making the night such a success.

The Association is very excited to be part of the Santa Sabina Cook Book project and we look forward to receiving

many recipes from our ex-students and of course your stories about your days at Santa Sabina. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the whole College community together to celebrate our Dominican heritage through cooking. So I very much encourage you to participate in the project. ✨



Entertainment Book Fundraising

The Ex-Students' Association assists students with limited financial means to continue their education at Santa Sabina through the Bursary Fund. Over the last 2 years we have raised additional funds for Bursaries through the sale of the Entertainment Book. The Entertainment Book is now available from the College Reception - please phone: 9745 7000 to secure your copy.

Obituaries

Our community offers sympathy and prayers of support to the Dominican Sisters at the loss of two much loved Sisters:

Sr Frances Carver OP

Frances died in Sydney at St Joseph's Hospice Auburn as a result of cancer. Fran was a teacher and psychologist, and spiritual director for many years. She also held several positions of leadership among us. Most of all Frances was much loved by her birth family and her Dominican family, clients, ex-students (Frances was a member of the SS class of 1955) and her many friends. A gentle lady, Fran knew how to live life to the full and her joyful and faithfilled presence will be very much missed among us.

Sr Margaret Short (Thaddeus) OP

Margaret did her nursing training before she became a Dominican in 1954, and later trained as a teacher. In 1961 Margaret began what was to be for her a special ministry with children with vision impairment. After 1992 Margaret's ministry took on a new direction as she became carer for our senior Sisters in hostel and nursing homes in Newcastle. She took this ministry very seriously, and completed a Diploma in Aged Care from ACU in 1996. She continued her love for those with impaired sight by reading books and periodicals on tape for them through the Royal Blind Society/ Vision Australia for many years, and kept up with the lives of many of her former pupils. Margaret loved life, and was a woman of many and varied interests. Her Irish dancing, tap dancing and her line dancing were legendary. Most of all Margaret was a most loving member of her birth family and her Dominican Family. She was a woman of courage and common sense, whose religious dedication to her ministry assisted and inspired many, as did the warmth of her inclusive hospitality. Margaret died after a long illness, on 17th February 2011, supported on this last journey by her family and her community. May she rest in peace. ✨

(extract from Sr Elizabeth Hellwig, OPFAM)

Attention 'Old' Boys!

The Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association is attempting to re-establish connection with "Del Monte Old Boys" who form an integral part of the Dominican community. Whilst we recognize that you may have a stronger affinity with the school you attended in your senior years, we have found that many Old Boys welcome the reconnection with their former Primary School.

Please contact us:

Ph: 9745 7127 **Email:** exstudents@ssc.nsw.edu.au

Web: www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/community/ex-students.cfm

We look forward to hearing from as many Old Boys as possible. ✨

Elizabeth Mulcahy (SSC 1974)
John McCarthy (SSC 1970)



REUNIONS

Class of 2001 10 Year Reunion Sat 5 Nov
7.30-11.30pm

Where: The White Horse, 381 - 385 Crown St
Surry Hills, Australia

Contact: Peta Lalic 0421 530 694
email: petalalic@hotmail.com

Class of 1991 20 Year Reunion 29 Oct 7pm

Where: Australian Youth Hotel, The Nude Image
Gallery, 63 Bay St Glebe

Cost: \$55pp including food, beverages
available at bar for purchase

Contact: Amanda Oates 0424 940 756
email: aoates111@gmail.com to RSVP

Class of 1981 30 Year Reunion Sat 5 Nov 2-6pm
*(Including all those who were part
of this group between 1976-1981)*

Where: Bungalow 8 - Marquee, King St Wharf,
22 The Promenade, Darling Harbour

Cost: \$45 pp (includes canapés,
Commemorative DVD and Booklet)
FULL BAR AVAILABLE to purchase drinks

Tickets: Tickets to be purchased online prior to
the event.

Visit: <http://www.trybooking.com/OSY> or;
<http://www.trybooking.com/9956>

Contact: Annie Carrett (nee Cummins)
0439 600 233 or news@dbb.org.au
Sharon O'Brien:
sharonobrien@optusnet.com.au

Class of 1971 40 Year Reunion Sun 11 Sept

Where: Hyde Park Barracks Cafe, Cnr St James
& Macquarie St, Sydney (Hyde Park end)

Contact: Judith Foley 0419 605 372
email: santa4071@hotmail.com
Robyn Blundell (Duncan) 0410 346 217
Elizabeth Pooley 0413 269 176 or
elizabethpooley@optusnet.com.au

Make a weekend of it and meet on Saturday Sept
10 at the College Fair at midday at the Cafe!

Class of 1951 60 Year Reunion 18 Sept 11am

Where: Santa Sabina
Mass in the Chapel at 11am
followed by lunch at Santa Sabina

Contact: Mary Caruana (Donnellan) 9639 2863

ST DOMINIC'S DAY 2011

All are welcome to join us on Friday July 29
around St Dominic's Plot at 9:30am.

SISTERS' JUBILEES 2011

25 years	Sr Christopher Konasa	04-11-86
50 years	Sr Joan Winter	29-12-61
60 years	Sr Joan Purcell	08-06-51
70 years	Sr Irene Kneipp	30-08-41

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Peta Lalic (class of 2001) and Jarrad Magee a son,
Braedon Mark Magee

Jennifer Crowe (class of 1996) and Adrian
Castorina a son, Daniel Trieste Castorina

Melissa Horwood (Nolan class of 1998) and Ben
Horwood, a son Harry

Monique Evans (class of 1999) and Mark Roach
a son, Jai

Rebecca Saba (Stanton class of 1999) and Cezar
a daughter, Viara

Amy O'Meara (class of 1997) and Tim Carr a
daughter, Charlie Rose

DEATHS

We offer sympathy and prayers of support to:

The family of John O'Callaghan, a much loved
Maths teacher for many years here in the College.
John's granddaughter Megan O'Callaghan was
a member of the class of 2004

The family of Fiona Aubrey (Hattie, Year 10 class
of 1985) – her 5 children, sister Danielle (class of
1986), parents Dolores and Charlie and partner

The family of Judith Quinlan: Justine (class of
1987), Julie, (class of 1994) and Anne (class of
1982) Judith's husband Pat was the inaugural
Chairman of the College Board; Judith was also
a former Del Monte staff member.

The family of Terry Shanahan: Judith (Robbins
class of 1949), Cathy Armstrong (class of 1976),
Julie Tyler (class of 1984) and Angela Foreman
(class of 1986)

The family of Jennifer (Crowe) Ryan (class of 1955)

The family of Margaret Carpenter (Davis, class of 1957)

MARRIAGES

Isabel Baker
(class of 1997)
to Phil Chapman.

Isabel's bridesmaid
and best friend
since Year 7,
Louise Klamka,
is also pictured.



Joanne Chaina
('99) to
Benjamin Perdriau



Laura Nolan (class of 2000) to Vaughan Day
All of Laura's bridesmaids were Santa girls: Rebecca
Laming (Nolan), Gemma Nolan, Renee Nolan Julia
Schutt (Harle), Melissa McNeil, Darnelle Shiner

The family of Joyce Margaret Lucas (Priddis, class
of 1935)

Joyce's son Daniel has written to the College to
advise of Joyce's death. He also mentioned that his
aunt Marea, who also attended Santa, resides in
the local Aged Care facility in Coonabarabran.
Marea was the head of Sydney's St Vincent's
Hospital Physiotherapy Department for many years.

Murray Happ advises of the death of his grandmother,
Jeannette (June) Cooper, aged 105. His late mother,
June's daughter was Mrs Jeannette Happ (nee
Cooper) and she left Santa after finishing the Leaving
Certificate in 1955. She died on 5 November at Holy
Spirit Nursing Home in Croydon.'

He writes: 'Mum was born on 7 June 1937. Her
home address when attending Santa was 'Maxton
Park' via Goulburn. Mum loved Santa and June
was always very proud of Santa and the work of
the Dominicans. I suspect that June was the
longest living Past Parent.'

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.



Our Community celebrates Mothers' Day 2011



SSC P&F: Creating community through partnership and hospitality!

There have been many opportunities for parents to enjoy each other's company during the first months of 2011: the Opening Liturgy and Supper, the ever popular Middle School Dinner, morning teas, cocktail parties, year dinners and for the Dads the Golf Day and Dinner.



More recently, the Dominican spirit was keenly felt at our beautiful Mothers' Day Liturgies. The chapel was filled with music and prayer and it was wonderful to have our fathers organise and serve the refreshments. The annual College Dinner was also a high point of our calendar! ✨



Elizabeth Pooley, SSC P&F President

