

# 2015 SANTA SCHOLARS

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS P-12



**3 FIRST  
IN STATE**

**NSW ICT  
CONFERENCE**

Educators who inspire &  
create with technology

**EX-STUDENT  
SCHOLARS**

We look at past students'  
achievements, advice & goals



DOMINICAN JUBILEE  
800 YEARS  
1216-2016



**Santa Sabina College**



## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to our 2015 Santa Scholars publication. We highlight this year's scholarly achievements, from our HSC class right through to our inaugural Prep class. We also recognise our alumni who continue to demonstrate the qualities of Dominican Scholarship.

As we begin the 800 year celebration of the Dominican Order, we are reminded of the rich heritage of Dominican education so valued by Dominic and his followers. 'Study' is one of the four pillars of Dominican life, and is recognised in every Dominican school and institution across the globe. Study in the Dominican tradition is a lively engagement with the present with a view to the future. Study is not the memorisation of old texts. Moreover, study of the past is not intended to keep us there, but has as its goal the ability to understand history so as to interpret the present and give us wisdom for the future.

When we consider the future of our current students from P-12 we can be overwhelmed by the complexity of issues that they face, from conflict to climate change, technological sophistication, and global inequalities. It is thus more important than ever before for young people to be educated in ways that build hope, joy and optimism for that complex future.

Dominican study is not an affair of the head alone, but of head and heart together, along with one's whole being. It is transformative – that is the least we can offer the young people in our care.

Read and enjoy!

Dr Maree Herrett

## COURSE DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015 118 Year 12 students and 9 accelerants undertook study in 40 NSW Board of Studies Developed Courses.
- 65 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 145 times on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List across 31 courses.
- In English Extension 1, English Extension 2, History Extension, French Extension, Italian Extension and Latin Extension 100% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible, an examination mark of 40 or more.
- In Music 1, Music 2, Visual Arts and French Continuers 100% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible, an examination mark of 80 or more.
- In half of the 2 unit courses studied at least 75% of students achieved in the highest 2 performance bands possible.





## FIRST IN STATE

Student Name	Course	Place in Course
Olivia Calandra	Design and Technology	1st
Natasha Novo	Italian Extension	1st
Lauren Majarres	Spanish Continuers*	1st

\*1st in Course - Studied externally through Saturday School of Community Languages



## TOP ACHIEVERS IN STATE

Student Name	Course	Place in Course
Rebekah Quintal	French Beginners	5th
Angelique Souma	Studies of Religion I	9th
Sarah Bastable	Biology	19th
Eleanor Kenny	Biology	19th

## HSC TOP ALL-ROUNDERS



Three 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:

- Natasha Novo
- Sabine Pyne
- Lisa-Marie Wakim



ABOVE: Mrs Angela Thomas, Sarah Bastable, Eleanor Kenny, Angelique Souma, Olivia Calandra, Dr Maree Herrett, Lauren Majarres, Sabine Pyne, Mr Ed Codsí and Mrs Elizabeth Brooks.

## HSC HIGHLIGHTS

### LANGUAGES

Once again, the Languages students achieved outstanding results in the 2015 HSC. Natasha Novo received 1st Place in State for Italian Extension following her 5th place as an accelerant in the 2014 HSC for Italian Continuers. Rebekah Quintal was 5th in State for French Beginners and Lauren Majarres was 1st in State for Spanish Continuers which she studied externally.

Over the last decade, Santa Sabina has consistently achieved impressive results in languages with many top 10 places in the State in Italian, French and Japanese. The most recent First in State places were in Italian Extension in 2013, French Beginners in 2012 and Japanese Beginners in 2010.

### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Design and Technology results this year were again outstanding. Olivia Calandra received a First Place in State for Design and Technology and 7 students were nominated to showcase their HSC major work in the DesignTECH exhibition.

Students have access to cutting edge technology and equipment that enables them to produce high end major works. The experience and skill of the D&T staff is reflected by the consistently strong results in Design and Technology.

### MUSIC

The 2015 results in Music have seen a stronger performance than in previous years. 100% of the candidature received a band 5 or 6 in both the Music 1 and Music 2 course.

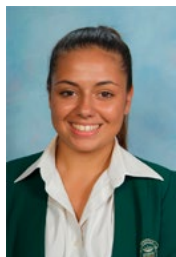
Susana Zong was nominated for inclusion in ENCORE, the HSC showcase for outstanding Music performances and compositions for her vocal performance component for the HSC.



# HSC EXHIBITIONS

Each year the Board of Studies showcases outstanding student work in a series of exhibitions.

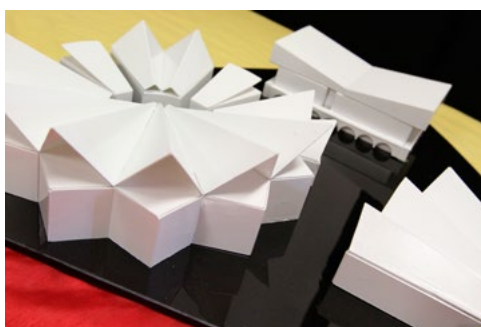
The following students received nominations for their Major Design Project in the Design and Technology Exhibition - DesignTECH.



**MODULAR STORAGE UNIT**  
Taylor De Sousa



**CENTRAL TO EVELEIGH  
CORRIDOR RE-DEVELOPMENT**  
Jaimie Karamihas



**SPANISH FLAMENCO  
UNIVERSITY DESIGN**  
Lauren Majarres



Susana Zong was nominated for ENCORE for her HSC vocal performance.



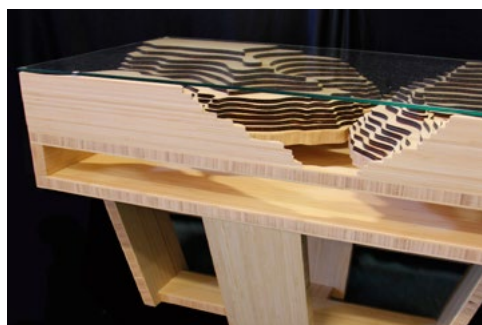
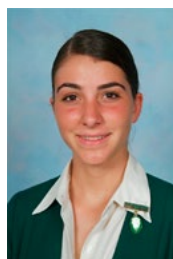
**SYDNEY'S SECOND  
AIRPORT CONCEPT**  
Olivia Calandra



**CEMENT HOME WARES RANGE**  
Emily Rosillo



**REDEVELOPMENT OF  
SANTA SABINA COLLEGE HALL**  
Jessica Pani



**COFFEE TABLE**  
Lara Salvarinas

# SCHOLAR PROFILES

## NATASHA NOVO

- 1st in State Italian Extension
- 5th in State Italian Continuers (2014 HSC)
- ATAR 99.45



### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

In all honesty, hours upon hours devoted to studying, sacrificing free time and sleep were the factors contributing to my success. Being surrounded by people who were also working hard, as well as a supportive family and teachers who tolerated my often monumental levels of stress, allowed me to focus and contributed to my success.

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

My time at Santa was amazing and I know I'll never forget the experiences I had and the friendships I made.

### **HSC Advice for younger students**

While I don't have a "key to success" I think it's safe to say that hard work does not go unrewarded. Deciding what kind of marks you want to get and then consistently working to achieve them is your best bet.

### **Plans for 2016**

Study Commerce Law.

### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

I credit my HSC success to a number of key factors. The teachers were a great source of help and I always asked when I needed assistance. I made time for myself to do things I enjoy such as dancing and I took the time to make good solid notes to help me with my study.

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

My whole Santa experience was amazing and I will never forget the friends I made and the sense of community.

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

A strong network of support including family, friends and teachers can get you through anything.

### **Plans for 2016**

Actuarial Studies or Science.

## SOPHIA SONGBERG

- ATAR 98.7



### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

I had a good support system and attitude towards school. I also tried not to take everything too seriously and kept things in perspective.

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

Making so many friends – with not only my fellow students but also my teachers.

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

Everything will turn out OK in the end if you work hard and try your best.

### **HSC Advice for younger students**

When it comes to studying I believe quality comes before quantity. Don't get too caught up in the pressure of studying - preparation will go a long way to helping you study effectively.

### **Plans for 2016**

I plan to take a gap year in 2016 and work with horses then do a Bachelor of Medical Science/Law at UTS the following year.

## SARAH BASTABLE

- 19th in State Biology
- ATAR 98.3



## ELEANOR KENNY

- 19th in State Biology
- ATAR 97.65



### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

Having persistence, a balanced lifestyle and the ability to overcome disappointing marks all contributed to my HSC success.

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

I really enjoyed playing indoor soccer during my time at Santa and spending lunchtimes with my friendship group.

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

That by having a strong support system around you can overcome setbacks and keep persisting with your goals.

### **Plans for 2016**

I plan to study Business/Law at UTS.

### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

The three contributing factors to my HSC success were finding a balance with study, asking teachers for help and constantly working hard to achieve my goals.

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

Being part of the varied co-curricular activities. The warmth and happiness I felt in Homeroom is something I will always remember as well as the girls who I shared homeroom with.

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

Never give up! And challenge yourself, you only experience this once so give it all you have.

### **Plans for 2016**

I plan to study Actuarial Studies and challenge myself and enjoy university life.

## LISA-MARIE WAKIM

- HSC Top-All Rounder
- ATAR 96.1



### **Contributing factors to your HSC Success?**

The love and support of my family and friends and the Santa Sabina community helped me with my HSC success.

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

I will always remember the great times spent with my friends and teachers - I've made a lot of memories of times filled with laughter.

### **HSC Advice for younger students**

That consistency is key and that with hard work and dedication the results will come.

### **Plans for 2016**

Bachelor of Commerce at UNSW.

## CAROL WU

- ATAR 96.5





## SABINE PYNE

- HSC All Rounder
- ATAR 96.0



### Contributing factors to your HSC Success?

Overwhelmingly I owe my achievement in the HSC to my teachers. Throughout Year 11 and 12, all my teachers demonstrated commitment, time, and genuine care to my studies and improvement. I was constantly blown away by the extensive and constructive feedback I received, no matter the time of day/night. I am eternally grateful for all their hard work, and owe all my success to them.

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

It is a difficult task to confine 5 years of memories to a few lines however, Santa Sabina camps most definitely deserve a mention. From my first camp in Year 8, to the memorable survival camp in Year 9, to becoming an outdoor education leader in Year 10, to retreats in Senior Years, every camp holds special significance and take a snapshot of one's personality and growth throughout school.

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

Santa Sabina has successfully instilled in me the belief that Santa girls are independent, strong-minded women, who have the ability to make a difference in whatever field they pursue.

### Plans for 2016

Next year I plan to take a gap year and travel through Europe.

### Contributing factors to your HSC Success?

Having self-belief and motivation, the support of family, friends and the Santa Community and maintaining regular and effective study were the key factors in contributing to my HSC success.

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

I will always remember the rich community at Santa Sabina. Particularly the community days like Dom's Day. The Year 12 events were all special to me including the Year 12 picnic, the Sisters morning tea and the Year 12 theme launch day.

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

Have a healthy circle of friends and family around you. Their support will motivate and inspire you to achieve your best. Throughout everything remember to be yourself.

### HSC Advice for younger students

Maintain balance in your life, have confidence in yourself and remember that it's only one year of your life so make the most of everything academically and socially.

### Plans for 2016

I hope to study a double degree of Civil Engineering and Architecture at Sydney University.

## OLIVIA CALANDRA

### Awards:

- 1st in State Design and Technology
- ATAR 95.45





# ATAR SNAPSHOT



## ATAR HIGHLIGHTS

Student Name	ATAR
Natasha Novo	99.45
Sophia Songberg	98.7
Sarah Bastable	98.3
Eleanor Kenny	97.65
Caitlin McFadden	97.15
Alexandra Etccl	96.95
Carol Wu	96.5
Emily Rosillo	96.4
Paris Emsis	96.25

Student Name	ATAR
Rebekah Quintal	96.1
Lisa-Marie Wakim	96.1
Michelle Angelidis	96.05
Sabine Pyne	96.0
Angelique Souma	95.85
Andrea Brattoni	95.45
Olivia Calandra	95.45
Hannah Johnson	95.3
Olivia Kim	95.2



Mrs Sharon Portlock, Dr Maree Herrett and Ms Claudia Novati with award recipients.

## SPEECH DAY K-5

The Santa Maria del Monte Speech Day was a celebration of our students and staff on our Primary Campus. It was an opportunity to reflect on 2015 and celebrate the great achievements and personal growth of all our students.

Special guest Claudia Novati from the Class of 2002 spoke with affection of her time at Santa Sabina and with passion around STEM; encouraging students to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects as early as possible in their education.



Ms Claudia Novati.

## NATIONAL MATHEMATICS TALENT QUEST

Santa Sabina's Primary school students were awarded three first places for projects 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 students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 5 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.

The Prep class project called "Little architects design big houses" used mathematical expertise including measuring and number skills to solve practical problems. The students developed an understanding of many different ways to record the area of their houses including using tallies, numbers and symbols. "The sheer joy on the students' faces, as they recorded their mathematical findings, was just priceless!" Prep teacher Ms Fiona Walshe said.



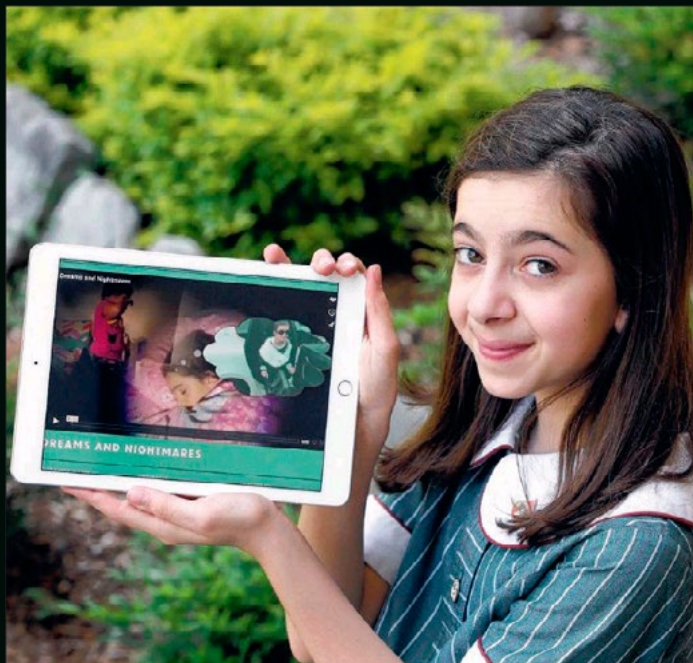
Prep Students with their winning submission.

Other winning projects included the Year 1 small group who explored "Where's the Maths in Habitats" and Year 5 students with "The Maths Behind School Improvement: How Can We Improve Our School?"

"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.

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





## SHORT FILM WINNER

YEAR 5 student Bella Merlino's dreams came true when she won the My Story My Content film competition. The short film titled *Dreams and Nightmares*, referenced the impact of film piracy and was the audience choice winner and the runner up in the Primary section out of hundreds of entries from schools in Australia and New Zealand.

Her film was about two friends who see a movie. Later that evening one of the friends dream about becoming a movie star and the other friend becomes a film pirate, turning the dreams of her friend into a nightmare.

Bella has placed first in 10 drama and speech competitions this year, including the Parramatta Eisteddfod and the aspiring actor sees winning these competitions as a stepping stone to entering the film industry.

### PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

The Primary Campus is into its second year as a candidate school for the PYP. Collaboration is central to the program.

Teachers regularly collaborate to plan rigorous and creative units of inquiry and the students also collaborate as they work together and energise each other.

This year our students P-5 have engaged in 40 Units of Inquiry. Our collaborative school culture has transformed the learning and has had a positive effect on our students.

Next year we look forward to authorization and becoming an IB world school.

## ALPHABET SOUP

Students in Year 5 have been learning how to successfully use poetic devices such as imagery, metaphors, personification and interesting vocabulary to compose their own poetry. They were encouraged to write for a wider audience and the Alphabet Soup Blog - (for kids who love books and creative writing) was an exciting opportunity for them to share their work. Students were invited to submit their written work to the blog. Amy Douglas' poem titled EAGLE was chosen to be published on Alphabet Soup Blog.

### EAGLE

Soaring through the sky  
On a bright summer's day  
The eagle prepares to dive  
Circling its prey

As quick as lightning  
Eagle punishes an offender  
The target is paralysed  
And has no choice but to surrender  
Entering eagle territory  
This is how mouse is punished  
Becoming Eagles' dinner  
Making sure he doesn't famish

The victim would tell her friends  
But poor mouse has been immobilised  
She bows her head in defeat  
No energy for the fight to repeat

Yet she still feels as if there is life in her  
Physicality is the truth to decipher  
Eagle feels very satisfied  
He has had enough for lunch  
After disposing of the excess  
He begins finding something for supper to munch







Mrs Karen Carey conducting the Santa Sabina College Orchestra.

## SPEECH NIGHT 6-12

The 2015 Speech Night at the City of Sydney Town Hall was a truly memorable showcase of student achievement across diverse areas of their education. Congratulations to all prize-winners, musicians, and performers, and to all of those students who contributed to making our third Speech Night such a successful event. We have become a school that sings as was obvious in the whole school rendition of 'Phoenix', and the College Song.

We were privileged to have Margaret Cunneen SC (Class of 1976) as our special guest; her warmth, honesty and pride in being a 'Santa' girl were palpable. Below is an extract from her Speech Night address:

*"I admire you all, girls, because there are so many more distractions to learning than there were before the Internet, social media and mobile phones.*

*One of my sons asked me only last night how, when we were at school, we ever found out anything we may have wanted to know. Well, often you'd ask your parents. My father always had an answer, confidently delivered. It's been surprising finding out, over the years, that the answers were often complete nonsense. But Dad could never bring himself to say "I wouldn't have a clue".*

*We'd go to the library and research things, from books. And more books. And that was it. It's an interesting question whether information is better absorbed if it's more challenging to acquire it.*

*You are all developing the self-discipline to concentrate on your studies, your sports, your music, your interests, in spite of all the modern distractions. You will need that strength of character. For many years I have advised young women to work really, really hard on whatever you choose to do for the first 10 years out of school. After that your reputation as a self-motivated hard worker follows you for life. That's a great asset for when motherhood may come along and there may be some interruptions to your career. You will have a solid base of achievement to build on."*



Special Guest Ms Margaret Cunneen SC.



Christian Leadership recipient Elloise Cowley, General Proficiency recipient Emily Devine and Sr Sheila Flynn Award recipient Ashley Abraham.



# MOTIVATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Santa Sabina continues to partner with leading Australian academics to ensure that contemporary research underpins all aspects of the academic care of students. One such project this year was a national research project on Personal Best Goals, led by Professor Andrew Martin from the University of New South Wales.

The project (funded by the Australian Research Council) investigated Personal Best (PB) Goals as well as students' motivation and engagement.

The research comprised two components:

(1) a Year 7 survey using the full Motivation and Engagement Scale and

(2) a brief real-time PB Goals, motivation, and engagement survey that Year 7 students completed in English and Mathematics classes for a month.



Motivation and engagement are conceptualised by Professor Martin's research as students' energy and drive to learn, work effectively, and achieve to their potential at school and the behaviours that follow from this energy and drive. Being motivated and engaged not only increases students' enjoyment of school and study but underpins their achievement as well. In this project, numerous measures of motivation and engagement were assessed.

The total number of Australian Year 7 students involved in the 2015 study was 1500. Professor Martin's results showed the National Average and then the school specific measures on various aspects of motivation and engagement including self-belief, valuing of school, personal bests, and persistence. Santa students showed significantly higher than average measures, suggesting that they are confident, competent, and have a good sense of agency as learners. The College will use the data and the strategies suggested by the report to sustain the strengths identified, and to focus on areas for development.

## LEADERSHIP

The shared goal of education in Australian schools is stated in The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians – “to create successful learners, confident, creative individuals and active informed citizens”.

At Santa Sabina College we are committed to a Dominican education for justice, challenging students to question the needs of their contemporary world and transfer the fruits of scholarly contemplation into action that serves the needs of others. This is most evident in our student leadership endeavours.

*“The 2015-2016 Leadership year will allow all leaders to engage in big picture thinking, strengthen teamwork and gain insight into personal leadership qualities. An important theme to emphasise is that leadership is a quality of which every individual possesses. At its heart leadership is compassion, service, integrity and initiative. In order to foster this quality, the Leadership Induction Day held in October allowed all leaders to contemplate their vision and their dreams for Santa Sabina. On a personal level, students reflected on what they would like to see improved in leadership and school and what skills everyone can bring to the table. On a collaborative level, we engaged in the dynamic of working in a team; a very significant facet of leadership.*

*Through problem solving, brainstorming activities and idea generation in specific leadership groups, teams prepared for the busy times, challenges and successes ahead in this new leadership year. The leaders demonstrated a genuine care and sense of generosity to engage, improve and enrich our experience at Santa.*

*The positive energy and enthusiasm of the 2015-2016 Leadership Team will indeed shine.”*

**Michelle Mutyora and Nina Kerwin-Roman**  
2015-2016 College Leaders

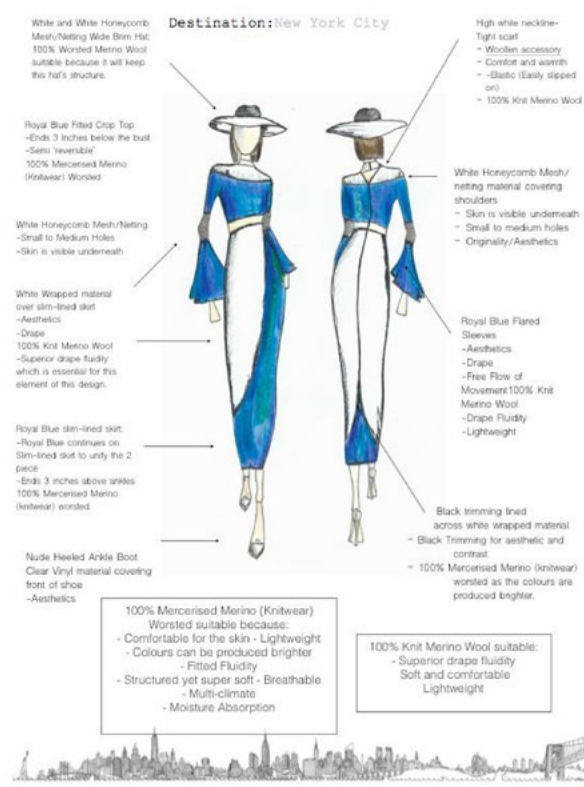
# WOOL4SKOOL

Year 9 Textiles Technology participated in a competition promoting wool. The theme for the Wool4Skool Competition was to; Live Life, Love Wool!

Students were asked to design a perfect winter outfit showcasing their personal style and reflecting a chosen winter destination, such as; New York City, Tokyo, Paris, Moscow or New Delhi. The outfit designed had to be made from at least 80 per cent Australian Merino wool and for something new, they needed to include the perfect wool accessory.

Jemma Hayes was selected as runner up in the Year 9 category. This is a wonderful achievement as more than 10,000 students across Australia registered for the competition.

*Jemma Hayes' Wool4Skool submission.*



## ICAS MATHS

This year almost 160 Santa Sabina students took up the challenge and entered the UNSW ICAS Mathematics Competition competing with over one million students from over 20 countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, India and the United States.

Students' skills and knowledge were tested across the five strands of Algebra and Patterns, Chance and Data, Number and Arithmetic, and Space and Geometry using engaging and challenging problems beyond the usual curriculum.

One High Distinction, sixteen Distinctions, sixty-four Credits and twenty-three Merits were awarded amongst the results.

## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Santa Sabina College is now a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The College's candidacy application to the International Baccalaureate Organization was successful and represents the first milestone in the journey to achieving authorisation to offer the IBDP to Year 11 students for the first time in 2018. An IB consultant will be appointed to the College in early 2016 and staff will begin the extensive IBDP professional development in Semester 1.

**Application  
for Candidacy,  
October 2015**

**Candidate  
Phase  
2016 - 2017**

**Authorisation and  
Commencement  
2018**





*Year 8 students testing the Hydraulic Syringe Arm.*

## HYDRAULIC SYRINGE ARM

In Term 4, students in Years 7 and 8 studied engineering and pneumatics. We designed and built a simple machine in small groups using a magnet, foam, skewers, masking tape, hot glue, syringes and tubes to pick up a screw. Design and invention was based around the Fukushima nuclear Power Plant in Japan.

The screw represented a piece of radioactive material remaining after a nuclear explosion and our simple machine represented the machine that would remove it from the reactor before it became too dangerous. We had to think creatively and critically to understand how to move our machine up and down, and how to extend the arm that would collect the magnet through using syringes and tubes to manipulate various parts of it to move in different directions.

Engineering it to move laterally was more of a challenge because we needed a material that was sturdy but thin to push the circular plate around a fixed point using the air pressure from the syringes. The mechanical arm that our group designed performed the task consistently and was able to complete the process in less than seven seconds. I think this section of the design and technology program was enjoyable because we had few guidelines to follow, which meant that we could think creatively and broadly to come up with a unique design to complete the given task.

Alexandra Witting Year 8

## NSW ICT CONFERENCE

Santa Sabina College hosted the AIS NSW 15th Annual ICT Integration Conference which brought together leaders and teachers of Information Technology and Innovation from independent schools all over NSW.

Keynote and workshop sessions along with hands-on opportunities were designed to introduce new developments in technology and learning, and examine how to make best use of ICT to continue to strive for the best student outcomes. Members of the College staff as well as students presented over the two day conference:

- Angela Thomas: Being a 'Pracademic' How to move theory into practice.
- Rosanne Sukkar: STEM for girls & Tertiary Partnerships
- Karen Campbell and Year 5 students: Design Thinking through robotics
- Katrina O'Shea and Susan Lombardo: Effective methods for student reflection & feedback
- Douglas Agar: The use of Digital immersive environments in the languages classroom
- Rosanne Sukkar and Year 11 students - Digital ePortfolios
- Tania Kolar and Year 6 Students - Yr 6 coding and Makey Makey
- Jackie Baxter - The Reggio Emilia Experience

The opportunity to collaborate and network with other educators in the field is invaluable as we investigate what constitutes powerful learning for our students in our technology rich environment.



*Student demonstrating Design Thinking through robotics.*



## SIENA

Siena is a P-12 team made up of teachers from the Primary and Secondary Campuses whose brief is to develop and promote a shared understanding of the College's Learning Principles which underpin all learning at the College. They promote innovation through engagement with contemporary pedagogy and evidence based research, and develop a robust, sustainable and responsive model for Professional Learning for teachers at all career stages.

*Back Row: Mrs Angela Thomas, Ms Helen Bitossi, Mrs Emma McAulay, Mrs Karen Campbell.*

*Front Row: Mrs Julie Kadir, Mrs Kate Corcoran.*

*Absent: Ms Elizabeth Phipps*

After staff became familiar with the principles through professional learning, Siena conducted a 'Looking for Learning' tour designed to find evidence of the Learning principles being embedded in Teaching and Learning 6-12. Individual teachers and faculties received written and oral feedback on the learning and recommendations for how the principles could be reflected more deeply in teaching and learning.

Innovation through engagement with contemporary pedagogy and evidence-based research is a priority for Siena and we have focussed on developing some interdisciplinary studies for 2016 in the middle years.

In addition, Siena researched 'Deeper Learning Days' where students are immersed in a problem or project for a sustained period of time which allows them to grapple with concepts and be in 'the zone' (Vygotsky's theory of optimal flow) rather than being interrupted by changing direction or class. These days will be a feature of the timetable in 2016.

Siena's brief to develop a robust, sustainable and responsive model for Professional Learning for teachers at all career stages has been met with gusto! This was particularly evident in our staff led learning conference at the beginning of 2015 entitled 'Curiouser and Curiouser' where over 40 workshops were offered by the teachers of our community.

Out of this conference came 11 Action Research projects

where teachers interrogated their own practice. They followed the research process and collected student data, both qualitative and quantitative, analysed this data and made recommendations about improved practice. Presentations of their findings were held in a TeachMeet format to the secondary and Middle Years teaching staff in Term 4 2015.

Action research on the Primary Campus engaged all staff in rigorous weekly grade collaborative planning workshops. Collaboration between grade and specialist staff allowed for effective student analysis to refine and tailor units to meet student needs. A Language and an Assessment action research project were undertaken that led to the drafting of a Language Policy P-12 and Assessment Policy P-5 that will be implemented in 2016.

Another triumph for Siena was having a school based professional learning course accredited by Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES). Completing this 9 hours of professional learning entitled 'Project Based Learning in a Culture of Inquiry' will not only help staff implement this model of inquiry but will also support those teachers maintaining accreditation as a Proficient teacher in NSW based on The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

Finally, Siena has championed the embedding of professional learning into the 2016 timetable to allow teachers to collaborate in cross curricular learning teams to expand and extend their teaching repertoire.



# WHAT ARE OUR LEARNING PRINCIPLES?

## Growth Mindset

Learners have the capacity to grow and improve in an environment that focuses on learning goals, personal best, and mastery rather than comparative performance only. We encourage students to be persistent, to feel safe in making mistakes and trying again, and to set their own explicit learning goals in collaboration with their teachers.

## Personalised learning

Learners have diverse needs and backgrounds. In order to build deep understanding, learners need to connect prior knowledge and experiences with new knowledge in an environment where they are known and respected.

## Complexity and challenge

Learners need developmentally appropriate complexity and challenge to achieve personal excellence.

## Feedback and reflection

Learners need regular, constructive and timely feedback. They also need opportunities to reflect so that they can plan and monitor their own learning, and improve their performance.

## Collaboration and inquiry

Learners thrive in a collaborative culture of inquiry that promotes dialogue, debate, problem-solving and divergent thinking.

# EX-STUDENT SCHOLARS

## ANGELA HECIMOVIC (nee Bubalo) CLASS OF 1986

### Education

Bachelor of Economics Degree (1st Class Honours), University of Sydney

Final Year of PhD titled "The Evolution of the Sustainability Assurance Framework and Methodology in a Specific Australian Organisational Context".

### Contributing factors to your success

I truly believe my Catholic Education, faith in God and my supportive family has instilled in me a 'self belief', a positive mental attitude that has allowed me to see the good in everything I do to live my best possible life. I believe 'success' is a tangible and moving opportunity to grasp anytime as long as you have a vision and plan (and are not scared to fail sometimes!). I have developed important skills over the years which have contributed to where I am today as a person — listening and communication; networking; public speaking and presentation styles; time management, organisational and negotiation skills.

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

WOW it was almost 30 years ago but I remember my time at Santa like it was yesterday and am indebted for the lessons learned especially in terms of engagement and learning. Participating in debating, mock trial, diving, netball, softball, hurdles, volleyball and basketball teams and whilst not being the best, I

was still encouraged to have a go. This supportive and all inclusive environment also extended to the inspiring teaching staff.

### Advice for young students

You have one LIFE, LIVE IT, and BELIEVE IN yourself and your abilities. Develop good habits in both your personal and academic endeavours. Have a Vision and Plan on how to use your strengths to get where you want to be and never let anyone tell you your vision is not possible. Make time to give back to the community, to friends and family in need- try volunteering and remember small acts of kindness towards others go a long way. Take every opportunity and risk you can. You'll only regret the things you didn't do because you were afraid to try.

### Plans for 2016

My immediate plans are to submit my PhD thesis which has been a wonderful 7 year part time journey. I am finalising two journal articles for submission to an A+ Journal outlet-one which I will present in New York midyear. I am also kick-starting a research project that examines student diversity and challenges of Commerce students to tertiary learning and in gaining employment with Big4 Chartered Firms.



### Awards/Recognition

Dean's Citations for Teaching (2010-2015)  
Wayne Lonergan \$10,000 Outstanding Teaching Excellence Award (2013)  
Students' Choice Award (2013)  
AFAANZ \$10,000 Scholarship for her PhD research (2011)

## STEPHANIE VACCHER

### CLASS OF 2010



#### Education

Bachelor of Advanced Science majoring in Pharmacology, (First Class Honours) University New South Wales, (2014)

PhD on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) University New South Wales (Current)

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

I think being involved in a wide range of activities was an important part of my time at Santa, because I made some wonderful friends, got to help

other people, and learnt so much about myself in the process. Both the South Africa immersion and attending the International Science School would not have been possible without the support and guidance of the teachers at Santa.

#### Advice for young students

I can't stress enough the importance of taking advantage of all the wonderful experiences Santa has on offer- play sport, do extra-curricular activities like debating or social justice, get involved in the wider community. You never know who you might meet or what you might learn, and even if you just find something you don't like, then that's progress because you're one step closer to figuring out what you want to do. Focus on doing what you're passionate about and what makes you happy, and don't feel pressure to have everything sorted in Year 12.

#### How immersion experience has impacted on your study path

I was lucky enough to be selected to go to South Africa as part of Santa's fifth immersion trip back in 2009, and it has changed my life in more ways than I could have ever imagined. Spending those two weeks in South Africa was a completely eye-opening experience.

We spent time with children who were orphaned because their families had died of AIDS, and saw the devastation HIV/AIDS wreaked on communities. Given that this is a relatively preventable, or at least controllable disease, I was horrified by the lack of access to necessary medical supplies generally, but particularly in the fight against AIDS. During my undergraduate studies, I hope to be able to apply what I am learning more broadly, or work as an advocate to improve pharmaceutical and medical access in the developing world, where even small improvements in healthcare and resources can have an enormous beneficial impact on whole communities.

#### Plans for 2016

I am currently undertaking a PhD, also at UNSW, on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which involves giving individuals at high risk of acquiring HIV current HIV medications to stop them from becoming infected with the virus if they are exposed to it.

#### Awards/Recognition

Australian Postgraduate Award - A government scholarship that seeks to "Provide financial support to postgraduate students of exceptional research promise"

## DOMINIQUE MCCARTHY

### CLASS OF 2008

#### Education

Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience Honours, University of Sydney (2009-2012)

PhD in Farm Animal Welfare, (2013-Current)

#### Contributing factors to your success

I am very motivated to do well in my career and be proud of my achievements. I am looking forward to a happy future and to me, this involves continuous learning and discovery. Everyone's achievements differ in nature but I chose to take my path in research and science because I really enjoy it and am passionate about the work I am doing. I also really think self happiness and respect are key to any person's success and I believe my own self confidence has been the main contributing factor to my successes.

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

The experiences I had at Santa Sabina empowered me as a woman. I developed the confidence to embrace opportunities that may lead to success and I learnt that making a contribution to the world can be done by everyone in a variety of ways. Santa Sabina fostered my interest in science through a strong education and also provided the opportunity to thrive in other areas of which have shaped me as a person.

#### Advice for young students

Work hard at the things you enjoy and have respect for yourself and your future goals and achievements.

#### Plans for 2016

I plan to complete the final year of my PhD which will involve some final field work on outback Northern Australian



cattle stations and presentations of my work at international conferences. I will use this year to set up a career for myself in scientific research to begin when I finish my PhD.



## JACQUELINE MELVOLD

### CLASS OF 2005

#### Education

Bachelor of Medical Science with First Class Honours, University of Technology Sydney (2008 – 2011).

Final year of PhD - Biomedical science, focusing on bacterial infectious diseases within the ithree institute at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) (2012 – current).

#### Contributing factors to your success

To be successful in any science field you have to have a passion for science, perseverance to overcome set-backs that accompany all research, and a sense of adventure as science is all about discovering the unknown.

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

Santa Sabina College was the first place I was ever exposed to science and it was in those science classrooms where I first discovered my love for science, how it explains the world and just how much it can benefit the human race. The devotion of the science teachers at Santa Sabina College really impacted my decision to study science at university and make it my career.

#### Advice for young students

Take a gap year and find what it is that you love, and then do that! Never be pressured into a career path that isn't what you want to do - success in many fields is driven by your passion and love for that career.

#### Plans for 2016

2016 will see me graduate with a PhD and I am hoping to continue a career in biomedical research and academia overseas in the UK or USA. I am also planning to become an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

#### Awards/Recognition

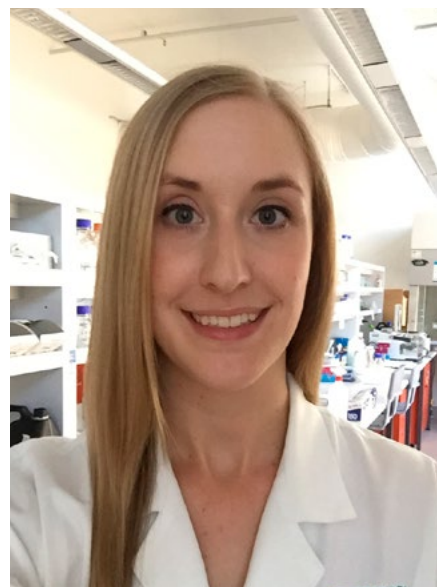
Dean's Merit List for Academic Excellence (2011)

Australian Postgraduate Award (2012 - 2015)

FEMS Congress Grant for Young Scientists (2013)

UTS Vice-Chancellor's Postgraduate Research Travel Grant (2013)

UTS Faculty of Science Postgraduate Research Student Conference Travel Grant (2013)



Finalist in the Becton Dickinson Awards (2015)

PhD representative on the UTS School of Life Sciences Board (2015 – current)



## ANNA GARSIA

### CLASS OF 2001

#### Education

Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (University Medal and First Class Honours) University of Sydney (2002-2005)

Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) University of Sydney (2006-2008)

Master of Laws (Global Health Law) (Distinction) Georgetown University, Washington DC USA (2011-2012)

#### Current role

I work in the Office of International Law at the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra. For the last three years I have worked on the team defending Australia in the international arbitration with Philip Morris Asia over the introduction of tobacco plain packaging.

#### Contributing factors to your success

I have been extremely privileged to have access to remarkable educational and professional opportunities. I have also had the constant support of my wonderful family and friends. I like to think that a willingness to work very hard, try new things and not give up in the face of a challenge has also been important to helping me meet my goals.

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

I have always valued the exposure to social justice I was given during my time at Santa Sabina, and I feel this has had an impact on my personal and professional life. School provided an environment that supported strong and confident young women and encouraged us to see no limit to what we could achieve.

I am lucky to have made a number of wonderful friends while at Santa who are still my friends today. I also really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a range of

co-curricular activities while at Santa and this certainly set the stage for my active involvement in university and professional life as well as giving me lifelong hobbies and interests.

#### Advice for young students

Always be open to new opportunities and new directions as there may be lots of twists and turns along the path. Find opportunities to get involved in the broader social and cultural life of wherever you are studying as there is much to be learned outside the classroom. Finally, work hard, it is worth it!

#### Plans for 2016

In late 2015 we found out that Australia had been successful in the plain packaging arbitration, which was incredibly exciting. The beginning of 2016 will be focussed on wrap up work on the case, and looking for a new way to put my interest in health and international law to good use.

#### Awards/Recognition

2007 World University Debating Champion while representing the University of Sydney

2009 University of Sydney Convocation Medal for "Contribution to the University Community and Academic Excellence"

2011-2012 Global Health Law Fellowship at Georgetown University.

# SANTA SABINA HSC HONOUR ROLL

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.

Encompass // January 2016

## **Ancient History**

Alexandra Etccl

## **Biology**

Michelle Angelidis

Sarah Bastable

Martina Denkova

Alexandra Etccl

Eleanor Kenny

Sabine Pyne

Angelique Souma

Carol Wu

## **Business Studies**

Ashley Abraham

Emily Devine

Paris Emsis

Kristianni Kallidis

Grace Sassine

Lisa-Marie Wakim

## **Design and Technology**

Olivia Calandra

Taylor De Sousa

Paris Emsis

Jaimie Karamihas

Lauren Majarres

Emily Rosillo

Amelia Russo

Lara Salvarinas

Paige Valiotis

## **Economics**

Paris Emsis

Natasha Novo

## **English (Advanced)**

Carla Ayoub

Sarah Bastable

Laura Boyd

Andrea Brattoni

Martina Denkova

Madeline Forrester

Eleanor Kenny

Caitlin McFadden

Natasha Novo

Sabine Pyne

Rebekah Quintal

Emily Rosillo

Sophia Songberg

Lisa-Marie Wakim

Carol Wu

## **English Extension 1**

Sarah Bastable

Andrea Brattoni

Eleanor Kenny

Xin Zheng

## **English Extension 2**

EmmaKate Khoury

## **Entertainment Industry**

### **Examination**

Jessica Yacoub

## **French Beginners**

Clodagh Byrne

Adriana Giunta

Lauren Majarres

Alessandra Pappalettera

Rebekah Quintal

Alexandra Torcoli

## **French Continuers**

Hannah Rizzo

Annette Toland

## **French Extension**

Hannah Rizzo

## **Geography**

Grace Sassine

Angelique Souma

## **Heritage Chinese (Mandarin)**

Sylvia Chiu

## **History Extension**

Clodagh Byrne

Caitlin McFadden

Sabine Pyne

## **Information Processes and**

### **Technology**

Michelle Angelidis

Martina Denkova

## **Italian Beginners**

Lara Salvarinas

Jessica Yacoub

## **Italian Continuers**

Carmelina Bilotta

Martina Comastri

Lara Riccioni

## **Italian Extension**

Natasha Novo

Janina Rotondaro

## **Japanese Continuers**

Sophie Kim

## **Legal Studies**

Carla Ayoub

Andrea Brattoni

Paris Emsis

Madeline Forrester

Hannah Johnson

Eleanor Kenny

Caitlin McFadden

Sabine Pyne

Lucinda Touma

Lisa-Marie Wakim

## **Mathematics**

Michelle Angelidis

Natasha Novo

Xin Zheng

## **Mathematics Extension 1**

Daniella Assaf

Olivia Kim

Natasha Novo

Sophia Songberg

Carol Wu

Xin Zheng

## **Mathematics Extension 2**

Olivia Kim

Sophia Songberg

## **Mathematics General 2**

Lisa-Marie Wakim

## **Modern History**

Sarah Bastable

Andrea Brattoni

Madeline Forrester

Elizabeth Hayes

Jacqueline Hayes

Eleanor Kenny

Caitlin McFadden

Sabine Pyne

## **Music Extension**

Jessica Zhu

## **Music 1**

Carla Ayoub

Clare Kennedy

Chelsea Marcelline

Susana Zong

## **Society and Culture**

Jacqueline Hayes

Hannah Johnson

Caitlin McFadden

Alouise Somera

Allie Springall

## **Spanish Continuers**

Lauren Majarres

## **Studies of Religion I**

Ashley Abraham

Andrea Brattoni

Clodagh Byrne

Olivia Calandra

Dixie Canoz

Elloise Cowley

Emily Devine

Lescinska Fernandez

Lauren Fiedler

Madeline Forrester

Elizabeth Hayes

Jacqueline Hayes

Hannah Johnson

Kristianni Kallidis

Sarah Lanzi

Mesha Nazareth

Sabine Pyne

Rebekah Quintal

Hannah Rizzo

Angelique Souma

Allie Springall

Paige Valiotis

Xin Zheng

## **Studies of Religion II**

Carla Ayoub

Laura Boyd

Alexandra Etccl

EmmaKate Khoury

Sasha Nicolas

Lucinda Touma

Lisa-Marie Wakim

## **Textiles and Design**

Clodagh Byrne

Alessandra Pappalettera

## **Visual Arts**

Nicolette Khoury

Melissa Tomarchio

Xin Zheng