



# Our Lady of Sion College Newsletter

## 2020 College Theme: How Do I Bring Hope To My World?



### From the Principal – Tina Apostolopoulos

commitment to building a world where love, peace and justice reign. It is a world where, through our actions, we are invited to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Pope Francis outlines this time of waiting beautifully when he says:

*Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our minds and hearts in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world. It is the desire of many people tormented by hunger, by injustice and by war. It is the desire of the poor, the weak, the abandoned. This is a favourable time to open our hearts, to ask ourselves concrete questions about how and for whom we expend our lives.*

Pope Francis 2018

The Advent wreath with which we are familiar is a symbol of eternal life and reminds us of God's enduring love for all creation. The four candles (three purple and one pink), represent Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. The fifth candle is the Christ candle, traditionally lit on Christmas morning. This Sunday, we light the Candle of Hope, which will also remind us of our 2020 College theme *How do I bring hope to my world?*. It is a question not only for this year but one that I hope will continue to inspire our school community in the years ahead. It is a question that requires us to act so that we too bring hope, peace, love and joy to all.

### Final events

Congratulations to our Years 10 and 11 students who have completed their Semester 2 exams, the first for this unusual year. While they may have been a little nervous, in particular our Year 10 students for whom this was their first round of exams, in reality they should be very proud of the way they

### Advent

This coming Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, the beginning of the new liturgical year which in some ways may seem counterintuitive as the end of the year approaches. As we know, Advent is the time when we prepare for the birth of Jesus, and while this event happened over 2000 years ago, through Advent, the Christian tradition invites us to an ongoing

### Important Dates

#### Monday 30 November

SmartStart

Year 7 Horizons Program

#### Tuesday 1 December

Year 7 Horizons Program

Year 10 and 11 final day of classes (1 pm finish)

Year 10 Awards Ceremony 11 am

Year 11 Awards Ceremony 9 am

#### Wednesday 2 December

Year 7 Horizons Program

Ayin Mind, Body, Soul Day

#### Thursday 3 December

Afternoon of Excellence

#### Friday 4 December

Years 7-9 Final Day (1 pm finish)

Year 7 Awards Ceremony 9 am

Year 8 Awards Ceremony 10.15 am

Year 9 Awards Ceremony 11.30 am

Year 7, 2021, Orientation Day

#### Friday 18 December

Office closes

#### Monday 18 January

Office opens

#### Monday 1 February

All students return for 2021



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approached this final assessment process. Equally, in the last fortnight, our Year 12 VCE students have completed the majority of their exams, with only a few coming up in this final week. This week also saw our Years 10 and 11 students undertake their SmartStart program in readiness for their VCE studies in 2021.

Last week we enjoyed the culmination of the Year 9 Significant People unit within the AYIN program. The front of the College is once again a wonderful celebration of the important people and relationships in our students' lives. Next week they will undertake their Mind, Body, Soul Day - a reflective day that will no doubt take on another layer of meaning this year. On Monday, our Year 7 students will begin their Horizons project; an experience designed to consolidate the development of important skills for life and learning. And this coming Friday we look forward to the arrival of our 2021 Year 7 students for their Orientation Day.

This cycle of events and learning experiences are important milestones and achievements in our students' lives and offers them hope for the future. The most precious thing is life and our students should be very proud of the way in which they have not only coped with the circumstances of 2020 but embraced the opportunities and the support provided for their learning and wellbeing needs, and their spiritual journey. In this year of significant change, I pray that we remain grateful for all we have been given to support us.

As we approach the final week of the academic year, I thank all staff, students and families for the courage, flexibility, care and support we have witnessed this year. I hope you enjoy a joyful Christmas with your family and loved ones, and in particular I hope that our staff and students enjoy a well-deserved holiday, and return refreshed and excited to begin a new year in 2021.

## *Congratulations*

Last year, the College initiated a new tradition inviting students to design the front cover of the student Study Planner. In 2020, we have appreciated the artwork of Judy Lin (Year 11). Congratulations to Manisha Boyagama from 9 Silver for creating the 2021 cover, which she has titled *I am, you are, we are Sionian - One Big Family*. I hope you enjoy reading and seeing the cover Manisha designed in this edition of our newsletter.

## *Farewell*

I take this opportunity to thank Ms Zoe Quirk for joining us in Term 4 to replace a teacher on leave. We wish her all the very best and hope to see her in the future. Farewell and thank you to Ms Katya Harrop our voice teacher who will also conclude her time at the College. At the end of this year, we will acknowledge and thank Ms Victoria Stats, who will be retiring. Ms Stats began her time at the College in 2002 teaching Science and Psychology and for a time she also held the Science Learning Area Leader position. We congratulate and thank Ms Stats for her care of staff and students, and for her wonderful contribution to the learning of Science at the College. We wish her a well-deserved retirement.

With every blessing for the week ahead.

**Tina Apostolopoulos**  
College Principal





## Faith and Mission – John McInerney

This week I met with the 2020 Liturgy reps for the final time. We gathered as we usually do to plan for the upcoming final assemblies being held next week.

I informed the girls that our team had been given 10 minutes at the start of the assembly.

So, I started with a question – *‘What should we do?’*

Immediately the responses started:

*‘We should start by acknowledging the land, Mr Mac.’*

*‘We should welcome everyone, Mr Mac.’*

*‘We should have an opening prayer; we should have a reading from Scripture; perhaps some prayers of the faithful; why don’t we pray the Hail Mary together seeing we are an Our Lady school?’*

Wow!

*These Liturgy reps have all done such an amazing job in this turbulent and disruptive year – and I thank them enormously for their efforts.*

*I look forward to participating in the prayer they have put together for next week’s final assemblies – it certainly sounds as though it will include so much of who we are and what we value here at Our Lady of Sion College.*

*Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.*

*Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death.*

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*





## Learning and Teaching – Allison Stott

### *Thank you for an amazing year*

The Our Lady of Sion College community is truly a wonderful learning environment. If 'pivot' is the industry buzzword of the year, then our staff, students and families have 'pivoted' in circles! We have not just adapted to Online Home Learning (OHL); we have shown what we can achieve when we work together! By reacting quickly and proactively, our staff were able to implement a model of continuous Online Home Learning that was, and is, the envy of other schools.

Our students revealed an independence and resilience that we might not have otherwise seen, and we very much look forward to capitalising on what we have learnt from OHL in 2021.

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and successes throughout 2020. Success can be measured in many ways, ultimately learning is a process of positive change. Every single member of this community has shown positive learning change throughout the year and we are very proud of you for this.

On a personal level, I have enjoyed every moment of working with the staff, students and families. While it has been a very busy year, and our priorities and focus have had to change and change again, I have consistently been supported by the Leadership Team, the Curriculum Team, the whole staff, students and families. I am very proud of what the College has achieved across 2020, not just responding to the conditions but driving the change agenda and I look forward to building upon this in 2021.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones, and a restful break over the summer.





## Student Wellbeing – Christine Kralj

### *Safe and fun-filled holidays*

After a long, isolating and stressful year, our students head off for Christmas holidays and a well-earned rest. It will be natural for them to have a strong desire to reconnect with friends and try to make up for missed events, but we also want the girls to do so in a safe and (hopefully) enjoyable way.

It is still important for parents and guardians to know who their daughter is with and what she is doing. I encourage parents and guardians not to let go of the family time they might have reclaimed during lockdown, and continue the bike rides or cooking that you have enjoyed together. While parents and guardians might want to be lenient about expectations, as a way of compensating for lost social time, this can lead to situations where your daughter may be out of her depth. Make sure you are happy with the environment and people your daughter is surrounding herself with, and try to keep the lines of communication and negotiation open.

I also encourage you to work with your daughter to generate age- and stage-appropriate school holiday activities that combine rebuilding social connections with peers while keeping your daughter safe and supported.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, home to the popular King and Gentoo penguins, sharks of all shapes and sizes, thousands of tropical fish, a huge saltwater crocodile named Pinjarra and six species of mesmerising jellyfish.
- ArtVo 3D immersive gallery, the perfect Art Gallery for kids, with a twist. This immersive 3D Trick Art Gallery at the District Docklands is unlike your usual art museum. You can touch and interact with more than a hundred 3D artworks immersing yourself in the art. Take photos from the markers on the floor and follow the instructions for priceless family photos.
- There is nothing like indoor rock climbing when it comes to a hit of adrenaline to keep the teens active. Indoor rock climbing is safe, fun and challenging. At [Hard Rock](#) in the city or Nunawading, kids from age four can climb, and over the age of 11 can be taught safe rope skills and how to anchor and belay their friends.
- Ten-pin bowling is an old-fashioned favourite that has been updated with disco-lights and cool little animations on the scoring screens whenever you get a strike or spare. There are lots of bowling alleys throughout Melbourne - try any of the [AMF Bowling Centres](#) or [Strike Bowling](#).
- Indoor aquatic centres and wave pools are fantastic places to burn off some energy! Try the [Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre](#) in Albert Park, which also offers indoor swimming.
- With the warmer weather and lessening restrictions, why not take the family to the beach for the day? Check out [Best Beaches in Melbourne](#).

(Resource: <https://mumslittleexplorers.com/fun-school-holiday-activities-melbourne>.)

Whatever your family decides to do over the holidays, I hope that it is a time to heal, reconnect and rest after a trying year for so many people.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Team, I would like to thank our parents and guardians. You have been an amazing support to the College and what we have wanted to achieve both in regards to caring for your daughter's wellbeing and continuing her academic growth this year. Thank you for the emails of support and the positive feedback that we have received this year. We look forward to a more predictable school year in 2021 and working alongside the Our Lady of Sion College community.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.





**Adam Rieusset –  
Year 12 Wellbeing  
& Growth Leader**

Early next week, on Tuesday 1 December, our Year 12 cohort will have finished every VCAA exam. This is a significant day for our Year 12 community. It is also a significant day for every family.

When we speak of making transitions in life none is more challenging than that of Year 12 to adulthood. Every year is different and presents unknown and new challenges.

Results will come out later in December and these will help with the next step, be that educational or vocational. For me, the results – the human capacity results – are already in. The skills that will ensure that the Class of 2020 does not just survive, but thrive in their adult years have been well set, the foundations have been laid and they will only but continue to flourish. I honestly believe that the communities the Class of 2020 will be involved with in later years will be very fortunate.

### *End of Year 12 celebrations*

With our exams concluding I have no doubt that our students will take the opportunity to spend time with friends. Although the end-of-year celebrations this year will be different to years past, I still think it is valuable to share the following with all families. Your daughter and friends might simply be going coastal within Victoria, or they might head to the mountains to explore our wilderness. The following thoughts might help guide both parents and students to ensure that everyone is safe within whatever journey they may decide to take to celebrate the 2020 educational year.

As a family you may wish to discuss:

- How and when they will communicate with you.
- Who they are going with, and some contact information for their friends in case you need to contact them.
- What they plan on doing – any day trips or tickets they have to functions/festivals, etc.
- Staying safe – including an honest conversation about drugs and alcohol, and looking out for their friends.
- What to do in the case of an emergency.

On behalf of all of the Year 12 Pastoral Team, we hope our students enjoy the upcoming Christmas and New Year period and remember that you as a family and as individuals are amazing!



*Year 12 Retreat, February 2020*

## Senior VCAL Report

Over the past few weeks Ms Brooke O'Hara has been leading our VCAL students through a series of vocational activities and opportunities that have explored applying for jobs, updating resumes, and looking at the possibilities that LinkedIn presents for our young people. Exploring opportunities and real-life experiences through the City of Manningham and story-boarding ideas to pitch a new idea to sell to a CEO of a virtual company of the student's choice.

During this time, our VCAL students - Clare Kelly, Kate Steward, Francesca Sammartino, Evangelina Vinecombe and Matilda Horn - have also been involved with our sustainable food project here at school. This project has allowed our students to explore the importance of sustainability with growing food, the importance of agriculture and horticulture and a greater appreciation of our parks and gardens.

With the assistance of all the VCAL students, here is what Francesca wrote about our sustainable food project:

*Our week of VCAL started off with us listening to a few guest speakers who are in industry working in the parks and gardens. We listened to their different experiences and came to understand what they do. We then put what we heard from them into practice by trying out our own project. When we started our garden bed it was messy and overgrown. We started by weeding and cleaning up the area around it to make it neat and tidy. We then aerated the soil and planted some tomatoes, basil, parsley plants. We also pruned our apple tree and rosemary bush. We hope to keep the garden living and growing next year.*

**Francesca Sammartino, 11 Red**



Francesca Sammartino, 11 Red





**Chris Wilkes –  
Year 7 Wellbeing  
& Growth Leader**

What a crazy year 2020 has been! As it comes to a close, it is hard to believe that the nervous, shy students who began Year 7 at the beginning of this year are now almost Year 8 students. It is so wonderful to see how far our Year 7 students have come since their first day, especially given all of the uncertainty and ever-changing environment. Throughout the year, they have taken hold of the many opportunities provided to them, both onsite and online, and thrown themselves whole-heartedly into activities, demonstrating all that it means to be a Daughter of Sion.

Throughout their first year at Sion, a number of students have applied for various leadership positions. Thank you to all students who nominated for these positions and congratulations to the following Year 7 students for all of their efforts in serving as SRC, Portfolio and House. You have brought great enthusiasm to the role and should be very proud of yourselves.

Leaders throughout the year:

- SRC - Lily Lazzarini and Chanel Thompson
- Liturgy - Estella Faulisi and Katie Muling
- Social Justice - Aleisha Di Mauro and Tarlissa Hodgson
- Drama - Ava Hinds and Gidget Mannix
- Debating - Abbey Dutch and Emily Ong
- Environment - Janita de Jonk and Sienna Giusti
- Music - Ava Diamante and Naomi Yang
- Sport - Chloe Thorn and Indi Merton
- Visual Arts - Alessia Porqueddu and Serene Tsoi
- House Reps:
  - Carmel - Mia Siablis and Tiahna Trembath
  - Fatima - Elyssia Abdo and Scarlett Francis
  - Loreto - Imogen Buultjens and Georgina Harradine
  - Lourdes - Amber Cannon and Amelia Willis.

Class Leaders:

- Blue - Isabella Van Orsouw and Meika Varga
- Gold - Ava Bairamis and Jemima Farrar
- Purple - Lia Constandinou and Amelie Quartel
- Red - Audrey Brodrick and Bella Foltyn
- Silver - Gisele Carbonara and Hannah McLellan
- White - Ilana Ascenzo and Katia Tomaro.

Thank you Year 7s, for a wonderful year and term as your Wellbeing and Growth Leader. I know Mrs Arnold will agree with me when I say it has been a pleasure to work with you. I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for 2021!





**Rebecca Bennett –  
Year 7–10  
Discovery  
Learning Leader**

## *Ayin*

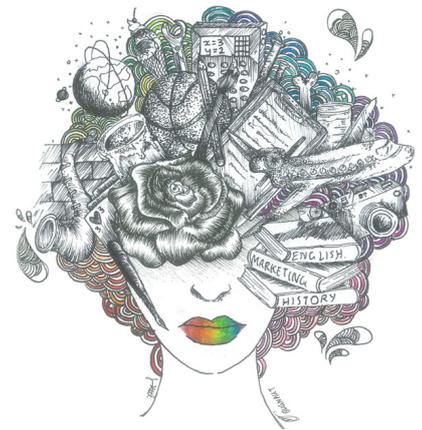
### **Mind, Body, Soul Day**

Since Week 2 of this term, our Year 9 students have been engaged in the final module of Ayin – Mind, Body, Soul. This module focuses on exploring emotional intelligence, understanding individual learning and personality types, identifying actions that nurture an individual's soul, and discussing the physical and emotional benefits of an active lifestyle. To capture and put into practice some of the learning that has taken place over this time, Year 9 students will be participating in the Mind, Body, Soul Day next week on Wednesday 2 December. The day is designed to incorporate a range of activities that promote the nourishing of all parts of our being – mind, body and soul. Students were given further information regarding the day in Week 7, including the requirement to wear PE uniform and the encouragement to bring along a healthy snack for morning tea. The Ayin Team and I look forward to sharing this day with our Year 9 students.

## *Discovery Learning*

### **Year 7 Horizons Program**

Next week our Year 7 students will take part in the three-day Horizons program from Monday 30 November – Wednesday 3 December. This program is an opportunity to engage in a STEM activity that requires them to implement the skills of collaboration, critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, effective communication and risk-taking. Students will also be taught new skills in the areas of STEM, entrepreneurship, pitching and research during workshops through the use of the Design Thinking Wheel tool. Along with the academic learning, the program aims to provide students with an opportunity to solidify existing relationships and create new ones with students in their Homerooms before the end of the school year. This year's key question to explore is 'How can STEM help the community?' and we look forward to seeing the students' ideas and innovations.



## *Significant People Project*

If you have been past the College this week, you will have seen a sea of colourful artworks staked in our front garden. These are the works of our Year 9 Ayin students as part of the Significant People Project. Earlier in the year, students selected and interviewed a person of their choice who they identified as having made a considerable impact on the lives of people in their communities and wrote a one-page biography on them. In recent weeks, they took home the blank canvas of their cut-out and some paints to creatively capture the story of their Significant Person, their qualities, contributions and lives. The result is the wonderful display visible in the garden – a testament to the impact one role model can have on the lives of many.





*Jordyn Frood –  
Year 8 Wellbeing  
& Growth Leader*

Congratulations Year 8s on a wonderful year of growth.

In this week's final pastoral period, students were introduced by Ms Rebecca Bennett to the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' program, which they will be signing up for 2021. They were provided with a sheet to take home, with some activity suggestions to think about over the coming months and were asked to start brainstorming ideas for each category to bring in on their return to school next year. No action needs to be taken, just to start getting some ideas. Definitely something to look forward to in 2021!

Although this year looked different to what was expected, I have seen our Year 8s

embrace our theme Ohana 'Family' and they should be very proud of all they have achieved this year. They have come away with so many skills and much more experience than they would ever have had otherwise and this will set them up well for Year 9.

They have still been involved in and achieved so much this year: embracing new homerooms and making new friendships, online year level competitions, Medieval Day, the One Girl Project and online activities/donations, the Beyond the Horizons program, Gift Giving Christmas Hampers, solidifying current friendships and the creation of many new fantastic memories.

The Homeroom teachers and I have no doubt that these students will do great things as they move forward through the years at Sion.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who have supported the Year 8s this year. You have been a wonderful support to the girls, especially in challenging times and from home, and have been an integral part of their Year 8 journey. I would like to wish you, and the Year 8s, a joyful Christmas season and a very happy and joyous New Year.





**Paul Kerr –  
Year 10  
Wellbeing &  
Growth Leader**

## *Examinations and SmartStart*

This last fortnight has seen the examinations end and SmartStart begin. The students have been very impressive in their approach to both of these important elements of the Year 10 program. The examinations ran incredibly smoothly, with the girls being punctual to multiple venues, and well aware of procedures and expectations. This is a direct result of the cooperation of the students during this time and has given them examination experience prior to Year 11.

SmartStart is a great opportunity for our Year 10 students, who are effectively in Year 11 now. They have ended the year soundly, which is a credit to them and are certainly ready for the challenges of Year 11 in 2021.

## *P.A.R.T.Y.*

During our pastoral session, the Year 10 students joined the Year 11 year level for the webinar P.A.R.T.Y., as outlined in my email to all parents last week. The program looks at the possible consequences of choices young people can make out in the community and on the road. Key messages on peer pressure, life as a paramedic,

looking after our friends, how calling triple 000 makes a difference and a personal story from a trauma survivor. Although the stories can be confronting, it was an important webinar for the girls as they move into senior years.

## *Final Week*

This year has been a wonderful year full of challenges and success stories, both public and personal in nature. At our final assembly, among our awards, the class leaders and our SRC representatives will assist in summarising an incredibly unique year. It has certainly been full of challenges and opportunities, and we have managed to celebrate many successes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and guardians for your partnership this year, in particular your support for Online Home Learning and both transitions back to school. I wish you and your families a safe and relaxed Christmas.



**Jessica Baddeley  
– Year 11  
Wellbeing &  
Growth Leader**

## *Examinations and SmartStart*

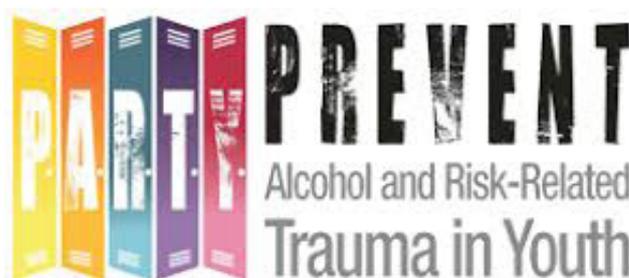
Examinations have now concluded and it has been an enriching experience for our Year 11 students. The girls have well and truly risen to the occasion and have cemented their positions in the College as exemplary young women. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our parent community for your support during this busy time. All of the feedback I have received from staff is how impressed they have been with the attitude, behaviour and manner with which the Year 11 students have conducted themselves throughout this period. Congratulations to you all!

On Tuesday 24 November during our Pastoral lesson, Year 10 and 11 students joined a webinar run by the Alfred Hospital called the P.A.R.T.Y. program, which aims to reduce the harm associated with road traffic accidents, alcohol and drug use. This program was conducted by staff at the Alfred Hospital and aims to encourage harm minimisation skills and informed decision-making in young people.

*The Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) Program is a dynamic and interactive injury awareness and prevention program which uses true stories and experiences to show the impact of injury. Participants engage with paramedics, doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners, patients and their families in the hospital or outreach setting.*

Please see [further information](#) relating to the delivery of the program.

I look forward to ending the year positively with your daughter(s) and wish them all the best for their final days.





### *Gail Amato – Languages Learning Leader*

facilitating home learning. In particular, thank you to the VCE students of Chinese, French and Italian for their commitment to their studies this year. They have been working tirelessly in preparation for their end-of-year exams next week. We hope that all their hard work will be shown by their final results and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

Shèngdàn kuàilè!

Joyeux Noël!

Buon Natale!



### *Anna Gionfriddo – Religious Education*

It is hard to believe that we are arriving at the end of Term 4, after what has been a most incredible year.

As their exams have now concluded the Year 10 and 11 students are participating in their SmartStart week, and for those students studying Texts and Traditions Unit 1 their particular focus has been on learning about and identifying various literary forms found throughout the Bible, including historical narrative, myths, prophecy and law. They have also been introduced to a timeline of biblical history and, from here, the students will focus on selected passages from the Books of Genesis and Exodus.

The students studying Unit 3 Texts and Traditions have been introduced to background information about the Gospel of Luke, including the author, the intended community it was written for and its structure. The students have also started to investigate what life was like in First Century Palestine during the time of Jesus.



Congratulations to all students for their amazing efforts throughout the year and thank you to all of the Religious Education staff for their continued dedication and passion for Religious Education.

Wishing all families a very happy and safe Christmas.

# Learning Area News



*Drama –  
Alex Bleazby*

This year across the board we have seen amazing flexibility and creativity in our students dealing with a learning environment that has been out of the box! In the performing arts we have had many challenges due to the practical nature of the subjects involved. Thankfully, in and outside of Sion we have started to see a return to performing arts spaces, a new appreciation for performance art that we have all been missing so dearly and an invigorated sense of purpose to bring performance work to people through a variety of mediums. We have all had to change our thinking with what's possible.

Unfortunately, schools across the state cancelled major productions this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. While our students were incredibly understanding and resilient when this happened, there was great disappointment from our Wizard of Oz girls who were all set to take to the stage in August this year. I am pleased to announce that we are beginning a Wizard of Oz revamp with rehearsals set to start at the beginning of 2021. The show must go on! Our rehearsals may look a little different but we are so excited to start working on the musical with all of our amazing performers.

There will be many experiences to come in 2021 to offer our wonderful performers the chance to do what they do best and perform!







## Music – Martin Macaulay

### *Instrumental Music 2021 Applications are Now Open*

We are delighted to invite all families to enrol or re-enrol their daughter in private instrumental music lessons for 2021. Please click [here](#) to view our Music Program brochure, which outlines the availability of instrumental lessons and associated costs.

A link to the online enrolment form is contained within our brochure and can also be accessed directly [here](#).

I would appreciate current students re-enrolling before the end of the year, as we need to be able to organise our teaching staff for next year depending on the outcome of the enrolments. Please note that no fees or charges are required until 2021.

Those who enrol this year will be able to take an instrument over the summer holidays. If you have any questions you are welcome to contact me directly at [mmacaulay@sion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mmacaulay@sion.catholic.edu.au) or the College Music Department at [music@sion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:music@sion.catholic.edu.au).



### *Year 7 Virtual Spring Concert*

At this time of year, we usually welcome all the Year 7 student musicians and their parents and guardians into the LHC for the annual Spring concert. This year, girls produced a class video, each instrument group playing a wide range of pieces. These fantastic videos will be made available for parents to see before the end of the year.

### *AMEB External Examination Submissions*

The girls who have enrolled in the final round of AMEB external examinations have finished their final videos, which have been submitted to the AMEB. Twenty students, across all year levels have been busy making sure their video, which had to be filmed in one take, was ready for the assessors.

### *Sion First Graduation*

Congratulations to the 32 Sion First Band superstars who completed their lessons, exclusively online this week. Highlights of the year were:

- making the video of their own interpretation of 13 Moons
- meeting real-life Australian composer Jodie Blackshaw online to help develop the 13 Moons parts
- recording more individual parts for the Last Stage to Red Rock piece
- making Rocky Road at the end of Term 2.

We look forward to welcoming them all as fully fledged Sionians in 2021.



Year 7 Virtual Spring Concert



Sion First Band



Arts –  
Natasha Borg

## Artist Spotlight

In this issue of Artist Spotlight we are proud to shine a light on Manisha Boyagama whose work titled *I am, you are, we are Sionian* will be featured on the student planners as the front cover for 2021.

Here's the statement and artwork by Manisha:

*This artwork showcases what we do at the College and the various talents of the individual students who are doing Music, public speaking, Art and charity work. In the middle of the artwork, there are three students wearing uniforms; these are the summer, sport and winter uniforms we wear at Sion. The colour scheme of this piece includes cherry red, pink and black. These colours represent our school.*



Manisha is to be congratulated on this achievement.

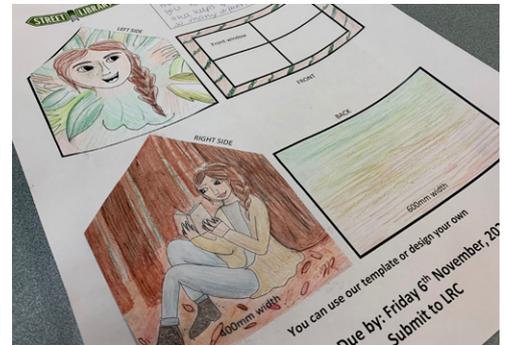
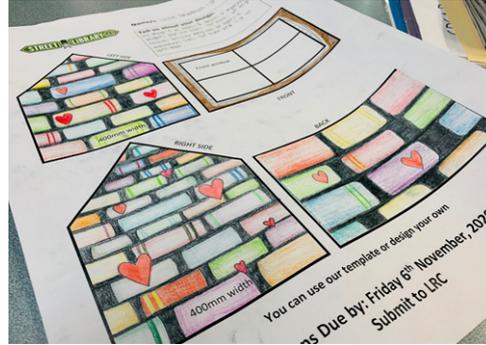




## Learning Resource Centre – Margaret Lawson

### Sion Street Library

We had many entries for our Design our Street Library competition. Each entry proposed designs that touched upon books and reading and the final winners were: Chloe Newman and Elaina Clark, both from 10 White. Special mention also goes to Isla Dymond, 7 Gold, who created a lovely Green Sheep design. We loved the way in which these designs met the design brief and showed how students love to read. We look forward to seeing how the students paint our Sion Street Library.



### Clickview Streaming

As we phase out our physical DVD collection, we are ensuring that students can still stream all the movies that they love through our Clickview streaming service. Students can log in and access any PG-rated movies that are on the system. Our goal is to replace the physical DVD with streaming movies that have closed captions. Over the summer break, feel free to log into Clickview and catch up with some of your favourite PG-rated movies.

### Summertime Reading

Students are encouraged to 'borrow as much as they can carry' for their summer break. Our physical display has paired up books that students might like into bundles to encourage students to look at different authors and books.

Students can still access the eBook and Audiobook catalogue during the Summer Break. They can also download the Wheelers ePlatform app (available for iOS and Android devices) onto their smartphone to listen to audiobooks while walking the dog or cleaning their room. Choose the Our Lady of Sion library and login with your Sion login and password.



### Sion Writers Club

Our last get-together for the Sion Writers Club is on Monday 30 November. If you are interested in being part of the Sion Writers Club next year, please drop into the LRC and have a chat with Ms Lawson or drop her an email with questions about what this club entails.



## Debating – Laura Geilings

### Debating News

Our junior debating team completed their competition this week, competing against PLC. Our girls argued for the affirmative side that we should incentivise people to relocate to the country. Emily Ong (Year 7), Severine Cherry (Year 8) and Tianna Duffin (Year 8) researched the topic, prepared their speeches and rebutted the negative team's arguments wonderfully. It is great to see how far the girls have come this year with their debating skills and confidence. Our girls won the debate by one point, with Tianna Duffin winning best speaker. Our junior team has only lost once and won twice this year by one point, which is a great achievement for our debaters.



Tianna Duffin, 8 Orange

Well done to all the students who participated in debating this year. COVID-19 has definitely thrown some challenges at us, but it was great to see girls still put their names forward for the DAV competitions and House debating. I hope to see many new and familiar faces next year at the debating opportunities that are available for the students. If you are interested in researching topics, establishing arguments and working as a team, debating might just be for you.



## Humanities Learning Leader – Sarah Chalmers

### Environment News

During National Recycling Week, Our Lady of Sion students were challenged to save something from ending up in landfill and to repurpose it. The examples below demonstrate creativity, thinking outside the box and a desire to protect our planet from the ever-growing amount of waste that people generate. Well done to all the participants!

*I decided to create a self-watering plant. I used an old milk bottle and some string. I first cut the milk bottle in half and put the top upside down in the bottom. I put two strings through the opening and water in the bottom so that water could travel between the two sections. I put soil and a plant on the top and all together it creates a small version of a wicking bed which reuses water. **Severine Cherry, 8 Blue***



*I created Christmas decorations. I have made two different types: the owls and the star-shaped decorations. For the owls I have used a toilet paper roll as the base, paint, paper and string. For the star-shaped decorations, I used toilet paper rolls that have been painted, flattened and then cut out piece by piece, then glued together to make the star shape. The centre is a candy wrapper, that I have cut and crumpled.*

**Adelyn Chien, 10 Silver**



*When I first saw this competition I was originally going to make a hat out of a cardboard box. Then I went to Eastland with my mum, and she said 'Grab that bag and I'll put it in the bin on the way in' because it had a massive rip down the side, and I said, 'No, I'll make something out of it.' ... As soon as I got home, I was looking in my cupboard for a pair of shorts to recreate, but I couldn't find any, so I made a pattern by tracing a pair of old pyjamas. But then I didn't have enough fabric, so I had to slice it through the middle and add different sections. It ended up being too big so I added pleats and took in the sides. In the end, they took me three nights to make, and it was totally worth it because I really like them. **Scarlett McInerney, 7 Silver***





*Sport –  
Katrina Gurciullo*



*Sport Administrator  
– Liam Cox*

## *Year 7 Kickball Competition*

After 4 weeks and 18 matches, our Year 7 Kickball Champions have been crowned. Congratulations 7 Blue! Blue narrowly defeated Gold in a tight Grand Final on Thursday that went down to the last kick of the game. In the bronze medal match, Silver defeated Red and Purple were victorious against White in the final for fifth place. It was fantastic to see all Homerooms compete with such spirit and sportspersonship throughout the competition. We are hoping to see the same level of excitement throughout our 2021 GSV fixtures.



## *Year 8 Kickball Competition*

The last round and finals for Year 8 Kickball will be on Tuesday 1 December and we can't wait! The participation and standard has been fantastic across the first four rounds and we are expecting nothing less on Tuesday at lunch. Year 8 Red is looking like the team to beat, can they go all the way?



## *Term 1 GSV Try Outs*

GSV weekly sport is finally back! After months in lockdown we have begun tryouts for the 2021 season. Junior, Intermediate and Seniors will compete in seven rounds of Indoor Cricket, Softball and Tennis in Term 1. With an early start to the season (second week back in Term 1) tryouts commenced on Tuesday and Wednesday for Years 8 and 9 students. The first tryout for Year 7 was on Thursday, with a second tryout scheduled for Monday afternoon. A big thank you to all staff, coaches and students who assisted with the sessions. Please keep an eye out for information regarding our Swimming and Diving program, set to commence the first week of Term 1.

## *GSV Morning Workouts*

Wednesday and Friday morning workouts have been a lot of fun! Wednesday has a strength and conditioning focus with strength, HIIT and circuit sessions. Friday consists of short-sided games to prepare the girls for return to sport working predominantly aerobically.

We would like to thank the community of students who have regularly attended the sessions, striving to better themselves and motivate others around them to do the same. It has been a different year but we adapted quickly together to challenges that arose. We are looking forward to finishing the year off strongly and starting 2021 in style!



## *Sport Star of the Week: Chloe Thorn – 7 Blue*

This week Chloe is our Sport Stars of the Week. Chloe has been a terrific Year 7 Sport representative throughout 2020, frequently participating in online activities in the GSV Classroom and at-school workouts on Wednesday and Friday mornings. She was a consistent performer in the Year 7 Kickball competition and helped lead 7 Blue to victory in the Grand Final. Well done Chloe!



**College  
Psychologist –  
Sofia Stagnitta**

Here we are, at the end of the 2020 school year. And what a year it has been! The uncertainty and stress with COVID-19 and the lockdowns seems to have exhausted the students even more than usual and I bet they're all looking forward to a good rest.

Headspace suggests six ideas for parents to [support a young person's mental health and wellbeing in the holidays](#):

1. encourage them to stay connected
2. encourage them to stay involved
3. encourage physical activity
4. encourage a regular routine
5. encourage healthy eating habits
6. encourage play!

This video by Michael Carr-Gregg on [Surviving Christmas](#) is also worth a watch.

I also wanted to provide details of organisations to contact should support be needed over the break. Although Christmas can be a wonderful and relaxing time for families, it can also be a time of great stress, especially given the year we have had. If you feel like you or your family are struggling over this time, please contact the following services:

- beyondblue - 1300 224 636 - 24 hour information and support line, daily webchat from 3 pm to midnight and online email service.
- Parentline - 13 22 89 - telephone counselling and support to parents in Victoria available 8 am - midnight every day.
- Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800 - 24 hour counselling and support line for young people aged 5-25, various webchat hours and email service.
- headspace - range of counselling and support services available.
- eheadspace - 1800 650 890 or [www.eheadspace.org.au](http://www.eheadspace.org.au) - phone and online support for young people and their parents.
- CYMHS Box Hill - 1300 721 927 - should you need immediate support over the break. Specialist mental health service for children and young people up to the age of 25 years who are displaying symptoms of psychiatric disorder or severe emotional and behavioural disturbance.

If you are concerned about support over the holiday break, please contact the Counselling Team before 11 December and we can discuss this further - 9890 9097 or [counselling@cion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:counselling@cion.catholic.edu.au).

Wishing everyone a safe and restful break over the summer holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sofia, Janine & Vanessa - College Counselling Service





*Lucy Miotello*



*Alice Dawes*

*Social Justice  
Coordinators*

## *Food Drive St Vincent de Paul*

The Social Justice team has been working over the past two weeks promoting the St Vincent de Paul Food Drive. We have been astounded by the generosity of students and families who have donated non-perishable items and toiletries to ensure a brighter future for local families in need. The baskets placed in the Chapel were overflowing and we thank all who have donated for their kindness. These items will be passed on to St Vincent de Paul Box Hill for distribution and will be received with much appreciation.

Finally, we would like to thank all students, staff and families for supporting the Social Justice program this year despite the restrictions of working under COVID-19. We look forward to next year, working with our Year 12 Social Justice captain, Jordin Rizzo and leaders from our other year levels. We know they will provide continual assistance to the numerous organisations the College supports, and raise awareness of the various social justice issues affecting our communities.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2021.



## *Farewell to Sion*

It is with a touch of sadness that I leave Our Lady of Sion College to begin a much-anticipated retirement. I will miss the many positives of teaching as it has been a very rewarding career. It has been a privilege to witness students begin at the College as girls, excited to begin secondary school, and leave as mature, young women, ready to make a positive contribution to the world.

Since starting at Sion in 2002, when I was appointed Science Coordinator by Ms April Honeyman, I have thoroughly enjoyed all the challenges and relationships afforded to me as a teacher.

I would like to thank Mrs Apostolopoulos for her excellent guidance of the College over the past five years. I am also grateful to the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion for responding to community needs in establishing the College and the guiding role that they still play in College life. I am very appreciative of the positive relationships I have enjoyed with students, staff and parents over the years. I leave Our Lady of Sion College personally enriched by these experiences.

**Victoria Stats**



*Science Teacher  
– Victoria Stats*