



# Our Lady of Sion College Newsletter

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



## From the Principal – Tina Apostolopoulos

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we conclude the academic year for 2020, I take the opportunity to thank you for your support of the staff and myself during what has been an extraordinary time in our lives. From our perspective, your daughters have navigated the year with great determination, and while it was inevitable that motivation levels may have diminished as lockdown continued, it is also clear

that many students were also able to focus with increased commitment to completing their school work and participating in the co-curricular opportunities we offered, both online and upon return to the College in Term 4.

This last week I asked our Wellbeing and Growth Leaders to share with me three words they believe described the students in their year level. I would like to share their words as a way of celebrating your daughter's personal development this year.

**Adaptable** was mentioned by almost all leaders, closely followed by **persistent, determined, resilient, creative, brave, courageous, supportive of one another** and **true leaders**. They described your daughters as **passionate, enthusiastic, protective** and **generous in their concern for others**. Finally, it was noted that they have **grown in independence**, and **displayed a very strong 'just do it' attitude**.

As the year has unfolded, I have often wondered how this time will be remembered, especially by our young people: your daughters. I am certain they will acknowledge the adversity they faced and the things they missed the most. This is only natural. However, I hope they also recall how much they developed as a person and how much they achieved. I hope they recognise the inner resources they obviously possess and that because of these attributes, they should never lose heart. I hope they continue to lean on those they trust and care for, and that they continue to pull each other up when they see others struggling. That is what brings hope and what belonging to a community is really about, and they have certainly

## Afternoon of Excellence Special Edition



## Important Dates

**Friday 18 December**

College office closes

**Monday 18 January**

College office opens

**Monday 1 February**

All students return for 2021



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demonstrated these qualities very strongly this year. I thank your daughters and I congratulate them. I also thank our College staff who have supported your daughters so well this year.

As we progress through the season of Advent and approach the joy and celebration of Christmas, may the promise and hope offered to us in the birth of Jesus continue to nourish and support you and your family.

We pray in gratitude for all the opportunities we have had this year to support others, and in turn, to be supported by those who care for us.

We also remember in our prayers those within our community and those beyond who have lost a loved one to COVID this year.

Finally, I share the following prayer sent to the College by Sr Mary Babic, the Congregational Leader on behalf of the Our Lady of Sion Congregational Leadership Team.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and ask for God's blessings on you and your family, and I look forward to welcoming our students in 2021 after they have enjoyed a well-deserved and restful holiday.

Tina Apostolopoulos  
College Principal



Chloe Li, 9 Blue, with her beautiful nativity scene artwork which is displayed in the Piazza.

*Advent 2020*

*You, Lord, are our Father,  
your name has always been "our Liberator"  
I wish you would tear the sky and descend!*

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We are about to begin one of the most beautiful liturgical times of the Christian liturgy in a globalized context of pain and indescribable uncertainty caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Therefore, this particular Advent will be a favoured time to renew our hope with confidence. We offer you this Advent prayer as a reflection for this time.

Along with the unlimited dedication of so many nurses, doctors, volunteers, caregivers, political authorities, private companies, we want to continue proclaiming that "You, Lord, are our Father."

Along with so many older adults who have been deprived of close affection we say: "Your name has always been« our Liberator »

Next to the people who have lost a loved one due to Covid 19 we say: "You are my strength" Ps.18,2

Alongside the unemployed we proclaim: The Lord is my light and my salvation. Ps. 27,1

Beside the victims of impoverishment, wars and injustice, with joyful hope we say to you: I wish you would tear the sky and descend!

We need you to come down and strengthen us to continue fighting. Renew our call to be the presence of Faith and Hope. Const 16

Mary of Nazareth, like you, we want to continue walking with courage in this particular time of great uncertainty.

iMaranatha!



## Learning and Teaching – Allison Stott

### *A Triumph of Excellence*

As a new staff member to the College, it has taken me a while to fully understand the Colours and Awards program of Our Lady of Sion College, but after engaging with the Afternoon of Excellence I now truly see the worth and value.

The College Colours and Awards identify engagement and activity. By covering all of the areas that Colours do, we motivate our students to be active members of society, teaching them that excellence is achieved when we have agency, when we care about what we are doing, when we set a goal, we can do anything.

Testament to the resilience and strength of our community, 2020 saw more Colours awarded than 2019, and this was supported through the Academic Awards conveyed through the Year Level Academic Assemblies. The students who were recognised in the Top Points and special awards, truly deserved the spotlight, for the manner in which they displayed the characteristics of a Daughter of Sion.

Many congratulations to all the award recipients; for a year of highs and lows, you brought highs to those around you.





## Student Wellbeing – Christine Kralj

### Participation – A Key to Personal Growth

Our recent Afternoon of Excellence highlighted the value of not just academic excellence but the significant role that participation plays in our students' personal growth. Our Colours program celebrates involvement in the life of the College and it is important to note that two of our Colours – Sion Community Spirit and House – are achievable by every student, every year.

To achieve these Colours, students don't need to have a particular talent or skill, they just need to be willing to put themselves forward and participate in some of the many activities offered by the College, or seek opportunities to serve others by offering their time in acts of community service.

Participation in these activities is naturally a 'two-way street'; the College benefits from the contribution and support of students, but by participating, students receive the chance to make a broader range of friends, further develop skills and experience informal leadership roles. Students who actively participate in a range

of activities often report that, in doing so, they feel a greater sense of belonging to the College community and relish the experiences gained. The Colours are just a bonus!

Other notable awards at the Afternoon of Excellence were the Louise Humann and the Daughter of Sion Awards. These awards are bestowed on students who engender hope in our community through their participation in co-curricular activities. Recipients are positive members of our community who have a strong sense of justice and service. They are prepared to hear the alternative view of others, and treat other's ideas with thoughtful respect. These students always show a willingness to put the needs of the community first, and consistently, proudly and publicly support initiatives that build a sense of family at Our Lady of Sion College.

A quote from Maya Angelou reminds us that:

*When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.*

Therefore, as the year concludes, I encourage students to set a few goals for themselves in 2021 to commit to greater involvement in College life and the personal growth it brings for those involved.







SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP 

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Second-hand **Uniforms**



### Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website - [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)
- A subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Our Lady of Sion College

### Second-hand textbook & uniform trading systems

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's book and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
  - Exactly the right items to buy
  - Who has the most items you need
  - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
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- And lots more

### Pricing Guide

- Like New 70%
- Excellent 60%
- Very Good 50%
- Good 40%

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)

ABN 55 114 136 211

### Helpful tips

- Be patient – items transact all year round
- Peak trading times: Textbooks: Nov-Mar Uniforms: Change of season; end of year and year start
- Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time
- Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a quicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities