



STELLA

Newsletter



Stella Maris
COLLEGE MANLY

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Term 4 | Issue 35 | 23 November 2023

From the Principal



Holiday Learning

Current research in the US suggests the evidence is mixed on whether students suffer learning loss over the summer break. A recent American paper published in the journal, *Sociological Science*, found that different standardised tests can give wildly different answers on this question. The challenge is around assessing the validity of formal and informal learning over summer.

In Australia, I believe there is an opportunity provided by the summer break for parents and carers to engage in informal learning opportunities with their families.

I recently asked our Teacher Librarian, Ms Jocelyn Christensen, for some great ideas for the summer break. This is what she suggests:

Blue Plaques NSW: connects you to the hidden history and heritage of NSW.

<https://blueplaques.nsw.gov.au/>

The 'clever girl' who helped build the Sydney Harbour Bridge

Sydney Rock Art: This is like a treasure hunt. <https://sydneyrockart.info/#>

Indigenous Petroglyphs Around Sydney and the Central Coast:

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2015/jul/23/hidden-in-plain-sight-indigenous-australian-rock-art-on-sydneys-doorstep>

Citizen Scientists: <https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/stories-and-case-studies/coastsnap>

Podcast Recommendation: for older students and parents - Shakespeare's Restless World. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b017gm45/episodes/downloads>

Shakespeare in Print: State Library of New South Wales

Immerse yourself in the world of Shakespeare in this exciting celebration marking the 400th anniversary of his First Folio – the first collection of Shakespeare's plays published in one volume.

18 July 2023 to 25 February 2024. [Click here](#) for details.

Australia Cabbage Tree Bay: Cabbage Tree Bay is an aquatic reserve that aims to protect marine life – in your backyard. <https://vimeo.com/132632097>

Sydney Botanical Gardens: <https://www.botanicgardens.org.au/whats-on/love-your-nature>

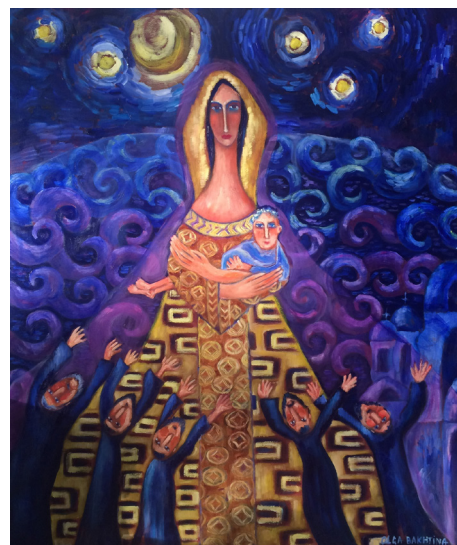
Kandinsky: 4 November 2023 - 10 March 2024, Art Gallery of NSW. <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/kandinsky/>

Farewells

At this time of year, we farewell students and staff who are moving to different schools. I thank Mr Scott Mellis and Ms Evie McCutcheon for their support of Stella over many years in TAS and HSIE. Both of these staff are moving to promotional positions at other independent schools. (continues next page)

Merry Christmas!

From all at Stella Maris College, wishing you and your family a merry and bright Christmas.



'Madonna and child crossing the sea' image by Olga Bakhtina (olgabakhtina.com)

2024 Term Dates

Term 1

Wednesday 31 January - Friday 12 April

Term 2

Tuesday 30 April - Friday 28 June

Term 3

Tuesday 23 July - Friday 27

Term 4

Tuesday 15 October - Tuesday 3 December

From the Principal (cont)

Hildegard Award

Earlier this year, we launched the Hildegard Award for students in Years 7-11. The award encourages students to receive recognition and funding for an initiative that will create a better world. The successful proposal was judged based on how strongly it reflects who we are, our College values, and vision and mission.

We received very considered and thought-provoking submissions for this year's Hildegard Award, making the final decision a difficult one. It is with great pleasure we announce that the 2023 Hildegard Award winner is Abbie R of Year 8 for her submission titled, "The Stigma of Periods". Abbie proposed a 3-step platform for removing the stigma associated with menstrual cycles through speech, posters and further education in PDHPE classes.

As well as receiving the official Hildegard Award trophy at the Year 8 End of Year Award Presentation, Abbie will also receive a \$100 cash prize plus an additional \$100 that will be donated on her behalf to the Good Samaritan Inn.

Congratulations to Abbie and all our Hildegard Award finalists!



Advent

I encourage all families to take time to attend Advent and Christmas services and connect with your local parish. Please find information about local parish Christmas services at the [Diocese of Broken Bay website](#).

Our students have been generous in providing over 40 hampers for Vinnies this Advent. Over the year, students at Stella have raised over \$43,000 for charities such as Caritas, Good Samaritan Foundation, Northern Beaches Women's Shelter, Mater Dei School and Vinnies. This is an amazing effort and I thank the Stella families for the support of these charities and our social justice initiatives.

Christmas Wishes

As this will be our final Newsletter for 2023, I extend my very best wishes for a wonderful holiday period to reconnect with nature, family and friends. I look forward to seeing our Stella community reunite on Wednesday 31 January for what promises to be an exciting 2024 for Stella Maris College.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace.

This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,
fill us with a deep and abiding peace.

Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter,
especially those who need it most. Amen.

(<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-wreath-prayers>)

Elizabeth Carnegie

Elizabeth Carnegie
Principal

2023 Important Dates

November

29 - 30 Year Group Award Ceremonies

December

1 Last day of 2024.
School finishes at approx. 11.00am.

Social Justice News

Sarah Metcalfe - Social Justice Program Coordinator

Service of Solidarity

Caritas Australia will host a virtual Service of Solidarity in recognition of the human suffering in the Holy Land, serving as a place for the community to come together in hope and healing. [Click here](#) for further details.

Women and Children First (Dee Why) Guest Speaker

We welcomed Tanya from Women and Children First, Dee Why Refuge Hub as a guest speaker at the whole school assembly on Tuesday 14 November to acknowledge the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Tanya was able to educate our school community to break down stigma and misconceptions surrounding women and children caught up in cycles of domestic violence and to have a default setting inherently embedded within each student to: "expect respect".

Making a Difference (MAD) and Social Justice are looking to give some practical help in support of Women and Children First in Dee Why by facilitating a roster of students who would be able to help the women "at shelter" by working with their primary school aged children and assisting them with their homework once a week on a Tuesday afternoon. While the children are receiving help with their homework, their mums are able to be freed up to access support services to help them break out of negative circumstances.



Homework Club for Term 1, 2024

Please [click here](#) for information regarding Homework Club commencing in Term 1, 2024.

Vinnies Christmas Hampers

Final Vinnies Christmas Hamper items came in this week – thank you for donating these. They will go directly to alleviating stress for families feeling the cost-of-living crunch to have a joyful celebratory lunch with their loved ones.

Year 7 and 8 Religion classes and extra students in the MAD Social Justice Club have been working very hard helping to collate the hampers to reflect the correct items requested by Vinnies. The hampers are looking fantastic and contain beautiful quality items thanks to the community's generosity!

Vinnies Christmas Hamper Card Competition

It's still not too late to submit an artwork for the Vinnies Christmas Card Competition (with a \$25 gift card to be won). We have some great contenders so far. Final card entries are due by next Monday, 27 November (hardcopies or digitised format is fine – email through to Ms Metcalfe).

Christmas Mufti Day - Monday 27 November

A final Mufti Day for the year will occur next Monday to mark Christmas. Please come dressed in Christmas themed mufti Monday 27 November and donate a gold coin via PC on the morning or anytime by your daughter's online canteen account to participate.

Money raised will go towards the Bacolod Kinder School, in the Philippines and towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



Performing Arts News

HSC Dance Callback Selection - Rochelle Jones

We would like to congratulate Pippa Ravenscroft on being selected from 670 students to perform her Major Study Performance piece "Sane/Insane" (choreographed by Rochelle Jones) at the inaugural Callback Showcase in February 2024. Pippa received a Callback Nomination for both her Core Performance and Major Study Performance pieces from which she was selected to perform her Major work for the Callback show. The Callback Showcase is a selection of outstanding performances and projects from Higher School Certificate dance students. It is coordinated by The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education and will be held at the Seymour Centre on 15 and 16 February 2024.

It is an outstanding honour to be selected for the show which is representative of Pippa's endless hard work and dedication to her dance studies. We wish her all the best for the show and for her future in the dance industry.

I hope to take Year 11 and Year 12, 2024 to see Callback in February. If anyone else would like tickets they can be booked via the Seymour Centre website. Pippa will be appearing in Show B.

Congratulations to the entire HSC Dance Class of 2023 who all received Callback Nominations which is indicative of the elite level of skill and talent in the cohort:

- Anastasia Colahan – Core Performance Nomination
- Charlotte Galwey – Core Performance Nomination
- Pippa Ravenscroft – Core Performance & Major Study Performance Nominations
- Alexandra Stacey – Core Performance & Major Study Performance Nominations



Semester 2 Drama Gala - Mitchell Smith

The Drama evening was a captivating, comical and emotionally charged experience that enthralled the audience of supportive mums, dads and family members. The talented cast consisting of students from Years 7 - 12, some of who only took to the stage for their very first time, delivered powerful performances, skillfully portraying complex characters in a collaborative manner in their ensembles, duologues and films. The production's seamless combination of combining lighting and audio, thanks to Mr Arnott, and the overall creative direction of Mr Caesar, Mr Smith and Mr Wood, helped create a night of storytelling, exceptional acting, and impressive stagecraft in a memorable and impactful way.

Here is an insight from our very own Zoe A in Year 9 Drama:

"Upon being asked to perform my duologue at the Drama Gala, I was quick to accept as this event only happens once every semester at Stella Maris College. Rehearsals started at 3:30pm and ran until 5:45pm. This consisted of a full dress rehearsal of each performance and went without a hiccup. The actual performance began at 6:30pm with the Year 7 to 8 Drama Ensemble, with my performance following. The experience was fantastic! Each performer throughout the night knew how to work the stage and bring emotion to their act. The night ran smoothly, leaving both the actors and the audience treated to a fantastic night out."



Performing Arts News (cont)

Semester 2 Dance Night - Rochelle Jones

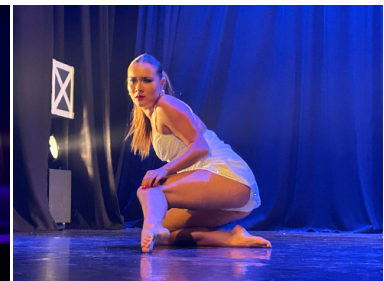
The Semester 2 "Celebration of Dance" was held on Friday 17 November and it was certainly a night to remember!

The showcase included works from the Years 9, 10, and 11 Elective classes, including some of the new HSC Dance Core Performance pieces. There was a focus on students' individual compositions and choreographic creations which illustrated their personal style, impeccable skills, and unique personalities. Solo works from Years 7 to 10, alongside the Year 7 Performance Group, and Year 8 Performance Group, were highlights of the evening, combined with the outstanding competition pieces from the Ensembles, Company, and Extension Company groups.

I would like to thank all of the teachers and choreographers who have worked with the girls over the year to nurture and develop their dance experience. A special thank you to the Year 10 students Sahara Z and Cyann V who helped manage and choreograph the Year 8 Performance Group, as well as Vianney S and Roisin C from Year 11/12, who mentored the Year 7 Performance Group through choreography and training. To the incredible teachers who looked after our competition teams: Emma Copping, James Maras, Adam Blanch and Lauren Elton – we are forever grateful for your inspiration and vision.

Thank you to the Theatre staff – Michael Arnott and Mitchell Smith – for helping to make the show a success through smooth technical management and professionalism. I am very grateful for Head of Department, Evan Browett, for all of his support, confidence, and positivity in overseeing the night to fruition, and for the Staff who aided in welcoming the community and assisting on the evening.

Congratulations to all the performers for an outstanding night of entertainment and phenomenal items. You should be very proud of your achievements.



Duke of Edinburgh News

Linda Silburn - Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Congratulations to the huge number of Year 9 students who have had their Bronze Award signed off this week. If you are yet to submit your award, please do so ASAP by completing all sections, attaching your AJ report and sending it to your award leader for approval.

This is your final chance to register for the 2024 Snowy Mountain or Myall Lake Silver adventures (see the link below for information). Please do so via the student Microsoft form or via emailing Ms Silburn. Places on these two tours are limited and deposits will need to be paid by the end of term.

Best of luck to the 16 girls heading off to walk the Three Capes Walk in Tasmania next Friday and thank you for a brilliant year participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We will look forward to welcoming Year 9 to the Award in early Term 1 2024.



Duke of Edinburgh in 2024

Want to know more about the adventurous journeys and tours planned for 2024?

[Click here!](#)

Connect with Us!

A very warm invitation to connect with us on social media. Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Uniform Shop

Trading Hours

The Uniform Shop has now closed for the year.

We will be open on 24th, 25th and 30th January from 9.00am – 2.00pm. No appointments are necessary.

We will be in the shop next Tuesday to Thursday periodically for stocktake. If we are there when your daughter comes by, orders can be collected, but not exchanged till next year.

All specific stationery items, as listed on the Stationery Requirements sheet on the Portal for each year, can be purchased in the Uniform Shop. Some of these can also be purchased online. Collection can be in January on the days listed above.

Years 7 - 12 2024 booklists are available to order through www.campion.com.au. The access code is RJF4

Second Hand Uniforms

Please visit the [P&F Stella Maris Buy, Sell, Swap Uniform, Books/Equipment and Sports Gear Facebook page](#) for all second hand purchases.

Job of the Week

Lisa Walsh - Careers and Pathways Adviser
e lisa_walsh@stellamaris.nsw.edu.au

Theatre Worker

What do theatre workers do?

The theatre is a place for live performances, such as plays, musicals, and other forms of entertainment. The stage is where actors and performers bring stories to life in front of an audience, while others work behind the scenes to make the magic happen. The goal is to engage, entertain, and sometimes even inspire the people watching.

While every theatre is different, they do share some common things:

1. Creativity thrives – whether it's designing sets and costumes or interpreting scripts.
2. Attention to detail is crucial – particularly when it comes to coordinating things behind the scenes.
3. A strong emphasis on collaboration – everyone involved needs to work together seamlessly to ensure a production's success.

What are the different roles working in theatre?

[Click here](#) to learn more about this job and pathways to get you there. Visit our very own [Stella Careers Website](#) for all your career needs (now on the students' SEQTA landing page). PLUS, our regular weekly careers newsletters can be read [here](#).



Canteen Roster

Bernie McGrath - Canteen Manager

Monday 27 November

Lisa Thorpe-Apps
Joanna Brown
Cameron Kelly

Tuesday 28 November

Joanne Robinson
Heather Lawson
Riary Tanner
Lilian Henley
Kim Singleton

Wednesday 29 November

Elle Weeden
Jude Furniss
Dani Clark
HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Thursday 30 November

Taemar Handes
Monique Franks
HELP NEEDED PLEASE

No
Canteen
orders on
the last
day!

Note to parents/carers:

This is our last newsletter so please see the roster above for next week, until Thursday. On Friday 1 December, the girls will be at Mass in the morning and will return to school to be dismissed. The canteen won't be open that day so no online orders will be taken. There may be a small amount of food available but not very much.

If our volunteers haven't picked up their gift, please have your daughter call in to collect it. I will be preparing the roster during the holidays and am still waiting on some parents to let me know if they will be coming back again next year, either on your current day or if you would like to change your day, that's fine too.

Cheryl and I would like to thank you for your assistance and support during the year. Your help is invaluable and we hope we see you again soon.

We wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back for another year.

Thank you - Bernie and Cheryl

P&F WhatsApp Groups

Year 7

Administrator: Emma Flett
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LUydz4A57KYAXKMo1oXJUp>

Year 8

Administrator: Kelly Hindman
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DTV8mc1S1RgDu8Bw2WEzce>

Year 9

Administrator: Belinda Hay
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ld26FUW8TDsD2xRTICaVUW>

Year 10

Administrator: Holly MacKenzie
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HHMUa6P9oXM1Q6SqcPrwF>

Year 11

Administrator: Molly McKenzie
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HxFeVIPxqrW15dqno44mEG>

Year 12

Administrator: Janet Sajowitz
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/InVnTvMt9NFAkoR99H2bxC>

Stella Fellas

Administrators: Nick and Brendan
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KHHVDH2ziSE3ZNilaxXwmz>

P&F Update

Clare Cahill (P&F President)
e pandf@stellamaris.nsw.edu.au

Barefoot Fun in the Sun

At our final event of the year, we experienced an incredible turnout! A heartfelt thank you to all the dads, male caregivers, and their extraordinary daughters for joining us in the sun for a delightful afternoon of bowling. Sydney's springtime truly lived up to its reputation. Perhaps we'll reserve this experience for the mums next year! Enjoy some photos from the day, and a special shout-out to the fantastic hosts, Adam Rowe and Nick Poutney, for making the afternoon unforgettable.

Thank You for Completing the P&F Survey!

We are grateful for taking the time to complete our recent P&F survey. Your valuable insights are crucial in helping us plan for next year.

We truly appreciate your thoughtful responses; your feedback is invaluable, and we look forward to implementing changes based on your suggestions.

The P&F team are meeting this week to consider your feedback and plan all the dates for next year. Expect a full calendar of what is happening from a P&F perspective at the start of Term 1.

Thanks and Merry Christmas!

On behalf of the P&F, thank you for your support in 2023. We wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at a P&F event in the new year.



Sports News

Isabella Rudolph - Sports Administrator

Touch Football

Well done to all the Stella Peninsula Cup Touch Football teams on a brilliant term of touch. We have two teams into the grand final next week: Stella Year 7/8 Red and our Stella Opens team. Stella Year 7 White will also compete next week in the third place playoff.

Good luck to these teams!



Basketball

Well done to all the Stella Basketball teams on a fantastic basketball season. We had six teams make the semi finals earlier this week: Year 8 Green, Year 8 White, Year 8 Black, Year 9 Red, Year 10 White and Stella Opens Red.

Congratulations to Stella Year 8 Green and Year 9 Red who won their semi finals and will play in the grand final next week. Our Stella Opens team will play their semi final on Friday. Good luck to all teams still competing!



Tennis

Next week the following students will compete at the Broken Bay tennis tournament at Oxford Falls Tennis Centre. Good luck to the following students: Isabella C, Hannah G, Lara B, Sunny E, Morgan A, Alexandra W and Eliza-Grace A.

2024 Term 1 Sport

A reminder that registrations are still open for AFL and touch football term 1. Students have been emailed the link to register for these sports.

The following extra-curricular sports registrations will open at the very start of Term 1 2024.

- Water polo
- Pilates
- Tennis lessons
- Tildesley Tennis
- Group Fitness
- Surf Group
- Run Club
- sprint training with Mel Gainsford-Taylor