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# St Andrews Christian College Newsletter 2023

Issue 3 · 21 May 2021

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### *Greetings Friends!*

As the weather turns to winter the creeping cold sometimes has me feeling a little down. Instead, I need to marvel at the seasons God has given us and be thankful that in Melbourne we really experience the four seasons (I can hear you all shouting – “yes, we experience them all in ONE day”). When I was living in the Solomon Islands we had no winter and it was either hot, very hot or wet (and hot) .

So I think of the things I do like about winter...

Mmmm..... let me think a bit longer!



I love collecting the various coloured and shaped leaves that have fallen on the ground and use them to decorate my table with the last remnants of autumn; I relish making and eating delicious and healthy heart warming soups; I love sitting in front of my fireplace, drinking up the warmth and glow of the embers; and, getting a bit more sleep in the months of nature's hibernation.

We also have seasons in our life. If you have a baby/young children you are probably yearning for the season in your life where they will sleep through the night. The seasons in our life come in various forms and ways and one of those 'seasons' is retirement.

Although we are very happy for Tim and his wife Jenni, we are sad to announce the retirement of our Deputy Principal, Tim Farmilo. Tim will finish at St Andrews Christian College at the end of the year, so we have lots of time for goodbyes and to show him our gratitude for all he has done in his time at St Andrews.



I asked Tim a few questions:

***How do you feel about retiring?***

*I always thought retirement was only for old people! However, as I am retiring, I guess I must be old! The decision has not been an easy one, but I am looking forward to not working full time.*

***What are you going to do in retirement?***

- *I still want to do some sort of part-time work – just not sure yet what that will be?*
- *I want to have time to spend on my hobbies – woodworking and restoring one of my cars.*
- *I also want to have time to do some travel (in Australia) and be able to spend some more time with my wife Jenni and my 7 grandchildren.*

***What have been the highlights of your time at St Andrews CC?***

*There have been so many highlights, but these stand out in my mind:*

- *Moving to the Wantirna South site.*
- *Seeing the College grow and develop.*
- *Year 6 Kangarooobie camps.*
- *Being given the opportunity to lead in my role as Deputy Principal.*
- *Having the privilege to serve God in this community.*

***What are you going to miss the most?***

- *The students – a school is not a school without students and I will miss the daily interaction I have with them – particularly them tapping on my window and waving to me as they go by my office.*

- *The 'shalom' community – it is a privilege to be able to share in the lives of the staff, parents and students and I will miss interacting with a community like St Andrews. Nobody should take the opportunity to share in this community lightly.*
- *Daily morning staff devotions.*

***What is special at St Andrews CC that you haven't seen in other schools?***

*The opportunity to speak freely about Jesus and being able to pray with staff, parents and students.*

***What wisdom do you want to leave:***

***To students?***

*Learn to get a good balance between spending time on devices and getting outside and enjoying all God's creation.*

***To parents?***

*Remember that the journey your child is on is more than an academic one. Give them time to be children and enjoy all God's world has to offer. Give them every opportunity to know and follow Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." **Proverbs 22:6***

***To staff?***

*You are so privileged to work in an environment like St Andrews where you have like-minded people to work with and where you can share Jesus openly and freely. Don't take this opportunity lightly. Remember to dig deeply into God for your daily strength and guidance in all you do.*

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

***Psalms 103:1-5***

***What do you want to be remembered for?***

- *Being caring, approachable and having a pastoral heart.*
- *Solving problems and having a solution when sometimes a solution didn't seem possible.*
- *Pick-up duty every day!*

***Favourite Bible verse?***

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.”*

***Proverbs 3:5-6***



That’s one of my favourite verses too! When we trust God, we can know that whatever season we find ourselves in, we know He is with us, guiding us.

Together we pray that Tim will have a fantastic year and a really good finish at St Andrews.

Blessings on your week!

***Catriona Wansbrough***



## NEWS

### Congratulations Mrs Wansbrough

***Thanking Principal Catriona Wansbrough for her 10 years of service to our College***

At the conclusion of Term One the College staff joined together to celebrate Mrs Catriona Wansbrough’s 10 year anniversary as Principal at the College.



A number of staff spoke about Catriona's total commitment to the College and the significant personal sacrifice she has given as she has led the College through a time of growth in student numbers and the development of facilities. Many spoke of her passion to keep Christ as the central focus in every aspect of the College.



Thank you Catriona for your leadership of the College and your ongoing commitment to make the College the best Christian school possible.

*Darren Waterworth*  
*Business Manager*

## Knox Citizenship Award

*Congratulations Joshua Bishop*

During our time of lockdown in 2020, the school was asked by the Knox Council to nominate students for their yearly Citizenship Award. The decision was made to nominate

Joshua Bishop, then in Year 7, to receive this award in the Year 7 & 8 cohort.



Joshua was an amazing and exemplary “online citizen”. He was always ready for homeroom early in the mornings, dressed neatly and with a neat, crisp hairstyle. He would greet the teacher politely, and was one of the most responsive students online.

Joshua’s work was handed in well-prepared and completed to a high standard. He never lost speed and remained continually positive, polite and friendly throughout the period of lockdown.

Congratulations, Josh!

*Mrs Christa Cloete*

*Year 7 & 8 Coordinator*

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## Historic Day at St Andrews

On Wednesday 12th May 2021, Deputy Principal Tim Farmilo flicked the switch on our Solar Panels! The installation of the solar panels on the Secondary School building took

place at the beginning on the month and will power the electricity across the College property.





The next one will be on Tuesday 25th May. All are invited to this time of prayer. We are greatly blessed



## St Andrews Prayer Group

The St Andrews Prayer Group would also like to welcome and invite all parents to come along and join in prayer, with other parents, for the needs of the St Andrews College community.

Meetings are held once a week at the following time: *Wednesdays*



**8:45am - 9:30am** (after school drop off)

Prayer is held in the Meeting room, next to the Reception area and all are welcome. It is a great opportunity to join in fellowship with other parents.

We are greatly blessed at St Andrews to have the opportunity to gather together for prayer. As Christians we are called to pray, and we encourage parents to join us. Be reassured that you do not have to pray out loud if you are not comfortable in doing so.

*“And pray ....on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints”*

- Ephesians 6:18 NIV.

*“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV.

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose”.*

- Philippians 2:1, 2 NIV.

Any further queries can be directed to Suzy Song at the School Office.

***Suzy Song***

*The St Andrews Prayer Group*

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## Rich in Hope and Purpose

### ***Developing a Missional and Service Mindset in Christian Education***

Last Term, Principal Catriona Wansbrough joined Sandra Scott of Christian Schools Australia and ACSI (Association Christian Schools International) on their Horizons Podcast to talk about the intentional positioning of the Mission and Service Learning culture at St Andrews Christian College. As with all educational institutions St Andrews seeks to develop great global citizens, however our reason is different, as is reflected in



our College's Mission Service Learning program. It is learning for the benefit of God's Kingdom.

Key things shared in the podcast:

- School is about more than great academic results
- Always focus on the 'why': what are our end goals?
- In a Christian school, education is ultimately for the benefit of God's Kingdom
- How do we build a school culture which incorporates a missional and service mindset?
- Priorities must be reflected in a school's documents, budget, staffing, and time allocation
- It all starts with intentional leadership



[Listen to the Podcast Here](#)

## Mission Service Learning

Year 2 have completed their Mission Service Learning activity of creating bookmarks for a Mothers' Day Solo Mums event at City Life Community Care (CLCC) which took place last week! Thanks to Judy and Tayla for your support!



*Oh WOW! What a wonderful picture of everyone and the bookmarks look BEAUTIFUL, filled with colour and joy and clearly made with love. Thank you everyone from Year 2.*

***Sue Horwood***

*Community Mentoring & Training Team Leader - CityLife Community Care*

St Andrews' Year 2, 3 and 4 students will be visiting the CLCC food bank in June to see how the program supports Knox families in need.

Year 6, 7 and 8 students will be helping Foothills Community Care in May and June with their Christian Kitchen project. If you would like to know more about these community projects please get in touch with me via email [afarmer@standrews.vic.edu.au](mailto:afarmer@standrews.vic.edu.au)

***Andrew Farmer***

*Mission Service Learning Co-ordinator*

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**Book Your Tickets Now!**

St Andrews Christian College presents

# 2021 Junior & Intermediate Ensembles Concert

Tues 25th May, 2021 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm  
St Andrews Christian College  
Multi-Purpose Hall (Gym)



Tickets available through TryBooking  
Scan QR code above



Language Competition Winner

Education Perfect, a program used as part of students' Language learning, held a Language competition from the 16th- 23rd March. It was held during the week the school had Continuous Online Learning.

During this time, students needed to gain as many points as they could by completing a variety of tasks set by Education Perfect.

Beatrice Connolly received a Credit Award.



Congratulations, Bea!

*Ms Nikki Miao and Mrs Lynne Marks*

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## Fundraising Update

Thank you so much to all who contributed to fundraising for Samaritan's Purse. The casual clothes day at the end of term 1 raised just under \$2000 which is having a big impact in the education of students in rural Cambodia.

*“We are really thankful to Samaritan’s Purse for their help to our students,” said Mrs. Nioy Seyneun, the school principal from the community of Kcheay in Cambodia.*

*“Our students are now more desirous that they could pursue their dreams to finish their studies and someday become professionals and help their parents stop going to Thailand and work for a living. They are hoping that one day the cycle of poverty in their family will be broken.”*

Our funds help to provide literacy and numeracy materials for the students and also some professional development for the teachers.



Please pray for the education of the students in Cambodia and that Samaritan’s Purse can continue providing the training and support required to help students and teachers flourish.

Please also continue to generously support any upcoming fundraising events knowing that your gifts are making a big difference in people’s lives.

***Greg Crotty***

*Head of Science*

## St Andrews Excelling in the East

The Age newspaper runs a series each year called *Schools that Excel* that pinpoints and celebrates schools that have shown continuous improvement over the past decade. They gather VCE results going back 10 years for every secondary school in the state. Schools are divided into metropolitan and regional, and also divided into metropolitan west, north, east and south Melbourne.

This year St Andrews Christian College has been named the winner of the Eastern Melbourne non-government division. As a College we would like to congratulate each

and every one of our staff members for this wonderful effort. No one staff member has achieved this individually – this is a collaborative effort in aiming to be the best provider of Christian Education that we can be for God’s glory. We help each student to achieve their best and find their giftings to serve and make a difference in God’s kingdom.

The Age will be doing a story on St Andrews CC and the other winners in June.

*Catriona Wansbrough*

*Principal*

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## Café Survey



We are close to opening of the College Café! Could you please complete the linked survey to help us in our planning.

*Darren Waterworth*

*Business Manager*

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## Parents on Site During School Hours

Please be aware that if parents wish to enter or visit the College once the school day has commenced, they **MUST** report to the main office to receive a visitors pass. ***No parent is allowed on the College grounds during school hours without reporting to the main office first.***

This is a safety requirement to ensure anyone visiting the school is easily identifiable by their visitor's pass. It is also a requirement in order to keep our students and our College community safe at all times. Your assistance with adhering to this request would be much appreciated. *Please note:* Parents are not required to report to the office if they are coming to collect their children at 3:30pm, the end of the school day.

***Tim Farmilo***

*Deputy Principal*

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## Outside School Hours Care Newsletter



oshc branches apr COLLEGE NEWS 2021.pdf





We are fundraising with  
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UPGRADED TO  
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**SAVE**  
**\$50**

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**AUSTRALIA**

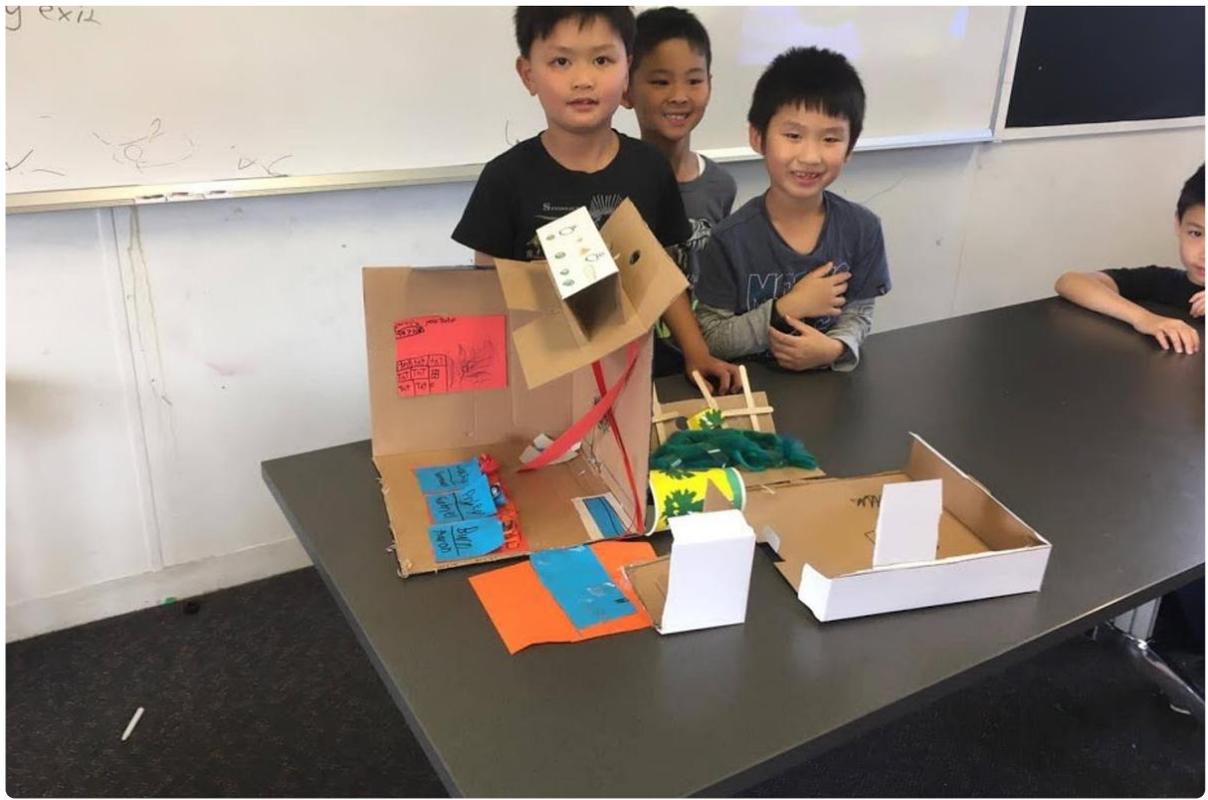
- ADELAIDE
- BRISBANE
- SYDNEY
- DARWIN
- HOBART
- MELBOURNE
- PERTH
- CANBERRA

**NEW ZEALAND**

- CAIRNS
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- LAUNCESTON
- NEWCASTLE
- TOWNSVILLE
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Support us & buy now











# PRIMARY SCHOOL

## The Joy of Creation in STEM

Part of my role, probably my favourite part, is teaching STEM in the Primary School. I started my career teaching as a Prep teacher and did that for over 10 years. The joy of 5 year-olds is contagious and can brighten even the toughest of days.



Last week I introduced some little robots to the Prep and Year 1 students in STEM. We had a great time experiencing the fun of coding robots however the best part was the discussion we had around our amazing brains. As part of the Biblical focus of the lesson we discussed the limitations of the robots and how God created us to function in the most amazing ways. The clarity offered by young children about the truths of God are always so inspiring.

“Of course God created us better Mrs Hughes he is God you know” said one Year 1 student!

As His word says:

*“You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother’s body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” Psalm 139:13-14*

May God bless you all!

***Yvonne Hughes***

*Head of Primary*

## Year 3 Art Excursion

On Thursday 6th May Year 3 visited McClelland gallery and sculpture park. We participated in a program called Encounters, led by Living Culture and Baluk Arts. This gave the students some knowledge of indigenous culture and the importance of native plants to the Indigenous people of the area.



The students then created some clay shells that will be part of a collaborative artwork called Shelter that will be exhibited at McClelland gallery before touring Australia.

After lunch we explored the sculptures in the bushland of the Gallery and did some observational drawing. Finally, the students created some art using the natural materials found in the bushland.

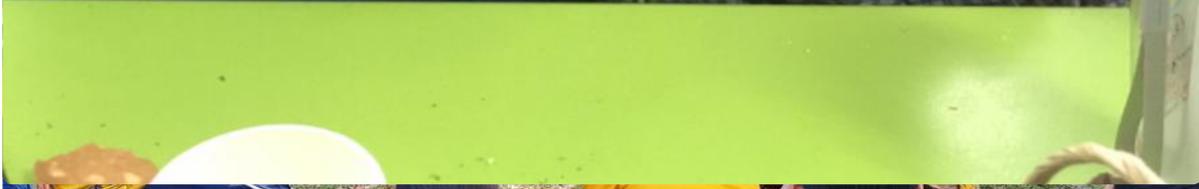
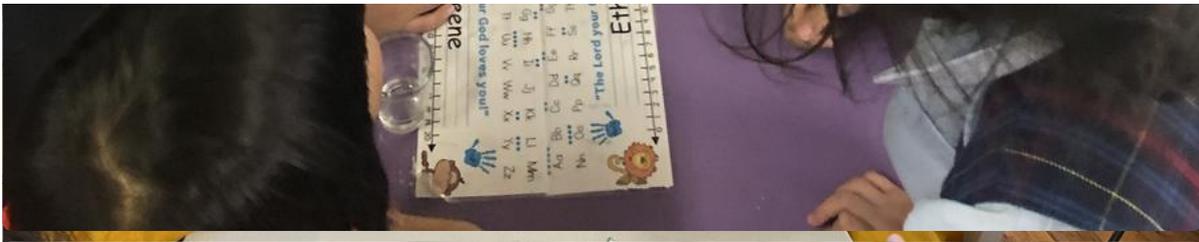












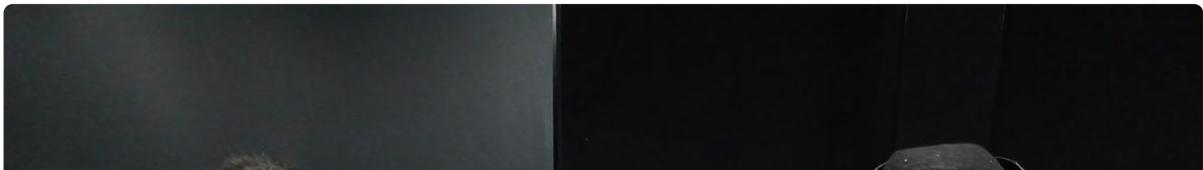






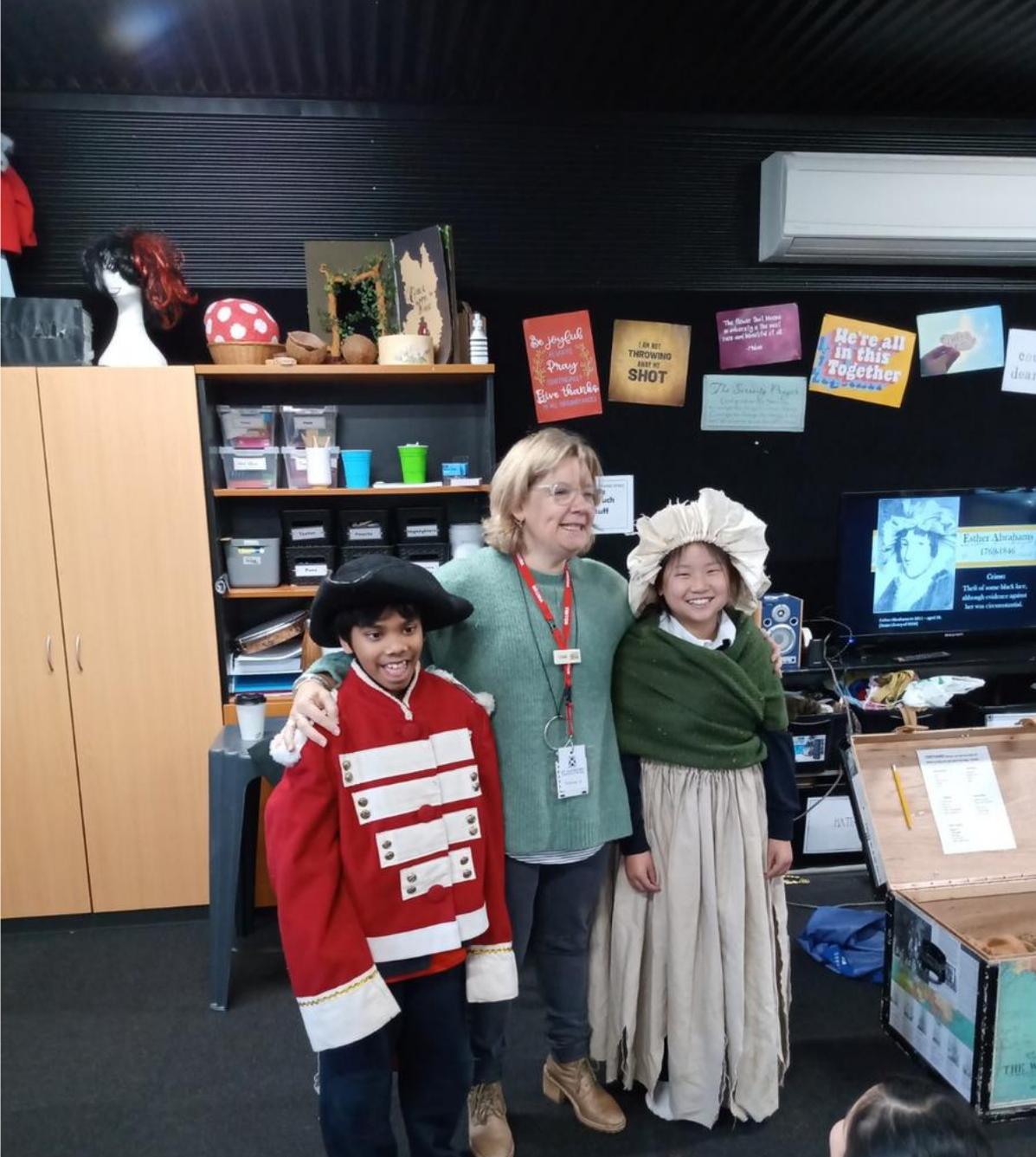








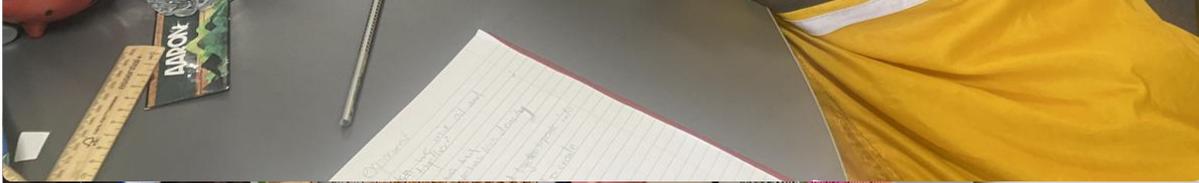
This term in Year 6 Science we have been exploring the wonderful world of reversible and



















































# SECONDARY SCHOOL

## Year 7 Geography Field Trip

Recently the Year 7s conducted a Field Trip to the Yarra Ranges, specifically Mt Donna Buang and the Yarra River at Warburton. This was to deepen our understanding in our study of water.

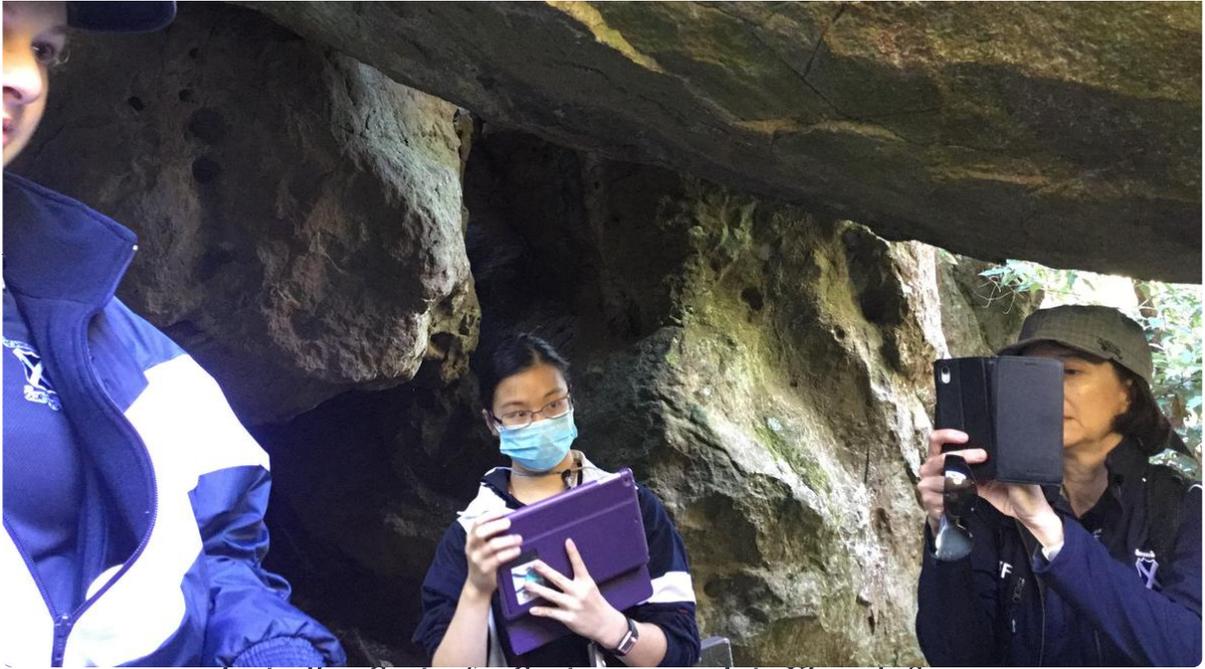
We examined the biological functions, structures and habitats of, and disturbances to three very different environments: a Subalpine ecosystem, a cool temperate rainforest and an aquatic ecosystem. Students conducted a range of assessments and tests and collected physical analysis data.



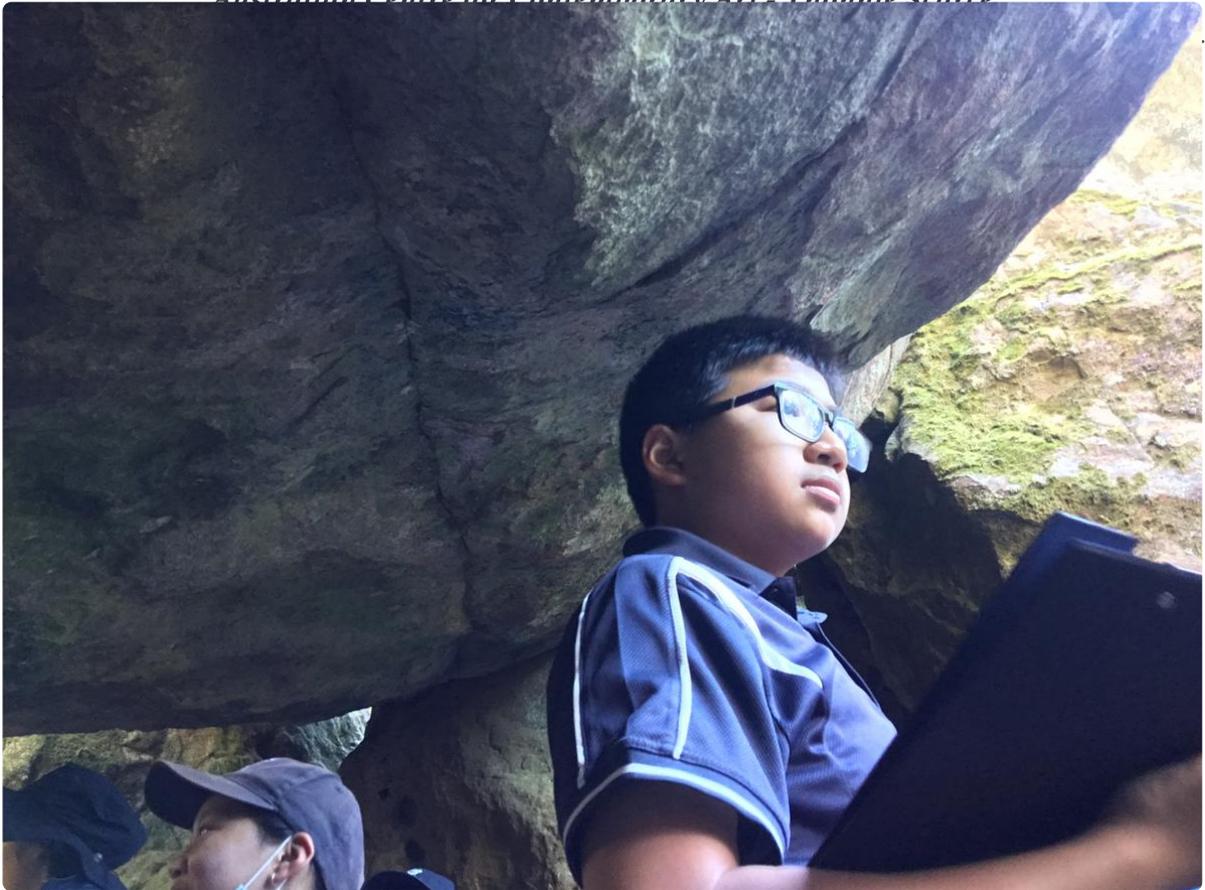




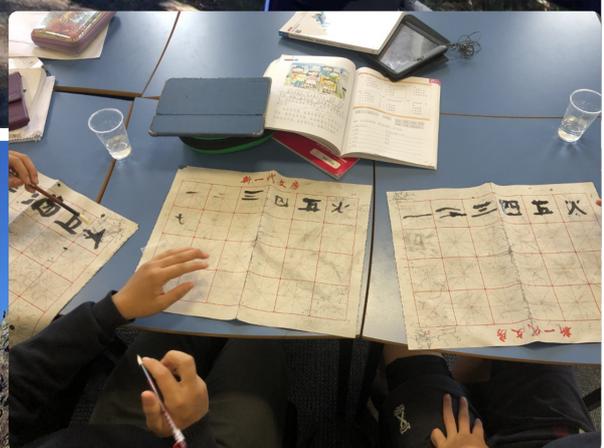
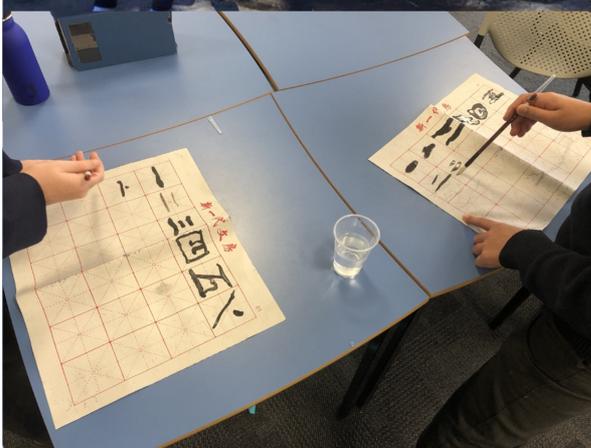
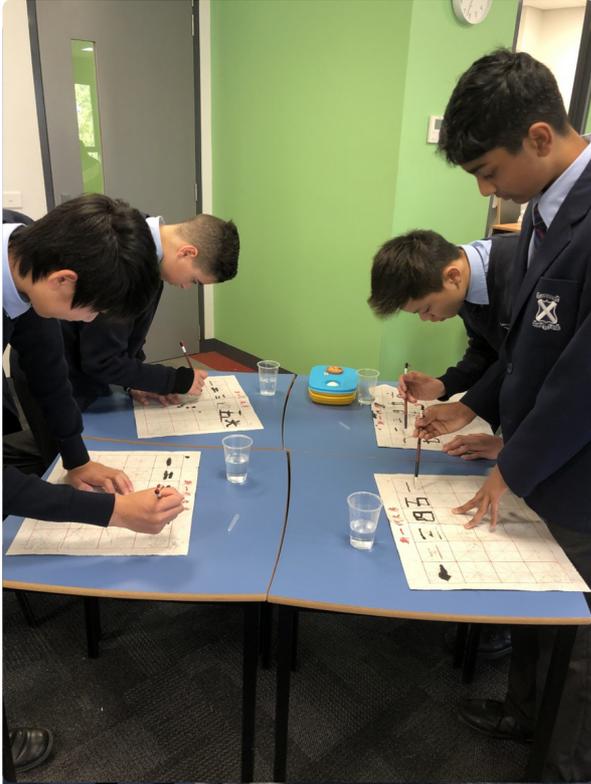




*Australian Centre for Contemporary Art - Yhonnie Scarce*













V.F. Camp 2021









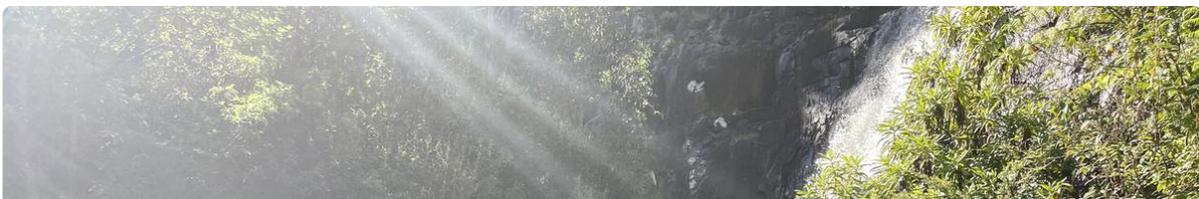






































## PERFORMING ARTS

Success at the Victorian All State Jazz Festival









*Guitar - Tarkyn Pillifeant or Tim Chou (There was no way to indicate on the band form which student was playing in each song, so they can both get credit for this award.)*

*Vibraphone - Joshua Hendricks*

Congratulations to all our wonderful Vocal Ensemble and Jazz Band students!

***Luke Batty***

*Head of Performing Arts*

## Primary Music

During Music this week, the Year 1 students LOVED working in small groups to practise their rhythms! From Rhythm Jenga, to using a variety of instruments, students worked on counting, timing, and team work. What a fabulous bunch of musicians!





responsibility for sound, costume, lighting, prop, set and costume design – as well as





Each performance concluded with a Q&A forum where students were able to explain their choices to the audience and provide a glimpse into the ‘behind the scenes’ of the production process. It was wonderful to have live theatre on campus again, and the class should be extremely proud of all they achieved.

*Miss Kathryn Brown*

*VCE Theatre Studies Teacher*

## Senior Ensembles Concert

On Tuesday the 29th of April, the various Senior Ensembles from St Andrews Christian College came together for our first ensembles concert for 2021.

The MPH was transformed into an intimate lounge performance space through the use of café tables and lights. The evening had a range of our senior ensembles perform from the string ensemble through to the concert band, Worship Band and Vocal Ensemble presenting pieces that they had been working on throughout the year.





*I remember doing theatre sports consecutively each year and being able to work with*





*Karen Elbourne*

*Theatre Studies and Drama Teacher*

## Introducing St Andrews' Instrumental Music Teachers

*PIANO TEACHER – Rebekah Ho*



Rebekah Ho graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of music in 1988 and a Master of Music Education specializing in Piano Pedagogy in 1990. Whilst studying there, she was under the tutelage of professor E.L Lancaster, piano educator and author, currently serving as Executive Editor in piano at Alfred Music Publishing. Upon her graduation, Rebekah taught in Juan Music and Language School for 6 Months before moving to Singapore. She then worked as vice principal of Emmanuel Music School for 5 years and subsequently gave private piano lessons for 26 years.

Having joined the instrumental teaching team at St Andrews Christian College since 2012, Rebekah has continued her passion in teaching piano. She believes that anyone can

learn to play the piano regardless of their age and that learning to play the piano will help build their confidence and resilience. Rebekah teaches piano at St Andrews on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

*PIANO TEACHER – Jenny MacKinnon-Love*



Jenny started performing piano concerts with Allan's Music, and later won a piano scholarship to the University High School. At the same time, she attended composition and theory classes at the University of Melbourne where she achieved a Bachelor of Music Honours in Piano Performance in 1977. This degree also included Education and Psychology studies.

Jenny continued with piano and singing studies for which she achieved an A Mus A, in addition to achieving Honours for Cello as her second instrument at Melbourne University. Jenny also trained as a musical accompanist under Margaret Schofield and studied composition with Keith Humble. Jenny currently plays organ at St Peter's Anglican Church Box Hill.

Despite years of experience in music performance, Jenny is happiest working as a teacher, and she has worked with choirs, music productions, and even taught Classroom Music at VCE level.

Jenny currently teaches at St Andrews Christian College on Wednesday mornings, and enjoys teaching at the College for the many opportunities to praise God through music so that His joy may be multiplied.

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## SPORT

### St Andrews CSEN Update

The St Andrews Year 9/10 Boys AFL team have created some history with their first ever AFL victory defeating Heatherton Christian College 54 to 16. Well played to the team and supercoach Mr Adamek.



The Year 9/10 Girls Soccer team below played well in the local “derby” but lost to Waverley Christian College (Wantirna Sth) 6-1.



Below is our Year 7/8 Girls Soccer Team who recently played in their very first competitive game against Waverley Christian College (Wantirna Sth).



*Andrew Farmer*

*Head of P.E. and Health*

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## Colour Run Fun

At the conclusion of Term 1 the Year 7-10 students participated in some Colour Run fun. Students ran a 1.3 km circuit around local streets on the most spectacular Autumn day. Each circuit finished with students being doused with colour powder by very enthusiastic staff. Over 200 students had such great fun and a vibrantly colourful end to the term.





Alannah Li, U/15 Thunderbirds - Most improved



Ella Cassidy, U/13 Mockingbirds - Coach of the Month





Our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle was held on March 28th and we were blessed to have perfect weather and raised \$1195! Thanks to all our volunteers for your amazing contribution!



## Supporters of St Andrews Netball Club

We are now heading into Round 14 this coming week and as a club we are always very appreciative of the amazing support we have from our parents, grandparents, family members and friends!









# LEARNING AND TEACHING

## Learning Support at St Andrews

Learning Support is an integral part of the learning team at St Andrews. We are available to support students, teachers and parents in many different ways. Our desire is to help each student to know and experience the love of God and to know that they are created in His image. In doing this we are able to support each individual in the manner that is appropriate to their particular needs.

### *Learning Support Page on the hub*

We have a Parent Page on the hub for parents to access, there are lots of explanations of a variety of conditions, helpful tips, strategies as well as recommended professionals. I encourage you to take a look...

A screenshot of a web page titled "Learning Support Parent Information Page". The page has a blue header with the text "Welcome to the Learning Support Page for Parents". Below the header, there is a section titled "Welcome to the Learning Support site for Parents." followed by several paragraphs of text. The text discusses the school's belief in the image of God, the diversity of students, and the role of Learning Support. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical banner with a sunset background and the text "YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE." and "THE BANG 2.0 SPIRITUAL POPULATION".

### *New at St Andrews Christian College*

We have started this term with a speech pathologist Su Ann from Safe and Sounds Speech Pathology working each Tuesday with a number of students. Her focus is on language development and social skills. There are only a limited number of places each term.

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in your child accessing this service in future terms. Su Ann is also available to administer Language assessments at an extra cost to parents.

*You are always welcome to contact one of the Learning Support teachers:*

- Shirley Gillie – *Head of Learning Support* [sgillie@standrews.vic.edu.au](mailto:sgillie@standrews.vic.edu.au)
- Wendy Punay – *Learning Support Teacher – Primary*  
[wpunay@standrews.vic.edu.au](mailto:wpunay@standrews.vic.edu.au)
- Kerryn Terrington – *Learning Support Teacher – Secondary*  
[kterrington@standrews.vic.edu.au](mailto:kterrington@standrews.vic.edu.au)

*Blessings*

*The Learning Support Teachers*

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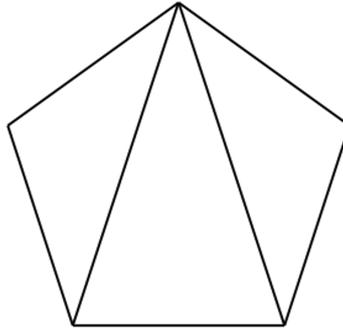
## NAPLAN – Congratulations

Congratulations to all of the Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students who recently completed their NAPLAN tests for 2021. In all, St Andrews students completed over 1000 tests over the four days. We look forward to receiving the results later in the year.

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## Mathematical Problem Solving

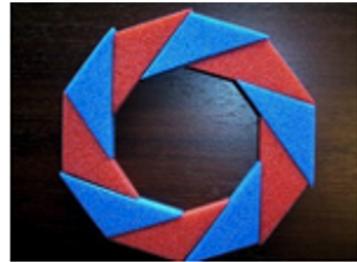
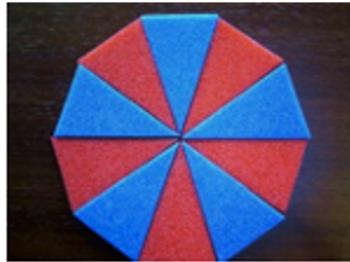
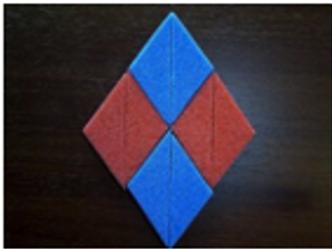
In the second Newsletter of the year, I posed the following mathematical problem - **Pentagon Triangles: Take a regular pentagon and cut it into three triangles along its diagonals.**



Here are the solutions and some thoughts for further investigation.

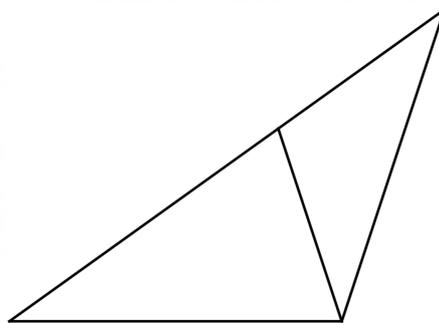
*a) Explore the ways in which different shapes can be made with the triangles. Record at least four different shapes. In how many ways can the same lengths be matched?*

There are a whole range of shapes which can be made. Here are just a few...



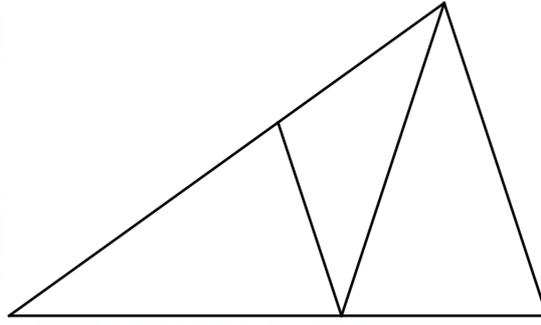
*b) Can you make a triangle from two pieces? How? Record your result. Can you prove it?*

Yes – there is one way to make a triangle from two pieces.

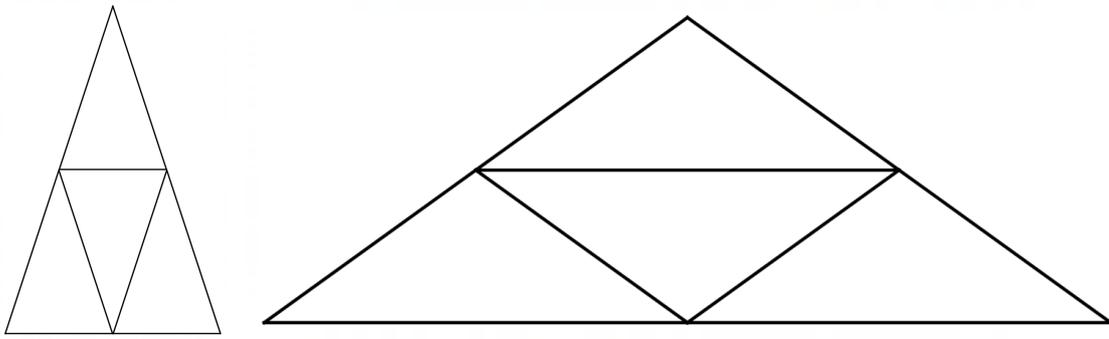


*c) Can you make a triangle from three pieces, four pieces, five pieces, six pieces.....?*

Yes – you can make a triangle from three pieces. Again, there is only one way that this can be done.



Yes – you can make a triangle from four pieces and there are two different ways in which this can be done.

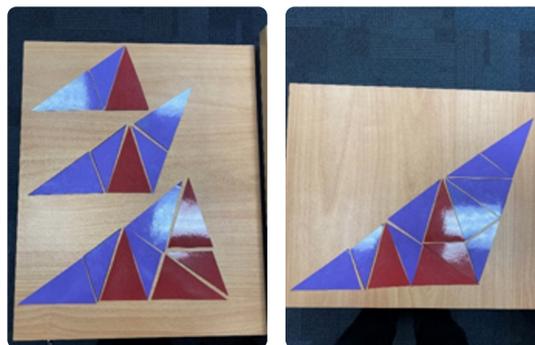


Yes – you can make a triangle from five pieces. It is interesting to note that they are all the same shape as one or other of the original pieces. We are creating similar triangles!

It is not possible to create a triangle from six pieces – but can you prove it?

*d) Is there anything special about the shapes of the triangles you have found?*

Some of the interesting patterns which emerge as triangles are created are as follows:



- The series of square numbers 1, 4, 9, 16...

- The 1-piece added to the 1-piece makes a 2-piece, the 1-piece added to the 2-piece makes the 3 piece, the 3-piece added to the 5-piece makes the 8-piece, the 5-piece added to the 8-piece makes the 13-piece. Can you imagine how the 8-piece would be added to the 13-piece to make the 21-piece?

The sequence created 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21.... is known as the Fibonacci sequence.

- In further investigations, it is possible to compare the lengths of the similar triangles formed and these lead to the Golden Ratio

It's amazing to consider all of the wonderful patterns which can be formed simply by cutting a regular pentagon along its diagonals.

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## STEM Skills

I was recently reading an article on the “**Five things parents can do every day to help develop STEM skills from a young age.**” Here is copy of the key points – if you would like to read more, a link to the article is [here](#).

Educators and researchers agree early literacy experiences are important for children's cognitive and language development. For the past 30 years there has been a strong movement to foster children's literacy skills. This has resulted in an abundance of information on how parents can do this by reading books, singing songs and nursery rhymes, playing word games and noticing print.

This is a good thing and should continue, given the importance of early literacy skills in learning to read, and how this leads to later success in school and life.

But in addition to early literacy skills, we should also be promoting early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills. Early childhood is the natural starting point for STEM learning, as young children are curious and want to explore their environments.

### 1. Encourage children to notice things

Notice things in your environment such as changes in the seasons, new buds on plants, or the way things move in the wind. Children are often more observant than adults, especially when we are busy thinking about work and all the other things we need to do.

Share your observations with your children and use the language associated with observations, such as noticing and observing.

Observation is the most fundamental scientific process. We form hypotheses and gather data from observations. With practice, children can move from noticing general features to more detailed or scientific features.

## **2. Encourage children to describe things they see and do**

Ask children to describe the attributes or features of things they see and do. When your child sees a ladybug, ask them to describe it – what colour, shape and size is it?

Similarly, when your child is building something, ask them to describe what they are doing (or did). You can restate what they describe and extend on their words, increasing their vocabulary and confidence in using STEM language. Use words like predict, experiment and measure.

## **3. Ask ‘what’ rather than ‘why’ questions**

Ask questions that focus on what your child can see or do, rather than why. This will allow your child to confidently answer questions and experience success. “What is happening to the bubbles?” is much easier for them to respond to than “Why do bubbles stick together?”, and promotes further discussion between you and your child.

We want to extend conversations and learning, not shut it down with questions that children (and often parents) can’t answer. It’s fine to later find out why bubbles stick together or any other why question, but in the first instance, ask questions children can answer.

## **4. Encourage children to count using one-to-one correspondence**

Children need to be able to do more than count. Children need to know one-to-one correspondence: that “one” equals one object, “two” equals two objects, “three” equals three objects, and so on.

Parents can easily develop this skill by asking children to, for example, collect five pegs for the washing, or two eggs for the cake mixture. Or by asking how many bags of shopping there are or how many letters are in the mailbox.

Board games are great for helping children understand one-to-one correspondence – especially when they move their counter along the board according to the number rolled or spun. Think back to arguments you may have had over where Monopoly tokens were supposed to be!

## **5. Encourage children to think about space around them**

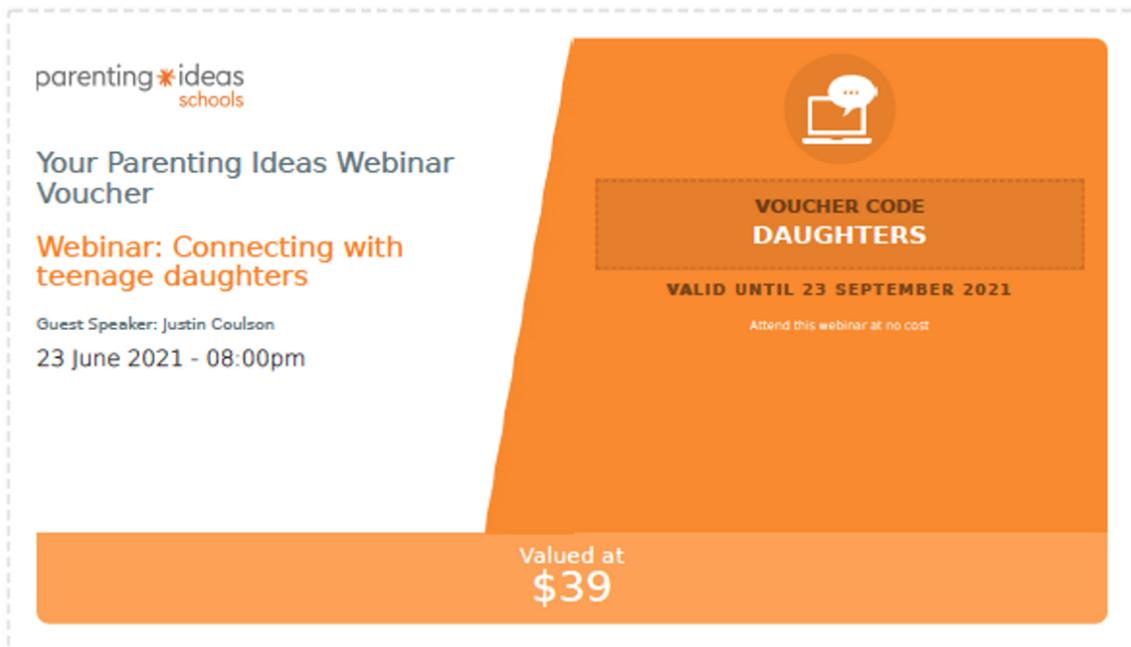
Encourage children to think about where they are in space. If they are looking at a map of the zoo, ask them where they are in relation to the kangaroos or lions. When driving to swimming lessons, ask them to give directions on how to get there.

Or, ask them to remember landmarks when driving somewhere you go regularly, like grandma's place. Could your child recognise your house from a picture taken from the road, can they describe where their bedroom is in relation to the kitchen. Research has shown clear links between spatial skills and STEM skills.

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## Parenting Ideas

Parenting Ideas are hosting a series of Webinars with highly credentialed parenting experts during 2021. These webinars can be attended free of charge (regular value \$39) by using a Webinar Voucher which will be made available via the College Newsletter in the weeks leading up to the event. The voucher for the next Webinar is available here.



June 23rd 8:00 pm – Connecting with teenage daughters.

September 8th 8:00 pm – Taming digital distractions.

November 10th 8:00 pm – Using birth order knowledge for a parenting edge.

For access to the Webinar or more great ideas and articles to help you in your parenting journey, explore the Parenting Ideas website [here](#).

The Webinar on June 23rd is hosted by Dr Justin Coulson, who is regularly heard on radio on 89.9 The Light. Dr Coulson is also the host of the “Happy Families Podcast” – for parents who want all the answers but don’t have any time! In each short, easily digestible episode Dr Coulson will address a specific topic, offer his expert advice and provide simple strategies that will lead to positive results fast. Dr Coulson’s podcast is the quickest way to gain the knowledge and information you need to make your family happier today. For further information about “Happy Families”, check out the website [HERE](#).

*Michael Swanborough*

*Head of Learning and Teaching*

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## LIBRARY NEWS

## Need to do some research?

*We now have a subscription to Britannica Schools for students in Years 5-12.*



Britannica Schools has articles, videos and images to help with your studies. You will need to login to access these resources. To find more details about the database, please go to the Library Homepage on *the hub*. Access details are also there.

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## Library Open After School

The Senior Library is open after school for students from Year 5-12. Students are able to study, complete homework, read or borrow books until 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

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for other students to enjoy.

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*Lynne Marks, Anita Little, Wai Peng Heath*  
Library Staff



## Community Notices

This section of our Newsletter is to give our families information about programs being run by organisations outside of the school which may interest our school families.

**These organisations are not endorsed by St Andrews Christian College.**

### Family Soccer

Family Soccer is a great opportunity to keep active and connect with you children. Dads or Mums and their children aged 10 and over are welcome to join us to play in our friendly game of Soccer each Sunday. We play 4pm-5pm at Parkridge Oval in Rowville and would welcome some more players. Anyone interested can email Andrew Farmer on [afarmer@standrews.vic.edu.au](mailto:afarmer@standrews.vic.edu.au) for further details.

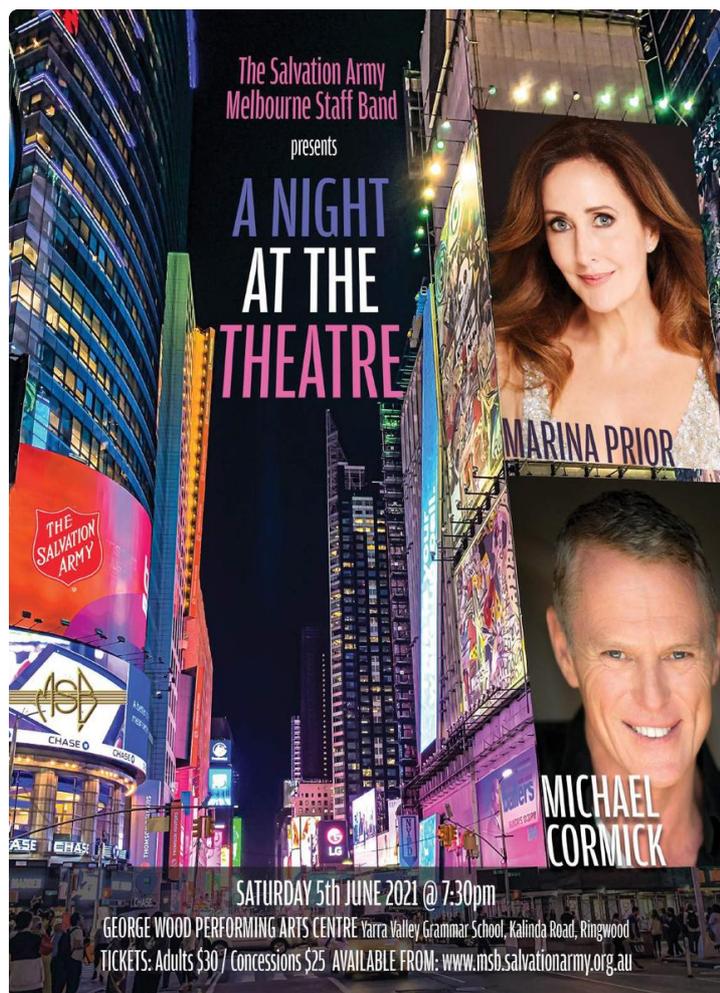
*Andrew Farmer*



## A Night at the Theatre

The Salvation Army Melbourne Staff Band are presenting a concert that will feature Marina Prior and Michael Cormick, who have played leading roles in the major musicals both throughout Australia and overseas. They will be singing songs from musicals such as Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Cats, Guys & Dolls and more!

This will no doubt be a fantastic evening of music, but be assured that a clear gospel message will be shared during the evening that will inspire and challenge all those attending. A great opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to an event that you are wanting to hear the gospel message.



### **A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE**

**Saturday 5th June @ 7:30pm**

**George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Road, Ringwood**

Tickets available from [www.msb.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.msb.salvationarmy.org.au)

Adults \$30 / Concession \$25

## Becoming an Agent of Healing,

*Understanding and Caring in a crisis-induced trauma situation.*

*Saturday 22nd May, 9am - 5pm. On Campus Workshop at MST.*

# Becoming an Agent of Healing

Understanding and caring in a crisis-induced trauma situation

With Dr Sunny Philip

Saturday, 22 May 2021, 9AM – 5PM

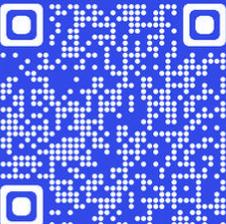
Cost: \$100 (\$85 for enrolled students)



Centre for

THEOLOGY +  
PSYCHOLOGY

www.ctp.mst.edu.au





When facing crisis, many people turn to trusted friends for understanding and support before seeking professional assistance. This raises the question: does the trusted friend know how to care?

This one-day face-to-face workshop has been specifically designed to enable and empower friends to care for friends. Facilitator Dr Sunny Philip will guide you in developing strategies to care for someone experiencing trauma at the most basic level, exploring:

- Various aspects of crisis induced trauma;
- The difference between crisis intervention and crisis care;
- Various coping styles; and
- How to build resilience not only to face a crisis, but also to learn and grow through it.

MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna VIC 3152

03 9881 7800

[mst.edu.au](http://mst.edu.au)

