

SOUTH CREEK

20
24



TERM 1



MENTE MANUQUE
WITH MIND AND HAND



**ST MARYS SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL MAGAZINE**

The South Creek Magazine is published once a term and celebrates the vision and values of the St Marys Senior High School learning community.

We are an ***inclusive***, kind, and supportive school which values diversity, independence and community.

We are an ***aspirational*** community which strives to achieve individual excellence.

We are ***respectful*** of our history, our people and our environment.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that makes up our school community, the Wianamatta people from Darug Country.

We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and future and extend our respects to all First Nation Peoples as well as everyone who visits our school.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, this land is, was and always will be Aboriginal Country.

Shani-Lee Bolt, Year 12 2018

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PRINCIPAL'S INSIGHTS



Welcome to the Term 1 issue of South Creek for 2024. I would like to thank the team of students supported by our teacher Librarian Kerri-Anne Brown for their work in putting together this publication. As a community it is important that we celebrate our achievements together to continue to build upon our strong school spirit.

We could not be prouder of our school and all the activities we have managed to fit into Term 1. The engagement and participation from our students, and the leadership across the school from students and staff has been outstanding. The breadth of activities and achievements highlight the diversity of our school community and the opportunities available to everyone.

Term 1 has continued to see our extra-curricular activities increase with SRC and club events, creative and performing arts events, sporting competitions and academic based events which you can peruse throughout this edition of South Creek.

In February our Academic Achievement Ceremony celebrated the highest performers from the Class of 2023. This event not only allows us as a school to acknowledge student achievement but provides an opportunity for our current students to be inspired by their peers. Our school has a long tradition of producing well-rounded and successful graduates, and I am confident that this legacy will continue. It was wonderful to hear our Dux for 2023, Jacob Nath talk to our school community about the importance of balance. Studying is much more productive and focused when you are in the right head space, and it is important to develop a quality circle of peers that lift each other up. Balance is such an important thing for us all to focus on, in school and our lives beyond school.

St Marys Senior High School was scheduled to host our twilight Open Evening on 5 April 2024 to showcase our wonderful school to prospective families. However, this event was postponed due to weather warnings related to high winds and torrential rain. We look forward to the rescheduled event taking place in early Term 2. The event will see our student leaders helping families to navigate their way around the school and sharing their experiences. Our student club leaders will highlight some of the extra-curricular activities available to students at St Marys Senior High School to support them to build connections whilst studying.

To all of our new families in 2024, a special welcome to the St Marys Senior High School community. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year. I hope you enjoy this edition of South Creek as you explore the achievements of our students academically, on the sporting field, in the performing arts as well as the broader contributions they make to support the wider community through fundraising and raising awareness of important social issues. I am proud of the efforts of all our students and the staff at St Marys Senior High School and am privileged to be the Principal of such an amazing school.

Sally Smithard
Principal



Throughout Week 7, the Year 11 cohort of 2024 courageously presented a speech to their Cluster in hopes of joining the Student Representative Council.

There were 94 applicants who went through the application process, which is amazing to see how many students were interested in embarking on their leadership journey at St Marys, as well as their efforts and desires to contribute to the school.

The applicants' passion to lead the school were made evident through their inspirational speeches, further resulting in the Year 11 body electing the students they wished to represent the school on the Student Representative Council.

We congratulate them on their success, and are very eager to collaborate with them as a team to maintain the amazing school environment that exists at St Marys.

Zopiah Sulangi
School Vice Captain 2024

Student	Cluster
Abiaz Amin	2
Laukau Tongia	2
Nguyen Hai Minh Phan	3 Tues
Alessandra Lazaro	3 Tues
Aamir Mohammed	3 Fri
Rosetta Yankson	3 Fri
Omed Karimy	5
Elliot Moore	5
Kiesha Tissera	6
Wenqingwen (Lisa) Hu	6
Daniel Jung	6
Reign Atienza	7 Tues
Syed Sultan Ahmad	7 Tues
Zaid Warisi	7 Fri
Krishna Tamrakar	7 Fri
Nawal Khan	8 Wed
Shardul Soshte	8 Wed
Priyam Saha	8 Fri
Christelle Jayaputra	8 Fri
Sarah Noori	9/6

O-WEEK: POP UP STALLS

On Wednesday, 7 February, Year 11 students from St. Marys Senior High School were treated to an exciting opportunity to explore a variety of pop-up stalls organized by SMSHS. The event featured an array of enticing offerings, including free lollies and treats, which drew the attention of many attendees.



The highlight of the day undoubtedly centered around the students' enthusiasm for engaging with new peers and exploring the diverse clubs available at SMSHS. This event served as a fantastic platform for fostering connections and easing the transition for all Year 11 students into the new school environment.



The seamless execution of the day can be attributed to the dedication and hard work of our esteemed teachers, who meticulously organized and facilitated the event to ensure its success. Additionally, a special acknowledgement is owed to the Student Representative Council (SRC) for their invaluable assistance in setting up the stalls and ensuring that everyone had a memorable and enjoyable experience throughout the day.



Overall, the event was a resounding success, providing students with an opportunity to forge new friendships, explore their interests, and kick start their journey at SMSHS on a positive note.

Nick Patel & Yuva Naga Potharaju
Year 12 2024

SWIMMING CARNIVAL



On Wednesday 9 February, all students from St Mary Senior High School were encouraged to attend the yearly swimming carnival. Students competed in multiple races for all age groups and earned points for their Cluster. Races not only included individual sprints but novelty events for friends of any year group.

All students and teachers attended and engaged at the event. Along with the swimming events, there was volleyball to play and Cluster chants to encourage students to support their Clusters. Races included 100 and 50-metre freestyle which were held for both boys and girls for ages 16 and 17+. Other races such as breaststroke and backstroke were conducted later during the day. In the novelty events the Year 12 students went up against the Year 11 students with an intense game of water polo. Year 12 won convincingly, 18-6. As a reward for winning the races, points were awarded to Clusters which depended on the place where students came in the races.

Congratulations to Cluster 2, Age Champions and record breakers :

	<i>Age Champion</i>	<i>Runner Up</i>
16 Years Female	Alessandra Lazaro	Aurora D'Rozario
16 Years Male	Ashton Heald	Jakov Bastac
17 Years Female	Darcy Hollingworth	Maya Bailey Evie Bullock
17 Years Male	Talan Quinn	Eamon Banks

First place	Cluster 2
Second place	Cluster 8
Third place	Cluster 6
Fourth place	Cluster 3
Fifth place	Cluster 7
Sixth place	Cluster 5

- **Darcy Hollingworth**
 - 17G 100 m Breaststroke in a time of 1.19.62
 - 17G 50 m Breaststroke in a time of 37.07
- **Talan Quinn**
 - 17B 100 m Breaststroke in a time of 1.16.95
 - 17B 50 m Breaststroke in a time of 35.07
- **Evie Bullock**
 - 17G 50 m Butterfly in a time of 31.00
- **Maya Bailey**
 - 17G 50 m Backstroke in a time of 35.15





WSU Year 12 Conference



On Wednesday 21 February, a group of seven Year 12 students from St Marys Senior High School were invited to attend a conference hosted by Western Sydney University at the Parramatta South Campus. Over 65 schools across Western Sydney took part in the event; which consisted of students participating from the Academy U, Pathways To Dreaming and Pasifika Achievement To Higher Education (PATHE) programs.

Alejandro, Anshita, Fatmah, Rayna and Nashwan were invited to attend as they had recently completed a Leadership In Complexity course at WSU Parramatta City Campus

Mars and Kayleigh were part of the Pathways to Dreaming course held also at WSU.



The eventful day provided the students the opportunity to choose two academic workshops based on their personal interest, which were hosted by Western Sydney University academics. Throughout the day students also heard talks about Western Sydney University's HSC early offer programs, many scholarship opportunities and met academics who spoke to the students about various pathway fields.

Nashwan Shah & Rayna Rao
Year 12 2024

ST MARYS ROBOTICS CLUB

Did you guys know St Marys have their own Robotics Club? They are called Purple Monkey Dishwashers, and are set to participate in the “First Robotics Competition” at Macquarie University.

This year’s competition is named “Crescendo.” It is music based, where three teams each compete to score or play notes in three different field elements, amplify their speaker, get onstage, harmonize, and take the spotlight before time runs out.

CRESCENDOSM

PRESENTED BY **HAAS**
Gene Haas Foundation

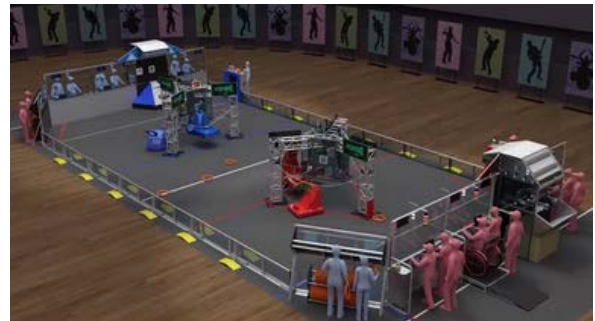
Whether you're a seasoned robotics enthusiast or just curious about the field, we need your skills for marketing, designing, programming textiles and many more. So no matter your skill set, there's a place for you on our team

WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

We have our meetings on Mondays and Fridays in SU2, Periods 4 and 5, so pop in and meet us there. Or see Paul (far right in the picture) from the Maths Faculty.

JOIN!!!!

Zakriya Ashraf
Year 12 2024



an event for love and friendship...



Matthew Garbo,
Mikayla Balobalo
& Kirsten Singian
Year 12 2024

To honour the heartwarming celebration of love and camaraderie, the Student Representative Council (SRC) hosted St Marys Senior High School's annual Valentine's event on 14 February, 2024. During these festivities, the event served as both a social event and an opportunity to support The National Heart Foundation through a fundraiser. A charitable donation could be made through a gold coin donation - ensuring the celebration instils a positive impact towards those in need. This contribution entailed students and staff dressing in the color themes of either red, pink and/or white attire. Further adding a sense of excitement and engagement among students. On this day, common areas around the school were adorned in garlands, streamers, confetti, and themed banners that added to the event's overall charm. By borrowing a camera from the school library, students could capture these special moments. Otherwise, photos could be taken by our school's media team.

The school community shared love for one another through the iconic rose-giving and Valentine's Day-themed assembly and games to express their appreciation and gratitude for their loved ones. Some students ordered announcement roses, giving a surprise rose and a heartfelt message dedicated to their 'special someones' during the recess concert.

Additionally, the SRC organised a game of 'speed dating' in between performances, where volunteers from the audience were paired up and given a chance to find out whether they would be a match through conversation. Although no matches were found, it was clear that all participants had fun and engaged the crowd with their entertaining and occasionally awkward interactions.

A Special Song for You

THE SRC PRESENTED THE 2024 SMSHS VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT ON THE 14th OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

On 14 February, 2024, St Marys Senior High School celebrated Valentine's Day with the SRC holding the annual Valentine's Concert during the extended recess. We had three performances from our very talented Year 12 Music students from Fatima's Line 4 and Michael's Line 6 classes.

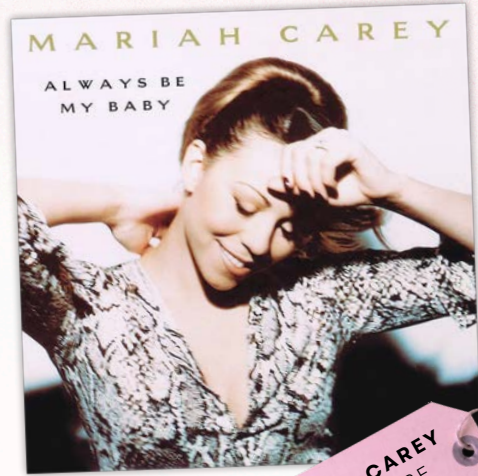
Opening the special concert was singer **Matthew Garbo** belting out **Mariah Carey's** mid '90s love bop '**Always Be My Baby**', setting the sweet mood for Valentine's Day. **Christian Durante**, better known by his artist alias **Chris Vincent**, performed a rendition of **Rex Orange County's 'Happiness'** during the middle of the show and wowed the crowd with his musical talent. With the Tik Tok famous finale track '**Tip Toe**' by the duo **HYBS**, **Chris** closed the show playing the electric guitar alongside music peers **Nathan Gutierrez** and **Carmella Queras** singing, **Zopiah Sulangi** playing the bass with **Sydney Dawes** and singing, **Kenrick Esteves** playing the drums and **Rafael Buitizon** playing the keyboard. The concert received generally positive reviews by the students, marking the **second major special event** of 2024 at St Marys Senior High School. Another great year awaits!



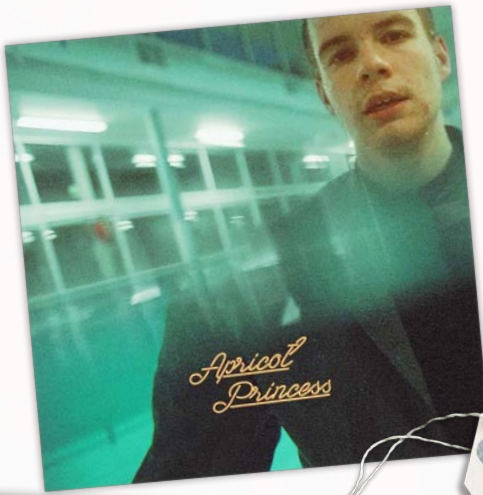
SMSHS VALENTINE'S DAY 2024



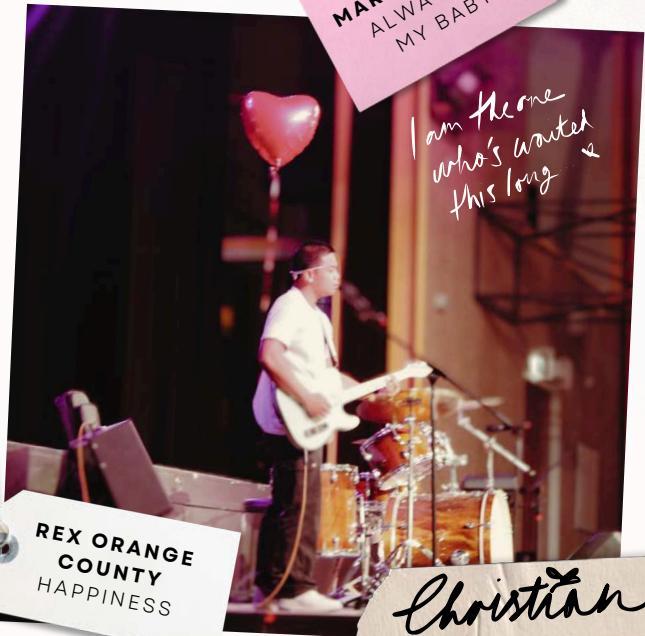
Matthew



MARIAH CAREY
ALWAYS BE
MY BABY



Apricot Princess



I am the one
who's waited
this long

REX ORANGE
COUNTY
HAPPINESS

Christian



we can
tip toe to
the moon

Nathan, Carmella, Logan, &
Sydney, Christian, Kenrick & Rafael



HYBS
TIP TOE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

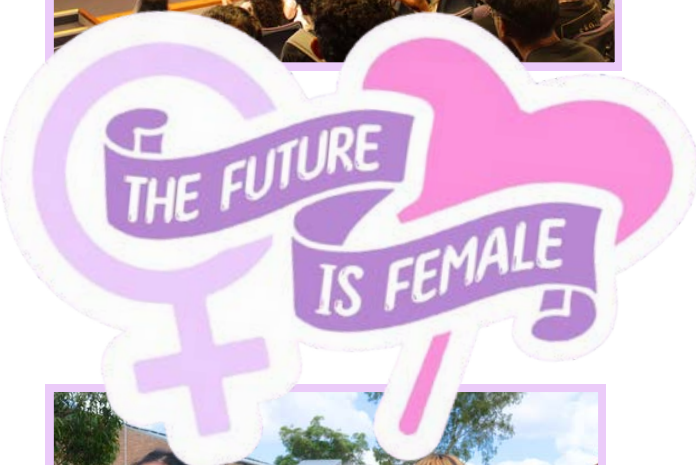
On 8 March, our school participated in International Women's Day by asking students to wear purple and pink in support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. In exchange for a gold coin donation, pink ribbons were handed out. At the Lecture Theatre during recess, the SRC hosted a special game of jeopardy revolving around the achievements of women. Around the school, the SRC set up various pink and purple-themed decorations in celebration of the event.

The event served as a day to reflect on progress achieved, to call for change, and to acknowledge the acts of courage and determination by women, who have played a significant role in our world. The day was very special, and we want to thank everyone who was involved in making it happen!

WHY 8 MARCH?

We celebrate this crucial day on 8 March because during the World War (1914 to 1918). Russian women chose to protest for "Bread and Peace", which was a slogan to create an end to World War I and food shortages. This protest was on the last Sunday in February, but on the Gregorian Calendar, it fell on 8 March. With this powerful movement, it was decided that International Women's Day would be celebrated on 8 March.

As a result, this day will always be remembered as a time to recognise women and continue to strive for equality, peace and justice for all. International Women's Day re-enforces that in order to achieve a safe and fair world, we all must persistently educate and inspire the younger generations about gender equality. This day is also commemorated as a calling for women who need the courage to stand, speak and strive for themselves, the future, and society. It is also a day for everyone to demonstrate their love, support and care for women, to gain safety, fair opportunities, advocate for communities and be agents of change.



Samantha Goyena & Agnes Bobby

Year 11 2024

Everyone Belongs 2024

On **21 March**, SMSHS celebrated diversity and multiculturalism within our school following the theme that **'Everyone Belongs'**. As a school comprised of many different cultures and backgrounds, Harmony Week acknowledges and honours the diversity of values and beliefs embedded in our school community while aiming to promote further inclusiveness. In doing so, everyone engaged in wearing orange, symbolic of 'social communication and meaningful conversations', to show their support for cultural diversity within a wider community across Australia.



Home to over 200 nationalities, and a population of 26 million comprising of 49% overseas-born people, Harmony Week is celebrated across Australia between 18-24 March in conjunction with International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March. In respecting worldwide harmony and peace, students were encouraged to donate gold coins to protect all human rights, led by the Amnesty Club who donated all funds to Amnesty Australia. Amnesty also hosted a recess meeting offering to teach students about the day's importance. Fostering further engagement, a chalk drawing competition was held on the chalkboard in the Caf during recess.

Kamana Bhandari

Year 12 2024



OnSTAGE Excursion

On 16 February 2024 our Year 12 and Year 11 Drama students attended OnSTAGE, a showcase of different Drama Individual Projects and Group Performances from last year's HSC Examination. In the foyer, there were projects on display which included designs for sets, costumes and lighting, promotional posters of plays and director's folios all made by 2023 HSC Drama students. Any student attending who has not chosen to perform for their Individual Project Examination had the opportunity to look for inspiration for their own projects.

When it was finally time to watch the performances, all the students were practically buzzing in their seats, waiting for them to start. We were all blown away by the individuals and groups on stage; the stories they told and their acting capabilities were amazing. There were even video dramas that awed many of us because of how well directed they were. Everything we saw and experienced made us feel excited for when we craft our own works.

A. Dimapilis (Year 12 Drama)



Callback Excursion

On 15 February the Year 12 Dance class enjoyed a memorable day when they attended the **Callback** workshops and performances. The students participated in a number of workshops where their dance technique was challenged and they were also immersed in the creative process of choreography. The Q&A session with the Dance HSC Supervisor of Marking and some of the 2023 HSC

candidates provided them with the opportunity to ask questions and hear about the experiences of previous HSC candidates. The Year 12 Dance students came away with lots of ideas and are highly motivated for the challenges that lie ahead. We look forward to seeing the works of the HSC Dance candidates for 2024! *(continued next page...)*

Below two of our Dance students share their thoughts on the day:

“The day began as our Dance class embarked on a journey unlike any other — the much-anticipated **Callback** excursion. For us, it wasn't just another excursion; it was a chance to immerse ourselves in the vibrant world of dance performance and composition, to discover new rhythms and movements, and to connect with fellow Year 12 dancers and industry professionals.” **Riley Busst**



“Following the workshops and Q&A session, students were treated to a showcase featuring some of the best HSC Dance works of recent years. From mesmerizing major performances to thought-provoking compositions, the showcase provided a glimpse into the creative brilliance of young dancers across the state. Highlights included standout performances in major performance, core composition, and core performance categories, showcasing a diverse range of styles and themes. The Q&A session provided us some great insight on the thought process behind the works we were going to be immersing ourselves in later on in the day. We then attended a series of workshops, first focusing on Core Performance, Core composition and then finally Major Performance, in which all workshops involved learning sequences of choreography, warmups and technique classes, and tools for improvising movement which can help us take the knowledge that we brought home from the excursion and apply them into our own HSC works.” **Erica Loizou**

White Card Training

During Term 1 our Year 11 Entertainment students, along with some additional students and staff, completed their White Card qualification. The majority of students successfully completed this just in time for Pulse Alive 2024 at Ken Rosewall Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

What is a White Card? A white card (or general construction induction card) is required for workers who want to carry out work on construction sites.

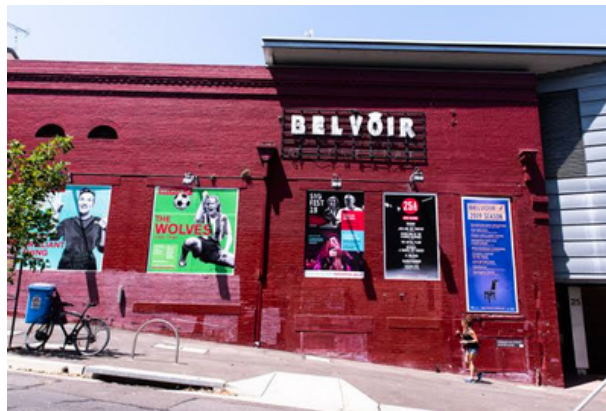
Why do Entertainment students need them? During a bump-in and bump-out workers in the Entertainment Industry work around what is considered a building site when the stage and set is constructed. All Entertainment students need to complete this to work in these types of work places.

Belvoir St Theatre Drama Excursion - *Holding the Man*

Our Drama students were so impressed and affected by this excursion to Belvoir St Theatre that THREE of them wanted to share their experience in South Creek!

Holding the Man is a beautiful, gut wrenching play about Tim Conigrave and John Caleo. It's from the perspective of Tim, a gay Australian actor and scriptwriter. The play goes through his childhood and adulthood as he navigates being a gay man in the 1970s and 1980s through the AIDS crisis. This play is masterfully crafted and does a fantastic job of honouring the legacy of these two men.

Holding the Man was a beautiful play to see. The way it handles the death of a loved one and the grieving process that comes with that was wonderfully expressed through many exceptional forms (physical theatre, monologues and body language). Not only was it heartfelt but it was also hilarious. The dialogue and just general comical nature of the 70s and 80s intertwined with this play really well, and it created a space and journey that could have you both clutching your sides in laughter and crying in a single moment.



Holding the Man was beautifully crafted and had moments that created an atmosphere that brought the audience together in a moment of community and solidarity.

G. Young (Year 11 Drama)

The Belvoir St Theatre company production of ***Holding the Man*** was truly impeccable. There was such a high level of emotion that ricocheted off of the very walls of the theatre and it was felt through every seat. When it comes to queer representation, ***Holding the Man***, adapted from the novel by queer

Australian playwright, Tommy Murphy, tells the story of Tim Conigrave and John Caleo, two gay men living in Sydney through the beginning of the AIDS crisis. It is one of those stories in which every LGBTQ+ person can see themselves in. Whether it be in Tim's pure excitement for the queer spaces he finds himself a part of, or John's longing for a safe future with the man he loves. Whether it's the happy moments of a reciprocated crush, or the devastating moments of a family who will never accept



CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS



you, at least not when you're alive. It is truly a compliment for me to say that this production is terribly confronting and one that does not leave the mind.

I genuinely can not fault this production. The themes of queer acceptance and joy are ones that are so often hard to come by in today's political climate where success is often undermined by an ever powerful hand. This is why I believe stories like this are - and will remain - relevant for as long as people may breathe. Every member of the cast and crew deserves to be commended. The acting was superb, devastating, but also stitch-inducingly funny. The set design was perfect and at no point was there any

setting confusion. The script was beautifully crafted. The use of lighting, particularly in jarring changes between nightclubs, hospitals and other settings were expertly done. Words can not begin to encapsulate how I felt upon viewing this production. I left the theatre with a heart full of helium and eyes full of tears and it will, with no doubt, leave a lasting impression on anyone who gets the opportunity to watch it.

L. Iglesias (Year 11 Drama)

Holding the Man told a rich story of the weight of love, the power of togetherness and the strength in unity. It retold the story of Timothy Conigrave, a young gay Australian man in the 1970s and 1980s, understanding the world surrounding him, but also spoke the story of the beautiful people unheard around him.

The play told a story of hope in the midst of oppression and in the severity of AIDS. It spoke hope through the terrifically crafted jokes, through the brilliantly talented acting but it also told hope through the weighty moments in which the whole theatre was sniffing together. Within that theatre, a collective gasp hit the air when Timothy's lover, John was brutally unaccepted by his dad for his love. Within that theatre, a collective cheer was thrown through the room as the lovers shared their first kiss. Within that theatre, a rumble of laughter overcame the audience as the pair navigated through hilarious moments together. And within that theatre, a collective sigh of sadness was released as both Timothy and John were diagnosed with AIDS.



Holding the Man was able to expertly master both comedy and tragedy, placing the audience in both tears of laughter and tears of devastation. It flipped with hysterically awkward moments and terribly horrid awkward moments. It told the beautiful story of all love is love yet, simultaneously told the story of a harsh denial of Timothy's love.

Holding the Man was a capsule of tender and real moments of a man's life within a theatre. It felt so distant through the bizarre and hilarious outfits of the 70s and 80s, language and characters, yet so very close and current with the issues presented.

The production of ***Holding the Man*** was a surreal experience shared with an audience that all came together to maybe cry, maybe laugh but to share. To share a wonderful performance of a fragment of Timothy Conigrave's friends, moments, hilarity and complex life that is ***Holding the Man***.

E. Moore (Year 11 Drama)

Soiree Year 11 Showcase

Soiree is our chance to welcome all of our new Year 11 Music parents to St Marys. This is the first of four showcases that will be presented by the class of 2025 during their time at SMSHS.

The students from Year 11 Music performed 10 songs in total for their families, while Fatima and Michael played the roll of MC for the evening. This gave them the opportunity to explain important information about St Marys and upcoming music events.

During the short interval, families shared in good conversation, introducing themselves to each other as well as enjoying some share plates provided by the parents and served by our front of house Entertainment team.



In Concert Preliminary Rehearsals

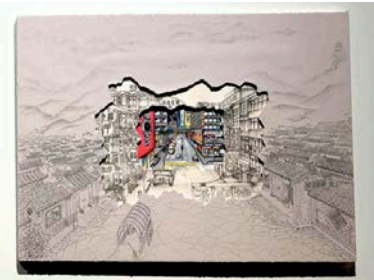
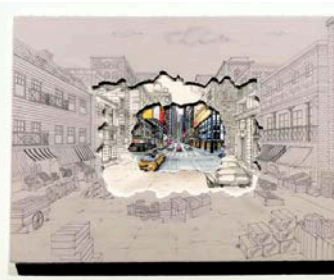
We are very excited to be a part of In Concert again this year, marking our 8th year involved in this Arts Unit program.

Students from Year 11 Music attended their first In Concert combined schools rehearsal on Tuesday 5 March at the Salvation Army Congress Hall in the Sydney CBD. This rehearsal gave the students time to learn the “nuts and bolts” of each of the pieces, learning as a large group of over 500 students.

The students got to work with their conductors Elizabeth Scott and Alex Pringle for the first time. The students also enjoyed getting to know each other at lunch in Hyde Park.

Our next rehearsal and the performance day are coming up in Term 2.





ARTEXPRESS 2024

EXCURSION

On 15 February, the HSC Visual Arts students from the Line 3, 5 and 6 classes joined with their teachers Adam and Sharon to visit the Art Gallery of NSW and attend the 2024 **ARTEXPRESS** exhibition.

ARTEXPRESS commends and displays only the most outstanding HSC student artworks through various artforms such as documented forms, collection of works, paintings, photomedia, printmaking, textiles and fibre, graphic design, drawings, sculptures, filmic formats, ceramics or designed objects.

This exhibition sets the paramount standard to which the Visual Arts students aim when conceptualising and making their artworks for their HSC body of works.

Some of my top **favourites** from the displayed artworks include Corvette O’Keeffe’s “The Art of Persistence” (bottom centre), Kendrick Cheung’s “Urban Metamorphosis” (top right), Win Tub’s “The Enigma in Us” (top left), and Grace Pun’s “Samsara of Masks, A slow Resistance, A Journey’s Departure left with Gratitude” (bottom left).



CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Through historical and contemporary works from the Art Gallery of New South Wales' collection of Asian art, *Elemental* explores the properties and symbolism of the elements thought to comprise the world – fire, earth, water, wind, void, wood and metal.

Intertwined and interdependent, the elements of earth, fire and water are common to many ancient belief systems. In some Asian philosophies, they are complemented by wood and metal. In others, they are joined by less tangible elements such as wind (or air) and even 'the void', which signifies both nothingness and the origin of the universe.

While today's understanding of atomic structure is based on the scientific periodic table, which records 118 chemical elements – 94 of which occur naturally on Earth – the ancient groupings remain relevant in art, literature, storytelling and popular culture.



Aside from the ARTEXPRESS exhibition, students also briefly saw **Elemental**, the Asian art collection from AGNSW. This exhibition explored the elements of earth, fire and water, mixing both semi-traditional and postmodernist art pieces.

POSTMODERN IDEAS

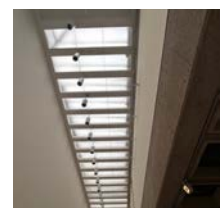
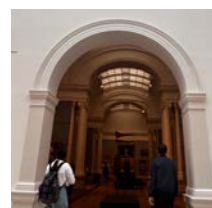
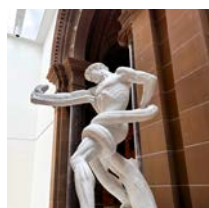


Although a trip to the **Royal Botanic Garden of Sydney** was arranged, plans were changed due to the dreary weather. Nonetheless, the day was still exciting, inspiring and interesting. Instead of the proposed drawing activity at the gardens, the students did the exercise inside the gallery, away from the rain. They drew anything they saw like architecture and art.

The excursion was enjoyable and helped inspire many of the HSC Visual Arts students of SMSHS 2024.

Matt signing off. See ya next time!!

Matthew Garbo
Visual Arts Student, Design and Article Author
Year 12 2024



Curatorial Incursion

The Curatorial Team is a group of Year 12 Visual Arts students who have given up their time to showcase Year 11 artworks in the “Still Enough Exhibition” and develop their skills in curatorial practice. This incursion follows on from their first assessment task based on Curatorial Practice and provides students with the insight and practical experience they require to display and curate their own Bodies of Work.

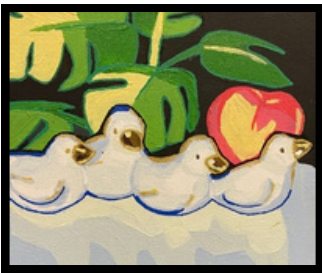
During the incursion students are responsible for framing works and then displaying them in the library. They are also responsible for choosing works for special consideration, one for Exceptional Material and Conceptual practice and the second for Curatorial Favourite. These are chosen through healthy discussions about students’ practices and diaries are often used to support their choices.

This year the team voted Addison Mitchell’s work as their choice for Best Overall in Material and Conceptual Practice, but they were divided when it came to their favourite and a democratic vote was used to produce a result. But even this did not provide a single winner, at loggerheads they decided to give the award to Charline Sabangan and Ruby Lau.



Still Enough Exhibition

It has been a great start to the year for Year 11 as they explore a variety of 2D practices and Modernism. They have also been researching the Vanitas and the Still Life Genres. Currently their hard work is on display in the Library in the exhibition "Still Enough", make sure you check it out before it's gone!



Curatorial Favourites

Curatorial Choice for
Material and Conceptual Practice

National Art School News

The Dobell Drawing School offers an opportunity for Year 11 Visual Art students from government high schools in Sydney's west and south-west and nominated regional areas to participate in one of five workshops at the NAS. These include: Drawing the Nude, Portrait Drawing, Drawing the Clothed Model, Objective Drawing and Experimental Drawing.

Morgan Mansfield and Demi Tapao attended the Dobell School at the National Art School during their Term 1 holidays. All have once again been inspired by their experience of what the National Art School has to offer.

Acknowledgement also needs to go to Grace Foster who went through the application process for the HSC Intensive Studio Practice Program that is also offered through the National Art School, which requires students to submit a portfolio of their selected works.

2024 PULSE ALIVE

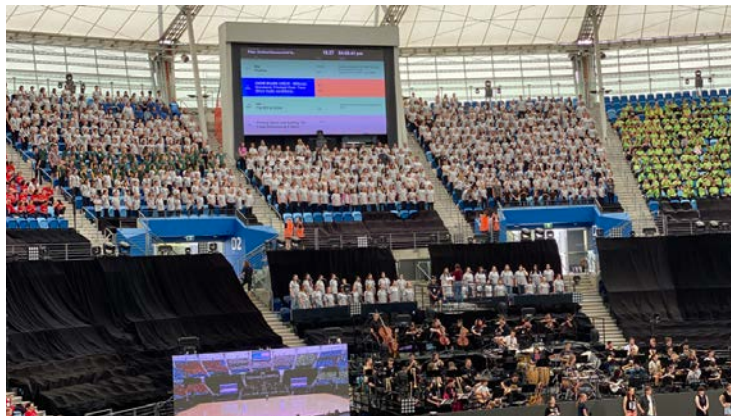
This year was another big year for the Pulse Alive program at the Ken Rosewall Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

This year, St Marys had 25 students from Year 11 and 12 Music performing in the mass choir as well as 10 VET Entertainment students on work placement. Our Entertainment students were able to work across several fields including follow spot, audio, camera operations as well as stage crew.

Our singers learnt seventeen songs in total, adding in 'choralography' on the day.



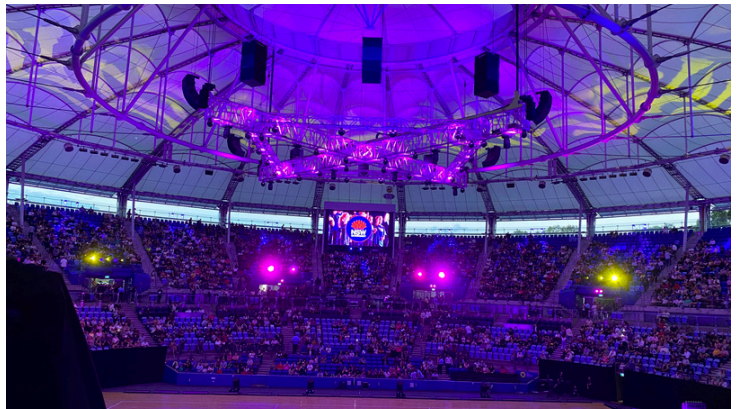
The mass choir rehearsal



The mass choir during the sound check



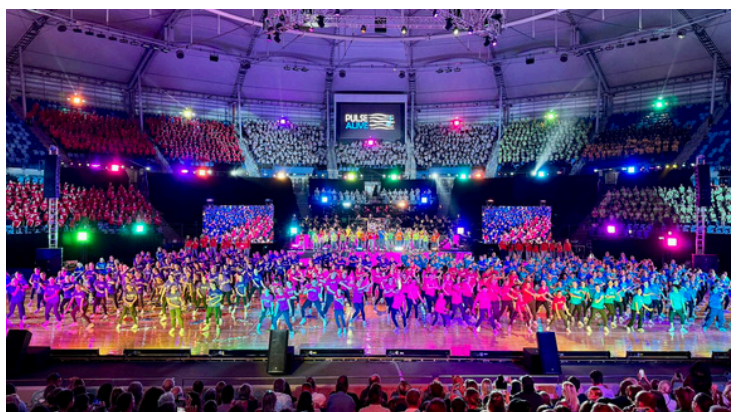
Our Music and Entertainment Students



The audience entering the venue



Our staff - Left to right
Michael, Fatima, Kerrie



PULSE Alive Finale

2U PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2U Photography students have been hard at work using SLR Cameras developing their own film and working in the darkroom. They have just started their new unit of work called Abstraction and Composition which they will showcase later in the term. These pictures are just a sneak peek of their work.



THE CAMERA IS AN INSTRUMENT
THAT TEACHES PEOPLE
HOW TO SEE WITHOUT A CAMERA.
- DOROTHEA LANGE



Upcoming **CAPA** Events

Keep an eye out for these upcoming CAPA events in Term 2 2024...

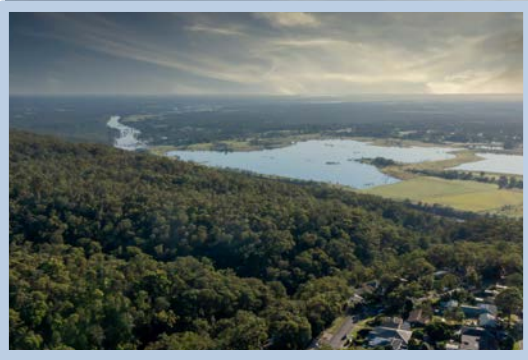
- **Belvoir St Theatre Masterclass** - Year 12 Drama students will participate in four hours of theatre professional led masterclass workshops focusing on their Group Performance, a core component of their HSC Drama Examination, which takes place Friday 3 May.
- **In Concert** - Tuesday 28 May, Year 11 and 12 Music students will perform at the Sydney Town Hall for the annual *In Concert Secondary Choral Festival*.
- **Sydney Theatre Company Drama Excursion** - Year 11 and 12 Drama students will be accompanying Nicole and Mel to see the STC production of *Stolen*, Tuesday 2 July. This play is one of the core texts set for study for the 2024 HSC Drama Examination.
- **& Juliet CAPA Excursion** - Year 11 and 12 students from across all CAPA subjects will attend the production of *& Juliet* at the Lyric Theatre, Sydney, Wednesday 15 May.
- **LightsUp Drama Festival** - Year 11 Drama students will perform at this prestigious annual drama festival at the Q Theatre, Penrith, Thursday 20 June.
- **Focus on Music** - Performances by Year 12 Music students of their HSC performance programs, Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 May in the MPC.
- **Biennale Excursion** - Year 11 Visual Arts students will attend the Biennale at Phoenix Central Park, Sydney.
- **Evening of Musical Theatre** - Performances by Year 11 Music students of songs from the Musical Theatre genre, Friday 28 June in the MPC.
- **Dobell Drawing School** - Two Year 11 Visual Arts students have been selected to attend the intensive holiday drawing classes at the National Art School.
- **Belvoir Archive Viewing** - Year 12 Drama students will attend archive viewings of a Belvoir production that they are studying for the topic of Black Comedy for their HSC Drama Examination.
- **Still Enough Exhibition** - Year 11 Visual Arts students exhibit their works in the school library.
- **Lunchtime Concerts** - Music students hone their skills and build their confidence in concerts for their peers on Wednesdays at lunch time. Entertainment students provide the technical support and operations for the concerts.



On March 26, Year 11 Geography undertook a research expedition to Penrith City Lakes.

The group learnt about the Lakes' extensive biological history and recent human impact, all of which has made and changed the floodplain of the Hawkesbury - Nepean River we know today.

Fieldwork is a must in Geography, so alongside observation and learning about the location's history, all of Year 11 Geography tested and recorded water from one of the region's lakes.

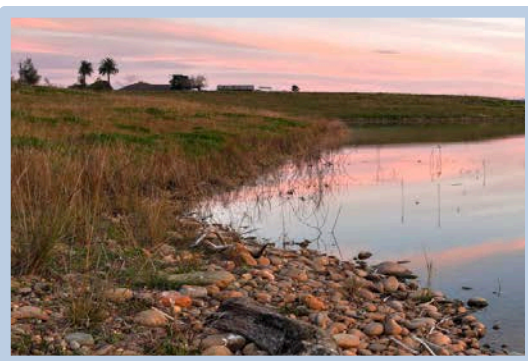


This included testing of acidity and cleanliness, coupled with observations on biodiversity.

The Lakes serve as a water catchment, straddling the Hawkesbury - Nepean River and filling in times of flood.

The diversity of the region is often overlooked by sporting events nearby. Year 11 Geography students have seen a different side of our local backyard and thank the workers and educators of The Penrith Lakes EEC for their teachings.

Kalden Yuthokt
Year 11 2024



FRENCH EXCURSION AT THE 35TH ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE'S FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL



Pictured L-R : Evelyn Smith, Charlotte Robertson, Evie Thomas, Sara Al Makdissi, Rasika Rezwan, Raphaella Garcia

In Week 6 of this term, the Preliminary French Continuer students and the HSC French Beginner students had the opportunity to catch the train to the city to attend the Alliance Française's French Film Festival. Through this excursion the students were able to deepen their understanding of French language and culture and make valuable connections between the classes, practising their skills in French as they conversed with each other.

Of the different films available to watch throughout the festival, we saw the heart-warming film *Divertimento*. The narrative, which is based on a true story, offers a glimpse into the origins of renowned conductor Zahia Ziouani and her sister, cellist Fettouma Ziouani and their journey to courageously confront chauvinism and other prejudices challenging their passion for classical music. We all fully enjoyed the film and the rendition of the aspiration that music should be accessible to all.

Cinema is a powerful vehicle for cultural exchange and language acquisition. We are fortunate that we can participate in these diverse cinematic experiences through the festival, which not only enriches the students' language skills but also broadens their horizons and nurtures their appreciation for different cultures. We look forward to seeing the range of films available to watch next year.

Kerri-Anne Brown
French Teacher



HSC Class of 2023

On Tuesday 13 February, St Marys Senior High School celebrated the outstanding achievements of the HSC class of 2023 in our annual Academic Excellence Assembly. Each year, the school community along with parents and friends, recognise those students who have displayed excellent effort in their HSC studies. It was truly a wonderful day to present numerous awards to the alumni class as a fruitful testament to their hard work and dedication during their time at St Marys.

Some of the awards presented consist of All Round Achievement Awards, Top Achievement Awards, Distinguished Achiever Awards, and school based awards such as the Shepherd Award, Eason Award, James Rowe Award, Dean Lane Award, Zonta Award and the 2023 Dux. Attending the event were also guests such as Councillor Todd Carney – Mayor of Penrith, Ms Karen Keown – Member for Penrith, Mr Dane Ropa – Relieving Director of Educational Leadership Cambridge Park Network, Ms Leonie Critchley and Ms Jennifer Farrer – Members of the Zonta Club Nepean Valley, Ms Brigitte Lane – wife of the late Dean Lane, Ms Courtney Olsen – daughter of the late Dean Lane, Mrs Meg Shepherd – wife of the late Bernie Shepherd AM and Mrs Sonia Matthews – President of the St Marys Senior High School Council.

The day continued with performances from our current Year 12 Music students and a motivational speech delivered at the end by St Marys Senior High School's 2023 Dux, Jacob Nath.

Francesca Garcia and Rayna Rao
Year 12 2024





HSC Class of 2023

Here are just some of the wonderful achievements of the class of 2023:

ALL ROUND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Jacob Nath – Dux with an ATAR of 99.75 (pictured)

Raj Parikh

Sara Shaw

Marielle Sugpatan

TOP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Muskaanpreet Kaur – 3rd in the state for Punjabi Continuers

Kiran Roy – 3rd in the state for Korean Beginners

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVER AWARDS

Elise Begbie

Muhammad Hamza Bilal

Edric Certeza

Isabella Espineda

Bailey Hagarty

Muskaanpreet Kaur

Abigail Matthews

Kapish Patel

Mantra Patel

Vansh Patel

Swara Shah

Gunbir Singh

SHEPHERD AWARD

Abigail Matthews (pictured)

EASON AWARD

Sara Shaw

JAMES ROWE AWARD

Daanish Ahmed

DEAN LANE AWARD

Izabelle Valencia (pictured)

ZONTA AWARD

Destiny Sione (pictured)



Jacob Nath Dux of St Marys Senior High School 2023

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

As of April of 2024, the amazing team at Opportunity Knocks has collaborated to organise and prepare for several initiatives including but not limited to setting up for Open Evening, the weekly university gazebos every Wednesday and the Industry Meet and Greet which took place in Week 3 of Term 1. Every Tuesday at lunch, members volunteer their time to discuss how these initiatives can achieve the level of success that they receive and socialise in an environment where everyone can hear and be heard. Not only have their concerted efforts been put towards these invigorating exhibitions, but their ambitions, goals and progress have been highlighted in this segment for your interest.

The Industry Meet and Greet involved representatives from across industries and universities attending and facilitating workshops and holding conversations with selected students. Opportunity Knocks' club leaders were invited to present questions and interview these representatives for the benefit of their peers and the students invited during class time, to gain insight into how they would like to pursue their future careers.

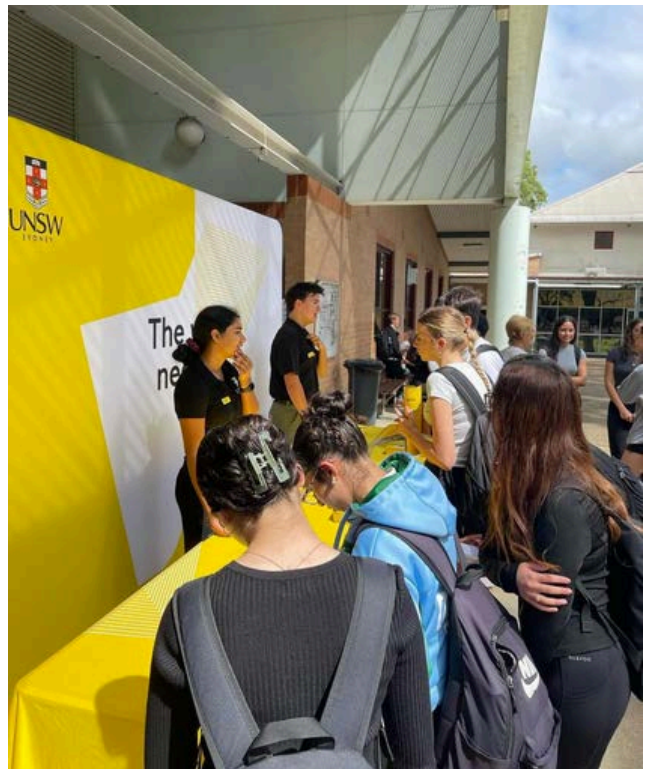
The Careers Gazebos have received inordinate praise from the Year 11 and Year 12 cohorts alike for their ability to engage with students and provide useful advice on entering their ideal courses. In particular, Western Sydney University, University of New South Wales and Australian Catholic University have seen the highest amount of contribution from the members of Opportunity Knocks as a testament to their high demand. For anyone who would like to find out more but could not make it to the gazebos, booklets are available towards the back of the library where Opportunity Knocks hosts their meetings for anyone interested in joining.



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Planning for the Opportunity Knocks stall for Open Evening is currently underway. For the past four weeks, club leaders have been assigned groups with their respective members to prepare resources and information for future students to have a look at as well as engagements and activities including trivia and Q&As among a myriad of others which the club highly anticipates in preparation for the evening. All, of course, paired with the hospitality and social vibrancy which you can expect from the members who will be representing Opportunity Knocks.

So, before we can conclude this segment of South Creek, this student-led group would like to outline some of their goals and advice for any students who are interested in joining the club. Opportunity Knocks' main goal is to provide students with the insight they need, especially moving forward to their tertiary education. For students who seem interested, we are a discussion group, meaning that when we aren't concerned with organising the events above, we're a space for people to hang out and make meaningful connections to build up communication skills in preparation for the industry our members want to go into. We also help out where we can, as seen in the gazebos, which is a really good feature universities are looking for in applications. So don't walk, run over because opportunity is knocking at your door at Opportunity Knocks!



Fatmah Alshamri
Year 12 2024

SCHOOL SPORT TEAMS - TERM 1

Throughout the term, our sporting teams have successfully demonstrated their abilities and skills in numerous events such as zone and knockouts.

Congratulations to the following teams and athletes that represented our school!

VOLLEYBALL

On Wednesday 14 February, our girls and boys volleyball teams competed at the Werrington Zone Volleyball Gala Day. Both teams played extremely hard on the day with the boys taking out the Werrington Cup. Congratulations to the team and also to those players who were selected to represent Werrington Zone at the Sydney West Championships.

Girls Team - Ariana Caraos, Gabriella Creswell, Rebecca Gao, Ally Romaine Pascual, Antoinette Pingul-Krajcar, Sophia Punongbayan, Violet Reyes, Wamika Singh, Lilli Te, and Jassmine Urfano.

Boys Team - Ty Arona, Aldrin Bongolan, Kenneth Francisco, Zakir Gloria, Reniel Guzman, Daniel Jung, Rhylee Kang, Jacob Ludgater, Sean Mateo, Reuel Velasco and Stratocaster Zamora.

Students selected into the Zone team - Ariana Caraos, Ally Romaine Pascual, Sophia Punongbayan, Wamika Singh, Ty Arona, Reniel Guzman, Daniel Jung, Rhylee Kang and Jacob Ludgater

During Week 6 the girls and boys volleyball teams played in Round 2 of the NSWCHS Knockout Competition. The girls played against Jamison High School and the boys played against Arthur Phillip High School. Both teams played very well and the lead changed many times during both matches. Unfortunately both teams were defeated but they should be extremely proud of their efforts.



TRIATHLON

Congratulations to Milly Brace on her impressive performance at the NSW All Schools Triathlon which was held at the Regatta Centre on 21 February. Milly finished 4th out of student competitors from government schools. Well done, Milly.



CRICKET

The boys cricket team competed in the NSWCHS Knockout Competition this year. Their first game was against Cranebrook High School in 40 degree heat. The game was shortened due to the extreme temperature with the boys coming away with the win.

They then had to play Parramatta High School. After a lot of negotiating the game was played on 18 March. The boys fought very hard and showed great sportmanship but were defeated by a very strong and experienced team.

Boys team - Hamza Abdul-Rehman, Sarmad Bajwa, Dean Chhabra, Hargun Chhina, Siddarth Chinnanelli, Ranveer Dhaliwal, Muhammad Ghias, Shyam Kambodi, Bav Kandhola, Sai Karanam, Het Patel, Armaan Sahi and Ohm Shah. Thanks to Jeff Larsen for coaching the team. A special commendation goes to Nick Patel and Shlok Patel for their invaluable contributions to coaching management, enhancing the team's cohesion and performance.



BASKETBALL

Once again SMSHS competed very strongly at the Werrington Zone Basketball Gala Day. The boys finished 4th on the day after narrowly losing the semi finals while the girls took out the Werrington Cup. Congratulations to all team members and also those students who represented Werrington Zone at the Sydney West Championships.

Girls team - Zoe Abian, Reign Atienza, Georgia Bliss, Mikayla Castillo, Hayley Chester, Emma Matthias, Ysabel Rimando, Mariel Sebastian, Jassmine Urfano and Rosetta Yankson.

Boys team - Abdo Alkhouri, Jayden Andrews, Alexis Banez, Hargun Chhina, Christian Durante, Kenrick Esteves, Zakir Gloria, Spencer Hackney, Jy Hamersma, Albert Joseph, Nathan Mekonnen and Cahllil Santos.

Students selected into the Zone team - Zoe Abian, Mikayla Castillo, Ysabel Rimando, Rosetta Yankson, Alexis Banez, Spencer Hackney and Jy Hamersma.

Both the boys and girls teams have been competing in the NSWCHS Knockout Competition. Unfortunately the boys went down in Round 2 against Jamison High School. The girls won their round games and qualified for the Final 8 knockout gala day. The girls finished the gala day in 4th position. Well done to all team members on representing SMSHS with such pride and determination.

SOCCER

The girls and boys soccer teams both finished 1st at the Werrington Zone Soccer Gala Day on 27 February. All team members displayed great athleticism and sportsmanship and were excellent representatives of SMSHS.

Girls team - Phebe Bishay, Mikayla Castillo, Safa Chishty, Jessica Ellis, Elisha Issac, Emily Komorowski, Emma Matthias, Emily Merlino, Matilda Middleton, Sienna Monardo, Keosha Nagarajah, Gauri Pareek and Ishaal Siddique.

Boys team - Rielly Broome, Jayden Collis, Luis Contreras Villajuan, Ankon Dam, Muddthir Hassan, Ashton Heald, Rayhan Imam, Shaun Kakkar, Ben Mahmutovic, Harry Ngal-Toubon, Ire Ogunmola, Jakob Petterson, Delwyn Roy, Ahyaan Syed and Job Thin Tuep.

Students selected into the Zone team - Emma Matthias, Rielly Broome, Ankon Dam, Harry Ngal-Toubon, Jakob Petterson and Ahyaan Syed.

Congratulations also to Jakob Petterson who was selected as a shadow player in the Sydney West team.

Both the girls and boys soccer teams have been competing in the knockout competition. Unfortunately the girls were defeated by The Ponds High School bringing their campaign to an end. However, the boys defeated Doonsode High School and are now through to Round 3. We would like to wish them the best of luck.



TOUCH FOOTBALL

Our girls and boys touch football teams competed at the Werrington Zone Touch Football Gala Day on Wednesday 27 March. Both teams played very well and enjoyed the day.

Girls Team - Georgia Bliss, Milly Brace, Mikayla Castillo, Maiara Cheah, Chloe Collins, Mikaylah Councillor, Jessica Ellis, Liana Meredith, Matilda Middleton, Keosha Nagarajah, Mylee Paluch and Sami Rothwell

Boys Team - Ty Arona, Thomas Connell, Jy Hamersma, Luke Hunter, Noah Lardizabal, Rahul Narendra, Harry Ngai-Toubon, Elias Pa, Jakob Petterson, Seb Santos and Alex Soriano

Students selected into the Zone team - Milly Brace, Matilda Middleton, Mylee Paluch and Sami Rothwell.



NETBALL

Congratulations to the girls netball team on placing 4th at the Werrington Zone Gala Day. All girls played with great determination and school spirit and had a great day. The girls have also been successful in the NSWCHS Knockout competition. The girls have defeated Katoomba High and Richmond High and now through to Round 4. We wish them the best of luck in their next game.

Girls team - Georgia Bliss, Ainsley Butt, Malara Cheah, Hayley Chester, Mia Connell, Dristi Gadtaula, Tahnee Hine, Leilahni Isaia, Bree Nott and Taya Pearson

Students selected into the Zone team - Georgia Bliss



SWIMMING

Congratulations to our swimmers who did a remarkable job representing SMSHS at the Werrington Zone Swimming Carnival on 8 March. All athletes qualified for the Sydney West Championships which was held on 21 March.

A special mention goes to Alessandra Lazaro, Ashton Heald, Evie Bullock and Darcy Hollingworth who were named Werrington Zone Age Champions.

The swimmers success continued at the Sydney West Championships with Maya Bailey, Evie Bullock, Darcy Hollingworth and Liana Meredith qualifying for the NSWCHS Swimming Championships.

We wish them the best of luck.



**All the best to the remaining teams in the knockouts!
Congratulations to those athletes who participated in sport this term!**



Our Staff

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Council President:	Sonia Matthews
School Captains:	Allayna Anna Sachin Ankon Dam
School Executive:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 11)	Leah Havord
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Danielle Ervine
- English	Julie Robinson
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science (Rel)	Andrew Farrugia
- Commercial Studies	Salochna Reddy
- HSIE	Shara Walsh
- Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA)	Nicole Bonfield
- TAS / Computing	Matthew Topp
- LOTE	Luigi Serra
- PDHPE (Rel)	Joanne Brines
- Secondary Studies	Lucas Widdison
- Learning and Wellbeing	Melissa Jacka
- First Australians	Leah Havord
- Business Manager (Acting)	Rebecca Zinghini
- School Administrative Manager (Rel)	Angela Demaio
Student Advisers:	
- Year 12, Surnames A-G	Sussan Allaou
- Year 12, Surnames H-O	Wendi Kambolli
- Year 12, Surnames P-Z	Luigi Serra
- Year 11, Surnames A-G	Adam Bernthaler
- Year 11, Surnames H-O	Lauren Hasna
- Year 11, Surnames P-Z	Jeff Larsen
Learning Support:	Susan Allaou (F) Carmel Harriden(M, T) Melissa Jacka Carly McPherson (T, W, T) Ashlee Pleffer (M,T)
Student Support Officer:	Surmeet Kaur
Careers Adviser (Rel):	Cheryll Ruskin

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St Marys Senior High School Official
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South Creek Production Team

Kerri-Anne Brown – Teacher Librarian		<p>Thank you to all the staff and students who contributed articles for this edition of South Creek, the St Marys Senior High School Magazine.</p>
Francesca Garcia Hala Noor Kamana Bhandari Kirsten Singian Matthew Garbo Mikayla Balobalo Nashwan Shah Nick Patel Rayna Rao Saaiq Rahman Shafaf Nahal Shrey Shukla Yuva Potharaju	Zakriya Ashraf Agnes Bobby Anjeleina Khouri Anusha Waheed Arfa Muzaffar Ariana Caraos Kalden Yuthok Narlaine Nouv Samantha Goyena Siddharth Chinnanelli Wamika Singh	