

southcreek

ST MARYS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 4
2023

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 this edition of South Creek where we look back at the variety of activities that took place in Term 4 in 2023 and reflect on a successful school year. You will see from this edition the variety of experiences offered to students at St Marys Senior High School. These experiences are so important to the wellbeing of students and generate strong school spirit, increased comradery and an environment where students thrive.



Throughout 2023 it has been an honour to work with all our students, the Student Representative Council, staff, School Council, parents and the broader educational community that contribute to St Marys Senior High School. The school has a well-deserved reputation of successfully supporting young adults through the Higher School Certificate to transition to tertiary education or employment in a nurturing environment. Our Higher School Certificate results for 2023 have shown an improvement in the top two and top three bands. This is something we all should be proud of and celebrate as a community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing School Captains Charlotte and Destiny, and our Vice Captains Kayla and Aadhi. They have done a fantastic job throughout the year. On behalf of the whole school, I thank them for their efforts and wish them every success for the future. I would also like to thank the departing School Representative Council for their leadership throughout 2023 in representing the student body and upholding and promoting our school values of Inclusiveness, Aspiration and Respect.

We wish Year 12, 2023 all the best as they embark on the next stage of their lives as adults. We ask that you keep in touch so we can observe your successes in your chosen pathway. St Marys Senior is not only a place of academic excellence, it is a place where we meet influential people. I expect that that the class of 2023 is made up of many people that will have great influence in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank Kerri-Anne Brown and her dedicated team of students for putting together this edition of South Creek.

We hope you enjoy this publication of South Creek as we celebrate the students and school's achievements for 2023.

Sally Smithard
Principal



The newly elected School Captains, Allayna Anna Sachin and Ankon Dam and Vice Captains, Zopiah Sulangi and Jahanzeb Rana successfully started Term 4 in their new roles. They started planning for activities including Bandanna Day and the SRC Elections and attending meetings.

On Thursday 26 October the Captains and Vice Captains attended the GRIP Leadership Conference at Castle Hill RSL. They enjoyed the practical and interactive training that was the focus of the day.

The SRC elections took place in Week 3 of Term 4. The nominees presented their election speeches to their Cluster and the Clusters voted for their preferred candidate. The new representatives for each Cluster are shown below. Some of the larger Clusters that meet on different days have more representatives.

Cluster 2: Cyanne Dela Cruz & Adhisha Packeer

Cluster 3: Cassandra Benozza, Darnia Mah, Jasmine Whitley & Safin Rahim

Cluster 5: Jiya Raniga & Ire Ogunmola

Cluster 6: Liza Anwar, Diya Chakrapani & Amina Rana

Cluster 7: Alejandro Gacis-Cusay, Dane Parica, Delwyn Roy & Suprathika Boppana

Cluster 8: Katelyn San Esteban, Monique Yeng, Mehar Maan & Catani Reynolds

We congratulate the newly elected Year 12 members of the Student Representative Council to the 2024 student leadership team. To facilitate their transition to their new role, the students participated in a planning and training day. Jiya and Cyanne share their experiences on the following page.

Kerri-Anne Brown
SRC Staff Adviser



Pictured: 2024 Student Representative Council and Captains

On Wednesday 15 November, the 2024 SRC team completed a training and planning day where we were encouraged to reflect on our personal strengths as leaders and how we can contribute to them as a team. We were immersed in a variety of workshops and activities ranging from play script reading to t-shirt making.

We started off the day with some team building activities. This was followed by a presentation by Kerri-Anne and Cheryll who enriched us with their knowledge of identifying personal strengths and how we as a team can collectively use these strengths to ensure the SRC successfully fulfils their role within the school.

Our next session was presented by Nicole, the wonderful Drama teacher, who invited us to upskill ourselves through public speaking exercises. Through this we were able to gain confidence and increase our stage presence, which in turn, will allow us to present Cluster meetings more smoothly and effectively.

After a small recess break, the SRC engaged in planning for our 2024 school year and events. This included putting together the event calendar and breaking off into Cluster groups to plan each of the various events. We have many exciting events planned for 2024.

To end our day, the SRC got creative! Using our strengths revealed to us by Kerri-Anne and Cheryll, we designed our Cluster t-shirts in order to showcase these strengths in a visual way.





BANDANNA DAY

On Friday 27 October the school hosted a fundraiser for CanTeen through National Bandanna Day. Staff and students were encouraged to buy bandanna's and to come to school dressed in green and yellow. These were the favourite colours of former student, Tara Neilsen, who graduated in 2020. Tara worked closely with CanTeen throughout her cancer treatment. Tara was a fierce advocate for CanTeen and their work to support young people with cancer.

Through this fundraiser we celebrate Tara's life and honour her memory by raising money for CanTeen. The school community successfully raised \$2446.62 through the bandanna sales, coin collections and online donations.

Thank you to all those who participated by proudly wearing their bandannas and donating money towards the invaluable work of CanTeen and their support of young people with cancer. Tara was an inspiration to us all - this fundraiser holds a special place in so many of our hearts.



Halloween 2023

On Tuesday 31 October, the school community celebrated the first mufti day of Term 4 for Halloween as organised by the SRC. Everyone was encouraged to dress up in their best outfits. The school was filled with students dressed up in a variety of costumes, ranging from spooky vampires, courageous superheroes and beloved characters from iconic movies. With so many participants dressed in amazing costumes this mufti day was definitely a successful event. It was truly an exciting day for everyone, with students happily taking photos around the school to collect wonderful memories with their friends.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

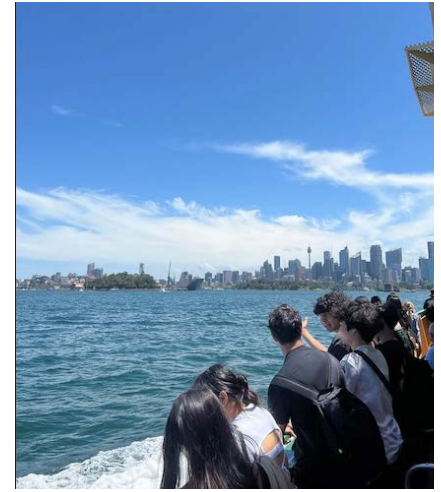
On Friday 10 November the school held a ceremony to commemorate Remembrance Day. The ceremony was coordinated by the HSIE Faculty. Thank you to the students who presented a moving address and laid a commemorative wreath while the school respectfully gathered at the flagpoles.

On Saturday 11 November, members of the Student Representative Council attended the Remembrance Day Service at the St Marys Diggers and Band Club on Mamre Road in St Marys. The Service was held outside at the memorial and was attended by many members of the community. Thank you to Ankon Dam, Adhisha Packeer, Jiya Raniga and Mehar Maan who laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the service.

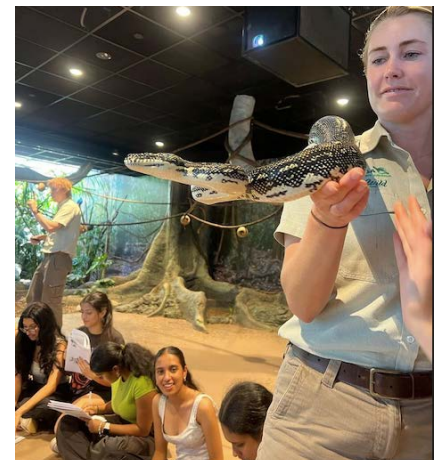
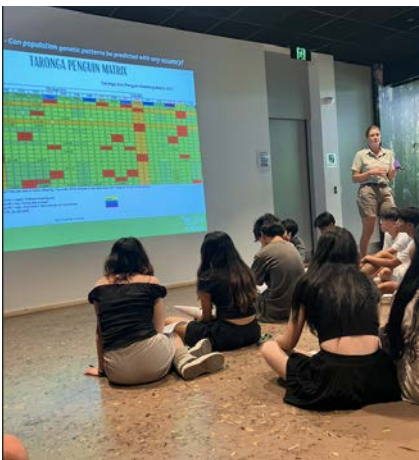


BIOLOGY EXCURSION - TARONGA ZOO

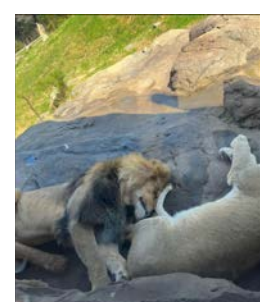
On Tuesday 12 December, students from the Year 12 2024 Biology cohort, under the guidance of their teachers Daniel, Cassandra, Andrew, Chris, Jess & Ghaz, embarked on an educational trip to the renowned Taronga Zoo near Mosman. This exciting excursion proved to be a delight for the senses and an enriching learning experience for all students.



The highlight of the day was the series of workshops hosted by Taronga Zoo, meticulously curated to shed light on the intricacies of animal reproduction and the essential role it plays in the continuity of species. Students actively participated in discussions, exploring various reproductive adaptations and gaining valuable insights into the fascinating world of wildlife.



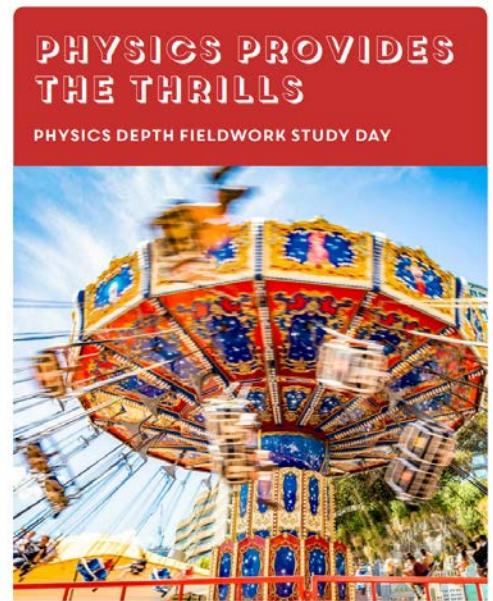
Such a seamlessly executed excursion wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our esteemed teachers. Their concerted efforts in organizing and facilitating this educational outing are commendable and greatly appreciated. Additionally, a heartfelt thank you goes out to Taronga Zoo for graciously hosting our group and providing an environment conducive to both learning and enjoyment.



Nick Patel
Year 12 2024

Physics Excursion

On Friday 17 November, students from the Year 12 2024 Physics cohort managed and taught by Andrew and Vigneswaran went on an exciting trip to Luna Park located near Milson's Point. Students not only enjoyed the trip but also investigated multiple kinematic laws taught in the HSC Physics syllabus. Students experienced forces related to factors such as circular and rotational motion.



STAGE 6: YEAR 12 PHYSICS
Practical application of dynamics,
circular motion, electricity and magnets.

Sydney's
LUNA PARK



We were able to ride and collect data on every ride to finish a depth study allocated to each student. Students were not only able to enjoy the experience of exciting rides but also gain a brief understanding of major physics concepts through physical experiences.



Zakriya Ashraf & Shrey Shukla
Year 12 2024

Successful Selection for *OnSTAGE*

ONSTAGE SELECTION HSC DRAMA 2023 – PRUDENCE JOHNSON

Prudence's HSC Drama Individual Project Performance for her practical examination was selected for inclusion in the NESA OnSTAGE showcase. This prestigious event is held annually at the Seymour Centre, Surry Hills, in February showcasing the top performances and projects of the HSC Drama Examination. Prudence's portrayal of the singer Billie Holiday in 'Lady Day' was a raw, moving and honest performance. The theatrical journey lulled us into a false sense of comic security before the gut-wrenching moments of truth behind the lyrics of the song, 'Strange Fruit', were revealed, creating a strong emotional audience response.

Congratulations, Prudence! We are so very proud of you and your achievements!



Drama Excursion - Belvoir St Theatre *Lady Day* at Emerson's Bar and Grill



Our recent school excursion to watch the play *Lady Day* at Emerson's Bar and Grill at Belvoir St Theatre was an unforgettable and enriching experience. The production, set in the heart of a quaint theatre, transported us to a bygone era, bringing the life and music of Billie Holiday to vivid but heartbreaking life.

The performance was nothing short of spectacular. The actress Elenora Rokobaro (Billie Holiday alternate) embodied the spirit of Billie Holiday with her soulful voice, captivating mannerisms, and powerful presence. Her performance was incredibly moving, and we were spellbound from the first note to the final bow. The rest of the cast also delivered outstanding performances, enhancing the overall quality of the production.



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CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

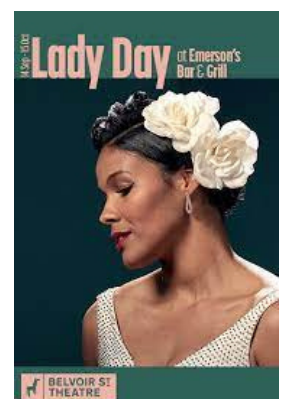
The play's set design and costumes were meticulously crafted, contributing to the authenticity of the era. The dimly lit stage and jazzy ambiance made us feel like we had stepped into a 1940s jazz club, adding to the overall immersion and enjoyment of the play. One part of the performance that I particularly enjoyed was that some audience members (like ourselves) sat in chairs that were integrated seamlessly into the set, making us feel like genuine patrons in a 1940s jazz club. This clever design choice blurred the line between the audience and the stage, enhancing our feeling of being a part of the era and the story.

One memorable aspect of the play was the actress's occasional ad-libs, showcasing her incredible improvisational skills. She engaged with the audience, creating an intimate connection that made us feel personally involved. These unscripted moments brought spontaneity and authenticity to the performance, leaving us captivated by her ability to connect with the audience on a deeper level. However, what stood out most was the play's ability to not only entertain but also educate. We learned about the challenges and triumphs of Billie Holiday's life and the societal issues she faced. It was a powerful reminder of the role music plays in reflecting the human condition and serving as a medium for change.



Overall, our excursion to see *Lady Day* was a resounding success. It not only provided a captivating and moving theatrical experience but also expanded our understanding of the cultural and historical significance of Billie Holiday's music. Thank you to Nicole for organising this event, and Mel for coming along to the experience! It was a day of inspiration and reflection, and we are grateful to have been a part of it. This play will undoubtedly be a cherished memory for all of us. We can't wait to have another experience at Belvoir St Theatre, and thank the Belvoir team for making an unbelievable experience. Until next time, Belvoir St!

Erica Loizou
Year 12 Drama 2024



National Art School News

Students have once again been inspired through their attendance in the multiple courses that the NAS provide with Lucas Galea and Katie Astley attending the Dobell Drawing School. Lucas also attended the HSC Intensive Studio Practice Program, and Amina Rana attended the NAS x CAC course. Also, if you are looking for an exhibition to visit, former student, Morgan Iddles, is in the 2023 Graduating Show.

<https://gradshow23.nas.edu.au/collections/morgan-iddles>

The HSC Intensive Studio Practice Program was “...great for developing my practice in painting and being in a studio environment with other artists”

Lucas Galea

“The NAS x CAC Intensive program entails a course of artmaking including printmaking and ceramics over the course of four days. Through both programs I have substantially expanded my artistic knowledge and had an extremely joyous time. I especially enjoyed interacting with all the teachers, and learning about their individual artistic practice. This program has really given me an insight into pursuing an artistic career in the future.”

Amina Rana

Nepean Arts Festival

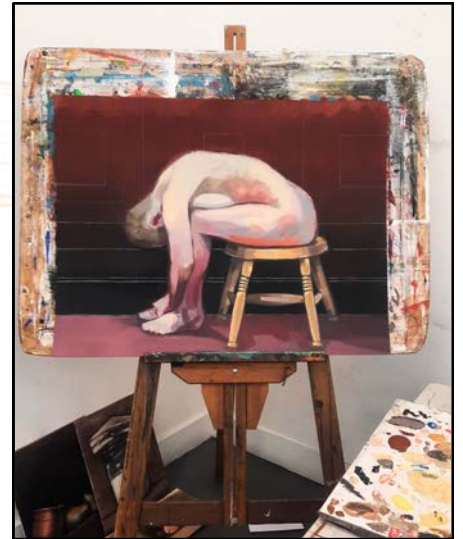


Recently, myself and a couple of peers had the exciting opportunity to attend the Nepean Festival of Art, hosted at Nepean CAPA High School. After submitting our own works, we were lucky to view hundreds of other artists' works through the Nepean region, spanning across primary to open categories. The experience was so exciting, to see a high level of appreciation for the arts and recognition for amazing works for all ages. I feel privileged to be a part of this. I was lucky enough to place 2nd in the secondary schools category with my digital rendition of a whiskey glass, and I feel so excited to be recognised and I am so grateful for both the experience and the recognition. The experience was so wonderful, to meet the founder of Anala Art Advisory, Michael Powe, supporting the artistic community and bringing together young artists to celebrate art. I am keen to use the paints I was gifted to create more art, and St Marys is so keen to enter this festival again next year.

Katie Astley

Year 12 Visual Arts 2024

SHOUT OUT to two of our teachers, Adam Bernthaler and John Baltaks, whose works were also exhibited. Congratulations to John for the sale of one of his pieces.



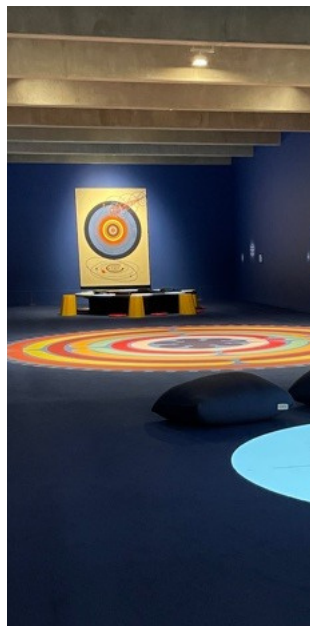
VISUAL ARTS EXCURSION ART GALLERY OF NSW



This term Year 12 students attended an excursion to the AGNSW to research Curatorial and Exhibition Practice for their up and coming assessment task by exploring exhibitions on Louise Bourgeois and the Yiribana Gallery in the North Building. Students were taken on a journey through the subconscious mind of the artist as they entered the darkened tank through the spiral staircase, surrounded by visual projections and haunting audio. They then travelled through the collection of traditional and contemporary indigenous art. The students returned to the South Building to take in the modernist artist Kandinsky and the thought provoking work of Hoda Afshar.



'Colour is the keyboard, the eyes are the hammers, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand which plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul.'



ICONIC

ICONIC was presented to a large audience in the MPC by our Year 12 2024 Music 1 students. This showcase took place at the end of Term 4, wrapping up the year with music. This show was the culmination of 8 weeks of work, presenting the music of two iconic artists, Line 4 with Michael Jackson and Line 6 with Stevie Wonder.



Schools Spectacular 2023 - 40th Anniversary

What a celebration! This year, the Schools Spectacular turned 40, and St Marys Senior was fortunate to be involved across a number of areas.

This year, 5,500 students from NSW Public Schools performed for packed audiences, especially the sold out Saturday night show! We are very proud of what was achieved.

A massive thank you to The Arts Unit for their continued dedication to this fabulous event. The show was broadcast to a massive TV audience two weeks later, as well as via Channel 7's online platforms.

Kendra Cuevas and Sydney Dawes performed as part of the Taiko Drumming ensemble and Emily Baker sang as part of the Core Choir team. In addition to this, our VET Retail students and two of our VET Entertainment students gained experience working on Specfest.

A number of our staff also worked on the show across the event: Michael Nolan (Choir Management Team), Melissa Jacka (Wellbeing Team), Wendi Kamboli (VET Retail Manager) and Fatima De Assis (Specfest Student Production Team Coordinator).

Finally, a massive thank you to Sally for coming out to support team St Marys!

Check out our smiling teams all posing for photos at the final session of Specfest, as well as some photos from the show.



Upcoming CAPA Events

Keep an eye out for these upcoming CAPA events in Term 1 2024...

- **Callback Dance Excursion** - Year 12 Dance students will participate in workshops and attend the performance of *Callback* at the Seymour Centre, Sydney, Thursday 15 February.
- **Art Express Excursion** - Year 12 Visual Arts students will attend Art Express at the Art Gallery of NSW, Thursday 15 February.
- **OnSTAGE Drama Excursion** - Year 11 and 12 Drama students will attend two programs of *OnSTAGE* at the Seymour Centre, Sydney, Friday 16 February.
- **White Card Training** - Year 11 VET Entertainment students will complete their White Card Training, Friday 8 March.
- **Pulse Alive** - Year 12 Music students will perform at the Ken Rosewall Arena Friday 15 March.
- **Belvoir Theatre Drama Excursion** - Year 11 and 12 Drama students will be accompanying Nicole and Mel to see Belvoir Street Theatre Company's production of *Holding the Man*, Wednesday 3 April.
- **Soiree** - Performances by Year 11 Music students, Thursday 4 April, 7pm in the MPC.
- **Curatorial Incursion** - Year 12 Visual Arts students curate the Year 11 still life artworks in the 'Still Enough' Exhibition, Wednesday 10 April.
- **In Concert** - Tuesday 5 March, Year 11 and 12 students attend a rehearsal at the Salvation Army Congress Hall for the In Concert Performance taking place in Term 2.
- **Belvoir Archive Viewing** - Year 12 Drama students will attend archive viewings of Belvoir productions that they are studying for the core Contemporary Australian Theatre component for the HSC.
- **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.



History Excursion - Chau Chak Wing



With an insatiable thirst for knowledge, Year 12 scholars of Ancient History embarked on a quest to expand their horizons. Guided by the learned sages, they journeyed to the illustrious Chau Chak Wing Museum at The University of Sydney. The corridors echoed with tales of the ancients, as they beheld artifacts of ages past, some over two millennia old! With keen eyes and archeological skills, they traced the footsteps of the forefathers and felt the whispers of history in their hands.

The museum was a treasure trove of wonders, with exhibits spanning the breadth of time and space, each one unfolding stories of the ages. The lego replica of Pompeii breathed life into the ruins, offering a glimpse into the world before the wrath of Mt. Vesuvius. The exhibit on Egypt was a marvel, with ancient human remains and mummified animals on display, each one a testament to the art of preservation. Pottery fragments and other relics hinted at the mysteries of life in ancient Egypt. Though the scholars could only dabble in the Ancient Near East and Greek exhibit, they savored every moment, basking in the glow of the natural world.

As the day drew to an end, the scholars looked back on a day of wonder and gratitude. They thanked their mentors, Lauren and Shara, for kindling a flame of curiosity within them, one that burned bright and illuminated the path to the ancients.



LANGUAGES

The Language Faculty was proud to celebrate the achievements of their classes this term. Several of the Year 12 and Year 11 Language classes completed the ACER Level 1 Assessment of Language Competence exams in Reading and Listening. Many of the students received Distinctions and High Distinctions in these skill areas.

Pictured is the HSC French Beginners class of 2024 with their certificates.

L-R : Sara Al Mkdissi, Raphaella Garcia, Rasika Rezwan, Charlotte Robertson and Jermaine Walmsley



We also congratulate Kiran Roy (Year 12) and Therese Reyes (Year 11) on being the recipients of the Choon Pa Korean Language Scholarship Awards. Rosa Kim, our Korean teacher attended the Choon Pa Korean Language Scholarship Awards Ceremony and accepted the awards on behalf of our students.

An important part of their work, Choon Pa Korean Language Scholarship Inc. has presented awards to outstanding students in Korean studies in Australia since 1992. We also give our sincere thanks to the Choon Pa Korean Language Scholarship Awards Program for their ongoing support.



PRESENTATION DAY ASSEMBLY 2023

Our annual Presentation Day Assembly took place on Friday 8 December. This assembly celebrates the achievements of students across various areas of school life including academics, sport and leadership. The effort and hard work of students is honoured alongside friends, family, teachers and members of the community and special guests who have supported the growth of the students at our school. This ceremony was inspiring for all the students as we celebrate success and gain motivation for all future endeavours.



Sanudi Wanniarachchi with The Honourable Prue Car, Member for Londonderry, Deputy Premier of NSW, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney
Sarah Shaw with Ms Cathy Brennan, Relieving Deputy School Performance North
Ankon Dam with Mr Craig Redfern, Director Educational Leadership, Cambridge Park Network
Diya Chkrapani with Ms Sonia Matthew, President of St Marys Senior High School Council
Prudence Johnson with Ms Julie Kennedy, Relieving Executive Director, Metropolitan North School Performance Directorate
Destiny Sione with The Honourable Prue Car, Member for Londonderry, Deputy Premier of NSW, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney

Thank you to the Maths Faculty who coordinated the assembly and to the Entertainment class and CAPA Faculty who did so much work behind the scenes to allow this event to really come alive with sounds, lights along with the performances by talented individuals, which added added to the lively atmosphere.

Thank you also to the Hospitality team, who arranged some great refreshments and snacks for attendees in the library after the ceremony.



END OF TERM ACTIVITIES



Our Staff

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Council President:	Sonia Matthews
School Captains:	Allayna Anna Sachin Ankon Dam
School Executive:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Leah Havord
- Deputy Principal (Year 11)	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

Contact



St Marys Senior High
School Kalang Avenue
St Marys NSW 2760



02 9623
8333



[stmaryssen-
h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stmaryssen-
h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



St Marys Senior High School Official
Site - Facebook



St Marys Senior High School
- Skoolbag App

South Creek Production Team

Kerri-Anne Brown – Teacher Librarian

Nick Patel
Shrey Shukla
Saaiq Rahman
Shlok Patel
Zakriya Ashraf
Matthew Garbo
Mikayla Balobalo
Rayna Rao
Francesca Garcia

**Thank you to all the staff and
students who contributed
articles for this edition of
South Creek, the St Marys
Senior High School Magazine.**