

SOUTH CREEK - TERM 1



ST MARYS
SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL
MAGAZINE



Mente Manuque

- With mind and hand

2023

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 2023. 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 Term1. 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 One 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 2022. 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.

St Marys Senior High School hosted our twilight Open Evening on 31 March 2023 to showcase our wonderful school to prospective families. Our student leaders were of course the stars, helping families to navigate their way around the school and sharing their experiences. Many parents commented positively on the different aspects of this evening and the information they were provided. This year our student club leaders were able to highlight some of the extra-curricular activities available to students at St Marys Senior High School.

To all of our new families in 2023, 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

ST MARYS POP-UP STALLS 2023 !

What a fantastic turnout for this year's pop-up stalls with over 30 stalls, including a couple of new clubs started by our very own Year 12 students! The pop-up stalls were held on 3 February 2023 as part of O-week. The student clubs were able to welcome the Year 11s who had just started at SMSHS. Each club presented a range of opportunities to meet students and delve into shared interests. There was something for everyone!

Clubs including:

- Kpop
 - Anime and Gaming
 - Fatfish
 - Bollywood
 - Bring It On
 - Mary's Media
 - Jam Sesh Club
 - Gentlemen's Society
 - Amnesty
 - Volleyball
 - PRISM
- + So many more !!

If you missed out on this day or are interested in joining a club past the signup day, there is a notice board in the library that contains everything you need to know about joining a club or even creating a club!



ALL photos were taken with permission by the recipients and the photos are from the Marys Media Club



Maahee Desai
Year 12 2023

28th National Schools Constitutional Convention

From Tuesday 21 March to Thursday 23 March 2023 Neha Prasad from St Mary's Senior High School was among 116 Year 11 and 12 students from around Australia who attended the 28th National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC), which was held at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra.

The topic for the 2023 Convention was, 'Constitutional Reform - Is section 128 still a necessary requirement to change such an important document as the Australian Constitution?'. This topic provided students with the opportunity to examine Section 128 of the Australian Constitution and discuss if the requirements for alteration are still appropriate. A range of stimulus speakers discussed the issues with the students for them to debate with all delegates.

Outcomes from the Convention will be incorporated into a Communiqué that will be forwarded to the President of the Senate, Senator Sue Lines, for tabling in Parliament and recorded in Hansard. As a national delegate Neha Prasad will travel with 29 other students from their state or territory.

"It has been an honour to not only represent St Marys Senior High but NSW as a whole in the National Constitutional Convention at the Parliament House in Canberra. To speak amongst ministers, university professors, and student delegates from all over the country surrounding the Australian Constitution and referendum opened many doors of networking and connecting with people. I am proud to have been given this opportunity and selected to express my political views and to stand as the only young student from Western Sydney presenting a speech to ministers on the upcoming referendum on Indigenous voice. A lifetime highlight of mine was meeting Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the honourable Governor General being invited to his home. This opportunity has been a surreal experience that has inspired and motivated my ambitions. It has driven me towards the study of Australian politics and law for my future studies, and career."



Neha Prasad
Year 12 2023





Cluster 2	
Duaa Afzal	Adhisha Packeer
Cluster 3	
Sethumi Kodippili	Zopiah Sulangi
Liza Anwar	Safin Rahim
Cluster 5	
Jiya Rangia	Allayna Anna Sachin
Cluster 6	
Darnia MahYear 11	
Cluster 7	
Alejandro Gacis-Cusay	Dane Parica
Delwyn Roy	Charlize Adelia Dela Torre
Cluster 8	
Aryan Datta	Kriti Pandey
Ankon Dam	Jahanzeb Rana

The election of the 2023 Year 11 Student Representative Council members took place in Week 7 of this term. The nominees presented election speeches to their Clusters and then the Year 11 students in each Cluster voted for their preferred candidate.

All of the nominees presented speeches of a high calibre and we would like to thank all the nominees for their participation in this process.

Congratulations to the candidates who were elected to represent their peers. The Year 11 SRC is listed to the left and pictured above.

Kerri-Anne Brown & Surmeet Kaur
SRC Advisers

♥Valentine's Day ♥

Love was in the air at SMSHS on Valentine's Day! Roses were sold by the SRC as a fundraiser prior to the event. These roses were either picked up or delivered on Tuesday 14 February. On Wednesday 15 February the SRC set up themed decorations around the school and students came to school dressed in red, pink or white as a mufti day fundraiser for the Heart Foundation. The school successfully donated \$560.70 to the charity.

During an extended recess, a Valentine's Day concert was hosted by the SRC. There were a lot of very romantic love confessions coupled with platonic declarations of love (Galentines for the win!). We also had some amazing displays of lyrical talent, with some amazing songs like "Almost Is Never Enough" and "Sun and Moon".

The day was loads of fun and we thank all of those who were involved in making it happen! This year's Valentine's Day was an amazing last Valentine's celebration at SMSHS for the Year Twelve students!



Olivia Salt
Year 12 2023

HARMONY WEEK & AMNESTY FUNDRAISER

In the week 20-24 March, SMSHS celebrated Harmony Week. Harmony Week is a celebration of multiculturalism and diversity all across Australia. As a very diverse school, Harmony Week allows us to celebrate the variety of beliefs and cultures in our school community as well as what we have in common.

This year, we celebrated with the theme, 'Everyone Belongs'. On Friday 24 March, SMSHS students were encouraged to wear orange in association with Harmony Week. Orange resembles Harmony Week as it signifies social communication, meaningful conversations, freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Coinciding with the Harmony Week celebrations, the SRC alongside our Amnesty Club group, hosted a fundraiser for UNHCR. Over \$440 was raised to aid the victims of the recent earthquakes which devastated Turkey and Syria. This was a great initiative taken by the school to support and provide relief to the people affected and displaced. Thank you to everyone who donated!

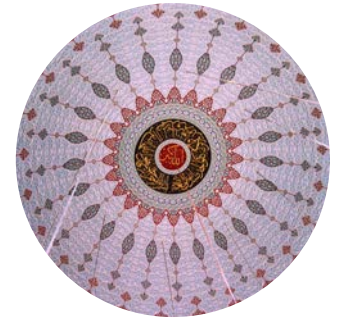
Additionally, many people came together for the chalk-drawing competition, where students drew various symbols representing unity, diversity and harmony, with many beautiful and artistic works drawn. We would like to thank everyone that participated. While it was a difficult decision to pick a winner, one group did an outstanding job at drawing a harmony-themed drawing. Congratulations to the group who won!

We would like to thank all those who participated in Harmony Week and helped celebrate our school community and our diversity! A reminder to each of us to stay respectful, caring and aware of those around you!



Wareesha Nadeem & Patricia Nashed
Year 12 2023





On Thursday 16 February 2023, Year 11 and Year 12 Studies of Religion students visited the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque. The aim of the excursion was to introduce the students to Islam for their case study on the religion during Term 1. The excursion was a highly informative learning experience for students about Islam and the daily life of an adherent.



Above: Students in front of the Gallipoli mosque as the Imam outlines the rich history behind the establishment of the Turkish Muslim community in Australia.

We were given a tour of the mosque and had a Q&A session with Imam Ergun. He talked about the different elements and principal beliefs of Islam relevant for the Preliminary and HSC syllabus. The Imam also explained the symbolism behind the rituals of the Muslim ritual of Hajj performed each year before Eid-ul-Azha. Students were given the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Islamic beliefs through this informative session.

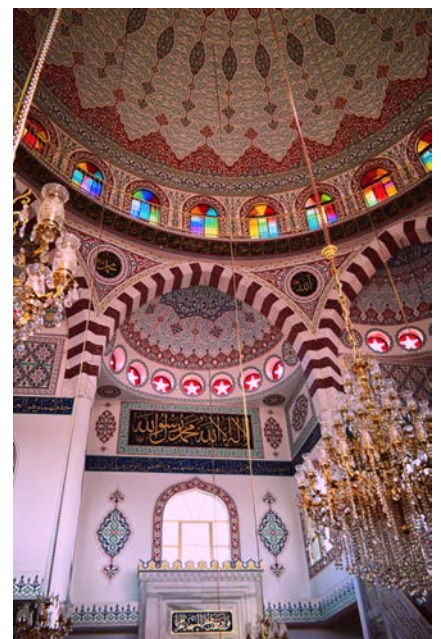
The architecture of the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque was mesmerising, with Quranic verses and Islamic art traditional to Turkey hand-painted on the interior of the mosque. The students also had the opportunity to donate to the Turkey Earthquake Relief Fund which the mosque had organised.

After the excursion the students were dismissed while some stayed back to enjoy the diverse Middle Eastern savoury and dessert food options in Auburn and engage in further discussion with teachers Dean Newbold and Lauren Hasna.

The overall experience was beautiful and informative; coupled with the architecture of the mosque and its rich history the excursion as a success. On behalf of the Studies of Religion cohort we would like to say a big thank you to Lauren, Dean and Ergun for a fantastic excursion.



Above: Ergun explaining various topics such as Hajj and the purpose of Salat and Prayer for Muslim adherents.



Shafia Hasan

Year 12 2023

Geography Excursion

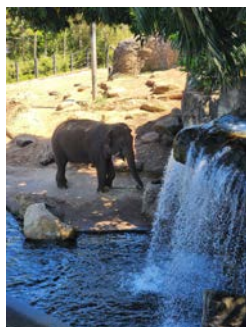
On Thursday 16 March 2023, Year 12 students studying Geography went to Taronga Zoo as part of their study of the HSC syllabus unit "People and Economic Activity".

We were greeted by Austin, a teacher at Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre who ran us through important HSC Geography skills like mapping and vertical exaggeration. We then got to talk to Alex, a teacher who works with Taronga Zoo Sydney. She gave us a run down of how the Zoo functions as a sustainable business and the important conservation work that the Zoo does. Alex also gave us a tour of the "behind the scenes" work that the Zoo does to keep their display animals healthy in order to generate revenue from tourists and the general public.



Students were also shown the Roar and Snore overnight accommodation in the Zoo as well as the wedding/function centre available. This is seen to be another one of the ways the Zoo is able to generate revenue from tourism, with all profits directed back to the conservation efforts of the team at Taronga Zoo Sydney.

Overall, the excursion was a fun and enjoyable experience for all students involved.



Avilash Tharmanesan
Year 12 2023

Creative and Performing Arts

Year 12 Callback Excursion



All Dance students of Year 12 travelled to the Seymour Centre, Chippendale for a Dance **Callback** excursion. **Callback** is the celebration of outstanding talent of students who presented their work as part of the 2022 HSC Dance Practical Examination.

It involves a showcase of amazing dance performances, compositions and films presented by students from across the state and all school systems. The experience gained from this showcase is insightful for HSC Dance students as well as teachers.



Along with the showcase, the day includes Callback's popular HSC Dance workshops. In these workshops students were able to cover practical course components specifically designed to meet the different needs of Year 12 Dance students.



There were three included workshops for this group on Thursday, with a core performance, core composition and a major performance. Before any of the workshops the day began with a Q & A with one of the directors of Dance and students who previously finished their HSC in Dance. These students scored one of the top marks in the state. Students worked in school groups and collaboratively in groups with other schools to share their dance experience.

Pulse Alive 2023 - Dance

In Term 1 Year 11 and Year 12 Dance students got the chance to perform at Pulse Alive 2023. They spent two whole days at Netball Central rehearsing before their evening performance at Ken Rosewall Arena to the songs 'Madhouse' and 'Flyaway.' They also spent some time in class lessons refining these routines. It was a festive night with a huge crowd and live music and singing performances. During the night there were many food stalls livening up the atmosphere. Students and teachers enjoyed this opportunity. A big thank you our teachers for organising this activity and letting students experience an excellent day!

Dee Bishwa
Year 12 2023





Pulse Alive - Choir

In Term 1, Year 12 Music students had the opportunity to perform at Pulse Alive at the Ken Rosewall Arena in Sydney Olympic Park.

Students rehearsed with the combined secondary choir prior to arriving on the day. On the performance day, students were able to sing together for the first time with the mass primary choir, singing through the full show at Quay Centre before joining the remainder of the cast in the arena. SMSHS was proud to be front and centre of the choir.

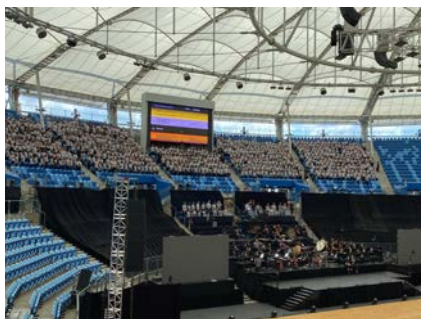


Our students performed to a sold out crowd, singing 16 songs and showing off their best 'choralography.'

Pulse Alive - Featured Performers

In addition to our choir and dancers, we had 6 students represent our school in featured roles.

Congratulations to Prudence Johnson who was a principal artist, Ella Blacker, Emily Baker, Jesmea Benny John and Kendra Cuevas representing the school as part of the Principal Choir and Leila Mamaril in Showband.



In Concert - Preliminary Rehearsal

As is tradition at St Marys Senior High, Year 11 Music students participate in The Arts Unit's Secondary Choral Festival program. This is known as 'In Concert'. Students attend two combined preliminary rehearsals at the Salvation Army Congress Hall before the final performance day at the Sydney Town Hall, where they will meet with the orchestra and guest artists for the first time.

This year's performance is Monday 22 May.



Year 12 AGNSW ARTEXPRESS 2023 and Botanical Gardens Excursion



Above: Students (Shafia Hasan and Isabella Fuentes) sketching in the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens

The annual AGNSW ARTEXPRESS Exhibition celebrates its 40th year showcasing the outstanding works of HSC Visual Arts students. Year 12 2023 Visual Arts students luckily experienced the range of expressive forms, providing insight into the process of producing a creative representation of personal insights and their world in their own Bodies of Work. SMSHS students discovered new ways of expressing their observations, ideas and imagination through their positive engagement with the exhibition learning from past students, inspiring a new found goal for possible selection in 2024.

Following the exhibition was a draw-from-life activity at the Sydney Botanical Gardens. Using nature as their muse, students immersed themselves in the environment to further strengthen their artmaking practice. Students were situated around the gardens to capture the textures, shapes, and colours of their surroundings as a reflective and tranquil end to the day.

As their final Visual Arts excursion, the students of 2023 express their gratitude to Sharon Lang, Adam Bernthaler and Matt Topp for their consistent efforts and support in creating the best opportunities to open our minds within the creative space.

Izabelle Valencia
Year 12 2023



Above: ARTEXPRESS Exhibition 2023

Drama OnSTAGE Excursion

On Friday 10 February the two Year 12 Drama classes (and Erica Loizou from the Year 11 class) attended **OnSTAGE** at the Seymour Centre in Chippendale.

OnSTAGE is a program which celebrates the amazing achievements of select NSW



students who undertake the HSC Drama Course and have been recognised for their exceptional major works of the past HSC year. The program has been running since 2004.

As part of the HSC Drama course students have to create an original performance as well as an individual project which could be anything ranging from a performance, writing a script or designing an aspect of a play such as costuming or lighting. We were able to see many wonderful performances both group and individual as well

as extraordinary design pieces. Moving forward using the knowledge gained from the experience we will now work on creating our own major works. I wish the best of luck to all my peers and I hope to see you all up there next year at OnSTAGE 2024.

Parker Mahoney
Year 12 Drama 2023



The Jazz Camp Experience

THE CAMP AND WHAT I DISCOVERED...

During the first week of 2023, I had the privilege of attending “Jazz Camp” hosted by Jazz Workshop Australia. This was a 5 day camp held in Katoomba where you get an insight on the different facets of the



jazz genre both as a player and as a listener. There were different classes in the camp including, 'Big Band', which had a similar feel to an orchestra with a big emphasis on horns; 'Combo', a smaller ensemble which focused on improvisation, and 'Masterclass', where musicians went to expand their musical vocabulary on their respective instruments. All of these classes were taught by industry giants of the Australian music scene, such as Dr. Saul Richardson, a world renowned jazz educator and guitarist, and John Morrison, a master percussionist and rhythm savant (in the camp, he is known for the phrase “BEMBE!”). For the first three nights of the camp, students got to watch three professional jazz bands of different experience levels perform. The most notable difference between the bands would be how they would interact with each other and how each member would approach improvisation.



WHAT I LEARNED...

After being surrounded by young musicians from all over Australia and getting advice from the best musicians in Australia, I've learned many things. I've learned about how your instrument contributes to the music that you're playing. Tone is a vital part about jazz and it can really affect the outcome of the feeling of the music. I've also learned how to approach improvisation depending on the standard that you're playing over, where your “feel” of the song and your instrument is important. But most of all, I learned how to play and cooperate with musicians who have a completely different skill set than myself. Most of the musicians that I worked with either had a classical background, or were much more experienced in playing jazz than I was. To non verbally communicate with other musicians was a skill that was the most difficult to learn. Though it was difficult, I believe it was the main takeaway from this musical experience.

Drew Parica

Year 12 Music 2023

Year 11 Soiree

Our first showcase of the year went off with a bang, with a sold out audience in the schools multipurpose centre. Our Year 11 music students presented eight songs for their parents and friends, showing off what they had worked on in their first 6 weeks at St Marys. We look forward to our next showcase, Evening of Musical Theatre.



Belvoir St Theatre Archival Viewing

Year 12 Drama students went on an excursion to Belvoir Theatre Company to watch the footage of two archival productions that they are studying for their HSC written examination. Belvoir offers schools the opportunity to view these archives to help the students with writing about the plays in performance to provide experiential evidence in their essay responses. The two plays we watched were *Neighbourhood Watch* by Lally Katz and *Stolen* by Jane Harrison. Both of these texts are studied as part of the core component topic area: Australian Drama and Theatre.

Watching the DVDs allowed the students to pause, discuss and take notes on crucial moments. The theatre staff were very impressed with the level of engagement of our students, as well as their articulate and insightful discussion about the performances and design elements of the production.

Upcoming CAPA Events

Keep an eye out for these upcoming CAPA events in Term 2 2023...

- **Belvoir Street Theatre Workshops** - Year 12 Drama students participate in all day workshops with a professional theatre maker focusing on various components of their HSC studies.
- Performing in **In Concert 2023 (22 May)** - Year 11 Music students will perform with other public school students in the Combined Secondary Schools' Choral Festival at the Sydney Town Hall.
- **Focus On Music (2-4 May)** - Year 12 Music and Year 11 Entertainment students present a program of music to a public audience.
- **Evening of Musical Theatre** - Year 11 Music and Year 11 Entertainment present an evening of musical theatre hits.
- 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.
- **Belvoir Street Theatre Archive Viewing** - Year 12 Drama students view the archival footage of plays they are studying for the HSC Examination.
- **Still Enough Exhibition** - Year 11 Visual Arts students showcase their work in the library.

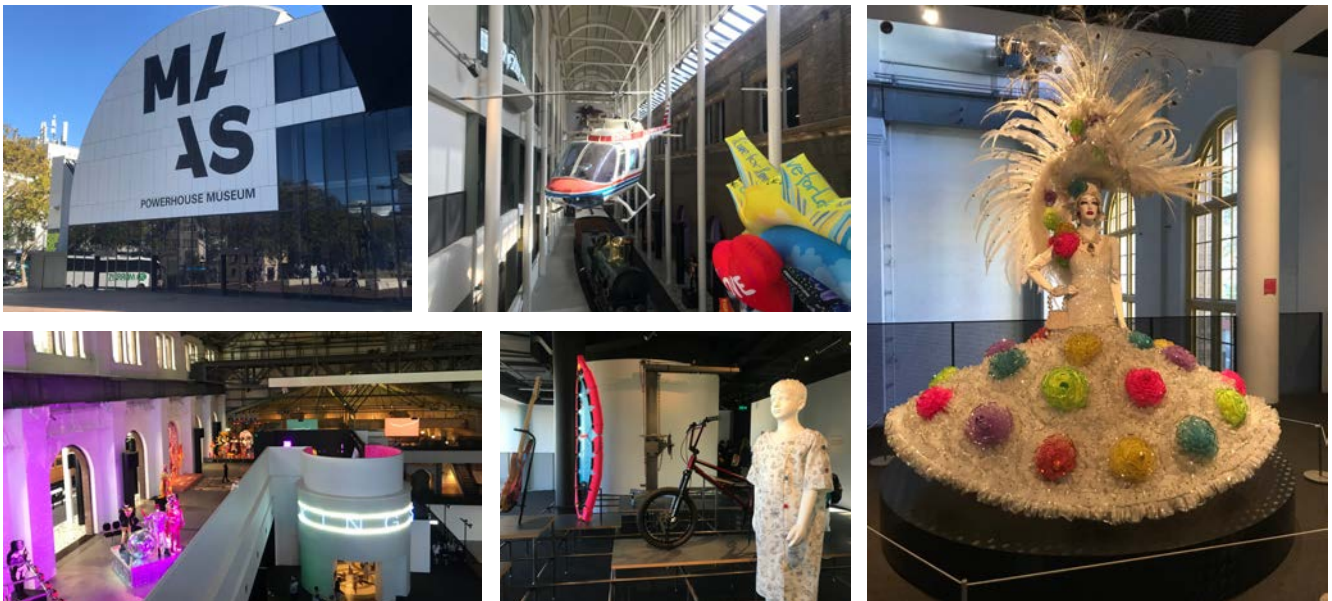
Year 12 Powerhouse Museum Excursion

On Friday 31 March 2023, Year 12 students studying Design and Technology, Multimedia and Textiles visited the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo. Throughout the visit, students had the opportunity to understand the requirements to achieve an outstanding major project as part of their HSC course. It was an informative and fun day to spend with teachers and peers in preparation for major works submissions.

There was an exhibit dedicated to HSC major design projects, where not only were projects on display but QR codes were also provided for the portfolios compiled by past students across Australia. This was an important part of the museum for students to engage with, as it was a clear demonstration of what is to be expected by final submissions. Course outcomes the excursion assisted students to address included:

- Student identifies a need or opportunity and researches and explores ideas for design development and production of the major design project
- Student selects and uses resources responsibly and safely to realise a quality major design project

It was overall a great day to gain insight into innovations within and beyond the HSC course as students had the opportunity to explore numerous exhibits in the museum that assisted with their major works development and personal interests.



Photographs by Anthony Fava.

Anthony Fava

Year 12 2023

Year 12 Multiplex Jump Start Program



Above: Multiplex Jump Start Workshop, photograph provided by Multiplex

On Wednesday 29 March, we saw the launch of the six-session Multiplex Jumpstart Program for female students studying in Year 10 to 12, introducing and encouraging them into the various fields of the built environment. Some of our Year 12 students: Cheriedan Arias, Zaynab Ata, Stephanie Ishac, Georgia McQuillan, Sumayyah Qamar, Princess Torralba and Izabelle Valencia were selected in this program and have enrolled to complete the mentorship program. The initial phase saw our students undertaking a tour and introductory workshop at the once-in-a-generation infrastructure project; Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport construction site.



The Jump Start program was introduced to provide a unique, first-hand experience for female high-school students in the construction industry and the opportunity to take site walks on a Multiplex city-changing project. This program's incentive is to broaden assumptions and knowledge of the construction industry, develop personal skills and to connect students with industry professionals within a like-minded environment. This was certainly accomplished for the SMSHS students on the completion of their first session.

Above: Year 12 students (from left to right); Summayyah Qamar, Zaynab Ata, Izabelle Valencia, Cheriedan Arias, Princess Torralba, Stephanie Ishac and Georgia McQuillan

Our students would like to express their gratitude to Jeff Larsen in providing this opportunity for our Year 12 2023 students, and for his work and efforts in and outside the classroom.

Izabelle Valencia

Year 12 2023

Over the course of Term 1, students have had the opportunity to gain insight into a variety of post-graduation opportunities. We were fortunate enough to be visited by volunteers from universities and colleges from across Australia, who supplied a range of informative sources about their campuses. Our "Careers gazebos" included:

- Charles Sturt University (Wednesday 8 February)
- University of Sydney (Wednesday 22 February)
- Macquarie University (Wednesday 1 March)
- Western Sydney University (Wednesday 8 March)
- TAFE NSW (Wednesday 15 March)
- University of Wollongong (Wednesday 29 March)
- The Australian National University (Wednesday 5 April)

Visitors were more than happy to answer and discuss any questions students had about the courses they offer and courses they recommend to satisfy both career requirements and skill potential. Presentations were also set up in the Media Room, where early entry opportunities and requirements were outlined and discussed.

This information is still available to students who seek more information or missed out on the gazebos and presentations on the university's websites. Another website our Careers Adviser, Cheryll Ruskin, recommends students explore is JobJump. This website assists students to explore a variety of careers and even helps to develop your resume. This website, along with a variety of other tools can be explored on the Careers LearnPath Guide, accessible through the 'My School Library' link in your Student Portal.



Photographs taken from 'Opportunity Knocks at SMSHS' Instagram page.

Anthony Fava
Year 12 2023

Swimming Carnival

On Friday 10 February, the whole school attended Ripples Swimming Centre in St Marys for the Annual Swimming Carnival. Students turned out in numbers to participate in a range of novelty and competitive swimming events, with Matthew Topp (TAS Faculty Head Teacher) and Dean Newbold providing commentary on the day at the loud speaker.

On top of the competitive and novelty racing events, cluster chants also took place, with Cluster 2 winning the Cluster chants competition. The overall winners on the day were:

Cluster Results –

1st Cluster 3

2nd Cluster 8

3rd Cluster 2

4th Cluster 5

5th Cluster 6

6th Cluster 7

Age Champion

16 Years Female

Maya Bailey

16 Years Male

Alejandro Gacis-Cusay

17 Years Female

Darcy Hollingworth

17 Years Male

Talan Quinn

Runner Up

Scarlett Hepper

Alexandra Fleming

Declan Banks

Congratulations to our record breakers -

Talan Quinn - 17 Years Male 100m Breastroke 1.21.45

Darcy Hollingworth - 17 Years Female 100m Breastroke 1.22.22



Avilash Tharmanesan

Year 12 2023

Sports Updates!

----Headline events----

This term we have had many sporting events, highlighting the amazing athletes within our community such as.....

- Swimming Carnival
- Volleyball (our girls team being named undefeated Werrington Zone champions)
- Basketball, congratulations to our girls, and boys for being zone Champions
- Grace Robison for her achievement in the Australian Weightlifting Federation's Performance
- The boys soccer
- Touch football
- Girls netball
- Zone swimming

And many more! We congratulate all the individual and group sports that has happened this term that we were unable to fit in this already amazing list. We also want to thank all the teachers who has given up time to help our students, you guys have truly been amazing. We cannot wait to see where next term takes us.

Madeline Ubera & Patricia Nashed
Year 12 2023

SMSHS Open Evening

On Friday 31 March, St Marys Senior held the annual open evening.

Current students and staff worked with prospective applicants and their families in many activities around the school. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the school while learning more about subject areas, extracurricular opportunities and the experience of the senior years at St Marys Senior High School



What they told us....

as interviewed by Madeline Ubera

Attendee Opinions

- Attendees appreciated the respect between students and teachers.
- They liked the welcoming atmosphere and intriguing student clubs.
- The open night was very effective in interesting attendees to apply.
- Attendees loved the unique subjects offered.

Student Representatives Opinions

- Engagement: Students of the engagement faculty managed and informed attendees about library programs. This experience made for interesting conversations with attendees - and even parents!
- Clubs: The students representing the Anime and Manga club were interested to find that parents were also interested in their stall content. Overall, Club members enjoyed engaging with attendees and advertising their clubs to improve skills.
- TAS: The students enjoyed seeing the various students and the similar interests they shared.

Overall, the students believed that the opportunity allowed for improved leadership, marketing and communication skills which will help them in further education and careers.

Our Faculty feedback

- Science: Biology teacher Chris enjoyed meeting new students and telling them about the facilities available as well as the challenging but fun things about Science subjects.
- TAS: Engineering teacher Subhas liked that the female interest in engineering was increasing. He enjoyed how students helped each other out throughout Open Evening.
- Deputy Leah Havord & Head of Secondary Studies Lucas Widdison - Found the atmosphere welcoming as all students and attendees were eager, helpful and proud to represent St Marys.

We want to thank all the student leaders for their amazing role in helping the night be both smooth and engaging.



Ayesha Tayyab & Madeline Ubera
Year 12 2023

Blackboard art by: Mathew Garbo & Michelle Augustine
Photo credits: Joshua Cinco & Ayesha Tayyab

Our Staff Teams

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Council President:	Sonia Matthews
School Captains:	Charlotte Brown Destiny Sione
School Executive:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Leah Havord
- Deputy Principal (Year 11)	Danielle Ervine
- English	Julie Robinson
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science (Rel)	Andrew Mabey
- 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 11, Surnames A-G	Sussan Allaou
- Year 11, Surnames H-O	Wendi Kambolli
- Year 11, Surnames P-Z	Luigi Serra
- Year 12, Surnames A-G	Adam Bernthaler
- Year 12, Surnames H-O	Lauren Hasna
- Year 12, 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)
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