

SOUTH CREEK - TERM 2



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 2 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.

As you will see in this edition of South Creek, Term Two is a busy term in the classroom as well as outside the classroom with whole school activities and a range of extra-curricular activities. These rich experiences provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the work completed within the classroom as well as developing opportunities to acquire other skills that are so important for life after school.

Our school is intensely focussed on playing our part in developing healthy young people who have a sense of humour, are kind, loyal, tenacious, have a sense of camaraderie and high self-esteem. When these fundamental ingredients are present, learning can flourish.

I hope you enjoy this edition of South Creek as you explore the achievements of our students.

Sally Smithard
Principal

ANZAC Day 2023

On Tuesday 25 April, an ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held at the St Marys Diggers Club. School Captain Charlotte Brown, School Vice Captain Kayla Buen and Cluster 7 SRC Leader Jaycee Manaloto attended the 5:00 am service, where they had the opportunity to represent our school in remembering and thanking all who have fought for our country. Surrounded by the local community, they heard personal stories about people's experiences during the war, as serving and ex-serving personnel were welcomed by the St Marys RSL Sub Branch with their families. Schools also took the lead in saying prayers and a minute of silence was held after the Ode and Last Post. At the conclusion of the service, community members and groups were called upon to lay their wreaths, this being a way of remembering the lost lives of Australians.



Above: Year 12 leaders (from left to right) Jaycee Manaloto, Charlotte Brown and Kayla Buen at the Anzac Day Dawn Service (photograph provided by the 'stmaryssenior' Instagram page).



Above: Students and staff gathered at the school ANZAC Ceremony (photograph provided by the 'stmaryssenior' Instagram page).

shaping our country. After some additional speeches from Year 12 History students, the school flags were raised, a minute of silence was held, and the National Anthem was played as the ceremony concluded. A special thanks for the contributions of the St Marys RSL Sub Branch, HSIE Faculty, CAPA Faculty and student leaders, as this morning would not have been possible without them.

Anthony Fava
Year 12 2023

Following ANZAC Day on Wednesday 26 April, a school ceremony was held to commemorate Australia's history. The St Marys Senior High School community was delighted to welcome Steve Tolsher as a guest speaker. As the current Vice President of the St Marys RSL Sub Branch, Steve shared his experiences in the Vietnam War, enabling us to acknowledge the significance of war's contribution in

Student Leadership Conference



On Thursday 4 and Friday 5 May 2023, 53 student leaders from the Student Representative Council (SRC), the Sports Leaders Team and leaders from a variety of student led clubs attended the St Marys Senior High School (SMSHS) Student Leadership Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to offer our school leaders the opportunity to participate in workshops to develop their leadership skills. The students attended presentations, planned for upcoming whole school activities and participated in team building activities.



On Thursday, the first day of the conference, Kathryn Taylor from Turning Point Consulting attended the school to present to our student leaders. Students were provided with an opportunity to learn about leadership, their strengths, personal behavioural choices, impactful communication and leadership in action. Students also completed a motivational profile to help determine what predominantly motivates them as leaders. The students were provided with a copy of their report and Kathryn helped them to understand their results.

Students were provided with snacks for recess, and pizza for lunch!



Pictured: Charlotte Brown. Destiny Sione, Aadhi Senthil Kumar and Kayla Buen

On Friday, the second day of the conference, the student leaders engaged in a range of activities. Firstly, our School Captains, Destiny Sione and Charlotte Brown, and Vice Captains, Aadhi Senthil Kumar and Kayla Buen, presented to their student leader peers. In March 2023, Destiny, Charlotte, Aadhi and Kayla attended the Secondary Youth Leadership Conference. They collated the most important information from the conference they attended, and presented this to our student leaders. Our Captains and Vice Captains also included a fun trivia activity for their peers.

After this, our student leaders boarded a bus to further nourish their leadership and team working skills at TruNinja in Penrith. This bus ride and waiting for TruNinja to open, opened a door to another team-building activity - singing and dancing to the students favourite tunes!

Once the doors to TruNinja opened, students engaged in a variety of physically demanding obstacle courses. School staff observed students motivate each other, provide constructive support and demonstrate personal grit - seriously, our leaders did not give up!



Pictured: Daanish Ahmed, Rojin Altun, Allayna Anna Sachin, Liza Anwar, Michelle Augustine, Raimely Bojo, Charlotte Brown, Kayla Buen, Jade Cabrera, Matthew Carino, Joshua Cinco, Ankon Dam, Christine De Laza, Charlize Dela Torre, Beatrix Favor, Carlos Garcia, Adiyat Hasan, Lily Hobson, Ishita Ishita, Farzana Kazi, Melos Kebede, Sethumi Kodippili, Kloe Lane, Darnia Mah, Amna Malik, Jaycee Manaloto, Ziyen Mansuri, Makaila Marquez, Jenella Mendoza, Theodora Michael, Bryon Murphy, Adhisha Packeer, Kriti Pandey, Dane Parica, Drew Parica, Sumayyah Qamar, Safin Rahim, Delwyn Roy, Jasmine Sabaten, Rene Sarraj, Aadhi Senthil Kumar, Aydin Shah, Destiny Sione, Hannah Sluyter, Zopiah Sulangi, Princess Torralba, Koray Vasfi, Angel Wong



After some serious sweat, the students leaders and staff walked over to Rashays for a delicious lunch. During lunch, our student leaders had an opportunity to get to know each other in a less formal setting.

With our bellies full, we hopped back on the bus to finish our day with a solid whole school activities planning session for Heritage Day, which will take place later this term. Students in the SRC went into their Cluster groups. Sports leaders worked together, as did the student interest group/club leaders. Following some thorough conversations, our leaders came back together to discuss Heritage Day activities together, and determine which activities would be the main priorities moving forward.



Overall, we found the SMSHS Leadership conference to be an interactive and important activity to boost leadership skills and leader collaboration within our school. Leaders were able to shine in their own individual ways, and learn how to motivate themselves and others. We look forward to organising and engaging in further leadership development at our school, and would like to thank our student leaders for actively participating in this conference.

Kerri-Anne Brown & Surmeet Kaur
SRC Advisers

Our Students in the Community



Prefect Afternoon Teas

During Term 2 members of the Student Representative Council were invited to attend a number of Prefect Afternoon Teas hosted by high schools in the Sydney region. At these events the students had the opportunity to network with other student leaders.

*L - Aryan Datta & Jahanzeb Rana at Macarthur Girls High School
R - Jahanzeb Rana & Jaycee Manaloto at Burwood Girls High School*

The students made their own way to these events and actively participated in the activities coordinated by the Captains and Prefects at the host school. The students were admirable representatives of St Marys Senior High School and enjoyed meeting other student leaders. Our students are looking forward to hosting their own student leaders afternoon tea later this term.

Secondary School Leaders Reception

On 12 May our School Captains, Charlotte Brown and Destiny Sione, attended the Secondary School Leaders Reception at Penrith Council. The Captains were presented with certificates by Mayor Tricia Hitchens recognising their amazing contributions to our school and community.



Proudly Public 2023 Awards

Zoe El-Chami and Yasmeen Qurbani of Year 12 were the proud recipients of Public Education Foundation Awards. The awards ceremony took place on May 29 where Zoe was presented with the Unions Jeff Shaw Memorial Scholarship and Yasmeen was presented with the Friends of Zainab Scholarship.

Congratulations to Zoe and Yasmeen on these wonderful achievements!



An Eventful Term...



The Student Representative Council (SRC) were very excited to host a school disco this term at St Marys Band Club. This event was a fundraiser for the SRC and raised valuable funds to support activities, such as Heritage Day which will take place later this term.

All the students who attended had a wonderful time. Special mention must go to Charlotte Brown and Destiny Sione, who coordinated a number of games and activities, in between the dancing, which kept everyone engaged and led to a great night.



Reconciliation Week



What reconciliation means to us:

- Acknowledging our past
- Community and unity
- Acknowledging those who have been disadvantaged in the past
- Reclaiming historic Identity and Culture



SORRY DAY & DEADLY FRIDAY

National Reconciliation Week was adopted nationally in 1996 and it is a time dedicated to celebrating the country's First Australian's history and culture which has existed for tens of thousands of years. National Reconciliation Week aims to promote discussion and activities which lead to reconciliation and acknowledgment.

At St Marys Senior High School during Cluster the students worked on the Hearts for Reconciliation Project. The beautiful artworks were hung around the school for Reconciliation Week.



On Friday 2 June the students wore red, yellow, black, white, blue and green to school for Deadly Friday. The mufti day was a fundraiser for the charity, Deadly Connections. This is an Aboriginal lead, not-for-profit organisation which promotes forming connections amongst communities to break the trend of disadvantage.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser and participated in the activities for Reconciliation Week.



Dee Bishwa & Ayesha Tayyab
Year 12 2023

"Be a voice for generations."

Book Week 2023

Read, Grow, Inspire!



Book Week at St Marys Senior High School was a day to celebrate literature, as well as multimedia. Through the theme, students were encouraged to be inspired by authors, both established and aspiring while also using their reading to grow personally and inspire others.

This day commemorated worlds beyond ours while also emphasising the importance of non-fiction works and those books based on important issues surrounding our society.

Overall, many characters were brought to life in colourful costumes by our confident students.

Pictured are some of the great prize winning costumes from the best dressed competition, which was hosted by the Library Leaders.



The book character mufti day also raised funds for the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation who assist people in Australia's marginalised communities to gain vital language, literacy and communication skills.



As part of Book Week, students also had the opportunity to participate in a bookmark competition. Students were encouraged to design a bookmark based on the theme "READ, GROW, INSPIRE!" and submit a hard copy of their designs for a chance to win a prize pack. It was a difficult decision to pick a winner as many unique and creative designs were submitted to the competition. Congratulations to the winner, Malikah Shameem. Copies of the prize winning bookmark are available for collection in the library when you borrow your books.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the activities for book week.

Wareesha Nadeem & Ayesha Tayyab
Year 12 2023

**"A book is a gift you can open again and again."
Garrison Keillor**



ValYou Day

Wednesday 28 June 2023 saw FATFISH, one of our student run clubs host it's annual ValYou Day, where we recognised and showed appreciation for those around us and ourselves especially, and everything that has led us to who we are now. Students were encouraged to wear blue on the day in support of the charity, Beyond Blue. With the help of the SRC team, the CAF and MPC were decorated in the theme for the day.



Through ValYou Day, FATFISH raised \$380. All donations from the mufti day went to Beyond Blue, an organisation that supports those struggling with mental health through counselling and 24/7 support.

ValYOU Day aims to increase inclusivity and recognise the environment around us and what the students value, such as independence, family and friends. FATFISH achieved this through the creation of 700 goodie bags, which were given out for free and a wonderful lunchtime concert within the MPC!

On behalf of FATFISH, thank you to everyone who helped to plan and prepare for this day and to everyone who donated and participated in the activities.



Avilash Tharmanesan & Joshua Cinco

Year 12 2023

Creative and Performing Arts



David Miguel, Gabriel

Focus On Music

Focus on Music is an annual showcase presented by the Year 12 Music cohort. This showcase demonstrates half of their Higher School Certificate program for a public audience.

This year, we presented three, two hour concerts. These concerts were a true reflection of our students dedication to their craft.



FR: Farrell, Kendra, Paula, Phoebe, Erica,
David, Gabriel, John
BR: Azaliah, Jazmine, Sasi



FR: Jay, Rexie, Ericka, Angelina, Emily,
Kassandra, Yeasong, Marica, Jesmea, Bianca
BR: Anjel, Leon, Jordan, Hale, Prudence



Ferdinand, Hale, Kenrick, Joshua, Christian,
Carlos, Andrei, Jethro, Hamdan, Rafael,
Makaila

Evening of Musical Theatre

Evening of Musical Theatre is a long running tradition at St Marys Senior High School. This showcase began in the year 2000 with the then new syllabus and has continued to be a crucial element of the Music course and a highlight for many of our alumni, especially those who come back to watch every year!

This showcase challenges our Year 11 Music students to learn music in a new style, undertake the audition process as both the performer and panel, through to directing, choreographing and blocking each number, which is then presented at the end of the term to a public audience. Each of these steps are introduced and demonstrated then students are guided as they gain confidence. The students gain experience in collaboration, leadership and ownership over their own learning and development.

This year's showcase was a sellout, seeing 200 people attend the show. We were supported by the amazing Hospitality team who catered the event.

Check out some photos from the event on the next page.

Creative and Performing Arts



Creative and Performing Arts



Lunch Concerts

Lunch Concerts have continued in Term 2. Our Year 11 students are now stepping up to the microphone and showing the cohort what they can do. These concerts take place under the COLA (covered outdoor learning area) each Wednesday as an opportunity for Music students to develop their performance skills set.

In Concert - Secondary Choral Festival



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 meet with the orchestra and guest artists for the first time.



Our Year 11 Music students represented St Marys and performed well. Led by conductor Elizabeth Scott, our students performed movements from Carmina Burana and works from Australian composers. In addition to this, they also performed with Australian artist Kate Miller-Heidke. The students commented how wonderful it was to perform in such a large choir with orchestra. A highlight from the day was the demonstration of the Grand Organ, played by David Drury.



Creative and Performing Arts

Taiko Drumming - The Arts Unit

The program educated students in Japanese taiko style drumming techniques, and was led by the experienced tutor Graham Hilgendorf, director of YuNiOn. During these active and engaging one day workshops students learnt about the taiko, playing in an ensemble and simple music arrangements, which culminate in performance work.

Our students who attended this one day session have also been accepted into the Schools Spectacular as part of the Taiko Drumming item.



Taiko Drumming - St Marys Session



As part of the Arts Resilience program, St Marys was able to run two sessions of Taiko Drumming in the MPC for our Music and Japanese students.

The wonderful team from YuNiOn led these highly engaging sessions. The students enjoyed every minute and couldn't stop smiling!

Our students who attended the session with the Arts Unit led the way and encouraged their peers.



Art News!

If you missed Isabella Pelle's work in ARTEXPRESS at Homebush last term, don't panic! You can still see her work on show at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre until the 16 July.



Year 11 Visual Arts

Term 2 has been a big term for our Year 11 Visual Arts students, starting with their still life artworks in the library exhibition "Still Enough", and coming soon to the library this term their "Identity" exhibition and later in the term their annual installations around the school grounds.



National Art School

The Dobell Drawing School offers an opportunity for Year 11 Visual Art students from government high schools in Sydney's west, south-west and nominated regional areas, to participate in one of five workshops including Drawing the Nude, Portrait Drawing, Drawing the Clothed Model, Objective Drawing and Experimental Drawing. Lucas Galea and Katie Astley 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 Kayla Leach and Lucas Galea who went through the application process for the HSC Intensive Studio Practice Program, which requires students to submit a portfolio of their selected works. A big congratulations to Lucas who has been accepted into the HSC program which is also offered through the National Art School. We can't wait to see what amazing work will be produced and the amazing opportunity he will have.



Year 12 Visual Arts

Year 12 Visual Arts students have been working hard on their Body of Work and we wish to invite family and friends to celebrate the completion of their major projects and the success of their labours at the Annual HSC Visual Arts Body of Work Exhibition. So, put it in your calendar for Thursday 24 August. The doors will open at 6:30pm and more information will be available in our school newsletter.



St Marys Senior High

V I S U A L A R T S 2023 HSC Exhibition

TRIGONIS
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ET C



Thursday 24 August
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
in the MPC

Belvoir St Theatre Workshops

At the beginning of Term 2, Belvoir St Theatre Company provided SMSHS Drama students with a day of workshops to enhance our skills and prepare us for the HSC in Drama. There were two focuses for the day - collaboration and creating in groups plus a close study through experiential learning of one of texts set for study, ***The Lieutenant of Inishmore*** by Martin McDonagh.

The Belvoir St Theatre workshop was a profoundly amazing, once in a lifetime experience in which St Marys Senior High School's Year 12 Drama students were instructed about the elements of dramatic theatre and performance from a skilled actor Patrick. We have been to the illustrious institution that is Belvoir St Theatre more times than I count, but there is a particular appreciation for the art when the members of that facility take time to come to you.



The most memorable part of the extensive practices we had undergone was the 'snapshot emotions' split into three groups of five. My peers morphed themselves into symbols of emotions or action words creating interesting and inquisitive imagery. We were able to utilise techniques that created strong group ensemble work, learning to work malleably together with everyone working collaboratively. Through a series of different activities we learned important skills that are integral to the Drama coursework and our assessments.

All students from Year 12 Drama highly appreciated the experience and I hope this practice can continue for the future Year 12 Drama students.

Prudence Johnson and Kloe Lane



State Drama Camp

State Drama Camp proved to be a life-changing experience, a world where creativity and self-expression merged seamlessly. Held at The Collaroy Centre, this 4 day experience allowed all participants to escape everyday life, and truly work hard in order to have a taste of what life can be like working in the professional world of what we know and love - Drama!

Pulling up to the Capitol Theatre with suitcases and bags in hand felt a different kind of reality. There was a mix of excitement and nerves that washed over all of us. Uncertain about what may lay ahead, it was unusual to encounter a diverse group of fellow campers, all united by a shared passion for storytelling and drive for their passions, much like my own.



Beauty and the Beast The Musical at the Capitol Theatre was a mesmerising spectacle of enchantment and emotion. The timeless tale came to life through captivating performances, breathtaking sets, and dazzling costumes, especially the classic yellow dress (formal dress GOALS!!). The cast's extraordinary talent, coupled with the familiar melodies, had the audience spellbound from start to finish. The show flawlessly captured the essence of the classic story, evoking nostalgia while adding its unique charm. The seamless blend of romance, humour, and heartwarming moments left a lasting impression on all who witnessed this magical production. Overall, the entire production made our Disney dreams come true, and for a bunch of drama and theatre nerds, this was the perfect way to start off our camp, feed our inspiration to make the most of this camp.

We would start off the day in our group performance teams, designed to make an HSC group devised drama piece (which usually takes 12 weeks) in the span of around 6 hours collectively. To say it was a challenge would be an understatement! I cannot begin to express the dedication that every single member in each group had to put in to make the performances of such high quality. It felt so refreshing to see everyone working as a team and as hard as each other, in order to perform our pieces not only to other groups, but to the younger years to inspire them to work hard!

The next part of our days were workshops! The camp's workshops and exercises became the core of the experience. Each day was a whirlwind of acting techniques, improvisation games, and characterisation creation. We explored different roles, delved into emotions, and discovered facets of ourselves we hadn't known before. There were many different workshops to choose from, including Laban, Frantic Assembly, improvisation, creating a Character, performance, shaping the Individual Project Performance, script analysis, Stanislavski, set design, physical theatre and more.

Creative and Performing Arts

We then got the amazing opportunity to work with industry professionals in a full day extensive workshop. I chose Jay Laga'aia's workshop in acting skills. In this workshop, Jay acted as a mirror, revealing our innermost selves. As we dived into diverse characters, we confronted our fears and insecurities. This process of introspection encouraged us to embrace vulnerability and authenticity.



The next workshop I chose was "IP script" with Andrew Benson. In this course we learned that through portraying various characters, empathy blossomed within us. We gained insight into different perspectives, cultivating compassion and understanding. State Drama Camp taught us the power of connecting with others through storytelling.

As the final day of camp approached, I realised the impact it had on my self confidence in working with the profession. The newfound passion for the performing arts, the lifelong friendships, yummy food, and the lessons learned became an integral part of my journey. State Drama Camp instilled a sense of fearlessness and an appreciation for creativity that I will carry with me in all aspects of life. The magic of drama camp will forever hold a special place in my heart, a cherished memory that I carry with me as I step confidently into the spotlight of my own life's stage.

Erica Loizou, Year 11 Drama

Upcoming CAPA Events

Keep an eye out for these upcoming CAPA events in Term 3 2023...

- **HSC Drama Showcase Evenings** - Year 12 Drama students will be presenting their HSC Group Performances and Individual Performances over two evenings in Week 2 - Thursday 27 July (Line 1) & Friday 28 July (Line 3).
- **HSC Visual Arts Exhibition** - Year 12 Visual Arts students will exhibit their Bodies of Work in the MPC in Week 6.
- **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.

こんにちは! As the clock continues to tick away on Year 12's time at St Marys, our Japanese Beginners students were able to enjoy a fantastic day in the city, immersing themselves in Japanese culture. Rosa Sensei (先生) generously supervised a memorable excursion to the Japan Foundation located in the heart of Sydney, where we participated in a variety of fun activities ranging from learning about the Japanese 'matsuri' (まつり) festivals and the summer attire called 'yukata' (ゆかた) to getting to participate in the festival games while wearing the yukata as well! That is not all! As we made our way to the nearby Galleries shopping centre to purchase books from the Japanese bookstore Kinokuniya (きのくにや) with a 20% school discount!!

We began the day in the early morning, shivering from the cold on the train station platform before boarding the very last carriage headed to the newly facelifted Central Station. We then all met Rosa at the concourse, but not before our cohort split up, making the second group a few minutes late! From there, we all walked to the Japan Foundation in Ultimo where we used the cool-looking elevators to get to the top floor, and this is when all the fun began.



*Back: Amberskye Ramos, Andrea Batula, Eva Tee, Julayah Felizardo, Dominique Olesco, Angel Wong, Kendra Cuevas,
Front: Yeasong Park, Raihaana Hermawan, Devinas Ofahaegaue, Nancy Ren, Crystal Liu*



*Back: Muwaahid Chowdhury, Ali Haider, Benedict Macapagal, Raven Diola, Isaiah Banguis, Mhac Dolores, Shahmir Hashim, Marcus Chiu, Zenric Gamlanga,
Front: Bryon Murphy, Sunny Grover, Matthew Carino, Matt Jayona*

We sat in a room with different game stations all around us, none of us were sure what to make of them yet. Of course, our eyes were drawn to the front where the beautiful yukata were hung, making us anxious to try them on. But first, we were educated on the culture, traditions and meaning behind the matsuri, learning about new words and their translations, and most fun of all, the different fortunes you could receive! There was a huge fortune (大吉) which I luckily managed to get! But also the good, regular, bad and infamously unlucky fortunes as well. We were taught the meaning behind the yukata: a robe-like garment worn in the Summer as a cheaper alternative to the Winter kimono, mainly worn to hot springs (おんせん) and of course, Japanese festivals!! Now, we were able to begin what we were all anticipating...

The girls dressed in the brightly-coloured and cheery-patterned yukata first, and then it was the boys' turn to wear the darker, more dramatic-patterned yukata. Even though it was hilariously difficult trying to figure out how to properly dress, it was one of the highlights of the day. With everyone wearing their cultural dress, we commenced the different festival games. There was one where you had to scoop balloons out of a bowl of water with a paper net, which was not easy! There was a game where you had to shoot the balls in the box with small square-shaped holes from afar, which was also not easy, and many more! But sadly, before we knew it, our time at the Japan Foundation had reached its end. We counted up all of the tokens we won from the games, removed our yukata and farewelled the kind and generous workers.



Now was the difficult part: walking to the Galleries from Ultimo! (It was only a ~10-minute walk). Eventually, we made it there and although a lot of us got sidetracked getting different food and stationery from Muji, we were able to shop for our discounted books at my personal favourite bookstore: Kinokuniya!! After almost an hour of students scrambling around the store deciding what books we wanted to buy, we all made our choices and took full advantage of that 20%.

Ultimately, the Japanese Cultural Day was an incredible experience adding to our final chapter of schooling, and we all thank Rosa Sensei, the LOTE Faculty, the Japan Foundation and Kinokuniya for all coming together to make such a phenomenal day for us, ありがとうございました!!

Bryon Murphy

Year 12 2023

French Speaking Workshop

Students from the Year 11 and Year 12 French Beginners classes attended a French speaking workshop at the Alliance Française de Sydney on Wednesday 14 June.

The students had the opportunity to interact with the presenter in French on a range of topics in preparation for their oral assessment tasks.

Following the workshops the students enjoyed a tasty lunch at the café and we then visited Abbey's Language Bookshop. The students were impressed by the range of resources available in French, including fiction books, films and grammar texts.



Pictured: Rasika Rezwan, Raphaella Garcia, Sara Al Makdissi, Charlotte Robertson, Jermaine Walmsley



Pictured: Theodora Michael, Kiana Love, Leila Mamaril, Caitlyn Singh, Rexie Querubin



We finished our day with a dessert treat of a macaron from La Belle Miette in the QVB. All the students enjoyed utilising their French and exploring areas where they could experience French culture in Sydney.

Kerri-Anne Brown
French Teacher



Korean Excursion Journal

On 26 June, our Year 12 Korean Beginners took part in the Korean Cultural Day organised by the Korean Hana Centre. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the lovely Korean teachers who would guide us throughout the day and lead the activities we were going to participate in. Our class began by being split into teams: 만세 (Cheer), 평화 (Peace), 의리 (Friendship) & 자유 (Freedom). From there, we were tasked to create a team cheer and show it to the class. After the team cheer, it was time for us to wear traditional Korean clothing 'Hanbok' and do a fashion parade. Because we were such a large cohort, we went group by group. The groups that were waiting for their turn to wear Hanboks, played charades in Korean.

After the fashion parade, in groups we were able to play traditional Korean games. My group played 비석치기 (Biseokchigi): a game where a person uses their body parts to throw a wooden block to try to knock down four other blocks. It was quite challenging for all of us, but it was really funny seeing everyone's attempts. After that, we went outside to play 제기차기 (Jegichagi): a game where players kick a shuttlecock like object made from paper into the air and attempt to keep it up. This game was also quite challenging since most of us couldn't keep it up after 3 kicks, but it was really fun! Other groups played another game, 투호 (arrow game): where a person has 5 arrows and has to throw them into a cylinder from a distance!

After the games, we had recess. We had warm tea and 뽕튀기 (Puffy rice cracker), which was perfect for the cold weather! After our small break, we went to our next activity. We had a dance challenge! As a group, we created a music video from GD's song 'Crayon'. We put all our energy into creating the video and performing in front of our teachers. It was a fun and enjoyable experience! Shortly after, we were able rest and eat our lunch which consisted of a variety of delicious Korean foods and side dishes.

Finally, after lunch we practiced our Korean speaking skills with our Korean teachers for 5 minutes to help us practice for our speaking assessment and for our HSC speaking exam in August. This gave us all an insight into the examination process and allowed us to practice our Korean speaking skills. We decorated eco-friendly bags while we waited for our turn to speak. After that, we said our goodbyes and headed home.

Overall, the Korean Cultural Day was an insightful and memorable experience for us. We were able to enhance our Korean skills and learn more about the culture while also being able to bond together as two classes. We will cherish and use this experience to help us with our future Korean studies.



Pictured: L-R Phoenix Weizel, Shriya Singh, Alexia Bellino, Bhoomika Bhoomika, Catriona Forneste, Zenric Gamlanga, Makaila Marquez, Lance Aguilar



Pictured: L-R Ferdinand Cordoba, Elaiza Estanislao, Jodi Sagum, James Que, Azaliah Suyu, Francis Dominguez



Pictured: L-R Eva Tee, Shizuka (Maya) Iwatani, Elaijan (EJ) Palmaera, Leon Sta Elena, Joshua Cinco, Emerald Tint, Jennie Lazo



Pictured: L-R Maahee Desai, Tinashe Chawira, Richel Espiritu, Edric Certeza, Gabe (Lexie) Fernandez, Andrea Ang, Kiran Roy



Jodi Sagum
Year 12 2023

On Thursday 29 June, Year 12 Physics students visited Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). This excursion was dedicated to the covering of outcomes which are part of the HSC course in 'Module 7: The Nature of Light' and 'Module 8: From the Universe to the Atom'. Completing a depth study booklet throughout the day, the Lucas Heights landmark gave students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of physics principles that are crucial to comprehend for upcoming examinations.



Above: The exterior of the OPAL Research Reactor facility (photograph provided by 'ansto.gov.au').

Students and teachers were greeted by staff before being split into groups and taken for an informative on-site tour about the types of facilities available and what they're utilised for. Facilities included:

- The OPAL research reactor that is used for achieving beneficial breakthroughs in human health, environmental sustainability and innovative solutions for industry.
- The Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering that is used to determine the internal structure of many types of materials for tailoring new materials, devices and systems.
- The Mo-99 Nuclear Medicine Facility that is used to ensure the long-term sustainability of Molybdenum-99 supply in Australia.
- The Centre for Accelerator Science that is used for environmental studies, climate studies, space technology testing and quantum materials fabrication.

Students attended a presentation at the end of the day in ANSTO's Discovery Centre, which involved numerous experiments as a more engaging and fun way for individuals to comprehend important course content. It was overall a very interesting, informative and enjoyable day to spend with peers and teachers as we all draw near to our final examinations. A special thanks to the Science Faculty for organising the day and ANSTO for welcoming everyone onto their campus, as this day wouldn't have been possible without them.



Above: ANSTO Lucas Heights campus (photograph provided by 'ansto.gov.au').

Anthony Fava

Year 12 2023

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

Above: The universities who visited our school throughout Term 2.

Over the course of Term 2, students have once again had the opportunity to gain insight into a variety of post-graduate opportunities. We were fortunate enough to be visited by volunteers from Australian universities and colleges who supplied a range of informative sources about their campuses, courses, and early entry programs. Universities included:

- Australian College of Physical Education (Wednesday 26 April)
- University of Technology Sydney (Wednesday 3 May)
- Western Sydney University (Wednesday 31 May)

With gazebos set up in front of the library throughout their own visiting day, volunteers from ACPE and UTS were more than happy to answer any questions students had regarding the courses they offer and courses they recommend to satisfy both career requirements and skill potential. In the Media Room, WSU had a scholarship presentation set up for students to engage in during lunch. Western Sydney University offers \$25 million in scholarships every year, and the St Marys Senior High School community are extremely grateful for WSU taking the time to visit and explain to students how they can be considered for such generous opportunities.

This information is still available to students who seek more information or missed out on the gazebos and presentations on university websites. Another website our Careers Adviser, Cheryll Ruskin, recommends students to explore JobJump. This website assists students to explore a variety of careers and even helps to develop resumes. A variety of other tools can be explored on the Careers LearnPath Guide too. This is accessible through the 'My School Library' link in your Student Portal. A special thanks to Cheryll and all university volunteers, as these days throughout the term wouldn't have been possible without them.

Anthony Fava

Year 12 2023

Year 12 Careers Excursion

The Careers Day Expo was a two day event, from Thursday to Friday in Week 9 of Term 2. It was held in the dome at Sydney Olympic Park in Homebush and had over 50 stalls in total.

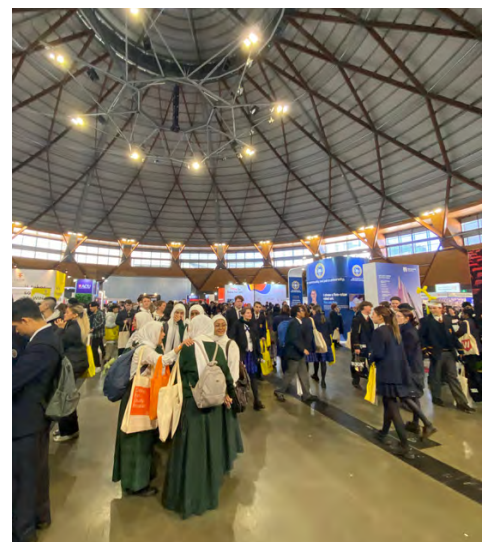
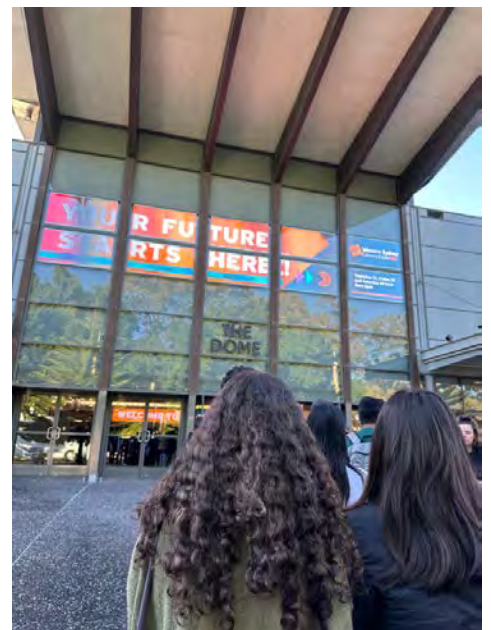
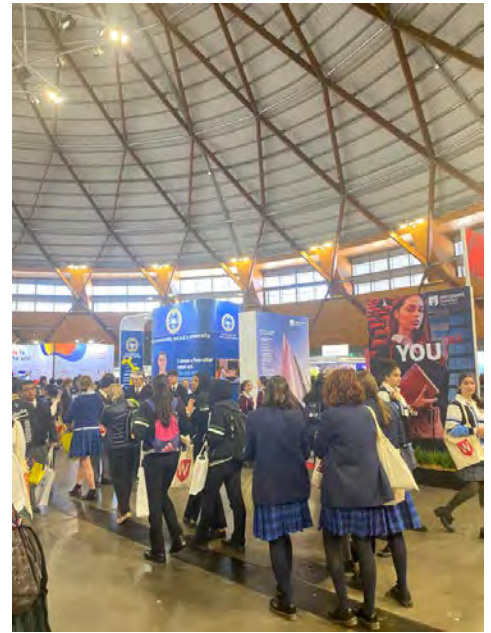
The Careers Excursion was a highly beneficial day for the Year 12 students. There were nine buses in total from St Marys Senior High School along with many others schools from all around Sydney who attended this event. At the venue there were stalls from many universities and lots of information about different career options available. Many students interacted with student ambassadors at each stall by asking questions. The student ambassadors provided information about the courses available and career pathways.

Behind the stalls there were a number of workshops and activities being offered by the universities and career stalls. They were also offering promotional material such as free polaroid photos, bags, drink bottles, booklets with mini pens and notepads that included highlighters. These mini packs made students more excited to learn and made the experience exciting.

Through this excursion, Year 12 was able to learn about many university courses and pathways they had not previously considered. This information will be very useful as we consider our options for life after school

Dee Bishwa & Maahee Desai

Year 12 2023



Athletics Carnival 2023

On Monday 5 June 2023, St Marys Senior High School hosted its annual Athletics Carnival. Students competed in many competitive events like discus, long jump, shot put, running races like the 100m, 400m and the 800m, and novelty events like the sack races and relay races.

On the day, Cluster chants were very vibrant and wild, with Cluster 8 ultimately winning the Cluster chants with Cluster 2 being runners up in the chants. This was followed by performances from Year 12 students who sang many songs including 'Still Into you' by Paramore and 'Cupid' by FIFTY FIFTY.

Despite the Carnival being cut short by the rain, the carnival overall was a success and students had plenty of fun mingling in the sun.



Avilash Tharmanesan
Year 12 2023

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)
Student Support Officer:	Surmeet Kaur
Careers Adviser (Rel):	Cheryll Ruskin

Contact us



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Facebook



St Marys Senior High School -
Skoolbag App

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