

SOUTH CREEK MAGAZINE

ST MARYS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



The South Creek Magazine is published once a term and celebrates St Marys Senior High School's values of inclusiveness; life-long learning; catering for the needs of all; clear learning outcomes; staff professional learning; independent student learning; school traditions; innovation; linking our classrooms to the wider community; integrity and ongoing evaluation of our practices.

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

Contents

Acknowledgment of Country	2
Principal's Insights	3
Club Pop Up Stalls.....	5
Student Representative Council	6
Swimming Carnival 2020	8
Academic Excellence Assembly & the Dux of SMSHS 2019.....	9
Term 1 in the SMSHS Library.....	11
Valentine's Day Assembly 2020	13
Creative and Performing Arts Faculty ..	13
Year 11 Visual Arts Projects	15
Term 1 Remote Learning at SMSHS ...	20



Principal's Insights



This term at St Marys Senior High School has been impacted by a number of events at a local, state, national and international level. These events although confronting at times provide us with an opportunity to develop our own resilience and grit to deal with matters beyond our control. It is important through whatever circumstances we find ourselves in that we ensure that we are caring for ourselves as, this places us in a better position to support others.

Students returned to school in 2020 following a horrific fire season in Australia where 5,900 buildings (2,779 homes) were destroyed, 34 people lost their lives, an estimated one billion animals were killed and the economic costs of dealing with the fires is expected to exceed \$4 billion dollars. This was followed by flash flooding on the weekend of February 8 and 9 which made travel to St Marys almost impossible on the following Monday due to local flooding.



In the second half of the term, Australia started to feel the impact of a global pandemic, COVID – 19. In a few short weeks our attendance rates at school went from 95+% down to 2% following the NSW Premier announcement that although schools were open, families were encouraged to keep students at home unless they were essential workers. New words were introduced into our vocabulary; social distancing and flattening the curve.


Teaching and learning were transformed in four days and remote learning became the new buzz word. Our students and staff developed new online learning protocols to ensure a seamless transition to our new world, our new normal. Assessment tasks needed to be redeveloped to suit the new world.


However, the biggest impact on us all is the uncertainty – not knowing. Not knowing how long our school will not hear the noise of young people in the corridors, classrooms and common areas, not knowing what this will mean for the Higher School Certificate in 2020 and not knowing what this will mean for students transitioning from school to alternate pathways. The post below appeared on our school Facebook on 3 April 2020 and although we may not know

the answers to all your questions, I am confident that our students, our teaching staff and our support staff are all playing a critical role to ensure that although our plans have been thrown up in the air, there are good people ensuring this our new plans will lead to success.

I hope you enjoy this edition of South Creek in a transformed learning environment as we continue in the world of the unknown, but know that your journey and your family's journey is not one that you are taking alone. My guarantee to our community is that although we may make some mistakes along the way, we will try our best to support all our students to reach their potential.

Sally Smithard
Principal

 **St Marys Senior High School - Official Site**
3 April at 19:15 · 🌐



Joe Thomas
27 March at 23:43 · 🌐

I was a bit upset, initially, with J.K. Rowling because of the way that the Harry Potter book series robbed Harry, Hermione and Ron of their final terms as Hogwarts students. I felt like we had traveled this far together with them through the wizarding school, and it only seemed fair that we get to watch them work through their last level. Life had different plans for them though, and Rowling wrote the path that was true for her characters as much as it is now for students everywhere — especially high school seniors. What you are doing right now is helping the world stand up against a deadly enemy in order to protect countless lives. You are Harry Potter. You are Hermione Granger. You are Ron Weasley. You miss Hogwarts, and Hogwarts misses you. But your role here is crucial, and it will bless the paths of many lifetimes to come. Though many will still fall in this battle, you are doing your part to stave off an even greater global disaster. You are being true to your school in the most unexpected of ways, and you will graduate with the honor of having played a key part in this fight. Your work so far and chance for further accomplishments haven't been dashed. A world of opportunity will await you when we get past this. Take heart and have hope. And remember the words of Albus Dumbledore: "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

Club Pop Up Stalls

Welcome back St Marys! On Friday, 31st of January 2020, St Marys Senior High School conducted their annual club pop up stalls, which took place during an extended recess. During this one hour extended break, our brand new Year 11 students were given the opportunity to roam the school campus, make friends, discover and join new clubs and get a first-hand experience of the St Marys school spirit.

Various clubs, such as The Gentleman's Society, Pop Culture, Book Society, Fatfish, Mindfulness Club, Amnesty International and many more, were situated and scattered around the school campus. Students were able to see a new and exciting extracurricular activity at every turn! Year 12 students and their respective supervising teachers prepared decorative stalls for their own clubs to advertise and showcase what their club is about and recruit new members.

Clubs at St Marys Senior High School portray a significant role in the fun and exciting community atmosphere, allowing students to make friends through their hobbies and passions. The plethora of clubs are student-run and hold meetings and gatherings on a scheduled basis during recess and lunch. Students also have the opportunity to develop different skills through their involvement in clubs.

What a great way to start the term!

Angelene Concepcion
Year 12 2020



Muslim Students Association



Student Representative Council



YFC- Youth For Christ


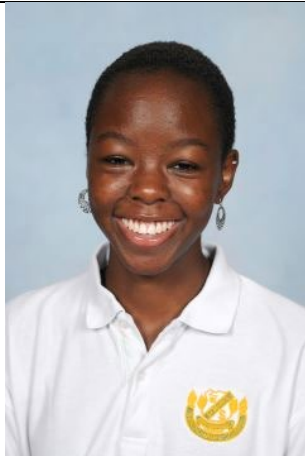





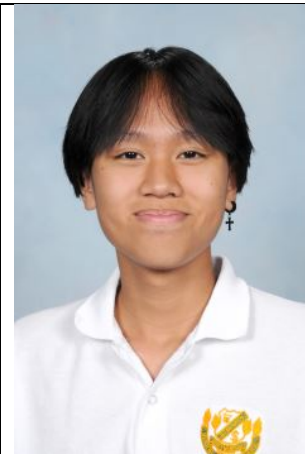








South Creek Production Team

Mente Manuque – With mind and hand

Student Representative Council

We would like to welcome the following students to the Student Representative Council.

Cluster 2		Cluster 3	
			
Alice Chitos	Ruvarashe Mataranyika	Amuor Malou	Claudine De Paz
Cluster 5		Cluster 6	
			
Samantha Durik	Dave Chua	Chloe Nolasco	Steven Payuran
Cluster 7a		Cluster 7b	
			
Mohmd Alsomay	Julian Hipolito	Anna Moore	Tanish Pasricha

Cluster 8a		Cluster 8b	
			
Emily Cunningham	Roan Saguid	Atoc Malou	Laszlo Mendoza

Congratulations to our new SRC members from Year 11 2020.



Swimming Carnival 2020

Although the rain was much needed, its arrival coincided with our swimming carnival this year. The announcement was made in the MPC that unfortunately the carnival would have to be cancelled for all but the keenest swimmers.



Over at Ripples, the team sheltered between heats but still managed to record some fantastic times.



Academic Excellence Assembly & the Dux of SMSHS 2019

On the 18th of February, St Marys Senior High School celebrated the academic achievements of the Year 12 class of 2019. At the conclusion of the assembly the Dux of the school for 2019 was announced, Natalie Khalil. Natalie's inspirational acceptance speech has been included in this edition of the South Creek magazine for you to enjoy once again.



Good morning parents, teachers, students and the 2019 distinguished achievers. It is a privilege to be standing here today, one that I owe to God, my family and this tremendous school for all its support and encouragement. Having spent two years at St Marys Senior I recognise the mostly bored but slightly hopeful expressions on your faces, that maybe you might hear or see something today that will inspire you for the next one or two years. I know I did.

But unfortunately, a few minutes of motivation won't carry you through the challenges that await you. Your most valuable skills are planning, organisation and discipline, the unique art of deciding that what you want in the future is more important than what you want now. I encourage you all to do your best not because it will increase your opportunities, maximise your confidence or boost your self-esteem, to name but a few, but because although pain and disappointment sting like a cut, regret is like internal bleeding. It won't be obvious, but it will cause damage from the inside out, misleading you into believing that you are less capable than you are. We are always told to stay in the present, but sometimes you have to lose yourself in your visions. It is the only way to see what everyone else is 'too realistic' to see. Sometimes you have to be your prophet and breathe into life what no one else believes exists. Take a leap. You have nothing to lose. If life was a series of train stations and you were a passenger, then the next stop after fear is courage, and the next stop after failure is success. You need only to stand your ground and wait it out.

A word to the wise, when it comes to your dreams make sure they are proportional to the amount of effort you are willing to put in, otherwise, it won't work. If you wish to obtain something that nobody else has then be willing to do what no one else wants to do. This journey won't feel like an epic training montage. It is simply a series of decisions you make every single day. And remember, there is a difference between enjoying the present and destroying your future. Every decision you make involves a sacrifice, whether that be your time, energy, effort, plans or dreams; so, choose your sacrifice carefully.

There will come times in the HSC when it will feel more like a three-legged race than a marathon. I know I can speak from experience that St Marys Senior High School and its incredible staff will offer as much support as they can in the form of morning or afternoon tutorials, advice, resources, expert opinion and a kind word to remind you that you are not

alone and that one day, you will look back on this day and smile... mostly because it is over. There is something truly exceptional about this school, the way it welcomes every new student and entrusts them to control their learning and then celebrates their achievements is truly unique. I can confidently say that had I studied at any other school; I would never have been able to achieve what I have. So, thank you to all my teachers, the Learning Centre staff and my peers. I never received private tutoring, so I relied solely on my teachers, and I am happy to report that their help was more than enough. So, thank you to every teacher who was gracious enough to give even a moment of their time.

Support from your family is an irreplaceable asset. So, to my loving and generous family who have seen me at my worst and celebrated with me at my best, thank you. Each of you gave me your strength, wisdom and time even when you didn't have much to spare. Thank you for always showing up, for never giving up and for never giving less than 100% in what you did. By standing strong every day you taught me the value of discipline and instilled in me the habit of excellence. Having such an intimidating record of achievements also encouraged me to push myself and to never settle. Your love and support have made all the difference. So, thank you for investing in me.

To every one of my peers who lived the HSC alongside me, congratulations. It is hard enough to do the HSC, but it is a whole new challenge when you are doing a completely new syllabus with limited resources and mostly speculation guiding us. Your achievements cannot be overlooked. Each of you have completed a tremendously difficult task and are deserving of every celebration you receive. I genuinely wish each of you all the happiness this world can offer and trust you will journey through the next stage of your life with as much determination and drive that you did during your time at St Marys Senior High School.

To the students who are yet to complete the HSC. Take a deep breath. Although the HSC feels like an enormous grey cloud looming over you, it will eventually pass, and you will be left with either a story of survival or a story of success. It is your choice. So, for the duration of your school studies, know that you will only get out what you are willing to put in. Your mind is both the jar and the lid, so be careful when deciding where your limits are. Be kind, respectful and appreciative of this school and its incredible staff who you won't find anywhere else. And my last piece of advice is this: It's what you do when there is no pressure on you, no one to please, and no one to cheer you on that will make all the difference. So, don't tell people who you are or what you are made of... Show them.

Thank you.

Natalie Khalil
Dux St Marys Senior High School 2019

Term 1 in the SMSHS Library

Much has been happening in the library during this term starting with the orientation talks and tours for the new Year 11 students. Next was co-ordinating the displays outside the library for the Club Pop Up stalls day. The leaders of Book Society, the South Creek Production Team and the Library Leaders did a great job setting up and promoting their clubs to the Year 11 Students and signing up new members.

The Library Leaders created a wonderful display in the Library for Library Lovers Day, known to many as Valentine's Day. They also co-ordinated a number of activities that students could participate in such as going on a blind date with a book, a discussion board where students could share books they had loved, or they could go on a scavenger hunt in the library.



Students have been working on their critical thinking skills this term and challenging themselves to complete the puzzle activities in the library.



The Library has also been exploring how virtual reality could be used in the senior curriculum this term. Teachers have participated in professional learning on how to use the hardware and software as well as identify topics where virtual reality activities could help students to become engaged in the content or better understand the concepts being studied. The Year 12 French class had the opportunity to utilise this technology in their Unit on Travelling Aboard by doing a virtual tour to Paris. Students have also been accessing the technology during their lunch and free periods. The most popular applications students are using have included Tilt Brush, to create virtual 3D art works, and the Epic Roller Coaster App. The Mixed Reality Headsets and 360 degrees cameras, which can be used to create virtual reality videos, are currently on loan to our school through the NSW Department of Education STEM.T4L program until the end of term 2. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to further explore the uses of this technology in the curriculum next term.

Kerri-Anne Brown
Teacher Librarian



Valentine's Day Assembly 2020



Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

While it feels like Mother Nature has sent us to our rooms to think about what we have done, we in CAPA would like to share a bit of what we got up to before our isolation, as well as some of the wonderful things our students are still doing from a distance.

In the first few weeks of term, we bounded out of our school and into other parts of Sydney with excursions to **OnSTAGE** for our Drama students, **InConcert** for our Music students, **Les Misérables** for our VET Entertainment students, and **Callback** for our Dance students. Our students were able to view outstanding HSC major works, attend professional theatrical productions and hone their singing skills. Such experiential learning opportunities are so important to our students.

One of the many CAPA events planned for Term 1 that has had to be postponed was our 'Welcome to St Marys Soiree'. This musical evening would have given the Year 11 Music students the opportunity to collaborate in groups to prepare and perform pieces. The soiree would have also showcased solo performances and choral work from the **InConcert** program. We intend to stage this event later in the year.

But working from home has not curbed the enthusiasm of our Dance, Drama and Visual Arts students. The Drama students are still collaborating online to create group devised scripts which they hope to perform in a showcase evening later in the year, alongside our Dance students, who are eager to flex and stretch and wow us with their skills. Below are some samples of the digitally submitted art works of our Year 11 VA students.

While Term 2 will continue to challenge us all in this new age of remote teaching and learning, the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty look forward to another term working with our students, even if it is from afar! We miss you all!

Nicole Bonfield

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts



Year 11 Visual Arts Projects



“Levi – Vanitas” Levi Wynbergen Titoko



“Tea 2 T “Jake Zakostelsky





“Still Life of Santo Niño” Klariz Tabar



“Long Distance Friendship” Britanya Stevenytantra



"Hidden Honk" Amy Stanley

(Honk is their Class mascot who is hidden in the image somewhere- Honk is a duck)



“How Fast the Light Changes” Jacqueline Reed



“Love playing games” Atasha Domingo

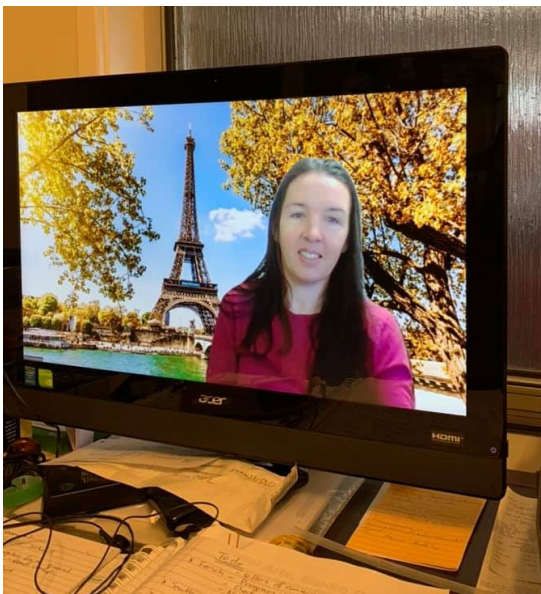
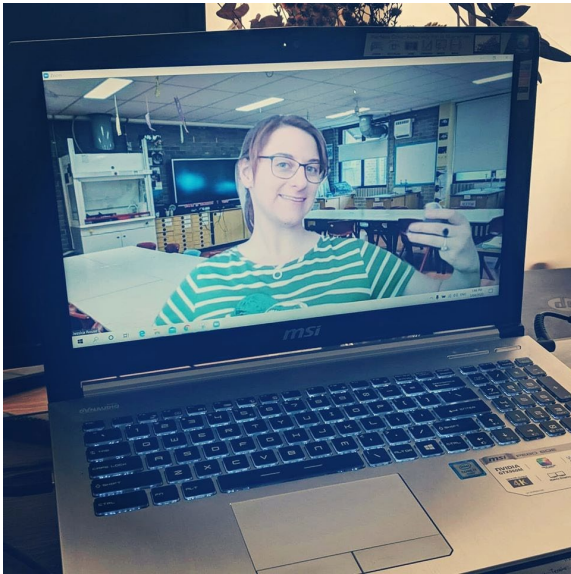


“Fung Shui” Angelina Cenda



Term 1 Remote Learning at SMSHS

Classrooms may be empty and the school deserted, but learning continues in innovative ways at St Marys Senior High School.



Our Staff Teams

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Leadership Team:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Danielle Ervine
- Deputy Principal (Year 11)	Leah Havord
- English	Julie Robinson
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science	Lidija Radovancevic
- Commercial Studies	Salochna Reddy
- HSIE (Rel)	Rebecca Langham
- CAPA	Nicole Bonfield
- Computing	Matthew Topp
- LOTE	Luigi Serra
- TAS/PDHPE	Rebecca Powell
- Secondary Studies	Liz Hemmings
- Student Services and Wellbeing	Melisa Jacka
- First Australians	Leah Havord
- Sport and Recreation	Joanne Brines
- Business Manager	Steven Mulligan
- School Administrative Manager	Rebecca Zinghini
Student Advisers:	
- Year 12, Surnames A-G Mitchell Baker	
- Year 12, Surnames H-O Lynette Tuckwell	
- Year 12, Surnames P-Z Jesse Vassallo	
- Year 11, Surnames A-G Nicola Preston	
- Year 11, Surnames H-O Luigi Serra	
- Year 11, Surnames P-Z Tim Weston	
Learning Support:	Carmel Harriden Dianne Pyne Nicole Leong Carly McPherson Ashlee Pleffer
Careers Adviser:	Lyn Tuckwell

Contact us



St Marys Senior High School
Kalang Avenue
St Marys NSW 2760



02 9623 8333



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
Angelene Concepcion
Catherine Gill
Yustina Elrab
Henry Win
Marys Media

Thank you to all the staff
and students who
contributed articles for this
edition of the
South Creek Magazine.