



# South Creek

## St Marys Senior High School Magazine



**Term 1, 2019**



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

## Our School Motto

Mente Manuque is our school motto and it translates from the Latin to mean 'with mind and hand'.

This motto was originally chosen by the Principal of St Marys High School, Bill Eason. In the document *St Marys High School History*, created by Ann Drayton and found in our school archive, she recounts how Mr Eason believed the most important thing was for everyone to do their best. She tells how in a prize giving ceremony his address reflected on the fact that everyone's best is different, for some it's with their mind and for some with their hands.

In the *10 Year Commemorative Booklet*, Bernie Shepherd, the founding Principal of St Marys Senior High School, writes that even though the school has changed, the original vision of a school that addresses the learning needs of all students' remains.

***Mente Manuque*** – With mind and hand

## Contents

Acknowledgment of Country .....	2
Our School Motto .....	2
Principal's Insights .....	3
Student Representative Council Elections.....	4
Clubs @ SMSHS .....	5
Library Updates Term 1 2019 .....	7
Swimming Carnival 2019 .....	8
Sport Term 1 2019 .....	9
In The Heights.....	14
Valentine's Day .....	15
Japanese Excursion.....	16
Creative and Performing Arts .....	18
Bring It On 2019.....	23
SMSHS Talent Quest.....	25

## School Song St Marys High School

Sons and daughters rise in chorus  
Bright the pathway lies before us  
Knowledge spreads its lustre o'er us  
At St Marys High.  
Some may have a yearning  
For the higher learning,  
Some love more the plane and saw  
And some to heart and home are turning  
One for all and all forever  
Striding onwards yielding never

Give the best in each endeavour

Mente Manuque.

(Sung to the tune of Men of Harlech)

## Principal's Insights



Welcome to the second issue of the revitalised South Creek Publication of St Marys Senior High School. I would like to start by thanking Kerri-Anne Brown and her student publication team for all their efforts in putting together “South Creek” to provide an informative summary of each term at our school but to also provide a valuable resource for our archives. The St Marys community along with St Marys High School and later St Marys Senior High School has a proud history and this publication will play a part in ensuring that history is shared.

I would like to welcome our new cohort of students – the Class of 2020, all 462 students, to St Marys Senior High School. You are nearing the end of your first term in what for many of you is a totally different environment and experience from your previous schooling. It is characterised by a focus with all stakeholders to provide an environment where learning is nurtured and students are challenged to constantly strive to improve upon their personal best. The staff at St Marys Senior High School are exceptional; they know their students, they know their curriculum and they know how best to prepare students for the challenges of the Higher School Certificate.

Whilst Year 11 are just starting, for Year 12 it feels like the previous year has flown and by the time you receive this publication you will have approximately 100 days left of school before you commence your Higher School Certificate exams. Over the next two terms there will be lots of information available to you regarding your transition from school. It is important to remember that we all travel different paths and our travel times vary. We are all unique as are our pathways – just because you take a different path does not mean you are lost.

I would like to welcome our new staff to St Marys Senior High School:

- Nicole Bonfield (Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts)
- Rebecca Langham (Relieving Head Teacher HSIE)
- Reuben De Rooy – Maths
- Katha Deo – Maths
- Tim Weston – Science
- Dean Newbold – Commercial Studies
- Andrew Morris – Commercial Studies
- Helen Leis – HSIE

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 invite you to enjoy the first edition of South Creek for 2019.

Sally Smithard  
Principal



## Student Representative Council Elections

“The Great leaders of our Great school”

At St Marys Senior High School the SRC are the heart of our school and every year we work as a team to live up to this amazing responsibility. We are the voice of the students helping stem changes in the school community, we plan and organise significant school events, but more than this we aim to be the support network of the St Marys students. We all aspire to unite our school community, bringing together students and teachers to make the most of our learning experience at St Marys Senior High.

Just recently, we've held the SRC elections within the 7 clusters of our school and it gives us all immense happiness to welcome our Year 11 SRC for 2019. Over Week 5 of Term 1 we witnessed incredible speeches with immense pride for the SMSHS community. We admired the talented students who aspired to be leaders and most of all the diligence, confidence and dedication within each candidate from all the clusters. We applaud all the candidates for their exceptional efforts and congratulate the newly selected SRC members. Our student leadership team is now complete with 33 unique individuals who have a love for the school community and a clear aim to support and empower every student. We are extremely grateful for our co-ordinator Michael Nolan, who planned and organised the elections, as well as all the staff of St Marys Senior High involved in the election process. We extend this gratitude to the teachers of our school who inspire us to become better educated students and help us grow as leaders.

True leaders are not made by their power, but rather because of their ability to empower others. We continuously aspire to uphold a network of support and acceptance within our school and together make the most of our senior years' experience.

Led by our amazing team of captains; Avisha, Neha, Ashutosh and Belle, we will continue collectively working towards building and proudly maintaining the unique identity of our school.

Jasmeet Kaur  
Year 12 2019



*1<sup>st</sup> row- Patricia Tolentino, Gian De Leon, Emily Christelle Joyce Salimbangon, Farah Yowaken, Eiriz Merjudio, Krystal Owen, Avisha Khan, Gabrielle Fernandez, Clare Wentworth*

*2<sup>nd</sup> row- Maddison Law, Dawn Mèshale Randall, Skye Fernando, Kimberley Quinto, Neha Bhatt, Belle Powell, Jasmeet Kaur*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Row- Lam Nhan, Tom Tyrrell, Joe Shalders, Jed Garcia, Tony Mikhail,*

*4<sup>th</sup> row- Juan Sausa, Anshdeep Singh, Ashutosh Sharma, Paaras Dhaliwal, Dilman Mangat, Brent Severino, Lowrence Maring.*

*Absent: Anna Della Libera, Kusi Boamah,*

## Clubs @ SMSHS

*Do you want to voice out your opinions on critical social issues? Check out Amnesty Club!*

*Are you interested in the newest trends and fashion? Unicus is your calling!*

*A desire to perform and a passion for dancing? Bring It On (BIO) should be considered!*

*These are just some of the various clubs present here at St Marys.*

Each club at St Marys Senior High School fosters good connections with people and broadens your perspectives while exploring your interests. A sanctuary, new friendships and ignited interests – these are just some of the multitude of aspects that various clubs offer here at SMSHS. Clubs are an integral feature of the St Marys' culture and are mostly led by students, running on differing days to accommodate everyone. Many clubs popped up during the stalls session early in term 1, aimed at giving you information about each club. We hope everyone signed up for the clubs you've taken a liking to but to help you out, we've included information about our clubs in this edition of South Creek.

Here is a table of the current clubs as well as the meeting time and place. Also, please approach the members of each club, especially the leaders if you have any questions about what they do!

NAME OF CLUB	WHERE AND WHEN
Muslim Student Association (MSA)	Room AR0040, Tuesday recess
Gentleman's Society	Lecture Theatre at lunch, week B Thursday
Amnesty Club	Every Thursday recess, Lecture Theatre
Faithful Attainable Teachable Fellowship In School Hours (FATFISH)	Tuesday lunch at the dance studio underneath Tech Centre
Bring It On (BIO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monday's from lunch to 3:20 for term 1. This will be extended to 4:00 in term 2, 3 and 4.</li><li>- Every Thursday recess and lunch</li></ul>
Book Society	Thursday Lunch Week B, Library
Table Tennis	MPC, Line 8A (Period 4 and lunch every Wednesday) *If you have a class during this period, come at lunch.
Volleyball Club	MPC, Line 8A (Period 4 and lunch every Wednesday) *If you have a class during this period, come at lunch.
K-Pop Club (KPC) & K-Pop Dance Crew	Tuesdays WEEK B lunch, in the Lecture Theatre

(KDC)	
Unicus	MPC, period 4 to lunch
Give Back	Library media room, Tuesday recess
Anime & Gaming Club	Week A Tuesday at the Lecture Theatre
Environmental Awareness	Geography room, every Wednesday recess
Futsal Club	MPC on Tuesdays during lunch
English Conversation Club	Every Thursday recess, ER1014
YFC Club	Thursdays recess, room AR0061

Regina Laxamana  
Year 12 2019



## Library Updates Term 1 2019

In the library this term we have been very excited to see the Research Tutors offering their expertise to both Year 11 and Year 12 students in the library and learning centre.

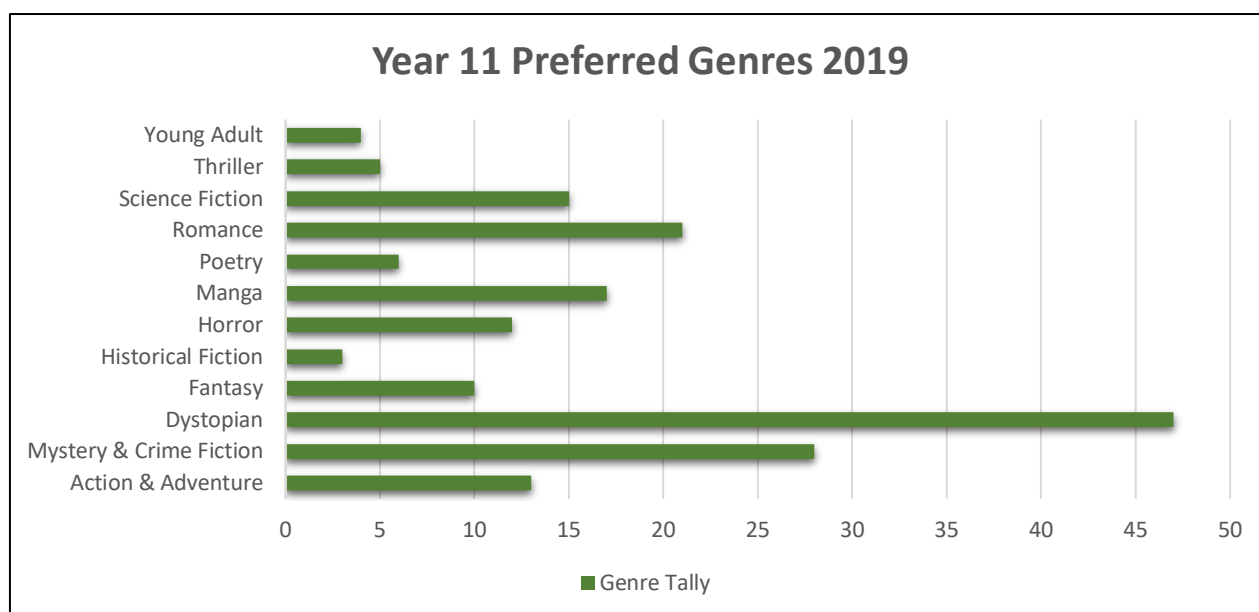
The Research Tutors are peer tutors who have completed additional training in research skills. They completed their online research skills training in term 4 and were presented with their certificates of completion in cluster in week 2 this term.

Students who would like help with a research task can see the research tutors in either the learning centre or library. Check the signs near the circulation desk in the library to see which research tutors are available.



During the Library Orientation program, which Year 11 participated in this term, students have had the opportunity to learn more about the library. This includes the services available through the library, how to locate resources in both the physical library and virtual library as well as how to do printing and scanning in the library.

During the tours, we asked students to identify their favourite genre, author or book. We have now collated the data and it is evident that Year 11 prefer dystopian fiction. So keep an eye out for new dystopian texts in our fiction collection!



Kerri-Anne Brown  
Teacher Librarian



## Swimming Carnival 2019

The gloomy and windy weather on February 22nd did not dampen our amazing Swimming Carnival for 2019. Over 700 students were out in force, in a display of Cluster colours and some interesting costume choices. Over the course of the day, we saw 18 events which showcased both the competitive and enthusiastic students at St Marys Senior. A special congratulations to all of those who participated in the novelties, and also those talented swimmers in the races. We saw some extremely entertaining events on the day including, the Bucket and Sponge Relay, the Wet T-shirt Relay, the Ping Pong Ball and Spoon Relay, the Horse and Jockey Relay, and finishing off the day with Water Polo.

Although the carnival is about getting involved and having a great time with friends and peers, there is underlying competition between students and their respective Clusters. The War Chants displayed loud and passionate Clusters, fighting to be heard over one another. Mascots and flags were displayed proudly, as each Cluster sung their hearts out. Commendations go to Cluster Five in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Cluster 9 in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Cluster 8 who were crowned with 1<sup>st</sup> place by our judges for the Cluster Chants Competition.

### FINAL CLUSTER RESULTS

1<sup>st</sup> – Cluster 9

2<sup>nd</sup> – Cluster 5

3<sup>rd</sup> – Cluster 6

4<sup>th</sup> – Cluster 2

5<sup>th</sup> – Cluster 8

6<sup>th</sup> – Cluster 3

7<sup>th</sup> – Cluster 7



Left to right: Venesse Angeles, Vitoryna Vaifaie, Paola Ong, Cayla Cadiente, Aerie Park, Deakin Ball

Overall, the Swimming Carnival was a fantastic day for both Year 11 and especially for Year 12 as their last one ever! A special thanks goes to, Mitchell Baker, Jo Brines, Charly Ebejer, Maree Phelps and Jesse Vassallo for their hard work in organising and running the day. Also to the SRC and all the students who helped, participated and attended on the day.

Mackenzie Pelle  
Year 12 2019



## **Sport Term 1 2019**

WOW, it has been a very busy start to the year in regards to sport. We have competed in Werrington Zone Gala Days, held our annual swimming carnival, had students representing the Zone, Sydney West and NSWCHS in a multitude of sports, and broken records at the Werrington Zone Swimming Carnival. Here are the highlights.

### **SMSHS Swimming Carnival**

We had 702 students attend our swimming carnival this year, which was fantastic to see. We had a combination of competitive races and novelty events so all students had the opportunity to participate.

It was great to see the high standard of swimmers this year. Due to the competitive nature of many of the students we introduced 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke this year.

New Records and Broken Records:

Megan Cooper            16 years 100m Freestyle  
                                 16 years girls 100m Backstroke  
                                 16 years girls 50m Breaststroke

Sophie Manning        17 years girls 50m Breaststroke

Teone Fava                17 years girls 100m Freestyle  
                                 17 years girls 50m Butterfly

Lauren Wolsey          17 years girls 100m Backstroke

Guven Gemikonakli    17 years boys 100m Freestyle  
                                 17 years boys 100m Backstroke

Students were awarded points on the day for participation and race placings, to compete for the Cluster Cup and also the Year 11 V's 12 Farmer Cup.

The results from the day were –

***Year 11 defeated Year 12, 298 points to 206 points***

***Cluster Results –***

***1<sup>st</sup> = Cluster 9***

***2<sup>nd</sup> = Cluster 5***

***3<sup>rd</sup> = Cluster 6***

***4<sup>th</sup> = Cluster 2***

***5<sup>th</sup> = Cluster 8***

***6<sup>th</sup> = Cluster 3***

***7<sup>th</sup> = Cluster 7***



## **Werrington Zone Swimming Carnival**

The Werrington Zone Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Ripples Pool Penrith. Although SMSHS only had 7 competitors, they were outstanding. All swimmers qualified for the zone team to compete at the Sydney West Swimming Carnival and managed to break 4 records. Teone Fava and Angus Bolton broke the 100m Breaststroke record and the girls broke the 4 X 50m medley relay and the 4 X 50m freestyle relay. Members of the medley relay were Lauren Wolsey, Charli Goldmann, Megan Cooper and Teone Fava, and members of the 4 X 50m relay were Lauren Wolsey, Brianna Fisher, Megan Cooper and Teone Fava.

Megan Cooper was named 16 years girls age champion and Angus Bolton was 17 years boys champion with Guven Gemikonakli runner up. Lauren Wolsey was the girls 17 years age champion with Brianna Fisher runner up.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all swimmers the best of luck in the upcoming Sydney West Swimming Carnival.

## **Volleyball**

SMSHS competed strongly at the Werrington Zone Volleyball Gala Day. The girls finished equal 2<sup>nd</sup> and the boys were zone champions.

Congratulations to Kimberley Quinto, Alhyza Fortuito, Dannah Duran, Panatda Saina, Charm Ilaya, Junsung Choe, Kevin Andrews and Joshua Romero on being selected into the Zone team.



## **Tennis**

Congratulations to Ethan Elliot, Melanie Tolic and Kelsey Lewis on their selection into the Sydney West Tennis team. At the time of writing this report they were all competing at the CHS Championships. Results will be available in the next edition.

## **Cricket**

Congratulations to Molly Godsell who was instrumental in Sydney West winning the NSWCHS Girls Cricket Championships. Molly was also selected into the NSWCHS team to compete later in the term. Congratulations to Aniket Kapila who was selected into the NSW CHS team at the end of last year and is currently competing at the State Championships.

## **Girls Soccer**

The girls soccer team competed very strongly at the Werrington Zone Gala Day. They played 5 games, scoring 21 goals while having no goals scored against them.

Congratulations to Grace Stanley, Molly Godsell, Amie Harry, Alicia Borg, Kasey Collins, Ma Francesca De Castro, Abi Thompson and Haliana Tavares on their selection into the zone team.

## **Basketball**

Once again SMSHS competed very strongly at the Werrington Zone Basketball Gala Day with all 3 teams competing in the finals. The girls played Cranebrook in the final and unfortunately were defeated and came out runners up. It was an 'All Saints Final' in the boys with the A team defeating the B team.

Congratulations to Caitlin Brines, Lauren Wolsey, Violet Wetsteyn, Ebony Hamersma, Renz Tomacruz, Riley Turner, Kimie Obrero, Renard Manuel and JC Ogo who were selected into the zone team to compete at the Sydney West Championships.

Congratulations to Caitlin Brines who was also selected into the Sydney West team to compete at the NSWCHS Championships later in the year.



## **Water Polo**

This was the first year in many that SMSHS has entered a team into the Sydney West Knockout Water Polo Competition. On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March an excited team, under the guidance of Flynn Moss, went along to Glenbrook Pool. They won their first game 5-1 and the following games were very close with the girls only losing by 1 or 2 goals.

Congratulations to Flynn Moss who has been selected into the NSWCHS team to compete in South America in July. We wish her the best of luck.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff that volunteer to take these sporting teams and also to the staff that assist by covering classes when staff are out at these events.

Jo Brines, Maree Phelps, Jesse Vassallo, Mitchell Baker  
PDHPE Faculty



# *IN THE* **HEIGHTS**

By Lin Manuel Miranda

**WEDNESDAY 1 MAY – 11am & 7:30pm**

**FRIDAY 3 MAY – 11am & 7:30pm**

**SATURDAY 4 MAY – 2pm & 7:30pm**

St Marys Senior High students are currently in rehearsals for our first full scale musical production in thirteen years. We have chosen to present Lin Manuel Miranda's Tony award winning musical, *In the Heights*, and the production will run for three days in the first week of Term 2.

## **SYNOPSIS:**

**IN THE HEIGHTS** tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighbourhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. (*Origin Theatrical*)

## **TICKET SALES:**

Tickets can be purchased through Trybooking on the link below.

This production is allocated seating, so book early for great seats.

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?embed&eid=479426>

## **In The Heights**

Bueno, this year, get in the groove with the infectious hip-hop, salsa score, featuring our talented students as cast members; Christina Sanosa as Vanessa, Alessandra Delfin as Nina, Deakin Ball as Benny, Jason Cabrera as Usnavi and many more.

*In the Heights* takes us into the Latin American community of Washington Heights, Manhattan. The vibrant musical captures three days of life in the barrio with Usnavi, the young bodega owner who dreams of returning to his home country, the Dominican Republic, Vanessa, the beautiful girl who he has long been enamoured with and Abuela Claudia the caring matriarch of the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Nina, a childhood friend of Usnavi's has returned from college with some news as she also addresses her feelings for Benny, a young man who has worked for Nina's father for years. Through music, culture and dance, *In the Heights* explores how this close-knit community learns the importance of family ties and friendship as well as an appreciation for culture.

Check out our exclusive interview with the cast.

**Question:** *Why do you think, In the Heights, is important for the school to perform?*

Brent: It's important because it is the school's 30th anniversary and the school previously did *In the Heights*, I think, ten years ago.

Luc: *In the Heights* is important to me because it's fun, and it makes me get out and sing.

**Question:** *Who is your character and why do you relate to them?*

Brent: My character is Sunny, the main character's little cousin, he's just eighteen being an annoying little prick. I can relate to him being he is an annoying little prick (hahaha) and that's it.

**Question:** *How do you think, In the Heights, represents the diversity in the school and represents the values of the school?*

Christina: Well, the musical itself is about education, and it's about how important education and family is... something to which many students can relate.

**Question:** *Are you excited for the musical? Why?*

Mariel: Yes! Because the musical shows a lot of diversity and the different kind of cultures that come together and also even the people presenting the characters are so different from one another. How they come together to create this musical exhibits connectedness.

Iris Merdegia  
Year 12 2019

## Valentine's Day

St Marys Senior High School celebrated yet again another Valentine's Day this year, an occasion which has come to be a key event in term 1. The scents of roses and cheap perfume, garlands of paper cut-out hearts and students dressed in shades of reds, pinks and whites set the mood of the day across the school.

As always, the annual Valentine's Day assembly kicked off this year with great success. The 90-minute show consisted of a collection of student performances by the SRC as well as those composed by student groups such as Peanut Butter & Jelly and the Korean Dance Group. Between these performances, roses were handed out by Year 12 students and by some rather daring Year 11 students to students in the audience.

Romance, however, did not end following the main event. Students managed to snap a lot of photos at the various photo hotspots around the school grounds. Meanwhile, the SRC, in charge of much of the day's operations, managed to sell a staggering 300 roses distributed to students in class and on the playground. They raised \$600 with the proceeds from the sales going to the Heart Foundation.

Whilst the day is commonly seen as one exclusively romantic in nature, SMSHS managed to bring together the school community for a good cause, displaying the true, underlying value of love this Valentine's.

Mohammad Rifai  
Year 12 2019





## Japanese Excursion

### 日本語のえんそくに行きましょう！

### Let's go to the Japanese excursion!

The 22nd of November was a particularly beautiful (albeit, windy) day in the city for a culturally enlightening excursion.

The St Marys Japanese Beginners students of 2019, all brimming with anticipation and snacks began their fun-filled journey at the Japan Foundation.

Whilst there we learned all about the different national holidays of Japan, including Children's Day (子どもの日) and the Doll Festival (ひなまつり). We learned how to array ourselves in the beautiful Yukata, traditional Japanese summer wear. Though it had some of us in knots, our lovely instructor for the day insisted on helping us all look our best!



Ashutosh Sharma, Edwin IV Cahatol, Chris Martin

Before we left, we partook in some *yatai* festival games- though there were some winners, none were able to defeat the formidable ring toss set out before us.



With enriched minds and empty stomachs, the next stop for the class was, of course, lunch!

And what a lunch it was. We were treated to an elegant Obentō, Japanese lunch box, each filled with a variety delicious sections of rice, veggies, miso soup and a meat of our choosing!

With a hasty '*itadakimasu*,' we dug in eagerly to our scrumptious Japanese lunch filled with unique flavours!

With food for thought, and for lunch, we chanced a trip to Kinokuniya and

Daiso. Both filled with enough Japanese products to tickle anyone's fancy. Enchanted by



Daiso's extensive snack selection and Kinokuniya's large array of books- the two stores quickly ate up our remaining time in the city, meaning that our excursion was, sadly over.

And so, we said 'sayounara' to the city and boarded the train back home, bubble tea in hand. It was a reluctant goodbye to a wonderful day filled with learning new things, tasting new food and experiences of the wonders of Japanese culture.



Theia Debulos, Mikaela Diocera, Harmony Terepai, Alex Hanna, Reeselle Dela Cruz

Holly Stevens  
Year 12 Japanese 2019

## Creative and Performing Arts

The staff of the CPA Faculty at St Marys Senior High have thrown themselves into 2019 with energy and enthusiasm. The teachers from each of our subjects have taken students on excursions that focus on their HSC studies, giving them greater opportunity to enhance their experiential learning. The feedback from students has been extremely positive, in terms of their enjoyment as well as improved learning outcomes.

At the end of last year our outstanding creative and performing arts results were enhanced with the receipt of eight *Encore* nominations for Music and four *Art Express* nominations for Visual Arts. Two of our Visual Arts students Jessica O'Donnell and Daeun Shin were consequently selected to exhibit their work at The Armony Gallery and the Art Gallery of NSW. We are delighted to include images of their Art works in this edition of South Creek.

Our students have been involved in a number of events as performers and as technical operators this term and they continue to demonstrate excellence in the arts with their commitment to our upcoming musical production of *In the Heights* – the first full scale, whole school musical production ever staged at St Marys Senior High School.

Below are some snippets of what our students and teachers have been up to this term...

Nicole Bonfield

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts

### "A Cage Went in Search of a Bird"



Abass Rashidi

### **OnSTAGE in Week 3**

In Week 3 our drama students got the opportunity to attend the *OnSTAGE* performances. *OnSTAGE* is a production staged by the NESA to showcase the work of the 2018 HSC Drama performances and projects. The production also allows the current Year 12 students to gain inspiration and knowledge for their own drama pieces.

First on the program was for the *Writers OnSTAGE/OnSCREEN*. Three of our Year 12 students gathered inspiration for their HSC script and design projects. I too felt inspired, as a student interested in script writing. I felt the introductory address by a professional scriptwriter very motivating and informative. What most stood out to me was her passion about the importance of storytelling in our society and how throughout history storytelling has been a way to both inspire and entertain people. For my drama script, I am hoping to reflect issues in society with my storytelling style, to inspire and encourage change within our world. I also had the opportunity to see two past Year 12 scripts performed on stage. This allowed me to think both critically and creatively about my own script piece.

In the foyer of the Seymour Centre there was also a display of the other Individual Project options in design and critical analysis. This gave our students doing costume design and poster/promotion design the opportunity to see the Band 6 selections on display and look through the accompanying logbooks.

The Drama class then went into the main theatre to watch the solo and group performances. The program was a mix of comedic, historical and emotional performances that allowed each Drama student to think about a range of ideas for their own projects. A performance that I particularly enjoyed was a piece called "The Accidental Artist", that showed great comedic timing, team work, amazing transitions and extensive research. Another group performance that I personally enjoyed was "Flugzeug", which shared an interesting concept about the concentration camps in Germany during World War II. The play was both terrifying and innovative, as they transformed a plastic milk crate into multiple objects seamlessly. Each group performance had some techniques and ideas to inspire our own projects.

Overall the drama students had a great day out seeing this year's *OnSTAGE* performances. We all left inspired and encouraged by the astonishing plays performed for us. We would highly recommend this experience to any future St Marys Drama students.

Jodi Shinn  
Year 12 Drama 2019

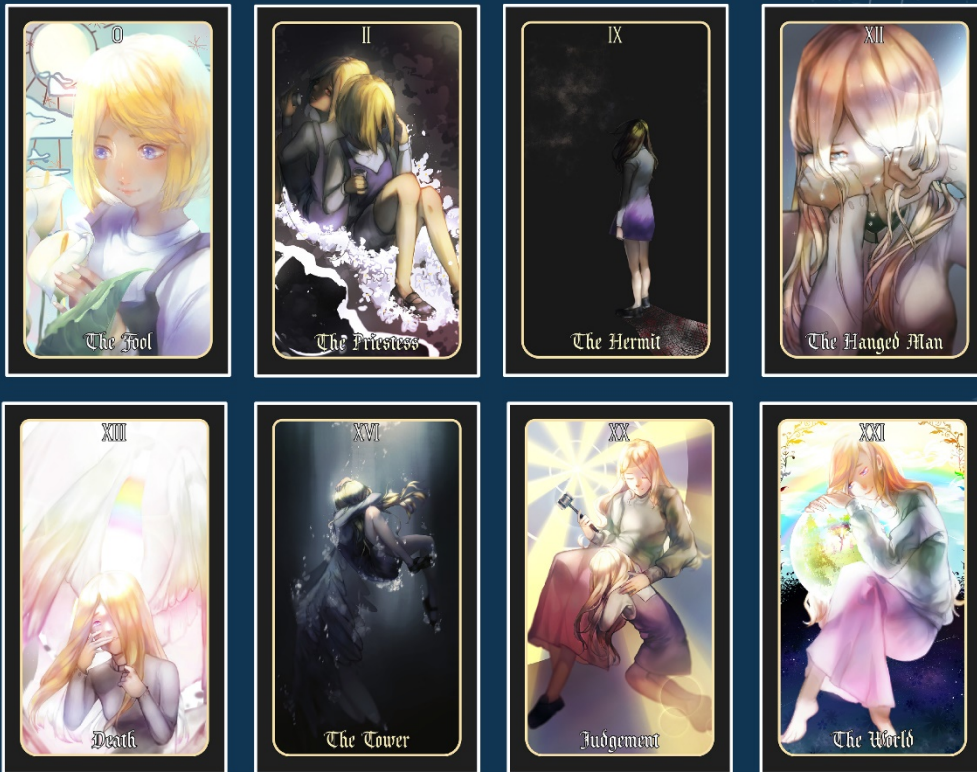
### **Callback in Week 3**

On the 14 February, Year 12 HSC Dance students went to the Seymour Centre to watch the outstanding HSC Dance performances from 2018. This was so that we could see the standard expected to achieve at a high level in the HSC exam. Most of the dances performed were Major Performances where the dancers performed a piece that they have choreographed, and a Major Composition where students choreograph a dance for other students to perform. Overall it was an inspiring experience for the Year 12s and I would recommend *Callback* for any Dance students doing the HSC.

Chloe Robson  
Year 12 Dance 2019

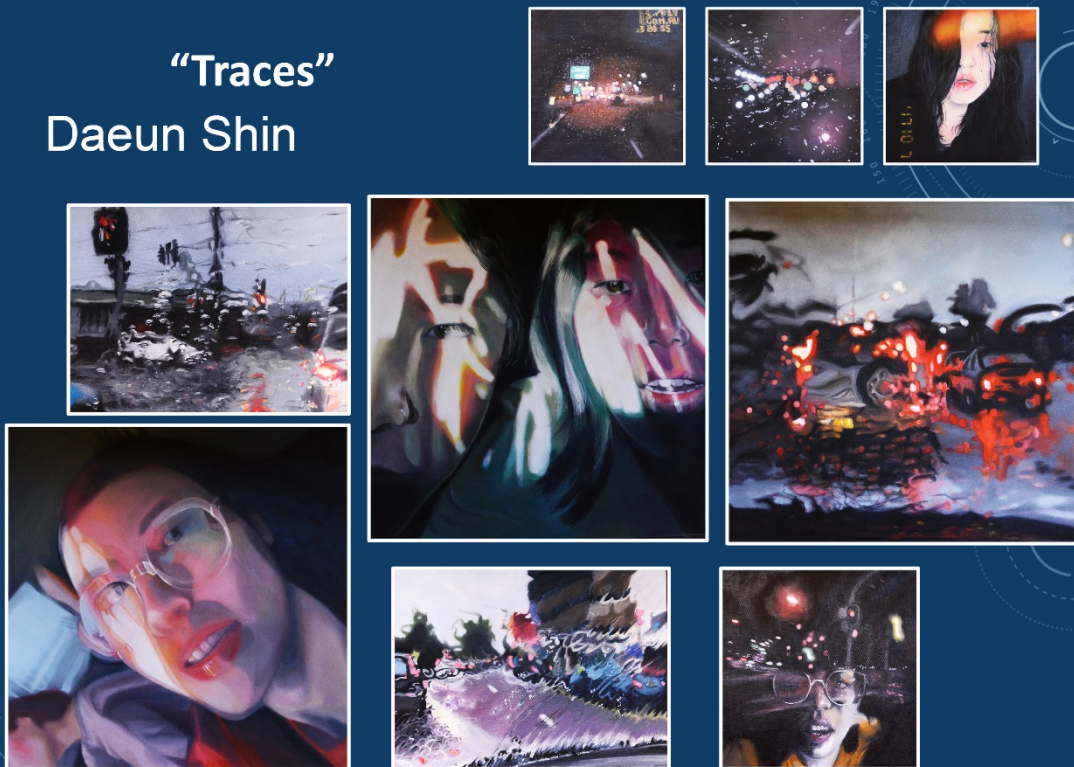


## “Fool’s Journey: Hands Played and Unplayed”



Angela Truong

## “Traces” Daeun Shin





## ***In Concert in Week 5***

On Tuesday 26 February, more than 50 of our Music students attended the first combined *In Concert* rehearsal. *In Concert*, also known as the *Secondary Choral Festival*, is a dazzling choral and instrumental music showcase featuring Australia's premier Public Schools Music Ensembles and the Combined Secondary Schools Choir at the beautiful Sydney Town Hall. Over two nights, more than 1600 students will perform music from film, symphonic works and popular music with guest artist Casey Donovan.

Our school group makes up a part of the 800 voices who will perform in the Tuesday night concert on the 21 May at the Sydney Town Hall.

Michael Nolan  
Music & VET Entertainment teacher

## **Belvoir St Theatre Excursion in Week 5**

A core component of the HSC Drama exam is the study of Contemporary Australian Drama. This year, our students are studying the two plays *Stolen* by Jane Harrison and *Neighbourhood Watch* by Lally Katz. With few opportunities to see live productions of the plays set for study, our students went to Belvoir Street Theatre in Surry Hills to watch archival footage of both of these plays performed at the theatre several years ago. They were able to pause playback, discuss, take notes, ruminate about design and directorial choices and audience engagement. The students were grateful for the chance to experience and analyse the texts in performance, as it is crucial for their experiential learning in the subject.

Nicole Bonfield  
Drama teacher & Head Teacher CPA



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Juan Sausa Ventura, Monica Nunez, Jodi Shinn, Angelique Minas, Kajel Raina, Monique Van Schelven, Skye Fernando, Alex Taco

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Angel Samu, Marley Smith, Chloe Robson, Jade Cooney

## Art Express Week 6

"News Flash old science equipment gets into Art Express: What's the world coming to?"

St Marys Senior High Visual Arts was in a flurry last year as we had 4 students nominated for Art Express, Angela Troung, Abass Rashidi, Jessica O'Donnell and Daeun Shin. We were excited to have two of these students, Jessica O'Donnell and Daeun Shin make it through to the final curatorial selection. Of the 8,770 students who submitted HSC bodies of works in 2018 there were 402 nominations for Art express with 200 of those going on to have their works exhibited. Just being nominated is an achievement in itself as Art Express is an exhibitions of exemplary artworks created by New South Wales visual arts students for the Higher School Certificate examination. The final selections for Art Express reflects the candidature for the HSC Visual Arts course and includes works from metropolitan and regional centres.

So, if you are passing Paramatta pop into the Armony Gallery at Homebush to see the amazing oil paintings of watery cityscapes and portraits entitled "Traces" by Erin (Daeun) Shin. If you are heading into the city, and you are interested in seeing the special treatment of old SMSHS science equipment take a day trip to see Jessica O'Donnell sculptural installation "Biomorphic" at the Art Gallery of NSW. Which is just what our Visual Arts students did last Friday. Although the weather said rain, we were granted sunshine for the Art Express excursion with the day being enjoyed by our hopeful 2019 Year 12 students.

Sarah Price

Year 12 2019



## Bring It On 2019

Bring it On is yes, a movie from the year 2000, but at St Marys Senior, this club involves extremely talented students who all share the same passion, dancing. This annual competition aims to empower youth, encouraging confidence and enthusiasm in students. The competition is held in cities across Australia and New Zealand, and St Marys has participated in the Sydney competition since 2015.

Whilst dance is central, the Bring it On Organisation involves the wider community. It incorporates an initiative for schools to collect large amounts of food to provide to those in need, and also spreads awareness about mental health for children and adolescents. One of this year's leaders, Marvin Urbano, wants to empower the students of St Marys in the 2019 Bring It On team. Participating at his previous school, Marvin explains that being a part of St Marys' 2018 team *"reignited his passion for dancing."*

Organising this club, involves a large amount of preparation and work. At the Pop-up Club Stalls this year, over 100 students signed up to audition. *"Due to the large amounts of talent, we had to hold a call back session in addition to the primary auditions where we cut the team down to 30+ students."* Marvin said. Whilst it is unfortunate that not all students would be able to participate, it is amazing to see students so eager to get involved within our school.

For 2019, we have an exceedingly talented troupe who are excited to participate in the heats and hopefully the finals against other equally talented schools in Sydney. The competition is different from others because the creation of the choreography, mixing of music and finding of costumes is the responsibility of the students only. It is clear, this club and participation in competition greatly enhances the leadership and maturity of young individuals. Overall, this club is a fun opportunity but also hard work, with Marvin adding, *"I am hoping to bring back that first place win and also empower the students of St Marys Senior."*



Mackenzie Pelle  
Year 12 2019



Team members shown below are: Amber Iles, Reese Claro, Eden Sialeipata, Shimran Kumar, Lexi Barcelon, Mary Bojo, Jose Sio, Mikael Falculan, Neus Baquir, Jenny Kim, Milad Jabbo, Amy Marr, Catherine Gill, Tara Neilsen, Georgia Miller, Naomi Colburn, Deakin Ball, Vitoryna Vaifale, Marvin Urbano, Trish Daliwan, Adele Manyere, Angelene Concepcion, Lam, Bui, Zara Lees, Isabella Newman, Clare Tua, Renz Tomacruz, Jason Cabrera, Art Salise, Alyssa Bergonia, Ken Blasco





## **SMSHS Talent Quest**

12th Dec 2018

A great school event to finish the year, the school's Talent Quest was the highlight event of the term. The class of 2019 had the event to themselves and used this opportunity to showcase the students many talents. The amazing SRC orchestrated the event to resemble a dreamy winter wonderland and provided performances of their own which kept the crowd entertained as judges, Anil, Matt and Luigi, stealthily discussed their opinions of the acts.

The judges had one of the most difficult jobs to uphold that afternoon, with the countless talent being displayed. The acts that mesmerised the crowds included angelic voices accompanied by melodious instruments, surreal choreography, raps that hyped the crowd to heights and recordings of phenomenal roller skating skills. St Marys Senior is definitely not lacking in talent, students shouldn't be surprised if they are amongst a future star.

Between such unreal entertainments, the SRC kept the crowd entertained with their self- choreographed acts that never seem to disappoint at school events. A memorable item was the boys popping out a Christmas favourite, the Mean Girls rendition of "The Jingle Bell Rock". An array of activities such as "finish the lyrics" and "guess the song" filled the breaks including an insane dance battle which led to a head to head with Bring it On 2018 dance member Marvin Urbano and Cluster 9's SRC Kusi Boamah. Such an intense and hyped battle must leave only one winner and it was Kusi who lost to Marvin in the end after some splendid friendly competition.

Once all the performances concluded, the anticipation for the SMSHS Talent Quest 2018 placings left both the performers and audience at the edge of their seats. After some excruciating minutes, the placeholders were announced third to first in the following order:

Third: Charm Ilaya

Second: The dance troupe Oh Yeah!

First: Jacob Habib

When the loud uproar of congratulations finished and the SRC performed for the final time, this brought an end to the Talent Quest for 2018. Let's see the class of 2020 beat that!

Mary Bernadette Vergara  
Year 12 2019

Some student reflections ....

**What is your overall comment on the success of the event?**

*“Well, it was our first event as an SRC team and of course it was a big challenge. For us the main aim was to make it appealing to the student community. In the end I think we managed to do that, great effort by the team and I congratulate us. It was a positive result and a definite confident booster ahead of preparations for Valentine’s Day “*

Kusi Boamah, Cluster 9 SRC

**Can you tell me about your experience particularly how you were a special secret addition to the day and your placing?**

*My experience at the talent quest was overall a new experience, because I’ve performed elsewhere but I’ve tried to avoid performing for school because I just get so nervous. When I perform, it’s usually for church because they are people who I’m comfortable with. So performing for school is just different because I’m performing for people who see me every day. Performing for school was me breaking my comfort zone and just trying something totally new, which ended up really good - as I was placed.*

*I was asked to sing like 2 days before the actual day, and I had my assignment for Biology and Modern History due!! So I was panicking and so stressed. On the actual day, I was so nervous, I couldn’t speak, I kept going up to the bathroom, I was just so nervous. Then I did it. I wasn’t expecting anyone to be screaming and cheering me on as I’m usually by myself or just with one person at school. Then I got placed unexpectedly and oh my goodness I was like whoa! Then my phone was flooded, everyone approached me the next days and ahhh it was just good!*

Charm Ilaya, 3rd Placeholder



## Our Staff Teams

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Leadership Team:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12)	Danielle Ervine
- Deputy Principal (Year 11 - Rel)	Leah Havord
- English	Julie Robinson
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science	Lidija Radovancevic
- Commercial Studies (Rel)	Salochna Reddy
- HSIE (Rel)	Rebecca Langham
- CAPA	Nicole Bonfield
- Computing	Matthew Topp
- LOTE	Luigi Serra
- TAS/PDHPE (Rel)	Angela Lievore
- Secondary Studies	Liz Hemmings
- Student Services (Rel)	Peta Bailey
- First Australians	Leah Havord
- Sport and Recreation	Joanne Brines
- School Administrative Manager	Rebecca Zinghini
- Student Advisers:	
- Year 11, Surnames A-G	Rosa Kim
- Year 11, Surnames H-O	Lyn Tuckwell
- Year 11, Surnames P-Z	Jesse Vassallo
- Year 12, Surnames A-G	Luigi Serra
- Year 12, Surnames H-O	Andrew Mabey
- Year 12, Surnames P-Z	Nicola Preston
Learning Support:	Carmel Harriden Dianne Pyne
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](mailto:stmaryssen-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



St Marys Senior High School Official Site -  
Facebook



St Marys Senior High School -  
Skoolbag App

## South Creek Production Team

Kerri-Anne Brown – Teacher Librarian

Lisa Bunt	Kopal Mathur
Jasmine Clancy	Renee Mercado
Tara Clancy	Iris Merdegia
Patrice Clemente	Maddison Northam
Christine Dela Cruz	Mackenzie Pelle
Emma Jackson	Mohammad Rifai
Regina Laxamana	Mary Bernadette Vergara

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