



PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Altior et Sapientior

September 2022





From the Principal

As I write this, I am just home from the Concerto Concert and Mr Watson, Head of Senior School, is sending me live updates from St Leonard's College, where two of our teams are competing in the Debaters Association of Victoria Finals. A few hours prior to this, students from our Conservation Club were planting trees on our Keilor Park Campus to offset our paper use, which is part of the work they are doing to understand our carbon footprint and take steps to address it. In this same week we had a large and enthusiastic crowd at our Thinking Seminar with Stan Grant, we welcomed family members to the Year Six Biography Fair at Moonee Ponds, we enjoyed our post-COVID return to St John's for Church Services, we witnessed some outstanding performances from our athletics team in the AGSV Championships, and we also hosted a meeting of our community groups to discuss joint initiatives between Friends of PEGS, our affiliated sporting clubs, the Former Students Association and Business Network.

Our Strategic Plan outlines our commitment to working towards a community engaged and empowered in the shared pursuit of excellence in learning for an enriching present and an exceptional future. When we take a snapshot like this, of just a few days of life in the PEGS community, it is clear that we are well and truly on track towards achieving this goal.

Research into school connectedness makes clear the links between a strong sense of belonging and improved education and health outcomes. When students have positive experiences of school, strong relationships with their peers and feel that their values align with those of the school, they are more likely to experience this sense of belonging. A strong partnership between school and home is another important protective factor.

We aim to build a range of positive experiences for students into daily school life, to foster an environment of mutual respect, and to enable students to build cohesive relationships that will be at the heart of their learning journeys. Once students feel a strong sense of connection to school, they more easily become engaged and strive towards that exceptional future. We are fortunate to have a supportive alumni and parent community who even by their very presence at, and interest in, school events, act as positive role models, which helps our students to remain motivated and future focussed. When our students see that they are surrounded by a network of trusted adults who are working hard to support them, they feel safe and know that they are valued.

Every day I am inspired by our students, but this week, I have paused to focus particularly on the people around them- families, staff, and our wider community of supporters- who are so committed to providing a wide range of opportunities for our students, to offer them an enriching present and an exceptional future. It truly is a shared pursuit.

Kate Dullard

A close-up photograph of two young women in school uniforms. The woman on the left has dark hair in a braid and is smiling gently. The woman on the right has light brown hair and is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. They are both wearing blue and white school uniforms.

Connections and capacity

A week or so ago, all McNab House students gathered in the gymnasium for the 2022 House Talent Quest. This great tradition provides an opportunity for students to showcase their talents in performance – singing, playing an instrument, dancing (sometimes all at the same), rap-battling and even performing comedy routines and card tricks. There were any number of talents shown on the day – and congratulations go to Dorset house on their victory – but it was the acknowledgment and affirmation provided by the more than six hundred students and teachers in attendance that really highlighted the connectedness of our community.

This event was not just a celebration of the performers, but also our students, who organised everything from booking the venue to cleaning up afterwards. There were many teachers and other staff who assisted with various aspects of the House Talent Quest, but it was our students who drove the preparations, and took responsibility for the day. They managed the logistics, liaised with staff for technical advice and support, led the rehearsals and generated the enthusiasm that made the day inclusive of all. They were the builders of this opportunity to connect.

It is well established that students who are connected within and to their school not only have a better time at school, but also do better at school. We also know that students develop confidence when given opportunities to take on challenging tasks (with appropriate support). These principles are not confined to our classrooms, but can be found right across the life of our school.

Anthony Simmons
Head of McNab House



Purposeful Play

It is a common misconception that play means children entertaining themselves for recreational purposes and that the value of play is restricted to fun. But play is so much more.

As early childhood professionals, we use a range of integrated teaching and learning approaches to support children's participation and active citizenship. One approach we use is marrying play and inquiry together within our educational programs. This provides a foundation and invitation for purposeful play; play with intention, meaning, connection and wonderings.

Within purposeful play, children also develop their literacy and numeracy skills. Throughout the kindergarten year, children display many differing skills, abilities and interest in literacy and numeracy, therefore it is our responsibility as early childhood professionals to identify where each child's zone of proximal development lays within these areas. Through purposeful play, children are able to experience success as they comfortably and confidently explore and develop their literacy and numeracy skills at a level of meaning that is appropriate for them. For some children, this could be holding a pencil and making marks on paper. For another child, this could be the unpacking of symbols and making meaning of its message. For other children, it could look like the classification of animals, making patterns with natural materials or symmetrical artwork- and of course, some children will write their names and count blocks using one-to-one correspondence.

Regardless of how each child is developing their literacy and numeracy skills, what we need to consider most is each child's zone of proximal development and in what ways can we help support their growth via meaningful, connected and purposeful play.

Lauren Olcorn
Director of Kindergarten





McGotty Day

On 22 August, we held our third annual 'McGotty Day'. Now, you may be wondering, "what exactly is McGotty Day?" Well, McGotty Day is a special event limited to our Year Eight cohort. It involves students mixing classes and for one special day, becoming co-ed. McGotty Day is one day in which the Year Eight students have the opportunity to get to know the opposite sex, learn things about each other and have fun!

We were informed that there would be various activities in which we could all get to know each other, such as drawing, writing, listening and telling. A final activity was also promised, an activity that us students had the opportunity to choose. There were preferences such as dodgeball, badminton, paper plane making, friendship bracelet making and more! There was so much freedom.

We began the day with an informational assembly and immediately moved off to our classes. The classes were split, half McNab House students and half Gottliebse. The day went on with various fun activities to try; for example, there were 'Get to Know You' questions, such as, favourite animal, favourite artist/actor etc, and it wasn't at all forced. We went at our own chosen pace, and the teachers eased us into this new experience, which made it facile in all aspects.

To conclude our fabulous day, there was a year level assembly, and the teachers then sent us on our way. This superb bonding experience made for a truly memorable day and the friendships made shall stay with me.

Bailey McMillan-Power
Year Eight



A Master inspires

Inspired by one of the Dutch Masters, Rembrandt, Year Eleven Art students have completed a series of portraits. Mirroring some of Rembrandt's famous etchings, students used the method of dry-point-etching to create a self-portrait. The brief required students to initially pose in a way that best reflects who they are and then to experiment with the printing process to accentuate their characteristics.

At the end of the unit, a selection of students was to display their portraits publicly in the Little Sister Café, The Centre Way. The café acknowledged their achievements by offering a complimentary breakfast to celebrate the occasion. It is a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents in the broader community. The artworks will be on display until the end of the year. A

Andy Brown

Art Teacher, Larkin Centre





Park Street Mural Unveiled

From the moment visiting artist, Alex Sugar, arrived at Junior School (girls) the students and teachers were enraptured by the refined way he created a mural based on our local, natural environment. His bold eye-catching design is a welcomed addition to our learning environment and one that celebrates the richness of indigenous plants and wildlife in Moonee Ponds.

As Alex transferred his design to the red brick wall, using spray paint to build up the shapes, tones and textures, we all watched in awe as the Sacred Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Painted Lady Butterfly, Blue Banded Bees, Sticky Everlasting Daisies and Chocolate Lily Flowers came to life.

Prior to Alex' arrival, the students had the opportunity to view his artworks with Ms Lyons and Ms Kyriasacis, discuss his unique style and subject matter, and create their own designs of native flora and fauna. Throughout the project they enjoyed every opportunity to discuss their ideas with Alex as he painted, and many wrote letters of gratitude for the way in which he'd inspired them and brought so much joy to our community.

To observe first-hand how an artist works and witness the artwork evolve was a wonderful experience that we all celebrated on 19 August when we unveiled the mural in a special ceremony with Alex. Ms Dullard spoke of the sense of wonder inspired by Alex's artwork and encouraged the students to look closely, pose questions and imagine the possibilities. Students shared their amazement in the tiny details, and it is clear in their smiles that it will be loved by generations to come.

Julie Neylon

Deputy Head, Junior School (girls)



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STELLARPHANT

Shadow judging

The Children's Book Council of Australia's 2022 'Shadow judging project' provided an opportunity for student advocacy in the world of children's literature. Selected Junior School (boys) students from Year Four to Six were briefed with the task of reading six picture books, then responding creatively and analytically to determine their collective choice for book of the year. In their analysis, students delved beyond the perceived simplicity of a picture book to discover works of art depicting global themes of alienation, diversity, perseverance, the power of an individual to make a difference, climate change and preservation of the planet. During the process, they came to understand the power of literature to convey the social mores and universal themes of a generation.

In collaborative groups, the students created 3D installations which captured the theme and essence of each book. The one criterion they were required to address was the inclusion of a transparent dome into each installation. We selected the dome motif as it was symbolic of both a window into the world of the story and a mirror reflected at the audience to make connections with the text.

Although challenging, the participants found the project to be incredibly rewarding. The project showcased the best in Australian children's literature and emphasised the complexity, the beauty and power of literature to communicate, educate, entertain and leave us all spellbound.

Further information about the 'Shadow judging program', and the students' creative and analytical responses may be viewed at the Junior boys' library PEGSpace page.

Frances Eames
Teacher Librarian, Junior School (boys)



Reflection

Year Six came to an end. I felt anxious for a new chapter of my life was beginning but another part of me was a little excited. I was scared to think about the work, socialising and finding my way around a new school. Year Seven isn't how I thought it was going to be.

Year Seven has been the best year of my life!

All of my worries soon disappeared in a matter of a few weeks after starting school. I never thought it could be this good, I wouldn't change it for the world. I just absolutely loved socialising and meeting new people and even bonding with my teachers. I made friendships that I'm sure will last a lifetime. Art, History, French and all my other subjects were lots of fun for me. I made sure I put time and effort into my work, and I saw the results I wanted to see.

The biggest result of all was how good Year Seven was. I never thought I would love it so much and my wish is that everyone enjoys it as much as me.

Zachary Skalberg
Year Seven

Learning Languages

A teacher once told me that a language classroom is not a traditional classroom, and she couldn't have described it more accurately. Language classes operate in ways that I am not used to, forcing me far outside my comfort zone; we often learn through games, songs and dances, and friendly competitions.

One of these competitions was the House Language Perfect Competition where we completed tasks to gain points for our House and ourselves. We had an incredible time working and competing with friends, and trying to outscore each other on the leaderboard was an amazing motivator to learn and practise our languages!

In French, we were given the opportunity to participate in the Berthe Mouchette Competition, where we had to memorise and recite a poem to a competition officiator. This was a new experience and encouraged me to push my limits, to trust myself and my abilities. I practised my pronunciation for days, and while I entered the room feeling nervous, I left with a great feeling of pride and accomplishment.

Although it took me a while to accept the reality of having to sing during class or recite poetry, it has ultimately benefited me in ways I might not have experienced in a traditional learning environment.

Lakithi Ranawaka Arachchi
Year Seven







100 DAYS
OF
SCHOOL
MAY 2022

DAYS									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

100 Days of Prep

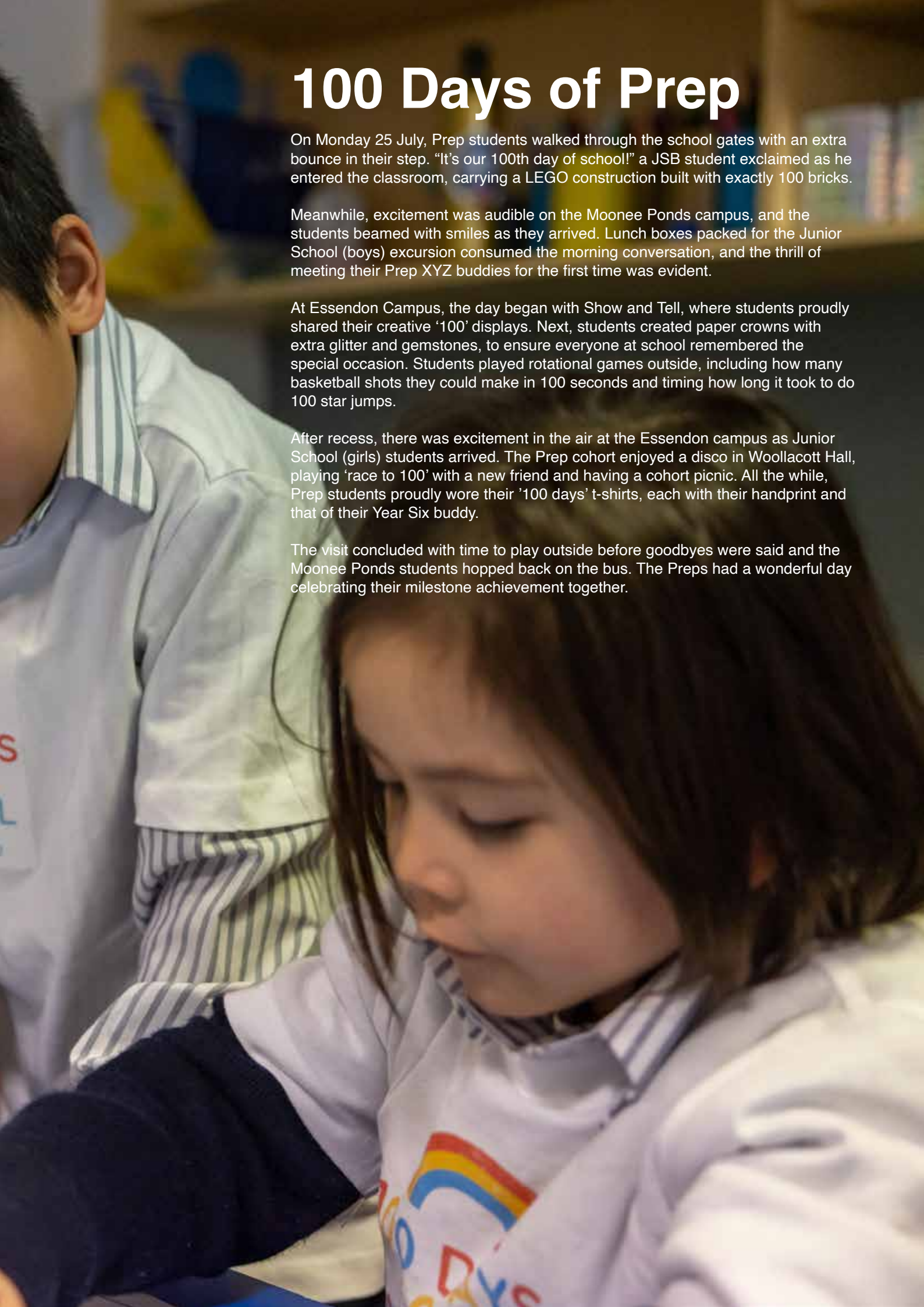
On Monday 25 July, Prep students walked through the school gates with an extra bounce in their step. "It's our 100th day of school!" a JSB student exclaimed as he entered the classroom, carrying a LEGO construction built with exactly 100 bricks.

Meanwhile, excitement was audible on the Moonee Ponds campus, and the students beamed with smiles as they arrived. Lunch boxes packed for the Junior School (boys) excursion consumed the morning conversation, and the thrill of meeting their Prep XYZ buddies for the first time was evident.

At Essendon Campus, the day began with Show and Tell, where students proudly shared their creative '100' displays. Next, students created paper crowns with extra glitter and gemstones, to ensure everyone at school remembered the special occasion. Students played rotational games outside, including how many basketball shots they could make in 100 seconds and timing how long it took to do 100 star jumps.

After recess, there was excitement in the air at the Essendon campus as Junior School (girls) students arrived. The Prep cohort enjoyed a disco in Woollacott Hall, playing 'race to 100' with a new friend and having a cohort picnic. All the while, Prep students proudly wore their '100 days' t-shirts, each with their handprint and that of their Year Six buddy.

The visit concluded with time to play outside before goodbyes were said and the Moonee Ponds students hopped back on the bus. The Preps had a wonderful day celebrating their milestone achievement together.



The EVATT Trophy

In May of this year, all of us at the Larkin Centre were presented with an exciting offer: the opportunity to participate in EVATT in Schools and this month, in the EVATT Trophy. In pairs, we participated in a Model United Nations Security Council style debating competition, acting as delegates of the respective nations that we were assigned, including countries as diverse as France, Russia, Gabon, USA, Australia and more.

A week prior to the event, we received two resolutions that we were set to debate, with the third resolution remaining unknown. With the invaluable support and guidance of Dr Wearne, Mr Crossley and Mrs Hammond we determined our country's stance on the issue in question and formulated a plan of action to amend the resolution to suit our nation's best interests. Throughout the competition, we proposed these changes, forming alliances with nations with similar aims and ideologies and working to win over those with differing beliefs in the negotiation chamber and during caucus time.

Personally, participating as both the UAE and China pushed me to stretch the limits of my thinking because EVATT challenged me to understand and defend the interests of a country with beliefs and politics different to those we are accustomed to in Australia. However, the true highlight of the EVATT experience was the like-minded peers that we were able to meet and learn from as we went head-to-head in fierce debate, clearly displaying our shared interest as youth in global affairs.

Adonna Woldeyes
Year Eleven





The Spirit of Democracy

The Premier's Spirit of Democracy Study Tour explores the origins of democracy in Ancient Greek civilization and its effect on contemporary Australian society. Annually organised by the Victorian Government, this award enriches the learning of students with interests in history, philosophy, and citizenship, in the hope that they use this knowledge to affect meaningful change.

This year, Malinsa Harshadeva, Simran Kaur, Caroline Xie and I were honoured to be selected among 22 student winners across Victoria. Eager to learn, we embarked on a 5-day study tour of Melbourne and Canberra, discovering the culture and history of Australia.

We visited sites including Parliament House, the High Court, the Australian War Memorial, and the National Electoral Education Centre. During the tour, we gained new perspectives, developing our understanding of the social and political fabrics of Athenian and Australian democracy. We also discussed the idea that a true democracy encompasses the views of the majority and the minority to the best of its ability.

Since participating in the Study Tour, I have discovered both a passion for politics and the power that we, as youth, can harness through free expression and informed civic participation.

Adonna Woldeyes
Year Eleven

Fitness and Physical Education

As part of the VCE Units 3 and 4 Physical Education Course, students participated in a full day incursion run by METS Performance Consulting on Monday 20 June.

There were three sessions run across the day that enabled students to observe and/or experience first-hand many of the concepts relating to the Physical Education Study Design. Students completed a range of biomechanical activities and a battery of AFL Draft fitness tests.

Special mention is extended to Chloe Battaglia and Spencer Jones who completed the Wingate 30 Anaerobic Capacity Test. Thomas Williamson, Patrick Steward and Joshua Tracy participated in the VO_2 Maximum Test that tested their aerobic power.

Natalie Still

Larkin Centre, Physical Education Teacher



Child Safety Student Forum

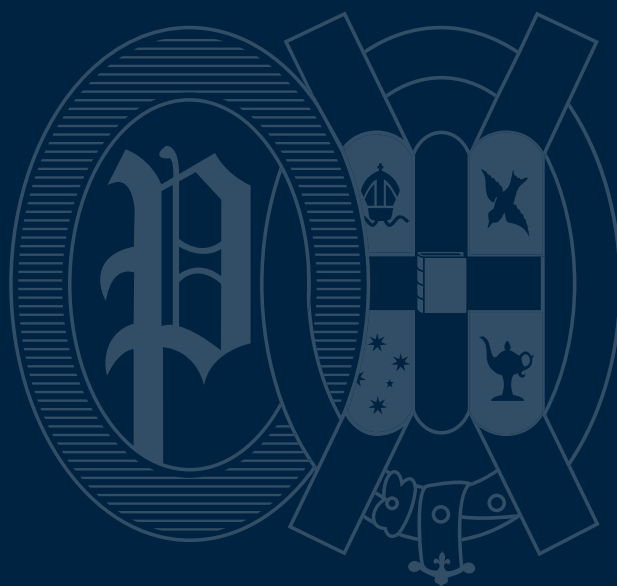
During June, a group of students from both McNab House and Gottliebse House met to talk with each other and Mrs Bilewicz about Child Safety Standards within our school. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to express our opinions on the matter and really shows that our school values the opinions of not only its teachers and parents but also its students. We discussed a number of important topics during this forum that ranged from the roles and responsibilities of student leaders such as Form Captains, to ways that we can help students feel safer when they are at school. Introducing a martial arts unit in PE was one of the suggestions.

Following this forum, we completed an activity in our Year Nine form groups at McNab House that outlined the importance of child safety. This was an opportunity for us to discuss with our peers what we think is important to help keep us safe in our school. Activities like these also help our teachers to understand what they can do to help make students feel safer at school.

Both of these activities are an important stepping stone for our school to become an even safer and happier place for its students and the introduction of the updated Child Safety Standards is a fitting time to do so.

Ruby Anderson

Year Nine



Social Justice Forum

In August, the Year Ten Social Justice team hosted the PEGS Social Justice Forum run by the Justice and International Mission Cluster of the Uniting Church.

The Forum's purpose was to support connections between students from a number of schools who care about the same issues. Students from Aitken College, St Leonards College and Wesley College attended. While we may have similar values and morals, we have different experiences and ideas that have shaped the way we thought about campaigning for these issues. A group of students on my table shared that their school had a farm and they took agriculture classes, so they were more passionate about ecological issues like fast fashion and climate change.

Sarah and Tim, who work at the Uniting Church, taught us about power mapping - a key step in the campaigning process. Power mapping is essentially mapping people, groups or institutions on a quadrant based on how much power they have and how much they would support the issue we want to campaign.

Examples that were discussed were ride share and food delivery and #RaiseTheAge, issues for which the Uniting Church was actively campaigning. Other issues that were explored included climate change, sexism, asylum seekers, fast fashion and abortion rights. Tactics we discussed included rallies, petitions, infographics (published on social media) and meetings with those in power. Overall, the day was really enjoyable and informative. It was truly wonderful to see everyone coming together to talk about what matters and how we can go about resolving it... one step at a time.

Stella Hughes
Year Ten

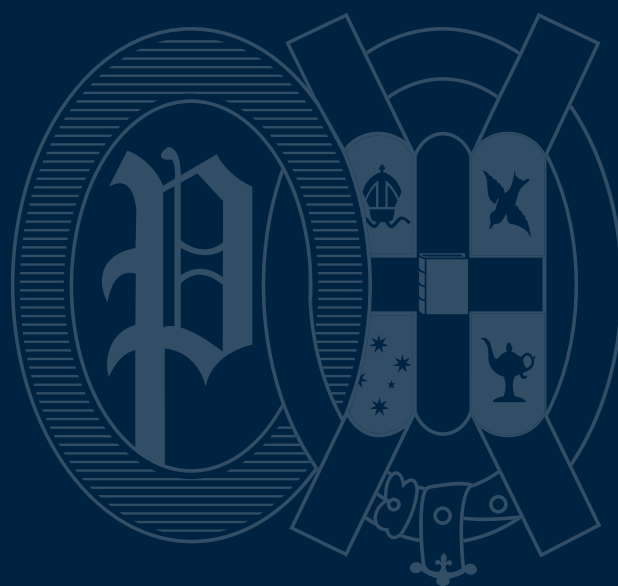
Monash Scholars

Developing good thinkers is an explicit and core goal of our learning program. This year we congratulate Vanish Ararwal, Xavier Engel, Christian Failla, Sienna Lee, Ella Nunan and Tanya Patel for being selected to take part in the Monash Scholars Program for 2022 – 2024.

The Monash Scholars Program provides selected high achieving students from Year Ten with an exclusive opportunity to engage with Monash University. The scholars are expected to commit twenty hours a year to the program for three years, participating in on-campus events after school hours and during school holidays. During their time in the program, they are given opportunities to build networks, enhance their learning, define personal aspirations and explore career ambitions. The selected students must also be leaders within their year level and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to their wider community. Scholars who successfully gain a place at Monash University after Year Twelve will continue to receive benefits including leadership and ambassador opportunities.

This year the school had many students apply for this prestigious program. Our successful scholars embody all the qualities that make them worthy recipients. They are good thinkers, who strive for excellence in everything they do, in and out of the classroom, and we know they will grasp the opportunities offered to them as Monash Scholars.

Marinda Hill,
Year Ten Coordinator (McNab House)



Building Trust Outdoors

Strong interpersonal relationships between students and teachers, is fundamental for building trust, compassion and connectedness across all Outdoor Education Programs. To be trusting is the willingness to be vulnerable to the actions of someone else, based on the prospect that the other will perform an action important to the trustor.

For students in Year Nine, placing trust in others, as well as upholding trust is a central theme for the program. This theme is accentuated in activities such as rock climbing and navigation. For rock climbing, students place trust in their ground team to handle the rope proficiently, as well as be relied upon to stop a fall, when at height. For navigation, students are trusted to make the field decisions, specific to the environment and their group's needs. Students remain vigilant when communicating these decisions with teachers using radio communication. Fire lighting, Lantern Stalk, duties and archery are additional activities that support the theme of trust within the program.

For students, being considered trustworthy in the outdoors is a privilege, and promotes a seeking attitude for greater independence, responsibility and resilience beyond the Eildon Camp.

Bonnie Morris
Outdoor Education Teacher,
Eildon Camp





A Celebration of Creativity

In August, the 17th Independent Schools Victoria Annual Student Art Exhibition was held at the Docklands Gallery. The exhibition featured 74 artworks from seven independent schools including 10 artworks from PEGS Junior School (girls). Congratulations to the following students whose beautiful works were on display: Evelyn Thomas, Georgie Bennett, Eleanor Ashenden, Amalia Kinton, Allegra Bui, Rose Huynh-Smith, Katya Forte, Emma Sloan, Zara Hamza and Aurora Ngew.

Flossie Chua, Principal Investigator at Project Zero opened the exhibition and spoke about one of her research projects that explored ways that visual art can expand young people's ideas about what art can be and who can make it, helping them investigate civic themes and understand themselves as actors in public life.

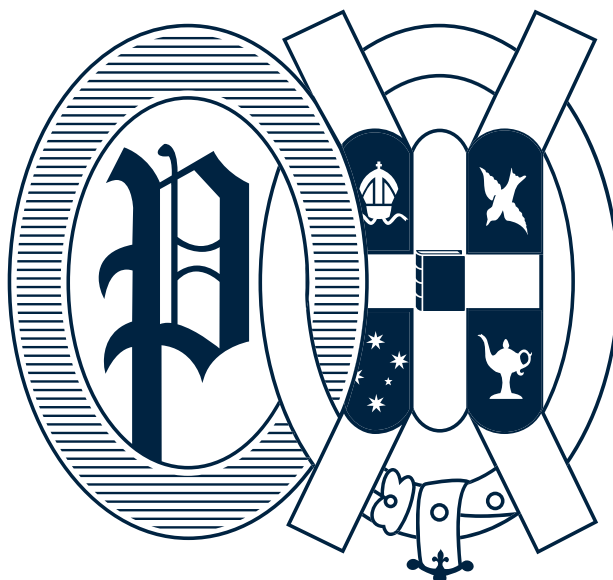
This message seems apt in light of the pandemic. The artworks on display were completed in 2021, during the disruptions of lockdowns and remote learning. The exhibition is testament to the dedication of students to persevere and rise above these challenges to create wonderful, diverse works of art. During lockdowns and the transition back to school students did an amazing job of developing the practice of working like an artist to investigate ideas, research styles, practise skills and create a final, resolved piece of art work.

The exhibition showcased a rich variety of artforms from photography, lino prints, pastel drawings to paintings on canvas, clay sculptures and embroidery. In addition to seeing the wonderful array of creativity and ideas on display, the exhibition is also a reminder of the benefits of art on our emotional, mental and social well-being.

Jean Lyons

Art Teacher, Junior School (girls)





Lines of communication

There is no denying that the way communication and news is delivered has changed over the years. Gone are the days when settling around the television news, receiving newsletters in the post or opening a broadsheet newspaper were the only options when it came to receiving information. In our time-poor world, sitting down for an hour or spending Saturday morning reading and discussing the newspaper has become an almost unreachable luxury. 'On demand' is de rigueur. This was best articulated when someone said to me recently that they only wanted to know what they needed to know, when they need to know it. Y'know?

This shift to digital, accessible communication has been mirrored here at the school. PEGSpeak and Newsfeed have been introduced this year. Both are accessed through PEGSpace and are designed to continue the process of ensuring our communication is timely and relevant. We have been sharing more on our social media pages, too – Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. During this term we have used these platforms to share images and reflections of several large events and day-to-day happenings across the school. If you don't already, I urge you to follow these pages.

While the ways in which we communicate are changing the enhancement of the connection and engagement between school and home and the ability to effectively share the stories of our community remain our focus.

Nina Bilewicz
Vice Principal



Buddy Visits

Excitement was high as the students from the Moonee Ponds campus made their long-awaited visits to their fellow Year Two buddies at the Essendon campus.

Due to the vast array of pre visit activities the students already felt that they knew each other well. Communication wheels containing likes and dislikes had been prepared to discover similarities and differences between the students. Letters had also been exchanged so that the students could delve deeper into getting to know each other.

During their visits the students were both respectful and engaging as they conversed like long lost friends. Games included rolling dice to randomly select key topics to ask questions about. At the end of the game the students created their own secret hand shake. They had the opportunity to play on the new playground and completed their day with a picnic lunch in the classrooms.

Their time together flew and it seemed that they had only just arrived when it was time for the Moonee Ponds students to return to their campus. More letters will certainly be exchanged before the most anticipated return trip to the Moonee Ponds campus occurs towards the end of Term Three.

Andrew Schulz

Coordinator of Years 1/2, Junior School (boys)





Schools Summit

I remember standing around in the lobby wondering why all these people were staring at me. It took me a bit to realise, that in fact, I was the only one in that room wearing a school blazer.

As an elected member of the Student Executive Advisory Committee at VicSRC, which works closely with education's major stakeholders and advocate for student voice. I recently had the privilege of being the only student representative at The Age's School Summit where federal and state ministers, members from the DET, and other leaders meet to brainstorm the future of education.

The panel's key topics were student mental health and the pandemic's lingering effects. It was important to me that everyone recognised our continuing resilience and persistence and the value of listening to us.

After seeing adults holding onto pages of statistics I remember turning to our communications manager and being told, "Sure they have statistics, but do they truly know what it feels like to be a student during a pandemic and mental health crisis? You know what you're doing, and it will all be okay."

And it was! Much to my surprise, once I got off the stage I was being sent screenshots of my words being quoted in articles in The Age, and other international papers – a surreal moment.

Fast forward: there are ministers shaking my hand, board members congratulating me, and my parents beaming with pride. That day, I was proud to be the only person with a school blazer, to represent PEGS, to represent student voice, to represent us.

Gitaanjali Nair,
Year Twelve





House Talent Quest

What do *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Titanic*, *Camp Rock* and *ABBA* have in common? The first live McNab House Talent Quest since 2019! House Talent Quest is an event in which individuals or groups present their various talents - from playing the accordion to dancing like Pitbull – and each House presents student teacher acts. Smiles spread across our gym as each House battled ‘Through the Decades’ and teachers rapped, lip-synced and moonwalked.

However, the power of House Talent Quest is not limited to making McNab House erupt into laughter. It symbolises the community of each House as the competitive nature of the event unites us towards a common goal. It demonstrates the joy of letting go and living in the present. It shows how each individual’s dedication to their House, seen through their participation in lunchtime events, learning dances and bringing costumes, can create a passionate and uplifting environment.

House Talent Quest is an event that is so much more than ‘Yes, we get to miss the last two classes!’. It is an event where every person, no matter their story or capability, is welcome and included in the laughter, positive atmosphere and the applause.

Simran Kaur
Year Ten

Conservation Club

This year the Conservation Club has made efforts to raise awareness of the complex environmental issues affecting our world. Forums at Monash University, excursions to the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens or multiple tree planting sessions at the Keilor Park campus have provided opportunities for students to take control of their collective future.

Members of the Conservation Club attended the Monash University, Precious Plastics forum. We learnt about kinds of plastics, the process of refining plastics and the methods used to ensure that plastic waste is minimised. The engineering team showed us a machine they invented for recycling plastics and products they developed to reduce plastic waste. The day was eye opening and provided inspiration for us to improve our school.

We were privileged to be the first school to collaborate with the experts at the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens for a pilot program called 'Raising Rarity'. We are supporting the growth of an endangered species known as the *Xerochrysum Palustre* or Swamp Everlasting. This native plant is near extinction in the wild and we have been entrusted with seedlings to increase populations in our local community. We are very excited to rehome these endangered plants at school.

We have also been planting trees at the Keilor Park campus. The primary goal is to plant enough trees to offset the combined paper usage of the school. This task is ongoing and we hope to restore these deforested regions in our local community.

The Conservation Club has allowed students to take control of their futures while engaging in fun activities. On behalf of the Conservation Club we would like to thank all the staff involved.

Crystal Du, Christian Failla, Alessia Mancarella, Marsianna Mastrantuono, Lekith Movva and Dylan Tran





Maths Games Days

Maths Games Days, held in association with the Mathematical Association of Victoria, encourage and foster a love of mathematics by allowing students the opportunity to develop mathematical talents and thinking skills, while working collaboratively with like-minded students from a diverse range of schools. Selected students from Years Three to Six may be chosen to participate in Maths Games Days, with PEGS traditionally being a successful participant at all year levels.

After a two-year hiatus, we were excited to welcome 132 students from schools across Melbourne to participate in the Year Five Maths Games Day, held on July 29 at the Essendon Campus. Over the course of the day, students participated in problem solving activities, automatic response challenges and probability games, while working collaboratively within school teams and with each other.

The Junior Schools were represented by two teams consisting of: Jason Long, Dilan Wickramasinghe, Riley Verrall, Benjamin Morris and Rebecca Li, Krystal Nguyen, Elise Dao and Elizabeth Xue. The Essendon team finished in first place, with Moonee Ponds coming a close second. While these results are impressive, the supportive and encouraging nature of all competitors encompassed what the main purpose of the day was about- the coming together of young minds to celebrate mathematics.

Carlee Yuill and Peter Maher
Junior School Mathematics Coordinators



Soccer Premiers

Friday 29 July presented a perfect day for the PEGS Firsts XI to play Marcellin in the AGSV Soccer Grand Final. With the sun shining and over 300 people attending to support the team, the boys put on a brilliant performance to take home the school's thirteenth soccer premiership.

After a 0-0 draw in the first season matchup, there was a mix of nerves and excitement in the build-up to what would be an exciting game. In only the fourth minute, Max Bisetto finished off a header to put the team up early. From here, it was a confident and professional performance, with Max putting two more in the net to make it a hat-trick, and Captain, Kaan Elibol, slotting away the fourth to finish the game off.

The final whistle blew, ending an undefeated season and a captivating 4-0 win to gain the edge over Marcellin in both the game and the AGSV Soccer premiership tally. The supporters ran onto the pitch and the team belted out the song in pride, before they were presented with the trophy and celebrations started.

Following the success in the AGSV competition, the team were invited to compete in the Football Victoria Premier Schools Cup. After topping their group undefeated, PEGS defeated Emmanuel College in the semi-final before being narrowly edged in the final against Xavier College. Congratulations to all of the players and supporters on a successful season.

Tony Stephenson

Coach, First XI Soccer





Exploring The University of Melbourne

Our visit to The University of Melbourne on Friday 22 July tied in well with selecting VCE subjects for Year Eleven next year, as we were able to see what the university had to offer and were given the opportunity to ask questions about prerequisite subjects.

The day began with a tour around the campus, where we were shown some of the popular areas to study and hang out, including the Baillieu Library. Our tour guide was a current student at the University who expressed how much she enjoyed studying there. She gave us a thorough insight into the lifestyle of a university student. It was also interesting to see the different buildings and unique designs, ranging from some of the oldest buildings on campus to those that had opened just recently. Later we were informed about the wide variety of bachelors degrees that the university provides. It felt exciting to think that one day I could be back there studying.

Eliza Vargiu

Year Ten, McNab House

During our lunch break, we were able to participate in a scavenger hunt. Although my group was unable to answer all the questions on the sheet, we enjoyed being able to explore the campus and see the facilities in our own time.

After lunch, we re-entered the auditorium for what I found to be the highlight of the day when we heard the opinions and experiences of a student panel of former PEGS students. We were able to ask questions about their experiences and seek their advice as undergraduate students. In summary, the excursion was very informative and helpful, as we had the opportunity to hear the perspectives of both university students and the staff.

Aidan Kani

Year Ten, Gottlieb House

Snowsport success

It was great to see the Victorian Interschools Snowsports back in action at Mt Buller in August this year. The competition featured seven of our students who collectively competed in 12 events across the week. The students, ranging from Year Four to Year Ten and the Junior Boys campus, McNab House and Gottliebse House, gave it their all in the unpredictable conditions on the impressive snow base. We are proud of the achievements of all our competitors, however, must highlight the individual performances of two students.

Jake Anderson (Year 6) performed superbly in the Division 4 Snowboard Giant Slalom, recording the fastest time of the day with a 42.10sec on his first run and finishing the event in second place. He then backed this great achievement up in the Division 4 Snowboard Cross, finishing in second place and only 0.91sec behind the winner. Jake's placing in both events qualified him for Nationals!

Christian Visvardis (Year 10) tore the 'Little Buller Spur' course apart in the Division 2 Alpine Giant Slalom with two blistering runs of 50.29 and 55.53sec. The event featured over 200 competitors and Christian's combined time of 1:45.82 confirmed he was the overall fastest of the day. Winning him Gold and National qualification! What an outstanding result!

We wish Christian and Jake all the best at the National Snowsports competition at Perisher.

Ben Bailey
Director of Sport



Máire McEvoy

In February 2022, one of our Year Eleven students, Máire McEvoy, competed in the Victorian Track and Field Championships at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park. Máire competed in the Under 18 age group and represented her local club, Keilor St Bernards. Máire ran a personal best of 15.32 seconds in the 100 metre hurdles event, and received a state silver medal for her efforts.

Máire also ran a personal best of 67.08 seconds in the 400 metre hurdles event, and also received a state silver medal for this event. Placing second in Victoria in both events, provided Máire with automatic qualification for the Nationals in Sydney in April 2022.

In April, Máire travelled to Sydney to compete in the Australian Track and Field Championships. After running another personal best of 15.17 seconds in the 100 metre hurdles event, Máire progressed to the final of the 100 metre hurdles event, eventually placing 8th in Australia in the Under 18 age group. Máire also competed in the 400 metre hurdles event in Sydney, placing 16th in her age group.

Máire will compete in the Under 20 age group this season, and will be chasing the elusive World Under 20 qualifying times in her favourite events.

Champion on Ice

Sitting down to talk with Avery Willaert (Year Six), you can see the fire and desire in his eyes at the mention of ice hockey. As one of only 4500 players across Australia, and in a country blessed with the weather we have, it is interesting to hear about the origin of his skills and his passion for this northern hemisphere favourite.

Avery started playing ice hockey in 2014. His dad, Darcy, got him on ice skates when he was just three years old. With idols like Wayne Gretzky, and more recently Mitch Marner, Avery was infected with the enthusiasm that got him roller blading and in ice rinks most days of the week.

Avery might be of small stature, but he makes up for it in skill and his main strength, speed. It was this combination that saw Avery selected to represent Australia in the Under 14 team in Detroit, USA for the State Wars Roller Hockey Tournament in July. Whilst there, he came up against teams from Namibia, the UK, and the USA. The standard was incredibly high and although his team only won one match for the event, Avery talks openly about how much he learnt through playing and receiving expert coaching from Tyler Spezia, who plays in the NHL for the Detroit Red Wings.

Avery was able to apply his new skills and experience at the Under 13 National tournament in Adelaide in August and although the Victorian team did not win the nationals, it proved to be another great experience.

Hayden Wardrop

Year 6 Teacher, Junior School (boys)



Jordan Barnard

Congratulations to Jordan Barnard for her ongoing commitment to the sport of Equestrian since she was eight years old. She has been involved in many intense hours of training and has travelled all around Australia, pursuing her passion. Jordan has competed at Equestrian Australia National Championships on two occasions in her career, in 2016 and 2021.

After qualifying in the State by winning Champion Child's Small Show Horse Galloway on her horse Wynara Enigma, Jordan put in a remarkable performance on 10 March this year on day one of the National Show Horse Championships.

She was also awarded Reserve Champion at Grand Nationals in 2018 on her pony Lykanarro Rocklynn and her horse Wynara Enigma won the Grand Nationals in 2021. These events were held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, the home of the Equestrian events in the 2000 Olympics.

We are proud of Jordan's achievements in this sport and the way she has balanced her sport around the demands of a busy Year Twelve year. We look forward to hearing of her progress in the years to come

Sandra Papas

Year Twelve Coordinator

Concerts

We concluded our major concert series in the last two weeks of Term Two. These final concerts were exciting presentations of excellent student work for appreciative audiences after years without live performance being permitted.

Concert Five on 7 June featured only junior student ensembles. The Junior Concert Band played five exciting and evocative pieces and Operation String were impressive in their ability to follow their teacher leader. The Essendon and Moonee Ponds Year 3/4 Choirs sang separately with a particularly cheeky performance of the song *I've Lost My Homework!* and also combined for a moving rendition of *Everyone Belongs*.

Concert Six on 16 June was a major choral extravaganza. All choirs from Year Five to Twelve were represented and the final item had the stage groaning with over 180 voices, accompanied by piano and strings, performing *Each and Every One*.

Concert Seven on 20 June featured a range of smaller and newer ensembles. The programme had grand and majestic pieces like *The Great Gate of Kiev*, Baroque masterpiece *La Follia*, a popular song by the Beatles and traditional Chinese folk tunes.

Our students continue to be eager to perform each month at St John's Uniting Church in Essendon. In July Alannah Lau (Year Seven) played the violin and in August Yasmin Ritter (Year Eleven) played the flute.

The variety of excellence continues

Term Three has been full of music with nine concerts on our programme. Two Suzuki concerts, one online (89 performers) and one in Limerock Hall (47 performers) provided the opportunity for many young beginners.

The Composition and Music Technology Concert was a wonderful exhibition of students' original compositions and arrangements, with the added entertainment of the Synthesizer Ensemble. The Percussion Concert was a showcase of using backing tracks to enhance the drum part. There was also the presentation of some VCE Music Performance players. The Voice and Woodwind Concerts featured individuals and some smaller groups, including the new male 10-voice choir *Chord of the Rings*. The Junior String and Piano Concert held in Limerock Hall featured solos from our youngest students, many performing for the first time for the appreciative audience of family and friends.

This year a new concert featuring ensembles from the Brass and Percussion departments certainly made its presence known by virtue of volume. Students from all campuses rehearsed together to prepare their combined items.

Finally the Chamber Concert and Concerto Concert rounded out the term. Chamber music is an extension activity for our students and many staff ensembles also appeared to demonstrate the love and joy of these types of ensembles. Seven of our best student musicians were courageous in presenting an item of a high level of musical and technical difficulty, whilst being accompanied by either Curro Strings or Symphony Orchestra. The repertoire included masterpieces by Mozart, Haydn and Greig. We also had a surprise special guest!

Amanda Rowarth
Director of Musci





The Theory of Relativity

When preparing for a show, everybody involved thinks about the audience. They reference the audience, turn towards the audience, make sure the audience can see them (or can't if they are working backstage). They anticipate the arrival of the audience, and are excited to show the audience what they can do.

The interaction between performers and audience has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this year's musical production *The Theory of Relativity*. The band, cast and crew, composed of students from Year Eight to Twelve, have been deservedly praised for how well they inhabited their parts. They have heard from many people how awe-inspiring their vocals were, and how captivating it was to see the band integrated with the rest of the action via a platform onstage.

In *The Theory of Relativity* many students including Sebastian Italiano, Eadie Milne, Caitlin Frankas, Wil Siafalis-Tsiatsios, Stevie Siafalis-Tsiatsios, Hugo Iser-Smith, Alexis Xerri, James Tran, Molly Dale, Ella Windsor, Jasmyn Carr, Jessica D'Souza and Michael Sena shared what would traditionally be considered 'the lead'.

Their support for one another, and the support from the rest of the cast was palpable. It accurately mirrored *The Theory of Relativity's* major theme, which was to show that people, whether they are aware of it or not, are always connected and reliant on one another in some way.

The sentiment was beautifully delivered in the show's final words, "I am nothing without you", and mirrored the relationship between the performers, and the people who came along to enjoy the show.

Jessica Gorlin
Director of Performing Arts





From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

PEGS 150 Years School Sporting Facilities over Time

With the excitement of the Official Opening of the New Gymnasium at the East Keilor Campus, I was prompted to look back at the sporting facilities of previous generations of students at our school.

Diving right back to our early history it becomes apparent that the use of sporting facilities was very much tied to the then Principals' attitude to sport.

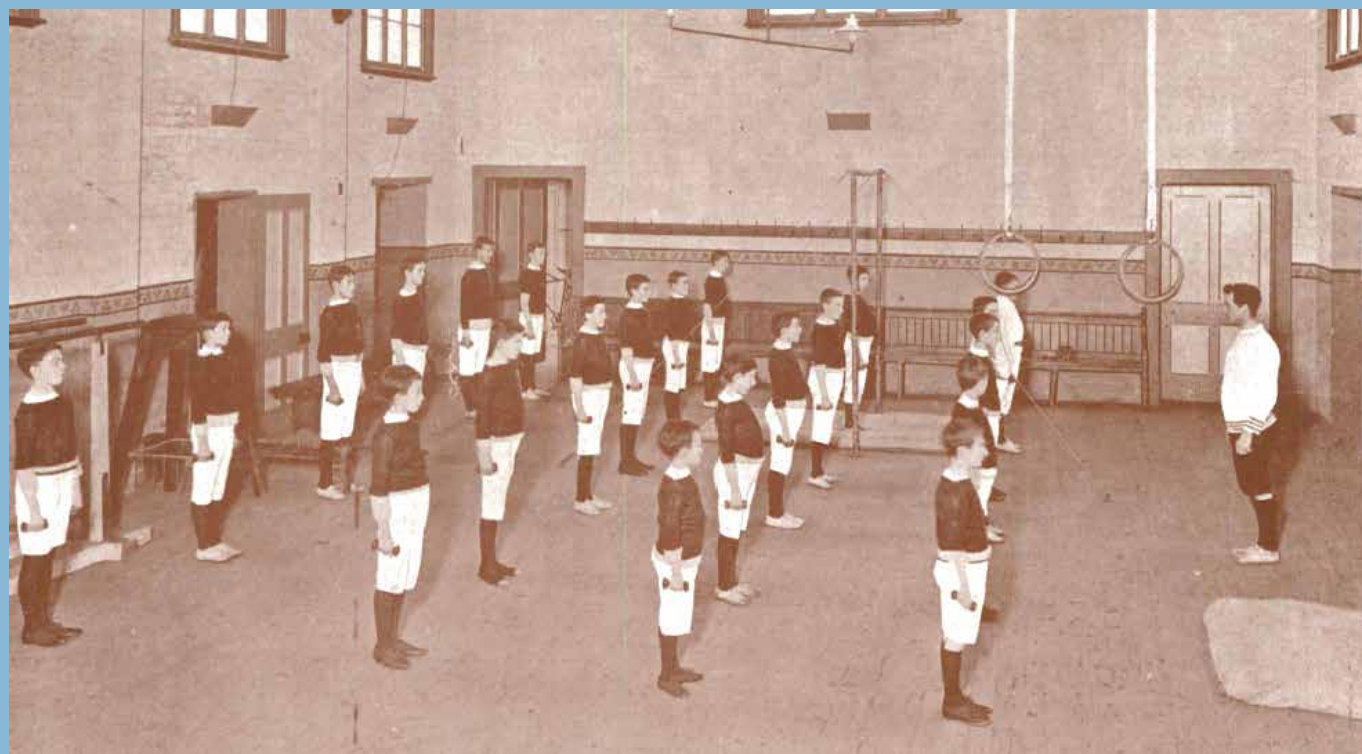
Carlton College Foundation Principal, Mr Alexander Sutherland, included sport but within limits, as articulated in this excerpt from the North Melbourne Advertiser, 22 December 1882:

During the year I have had several applications from the boys to allow them to imitate the other schools and get up athletic sports in connection with the college, but have felt it my duty to decline. I am certain that the training and preparation for these contests takes the minds of the boys from their more important work. They get abundance of exercise at their ordinary sports: and I do not think a month spent in training, and in copying the habits and manners of the professional athletes, is altogether advantageous; while the severe and spasmodic strain upon young and unformed constitutions under circumstances of great excitement seems to me rarely beneficial, and often decidedly injurious.

1893 brought a new Principal, Mr Gresham Robinson. By the early 1900s, Carlton College was competing against other schools in The Amateur Athletics Association at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In 1884 Dorset House Ladies' School Principal, Mrs Elizabeth Tulloch makes no mention of sports in the subjects studied at her school: music, scripture reading, French, Latin, Euclid, Algebra, English History, Roman History, Arithmetic, Geography, Drawing, Painting in water colours; singing, sewing. However, by 1902, the school under Principal Miss Edith Sprigg and renamed Ascot Vale Girls' High School, had moved to custom-built facilities at 8 Chaucer Street, Moonee Ponds, which included a fine badminton court which was used by both students and staff members, although they did not wear what we would consider to be sports clothing.

St Thomas' Grammar School was fortunate to be able to use the facilities at St Thomas' Church, including the hall, which allowed an indoor exercise option.



St Thomas' Grammar School students doing gymnastics in their hall. Each student is holding a hand weight and you can see the rings hanging in the foreground. (PEGS Archives [PH06194])



Ascot Vale Girls' High School staff and students playing badminton on their own court circa 1912 (Donor: V Heffernan [PH04613])

By the 1920s sport was an integral part of schooling for Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School, St Thomas' Grammar School and Northern Grammar School. The students made use of the limited facilities they had onsite with excursions to other local courts and grounds. There are even comments in Yearbooks expressing gratitude to neighbours for the use of their tennis courts.



Penleigh girls enjoying their time in the Essendon Public Baths, Pascoe Vale Road (before the existing Queens Park Pool was built) (PEGS Archives [PH04432])

St Thomas' Grammar School was really feeling the lack of space, jammed in between the church and the Police Station at Moonee Ponds Junction. Emeritus Professor Mervyn N Austin, St Thomas' Grammar School student 1922 – 1926 and Rhodes Scholar 1936, reminisced in his unpublished manuscript:

Our athletic sports were held on the Moonee Valley race-course, where we refreshed ourselves with "lemon syrup and raspberry vinegar," as they were quaintly called by our Headmaster.

A much-used local facility was the Essendon Football Ground, also known as Windy Hill. Most schools in the area held their sports there through the 1920s and into the 1950s. Studying the backgrounds of photographs from these sports days, the ground seems much larger, with only a few official buildings, a white picket fence around the boundary, very few trees, and the occasional private home in the distance, including Hazzard house in Raleigh Street, now the home of our Junior School Boys - so different from the ground today.



Northern Grammar School students from Burrigge House on the Essendon Football Ground. (Donor: Williams Family [PH04378])



Penleigh girls and their toys keep track of the score on Sports Day at Essendon Football Ground (PEGS Archives [PH04404])

Over the decades the schools took every opportunity to acquire neighbouring properties to allow for more space for both buildings and playing fields. The Limerock Sisters purchased the "Whittlesford" property in 1929 which is where Limerock Hall was built in 1953. It was not until 1971 that Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College opened a Gymnasium, named after long-serving Penleigh Council member Mr George Muir, so they could have indoor sports in a purpose-built space. While it seems very small today, it was twenty years before PEGS built a Gymnasium for the Keilor East East Campus!

Essendon Grammar School also began purchasing neighbouring residential properties through the 1950s, expanding the playing fields, building the Assembly Hall (now Woollacott Hall) and new classrooms, and acquiring buildings that would later become our current Kindergarten. The biggest, and most consequential purchase was, of course, the land at East Keilor in 1956, enabling the school to relocate senior students and plan for multiple ovals.





A view of the Essendon Grammar School grounds at Raleigh Street after the acquisition of two blocks and many working parties (PEGS Archives [PH04866])

In 1969 the School Councils of Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College and Essendon Grammar School integrated and there was one Principal, Rev H R (Bert) Stevens, beginning the process which was completed with an official amalgamation in 1977. Accordingly, both schools held their respective School Athletics Sports Days at the same location – the Women's Amateur Athletics Track at Poplar Oval in Royal Park. The reception was mixed, as Allison Fraser wrote in *The Black Watch* 1970:

This year instead of going to Essendon football ground for all athletics, we went to Royal Park. This new ground provided us with easy access to many facilities: cinder track, javelin pit, softball diamond, long and high jump pits. The cinder track was extremely good for all running events... The Royal Park ground itself provided no shelter for spectators, and that bitter southerly is sure to have acted as a dampener. By contrast, at the football ground there was ample shelter for spectators if needed. So it was a day of changes - except that Park won again with Chaucer second and Dorset third.



Form 2 Penleigh students holding the house banners with Grade 6 student proudly displaying her trophy at the Sports Day at Royal Park (PEGS Archives [PH04520])



*Penleigh Grade 6 students in their new Gymnasium - entitled "Up the wall - with Mrs Harding" in *The Blackwatch* 1972 (PEGS Archives [PH04541])*

Local public swimming pools were well utilised by schools. A particular favourite was the Queens Park Pool in Pascoe Vale Road, which is still there today. The pool was opened in November 1958 and the Essendon Grammar School boys used it immediately. In 1971 a new pool was built at the Raleigh Street Campus and was great for regular swimming lessons, but did not have the capacity for large swim meets, so local pools continued to be used.



Year 11 and 12 students competing at the McNab House Swimming Sports in 1985. (PEGS Archives [PH05117])



Penleigh Swimming Carnival at the Queens Park Pool on Pascoe Vale Road in 1973 (PEGS Archives [PH06966])

Amidst the decades of changes at East Keilor with the building of new facilities, improvement to playing fields and courts, one key addition was the construction of a Drama and Gymnasium complex. Aside from the Squash Courts, this was the first all-purpose indoor sports facility on the campus. The first attempt at an official opening had to be cancelled due to storm damage, with the event finally staged on 17 May 1991. At a School Assembly the Gymnasium and Theatre were officially opened by the Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr George Gilbertson.



Year 11 students, Nigel Toussaint and Rebecca Fletcher, inspect the work in progress of the new East Keilor Campus Gymnasium and Theatre 1990 (PEGS Archives [PH08067])



PEGS Concert Band, conducted by Mr Colin Harris, plays at the Assembly to celebrate the Official Opening of the East Keilor Gymnasium in 1991 (note the school crests are still being used separately) (PEGS Archives [PH08107])

Just for a shorter-term flashback, the excellent facilities at Keilor Park have grown up during one generation of PEGS students. All members of the PEGS Community were given the opportunity to assist with planting the new vegetation on the site in 2008, and the students in Kinder that year would have all finished Year 12 in 2022!



Junior School Boys with PEGS Gardener, Mr John Tullio, at the Keilor Park Treeplanting



Senior Students from McNab House at the Keilor Park Treeplanting

PEGS Former Students Association and Business Network

2022 Events

FSA Reunions

10 Year Reunions

Class of 2010 - TBA

Class of 2011 - Saturday 12 November
Penny Young, Young Street, Moonee Ponds

20 Year Reunions

Classes of 2000 and 2001 Combined Reunion - Saturday 1 October
Penny Young, Young Street, Moonee Ponds

Class of 2002 - Saturday 15 October
Penny Young, Young Street, Moonee Ponds

30 Year Reunion

Class of 1990, 1991 and 1992 Combined Reunion - Saturday 22 October
Penny Young, Young Street, Moonee Ponds

40 Year Reunion

Class of 1982 - Saturday 15 October
Benny and Me, Rose Street, Moonee Ponds

If you haven't received an email regarding this event this may mean we don't have your recent contact details, head to your 'PEGS - Class of' Facebook group for details or email Tanya Caruso – fsa@peg.vic.edu.au

Class of 2021 Year 12 Junior School Visits

If you completed your VCE last year and attended PEGS from Junior School, you may have missed visiting after your online church service. We would like to offer you the chance to visit. This will be happening in mid-late October. If you haven't received an email about this, please contact fsa@peg.vic.edu and we will be sure to forward you the information.

Alumni Art Storm

Remember the good old days of Performing Arts at PEGS?

The endless rehearsals, the frenzy of production week, the whispers of 'chookas' in the wings, and the final rush of adrenaline before the show?

Would you like the chance to catch up with past peers, relive some of our best shared recollections of the Performing Arts, and to make some new memories?

Come along to the 'Alumni Art Storm', a fun, nostalgic and creative event at which you will be able to contribute your thoughts about the formation of the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School Alumni Performing Arts Association

- Participate in a series of workshop activities to help envisage and prepare for the development of this pioneering Alumni group
- Embark on a short tour of the school's new facilities
- Enjoy some afternoon tea
- Reminisce (or cringe) at recordings of past performances

We look forward to seeing you there, and sharing in your best inventive thought to build this new Association

Sunday 2 October 2022 at 2 PM
PEGS DRAMA THEATRE
163 R, KEILOR EAST VIC 3033

If you would like further information on any of the events listed above, please contact me via email, fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au or 9997 3086.

FSA and Business Network

These events are a great way to mingle with past students and current parents along with other people who are part of the PEGS Community. Details of these events will be sent via email and posted on our socials.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Event with Tom Boyd

Friday 28 October - RACV Club Melbourne

End of Year Drinks - Saturday 19 November

Penny Young, Young Street, Moonee Ponds

Don't forget to visit www.pegshub.com.au and register your most up to date contact details to ensure you do not miss out on any reunion details!

LinkedIn

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect former PEGS Students and Alumni in business, creating business opportunities for all members while also keeping in touch with and contributing to the greater PEGS Community.

To request membership, please login to **LinkedIn** and search for '**PEGS Business Network**'

Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, please search for PEGS Former Students' Association and PEGS Business Network and like our pages.

If you are a Former Student, be sure to find your Facebook 'PEGS Class of ' closed group to stay in contact with your peers and get regular updates on reunions and other PEGS Community events.

Announcements

DEATHS

Catherine Lynch [PEGS Class of 1998], sister of Daniel [PEGS Class of 1994], 2022.

Judith Russell-Clarke (Miss Potter) [PPLC / PEGS Staff 1971 - 1982], mother of David [Class of 1974], Jaynee [Class of 1975], Joanne [Class of 1983] and Steven [Class of 1984], on 5 May 2022, age 87.

Mitchell Williams [PEGS Class of 2005, PEGS Football Club], on 2 July 2022, age 34.



Teddy Bears

The Former Students Association is selling PEGS Teddy Bears. Female and Male Teddy Bears available dressed in the PEGS summer uniform. A great gift idea for students starting at PEGS in Kinder or Prep and as Year 12 Graduation presents.

Teddy Bears can be ordered by contacting the Association on fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au

Alumni Spotlight Dream big and have a ball

This is a story about three PEGS alumni, where the clichéd “dreams can come true” phrase became reality.

School friends **Jason Sourasis**, **John Tripodi** and **Levent Shevki** (Class of 1994) loved their sports but never thought, almost 30 years later, they would be at the helm of one of Australia’s most ambitious sport business projects. Their business interests and sporting passions collided together in 2018 when they were part of a consortium that successfully bid for an A-League club licence based in Melbourne’s west, where Western United FC was subsequently born.

The trio are now basking in the glory of a fairy tale A-League Men’s championship crown in the club’s third season following its 2-0 grand final victory over cross-town rivals Melbourne City in May. It was a sweet victory for Western United head coach and Soccerroo icon, John Aloisi, who knocked off his former employers in the decider.

Away from the soccer field, Sourasis is the Executive Director of private investment company Jaszac Investments, Tripodi is the Co-founder and CEO of diversified sport and entertainment company Twenty3 Group, and Shevki is Partner and CEO of law firm Cornwalls. They have used their collective skills and experience across finance, strategy, marketing and law, underpinned by an entrepreneurial mindset and commercial nous, to deliver on an ambitious vision.

Sourasis, as chairman of Western Melbourne Group (parent company of Western United FC), alongside fellow directors Tripodi and Shevki, leads an ownership group that is aiming to deliver a ground-breaking sports and real estate development in partnership with Wyndham City Council. The club is backed by a high-profile, multi-code sporting ownership group that includes current AFL footballers such as Adam Goodes, Jy Simpkin and Dyson Heppell, tennis player Thanasi Kokkinakis, and basketballers Dante Exum and Chris Goulding.

Earlier this year, the group received state planning approval to proceed with its mixed-use residential and commercial property development in the Wyndham area – one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia. The centrepiece of the 62.5ha project is the proposed construction of a 15,000-seat stadium in Tarneit which Western United will call home.



In October 2021, Western United struck a tenancy agreement with the Essendon Football Club to move its administrative staff and A-League team to The Hangar in Tullamarine. This move gave the club access to elite training and sporting facilities while its training base is currently under construction in Tarneit. Western United has also established its community engagement program – The United Football Program – aimed at connecting with grassroots clubs in Melbourne’s west by sharing coaching and talent development resources and philosophies. The program, alongside the club’s Youth Academy set-up, will help drive a deeper connection with communities in the west, and build on the club’s 8,000 members.

In another watershed moment for the club in May, Western United was granted a licence to enter a team in the A-League Women competition for the upcoming 2022/23 season. Sourasis, Tripodi, Shevki and the rest of the club board were relentless in the pursuit of the women’s licence as fielding a women’s team was part of the ambition of Western United from inception. The club already has a strong grassroots partnership with women’s soccer powerhouse Calder United, and this latest development – on the eve of Australia hosting the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup – provides a pathway for female footballers in the west to represent their region at a professional level and aspire to represent their country as Matildas.

The PEGS connection to Western United doesn’t end with the trio. Former students John Anastasiadis (Assistant Coach), one of Australia’s greatest soccer exports, and Daniel Hutchison (Team Manager) are integral members of the club’s football department.

Western United’s A-League success this season coincided with the PEGS Boys First Soccer Team claiming its 13th AGSV title in 2022. It was only 28 years ago where the trio also achieved school sporting success. Tripodi (AGSV and PEGS captain) and Shevki (PEGs vice-captain) led the school to the 1994 AGSV First Soccer title, while Sourasis was a key member of the PEGS First Football Team which also won the AGSV title that year.

The sporting tentacles of the childhood friends don’t stop at soccer. Sourasis, Tripodi and Shevki are also behind leading AFL talent management agency Hemisphere which manages the careers of AFL footballers such as Scott Pendlebury, Jack Ziebell, Hugh McCluggage, Jeremy Cameron, Luke Parker, Steven May and Rory Sloane, to name just a few.

These three businessmen, with their aspirations and friendship forged at PEGS, dared to dream big. We wait with anticipation to see what sporting code is next on their agenda.



Class of 2012 – 10 Year Reunion

The first of many reunions in 2022 was held at Penny Young in Moonee Ponds on Saturday 18 June, with around sixty former students from the Class of 2012 attending. The intimate number didn't stop the anticipation growing and experiencing the laughter and excitement of former classmates was testament to the efforts of the Reunion Committee; Drew Austin, Rachel Hibbert, Steph Houston and Hannah Hogarth.

The laughter increased as the group watched their Valedictory video on the big screen, bringing the good old days to the forefront, and studied class photos from over the years. Ten years ago, many of the Class of 2012 wrote letters to their future selves; letters containing their hopes and dreams. These were distributed and the expressions on faces whilst reading these letters was phenomenal. The excitement in the room was palpable; if seeing the faces of people from ten years ago wasn't sufficient, reading these letters was the pinnacle, with happy tears and laughter shared by all.

Class members who have yet to receive their letters to selves, please contact Tanya Caruso fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au to organise collection.

Overall, the excitement around the room was palpable and it gave many the opportunity to reconnect with classmates and reaffirm old friendships, or even create new ones that may not have blossomed ten years ago.

Class of 2012, we hope to see you all at you're your next reunion in another ten years.





Friends of PEGS

Craft Market

IT'S BACK!

Saturday 8 October

10am to 4pm

Essendon Campus

Raleigh Street, Essendon

New exciting carnival rides

Homemade cakes and slices

White elephant stall

Competitions and games

Art and craft stalls

Face painting

Animal farm

Musical and dance performances

Food stalls

Art gallery and much more

For more information and stallholder bookings
contact Lyn LoMoro 03 9997 3004 lyn.lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au

Friends of PEGS News

Trivia Night

In the stately Art Deco styling of 1922-built Coburg Town Hall, Friends of PEGS hosted a Trivia Night on Saturday 18 June, to the fittingly joyous theme of Roaring 1920's. When art meets life and trivia quizzery is tested – amongst old and new friends – it is joyous.

Quizmasters, QuizzaMe, interactively guided guests in extravagantly colourful game-show style, keeping the night buzzing along as hands swiftly bounced on buzzers. Points were escalating, teams were sliding up and down the scale; a healthy dose of competitive spirit propelled the evening's atmosphere.

The clickety-clack of heels dancing the Charleston, pearls swinging, Fedora and Panama hats bobbing on the dance floor, elevated guests' spirits, with 2020's and 1920's celebrating a long-overdue, get-together. Friends of PEGS love putting on a glorious show that invites parents and friends to come together and rise to the occasion.





Craft Market

Our blockbuster annual family event, FoPEGS Craft Market – anticipated and adored by our kids and kidults, is back on Saturday 8 October. We have been looking forward to this moment all year. Friends of PEGS are dedicated to showcasing students on stage and in their gallery on this day, surrounded by quality stalls to shop and elevated by carnival rides to champion, beside food and entertainment choices.

This unmissable calendar date for students and families is coming on 8 October.

FoPEGS Calendar of Events

Saturday 8 October **Annual Craft Market** (FoPEGS Annual Raffle drawn)

Friday 25 November **The End of Year Lunch** (formerly Ladies Lunch)

We thankfully acknowledge the dedicated commitment of past and present FoPEGS Committee members.

For all enquiries, please contact Lyn LoMoro on 9016 2183 or email: Lyn.Lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au

One School Day 2022

After a gap of three years our school community returned to the Plenary to celebrate One School Day on 31 August with a flourish. Commencing with the traditional procession of the Class of 2022 and the Welcome to Country introduced in a First Language, the event included an address by Year Twelve student Molly Dale and the retiring Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr Bruce Henderson. The new School Song was showcased and performances by the Stage Band, the Senior Choir and OSD Orchestra, the Junior String Orchestra and Year Six dancers together with a reprise from the 2022 musical production, The Theory of Relativity were followed by the presentation of School Awards.

A lifesize elephant dancing on stage, giant balloons and streamers provided a fitting climax to what has been described as 'the best day of the year' by more than one student.



every person







2022 Dates for the Diary

October

- 3 October – Term Four begins
- 5 October – VCE Visual Arts Viewing
- 8 October – Craft Market
- 12 October – VCE Music Performance (Unit 2)
- 18 October – Valedictory Dinner
- 19 October – String Concert Three
- 20 October – Piano Concert Two
- 24 October – Suzuki Concert Five

November

- 1 November – Mid term break
- 14 November – Suzuki Graduation Concert
- 22 November – Primary School Concert
- 30 November – Carol Service

December

- 7 December – Term Four ends

