

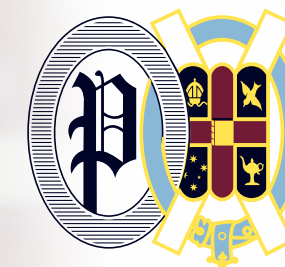
PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# Altior et Sapientior

December 2022





## *From the Principal*

As I reflect on our experiences at PEGS in 2022, it is clear that we have collectively told a full and exciting story. There have been many notable events and achievements and there is much that we can all look back on with a sense of great pride and satisfaction.

It is also fair to say that 2022 has not been without challenge. Within our community and more broadly, the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed situations that have been complex and multi-faceted, and that have required a great deal of patience, adaptability and strength of character.

It is during times of challenge, times when we are required to find more resolve, more strength and more energy, that we must make a decision: to give up or to take on the challenge with determination and hope for better outcomes.

Taking on a challenge not only scaffolds personal growth; it fosters growth in the community. Beyond the satisfaction of accomplishing something that seemed, at first, very difficult, the ripples of positivity and drive that permeate the people and environment around you offer the potential for growth on a larger scale.

While we enjoy a well-earned break, we are presented with an opportunity to acknowledge what our challenges are and to consider what the path towards overcoming these challenges may be in 2023. It promises to be a year of great progress and engagement.

**Kate Dullard**



# Sharing stories

Storytelling plays a powerful role at every stage of our lives. From infancy, we share stories with our children and encourage them to give life to their incredible imagination in telling their own stories. As the years roll on, the importance of hearing and understanding the stories of those who have come before us gains strength. The stories we hear form parts of our character and influence our experience of the world.

Storytelling connects us to our history and helps to define our future through the lessons we learn. Stories are not just a collection of words. They are infused with all manner of human emotion, strength and flaws. Stories have the power to connect or divide us.

Our theme, every person, every story, was instrumental in the renewal of our PEGS community in 2022. It served to remind us not only of the importance and value of each person as an individual, it also played a central role in providing a platform for stories to be listened to and told at a time when staff and students alike were seeking to reconnect after the adjustment to the realities of our changed circumstances.

It has been a privilege to witness these connections flourish through the sharing of stories this year. We are all richer for the experiences we've shared.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal





# Open Dance Drama class

*You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.*

Maya Angelo

To celebrate the Year Three and Four students' creative pursuits in Dance this year, family members were invited into Limerock Hall to view their child's Dance/Drama lesson. The aim of each class was to explore ideas through the creative process, rather than presenting a finished product or performance.

Students demonstrated the collaborative nature of Drama as they participated in tableau challenges and group sculptures. These activities were a successful avenue to cultivate the students' teamwork, problem solving and creative thinking skills.

Through guided improvisation, students used the elements of dance to explore choreography and develop expressive skills. Parents enjoyed observing students mirroring kinaesthetic movements with a partner, whilst focusing on the spatial elements of dance. When reflecting on the task, students were invited to explain why they preferred to either lead or follow. Many students discovered their preference was to lead because they were in control of the movements and they liked to challenge their partner. Others preferred to follow and learn new ideas. The process of reflection deepened students' understanding of body, space, time and relationships, but also of their own learning style.

Our supportive family and friends discovered that Dance and Drama is stimulating, energetic and exploratory. They watched students take risks in a safe environment, express ideas through movement and awaken their creative capacity. With limited opportunities for students to perform over the past two years, students and visitors alike were grateful for the shared experience.

**Terri O'Donnell**

Teacher of Dance and Drama, Junior School (girls)





# Showing Leadership around Student Leadership

Throughout 2022, we have deliberately fostered the ongoing development of student voice and agency at Gottliebsen House. While it has always been important to listen to our students' opinions and to consider carefully their experiences and suggestions, in 2022 we have formalised this with the expansion and refinement of the Student Voice Committee. This has been a collaborative process; involving staff and students working together to build a mechanism and introduce a process for students to put forward ideas and explore ways to enhance their experience.

More recently, Year Ten student Ben Gray created an online voting system that allows all current students in Years Seven to Nine to have their say in electing committee members for 2023. This is an example of great leadership in driving change that will see representation by students of various year levels on the Student Voice Committee. With students taking on specific roles and responsibilities and learning how to be part of a committee, we look forward to including students' ideas and perspectives even more in the future.

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottliebsen House



# Adventures in Melbourne's CBD



In October, Year Eight students from McNab House worked in groups of ten to take their teachers on a tour of Melbourne's CBD. Students planned activities, budgets, transport and prepared risk assessments, culminating in one of the highlights of their year. Here are some of their thoughts:

I loved City Experience a lot. Although there was lots of walking and adventures on trams, the experience was very enjoyable. My group went bowling where we connected a lot more and had fun together, and then had lunch together while talking about various topics. These were definitely my two highlights.

**Lithaya De Silva**

I loved City Experience and believe that it should be done every year, with each year adding more responsibility and independence. Overall loved the experience!

**Eva Jovcevska**

Exploring the city and trying to get from place to place wasn't easy all the time, but I'm glad I could experience this with my classmates and friends. There were a couple of challenges along the way but we got through them and it got us to think, look and organise things differently which was difficult at the time, but worth it at the end of the day.

**Jessica Noto**

The City Experience was a fun way to build our responsibility, organisation and team work skills. It emphasised our independence, and was guided by a plan that we made and had to make sure worked. I even met some new people in my year level and making a video about all of it was so much fun..

**Mikaela Hague**



## Atlantis, the Suitcase Series

Making a script from scratch is a lot more difficult than you would think, particularly when the only props you're allowed to use must fit in a suitcase!

When we were given the script for a play called 'Atlantis' and told to make our own play inspired by it, it seemed like a daunting task, especially given this was my first time doing Drama since Year Seven. The stimulus, 'Atlantis', focused on climate change so we started brainstorming ideas such as the possibility of personifying the Ozone Layer and making time travelling comedic... and it kept going from there. We ended up not just with both of those things but also fish guards, God as a doctor and a court case against the human race for polluting the Earth.

The opportunity to go to the Malthouse Theatre in the CBD was exciting. We were able to see other schools perform their interpretation of the script and received live feedback of our own performance, which seemed to get through to the audience. Along with being one of the most enjoyable and gratifying experiences, we also had the pleasure of seeing the original play, 'Atlantis', being performed. The cast of only three people used lots of techniques we recognised from class such as Epic Theatre, Non-Naturalism and Poor Theatre. It was an amazing experience altogether, that I doubt my class and I will ever forget.

**Lilybell Samild**

Year 10





# Community Engagement

Staff members have been involved in an Adaptive Leadership professional learning opportunity in 2022, with a focus on developing capacity to effect positive change and drive improvement within their section.

The Junior School (girls) cohort worked to reinvigorate engagement and connectedness. This has involved the establishment of the Community Engagement team. Its aims are to promote student and staff efficacy, provide opportunities for increased student voice and leadership, and to strengthen ties between students, staff and families.

Links between important events and curriculum topics were made, and staff and students were encouraged to take ownership of areas of interest, and collaboratively consider ways to galvanise, educate and involve our wider school community. As a result, students have been actively involved in initiatives such as the development of the Sustainability Group, Reconciliation Action Plan Group, and Social Service Week fundraising.

One such event was the celebration of World Teachers' Day on 28 October, where all students were involved in acknowledging staff members that contribute positively to school life. Our grounds staff, wellbeing committee, social club committee, learning assistants and specialist staff came together to support our youngest and oldest students to celebrate their teachers with tokens of appreciation, messages of thanks, culminating in an afternoon of music and laughter.

Through their involvement in significant events, students develop a greater understanding of what it means to be a global citizen, and the importance of connectedness within our community.

**Carlee Yuill**, Maths Coordinator and **Kylie Hammond**, Year1/2 Coordinator  
Junior School (girls)

# Bike Education

It used to be that riding a bike was a rite of passage for all children but like the exchange of cash, the practice is less common, particularly as the training wheels come off. There might be many reasons for this such as increased traffic on roads, competing demands for time, and the preference that many children have for time on their digital devices, but there is no denying the physical, emotional and social benefits of bike-riding.

I often ask parents whether students have made the transition to two wheels before school starts as the benefit of bike-riding, for developing core-strength, cardio-vascular capacity and therefore the stamina to sustain a day at school, are undeniable. As well as boosting muscle-flexibility and strength, the exercise helps postural balance and coordination that is necessary to every facet of a growing child's life and the sheer joy of movement, with wind in your hair and sun in your face, reduces stress and anxiety.

Whilst Bike Education in Year Five will not completely shift the mindset of some families, bringing bike-riding back into the curriculum will encourage parents to think about providing opportunities for their children to practise the skill. It is hoped that more students will commit to riding their bikes as they become more aware of the traffic and responsible users of the bike-paths and roads.

**Christine Hallman**  
Head of Junior School (girls)





## First Pivot, Entrepreneurial Incursion

Year Five students recently participated in an insightful and engaging program delivered by 'First Pivot'. Across two consecutive sessions, the students came to understand that entrepreneurs see opportunity everywhere and that a problem or challenge is an opportunity to help people.

A professional coach in each class enabled students to learn skills such as optimism, self-motivation, combined with resourcefulness and resilience. Coaches worked closely with the students on ideation, opportunity analysis, and effective presentation skills.

Student teams worked to identify problems within our world such as, world hunger, gender inequality, life on land, sustainability. They worked together to brainstorm solutions, and then used their persuasive skills to communicate their ideas. Each group prepared and presented a 3-minute pitch with help and guidance from their coaches.

The winner at the Junior School (girls) was Team LAstraws with a pitch for a sustainable drinking straw that is made from pasta. "Because we all know that while paper straws are a step in the right direction, they still get soggy and don't work." There was some great competition with the runner-up proposing a 4-stage filter that can be fitted to existing cars to reduce emissions. At a cost of \$250 it pays for itself by helping you avoid visits to the doctor due to pollution-related illnesses.

It was wonderful to see the students come to the realisation that the goal is always for output of value to be greater than the input costs. The coaches helped the students to see that value can be measured in a variety of ways, including financial, social, environmental impact and happiness.

**Lisa-Marie Fiorenza and James McMorro**  
Year 5 Teachers, Junior School (boys)

## Science in the Junior School

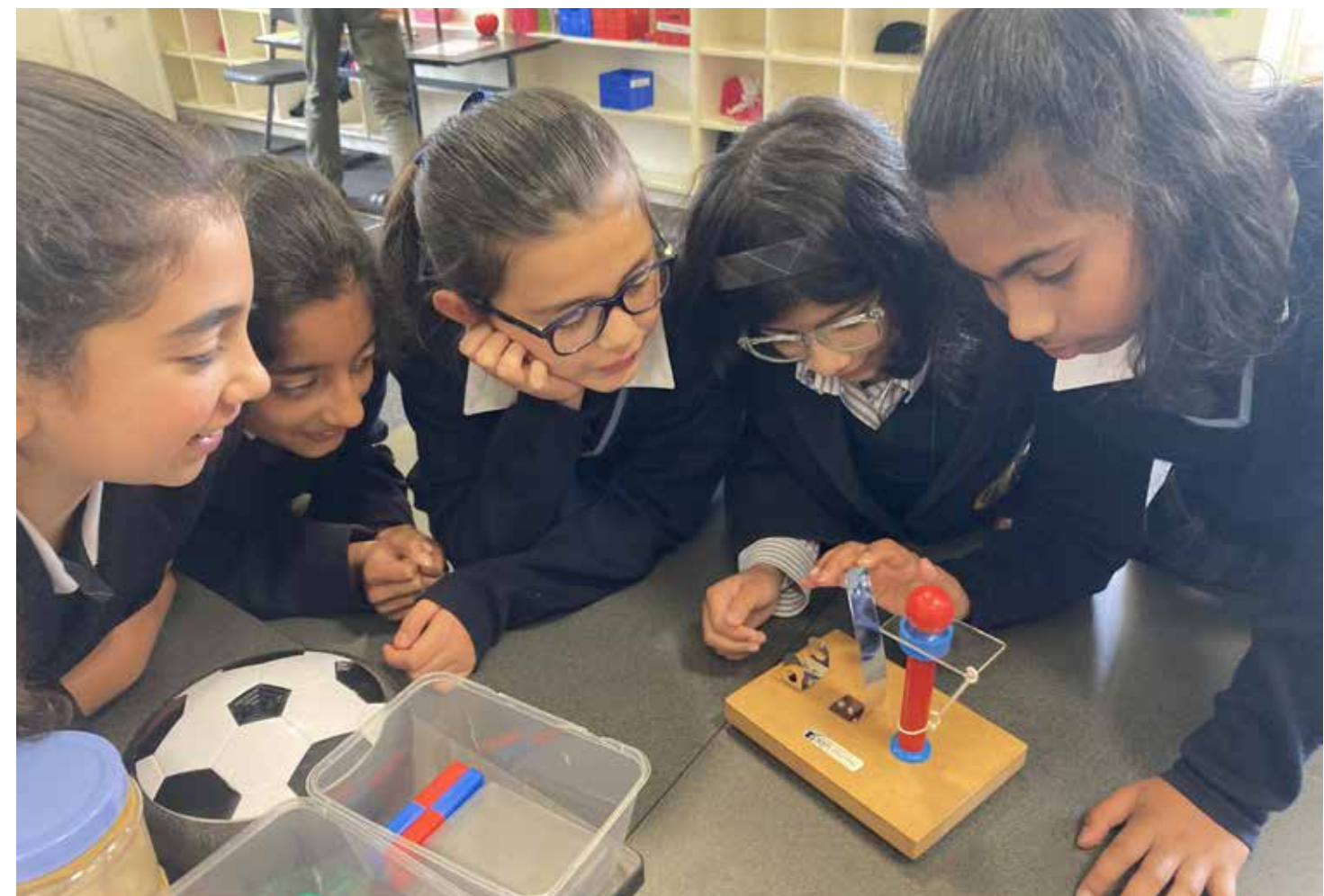
The excitement of Science at Junior School is closely tied to the unfettered licence to ask lots of questions, and to explore them in fervent conversation with each other. At the Junior schools the services of a science laboratory have never been required to observe qualities, measure quantities, to sort, classify, to infer, predict, experiment, and to communicate in a range of topics that develop from the main strands of Biological, Physical, Chemical and Earth and Space Sciences.

Prep have been investigating how people ambulate by learning about voluntary and involuntary movements. They incorporated their toys into their investigations and explored how and what makes them move. The concept was extended in Year Four when students identified non-contact forces and began to appreciate that some interactions result from phenomena that can't be seen with the naked eye. They made predictions and formulated conclusions based upon their scientific investigations. The students then applied the knowledge learnt to a STEM challenge where they constructed a vehicle and competed in the Wacky Races challenge. The accompanying costumes led to added hilarity on the day!

Enquiring about the water cycle in Year Two prompted research and discussion about the responsible ways to utilise and save water, and more germane to the current La Nina cycle, how fresh water is generated through a water treatment plant.

In conducting experiments on solids, liquids and gases, Year Three used materials such as chocolate, honey, bicarb soda and water and practised writing scientific procedures. When asked for feedback on a recent lesson, Trinity responded with, "I really like that we are learning about the things around us." Lyla had the last word when she said, "I like it because we do fun experiments. It's fun!"

**Christine Hallman**  
Head of Junior School (girls)





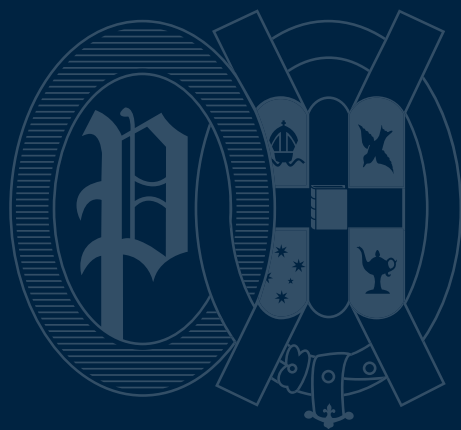
# Final Day

On Wednesday 2 November the Year Tens had their final day of classes at Gottliebsen House before commencing the Semester Two Examinations. The day brought a mixture of emotions as students reflected on their time at Gottliebsen House.

Representatives from Gottliebsen and McNab Houses welcomed students and staff to a combined Middle School assembly, with the Middle School Jazz Ensemble providing musical entertainment throughout the assembly. Our Full Colours recipients and other award winners were acknowledged and celebrated. The McMaster Cup winners, Rose and Limerock Houses were announced as the House Champions for 2022 and our 2023 House Captains were announced. Year Ten students, Isabella Sloan and Lachlan Steward shared a heartfelt reflective as they both spoke about their time within the Middle Schools. It was great to see many Year Ten students and staff continuing to share their stories at the Year Ten luncheon.

Gottliebsen House students then made their way into the Gallery where Co-hosts Thomas Hart and James Tran welcomed the Year Tens to the final Year Level Assembly. Teachers were invited up on stage by the students and were asked questions about why they got into teaching and to share their funniest memory of the 2022 Year Ten cohort. Some teachers were asked to share some words of wisdom for the future. A consistent message throughout the day was highlighting the importance of being true to yourself whilst always remaining honest and kind.

**David Halantas**  
Year 10 Coordinator



# Year Nine Camp

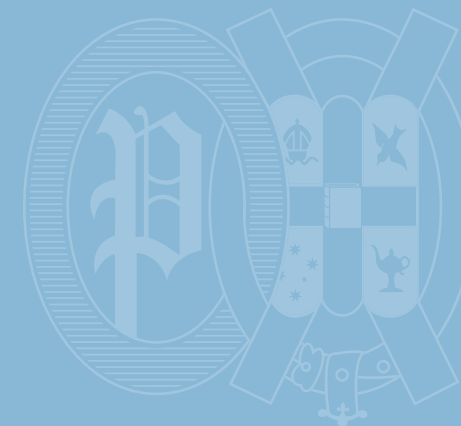
On Monday 10 October 9E and 9F set out on our Year Nine Camp adventure. Our first activity was First Aid. Together we learnt important skills including how to survive in the wild; important knowledge we would need for orienteering. We then set off for a walkie talkie introduction. That evening we played Lantern Stalk where I slid a solid 15 metre in mud and avoided getting caught.

We were up bright and early and did some bearings and rock climbing. We learnt how to individually climb the rock walls and also how to be a team member by belaying for those in our group. After a well-earned snack, we went out in the bush to do some orienteering where the majority of our class got lost (but not for long thankfully).

On Day Three, despite the pouring rain, our entire group went to Sugarloaf Ranges to climb and abseil. This activity was by far my favourite; we were able to go at our own pace and meet our own personal challenges including conquering some fears! On the way back there were multiple severe weather warnings and in a surprise meeting in The Hub, it was announced that due to concerns about flooding we needed to evacuate! Our trip home even included a change of bus as the windshield wipers stopped working.

Despite the disappointment of not being able to participate in solo navigation and games, we all had an amazing camp experience. I can't wait to return next year!

**Madi Spring-Brown**  
Year 9F





# Year 12 Drama Solo Performances

As part of their Year Twelve Drama studies our students complete a performance exam as well as a written exam. In early October, our VCE Drama students made their way to the exam centre ready to perform their carefully crafted and rehearsed solo performances.

Our students create their pieces from scratch in response to a list of ten characters that they may choose from. This year the character choices were wide and varied; from historical figure, Ned Kelly through to the titular character of Sondheim's thriller musical, *Sweeney Todd*. The students work on crafting their solo performance for the term, developing each moment to its fullest potential. Their solo performance lasts for seven minutes and in that time they perform their self-scripted performance, showcasing their acting skills in presenting their interpretation of the character.

Not surprisingly, students find the task deeply rewarding, after all they have created and polished their own performance from the conception of the idea through to the final performance.

**Lauren Barnes**

Year 11 Coordinator





# Man Cave Visits

When asking some Year Eight students for their highlights of 2022, the impact of the visit from the group called 'Man Cave' was clear. For an entire day, our students worked with the Man Cave external presenters in small and familiar class groups. This sense of security and of being amongst supportive peers was imperative. As the sessions unfolded, the activities allowed students to reflect on their feelings and past experiences and to feel comfortable about sharing those thoughts and feelings within the group. For many it was cathartic and affirming; providing a chance to acknowledge their pain and sadness. The health and wellbeing of our students is always paramount and this activity provided a valuable avenue for exploring and processing some feelings and sentiments in a positive and productive way.

**Clare Langford**  
Year 8 Coordinator

## Year Seven Assemblies

The beginning of Term Four saw the conclusion of an exciting new program undertaken by our Year Seven students. The entire cohort from this year level at McNab House and Gottliebsen House were mixed together for a series of combined form assembly groups that began during Term Three.

This program gave students the opportunity to get to know some new faces from their partner Section; ice breaker activities led to team quizzes, which in turn led to some impressive origami battles and finally, a paper plane making competition that revealed some striking engineering skills and cross-classroom flights. The students were encouraged at all stages to work collaboratively with their mixed groups and to take advantage of the time spent together to consolidate new friendships and work effectively in a less familiar environment. Building the students' social skills in this way has challenged them to step outside their comfort zones and familiar routines, developing their confidence and introducing them to a few more friendly faces around the Keilor East campus.

A huge and very sincere thank you to Ally Lochhead and Michael Tinkler for their work as Year Level Coordinators in organising this wonderful initiative.

**Stephanie Lazarides**  
Deputy Head of Gottliebsen House







# Every Person, Every Story

Knowing that every person has a story is a lesson within itself - one that leads to being the best possible version of oneself.

This year's theme, *every person, every story*, invited us all to think deeply about ourselves, each other and the idea of diversity and inclusion. Knowing who we are, how we fit into this world and how others understand us are the foundation to a strong sense of identity and wellbeing and central to our educational programs at PEGS Kindergarten.

Whether it be unpacking a deep sense of self or the development of democratic classrooms, *every person, every story* was embedded within our inquiry projects this year. Each inquiry project invited the children and educators to think deeply about who we are, where we come from, what we can offer others, what we know about others and how can we find ways to understand each other. From these inquiries, the children developed shared visions of what it means to be part of a community, what our rights and responsibilities are, and the learning we embarked on together. Through these experiences, we were able to share, learn and understand each other in ways that offered us new understandings of ourselves.

As we bid farewell to our year of kindergarten together, we hope that every child, family and colleague holds the idea of *every person, every story* close as they welcome another year, and the many years after.

**Lauren Olcorn**  
Director of Kindergarten





# Pursuit of Excellence in Maths

With Mr Peter Maher and Ms Carlee Yuill at the Maths helm, pursuit of excellence in Maths is always in focus at the Essendon and Moonee Ponds Campuses.

In the APSMO Maths Olympiad, selected Year Six students competed in a series of five problem-solving quizzes. The boys' team finished in the top ten and the girls also in the top 10% of all teams entered; with Elisa Kurban scoring 24 out of a possible 25, and Princella Lam and Elsa Wu scoring 23; Cara Gauci, Lily Wu, and Allegra Bui also finished in the top 10% and for the boys, Advik Gourisetty and Lachlan Huxley scoring 24 out of 25 and Krish Aggarwal, Jonathan Alexandrou, Joshua Bui, Jayden Ho, Alexander Li, Julian Nash and Alvin Nguyen all finished in the top 10%. Recognising the value of building confidence in problem-solving skills in a non-competitive arena, the rest of the students in Year Six had the benefit of participating in the APSMO Maths Games run concurrently with Maths Olympiad.

The Australian Mathematics Competition is open to students from Years Three, with students participating in the 30-problem challenge. Junior School students achieved 5 High Distinctions and 80 Distinctions, with Alice Chen, Year Three (girls), and Advik Gourisetty, Year Six (boys), receiving the Best in School Awards.

Teams of students from Years Three to Six at both Sections competed in inter-school Maths Games Days throughout the year and had the benefit of competition in an enjoyable series of problem-solving activities. All teams performed exceptionally well. The Year Three (boys) team finished third, while the Years Four, Five and Six Boys) teams finished first at each year level and Year Three and Year Five (girls) each achieved second place on the day.

**Christine Hallman and Graeme Sharman**

## Maths Talent Quest Success

The Maths Talent Quest is an annual competition by The Mathematical Association of Victoria which asks its participants to demonstrate that "mathematics is all around us". Our Junior Schools have a long history of achievement in this competition and this was evident once again in 2022.

Selected as State representatives in the national competition from Junior (girls) were: Scarlett Le and Evelyn Tran, Year Two, with an investigation of the costs of purchasing a pet. Their project won a National Prize for best group entry. Chennya Fernando, Year Four, for her entry on making her kitchen sustainable, was Highly Commended. Ashleigh Tan, Year Six was awarded the Jim Trotter award for her entry entitled, UV exposure in my Daily Activity.

Two investigations from the Junior (boys) were also successful at national level: 'Train Turn Around Times Are Related to the Number of Passengers' by Sam Gilbertson, Year Three. Sam discovered that trains with two doors tended to load and unload faster than trains with three doors. He also learned that passengers with special needs made little impact on train turnaround times. Sam won a participation award in the National Quest.

Jayden Chan and Dang-Quan Le won best group entry at Year Five with 'Does Size Matter in Sport?' examining the relationship between physical attributes and sporting prowess with a survey of their classmates. Their data showed that size was not a major factor in soccer but was significant in basketball.

We congratulate Scarlett and Evelyn, Chennya, Ashleigh, Sam, Jayden and Dang-Quan.

**Peter Maher and Carlee Yuill**  
Coordinators of Mathematics, Junior Schools



# Science Camp

As I study for my VCE exams, Korean chemist Dr Taeghwan Hyeon's words ring in my mind: 'Serendipity is not for lazy bum!'

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the Australian team of four was unable to attend the International Biology Olympiad in Armenia this July, an upsetting outcome after months of training and selection rounds. However, as an alternative international experience, we were offered the chance to represent the country as a delegation to the Asian Science Camp, an annual conference that brings together 200 secondary and tertiary science students from across Asia and Australia.

We convened in Canberra to attend on Zoom, hearing international researchers explain their cutting-edge work in a multitude of fields across science and technology, as well as engaging with passionate students about their experiences and cultures.

There were very valuable and insightful discussions into the interdisciplinary approach required to tackle climate change, the role of science communication in managing public health issues, the barriers erected by inequitable access to research funding and, such as Dr Hyeon's advice about work ethic, words of wisdom on how to succeed as a curious team player, not only in the science industry but the workforce in general.

I feel very fortunate to have had an Olympiad journey and the opportunity to attend the Asian Science Camp, and I am indebted to my teachers, family, and friends for the support they lent me throughout the past year. I have learnt so many lessons that I will hold close to my heart.

**Quinton Nguyen**  
Year 12



## Junior House Athletics

After a two-year hiatus, and the watery influence of La Niña, the Junior Athletics carnivals were finally held on 4 November at the Keilor Park Athletics Track. Due to the events of the last few years, this was the first event of its type for many of the students.

Perfect conditions were forecast as the students from the Moonee Ponds Campus gathered for the morning session. The middle-distance events commenced and with a focus on participation, entire year levels had fun joining in novelty races. With lots of cheering and support the students worked their way through a myriad of events including 80m, 100m, 200m, 800m, Relays and Novelty Races with points being awarded for every student's effort. The day concluded with the 2022 House Athletics Trophy being awarded to Limerock House!

The Essendon Campus arrived for the afternoon and gathered in their teams of Bradman, Elliott, Reynolds, and Rose. In the 800 metres, Antonio Stamatis, Year Three, broke the record set by Max Philpott back in 2007. Antonius Kupper, Year Six, also broke the 800-metre record in an exciting finish. Each student was involved in at least four events, a sprint, 200 metres, a relay and everyone's favourite, the Tug of War. Points were tallied at the end of the day with Bradman declared the overall champions in 2022, making it a clean sweep of all three House Carnivals for the year.

**Brett McQueen and Troy West**  
Coordinators of Junior Sport





## Tournament of Minds

As we approach the end of our Middle School journey, we reflect on the lessons, memories and opportunities we experienced over recent years. As two students who have participated in Tournament of Minds in and out of lockdown, we can say it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives, giving us laughter, learning and unforgettable memories that will stay with us far beyond our journey at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School.

Tournament of Minds has proven to be much more than a 10-week group project. It gave us special opportunities and helped us develop strong relationships with our teachers and teammates. Tournament of Minds has been a crucial contributor to our development in skills such as acting, performing, improvisation and teamwork, but most importantly – creative and critical thinking. And it's not just us! We witnessed students from all year levels, including a whole new generation of bright-eyed Year Sevens, take a chance and end up with a world of new friends.

Whether it be staying back after school the day before our performance to rehearse, performing at LaTrobe University and dreaming about what the future holds, or just enjoying all of the fun with our teammates, our Tournament of Minds' memories are the perfect blend of fun and education. We will miss it so much, and always be grateful for having had this experience.

**Anvita Mehta and Malindu Wickramanayake**  
Year 10



## Valedictory Dinner



For the first time since 2019 Year Twelve students, their parents and staff could attend the traditional sit-down Valedictory Dinner together.

The Atrium room at Flemington Racecourse, the first time the Valedictory has been held at this venue, provided the perfect backdrop for our Year Twelves: the high ceiling suggested their lofty ambitions; the vast windows illuminated their determination to look towards the future; the setting sun, which bathed the CBD in the purplish glow of dusk, spoke to the end of one chapter in the lives of our students and hinted at what is to come.

Our Valedictorian for the Class of 2022, Teagan Matthews, spoke with great passion, humour and affection about her journey through PEGS and how she now feels ready to face the challenges and opportunities presented by the world.

The guest speaker, Dr Shane Huntington OAM, inspired the YearTwelves with the story of his own career path. From advanced studies in the field of lasers and optics, to broadcasting on 3RRR, to his work with the children's charity Little Big Steps, Dr Shane showed us that the road ahead is a varied and exciting one.

As the Roman Stoic philosopher Seneca said, "Learning how to live best takes a whole lifetime." The Class of 2022 can look back with pride at their resilience, and look forward to what the future holds. We wish them the very best, and remind them that no matter where life takes them, there is always a place for them at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School.

**Luke Cashman**  
Year 12 Coordinator







# Concert Collaborations

In light of the Vice Principal's recent PEGSpeak post, the music department has embraced some new ideas involving collaboration with other areas of the school and community.

The most exciting new initiative for 2022 has been the Year Two String Programme performances. Year Two students had their drawings animated onscreen during the story read by Mr Scerri and accompanied by the students' playing, directed by Mrs Edwards. Students, staff and parents alike were thrilled to hear and see the excited first-time performers on stage. Thanks to the eLearning staff and the Animation Club students for making this project possible.

Monday@6 online soirées were still brought into the home twice during Term Four. This forum has provided an alternative performance space for first timers or uncertain students to play in a safe environment.

In addition our students continue to be eager to perform each month at St John's Uniting Church in Essendon. In September Andy Ma (Year Eleven) played the piano; in October Queena Xue (Year Nine) played the flute; and in November Samuel Lee (Year Nine) played the guitar.

## A busy year comes to a close

Term Four commenced with lots of our music ensembles playing on the big stage at the Craft Market. Students from Kindergarten to Year Twelve brightened a somewhat gloomy day with joyful presentations including from the Suzuki Violin Groups; Concert Band; Year 3/4 choirs; Stage Band and smaller combos.

The final department concerts were the Piano and String Concerts in October. Students performed solos and chamber groups. The String Concert finished with a spirited finale of *Conquistador!* from the Middle School String Orchestra.

The Suzuki final two concerts were online in October, and the Graduation Concert in the HR Stevens Auditorium in November.

The fabulous display of our Junior Music ensembles took place at the joyful Junior Christmas Concert on 22 November. Hundreds of students performed to an appreciative audience of family members.

The year concluded with our Carol Service held in St Paul's Cathedral on 30 November. This special service brought to its conclusion a very busy year filled with lots of performances for our students, regardless of their stage of development and skill as musicians. I do look forward to welcoming you to our concerts in 2023.

**Amanda Rowarth**  
Director of Music



# AGSV Athletics

On your marks, set... On your marks, set... On your marks, set. Go!

After two false starts and consecutive years of postponement, finally an AGSV Athletics season was able to be held. To signify the centenary of the AGSV Athletics event, the meet was held at the Lakeside Stadium on Saturday 3 September, instead of the traditional Wednesday.

An enthusiastic team warm-up, led by our captains Patrick Steward and Shehana Wijesundara, saw positive energy flow through our squad and prepare them well for an exciting and action filled day, with the team's focus directed towards every athlete achieving their personal best. Our school pride and support for one another were on full display as our athletes were cheered on by their teammates.

Every competitor's performance was valuable and 31 of our athletes won gold, however, it was our 1,500m runners who stole the show with three breaking AGSV records, as former student and Olympian Linden Hall (Class of 2009) had done in 2006 (Under 17) and 2008 (Open), and Anastasia Stanley (Class of 2012) in 2009 (Under 15).

AGSV Record Breakers 2022

U13 Female 1,500m - Madigan Carroll (5:04.89)

U14 Female 1,500m - Piper Gay (4:50.02)

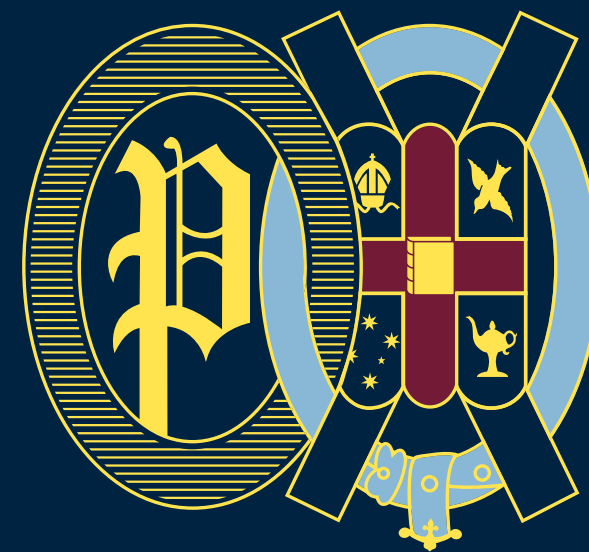
U16 Male 1,500m - Dilan Egodawatte (4:05.12)

With all these AGSV records, at one stage, the school held 1,500m records in the female U13, U14, U15, U17 and Open events!

Overall, the teams performed extremely well with every student who competed contributing valuable points to the total. The results from both competitions were the closest in recent history. With the boys finishing fourth with 450.5 points and the girls finishing third with 297 points, only 17.5 points and 29 points off the overall winners.

**Ben Bailey**

Director of Sport



## School Awards

School Awards recognise leadership, dedication and excellence and honour the contribution made by students to the life of the school.



# Principals Award

The Principal's Award is the highest category of school awards. It honours an ongoing, outstanding and broad contribution to the school by a graduating student who has set the highest standards of commitment to the academic and cocurricular life of the school.

In 2022 fifteen students are recipients of the Principal's Award. We commend and thank these graduating students for their lengthy and exceptional contribution to the school.

Ruchi Bath-Samarakoon  
Ronan D'Lima  
Tigerlily Hooke  
Gitaanjali Nair  
Sandra Sujith

Ruby Cullen  
Isabelle Evans  
Hugo Iser-Smith  
Quinton Nguyen  
Gevindu Wickramanayake

Molly Dale  
Adam Faggianelli  
Tegan Matthews  
Alexander Sarossy  
Louis Yates

Spencer Jones  
John Karambelas  
Jackson Kerr  
Stephen Kow  
Charles Lalin  
Hannah Lambert-Johnston  
Andrew Lee  
Lucas Leeds  
Sienna Li  
Shanice Lim  
Thomas Mackenzie  
Alexandra Maio  
Marcus Mansour  
Tegan Matthews  
Jacob May  
Fionnuala McKeagney-Stubbs  
Teá Moustis  
Benjamin Murphy  
Gitaanjali Nair  
Vivienne Ngo  
Phung Nguyen  
Timothy Nguyen  
Quinton Nguyen  
Luca Nimorakiotakis  
Ciara Nolan  
Keiya Osumi  
Atticus Paxton  
Liam Perumal  
Dylan Pleban  
Derek Quach  
Emma Rawson  
Matteo Redvers  
Ethan Reid  
Finn Reilly  
Jack Rhynd  
Alexander Sarossy  
Wil Sialfalis-Tsiatsios  
Lucas Smaragdiou  
Benjamin Sostaric  
Patrick Steward  
Sandra Sujith  
Liana Talevski  
Alexander Tasevski  
Cameron Thitchener  
Indra Thomas  
Vivien Tran  
Francesca Tran

Cricket, Football  
Symphony Orchestra  
Contribution to School Sport  
Concert Band, Stage Band  
Swimming  
Contribution to School Sport  
Academic Excellence  
Contribution to School Sport  
Chinese Orchestra, Academic Excellence  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Life  
Social Justice, Academic Excellence , Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Sport  
Chess  
Triathlon  
Social Justice, Academic Excellence  
Community Leadership  
Badminton  
Chinese Orchestra  
Fencing, Public Speaking  
Contribution to School Sport  
Netball  
Contribution to School Sport  
Stage Band  
Chinese Orchestra  
Football  
Swimming  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to Music  
Public Speaking  
Triathlon, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Concert Band, Stage Band  
Tennis, Academic Excellence  
Musical, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Soccer  
Triathlon, Cross Country  
Athletics  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to Music  
Soccer  
Contribution to School Life  
Softball, Soccer, Social Justice  
Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra  
Swimming

# School Colours

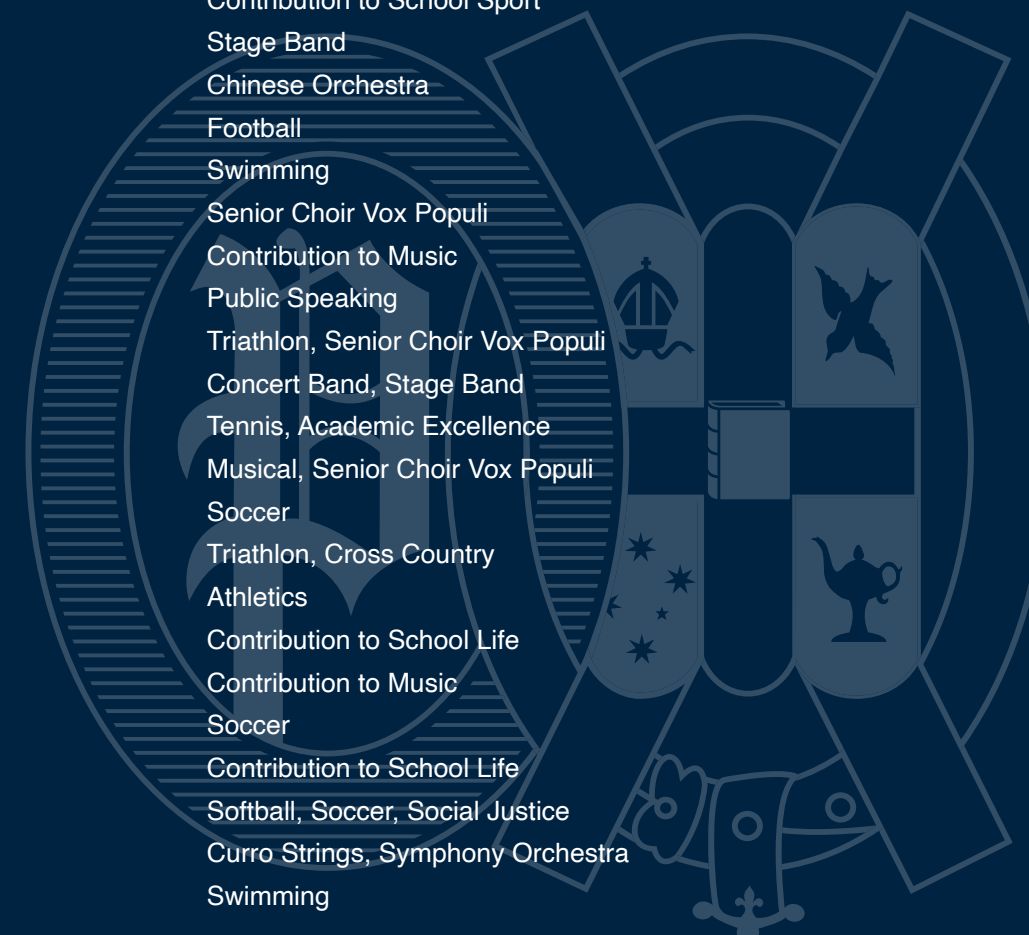
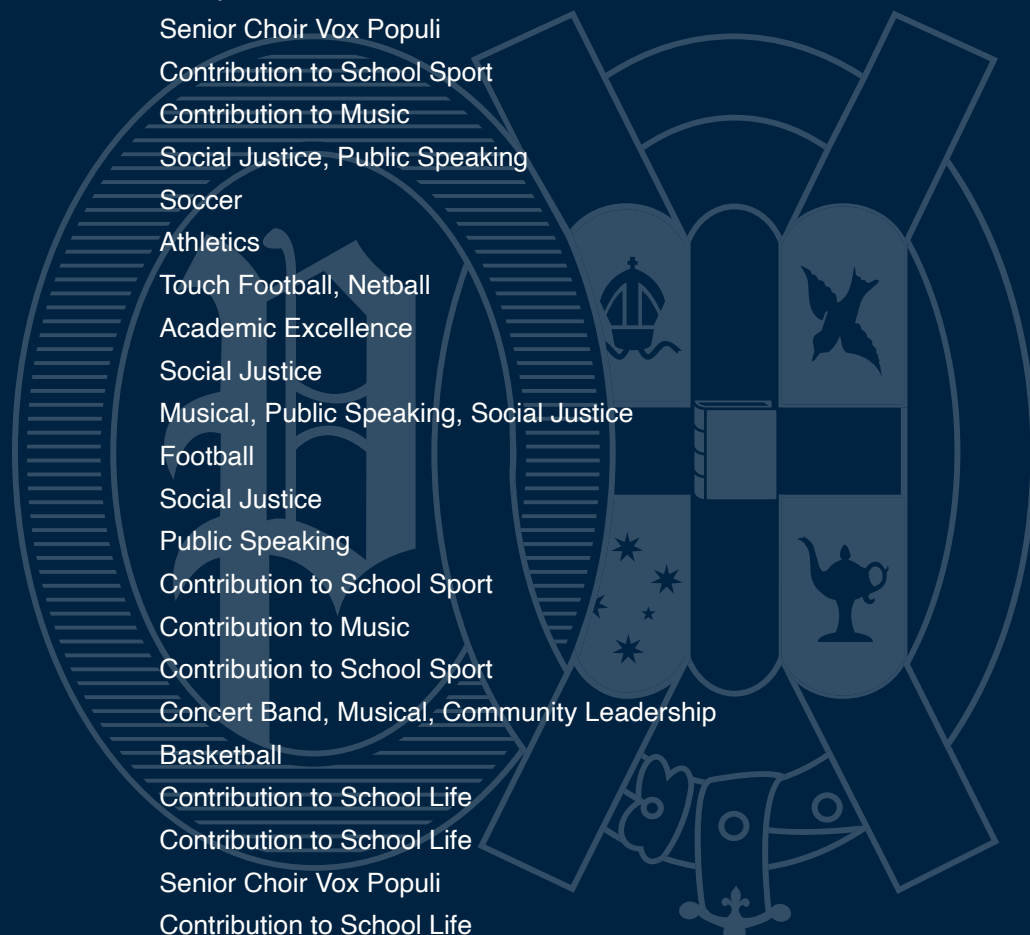
Full Colours holders are the leaders within the school community and, through their continued commitment, set a fine example for younger students as well as enjoying the personal rewards to be had from a school experience which establishes a balance between studies and wider interests.

We congratulate the following students who have been awarded Full Colours in 2022 and thank them for their valuable contribution:

## Year 12

Lucy Allen  
Christina Anastasiadis  
Amy Avram  
Yi Xiang Ba  
Ruchi Bath-Samarakoon  
Max Bisetto  
Hannah Brodie  
Brooklyn Christy Leahy  
Christian Cugnetto  
Ruby Cullen  
Molly Dale  
Piper Davis  
Isabelle Evans  
Adam Faggianelli  
Molly Failli  
Catherine Filippone  
Isaac Hang  
Desi-Marie Hatzimihalis  
Ross Iliakopoulos  
Hugo Iser-Smith  
Siyoda Jayawardene  
Aaliya John  
Emmet Johnson

Volleyball  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to Music  
Social Justice, Public Speaking  
Soccer  
Athletics  
Touch Football, Netball  
Academic Excellence  
Social Justice  
Musical, Public Speaking, Social Justice  
Football  
Social Justice  
Public Speaking  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to Music  
Contribution to School Sport  
Concert Band, Musical, Community Leadership  
Basketball  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to School Life  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to School Life





Alexander Tselepis	Chess
Natasha Van Berkel	Soccer
Athan Vass	Guitar Ensemble
Jonathan Wang	Chindamo Jazz Combo
Fletcher Ware	Football
Orlando West	Contribution to School Sport
Senal (Gevindu) Wickramanayake	Social Justice, Public Speaking, Contribution to School Sport
Shehana Wijesundara	Contribution to School Sport
Thomas Williamson	Triathlon

Year 11

Jesse Armstrong	Soccer
Alanna Atanasovski	Swimming
Alara Bagdadi	Cross Country
Jai Balestra	Soccer
Jasmyn Carr	Musical
Sebastian Carta	Contribution to School Sport
Maximus Carta	Contribution to School Sport
Ryan Cox	Cricket
Jessica D'Souza	Musical
Chelsea De Silva	Contribution to School Sport
Duc Huy Du	Swimming
Rachel Farish	Contribution to School Life
Christopher Gan	Contribution to School Life
Amy Gaylor	Football
Lachlan Hall	Contribution to School Sport
Ava Hough	Basketball
Aidan Imbesi	Academic Excellence
Jack Irwin	Social Justice, Academic Excellence
Sebastian Italiano	Musical
Rebecca Kayalicos	Musical
William La	Academic Excellence
Christian Labagnara	Musical
Koby Lack	Contribution to School Sport
Bruce Li	Academic Excellence
Andy Ma	Musical, Academic Excellence
Caitlin Marshall-Pearson	Community Leadership
Xavier Martin	Contribution to School Life
Aarzu Mavi	Contribution to School Sport
Eadie Milne	Musical
Jas Nguyen	Contribution to Music, Musical
Kevin Nguyen	Table Tennis
Thomas Nightingale	Hockey
Noah O'Donnell	Swimming
Onaya Peiris	Contribution to School Life

Chloe Petranis	Triathlon, Netball
Julian Phang	Contribution to Music
Harry Pickering	Contribution to School Sport
Ayesha Rashid	Contribution to School Life
Jade Reaburn	Contribution to School Sport
Jack Read	Swimming
Yasmin Ritter	Contribution to Music, Musical
Alannah Salvador	Contribution to School Life
Carl Sassine	Community Leadership
Chanel Sassine	Contribution to Music
Elena Serovski	Hockey
Connor Smith	Hockey
Laura Stevenson	Swimming
Paityn Still	Contribution to School Sport
Abby Toussaint	Community Leadership
Cameron Truong	Chinese Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Musical
Warren Wang	Academic Excellence
Imogen Webster	Contribution to School Life
Adonna Woldeyes	Contribution to School Life
Alexis Xerri	Contribution to School Life
Caroline Xie	Contribution to School Life
Luke Yuan	Academic Excellence, Contribution to Music, Musical
Louie Zhao	Contribution to School Life
Ian Zheng	Academic Excellence

Year 10

Vansh Agarwal	Academic Excellence
Hamish Brewer	Academic Excellence
Milla Conn	Hockey
Dilan Egodawatte	Cross Country, Athletics
Sienna Gauci	Contribution to School Life
Ken Goh	Badminton
Benjamin Gray	Community Leadership, Contribution to School Life
Amy Hawking	Contribution to School Life
Bosco Mach	Community Leadership
Marsianna Mastrantuono	Community Leadership
Stephanie Nguyen	Academic Excellence
Ella Nunan	Contribution to School Life
Ruby Parkin	Contribution to School Life
Jaiden Pitigala	Contribution to School Life
Olivia Powell	Contribution to School Life
Krish Sachdeva	Community Leadership
Michael Sena	Contribution to School Life
Isabella Sloan	Contribution to School Life
Lachlan Steward	Contribution to School Sport
Malindu Wickramanayake	Contribution to School Life



Cameron Woolley  
Ivy Zhang  
Louisa Zhu

Academic Excellence  
Academic Excellence  
Academic Excellence

## Year 9

Mia Ainalis  
Lizzie Bennett  
Alicia Gec  
Chiara Mazza  
Simon Roseman  
Damin Wijesinghe

Community Leadership  
Community Leadership  
Community Leadership  
Community Leadership  
Community Leadership  
Community Leadership

## Half Colours

Half Colours are the school's second highest award and, again, are normally awarded to senior students.

We congratulate the following students who have been awarded Half Colours in 2022 and thank them for their significant contribution.

## Year 12

James Akhurst  
Oais Ali  
Diana Asadi  
Yi Xiang Ba  
Ally Bristow  
Chris Cheng  
Chiara Chiavaroli  
Ruby Cullen  
Ronan D'Lima  
Janith De Silva  
Frank Doolan  
Adam Faggianelli  
Emily Faulkner  
Emmet Johnson  
Filip Jovceviski  
Amal Kapadia  
John Karambelas  
John Koutoulas  
Andrew Lee  
Terrence Mavropoulos  
Timothy Nguyen  
Alana Paz  
Derek Quach  
Ethan Reid

Football  
Volleyball  
Community Leadership  
Volleyball  
Football  
Percussion Ensemble  
Contribution to School Sport  
Fencing  
Hockey, Public Speaking  
Basketball  
Chindamo Jazz Combo, Stage Band  
Public Speaking  
Netball  
Public Speaking  
Soccer  
Curro Strings  
Curro Strings  
Soccer  
Soccer  
Soccer  
Public Speaking  
Volleyball  
Chess  
Hockey

William Schuman  
Suhayla Sen  
Wil Siafalis-Tsiatsios  
Gianluca Simonelli  
Josephine Sita  
Sophia Solari Wang  
Harry Spencer  
Patrick Steward  
Hanan Surosh  
Alexander Tasevski  
Ashley Ting  
Connor Valenti  
Jonathan Wang  
Gevindu Wickramanayake  
Ishani Wijeratne

Soccer  
Social Justice  
Social Justice  
Chess  
Football  
Public Speaking  
Table Tennis  
Football  
Guitar Ensemble  
Soccer  
Volleyball  
Soccer  
Stage Band  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Senior Choir Vox Populi

## Year 11

Fayzan Abdul Sathaar  
Yiannis Attilakos  
Nethuli Bandara  
Joel Brandt  
Laura Brandt  
Asha Brydon  
Jasmyn Carr  
Anton Cattafi  
Emma Conti  
Ryan Cox  
Jessica D'Souza  
Josh Davidson  
Falak Desai  
Georgia Duggan  
Portia Farah  
Floreille Fernando  
Maximilian Fortelny  
Caitlin Frankas  
James Gale  
Amy Gaylor  
Sophia Gibbons  
Amy Gong  
Dylan Gough  
Eric Huang  
Kiara Istanto  
Sebastian Italiano  
Maxsim Joldeski  
Oliver Kal  
Madison Kelly

Cricket  
Concert Band  
Contribution to School Life  
Soccer  
Symphony Orchestra  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Summer Dance  
Soccer  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Athletics  
Summer Dance, Chinese Orchestra, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Chess  
Symphony Orchestra  
Swimming, Football  
Volleyball  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to School Sport  
Musical  
Hockey  
Athletics  
Contribution to School Life  
Chinese Orchestra  
Contribution to School Life  
Tennis  
Soccer  
Concert Band, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Social Justice  
Football  
Hockey



Matthew Knothe  
Christian Labagnara  
Maggie Le  
Myiesha Maunders  
Lachie McArthur  
Máire McEvoy  
Estelle Millard  
Eadie Milne  
Joseph Monitto  
Lachlan Montebello  
Ashwin Naidu  
Josephine Nguyen  
Lachlan O'Rourke  
Yianni Papadopoulos  
Tiffany Pickett  
Trixie Quach  
Dante Rosini  
Dhiran Senanayake  
Charlotte Sutcliffe  
Rufus Tatham-Thompson  
Callum Timms  
Aiden Tran  
Brendon Trieu  
Cameron Truong  
Rebecca Tsalikidis  
Jack Whitehead  
Ella Windsor  
Katie Wo  
Leontien Wright  
Simon Zammit  
Elissa Zartaloudis

Year 10

Vansh Agarwal  
Ayushi Amarasekera  
Samuel Baker  
Chloe Baker-West  
Conner Bassett  
Audrey Box  
Abbi Burns  
Xin Yi Chin  
Jake Daglis  
Charlee Duff-Tytler  
Jason Fabiano  
Christian Failla  
Olivia Falzon

Cricket  
Chindamo Jazz Combo, Stage Band  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Life  
Cricket, Football  
Athletics  
Contribution to School Life  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Social Justice, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to School Life  
Musical, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Drama, Social Justice  
Swimming  
Basketball  
Contribution to School Life  
Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra  
Social Justice  
Swimming  
Touch Football  
Cricket  
Contribution to School Sport  
Synthesizer Ensemble  
Chess  
Concert Band  
Football  
Football  
Musical  
Chess, Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Contribution to School Life  
Soccer  
Curro Strings, Symphony Orchestra

House Leadership  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to School Life  
Football  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to School Life  
Contribution to School Life  
Triathlon  
Netball  
Tennis  
House Leadership, Community Leadership  
Contribution to School Life

Domenico Gallicchio  
Jensen Hancock  
Induni Hendahewa  
Noah John  
Simran Kaur  
Mia Landgren  
Thomas Legudi  
Marsianna Mastrantuono  
Sienna May  
Chantal Mazza  
Juliette McCarthy  
Sarah McKinnon  
Jack Mihailidis  
Oliver Neo  
Jacob Nimmo  
Noah Nimorakiotakis  
Jessica Nuen  
Gus Papal  
Kalan Roach  
Lachlan Steward  
Luke Tutus  
Emily Vassiliadis  
Joshua Whitfield  
Thisal Wijekoon  
Owen Winkel  
Cameron Woolley  
Lisa Zhang  
Louisa Zhu

Year 9

Sophia Wang - Contribution to Music

Table Tennis  
Tennis  
House Leadership  
Contribution to Music  
House Leadership, Public Speaking  
Community Leadership  
Cricket, Football  
Senior Choir Vox Populi  
Winter Dance  
House Leadership  
House Leadership  
Football  
Soccer  
Hockey  
Swimming  
Hockey  
Tennis  
Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Sport  
House Leadership  
Contribution to School Sport  
House Leadership  
House Leadership, Contribution to School Sport  
Contribution to School Life  
House Leadership  
House Leadership  
Contribution to School Life  
House Leadership, Senior Choir Vox Populi





*Congratulations*  
Class of 2022



# From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

## Keilor East Campus History

In 1956 the Essendon Grammar School Council purchased approximately 31 acres of land along Keilor Road in East Keilor. The Essendon Site was becoming too small for the expanding Kindergarten to Form 6 boys' school. The Council launched a fund-raising drive in 1957 and contractors, staff and students were busy converting the paddocks to playing fields and buildings were appearing on the site.



Students admiring the New East Keilor Campus in 1957 with Dr Frank Shann (Principal) and members of the EGS Council (PEGS Archives [PH05836])



A fabulous coloured slide image of building works on the East Keilor site in 1959 (Donor: Harding Family [PH06134])

Construction of new classrooms began in 1959 with other more temporary buildings brought onsite. Senior School students, from Shell/Remove Form to Matriculation, occupied the site from 3 February 1960, the start of the school year. The new building was officially opened on Sunday 28 February by the then Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Robert G Menzies, and the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church, the Right Reverend Alan C Watson with an "official door opening" followed by "planting she-oaks."



The first brand new classroom opened in 1960 (PEGS Archives [PH04236])



: A 1963 aerial photograph showing progress (PEGS Archives [PH08297])



By 1963 there were many additions to the site, including: tennis courts (constructed in 1961 by Parents and Friends); an extension to the main classroom building; trees planted on northern and western boundary; easement filled; quarry filled; science laboratories built; better establishment of oval surfaces; main entrance from Keilor Road (north side); and changerooms built. Note that Rachelle Road has not yet been built.



A 1968 aerial photograph showing further development of the school and surrounds (PEGS Archives [PH08299])

Things are looking much more formal by 1968. Some of the biggest changes were: the loss of land to the Calder Freeway (north side); Rachelle Road laid and housing sub-division commenced; and Science Laboratories built. There were still plans for a rifle range on the eastern boundary of the site.



The start of co-education for Form 5 and Form 6 at McNab House in 1973 (Donor: Lyn Thompson (née Bell) [PH05336])



McNab House with Senior Master, Mr J G M (Jock) McKinlay, in 1973 (Photo: The Triune 1973 [PH05426])

Behold the rise of McNab House – the school's innovative co-educational senior studies centre – up in the north-west (top right corner) of the aerial photographs. Construction was in stages and the first classes were held in 1973 with boys from Essendon Grammar School and girls from Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College. The two schools were already functioning administratively as one under Principal Rev H R (Bert) Stevens and an amalgamated School Council. 1977 formalised this amalgamation with the formation of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. Progress continued in other parts of the campus too, including a Library, an Administration Centre and Squash Courts.



An aerial photograph taken in 2001 during construction of the HR Stevens Music Centre (PEGS Archives [PH07357])

It is amazing to see the development of the site to 2001. The previous two decades had seen: opening of the PEPS Social Club in 1980; upgrade of the synthetic hockey surface in 1981; the new Drama and Gymnasium Complex opened in 1991; Year 7 boys moved from Raleigh Street to East Keilor; and the building of the HR Stevens Music Centre.

The last decade has seen an unprecedented building and refurbishment boom resulting in facilities at East Keilor that middle school and senior school students and staff enjoy today: the Larkin Centre (previously the Infinity Centre) opened in 2012; Gottlieb House, home of the middle school boys, opened in 2013; the new McNab House, home of the middle school girls, and incorporating Administration and the Library opened in 2015; and, the most recent addition, the new Gymnasium.



# PEGS Former Students Association and Business Network

## 2023 Events

### FSA Reunions

Be sure to join Facebook "PEGS Class of " private and closed group or email [fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au) with your contact details to receive your save the date and invitation.

10 Year Reunion Class of 2013

20 Year Reunion Class of 2003

30 Year Reunion Class of 1993

40 Year Reunion Class of 1983

40 (+2) Year Reunion Class of 1981 – Saturday 4 March 2023

60 Year Reunion Class of 1963

If you haven't received an email regarding an 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@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au)

**FSA and Business Network** events to be advised

Don't forget to visit [www.pegshub.com.au](http://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.

Our website is currently under construction, however, be sure to keep a look out for PEGS FSA, Business Network and Community News.

### Announcements

#### DEATHS

**Wayne Philip [EGS Class of 1969]**, brother of Julie Pearce (née Philip) [Penleigh Class of 1972] on 15 May 2022, age 70.

## Class of 1963 renew friendship

After a three-year break, seven members of the Penleigh Class of 63 met for lunch at The Kent, Carlton on 19 November. The group are planning for bigger and better things to mark their sixty-year reunion next year. Contact Helen Dapiran (Watts) 0412 471151 if you have any news of the Class of 63 or would like to join the celebration.



L-R: Glenda Kueng (Johnson), Karen Kent (Robottom), Helen Dapiran (Watts), Claire Moore (Hird), Rosemary Stayner (Pickett), Jill Oreo (Stewart), Robyn Neilson (McKernan)

The Former Students Association is selling PEGS Teddy Bears 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](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au)





# Reunions return

After feeling isolated in our own little worlds for almost two years, 2022 found us catching up on events that hadn't happened over that period and finally seeing family and friends face to face. For the Former Students' Association (FSA), a backlog of reunions which had been held over from the past two years were among them and these joined events we had already planned for 2022.

Back in 2021, the FSA had decided that we would merge reunions where this was possible, to ensure we were able to host all the events. Generally, the Former Students' Association hosts ten-, twenty- and thirty-year reunions each year, with others organised upon request. This year we held six reunions covering a total of nine year levels, each of approximately 300 alumni, totalling a whopping 2,700 former students we were trying to track down.

Reunions held this year:

10 Year: 2011; 2012

20 Year: 2000 and 2001; 2002

30 Year: 1990, 1991 and 1992

40 Year: 1982

When students initially leave school, there is always talk of staying in touch, however, as you grow older, time seems to pass much more quickly and contact can be difficult to maintain. Whilst at the more recent years' reunions many classmates looked the same as they had at school at 'other' year levels, some former classmates have changed completely, for the better of course.

The 10-year reunion (Class of 2012) was the first off the rank and the first cohort to be able to collect letters written to their future selves a decade ago when members were in Year 12. To say the letters went off with a bang is an understatement. Alumni who didn't receive one were justifiably disappointed that their Year 12 selves had not written a letter to their future selves. The FSA still holds many of these letters which can be collected by contacting Tanya at 03 9016 2180 or [tanya.caruso@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:tanya.caruso@pegs.vic.edu.au).

For each year represented at our reunions we were able to bring back the 'good old days' with a display of class photos taken over the years or their valedictory celebrations. Some years were able to reminisce via their valedictory video displayed on the big screen. Whether it was from the letters from their younger selves, the photos featured on the walls, the video footage on the big screen or simply seeing familiar faces with just a little additional age, the laughter and energy were palpable.

Huge efforts to contact classmates and organise events were made by

1992: Samantha Lehman; 2001: Tim Miller; 2000: Nadia Grech; 2011: Brett Hannah, Rebecca Harding, Verity Gresswell and Ruwan Devas; 2012: Drew Austin, Rachel Hibbert, Steph Houston and Hannah Hogarth.

Special mentions also to

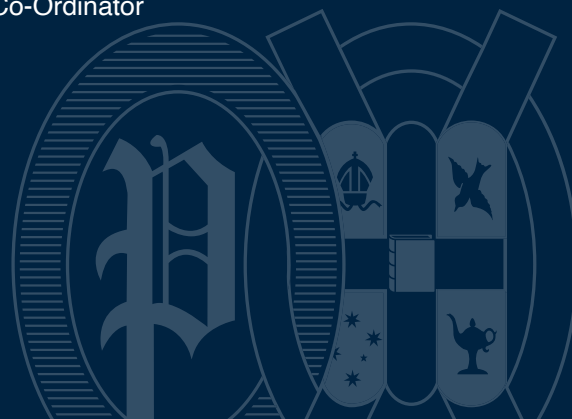
2002: Alycia Mustafa nee Deveraux and Crystal Maros nee Pinto; 2000: Chauntel Considine, Mark Hadj and Hamish Jones; 2001: Peter Koukoulis and Lauren Riley; 1982: Mina Pitliangas, Anthony Banadinovich and Russell Dowd; and 1992: Yuri Zylewicz and Ben Lasry; thank you for all your efforts in getting the class photo to us, we now have an amazing high resolution photo for our archives.

All in all, those attending the reunions were very excited to see one another, to wind back the clock and to hear about the changes that had occurred in others' lives.

If you would like to stay in contact with your peers or others from the school, please contact Tanya Caruso on 03 9016 2180 or [tanya.caruso@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:tanya.caruso@pegs.vic.edu.au).

**Tanya Caruso (née Storno)**

PEGS Former Students' Association and Business Network Co-Ordinator





# Friends of PEGS News

## Imagine if...

Imagine if, you arrived at school one day and your classroom was closed, books shut tight, pens down.

Imagine if, the schoolyard had been transformed into your ultimate entertainment playground.

On Saturday 8 October, this dream-like transformation was a reality at our Essendon campus. FoPEGs blockbuster annual family event, lovingly known as the Craft Market, was a colourfully wild ride. Our day – purely dedicated to fun!

Carnival rides were championed from ground level up to dizzying heights. An assortment of stalls offered unique shopping, whilst a mix of food choice was relished. Art-making activities kept crafty hands busy, amidst vying for prizes in festival-style games. Let's congratulate Harrison Mitchell-Nota (Year 1) for winning the Lolly Jar competition. And Gabriel Datt (Year 6) for mastering the Teddy Bear Hunt.

The liveliest showcase was on the main stage, dedicated to presenting students' music and dance ensembles. Talent met with enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Our fondly cherished cake stall was delectably overflowing with skilful creations judged by The Country Women's Association of Victoria. Well-deserved prize-winners were: Leigh and Riley Verrall - First, Eloise Argiro - Second, Janelle Brunckhorst – Third.

Of course, the epic undertaking that is the Craft Market could not run smoothly without many volunteers who generously devote their time. FoPEGs Committee thank you for your earnest contribution and dedication to making Craft Market 2022 a momentous success.

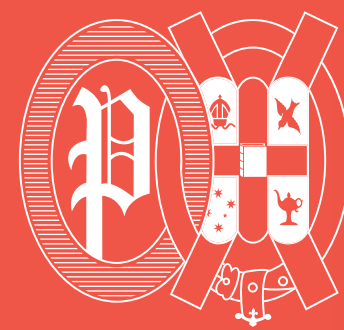
Imagine if, you arrived at school on Monday morning and it had all disappeared. To affectionately and unapologetically use the time-worn adage "Was it all a dream?"

Friends of PEGS love making dreams come true for students and their families. We excitedly look forward to seeing you again next year!

**Zanin Lawrence-Politis**  
Friends of PEGS Committee







# Strategic Plan update

December 2022





# Learning and thinking

Learning and thinking is not only central to one of the twin pillars of the school, it is the motivation for so much of what is offered to our community. We understand that high expectations drive development and growth in each student. Staff members are active members of our learning community and play an important role in the Culture of Thinking at PEGS.

## Strategic objectives

- Set high expectations for all to promote intellectual engagement, complex problem solving, growth and self-awareness
- Use evidence-based strategies that drive academic and personal success
- Challenge every student to apply new knowledge through deep learning
- Use rigorous assessment practices and feedback to improve teaching and learning
- Cultivate tenacity, courage and drive

Research into student outcomes makes clear the impact that individual teachers have on growth in student learning. To this end, the school has prioritised teacher development by providing opportunities for teachers to learn from each other with resulting collective efficacy. In 2022, teaching staff at PEGS engaged in more than 11,000 hours of professional learning. The school engaged experts to focus on the key areas of improving student writing, authentic assessment, and adaptive leadership.

In 2022, students have been provided with opportunities to develop skills and dispositions that will be demanded of them by employers of the future. This year has seen increased opportunities for eLearning, with coding embedded in every subject across the curriculum. Select Year Seven students were trained as 'Microbit Champions' to support the learning of their peers, and an animation club was formed for Middle School students. All Year Five students were involved in an entrepreneurial studies programme focussed on ideation, innovation and communication skills.

Recognition that quality feedback can significantly improve student outcomes has meant that this has been a focus of school improvement efforts this year. Under the guidance of Bronwyn Ryrie-Jones, Junior and Middle School teachers have been provided with Professional Learning opportunities in authentic assessment. Terri Campbell has also worked with staff this year on using feedback to improve student writing. Larkin Centre staff worked in faculty groups to complete a project looking at how to improve feedback to students. At Middle School, new reports were implemented with a focus on next steps for learning. At the Junior Schools, new practices are in place to better track student growth through discussion and analysis of formative and summative assessment.

The School has also created two new roles at the Junior Schools, Coordinators of Individual Needs, to provide increased support for students with individual needs. In addition, extra support has been provided through our Speech Therapists, and the School appointed a Health Administrator to oversee the support for students with serious health conditions and provide staff professional learning in this area to ensure equity in educational opportunities for students.

In the Middle Schools, a new subject, Numeracy+, was introduced as a means of providing numeracy support to students with an identified need in this area.





# Care and wellbeing

We know that supporting the physical, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of an individual provides the ideal foundation for academic and vocational success.

In 2022, in addition to the obvious need to focus on Care and Wellbeing in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch of the Strategic Plan was an opportunity to revisit our approach with new vision and energy.

## Strategic objectives

- Foster of a culture of individual and community care
- Identify and develop initiatives to support the wellbeing needs of students and staff
- Demonstrate our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

In July this year the new Child Safe Standards were implemented. After a period of consultation with staff, students, parents and caregivers, policies were reviewed and implemented, making way for professional learning for all staff and an ongoing commitment to educate all members of the school community about the new standards.

As part of this commitment we have engaged with Cyber Safety Project to support the amendments to the Online Safety Act. This project is ongoing and will include education sessions for staff and parents. Students in 2022 also received support via information sessions run by Victoria Police. Our eSafety resource page provides an online hub for staff, students and parents and caregivers to visit for current information and advice.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion was further highlighted in 2022. In line with the Child Safe Standards, changes to online systems have been made to support students and staff with the use of their preferred pronouns and other practical resources to support gender diversity and inclusion have been implemented. Staff and parent education has been offered to the community, led by Clinical Psychologist, Dr Jacques Rizk. The Music department has also focussed on inclusive teaching with the view to addressing gender imbalance within ensembles.

Key actions from the Reconciliation Action Plan have been introduced during 2022. This has meant an increased presence and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People on both the committee and at culturally significant events at the school. National Reconciliation Week was celebrated with a deeper appreciation for Indigenous culture and enriched cultural awareness. This came about both through the implementation of the RAP and the inclusion of teaching about Reconciliation both formally and incidentally.

Student voice was promoted and celebrated at all sections of the school. Student focus groups were formed at Larkin Centre to reimagine the student leadership structure and process. A student leadership booklet has been drafted with a vision to implement the new structure in 2023. Students will be supported with leadership workshops as part of the wellbeing programme offered to all students at Year 11.

At the Middle Schools, steps have been taken to formalise the election process for student leaders. In conjunction with revised interview formats and questions these initiatives will provide greater transparency and feedback to all candidates and ensure that every voice is heard equally. This is mirrored in the process for appointing Sports Captains, where candidates go through a formal process of application, interview and feedback. In 2022, enhancement of the engagement and connectedness of the school community was crucial in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.





# Engagement and connections

## Strategic objectives

- Promote an environment of mutual respect
- Collaborate and share our story within and beyond the school community
- Build positive and productive relationships with parents and caregivers and alumni
- Promote a culture of open communication and feedback

Efficacy, regularity and timeliness were the motivation for the change from more traditional modes of communication to include the broader usage of PEGSpace in the form of PEGSpeak and the Newsfeed function. Through a rotating schedule of weekly posts, PEGSpeak has allowed the Principal, Vice Principal, Heads of Section, Directors and Chaplains to communicate our vision and objectives more thoroughly to parents and caregivers. It is anticipated that the functionality of PEGSpace will be further broadened in 2023.

Parents and caregivers have connected with school programmes through increased accessibility and attendance at school events at all sections of the school. Several new opportunities for parents to engage with school programmes have been added this year at all sections, such as open classrooms and an open Year Twelve Colours Assembly, to ensure that the connection between home and school remains strong.

The strength of connection has also been a priority for the alumni organisations. The inaugural meeting of the Alumni Community Hub took place this year and brings together the Former Students Association, PEGS Business Network, Friends of PEGS, affiliated sporting groups and the school board. This hub has been established to streamline the use of resources to create a more engaging experience for the alumni community. Maintaining special interest relationships in the PEGS alumni community has begun with the development of the Alumni Drama Group.

The School has also strengthened its connections between alumni and current students and school programmes. The relationship with the PEGS Hockey Club has been strengthened and they have been engaged to provide coaches for current school teams. Alumni have also assisted current Years Ten and Eleven students to consider their pathways, with career and tertiary study workshops and Q&As.

Considerable time has been devoted to strengthening the connection that the Kindergarten shares with the rest of the school community. In addition to stronger communication ties, a kindergarten uniform has been designed and is offered for purchase to the 2023 cohort of students. We look forward to the uniform being a strong visual reminder of the relationship that our Kindergarten students and their families have with the school community.

To ensure our learning community continues to flourish and grow, prudent management of physical, environmental and financial resources is imperative. Our commitment to being socially responsible and at the forefront of best practice secures our present and future.







# III

# Continuity and sustainability

## Strategic objectives

- Embrace environmental, social responsibility and governance (ESG) best practice to ensure our school is sustainable for the future
- Ensure we follow best practice in compliance, and financial and risk management to continue to flourish regardless of external impacts
- Maintain the recruitment and development of outstanding and diverse staff
- Continuously develop resources and create assets, including ICT and facilities

We are seeking ways to reduce our carbon footprint and be more sustainable, led by our Resource Smart Schools Committee and our Conservation Club. Food waste bins can now be found at all sections at Keilor East Campus. A food waste program is taught as part of the Year Six camp curriculum. Students planted enough trees at Keilor Park to offset our school's paper usage. In partnership with Cranbourne Botanic Gardens the school has Raising Rarity garden beds at two campuses, where students propagate and monitor the rare daisy, Swamp Everlasting, which will build up an important reserve in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank for this endangered species.

Student activities are being supported by school administration and facilities staff, with a rolling transition to LED lights to reduce power usage, the planned installation of 78 solar panels on the social club roof as part of the renovation project in December 2022. With the use of solar energy, the social club will become self-sufficient and reduce power usage to a minimum. In addition, paper systems for intakes, receipting and scholarships have transitioned to electronic systems, creating environmental benefits plus efficiencies both in terms of time and cost. The process of converting all hard copies of application for admissions, reports, NAPLAN results etc. is complete and these are now stored electronically.

With the School Master Plans for Essendon and Moonee Ponds campuses in need of revision, the School Board, with the support of school management, has engaged consultants to assist with this process. The planning team has made good progress in 2022, with asset assessments, heritage surveys and traffic surveys being conducted, with the view to taking the plans to the community and council in early 2023.

The school was subject to a review by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) of its compliance with the Minimum Standards for School Registration. The Minimum Standards cover school governance, enrolment, curriculum and student learning, student welfare, staff employment and school infrastructure. There are also specific requirements related to bushfire preparedness (Eildon campus), anaphylaxis management, financial management and the Child Safe Standards. The outcome of the review was that the VRQA is satisfied that the School has demonstrated compliance with the standards assessed as part of this review. Our next review is scheduled for 2026.



# Term dates 2023

## Term One

Thursday 2 February – Thursday 6 April

## Term Two

Thursday 27 April – Friday 23 June

## Term Three

Tuesday 11 July – Friday 8 September

## Term Four

Monday 2 October – Wednesday 13 December

