

The Angel

Thursday 6th December 2018, Volume 33



*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and
power of Your Father and ours. Receive my
prayer as part of my service of the Lord who
enlists me in God's own work for justice.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the
world, peace in my home, peace in myself.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's
joy. I seek His will so I can serve with
gladness, singing and love.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me the joy and love and peace it
is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.
Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the
God who acted there, hearty gratitude for
the life begun there, and spirited
resolution to serve the Father and Son.*

*I pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
whose advent I hail.
Amen.*

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

Important Dates:

TERM 4

10th December

Year 7 – Activities Day in Yarrawonga

Year 8 - Activities Day in Shepparton

11th December

Students Last Day for 2018

Presentation Night, 7.15pm

12th December

Staff Community Outreach Day

14th December

Nathalia Community Carols

18th December

College Office closes at midday

TERM 1 - 2019

24th January

College Office Opens

30th January

Year 7 first day

30th January

Year 11 Urban Retreat

Year 12 Retreat at Dookie

31st Jan

Year 8, 9 & 10 first day

Principal's News

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Friends,

The Christmas edition of The Angel has arrived. The weekly newsletter to our community acts as an excellent communication tool between the College, home and the broader St Mary of the Angels community. The Angel provides key information, celebrates student, staff and community achievement, showcases the extraordinary talents of our students and keeps us all well connected. The Angel is certainly the cornerstone of the College's communication with our broad and expansive community.

Thank you to Kylie Palmer, Julie Moore, Josh Hayes and the many contributors for the production of The Angel. Thank you to Carmel Payne and Sandy Kent who act as our proof readers and make sure my grammar and punctuation is up to scratch.

As tradition stands it is with a tinge of sadness that we farewell departing staff. Good luck and best wishes to Belinda Rankin (Maternity Leave), Harmeet Dhillon, Janet Brooks and Rowan Priest. We also wish Carolyn Goode and Sam O'Brien well who are pursuing other opportunities for 12 months. Carolyn is acting in the role of Deputy Principal at St Augustine's College, Kyabram and Sam is working at Echuca Regional Health. Both of our GAP Year Trainees are heading off to begin their tertiary studies and we wish Zoe Backway and Jesse Trower all the best in their future endeavours.

On behalf of our College community I thank our departing staff for their professionalism and contribution to our College community. We wish you well moving forward.

I look forward to celebrating 2018 at our annual Presentation Night next Tuesday evening. The night will be a showcase of student talent, achievement and excellence in a variety of different fields and contexts.

Finally, thank you for your support during 2018. I pray that everybody will have a safe and holy Christmas in the company of family and friends followed by a rejuvenating and relaxing summer break. I look forward to 2019 with energy, passion and enthusiasm.

***With Peace and Goodwill,
Matt Carver
Principal***

Deputy Principal's News

Chris Dainton

Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity

As we move into the joyous season of advent, our Catholic community also welcomes a new liturgical year. Advent is the season of transformation and hope where the barren wilderness bursts into bloom; it is a time for miracles, healing and light.

The word advent has its origins in the Latin words ad- to and venire- come, and in our context, refers to the coming of the Son of Man.

In the Catholic Church, we will light one candle each week as we move ever closer to that most wonderful day. The gradual lighting of the candles represents the increasing light of Christ as his coming draws near.

In our home, the little ones are counting down the days with an advent calendar filled with chocolate. I sat down with my four-year-old on the weekend to watch a couple of Youtube Kids videos about the real meaning of Christmas and the nativity. He asked me if there was going to be dinosaurs. Still some work to do.

It's important that we don't lose the real meaning of the advent season, and that as a Catholic Community we can extend our arms around everyone in our community. I can speak to the generosity of this community as so many people have put their arms around me this year and for that I am truly grateful and so proud to be a part of Saint Mary of the Angels College.

I wish all members of the College family a safe and joyous advent season and look forward to working with you all in 2019. God bless.

Luke 2:6-7. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College
warmly invites
Families & Friends
to celebrate
Presentation Night
on
Tuesday 11th December 7.15pm
for a 7.30pm start
at the
Nathalia Community Centre
Robertson Street, Nathalia

We ask that families brings a plate of supper
to share at the conclusion of the presentation and
awards ceremony.



NATHALIA COMMUNITY
CAROLS
Friday 14th December 2018
7.00pm
on St Mary of the Angels' Oval.

Featuring: Local Artists, Schools,
Kindergartens and Community
Groups.

Food and Drinks
available for purchase.

Jumping Castle sponsored by
Western Moira Tourism.

TRANSITION PROGRAM

St Mary of the Angels welcomed two lots of very excited students into our College this week. Monday saw a group of Grade 4 students and their families visit for the first day of our Transition program that included a student led tour of the College and our facilities. Thank you to our Student College Leaders and their Year 8 assistants for their enthusiasm, knowledge and professionalism as they conducted the various tours.

Orientation Day is regarded as the first day of Year 7, and it was lovely to see nearly 140 students attend and enjoy their first day of secondary school. There were a few nerves with most students excited and ready to experience what secondary school has to offer. There were smiles all around at the end of the day, and students will go to the Christmas holiday break knowing where their homerooms are, who are their teachers, and having made some new friends. Well done to the Year 7 Team Leader Mr Andrew Storer and his team for organising the day and helping our newest students to settle in to their new school routine.

END OF SEMESTER REPORTS

End of semester reports will be made available via PAM and SIMON on Wednesday 12th December. Please do not hesitate to contact the College Office if you have any difficulty in accessing PAM.

All schools are mandated to report to Victorian Curriculum achievement standards for students in Years 7 to 10, and increasingly teachers are moving toward reporting student progress on each task in line with the standards. Additionally, each student's overall achievement in each subject will be reported upon as a five point scale, in line with the Victorian Curriculum standards.

You may notice that your child has achieved at a level higher or lower than the age-expected level as teachers more accurately assess student progress.

The Victorian Curriculum allows for a more rigorous, personalised approach to learning with a focus on celebrating learning growth regardless of the level at which a student may be working. Any parents/carers who would like to discuss their child's final results and progress are invited to make contact with their Learning Advisor.

PRESENTATION EVENING

Presentation Evening will be held at the Nathalia Community Centre on Tuesday 11th December. We ask that families please be seated by 7.15 pm ready for a prompt 7.30 pm start. All students and their families are strongly encouraged to attend as the evening is a wonderful celebration of student achievement throughout the year, including awards, performances and reflection on the year past. A reminder that students should wear full summer uniform including blazer.

In addition to the special awards presented throughout the evening, an important part of the evening is the celebration of academic achievement throughout the year. Academic awards fall in to three categories:

Achievement Award - awarded to students who have consistently tried their best; acted on feedback; and have demonstrated at least one year of learning growth during the school year, regardless of the level at which they may be working.

Academic Excellence - awarded to students who have consistently achieved an excellent standard across all assessment tasks for the year.

Honours Award - awarded to students who have achieved Excellence Awards in the majority of their studied subjects.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and families a holy, safe and restful break over the Christmas period. Thank you for your support throughout the year, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2019.

2019 BOOK LISTS & SECONDHAND BOOKS:

Distribution of 2019 book lists for each year level has taken place. Books can now be ordered directly online through Campion at <https://order.campion.com.au/#homeView> this link can also be found on our College website under Parent Information | Book Sales - New & Used.

Secondhand books listed for sale can also be accessed on our College website at <http://www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/parent-information/second-hand.html>

Merry Christmas!

Deputy Principal's News

Tim Campbell

Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing & Development

END OF THE YEAR

Well there it is, another year nearly completed. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank our students on another wonderful year. The laughter, success and growth of our students in all areas is the key to them achieving not just their potential, but much more. Every year I feel blessed to work in such a wonderful school filled with terrific students, amazing staff and wonderful supportive families. To our staff, thank you again (and again) for going above and beyond the regular duties to see our students thrive and exceed their potential.

To our students: for those returning in 2019, I hope you have a restful and enjoyable break and come back refreshed to achieve the impossible. To those not returning or to those who have finished – the world is yours to grab and do with it amazing things. I wish you nothing but the very best on your endeavours into the future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Our end of year is fast approaching and along with that comes our annual Presentation evening.

Presentation evening will be held on Tuesday 11th December at the Nathalia Community Centre. We ask that families arrive early and are seated by 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

The format for the evening has changed this year to acknowledge even more of the achievements our students have made over the year.

Families should have been contacted to let you know if your child is receiving an award on the night. We look forward to seeing everyone there to help us celebrate the achievements of our students.

SCHOOL START DATES

I would like to remind parents and students to check the return dates (on page 2) for each year level as the first day of 2019 will be a staggered start for students. VCE students will be leaving for their respective retreats for the beginning of their year. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the College office.

ACTIVITY DAYS

Next week will conclude our classes for 2018. Please check to see what activity days are scheduled for your child over the next few days and complete any excursion forms required.



Important I.T. Messages

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE IT OFFICE:

At the start of the 2019 school year, we will be collecting all students' computers for re-imaging. The re-imaging process involves wiping the computers completely, and then restoring a set of programs and software updates. Please be aware, that we will not have the facilities to back up documents currently on the students' computers.

It will be every students' responsibility to ensure they have made their own back-up copies or risk losing important images and files.

For prompt return of computers please ensure your child's macbook is fully charged before collection.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAPTOPS:

If parents or students would like their laptop stored at the College over the school holidays, please bring the computer to the IT Office at the end of term.



School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support at SMOTA

Alison Dietrich,
Positive Behaviours' Leader

2018 saw the beginning of our journey to implement a School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework to help create a safer and more effective environment for teaching and learning. Our College is committed to teaching our students academics along with how to act/react in different settings. We have used the SPARK values of Safe, Purposeful, Accepting, Resilient and Kind to form a shared language for students, staff and families. These values provide a basis for focusing on teaching what TO do, rather than on what NOT to do.

One of the reasons that SMOTA committed to implementing the SWPBS framework was that it has been developed from evidence and data. Research has shown that SWPBS is successful in reducing problem behaviour, improving school culture and also increasing academic performance. The first year of SWPBS implementation at SMOTA has already resulted in a reduction in behavioural incidents and an improved mindset across the College; both of which strengthen our links to our Franciscan Charism.

We feel that we are well on our way towards implementing a school-wide plan to improve our ability to teach and support positive behaviour for all students. We have spent much of 2018 building capacity as a staff. The SPARK team has met every 3-4 weeks to keep the process of implementing SWPBS moving along; they have kept staff updated on different initiatives they have been working on and have used staff input to assist with these initiatives.

Although there is still much to do to embed SWPBS at SMOTA, we need to celebrate the following accomplishments:

- identification of school-wide expectations (SPARK)
- development of our school-wide teaching matrix
- creation of SPARK logo and icons
- visual displays of SPARK banners and matrix
- increased use of SPARK language by staff when referring to student behaviour
- students are using the language of SPARK in their interactions
- student familiarity with SPARK values
- professional development for all staff about SWPBS
- creation of lesson plans to teach school-wide expectations (ongoing).
- school-wide focus on 'Celebrating KINDNESS'
- student creation of videos to demonstrate 'Kindness' during Religious Education classes
- identification of links between SPARK values and improving student engagement and aspiration
- development of a SWPBS action plan for 2019

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- continue to implement the SWPBS framework to create a positive school climate.
- focus on the development of positive relationships with all involved in the whole school community.
- understand that behavioural expectations must be explicitly taught with equal vigor to that of academics.
- all staff to be committed to actively teaching positive behaviour using our five SPARK values.
- focus on how SPARK can facilitate learner agency

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

YEAR 8 MATHS PATHWAYS



YEAR 8 MATHS PATHWAYS

Rose Nihill, Mathematics

A student's growth rate is the rate at which they are mastering new content in Maths Pathway. An average growth of 100% means the student mastered one year's worth of maths over twelve months (or an average of 3 modules per test). Pictured are students who are working at level 8 with an average growth of 100% or higher. Also pictured, are students who have been filling gaps in their learning and have achieved an average growth of 200% or higher (or have covered two years of the curriculum).



St Mary of the Angels aims to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment where all students can flourish.



FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE!

Christina Stephenson, Humanities

What does sugar and a squirrel have in common? Well, as Year 8 Red found out, they are both kinds of gliders!

The boys were out playing valiantly at cricket, and so it was a ladies day out where we learnt about the habitats of the gliders (nesting boxes which they essentially wallpaper with gum leaves), what they eat (nectar blocks and fruits - all equally shared), how big they are (one gram and then they grow in Mum's pouch) and of course, in true museum style, artwork; along with beautiful paintings, there was leatherwork, a taxidermed glider and a magnificent quilt.

Our little furry friends are endangered, so we are encouraging everyone to be aware of predators and loss of habitat - they are only small so you may not notice them!

Lastly, if you are heading to Rochester anytime soon, say 'hello' to 'Allen' the glider painted on one of the silos.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au



Sandy Carver & Carmel Mithen - Student Wellbeing

As we close the year, sound wellbeing information can always be found on our SCHOOL TV! Hopefully you might browse through this site at your leisure through the holiday season.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP FOR TEENAGERS

Sleep research shows that a teenager (not just the pre-school children) need between nine and ten hours of sleep every night.

Yet most teens are sleeping only about seven or eight hours a night on average.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chronic sleep deprivation can lead to:

- reduced alertness and concentration
- poorer academic performance
- feelings of sadness and irritability!
- Teens Need More Sleep Than You Think

The life of today's teenager is busy and in constant flux. They have increasing responsibilities at school and at home, their social lives are expanding, their independence is growing, and they're making plans for their future. Adolescence is a time of significant maturation—physical, emotional, intellectual. Sleep fuels these important processes. Good, plentiful sleep is essential to teens' development, growth, and read

With the holiday season approaching, and with more time on your hands, we urge all parents to read up on "School TV". The importance of SLEEP and its importance would be an interesting topic for around the table.

For those parents with new Year 7 students, there is a wealth of information on TRANSITION.

TRY YOUR HAND AT THE QUIZ FOR EACH TOPIC AND THEN DISCUSS AS A FAMILY!

Wishing every family a happy, safe and relaxed holiday break! Take care, Sandy and Carmel.



YEAR 8 BOYS CRICKET

Jesse Trower, Education Trainee

In the recent weeks, our Year 8 Cricket side have been battling against other schools in a bid to be the state champions for 2018. After easily advancing through the first two rounds they then had to win a State Quarter Final against Epping. Weather didn't seem to be on either teams side however a winner had to be determined on the day. Epping won the toss and sent us in to bat, it seemed like the perfect plan when Clayton Beer was dismissed the first ball of the game. However, from there a partnership of 81 from Bailey Smith and Matteo Allen swung momentum back in favour of SMOTA. Bailey (78) and Matteo (36) were the top scorers with SMOTA finishing on a score of 5/139 after the 20 overs. SMOTA easily defended their score with good tight bowling as well as some exceptional fielding as well. Hugh Hyde was the chief destroyer with 3/19 while Clayton Beer caused two run outs with his precise fielding efforts. Eventually, Epping finished 6/79 advancing SMOTA through to a State Semi Final in Melbourne.

In typical blustery Melbourne conditions and after a 5:00am start, the boys were still as keen as ever to make their school proud in what was the final level for the state. The semi-final saw SMOTA play Marist-Sion in a do or die match. Marist won the toss and elected to bat. SMOTA got off to a great start with Matteo Allen striking in the first over after a brilliant catch from Alex Braaksma. After a fightback from Marist, Bailey Smith dismissed their captain with some help from Noah Iddles behind the stumps. Hugh Hyde then bowled an economical spell to slow down the run rate. Epping eventually bowled out for 93 after 19.1 overs. SMOTA's best bowlers were Hugh Hyde (2/6) and Matteo Allen (2/17). SMOTA were never able to get going with the bat with Marist bowling a tight line and length which made it hard for us to score. Hugh Hyde (28) provided hope as did Lachie Adams



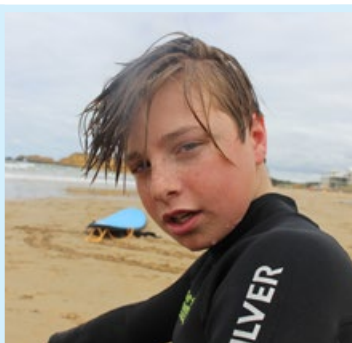
who smashed a six off his first bowl however too many wickets fell during the innings. SMOTA was bowled out for 77 with Marist winning by 16 runs. Although the result not what the boys wanted, it must be said that it has been an amazing effort by these boys to finish 3rd in the State. The school is extremely proud of these efforts and the attitude they have shown throughout this competition. Lastly, a huge thank you to Mr Campbell who coached this impressive Year 8 Cricket Team.



Renee McCance, Outdoor Education Teacher

Throughout Term 4 the Year 8 and 9 Outdoor Adventures students have been investigating safe participation in outdoor activities, with an environmental focus on Marine Environments in Australia. As a culmination to their studies, students were given the opportunity to experience one of these environments first hand. Students travelled to Torquay Surf Beach for a day of beach activities and surfing. Despite small surf conditions, the students experienced the thrill of the ocean and the challenge of getting to your feet on a surfboard. A large number of the kids were successful in standing up before the end of their lesson, with everyone leaving the water having enjoyed their experience.

Thank you to Miss Cunningham, Zoe and Miss Pinnuck for making the trip possible for the students!



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au



YEAR 9 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES' VALLEY HOMESTEAD CAMP

Renee McCance, Outdoor Education Teacher

As part of their studies, the Year 9 Outdoor Adventures students have been investigating: promoting safety and minimal impact strategies when using outdoor environments; strategies to cope with challenging situations in the outdoors; performing a variety of roles and responsibilities in a team situation; and examining effective strategies to work both individually and as part of a team in outdoor adventure.

As part of this investigation, the students were given the opportunity to attend the Valley Homestead Camp in Ovens as a culmination to their studies. Students were challenged to step outside of their comfort zone in completing challenging and 'risky' adventure activities, requiring a number of outdoor skills and supports from team members. This included: rock climbing and abseiling; vertical challenges; 10m power pole challenge; and a 250m flying fox. The classes were able to put into practice their knowledge and skills in planning for outdoor adventures, and develop their team work and leadership skills in the outdoors. Although unfortunately having to be cut short, the staff and students had a fantastic trip, with the weather being very kind for both days and lots of fun had by all.

Thank you to Miss Rawson and Jesse Trower who were kind enough to come along on camp, to allow the trip to happen.

Well done to all!





Doppelgänger Dance

Carmel Mills, Dance Teacher

Year 8/9 Dance in Semester 2 allowed for some amazing creative ideas and talents to be showcased. Students were given the stimulus 'The Doppelgänger Effect' to interpret and construct a dance based upon ideas which they came up with themselves. The Doppelgänger Effect is a non-biologically related look-alike or double of a living person, sometimes portrayed as a ghostly or paranormal phenomenon and usually seen as a harbinger of bad luck. The word Doppelgänger is German and translates as "double goer". Other cultures also have variations of this concept.

The students really took this stimulus on board, varying their ideas from the evil twin approach to the concept of 'inner selves' represented as emotions, and the idea that one's doppelgänger is a 'puppet-master' of their life. I am extremely proud of the work the students completed, considering not only how to incorporate elements of dance including the use of space and more difficult concepts such as canons and inversions, but also of staging techniques such as costuming and lighting.







Would you
open your door to
a child in need?

BERRY STREET
We're for Childhood
SINCE 1877

In Victoria, the number of children who cannot live safely at home has risen every year over the last ten years. Many have suffered family violence, abuse and neglect. They need carers to provide a safe and nurturing home. With your help they can heal and look forward to the future.

The Berry Street office in Hume is looking for people considering foster care. As a carer, you could make a huge difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

A little of your time can change an entire life.

For more information please contact Janene
T: (03) 5822 8100 or E: humefostercare@berrystreet.org.au



MUSIC LESSONS.
ENROLMENTS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR 2019.

- Vocal
- Guitar
- Keyboard/piano
- Drums
- Bass guitar
- Ukulele

Dillmac Entertainment has tutors teaching at the following schools in 2019:

- Katunga Primary School
- Lockington Consolidated School
- Moama Public School (New in 2019)
- Nathalia Primary School
- Sacred Heart Tatura
- SMOTA Nathalia
- St. Augustines F-12 College
- St. Francis Nathalia
- St. Patrick's Tongala
- St. Anne's College, Kialla (New in 2019)
- Tatura Primary
- Tongala Primary School

Dillmac also runs classes after school in our Kyabram and Echuca Studio.

Group lessons:

- **Tots & Tunes** - 2-4 yr olds – introduction to everything performing arts
- **Dance** – Modern Dance and Tap available
- **PERFORMING ARTS** – Singing, Acting, Dancing Performance all in ONE class!!!!

To enrol or for further information please call (03) 58 521 358 or email andrewmoore@dillmac.com



**NATHALIA COMMUNITY
CAROLS**

Friday 14th December 2018
7pm on the St Marys Oval

Featuring : Local Artist, Schools, Kindergartens and Community Groups

Jumping Castle Sponsored by Western Mōria Tourism

FOOD AND DRINKS FOR SALE

*The star of Bethlehem
shone when Christ was
born*

*In the darkest nights,
Christ's love still shines the
brightest*

*Merry Christmas and enjoy
the Festive season!*

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

Ph: (03) 5866 2222 | Fax: (03) 5866 2471

Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au