

The Angel

Thursday 9th February 2017, Volume 1



The most precious gift, Is the gift of life

Father in heaven,

Friend of all, full of compassion and love
for those who mourn

We ask you to enfold in your loving arms
our friend Connor

Tragically taken late last year

Heal and comfort his loving parents,
Rene and Kath and keep them in your care

We thank you for Connor's gifts and
talents, shared with us during his life

Give us courage so that together we can
share our sorrow

And remember our friendship together

We ask this through Christ our Lord

AMEN



Connor Remmerswaal

Born - 29th August, 2002

Entered eternal life - 19th December, 2016

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

Deputy Principal's News

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity

I love the beginning of a new school year. People are well rested and happy to be here. Year 7 shirts are the brightest shade of white and they look so pristine compared to the rest of the year levels' uniforms. Each year levels uniforms tells a story as to how far along the journey the students have come.

Year 7's, are our 'freshies' beginning our time with us. They remind us that over the next six years we will help mould and shape the adults they will become. Like newborns we wonder about the people we become.

Our Year 8's, are no longer the new kids on the block and the transition into the year is always smooth. Many of them have doubled in size over the summer They are happy to be back reacquainting themselves with each other and move into some flexibility and choice with what they want to learn. Their uniforms are mixture of old and new.

Year 9's are full of excitement as their learning is through the lens of an indigenous perspective. They know how the College operates and they are comfortable in their surrounds. They have grown into their uniforms that were oversized a few years ago. They are a perfect fit in the place.

Year 10's are transitioning into the big league. We will see an influx of new uniforms throughout the year as their growth spurts start to settle down. They are the middle students in the College family, in training for the final run. Things are familiar, however change is in the wind for them this year. It's a year of transition.

Our senior students of year 11 and 12 arrive looking a little different from what we are use to. The red jumpers are gone and the blue jumpers have replaced them. They have been on retreat and gained a deeper understanding of themselves and where life is taking them. They are ready to serve the College family and are enthusiastic because they can see the light at the end of the tunnel. They come as the elders of the College Family. They impart their wisdom and share their gifts and talents readily.

Just like your family, our College family has its own uniqueness and beauty. As we begin this year together, whether you are a long standing member of our community or a brand new member we welcome you. At this time of the year Pope Francis has a timely reminder for all families that perhaps we all need stuck to our fridge door;

A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases 'May I?Thank you and I'm sorry' and "Never, never, never end the day without making peace."

A healthy family life
requires frequent use of three phrases:
"May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry"
and
**"never, never, never end the day
without making peace."**

Pope Francis



Above: Matt Carver and Hannah Conroy 2016 DUX

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



OPENING MASS



Opening Mass

Ruth Harnett-Carr

St Mary of the Angels and St Francis Primary School joined with their Canonical Administrator, Fr Michael Grace, to celebrate the beginning of the year with an open air Mass. The Opening Mass was offered for Connor Remmerswaal, a beloved friend and classmate of the students at St Mary of the Angels, who lost his life in late December last year. The Mass celebrated the friendship Connor shared with students and focused on the community growing together and striving to reach individuals' hopes and dreams.

St. Mary of the Angels and St. Francis Primary School also commissioned their Year 12 and Grade 6 school leaders. During the Mass St. Mary of the Angels had a presentation from last year's college dux, Hannah Conroy (pictured right with Principal Matt Carver). Hannah thanked the College, her teachers and her family for their support during her VCE school year and provided valuable "tips" for the 2017 Year 12 students.



Matt Carver and Bev Thorp present Livindya Sooriarchchi (front) and Kate Berend with their Social Justice Leaders badges at Opening Mass.

Principal's News

Matt Carver

A warm welcome to everybody who is new to our community: staff, students and families as well as an equally warm welcome back to the existing members of our St Mary of the Angels' family. The year has started full of energy and enthusiasm and it has been fantastic to witness such a positive start. Our new Year 7 students have enjoyed an extensive College induction program to familiarize themselves with our facilities. This has included an introduction to their Macbook computers, team building activities and an orientation activity around the College.

Last week our Year 7 students also participated in a specially commented Mass with Fr Michael Grace and Deputy Principal, Mrs. Ruth Hartnett-Carr. The Mass was commented and explained to further familiarize the students with the symbols, responses and structure of Mass. Thank you to Fr. Michael for your expertise and willingness to assist the students to further understand a key ingredient of a Catholic Education and our faith.

On Monday evening we conducted a Year 7 Welcome BBQ and Badge Ceremony. Thank you to everybody who attended and supported the evening. The badge is symbolized by a dove and the date 2022. The Dove is a prominent component of our College logo and is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, whose inspiration and guidance we seek to follow. The date signifies the graduation year for our Year 7 class of 2017 and represents the six year relationship we will have with the students, families and College as we walk the highs and lows of secondary school together.

Our Year 11 and 12 students also participated in their annual retreat program last week. The retreats were a great success with the students engaged in discussion about their futures, their goals and aspirations, values and faith. Furthermore, our Year 8, 9 and 10 staff and students participated in an extensive induction program. The induction program provides the perfect opportunity for our year level teams to form positive relationships, get to know each other, deepen our understanding of our faith and Franciscan charism and establish classroom and year level norms and guidelines that will govern our work throughout the year.

In summary, all of our work together - inclusive of faith and spiritual life, pastoral and wellbeing support and in the classrooms - is founded in the formation of deep, positive relationships. From this base, together we can achieve anything!

St Mary of the Angels
Parents and Friends

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2017

at 7.00pm

**in the Staffroom at
St Mary of the Angels**

All welcome! Please come along
to review and celebrate 2016.

Lucky door prize
and supper provided.



NEW FACES AT ST MARY OF THE ANGELS IN 2017

Back L-R: Carmel Mills, Kim Carter, Jeremy Edwards, Sally Brown.

Middle L-R: Shae Cairns, Kenralou Johns, Gabby Cunningham, Jess Trotman, Shannon Orlandi, Christina Stephenson.

Front: L-R: Carmel Mithen, Harmeet Dhillon, Lisa Kemp, Neroli Eddy.

Absent: Justine Simkin

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

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY:

A CSEF application form is attached to this week's Newsletter (pg.19-20); alternatively, it can be downloaded from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information regarding the CSEF fund please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



The latest addition to the College's bus fleet the new fifty-seven seat Scania coach.

Have you noticed our new bus on the road? WOW!
The photo above says it all.

Finally, it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome our new and returning staff members to our community.

I am sure they will be provided a warm welcome into our community.

- **Carmel Mills** English / RE / Art
- **Kim Carter** VET Music / Drama / The Arts
- **Sally Brown** English
- **Justine Simkin** Food Technology
- **Jess Trotman** English / Humanities
- **Shannon Orlandi** English / Photography
- **Shae Cairns** Trainee – PE & Sport
- **Neroli Eddy** VCAL Program / Food Technology
- **Lisa Kemp** Psychology / Humanities
- **Jeremy Edwards** Trainee – PE & Sport
- **Harmeet Dhillon** Chemistry / Science
- **Kendralou Johns** Trainee – Education Support
- **Carmel Mithen** VCAL Program / Wellbeing Support / RE
- **Christina Stephenson** English / RE / History
- **Gabby Cunningham** PE / Science

Pace e bene.
Matt Carver

Deputy Principal's News

Tim Campbell

Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing & Development

Welcome to 2017! A big warm welcome to our Year 7 students and their families who have chosen St. Mary of the Angels as their school for the next six years as well as a special welcome to the new students who have chosen St Mary of the Angels in other year levels. Welcome back to all our returning students and we hope that everyone has a successful and happy year.

St Mary of the Angels is known for its warmth and pastoral care, and by all reports our new students have settled in well. A big thank you to all staff for their efforts in setting up/running the induction days and retreats – the students seemed to really enjoy it!

For our new students (and parents), some information to assist your transition:

If you are experiencing difficulties or have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to your homeroom teacher or learner advisor as they are your first contact. Parents/guardians are also welcome to contact their child's learning advisor to discuss learning matters regarding their child.

HOME FOR A DAY?

If you are home for a day, please contact the College Office on 5866 2222 to let us know the school know. It's not okay to be away!

UNIFORM:

Whilst most students have started the year well wearing the correct uniform, we are disappointed to see a number of students (mostly older) not complying with our uniform policy. Shoes need to be black, polishable, traditional leather shoes with no logo, with the laces done up. Socks are to be plain white for girls and either plain grey or white for boys (black socks or socks with logos are unacceptable). Dress length is to be modest (lower than mid thigh) – some may require the hem to be taken down. Boys are to be clean-shaven at all times. There is also to be no (excessive) make up, facial piercings, jewellery (other than a watch) or nail polish to be worn. Failure to comply with this can lead to phone calls home, asking for items/make up to be removed and possibly detention.

Please ensure that your child is leaving for school in the correct uniform each day. If a student is unable to wear their uniform or part of their uniform for any reason, could parents please send a note with your child explaining why this is the case. Parents can refer to the school uniform policy in the handbook or student diary for more detailed information about uniform. Thank you for your cooperation.



Our Year 7 - 9 students were treated to the fun and enthusiasm of our entertainer and quest speaker Steve Bowen.

BUSES

There have been some big changes to the buses for 2017. Firstly, due to the building works taking place at SMOTA, four of our buses will now drop off and depart the College from Power Street. The remaining buses will continue to drop off and depart from Robertson Street (including the Finley/Tocumwal bus). However, due to the building works for the new Year 10 building, students will need to make their way to class via Bromley Street. Students are reminded that the bus drop off point will also be the bus departure point.

The second change is that no bus changes will be available to students for Term One. Our buses are currently at capacity meaning changes are not possible. If you have a specific request, it can be made in writing to Tom Robinson (our bus manager). Requests will only be granted for extreme circumstances and only if seats are available.

Students have settled into the bus routine well, with some changes to the bus routes. It should go without saying that students need to treat each other with respect whilst traveling to and from school. If parents / students are having any issues with the bus, they should report the issue immediately to allow us to act. Queries or concerns can be directed to Tom (bus manager), bus drivers or bus captains who will work with myself and the Team Leaders to ensure a fair resolution can be found.



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 Term 1 Dates:



STEVE BOWEN

The Year 7, 8 & 9 students were lucky to have Steve Bowen (entertainer and guest speaker) to present to them last Monday. Steve is a renowned celebrity with his colourful suits and engaging persona. His message for Monday was about getting out of your comfort zone and how this can help us to learn. Steve had the students engaged across the day and presented a wonderfully fun and enjoyable experience for all students involved. We look forward to having Steve return later this year.



13th Feb	VCAL Camp (13th-15th)
14th Feb	Year 8 Camp (14th - 16th)
16th Feb	House Meetings
20th Feb	Year 10 Information Evening
21st Feb	COLLEGE SWIMMING SPORTS
22nd Feb	Year 11 Camp (22nd-24th) Year 12 English Seminar Year 9 Information Night
23rd Feb	Year 12 RE Seminar Day (23rd-24th)
24th Feb	Red Balloon Day
27th Feb	Student Free Day - Staff PD
28th Feb	Shrove Tuesday
1st March	Year 7 Camp (1st-3rd)
13th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
21st March	Year 7 Immunisation
23rd March	P/T Interviews Nathalia - All Day
31st March	Last Day of Term One

Vaccination Program 2017

ONLY YEAR 7s TO RECEIVE VACCINATIONS

Parents of older children may be aware that, in previous years, vaccinations were given to students in years 7 to 10. However, the vaccine program for secondary students will now only be offered to Year 7 students.

This includes:

- Boostrix - Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis combined vaccine (dTp) – one dose
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine – three doses
- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine – one dose

Parents of Year 7 students should now have received their child's vaccine consent card booklet from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return Part A regardless of whether your child is being vaccinated at school, by Friday 17th February.

The Moira Shire Immunisation team will be at our College on the 21st March, 18th May and 20th September 2017.

To learn more about the Secondary School Vaccine Program, the vaccines, the diseases they protect against, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination, go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

For further information please contact Gabbi de Mamaiel, Moira Shire Council 58719222.

CYBERSAFETY FOR PARENTS

Our students have all received their Macs for this year and they have all been re-imaged ready for 2017 (a big thank you to our ICT staff – Damian Thomas, James Mustey, Josh Hayes, Pete Thomas and Jess Walsh). These are fantastic tools to aid your child's learning; however, they need to be treated with respect at all times. Failure to comply with the College's MacBook agreement may result in loss or suspension of computer privileges.

INDUCTION PROGRAMS

It was fantastic to see the students engaged and excited about their start to the school year. Each year level was involved in retreats and/or induction programs designed to introduce our students to the expectations of the College and engage in many meaningful and fun activities. Strong relationships between students as well as their teachers are essential to good learning. We hope that the induction programs have led to a smoother transition for all.

Student Leaders



BUS CAPTAINS 2017

Back L-R: James Raco, Alysha Booth, Joshua Smith, Eilish Judd, Matthew Ryan, Isabella Nielsen, Eliza Flanigan, Todd Davies, Mitchell Small, Harrison Davis, Callum Bunnett.

Middle L-R: Phoebe Doyle, Brianna Sargent, Olivia Brunskill, Livindya Sooriarachchi, Sienna Bate, Alysha Nicosia.

Front L-R: Natalie Lukies, Taylah Bignell, Maria Gilroy, Gracie Reid, Keely Bond, Millie Nye.

Absent: Jack Hooker, Jacob Brennan, Damon Hartley, Lauren Harris.



Isabella Fazio receives her Year 12 badge after the commissioning of the Year 12 students (below) at Opening Mass.



Tom Robinson congratulates Lauren Harris after being presented with her bus captains badge.



Matt Carver presents a house captain's badge to Joshua Smith (St Francis) and Eilish Judd (St Clare)..



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

Bev Thorp

Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching

WELCOME

Welcome, and welcome back, to both new and returning families to a new school year. It has been incredibly encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which students have embraced the Induction Programs and Retreats that started the 2017 school program. A huge thank you to the staff who have organised and supported a range of engaging activities that established our expected culture and standards at St Mary of the Angels, as well as developing relationships and team building between staff and students.

This week has seen all students now start their regular classes, and we trust that everyone works solidly to achieve to the best of their potential. While most students should have settled all of their subject selections, I invite any students wishing to make final changes to subject selections to see me at their earliest convenience. Given that senior classes are now three to four weeks into their courses, any changes should be finalised this week.

Information Nights are being held at all year levels, and started with a tremendous turn out of Year 7 families and their children in the wet weather of last Monday. The Year 8 Information Night was held last Wednesday, and we have Year 9, 10 and Senior Information Nights being held over the next few weeks:

Year 9 Information Night: Wednesday 22nd February

Year 10 Information Night: Monday 20th February

Senior Information Night: Wednesday 1st March

I look forward to meeting many new and returning families at these evenings.

LEARNING ADVISORS

Over the next few weeks, all families should be contacted by your child's Learning Advisor. This early contact is primarily to introduce the Learning Advisor and to request your preferred method of regular contact. The upcoming Information Nights are also a wonderful opportunity to meet your Learning Advisor and develop the three way communication between student, family and College that is so imperative to your child's happiness and success at school. A reminder that your Learning Advisor is your first contact point with any information or questions with regard to your child's schooling. The first round of Learning Advisor Interviews will be held toward the end of this term.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

2017 sees the implementation of the new Victorian Curriculum in all State and Catholic schools across Victoria. This will necessitate some changes in our reporting of student achievement, particularly the manner in which we represent student learning progression. Further details will be provided as they become available.

The College has also taken the opportunity to review our grading system and have implemented new 'plus' grades to encourage students to strive to achieve that little bit extra. The new grades and their percentage achievement brackets are listed below.

A+	95 - 100 %
A	85 - 94 %
B+	80 - 84 %
B	70 - 79 %
C+	65 - 69 %
C	55 - 64 %
D+	50 - 54 %
D	40 - 49 %
E+	35 - 39 %
E	25 - 34 %
Below E	less than 25%

We have also added a 'Late' grade for work that has been submitted past the due date. Students who have extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness, personal circumstances) or have been permitted an extension will not receive a Late grade; on the other hand students who have had opportunity and have elected not to complete set work on time may receive a Late grade that will appear on their report. This is aimed to encourage students to develop good work habits that will be important for all aspects of both their schooling and post-schooling experiences.

All new families should have received their login and password details to our Parent Access Module (PAM) where you are able to track work due and your child's assessment results. Please do not hesitate to check with your Learning Advisor or Kylie Palmer in the College Library with any queries with regard to accessing PAM.

Welcome back everyone, we hope your break was relaxing and refreshing. We have some changes in Wellbeing this year. Mrs Carmel Mithen has returned to SMOTA after three years. Mrs Mithen is with VCAL Monday and Tuesday and a part of the Wellbeing Team on Fridays. Again this year Mrs Mithen and I will be providing Wellbeing tips and information in the newsletter each week. This week we thought we would focus on 'routine' as the beginning of the term can be difficult to get back into the swing of things. Following are some tips from Kidspot website that may help you create some calmer household routines:

Six surefire ways to create calm household routines

Information from www.kidspot.com.au

Every house has its own domestic rhythm and harmony - some households are completely chaotic while others may run at a calm slower pace. Whatever the rhythm, most of us would love to establish some kind of household routine that satisfies all family members.

Odds are you already have a domestic routine of some kind - routines that children can come to know and count on. Perhaps you go grocery shopping on Thursdays or you bake together on the weekends. Anything that you do on a regular basis is your routine. Here are five tips to keep in mind when creating routines and establishing a rhythm in your home:

1. FIRST THINGS FIRST

Pick one element to add in to your routine and work on weaving that into your rhythm before you add another. Decide what your top priority is and focus only on that. Focus on blending the new task into your schedule before you add more. Eg. Getting up 10 minutes earlier to get out the door on time.

It is good to have a goal in mind of where you would like to be eventually, but create a schedule based on the way things are at this moment in time. Do what will work for your family the way things are right now.

2. DON'T OVER-SCHEDULE A ROUTINE

Allow yourself to make changes if things aren't working. By staying flexible you can play around with your schedule until you find a day and a time that are a better fit.

Don't be tempted to over-schedule your days. Allow your family to have some downtime. The purpose of routines is to allow your days to run smoother so that your family can enjoy them. Don't be tempted to fill up those spaces with more activities and commitments when things are running smoothly. Instead, enjoy the quiet and the slow days.

3. MAKE CHANGES AS THE FAMILY CHANGES

Families are in a fluid state: children grow, situations change, life happens. Being willing to re-evaluate from time to time gives you the freedom to create a routine that meets the needs of your family.

You don't have to do it all so evaluate what is essential and eliminate what you don't need. Take out the extra steps and keep things basic.

4. START SMALL

Get the basics established and once you have a solid foundation you can build on to your routine from there.

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL

Your family's rhythm isn't going to look like any other family's rhythm. That is okay. Family routines are very personal and each household's will be unique. The only "right" routine is the one that works the best for you for the place where you are today.

Creating routines based on your family's personal needs means that the changes you seek to make have a greater chance of being successfully implemented.

6. STAY ONE STEP AHEAD

Once you know what is essential, do some prep work to make it easier to follow your routines.

Some family routines are more structured, some are more free form but both types of schedules provide value to the children who count on them and find comfort in their familiarity.



Until next week –
Sandy and Mrs Mithen

Parents & Guardians are invited to join us on

Tuesday 21st February 2017

for the College's Annual House

Swimming Sports

Where:

Nathalia Memorial Swimming Pool,
Park Street, Nathalia

Attendance:

Parents & guardians are invited to attend our College House Swimming Sports. All students are required to attend to cheer on their house

Time:

Students go to homeroom get marked off the roll and then walk to the pool in their homeroom groups. They attend the Swimming carnival and then walk back to school in time for homeroom. First race starts at 9.30 am

Transport:

Students will walk to the pool via the levee bank supervised by College staff.

Parking for parents is available on the side of Park Street.

Dress Code:

Students are to dress in house colours,

St Francis – Yellow, St Elizabeth – Red, St Clare Blue. Students MUST wear a hat while not swimming and remember to “slip slop slap” and use sunscreen throughout the day. Parents are also invited to wear house colours on the day

Food:

Students can bring their own lunch if they wish. The Pool staff will be running a BBQ on the day and their canteen will be open to purchase items.

Food and drinks will be available for parents at the hospitality tent.

Medical:

A reminder to students with medical conditions e.g. asthma or anaphylaxis, please bring the necessary required medication with you.



Year 9 Team Building Day

Gabby Cunningham Year 9 Staff Team

On Friday the 3rd the Year Nine students got to build and race their very own raft creations. The students were in groups of four to eight, and were set the challenge of creating a raft that could not only hold the members of their group but also be quick across the creek. The students could use any equipment they could either bring to school or buy down the street, plus two blue barrels supplied by the school.

It was a pearler of a day, the sun was shining, and the water was calm... well it was, until the rafts began to cross. We had a test run in the morning and it's safe to say some rafts needed some serious adjustments after their attempts to cross the creek.

After lunch and some rafting adjustments the race began. We definitely saw the competitive edge and determination of some students come out. It was great to see that teams put in the effort to make changes to get their rafts moving faster. But even with these adjustments we still saw plenty of people fall off and into the water

Many laughs were shared amongst the students and teachers and A LOT of duct tape was used.

The winning team was 'Aussie Aussie Aussie' with the quickest time across the creek!

The 'Floaters' took out the best teamwork award and 'Duct Tape' won the Best Support of Local Business award.





The 'P.I.N.K' Team



The 'Centrelink' Team



The 'Tradies' Team



The 'Unigo' Team



Year 11 Retreat

Michaela Brooks,

The Year 11 Team had a fantastic start to the 2017 school year, kicking it off with a two day retreat at the University of Melbourne Dookie Campus.

Students were excited to return and catch up with their friends. Both buses were filled with fun and laughter as they exchanged tales of their holiday endeavours. After settling in, students were ready to begin the first of a number of sessions which were centered around the theme of 'Being Open to Possibilities'.

The rationale behind the Retreat was to encourage students to think beyond the confines of their existing mindset and to open their minds to ideas and opportunities presented to them as they embark on their final two years of schooling. Preconceived ideas about friendships, about subject choices, about future pathways were examined and reflected upon as students were encouraged to think outside the square. Staff presented sessions ranging from 'Who Am I?' to 'Study Goals' to provide students with a number of activities from the more ponderous, deeper questions about identity, to study strategies that could be put to use straight away. A presentation by former St Mary of the Angels student Helena Bakogianis reinforced the idea that it's important to discover what you are passionate about. Having spent a year in China studying Mandarin, Helena has returned to Australia to resume studies at the University of Melbourne. Following each group session, students broke up into smaller focus groups where they spent time journalling and discussing ideas that had been raised in the whole group sessions..

Both staff and students, departed Dookie with a sense of direction and purpose for the school year. Many thanks to Retreat staff for their hard work and the students for their willingness to have a go!



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College

Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

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

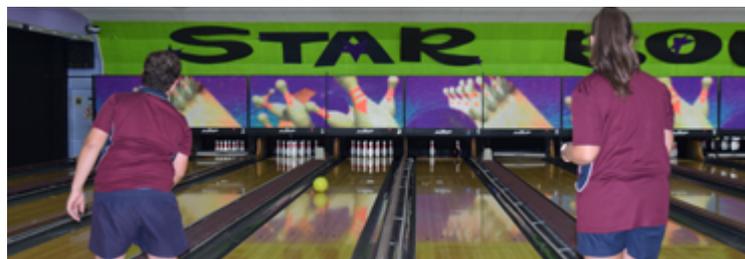
Email: info@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au



YEAR 8 - BOWL OVER THEIR FIRST WEEK

Gemma Connally, Year 8

On Friday the 3rd February a very warm day greeted the new 2017 Year 8 classes as they went on an excursion to Shepparton's Star Bowling alley. After a couple of strikes and many more gutter balls, we finished off the day with lunch and then a relaxing walk around the lake surrounded by beautiful scenery.



Holly Noonan, Year 8

After a quick demonstration and a run down on the rules we split into groups and played two rounds each.

In my group, there was Bri Morgan, Spencer Atkins, James Kam and Brenden Potter. After the first round I was leading, James was 10 points behind; and Brendan was 12 points behind. Brendan however quickly climbed the score board after striking back to back to win!



In the second round, Spencer and I spent most of our time in the gutter missing the pins nearly every time. Bri got a couple of strikes. Brendan continued well placing first again. I overheard that some people scored over 100 points!

Once all the groups had finished their games, we had our lunch at Victoria Lake near Aquamoves before walking around the lake. We stopped at a hill to take photos and some people were rolling down the hills.

We returned to school after a great day away.





30th January, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Homework Club 2017

After a very successful attendance record in 2016, Homework Club will resume in 2017 as of Week 3, Wednesday 8th February. There will be support for students every Wednesday afternoon, whether this be in regards to catching up on school work, extending student understanding, knowledge, and skill level, or simply using the lovely senior school facilities to undertake homework, in a supervised environment.

Note that in 2017 students will not be permitted to go down the street as was the case in previous years. They will be required to stay on the school premises at all times. An afternoon snack will be provided for students but they may also wish to bring something extra to eat for the day.

Homework Club is generally a pleasant, relaxed environment where students can work and gain assistance however, we do stress that it is a working / learning environment and not a social outing. Homework Club is not the forum to socialize and simply catch up with friends.

Students will be required to submit the permission slip below in order to attend. This will give students permission to be on the school premises after hours. Homework club will begin at 3.45 pm and conclude at 5.30 pm. Students will be required to sign in and out of Homework Club on a weekly basis.

Students are reminded that they do not have permission to drive themselves to and from Homework Club. Students must use the provided bus to get home or make arrangements for Parents / Guardians to pick them up.

There will be a late bus running from the College if students wish to get a lift to Numurkah, Katunga, Strathmerton or Cobram. Parents will need to sign a weekly permission form to enable their child to travel on the bus home. The permission slip is available from Student Reception and must be returned to the office by no later than 3.00 pm Monday for travel on that week's bus. The bus departure time in Term 1 will be 5.45 pm.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me at the College.

Regards,

Jane Hando
Teacher

Matt Carver
Principal



I give permission for my son/daughter _____ to attend homework club held at the College on Wednesday afternoon throughout the 2017 school year.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

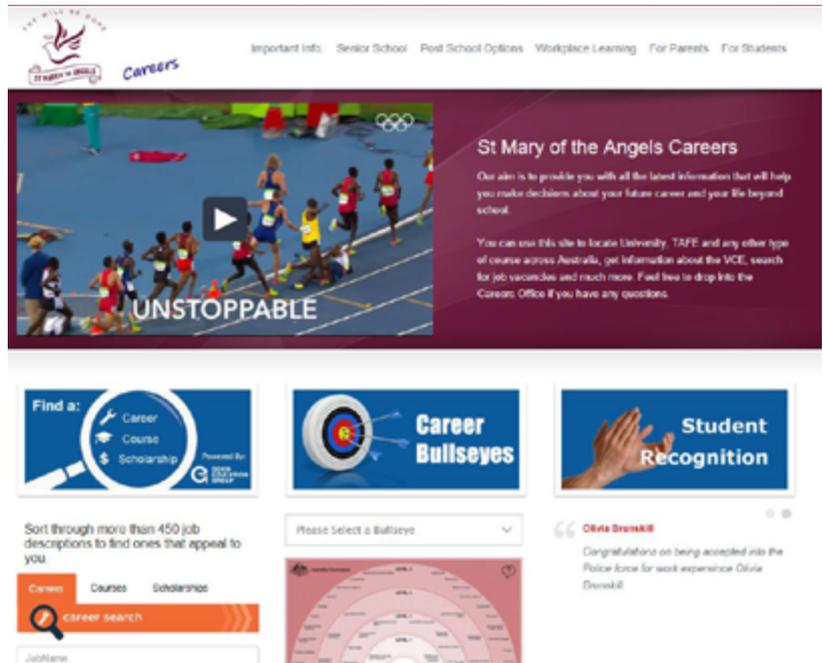
Careers' New Webpage

Maggie Booth & Barry Norton

St Mary of the Angels' Careers has a fantastic web page at <http://www.stmaryoftheangelscareers.com/> (which can also be accessed through the College website under Curriculum / Careers & Pathways). It has lots of handy information for parents and students regarding career pathways and advice including:

- 2017 calendar of events
- Careers newsletters,
- Information on TFN,
- USI numbers,
- Career conversation starters,
- Work experience forms,
- Post secondary information,
- Information on school based apprenticeships, police, and defence force careers,
- VTAC, UAC, Youth Allowance and lots more.

If you have any questions related to career pathways please contact Maggie on email mlb@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au or Barry on bn@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au or phone 0358 662 222.



Secondhand Uniform

UNIFORMS FOR SALE:

Secondhand uniforms with the old and new logo:

Sports' Tracksuit Top (small)	\$30
Sports' Track-pants (small)	\$30
Sports' Track-pants (large)	\$30
Winter Kilt (size 16)	\$60
Navy Blue Jumper (size 20 - 105cm)	\$50
Navy Blue Jumper (size 18 - 10 cm)	\$50
Maroon Jumper (size 18 - 10 cm)	\$50

Please contact Lyn Challis mobile 0409144704

Accessing the Newsletter 'The Angel'

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We hope that you enjoy the first 2017 edition of 'The Angel' the College's weekly newsletter.

'The Angel' will be sent via email each Friday as part of a sustainable practice in the College. The Angel can also be accessed through our Parent Access Module (PAM) or from the College's website <http://www.stmoftheangels.catholic.edu.au/college-news/newsletter.html>

A hard copy of the College Newsletter will only be provided if this slip is returned to the College Office. It will be every students' responsibility to collect 'The Angel' from the office at the end of the week if required.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset.....
Your Marriage!

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit.

There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2017 Melbourne weekend dates :
24-26 March, 28-30 July, 17-19 November, 2017

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday.
Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
Website:www.wwme.org.au

NATHALIA CANOE CLUB

Tuesday nights, 5-7 pm

at Broken Creek boat ramp, Weir St.

Beginners welcome and all equipment supplied. BBQ available for a small fee most nights.

For more details contact:
Andrew - 0427 663083

COBRAM ROAR SOCCER CLUB Sunday Soccer – Junior teams

For any boys or girls interested in playing soccer for Cobram Roar this season – there will be a junior training/information session on Wed 8th and 15th February , 5.30pm at Apex Reserve.

Enquiries: Alicia (0408543119)
or Christine (0457797076)



Expressions of Interest

Swimming and Track & Field Athletes, Prospective Qualified Coaches & Head of Delegation

Closing date for Expression of Interest: 31st March, 2017

2018 International Children's Games – Jerusalem

The City of Jerusalem is hosting the International Children's Games in July 2018. For children aged 12 years to 15 years of age the ICG is the largest multi-sport youth games in the world and a member of the International Olympic Committee. Swimmers and track and field athletes must be no older than 15 as at the 31st December 2018.

A team of swimmers and track & field athletes, respective qualified coaches and Head of Delegation are being sought for this amazing sporting and cultural experience.

Berrigan Shire has been invited to send a team of swimmers and track & field athletes. We are seeking youth who live in and/or attend school in the Berrigan Shire who are interested in trying out for this once in a lifetime experience.

Interested swimmers and track & field athletes, respective qualified coaches & Head of Delegation are encouraged to be competing over the summer months and keep copies of their events and times/distance for the purpose of future selection.

Please lodge your expressions of interest at berrigan.icg@gmail.com



Interested In **The Defence Force**
Then Join the **Australian Air Force Cadets!**

419 Squadron's *Open Day*

Saturday 18 February, 2017

0900 hours (9am) – 1500 hours (3pm)

110 Sobraon Street Shepparton (Somme Barracks)

BBQ Lunch

For more information on the Australian Air Force Cadets
WOFF (AAFC) Ray Bolton OAM ph: 0407 247 916 email: co.419sqn@aafc.org.au
www.aafc.org.au



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
 - a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2017) or term two (18 April 2017).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2017 closes on 30 June, 2017.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.