

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

### Mercy Day

Next Friday the College will come together to celebrate Mercy Day, the day regarded as the most significant day of our school year. It is a day that encourages us to pause and take some time to reflect on the joy of being a member of this wonderful community - the Academy of Mary Immaculate - a day to celebrate who we are and to thank God for the blessings of the year.

Mercy Day 2021 will once again be celebrated a little differently with all the proceedings of the day taking place online. The day will begin with a recorded Mass. Fr Peter Varengo, College Chaplain, will be the celebrant of this Mass and our singers and musicians will grace the occasion with their beautiful music.

Following the Mass, the Academy will celebrate the day with a number of recorded student skits. The Senior Student Leadership Team are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and hard work ensuring that this will be a day to remember. It is anticipated that the formal Mercy Day proceedings will conclude around lunchtime, with everyone having the afternoon free. There will be no classes on that day. Timetable for the day:

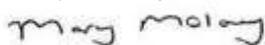
8.45am – 9.00am:	Roll Marking in Mentor Groups
9.00am – 10.00:	Mass
10.00am – 10.45am:	Recess Break
10.45am – 11.45am:	Skits
11.45am:	Individual Staff and Student Celebration of Mercy Day at home

*Please note that the Mass time and skit time are approximate and there may need to be some adjustments on the day.*

Many thanks to Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission, who has been the main organiser of the Mass; Ms Mirelle Morris, Ms Marsali Slocombe and Ms Alison Hocking for the music and Ms Emma Spreckley and Mr David Molino who have coordinated the skits and House videos. Thank you also to Mrs Kerri Ruff for her administrative support. Parents are warmly invited to join in the celebrations of the day - to participate in the Mass with their daughter (via one device) and to enjoy the skits.

Happy Mercy Day to all! We thank God for all the blessings bestowed on us, both individually and as a College. May the God of all Mercy bless us and may Catherine, the first Sister of Mercy and Ursula, the Australian foundress, accompany us and inspire us as we commit ourselves anew in Mercy.

Every blessing,

  
Sr Mary Moloney rsm  
Principal

## Issue 14 –3 September 2021

### PRAYER FOR MERCY DAY

To have hope, is to believe that history continues to be open to the dream of God and to human creativity.

To have hope, is to continue to affirm that it is possible to dream a different world, without hunger, without injustice, without discrimination.

To have hope, is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith and to leave the door open, so that the Spirit can enter and make all things new.

To have hope, is to begin as many times as necessary.

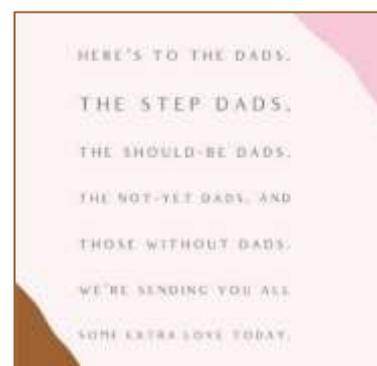
To have hope, is to live.

Give us the blessing of courage to ask what you want of us, Lord. Amen

Give us the blessing to know that to live is to change. Amen

Give us the blessing to trust that you always have faith in us. Amen

*Adapted from To Have Hope written by the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Honduras*



**Happy Fathers' Day!**  
**Sunday 5 September 2021**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Hope during challenging times

*'God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference'*

**I can't recall when I first** heard this. No doubt, it would have been when I was frustrated or angry at something I felt was wrong. During those times the above verse was offered to me by friends, colleagues and / or family in an attempt to gently direct me away from futile frustration. **I didn't always take this advice well. Serenity didn't come easily to me and it's probably true that wisdom didn't either and it has taken me a long time to fully understand what this prayer is actually telling me. I realized that it wasn't telling me to just give in and submit to the way things were. It wasn't defeatist and suggesting that I couldn't make things better. Instead it was encouraging me to look and listen for ways that I could make a difference. Saint Mary McKillop would often tell her Sisters 'Never see a need without doing something about it'.**

Given our current circumstances with COVID-19 numbers surging once again, what needs can we see in our homes, in our family, in our friends, in our community and in our neighborhood? At this time, within the restrictions, what can we do about those needs? How can we connect? How can we show kindness? How can we show empathy? How can we support one another?

**Perhaps it's as simple as reaching and connecting out via a FaceTime call or intentionally asking someone how they are and listening to them with a genuine desire to understand and support. Maybe it's making a date with someone for an online cup of tea, a glass of wine or even a meal; to talk about a shared movie, a book or an album; or even play a game or take virtual tour together.**

In a very real sense this is what hope is in times of challenge and darkness. It is not in our power as individuals to stop the crisis we are facing but rather it is in our power to make it better for the people in our lives. We are someway through the toughest restrictions that we as Melbournians have ever faced and we hope for some easing of restrictions towards the end of September, however modest it may be. We continue to hope that as the weeks progress after that, the restrictions continue to ease and we return to the freedoms of normality as soon as possible. In the meantime, know that we are community and we are here for you.

National Child Protection Week 2021

**This year's National Child Protection Week will take place from Sunday 5 September to Saturday 11 September. The aim of this week is to raise awareness about the community's collective responsibility for the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people. At the Academy we have an unwavering dedication and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the students in our care. Through our Teaching & Learning, Wellbeing and Pastoral programs, we strive on a daily basis to educate and create nurturing environments at school, online, at home and in the community. During National Child Protection Week, the eSafety Commission is running free webinars for parents and carers of young people aged 13-18. Further details and other resources can be found using the following two links:**

<https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-webinars-2021/>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

R U OK Day

In challenging times it's more important than ever for us all to say connected and, for those who are able, be willing to support those around us. Thursday 9 September is our national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that every day is the **day to ask, "Are you OK?" in an attempt to support those struggling with life's ups and downs. This year the message is "Are they really OK?" and is very relevant given the COVID-19 crisis we are once again facing. There is every possibility that someone you know might be struggling and your support can make a real difference. We don't need to wait until someone is visibly distressed or in crisis. We are all encouraged to make a moment meaningful and ask them how they're really going. Are they really OK? There are resources available to everyone in the community to assist you to do this.**

**The R U OK campaign and website is an invaluable resource that teaches all of us what to say if someone says they're not OK. We don't have to be experts to keep the conversation going. By knowing what to say you can help someone feel supported and access appropriate help long before they're in crisis, which can make a really positive difference to their life. We simply need to be a good friend and listener.**

These four steps could change a life:

1. Ask R U OK?
2. Listen
3. Encourage action
4. Check in

Further information and resources can be found at these links.

<https://www.ruok.org.au/how-to-ask>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ruokday>

*Who are YOU going to ask "Are you really OK?".....*

*Mr Sam Di Camillo, Deputy Principal - Wellbeing & Operations*

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – LEARNING AND TEACHING

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**It was around this time last year I wrote to you about the importance of developing a 'growth mindset' in our students. I made the comment that this point of Term 3 is always a difficult one for students, in terms of mustering the motivation to keep going.**

While I still believe that it is important to remind students that progress is born of struggle, I am ever mindful that as a community we have experienced such a prolonged struggle, it is difficult to keep perspective. I found some welcome consolation in **this quote from Maya Angelou this morning: 'Every storm runs out of rain.'** While the experience of lockdown seems interminable, I take comfort in knowing this too shall pass. In the meantime, we will endeavor to continue to support your daughters as best we can.

### NAPLAN

Families of Year 7 and Year 9 students will soon be receiving their NAPLAN results via post. We were very pleased to see that students in both year levels have performed well in all areas and there has been pleasing growth in our Year 9 cohort. This is no mean feat considering the interruptions to face to face learning and speak to the commitment of staff and the dedication of our students to persist with their learning.

In the event that you have further questions upon receipt of **your daughter's NAPLAN data, please do not hesitate to get in touch** with the relevant teacher.

### VCE MATTERS

VCE Assessment: You will be aware that VCE assessment is continuing online, during remote learning. Thank you for supporting this process. Some subjects have been given exemptions to undertake practical assessments on site and relevant students and families have been notified of the details and the appropriate measures being undertaken to ensure the health and safety of both students and staff onsite.

Consideration of Educational Disadvantage: The Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority have asked VCE teachers to **engage in the 'Consideration of Educational Disadvantage' process again this year. Information pertaining to this process has been included in this newsletter, as well as discussed with your daughters.**

Trial Exams: As you would be aware, we had scheduled Trial Exams to be conducted during the September holidays for all students completing Unit 3 & 4 subjects. With the updated information relating to extended restrictions, we advise that this cannot be carried out at school as planned. Further information relating to alternative plans will be provided next week.

GAT & VCE External Exams: The General Achievement Test has been rescheduled to Tuesday October 5, 2021 and VCE Exams will continue, as planned.

## Consideration of Educational Disadvantage

### Information for Parents/Guardians/Carers

The VCAA recognises that some students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 studies have experienced particularly difficult circumstances this year as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes health and wellbeing challenges, financial stress, extra home responsibilities and family stresses.

To ensure fairness for all students, Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (CED) will be considered for all students. In support of this process, all students can submit a Student Statement. The Student Statement is a simple tick box exercise which will inform the process of CED. No supporting evidence is required. However, the school can ask for clarification if needed.

As part of the process, it is important to understand that number of boxes ticked does not equate to a change in study score. This information will complement what the school already knows about students, for example previous assessment scores. The school will use documented evidence about the student's achievement when undertaking the CED process, with the normal VCAA processes ensuring fairness within and between schools.

The student statement will remain with the school. It is not provided to the VCAA.

The VCAA will consider the information submitted, and other external assessments including the student's General Achievement Test results, so that each student's final VCE and VCE VET results are fair and reliable.

As in previous years, students can apply for a Derived Examination Score (DES) if they are prevented from sitting one or more VCE examinations, or if they are significantly affected during an examination, for example because of illness. In addition, students applying for tertiary places in 2021 should submit a Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application to the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC), if they have been severely impacted by factors including COVID.

The VCAA is a statutory authority established under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. All personal information collected by the VCAA is handled in accordance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and, where applicable, the *Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)*.

Please continue to encourage your child to stay focused and work hard towards their VCE examinations.

If you have questions about this process, please contact your school for assistance.

*Ms Fiona Lennon, Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching*

## DIRECTOR OF FAITH AND MISSION

### Reflection

These are the first days of spring. This is the season of creation. A time of change. A time of new growth. The gospel from last Sunday addressed these ideas of conversion. The reading presented us with the challenge of Jesus to place the invitation of **God's love above the dead weight of those cultural and religious traditions** that have lost sight of genuine human need. At issue in the gospel is the not unreasonable accusation by the Pharisees and scribes that the disciples of Jesus were eating meals without observing the ritual laws of handwashing and purification.

But Jesus attacks them as hypocrites. *"These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."*

In his sermon on this Gospel, Bishop Long said:

*In the shadow of the pandemic, it is time for us to acknowledge the inherent flaws of a culture based on greed and individualism and reset our agenda for a healthier, more sustainable and more globally responsible way of life. If we want a different world, we must become a different people.*

As I followed Bishop Long in my internet searches, I came across this passage on conversion from his 2021 Helder Camara lecture.

*..questions revolve around our engagement with First Nations peoples, with the marginalised and the vulnerable. However, one wonders if conversion needs to be framed not just in terms of our openness to learn and meet the needs of others but also in terms of our examination of the Church's attitude and treatment of racial minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals and others. Until we have the courage to admit the old ways of being Church, which is steeped in a culture of clerical power, dominance and privilege, we cannot rise to a Christ-like way of humility, inclusivity, compassion and powerlessness.*

**The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22:** Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, addresses this theme of genuine conversion. The Bishops affirm that *"we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour"*.

The Social Justice Statement reflects on creation and the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. Writing in The Tablet (10 April 2021) on the theme of conversion, the theologian Theo Hobson, reflected upon the parable of the Prodigal Son. He was struck by the way in which the son summed up his offences. *"I have sinned against God and against my fellow man."*

In a summary of conversion, Hobson wrote:

*I was struck by the simplicity of his words. Yes, only a big scale statement can do it. And maybe the language of religion is indispensable.*

Modern interpretations of the Prodigal Son focus on the patient, forgiveness of God. There is of course nothing wrong with **this interpretation. But, when Hobson turned the spotlight back to the son's recognition of his total selfishness, I saw a link** with both the environmental crisis and the current crisis within the Catholic Church.

**Environmental conversion will not come unless we 'children of God' confess our wanton selfishness with respect to our abuse of our earthly home.** Renewal within the Catholic Church will not occur unless there is a confession as to the abuse caused by the self-righteous selfishness of power structures and practices that place the institution above Jesus' new commandment of love. **The full text of Bishop Long's Helder Camara lecture "My hope for the Plenary Council can be found at :** <https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-my-hope-for-the-plenary-council/>.

The text of his homily can be found at: <https://catholicoutlook.org/dear-friends-bishop-vincent-homily-from-22-august-2021/>

**The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22:** Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor can be found at:

<https://justiceandpeace.org.au/home/resources/catholic-social-teaching/cry-of-the-earth-cry-of-the-poor-2021-22-social-justice-statement/>

Mercy Day Mass

We now officially know that Mercy Day 2021 will be Mercy Day Lockdown 2.0. Let me acknowledge first up that there will be a **number of on line 'zoom gatherings' that will continue long after we see that last of the Covid lockdowns.** The Mercy Day mass and festivities will not be one of them.

Nonetheless, it is vital that our College celebrates Mercy Day in the best way we can. Our College Captain, Jennifer Salatino, our College Faith and Liturgy Captain, Lily Bratovic and our student leaders have done a great job to choose mass readings and to organize the filming of the readings and prayers. Our College musicians have worked creatively to provide beautiful music to support our mass. Mercy Day is a very special day. Not even Covid will stop us from celebrating.

*Mr Mark Hyland, Director of Faith and Mission*

## STUDENT COUNSELLOR

One of the many casualties of the pandemic to our sense of normal, is that of Sleep; whether that be disturbances such as inability to sleep or stay asleep; sleeplessness; disruptions to our sleep patterns or that overall feeling that we just haven't had enough. In counselling sessions with the students, this is a topic of constant discussion and clearly it is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Because I believe the issue of upmost importance, I have included a reprint of my previous comments, having realised that the link provided was not accessible.

From Previous newsletter:

A topic that generates a fair amount of discussion in the media and angst in many a household, possibly on a nightly basis, is that of sleep. We know that sleep deprivation has an **effect on one's physical and mental wellbeing. And in adolescents, it** significantly impacts on their ability to learn. The amount of sleep an individual requires is age dependant and the recommended hours are as follows:

School Age	6-12 years:	9-12 hours
Teen: Age	13-18 years:	8-10 hours
Adult:		7 or more

However, achieving the optimal sleep required is without its challenges. Changes in sleep patterns, part-time jobs, homework, social media and devices and the impact of lockdowns on routines, all play their part in contributing to the nightly battle of **getting our adolescent to bed. Yet we know that if they are to flourish it is essential that we don't give up.**

The link below addresses the issue of sleep and gives parents some valuable insights and strategies that may help in dealing with their sleep deprived adolescent. <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/healthy-lifestyle/sleep/sleep-teens>

As always if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Ms Giovina Costantini, Student Counsellor*

## DAV DEBATING

On Thursday 26 August our A Grade debaters met online with Melbourne Grammar School for the second of the end-of-season playoffs. Our team comprised Gechai Lual, Bethany Prior and Lily **Bratovic. The topic was 'That the west should attempt to overthrow Vladimir Putin', and we took the affirmative position.**

After such an interrupted season, it was a privilege to have advanced so far this season with only a few schools remaining in this division. Both sides gave of their best, and it was to the credit of our girls that, although they lost narrowly, they competed with such vigour and passion. Lily Bratovic was named equal best speaker on the night.

I am sure that our students have learned a great deal from this debate and it will stand them in good stead if they wish to debate at a university level.

*Mr Kilian McNamara, Public Speaking Coordinator*

## MATHEMATICS

Year 8 Statewide Maths Games Day – 25 August

Well done to the following girls on a very successful day at the Year 8 Statewide Maths Games Day:

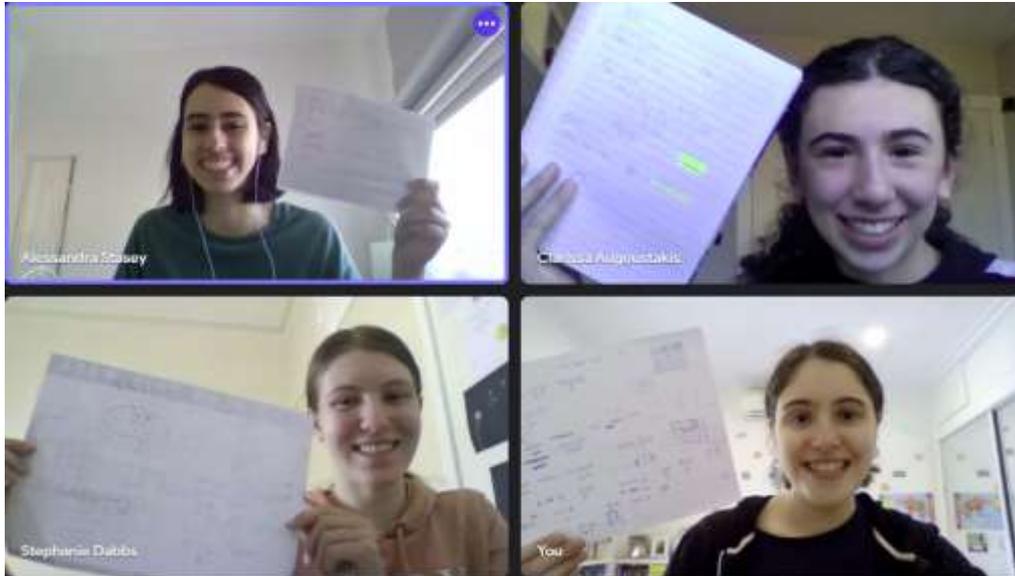
- Keeva Ciavarella (Team A Captain), Phoebe Gowans, Briana Maiale and Florencia Herrera
- Elise Dabbs (Team B Captain), Allegra Kline, Juanita Posso and Nicola Georgoulos

Recently, 7 Year 8 students and I participated in the MAV Maths Games Day. Overall, it was a very fun but challenging day, with the 4 rounds testing our mathematical and teamwork abilities. We worked in groups of 4 to complete puzzles, problem-solving tasks, games and finally a sudo-clue. The different tasks varied in difficulty, with the sudo-clue being the most challenging. Even though neither team ranked in the top four, I still believe both teams did extremely well and should be very proud of themselves. **Elise Dabbs 8 Red**

On Wednesday 1 September, 8 Year 10 students competed in the annual Year 10 Maths Games Day held by the Mathematical Association of Victoria. However, due to the circumstances of Covid, it was held online but this didn't make it any less enjoyable. There were several challenges we had to work as a team to complete including some tricky problem-solving questions, KenKen's, Maths games and a very difficult puzzle with clues. Although we didn't manage to place, we had an amazing time working together and enjoyed the many Maths challenges that we had to solve. **Krissy Francis 10 Purple**



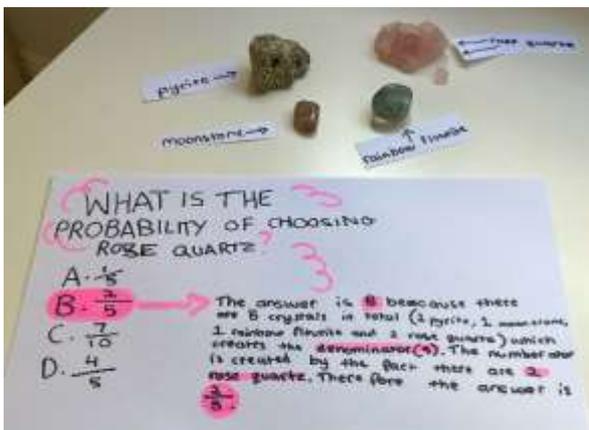
Participating in the Year 10 Maths Games Day held by the Mathematical Association of Victoria was the first time for some of us and we were so grateful to be able to participate as well as being able to do this at home whilst in lockdown. It was an amazing experience and really forced us to think about Maths in a different way than we usually do. Competing in this was so much fun, and there were a few games that were hard to stop playing! We hope that we can participate again as we had such a wonderful time working together to solve these fun, yet difficult challenges. **Grace McKinnis 10 Red**



Mrs Marie McCarthy, Mathematics Learning Leader

Probability at home

Proving that Maths is present in everyday life, 7 Blue have found examples of probability at home. In an attempt to get off the screen and interacting with their environment, 7 Blue were asked to find the probability of a real life scenario. Some used decks of cards to find the probability of selecting an ace at random, others used soft toys or crystals! As you will see in the photos here, students were required to calculate a probability, represent this as a fraction and simplify where possible. Encouraging our students to think outside the box, particularly when it comes to Maths, can allow them to apply their knowledge in a practical sense! What other ways could we use Maths at home?





The probability of getting a horse from the deck of scopa cards is  $\frac{5}{40}$

*Ms Amelia Bongetti, Mathematics teacher*

## VISUAL ARTS

**Who doesn't like a good romance?**

This semester's Year 10 Video Art students were set a challenge to prepare them for their next video project. They had two weeks to create a short video on the topic of, "A Love Story with a Twist". The second aspect of the task required them to use the 'object genre' of Stop Motion.

The students used editing software on their phones and computers, incorporated synchronized sound and added opening and closing credits. It was a fun exercise, designed to allow students to learn by exploring and applying the technical skills needed to create their next, longer project.

I have selected a few to share with the whole AMI community. I hope that they manage to put a smile on your face and help to lift those lockdown blues. Please enjoy these short videos by Holly De Brincat 10R, Emily Dugdale 10B, Madison Lattouf 10P and Keely Howe 10S.

Video 1: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/12FhAGJLVRdYxXP3YiiMMVX\\_fp4FSUg3n/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12FhAGJLVRdYxXP3YiiMMVX_fp4FSUg3n/view?usp=sharing)

Video 2: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yKjyO6OsbByP2j7DRLXS9bmbmq6WTEzn/view?usp=sharing>

Video 3: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EocMadWTSlgCDgVvK\\_qxo\\_ludkBPIMD-/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EocMadWTSlgCDgVvK_qxo_ludkBPIMD-/view?usp=sharing)

Video 4: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O0pVq2rx8-pQm3UeUFyVqMUcKoumEevA/view?usp=sharing>

Keeping creative in Lockdown

The Year 10 painting class have not let this period of lockdown curb their creative output. This painting by 10 Purple student Venice Angley of a *landscape with budgerigars* was completed during this current lockdown period. Venice gave the painting to her nonna, who is recovering at home from recent spinal surgery. It looks like it was just the tonic for these proud grandparents. Well painted Venice!



*Mr Martin McInerney, Visual Arts Co Learning Leader*

## McAULEY RESOURCE CENTRE

The active senior book club members were surprised to receive a book parcel in the mail during book week. Their planned city book excursion and book breakfast has been cancelled three times so a little compensation was needed. The book, [Thorn](#) by Khanani is the first in a series based on the Grimm's Fairy Tales. Each book was wrapped in pages from an old Melway (do you remember those?) and included a treat, book mark and badge. The photos show the books being packaged for the students and Aisha holding her book and wearing her badge.

To quote another student:

*Thorn arrived in the mail yesterday and I would like to say thank you sooo much!!!*

*I ended up staying up all night so I could finish it and have concluded that it is one of the best Grimm's fairy tale retellings that I have ever read. 😊😊 I am probably going to read it again after my mum does.*

The winner of the book quiz was 7B and the two individual runners up were Grace McKinnis and Asha Somers. Prizes will be distributed when we are back on site. Well done to everyone who entered.

We hope you are all finding a good book to escape into. If you are struggling to find something, email us and we can suggest a few titles.



Aisha Binnie 9 Bryce



*Ms Pam Saunders and Mrs Anne Chowne, McAuley Resources Co-Learning Leaders*

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**"Food glorious food!"**



This year the Academy of Mary Immaculate once again, celebrated National Science. The theme for this year was **"Food different by design"**. The theme was focused on the role that science and technology plays in the production of our food and on how our food can be produced more sustainably. Producing food sustainably means that our food is produced in such a way where it doesn't harm the environment and will be available for future generations.

**Unfortunately much of the world's food is produced unsustainably.**

Students were given the opportunity to participate in online activities every day during science week. These activities included:

- Daily science quizzes run by Ms Dowton. These quizzes covered a wide range of topics that students have learnt during the year.
- Kahoot quizzes for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were run during lunch time. Students from each year level were able to show their knowledge of the science topics covered during the year. Kahoot is an entertaining online platform where students are not only rewarded for knowing the correct answer to a question but also for giving that correct answer quickly. Kahoot quizzes have been popular with AMI students both at school and during lock down.

- An escape room run using the STILE platform. This was an immersive online experience where students completed challenges involving problem solving skills and the reading and interpretation of data. These challenges all revolved around the food theme of science week.
- On Wednesday August 18, about 40 students and staff watched a ZOOM presentation given by Caitlin Caruana, a member of the Australian Space Agency. Caitlin was involved in a Japanese led mission that landed a spacecraft on an asteroid in 2014 for the purpose of collecting rocks and bringing them back to the Earth. This mission was important as the chemical composition of the rocks could give new information about the origins of our planet and other parts of the universe. The mission was successful and the spacecraft landed with its cargo of rocks, in the Woomera desert in South Australia in December 2020.

**Here are a few words about Caitlin’s presentation from Anna Boulton, 8 Purple.**

“2 weeks ago we got to hear from a woman who worked at the ASA (Australian space Agency.) she told us about her career, her experiences and how she got there. She told us about some really courageous and smart women who work there and who she has come across working in the ASA. My favourite part of the presentation was listening to people ask questions and her answering them. I had a lot of questions myself. She made me think about how much I would love to work at the ASA and be one of those women who discover more about this universe we live in. Her story was really inspiring and motivational. I hope I can work there and see her again one day.”

I would like to thank all the students who participated in the science week activities despite the extra workload and challenges due to being in lockdown. Prizes to the winners of the competitions will be given to students when we return to school. I would like to thank Ms Dowton for helping to promote Science Week and running the daily quizzes.



*Spacecraft landing on asteroid*



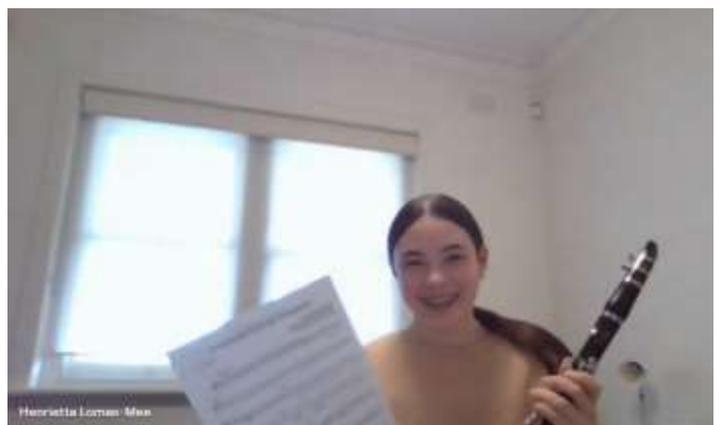
*Asteroid sample located in Woomera desert*

*Mr Mark Molino, Science Learning Leader*

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CHALLENGE**

A Year 8 music student at the Academy has achieved an incredible feat this month. Inspired by the success of the ‘100 day challenge’ last year, an instrumental music challenge with the goal to practise for 100 consecutive days while maintaining a practice journal, clarinetist Henrietta Lomas-Mee took it up this year. Not wanting to let consecutive lockdowns get in her way, Henrietta persevered with the already formidable challenge, alongside all the other additional challenges of this year. It was with great pride and celebration that Henrietta completed her 100<sup>th</sup> day on 13 August 2021. She is currently the third student at the Academy to achieve this incredible feat! As per tradition, Henrietta nominated at



**the beginning her prize for completing the ‘100 day challenge’, a brand new box of Vandoren traditional reeds** - a worthy prize indeed! It goes without saying how much strength, perseverance, commitment, and hard work this amazing clarinetist put into this unique challenge, as well as the incredible support of her family with the early morning practice sessions. I have no doubt she has learnt a lot from this experience, already showing great strides in her performing skills from this challenge, and will certainly continue to impress and amaze. As always, keep up the good work!

*Ms Alison Hocking, Instrumental Music Teacher*

## CONCERT BAND

The Academy Concert Band have been fortunate this year to have presented two live performances. The Term 1 school Assembly featured **"Chips and Salsa" by Ed Kiefer for Concert Band. The composer takes inspiration from Latin salsa rhythms to emulate the dancing and music atmosphere in Cuba. The Winter Music Recital began with the Concert Band presenting "Epic Gaming Themes", arranged by Paul Murtha. This is a grand medley of some of the most dramatic and memorable themes of modern day video game music including Assassin's Creed III Main Title; Bratja (Brothers); Dragonborn (Skyrim Theme); Sadness and Sorrow and Baba Yetu.**

The following senior school students have shared their thoughts and experiences of Concert Band at Academy. I am very proud of the leadership and passion that these senior members display through their music practice as well as their support and encouragement of all students who participate in music at the college. Thank you to Emilia Febbo, Georgia McGuffie, Harper Owen, Lily Bratovic and Portia Hendrie for the following comments.

**GROWTH** The Academy Concert Band has evolved and grown. We currently have a large number of auditioned members in **the band, as well as a wide variety of instruments that we didn't have previously such as a euphonium tuba, oboe, bass clarinet and euphonium.**

**LEADERSHIP** Our ensemble conductors, previously Mr Power and currently Ms Hocking, encourage us to connect and mentor the younger/newer students which is a gratifying experience. As senior concert band members, it has been incredibly rewarding to watch how much the band has changed, improved and grown since we began in the ensemble.

**TECHNOLOGY** Due to online rehearsals and restrictions over the past two years, we have not had as many live performance opportunities. However, we have persevered and found a solution by recording repertoire using an online recording studio program, SoundTrap. This has been challenging, but a valuable learning opportunity.

**SKILLS** We have been able to find new ways to rehearse, to refine our playing as well as improving our skills. Thanks to all the work and enthusiasm of Ms Hocking, we are able to continue to develop and improve our ensemble playing as well as students having an opportunity to experience conducting the ensemble.

**REPERTOIRE** This year the Concert Band has begun playing **many well known pieces such as the 'Hawaii Five-0 theme', 'Baby Elephant Walk' and 'Sleigh Ride'. Currently the band are recording these pieces in preparation for the upcoming Performing Arts Cabaret in Term 4. The Concert Band work towards showcasing new repertoire at each performance opportunity and have also recently begun learning 'Air for band' as well as 'It had better be tonight'.**

**MUSIC ENRICHES OUR LIVES** As senior students we cherish our time in band and have been so lucky to have such a great experience at the Academy. Music is such an important part of our lives and we are looking forward to sharing more of it with the Academy community in the future.



*Ms Mirelle Morris, Instrumental Music Coordinator*

## ST MARY'S HOUSE OF WELCOME Taste for Change - October 29

*Do you have a Taste for Change?*

A 100% lockdown proof event - A virtual masterclass and gourmet hamper delivered straight to your door!

**When:** Friday 29 October, 7.00pm - 8.30pm AEST

**Where:** In the comfort of your own home!

Taste for Change is your opportunity to sample some of the best wine, drinks and produce Victoria has to offer, while immersing yourself – at home – in a Masterclass hosted by wine expert, Max Allen.

This year, as well as wine, we will be including some boutique craft drinks and a de-alcoholised offering.

**\*\*SPECIAL EARLY BIRD TICKETS – Only \$195!**

Hurry, only available until 5pm Friday 20 August.

Book your tickets now! – <https://www.trybooking.com/BTESV>

All proceeds go towards supporting our Welcome Steps program for rough sleepers and people experiencing chronic homelessness.