



# Lighthouse

**Volume 37 Number 11**

**29 October 2021**



**Greg Ptolemy**

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Members of the SFX Community,

**“Better Than a Thousand Days of Diligent Study is One Day with a Great Teacher” (Japanese Proverb)**

Welcome back!

I would commence by congratulating and thanking all our families for your efforts in navigating these challenging times. Parents, students, and teachers have all wrestled with our extended and frustrating break from the classroom, and in the process, we

have perhaps come to appreciate more than ever before, the wonderful opportunities afforded to our children by way of education.



In my conversations within our community over the last few weeks, I have learned just how important such opportunities are to our students. While our young people have committed themselves to diligent study, it has simply not been the same as direct and live engagement with their teacher. Nor has it been the same as the interactivity of the classroom where the conversations and debates with peers bring to life the words on the page and screen. Let us hope that we can now share an uninterrupted journey of learning for the foreseeable future.

To all the teachers in our community, and I sincerely believe that we have all shared in that profession over the last few months, Happy World Teachers’ Day for Friday – may you be blessed for the joy that you bring to our learning.

### **ROADMAP FOR RETURN**

As the HSC finally draws near, we have been asked by NESA and the Health authorities to ensure that different year cohorts are not intermingled. With our sizeable groups this is quite challenging, so the following staggering continues to be in place to ensure this separation can occur. As always, these plans may need to be varied in line with current health advice.

	YEAR 12 (2022)	YEAR 12 (2021)
WEEK 4 <b>Commencing October 25</b> Year groups will not attend on the same day to minimise mingling of cohorts	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b> – Face-to-face lessons at the College. <b>Wednesday to Friday</b> - Online lessons at home	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b> - Online presentations at home. <b>Wednesday to Friday</b> - Face-to-face at the College (including final lessons and TG farewell)
WEEK 5 <b>Commencing November 1</b>	Face-to-face lessons at the College.	<b>STUVAC</b> - Individual home study. Teachers will be available to support as needed.
WEEK 6 - 10 <b>Commencing November 8</b>	Face-to-face lessons except on four dates where the HSC Covid exam protocols will cause rooming issues across the College. On November 9, 10, 15 and 25, Year 12 2022 will work online from home.	HSC Examinations Year 12 Graduation Dinner – Friday December 3 (Newcastle Entertainment Centre)

## YEAR 12 GRADUATION DINNER

More great news!

This week we have been able to work with representatives of the Newcastle Entertainment Centre to devise a structure that will allow us to mark the end of Year 12 in an appropriate fashion with a Graduation Dinner. Our dinner is scheduled for December 3 and will be an opportunity for us to celebrate the achievements of our students in a fitting way.

Inevitably, there will be restrictions dependent upon current health orders, as the venue must act within the hospitality guidelines. These details will be provided in a separate letter for Year 12 students and parents. We appreciate that the restrictions will not suit all families, but we are delighted that we can provide an opportunity for our students after their challenging journey.

## CURRENT HEALTH ADVICE

Thank you to all our families for your ongoing support in responding to the requirements of the health mandates. Please remember that any member of our community displaying even the slightest cold-like symptoms should avoid attending the College and seek a Covid test immediately. Mask wearing remains a requirement at the College in all indoor spaces and hygiene protocols should be observed at all times.

Take care and stay safe.

Greg Ptolemy

Principal





## Life Returns to SFX

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."







# Ministry

As part of the final weeks of Term 3, Year 12 would normally have gathered in the College chapel in their Retreat groups to reflect and participate in a Novena. As we know that was not possible, due to the change of circumstances with lockdown. So, I take the time now to share a short poem that would have concluded this year's Novena for each group focusing on the Novena's theme - A time to Contemplate, a time to breathe.

It is called Connections, and is written by Nancy Wood

*Every time we take a breath, we become the universe.  
The very moment of creation is contained in us  
and passes on to rocks and trees, animals and fish.  
The old ones say the essence of life is in water and wind,  
earth and breath, fire and bone,  
but most of all in breath,  
our first connection to the elk, the hawk, the bear, and the buffalo.  
Without breath, no connection.  
Without connection, no creation.  
Without creation, no breath.  
This is the sacred circle of life, unbroken.*

Best wishes to Year 12 for the HSC and life after here at SFX. Thank you for embracing the Retreats the way you did and your overall engagement in the Spiritual life of the College.

**Stay connected and 'breathe the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)'**

God bless.

Cassie Mowbray

*Marist*



Creation and the Universe by Sharon Williams

*breathe*  
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)



ASPIRE is looking for interested students who may be interested in being involved in our 2022 ASPIRE Design Ensemble. Please see below and the attached link: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/join-us/design-ensemble/>

ASPIRE is continuing to offer students the opportunity to be part of the design team for ASPIRE 2022. This ensemble is designed for students (Year 9 upwards) in the diocese with an interest in visual art, who will be involved in the design and realisation of the 2022's set and costume pieces. We are looking for Expressions of Interest from students wishing to be a part of this exciting program.

Working under the direction of ASPIRE's Design Ensemble Director, students will work on areas such as costume creation, set building and painting, makeup and hair design and theatrical design elements.

**Interested students are encouraged to complete an application form to register their interest. Applications close: Week 9 Term 4**

If you require further information, please contact Anne Atkins by either phone (020 4979-1331 or email [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Students engage with the program in Term 1 2022 on Tuesday afternoons from 4.30pm – 7.30pm at St Pius X, Adamstown.



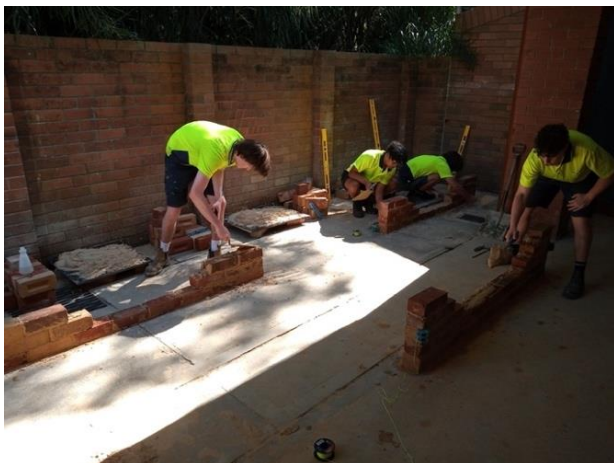
## CONSTRUCTION – “Brick and Block”

Exiting 2021 Year 12 Construction students were given the opportunity to complete their practical assessment task for “Brick and Block” which incorporates the following unit/s of competency:

- CPCCBL2001A – Handle and prepare bricklaying and blocklaying materials
- CPCCBL2002A – Use bricklaying and blocklaying tools and equipment

Students were to have completed the final two units in Term 3, but the lockdown prevented this from occurring. After much planning and within the public health order guidelines the assessment was undertaken in Term 4, Week 3. Students were very grateful that they were able to complete the assessment and qualify for a Certificate II in Construction. Many thanks to Mr Baldwin and Mr Ward for providing students with this opportunity.

Rose Wilkinson  
Leader of Learning VET



## COLLEGE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY GROUP – YEAR 12, 2021 MEMBERS

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our College St Vincent de Paul Society group has been operating for only about 3 terms during these last 2 years. Our only activity in 2020 was the Christmas Appeal held in conjunction with SFX Day. This year we managed to run our Easter Egg Appeal, Vinnies Day and our Winter Appeal.

Nevertheless, Certificates of Appreciation for their generosity are being awarded to 23 members from Year 12 who attended meetings regularly for about a term or more and who assisted in our various activities. These people are McKenzie Boots, Estelle Carmichael, Kasey Cole, Charlotte Dick, Emma Dwyer, Jessica Gaudion, Ava Gidley, Eliza Gray, Bryce Ham, Charlotte Harrison, Lani Holz, Jewelín Jijo, Maya Lowe, Francesca Moretti, Sara Muscat, Eleanor Neville, Hannah Neville, Angus O'Connor, Mitchel Tapera, Zharli Taylor-Adams, Emily Vidler, Clare Webber and Bethany Woods.



Some fashion parade participants – Vinnies Day – May, 2021

As well, Certificates of Appreciation for their Outstanding and Sustained Commitment to our activities are being awarded to the following 11 students: Estelle Carmichael, Kasey Cole, Emma Dwyer, Jessica Gaudion, Ava Gidley, Bryce Ham, Maya Lowe, Francesca Moretti, Sara Muscat, Emily Vidler and Bethany Woods.

We are actively recruiting for members to join this term to continue with the great work done by this, and all previous St Vincent de Paul Groups here at the College, so check Compass shortly for details of upcoming meetings for Term 4!

Thanks also to Cassie Mowbray, especially, and Jane McNaughton and Melissa Wood for all their assistance with our activities.

*Br David*



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**^Start date:** 8am 18 Oct 2021 **End date:** 11.59am 17 Nov 2021 AEDT. Total prize value: \$10,000. Entry open to Australian residents aged 18 years or over. One entry per purchase. The Prize Draw will occur at midday on 22 Nov 2021 by Entertainment Publications of Australia Pty Ltd. Level 6, Suite 7/3 Spring Street Sydney NSW 2000. The winner will be notified by email on Tuesday 23rd November 2021. Promoter: Entertainment Publications of Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 85 065 011 903). Level 6, Suite 7/3 Spring Street Sydney NSW 2000. SA Licence No. T21/1562 and ACT Permit No. TP 21/01748

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## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	8:00 – 4:15
Tuesday	8:00 – 3:30
Wednesday	8:00 – 4:15
Thursday	8:00 – 4:15
Friday	8:00 – 3:30

Note: The library is open for after-school study on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



## GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE NOW EASIER TO FIND

Due to their popularity, we have moved our Manga and graphic novels to the front of the Reading Corner. If you have any purchase requests, feel free to chat to a library staff member, or send us an [email](#).



## NON-FICTION IN THE READING CORNER

Two new sets of shelves were added to the library over the break, with one dedicated to our growing collection of non-fiction leisure reading in the Reading Corner. There are many interesting biographies and real-life stories available here, as well as other diverse titles such as *The Art of Growing Up*, *The Barefoot Investor for Families* and *Making Steampunk Jewellery*.



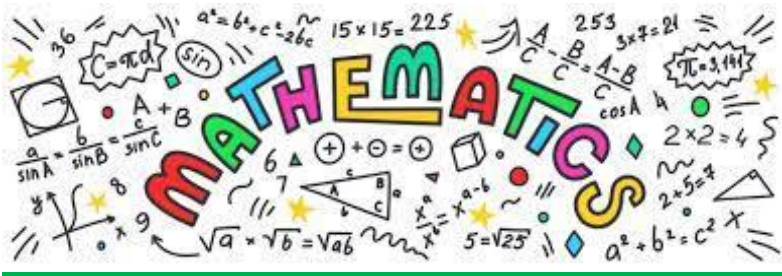
## THE WRITING CENTRE

The second of our new shelves is holding the beginnings of a Writing Centre in the library. On this shelf we have dictionaries and thesauruses, as well as a huge range of books to support literacy consolidation, creative writing and essay skills. This is just the beginning of the Writing Centre; we have some big plans so watch this space!

## SORA EBOOK APP

Have you downloaded SORA yet? There are thousands of fantastic eBooks and audio books, including all the HSC English novels. Mrs Hoey listened to several audio books from SORA during lockdown, with her reviews coming soon. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to download SORA.





## Australian Mathematics Competition

On 4 August, as we were hearing of our impending lockdown, a dedicated group of Year 11 students put all this aside to sit the Australian Mathematics Competition. It is a 75-minute exam based on problem-solving skills and students are stretched to complete complex questions based on concepts that may be unfamiliar to them. I thank the students for getting involved and showing enthusiasm for the great subject of Mathematics. I am proud to announce that our results were very pleasing, and I congratulate the following students on their achievement:

Distinction – Isaac Charles

Credit – Elijah Cantwell, Lucas Bortolotto, Tyler Cooper, Ellen Hughes, Graciela Tohi

Proficiency – Noah Furniss

Participation – Elul Tecle, Jessica Rowe



Here is a question for you to try at home:

In Autumn, Tilly's meadow changes rapidly with the weather.

The number of flowering plants starts at 150,000 but they're dying off so each week the number halves. At the same time, the number of fungi starts at 20 and triples each week.

To the nearest week, how long will it be until the fungi outnumber the flowering plants?

(A) 3 weeks                      (B) 5 weeks                      (c) 8 weeks                      (D) 11 weeks                      (E) 13 weeks

Thank you again to the students who took the opportunity to challenge themselves and represent the school in this international competition.

**Margaret Walker – on behalf of the Mathematics Faculty**

# ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 11, 2022

## *Now Open*

### St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



To apply for  
2022 Enrolment  
into Year 11

Year 11 2022 enrolments are now open. Should you require an enrolment package please email [admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au) with the following information:



- ✓ Student's Name
- ✓ Student's Date of Birth
- ✓ Student's Current School
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s Name/s
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mailing address including post code
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mobile phone number
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s email address





## St Francis Xavier's College

Address: 286 Parkway Avenue, Hamilton  
Office: Hebburn Street, Hamilton  
Postal: PO Box 300, Hamilton NSW 2303  
Telephone: (02) 4961 2863  
Email: [admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au)  
Web Site: [www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au)

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### **Student Services**

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:10 pm  
Telephone: (02) 4961 2110  
Email: [hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au)

*All student related phone calls can be made directly to Student Services.  
If the phone is unattended please leave a message.*

### **Switch/Reception**

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:30 pm

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### **Finance Office**

Hours: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Email: [hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au)

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### **Uniform Shop**

Telephone: 0413 474 519  
Email: [stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au](mailto:stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au)

**Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:**

**Tuesday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Thursday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Shop Online at [www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)