

COLUMBA

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Winter 2019



GLOBAL *education*

PAGE 3

How we're building a community-focused culture that prepares students for life beyond the school gates.

Semester SNAPSHOT

PAGE 12

Welcoming our newest members to the College community!

PRINCIPAL'S *note*



WELCOME
to our first edition of the 're-imagined' Columba.

The old proverb states that it takes a village to raise a child and we at St Columba's recognise that our broader community makes a significant contribution to the education that we provide for young women. We value the relationships and links we have with our alumnae and welcome the opportunity to continue to build connections with all those who have had an association with the College. Within these pages you will find some of our achievements so far in 2019. You will also read about the post-secondary school journey of some of the women who are proud to claim St Columba's as their 'alma mater'. We recognise the privileged position we hold in the community; we have a strong reputation for the holistic education we have been providing for over 120 years and we will continue to ensure that we are providing authentic and relevant programs into the future for the young women in our care.

2019 marks the 10-year anniversary of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM), the structure established in 2009 to oversee the Colleges and Hospitals that operate in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity. St Columba's College is committed to the vision of the new Public Juridic Person (PJP or church body) in offering hope as a new prophetic voice within the Church. In particular, the College remains faithful to giving lived expression to the MAM values of Love, Justice, Hope and Compassion, with an emphasis on the preferential option for the poor, ensuring these are a named hallmark of our College community. I am confident that as you browse through the pages of Columba, you will find evidence of a community living out its commitment to these values.

Rita Grima Principal



“*Just because*
it has not been done before
does not mean it cannot be done now.”
MARY AIKENHEAD

CONTENTS

Global Education	4	Semester Snapshot	12
Italy Study Trip	7	Our Community	16
Class of 2018	8	Alumnae Spotlight	17
House News	10	Contact	19

GLOBAL

education AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

In keeping with our 21st century approach to learning, we have built a community-focused, outward-looking culture that prepares students to critically reflect on their world and take positive action in their lives beyond the school gates.

This includes the collaborative partnerships formed beyond the College that challenge students to experience the wider world, a learning and teaching environment that encourages creativity and collaboration, and an international focus, expressed through language and cultural studies that encourage the exploration of moral and social justice concepts.

Over the last 6 months, our students have had many different opportunities to experience a global education, including taking part in a language and cultural study trip to Italy and the exploration of social justice in the Philippines via an Immersion Trip.

“ We were so fortunate to be welcomed into their community and to be able to be immersed in the life of some of the most hardworking and passionate kids and adults, through the home visits and the work we did at the different locations. ”

CAITLIN HANLEY-SMITH
YEAR 12

Immersion experiences, both international and national, are offered to students as an opportunity to participate in an expression of faith, being as the Sisters of Charity call 'Contemplatives in Action'. These experiences are based on the pastoral circle to facilitate 'formation through action' within our Catholic school context.

During these trips, students are exposed to issues of poverty and injustice while experiencing unique cultures and environments. Students engage in direct service activities, participate in experiential learning, and make educational site visits – while living in the communities that they are serving. We offer these experiences so that our students are challenged to respond to their world - to be God's love in action.

Last year, our students were given the opportunity to participate in two immersion experiences, travelling to far-north Queensland and the Philippines. The intent of the Philippines immersion was to maintain our mutual partnership with Bahay Tuluyan and promote children's rights in the Philippines, including places like Manila.

CHS “The trip was a life changing experience. Through the immersion we were shown the true hardship and struggle that many Filipinos experience in everyday life, which could sometimes become overwhelming and a little confronting. We were so fortunate to be welcomed into their community and to be able to be immersed in the life of some of the most hardworking and passionate kids and adults, through the home visits and the work we did at the different locations. Besides the work, we also learnt through first-hand experience that despite their circumstances, Filipinos really are some of the happiest and loving people you would ever meet. In the little time that we spent at each location, we were able to make lifelong friendships with the other kids and adults, and we hoped that we made a positive impact on their lives as they did on ours. The immersion was honestly amazing and I would go back in a heartbeat.”
Caitlin Hanley-Smith Year 12



Making new friends.

PHILIPPINES IMMERSION

Welcomed into the community.



Having fun helping.




Discovering ITALIA

Over the Term One break, students and staff had the opportunity to visit Italy, exploring the rich history and culture of Italian cities, including Rome, Milan, Florence and Venice.

Visiting culturally significant ruins such as the Colosseum and the ancient city of Pompeii gave students the opportunity to learn about the history behind the modern language and culture they learn in class. For many students, this trip provided insight into their own cultural backgrounds. Students also had the chance to enjoy the lighter side of tourism, enjoying shopping trips, museum visits and making pasta!

We spoke to Juliana Basilone (Year 10) for a lowdown on the trip. Here's what Juliana had to tell us.

JB Travelling overseas to Italy was truly one of the most incredible experiences, allowing us to immerse ourselves in the language and culture and make connections with other girls. We were fortunate to study the language in the country itself, to travel to the most incredible cities and eat the most divine food. It was an unforgettable experience and definitely an opportunity not to be missed!
Juliana Basilone Year 10

“
We were fortunate to study the language in the country itself, to travel to the most incredible cities and eat the most divine food.
”

JULIANA BASILONE
YEAR 10



Students trying their hands at making pasta – messy but delicious.

CLASS OF 2018 RESULTS

100% OF STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED VCE AND VCAL

FURTHER RESULTS

98% of students received a first round offer.

64% obtained their first preference.

94% of students went on to further education with 3% taking on employment or apprenticeships.

22 students achieved an ATAR over 90.

42% of students achieved an ATAR over 80.

32: Median Study Score.

12% of Study Scores were over 40.

College Dux, Megan Gastin, achieved an **ATAR of 97.35**.



TOP 5 INSTITUTION DESTINATIONS

- 1 RMIT University
- 2 La Trobe University
- 3 Australian Catholic University
- 4 Melbourne University
- 5 Monash University



Stories FROM OUR STUDENTS



LULU ANDRIGHETTI

Where and what are you currently studying?

LA I am currently studying at the University of Melbourne and completing a Bachelor of Arts where I am majoring in Politics and International Studies. I am also completing a concurrent diploma in Spanish alongside my course.

What was your first semester like?

LA University was a different setting to what I had been used to, but I made sure at the very beginning I got involved in as much as I could and met as many new people as I could (such as at O-Week events). The subjects I took were quite challenging, however they allowed me to explore many concepts and ideas that I had never previously considered and have made me even more curious about the world and eager to learn!

What are your plans for the next year?

LA Next year I will continue studying at university and I am planning to go on exchange in my second semester to study in Spain for a year.



MINNIE WILLIAMS

Where and what are you currently studying?

MW I am currently studying a Bachelors Degree of Nursing at Victoria University.

What was your first semester like?

MW I am still figuring out the set-up of uni but the transition from high-school to university was quite easy for me as I was already an independent learner. I'm not set on nursing as the course for me, but I have met some really awesome people in my course and know that there are so many possible paths for me.

What are your plans for the next year?

MW My plans for next year aren't set in stone, but I will be deferring at the end of this year, and then the goal is to work like crazy for 4-6 months, and then travel overseas. I would love to back-pack through Europe, and then head on over to Canada or South America to work and travel more. I just really want to get some life experiences, and see more of the world and meet new people, through some independent travel!

HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE WELCOME

As part of welcoming our new Year 7 families and celebrating the final year of our Year 12 students, Term One began with our annual House Welcomes, where students receive a badge in a **special ceremony** acknowledging their place in their House.

Mr Heath Morris, Bruton House Leader, with the new Year 7 Bruton students.

House Feast Days are celebrations of each House patron, acknowledging the inspiring women for whom the Houses are named, whilst coming together as a community. This year Williams House was treated to a delicious lunch, with cake and other treats supplied by a parent. The lunch also gives students and staff the opportunity to acknowledge the support of the community for their House Charity, the achievements of students and staff, and volunteer efforts by the student leaders.

(L-R) Mr David Bramham, Williams House Leader, with the Williams Student Representatives; delicious treats supplied by a parent.

HOUSE FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS



This year we have welcomed **three new staff** to the position of House Leader. Below, meet the new House Leaders: Elizabeth Tran (Cahill), Carmel Anile-Saade (Cunningham) and Liliana Condello (de Lacy). Elizabeth is new to the College and is a Science teacher. Carmel joined the College last year and is also a Science teacher for Year 9 and Unit 1 Psychology. Last year, Liliana took on the interim role of de Lacy House Leader for Term Three, before taking it on full time in 2019. Liliana is a Science, Religion and VET teacher.

New HOUSE LEADERS



ELIZABETH TRAN



CARMEL ANILE-SAADE



LILIANA CONDELLO

(L-R) Williams House Students; a de Lacy student does High Jump; Students competing at the Swimming Carnival.



CARNIVALS

Our **Swimming and Athletics Carnivals** were both blessed by beautiful weather this year, providing all students and staff with the opportunity to participate and get involved! The Swimming Carnival saw records broken and Cahill take out the Championship by only 6 points, with many students seizing the opportunity to cool down from the summer sun! Athletics was also a huge success, with the annual Teacher-Student relay race a popular event with much cheering from the sidelines. Congratulations to Cater House, who won House Championship by a large margin, as well as students Chloe Perrett and Monique White who set new records in the 100m sprint (Chloe and Monique) and 90m Hurdles (Chloe).



CHARITABLE ENDEAVOURS



Each year, students support their **House Charity**, an organisation that is unique to that House and reflects the values of their Patron. One such organisation is St Paul's College, Villa Maria Catholic Homes, supported by Cater House. Earlier this semester, students visited the College, where children diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay that affects their learning have the opportunity to learn. The visit gave Cater students the opportunity to see where their fundraising efforts had been utilised, with the College purchasing sporting equipment and upgrading their pool in order to help children engage in activities and improve their movements. Throughout the year, each House hosts a range of fundraising efforts in order to support their own charities such as St Paul's College.

Cater House Representatives visiting and playing kickball with a student from St Paul's College.

SEMESTER *snapshot*



LIFE DRAWING



BIRDMAN RALLY

In March, the College took part in the Moomba Festival 'Birdman Rally', where contestants build a craft and compete in a distance contest. This year, several students, alongside STEM Curriculum Leader Mrs Melissa D'Amico, STEM Lab Assistant Mr Frank Rowland and CSIRO Engineering Supervisor Kelsey Rowe, built the 'Fidelis et Fortis' craft. Staff member Ms Narelle Fewster **piloted the craft, flying a total of 7 metres into the Yarra River.** The students and staff involved have vowed to return in 2020, with the aim of beating this year's distance.

(Above) Students with 'Fidelis et Fortis' craft pilot, Ms Narelle Fewster.

Students in our senior year levels are given the opportunity to take part in a **Visual Arts co-curricular program** that teaches students about life drawing. Students are taught to draw from observation and learn more about how the body works and moves. This co-curricular program is valuable to many of our creative students, as many tertiary institutions appreciate this observation and accuracy-based artistic skill.

(Left) A student sketches the life model.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Semester One has been a busy time in the Social Justice domain, with students and staff taking part in the **annual Bahay Tuluyan Bike Ride**, raising money for the Bahay Tuluyan charity that supports children in the Philippines. Students have also been busy supporting the 2019 Caritas Project Compassion, hosting a pancake stall on Shrove Tuesday. Some staff and students also took part in the Palm Sunday Rally, Walk for Justice for Refugees. We look forward to seeing the continued efforts of the students and Social Justice team in Semester Two.



Students take a rest break at the river during the ride.



YEAR 9 CAMP

Year 9 Camp was held in Term Two, with students enjoying the chance to get **back to nature** and enjoy the company of their peers. Held in Gembrook, an hour outside of Melbourne, students took part in activities such as cooking, hiking, high ropes and abseiling. Students were randomly placed into camp groups, allowing them the opportunity to meet other students outside of their core classes and Houses.

(L-R) A student tests her archery skills; Enjoying the hike.



EXECUTIVES

Introducing our **2019 Student Executive!** Headed up by our College Co-Captains, Faye Shee-Durnion and Lianna Scalise, our Captains have been busy introducing new events, activities and initiatives in Houses, Sports, Arts, Social Justice and the Environment. The Student Executive have also been responsible for the organisation of events like St Columba's Day, an important celebration recognising the founding of the College in 1897 and the many women who have come before us.

SEMESTER *snapshot*

SEMESTER SNAPSHOT

Semester One is also an exciting and busy time for our newest St Columba's community members: our Year 7 students! After enjoying Orientation Day in 2018, students returned in February for a special induction day and the start of their **St Columba's journey**. Below are some of the activities our Year 7 students participated in.

YEAR 7 CAMP

In late March, Year 7 students attended **Camp Marysville**, enjoying traditional camp activities such as camp cooking, canoeing and climbing. The camp also had an Indigenous focus, with students learning more about Indigenous culture through activities such as storytelling, river bushwalks and bush skills.

(L-R) Students before their climbs; paddling around the lake in canoes.



Future Year 7 students choosing an instrument.

ORIENTATION DAY

The **transition process** for Year 7 students begins in November of Year 6, where students are invited to join us at the College for Orientation Day. This day allows students to familiarise themselves with the College campus, their teachers, peers and classes. A fun activity that students participate in is the choosing of their instruments for their Year 7 music classes. Students are given a demonstration of the many options, and then are given the opportunity to test out the instruments (pictured).

STUDENT *reflections*

Here are some of the things our Year 7 students have enjoyed this semester:

“

I really liked the different classes that we could learn about compared to primary school.

”

CHARLOTTE, O'BRIEN HOUSE

“

I like that there are a lot of different things you can try out for and participate in like co-curricular activities. I took part in the Year 7 Talk Time and really enjoyed it.

”

AMAYA, CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

“

There was a lot of variety in sports that you can choose from which was different from primary school. I also really enjoyed camp, especially making new friends and canoeing!

”

EMY, CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

“

This semester I enjoyed making new friends. I only knew two people from primary school, so I liked the opportunity to meet new friends. I also really liked learning a new language, French, that was different from primary school.

”

MIA, CAHILL HOUSE



COUNSELLORS CORNER: SUPPORTING OUR YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Throughout Semester One, the **College Counsellors** organised **special events** for our newest members to the College. The Lunch Club was held in Term One, where Year 7 students were invited to join other members of their House to enjoy games, catch-ups and icy-poles. This activity encourages students to connect with other Year 7 students in their House, providing students with a support system as they transition to a new world of schooling. Talk Time was held throughout the semester, giving Year 7 students the opportunity to develop positive self-esteem and resilience while discussing areas affecting young women such as friendships, self-worth and coping with stress.

The Counsellors also facilitate the Tuning into Teens program at the College, offering the six-week program for free to help support parents in responding to their teenage daughter's emotional needs and strengthen her problem-solving skills. This program is run during Semester One each year.

(Above) Students enjoying games and snacks at Lunch Club; Making new friends during Talk Time!

Our COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE

'9 REUNION

Our annual group reunion for our graduates of years ending in '9' will be held again in November this year. Alumnae who graduated in 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969 and 1959 are invited to join us on Saturday 9 November 2019 at 3pm at the College for nibbles and drinks. RSVP via trybooking.com/BCTDV

ONE YEAR ON CLASS OF 2018 REUNION

The College warmly invites our Class of 2018 back to the College to celebrate their one-year reunion. Catch up with your friends, peers and teachers on Tuesday 29 October 2019 at 5pm. Food and drink will be provided, please RSVP via trybooking.com/BCTEI

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SOCIAL NIGHT

The annual Social Night, hosted by our Parents' Association, will be held on Saturday 7 September 2019 at 7pm. All welcome! Mark this date in your calendar, with further details coming soon.

PARENTS' Association

Semester One has been a busy time for our Parents' Association, with the association hosting two special events for our community. In Term One, the Parents' Association welcomed our Year 7 parents to a cocktail evening on Friday 15 March. The event provided parents with the opportunity to meet other Year 7 parents and learn more about the College from a parent's perspective. The night was a success, with many parents taking the opportunity to connect with the Year 7 parent and staff community.

The Parents' Association also hosted the Years 7-9 Father/Male Mentor-Daughter Games Night on Tuesday 21 May, which saw students and a special male figure in their life participate in a range of physical and mental games such as ping pong, volleyball and board games. The night was topped off with a delicious BBQ, prepared by our wonderful parent volunteers from the association.

The Parents' Association meets every third Tuesday of the month. All welcome. Visit our website for further information about meeting dates and times.

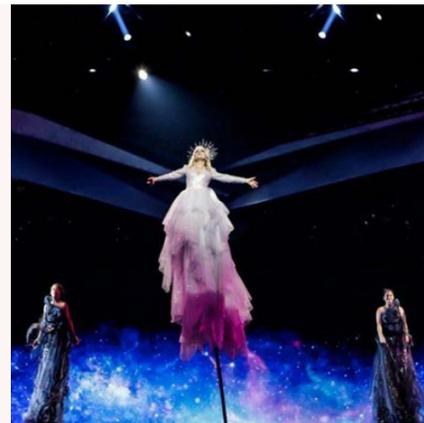
WE THANK THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR HOSTING TWO GREAT EVENTS AND THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ST COLUMBA'S COMMUNITY.

ALUMNAE News

Emily Ryan ('01), stunt performer, acrobat, and Cirque du Soleil artist, recently performed as a Sway Pole performer at the 2019 Eurovision song contest, as part of Australian entrant Kate Miller-Heidke's performance (pictured right).

Dr Mary Galea ('68) was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to medical education in the field of clinical physiotherapy and to professional associations.

Heather Gridley ('68) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to community health.



Alumnae SPOTLIGHT

WHO AM I?

Stephanie Spence (nee Mollica) - Class of *1999*

What do you do today? Currently I am on maternity leave with my second son but when I am not at home looking after kids, I work at The University of Melbourne - I have been there for almost 14 years. I was initially in student recruitment and got to travel internationally meeting new students and their families, but now I am working as a Business Analyst, working to improve the student service experience. Aside from that, I am the President of the Victorian Athletic League - which governs professional athletics in Victoria. I was the youngest and first female ever to be elected as President of this league, in their 123-year history!

How did St Columba's College impact you? The reason I was involved in athletics stems all the way back to when I was in Year 9 and Mr Reade encouraged me to take up athletics. He saw me running at the school carnival one year and encouraged me to look into coaching and honestly the rest is history. I have been running ever since (over 20 years!). I loved my time at St Columba's and I still have many friends from my time there. I learnt to be independent and to believe in myself and that anything is possible if you work hard for it.

To share your news with the community get in touch with us via email.

E alumnae@columba.vic.edu.au

We would love to hear from you.

Next ISSUE



STAY TUNED
FOR OUR
NEXT ISSUE –
SUMMER 2019:
**PERFORMING
ARTS**
VISUAL ARTS
GRADUATION
YEAR IN REVIEW

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UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES
IN THE TRADITION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

Proudly printed on 'ecoStar uncoated' paper to uphold the environmental values of St Columba's College. This paper is certified carbon neutral and FSC 100% recycled. Print edition July 2019.

(Left) Photo courtesy of Ms Isabella Anderson, Class of 2018.

