St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

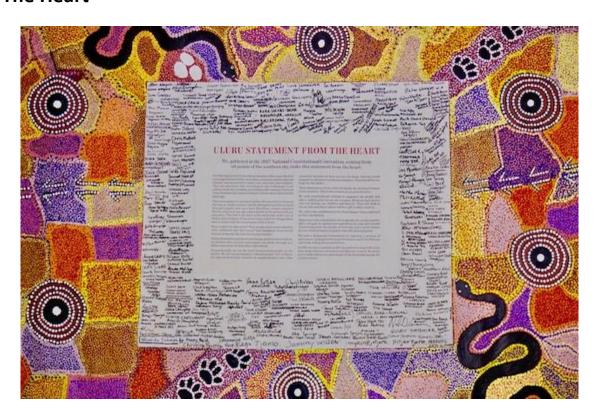
Newsletter 13.23 Friday 18 August 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

From The Heart



Earlier in the term our St Mary's teachers attended, along with all thirteen schools from the Lakes Region, the Aboriginal Conference entitled 'Empowering through Education'. The speakers, Gershon Nibalker from Common Grace and indigenous leader, Noel Pearson, presented the Uluru statement from the Heart, discussed our Constitution, the importance of the upcoming referendum on The Voice and the impact this will have on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I've included a copy of the Uluru Statement with this newsletter and encourage all to read this if you haven't already seen it. Below is the statement from The Bishops Conference held earlier this year.

The Catholic Bishops Conference released this statement on May 11 this year: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have lived in this land for many thousands of years. Their custodianship, however, is not recognised in the Australian Constitution. This is an omission which needs to be rectified... To guide all Australians at this important time, we encourage everyone to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which we endorsed in 2021 and which the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia endorsed in 2022. In particular, we recommend that Catholic parishes, schools and agencies arrange opportunities for people to come together to read and discuss the Uluru Statement.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are aliened from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

NAIDOC Celebrations at St Mary's

NAIDOC Week is about celebrating and recognising the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We have been engaged in this NAIDOC learning process, here at St Mary's, for a few weeks now, through a series of lessons, conversations and creations. The dances, cultural practices and stories we experienced in assembly this week not only helped us learn, celebrate and appreciate what is the oldest, continuous culture, but also built understanding and inclusion. Thank you to Mr McKay and Mr Richard Roo Faulkner, Roo's Dance Group, our students, Danielle and the St Paul's Primary School students, for bringing us into this world – for educating us.











Speaking to our students at our assembly, I share with you part of my message:

It is important to educate self – about the past so that you learn from it; about the present so that you can take opportunities. You are blessed as a generation to live in an information age, to live at a time where NAIDOC Week exists, where the curriculum is filled with opportunities to learn about history, culture and achievements. You live in a time where country and custodians are acknowledged. You live in a time where there is visibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. You live in a time where media and social media keep you informed. So, I challenge each of you today to continue to educate yourself – I particularly speak to our Year 12s. You have an opportunity to vote in the Referendum very shortly. It's important that you educate yourself about the Uluru Statement and The Voice to Parliament. You are blessed – you have answers and information – never take that for granted and please make sure you educate yourselves.

Secondly, we talked about Leadership yesterday at our College speeches.

I challenge each of you to find the courage to lead in our wider community. Your education today, your exploration of history and culture, empowers you to go out beyond the gates of St Mary's and educate others — to challenge and speak up for social justice, to work and serve your community and to continue to improve the lives of others — particularly the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Take courage from these young men and women who have stepped out of their comfort zones today to make your world bigger!

Finally, I ask you to leave from here being more aware – to see the signs, to find the voices, to question and ask about what is right and to learn from the past whilst celebrating the present. **Please do not live a life unaware**. You have the gift of education, the gift of culture and the gift of knowledge – I challenge you to use these to work for reconciliation and the promotion of a way of life where all people – all voices - matter.

Prayer for Members of our Community

Please continue to pray for Mrs Elizabeth Quinlan and family, who have recently experienced the passing of Liz's husband, Warwick. Liz remains on Leave, returning in Term 4, and our deepest sympathy is extended to Liz and her family.

We also continue to pray for Mr Larry Keating and his wife, Anne.

May Larry, Liz and their families always feel supported and loved by our community.

Blessings

Cathy O'Gorman Principal (Acting)

UPDATE - BOB SHERIDAN'S BIKE ODYSSEY – HOMEWARD BOUND

The Odyssey is complete. I'm overwhelmed by the magnitude of the experience and the fact that it's over. The last ten days of riding were a lot of fun. From Yanco Ag HS to West Wyalong, I rode with students who I taught in the 1980s (a very humbling experience). At West Wyalong I spoke with an under 16 RL team about school, life and working hard to achieve goals. The day from West Wyalong to Parkes was tough (along the Newell Hwy with lots of road trains and head winds) but I eventually got to Parkes. The ride from Parkes to Dubbo Zoo was special as I road with two Zoo2Zoo mates.



Dubbo was four good days of rest. I had the opportunity to address the Wellington Redbacks RUFC on Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention. It was a really good discussion. The next day I delivered the same presentation to Year 9 and 10 at St Mary's, Wellington.

The 3-day ride from Dubbo to Nobbys Beach to complete the odyssey was special. Four good mates from came to Dubbo to ride me home. On Saturday Mr Cushan joined us and on Sunday Mr Adams joined the peloton. Coming into Nobby's was special. To see family and friends gather to welcome me home was emotional. I was so tired but happy to be finished and to see loved ones again. On Sunday night it was great to be home and sleep in my own bed.

I can't thank the St Mary's community enough. Your messages of support and encouragement were special and gave me the strength to keep going. On the tough and lonely days, I found energy from your support that enable me to keep pedalling and get to the end of the day. The Crazy Socks Day started by Henry Burke and organised by Year 11 was very touching. I was in the middle of the West Coast of WA when the news came to me about crazy socks. You made an old bike rider riding around Australia feel much loved and I thank you for that. Mr Keating was a special friend and support; we had many conversations. It was Mr Keating who encouraged me to write these reports for the newsletter and, therefore, I now have a journal of the odyssey.

I finished every video with "stay safe everyone, look after yourselves and look after your mates". The discussion on mental health and suicide prevention that started during the odyssey were very important to us all. Hopefully, Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey will make a difference to overcoming the shame and stigma of mental health and allow people to discuss their feelings with others. This is so important for all of us. 1 in 5 Australians will experience a mental illness in any given year and 50% of Australians will experience a mental illness at some stage in their life. This needs to change and talking about it is the first step.

Stay safe everyone, look after yourselves and look after your mates. Bob Sheridan

St Mary's thanks everyone who gave donations on behalf of Bob's Bike Odyssey in aid of the Black Dog Institute and towards the sale of crazy socks (there are still more to choose from at Student Services) – so far, we have raised the grand total of:

\$1308.15 - Thank You!!!

If you wish to make a donation in support of Bob's fundraising for the work of BDI, please forward it to the Finance Office at the College or electronically via the link below:

https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/robertsheridan/bob-sheridan--s-bike-odysseywww.teamblackdog.org.au





Parents and Carers of Year 12 2023 Students

are warmly invited to attend the

Year 12 2023 Graduation Mass

at

St Paul's Catholic Church, Gateshead

on

Tuesday 19 September 2023 - 6.00pm

and the

Year 12 2023 Graduation and Awards Ceremony

with

Morning Tea

at

St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead

on

Wednesday 20 September 2023 - 9.30am

Please RSVP to debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au by Monday 11 September 2023

"Ready to Serve"

P 02 4944 4800 F 02 4944 4827 47-49 Pacific Highway (P0 Box 4021), Gateshead NSW 2290 Eadmin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au ABN 79 469 343 054





Key Dates for Year 12 2023		
Week 5	Trial HSC examinations conclude	
Monday 14 August 2023	Trial HSC examinations conclude	
15 August 2022 to 18 August 2023	Back in class for normal classes, feedback from Trial HSC examinations	
Week 6 21 August 2022 to 25 August 2023	Normal Classes	
Week 7 28 August 2022 to 1 September 2023	Normal Classes	
Week 8 4 September 2022 to 8 September 2023	Normal Classes	
Week 9	Normal Classes	
11 September 2022 to 15 September 2023	Friday 15 September: Last day of Year 12 classes.	
Week 10 18 September 2022 to 20 September 2023	Monday 18 September 2023: Service Day (Year 12 Ready to Serve at school)	
	Tuesday 19 September 2023 : Attendance at school for HSC Presiding Officers talk and practice for Graduation Mass Tuesday 19 th September Graduation Mass 6.00pm at St Paul's Catholic Church, Felton St, Gateshead.	
	Wednesday 20 September: Final day at school for Awards and Graduation Ceremony and clap out. Year 12 Reports published.	
21 September and 22 September 2023	Year 12 Teachers available to assist students during timetabled class time	
9 October to 10 October 2023	Year 12 Teachers available to assist students during timetabled class time	
Thursday 21 September 2023 to Tuesday 10 October 2023 inclusive	Time for Study and Preparation for HSC	

Continued ...



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Key Dates for Year 12 2023		
HSC Exams Begin:	Wednesday 11 October 2023	
HSC Exams Conclude:	Friday 3 November 2023	
Graduation Formal:	Monday 6 November 2023 to be held at NEX, 309 King St, Newcastle West - 6.00pm-10.30pm You will be notified when tickets are available.	
HSC Results released:	Thursday 14 December 2023	
ATAR Results released:	Thursday 14 December 2023	
Breakfast to celebrate release of HSC results and ATARs at St Mary's Catholic College Café	Thursday 14 December 2023	





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Aboriginal Education

St Mary's NAIDOC Assembly

Congratulations and to all the students for their participation in the St Mary's NAIDOC Assembly this week. We were joined by some students from St Paul's and Cardiff High, as well as some elders from Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Mr Craig Duncan



from the Catholic Schools Office. Our dancers were particularly impressive! Well done also to our students who lead the prayer on the microphone, our musicians and singers from Yr 11, and to our creators of the art work.





Baiame Cave

On Thursday Yr 11 Studies in Catholic Thought students visited Baiame cave near Broke with their teachers **Mr Kyle Clarence** and **Mrs Louise Henderson**. This was part of their learning about creation stories across cultures. **Uncle Warren Taggart**, a Worimi Elder, welcomed the students to this very important heritage listed sacred site and told a range of stories. Students also visited the gallery at Singleton where Uncle Warren presented his exhibition of important sites and artefacts. Congratulations to the students for the respect and curiousity they displayed on the day.

Paul McKay Aboriginal Education Teacher







Careers Corner

Year 12:

Direct Entry Scheme (Early Entry Programs) All Year 12 students applying for university are recommended to also apply for the School Recommendation Schemes (SRS) through UAC. Students can apply once they have completed their UAC application. Applying for SRS is free. Students can also apply directly to some universities for early entry. Please keep in mind universities have many entry points and offer different schemes. Please refer to the last newsletter for a list of the upcoming direct (early) entry schemes. Students are encouraged to research all possible schemes. https://www.uac.edu.au/current-applicants/schools-recommendation-schemes

It is also extremely important that students review the following weblinks to familiarise themselves with the information provided by UAC.

Year 12 checklist for applying through UAC - https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/schools/year-12-checklist.pdf

Early Offer Schemes - https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/schools/early-offer-schemes.pdf

School Recommendation Scheme (SRS) - https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/srs/schools-recommendation-scheme.pdf

Educational Access Scheme - https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/eas/eas-application-quide.pdf

Year 11 and 12

Please be aware that the Newcastle University Open Day is 26th August.

CLICK HERE - Newcastle University Open Day information

We look forward to welcoming you on campus for our 2023 Open Days

Open Day is packed with everything you need to know about going to the University of Newcastle.

Participate in degree presentations, info sessions and tours of the campus.

Enjoy a hands-on experience with our program activations, and ask our student ambassadors questions about uni life.





Year 10

EVET – All expressions of interest are currently being processed and forwarded to the Catholic Schools Office. Once approval has been given, parents and students will be notified.

Year 10, 11 and 12

This is a reminder that students should be checking their emails on a regular basis as every Monday all students receive an email from Ms Dews or Ms Finlay with a link to the Careers Link employment newsletter. This link has many and varied vacant positions which those students wishing to leave school or are at the end of their school life could access.

Ms Finlay and Ms Dews Careers Advisers

ST MARY'S STAGE 5 MUSIC NIGHT

Wednesday August 16th was not only an evening where a nation supported the Matildas, but also the date for the Stage 5 Music Night!

The Stage 5 Music students performing displayed talent and passion and dazzled the audience. Many thanks to our students who performed, our wonderful families and friends who came to support our performers and to our Music teachers involved in organising and running the evening – **Mr Steve Walter, Ms Adele Weekes, Ms Ruth McCrae** and CAPA Coordinator, **Ms Morag Aitchison**. Many thanks also to **Mrs Christine Shaw** who provided tea, coffee, hot chocolate (most popular drink) and biscuits for our performers and their families.



FABLAB

Today I had the absolute pleasure of chaperoning twelve wonderful students to the Lake Macquarie FABLAB located at the Swansea Library. The FABLAB is a sponsorship funded community-based project that is working in the areas of STEM and innovative approaches to solving community based issues. Plus they have a lot of really cool toys!

The students were involved in a competition where they were to use their creative skills to solve a current issue(s) in the Lake Macquarie area:- "The challenge conducted by Lake Macquarie Council aims to explore innovative solutions to specific challenges associated with the Lake Macquarie area. Schools from within the Lake Mac area are invited.."

Our two teams came up with the concepts of dealing with the build-up of sand in the Swansea Channel and the excessive hot water being inputted into the lake by the Eraring power station. They then had to create a prototype of the solution which required sensors and actuators as well as a poster. This then concluded with them presenting their work in a two-minute presentation in front of a number of judges.

I was utterly impressed with the students' resilience and "can do" attitude as well as their ability to work creatively and collaboratively in a high pressure environment. Whilst we didn't win (I say "we" because I helped) both our groups were commended for their ideas and solutions by the judges. The winning group's idea was a ferry that had solar panels on it that took passengers around the Lake.

The students involved were:

Kiara Barr, Ethan Comber, William Godde, Biance Groves, Wendi Harris, Georgia Hogan, Angela Johnson, Harrison Lowe, Liam McCarthy, Molly McLachlan, Joshua Paynter, Alexander Wallwork



Andrew Blackwell Supervising Teacher

CREATIVE ARTS NOISE!

A massive congratulations to our Year 7 students **Maggie, Evie** and **Molly** who are involved in the Young Actors Program, a new initiative for Aspire this year created due to the overwhelming number of students auditioning for the drama ensemble in Aspire.

These students were selected to be a part of this program and they have worked incredibly hard over the past term creating an original One Act Play (1 hour duration) called 'Left Unattended' about what happens when all the parents disappear, and children are left to look after themselves. It's a funny play with a lovely message about the importance of those we love and standing up for what's right.

If you are in for a night of entertainment, we encourage you to seek out tickets for one of the performances at the Performance Arts Culture Cessnock. For tickets and further information, please head to the PACC website.

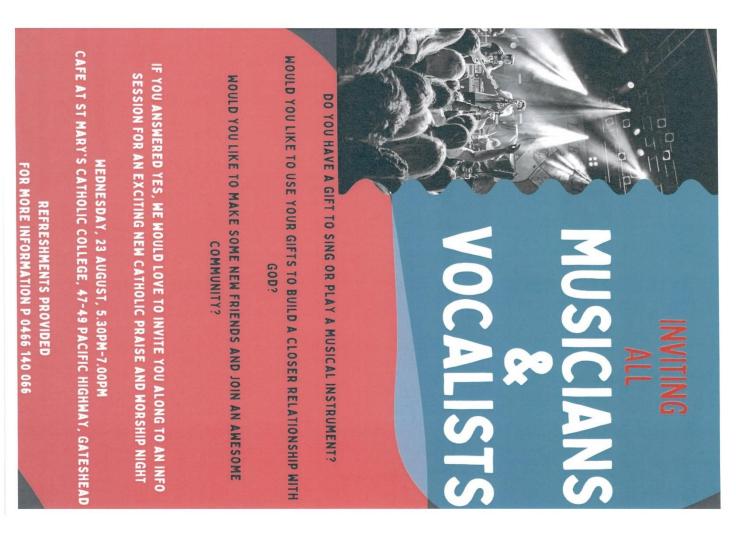






Morag Aitchison Leader of Learning – Creative Arts









NEST PROGRAM

Then come and check out our program were you can THE NEXT SESSION STARTS ON WEDNESDAY Interested in learning easy cooking skills Bored with eating the same dinner begin your culinary journey. 14-18 years olds

IT WILL RUN WEEKLY FOR 5 WEEKS 23RD OF AUGUST

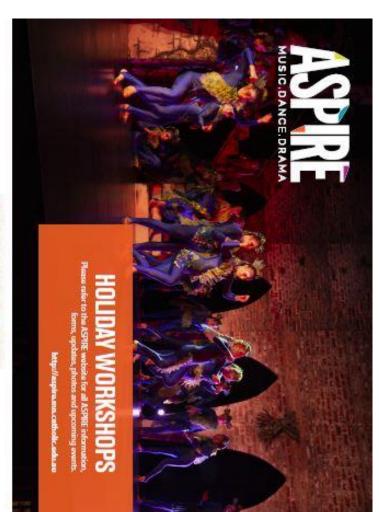
CONTACT AMY FOR EOI PHONE: 02 40721004 FROM 4-6PM

EMAIL: youth@emnc.org.au









DYNAMIC DANCE

TIME	LOCATION:	DATE
9.00 am - 3.00 pm	The Place, Charlestown	Monday 25 September 2023

\$80.00

choreography and how we can use dance to tell a story and show performance and creating movement ideas. different types of characters. You'll spend the day using a range of Get creative on the dance floor as you have fun looking at your work develop skills

This workshop is open to students who are in Year 4 to Year 7.





SENSATIONAL SINGING

INTE: Tuesday 26 September 2023

Catholic Schools Office, Newcastle

9.00 am - 3.00 pm

Join likeminded peers in this supportive workshop that will look at how we can develop our performance skills and confidence when it comes to singing both in a group and as a soloist. If you are keen to learn more about delivering a song and really engaging an audience then this workshop is for you!

This workshop is open to students who are in Year 4 to Year 7.

reserve your place please complete the online registration form below or call me Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.





PLAY IN A DAY

UNTE: Wednesday 27 September 2023

LOCATION: Catholic Schools Office, Newcastle

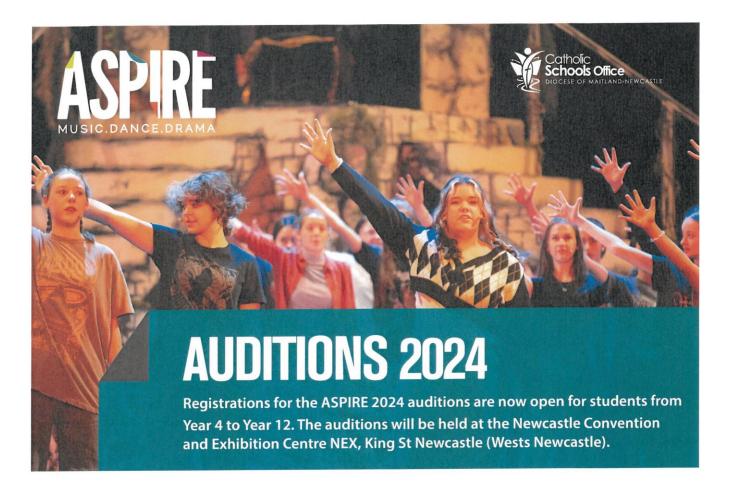
9.00 am - 3.00 pm \$80.00

Have a day filled with drama of the best kind as you work together to create a short performance piece in just a few hours. Starting the day with a simple idea you will develop skills in working as a team as well as creating characters and scenes as you all contribute to a short piece that you'll share at the end of the day.

This workshop is open to students who are in Year 4 to Year 7.

sserve your place please complete the online registration form below or co a Akins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.





Registrations for auditions close on Friday 22 September 2023. Once we receive your registration, you will receive all relevant audition information during the first week of the holidays. This will include the audition dates and times.

ENSEMBLES

DANCE AUDITION

Monday 23 October 2023

The audition is entirely workshop based. You will be taken through some skills-based exercises before learning some new choreography. You may have an opportunity to add you own choreography so it's a good idea to have some ideas ready about what you might like to do.

2024 ASPIRE



INSTRUMENTAL AUDITION

Monday 23 October 2023

All instrumental auditions are 10 minutes. You are required to prepare a short piece that you feel shows your ability. After performing your piece for the panel, you will either be given some sight reading, then asked to perform some scales or asked to improvise around some chords accompanied by another instrument.

DRAMA AUDITION

Tuesday 24 October and Wednesday 25 October 2023

The drama auditions are comprised of a half hour workshop comprising of a series of drama exercises in movement, voice, character work and devising (creating short scenes). Students will also be required to prepare a short one-minute monologue. A list of topics for Junior applicants will be on the ASPIRE website from Week 7 of Term 3, whilst Senior applicants will be required to source a monologue of their choice.

VOCAL AUDITION

Thursday 26 October 2023

For the one-hour vocal audition, you will be placed in a group of up to 20 students of similar age. The first part of the audition will comprise learning a new song as a group and some simple movement to go with it. This allows us to see how well you pick up new music, lyrics and movement and place them together, but it will also be fun! In the second half of the audition everyone will be required to sing the first verse and chorus of one of the ten selected songs. The list of songs will be available on the ASPIRE website at the end of term 3 2022. You will be required to sing with the backing track (we provide). A link will be provided to each applicant so they can practice.

- 1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIREAuditions
- 2. Fill in the form to apply

For more details go to aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

TERM 3 2023	
Week 6 (B Week)	
Mon 21 August	 National Science Week – Dr Karl Webinar ICAS Science ICAS Spelling
Tues 22 August	 Year Assemblies National Science Week - Trivia Extended PLM - Students released at 2.40pm - Confirmation will be sent via Compass Solar Buddy Light for Learning event
Wed 23 August	Bstreetsmart Driver Education Forum National Science Week – Paper Airplane competition
Thurs 24 August	 Risk & Dare Josephite Justice Gathering Book Week – Write a Book in a Day
Fri 25 August	National Science Week – Science Show
Week 7 (A Week)	
Mon 28 August	ICAS Maths
Tues 29 August	College AssemblyICAS Maths
Wed 30 August	 Josephite Colloquium Mandatory Work Ready Program Year 12 Earth and Enviro Science excursion
Thurs 31 August	Courage for Care program TBC
Fri 1 September	Newsletter 14.23 published
Week 8 (B Week)	
Mon 4 September	 Year 11 Examinations (all week) Year 10 Work Experience Week (all week) Oztag State Championships – 7/8 Girls
Tues 5 September	 Year Assemblies Oztag State Championships – 7/8 Girls
Wed 6 September	Year 7 Immunisations – 2 nd and final dose (May also include catch-up imms from other years)
Thurs 7 September	 Landcare Geography Fieldwork Trip – Eleebana and Speers Point
Week 9 (A Week)	
Mon 11 September	Year 11 Examinations (all week)
Tues 12 September	College AssemblyAboriginal Numeracy Gala Day
Wed 13 September	 Year 10 Religious Literacy Testing 2023 Senior Leaders Mass
Thurs 14 September	R U Ok Day
Fri 15 September	Newsletter 15.23 published
Week 10 (B Week)	
Mon 18 September	Year 11 Examinations conclude today
Tues 19 September	Year 12 Graduation MassYear Assemblies
Wed 20 September	Year 12 Reports published Year 12 Graduation and Awards Ceremony
Fr 22 September	End of Term 3

We would love to feature your child's special achievements in the Newsletter, whether it is a school event or not. If your child has made it through to CCC, please let us know. Please share with us your stories and photos by sending to: debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au
Thank you.

This week's Assembly - Year 11 Leadership Speeches and Bob Sheridan's Thank You to the St Mary's Community

