From the Principal

How quickly this semester has flown by and what a busy one it has been!

We welcomed Chris Burn, Deputy Principal: Students, and Bernadette Turner, Deputy Principal: Professional Learning, to the Leadership team at Star, and we farewelled Bert Quan, Business Manager, who retired in June. We thanked him for his 15 years of dedicated professionalism at a special ‘Black and White’ day and wished him every joy in the next stage of his life’s journey.

At the year’s beginning, the annual Music Festival showcased our wonderful singers and dancers and highlighted the superb House spirit that exists at Star.

We have hosted student visitors from Germany and Japan and sent Star girls to Italy to immerse themselves in the language, culture and heritage of that great ancient land.

A refurbished Sebastian Hall has provided ample indoor sporting space for our students while continuing to host massed audiences for school assemblies and liturgical celebrations.

We have applauded our students’ successes in their academic studies as well as in performance, art and sport. At the same time, the introduction of personal laptops at Years 7 and 10 has been met with enthusiasm, creativity and inspired partnerships between teachers and students.

The moving Catholic liturgical events of Lent and Easter have been celebrated with solemnity, dignity and grace at Star and continue to display the dynamism that this College brings to its faith awareness.

The Past Students’ Association celebrates its Centenary this year and in a gesture of its continued dedication to the College has donated funds to contribute to the refurbishment of the Chapel. We thank them for this generous contribution to the renovation of an iconic mid Twentieth Century piece of architecture, one that no doubt holds fond memories for thousands of Star girls.

I commend this semester’s edition of The Star to you and hope you will enjoy reading about the various activities, events and achievements that have taken place so far this year and the ways in which we have lived the 2012 College theme, One Step Beyond.

Sandra Diafas - Principal
On Tuesday 21st February, 2012, Star’s School Captains, Josephine Campbell and Taylor Kayes welcomed past students from 2011 to a special assembly. These students were acknowledged and congratulated for outstanding academic achievements in their recent VCE exams.

Special congratulations go to Equal Dux of Star of the Sea College who achieved an ATAR of 99.35:

- Lucinda Patterson
- Madison Tonkes

These two students are also to be congratulated on being recipients of Premier’s Awards in their respective subjects of Legal studies and Politics.

Acknowledgement was also made of four students who achieved perfect scores of 50 in a subject.

Congratulations to:

- Holly Clark 50 in English
- Lucinda Patterson 50 in Legal Studies
- Brittni Dienhoff 50 in Legal Studies
- Sarah King 50 in VET Dance

The Principal, Sandra Diafas addressed the assembly of students, staff and parents, commenting on the fact that the results of these students were achieved over a sustained period of time with a focused, disciplined and balanced approach to their studies. She commended these students for making the most of their teachers’ expertise and skills but for also forming strong bonds with their teachers, who became their mentors. She also congratulated the girls for embracing all that the College offered to help them achieve their excellent results.

To all the students who sat VCE exams in 2011 we extend our heartfelt congratulations. We wish you every success in your future studies, travel and professional lives. Remember to keep in touch and do come back to us because you will always be Star girls.

A number of Special Awards were presented for specific achievements:

- The 2011 Almeida Russell Award for Poetry was presented to Bridget Kelly
- The 2011 Sister Paschal Rushford Science Award was presented to Megan Pool
- The Margaret Hayes Japanese Awards were presented to the following girls:
  - Isabelle Lam Year 10 for the top score across all assessment tasks
  - Sahithya Kumar Year 11 for her outstanding promotion of Japanese studies
  - Adriana Zanca Year 12 for the top score in Japanese in 2011

We commend all our students at Star who are working with discipline and commitment to achieve their best in all their studies.
Three of Star’s creative students shone extra brightly this year, as they were selected for the Season of Excellence 2012. This annual VCE event showcases outstanding work by students completing VCE visual and performing arts, technology, design and media last year.

Our warmest congratulations to Katherine Montesano for the selection of her sophisticated and thought provoking installation created in Studio Arts which was shown at Top Arts. An exhibition of photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, ceramics, film and printmaking, it was held at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia.

Also to be congratulated is Mikaela Hoffman, whose beautiful dress, complete with wings, first seen here at Star’s own fashion parade, was part of Top Designs, along with Visual Communications and Design work by Megan Mitchell, who showed her skills as a creative graphic designer. Top Designs were exhibited at Melbourne Museum.

Rehana Patrick - Visual Arts Co-ordinator

---

Star Shines in Season of Excellence

Visual Arts Exhibition 2012

Star of the Sea was well represented in this year’s Catholic Education Week Visual Arts exhibition, with five entries being selected. Congratulations to Danielle Bird (Yr 12, 2011) whose arresting triptych in oil pastel was awarded the Serra Club Portraiture Prize and to Georgia Triantafilopoulous (Yr 11, 2011) whose beautiful watercolour portrait received the Catalogue Cover prize.

Congratulations to the other artists whose work was part of a wonderful exhibition of both primary and secondary students from Catholic schools all over Victoria. Among them from Star, was Dana Diamataris, Isabelle Coyne, Bridget Halpin, Ashlee Harding, Caterina O’Brien, Sally Fiddes for their Anthropomorphic Pets, and Annabelle Burns, Kaitlyn Sexton, Jemima Beddoe, Ella Speak (Yr 8, 2011) for their Impressionist style paintings.

Making up a fabulous group piece were Remy Arena, Bianca Clancy, Lucy Curtis Courtney Durkin, Anastasia Filipidis, Maddison Holmstrom, Aly Humphries, Alessia Indovino, Florence Nicolas, Madeline Nicola, Georgia Oisinga, Samantha Pischke, Julianna Rajkowski, Emily Roach, Angela Rush, Daisy Squires, Zoe Tselepatiotis, Tammi Apostolidis, Amelia Bell, Siobhan Bird, Ally Brammer, Amelia Buatava, Pia Cattapan, Rebecca Cleary, Tess Duerden, Isabelle Dvorscek, Sarah Hetherington, Caitlin Kemp, Jasmine Korbel, Celeste Marinelli, Lucy McMahon, Antoniette Panozzo, Jessica Riordan, Amelia Scott and Emilie Tiernan (Yr 9, 2011) whose lovely appliqué stars made up a stunning quilt.

Well done girls!

Rehana Patrick - Visual Arts Co-ordinator
Tech Angels Turn Teachers

This year, laptops have been introduced for all students in Years 7 and 10. That students have wholeheartedly embraced this resource is evident in their openness and willingness to make choices, share their expertise and demonstrate their appreciation for the efforts their teachers are making in developing interesting and different teaching and learning tasks. As one teacher stated, “there is less of me and more of us in my teaching, because of the technology”.

One particularly innovative development that has accompanied the introduction of personal laptops is the formation of iTeam, a group of “Tech Angels”, who are expert IT students with a particularly refined grasp of the new concepts and skills being utilised with laptops. Their role is to run training sessions for both students and staff, act as consultants to staff when the latter are designing tasks and advise teachers and students on a range of “how to” situations.

The iTeam, comprising 25, Year 7 and 10 students, is currently being trained by software technicians in programs such as Pages, Keynote, Chrome, iMovie and Garage Band. They will facilitate in Staff Professional Learning workshops next term, offering basic, intermediate and advanced sessions.

When asked how they felt about ‘teaching the teachers’, the girls became very animated and explained that it was “great that young people were teaching older people new tricks.”

The girls were also excited about trying out a variety of techniques for teaching a particular application. It has given them a new appreciation of the different ways people learn. It has also made them a bit nervous because they have to “get it right so that the teachers can teach it correctly”.

Sam Harding, the eLearning Coordinator is “delighted with the level of commitment, engagement and excitement” that has been demonstrated by both students and teachers.

Star’s Media Students Make History

Students of Media Studies at Star of the Sea have provided invaluable assistance to the Sacred Heart Mission by assisting The Board to record for posterity the history and work of Father Ernie and the Mission.

To do this, they enlisted the support of staff and students from Star of the Sea College, whose Year 10 students assist with lunch preparation and serving at the Mission every Monday.

Coordinated by Mary Harmes, Star’s Social Justice Convenor, and assisted by students, Kate Holland, Elektra Vlogiantis and Bridget Kelly, Father Ernie Smith was interviewed by Marika Fengler and filmed by Star students who are currently in the process of editing and finalising the film. This film will be made available as a resource for the Pastoral Care Team and staff members to draw on for reflections and in their day-to-day commitment to the Mission.

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me” Matthew 25: 35-36.

In 1982 Parish Priest Father Ernie Smith, motivated by this gospel message, opened his door and shared a meal with a man who was homeless.

It was this first act of generosity which led to the formation of the Sacred Heart Mission to provide the basic necessities of life - food, clothing, emergency relief, accommodation and companionship.

A small team of committed staff and parishioners from St Kilda West helped prepare simple meals out of the Presbytery’s kitchen. Within a year more than 70 people were arriving each day for lunch. This led to the use of the Sacred Heart Parish Hall as the Dining Hall.

Today, the Dining Hall continues to be the heart of the Mission and provides breakfast and lunch every day of the year for hundreds of people in need.

The film will be launched at Star of the Sea College in the near future.
A ccording to the 2006 Australian Census, more than one fifth of the population was born overseas, and almost 50% were either born overseas or had a parent who was born overseas. At Star of the Sea this is nowhere more evident than in a glance down any class roll. The list of surnames is like a virtual trip around the world. Visitors to Australia sometimes ask, “What is Australian food?” The answer lies in the multicultural fabric of our society – on any one night, the food on the dinner table will have as much to do with the family’s cultural background as with the fact that we are in Australia.

At Star of the Sea almost 10% of our students speak another language at home, and many more students will be growing up in another cultural environment, perhaps with grandparents or other relatives who speak another language. I did a quick survey of our staff, and the replies were very touching – so many of our staff members were proud to share their stories of growing up overseas or with parents who had migrated to Australia.

The VELS system requires that we report on Intercultural Knowledge in LOTE and this has brought official recognition to something we have always known and practised in our LOTE classrooms – that culture is an integral part of language learning. Andrea Reichert and Eri Tomita on our LOTE staff bring with them their experiences growing up in Germany and Japan respectively, and Maria Marazzita and Chiara Mortale have a unique perspective to offer as second generation Italian-Australians.

In addition to the cultural elements of our LOTE programs, including visiting native speakers and hands on workshops, we have a number of exchange programs. Last year we welcomed Ai Fujiwara, a young woman from Japan who helped out with our Japanese classes for three weeks, and we are even luckier this year to have Valentina Elmetti with us as an assistant teacher in the Italian department for nine months.

Every year a number of our German students in Year 9 and 10 spend the summer experiencing life in Germany through a reciprocal exchange program organized by the Association of German Teachers of Victoria and the Bavarian Youth Council (BJR). In first term the 6 German host sisters from last summer visited Australia. They soon blended into the Star community and we were all very sad to say goodbye. The Society for Australian-German Student Exchange also runs a scholarship program and over the years our girls have been very successful in gaining a place in this prestigious 10 week in-country program. In June we will be hosting three girls from Germany through a SAGSE initiative.

A group of 20 girls have just returned from the Italian Study Tour to Rome, Venice, Pisa, Florence, Siena and Orvieto. Apart from visiting major sites of cultural significance, the students undertook a special language course, and stayed on an Italian farm. Last year on our Study Tour to Japan, the girls immersed themselves in Japanese life during a two-week homestay with a family in Kagoshima, and then spent a week touring Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Osaka. Our study tours to Japan and Italy take place once every two years, while the AGTV German exchange program happens annually.

Cultural studies form an integral part of our LOTE programs at every level, and the range and depth of our exchange programs ensure that it’s not just the girls studying LOTE who get exposure to other cultures. Through opportunities to host exchange students, through sharing classes with our exchange students, through the stories shared by the girls who have been on exchange and those with access to other cultures at home, and through the experiences of our many-cultured staff, the Star of the Sea school community is a truly multicultural place.

Julie Devine - LOTE Co-ordinator
One Step Beyond

Star’s 2012 College theme, has called and challenged us to take inspiration from the example of Jesus and Nano Nagle who lived lives marked by generosity of spirit and breadth of vision.

Members of our community have given expression to this theme in their deeds and words this semester in a myriad of ways, whether: tutoring a person recently settled in our land; availing themselves of opportunities to enter subject-specific competitions; welcoming new members of our community; offering lunchtime catch-up classes. Examples are endless, generosity so grace-filled, the source of giving self-less and true. Thank you!
Chris Burn  
Deputy Principal: Students

Chris comes to Star from St John’s College, Dandenong, a co-educational Presentation Heritage School, where he was Deputy Principal: Students for 5 years. Prior to that, Chris spent 21 years at St Bede’s College, Mentone in various roles such as Science Co-ordinator, House Co-ordinator and Professional Learning Co-ordinator.

A strong family history linked Chris to Star of the Sea well before he took up his new position. His mother-in-law, Margaret McDonald (Phillips) a past student and boarder at Star and his good friend, Rachel Matthews (King) a past College Captain have always spoken positively of their experiences here. It was always Chris and his wife, Lis’ wish that their daughter Olivia attend Star. They are delighted that she has been accepted into Star to commence Year 7 next year. Chris summed up, “...quite simply, we haven’t heard a bad word said about this school”. Tim, his eldest son is now at University while Thomas and Liam attend St John Vianney’s PS, Parkdale.

When the opportunity presented to apply for the position of Deputy Principal, Chris said, “I jumped at it.” Having taught all boys and co-ed, Chris was also keen to add another dimension, all girls, to his professional experience.

When asked how he has managed the change Chris replied, “I just love it. It is like coming home each day. The school is so calm and nurturing, the girls so friendly and the staff committed, dedicated and giving.”

What keeps Chris motivated and enthusiastic is watching young Year 7s grow in confidence, skills and maturity to young adults. Being part of that process gives him great joy.

Bernadette Turner  
Deputy Principal: Professional Learning

Bernadette began her teaching career 28 years ago at Sacred Heart College in Kyneton. An English, Politics and Humanities teacher, she moved to Aquinas College in Ringwood before starting a family with her husband Mark. After spending time parenting her 3 children, Julia, Michael and Charlotte, Bernadette returned to teach part time at Lilydale College.

19 years ago her family made the move to Wodonga where she settled into the Catholic College there and, over time, took up the positions of Head of the Senior School and Deputy Principal: Students. All of Bernadette’s children now live in Melbourne, where they are at university, so she and her husband decided to make the move back to Melbourne so they could be part of their children’s lives, when permitted. Bernadette said, “I was also ready after 19 years at Catholic College to be reenergised and move in another direction.”

What has struck Bernadette about Star is the obvious love both students and staff share for the school, what it offers all comers and what it represents. She feels lucky to be here and that it was somehow “meant to be”. In her current role she is definitely learning new skills and that has given her renewed energy. She is enjoying teaching Year 11 English and relishing a short stint at Year 12 Politics, her passion.

Bernadette is relishing forming relationships with staff and supporting them in their ongoing Professional Learning.

We are delighted to welcome both Chris and Bernadette to Star of the Sea and have no doubt that they will bring great strengths to their roles.

Welcome also to the following new staff

Sister Maria Lazzaro pbvm  
College Chaplain
Tina Peckitt  
Finance Officer
Scott O’Neill  
Audio Visual Technician
Farewell Bert Quan

It is with genuine regret that the College farewells Bert Quan, Business Manager of Star of the Sea College. From 1997 until 1st June 2012 Bert has had responsibility for the control of College finances, maintenance of school buildings and grounds, refurbishments and new buildings. As Bert himself put it, “basically everything in the school, other than teaching”.

This would have been a daunting prospect for many, but Bert, who prior to commencing at Star was the Catholic Education Office’s Financial Controller, has executed his responsibilities with good humour, patience and humility. As many staff stated, “quite simply, he has been a pleasure to work with.”

Bert expressed his thanks to both Rosalie Jones who appointed him, Sandra Diafas, the Presentation Sisters and the College Board, in particular its Chairman, Vin Savage, for allowing him to do his job. Bert also commented on the professionalism of the teaching staff at Star. He admitted that prior to working at Star, he had no idea just how long a teacher’s hours actually were or the variety of responsibilities they owned.

The highlight of his 15 years at Star was the planning and building of FAYBYRNE Centre. When asked to sum up his time at Star, Bert replied, “What a great place to work and what a great place to finish your career”.

Bert’s retirement will include swimming, riding his bike and, according to his wife, cooking and cleaning. We wish him good health, lots of years to indulge his interests and heaps of fun. We thank him for the marvellous job he has done at Star over the last fifteen years and hope he visits occasionally.

Welcome Kevin Velthuis

Congratulations to Kevin Velthuis, who will succeed Bert in the role of College Business Manager.

Initially a banker, Kevin came to Star in July 2004 after fifteen years in Administration, School Planning and Finance, at the Catholic Education Office. Kevin said he is “looking forward to the challenge and added responsibilities of his new role”. Kevin’s knowledge of Star will stand him in good stead as, “…the culture of Star is to help and this is also its greatest strength, as it manages to succeed in the variety of tasks it undertakes.”

Kevin, with over seven years experience at Star is already highly regarded and respected by all who work with him. We wish him well in his new role and have no doubt that he is a worthy successor to Bert.
Star of the Sea College continues to make improvements to the resources and facilities on offer to its students and staff. The latest building to undergo refurbishment is Sebastian Hall. Built approximately 30 years ago and always a designated multi-functional space, the improvements have made a huge difference to the PE/Sports Departments with indoor netball, basketball, mechanical backboards and dividing nets, a fully equipped Spin room and gymnasium and a faculty staff/meeting room. These comfortable and modern facilities have put smiles on the faces of Sports/PE staff and students alike.

These improvements have also added to the level of comfort experienced at school assemblies, masses and performances. Below are some images depicting a typical day in the use of Sebastian Hall.
As the painters undertake their work on the Chapel walls this year, they will, perhaps, listen to the stories and prayers that have echoed off this space across the past fifty years.

Just as the Stations of the Cross adorning the walls call to mind Jesus’ final journey, members of the Star community often gather in the Chapel to pray in times of suffering and particular need – in the face of death, exams, personal and family pressures. In recent years special prayer spaces have been set up in the Chapel to help us contemplate the horrors of fire, floods, tsunamis and other natural disasters.

Just as the vibrance of the windows delights our eyes with colour, symbol and design each day, the Marian window above the choir loft forms the basis of visual analysis exercises for Year 7 students in their Term 4 studies of the place of Mary, Mother of God in our Catholic tradition. Not only does the glorious depiction of Mary, Star of the Sea, watch over our community, but the small vignettes edging the main form illustrate half a dozen scenes from the life of Mary in which she responds to her loving God.

Just as the space has resonated to wedding vows of past pupils, the timid prayers of new students and words of remembrance for Presentations sisters who have died, the Chapel has been a wonderful space for biennial sound recordings of Stacella. Year level groups always sound wonderful when singing in the Chapel at end of year Eucharists. There is something about the bouncy sound and close proximity of peers that elicits a full and rich praise of our God as we express our gratitude for the joys and challenges of the year just gone.

Prayers and praise, songs and silence, colour and contemplation. Our College Chapel is the beating heart of a community of faith, friendship and festivity. As the walls are painted and freshened up, let us stop to listen closely to both the whispers of the past and the wishes of those yet to come – for a space that is spiritually sustaining, welcoming and warm, inclusive and inviting. What will these walls talk about in a hundred years’ time?

Anne Muirhead - Faith and Mission Co-ordinator.
At the end of Term One we were fortunate to be selected to take part in an Immersion Programme that journeyed to Lake Mungo National Park, situated in south-west New South Wales.

We were guided by Vickie Walker, an Aboriginal woman from the Mutthi Mutthi country, one of the traditional owners of the Lake Mungo region. Under Vicki’s guidance we saw incredible sites and heard marvellous stories about the culture and the history of our Indigenous Ancestors. Especially fascinating was a tour we undertook of the sand dunes at Lake Mungo.

Vickie’s cousin Tanya Charles, led the tour and described some of the multiple artifacts that are being discovered each day. The wind and drought has been blowing away the sand over the years and human fossils (Mungo Man and Mungo Woman) have been discovered. These have been taken away for testing as have footprints and various animal artifacts. It is now clear that these artifacts date back 40-60,000 years and are proof that human life was flourishing back then. Artifacts are continuing to be discovered and a clearer picture of how this beautiful land was once used is becoming increasingly evident.

To walk the land with Tanya and Vicki, to feel the ancient history of the Aboriginal culture and to learn of the day to day experiences that took place there so long ago was a privilege. We were overwhelmed by the connection and understanding these Mutthi Mutthi women still have with their ancestors. This immersion reinforced for us the importance of being given the opportunity to understand and connect with Australia’s Indigenous community because of all they can teach and offer contemporary Australian society.

Lauren Munday and Emily Martin - Staff

Walking in the Footsteps of Our Indigenous Ancestors

Looking Back to Know and Understand

It is a delight to announce the establishment of a Scholarship endowment to Star of the Sea College from the Royal Australian Navy Corvettes Association.

Since the opening of the ANZAC Campus at Year 9, an integral part of the program has been forging links with various Defence Force Groups. These links are designed to encourage a sharing of the past with those who have little or no connection with it and thereby increase knowledge, understanding and empathy.
Throughout the first week of May, I was lucky enough to be selected to participate in the Australian Catholics’ Magazine internship program. Being one of six girls chosen to help put together the September Youth Edition of the magazine, I didn’t know what I was stepping into or what to expect but I was hoping to gain an insight into the world of journalism and discover what really went on behind the scenes of a magazine.

We spent the week brainstorming our theme of “The Environment,” researching articles, transcribing interviews and working on the layout of the magazine. It was a tightly packed week, ensuring we made the most of it! The responsibility we were given to compose our own articles was daunting but we always had our helpful editors, Fatima Measham and Andrew Hamilton by our sides!

We were so excited when we found out that we were going to visit ABC studios. The visit enlightened us to the vast difference between radio and print journalism. I learnt how news is developed before being broadcast to listeners and how little time radio journalists have to put together their articles. The idea of it was stressful enough!

We had the pleasure of meeting with Tom Arup, an environmental reporter from The Age. He shared his own experiences with us, about how he got into journalism and the different routes he has taken along the way. Tom was happy to tell us all about the subjects he studied in school and university and the best way to start out as a journalist!

Enin Bright, who is a communications coordinator at Jesuit Social Services, spoke to us on the last day about her role working with troubled youth and vulnerable groups in Melbourne. Enin is very much involved in the media of JSS, and it is her responsibility to ensure that the truthful story reaches the public eyes, not a blown out exaggerated story. She explained the process of putting together information, making sure the facts are correct for an article and handing it over to a newspaper journalist who would then use it as a piece.

Every aspect of the week was rewarding and thoroughly enjoyed by all interns. The experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I was so lucky to share with amazing people who have the same aspirations as me!

Victoria Fogarty Year 10

A number of years ago, Year 9s adopted the ex-Servicemen’s Corvette Association. The Corvettes formed the largest class of warships in the Royal Australian Navy. Their duties included escorting convoys, minesweeping, anti-submarine attacks, taking landing parties, surveillance and bombardments.

Its President, Stan Yates has attended all our ANZAC day services and spoken to the students about the role of the Corvettes in World War II between 1940–1946. Throughout the year, the students are involved in a variety of Commemorative events. In the past they have celebrated the Bombing of Darwin in February, an annual luncheon in June and a memorial service at the Shrine in December.

It is now time to wind up the Association and in doing so, Star has been left $10,000 that will be used in their annual prize giving. The Corvette Award will be presented to a student who has demonstrated leadership, made an outstanding contribution to ANZAC and displayed the elements elements that constitute a Year 9 student at Star.

Star of the Sea College and particularly the ANZAC Campus has enjoyed the richness of its association with the Corvettes and is delighted that these links will continue through their Scholarship Endowment.

Victoria Fogarty Year 10
Consistent with Star’s mission to develop strong, independent women with the initiative and capacity to lead, the celebration of International Women’s Day is an important annual event at Star and honoured in a range of ways.

On March 2nd, the Mother/Daughter Breakfast, organised by the Star Parents’ Association opened our celebrations with a 300 strong gathering of women. Together we listened to the inspirational guest speaker Charlotte Squires (College Vice-Captain 2010) who is currently working with Jim Stynes’ Reach Foundation.

This year the theme for International Women’s Day was “Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures”. Year 10 students, Meghan Sweeney, Rachel Miller, Lucy Elliot, Sunny Wild, Leila Romiti and Maudie Osborne through the Face to Faith project explored issues associated with peace. They connected with schools in India, Pakistan and Dubai and will be developing a Peace One Day project at Star.

International Women’s Day is a time to celebrate women’s achievements, both past and present but it is also an opportunity to highlight the struggles of women throughout the world. To do this we must empower our young women to stand up against injustice and work for a peace and hope filled future.

The Presentation Sisters provide exemplary models for our girls in all the works they undertake.

The Year 10s during their Forum session marking International Women’s Day watched a short video produced in 2011 that celebrates the commitment and witness of Australian Presentation Sisters. It highlighted some ways in which Presentation Sisters are working to improve the living and working conditions of women around the world. This video can be found on: presentationsociety.org.au

You may also be interested in keeping up-to-date with the Presentation Sisters who work at the United Nations internationalpresentationassociation.org

In special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the IPA highlighted the voice of rural girls and boys on the review theme: Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women during the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in February-March this year. Their research and presentations covered the importance of investing in girls to achieve the objectives of the Priority Theme: Empowerment of Rural Women and their role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges.

There are daily blogs and news updates which make for powerful reading and assist in strengthening our bonds as a world-wide Presentation family.
Showmanship Spirit and Star Quality

A highlight of Term 1 each year is the annual Music Festival. Not only does this event provide an opportunity for students to showcase their talent but it also facilitates meaningful interaction across the year levels. During the four weeks of intense rehearsal, students unite in a common purpose and together foster a strong House spirit along with a sense of teamwork.

Have no doubt that this is a serious competition. The four Houses: Ave, Faye, Nagle and Stella are pitted against one another to take out the coveted Perpetual Trophy. The Liturgical song this year was "One Step Beyond" by Liam Lawton and sung by Presentations Sisters and schools across the globe. A second song is chosen by the Student Leaders and the dance is choreographed by the Dance Captains.

The 2012 trophy went to Nagle House who sang Cindy Lauper’s "True Colours" and entertained us with "Come On, Let’s Play Monopoly," which also won the Best House Dance. Congratulations also go to Isabelle Lam (Stella House) who won the Meredith Talia Accompanist Award and Ave House who won Best House Song.

Congratulations go to all the Student Leaders who have led their Houses with joy and gusto and have been positive female role models to all at Star.
Parents’ Association

A big thank you to our inspirational speaker Charlotte Squires and to the 300+ Star mothers, daughters and friends who celebrated the International Women’s Day Mother-Daughter Breakfast, the first Star PA’s fund raising event for 2012!

A special thank you to all Years 7 and 8 for their massive support of this event.

The success of the Mother-Daughter Breakfast would not be possible without the precious help of all the volunteers assisting “backstage”, the silent heroes of this great event!

The Star of the Sea PA is happy to congratulate Jennifer and Gavin Bricker and their daughter Darcy, winners of the Semester One tuition fees to the value of $2,500. Well done!

The Star Parents’ Association has launched a special fund raising project: the Star of the Sea Limited Edition Aprons!

A big thank-you to all Star of the Sea Parents and Friends who have contributed to the Limited Edition Aprons project!

PLEASE NOTE

All funds raised by the Star of the Sea Parents’ Association in 2012, through the events organized throughout the year, will go towards the new Star Café!

By supporting the Star of the Sea Parent’s Association with your participation, you will be supporting your daughter at Star of the Sea!

Kylie Taylor - President Star PA

Past Students’ Association

On May 27th the Past Students’ Association celebrated the Centenary of the formation of the association with a wonderful evening in the new FAYBYRNE Centre. Genevieve Bailey (1998) presented a preview of her film I AM ELEVEN, to around 100 guests, and spoke of the making of her first feature documentary. Genevieve has produced over 40 short films, documentaries and music videos. Her films have screened internationally at festivals and she has won over 25 awards to date. Inspired by the children around the world she met while making I AM ELEVEN, Genevieve has established the Darling Heart Foundation which works to empower and inspire women and children from disadvantaged communities.

Genevieve’s exuberance and passion in following her dream inspired all those who attended. The Committee of the Past Students’ Association provided a wonderful ambience, along with delicious taste treats, to make the evening a success. The evening was attended by a wide range of members of the Star family, including Past Students from the 1930s and 1940s as well as a number of our current school leaders whose graciousness and friendliness was remarked upon by all. The evening was a very successful event for the Star community.

All proceeds from the evening will be devoted to the appeal for the refurbishment of our beautiful Chapel which was launched at the end of Genevieve’s presentation. Appeal Patron, Sister Maria Lazzaro pbvm spoke to the guests about the important and central role that the Chapel plays in the life of the school.

Barbara Harkin - PSA President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On May 27th the Past Students’ Association celebrated the Centenary of the formation of the association with a wonderful evening in the new FAYBYRNE Centre. Genevieve Bailey (1998) presented a preview of her film I AM ELEVEN, to around 100 guests, and spoke of the making of her first feature documentary. Genevieve has produced over 40 short films, documentaries and music videos. Her films have screened internationally at festivals

Email Addresses Please

We are trying to collect as many email addresses as possible. If you have an email address could you please let the school know. You could go to the Star Network section at the end of the Past Student section of the website: starmelb.catholic.edu.au or simply email paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au with your current and former name and the year you finished at Star.

NURTURING COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY
Careers and Mentoring

The Star of the Sea Past Students Association is alive and vital. It aims to be relevant to all past students. So many ‘Stars’ live interesting lives, and inspired by their education at Star of the Sea, have ventured into diverse and exciting careers.

The Past Students’ Association is developing a Mentoring Program through which the experiences of past students can be shared, for the benefit of current students and fellow alumnae.

Further information and access to the program will be available through the Star website in the coming months.

Go to starmelb.catholic.edu.au and click on the Past Students’ Association link.

Through the website, present and past students will have access to:

• Typical (or unusual) pathways to exciting or desirable careers.
• Contact details for past students who may be available to offer advice, mentoring or to just share knowledge with fellow past students.
• A snapshot of a day-in-the-life of various careers and work place options.

We expect that the site will be operating by September.

Camilla Irwin (School Captain 2002) is part of the Past Student Mentoring Program. She visited Star recently and met with Abby Stapleton (Year 12 and Ave Liturgy Captain).

Coming Reunions

The following reunions have been planned for 2012

CLASS OF 1962, 50 YEAR REUNION
Sunday August 26th at 12.00 noon at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. Cost $40
Contacts:
Mary (Stephen) Lea: mleagran@tpg.com.au
Cathy Lawrence: 03 9592 4262

CLASS OF 1972, 40 YEAR REUNION
Saturday November 17th at The Half Moon, Church St, Brighton 3186
Please go to the Facebook page ‘Star of the Sea Class of 1972’ and ask to join the group or contact Shannon (Hagerty) Brydon: shannon@pbrydon.com

CLASS OF 1982, 30 YEAR REUNION
Friday October 12th at 8.00pm at the NewBay Hotel, cnr New and Bay Sts Brighton. Cost $25
Contact Jacinta (Kinsella) Francis: jacintafr@optusnet.com.au or 0411 016 825 or go to facebook.com/StarOFTheSea30YearReunion

CLASS OF 1987, 25 YEAR REUNION
Saturday Oct 27th. Venue to be confirmed.
Go to Facebook page ‘Star Girls ‘87’ to register, or contact Shuba Sharma on rubikendra@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1992, 20 YEAR REUNION
Saturday November 17th at The Half Moon, Church St, Brighton, 3186
Contact: Julie Dunlevie: julie_dunlevie@live.com.au
Please note that there are 2 reunions at The Half Moon on Saturday November 17th, but they are in different parts of the hotel.

CLASS OF 2002, 10 YEAR REUNION
Friday October 19th at The Willows, 462 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne at 7.00pm. Cost $50
Contact Camilla Irwin: starclassof2002@gmail.com

ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY MASS
Sunday November 18th at 11.00am
Because we do not have up to date addresses for all past students, there are some who will not receive information about these reunions. If you are in contact with others from your year, please pass on this information and encourage them to send their address details via the Star Network section of the website or by email to paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au
News of Past Students

Kate Boston-Smith (School Captain 1998) starred in her own show ‘Friend and Foe’ at the Tuxedo Cat, as part of the Comedy Festival in April this year.

“Her charm, talent and high-kicks could really send her into orbit.” The Age “Her facial expressions... (and) stage antics had the audience in constant fits of laughter.” The Pun

Sarah Dalley (Fitzgerald 1986) AM was recently inducted into the Squash Australia Hall of Fame, making her one of only five Legends of the sport in Australia. Sarah is one of Australia’s most distinguished squash players of all time. She has captured most squash titles around the world and was a Commonwealth Gold Medallist in 2002.

Maureen Harkin (Krutli 1968) celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary recently. She has two children and five grandchildren.

Victoria Healy (2001) has also recently starred in the Comedy Festival in ‘Victoria Healy, Independent Woman Party 2’ at Rue Babelons Upstairs.

“Healy’s got the goods – charm, neat character voices, a wide range of expression, some slick dance moves for the pub-club dance floor.” Herald Sun

Kate Kennedy (1985) has had an impressive working life in philanthropic organisations since her twenties. She recently became the first Australian CEO of an international organisation called Hagar. A very special organisation, Hagar works with women and children who have survived human trafficking and severe human rights abuses. They work in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. Rachel Griffiths (1985) is patron of Hagar.

Talin Lorenti (Gulian 1990) has three daughters including a set of twins. They are all now at Primary School.

Patricia Marshall (1972) is currently running the family business ‘Lingerie on Hampton’. The shop has been in the Marshall family for nearly 50 years.

Shelley Reys (1984) OAM for distinguished service to the Indigenous community, for reconciliation and social inclusion and as an advocate for improved educational, health and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Shelley was an inspiring speaker at the first “Star Women Speak” evening, held in 2009.

Polina Uljanova (2003) has completed a Bachelor of Food Technology and Nutrition. She works as a Nutrition Consultant and in her spare time, teaches Belly Dancing.

Jan Wallace (Carruthers 1975) is a medical doctor. She has joined the Army Reserves and is currently spending a year in Antarctica. Jan’s activities can be followed on her Blog: icedoctor.blogspot.com.au

Centenary Appeal for the Restoration of the Chapel

In this the 100th year of the Star of the Sea Past Students Association, we are excited to have been invited by the school principal, Sandra Diafas, to support a Star of the Sea project that will resonate with all those who have used the Star Chapel over the past 50 years.

We have been asked to raise funds for the restoration of this unique piece of mid 20th Century ecclesiastical architecture, that we have all had the joy to call our own.

Since it was opened in 1960, the Chapel has provided so many of us with a sacred place for quiet prayer, celebration and commemoration, within the spiritual life of the Star of the Sea Convent and College. We now consider it a happy challenge to contribute to this Chapel restoration, so that present and future students have those same opportunities. We consider it important to seek proper heritage advice, and to ensure that we maintain the integrity of this special building.

We look especially to our community of Past Students to embrace this challenge and contribute to the appeal. At present The Star newsletter goes to around 5,000 Past Students twice a year. We receive a number of donations annually, which go towards school projects. In recent years we have donated proceeds from our Star Women Speak evenings to the ‘Take A Seat’ appeal for the new FAYBYRNE Centre.

For the first time, we are holding a special appeal, and asking for wide support. If you consider that each Star Past Student who receives a newsletter were to donate $20.00, then we could raise $100,000. Every donation will count!

Please complete the details on the back cover and send to Star of the Sea Past Students Association. Your interest and support in this Appeal is greatly valued.
We ask your prayers for the following members of the Star of the Sea family who have died recently:

Sister Margaret Walsh pbvm. A loved and respected member of the Presentation Congregation and past teacher at Star of the Sea. A trained accountant, Sister Margaret was the Congregation’s Bursar for many years. She was also instrumental in establishing The Stables, in St Kilda, where disadvantaged women were helped to acquire training and employment skills. She was a great teacher and a great leader.

Keith Anderson, maintenance and groundsman at Star in the 1970s and 1980s. Keith was a very loyal and hardworking staff member who loved Star. His daughters and grand-daughters attended Star of the Sea.

Lesley Bailey (Phelan 1938) Mother in law of Mary Bailey (Tobin 1964) and Grandmother of Louisa Bailey (1997) and Genevieve Bailey (1998)

Kathleen Butler (Hickey 1936)

Peggy Coburn. Peggy had nine children, eight of whom (boys and girls) attended either Star of the Sea or O’Neill College. One daughter, Caroline (Coburn) Kenny was Dux of Star of the Sea in 1977. Peggy was the Grandmother of Sonija Coburn (1990)

Rita Dyett (Ulbrick 1952)

Abbie Fennessy (2007) died on 17th March after a life long illness. Abbie was a remarkable young woman, a Star girl of whom we are very proud. Abbie’s mother Beth was a member of the Star staff up until the conclusion of 2011.

Colin Glackin, brother of Aoife Glackin Year 9.

Olivia Penpraze (2011)

Caroline Peters (Hawthorn 1960)

Pat Sayer (Conroy 1936)

Marie Wicks (O’Toole 1950)

Joanne Stewart (Wheeler 1982) died suddenly on 26th May. She is survived by her loving children Jason and Megan and her devoted mother Joan. A kind and generous friend, Jo will be missed by all who knew her.

May they rest in God’s eternal love and peace.

THE STAR OF THE SEA ROSE

Star of the Sea Rose has been specially bred by Ross Roses of South Australia. This beautiful rose is in a creamy white to represent a star, with a pale yellowish centre to reflect the golden sand of our nearby beach. The Star of the Sea Rose is a delicately scented hybrid tea rose bush, growing to a height of about 1.5 metres. It is a hardy plant producing long stemmed blooms suitable for picking and it should bloom well between November and May.

All members of the Star community, past and present are encouraged to purchase one or more of these exquisite mementos of the long and rich history of our College. There are still limited numbers of roses available to be ordered this year. All orders will be delivered to Star of the Sea in a bare rooted form in July, ready for planting. The cost of the rose is $30.00 and proceeds will go towards the establishment of a Memorial Garden outside the Chapel.

To place an order contact:

Geraldine Carrodus, Star of the Sea, PO Box 7001, Gardenvale 3186.

Or email gcarrodus@starmelb.catholic.edu.au
Past Students’ Association Centenary Appeal for the Restoration of the Chapel

Please find enclosed $ ____________________________

Name ___________________________________________ Class of ____________ (if past student)
Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Post code _________________

Email ____________________________________________ Phone ____________________________

Cheque $ _________ (Payable to Star of the Sea School Building Fund)

OR ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ AMEX Amount $ ____________

Credit Card number:
___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___

Expiry date ___ / ___ Signature ________________________

Please send this form attention to: PSA Centenary Chapel Appeal, Star of the Sea, Box 7001, LPO Gardenvale Brighton 3186.

All donations will be acknowledged and donations over $2 are tax deductible. A receipt will be posted to you. Donations over $500.00 will be acknowledged permanently on an honour board at the Chapel.