

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Passing on the baton



Welcome to everyone reading this Alumni newsletter. This year Killester's school theme is 'Hospitality – Welcoming All'. It is a theme close to the heart of Killester as a defining feature of the school is to welcome everyone. Visitors, parents and new students often comment on the warmth and friendliness of the community. Whilst it is a well known trait of St Brigid, hospitality is always something that we have to be mindful of and not take for granted. Over recent years, we have been implementing processes to try to ensure that girls from Year 8 on, who have started new at Killester from another school don't get lost and isolated. Our Peer Support Programme and Transition for Grade 6 students also aims to help students make connections and develop a sense of belonging. I hope you can remember people at school who looked after you to ensure you were not alone during your years at Killester.

Next term we are excited to commence a new building project on the Rosemary Avenue oval. We will be building a Performing Arts Centre for Drama and Music. The facility will be for classes with the opportunity for some performances as well. We are looking forward to this development which will help enrich the learning opportunities for students. Once this building is complete we hope to refurbish the Kennedy Hall for indoor sport. Drama, music and sport and certainly part of a strong extracurricular life at the school so completing these two projects will be a great outcome for future students.

Some of you will know that I complete my time at Killester at the end of this term. After thirty-one years at the school I can still remember my first year as if it was yesterday. When I started the Kennedy Hall was open for the first time so it is somewhat poetic that one of my last projects is to begin the plans for its refurbishment. I have to admit that as time has passed one year has blurred into another but what is clear and constant is the joy and satisfaction of working in such a positive, inclusive and happy environment. I have worked with some wonderful teachers and support staff over time and met some fantastic students who inspire me to be a better teacher. No school is perfect, and I can find fault with my own secondary experience, but I think Killester is pretty close to perfect. Thank you to those of you who have supported Killester and myself over time, and wishing you ongoing happiness and success in your own lives. May strength and kindness always be a mark of who you are,

Leanne Di Stefano



STEM GROUP

The STEM group at Killester encompasses a wide range of skills and builds on twice as much more. It involves creative thinking (thinking out of the box), problem-solving, intellectual curiosity, engineering-design thinking and collaboration. Girls in the STEM group became junior engineers when making a robotic hand from cardboard, which operated through precise positioning of strings. This task required a lot of handiwork and entailed critical thinking.

The STEM group has also entered several competition and workshops run by universities and other organisations. There are 8 Year 10 girls participating in a Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship program hosted by the Monash University which requires the girls to create a program on a micro:bit device that will solve a problem in the society. Another competition we are involved in is the Tech Girl Superhero. Girls from Year 7 - 11 are making an app that will benefit the world, and they will also pitch their prototype to the Tech community in the hope to sell their app in Google Play or the Apple APP store. The University of Melbourne Spaghetti Machine competition is open to all Year 10 students who will be required to make a Rube Goldberg machine, which consists of 12 energy transformations or transfers with the final step being 'raising a flag'. The University of Melbourne is also running a series of workshops for Year 9 students interested in learning how to create animation and simple 3D games. Four girls participated in session one held back in February to learn how to use ALICE and have since shared their knowledge in our STEM club.

Lastly, the STEM club is also involved in sustainability. The STEM club has been collecting unwanted mobile phones for Melbourne Zoo. Each recycled mobile phone helps raise vital funds for the Gorilla Doctors who are providing life-saving medical care to fragile wild gorilla populations in Africa. The STEM club provides wonderful opportunities to all the girls who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths as it enhances the girl's thinking skills and allows them to work in a team with other students interested in the same area as them.

By: Jaskeerat Kaur (Year 11 STEM Representative)

EXCELLENT NAPLAN RESULTS

Killester has again been identified by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority as a top performing school. For the second time in the last few years we have been notified that our students and teachers are achieving significantly above average gains in NAPLAN results. This means that we are in the top 3% of schools in Australia for the progress our students and teachers are achieving in literacy and numeracy.

Our Teaching and Learning practices focus on ensuring all students are progressing through a combination of excellent student/teacher relationships, teacher expertise on high impact strategies, an emphasis on a love of learning and family partnerships that are consistent with the pedagogical and academic approaches taken by the school. ARARA CEO, David de Carvalho, extended his congratulations to teachers, students and the school community on this achievement. He emphasised that improvement in student literacy and/or numeracy of this magnitude, as measured by NAPLAN, is significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledging.

Joey's Van

My friends Rachel, Ella, Ebony and I had signed up for Joeys van not thinking much of it. We thought it was be a fun way to help some people and get our extracurriculars up. We ended up showing up a week early to the actual date and waited in the cold for 45 minutes and only realised when we got into the car again. Flash forward to a week later and we were on our way to Dandenong Plaza ready to help people who needed it the most. For me the experience blew me away- We all absolutely loved it - the small talk and the smiles, and being able to help in a way that didn't cost us much time but had a huge impact to the people on the other end. After we finished, packed up and got back to Mr O'Neills car I reflected to the week earlier, how cold and miserable we felt waiting at the front of the school for not even an hour, and then thinking about the people whose reality is just that except for way longer than just an hour. Whether it be refugees, the homeless or people on pension struggling to make ends meet, there are people who don't just get to go back into the car and go home, they don't have expensive kathmandu jackets to keep them warm or warm clothes at all. It really puts things into perspective, how lucky some of us are to have a bed or a fridge full of food. But realising the privilege we have and being thankful is not enough, we have the power to better the lives of the less fortunate, just donating money, clothes or even just your time can make a huge difference and I encourage all people to get involved in some way with the poor persons mass coming up.

KILLESTER IN THE COMMUNITY

CLASS OF 1997 REUNION

*"We had
such a lovely
afternoon."*

*Lots of
laughs and
reminiscing!"*



STAFF TOUR TO WESTERN FRONT

In 2020, a small group of Killester College staff, together with staff from other Catholic schools, will embark on a pilgrimage to the Western Front. Having taken a number of school groups on such a tour in the past, I was aware of the powerful impact touring this area can have on the individual and was happy to offer this opportunity to Killester staff as well. The scale of the destruction of World War I comes home in a very powerful manner when you are standing in Tyne Cot cemetery with its 11,000 plus headstones, many of which sadly bear Kipling's inscription - Soldier of the Great War Known Unto God.

As part of the preparation process, the staff members will adopt a soldier from the Great War. In many instances this will be a family member who may or may not have returned to Australia in 1919. Delivering eulogies at the locations where those men previously stood is often a life changing experience.

The tour will visit Ypres and will participate in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. We will lay a wreath on behalf of the College. We will also meet with two locals – Pierre Siellier (at Fromelles) and Johan Vandewalle (at Polygon Wood) – who will lead us on tours of the respective battlefields, giving the group experiences not available to many others who tour the region.

The tour will also visit the battlefields of the Somme, taking time to visit the Victoria School at Villers Bretonneux; this school was rebuilt at the expense of Victorians after the war concluded.

The tour will wrap up with a visit to Monet's Garden – a reminder that beauty does still exist despite the horrors that war can bring – and a couple of days in Paris. The tour departs on Saturday March 28 and will return Sunday April 12 (Easter Sunday).

Jacqueline Dunstan, Humanities LAL 7 - 9



Class of 1966 REUNION

Well our St Patrick's Day Reunion was such a wonderful day. The weather was perfect and we celebrated with 43 of our beautiful Killester Girls. Every time someone new walked up the path to the front door there was a squeal of delight as we recognised and hugged each one of our girls. Every one was presented with a Killester name badge and warmly welcomed. You would have thought we were back at school, as the noise was deafening. There was plenty of bubbly to toast renewed friendships and so much delicious food. There were many good times and memories to cherish. We remembered the time we had all tied our ties together to lower one of the girls from the second floor window, the school concerts, singing in the church hall with Otto Neckvitale, who had been a member of the Viennese Boys' Choir, the French lessons with Mrs Winhoven and Italian with Mother Bernard. The many, many times we had seen the film "Great Expectations" as the book had been on the required reading list for what seemed like years. A lot of our girls had gone to see "The Beatles" at Festival Hall and a few had "wagged school" to stand outside The Southern Cross Hotel to catch a glimpse of their idols. We remembered the time Mother Moira Broderick's father's horse had won The Melbourne Cup and the race was broadcast around the school and Mother Moira had been skipping down the corridor with excitement. We laughed as we remembered Mother Catherine who had quite a few phrases she used to repeat endlessly, some of which have shaped our lives such as "Comparisons are Odious" and "Procrastination is the thief of time". We remembered how we had to wear brown ballet slippers whilst indoors and the horrible fawn crossover overalls that we had to wear over our brown winter uniform, how we were never allowed to talk to boys or go into the milk bar or eat while wearing our school uniform. We recalled how we had learned about the facts of life during our biology classes with Mother Bernard who was our Irish Mother Superior and that we had been told to remember that whenever we were in the company of a boy our dear Lord would be watching.



One of our girls Margaret had made a memorial candle and a little floral tribute which was lit to honour those of our girls who were no longer with us, four that we know about. We sang our old school song Hymn to St Brigid and surprisingly we remembered the tune and we sounded terrific. Bernadette brought along her old school blazer which she modelled for us, it still fitted her. We sang Happy Birthday to June who had recently celebrated her 70th birthday. We took lots of photos and phone numbers were exchanged along with promises to catch up. We exchanged stories about our children, grandchildren our husbands and our careers.

There were quite a few sad stories too, some of our girls have had to face the most challenging events, illness' and lost loved ones in the years since we left school namely 54. No matter the circumstances, we are all survivors and

we were all delighted to be together again and we believe the time we spent at Killester helped to make us into the kind, loving, strong women we are today. As I was bidding farewell to the girls, one remark brought a tear to my eye, "Thank you, that was the best day of my life". This made all the detective work well worth it and truly made my day.

Kathie Kenyon (nee Walsh)

Want to
organise a
Reunion?

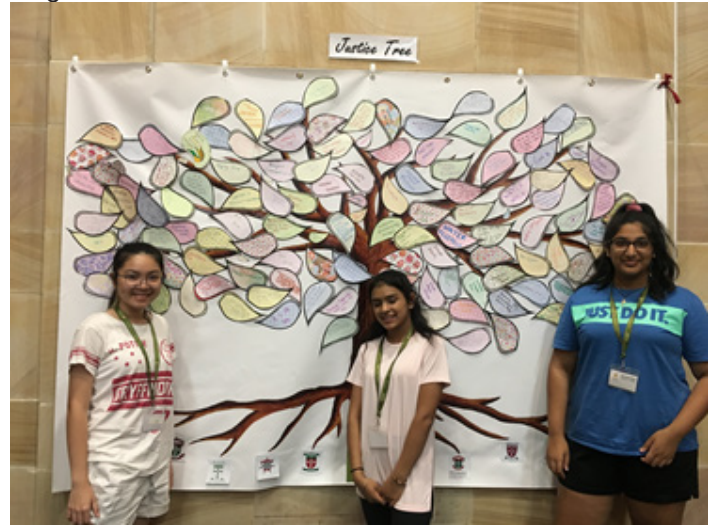
Please contact Mrs Kylie Taberner at the college on (03) 9547 5000 or alternatively email her on ktaberner@killester.vic.edu.au

JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY REPORT

To date, 2019 has been a busy and productive year for the Justice and Democracy Group. Meeting every second Wednesday at lunch time, our meetings have averaged 25 students in attendance. There has been a good mix between Year 12 and Year 10 students, who now proudly wear their Justice badges.

The group started the year by raising awareness of the need for us as consumers to consider Fair Trade chocolate. A presentation was made at a school assembly where we encouraged the wider community body to consider their purchases of Easter eggs produced by companies which fairly paid and treated their African workers.

In late February, three Year 10 students participated in the Kildare Ministries Justice Camp at the Edmund Rice Centre. Here they mixed with students from other schools from across the country and developed plans for the rest of the year. One such plan was to encourage donations to Caritas through Dare to Donate. If a Homeroom raised a mutually agreed upon amount, the Home Room teacher would complete a dare. This meant that after the Year 8 St Peter Homeroom raised \$280, I was required to wear a tutu and fairy wings for a week. At least it was all for a good cause.



For Mother's Day the team members wrote cards to asylum seeker mothers, letting them know that they were thinking of them at this difficult time and hoping that a fair solution could be achieved for them.

On Wednesday May 22, fourteen students travelled to Clonard College in Geelong as a prelude to Reconciliation Week. They planned the activities which would run at Killester, including the creation of ribbons for the girls to wear on their uniform in the colours of the Indigenous flag and the creation of an Indigenous flag made from the handprints of the students.

Early in Semester 2 a pizza and movie night is planned. The movie will have justice as a focus and will also raise money for charities involved in social justice. And as the year progresses, the Justice and Democracy group will continue to bring issues of injustice to the Killester community's attention.



Class of 2008
REUNION

MEET THE 2019 STUDENT LEADERS



Community Service -
Jiwanjot Dhillon, Veronica Maroun



Student Council -
Hang Thu Nguyen, Sneha Rakackal Senthival



Sports - Isabella Dingli, Christine Nabalarua



Celebrations - Jillian Arkoudis, Grace Wilson



Romero House - Mooie Christian, Joanna Guelas



Arts Leaders - Sarah Lui, Mariah Rodrigues



Chisholm House - Tisha Barsenbach, Serene Fitzgerald



Brigid House - Lucy Mountfort, Acacia Quinn



McKillop House - Amber Jones, Cynthia Thai

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The 'Community Service Committee' supports the 'Wellsprings Centre'

In late May, Community Service Leaders, Veronica Maroun and Kayla De Silva delivered 'care packages' containing cosmetic and toiletry products to the 'Wellsprings Centre for Women in Dandenong' on behalf of Killester College. 'Wellsprings' is a community centre that celebrates diversity and welcomes women from all cultures, faith backgrounds and abilities and encourages individuals to fulfil their potential.

The 'care packages' contained cosmetic and toiletry products donated by the students, families and staff of Killester College. The packages were collated and assembled by the Year 7-12 Community Service Leaders as part of the committee's commitment to the welfare of those in their immediate and wider communities.

The staff of 'Wellsprings' and the recipients of our gifts were most grateful.

Geraldine Nunn - Year 10-12 English Learning Area Leader



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul committee at Killester involves girls from Years 10 – 12, dedicating every Monday lunchtime to the planning and organisation of a variety of events.

St. Vincent de Paul is a social committee group that places emphasis and focus on those who are vulnerable in our community, carrying out the Gospel message of serving the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. With this mission and the values that we carry, we organised different fundraising events such as making ribbons for International Women's Day, patch-work quilting, participation in the collection of food items for the Poor Person's Mass and fundraising for our school charities.



The patch-work quilt is one of the major projects for the St. Vincent de Paul committee. We have asked for fabric donations from our school community for this project. The committee members spent many lunchtimes cutting and hand sewing each fabric squares together. This patch-work quilt represented each committee member's cooperation, beliefs, values and bond between us all. The different individual fabric squares symbolises the act of giving from our school community to those who are struggling in the harsh conditions of winter. The committee members also went to St. Joseph's Parish with the donated goods collected from the Poor Person's Mass. We hope that with the contribution of our school community it will assist in the support of the many vulnerable individuals in our community. May they know that God hasn't forgotten them or turned His back on them. God's promise is clear: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).



The achievements of St. Vincent de Paul would not have been possible without the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of each member of the committee. We encourage future senior students to take part in this committee as it can be a very rewarding and unforgettable experience.

UPCOMING EVENTS



KILLESTER COLLEGE
ARTSTECH
EXHIBITION
Opening Night - Friday 18th October 7-9pm
Open Day - Sunday 20th October 1-4pm



Keep In Touch

Would you like
your newsletter
emailed?

We value our past students and teachers, and invite you to join in the activities of the Alumni Network, and receive updated information on reunions and College and Alumni events. Please visit the Killester College website www.killester.vic.edu.au and you will find Alumni under the "Community Portal", or simply click on the link.

Please visit our site to record your details if you would like to join or if your details have changed.

If you prefer to have your Alumni Newsletter emailed please let us know your current email address by contacting Kylie Taberner at: ktaberner@killester.vic.edu.au