

## WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY CELEBRATING OUR HIGH ACHIEVERS



YEAR 7 FIRST DAYS

"MY FIRST WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL WAS AMAZING!"

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP 2020

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERS

FRANCE CULTURAL TRIP

AN INCREDIBLE AND UNFORGETTABLE PLACE

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of The Lighthouse for 2020 and, in so doing, celebrate the commencement of another school year at Aquinas College.

We commence the year with an enrolment of just over 1700 students including 17 international students and 17 students from St Mary's College for the Deaf. Of course, we welcome most heartily all students new to Aquinas College, especially those who join Aquinas for the first time in Year 7. It has been wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces and hear such excitement as their secondary schooling begins. I'd also like to welcome the staff who have joined Aquinas College this year and especially Dr Nap Rodezno, Deputy Principal, and Mrs Gina Goss, Assistant Principal - Staff, who join the College Executive Team.

## College Opening Mass

This annual event in the College calendar takes place on Thursday, February 20 at 7.30pm in the College Gym. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 are required to attend the Mass and guardians are encouraged to accompany their children. Students in Years 10 and 11 and their guardians are warmly invited. We are limited by safety regulations as to the total number of individuals that we can accommodate in the Gym and you will receive correspondence from the College seeking an indication as to whether you will be attending to help ensure that we have adequate seating in place. On the evening of the Mass we will be asking parents / guardians to wait outside the Gym until students are seated so that we seat the students in an orderly and safe manner. Please wait in the Forum until directed to enter the Gym. We look forward to our Mass as a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and celebrate the Catholic ethos of the College.



## College Leaders

It is my great pleasure to introduce our College Student Leaders for 2020. Our Captains are Nick Tellus and Bridget Dale. Vice Captains are Jules Carboni and Anita Mugamu. The Board Representative is Charlotte Dring and the College Ambassador is Luca Napolitano.



## Opening Assembly – Monday

On Monday morning we conducted our Excellence Assembly to celebrate student achievement for 2019. We invited students who received a 90+ ATAR plus the winners of special awards together for this assembly which commenced with a welcome for our new Year 7s. I spoke to the assembly about the meaning of our College motto:

The Aquinas motto presents two key ideas: “*Illuminare*” and “*Ardere*”. These terms are expressed in the ancient language of Latin. The first of these terms, *Illuminare*, means “to light up” and it was the focus of the gospel reading at mass last Sunday:

Jesus said to his disciples: “*You are a light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on a lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of women and men, so that seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.*” (Matthew 5:14-16)

This directive from Jesus to his disciples - this means us - is about standing up for the underdog. Jesus is challenging us to step forward and speak up for those in our world who do not have a voice. We are asked to act as a force for good in the world and to make sure that our potential and our resources are used for the benefit of others.

Of course, light plays a very functional role in our life as well. Imagine how different our lives would be if we lived by candlelight - how much harder it would be to read and learn of a night. I'm reminded of a story of students in one of the world's poorest countries, Guinea, on the west coast of Africa. As the sun set, the cities went dark as only about one fifth of the people could afford electricity, so, in the lead up to exams, hundreds of students flocked to Gbessia International Airport where lights from the runways and car parks allowed the students to continue their studies. This is light helping people to escape poverty.

The other part of our motto "Ardere" means "to glow with heat or to burn". Christians through the ages have also used the term "burn" to describe the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is a symbol that appears in both the Old and New Testament to show that God is present and it is represented in the flame that you also see on our "Spirit of Aquinas" posters.

However, after the devastation caused by bushfires in Australia over this summer it is difficult to see fire as something positive. Fire is powerful - you will have heard many of those in the fire zones talk about the incredible roar, the unbearable heat and the unbelievable speed of the fire. These fires were terribly destructive and we continue our prayers for those whose lives have been devastated by bushfires over recent weeks.

Of course, fire can also be incredibly important to our comfort - from making food edible, keeping us warm in winter, and powering our machinery. And you will often hear people who are very passionate about something say that they have a "burning desire" to achieve their goals.

So as we commence another year, I want to remind you of our motto: "Illuminare et Ardere" - to light up and burn - and encourage you to strive to be your best, just like the outstanding people we have recognised at our Assembly today. Work hard, try new things, and be the light for others showing the way.

#### **Post School Offers**

In 2019, 192 students applied through VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) for tertiary entry. Of these, 94.15% received an Offer. 17.55% received more than one Offer. This is an excellent

outcome for our graduates who wish to pursue tertiary studies. We have also had many students secure full apprenticeships and other traineeships.

We wish all of our graduates great success in the next stage of their education.

#### **Parents and Friends Committee**

The P&F provides valuable feedback to the College leadership and gives a "parent's perspective" on life at Aquinas. They also help us welcome families to the community and show the Aquinas hospitality of which we are so proud. A major project each year is the Year 10 Presentation Ball which is a highlight of the calendar for this level. Through their work the P&F have been able to make substantial donations to the College for the benefit of the students. Most recently, the P&F have funded the redevelopment of the Year 9 Quadrangle.

The committee is looking for new membership as a number of current members finish their association with Aquinas with their child's graduation. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. Should you wish to find out more please contact Dr Nap Rodezno on [rodeznone@aquinas.vic.edu.au](mailto:rodeznone@aquinas.vic.edu.au).

#### **College Student ID Cards**

Aquinas College has been granted permission from Public Transport Victoria to include the PTV Symbol on our College Student ID Cards. The inclusion of this symbol will permit the carrier to apply for concession when using public transport and means that students no longer need to arrange, pay for and carry the dedicated PTV School Student ID to travel on student passes or concession fares. Students must be able to present their College Student ID Card upon request when using public transport. The new College ID Card will also allow students to open the Thomas St pedestrian gate should entry be required during the school day.



**Darren Atkinson**  
Principal

#### **Road Rule Reminder - Great Ryrie Street, Ringwood**

*Council has received concerns from the community regarding motorists not observing the Road Rules during the school pickup period along Great Ryrie Street, Ringwood. Council Engineers have undertaken an inspection of the above location and it was identified that there is a dividing white line separating the opposing traffic lanes along Great Ryrie Street. As per Road Rule 132 (2A) of the Road Safety Road Rules 2017 "A driver on a road with a single continuous dividing line, a single continuous dividing line to the left of a broken dividing line or 2 parallel continuous dividing lines must not drive across the dividing lines to perform a U-turn". Noting Great Ryrie Street experiences higher levels of traffic and congestion during school pickup and drop off, U-turn movements at this location are not considered safe hence the presence of a solid dividing line to restrict this movement.*

# COLLEGE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16 February	17 February Cafe N9ne - Aqua Gp 1 AGILE P5 Lions Youth of the Year 9PEH1PU Lawn Bowls	18 February Restaurant Night Instrumental Recruitment Night Yr 8 Dominic EISM Yr 9 Swim Testing VET Hospitality Parent Cocktail Party	19 February Senior EISM	20 February Opening School Mass Yr 9 EISM 09EPE19C Aquanation 09EPE19D Rollerskating 12GEO11 & 13A Fieldwork Excursion	21 February	22 February
23 February French students arrive	24 February Cafe N9ne - Aqua Gp 2 Yr 7 MacKillop Camp 09PEH1PU Lawn Bowls VCE Top Class Dance excursion	25 February Shrove Tuesday Yr 7 MacKillop Camp Yr 8 MacKillop EISM	26 February Ash Wednesday Yr 7 Rice Camp Senior EISM 12ENV13A Film Night	27 February Yr 9 EISM 09EPE19C Aquanation	28 February AGILE P5 09PEH1GR Lawn Bowls Yr 11 Elevate Education	29 February
1 March	2 March Cafe N9ne - Blue Gp 1 Yr 7 Dominic Camp	3 March Restaurant Night EISM Div 1 Swimming Carnival Yr 7 Dominic Camp 11VCD14A Unit 1 City Excursion	4 March Restaurant Night (Mullum Cluster) Yr 9 Swim Testing Senior EISM 12VSR14A Melbourne Cable Park excursion	5 March Music USA Parent info night French students depart Yr 8 Swim Testing Yr 9 EISM 09CHI1A Chinese Museum 09EPE19C Bowling 09EPE19D Aquanation	6 March 09PEH1GR Lawn Bowls Yr 12 VCE Physics Day	7 March
8 March	9 March Labour Day public holiday	10 March Cafe N9ne Blue Gp 2 Yr 8 Rice EISM	11 March Restaurant Night (Mullum Cluster) Senior EISM	12 March Yr 9 EISM 09EPE19D Aquanation 09EPE19C Rollerskating	13 March College Athletics Carnival	14 March

## SCRIPTURALLY SPEAKING



**Tania Grace**  
Assistant Principal -  
Mission

### New Beginnings / Fresh Beginnings

A new year and we see many new beginnings. In preparation for the year I was reading John O'Donohue's book: *Benedictus - a Book of Blessings*. His first chapter is purely about beginnings and he expressed several points that I am sure we all can relate to:

- Beginnings create excitement and promise;
- It can be a challenge as we often want to remain within the safety of the known;
- Often beginnings take a long time to prepare.

His final point was that beginnings are new horizons that want to be seen - not regressive or repetitious. *What is the new horizon in you that wants to be seen?* (O'Donohue, J. 2007, *Benedictus* Ch 1 Beginnings. Pg 20-24. Bantam Press, London)

In light of these thoughts I leave you with a reading from Ecclesiastes 3:

### *Everything Has Its Time*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- a time to tear, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- a time to love, and a time to hate;
- a time for war, and a time for peace.

May this new beginning bring you surprises, joy and peace.

# SENIOR YEARS REPORT



**Meredith Greenwood**  
Head Senior Years

Despite a tumultuous time for many Australians over January, school has started relatively uneventfully. That the term has started so smoothly is more remarkable given the significant changes we are experiencing. Naturally for Year 10s, everything is new: Homeroom to Mentor, greater autonomy, two new Year Level Leaders; Mr Jess and Ms de Guzman. A stroll around at recess or lunch would indicate that the Year 10s are heeding our message that they are now Seniors and have started the year focused and ready.

At Year 11 there are two major changes. Ms Bridget McKernan has returned to Aquinas College after three years and we are thrilled to have her back as one of the Year 11 Level Leaders. She is such a positive and capable teacher and pastoral leader - already students and staff alike are feeling they can trust her implicitly. The other welcome return is Mr Wayne Forrest who is back as the VCAL coordinator, replacing now retired Mr. Mick Sheehy.

Many parents in particular will remember Mr Forrest as the Year 11 Level Leader for a significant number of years and may recall his gift at communicating with young people and his ability to help them achieve their potential.

We are fortunate to have both these people rejoin our staff. Another new face is that of Mrs Fran Jennings who has replaced Ms Mitchell and Mr Walker in the Careers office. Mrs Jennings has hit the ground running and has already commenced the huge task of meeting every Year 12.

Perhaps the most significant change is the arrival of Dr Nap Rodezno who now resides in Mr Peter Griffin's old office. Dr Rodezno is already putting his stamp on the place and we all look forward to working closely with him for the benefit of all Senior Years' students.

# MIDDLE YEARS REPORT



**Rachel Crawley**  
Head Middle Years

Welcome to the new academic year. A fresh year can be full of hope, possibility and opportunity. Our newest members of the community have been welcomed in and all students are starting to become accustomed to their new surroundings. We are looking forward to another productive year building on the students past experiences that will take them another step towards reaching their potential.

To set oneself up for a great year, Andrew Fuller, clinical psychologist, advises young people to: *build positive relationships with everyone you know, with parents, teachers, friends, everyone!* Fuller explains when one sets out to have as many positive friendships as they can, stress levels decrease. To promote relationships right from the start there are many programs and activities embedded into the initial weeks, such as dedicated pastoral time, Year 7 swimming carnival, Year 7 and 8 Junior Musical tryouts, Year 9 Challenge Walks and the instrumental and voice groups have begun. We want to continue to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate. Please contact your child's Team or Level Leader if further support is required to enable this to happen.

We recognise and value the strong support by parents to uphold the College expectations while providing constant messages of encouragement. Believing that your child is capable of facing challenges or solving difficult moments (like changing homerooms, managing workload, attending the carnivals) and

giving hope that they will make it through to the other side and maybe even more than that, they may even enjoy themselves a little or gain an unexpected reward.

Year 7 and 9 parent information evenings and China Tour information evening have been completed. You are able to retrieve the slide presentations and information booklets by clicking either Year 07 Information or Year 09 Information links on your child's PAM homepage. Year 8 Parent Information night is scheduled for March 16th.

Homework Hub started this week. Years 7 and 8 runs on Thursdays, 8.20am, room D1.23. Year 9 HH runs Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Year 9 building. HH is open for students to assist manage homework demands. Students may attend voluntarily as part of their own work routine or they may be directed to attend Thursday sessions when they have not submitted work.

Today Year 7 Homerooms say goodbye to their Transition Assistants. We would like to thank all of these past students for their care and encouragement of the Year 7s. There has been an overwhelming expression of gratitude by the Year 7 students for all the Transition Assistants have given over the past two weeks, conversations, tips of surviving the first weeks of school and many moments of additional fun. We all wish you well in your pursuits as you leave Aquinas and begin your lives beyond secondary school.

# LEARNING AT AQUINAS



**Michael Box**  
Deputy Principal -  
Learning

Welcome to a new year of learning and opportunities at Aquinas College. We look forward to building a strong learning partnership between parent, student and teacher this year. Last year, as a staff, we spent considerable time thinking about what was important to us as key members of a learning community. We wrote down the essential elements of learning and we expressed our goals for the students, for our teachers and for the College.

For 2020 our student goals are:

- **Emphasising progress**
- **Purposeful use of technology**
- **Focus on reading and writing**
- **Emphasising work ethic**

To help us meet these goals we restructured the number of classes per fortnight in the Senior Years, we developed detailed handbooks with explicit expectations for each learning area and we collaborated (which was one of our staff goals) to ensure that we had consistent work practices. Emphasising progress, use of technology and emphasis on reading and writing were our goals for the last year and they will continue. However in 2020 we want to reinforce the value of learning how to work hard to achieve. We think a strong work ethic is a universal good for every student regardless of academic ability, social capacity, spiritual development and physical talent. In short, no matter how able you already are at something, working hard at it will inevitably help.

We also understand that parents want us to communicate progress quickly to them, especially if a family needs to intervene. So we have used the improvements made to the Parent Access Module regarding letters to parents. This year letters will be brief and immediate. They will state there is a concern in a subject that the student needs to resolve. As soon as a letter is placed on PAM, parents will receive an email with a link. The letter will state the concern generally, the subject and the teacher. The details about the concern will not be in the letter but in the Learning Areas on PAM under the subject named in the letter. Parents can get direct email



access to any teacher through the Learning Areas. It will look like this:

Simply click on the mail icon and an email form addressed to the teacher in your preferred (default) email provider will appear on your screen.

In both Middle Years and Senior Years the letters have two levels. Level 1 alerts parents about the concern and Level 2 expresses that a student is in danger of not succeeding on a task. Possible reasons might be non submission of work, low standard work, absence without reason or work that cannot be authenticated. The letter states that the student has five days to resolve the matter. As a parent you can get more information from PAM, email the teacher and where possible communicate with your son or daughter to help them to resolve this matter themselves.

The letters are not designed to be punitive or shaming. The objective is inform families quickly so that the partnership between school and home is strengthened and we can all work together on building students' work ethic.

# SUSTAINABILITY CORNER



**Chloe Dux**  
Environment &  
Sustainability  
Coordinator

Climate justice and sustainability has never seemed as important or been in the forefront of our minds as it is now. The devastation seen in many states over the summer holidays due to the bushfires, truly demonstrates the importance of understanding and preparing our ecosystems.

It can easily feel overwhelming when looking at ways to help those in the affected areas. It can feel like we alone can make no difference, that the scale of the damage is just too large. However that is not the case, every person can make a difference. As we return to school, we are focusing our first term on our response to the bushfires. For many the simplest way to help is money. Most organisations are currently

asking for donations to help fire affected areas. It will be money that will be the driving force for restoration of our bush and our towns.

This does not always mean putting some money in a collection jar, it may mean organising trips away for Easter. Many of the towns affected are reliant on tourist money so our student Social Justice and Sustainability team will be looking at creating advertising material for those areas affected.

Keep an eye out on the screens around the College to see if any of the areas interest you and your family, and book those Easter holiday breaks!

# MUSIC NOTES



**Jared Campbell**  
Music Programs  
Coordinator

The new school year has launched and we are already experiencing the joy of making music. At our Whole College Assembly this week, there were brilliant performances from Senior Stage, Ablaze Choir and Voice Soloist Madi Romijn singing the Australian National Anthem. This is my third year at Aquinas College and I am again very excited and enthusiastic about leading a program with such passionate staff and students into the future. I would like to thank all music student parents in advance for their support and particularly for encouraging their children to continue studying music at Aquinas. This investment of time, effort and energy will produce lifelong dividends.

Music students have recently been informed that Instrumental lessons and ensemble rehearsals will begin on the 10th of February. Students have been asked to check the Music notice board for their lesson times. The instrumental music teachers will always attempt to minimise disruptions by regularly rotating their student's times over periods, days and weeks.

One of the most important aspects to successful instrumental and ensemble participation is home practice. By taking a few minutes each and every night, students can reinforce the musical material learned in the day's rehearsal. They can work on various technical aspects at their own pace and continue to refine their skills and improve their technique and musical tone quality. Students who practice regularly at home tend to get the most pleasure out of ensemble participation. They look forward to rehearsals and performances and take a great deal of pride in performing to the best of their abilities. These students help to ensure that the Aquinas Music program will continue its tradition of excellence.

Welcome to all Year 7 students. Year 7 is the perfect time for students to take up a new instrument or return to one hidden under the bed. In our experience at the College we have also found starting at the beginning of

Year 7 greatly supports the transition process, waiting till later years provides many challenges. Learning an instrument also gives students the opportunity to become part of the ensembles program at Aquinas, furthering social development and peer interactions and opportunities.

Electronic enrolment forms for Instrumental and Voice lessons are available on PAM in the Music Handbook. If you are still unsure which instrument your child should learn, the Music Department will be holding our annual Instrumental Music Recruitment night on **Tuesday the 18th of February** in the Middle Years building from 7:30pm till 9:00pm. Our Instrumental Music Recruitment night is always a fun night where students meet teachers and further discover which instrument they may wish to learn from the variety of instruments we offer. It is also a great opportunity to make some new friends who are interested in music.



# MEET THE STAFF

IN EACH ISSUE OF THE *LIGHTHOUSE*, WE PROFILE OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS TERM WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEAM.



**DR NAP  
RODEZNO**

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Dr Napoleon (Nap) Rodezno, our new Deputy Principal, joined the Aquinas community at the start of 2020. He recently held the role of Deputy Principal at Kolbe Catholic College in Greenvale Lakes, and has worked in Catholic Education since 1997 following studies in both Education and Psychology.

Prior to working at Kolbe Catholic College, Nap was Assistant Principal – Students at Salesian College Chadstone. He has also had a variety of leadership positions at St James College Brisbane, St Bernard's College Essendon, Marymede Catholic College South Morang and Doxa Youth School West Melbourne.

Napoleon completed his doctorate (PhD) at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in 2008 in the education fields of positive teaching, student voice and inclusion. He also holds a Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance, and most recently graduated with a Graduate Certificate in Religious Education Teaching from ACU. Napoleon also lectures at the Australian Catholic University in the Masters of Education program. His area of research and teaching expertise include counseling skills, positive psychology and education, and student wellbeing.

Napoleon grew up in the country of El Salvador, and arrived in Australia at the age of 15 following an unfortunate civil war. He likes most sports, has played basketball at state league levels in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, and continues to play both basketball and Australian Rules football competitively. He is a Western Bulldogs supporter, follows Melbourne United in the National Basketball League and the New York Knicks in the National Basketball Association.

He embraces our Catholic faith and identity, and aims to be a faith leader amongst our community. Nap is married to Jennifer, an architect, and is the father to twins, Zachary and Malaya who recently graduated from school.

Napoleon's role as Deputy Principal focuses on students, and forms the College Executive together with the Principal, the Deputy Principal – Learning, the Assistant Principal – Staff and the Assistant Principal – Mission. Napoleon hopes to contribute to the education of students at Aquinas.



**MRS GINA  
GOSS**

ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL  
- STAFF

Gina has been teaching in Catholic education for over 30 years across Victoria, including at St Aloysius College; as a House and Co-Curricular Coordinator at Loyola College; VCE Coordinator at St Francis Xavier College; Acting Deputy Principal at St Peter's College; and Acting Vice Principal – Students at Padua College. Over this time she has directed over 25 College musical productions! She has a Masters in Education – Student Wellbeing, and is a VCAA Assessor.

Gina is passionate about giving students the opportunity to be the best they can be, and building relationships with students, staff and families in the College community. At Aquinas College, she is looking forward to working with the staff to encourage their potential and support them in their vocation.

In her spare time, Gina loves performing, from musical theatre to being a vocalist in a blues quartet. Gina has two horses and enjoys riding, as well as camping, watching films and listening to many styles of music. Gina cheers on Manchester United and the Bombers.

Gina is married to Paul and has two sons, one who is doing a Carpentry apprenticeship and the other competing Year 11.



# EMBEDDING OUR VALUES

## BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF AQUINAS TO LIFE

Our core mission values of Spirituality, Stewardship, Perseverance, Compassion, Justice and Belonging are the basis to all we do at Aquinas College. They are the foundation in developing the whole student, beyond purely academia. In the past, we have celebrated one value a year so that by the end of a student's time with us, they will have focused on each value at some point in their school life.

In 2020 we will be changing our way of celebrating our values. Each value will be allocated to a year level and while they are still focusing on a particular concept, we will also investigate how the other values support and nurture each other. The values will each have a relevant scripture quote and will be incorporated not only into curriculum, but also into our extracurricular activities.

Through discussion with a number of groups within the College, the values will be allocated as follows:

- Year 7 - Belonging
- Year 8 - Stewardship
- Year 9 - Perseverance
- Year 10 - Justice
- Year 11 - Compassion
- Year 12 - Spirituality

In addition to these changes, we are introducing the Spirit of Aquinas program. It is an awards based system to encourage students to become more involved within and beyond the school community.

Throughout the year, each student can gain points for participating in a range of activities, joining different groups, helping others, other commendations that they may receive and much more. At the end of the year, students who gain sufficient points will receive a badge with the name of their value on it. The student in each year level with the most points will receive the Spirit of Aquinas award at the excellence evening.

Throughout this year, we will endeavor to report on some of the many ways our values have been embedded deeper into our daily lives.

**Tania Grace**  
Assistant Principal - Mission

## THE SPIRIT OF AQUINAS COLLEGE



### **BELONGING**

We are mindful of our diverse local and global community; we are culturally inclusive and respect the dignity of each individual.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

We encourage our community to respond to the need for sustainability in our contemporary world in the light of the Gospel and its call to action.

### **PERSEVERANCE**

We are challenged to continually strive for excellence in all aspects of our learning.

### **JUSTICE**

We promote opportunity and equity through awareness and support of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

### **COMPASSION**

We promote the service of others through education and experiences that are based on kindness and generosity, informed by Catholic Social Teaching.

### **SPIRITUALITY**

We nurture a connectedness to God and a Catholic faith that is informed by scripture, tradition and the regional parish communities.

# WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

## CELEBRATING OUR HIGH ACHIEVERS

The first Assembly is one where we welcome our incoming Year 7 and welcome back the highest achieving students of our graduating class of the previous year- those remarkable people who attained ATARs over 90 or a study score of 50 in the case of current Year 12 student, Lucas Clarke.

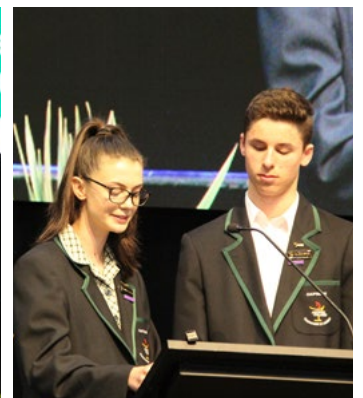
Of the four assemblies held each year it is arguably the most formal with lots of presentations. What we do to ensure the occasion is lively and engaging is to have, wherever possible, students presenting. Monday's event was no different and again the quality of the student speakers was remarkable. Year 7 pair Harry Sheers and Lucy Jordan shared their experiences of making that potentially daunting transition from big primary school kid to nervous newbie and explored the Year 7 core value of Belonging.

At the end of the assembly, College Captains Bridget and Nick then developed the remaining core values and related their experiences to those. Other memorable speeches were the acceptance speeches of Deakin Shield recipient Nick Tellus; Johanna O'Keeffe on receipt of the Edmund Rice award; and most notably winner of the Patrick Ryan award for Dux of the college: Bailey Heron.

Other individual award winners were: Trent Dodd: Dux of VCAL; Katie Cao who received the Jan Rocznik award for the highest achieving girl in Science; Sam Reynolds who was awarded the Dave Mallia award for the highest achieving Humanities student; and Nicholas Antonino who received the Evelyn Hine Award for the student identified as the best in drama across the senior years.

Current students Isobel Mugamu (Year 8) Michaela Kearsley (Year 9), Zac Hanrahan (Year 10) and Mikaela Tenney (Year 11) were all recognized by the Parents and Friends Network for their wholehearted engagement in both their learning and the wider life of the College.

**Meredith Greenwood**  
Head Senior Years





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

Patrick Ryan Award - Dux of the College	Bailey Heron
Dux of VCAL	Trent Dodd
Jan Rocznik Award	Katie Cao
Dave Mallia Award	Sam Reynolds
Deakin Shield - Dux of Year 11	Nick Tellus
Edmund Rice Community Service Award	Johanna O'Keeffe
Evelyn Hine Award	Nicholas Antonino
Parents and Friends Awards:	Isobel Mugamu,
Michaela Kearsley, Zac Hanrahan and Mikaela Tenney	Lucas Clarke
Perfect score of 50	Computing:Informatics

## Students who achieved an ATAR over 90:

Callan Broderick	Hannah McLean
Katie Cao	Charlotte Raaymakers
Mia Di Giovanni	Sam Reynolds
Tayla Donker	Alison Tran
Madeleine Galicia	Blake Ward
Bailey Heron	Lana Wheatfill
Taylah Knight	Stephanie Wynd
Dylan Li	

# COLLEGE LEADERSHIP FOR 2020

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERS



Congratulations to our new Student Leaders across Years 8 to 11 and our new College Student Leaders. We will hear from our Student Leaders in upcoming Lighthouse editions as they share their Student Voice.

College Captains: Bridget Dale and Nick Tellus  
 College Vice Captains: Anita Mugamu and Jules Carbone  
 Board Representative: Charlotte Dring  
 College Ambassador: Luca Napolitano

### Year 11 Leadership Team

Mikaela Tenney  
 Flynn Wilkinson  
 Samara Terpstra  
 Chelle Wynne  
 Rory O'Brien  
 Reuben Steen  
 Karissa Chowdry  
 Grace Scutt



### Year 10 Leadership Team

Georgia Carusi  
 Ash Broderick  
 Levi Mugamu  
 Ann Joseph  
 Georgina Ladd  
 Eliza Crouch  
 Alex Raw  
 Zac Hanrahan  
 Sophie Stokes  
 Dylan Tudor



### Year 9 Leaders

Jackson Boundy and Cassie Wynne



### Year 8 Leaders

Jack Jemmeson and Amy Talia



# YEAR 7 FIRST DAYS

## “MY FIRST WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL WAS AMAZING!”

*“My first week of high school was amazing! I loved meeting new friends and teachers. My favourite day of the week was Wednesday, because it was Swimming Carnival, it’s wasn’t just a Swimming Carnival. It was the Swimming Carnival Dominic won killing MacKillop’s 10 year winning streak! Aquinas really welcomed me and made me feel very comfortable about where every class was and where the canteen was and all that stuff”*

**Charlotte Hayes** 7 Gold

*“On my first day of school I was so nervous about what was ahead of me. The classes, the homework, and most importantly, where to go, and how to get there. But as soon as I entered the school I knew I was in the best high school for my abilities and talents. I found all my classes fun even the ones I found most difficult because all my classmates and teachers were very inclusive and patient when something didn’t go as planned the first time. I also made two new friends named Gabby, and Jarrah. They are two very kind girls in my class who make sure we are in a good mindset.”*

**Grace Rider** 7 Orange

*“Coming into Year 7 was really enjoyable as I really liked meeting new people and being in a new environment. The Year 12 Assistants have been really helpful to help us settle into our first week.”*

**Keeley Allison** 7 White

*“The first week of school was really fun. I was nervous at first, but when I got to know people, I felt more comfortable. The days go heaps quicker than Primary School, because I am having so much fun! I am looking forward to Camp in a couple of weeks time and trying new things.”*

**Gabriel Petronio** 7 White

*“My first week of high school has been amazing. I have made so many new friends and I’m so glad I went to a completely new school with almost all new people. My highlight so far would be the moment we found out we broke Mackillop’s 10 year winning streak at the Swimming Carnival. I was really happy that I participated in the carnival even though I’m not a very skilled swimmer”*

**Ruby Melchiorre** 7 Aqua

*“At first when I walked into Aquinas I was really nervous but now I feel there is nothing to worry about because the teachers will help us through the year.”*

**Itai Shinya** 7 Aqua



# YEAR 12 JOIN YEAR 7 HOMEROOMS

## SHARING IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

It was a wonderful sight to see the Year 12s and the Year 7s buzzing with excitement as they arrived for their first official day of classes. The Year 12s visited the Year 7 Homeroom they were a member of back in 2015 and there was fantastic banter, introductions, shared stories and laughs. It was wonderful seeing two generations of Aquinas students coming together and starting to build a connection. We heard many “remember when.....” stories from the Year 12s. We hope the new members of our community learnt a lot about the exciting opportunities and events to look forward to this year and in the years ahead.

Our Year 12s want to be a friendly face to the Year 7s and someone they can stop and say hello to or seek support from if they are lost in a building or in the yard, need help in the canteen line or have trouble finding their bus or train or find themselves a bit isolated when walking home. We hope the Year 12s will be wonderful role models. The ‘Class of 2020’ wishes the ‘Class of 2025’ a happy and successful secondary school journey.

**Scott Buchanan and Sharon Daley**  
Year 12 Level Leaders



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Celebrating Inspiring Alumni

The Aquinas College *Leading Lights* program seeks to recognise and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our former students in their specific vocation.

Refer to [Leading Lights](#) for more information

Nominate your potential *Leading Light* by **Friday 27th March 2020**

# FRANCE CULTURAL TRIP

## AN INCREDIBLE AND UNFORGETTABLE PLACE



*"France, an incredible and unforgettable place where people connect and bond over 'gros mots' and create long-lasting rapports. We were lucky enough to stay with a Pierre each, two very different boys but equally kind, generous and so friendly. Over the past two weeks we have been walking to school out in the frost of the 0° mornings here in the beautiful town of Chantonay. To live as a French student has been such a crazy experience. We have woken up, put enough thermals to brave the cold, trudging our way to school and where we would stay until 6 o'clock. With our trays we have eaten delicious meals every day. Cheese, baguettes, snails, frog legs, pâtés, and more cheese!"*

*The host families have welcomed us like their own children and we did everything together, including sightseeing to such beautiful places such as the sea - les Sables d'Olonne and Saint Malo, a medieval castle and medieval village of Dinan, Christmas markets and the coastal town of La Rochelle. And the local mayor thoroughly enjoyed our rendition of La Marseillaise.*

*As well as the home stay, we Australians have travelled together seeing beautiful sites such as the Eiffel Tower (we all managed to climb the 700 steps), Mont Saint Michel, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Garnier Opera house and even Disneyland! We were also fortunate to see significant historical places such as the WW1 battlefields and the D-day beaches of WW2. We have had the absolute time of our lives and loved every second of it.*

*Highlights have also been:*

- *Singing together with the Year 12s in English class*
- *Singing at home with our host students*
- *Being welcomed like another child into the host family*
- *Being included in family photos and family activities*
- *Cooking for the host family*
- *Bowling day*
- *Duck mousse*
- *Family Christmas traditions, including decorating the tree and going to Christmas markets*
- *Seeing 'Frozen 2' in French*
- *Getting out of our comfort zone*
- *Being so comfortable with families.*

*Vive la France!"*

**Leon Walshe, Year 11M11 and  
Reuben Steen, Year 10M03**



# YEAR 12 DANCE

## THE VALUE OF HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

Here is a sample of some of the holiday homework completed by Year 12 Dance students. Students were asked to prepare a concept board for their Technical Solo. First they must think of their intention for the Dance then they had to create a concept board that captured their ideas in a visual, literary or even tactile display through research.

Dance in the Senior Years moves students to use Dance as an art form, to express ideas. Rather than letting the music drive the choreography students must decide on an intention; this could be as literal as a simple narrative or as abstract as a theme. Regardless of the complexity the importance of the intention is to drive the choreographic process so that every movement has purpose and meaning, concluding in a meaningful composition.

By completing this work prior to the commencement of classes the students are empowered to 'hit the ground running', or should I say 'dancing' in this instance. Choreography can begin immediately as well as the all important feedback for improvement on their work.

Keep an eye out in Term 2 for our Spotlight On Dance evening if you are interested to see the Technical Solo dance works by these students.

Claire Travers  
Dance Teacher



# YEAR 7 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

## BREAKING THE MACKILLOP WINNING STREAK

Last week on Wednesday, the Year 7 students went to Croydon Memorial Pool for their annual swim day. The purpose of the day was to do some swim testing, have lots of fun in their Team groups, a mini swimming carnival and a chance to bond with other students in their homeroom and staff

The day started out overcast, which did not stop the students getting in the water (heated pool helps) in doing some swim testing - distance swimming, treading water, entries and the students loved this experience. While the testing was occurring one House group was having some fun in the smaller pool with a variety of activities eg, whirlpools, water relays.

The swim testing section of the day was organised by Ms Jess Weltner (Camps Coordinator) and it flowed really well. By the noise and constant moving of students, it was clear, the students were all having a wonderful time.

In the afternoon, the mini swim carnival was held and the sun came out for this part of the day. Mr Harrison and Ms Bettiol had been working hard to ensure that Dominic or Rice would stop the run of MacKillop in the different carnivals. The students were very keen to show their skills and win points for their houses. The students competed in 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 50m backstrokes events. At the conclusion of the individual events, Dominic was just in front of MacKillop and Rice was third. There was clearly tension in the air for both Mr Box (worried about losing for a change) and Mr Harrison (thinking a miracle could occur). From the final two events, the relays, the carnival would be decided. With the last event being won by Rice, this enabled Dominic to hang on and win the Year 7 mini carnival.

### Congratulations to the Dominic House on this excellent result.

At the conclusion of the day, Mr Harrison and Mr Smith were seen to jump into the pool to celebrate this magnificent moment. The students who did well in the swimming carnival section have been invited to join the Aquinas swim squad for 2020. A huge thank you to all the staff who were in attendance and the Student transition staff who helped during the day to ensure the day was another wonderful experience for our students.

**Bernie Brummel**  
Sports Coordinator

*"We think that we were sabotaged in many ways.*

- 1. Swimming Caps were definitely an issue for us at MacKillop. Whilst swimming our caps 'suddenly' filled with air, covered the eyes or simply 'fell off.' Coincidence? We think not.*
- 2. We had 3 students all in one lane. Was that the case with the other teams? Not Dominic and Rice? They had fuel injected Gold Class lanes.*
- 3. Mr Box however was the main problem. When he took off his yellow coat that's when things started to go downhill. He also said, after only three races, "Oh come on, can't this get a bit more interesting?" And you know what, it did. He got what he wanted. Be careful what you wish for Mr.Box. You caused it all. And we won't forget it, Mr Jinx, I mean Mr.Box"*

**Ruby & Charlotte**  
7 Navy



# STUDENT UNIFORM & PRESENTATION

## UPHOLDING THE STANDARDS OF THE COLLEGE

Aquinas College continues to drive school culture each year and one area of focus that staff and students endorse is the correct wearing of student uniform. To this end, the student uniform is to be worn with pride as it aligns each student with the College.

Students are continually reminded about uniform expectations as well as their own personal presentation (hair length, styles & cleanliness; jewellery; make up etc). These standards have been in force for many years and every now and then students need a reminder when their regard for the uniform becomes lax.

As a College, we seek parent support in ensuring that students comply with the College expectations relating to these two matters. The updated guidelines for Uniform and Personal Presentation can be accessed on SIMON under Student Resources. Accompanying photos of correct uniform have also been included.

**Dr Napoleon Rodezno**  
Deputy Principal



### Girls Summer Uniform (Terms 1 and 4)

- Dress: Aquinas College regulation fabric and style worn at knee length
- White Aquinas College socks with ankle length bottle green hoop
- Aquinas College hat
- Black leather lace-up school shoes (N.B. school shoes have a heel, leisure shoes do not)

**OR**

- Dark grey Aquinas College tailored shorts or dark grey College trousers
- White short sleeved Aquinas embroidered shirt

### **OPTIONAL**

- College blazer
- College jumper



### Boys Summer Uniform (Terms 1 and 4)

- White short sleeved Aquinas College embroidered shirt
- Dark grey Aquinas College shorts
- Plain black leather belt
- Grey marle Aquinas College socks worn above the ankle
- Black leather lace-up school shoes (N.B. school shoes have a heel, leisure shoes do not)
- Aquinas College hat

**OR**

- Dark grey College trousers matched with dark grey socks worn above the ankle.

### **OPTIONAL**

- College blazer
- College jumper

# 2020 SEASON OF EXCELLENCE

## SUCCULENT CAKE SHORTLISTED

Kiara White (Year 12 2019) has been selected to exhibit her Studio Arts Artwork at the 2020 Season of Excellence.

This very prestigious exhibition has a strict selection process, with students applying in October a shortlist coming out in November, then onto the final selection where students have to take their artwork into the VCAA before being notified mid January.

About 2000 students apply from all over Victoria, with a short list of around 130, then onto a selected top of about 45 students (it varies a little year to year). Students must achieve a grade of A/A+ to be eligible. It is curated by The National Gallery of Victoria and on display at the Ian Potter Centre, NGV-A in Fed Square for 4 months.

Kiara's theme for exploration through her Studio Process was SENSES. Her intention being to create a personal experience through viewing her art, allowing the audience to reflect and appreciate their senses.

The artwork that has been selected is Succulent Cake, a vanilla cake, decorated with butter icing to resemble succulents. The cake took Kiara days to make, has an amazing amount of colour, texture in the decoration and was delicious! Kiara brought in her final artwork last year for assessment, where we cut open the cake to reveal 'dirt' and 'worms' inside adding to the experience. She made two cakes - one edible and one from polystyrene with buttercream so we could keep and display it for Grad Display evening.

Kiara is one of the hardest working, responsible and creative young people, with a huge heart and a fantastic work ethic. She challenged herself at every stage, supported and encouraged her peers and welcomed feedback with a drive to improve and succeed.

She was thrilled to be shortlisted and then blown away to be selected in one of the most prestigious exhibitions - to show at the NGV is quite an achievement! To see what the standard is like, here is the link to the 2019 Top Arts <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/top-arts-2019/>



**Sandi van der Niet**  
Arts Learning Area Leader

## FRIENDS FROM YEAR 7 TO YEAR 12

Lucy Hilton, Jade Piva, Paris Constantinou and Tiffany Blake reinacted their Year 7 photo as they started their final year together at Aquinas College



# YEAR 9 EISM - ROUND

## Girls Basketball A Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 74 - 15

Winner: Aquinas

An excellent start to the season. We controlled the game throughout with our smart attack and solid defence. The girls used the ball effectively and shared the work amongst the team. We shot the ball incredibly well, missing not many shots during the game. Congratulations on this excellent effort.

## Girls Basketball B Aquinas vs. Billanook

Score: 36-4

Winner: Aquinas

A strong start. We put a lot of pressure on the opposition and were able to get lots of steals early in the game to take control. In the second half we took the opportunity to work on skills and good team work. Well done.

## Girls Indoor Cricket Aquinas vs. Billanook

Score: 139-72

Winner: Aquinas

Fantastic effort by the girls in their first match. They started strong by setting an impressive batting total of 139. Billanook looked as though they may catch up, although some wickets helped decrease their run total.

## Girls Touch Footy Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 5-0

Winner: Aquinas

We played well in our first game of the season. The first quarter we were a bit hesitant to attack and we were level nil all. In the 2nd quarter, we used the ball well and ran aggressively and this opened the game up and we scored 3 times. In the 2nd half, we defended well and worked on making sure our basics were being completed properly. Well done girls.

## Girls Tennis A Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 1/13 - 3/20

Winner: Luther Red

A great start to the season, especially with a few of the girls quite inexperienced in Tennis. They played really well as a team and the games were very competitive. Many of the games were very close with some going to a tie break. I am sure we will see lots of improvement across the season and I look forward to seeing the girls progress.

## Girls Tennis B Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 3/20 - 1/17

Winner: Aquinas

What a fantastic start and a wonderful result for a team of students who have not played tennis competitively before. The girls learnt a lot during the game and Aquinas and Luther students, who were also inexperienced supported each other.

## Girls Softball Aquinas vs. Mt Lilydale

Score: 7-5

Winner: Aquinas

The team responded well to a steep learning curve and came out firing in the first innings to go up 7-0. The game then evened out but the great start was enough to allow us to hold on for our first win. Well done to Chelsea and Chloe for accepting pitching duties and completing an admirable job.

## Boys Basketball A Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 70-11

Winner: Aquinas

Another solid win today as our 'B' team A strong start to the game with the boys jumping out to an early 19-0 start. Jordy Moran took charge early with 10 of the first 12 points. A few too many fouls but a great first up performance.

## Boys Basketball B Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 59-10

Winner: Aquinas

Despite unusual conditions for a basketball game the boys adapted well after a scratchy start to the scoreboard for both teams, however started to find their form shooting. They ended up comprehensive winners by 49 points on the back of some deep range shooting.

## Boys Hockey BYE

## Boys Softball BYE

## Boys Tennis A BYE

## Boys Tennis B BYE

## Boys Ultimate Frisbee Aquinas vs. Luther Red

Score: 24-3

Winner: Aquinas

The gruelling summer pre-season training paid immediate dividends with an extremely strong opening performance against Luther. The team worked tirelessly in the heat and were inclusive and showed excellent skills throughout. Hewitson and Johnson always looked dangerous with frisbee in hand.

# CAFÉ N9NE

*Indulge with a coffee and freshly baked cake, muffin or slice, or enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast.*

Tuesday - Friday 8.30am - 11.30am  
Wurundjeri Trade Training Centre, Aquinas College

Support the Year 9 students as they participant in this experiential learning program.



# Aquinas Canteen

## Lunch Menu Term 1

<u>Monday :</u>	Chicken Black Bean on Rice (GF)	\$ 7.00
	Vegetarian Fried Rice (V,GF)	\$ 5.00
	Penne Napolitana (V)	\$ 5.00
	Spicy Meatball Subs	\$ 7.00
<u>Tuesday :</u>	Honey Chicken (GF)	\$ 7.00
	Vegetarian Fried Rice (V,GF)	\$ 5.00
	Penne Tomato (V)	\$ 5.00
	Crispy Chicken Pita Wrap	\$ 7.00
<u>Wednesday :</u>	Vegetarian Fried Rice (V,GF)	\$ 5.00
	Bolognese Lasagne	\$ 6.00
	Beef Bacon and Cheese Burger	\$ 7.00
<u>Thursday :</u>	Burrito in a bowl (GF)	\$ 7.00
	Vegetarian Fried Rice (V,GF)	\$ 5.00
	Penne Cream and Tomato (V)	\$ 5.00
	Butter Chicken Curry (GF)	\$ 7.00
<u>Friday :</u>	Chicken Parma on Turkish	\$ 7.00
	Honey Soy Chicken (GF)	\$ 7.00
	Penne Napolitana (V)	\$ 5.00
	Special Fried Rice (V,GF)	\$ 5.00

## Exciting News!

Our school uniform  
is now SMART!

Smart Tag  
Lost Property



Exclusive to Spartan SPARTAN  
School Supply Specialist  
We Support You

How it works

1



Our jackets/jumpers now  
come with Smart Tags  
already attached.

2



Pair your Smart Tag  
to your phone with  
a single SMS.

3



Receive an automatic  
SMS alert when your item  
is placed in lost property.

AQUINAS COLLEGE LIGHTHOUSE

Aquinas College  
46 Great Ryrie Street  
RINGWOOD 3134

+61 3 9259 3000

WWW.AQUINAS.VIC.EDU.AU

Edition 1, 14th February 2020

Editor: Rebecca Presta

LIGHTHOUSE

