

Weekly Newsletter

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2019 | WEEK 7, TERM 4

Staff versus Students Debate Night A Success



Last Friday evening, the third annual Staff Vs. Student Debate was held in the Lecture Theatre as part of our Debate Night. The Debate Nights are a chance for students involved in the Debate Club to develop and refine their public speaking skills in front of a friendly audience. With more students than ever involved in Debate Club, numbers were up this year, with family, friends and teachers among the audience.

The night began with the Year 7 debate 'that parents don't understand children', with each side showing improved rebuttal skills and increasingly confident delivery. Rebuttal is the hardest part of debating, so it was great to see students engaging with this. The Year 8-10 debate 'That the book is always better than the movie' was up next, and saw some thoughtful ideas and spirited rebuttal on both sides in an entertaining presentation. The main event, which saw the Lecture Theatre filling even more, was the Staff Vs. Student debate 'That experience is the best teacher'. This debate gives the senior students the chance to be a little more pointed in their rebuttal, to engage in some banter and to see a different side of their teachers. This has traditionally been a competitive and entertaining event, and this year's debate was no different. Ironically, the statement proved true, as the student team of Portia Holdman, Adele Proserpi-Porta and Laura Cesario prevailed against the relatively inexperienced team of Ciaran Buckley, Adam Taylor and Sharon Brodie. With presentations ranging from subtle shade to outright roasting, the good-natured jabs, stories of accidental roadkill and arguments (some better than others), ensured this event was high-spirited and highly engaging.

Thank you to Marilena Wilson and Ms van der Berg (MGHS) for their adjudication (it's tough to do three debates back-to-back), Katrina Mott for the photos and to everyone who attended or participated. Debating continues to grow at Tenison Woods College and we always welcome new members!

Adam Taylor | Teacher



From The Principal

Celebrating and Giving Thanks

We move into a period of the year when we witness the fruits of our dedicated efforts as students, staff and parents. At the same time, we give thanks for all that has comforted, gifted and challenged us.

On Thursday 28 November we gather in the Barrie Holmes Stadium for our whole College Thanksgiving Mass. At this celebration of Mass, an event which is the source and summit of our Christian lives, we celebrate and give thanks to God for the way he has invited us to SHINE and the many gifts and blessings we have received throughout this school year. We remember our successes and our struggles, our joys and our sorrows. We come with grateful hearts and spirits to meet our gracious God in Word and Sacrament.

Celebrating as a large learning community, that is comprised of and nurtures smaller learning communities, we will ask for God's blessing especially on our Year 5's moving into Middle School, our Year 9's into Senior school and our Year 12's who move into a journey beyond school.

This journey of moving beyond school for our Year 12 students will be enthusiastically and poignantly celebrated at the Year 12 Graduation Friday evening 29 November. At this event we proudly and confidently present our Year 12 graduates to our families, community and civic leaders. As with many others, I look forward to this very significant event for our students.

Advent begins – Christ in our Lives

The Season of Advent begins this Sunday December 1, and so does the beginning of a new Liturgical Year in the Church. The Advent Wreath is a sign to us of the coming of Christ Our Light into our lives and our world.

I invite you to see Advent as a time to pause and reflect upon our lives and decide what's important and where our energy and attention should be focused. The less we do this the more we can be enticed by so many superficial interests and issues. However, the more we consciously pause and reflect and exercise our gift of freedom to do what's right and good, the more human we become. As Christians, the more consciously we pause and reflect, the more open we become to the presence of God in our lives and the power of his grace and to shape our lives. Advent then is the time for conscious reflection upon our lives in the light of the presence of Christ amongst us.

As we prepare for Christmas, there's always a real challenge for us. This time of year, we all become so much busier with all the break ups, socials and preparations for Christmas. Instinctively, we speed up and busy ourselves attempting to do so many things. The invitation to us today is the opposite. Pause, slow down, reflect, listen and pray – make the experience intensely personal. Advent is a time for more prayer as individuals, families and as parish community.

In such a way Advent will be an opportunity for real change and renewal in our lives, unleashing the power to reflect upon our lives, humbly name our challenges, be freed and forgiven for past poor choices and experiencing the loving forgiveness of God as we move forward with hope and confidence.



From The Principal *continued...*

As a College community we annually erect the Giving Tree in the Front Office, and this is an opportunity for everyone in our community to share the joy of Christmas. Gifts and money donated to the Giving Tree will be shared between AC Care and Vinnies who will assist local families this Christmas. Toiletries that are donated under the Giving Tree will go to Sunset Kitchen.

Families may also wish to consider the gifts that ensure others not necessarily known to us enjoy a better Christmas and life; a gift that keeps on giving. Such donations can be made by visiting the websites of such preferred Catholic charities as Caritas, Vinnies and Mercy Gifts. Other charities to consider in such a way may be Oxfam, World Vision, Salvation Army and The Smith Family.

Classes will be participating in activities centred on the Advent theme. Advent wreaths in classrooms are the symbolic reminders of the prayer and action we focus upon during Advent. In the midst of the activities occupying us in these final weeks of the school year, the advent reflection speaks to our school community:

*Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.
This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice,
and focus on what's really important.
We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts,
to celebrate your birth on Christmas.
Amen.*

Satisfaction Surveys

At Tenison Woods College, we are constantly reviewing our offerings and approach, refining as required, with the aim of ensuring that we offer our young the best possible opportunities and outcomes.

To this end, I invite our parents/carers to participate in a Satisfaction Survey that will offer us data to reflect on the type of learning community we are creating and the type of issues we need to consider to make the College the best it possibly can be.

We thank the parents who have already completed this. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete the Parent Satisfaction Survey by Friday 29 November. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NTPFT9>

Transforming The Pines

This week is a very busy week in preparation for a massive transformation of the primary site, as six of the Year 3 and Year 4 portables will be removed to make space for expansion of the ELCC and the new Reception building.

Please also note that access to the Junior school from Thursday this week will be via the entrance adjacent to the Uniform Shop, behind the Front Administration Office. Apologies for the inconvenience, but this access will ensure the safety of students, staff and families.

Key milestones for the next two weeks will include:

Week 7 Wednesday 27 November

Year 3 and 4 Class location shifts

Week 8 Monday 2 December – Friday 6 December

Year 3 and 4 portables being transported to new Pines Precinct.
Creation of Stage 1 Building Site for expansion of ELCC, Reception building and associated play spaces.

Friday 6 December

Last Day for Year 10 Students. Poplars Students last day.

Key dates for the commencement of 2020:

A full list of 2020 key dates will follow soon, but to assist with planning, I inform our College community of dates to commence the academic year:

Wednesday 22 January 2020	All Teaching Staff commence
Friday 24 January 2020	Book collection day
Monday 27 January 2020	Australia Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 28 January 2020	Reception, Years 6, 8, 10,11, 12 commence Term 1.
Wednesday 29 January 2020	All other students commence term 1.

You will note the staggered start to the commencement of the year for students. This approach will assist students in the identified year levels to complete the best possible transition processes with the relevant teaching and support staff. We also look forward to preparing transition programs that will accentuate our relationship with parents and carers in the support of student learning and wellbeing.

God Bless,

David Mezinac | Principal



From the Assistant Principal Student and Staff Development

Term 4 Information

As we move closer to the end of Term 4 I would like to share some important information in relation to the completion of the 2019 school year.

2019 Semester 2 Reports

Parents and Caregivers will be able to access end of year reports for students in Reception to Year 11 via PAM on Wednesday 11 December. A notification will be sent via Skoolbag when they are complete. Students will be able to access their end of year reports the same day via SIMON. Reports can be downloaded as a PDF file and viewed on a device or a computer and printed, if a hardcopy is preferred.

Hardcopies can also be printed by students at school or using the PAM kiosk that is located in the Front Office Gallery.

If you require further help in accessing your child's end of year report please contact the Front Office staff. If you have misplaced your PAM login please email: pam@tenison.catholic.edu.au

Dedicated support will also be available on Thursday 12 December between 9:00am and 3:00pm in the Pam Ronan Centre.

2019 Years 8 to 12 Timetables

2020 timetables will be available for students to view on SIMON on Thursday 19 December. Instructions on how to access these timetables will also be available on the portal page. New students in Years 8 to 12 will have a copy of their timetable mailed to them. All students will receive a hardcopy of their timetable on their first day of school.

If you have any additional questions regarding reports or timetables please feel free to email me: sandj@tenison.catholic.edu.au

Jennie Sanderson | Assistant Principal – Student and Staff Development

CIM Team News



Sharing your Christmas

The 2019 Giving Tree is now in place in the Front Office at The College. We actively encourage families to support AC Care, Sunset Community Kitchen or Vinnies in their work to support local families in need. Unwrapped gifts, toiletry items and/or cash donations can be placed under the tree between now and the end of term. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity towards those in need within our community.

End of Year Mass

All families, parishioners and friends of the College are invited to attend the End of Year Mass on Thursday 28 November, 9:00am in the Barrie Holmes Stadium.

Blessing of the Crib

On Friday 29 November at 2:30pm the Junior School will celebrate the Blessing of the Crib in the Barrie Holmes Stadium. Fr. Dean will offer a prayer of blessing for all families as they enter into the Advent season. Students are encouraged to bring the crib from their Nativity Scene. If this is not possible just one piece from their nativity is fine.

Christmas Eve Vigil Family Mass

Would your child like to be involved in the Nativity play at the Christmas Eve Family Mass? Mass is on Tuesday 24 December at 6.00 pm, at St Paul's Church. Children who would like to be involved in the play are required to attend a rehearsal run by Father Dean and supported by a TWC teacher, on Saturday 21 December at St Paul's at 11.00am. Costumes for the play will be distributed at the rehearsal.

Participating in the Nativity play is a wonderful way for children to deepen their connection to the miracle of Christmas and be a part of the St Paul's community. We welcome all to be involved and attend.

Please reply to denys@tenison.catholic.edu.au if your child would like to be a part of the play.

Term 4 Masses at the College

All masses at the College are held in the Chapel at 9:00am on Thursdays unless stated otherwise. All are welcome to attend.

Week 7 (28 November) WHOLE SCHOOL END OF YEAR MASS
9:00am in Barrie Holmes Stadium

Week 8 (5 December) Year 6/7

Michelle Coote | APRIM – Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission





Library Buzz

Congratulations to all our students who successfully completed the 2019 Premier's Reading Challenge - now in its 16th year. 500 students from Reception through to Year 11 were part of 131,000 South Australian students completing the challenge in 2019 - an amazing achievement.

The Premier's Reading Challenge promotes regular reading as an important step in developing good literacy skills. The medals and certificates were given to classroom teachers last week to hand out and students can feel proud of their effort, commitment and achievement.

All library books and text books must be returned to the library by Friday 6 December of week eight. Class teachers and home group teachers will continue to be given student borrowing lists so that items can be identified and returned.

Where required, students will receive individual notices to return items they have borrowed out. Please don't hesitate to contact the Library if your student has any concerns with returning their items.

Alexandra Nicholson | Library Manager



Middle School Awards Ceremony Information

We invite all parents and carers of students in the Middle School to the Middle School Awards hosted in the Barry Holmes Stadium on Wednesday 4 December.

We will be acknowledging and celebrating all that has occurred throughout the year within the Middle School. The Year 9's will be individually acknowledged and celebrated as they transition from the Middle School to Senior School.

The middle years play an important role in the growth of your children and whilst challenges may occur, it is exploring how they have overcome these challenges and SHINE within their own journey.

We ask that you are seated in the Gym by 9:00am for a 9:10am start.

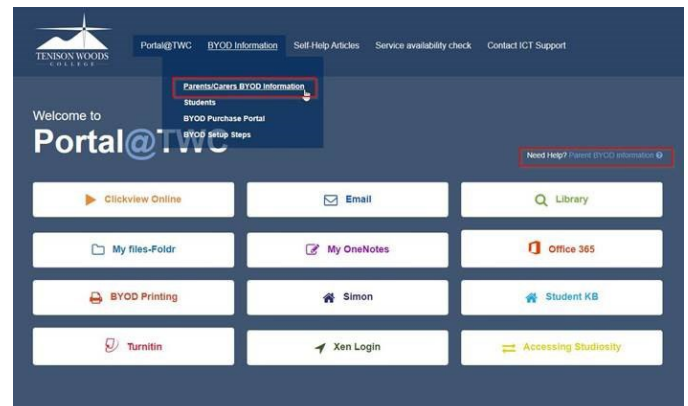
Nick Patzel | Head of Middle School



Playground Blitz – Saturday 7 December, 8:00am-12:00pm

Can you offer half an hour on Saturday 7 December for a working bee? During the working bee we are particularly looking to revitalise Junior School and Middle School play areas by painting all the equipment. The equipment is in desperate need of a face lift and we have the 'production line plan' to achieve it. All we need now are 50 people giving an hour of their time between 8:00am – 12:00pm and we will achieve a wonderful transformation of the playgrounds for our young. We'd love as much help as you can offer – any time you could spare would be appreciated.

All equipment will be provided. Morning tea and refreshments will be supplied with a BBQ available from 10:00am. For those able to assist on the day we ask that you please complete the online form via the [SkoolBag](#) app.



2020 Bring Your Own Device Information

Thinking about BYOD for 2020 Year 8-12 students?

With next year fast approaching, advertising for school ready laptops will increase towards Christmas and January and it's a good time to investigate and purchase a laptop for the 2020 school year.

To assist families, the Portal@TWC website contains useful information for families:

- Open the Portal@TWC site (tenison.catholic.edu.au/portaltwc, or Google 'Portal@TWC')
- Select the 'BYOD Information' then 'Parents/Carers' tab at the top to view a list of steps, including:
 - Information flyer.
 - Minimum requirements to meet.
 - Recommendation checklist of items and pricing points to consider, depending on Middle or Senior school use.
 - Purchase portal and shop recommendations.
 - Setup instructions for use at Tenison Woods College.

If you have any questions about BYOD or the school's ICT services, please contact the ICT department via the 'Contact ICT' tab on the Portal@TWC website.

Colin Langford | ICT Manager





2019 USA Basketball Tour

The bags are packed, the itineraries set and our 2019 USA Titans contingent are counting down the sleeps until they jet off this Saturday morning for the trip of a lifetime.

The journey will begin late this Friday night, when the group leaves Mount Gambier by bus, to begin their epic 23 day adventure. 34 students, staff and parents will embark on a sporting and cultural exchange of a lifetime that will see them travel to Canada and the West Coast of the USA - visiting Washington, Oregon, California & Hawaii! This year Canada has been included in the itinerary with students and staff looking forward to seeing the sights of Vancouver (and hopefully seeing some snow).

In a trip that's been two years in the making, with fundraising initiatives including the Titans Auction, vineyard work, wine drives, mince drives, cattle sales and after school sports, the trip has been a labour of love for its participants and families – and now the time has come for the fun part.

Follow their journey via their blog <https://2019usatitanstour.travel.blog> and follow our Facebook and Instagram page for regular updates.

Ciaran Buckley | Tour Coordinator & Head of Senior School



Pop Up Paul Exhibition

An exhibition of The Arts, Design and Technology has popped up throughout the College over the weekend with the inaugural Pop Up Exhibition 'Pop Up Paul' providing the opportunity for students to showcase their work throughout the College. With displays in the PRC Office, the PRC Common Room, on digital screens across the campus, in the Library, under the Sails and in the Front Office we would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to view some of the amazing work created by our students. Students work will be on display in Week 6 and 7 with some displays remaining until the end of the year.

Scott Dickson | Director of Learning



Purchasing additional 2018 College Yearbooks

If anybody would like to purchase an additional 2018 College Yearbook, the cost will be \$35.00. Please contact the Front Office to place your order.

Tracey Davey | Enrolment Registrar/Office Manager



Tess Wight wins Trisha Flett and Sally-Jane Allen Sports Scholarship

This scholarship commemorates the outstanding achievements of both Trisha Flett and Sally-Jane Allen, who both excelled in their selected sporting fields. Both girls tragically lost their lives in January of 1990 whilst travelling home from Albury after representing South Australia Country in the Australian Junior Basketball Cup. Following this incident, the sporting community of Mount Gambier collaborated to begin a fundraising campaign to establish a Sporting Scholarship to commemorate the girls' achievements.

Tess has proven to excel in her sporting field recently, that being cycling. Her recent accolades include South Australian State Team selections each year from 2017-2019, multiple National placings, and various achievements at a State Representative Level in both road and track cycling. Tess's future ambitions involve progressing higher into the representation levels, with her sights being set on earning a scholarship to the South Australian Institute of Sport (SASI), and then continuing on to be selected in the Australian U/19 Track Cycling Team, which will compete at the Junior World Championships. Tess has been training 10 – 15 hours per week with the aim of achieving her goals, which exhibits just how dedicated she is towards her sport. We congratulate Tess on this wonderful recognition and achievement.

Tori McIntyre | PE Administration Trainee



Year 10 Students support drug and alcohol prevention program

The Year 10 Integrated Learning substance misuse peer support students presented their practical to parents, staff and community members from the Limestone Coast Substance Misuse committee this week in order to complete the subject. In their groups that supported each of the Year 9 classes with the Climate School drug and alcohol preventative program last term, they shared their reflections and insights of their learnings from the course. Students highlighted their skills gained in positive communication, assertiveness, delay tactics along with education and statistics around alcohol and drugs. The P.A.R.T.Y prevent alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth program excursion to the hospital was shared as bringing the content and risks into reality to deepen their understandings. These students have completed this subject on top of their Year 10 studies and will receive 10 Stage 2 SACE credits as a result. We congratulate them on their commitment in completing the course to better equip themselves and others in the community.

Tania Sigley | Director of Wellbeing



Students dish up new play space

A group of senior school students have recently given their time to a very special project. Under the guidance of the College's Business, Enterprise & Technology Coordinator, Brad Colliver, the 6 boys worked to design and build a "Mud Kitchen" for reception student, Scarlett.

Scarlett is wheelchair-bound. The mud kitchen has been designed so that it is easily accessible for her. There is a sink and plenty of space to make mud cakes!

College Partner, One Forty One kindly donated the timber used to construct the fun play space.



2019 Trainees Cert III Certificate Presentation

Last week, Damien Wilson from Di-Monty Training Solutions presented our 2019 Trainees; Caitlyn Poel, Sienna Rossi, Tori McIntyre and Georgia Mustey with their certificates after completing their certificate III studies throughout the year. Darcey Passauer-Jones also received her certificate from TAFE. It was lovely to recognise the hard work and effort they have given to the college community this year. We wish them well with their future endeavours.

Tracey Davey | Office Manager



Year 11 Exams and End of Year

From today, Year 11 students have commenced the first official day of Year 12 for our 2020 graduating class

This means compulsory attendance for all students through to Friday 29 November as essential information (along with summative assessment tasks) will be introduced during this week. As a part of the week, Year 12 students will be participating in our end of year mass and meeting our 2020 Reception class from the Early Learning Centre as an introduction to our Reception - Year 12 Buddy Program. Normal school policy will apply for these days.

Ciaran Buckley | Head of Senior School



2019 Carols in the Church

Please be advised, Carols in the Church will be held on Thursday 5 December, starting at 6:30pm at St Pauls Church, Mount Gambier. It will be a gold coin donation at the door and candles will be for sale at the door or bring your own, no naked flames please.

Beth Creedy | Head of Music



Are you an Old Scholar?

Old scholars are an integral part of the history, tradition and future of Tenison Woods College.

We invite all old scholars, past parents, friends and former staff members to reconnect through our 'Friends of Tenison' committee.

Keep up to date with all the news in the College community.

Register your details today, via our [website](#).



Community
Noticeboard



See the Community Noticeboard for posters and notices of upcoming events within our College, and wider community.

Please click [here](#) to view this page.





Counsellor's Corner

Helping your teen deal with disappointment

Often dealing with disappointment at any age brings up some tough topics. While there are thrills of victory in life, there also is the agony of defeat and disappointment. It is hard to help teenagers handle the immense disappointment of failing their first driving test, losing a certain sports context, relationship breakdown or not getting the grades that they expected. To them it will seem in that moment, like the world is ending. For us who have been there, it will be a bump in the road and it is our responsibility as adults to help them navigate these pathways.

When our kids are dealing with disappointments, they may not know how to respond. How we guide our children through trials today, will help shape their future. Please read the full article [here](#).

Josie Ashby | Wellbeing Counsellor

Mairead Mackle and Laura Herbert | Student Counsellors



Reception Transition Visits

On Monday and Tuesday we warmly welcomed our 65 new 2020 Reception children to school, as part of their transition program. Our Year 5 students demonstrated their leadership skills as they buddied with the Receptions, presenting them with a beautifully written and decorated card and chatting with them about their interests. The Year 5s escorted the students and families to their Reception classroom, joining in class activities with their buddies to help them settle in. Our new Reception students also took home a booklet, prepared by our Wellbeing Coordinators, with photos of their teachers, classroom and important areas of the school, for reference during the long holiday break. We look forward to welcoming them back to school on Tuesday 28 January 2020 as they commence the school year.

Jill Rogers | Head of Junior School

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 27 November

- 5:30pm - 2020 Year 6 Parent Information Evening and Treasure Hunt

Thursday 28 November

- 2020 Year 12 Orientation Continues
- 9:00am - End of Year Mass, Barrie Holmes Stadium

Friday 29 November

- 2020 Year 12 Orientation Continues
- Last Day for Year 11
- 9:00am - Year 9 Hospitality Immersion Excursion, Sorrento's, She's Apples, Bakers Delight
- 1:20pm - Junior School Disco, Barrie Holmes Stadium
- 2:30pm - Junior School Assembly - 'Blessing of the Cribs', Barrie Holmes Stadium
- 6:00pm - 2019 Year 12 Graduation, The Barn Palais

Saturday 30 November

- USA Titans Basketball Trip Depart
- 6:00pm - Mass, St Paul's Catholic Church

Sunday 1 December

- First Sunday of Advent
- 11:00am - Mass, St Paul's Catholic Church
- 12:00pm - Year 8/9 Junior Boys Australian Basketball Nationals Tournament, Melbourne

Monday 2 December

- Year 10 In-Class Exams/Final Assessments
- 1:15pm - Year 7 Swimming Lessons, Aquatic Centre

Tuesday 3 December

- Year 10 In-Class Exams/Final Assessments Continue
- 9:15am - Year 5 Graduation Assembly, Barrie Holmes Stadium
- 1:15pm - Year 7 Swimming Lessons, Aquatic Centre

Wednesday 4 December

- Year 10 In-Class Exams/Final Assessments Continue
- 9:00am - Middle School Awards Ceremony, Barrie Holmes Stadium
- 1:15pm - Year 7 Swimming Lessons, Aquatic Centre

Uniform Shop

Regular Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 8.00am - 12.00pm

Thursday: 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Holiday Trading Hours:

Tuesday 21 January 2020 9.00am – 12.30pm & 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Wednesday 22 January 2020 9.00am – 12.30pm & 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Thursday 23 January 2020 9.00am – 12.30pm & 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Friday 24 January 2020 9.00am – 12 noon

Normal trading hours will resume from Tuesday 28 January.

A reminder that Students are required to wear their Summer Uniforms for Term 4. Hats must also be worn from the beginning of Term 4.

Contact Us:

E: thecollegeshop@tenison.catholic.edu.au

T: (08) 8724 4637

Canteen Roster - Week 7, Term 4

For those rostered to work in the canteen, your starting time is 10:00am and your finishing time is 2:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact the Canteen Manager, Leanne Sandow. Thank you for your assistance.

Monday - T.B.A

Tuesday - Cassie Edwards

Wednesday - Marlene Dean

Thursday - Kate Pohlner

Friday - Bernie Passauer

Please note: Lunch order bags can only be used once, they are not reusable.

