

Weekly Newsletter



Early Learning to Year 12
Co-Educational Catholic College

Shepherdson Road
PO Box 965, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Telephone (08) 8725 5455
Facsimile (08) 8724 9303

Email: news@tenison.catholic.edu.au

www.tenison.catholic.edu.au

Cricos Provider Code: 01751G

ABN 25 508 850 572

2022 Orientation Days

Welcome to our Community!

This week the College was full of new faces, as it welcomed the 2022 Reception and Year 8 students for their orientation visits!

The Reception students embraced meeting their new teachers and class mates. They drew pictures, painted, read stories and got to experience the playground. They enjoyed spending time with their Year 4 buddies. The College looks forward to the ELCC children continuing their journey at Tenison Woods College and a warm welcome to the new Reception children for 2022.

The Year 8 students got involved in lots of elective classes and activities to give them an idea of what Year 8 has in store for them at the College in 2022. Activities included cooking delicious food, playing games in the Barrie Holmes Stadium and making music (to name a few), all while learning more about their classmates for next year!

A great opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with their classrooms and the College grounds, Tenison Woods College can't wait to see everyone back for 2022.





From the Principal

Vinnies Ladies – 100 Years of Committed Service

Congratulations to the “Vinnies” Ladies! Last Saturday Archbishop Patrick O’Regan celebrated a thanksgiving Mass for the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies’ Conference of St Vincent de Paul in Mount Gambier.

I add to the chorus of congratulations and thanks to the current members of the conference who continue this wonderful service of the poor in our community. We also acknowledge all the past members of the conference, and we especially remember and pray for all those who have passed to eternal life. May they rest in peace knowing that we stand confidently on their shoulders of service, compassion and dedication.

May this example of devotion to the poor inspire us all to see and respond to the face of Christ in everyone, especially those in need in our midst. As a school community may we do all we can to support the ongoing work of all involved with the mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

I also thank the Tenison Woods College staff and students who played a significant part in preparing for and honouring this significant milestone in the life of our community.

Advent begins – Open to Christ in our Lives

The Season of Advent begins this Sunday 28 November, 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 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, social activities 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.

The Giving Tree

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.

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.*



Pictured above: 2020 Giving Tree

COVID-19 Immunisation Clinics

Thank you for your support of the SA Health COVID-19 vaccination program at Tenison Woods College this week, for students aged 12 and above. Clinics are being held today through to Friday 26 November 9:00am to 4:00pm. Vaccinations will be for Staff 3:00pm to 4:00pm each day.

On Saturday, November 27 the Community Vaccination Day will be held for the second time here at the College, which will be open to the wider public on a walk-in basis. Students, staff and the public can have their first or second COVID-19 injection on this days.

HHDL Four Point Plan

I thank you thus far for your attention to HHDL Four Point Plan; good health, good hygiene and hand washing, good distancing and care for others and good learning regardless of student location. This approach has stood us in good stead for twenty months, and I ask that we all continue deliberately with the HHDL approach, now more than ever, as border barriers are reduced. As always we remain alert, not alarmed.

Carpark Care and Phone Usage

SAPOL officers have completed some traffic duties around the College campus. Parents have been ‘cautioned’ in the “kiss and drop” line for using their mobile phones, and as such I remind our community of the legal imperatives regarding telephone usage in cars:

“The driver of a vehicle must not use a mobile phone while the vehicle is moving, or is stationary but not parked, unless:

- (a) the phone is being used to make or receive an audio phone call and the body of the phone
 - (i) is secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle while being so used; or
 - (ii) is not secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle and is not being held by the driver, and the use of the phone does not require the driver, at any time while using it, to press anything on the body of the phone or to otherwise manipulate any part of the body of the phone.”

The fines are quite hefty – currently at \$646.00 (inclusive of a victim of crime levy) and three (3) demerit points, so I urge our community to pay due diligence to this issue for the safety of all, not least our young.

Senior School Awards Celebration

The Senior School Awards Celebration on Friday 26 November in the Barrie Holmes Stadium is a significant milestone in the learning journey of our senior students and a time to reflect on how we have made the ordinary extraordinary.

Year 12 Graduation

The Year 12 Graduation on Friday 3 December from 6:30pm at the Barn Palais is not only an opportunity to celebrate the journey of the students in our community over the years, but also an opportunity to wish them well as they greet life and take their place in our community.

BYOD – YEAR 6 Families, ready for Year 7 in 2022

As the year flies by and we look towards 2022, I remind families that if they are thinking about purchasing a device for next year, to check out our Bring Your Own Device page on our website. The link is attached [here](#).

You can also find this page in SEQTA Engage by choosing the Portals option and selecting BYOD Parent / Guardian Information.

With the current COVID-19 situation and associated wait times for products, we encourage families to think about their child’s needs a little earlier than they might to ensure that the device is ready for the start of 2022.

Key dates for the commencement of 2022:

I inform our College community of dates to commence the 2022 academic year:

Wednesday 26 January 2022	Australia Day Public Holiday
Thursday 27 January 2022	All Teaching Staff commence
Friday 28 January 2022	Book collection day and Staff planning day
Monday 31 January 2022	Reception, Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 commence Term 1.
Tuesday 1 February 2022	All other students commence Term 1.

God Bless,
David Mezinec | Principal



CIM Team News

St Paul's Parish Rosary Group

The St Paul's Parish Rosary Group meet weekly to make rosary beads that are sent across the country and world. Before COVID, they would come into Tenison Woods College once a week at lunch times and work with students to make rosary beads that were blessed and taken to Timor Leste on the College's annual visit. Every year, they also make rosary beads that are given to our Year 12's at their final Mass as a way of expressing the parish's continued love, support and prayers as they move into the world beyond school.

Recently, Stacey Bradley's Year 4 class were learning about and praying the Rosary together. Members of the class were eager to have a set of their own rosary beads and were excited to receive a handmade set from the Parish Rosary Group. As a way of saying thank you, the Year 4's presented the group with beautiful cards to express their gratitude. From our College community, we thank the Parish Rosary Group for their continued support, prayers and dedication to our College and look forward to working with them in 2022.



St Paul's Parish Rosary Group

St Vinnie's Ladies Conference

2021 marks 100 years since the St Vincent de Paul Society Ladies Conference in Mount Gambier began. With a long legacy of wonderful service in Mount Gambier and surrounding districts, the Ladies Conference continues to live out the work that Blessed Frederic Ozanam envisioned when he started the Society over 200 years ago.

The Ladies Conference marked the occasion with a special Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and concelebrated by Fr Dean Marin, Fr Peter Fountain and Deacon Olek Stirrat, followed by an afternoon tea and the cutting of a special cake.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Vinnies as a College community in the years to come and congratulate the Ladies Conference on this special milestone.

Faith Facts

Do you the answer to the last Faith Facts question for this year?

Find out the answer in next week's newsletter!

Family Mass

The final Family Mass for the year will be held at 11:00am on Sunday 28 November at St Paul's Church. We would love for children to help with the reading. Please let Cisca Teodoro or myself know if you are able to help out in any way. Families of the College are encouraged to attend this vibrant celebration.

Little Lambs Open Day

The Little Lambs Faith Formation program is inviting young families to an open day on Thursday 9 December, from 9:30am - 11:30am. There will be a variety of activities available for pre-school children (3-5 year old) as well as junior primary school children (6-8 year old) in the hall and St Joseph room. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please contact Cisca at the parish office or the Little Lamb Coordinators on mgp.littlelambs1@gmail.com.

New Altar Servers

The Altar Server Ministry is inviting children who are interested in altar serving

to come along to their initial formation day which will be held on Saturday 11 December from 2:00pm - 3:30pm. During this time, the children will be shown how to serve at Sunday Mass and be given some background information about the role of the altar server. Parents will be required to stay for the first part of the session to be briefed upon the expectations. As part of the formation program, children will be required to serve every weekend from then until Christmas time. Please note that this invitation is for children who have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Please see Deacon Olek if your child is interested, or email mgp.altarservers@gmail.com.

Sharing your Christmas - the Krist Kindl Giving Tree

What can your family give to the 'Christ Child' this year? When we give to others in need, we are remembering the gifts of the Three Wise Men to the baby Jesus, whose birth was a great gift to us all. As Jesus loved, we show through selfless giving that we love others, including those we don't know.

The Krist Kindl Giving Tree will be set up in the Front Office at Tenison Woods College in the coming weeks. We actively encourage families to support AC.Care, Sunset Community Kitchen and 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.

We will also be supporting the Community Christmas Lunch held on Christmas Day. Staff will be donating toiletries and wrapped chocolates and/or lollies to be placed into gift bags for those attending. Any families who would also like to contribute items for this event can do so by placing them under the Krist Kindl Giving Tree with the gifts.

To also raise money for the Krist Kindl Giving Tree the College will be holding a number of fundraiser activities:

- Thursday 25 November Junior School Disco
Gold Coin donation to be collected in the morning by class teachers
- Friday 26 November Year 7 and 8 Back to the 80's dress up day
Gold Coin donation to be collected in the morning by class teachers.
- Friday 3 December Lunchtime Market Stalls Under the sails
Items to be sold for gold coins.

Christmas Hampers and Toys

St Vincent de Paul Society Mount Gambier are now taking registrations for Christmas Hampers and toys for families who are struggling financially due to loss of income or employment. The Society is there to lend a hand in helping families celebrate the birth of Christ like others do. Please ring Vinnies on 8724 9322 to make a confidential appointment to discuss your family's needs this Christmas.

Sacramental Program 2022

The Mount Gambier Catholic Parish recently held their Enrolment Night for families planning to enrol in the Parish Sacramental Program for 2022. During the Sacramental Program students, together with their families, will be prepared for full initiation into the Catholic Church by the celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. There is also an opportunity for Baptism to be included in this program if requested. All enrolment forms are due to be returned to the Parish Office by Friday 3 December.

Please contact Cisca Teodoro, Parish Sacramental Coordinator, on 8725 6566 or mgpsacraments@bigpond.com for further information.

Blessing of the Crib

On Friday 26 November, the Early Learning Centre and Junior School will celebrate the Blessing of the Crib in the Barrie Holmes Stadium during their assembly at 2:00pm. Fr Dean will say 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 or if this is not possible just one piece from their nativity.

Term 4 Masses at the College Chapel

A Mass is held each Thursday of the term and is led by a different class or year level each week. Mass is held at 9:15am in the College Chapel. Until further notice, due to current restrictions, only staff members and students of the College are permitted to attend.

The roster for Term 4 Masses:

- Week 7 Thursday 25 November - Year 10
- Week 8 Thursday 2 December - Year 6

Chloe Shanahan | Religious Education Coordinator





Jack Domaszcz Gains Carpentry Apprenticeship

Congratulations to 2021 Year 11 student Jack Domaszcz on securing a carpentry apprenticeship with Hallecon Builders! Jack secured his apprenticeship after impressing during his week of work experience with the company.

Congratulations, Jack, we wish you all the best in your bright future!

Pictured is Mother Kathryn, Jack and Head of Senior School Ciaran Buckley.



Year 5 Girls Participate in AFL Crows Cup

On Wednesday 17 November a group of Year 5 girls made their way to Blue Lake Sports Park to participate in a round robin AFL cup run by the Adelaide Crows. The girls got to meet Sam Jacobs a former Crows player and participated in a range of skills development tasks to begin the day. After recess they played four games against Reidy Park, St Martins and Glenburnie Primary School. It was a very enjoyable day watching the girls and their skills develop as the day went on. They won 2 of their 4 games and showed excellent team work. Thanks to Titan and Paddy for coming along to umpire for the day.

Donna Johnson | Year 5 Teacher



Isabelle Bidese Highland Dancing Award

Well done to Year 8 student, Isabelle Bidese, as she recently received the 'Endeavour Award' for her Highland Dancing! Isabelle has shown great commitment and hard work during the year, also receiving Honours for both of her exams.

Well done, Isabelle!



Year 3 Storm Boy Projects

After reading the novel 'Storm Boy' by Colin Thiele, students were asked to design a replica of Hide-Away Tom and Storm Boy's humpy. It was a rough little humpy made of wood and flattened sheets of iron from old times. It had a dirt floor, two blurry bits of glass for windows and a little crooked chimney made of stove pipes and wire. Well done to students on their amazing end-results!

Stacy McCourt | Year 3 Teacher



Campbell Graney Secures Electrical Apprenticeship

Congratulations to 2021 Year 11 student Campbell Graney on securing an electrical apprenticeship with Borg Manufacturing Mount Gambier.

Campbell secured his apprenticeship after completing multiple weeks of work experience, one of which was at Borg Manufacturing, leading him to be offered his Certificate III Electrical Apprenticeship. Whilst completing his work experience, Campbell gained experience in many aspects of the trade including commercial and industrial work, safety inspections, and maintenance on machinery.

Congratulations Campbell, we wish you all the best in your bright future!

Pictured is Head of Senior School Ciaran Buckley, Campbell and his parents Stacey and Rohan.

Writers SA No Limits Program

This is a locally based writing opportunity for young people aged 12-29. Selected writers will be paid to respond to their experience of living in the Limestone Coast in 500-1000 words of their choosing — the challenges and hardships of being a young person in a regional location but also the joy, freedom, and unparalleled beauty that is the Limestone Coast. The five commissioned writers will be given the opportunity to perform their work as part of the Our Words, Our Town film creation — their words spoken as the script to the Limestone Coast, filmed across the region and accompanied by the choreographed dance routines of Lewis Major Projects, to be showcased at both the Mount Gambier Fringe and across the Limestone Coast in 2022.

Registration and further information, including the dates for the workshops, are available [here](#).

Students can contact myself for information at loyc@tenison.catholic.edu.au.

Chris Lloyd | Online Assessment Coordinator

Year 6 Camp

The Year 6 cohort recently attended a 5-day camp to Adelaide and Wellington. We had a jam-packed schedule whilst in Adelaide which included a visit to AFL Max, Bounce, Adelaide Oval, Government House, The Art Gallery, Museum, and the Adelaide Zoo.

We then spent two nights down at Wellington where students were challenged to push themselves out of their comfort zone by completing several different challenges. These challenges included rock climbing, a giant swing, raft building, canoeing, laser tag, archery, and various vertical challenges.

It was wonderful to see students collaborating and being so encouraging of everyone in their group.

A big thank you to the parents who came along, giving up a week of their time to spend with 90 students and to Mrs Dickson for taking a week out of her very busy schedule to support the students and staff on this camp.

Allana Madigan | Year 6 Teacher





Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair is underway! Students have loved the variety of books available. The Book Fair will be open for families to visit at the following times:

Wednesday 24 November - Friday 26 November
8:30am - 8:55am
3:20pm - 3:45pm

The Book Fair is set up in the Front Office; be sure to drop by and see the books on offer!

If you have any questions regarding the Book Fair, please contact me via email myself at mccos@tenison.catholic.edu.au.

Stacy McCourt | Year 3 Teacher



OSHC Makeover

You might have noticed that our OSHC space has had a mini makeover this week. Both the children and educators are thrilled with the results.

We have provided children with the opportunity to develop agency and choice in the experiences that they choose, as well as provide a space for children to relax in, collaborate and enjoy their time in OSHC.

With Vacation Care fast approaching we are excited to welcome your child to OSHC and hope they continue to enjoy the refreshed space.

Sarah Seebohm | OSHC Director



Upcoming Events:

Thursday 25 November

- COVID-19 Vaccinations, Boardroom
- 2022 Year 12 Beginning of Year
- Scholastic Book Fair, 8:30am - 8:55am and 3:20pm - 3:45pm, Admin Foyer
- Junior School Disco, Barrie Holmes Stadium
- 2022 Junior School Transitions, 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Friday 26 November

- COVID-19 Vaccinations, Boardroom
- 2022 Year 12 Beginning of Year
- Scholastic Book Fair, 8:30am - 8:55am and 3:20pm - 3:45pm, Admin Foyer
- 2021 CARPathon, 9:00am - 3:00pm, Valley Lakes
- Reception - Year 3 Liturgies, Chapel
- Senior School Awards, 9:00am - 10:15pm, Barrie Holmes Stadium
- Sorrentos Language Excursion, 12:40pm - 3:20pm, Sorrentos Cafe
- Junior School Assembly Blessing of the Crib, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Barrie Holmes Stadium

Saturday 27 November

- Parish Mass, 5:00pm, St Paul's Church

Sunday 28 November

- Parish Mass, 11:00am, St Paul's Church

Monday 29 November

- 2021 Year 7 - 12 Art Exhibition, Board Room Corridor
- 2022 Year 7 Orientation Day
- Year 10 In Class Exams/Final Assessments

Tuesday 30 November

- 2021 Year 7 - 12 Art Exhibition, Boardroom Corridor
- 2022 Year 7 Orientation Day
- Year 10 In Class Exams/Final Assessments

Wednesday 1 December

- 2021 Year 7 - 12 Art Exhibition, Boardroom Corridor
- Year 10 In Class Exams/Final Assessments
- 2022 Junior School Transitions, 2:00pm - 3:15pm



Sophie and Jemma Traineeships

2021 Year 12 students, Jemma and Sophie both recently commenced their Certificate III in Business Traineeships; the first time in Group Training Employment's history that they have had twin sisters start a traineeship in the same qualification on the same day!

Sophie is completing hers with St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Millicent and Jemma is completing hers with CBRE at the Millicent Kimberly-Clark site. Well done, Jemma and Sophie!

Photos courtesy of the Group Training Employment Facebook page.

