



Open Heart Open Arms

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024 WEEK 9 , TERM 4

END OF YEAR EVENTS!

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Wishing everyone a Holy Christmas

And a safe and joyous New Year
From the Tenison Woods College Community



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



End Of Term 4 Is Today - Normal Finishing Times



LET
YOUR
light
SHINE



From the Principal



Rites of Passage in the Junior School, Poplars and Middle School

The Junior School Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Poplars Concert on Monday 9 December, and the Middle School Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 10 December were wonderful community celebrations and rites of passage. Thank you to the PR and Events Team, ICT Team, Heads of School, Francesca Dickson and Nick Patzel, and Poplars Coordinators, Natasha Davis and Alex Window, as well as the respective teaching staff for planning and presenting the celebrations. It was wonderful to see the students acknowledged and celebrated for their achievements, but also in their time of transition.

The Year 9 End of Year Celebration Tuesday evening 10 December was another wonderful rite of passage event, and a poignant reminder of just how fast our young develop and how precious, as it is fleeting, is this time with them. Thank you to Nick Patzel, Madi Jones, Chris Raymond and the Year 9 staff for their efforts this year in creating the 9Shine program, leading to the 9Shine camp and the significant family event for our young.

During the Year 6 and Year 9 graduations, I asked the audience to think about how they have been and what they have done this year, as we have worked hard this year to be a community with an "open heart and open arms."

I focused on how we have SHINED:

- S – *striving to be successful and you giving it your best*
- H – *helping others to be their best*
- I – *getting involved, and were in the flow*
- N – *when you were known by name, seen and valued*
- E – *enjoying positive emotions*
- + – *being healthy and nourished your body*

And how we have done the TWC SWAGger to do our best:

- S for Skills – *applied skills for others*
- W for Work ethic – *tried hard and didn't give up*
- A for Attitude – *attitude effected the attitude of those around them.*
- G – the Game – *we knew what was important and that our God was right by their side. We remember God's game is a game of respect and care for others.*

We say every learner has a place – SHINE

Every learner has a pathway – use your SWAG / GER

So I thanked our students and staff for their efforts of SHINING and SWAGGER, which has left a lasting impression on the fabric and story of our community; who we are and what we value. I thanked the community for stepping up to "open our heart and open our arms" to bring out the best in others so that others SHINE and SWAGGER.



Jennie Sanderson Junior School Leadership Award

During the Year 6 Graduation Celebration we presented the inaugural Jennie Sanderson Junior School Leadership Award. Mrs Jennie Sanderson served the community for 24 years as teacher, Director of Wellbeing, and Assistant Principal,

leaving a wonderful legacy of care for families and staff, that is the hallmark of our Tenison Woods College family. She helped us be who we are today.

The Jennie Sanderson award acknowledges the significant contribution of Jennie Sanderson, whose efforts laid the foundation for a Tenison Woods community that appreciates the nuances of a thriving community, built on the power of relationships, care for others and a commitment to deliberately building community. The Jennie Sanderson Junior School Leadership Award acknowledges a female and male Junior school student who have made a significant personal contribution to the wellbeing of their fellow students and the College Junior School community through their relationships, commitment and leadership.

I invited Ms Laura Herbert, one of our College Counsellors and close friend of Jennie, to present the award to two very worthy recipients, Caitlin Barry and Luke Olivier.

ELCC Graduations – Stepping up from Stepping Stones

This week we will enjoy four Early Learning and Community Centre Graduations, on Thursday 12 December at 10:00am and 2:00pm, which mark a significant

transition for the young children of our community. The children are stepping from the Stepping Stones Program (Kindergarten) to Reception.

I thank the ELCC staff who, under Frances Scanlon and Angela Cutting's passionate, experienced and nuanced leadership, have created a warm, inviting and engaging centre. I trust our children, who are well prepared for reception, confidently enjoy the benefits of our R-12 school community and look with fondness on their learning and care in the ELCC.

Book Collection

Students in Years R-6 will have Book Collection Day at school on Thursday 23 January 2025. Books can be collected from their new classroom between 8:30am-10:30am, and 12:30pm-1:30pm.

Year 7-12 stationery can be purchased from any location. As part of the College's focus on sustainability we encourage, where possible, to reuse folders or stationery from previous years.

Booklists have been distributed to your child and will be followed up with a Broadcast to parents.

School Commencement Days for 2025

Reception, Year 7, 10, 11, 12 and Poplars students will commence school on Tuesday 28 January (after the Australia Day Public Holiday) with all other Year levels starting the school year on Wednesday 29 January, 2025. We also invite all parents, and particularly new parents to a Welcome Morning Tea in the College Staff Room at 9:00am on 29 January.

School Front Office Opening Hours

The Front office will be closed Friday, 13 December for our Whole Staff Development Day, and then closing for the year on Friday 20 December 2024 and reopening Monday 13 January 2025.

2025 School Calendar

The 2025 Tenison Woods College School Calendar will be available on the Tenison Woods College Website at, <https://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/newsroom/calendar> accessed through SEQTA and will be emailed to families from 16 December 2024.

Timetables for Year 8 to Year 12

Timetables will be available for students to view through their SEQTA Portal page from Wednesday, 18 December 2024. New Year 7 to 12 students will have a copy of their timetable mailed to them.

School reports

Parents will be able to access End of Year Reports via SEQTA on Wednesday 11 December, students will be able to access their End of Year Reports the same day via SEQTA. Reports can be downloaded as a .PDF file and viewed on a device or a computer and printed, if a hardcopy is preferred.

BYOD – YEAR 6 Families, ready for Year 7 in 2025

As the year flies by and we look to 2025, 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:

<https://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/byod-information/byod-purchase-portal>

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

We encourage families to think about their child's needs a little earlier than they might normally to ensure that the device is ready for the start of 2025.

Planning Stage 3 of our Master Plan

Behind the scenes over the past eighteen months a consultation and financial planning process has occurred to plan the next stage of our Master Plan. We are enacting a bold master plan that accentuates our ecological footprint well into the future and ensures the very best experiences for our young for many years. Next year we will finalise approvals of stage 3 of our Master Plan, accentuating Health, Physical Education, Outdoor Education and Performing Arts, and we will commence the building process during the year.

God Bless,

David Meziniec | Principal



CIM Team News

Sharing your Christmas – the Krist Kindl Giving Tree

Today, the Krist Kindl Giving Tree gifts and donations were collected by representatives from Vinnies and ac.Care. They spoke with gratitude and thanks for the generosity of our school community and the difference our donations will make in the community this Christmas.

We will also be supporting the Community Christmas Lunch held on Christmas Day and the Sunset Community Kitchen in the lead up to Christmas. We would like to thank all families and staff who have so generously supported the Tenison Woods College Krist Kindl Giving Tree this year.

Youth Mass

The final Youth Mass for the year will take place this Saturday, 14 December, at 6pm at St Paul's Church. To celebrate a great year, the Youth Group has been invited to enjoy a game of mini golf at the Blue Lake Golf Links before Mass.

Christmas Mass Times

Please find below the timetable of Christmas Mass times for the South East Deanery.

The 6:00 pm Mass at St. Paul's on Tuesday, 24 December will be a family mass. This special celebration will feature the St Paul's Children's Choir leading the music.

We warmly invite you to join us for this joyous occasion as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas together.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tues, 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

6PM ST ALPHONSUS', MILLICENT
6PM ST PAUL'S, MT GAMBIER
6PM ST JOSEPH'S, PENOLA
8PM ST PAUL'S, MT GAMBIER
MIDNIGHT MASS ST PAUL'S, MT GAMBIER

Wed, 25 Dec - Christmas Day

9AM ST AUGUSTINE'S, PT MACDONNELL
9AM ST BRIGID'S, BEACHPORT
10AM ST THERESE'S, KINGSTON S.E.
11AM ST PAUL'S, MT GAMBIER
11AM STAR OF THE SEA, ROBE

Parish Carols

A Festival of Carols and Readings will be held in St Paul's Church on Wednesday, 18th December, commencing at 7.00pm. Carols will be led by the Parish Choir, Scripture readings will be read by parishioners, and Fr Peter will do the Homily. Following the Carols, supper will be available in the Deanery Gardens. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thank you for 2024

As the school year comes to a close, we enter the final weeks of Advent—a time of joyful anticipation and reflection. This sacred season invites us to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas and the gift of Christ's love. May this Advent be a time of peace, hope, and togetherness for all in our school community. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful holiday season with your loved ones.



Please Observe Road Signs

The Shepherdson Road entrance after school can be very busy. For everyone's safety cars are not to overtake in the driveway if you are wanting to access Gilap Wanga or Poplars, please use the White Ave entrance. If you are collecting children from ELC please be patient alternatively park in Marist Park. Please observe road signs.

Trudi Dempsey | WHS Coordinator



Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday 12 December

- ELCC Kindy Graduations - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Student Free Day

Friday 13 December

- OSHC Open
- ELCC Closure Day
- Student Free Day

Monday 16 December

- SACE Results Day
- School Holidays
- Board and Leadership End Of Year Dinner

Tuesday 17 December

- ELCC Community Christmas Celebration
- School Holidays

Wednesday 18 December

- School Holidays

Thursday 19 December

- School Holidays
- ELCC Last Day
- OSHC Last Day

Friday 20 December

- School Holidays
- ELCC Closed
- OSHC Closed
- Office Closes

Wednesday 25 December

- Christmas Day

Thursday 26 December

- Proclamation Day

Key dates for the commencement of 2025

Wednesday 22 January 2025 All Teaching Staff commence
 Thursday 23 January 2025 Book collection day and staff planning day
 Monday 27 January 2025 Australia Day Public Holiday
 Tuesday 28 January 2025 Poplars, Rec, Years 7, 10, 11, 12 commence Term 1.
 Wednesday 29 January 2025 Years 1-6 and Years 8 and 9 commence Term 1.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Monday, we acknowledged our Year 6 students, as they graduated from our Junior School into our Middle School! Our Head of Junior School, Mrs. Francesca Dickson was our MC for the event, and farewelled students from the Junior School. Words of encouragement and thanks were also given by Principal Mr. David Mezinac, and Head of Middle School, Mr. Nick Patzel, who welcomed students into the Middle School in 2025 as they commence Year 7. The Inaugural **Jennie Sanderson Junior School Leadership Award** was announced, with Luke Olivier and Caitlin Barry the first recipients of this very special award.

Our 2025 Junior School Student Leaders were announced. Congratulations to these students in their new roles next year! The winner of the 2024 House Cup was awarded to the Woods house, who finished the year on 9994 points! Runner-up was McAuley, followed by MacKillop and Champagnat.



YEAR 6 GRADUATION CEREMONY



MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Middle School Awards were held on Tuesday, to acknowledge students ending their Middle School journey and prepare for Senior School, as well as presenting several awards to deserving students.

Students and staff enjoyed a great Musical Performance by Year 6 student Filumena Ochudzawa to *"Nocturne in C# Minor" by F. Chopin*.

We also acknowledged our 2024 Year 9 Leadership team, as well as announcing our new Year 9 Leadership team for 2025!

Congratulations to all students on completing their Middle School journey!



MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY





Catholic School Parents
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear You,

As the school year winds down and the textbooks are put away, I want to remind you of something that truly matters: you are so much more than your results.

Your results? They don't define you.

Don't get me wrong, it's great to try hard and aim high. But those numbers on a report card don't show the full picture. They don't measure your kindness, your sense of humour, or the way your smile can light up a room. They don't capture the moments you helped a friend, stood up for what was right, or worked hard at something even when it felt impossible.

Results don't define you. They're just one small part of your story. What truly defines you is how you treat others, how much you care, and the way you pick yourself up after a stumble.

What truly matters is who you are.

Are you curious about the world? Do you dream big, even if those dreams seem a little wild? Do you treat people with respect, and do you bounce back when life throws you a curveball? Because those are the things that will carry you far in life—farther than any test score or award ever could.

And guess what? You don't have to have it all figured out. Nobody does. You're allowed to change your mind (again and again). And you are allowed to love them all. They will all have a different chapter in your story, play a different part.

Love one thing today, then discover something completely new tomorrow. Life isn't about sticking to a rigid plan—it's about the journey, the twists and turns, and finding the things that make your heart sing. Want to change your mind a hundred times? Go for it. Choose a new career? Great. Take a detour on your path to what makes you happy? I'll cheer you on the whole way. For me, it's waking up excited because I get to do something I love every day. That's what I hope for you—not a perfect score, but a life filled with passion and purpose.

So, as you finish this school year, know this: I'm proud of you. Not because of what's written on a piece of paper, but because of the person you're becoming. That's what matters most.

**With love,
Every Parent**

**- Trish Jarvis, Executive Officer
Catholic School Parents South Australia**

YEAR 6 DISCO

After their Graduation Ceremony on Monday, our Year 6 cohort danced the night away at the St. Paul's Hall! Students enjoyed snacks, pizza and of course, music, dancing and games! On Tuesday, students continued their celebrations with swimming at Wulanda! A great finish to a wonderful year. A huge thanks to the dedicated staff for their care and really going the extra mile to make this an unforgettable year for our Year 6's.



CAROLS IN THE CHURCH

Our musicians and singers lit up Saint Paul's Church with the annual Carols in the Church last Thursday. Congratulations to the many bands, choirs and vocal ensembles who were on display and to their music teachers for preparing a beautiful program of music. Thank you to all the families and friends that came along to support the night.



BUDDY CLASSES MAKE REINDEER COOKIES

Mrs Bateman's Year 7 class and Mrs McCourt's Year 3 class have had a wonderful time participating in buddy activities throughout the year. This week, they came together for a festive cooking session, where they had a great time decorating biscuits in the shape of reindeer. It has been lovely to witness the students forming meaningful connections that extend beyond the classroom. These hands-on activities have not only fostered creativity but have also provided opportunities for students to build friendships in a fun and engaging environment. For some students, the joy and enthusiasm shared by the students during these sessions have been their highlight of the year.





we're still here for you this holiday period!

We will be open across the holiday period,
offering appointments via our talk-soon program.
Same day appointments available by walking in or
contacting us to book your appointment on the day.

Appointments available in-person, online or via phone.

Monday 23/12	9.30am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 24/12	9.30am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 25/12	CLOSED
Thursday 26/12	CLOSED
Friday 27/12	9.00am - 5.00pm
Monday 30/12	9.30am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 31/12	9.30am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 1/12	CLOSED
Thursday 2/1	9.30am - 5.30pm
Friday 3/1	9.00am - 5.00pm



8725 0443



171 Commercial Street East
Mount Gambier





Unlock Your Potential: The Power Of Learning An Instrument!

At Tenison Woods College, we believe in nurturing every student's potential, and one of the best ways to do that is by encouraging the learning of musical instruments.

Did you know that learning music does more than just sound amazing? It can help improve your brainpower, especially in literacy and numeracy! According to Bigger Better Brains, playing an instrument strengthens the parts of your brain that help with reading, writing, and even solving math problems. When you practice music, you're training your brain to listen carefully, recognize patterns, and think creatively—skills that are essential for success in school.

Here's how learning an instrument can help:

- 1. Boosts Literacy Skills:** Playing music helps develop strong listening and language skills. When you read music, you're learning a new language, and this can make it easier to understand reading and writing in the classroom.
- 2. Enhances Numeracy:** Music is full of patterns and rhythms, which are directly linked to math. Counting beats, reading music timing, and recognizing patterns all work together to boost your math skills!
- 3. Improves Focus and Memory:** Learning an instrument requires focus and practice, which helps strengthen your memory and attention—two key factors that help you do better in all areas of school.
- 4. Encourages Creativity:** Music allows you to express yourself in new and exciting ways. It challenges your brain to think differently, which can help you solve problems and come up with fresh ideas in all subjects.

By choosing to learn an instrument, you're not just becoming a better musician—you're setting yourself up for success in all your studies.

So, whether you're interested in singing, drums, piano, brass, woodwind or string instruments, know that each practice session; each instrumental lesson; and each ensemble or choir rehearsal, is helping you become a better learner! Let's make music together and watch how it helps you grow in every way!

Follow the link to the **2025 Vocal and Instrumental Application Form** to register your interest: <https://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/music>

You can also contact a music staff member to find out more. We would love to hear from you!

Tameka Nube and Sarah Raymond | Performing Arts



A Heartfelt Tribute from Spark Choir

Our incredible Year 2 students in Spark Choir have prepared a truly special performance of "Better Place" to share their gratitude and appreciation for all the wonderful people who light up their lives.

Through the power of song, they celebrate the love, kindness, and connection that makes our world brighter. Join us in thanking the special people in your life as we enjoy this touching performance.

Click the image above to view the video.



Precious Plastic Students Shine

This semester in Year 9 Precious Plastic, students have explored sustainable practices in the use and recycling of plastic. Students designed products utilising the recycled material from our Recology Centre before constructing their product. The class then worked collaboratively to design and build 3 hand ball practice targets for the AFLW & AFL squad with increasing degrees of difficulty.

Judy Jenkin | Teacher



ELCC Recycled Milk Bottle Christmas Tree

Our Early Learning And Community Centre have sent a powerful message to our young, using recycled milk bottles to create a christmas tree! Children are learning about care for the planet from an early age. Well done!

YEAR 4 AND YEAR 8 BUDDIES MAKING MILO BALLS



END OF TERM! SCHOOL IS OUT FOR 2024!



GIVING TREE PRESENTATION



9SHINE GRADUATION

We said farewell to our Year 9 students from Middle School with the 9SHINE Finale and Graduation on last night. Parents and caregivers learnt about the values that inspired the 9SHINE experience and also watched a video highlighting the new friendships created, the comfort zones broken and personal developments throughout the year in preparation for the camp. After the finale, students were rewarded for their achievements and hard work throughout the year with a night full of dancing and fun. Thank you to the staff that supervised and helped organise the night. It was a terrific way for our students to graduate from Middle School.



9SHINE GRADUATION

