



Term: 3 No:5

Date: 17th August, 2018

## ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 3 is well under way and my many thanks and gratitude go to the Mathematics, English, Learning Support, Home Economics teams for their efforts over the school holidays, ensuring the new building would be operational. Staff unpacked \$110 000 worth of new furniture (individually bubble wrapped) and set up all new teaching spaces to allow for the smooth transition on day 1. My thanks also extend to both Glen Talbot and Guy Humphrey for their hard work and dedication in moving furniture around the school and assisting all faculty areas. Finally, to Vai Rasmussen, our IT computer coordinator, not only for assisting with unpacking furniture, but for also liaising with the regional IT staff in setting up the network. Our wonderful new Learning Innovation Centre has officially opened and all students have smoothly transitioned from the demountables. Students are enjoying the open area learning spaces with interchangeable furniture; the Research Centre including the orange pods; the Auditorium and commercial kitchen.

The efforts over the last couple of weeks of all staff members have been appreciated. We have had a string of additional activities, all of which have gone very well, and have required a lot of extra work by all, outside of their normal duties. Thank you to everyone who were involved with the Subject Information Night; STEPS Concert; competitions for gifted and talented students; Peer Support, Sydney West Athletics Carnival; SALSA program; Science excursion; PULSE and the Public Education Concert. It's been a proactive and productive first half of Term 3 and the pace will continue with HSC practical exams and major works being submitted along with the trial HSC examinations.

Whilst all of this is exciting, we must never lose sight of what matters most, and that is ensuring that every student has access to the best possible educational experience every day. We **all** share a responsibility in ensuring this occurs. As Relieving Principal I place a great deal of emphasis with all of our staff on continuing to develop the expertise to perform their duties to a high standard.

I also expect every parent to fulfill their side of the partnership by ensuring that their child has the necessary materials to do their work and is bringing it to school each day, and that he or she is in full school uniform. As the new semester commences, I would also ask that elective subject fees are paid, which will assist in replacing consumable items and materials.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Sylvana Beslic who last week received a NSW Australian Council of Educational Leaders leadership award for her Leadership in building high expectations. Mrs Beslic is an amazing educator with outstanding leadership skills and she makes a significant difference to the lives of all students and it is wonderful that she was acknowledged at such a prestigious event.

***Best Wishes!***

I would like to wish our Year 12 students all the very best for the future. As I write this newsletter they are completing their Trial HSC and approaching their final weeks at St Clair High. It's a stressful, anxious and exciting time for all involved, including their families! The Trial HSC is very important because it provides teachers and students with a very clear idea of what they need to focus upon in the remaining weeks of school in order to maximise their final HSC marks. It's important for every student to work through their exam papers and gain the necessary feedback in order to learn how to make further improvements. This period of time is unbelievably valuable to students as feedback and practice is the key to gaining those extra 3 to 5 marks to take into those higher bands.

**Karen Shepherd**  
**Relieving Principal**

CCC	CONTENT
2 - 7	Deputy Principals' Report, North Vocal Workshop, STEPS , PULSE Concerts,
8 - 11	Body of Art, DECODED, Tips, Homework Centre ,
12	Calendar of events

# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

At the time of writing this it is already 3 weeks since the school holidays and students are busily engaged in countless learning opportunities and experiences in what is considered to be the busiest term of the year. It has been a very exciting time as we have transitioned into our new building, known as the Innovation Centre, and students are clearly loving these new spaces with high levels of engagement clearly evident.

## Subject Selections

At present Year 8 and Year 10 students are selecting their subjects for 2018. For Year 8 this is the first time they will have any significant input into their curriculum. Parents and students are advised to take in as much information to assist with this decision. There are a variety of resources available, including class teachers, head teachers, the year adviser and their assistant as well as the Careers Adviser. When the selections are collated, we will be able to see the curriculum pattern for 2018 emerge.

## Trial HSC Examinations

During Weeks 4 and 5 of this term, Year 12 will complete their trial HSC examinations. This is their last formal examination until the HSC is held next term. Also during this period many students are required to submit their major works to begin the marking process. Congratulations to all students who have completed this major task. A special mention to all class teachers who have supported their students in this process, your dedication is highly valued.

It is imperative that Year 12 students ensure they maintain their attendance between the completion of the trial examinations and the actual HSC. This time allows courses to be finalised and more importantly class teachers can deeply analyse with students their trial examinations to provide advice to be acted upon for the final examinations. Many of our staff will discuss with students that this is the time they are most likely to improve their results to raise their achievement into the next band.

## Dates for Year 12

This is an exciting time of the year for Year 12 as they begin the countdown to some key significant milestones in their education. Year 12 Graduation, Year 12 Formal and the completion of their final exams as secondary students mark the end of their time as high school students, and the graduation and formal are marquee events in the school calendar. Year 12 are reminded of the following dates:

Wednesday 26 September: Graduation Ceremony. The Ceremony commences promptly at 7pm.

Thursday 27 September: Year 12 Formal. When making payments students need to provide their signed permission notes.

Thursday 18 October: HSC commences

## Dates for Year 11

Year 11 are also in the final stages of completing their preliminary courses. Please be reminded of the following key dates:

Preliminary end of course examinations: Monday 17 September - Friday 28 September

Australian Business Week: Monday 15 October to Friday 19 October 2018.

ABW dinner Monday 22 October 2018.

Commencement of Year 12 HSC year: Monday 22 October 2018

## Uniform

Students are reminded regularly of the uniform requirements and of the procedures if they are out of uniform. Parents, on the whole, are supportive of our efforts. We take this opportunity to remind all students that the correct footwear for school is leather shoes for all practical subjects. This is a Work Health and Safety (WHS) Requirement. Students may be excluded from practical classes if they do not wear correct shoes. Students are also reminded of the correct procedures to follow if they are unable to wear all of the correct uniform. Students must bring a note from home and provide this to either their year adviser, assistant year adviser or deputy principal who will in turn give students a green uniform pass.

## Deputy Principal's report continues:

Students who present to school totally out of school uniform will not be allowed to attend classes as it is impossible to identify them as SCHS students and will complete work in the front office until alternative uniform arrangements can be made. We appreciate your cooperation with all of these initiatives to instil pride and respect for our school community.

Enjoy the rest of Term 3!

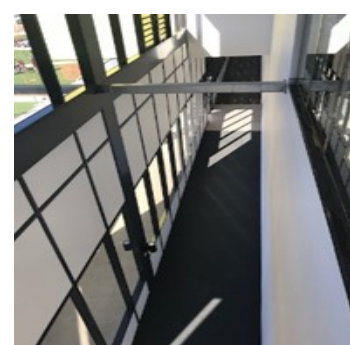
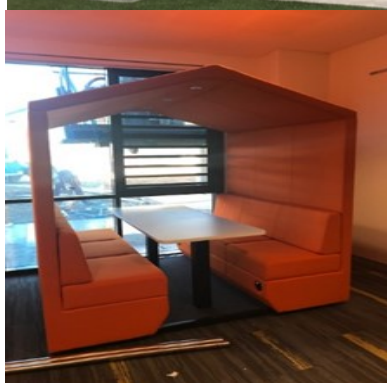
**Mrs Rowena Dickson (Relieving DP for Years 7, 9 and 11)**

**Mrs Sylvana Beslic (Relieving DP for Years 8, 10 and 12)**

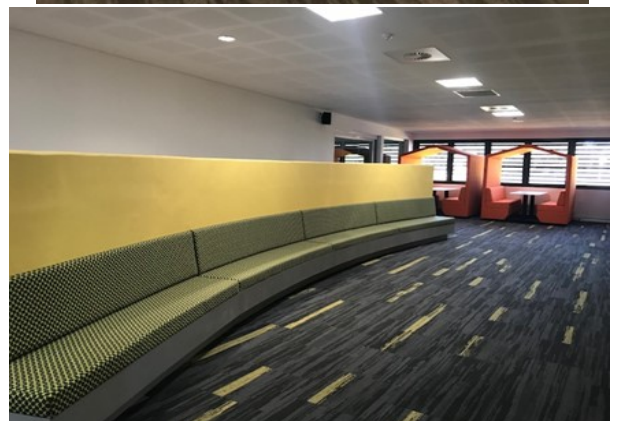
## Innovation Centre

Four years ago the St Clair High School community experienced the devastating fire which destroyed a large number of teaching spaces, library, staffrooms and computer rooms. For many staff and students this included losing many teaching resources, work samples and memories. Since then there have been countless people involved in researching, planning, developing educational principles, designing learning spaces, campaigning for funding and ultimately building our new facilities. The fantastic outdoor spaces of the ball courts and part of the landscaped terraced space were handed over earlier in the year and at the start of Term 3 we have finally moved into our fully air-conditioned new building, titled the Innovation Centre.

Staff worked tirelessly during Term 2 and the holidays to ensure that the Innovation Centre was ready for student use day 1 this term. This building includes 16 flexible classroom spaces, external classroom spaces on outdoor decks, internal breakout areas with flexible furnishings to support group work and independent learning, an Auditorium, a new library space known as the Research Centre and a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen. Both staff and students are really excited to finally be able to use this amazing teaching and learning facility, and we have already had many visitors including Directors of Educational Leadership and other principals keen to view this future focused teaching space that has been developed. Western Sydney University (WSU) iStem undergraduate students, training to become the future teachers in these learning spaces, recently spent a day at the school as part of their undergraduate studies. Parents who attended our recent Subject Selection Evening were able to walk through the building and we look forward to hosting many school events and opening up the space to the broader community that will make use of the outstanding facilities.









# Idea of North Vocal Workshop

Nepean Performing Arts High School

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

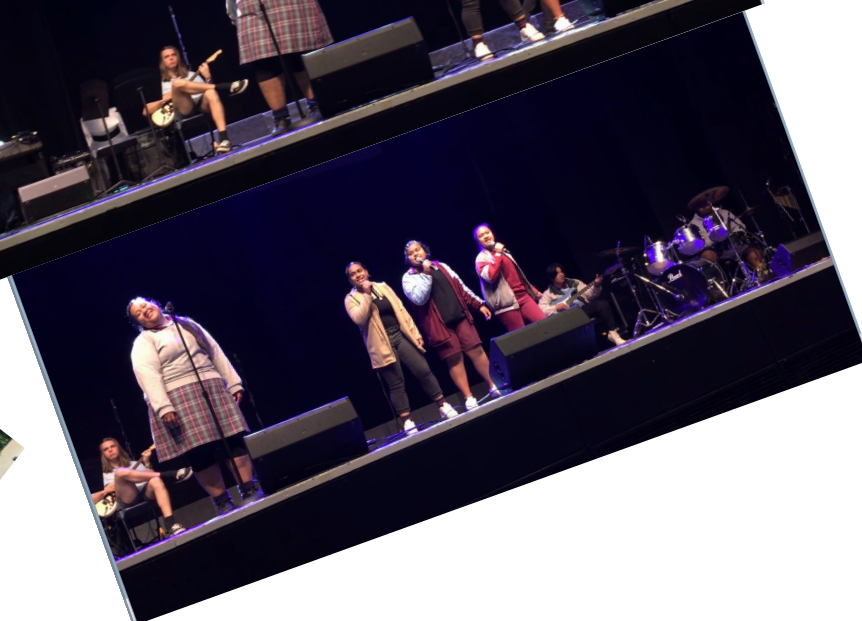
Four of our talented singers were selected to be part of a vocal workshop with an internationally famous Australian acapella group, known as the Idea of North. The students who were selected were Saele Ah Mann, Priscilla Aleni, Nyah Mason Whitiri and Margaret Suluape. The girls were able to attend workshops that taught them how to perform vocal percussion/beat boxing, arrange vocal harmonies, Develop vocal techniques and to learn the art of stage craft.



## STEPS Concert ~ Penrith Panthers

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

This year's STEPS Festival was another success. Our school presented two items and provided the musical accompaniment for the 120 voiced massed choir in the finale of the show. One of our items was our African Drumming Ensemble who performed "Songs of the Palego Region". This was performed by Joshua Aldegeur, Jamie Xerri, Tarek Hamdy, Aakshay Prasad and Ronan Hallett. Our other piece was performed by our Year 12 HSC Music class. They performed an arrangement of R.E.S.P.E.C.T, featuring Syrene Sue as lead vocal, Priscilla Aleni, Margaret Suluape and Saele Ah Mann on backing vocals, Thomas Wallace on guitar, Jeremy Dekit on bass, and Amanaki Peniamina on Drums. The Year 12 music class, along with Lani Peniamina formed the accompanying band for the massed choir. Both our school captains, Jeremy Dekit and Tara Ryan introduced our items.

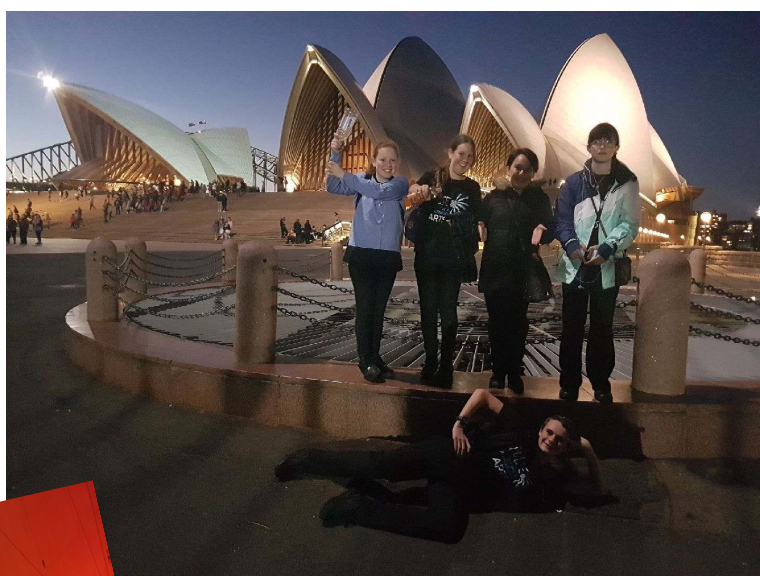




# PULSE Concert ~ Sydney Opera House

## Thursday 9th August 2018

Our singers formed part of the massed choir. They sang a variety of songs including Toto's Africa in which the atmosphere was created first through the use of body percussion to represent the sound of thunder and rain. Our singers were Jodvel Faitheiburgh, Tia Simpson, Cydel Hemara, Riley Byrne and Kasandra Green. Well done our singers!





## The Journey So Far... 2018

The Year 12 Visual Arts class are currently working on their Body of Work BOW for their HSC which are due on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. A range of subject matter has been explored. They include the built environment, identity, sport, cultures and space. Students are using a variety of media and expressive forms, including drawing, painting, printing making and mixed media.

“The BOWS –The Journey so Far”. These showcased great progress in the development of students BOW’s. It was an afternoon enjoyed by family, the Principal, Deputies, staff and friends. Below are images of “The Journey So Far”

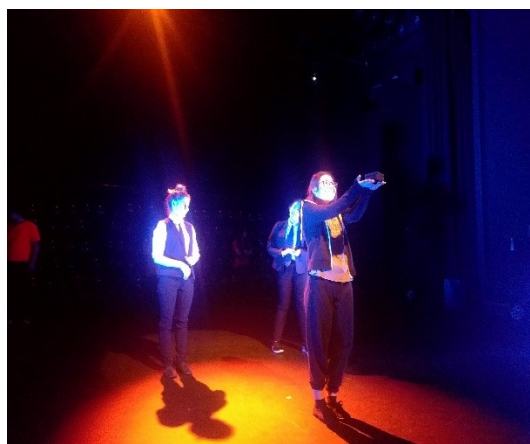
Congratulations and well done Year 12. I wish you all the best for your HSC.  
Ms Rainsford





## Drama News: **DECODED**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July some very talented Year 9 and 10 Drama students performed at Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre for DECODED Youth Drama Festival. Their performance was a very entertaining contemporary comedy wherein phone apps were challenged to complete a number of hysterical tasks. Thank you to all the staff, students and school community who supported the show. The performance was well received by the audience and the Drama students should be extremely proud of their efforts! Congratulations to all the performers: Olivia Palmeri, Jordan Rigg, Bailee Schoenherr, Jordan Bemrose, Patrick Frame, Breanna Luca, Kahla McGrath and Emily Wales. Ms Robertson (Drama Teacher)



## Some safety messages – please help!

From time to time it's important to remind everyone about some things that need constant attention. We ask every parent for your understanding and support in relation to the following;

- ◆ Full school uniform includes the correct footwear. No parent should allow their son or daughter to come to school without safe footwear. Fashionable canvas shoes, no matter what colour are not safe and should not be worn to school under any circumstances. Yes, everyone, both junior and senior students!
- ◆ Deodorant sprays are a health hazard to some of our students and staff. Please understand that some people suffer from Asthma and other related respiratory conditions and spray deodorants can cause a serious risk to them. Please don't allow your children to bring these to school. Also, if your child does suffer from Asthma we ask that you provide the school with your child's Asthma Action Plan. Pro-formas are available from our Library SASS staff to assist you in the preparation of this important document.
- ◆ Please be aware that the school day starts at 8-30am. Students are expected to be at school when the warning bell rings at 8-25am, ready to start period 1 at 8-30am.

*Have you changed your address or phone details?*

*Please let us know the new details immediately.*

*If you don't let us know, and something happens to your child requiring us to contact you urgently ....*

*If there's an emergency we need to be able to reach you!*

## In the interest of safety, please help us out!

From time to time it's understandable that your son or daughter may become unwell at school. We have strict procedures in place to manage these situations. This involves contact by the school administrative staff to a parent, caregiver or emergency contact person. This contact must come through the school, not directly to you from your son's or daughter's mobile phone. There have been some occasions when students have used their phone from a classroom (which is in breach of school policy anyway) and asked a parent to come to school to collect them. When the parent arrives, the school is unaware that the student is sick or has called the parent. Please ensure that if your child calls you, that you refer them to the front office and then contact the school to advise them of the call you have received before coming to the school.

## A word of caution!

Most people get pretty excited about the amazing advances we are exposed to in the area of technology. Digital cameras, mobile phones that can do just about anything and cute little listening devices are all amongst the array of things to which we have easy access. Like most things though, there can be a catch. All students and parents need to be aware that it is potentially a breach of privacy legislation to take photographs or make recordings of any sort without the knowledge of the subject. That is especially the case if the photo or recording is distributed in any way without the consent of the subject. This includes the posting of such images on the internet in places like You Tube or Facebook. Please ensure that your children are aware that they should not take and "post" photos or videos of other people without their consent.



# HOMework

## for homework help

Does your child need  
a hand with his or her  
homework?

Has an assessment or  
assignment got them

What about getting  
some handy study  
hints?

Need study space?  
Access to printers?



- Get your child along to the Homework Centre in the school library.
- Staff will be available to help St Clair High
- students with their homework, assignments and with study skills.

**WHAT:** Homework Centre

**WHERE:** School library

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday

**TIME:** 2:35pm - 3:45pm

**COST:** It's FREE!

**QUESTIONS:** Contact

Ms Saisithidej (Ms.S) on  
9670 6700 at the school.

**TERM 3 2018****Week 4 - B**

Mon	13/8	HSC Trials (all week)
Tue	14/8	ICAS Mathematics Competition
Fri	17/8	PISA Computer test

**Week 5 - A**

Mon	20/8	HSC Trials (all week)
Tue	21/8	P&C Meeting

**Week 6 - B**

Thur	30/8	bStreet Smart Year 10
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**Week 7 - A**

Mon	3/9	Hospitality Work placement Yr11 (all week)
Wed	5/9	Parent Teacher Interviews

**Week 8 - B**

Wed	13/9	Recognition Ceremony
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**Week 9 - A**

Tue	18/9	P&C Meeting
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**Week 10 - B**

Wed	26/9	Year 12 Graduation Night
Thu	27/9	Year 12 Formal @ Twin Creeks

**Next P&C  
Meeting  
and report from  
previous meeting,  
check out the  
following link for  
lots of  
information!**

[www.sites.google.com/site/schspandc](http://www.sites.google.com/site/schspandc)



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