

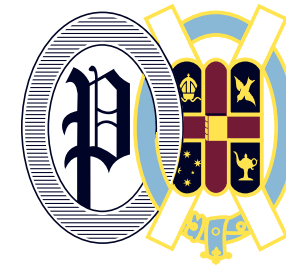


PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Altior et Sapientior

September 2024





## From the Principal

### Building a better future together

In today's interconnected world, the ability to work effectively with others is more important than ever. Collaboration is not just a skill—it's essential for personal growth, academic success, and a thriving society. In our school community, we recognise that fostering a culture of collaboration among students, parents, staff, and alumni is vital. This culture shapes the development of our students, preparing them for future challenges while contributing to a healthier and more inclusive society.

This edition of *Altior et Sapientior* highlights a number of instances where students have had the opportunity to develop skills of collaboration, from Kindergarten to Year Twelve, and both inside and outside of the classroom. Collaboration enhances learning in powerful ways. When students work together, they bring diverse perspectives and skills to the table. This diversity enriches the learning experience, as students learn to see problems from different angles and develop creative solutions. These experiences help students develop essential communication and interpersonal skills that are critical to their development.

Collaboration also helps students build confidence. When students feel supported by their peers and teachers, they are more likely to take risks, ask questions, and explore new ideas. This environment of mutual support and encouragement leads to deeper understanding and a greater sense of belonging within the school community.

The benefits of collaboration extend far beyond the academic domain. As students grow and eventually enter the workforce, the ability to collaborate becomes increasingly important. Through collaborative experiences, students learn empathy, resilience, and the importance of respecting diverse viewpoints. These qualities are fundamental to building strong, healthy relationships throughout life. Whether in personal relationships or professional networks, the ability to connect with others and work toward common goals is key to leading a fulfilling life. Our students, through collaboration, are better equipped to engage in constructive dialogue, resolve conflicts peacefully, and contribute positively to our community.

In a world that often feels divided, the ability to collaborate across differences is more important than ever. Our commitment at PEGS to creating opportunities for students to work together helps to lay the foundation for a more connected and compassionate world, and I trust you will enjoy reading about some of the opportunities our students have had in this edition of *Altior et Sapientior*.

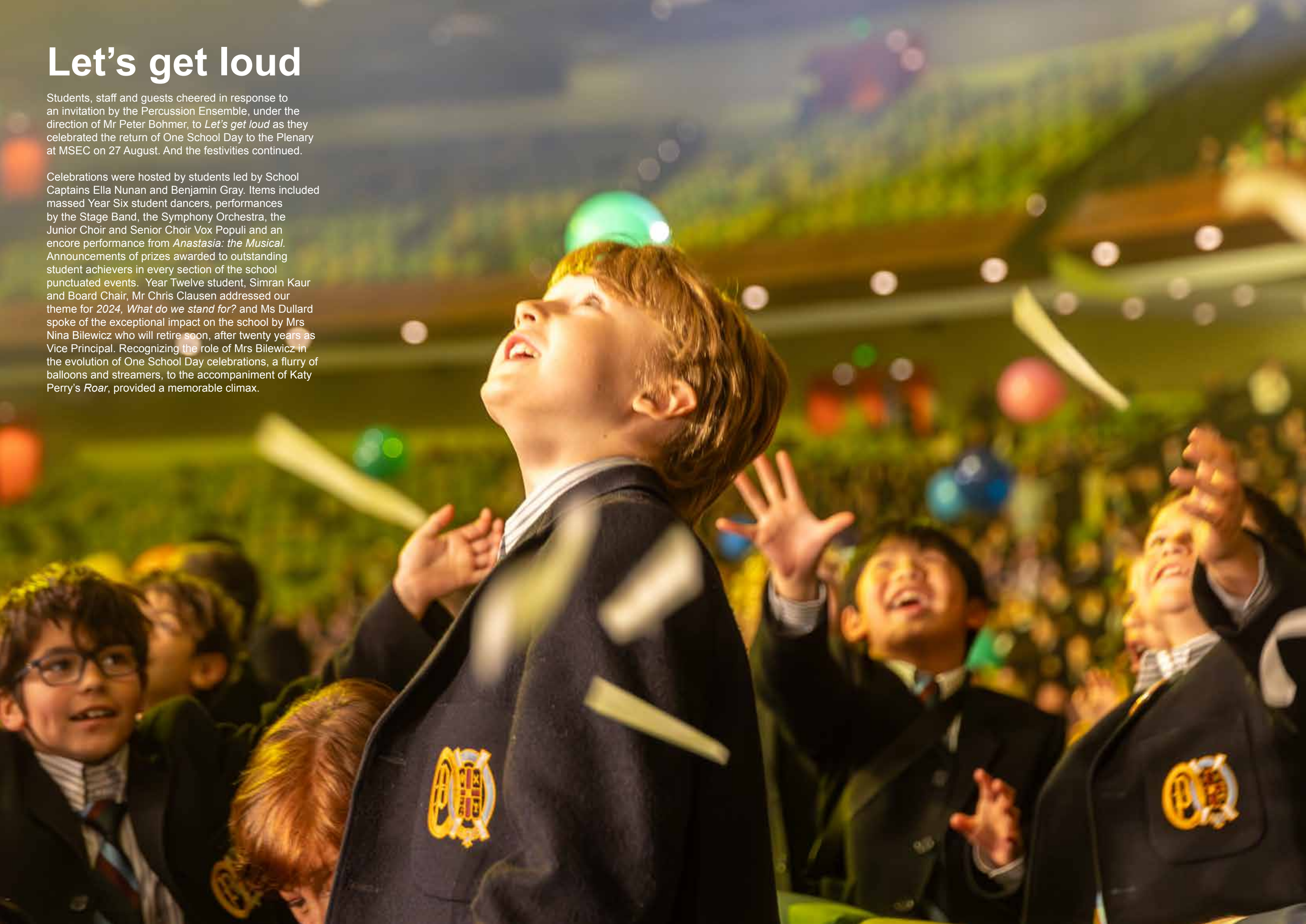
**Kate Dullard**



# Let's get loud

Students, staff and guests cheered in response to an invitation by the Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Mr Peter Bohmer, to *Let's get loud* as they celebrated the return of One School Day to the Plenary at MSEC on 27 August. And the festivities continued.

Celebrations were hosted by students led by School Captains Ella Nunan and Benjamin Gray. Items included massed Year Six student dancers, performances by the Stage Band, the Symphony Orchestra, the Junior Choir and Senior Choir Vox Populi and an encore performance from *Anastasia: the Musical*. Announcements of prizes awarded to outstanding student achievers in every section of the school punctuated events. Year Twelve student, Simran Kaur and Board Chair, Mr Chris Clausen addressed our theme for 2024, *What do we stand for?* and Ms Dullard spoke of the exceptional impact on the school by Mrs Nina Bilewicz who will retire soon, after twenty years as Vice Principal. Recognizing the role of Mrs Bilewicz in the evolution of One School Day celebrations, a flurry of balloons and streamers, to the accompaniment of Katy Perry's *Roar*, provided a memorable climax.











## Da Vinci Decathlon National Finals

Following success in the State competition in Term 2, Year Nine students Senadi Akmeemana Peduruge, Maddie Hateley, Abigail Hammond, Lilla Johnson, Ashley Liu, Callista Papachristoforos, Saheli Premathilaka and Lakithi Ranawaka Arachchi competed in the da Vinci Decathlon National Finals on 29 and 30 June at Knox Grammar School in Sydney.

Despite an early start at the airport of 6:45am on Saturday morning, we were all very excited to be on our way! It was surprisingly sunny once we landed in Sydney and we headed to Knox Grammar School ready to begin the competition. We worked together to complete the challenging tasks, and time flew as we were having fun. Back at the hotel we enjoyed our time together.

The second day commenced bright and early, with an awesome Macca's breakfast, a great way to start the final day of competition. We were very proud to achieve First place in both the Art/Poetry and Engineering sections.

After a flight delay we arrived in Melbourne at 11pm, said our parting goodbyes and wished that the weekend had not ended so quickly. We will cherish the memories we have made together for many years to come! We are grateful for the support shown to us by Ms Anderson, Ms Kaloudis and Mr Taffy, who spent the first weekend of their holidays with us, and importantly, Mrs Bilewicz, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make our trip possible.

**Callista Papachristoforos**  
Year Nine



## Enrichment and Extension

Term Three in the Middle School is a time for students to flex their learning muscles in a variety of settings. Of course we continue to provide classrooms that offer a 'low threshold' so all students can access the curriculum, and a 'high ceiling' so they can show the full extent of their capabilities. But this term sees many opportunities for enrichment and extension beyond the classroom too.

Students of languages other than English have had the opportunity to test themselves in competitions like the AGTV German Poetry Speaking competition and the CLTAV Chinese Reading competition. (The Berthe Mouchette French Poetry speaking competition, focusing this year on the Olympics, was held in Term 2).

Many of the students who participated in the da Vinci Decathlon problem solving competition earlier in the year (including many from our Year Nine team that made the National Final in Sydney, winning the Art/Poetry and Engineering sections) have also been preparing for Tournament of Minds, focusing on problem solving in The Arts, Language Literature, Social Sciences and STEM.

This is also the season of the Mathematics Games Days, with teams of our capable mathematicians competing for fun and glory at events hosted at PEGS and other schools. And all of our Middle School students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition in August.

In combination with classroom studies, co-curricular activities, excursions and incursions, poetry performances, camp, Form Captaincy, and visits from the Kinder kids, there are many and varied opportunities for our students to experience an enriching present, leading them towards an exceptional future.

**Anthony Simmons**  
Head of McNab House





# Mini Olympics

## Moonee Ponds campus

What a delightful day we had at our very own mini-Olympics! Our campus transformed into a bustling international village, with every student from Prep to Year Six representing a country. It was heartwarming to see the girls embracing their temporary new nationalities with such enthusiasm.

We hosted three wonderful sessions to ensure all our supportive parents and friends could attend. Each session began with a charming opening ceremony, replete with an Olympic torch relay, group singing of the national anthem, and the recitation of the Olympic oath. The excitement in the air was palpable!

The events were cleverly adapted versions of Olympic sports, tailored to suit all ages. We had rhythmic gymnastics showcasing the girls' coordination, a bean bag toss standing in for shotput, and a creative take on football with pinball soccer and goal kicks. The volleyball event for our younger participants used balloons, adding an extra element of fun and laughter to the game.

At the conclusion of each session, the victorious team received medals and enjoyed a celebratory lap, beaming with pride. Every child went home with a special commemorative ribbon, a small token to remember this big day. The success of the event was largely due to Mr McQueen and his team's imaginative planning, as well as the enthusiastic support from all of the parents.

It was truly wonderful to see our school community come together for such a joyous occasion. The smiles on the children's faces as they participated in the games were absolutely priceless.

**Christine Hallman**  
Head of Junior School (girls)

## Essendon campus

On the eve of the Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony, all Prep to Year Two students at Junior School (boys) participated in PEGS Mini Olympics Day. Each session began with our very own Opening Ceremony where excitement levels were at an all-time high.

Students watched several staff members carry the PEGS Olympic Torch through different continents, visiting some of the most amazing landmarks across the globe. From here, the Year Six House Captains played a vital role in working together to carry the Olympic Torch, which contained an important message from Ms Dullard, from the Keilor East Campus back to the Ian Morton Centre. Finally, Mr Sharman officially opened the PEGS Mini Olympics and the games began.

Our athletes participated in nine different events, including relays, the discus throw, shot put and long jump. The atmosphere was electric as families, staff and students enjoyed participating in a range of events together, including a visit from a kangaroo mascot! Year Six students led each activity and showed leadership and maturity as they encouraged the younger boys to do their best. To reward their efforts and commemorate the event, all students received a PEGS Mini Olympics ribbon to cherish for years to come as a memory of a special day.

**Callum Glassford**  
PE Coordinator, Junior School (boys)



# Maths Games Days

Our students have enjoyed working together at a number of MAV Maths Games Days. The Year 9 Boys' team shared the following reflection.

*On 8 August, Year Nine students attended the MAV Maths Games Day at St Albans Secondary College. In this annual event, teams of students from schools around Victoria gathered to compete in mathematical challenges. The venue was packed with students from twenty schools.*

*There was a wide range of mathematical games, each of which challenged the intellect of the team. Team problem solving followed and then came the maths games in which our team completely dominated, the strategy being to force our opponents into making counterproductive moves. The final challenge was the team relay which involved running back and forth to get question sheets to a teacher.*

*At the end of the day Melbourne High School finished in first place with PEGS boys' team in second place. PEGS girls' team also performed admirably, finishing fifth.*

*Overall, connections and friendships were formed with the other schools despite the fierce competition. The day was very enjoyable for everyone.*

**Andy Zeng, Peisen Xu, Mineth Kaluarachchi and Jai Maiya**  
Year Nine

On 21 August, we hosted the Year 8 MAV Maths Games Day and 24 of our students competed. More than 280 competitors from 23 schools fought for the top spot. We are proud to announce that Gottliebse House Team 1 (Jack Huang, Lachlan Huxley, James Zhen and Tim Lu) finished in first place.

Year Seven students attended the Year 7 MAV Maths Games Day at Overnewton Anglican Community College on 26 August, and Year Ten students journeyed to Trinity Grammar School on 4 September, with Gottliebse House teams finishing in second place on both occasions.

Congratulations to all the students who participated.

**The Mathematics Enrichment team**



Year Eight First place: Gottliebse House Team 1



## Triumph and growth on and off the chessboard

In Term Three, our Essendon campus hosted the Zonal Chess Tournament, showcasing the remarkable talents of young strategists from across the region. This event marked the pinnacle of months of dedication from our students who honed their skills in the weekly Years Three to Six after-school chess program.

Beyond cognitive benefits, the program has fostered invaluable social skills. Students have learnt the art of gracious winning and resilient losing, and the joy of being a part of something greater than oneself. The friendships forged over chess boards were evident, creating a supportive community of enthusiasts.

On the day of the tournament, these efforts culminated in a brilliant display of skill and strategy. Congratulations to our Junior School (boys) Team A, comprising Christian Khamly, Akain Aluthge, Jack Sanders, Leon Michaelidis, Marcus Fan and Arren Erol for achieving fifth place. Our girls' Team A, consisting of Alexis Tran, Harshal Kaur Vikas, Emily Yang, Heidi Chandu and Inara Brooks, secured an impressive third place and has progressed through to the Chess Victoria Final. This accomplishment is a testament to their hard work and unwavering commitment. As the tournament concluded, it became evident that true victory transcended the podium. All 38 participants from both Junior Sections represented the school proudly, showcasing remarkable growth in confidence, strategic thinking, and interpersonal skills. More than a chess competition, the event nurtured young minds, built character, and empowered young minds to be ready to face future challenges both on and off the chessboard.

**Phuong Choo**  
Mathematics Coordinator, Junior School (girls)



# Fostering growth and innovation

In the vibrant world of early childhood education, collaboration and networking are crucial for fostering growth and innovation. Recently, our Kindergarten hosted the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE) Melbourne network meeting and welcomed over 40 educators from various early childhood services across the greater Melbourne region. This gathering served as a platform for sharing best practices, exchanging ideas, and exploring new strategies to enhance early learning experiences. It was also an opportunity for PEGS Kindergarten to showcase the amazing learning that is occurring within our educational programs.

The event featured our educational team presenting their experiences and ideas around 'teacher as researcher', 'inquiry projects' and the 'fears, challenges and wins' of our own teaching journey. The evening concluded with the cottages opening their doors and inviting participants in for viewing. During this time, our visitors listened attentively, shared positive feedback and partook in rich dialogue about professional growth and children's learning.

Networking and collaboration in early childhood education are essential components of professional development. We see them as enrichment practices that support educators to connect, building a supportive community that encourages innovation and continuous improvement. The shared knowledge gained from these meetings empowers us to reflect and implement new ideas, ultimately benefiting the children we educate.

## The culture of collaboration

Collaboration is a vital component of learning for children. In kindergarten, children are naturally curious and eager to explore the world around them. Engaging in collaborative experiences not only fosters social skills but also enhances cognitive development. When children work together, they learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and resolve conflicts, laying the groundwork for future relationships.

Through inquiry, group projects, creative play, and shared problem-solving, children develop a sense of teamwork and belonging. These interactions encourage empathy as children consider others' perspectives, promoting emotional intelligence. Collaborative learning also supports children to exchange knowledge, enriching their understanding of concepts through diverse viewpoints.

By participating in collaborative experiences, children gain essential skills such as critical thinking and adaptability, which are crucial for lifelong learning. At PEGS kindergarten we provide an environment rich with opportunities for children to collaborate in many ways, from everyday participation to larger scale experiences.

Most recently, Cottage 49 collaborated with Year Nine Drama students to explore concepts of storytelling together. Cottage 51 has been creating a class flag to represent who they are and what they stand for, and Cottage 53 has been resourcing and working with members of the local community at Queens Park to support their developing sense of ecological identity.

Collaboration is a significant and highly valued learning tool within our educational programs. Environments that are rich in collaboration foster a culture where children feel empowered to share their ideas, challenge each other's thinking and work together towards common goals.

**Lauren Olcorn**  
Director of Kindergarten





# Experiences of the Past

Servants, stable boys and children being seen and not heard were all part of the experience when the Year One cohort travelled back in time on their excursion to Como House.

Split over two days and with completely contrasting late July weather, our boys were treated to a snapshot of the incredible lives of the Armytage family at their South Yarra property, which they called home for nearly 100 years. The boys got a fascinating tour of this extensive mansion, were able to experience some popular games of yesteryear such as quoits, hot potato and croquet, and even had to solve a mystery which saw them visit different parts of the estate.

One of the many highlights involved the students becoming one of the many servants that graced the property. Within the activity, all of the boys tried their hand at washing the clothes using a washboard and wringer, saw how everything was made by hand in the kitchen, including producing hot water, and even learned the sounds of four of the 14 servant's bells, which indicated to which room they had to rush off to be of service.

It was a wonderful experience for all involved and given the quantity of questions during our day and afterwards on the bus ride home, the curiosity and wonder of our students was certainly sparked.

**Hayden Wardrop**

Year 1/2 Coordinator, Junior School (boys)



## Sovereign Hill

Our recent Year Five trip to Sovereign Hill provided a vivid glimpse into the heart of the 1850s Gold Rush, bringing history to life in ways that resonated with both our studies and our imaginations. The day was packed with experiences that not only entertained but also deepened our understanding of this pivotal era in Australia's past.

One of the standout experiences was exploring the bustling Main Street, where students wandered through shops, blacksmiths, and candle makers, all meticulously presenting their 19th-century origins.

A particularly unforgettable part of the day was the Red Hill Mine tour. Descending into the dark, narrow tunnels, we were transported back to the 1850s, experiencing first-hand the tough and often dangerous conditions that miners faced underground.

Another memorable moment was the demonstration of gold smelting, where we watched molten gold being poured into a bar in a process that transformed raw ore into a gleaming symbol of success. The sheer intensity of the heat and the skill of the craftsmen left us all in awe.

Our adventure wasn't complete without trying our hand at gold panning in the creek. Although our findings were modest, the thrill of discovery and the realisation of the hard work involved in finding even a tiny flake of gold provided a hands-on lesson in perseverance.

By the end of the day, the students had not only learned about the history of the goldfields but had also developed a deeper appreciation for the complexities of this era.

**Chris Tsouparikovits, Lisamarie Fiorenza and James McMorrow**

Year Five Teachers



# Preps celebrate

How much can you achieve in 100 days? In the first 100 days of Prep, remarkable growth occurs. In addition to the many new friendships that blossom, academic and personal goals that once seemed distant become achievements. 100 days go past quickly but we understand how important it is to help our early learners recognize and appreciate their social and academic accomplishments. 100 Days of Prep has evolved into a cherished rite of passage, a day of celebration and reflection, and an opportunity to imagine what the future holds.

The Prep students at Essendon campus kick-started their celebrations with a visit from the Prep students from Moonee Ponds campus. At an exciting disco in the Ian Morton Centre, with music, lights and even glowsticks, the Preps danced to the happy tunes provided by Mr Bolmat. Students wore their commemorative 'buddy handprint' t-shirts and shared in a fun picnic lunch. They enjoyed catching up with old kinder friends, chatting about their learning and the festivities to come.

Back in the classrooms, the Preps made fancy 100 crowns and glasses. They wrote about what they might achieve by the time they are 100, thought about what they could do with \$100 and used their clever counting skills to make collections of 100 using anything they could find.

The students were proud to receive a rainbow-coloured ribbon to commemorate the day. Thank you to teachers and learning assistants who worked tirelessly to ensure the celebration was one to remember. What an amazing way to reflect on this great time of learning, and the perfect time to ask, what might we achieve in the next 100 days?

**Ebony Paulka and Amelia Turner**  
Prep Coordinators







Ava Davidson



Krish Aggarwal

## Chinese reading

On Friday 23 August we attended the Copeland Theatre at the University of Melbourne to compete as Year Nine finalists at the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of Victoria Chinese Reading awards. Over 150 finalists from Year 7 to 9 from all over Victoria competed in front of a packed theatre audience composed of fellow students, their families and teachers.

We were provided an unseen passage 15 minutes before the competition began, to recite in front of the judges and audience. The students from PEGS in all year levels were required to recite their passages first. Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Qian, Mrs Chen and Mrs Gu, we felt well prepared and relaxed reciting our passages. Everyone from our school did very well, with Krish Aggarwal awarded Third place and Ava Davidson receiving a medallion, both in the Year 8 category. We are extremely grateful to have had this invaluable experience and feel our Chinese pronunciation and public speaking skills have improved greatly.

**Catherine Heywood and Dante D'Alesio**  
Year Nine

## Speaking French

In early May, many aspiring French students competed in the 130th Berthe Mouchette competition, administered by the Alliance Française de Melbourne.

This year, the selected topic was "Les Jeux Olympiques", or the Olympic Games, a reflection of France's hosting of the games this year. As such, the selection of poems which students could choose from (two per grade) reflected this theme. For Year Nines, students could either select from "La vie c'est comme un match de foot" (Life is like a football match), by "Les Enfantastiques", which my fellow student, Hakeem Nonjai Noormohideen, chose, or "Mormeck", by Kery James, which I chose.

After reciting our respective poems in May, we were delighted to hear on 3 June, that both of us qualified as finalists for the spoken competition. For the finals, we were to recite our poems one more time online in front of two judges on the 28 July, and so, we rolled up our sleeves and were confident in our poems when the Sunday came around.

Although the results are not released until the 8 October, it can still be recognised that participating in this was a wonderful opportunity for us. For anyone that is interested in French, no matter your skill level, the Berthe Mouchette competition is a wonderful way to learn a bit more French, expose yourself to French culture, and be a bit more French!

**William Matobato**  
Year Nine



William Matobato



Hakeem Nonjai Noormohideen



## Time with Trent

On Thursday 15 August, the Year Five boys had the privilege of spending time with Trent Cotchin, former student, Brownlow medallist and 3-time premiership captain of the Richmond Football Club. Trent began the day by sharing his inspiring journey, reflecting on his past challenges and successes. He captivated the boys with his honesty, discussing the highs and lows of his time as Richmond's captain, and emphasized the crucial role of culture and well-being in his life. Trent made it clear that his achievements wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support network around him.

The day was filled with activities designed to enhance teamwork and leadership skills. The first challenge required the boys to construct the tallest structure capable of holding a golf ball, promoting creativity and collaboration. The second task was a team-building exercise that involved crossing a makeshift river using limited materials. The goal was to ensure that everyone and every piece of material made it across without touching the water, which tested their problem-solving skills and cooperation.

In the final session, the boys worked closely with Trent to develop daily rituals and a positive mindset. Each boy selected five daily rituals that would help them approach their day and life with a positive outlook. By the end of the day, every student took away meaningful lessons from the experience. Trent's visit made a lasting impact, inspiring the boys to implement what they learned into their own lives.

**David Graham**  
Year 5/6 Coordinator, Junior School (boys)



# Drama isn't just for actors

We often think of Drama as all glittering stagecraft, but the real magic of the Drama classroom lies in explicitly teaching what the corporate world is now calling '21st Century Skills' - collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking. The need for this is very real – a recent study by the National Institute of Mental Health in the US found that 75 per cent of people find public speaking more frightening than death. Another study suggested that Generation Z are increasingly struggling to communicate effectively in the workplace. Theatre organisations are offering highly popular corporate training programmes designed to boost creativity.

In Middle School Drama, we work explicitly on pro social skills. Speaking with former Drama students, this has benefited them both in terms of their employability and their general ability to process the rigours of adult life. One alumnus, Jacqui, a speech pathologist, noted benefits not only in terms of confidence and public speaking, but in time management. Amy, a venue manager, found that Drama gave her the ability to make expectations understood to a broad range of people, as well as the confidence to engage with broader community. Another alumnus, a lawyer, found that the ability to modulate his voice to fill a room has been invaluable, as has his comfortability with being vulnerable, learned in the safety of the Drama theatre.

In an increasingly complicated world, the development of pro social skills is crucial to young people having 'the edge' as they meet adulthood's challenges. Drama is not just for actors – it's a great choice for everyone!

**Emily Atkins**  
Coordinator of Middle School Drama

## A drama collaboration

Recently, students of Cottage 49 were taken on an excursion to visit the Drama Theatre at the Keilor East campus. Upon arrival, the Kindergarten students were given a tour of the drama theatre and were introduced to the Year Nine Drama students, who presented costumes and props that could be utilised to assist in visually telling stories. The older students were not only given the opportunity to share their passion for theatre with the kindergarteners through this excursion, but were also able to reinforce their knowledge of theatre and work on their leadership skills with a simple task.

Together, the older and younger students worked in groups to come up with innovative stories using the costumes and props they had found, letting all the students employ their endless creativity. Each group then shared their stories with the rest of the class, where the older leaders of each group were rewarded with a feeling of accomplishment from showing how their patience and nurturing care supported the younger students' imaginative minds. This excursion enriched the creativity of the older students and encouraged effective communication. Watching how the younger students learned from this experience helped the older students see what they could achieve through performing and teaching theatre.

**Hayley Keenan**  
Year Nine







## Tournament of Minds reflection

Tournament of Minds was an amazing opportunity to collaborate and create a performance that we were all proud of. The competition was divided into two segments: spontaneous and long-term challenges, both of which demanded teamwork, creativity and enthusiasm. Our teams utilised a range of team members' talents including poetry, drama, sewing, music and art skills to craft our final product.

Over the course of six weeks, we dedicated our lunchtimes to developing a ten-minute performance that truly represented the team's collective strengths and addressed the challenge given. The breadth of topics offered endless opportunities for creativity; some teams composed original songs, others crafted a short skit and others a formal presentation. Challenges allowed the teams to expand their creative thinking as there were no incorrect answers. In fact, innovative and unconventional solutions are highly prized in the Tournament of Minds.

All five PEGS teams have shown exceptional Tournament of Minds spirit demonstrating commitment, teamwork, initiative, creativity, and engagement and PEGS Team 2 (from McNab: Abigail Hammond, Ashley Liu, Kisali Punchiwedikkara, Lakithi Ranawaka Arachchi, Mahi Kumar, Saheli Premathilaka, Senadi Akmeemana Peduruge) won first place Language Literature Secondary at the Metro North Region event and presented at the State Final on 8 September at La Trobe University.

Ultimately, this competition provided us with the chance to express creative freedom, merge our talents and produce a final product that showed our collaborative efforts. Many students took pride in their final product, and were grateful to have participated in a program that allowed them to gain new insights and learn new skills.

**Kisali Punchiwedikkara**  
Year Nine

## Étienne concert



When we first walked into the auditorium, I distinctly remember wondering who Étienne was and what to expect from him. I asked a few of my friends who Étienne was, and they were as clueless, if not more so, than I was. My first glimpse of Étienne was a few minutes before the start of the concert, where he was signing autographs on green pieces of paper and handing them out to random people in the audience. I, unfortunately, didn't get one, but I know quite a few people who managed to receive an autograph.

When the concert started, the atmosphere of the entire room was electric. You could feel the crowd's excitement and anticipation in the air as he began talking. He started off with a bang with *Français Français*, where the audience would also participate by yelling out the chorus, 'Français Français' whenever it came up. We also learnt a lot from the experience, like how to say yeah in French (Ouais).

I loved the concert, and it was fun to see what a concert was like for the first time. Overall, the concert was an incredible experience and it was amazing to see Étienne and hear his songs, as well as being able to learn a little bit more about the French language.

**Jayanth Mudhiganti**  
Year Seven







# Conservation/ RAP at Camp

At the start of Term 3, a joint Conservation and Reconciliation Action Plan camp was held at Eildon, with almost 30 students across Years Nine to Twelve attending. Over the two days, we investigated the Eildon ecosystem, hiking out for hours at a time and logging the ecology we observed in the area on our iNaturalist account. Additionally, as is our standard practice for Conservation Club, we made sure to plant plenty of trees around the creek to offset the school's carbon and paper usage.

We explored aspects of Aboriginal culture and connection to the land, gathering inspiration from the Yea wetlands for our own Indigenous garden which is soon to be constructed at Larkin Centre. Members of the Cheetham Singers taught us to sing "Ngarra Burra Ferra" around the campfire and after a long Friday we enjoyed a delicious ragu made for us from native ingredients by Marissa, the Camp chef.

This camp was not only an amazing learning experience, but also a great bonding opportunity for students and staff. In classic camp fashion, there was plenty of time for everyone to intermingle, whether it be around the crackling campfire or during the endless round of 19-player Uno. It was a fantastic experience and we would like to thank everyone involved.

**Dylan Tran**  
Environmental Leader

**Marsianna Mastrantuono**  
RAP Leader





## Lunchtime futsal (indoor soccer) competition

Year Ten student Harry Atchison doesn't play soccer but when friends suggested he turn his talents to organising a lunchtime indoor soccer (futsal) tournament for fellow Year Ten students, he willingly took up the opportunity. Harry's readiness to provide a way for his peers to have fun enjoying soccer during chilly Term Three soon gained momentum. He applied himself to overseeing the formation of teams, creating a fixture and arranging court access. Final touches included publicity and ensuring there were referees and spectators on hand for each clash.

Harry was humble in his responses to my investigative questions:

Why you? *"People asked me, maybe leadership but others knew I could do it."*

Why this? *"To create community and bring people together. Nearly everyone loves it, it's not as rough as AFL, plus you can be small and still play well."*

Why now? *"No exams, shorter term. Brings happiness."*

(By the way, which team do you support?) *"Liverpool"*

Anyone inspire you? Yes, *Dan Kostandinov, (now in Year 11) who did it last year.*

Final rogue question: Harry, if the game of soccer was a colour, what colour would it be? *"White because it's a white ball but with flashes of fluoro green or yellow."*

The Student Lunchtime Futsal season wraps up in a few weeks. In Harry's words, "It's been a bit of work," which he doesn't begrudge. This is a fine example of a student-generated idea, now passed from one year to the following, where an individual has demonstrated the conviction and energy to stand up tall and do something generous that brings joy to others. Thank you and congratulations, Harry Atchison.

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottlieb House

## Year Nines brush with stardom

There were actual squeals of excitement from the Year 9 Drama elective students when it was announced that, as part of their 'Flipping the Narrative' study, they would be treated to a matinee performance of Broadway hit, *Wicked* on Wednesday 24 July. Students were spellbound as they experienced the work of performers, designers and directors at the absolute top of their game. For some students, this was their very first experience of professional theatre, setting the bar incredibly high! Students were able to hear about how the magic was created during a Q&A with some key cast and crew after the show, and used it to practice their analytical writing in class.

But this was not the end of the excitement... Perhaps the most transformative moment for our young creatives was a very special encounter with Zoe Coppinger, star of *Wicked*, who generously gave her time with a VIP visit at school the week following our excursion to talk all things Elphaba. Zoe spent an entire lesson with the group, sharing anecdotes about everything from her training and the power of the ensemble to the perils of wearing green paint every day! Students hung on Zoe's every word and asked insightful and curious questions, furthering their knowledge of stagecraft and performance. The students were starstruck and will remember their *Wicked* experience for a long time to come!

**Emily Atkins**  
Middle School Drama Coordinator



*Wicked star Zoe Coppinger (above right) shares her experiences with the Year Nine Drama students*



# Middle School Notes

## Business Studies excursion

In the past few weeks, Year Eight Business Studies students have been conducting market research at the Centreway shopping precinct. They went there to look at the shops and businesses in the area, and to observe local consumer demographics. The students also recorded information about important aspects of the area, like the consumer laws that are in place for the safety of the people that shop at Centreway, and the commercial infrastructure provided by the government, such as pedestrian crossings, parking, waste management services and green spaces. The students categorised businesses as providing either 'goods' or 'services' and looked at the competition that might exist between two or more stores.

**Liam Theron**  
Year Eight

## Pathways

This term, Year Ten students at McNab House have been deeply engaged in the important process of subject selection for 2025. As we approach the end of our time in Middle School, we are thoughtfully considering our future academic paths, weighing our interests, strengths, and potential career aspirations. This process has been challenging, as the pressure to make the right decisions looms large. However, with the support provided by the school through individual career appointments and subject selection lectures, we have been well-guided on this journey. Career advisors have been readily available, ensuring that our subject choices align with our identities as learners and our future aspirations. Even for those uncertain about their goals, the advisors have successfully guided them towards the best options.

Additionally, during our excursion to The University of Melbourne, we had the opportunity to hear firsthand from past PEGS students. Listening to their experiences and advice provided invaluable insights into university life and the choices that lie ahead. This experience, combined with the school's support, has helped us make more informed decisions about our academic futures as we prepare for VCE and beyond.

**Lithaya De Silva**  
Year Ten

## Guitar Concert

This term, I performed in the 2024 Guitar Concert and it was a great experience. The concert included many students from Years Seven to Twelve. There were many solo performances and there was also the Intermediate Guitar Ensemble, which performed two songs, *Jamaican Farewell*, and *Crazy Train*. It was the item that I performed in and we sounded amazing. The solos ranged from hard rock played on electric guitars, to calm and peaceful tunes on acoustic guitars. All the songs played by older students were all quite inspiring and impressive, and they encouraged me to work harder in my practice and learn new things.

After an early arrival, we tuned our instruments and had a quick practice to get us ready for the real deal. All the performers sat in the front row waiting for their turn. The guitar ensemble was up first. When I arrived, I met the others in our group, and we set up and prepared where we would sit and had a quick run through the beginning of the songs. It was quite nerve-racking walking on to the stage however it was all alright once we were there and it was fun during the performance. It was a great concert and I hope more people will attend to enjoy the amazing experience in the future.

**Mihin Kaluarachchi**  
Year Seven



## Year 7 Poetry Incursion

Recently, we had the amazing opportunity to watch the Complete Works Theatre Company as a part of our poetry unit in English. To prepare for the visit, we reviewed positive poems such as *Mulga Bill* and *Waltzing Matilda*, and more cynical poems such as *Australia* by Ania Walwicz. We also looked at 'slam poetry', a passionate and intense way of delivering poetry which originated in 1980 with audience participation of cheering and applause, which disrupts traditional poetry styles in a positive way.

In *Mulga Bill* the performers took on different characters to convey the story. They used props such as bicycle wheels, costumes, and blocking to create a bright and humorous performance. Another memorable performance was *Capital Letters*, originally by Omar Musa. Musa talks about the hardships of growing up in a rough area, and assumptions made about you just because of what you look like, I really liked the lines: "The hiss of talk back serpents. The whistle of 'go back to where you came from.'"

The workshop component included discussions and exercises to get our creative juices flowing. Students had the chance to go on stage and construct poems.

From this incursion, we gained valuable skills and techniques which we then applied to our own writing and delivery. The incursion enhanced our speaking skills and gave us the opportunity to see what poems are supposed to look like when performed. It was extremely entertaining and enjoyable, and the Year Sevens would gladly invite the Complete Works Theatre Company back.

**Gretel Dawe**  
Year Seven

## What has being a Form Captain taught me?

*Semester One Form Captains reflect on their experience*

Being a Form Captain has been a great experience and has taught me many valuable skills. I have gained skills such as communicating to big groups of people when running form activities, as it requires me to instruct the whole class to do a particular activity with clear instructions and a loud voice. I have also learned to take in feedback from my peers after each activity. For example, when I and my fellow captain first decided to do musical chairs as an activity, it was well liked by the class as everyone wanted to take part. Being Form Captain is a great opportunity for students to step up and lead and gain valuable skills.

**Katherine Nguyen** 8B Form Captain

Becoming Form Captain for Semester One this year has been both fun and educational. Being one of the voices for your peers and friends is a great learning experience. Some of the activities we completed were running the Easter Raffle, leading homeroom in the morning and organising mixed forms. The key life skill I have learnt this semester accompanies this quote perfectly "Respect is earned, not given." When you're in front of the class amongst your friends and peers, presenting the theme for the day's form you learn communication and organising skills. Overall, being Form Captain is a great opportunity that teaches awesome life skills for everyone.

**Sophie Waters** 8C Form Captain



# Music Diary

Term Three has been busy for our musicians with most of the department concerts scheduled.

## 24 July

The Guitar Concert included the second performance of the Intermediate Guitar Ensemble, followed by nine soloists from Year Seven to Twelve.

## 25 July

The Primary Piano Concert saw a phenomenal 23 students perform, many for the first time in front of an appreciative audience.

## 29 July

Online concerts continue for Suzuki students and 39 early learners had the opportunity for their first performance.

## 30 July

By way of contrast the Composition and Music Technology Concert featured a small number of students. Each soloist and composer was interviewed by Dr Andrew Harrison to explain to the audience how they had decided to write their piece and the process they had gone through to achieve the final product. Parents and friends were fascinated by this peek behind the curtain to reveal some of the less well known requirements for successful creative work in music. The MuTE ensemble played five pieces, all of which were original compositions or arrangements.

## 5 August

The Percussion Concert featured 16 solos and duos presenting on tuned and untuned percussion and drumkit.

## 7 August

A variety of vocal solos and groups delighted the audience with the wide range of genres and styles performed. The Middle School Choir Audacity and Cheetham Singers started and ended the concert with spirited and fun songs. Our newest choir, Junior School Singers, also made their first appearance singing *You've Got A Friend In Me*. In addition, there were 21 solos, duos and trios.

## 8 August

Following closely, the Brass and Percussion Ensemble Concert featured students from Year Four to Year Twelve. The ensembles performing included Drumline, Junior Brass Ensemble, Essendon Percussion Ensemble, Moonee Ponds Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Brass Ensemble

## 29 August

The Woodwind Concert presented an interesting array of ensemble and solo performances. Student and staff items comprised flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, cor anglais and bassoon, and flute and clarinet ensembles also played in the foyer.

## 2 September

At a live Suzuki Concert, 51 more advanced students of violin and piano presented their pieces to parents and friends in Limerock Hall.

## 5 September

Our annual Concerto Concert featured our most senior and accomplished musicians performing a solo with String or Symphony Orchestra accompaniment. This represents the pinnacle of performance discipline and this year we featured Mia Cook, flute; Mimi Pascal, voice; Cameron Thompson, horn; Zhiyuan Xue, flute; and Jae Man, piano, all from Year Eleven, and from Year Ten, Quiyan Chen, violin, and Nathan Zhang, oboe. Our guest soloist was Campbell Banks our Coordinator of Strings playing the violoncello. Compositions ranged from the Classical period (Grétry 1765) to 20th century (Brown 1989).

**Amanda Rowarth**  
Director of Music







# Anastasia: The Musical

This year's Senior Musical Production, *Anastasia: The Musical* was expertly performed by a cast, orchestra and backstage crew made up of students from Year Eight to Twelve.

Audiences were enchanted as the young performers brought to life scenes involving ghosts twirling in elaborate ball gowns, a moving train carriage, ballerinas dancing Swan Lake, a tense stand-off with weapons drawn, wild nightclub dancing, and various romantic moments.

The costumes, skillfully created over many months, ranged from ragged 1920s street clothes, military uniforms, 1900s imperial court dress and Parisian day wear, to evening gowns, fringed flapper dresses and tuxedos.

The production had distinct lead roles, brilliantly inhabited by Isabella Sloan, Stevie Siafalis-Tsiatsios, Michael Sena, Jason Tran, Ella Tran and Mimi Pascal. As principal performers, they were so supportive and encouraging of every member of the ensemble, that from the earliest rehearsals all the way up until showtime, *Anastasia: The Musical* enjoyed a sense of collective achievement and camaraderie.

The cast members appreciated the many sessions they were able to join together and rehearse with the orchestra, who with high levels of musical competency tackled waltzes, Broadway-style dance numbers, ballads, classical sections and numbers with folk flourishes.

Everyone involved, including students, teachers, support staff and volunteers, took away from the show, not just the thrill of performance and sharing the much-practised work with receptive audiences, but memories of the entire shared process, and all the fun, friendship, challenge and learning that occurred along the way.

**Jessica Gorlin**  
Director of Performing Arts



# Confronting challenge

Ned Brockman became a household name last year as he ran across Australia with the message of “getting more comfortable in the uncomfortable”.

The Eildon Camp became a space in Term 3 for our Year Eight students to explore this concept and parallel this learning, while they considered how it could be used in their lives outside of their camp experiences.

Through activities such as our High Ropes course and White-Water Paddling, the students were presented with a variety of challenges and adversity. During these activities our students created management techniques, explored comparable benchmarks through challenge by choice, and focused on supporting peers facing their own challenges.

Adversity and the idea of ‘being uncomfortable’ extends for some students to other aspects of the Year Eight experience. For some it might be managing the cold temperatures and inclement weather while completing activities, working with unfamiliar peers to achieve group goals, or sharing a cabin space and managing personal possessions independently.

It is amazing to see the Year Eight students working through these feelings of being uncomfortable and their pride in completing challenges that they have set for themselves. The growth mindset of our students to develop self while at camp, and their discussions about taking these skills back to other aspects of their lives truly make the Year Eight experience special.

**Stephen Collins**  
Deputy Camp Manager



Crystal Du

## UN Youth National Conference

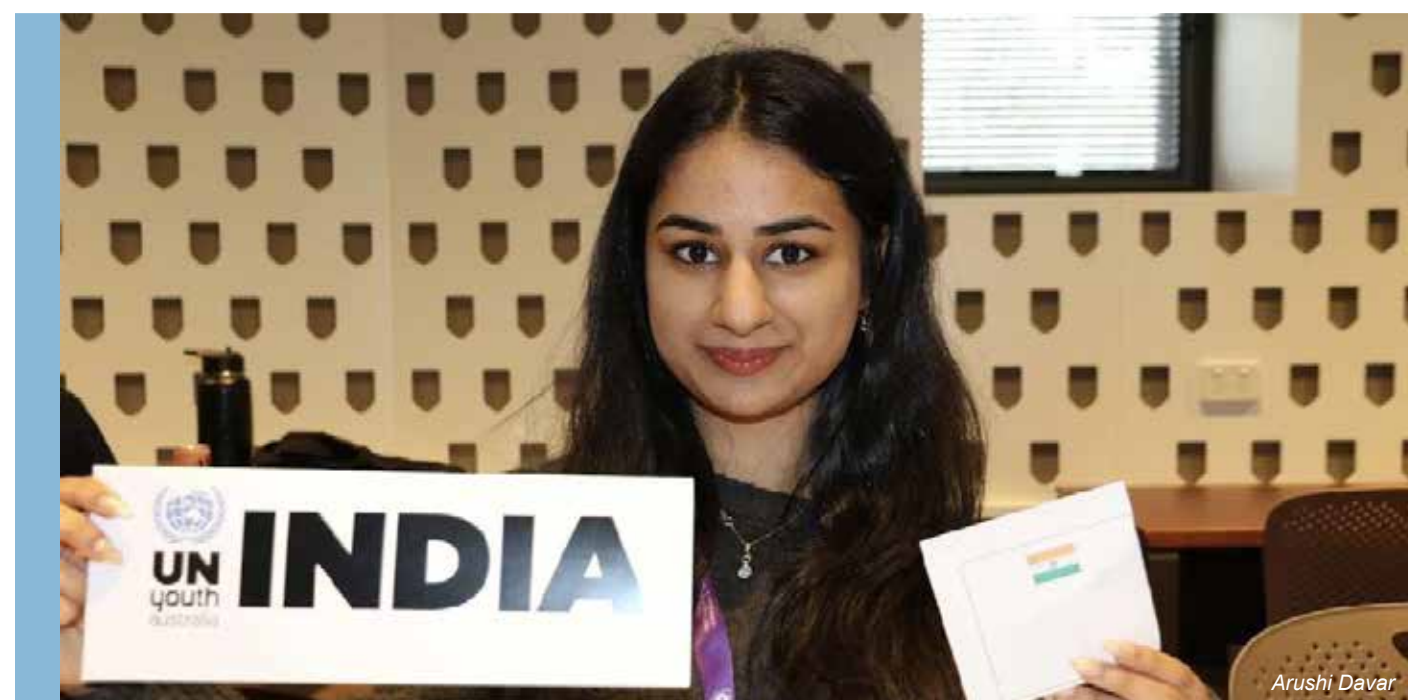
We all know the United Nations as a place where countries get together to discuss global issues, and in the mid-year holidays we had the opportunity to attend the UN Youth National Conference in Brisbane to do just that; a whole week of the perfect mix between socialising and learning left us with happy memories when it ended.

A key takeaway from this event was knowledge gained about global politics, as well as the opportunity to engage with people from across Australia and New Zealand, while negotiating and gathering support for proposed amendments from representatives of various countries. I got to speak in some UN workshops and worked with other representatives, which helped me to develop effective communication and share new ideas. Being the representative for India allowed me to interact with many different countries. Many new friendships were made, not only professionally, but also while spending time together outside workshops and debates.

**Arushi Davar**  
Year Eleven

A highlight for me was speaking in Queensland's Parliament House about a proposed amendment in my role as a representative for the Solomon Islands. Apart from participating in the Model UN, it was a wonderful experience meeting people, sharing our passion for human rights and desire to make change through international relations, and listening to different opinions and perspectives on issues that affect everyone. So many new friends were made; some in Melbourne, some across states and some even across oceans. I don't think I'll forget the late nights writing amendments and exchanging delegate business cards anytime soon.

**Crystal Du**  
Year Eleven



Arushi Davar





**2024 Premiers**



# Hockey Premiers

## Girls

With the wisdom and guidance of our coach, support from our team manager, and the continued resilience and passion of all the girls, the Girls First Hockey team were undefeated during the season, conceding only three goals and scoring a remarkable 120 goals.

The girls didn't let success sway their focus and determination, as they worked towards the final rounds and the toughest opponent. In the penultimate match, the team came from behind to beat the champions from the previous year and the Premiership was ours for the first time with one match still to play! The final match of the season was hosted by PEGS and saw the team battle it out against the same opposition as the previous week. This time it was to consolidate the Premiership and win it outright. In front of a strong showing of support, the team took home the Premiership.

This was an historic moment for the school, and all AGSV schools, because it was the first time in the history of the AGSV/APS Hockey competition that an AGSV team won the Premiership and PEGS was the team to do so!

It was an incredible year for the team and will always be remembered with great fondness. Not only did the team finally claim the Premiership but the players worked together to make history for everyone who has ever been associated with Girls First Hockey at the school.

**Abbi Burns**  
Captain, Girls Hockey



## Boys

The boys Firsts hockey players this year were determined to ensure it was a season to remember. With an influx of new young talent, the team was diverse in age, however, it didn't stop members forming a strong bond and great chemistry.

Their campaign started well with a couple of big wins however they knew there were some strong contenders to overcome ahead of them. The team's focus and composure under pressure, proved extremely valuable as success continued. Two crucial come-from-behind wins against tough opposition, resulted in the team securing top position on the end of season ladder. This gave the team a great home advantage heading into the finals.

A sound performance in the semi-final, gave PEGS hosting honours in the grand final in which they were set to play cross town rivals, Camberwell. In a highly skilled and well supported match, the home team was trailing by two goals at half time, however, with the crowd behind them and a home pitch advantage in the second half. The comeback kings, with ten minutes remaining on the clock, scored the two critical equalisers! As the final seconds slowly ticked away, the final whistle was blown. The match was drawn. The team's earlier success against the same opposition during season gave PEGS the Premiership and capped off an undefeated season with the ultimate fairytale ending!

**Oliver Neo**  
Captain, Boys Hockey



# Girls Soccer premiership

In our school's history, the 2024 soccer season will forever be etched in golden letters. For the first time, our girls' First team clinched the APS/AGSV championship outright. This achievement was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and unyielding spirit of the players and coaches.

The first four weeks of the season consisted of games against the three most difficult teams in the competition and it was clear from a match when the team came back from a two-goal halftime deficit to score six unanswered goals in the second half, that this season was going to be different.

The senior players, with their experience and leadership, brought a blend of skill, strategy, and heart that galvanized the entire team. Young players also played vital roles, playing with the poise and confidence to be an indispensable asset to the team. Collectively, the girls played electrifying football creating a dynamic style that our opponents struggled to defend. This, in combination with the girls' exuberance and deep desire to win, saw no stopping this team from success.

As the final whistle blew in the last match of the season, the championship belonged solely to PEGS. The jubilant cheers of all present echoed across the field as our girls celebrated their historic victory. It was a season of triumphs; breaking barriers and setting new standards for soccer at the school. The legacy of this championship team will inspire future generations, proving that with hard work, unity, and a bit of magic, anything is possible.

**Sarina Schiavo**  
Manager, Girls First Soccer



# SSV Representation 2024

This year has seen great sporting success across not only our team performances but also through individual recognition. A significant measure of this has been through the large number of students who were formally recognised by their selection in School Sport Victoria state teams. Eleven of our students, plus two emergencies, were selected in various age group teams across six different sports, including basketball, hockey, lawn bowls, soccer, swimming and triathlon. Talents also extended beyond the playing arena, as a current student's leadership was also reflected by an official team assistant role in netball. These achievements, along with numerous state representation across a variety of other sporting associations, such as Hockey Victoria, Athletics Victoria, AFL Victoria and Basketball Victoria, just to name a few, is a great reflection of the depth of talent within our student population.

**Ben Bailey**  
Director of Sport



## Track Cycling Champion

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of representing Australia in the Under 17 Men's division of the YSD Australasean Track Cycling Championships in Malaysia, competing against cyclists from eight countries. This was my first international velodrome experience. I had never previously raced overseas, but my national Championship results secured my place on the Australian Team. I was able to race in all of the endurance events: Scratch Race, Omnium, Team Pursuit and Madison. On the first day of competition I competed in the Team Pursuit and the Scratch Race, where we secured gold and silver medal.

The Omnium consists of 4 different races - Scratch Race, Elimination, Tempo and Points. In each race riders gain points based on their finishing position. After a long day at the track I ended up in second place in the Omnium.

The final race was the Madison, one of my most enjoyable races as it is intense, fast, confusing and dangerous. The field consists of 12 teams, with two riders per team that swap in and out of the race, on the velodrome. This makes it the most dangerous track event of them all, as it is easy to make a mistake. In the end, I won the Madison after lapping the field with my teammate and nearly winning every point.

I am very grateful to my parents as I could not have had this opportunity without their support.

**Maxx Nuspan**  
Year Ten



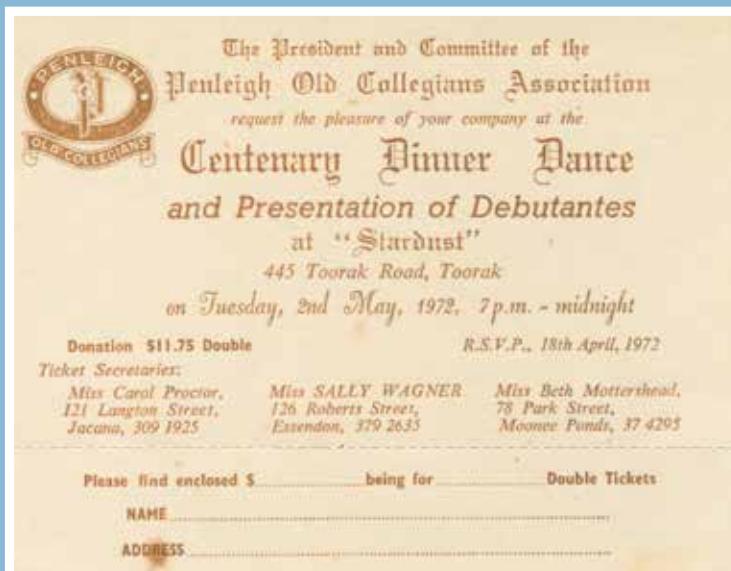
# From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

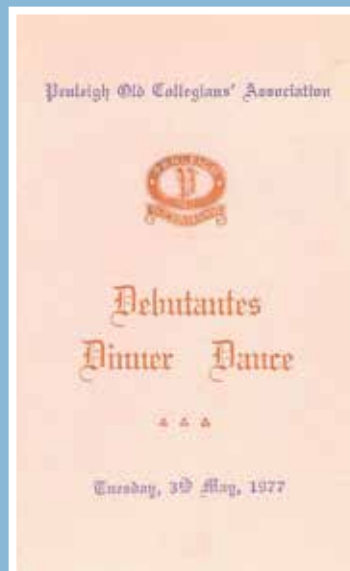
## Debutante Balls 1979 - 1984

A recent donation from the Hocking Family included a treasure trove of Debutante Ball material. Mrs Gwen Hocking (nee Moncur), a Penleigh student from 1930 to 1940, was an energetic Ad Altiora Club (Penleigh Old Collegians' Association) Committee member from 1964, holding many positions, including Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and was Chair of the Ball Committee for fifteen years.

A quote from Gwen from the inside cover of the photograph album shows what a labour of love it was:  
*Deb sets run by Glenys South and me from 1970 - 1984. I found Glenys willing to help me train the Debs and partners - but I only was the disciplinarian and didn't they ALL need that!!*



1972 Penleigh Old Collegians' Association Dinner Dance to celebrate the Centenary of Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College. (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PEGS07869])



1977 Penleigh Old Collegians' Association Debutante Dinner Dance program. (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PEGS07873])



1980 Penleigh Old Collegians' Association Debutante Dinner Dance - Ball Committee. L-R: Anna Dolgapiotoff, Andrea Cockburn, Liane Backhouse, Wendy Jonas, Gwen Hocking, Helen Filla, Karen Stock, Jill Drummond. (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PH08749])



1981 Penleigh Old Collegians' Association Debutante Dinner Dance with Mrs South and Mrs Hocking. (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PH08751])

### Debutante Ball - Qui vivra verra

This year, as in previous years, the year 12 girls of McNab House were invited by the Penleigh Old Collegians to take part in the debutante ball at the Kew Civic Centre. Many of us were eager to make our debut, and, as a result, Mrs Hocking found herself stranded with the arduous task of instilling some crude form of etiquette within a somewhat large set of 42 girls.

As the first rehearsal drew threateningly nearer, it became apparent that Mrs Hocking was not the only one faced with insurmountable limited resources of tall, dark and handsome types at McNab, begging, borrowing and stealing became the order of the day, with impromptu match-making by parents serving as a drastic final resort for some. When parity was finally achieved, and eligible partners diplomatically informed that they were able to wear tuxedos on the night, eight weeks of ballroom dancing instruction suddenly reared its ugly head. However, under the skillful guidance and expertise of Mrs South and the logistic wonderwork of Mrs Hocking we were successfully, if only temporarily transformed into graceful debutantes.

Narelle Conwell - Year 12 (with some assistance from Peter Sawczak)

PEGS Yearbook 1984



1984 Penleigh Old Collegians' Association Debutante Dinner Dance - Group 2 with Mrs Gwen Hocking. (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PH08758])





# From the Archives Brigid Cooper Archivist

## Obituary: Steve Davislim – Opera Singer

**Steve Davislim [Class of 1984]** was among the leading tenors of his generation, and was acclaimed throughout the world on both concert and operatic stages for his beautiful lyric voice, and strong stage presence. His friends would add other gifts, including humour, warmth, great cooking and generosity of spirit.



*Lifelong PEGS friends at the Palais Theatre, October 2023 – Steve Davislim and Darryn Hartnett. (Donor: D Hartnett)*



Stephen Lim and his brother, Garrie [Class of 1988], commenced at PEGS in 1976 and continued to Year 12. Changing their surname to Davislim to reflect their parents' Chinese Malaysian and Irish backgrounds, both boys were talented musicians and commenced music studies at the Victorian College of the Arts. One of Steve's early vocal teachers was the great Australian dramatic soprano, Dame Joan Hammond. Steve sang locally, then left Australia to pursue his career in Europe.

*Steve Davislim (middle row, second from right) with his 1977 Grade 5M Class and Mr Peter Maher in the Assembly Hall (now known as Woollacott Hall). (PEGS Archives. Donor: R King [PH06624])*



*1984 Penleigh Old Collegians' Debutante Ball - Debutantes and Partners - Steve Davislim - 2nd row, 3rd from left). (PEGS Archives. Donor: Hocking family [PH08757])*

Steve went on to appear at many of the great opera houses in the world including the Salzburg Festival, the Hamburg Opera, the Berlin Staatsoper, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. He also performed with the Chicago Symphony, the BBC Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Royal Danish Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra and made numerous recordings including Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Mozart's Requiem, and Martinů's "Julietta."

Steve worked with Australian conductor Simone Young and she paid tribute to him during a function at the Sydney Opera House the day after his death.

*Steve was an artist I first recorded with in 1995 in Melbourne. He's the only artist I've ever made a recording with as a pianist – [we recorded Benjamin Britten's Folk Songs together](#) – and I conducted Steve in Eugene Onegin and Die Meistersinger for Opera Australia. He worked with me in Hamburg. He was working with me again in Berlin in April and May this year where he suddenly become very ill. It's all been rather shocking for all of us.*

In 2021, in the midst of COVID-19 lockdowns, Steve performed Queen's [Who wants to live forever](#) with European opera star, Günther Groissböck, and the Wiener Singakademie Choir in St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna, Austria.

Steve visited Melbourne regularly to perform and always made a point of catching up with PEGS friends, many of whom he met through music at PEGS, particularly in Mrs Armour's Choir.

In 2023 Steve performed in Victorian Opera's *Idomeneo* by Amadeus Mozart at the Palais Theatre, Melbourne, in July, then *Das Rheingold* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simone Young in Sydney in November.

Steve Davislim died in Vienna, Austria, in August 2024.



*PEGS Music friends, Rathdowne Street, October 2023. Back row: David Sivaraj, Tim Holmes, Darryn Hartnett, Hugo Kelly. Front row: Robert Erlenwein, Steve Davislim, Dean Cole. (Donor: D Hartnett)*



# PEGS Former Students Association and Business Network

## 2024 Events

### FSA Reunions

- **Class of 1984 40 Year Reunion** – Friday 11 October at 7pm, Penny Young, Young St. Moonee Ponds
- **Class of 1989 35 Year Reunion** – Friday 15 November at 7pm, Penny Young, Young St. Moonee Ponds
- **50 Year Anniversary of McNab House and Class of 1973/1974 Reunion** – Friday 22 November, 6pm (Tour) PEGS Senior campus, Corner of Keilor and Rachelle Roads, Keilor East. 7pm (Function) The East Pantry, 14 Centreway, Keilor East

In order to hear about upcoming reunions please make sure we have your recent contact details by emailing us at [fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au). You are also encouraged to join your 'PEGS - Class of' Facebook group for event information, booking details and photos of your reunion afterwards.

### LinkedIn

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect all members of the PEGS community in business, creating opportunities for collaboration and growth that benefit the community as a whole.

To request membership, please login to LinkedIn and search for 'PEGS Business Network'

### Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, please search for PEGS Former Students' Association and PEGS Business Network and like our pages.

If you are a Former Student, be sure to find your Facebook 'PEGS Class of ' closed group to stay in contact with your peers and get regular updates on reunions and other PEGS Community events.

### Announcements

#### DEATHS

**Margaret Anne (née McCulloch) Brenner (Penleigh Class of 1970)**, sister of Ian (EGS Class of 1972) and Murray (EGS Class of 1975), grandmother of Karla and Scarlett (current students), aunt of James McCulloch (Class of 1997), great-aunt of Chloe and Josh (current students).

**Stephen David (Steve) Davislim (Class of 1984)**, International Opera Singer, brother of Garrie (Class of 1988), on 11 August 2024, age 57, in Vienna, Austria.

**Darren John Gibbs (PEGS Facilities Staff 1998 – 2024)**, on 26 Aug 2024, aged 59.

**Mrs Betty Moore (Staff, Penleigh 1976 - 1981)**, mother of Nan McNab (Penleigh Class of 1971) and Alan McNab (EGS Class of 1973), on 26 March 2024, aged 92.

**Raymond Maurice (Ray) Quincey (EGS Class of 1971)**, Motorcycle Champion, brother of Susan (Penleigh Class of 1974), on 20 June 2022, aged 67.

## Setting the bar high

It's not always easy for a student who attends the school at which their parent teaches, so spare a thought for Catherine Pierce (PEGS 1997) whose mother Rae Pierce AM was the lofty figure of Vice Principal and then Principal throughout her thirteen years at the School. Catherine's father, the late Professor Peter Pierce, is also remembered as an inspirational teacher of Literature at the school during that period.

Exhibiting a dedication to her work and a love of learning to match that of her exceptional parents. Catherine excelled both at school (Catherine was Dux of Girls in 1997) and then in her chosen career of Law. Catherine recently became one of twenty-five appointments to Special Counsel in and for the State of Victoria at a ceremonial sitting in the Banco Court. On hand to witness this momentous occasion, alongside her proud mother Rae, were family friend and fellow lawyer Cynthia Sica (PEGS1992) and her son Peter Filopoulos (Year 10) together with the former Head of PEGS Junior School (girls), Gabby Mahoney.

Having been recognised in the Victorian Junior Counsel rankings of Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession for her expertise in tax law, Catherine currently practises in taxation, commercial and public law and has appeared in both international and domestic commercial arbitration.

Before joining the Bar in 2011, Catherine worked as a solicitor at Walkers Hong Kong and on secondment to King & Wood, as well as an interpreter in the French and Mandarin Chinese languages.

Congratulations to Catherine on her outstanding success!



L - R: Cynthia Sica, Gabby Mahoney, Catherine Pierce SC, Rae Pierce AM, Peter Filopoulos



# Donning the (Blue, Maroon) Green and Gold

Water polo guns **Blake (PEGS 2009)** and **Lachlan (PEGS 2012) Edwards** were always destined for Olympic glory with their father Robert a former Shark who represented Australia at the 1978 World Championships. The talented brothers were part of the Sharks team that just missed the quarter finals finishing ninth at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics but were an even bigger part of the 2024 campaign in Paris, Blake assuming the role of co-captain. On the back of their performances the Sharks finished second in their group after the preliminary rounds including victory over heavyweights Hungary and a stirring 8-3 win over eventual champions Serbia.

Although a medal alluded them, going down in a penalty shootout to the might of the US in the quarter finals, Blake, Lachlan and the rest of an inspiring Aussie team showed these Sharks were certainly not out of their depth when it came to mixing it with the big boys.

If you were to look up the word leadership in the dictionary you would surely find the perennially smiling face of 1500m runner **Linden Hall (PEGS2009)** gazing back at you. Voted as one of five team captains of the Aussie athletics team, Linden especially embraced the opportunity to mentor the Games' numerous debutants, sharing her experiences and learnings and revealing what was special to her at her first Olympics.

Out on the track Linden displayed all the qualities that won her that position, literally leading from the front in her 1500m heat despite the fact she had a significant calf tear. She would fade to finish eighth but would courageously back up again in the repechage to see if she could earn a place in the semi-finals. Unfortunately her injury once again prevented her from advancing, however this three-time Olympian showed once again why she is one of the toughest competitors and greatest leaders to represent the green and gold.

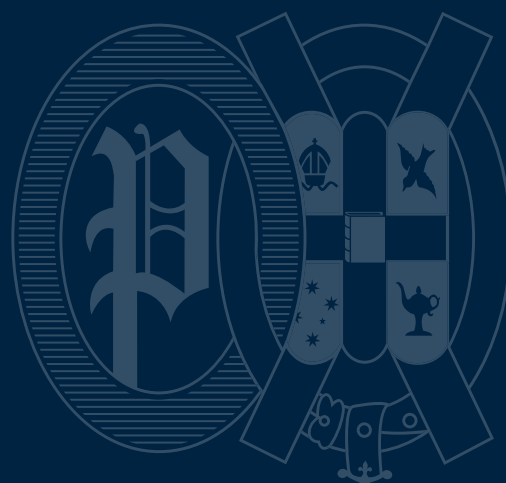
Paris represented a slice of history for our own **Stacey Hymer (PEGS2017)** who became the first Australian female to compete in two Olympics in the women's featherweight category in Taekwondo.

Heading into the Games Stacey was triumphant in the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands, the Australian National Championships and the Australia Presidents Cup while also taking silver at the Australian Open, the Kimunyon Cup in South Korea and bronze at the Korea Open. She herself admitted that Tokyo didn't turn out how she wanted, so this time round she was determined to just soak up the experience and, as always, do her best.

A tough match up in the round of 16 resulted in a super competitive but ultimately tight loss but despite the result Stacey relished the opportunity to take part in her second Olympics, and the different experience it had brought compared to Tokyo three years ago. "This Olympic experience is just surreal," she said. "It's like an over the moon kind of feeling just to be able to be in it and soak it all up".

As always Stacey had gone down swinging.

*Congratulations to all our PEGS Olympians whose dedication, commitment, courage and unwavering belief inspired a nation and made us all immensely proud.*





# Friends of PEGS

## Trivia Night

Parents and friends Glittered and Sparkled at this year's Friends of PEGS Trivia Night on 15 June. A new venue, the Ukranian Hall in Russell St, Essendon, was filled with fun and laughter whilst enthusiastic competitors played for victory as Quizmasters, QuizzaMe, interactively guided guests through a night of buzzers and impromptu performances. A healthy dose of competitive spirit was evident weaving through the evening atmosphere as competitors battled for points and bid for the many silent auction prizes on offer.

Friends of PEGS enjoyed once again hosting an event where parents and friends can participate, rise to the challenge and leave laughing and smiling.



# End of Year Luncheon - Friday 29 November 2024

At Fior, 476 Brunswick Road, Parkville

Anticipation surrounded this event held last year at the new local venue, Fior, and it did not disappoint. This beautiful setting will again host the 2024 End of Year Luncheon when we approach the conclusion of 2024 and the start of the festive season on 29 November.

This highly anticipated and elegant Luncheon provides parents and guests with an excellent opportunity to celebrate together the year that was, while enjoying a beautiful meal and musical accompaniment, and enjoying the thrill of various silent auctions.

We look forward to celebrating with you on Friday 29 November.



# Craft Market - 12 October

It's on again, that favorite time of the year – FRIENDS OF PEGS CRAFT MARKET!! Again this year we are looking forward to a fun filled family day at the Craft Market with rides, games, market stalls, an animal farm, great food and much more, as well as showcasing our student performers on stage! This highly anticipated event, adored by both kids and adults, returns to the Essendon Campus on Saturday 12 October. An unmissable calendar date for all is 12 October.





PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**FRIENDS OF PEGS**

# **CRAFT MARKET**

**SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER**

**10am to 4pm**

**ESSENDON CAMPUS**

ENTER VIA FLETCHER STREET, ESSENDON



**NEW EXCITING CARNIVAL RIDES  
HOMEMADE CAKES AND SLICES  
CRAFT AND BOUTIQUE STALLS  
COFFEE AND FOOD TRUCKS AND BBQ  
COMPETITIONS AND GAMES  
FACE PAINTING ... ANIMAL FARM  
MUSICAL AND DANCE PERFORMANCES  
AND MUCH MUCH MORE ...**

For more information and stallholder bookings  
contact Lyn LoMoro 03 9016 2183 [lyn.lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:lyn.lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au)





# 2024 Dates for the diary

## October

7 October – Term Four begins  
8 October – VCE Visual Arts Viewing  
12 October – Craft Market  
16, 17 October – VCE Music Performance (Unit 2)  
21 October – String Concert Three  
22 October – Valedictory Dinner  
24 October – Piano Concert Two  
28 October – Suzuki Concert Five

## November

4 November – Mid term break  
12 November – Junior Brass and Percussion Concert  
18 November – Suzuki Graduation Concert  
26 November – Primary School Concert

## December

9 December – Carol Service  
11 December – Term Four ends

Contact details: [newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.au)

