

# MATER HIGHLIGHTS

## Mater Maria Catholic College



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 2022

## EDUCATION PERFECT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Education Perfect English Championships were held in September, and we would like to congratulate all participating students.

Mater Maria achieved some amazing results due to the efforts of these students. The College placed first in NSW in the 501-1000 student category out of 118 schools. We placed third overall in NSW, 14th overall in Australia and 17th overall nationally. The top 15 students have been awarded certificates from Education Perfect and these have been presented at the Year assemblies.

Congratulations Mater!



*Featuring Zac Smith (Year 7) – First Place, Daniel Maruca (Year 8) – Second Place and Anthony Spadina (Year 7) - Third Place*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER –  
MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER**  
HSC Examinations

**THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER**  
BBSSA Rugby & AFL Girls Gala Day  
(Junior and Intermediate)

**MONDAY 17 OCTOBER**  
BBSSA Water Polo Gala Day

**FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER**  
NSW All Schools Rugby League

**MONDAY 26 OCTOBER**  
2023 College Prefect Leadership  
Day

**WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER**  
NSWCCC Water Polo Opens  
Championships

**FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER**  
NSWCCC Junior Water Polo  
Championships

**MONDAY 31 OCTOBER**  
Year 10 Examinations Week  
Years 7 – 11 Christmas Hamper  
Launch

**TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 4  
NOVEMBER**  
Year 10 Examinations

**WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER**  
Year 9 2023 Entrepreneur's Day

**MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER – FRIDAY  
11 NOVEMBER**  
Years 7 – 9 Examinations

# BUDDING AUTHORS COME TOGETHER IN THE BLC LIBRARY

**Write a Book in a Day** is a creative and challenging writing competition where students in teams of 5-10 collaborate to create books to present to children in hospitals. Mater Maria Catholic College signed up for the opportunity to share this event with our strong English students once again in 2022.



On Tuesday 6 September, students from Years 8, 9 and 10, with a passion for writing and illustrating, gathered in the library to plan, write, illustrate and print their books in a marathon 12-hour workday.

Our 60 dedicated students working in small teams had just twelve hours, from 8.00am to 8.00pm, to write and illustrate an entire book from start to finish. To make it even more challenging each group had unique parameters to be included in their story and some key words they had to embed in their work that ensured there was a key message to share with young readers. The students also included a thoughtful dedication of support and copyright pages to seal their work as original and gift it to the children in need of all the love and support of the community at the Westmead Children's Hospital. The submitted books are entered into a competition each year and prizes are allocated to the best, most publishable finished works.



The day was fun for all, and healthy snacks were on offer throughout the day to keep us all going. The pizza dinner break was short but memorable with an orange and pink sunset over the Warriewood valley providing a lovely ambience to encourage further after school activities.

Our finished works, from seven very clever teams were then printed, bound and on display in the Benedict Learning Centre. These can be borrowed and read at home to younger siblings which in turn inspires young readers to celebrate the possibilities of becoming young writers.



As well as developing creativity and collaborative skills, the competition is an enjoyable way to help children with serious illnesses. The groups' entries contribute directly to The Kids' Cancer Project which is an independent national charity supporting childhood cancer research.

Our students prospered throughout this extracurricular journey and made lasting memories and friendships through their altruistic sharing. We look forward to being a part of this initiative in the years ahead.

Warm Regards,

Ms J Leigh-Jones and Mrs K Ponton

# SOUL MASS

All students were invited to Soul Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 4 September. Students received 10 House Points and a Faith Leadership Award for attending Mass. Fr Richard had a special invite for students to bring their dad's or significant male. A BBQ dinner and games took place after the Mass and a wonderful evening was had by all.



# ZONTA WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

On Monday 19 September, two Year 12 students attended the Zonta Women in Leadership Dinner to receive the following awards for their remarkable achievements.

Jessica Muir received the Young Women in Public Affairs Award for 2021 and Phoebe Burt received the Young Indigenous Women Achievement Award. Congratulations to you both.



Jessica Muir



Phoebe Burt

# MOSMAN YOUTH AWARDS IN LITERATURE

Well done to all our students who recently took part in the Mosman Youth Awards in Literature. Congratulations to Maia in Year 10 who won First Prize in the Senior Secondary Poetry section!



# MATER MARIA ATTENDS F1 IN SCHOOLS REGIONAL FINAL

Mater Maria Catholic College was recently represented by 'Team Jaeger' consisting of Michael Di Costanza, Luke Santo and Hunter Kerin all of Year 9 in the F1 in Schools Regional Final at the Mt. DrUITT TAFE.

The students designed and built their model car for racing, prepared a Pit display, and sought and secured sponsorship. The students also presented their Engineering and Design process to a panel of judges.

The team won the Regional Final and are now preparing to participate in the State Finals which are to be held at Oran Park Raceway in November.

Congratulations to these young engineers and entrepreneurs.

Mr Hinson



Jaeger Racing  
Hunter, Michael and Luke



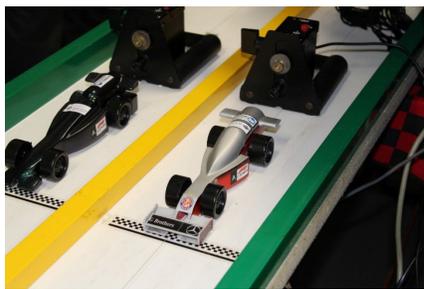
Pit display



The completed racing vehicle



The pit display is judged



Car ready to race



Jaeger Racing



Showing the team shirt designed to include sponsors



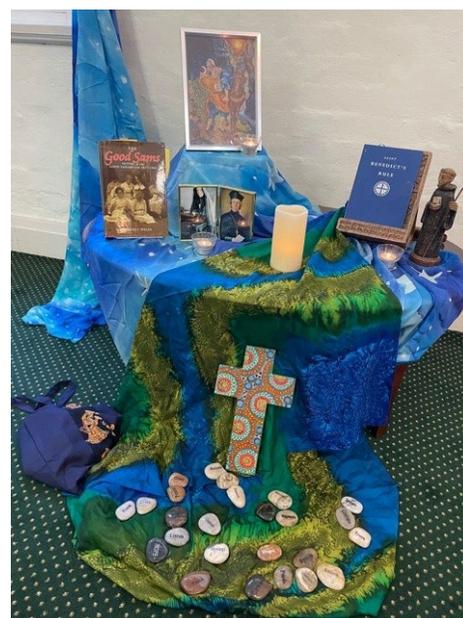
The team being judged on their engineering skills

# COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT

During September, our College Advisory Board met for a comprehensive weekend to plan for 2023.

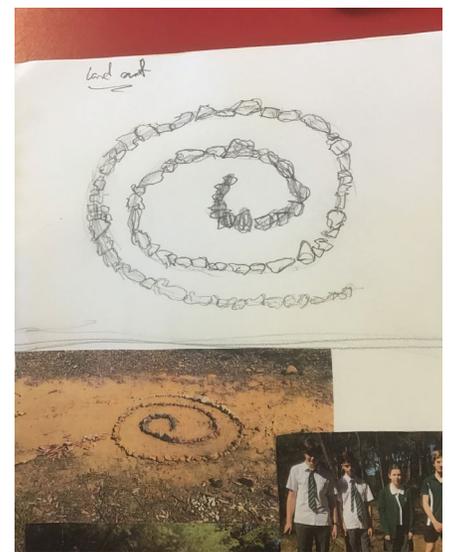
We were blessed to have Patricia Gorman who is an oblate of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan lead our retreat program which focused on the Good Samaritan charism and how we can enrich the Benedictine spirituality in our school. We learnt more about the Good Samaritan story and discussed faith initiatives that we can provide in our community in the future.

Father Richard celebrated the Mass which included a speech from Parish Representative, Julie Bell, and music by Teacher Representative, Dr McGahey.



# YEAR 9 VISUAL ARTS

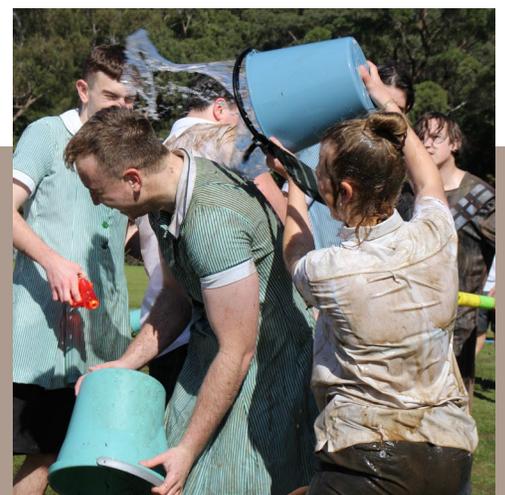
Our Year 9 Visual Arts students have been exploring Contemporary artists and looked at the Land Art created by Andy Goldsworthy. In their double lesson they created their own Site-Specific Collaborative Artwork and documented this through drawing and photography.



# FAREWELL YEAR 12!

During the last week of Term 3, our Year 12 students continued the Mater tradition by celebrating the end of their schooling. It began with their Valedictory Dinner at Miramare Gardens in Terrey Hills. After this, they were presented with their Graduation Certificates and Academic Awards at the College Graduation Assembly and had lunch with their families in the Benedict Learning Centre. Later that day, they attended Graduation Mass at Sacred Heart Church. On their last day, they had fun on the College Oval with water games, cricket with the teachers and a jumping castle.

Each event meaningfully and joyfully celebrated the unique gifts that Year 12 students have shared with us. Through their spirit, determination and care for one another, they demonstrated the Mater Maria values that have guided them throughout High School in the last 6 years. We now wish them all our best as they sit their HSC examinations.



# YEAR 12 FORMAL



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2022

After a two-year lapse due to COVID-19, we were finally able to run our Annual Battle of the Bands competition in the College amphitheater over two lunchtimes. For the first time the judging was completely done by the students online while the event was in progress.

We are pleased to announce that our Year 12 band, *Monke Business*, are the winners for 2022. Thanks to the participants: Junior Jazz Band; Year 7 Band; Year 8 Band; Year 9 Band; Year 10 Band; Year 11 Band; Mixed Year Group Band; and the two Year 12 Bands and to the large crowd of supporters and VET Entertainment students for the sound.

## Winners

- Best Singer - Annabelle Norton
- Best Guitarist - Aiden Flynn
- Best Bass Player - Penelope Martin
- Best Drummer – Jack Martin
- Best Keyboard Player – Anabel Rulli
- Best Overall Performance - Year 12 *Monke Business* with Milo Browne, Aiden Flynn and Xavier Harding
- Runner Up - Mixed Year Group Band with Jasper Nathanielsz, Aidrian Spadina, Jack Martin and Felix Dawe

**Monke Business**



**Year 12 Raf**



**Junior Jazz Band**



## School Spirit



## Year 7 Band



## Year 8 Band

## Year 9 Band



## Year 10 Band

## Year 11 Band



# YEAR 7 CROSS CURRICULAR PROJECT AND MARCHIBALD FINALISTS

This year we trialed a Cross Curricular Project with History, English and Visual Arts. A group met to look at common topics being explored across Year 7 and using this as a basis to consolidate the students learning and aspire to create Higher Order Thinking through this experience.

The History Research Task formed the basis of the subject to be explored. This was then further developed in a Commemorative Portrait in Visual Arts. English based their Narrative Task on this initial research and then Visual Arts asked students to use this Narrative to create an expressive portrait based on a character from the story.

These are some of the finalists that have been exhibited in the Ducker Breakout Rooms, with a synopsis of their story and an analysis/explanation of their artwork. Voting for the top three creative designs took place at the end of August and here are the winners.

**First Place – Hugo Newman**  
Subject: Grandma



**Second Place: Tilly Hansen**  
Subject: Saffie



**Equal Third Place: Rocco Rulli**  
Subject: My Great Grandfather, soldier



**Equal Third Place – Reef Woolley**  
Subject: My Grandma



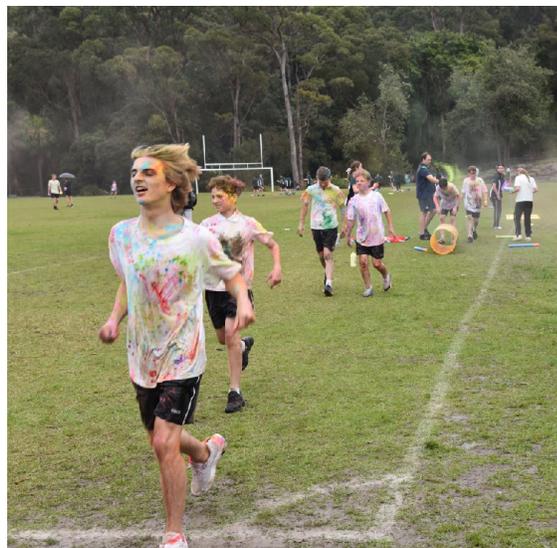
## HIGHLY COMMENDED PIECES



# MONTHLY SPORT NEWS

## YEAR 8 COLOUR RUN

The Year 8 Colour Run in Term 3 was an initiative aimed at raising awareness for homelessness in Australia. It was an enjoyable experience for all involved as the students enjoyed participating in activities to raise money for a great cause. With the inclusion of slime blasters and powder there were plenty of fun activities to take part in as all students were covered in colour and fun!



# SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

## BBSSSA BOYS RUGBY 7'S GALA DAY

The Inaugural Rugby 7's Boys Gala Day was a great success. Mater Maria entered two teams - Juniors (Years 7 and 8) and Intermediates (Years 9 and 10). Our young intermediate team competed hard all day, with a win over Mackillop locking in 3rd place and strong showings against oppositions with many more substitutes and Year 10's participating. Our junior team participated eagerly all day, with contributions from the whole squad leading to five wins from five games. The day was highlighted by a 3-2 win against St Edwards, and this win showed significant growth within the school's rugby program. As a result, the junior team was crowned the Inaugural BBSSSA Junior Champions. Congratulations to you all!



## BBSSA BOYS AFL GALA DAY

The BBSSA AFL Gala Day for Year 7 and Year 8 students was a new experience for our junior boys as they travelled up to Bateau Bay to represent the College for the first time. It was a great day with rain, hail and shine, and some fantastic individual efforts and plays. The students played with fantastic competitiveness, teamwork, and a willingness to learn as fun was achieved by all.



## PENINSULA CUP U14 BOYS RUGBY UNION GRAND FINAL

### U14 Peninsula Cup Rugby Union

Forestville Park hosted the U14's Peninsula Cup Grand Final between Mater Maria and Northern Beaches Secondary College. In one of the most successful teams in recent history, our boys went into this game undefeated with plenty of desire to bring home the Peninsula Cup trophy. The pride the boys played with was admirable, playing with a man down with moments to spare is always a difficult task. The team played their best game all season and this performance has well and truly laid the platform for their future in the green and white jersey. Their defence ultimately won them the game with some fantastic one on one tackles and crucial rucking plays. The backs and the forwards both played their roles to perfection with great passing and teamwork as this young group of boys brought home the trophy. This team has definitely got a bright future in years to come. Congratulations boys.



## PENINSULA CUP U14 GIRLS DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 2 SOCCER GRAND FINAL

Division 1 and Division 2 teams experienced a fabulous competition. With both teams finishing in the Top 2 for their divisions, the Grand Final was the only game left to play. The Year 8 Division 1 girls played against Stella Maris Catholic College at Cromer Park and the Year 7 Division 2 girls played against St Lukes.

The Division 1 Grand Final remained 0-0 at full time, and therefore a five minute each way extra time was played. It was tight and both teams had their opportunities. In the final minute of the second five minutes extra time, the ball was kicked across the Mater Maria goal and Sophia Papadakis was able to tap the ball through the keeper to take the win.

The Division 2 girls played a team from St Lukes which mostly comprised of Year 8 players and their top (and only) team entered the competition. The Mater girls played so well together and with a maturity beyond their years but lost by 1-0. This was a great achievement by the girls and the College is extremely proud of both teams.



## NSW ULTIMATE FRISBEE STATE CHAMPIONS FOR 'SPIRIT'

A big congratulations to our Open Girls who won the 'Spirit' prize at the NSW Ultimate Frisbee State Championships. Mater Maria was the team with the highest average 'spirit of the game' score across the girls division. At the conclusion of each game, a score out of 5 was given by the opposing team on how the team conducted themselves throughout the game, considering fairness, sportsmanship and conduct in the spirit of the game. Well done girls!



# INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

## TAJ SAKOVITS - SNOW SPORTS: SNOWBOARD SLOPESTYLE

Taj recently competed at the Australian Championships for snowboarding in the Slopestyle Interschools event. Taj performed very well and finished 13th in Australia for his event. This is a fabulous achievement, and we congratulate Taj on his achievement.



*Taj at the start line*

## GETHAN HAWYES - SOCCER

Gethan had a fantastic week representing NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Soccer Championships. Gethan played and behaved in exemplary fashion and the whole team came together to overcome Victoria in the final game of the tournament. To beat Victoria, NSW had to beat QLD by 7-0, a seemingly impossible task in soccer at a State Championships. A true show of teamwork was the only thing that made this task possible. This was such an amazing experience for Gethan and we congratulate him on his contribution to the final outcome.



## NATIONAL YOUTH TOUCH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the Spring holiday break, Mater Maria had a number of students representing NSWCCC and their Sydney Scorpions Association at the annual NYC in Queensland. All students represented themselves, and their teams with pride and demonstrated skill and ability that is the top of their age groups. Congratulations to all students involved.

NSWCCC: Sienna Hinwood (Year 12) - 8th overall and Aiden Flynn (Year 12) - 6th overall

Sydney Scorpions: Evan Flynn (Year 11) - 5th overall, Stan Clarke (Year 9) - Overall Champion and Olivia Durdevic (Year 9) - 4th overall



Aiden Flynn



Sienna Hinwood



Evan Flynn



Stan Clarke

# SPECIAL REPORT – SCHOOLTV



## **This month on SchoolTV - Online Gaming**

Games are an integral part of human behaviour. It is normal and healthy for young people to engage in play as a part of their daily lives, including playing games online. And like most activities, online gaming can have both positive and negative outcomes. It can be intimidating and confusing for carers trying to understand a young person's online experiences with many considering that staring at a screen is an unhealthy habit. However, the World Health Organisation does believe that as well as the risks, there are also many positive benefits associated with online gaming and these could be key in nurturing bonds with others.

During the pandemic, there was an explosive growth of gaming as people sought much needed connection during isolation. In the media, gaming often gets bad publicity because most coverage tends to concentrate on the minority of gamers who play to such an extent that it compromises all other areas of their life. However, online gaming can teach young people many skills including teamwork, concentration, communication and problem-solving. It requires a level of interaction and skill from the player; unlike watching television, which is more passive.

Online communities provide opportunities for young people to feel socially connected and have a sense of belonging. At healthy levels, gaming can increase their self-esteem and social acceptance. However, any behaviour, when taken to extreme, can also have a negative impact on a young person's everyday life. Understanding what your young person experiences online and knowing the warning signs if they are at risk, will help nurture a more positive relationship with online gaming and help your family find the right balance.

If you are concerned about your young person's online gaming habits, it's important to consider a number of factors. This edition will provide strategies in how to deal with any issues you may be experiencing. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition, and we always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to this month's edition <https://matermaria.nsw.schooltv.me/newsletter/online-gaming>