International Women’s Day assembly #beboldforchange

This was the prayer used for our International Women’s Day assembly in the hall on Wednesday, March 8. Prepared by Mrs Casey. Acting Religious Education Coordinator it was read by our SRC Spirituality leaders Victoria and Katrina. The prayer and Aleyah Joseph’s Acknowledgement of Country through the sharing of a very poignant story about a relative who was a member of the stolen generation, established the tone for what was a wonderful celebration of women’s achievement. International Women’s Day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy, action and recognising the inspiring role of women in our lives and in our own way, the Bethlehem community honoured the aims of the day.

There were a number of inspiring guest speakers who spoke around the theme the 2017 International Women’s Day was #BeBoldForChange. The theme called on all of us “to help forge a better working world—a more inclusive, gender equal world.”

I spoke to the community about the history of International Women’s Day, how it is celebrated around the world, the significance of the colour and shape of the purple ribbons each member of the community wore on the day and a reminder of the inequalities that exist both in Australia and around the world for women and girls.

“In spite of more than two centuries of endeavour, women are still to realise the goal of equality even in western cultures like Australia. It may seem that the goal is close for women like us because we have achieved a recognition of gender equality, we have an equal right to standing before a court of law or to be offered the right of education”. We also need to be aware in this Catholic community of those who are much less privileged than we are. There are women in the world who are denied the right to control their bodies, to be given the same status as men, to be accorded any type of economic independence, to have any standing before a court of law or to be offered the right of education.”

I then introduced Nichole Taoum, one of our College Vice Presidents, to speak about how the IWD theme fitted perfectly with the 2017 SRC theme. Please see a copy of Nichole’s address below:

“Good morning students, teachers and our special guests,

One of the first things that came to mind when I read the motto for International Women’s Day, #beboldforchange was how perfectly it fits with the SRC motto of 2017: “Be a pebble of excellence. Create a ripple of change.”

Being excellent, being daring and creating change. To be excellent, is to play to your strengths and passions, whether it’s academics, sports, art, music, being socially aware and active—just by being the best you can be regardless of what it is you’re working towards, the list is limitless and it is how we can BOLD for change.

I know the word ‘change’ is really broad and can seem a little out of reach, but major change doesn’t happen overnight, and begins with change in your world, in our everyday lives, even within our school community.

Looking through the overarching aims of International Women’s day, I came across objectives that at first sound so massive, things like, challenging bias, campaigning against inequality, celebrating women’s achievement and being an advocate for women’s education. Many of us are probably thinking that these are beyond us and that we should leave it to famous people, people with power, who already have the world’s attention, but it is the small actions of many, that create that first ripple of change. And whilst creating this ‘ripple’ is easy once it gains momentum, it requires each one of us to be daring, to step out of our comfort zones.

I soon realised that all these ideals are achievable, and it all starts with our daily interactions, the little things we can alter. You and I can be bold and create change simply by being ourselves, by being unapologetically you. Strive to be the best version of yourself by constantly pushing yourself, in things you may already be good at as well as those you struggle with, by trying harder in maths or signing up for a sport you might not have tried. Be your best by persevering, implementing a growth mindset so that when you find yourself challenged, you don’t give up but work harder. Take advantage of all the opportunities you have both at school and in your everyday life knowing that there are so many girls just like us in other places without the endless freedom and prospects we have, girls that dream of coming to school everyday to learn, interact with their friends and be exposed to the possibility of a future that you can create.
But it’s not just about ourselves, it’s about driving those around you to be better. Remember to encourage each other, don’t pull each other down or criticise each other - help, and empower those around you. Celebrate each other’s achievements - the achievements of the women around you are shared, they are our achievements, and we should recognise them for that.

The final, and perhaps most important aspect to being bold for change, is something that may be difficult for some, but is a small change with major impact. Never measure your worth by the value others place on you, or by comparing yourself to others. Everything that defines you as an individual, as a woman, is so entirely unique to you, it’s impossible to define your worth, your excellence, by the opinions of others. Be bold for change. Este Fideles.

Nichole’s speech was followed by addresses from Ms Rachel Neeson (right), Ex-student of the College and Architect of our College building program who shared a personal story of her family and her work, Sr Ivy Khoury (left) a Franciscan Sister who works for Caritas in Mozambique empowering local women to rise above their challenging lives, Ms. McGrath, a teacher at the College who spoke about the work of the One Million Women organisation in the area of action for climate change and Mrs Anderson who shared a personal story of her inspiring grandmother.

The young women of Bethlehem were provided with much food for thought on the theme of #beboldforchange. They will be encouraged in Homeroom Circles to further explore the theme and how they might take some of the ideas forward in their own lives and through initiatives at the College.

Sr Ivy was very quick to send an email to Mrs Casey congratulating the College on the assembly: I leave it for your perusal:

“It was great meeting you today after we communicated with each other for two weeks. Thank you for the invitation.

It was wonderful to join the students from Bethlehem College and celebrate International Women’s Day. When I returned to work I was raving about the presentation from a number of speakers - it was amazing listening to the stories of the other speakers and so inspiring.

Please pass on my thanks to Paula - she really spoke so well. Whenever you would like me to speak to students please let me know. I would be more than happy to return and share more stories of the lives of the most poor and vulnerable that Caritas Australia is supporting.

Kind Regards,
Sr Ivy”

Working in partnership with the College to create strong and resilient young women.

When parents and carers enrolled their daughters in the College, they knew that the College vision is about: “...foster(ing) confident and independent young women of faith, who are creative and collaborative thinkers, sharing a love of learning and striving for excellence. They are courageous in mind and deed and are global citizens with a genuine concern for others.”

When this vision is expressed as a series of relational and academic exit outcomes for our graduates it looks like this:

The achievement of this vision and the subsequent exit outcomes can only be achieved through respectful cooperation and partnership between the College, students and their parents/carers. Like you, the College wants to create strong and resilient young women who will be ready to take their places and make worthwhile contributions to the world. This won’t happen if parents do not share the values espoused by the College nor support the College rules and procedures regarding matters such as: attendance, uniform, behaviour, respectful relationships with staff and peers, completion of homework and assessment tasks, attendance at excursions and whole school events such as College masses, retreats, swimming and athletics carnivals, stewardship of College resources and appropriate use of technology.
While the College offers many, academic, co-curricular, pastoral and leadership opportunities for our students to grow into wonderful faith-filled young women in a safe environment we also have a duty of care to them and their families from the time they arrive at school until when they leave at the end of the day. We do not apologise for challenging our students to be the best people and students that they can be. Some students find aspects of this approach difficult and struggle to accept responsibility for their actions or to remember that they are young women and no longer primary school children.

What makes it more difficult is when the first response of a parent/carer is to become angry or defensive via phone or email message, make excuses for their daughters when things become difficult, “rescue” them and condemn the very people at the College who are attempting to support their daughters before they are fully aware of the facts of a particular situation.

How do these responses build respectful partnerships between the College and home?
How do these responses create courageous, strong and resilient young women?
How do these responses prepare them for problem solving at university, TAFE or in their places of work in the future?

The answer is simple...they don’t.

The relationships between family and school are one of our strengths as a College and I am appealing to all parents and carers to continue the positive cooperation that is in the best interests of our students and your daughters.

Open Day -Tuesday March 7.
Bethlehem College celebrated its Open Day along with the other members of the Ashfield Catholic precinct- St Vincent’s Parish, St Vincent’s Primary School and De la Salle College on Tuesday, March 7 from 3.00pm-7pm as part of Catholic Schools Week.

This was a great opportunity for visitors to experience all the wonderful opportunities that this vibrant precinct has to offer. We had large numbers of visitors throughout the afternoon and evening. We estimated more than 150 families came through the doors. The “precinct” approach meant that we had entire families rather than just girls and a parent or parents visiting the schools. I was pleased to see so many students from our Feeder Primary schools who brought along their parents after their positive experience of our Feeder Primary school visits.

There were tours, open classrooms, Science experiments, Dance and Music performances, interactive games, our Hospitality students cooked and served food throughout the night, there was a BBQ where future parents could meet current parents and two “Meet the Principal” sessions where College President Therese Kanaan and College Vice Presidents Angelica Georgopoulos, Maryrose Sukkar and Nichole Taoum and I spoke about life at BCA from different perspectives.

Visitors were also entertained by the On the Block band who performed an engaging repertoire in the hall under the guidance of the Band Coordinator, Mr Howes.

I was on hand at the beginning and end of the event in the front office to get some feedback from the visitors and it was all very positive. They were incredibly impressed by our tour over 300 tour guides and KLA ambassadors, performers, and KLA ambassadors who did a brilliant job. The visitors also spoke highly of the displays, activities and the contact they had had with all staff. I would like to thank all teachers who worked tirelessly on the night despite having taught a full day of lessons and Support staff who worked a long day ensuring that the teachers, students and visitors were all well looked after.

I would like to thank the parents who also contributed to the success of Open Day. We received strong support for our appeal for parents to assist with letterbox drops in the surrounding areas and volunteered their time to assist at the BBQ and talk to our visitors. I would like to thank especially: Mrs Janine Hannigan, Ms Bernadette Reilly and Mrs Linda Praum.

Bethlehem College has an excellent reputation in the local community and is the school of choice for parents looking for a quality systemic Catholic single-sex school in the Inner West. Please see below an email from one of our visitors:

“Good Morning,
I just wanted to take the time to email you and thank the school for the open day yesterday.

We were very impressed at how welcome we felt and how organised the day was planned. The students were a pleasure and we appreciated the hospitality & warmth of everyone.

Our girls loved it also; although they are still years away from high school they left asking to come to that high school!

Thank you again."

2018 Catholic schools Enrolment period

The Catholic schools enrolment period for Year 7 2018 and 2019 is now open until early Term 2. Bethlehem College has 16 Catholic feeder primary schools and is also very popular with students in other Catholic Primary schools as well as Public schools.

As per the Catholic Education Office Enrolment Policy, students from feeder Catholic systemic schools are given first preference for places in Year 7 to Bethlehem College. All they need to do is submit an enrolment form and they will be given an interview date and time. These enrolment forms have been distributed as part of a package to each Year 5 and 6 student, they were also distributed to prospective parents at Open Day on March 7. Enrolment applications can also be downloaded from the Bethlehem College website or collected from the school office.
The College Enrolment officer, Mrs Apergis has already received a large number of applications for positions in Year 7, 2018 and 2019 and I have commenced interviews and made offers of enrolment to these families. I am asking that all applications be submitted by the end of Term 1.

Our experience of enrolment application data during the last few years suggests that late enrolment applications come from siblings of current Bethlem College students. Siblings still need to submit enrolment forms by the due date! If we have no idea of whether our current students have siblings who wish to attend the school, then we cannot “reserve” a place in the school. With students from 14 Catholic feeder primary schools, other non-Catholic feeder schools seeking a single sex education and Catholic students in our local State schools all seeking positions in the school, competition for places is intense. Whether you are a current Bethlem College parent, an aspiring Bethlem parent or know of families who wish to enroll their daughter at the College, I would ask you to submit the enrolment form by the due date.

**College Swimming Carnival – Friday, March 10**

The college swimming carnival was held on Friday, March 10 at Ashfield Aquatic Centre. The changeable weather throughout the day did not dampen the enthusiasm of our competitors nor those supporting them in the stands. The cheering from each house group was relentless! Much of the credit for this needs to go to our House Captains and Year 12 students who constantly encouraged their peers to not only cheer for the many students competing for their houses but to also lead by example by entering as many races as possible to gain points for their houses. It was also a day of record breaking with Year 9 student Sophia Bruzzese, breaking three long standing records, including one dating back to 1994! The day ran very smoothly thanks to the organisation by the PDHPE Coordinator Ms. Dew. Ms. Dew was well supported by other members of the PDHPE staff: Mrs Allsopp, Ms Beaumont, Mr Eliaro, Mrs Kells, Miss Pasion, who managed key elements of the carnival including: recording, timing/ judging, marshalling and starting. Thanks are also extended to the teachers and other senior students who assisted with supervision in many areas of the carnival. Thank you to parents who joined us at the carnival. Congratulations to Aikenhead house who were eventual winners of the carnival after a hard- fought battle with Vincentia house and to all Age champions and runners-up who swam tirelessly throughout the day to support their houses.

**Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Competition**

Last Friday evening I was delighted to attend the Zone final of the Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Competition with Mrs Anderson, Ms Tsiftsis, Mrs Evangelinaras and Ms Noun at Aquinas College Menai to support Year 9 competitors Joanne Lee and Isabella Sergi.

This is a three-round competition held each year in Term 1 prior to the commencement of the debating season. Students choose a topic from the list provided and prepare a speech which they deliver to an audience of their age peers from a variety of schools as well as parents, friends and of course an adjudicator. Finalists are chosen from each room and these finalists then move into the zone final and, if they are successful, will then move into the metropolitan final.

The Year 9 competition was of an extremely high standard but I am delighted to announce that both Joanne and Isabella have progressed to the Metropolitan final at Marist North Shore on Friday evening.

I would like to thank all parents and care-givers who supported their daughters through their attendance at the competition. I would also like to thank Ms Tsiftsis and members of the English Department for giving so generously of their time to prepare the students for the competition and for their support of the girls at both rounds of the competition.

**Student success:**

- Madalyn Athanasopoulos (8C2) after a full day of swimming and achieving Age Champion at our carnival on Friday, competed in a state RSL youth swimming carnival in Wyong on the Saturday. Youth RSL only allow competitors to swim 2 strokes and 2 relays at a state carnival. Madalyn placed first for 50m Freestyle in the state as age championship and second for 50 m breaststroke runner up state. Madalyn also swam the relays for her zone and they came first for freestyle relay and third place for medley relay. Congratulations Madalyn!

**On the Block Band information Evening, February 28.**

On February 28, parents and students attended an enjoyable information evening on the On-the-Block band and instrumental programs. The evening was prepared and hosted by the Coordinator of the program Mr Howes, who organised an engaging multi media presentation as well as live performances from specialist instrumentalists such as Sydney Symphony Piccolo and Flautist Rosemund Plummer, violinist Peter Lee and some members of the Palm Court orchestra who gave the audience an insight into the rich variety of musical instruments and the opportunities available at our three schools to learn a musical instrument.

I would like to thank Mr Howes for his coordination of the evening, Mrs Bowyer and Ms Weier for their assistance with catering and the parents who attended to find out more about the OTB Instrumental program.
Academic Care and wellbeing programs

A number of parents have enquired about which academic, homework and wellbeing support programs run on particular days so I thought I would take this opportunity to remind parents of the schedule for these programs available at the College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCA Breakfast Club- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8-8.20am</th>
<th>E5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students can take advantage of a free breakfast including: cereals, toast and rolls with a variety of spreads, cheese, boiled eggs, yogurt, fruit, juices and Milo.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Science Club, lunchtime on Mondays</th>
<th>L3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All the Science teachers are available to assist students with Science homework, assessments, enrichment and other Science activities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>English Club, lunchtime on Tuesdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All the English teachers are available to assist students with English homework, assessments, enrichment and other learning in English.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Maths Matters, lunchtime on Wednesdays</th>
<th>A4</th>
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<tr>
<td>All the Mathematics teachers are available to assist students with class work, assessments, revision, enrichment and other learning in Mathematics.</td>
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<tr>
<th>smART Club, after school on Wednesday, Day 8</th>
<th>Art rooms</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students with a passion for Visual Arts or who need time to work on their Visual Arts tasks are welcome to attend the smart club.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Homework Club- Wednesday after school from 3.15-4.30pm.</th>
<th>Library</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinated by the Senior SRC and supported by volunteers from Years 11 and 12 and Bethlehem teachers. It provides opportunities for students to receive assistance with their homework or assessment tasks, to work with peers on group tasks or simply to work in a quiet space to complete homework before they go home. Afternoon tea is provided. Students can be flexible with their departure times.</td>
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Request for donations for BCA Breakfast Club

BCA’s breakfast Club has been operating since mid 2016 and is proving very popular with the girls. It provides sustenance for the brain to commence a full day of learning and operates three mornings a week from 8.00-8.20am. It is currently attracting an average of 70-80 students each morning. It is staffed by teacher volunteers and parents and it is a very rewarding experience as a volunteer. It is great to welcome the girls as they arrive, see them eating and socialising well (device free) and wish them a great day as they leave. They are always polite and very grateful for the efforts of the staff and parents.

When the club commenced last year, it did so initially with donations from the staff at the College. As it gained momentum the organising committee: Mr True, Mrs Wise, Mrs Thorburn and Mrs McAuley were able to attract some funding from generous benefactors such as: Club Ashfield, Sisters of Charity, the Ex-Students’ Association, parents, one of the Flemington Market suppliers and a few of the other suppliers of services to the College to assist with the set-up costs and supplies for the upkeep of the service.

The popularity of the Club has created a need for some additional donations to replenish our depleting resources.

How you can help...

- Donations of gift cards from Coles or Woolworths
- Long life Orange or Apple Juice (size- 1-3 litres)
- Long Life milk
- Spreads such as: Jams, honey, vegemite. **No peanut butter or Nutella** - our kitchens are nut free.
- Loaves of white sliced toast bread or fruit toast bread.
- Packets of sliced cheese
- Fresh fruit such as bananas, (not too ripe) apples, pears.
- Containers of margarine.

Please send your donations through the front office or contact Mr. True

Mrs Paula Bounds
Principal

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**Important Dates Term 1 2017**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Yr8 Mass 8.40am St Vincent’s Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Yr10 Science Excursion to Luna Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-29 March</td>
<td>Yr12 Mid-Course Examination Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Yr11 Biology Field Trip Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Yr10 &amp; 11 Textiles Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Yr7 Mass 8.40am St Vincent’s Church</td>
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Term 2 Commences: Monday 24 April 2017

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**Parents & Students Canteen Orders**

We do not like disappointing our customers! However, sometimes stock runs out. In order to be guaranteed food for recess and lunch, we would encourage all students to pre-order.

Simply attend at the canteen in the morning before school commences and our helpful Canteen Staff will take your orders in readiness for recess and lunch times. Thank you for your cooperation. Canteen Staff
Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of the Bethlehem Community,

Stronger HSC Standards
All Year 9 parents have received a flyer issued by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA, formerly known as the Board of Studies or BOSTES) regarding changes introduced by the NSW Government that from 2020, all Year 12 students must reach a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC.

This received much media coverage at the time of its release in November 2016. A copy of the flyer is also contained within this edition of the College Newsletter.

Most students today go on to Years 11 and 12 to attain a HSC, either through a vocational pattern of study or an academic pattern of study to obtain an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) in order to apply for a university place when they finish Year 12. The minimum standard is part of a broader NSW Government strategy to support all students to achieve essential literacy and numeracy skills they will need for work and life. Students will have their first opportunity to meet the standard by achieving a Band 8 in their Year 9 NAPLAN Reading, Writing and Numeracy tests. Students who do not demonstrate their achievement of the minimum standard in the Year 9 NAPLAN tests will have multiple opportunities to do so through achieving a pass in online literacy and numeracy tests currently being developed by NESA. Parents may also obtain more information and answers to FAQ’s at http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/initiatives/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.

Updating the Senior Curriculum
NESA has also undertaken an extensive review and consultation of Stage 6 syllabuses to “provide more opportunities for students to master relevant knowledge and skills”. Year 11 2018 students will be the first to study the new syllabuses in English, Maths, Science and History courses. More courses will be updated by NESA over time. In Year 12 2019 these students will be the first to complete HSC examinations using the revised syllabuses.

In addition, new school-based assessment requirements include a cap on the number of assessments, providing more opportunities for teaching and learning and reducing excessive student stress. At Bethlehem, KLA Coordinators and teachers of these courses are currently working collaboratively with their colleagues including from other SCS schools to be ready for the commencement of these courses from 2018. More information is available at http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/initiatives/stronger-hsc-standards/updating-curriculum

International Women’s Day 8 March 2018
As Mrs Bounds has already written about, the College celebrated a memorable International Women’s Day on Wednesday 8 March with an Assembly featuring a number of powerful presentations on the theme of #Be Bold for Change by these outstanding women including:

- Mrs Bounds on the meaning and importance of International Women’s Day in 2017
- Nichole Taoum, College Vice-President who spoke on the SRC motto for 2017 “Be A Pebble of Excellence, Create a ripple of Change”
- Ms Rachel Neeson, BCA College Dux 1986, Architect of our College Building Project
- Sr Ivy Khoury, Project Officer with Caritas Australia on her work in empowering women in Mozambique and Tanzania
- Ms Margaret McGrath, College Staff Member/CARE Coordinator on the 1 Million Women Project

Please ask your daughters to tell you more about the International Women’s Day theme and meaning behind the purple ribbons made for each student to wear as symbol of their advocacy for change.

I conclude my article this week with an excerpt from my speech at Wednesday’s Assembly: “‘Being bold’ seems an antiquated way to describe a way of behaving, a mandate for how to live a purposeful life as a woman, irrespective of age, framed by our sex as female.

Celebrating International Women’s Day in 2017 suggests that it is only through being counter-cultural, breaking gender norms and societal expectations that change can occur. That ‘boldness’ is a prerequisite for progress.

Well I think that “being bold for change” relates to the fact that as a gender, women have forgotten that autonomy and capability and self-actualisation and fulfilment and happiness in general don’t come without their challenges. And this has nothing to do with finding childcare for your young children when you return to work after Maternity Leave, or securing equal pay with our male counterparts, or getting more women to become engineers or architects or men to become primary school teachers or even that the AFL has launched its Women’s Competition for the first time this year with 8 clubs contesting in the competition.

No, what I understand about boldness is epitomised in the story of Emilia and her six young children. The part of Emilia’s story that I want to tell begins and ends with her husband Giulio, who left his wife and their young children behind in a small village in 1926 in Northern Italy, in the years following World War One which left in its wake a trail of political, economic and social turmoil as jobs were scarce and towns and cities still reeling from the destruction caused by the war on its soil….

So Emilia’s boldness was her sense of trust in an idea and a husband she hadn’t seen nor spoken to for many years. A spirit of self-belief and indomitable courage to take her family into the unknown and overcome what must have been the self-doubt, the fear, the fatigue and loneliness she must have felt as she made that journey on an enormous leap of faith.

Well the story ends happily and Emilia and her husband and children were reunited in January 1937, 12 years after the story began. Some of you are just twelve years old. 12 years is a long time. But Emilia was bold for the change she and her husband yearned for their family. And I am thankful for her boldness because Emilia was my grandmother and my mother was her seventh and last child, born a year after she and her family arrived in Australia. So I am here because of Emilia’s boldness.

Courage is not something that is given to some people and not others. Courage is the ability to face a new situation with a mindset that says “yes I can” and boldness is the quality that gives us the courage to persevere with a goal, irrespective of its challenges, and to pursue it to its completion. Boldness is taking action where the change that occurs is for the greater good, not just my needs or self - gratification. Boldness is constructive, not destructive. And it simply begins with being the best that I can be: sharing what I have or am good at with others, improving something for those around me, having a good idea and putting myself out there to make it happen. Being bold for change starts with ourselves – not waiting for someone else to do it for me – and believing that God has a greater plan in mind for me to make a difference.

Happy International Women’s Day

Catherine Anderson
Assistant Principal
STRONGER HSC STANDARDS

MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD

In July 2016, the NSW Minister for Education Mr Adrian Piccoli announced reforms to ensure stronger standards in HSC processes.

These reforms are being implemented by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (formerly BOSTES). There has been extensive reporting and unfortunately, some misconceptions about the implications of these changes for students.

The reforms are designed to ensure that the standards for students who receive a HSC are above the minimum Australian standards for literacy and numeracy. The minimum standard is aligned to the nationally agreed standard of functional literacy and numeracy, mapped to the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) Level 3.

Year 12 students 2020 are the first cohort expected to meet the standard by the time they complete the HSC i.e. the Year 9 cohort of 2017.

No student will be excluded from sitting for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results. The minimum standard is not Band 8 in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy. Students who achieve Band 8 in these three tests prequalify for the standard and will not need to sit the online NESA tests.

Students have until Year 12 to demonstrate they meet the standard by achieving a pass in online reading, writing and numeracy tests developed by NESA. These online tests will be first available to Year 10 students in 2018.

Students will have multiple opportunities to meet the standard.
The College will continue to work with our Year 9 students who do not attain the minimum standard in the aspects of literacy and numeracy needing to be assessed by the online tests in 2018 through support and multiple opportunities to do so.

NESA has indicated that courses and support materials for such students will be published during 2017 as will the minimum standards rules and guidelines. Pilot online reading, writing and numeracy tests are being developed this year and information will be provided to schools to support these changes and new processes in the coming months.

Further information regarding the implementation of minimum numeracy and literacy standards in the HSC from 2020 can be found at http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/Initiatives/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard

Catherine Anderson Assistant Principal
HSC 2016 High Achievers’ Assembly

On Tuesday 21 February, students in Years 10, 11 and 12 gathered in the Hall for the HSC 2016 High Achievers’ Assembly, hearing from ex Year 12 students: Victoria Pistevos (College Dux and Premier’s Award Winner), Joanne Antoun, (Premier’s Award Winner), Simone Rabey, Imogen Delangre, Claudia Elfar, Megan Lapus, Isabella Sharp, Lisa Cavagnino, Rachelle Sotrio and Cassandra Napper.

These girls achieved in the highest Bands for their HSC courses (Band 6 being the highest possible band to achieve in the HSC) with Victoria, Joanne and Georgia Stilianesis achieving Band 6s in all of their courses. To receive one Band 6 alone is an incredible achievement, and to hear from girls who managed to achieve Band 5s and 6’s across most if not all of their subjects, was a fantastic opportunity for all of us.

As a Year 12 student myself, it was great to hear first-hand through the Q and A forum about all the various study methods that the girls used to achieve such results. I learned that there really was no standard study method and that we should explore all our options and find what approach best suits us. It was also very reassuring to hear that they too, had the occasional nap and always made time for a snack!

But most importantly, it made me realise the value of balance in my study, and how every girl sitting on the stage as a high achiever, recognised the importance of family and extra-curricular activities. They stressed how there was ALWAYS time for this as well as study. That you can still play sport or go out with family on the weekend and still achieve!

A final highlight was the last question from Mrs Bounds to each of the students:

“If you could go back in time to this day twelve months ago, what advice would you give your Year 12 self?”

It was as though these girls had already been asked the same question several times before. It was only fitting that the girls responded with advice such as: “completing more past papers,” ”exercise as much as you can” and “use study methods that work best for you.” It was touching that the girls made the effort to tell us what we should or shouldn’t be doing, so that we could achieve and strive to the best of our abilities, and avoid the obstacles they had to overcome.

Overall, it was such an inspiring experience to see our fellow graduating class of 2016 achieve such greatness in their studies, and such a fantastic opportunity to learn something new and to improve our own study.

Finally, on behalf of all students at Bethlehem, I would like wish the graduating class of 2016 the best of luck as they commence the next chapter in their lives and thank them for giving up their time to inspire us with such valuable wisdom as we undertake our own HSC journey this year.

Angelica Georgopolous, 12 Aikenhead 1

CSDA Public Speaking Preliminary Round 1—Friday 10 March 2017

We have some fantastic news. To top the great day that we had at the Swimming Carnival, alongside Aikenhead’s win, we were successful in the Zone Final for Public Speaking last Friday evening with not only one but BOTH Year 9 girls making it through to the CSDA Public Speaking Grand Final Competition for 2017.

We are extremely proud of both Joanne Lee and Isabella Sergi for their brilliant display of public speaking skills in what was a tough forum. Despite Isabella Sergi’s ill health and Joanne Lee’s dedication and swimming in numerous events in the carnival on the day, they managed to impress not only the adjudicator but the audience with sophisticated content beyond their years and equally powerful presentation.

The Zone final was held at Aquinas College in Menai where the girls competed against 8 other equally strong candidates. For the first time in our College history we have two girls from the same year group progress to the Grand final. We are so proud of both girls and are extremely anxious and excited for next Friday evening.

The Grand final will be held at Marist College North Sydney on Friday 17 March, where no doubt the competition will be fierce.

A special thank you to Mrs Bounds, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Evangelinaras and super coach Ms Noun and the girls’ parents for their support and dedication.

We wish both girls and their coach all the very best for next week. They are already winners in our eyes.

Georgina Tsiftsis
English Coordinator
Bethlehem College

Creating future learning spaces

Works Update – Due for completion August 2018

Architect - Rachel Neeson (Ex Student) Neeson Murgat - Multiple award-winning architects
Construction company - Gledhill Constructions - Experienced in building schools including: Barker, SHORE, Knox, Scots, Monte St Angelo and PLC Colleges

SCOPE OF WORKS
Construction of a new three-storey building with flexible learning spaces
Refurbishment of Art/TAS spaces in Sophia Building
Construction of new Music facility in Sophia Building Construction of new Learning Centre
Demolition of Marian Building/ LORA bridge
Refurbishment of Food Technology kitchen
A bridge/spine to create a good link to all existing buildings for better movement and circulation
Creation of Marian Square recreation, sports and playground area
Construction of new basketball courts at the rear of the school

For further information visit www.bethlehemcollege.nsw.edu.au
18 Bland Street, Ashfield NSW 2131 P 9798 9099
Dear Lord,

Help our girls to demonstrate good habits during their exams.
Help them to think flexibly and to manage their impulsivity – not rushing in with the first thought in their heads.
Help them to think about their thinking and plan their responses carefully.
Help them to communicate with clarity and precision.
Help them to persist with difficult questions and to apply their knowledge to new situations.
Help them to check their answers and to strive for accuracy.
Help them to succeed in these exams by doing their best.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord
Amen.

Open Day
Our Open Day on Tuesday 7th March was a wonderful celebration of students and their learning. Thank you to all staff and students for your enthusiasm and hard work.

ASSESSMENTS DUE: The following assessments are due in the coming weeks:

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<tr>
<th>YEAR 12</th>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>13th March – Physics, PDHPE</td>
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<td>16th March – Eng Ext</td>
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<td>17th March – Ancient History</td>
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<td>21st March – EEC</td>
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<td>22nd March - Drama</td>
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<td>24th March – RCS, SOR I, Maths 2U, Maths General</td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>EXAM BLOCK – TIMETABLE AS ADVISED</td>
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<td>30th March – Eng Studies, IPT</td>
<td>27th March – Eng Adv, Standard</td>
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<td>28th March – Chemistry, Bus Studies</td>
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<td>29th March – IPT</td>
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<td>31st March – Legal Studies</td>
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<td>15th March – Commerce, Elec His</td>
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<td>WEEK 8</td>
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<td>22nd March – Dance, Music, PASS</td>
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<td>29th March – Textiles, Vis Arts</td>
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<td>30th March – History A, N</td>
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<td>31st March - History E</td>
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Well done Amelia. See Mrs Mann for your canteen voucher.

BRAIN TEASERS: Problem 62:
Draw 4 straight lines which pass through every one of these 9 dots without lifting your pen from the page.

Students are invited to solve this problem, and deposit the answer, marked clearly with name and homeroom, in the box in the General Office by 3pm on Monday 27th March. The first correct entry drawn will receive a canteen voucher!!!! Congratulations to last week’s winner, Amelia Vasiliiou, 9C2, who correctly solved the suduko.

Mrs Janet Mann
Curriculum Coordinator
A Parent’s Supporting Role for homework

It can be difficult to see your kids stressed out over homework, especially when there's a test or important deadline looming. But you can help by teaching them the problem-solving skills they need to get through their assignments and offering encouragement as they do.

Some tips to help:

• **Plan ahead**: Especially in Yr 7, Regularly sit down with your teen to make a plan of action and to ensure that their workload is balanced. Encourage them to learn to do this for themselves rather than inflict a plan on them that is unrealistic.

• **Establish a routine**: Send the message that schoolwork is a top priority with ground rules like setting a regular time and place each day for homework to be done. Make it clear that TV or internet should be a reward for completing a set study time.

• **Instill organization skills**: No one is born with great organizational skills — they're learned and practiced over time. Most kids first encounter multiple teachers and classrooms in high school, when organization becomes a key to succeeding. Give your teen a calendar or personal planner to help get organized. If they are struggling, colour code subjects until they get the hang of it.

• **Be there**: You don't have to hover at homework time, but be around in case you're needed. Be aware, if your child has been struggling with a homework assignment or maths problem for a while, encourage a break to refresh their mind.

• **Don't forget the study skills**: Help your teen develop good study skills. No one is born knowing how to study and people study in many different ways. When you're helping your teen study for a test, for instance, suggest new strategies such as using flashcards to memorize facts or taking notes and underlining while reading.

• **Encourage students to reach out**: Most teachers are available for extra help before or after school, and also might be able to recommend other resources.

**Most importantly, Be guided by your child.** No child likes to feel that their parent is creating a plan that is unreasonable. All this will do will is create a backlash. Work together with your child to create a routine that suits them.

If you feel your child is struggling and needs more guidance, please feel free to contact the school counsellor.

Karen Rushbrook
School Counsellor
COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Open Day 2017
Principal’s Address-
Mrs Paula Bounds
WELCOME TO
Visitors

The College Student Leadership Team

Outstanding HSC results

Volunteering for SSI
International Women’s Day

“YOU SHOULD NEVER LET YOUR FEARS PREVENT YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT.”

“EXTREMISTS HAVE SHOWN WHAT FRIGHTENS THEM MOST: A GIRL WITH A BOOK.”

“HERE’S TO STRONG WOMEN, MAY WE KNOW THEM, MAY WE BE THEM, MAY WE RAISE THEM.”

“IMPOSSIBLE, she never said I’m impossible.”

“Be bold enough to use your vote, brave enough to listen to your heart, and strong enough to live the life you’ve always imagined.”

“I BELIEVE THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IS THE UNEARTHED BUSINESS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.”

“Hillary Clinton 2016”
Community News... St John of God

The St John of God Institute of Counselling, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment, pastoral care and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde. Enrolments are accepted up to the end of March. The cost for the course is $450.00 for the year with an early bird offer of $400.00 if paid in full by the end of March 2017. For enquiries please contact:
Carol Harding - 0408 705 848 (anytime); Jannelle Carlile - 0431 598 004 (5.30 to 8.30pm Mon to Fri); or
Email: counselling1969@gmail.com
OPEN REHEARSAL NIGHT – 23RD MARCH

Do you play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument?

Adults and students are warmly invited to bring an instrument and come along to our Ashfield Concert Band Open Night.

When: Thursday 23rd March, 7:30 – 9:30pm

Where: Above St Vincent’s Parish Hall
12 Bland St Ashfield

Please register your attendance with Tom (0404 041 110) or John (0405 270 339) so we can organise music for you.

Secretary @ashfieldcommunityband.com
http://www.facebook.com/AshfieldCommunityBand

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Carnival of Cultures

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2017
10AM-4PM ASHFIELD PARK

Live entertainment, international food and market stalls, plant giveaways for local residents and fun activities for the whole family. Free shuttle bus running regularly from Ashfield Civic Centre. Prizes available for cyclists using free bike valet service!

FOR FURTHER DETAILS VISIT WWW.INNERWEST.NSW.GOV.AU/CARNIVALOFCULTURES OR CALL 9716 1800

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