

the Spirit



connecting girls • empowering young women



Issue 23
2022

In this Issue

Reconnecting with Learning
in STEAM (p6)

Year 12 Last Day (p13)

Meet Our New Archivist
(p20)



A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION

Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, engages young women in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled Catholic community with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion, we honour the sacred dignity of each person.

We aspire to provide exemplary and innovative education that will challenge young women to achieve their personal best and to embrace the future with hope, courage and confidence.

In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, we encourage young women to identify their strengths, enhance their sense of self worth and be open to new ideas.

Values

We live the Dominican values through:

Prayer by nurturing spirituality and celebrating joyfully as a community of Faith

Study by striving for personal excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth through research, creativity and innovation

Justice by empowering young women to embrace diversity, respect human dignity and actively engage in the gospel imperative of responding to local and global injustice

Community by recognising that a sense of belonging and connectedness is the foundation for fostering good relationships and service to others

The Spirit

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SIENA
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A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

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Contents

- 1 From the Principal
- 2 Dominican News
Annual Memorial Mass
- 3 Mission and Identity
- 4 Learning and Teaching
- 5 Connection Matters
- 6 Student Wellbeing
- 7 Justice Education
Student Formation
- 8 Development
- 9 Introducing the New Staff of 2022
- 10 Antonio de Montesinos Award
Arts and Technology Exhibition
- 11 Summer Concert and
Kopanang Christmas Market
- 12 Acknowledging our 2022 College Captains
Introducing our 2023 College Captains
- 13 Year 12 Final Day
- 14 Athletics Carnival
St Catherine's Day Fiesta
- 15 Annual Music Concert
Open Evening
- 16 Community Awards 2022
- 17 Reunions 2022
Careers Showcase
- 18 Year 12 Tutoring Program
2022 Notable Alumna
Save the Date
- 19 Births
We Remember
Alumnae Wall Inscriptions
Siena Global Connect
- 20 Meet Our New Archivist
Siena Parents' Association
- 21 Mother's Day Breakfast
Father's Day Breakfast



We Acknowledge Country

Siena College acknowledges that our school community stands and meets on the sacred lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

While there has been great change to this land over the many generations, we know in our hearts and minds that their stories and spirits will always be written in this landscape.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we honour and respect the custodians past, present and emerging and we are grateful for the opportunity to join with them in continuing to nurture this land, water and community.

From the Principal

The 2022 school year has seen the welcome return to full terms onsite and the resumption of all activities for students. Staff and students have relished the experience of learning and teaching, in person, and have delighted in those opportunities to gather, collaborate and celebrate with newfound appreciation. In the many ponderings on the last two years, 2022 has shown teachers, students and parents that it is only when you look back that you can truly see the impact this time has had on our young people. The pendulum swing of adolescence surely took on new heights! For everyone, the relative equilibrium we once enjoyed needed to be replaced with a new 'swing', gradual but steadfast in the return to the rhythms and routines of the school year.

It has been said that the footsteps our ancestors laid down create the paving stones on which we make our way. This year has allowed us to draw on the wisdom and faith of our forebears, and who better than Catherine of Siena in reflecting on the paving stones she created.

St Catherine grew up in the bustling city of Siena in the fourteenth century. At fifteen, she cut her hair in defiance of her parents' plans for her marriage and at eighteen, she became a devoted follower of St Dominic. Following a period of secluded living marked by mystical encounters with Christ, Catherine answered the call to take a more active role in her community. She tended to the ill and the poor of Siena and was then an active truth speaker to those in power, seeking peace within the raging upheavals of her day.

Catherine wrote hundreds of letters in addition to her major work, *The Dialogue of St Catherine of Siena*, a record of her intimate conversation with God. Truth and love are central to Catherine's thought and spirituality. Throughout the Dialogue there is a recurring pattern of petition, God's answer, and thanksgiving: Catherine entreats God for a better understanding of truth so that she might love more. Our annual theme takes us to our Dominican roots in being, like Catherine and Dominic, people of truth and people of action. For Catherine, the call to truth and action was fourfold, as seen in her Dialogue: seeking the truth of ourselves in order to best act; speaking truth within the church and being an active agent within it; seeking truth and peace in the world and acting for good, and finally, seeking God's love in all things. And so, our Theme in 2022, *In Truth and Action*, has a definite Dominican ring to it!

The 2022 academic year has reminded us of the many strengths and gifts of our learning community – our faith, our learning and our care. We recognised that our young women can and do experience great success when they fully engage in the learning and life of Siena, developing those qualities and dispositions necessary for learning success, as well as engaging many and varied co curricular activities. This is powerfully demonstrated in the graduates of the Class of 2022 who immersed themselves fully and leave us now, ready to be great leaders for our world.



Elizabeth Hanney
Principal

Readers of this edition of *The Spirit*, will once again see the life of Siena College in action. In this season of Advent, I offer the following reflection:

"You must be men and women of ceaseless hope, because only tomorrow can today's human and Christian promise be realized; and every tomorrow will have its own tomorrow, world without end. Every human act, every Christian act, is an act of hope. But that means you must be women and men of the present, you must live this moment – really live it, not just endure it – because this very moment, for all its imperfections and frustrations, because of its imperfection and frustration, is pregnant with all sorts of possibilities: is pregnant with the future, is pregnant with love, is pregnant with Christ." – Walter Burghardt

Christmas blessings to all in the Siena community.



Dominican News



From left to right: Sisters Judith Lawson, Mary-Clare Holland, Antonio Leoa, Loretta Arohikeni, Veronica Boki and Sheila Flynn.

New Congregation Leadership Team

The Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands have a new Leadership Team following the General Chapter held in Maitland during August this year. Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP was re-elected Prioress and Sr Loretta Arohikeni as the Leader in the Solomon Islands.

Twenty-six delegates from Australia and the Solomon Islands met to set the direction for the Congregation the next four years.

Dominican Family for Justice and Peace in the Solomon Islands

Earlier this year, the Dominican Family for Justice and Peace in the Solomons (DFPSI) submitted a report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) addressing the human rights impacts of logging activities in the Solomon Islands. This is a United Nations (UN) mechanism that reviews the human rights record of every UN member State.

The DFPSI committee is a collaborative venture between Dominican Sisters, Brothers, laity and the Franciscan and Anglican Sisters in Honiara. The committee has been working closely with Fr Aniede OP from The Dominican Desk in the UN, as well as Regional Co Promotor of Justice and Peace for the Asia Pacific, Sr Dusty OP.

A series of online meetings organised between the Dominicans and Franciscans in the Solomon Islands, Australia and Geneva were held to discuss human rights advocacy. Several oral statements were delivered on the negative effects of logging activities on local populations to the UN Human Rights Council. In October, a human rights training workshop was conducted by two UN representatives from Geneva. The training was based on the logging issues identified and geared towards helping to better understand what are human rights and how they can effectively address human rights in the context of logging activities.



Annual Memorial Mass

The Memorial Mass for deceased alumnae, families of alumnae, parents and staff in the Siena community was celebrated by Fr Kevin Toomey OP in the Siena Chapel on Friday, 4 November 2022.

Organised by the Alumnae Association, this annual gathering in November offers an opportunity to pray and remember loved ones who have died over the past year. Following the celebration of the Eucharist, the guests gathered for supper in the staff lounge to share memories.





Jennifer Levett Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

Mission and Identity

Our Dominican Family in the Solomon Islands

Each year on St Catherine's Day, we focus on responding to the needs of our Dominican family in the Solomon Islands; this community is challenged by access to full education, adequate food and water supply and, like so many Pacific island nations, is very concerned about rising sea levels and further impacts of climate change. All funds raised on this day make visible our ongoing commitment to supporting our Dominican Sisters in their important work.

In Term 3, we were visited by Sisters Veronica and Stephany who shared with us the ways in which our funds had been utilised to support their Dominican community. Late in Term 4, we were saddened to hear of the damage caused to Sr Veronica's Ruavato school by a devastating earthquake and its aftershock.



Celebrating St Dominic

Our celebration of the Feast of St Dominic was wonderful as we gathered as a community, albeit in two places, and our readings on this day inspired us to continue to seek truth by being messengers of the Good News.

On this special day, we also commissioned our FIRE (Friends Igniting Reconciliation in Education) Carriers. Staff and students heard that the story told by Jesus and then Dominic was a new way of caring about all people and all things. This was the same as the spirit ancestors of this land used to do, so the Fire of New Dreaming story belongs to Siena College, just as the Scriptures do:

To be a FIRE Carrier requires strength and courage.

As FIRE Carriers you will lay strong foundations in our Siena community to build respect, understanding and knowledge of our shared story that started in this rich land thousands of years ago and continues today.

Stand tall FIRE Carriers you are the Living Flames that will ignite the Fire of the New Dreaming of True Justice, Love, Compassion and Hope for the world.

"Hope means that I live now."

Writing in the international Catholic publication, *The Tablet*, former Master of the Dominican Order, Timothy Radcliffe OP, shares some wise words that resonate strongly with me about 2022 and our ongoing Siena story: *"Every school is a sacrament of hope. Teaching recognises the dignity of the young as truth seekers...it embodies our hope for their future. Hope means that I live now, whatever may happen tomorrow."*



Learning and Teaching

Reconnecting with Learning in STEAM

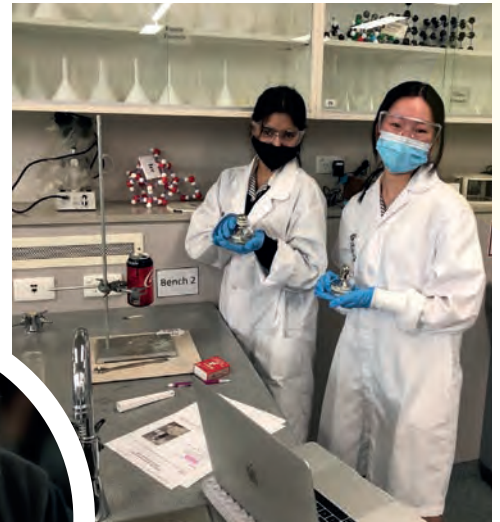
Completing a year back on campus has enabled many opportunities for students to re-engage with extension projects as they reconnect with learning within and beyond the classroom. Below are some of their ventures in the area of STEAM and the broader Sciences!

This year, the theme of National Science Week was *Glass: Different by Design* and much was explored in this space. Staff also enjoyed a science themed baking competition with some wonderful creations! Students celebrated Science Week with science quizzes in House Groups; laboratory sessions involving glass-like creations including making kaleidoscopes, photography, and jelly lasers; a glass-themed Escape Room; and viewings of the SCLnema short films.

Siena alumna, Dr Lorien Parker (Class of 1999) joined us this year as our Scientist in Residence and has enthusiastically shared her passion and talent for science throughout 2022. She has been involved across Year 7, 8 and 9 classes, showing creative new ways to think about the science. Highlights include creating sensor maps for robots to follow, students writing their own zines with inbuilt electrical circuits, students creating beautiful artwork that became visible under different colour light, and students designing their own organisms.

We also welcomed another Siena alumna, Maddy Geyer (Class of 2011), to the Science Faculty to complete her placement as part of her Biomedicine undergraduate course. Maddy developed some new and exciting biochemistry protocols for students to learn about genetics.

Students have also enjoyed a range of excursions this year, including indoor skydiving at iFLY, visits to Luna Park, Melbourne Zoo, Swinburne University – to explore their Formula SAE program – and a Nova Rovers workshop at Monash University, during which students designed and constructed their own mini space rovers. All to enliven the classroom learning!

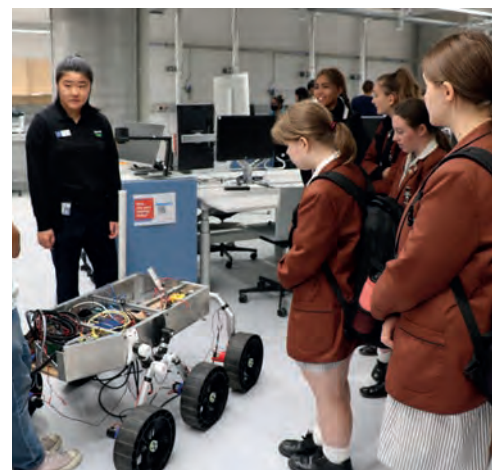


F1 Project

Our F1 Project enabled Year 10 students to engage in the process of ideation, prototyping and testing of an F1 car. Mentored by Engineering students from The University of Melbourne, Monash University and Swinburne University, students were challenged and invigorated to step out of their comfort zone to learn the laws of Physics, as well as soft skills such as negotiation and team work. An excellent opportunity for all!

Senior Science students were invited to think about their futures at our inaugural STEAM breakfast where we hosted an engaging group of scientists and engineers. Our guests shared stories of their various lines of work, and we heard from keynote speaker and Siena alumna, Rebecca Leith (Class of 2017) about her journey from ballet dancing to pursuing a Bachelor of Science and Engineering with Honours at Monash University.

Congratulations to Head of Science, Nick Harvey and his team of highly skilled educators for all they have provided for our students to embrace the practical elements of Science!



Connection Matters

Having a sense of belonging involves more than simply knowing other people. It is also focused on gaining acceptance, attention and support from others, as well as having the opportunity to provide the same to other people. 2022 has provided us all with the opportunity to live out our College Theme of *In Truth and Action*.

When the pandemic interrupted our lives in 2020 and changed the way we live, this meant that suddenly many of our main sources of connection with peers and extended family members were removed overnight without warning. As human beings, we have a basic emotional and biological need for connection. It provides us with feelings of identity, security, support, acceptance and community. This year, the Wellbeing Team has worked with students, families and teachers to reconnect and to celebrate being part of our wonderful Siena community.

Stephanie Vangelista (Cassia), Becky Scott (Dianella), Laine Rice, (Kurrajong) and Lauren Seymour (Waratah) supported all students in their respective Houses by creating opportunities for connection through House events and activities. In their daily interactions with students, they lived the Dominican values and led by example. Student leaders and our wonderful Year 12 students assisted in this by providing the inspiration and leadership that supports significant school events like Fiesta and Sporting carnivals.

A Director of Students was introduced this year to further support student learning and wellbeing. Minna Jewell is particularly passionate about developing the capacity of staff to embed preventative mental health strategies in their teaching as a direct response to the ongoing prevalence of mental health issues adolescents face. She has delivered a diverse Wellness program within our College curriculum. It was fluid in its nature so that it responded to the needs of students as well as offering opportunities for building on resilience, positive coping and enhancing the Respectful Relationships program.

The Counselling Team at Siena (Jen Lear, Lisa Ellis and Gemma Morley) continued to support students, families and College staff to create a successful and enjoyable learning environment, where young people learn to manage their own wellbeing. They worked with individual students and year levels to support students to develop personal insight, problem-solving skills, greater self-esteem and stronger relationships.

We acknowledge the outstanding work of Dr Jennifer Lear who leaves Siena College after ten years of committed service. Jen has worked closely with students across year levels and with their parents. We thank Jen and wish her every success for the future.

Wellbeing that supports learning and life is the essence of *In Truth and Action*.



Antonella Rosati Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy



From left to right: Jennifer Lear, Lisa Ellis and Gemma Morley



Student Wellbeing

Deep down inside, most of us want to feel happy, healthy, as well as connected and valued by our family, friends and the communities that we live in. We all have strengths, weaknesses and preferences; no one is perfect; everyone is different; and you, like everyone else, sometimes need a helping hand. Knowing that you are resilient, that you already have the strength within you to bounce back during challenging circumstances or when things do not go your way, is a powerful sentiment. If you know how you feel, you can make smart choices and create the life that you want.

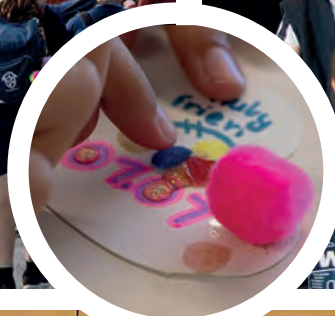
In Semester 2, the Wellness program was anchored by themes such as Safety and Strength. Students have had lessons centred around recognising what can be controlled and learning to accept what cannot be controlled; significance of celebrating our success as individuals and as a community; as well as understanding physical and emotional safety. The Wellbeing Team also worked hard to raise awareness on White Ribbon Day and to encourage contributions to the good work of St Mary's House of Welcome.

We have continued to offer our Year 7 students access to the Kind Mind Club, which has been a very successful initiative launched at the start of the year. We have looked at topics such as self-care, academic stamina and growth in the classroom whilst enjoying mindfulness activities. We have continued to meet every fortnight and these sessions have helped to enhance our connection with each other.

In November, we welcomed a very excited cohort of Grade 6 students who will be joining us at Siena next year. They spent time in their Houses getting to know their peers, House Group teachers and the Heads of House. We are looking forward to the contributions they will make to our community.



Minna Jewell Director of Students



Justice Education

"Encouraging mindful and conscious consumption as an act of love for the planet and its people."

As I write this, the entire world appears to be bracing for Black Friday sales which are to be unleashed upon consumers tomorrow. In a world where shopping frenzies and fashion hauls are the norm, it is indeed counter cultural to promote Slow Fashion as opposed to Fast Fashion, and conscious consumption over bargain hunting. However, given that over consumption is one of the root causes of the Climate Crisis, the Eco Warriors at Siena College believe that this is an issue worthy of not only our attention, but also our action.

In the Year 11 Religion and Society class, students explored Fast Fashion by applying the Ethical Frameworks of Utilitarianism, Hedonism and Deontology which they had been learning about in their class. Students also considered the harmful effects to the environment through sourcing, producing and disposing of large volumes of cheap fashion items, as well as examined the treatment of garment workers in the Fashion industry. Slow Fashion stylist, Jenna Flood (also known as The Ironic Minimalist) and 'Good On You' app cofounder, Sandra Capponi inspired our students to be agents for change by presenting practical and hopeful solutions to rectify the Fast Fashion issue.

The Eco Warriors attempted to hosted Clothing Swaps throughout the year to encourage students to bring in preloved clothing items to swap with others. Through this simple action, we were able to promote the habit of 'Swap, Don't Shop', which helped students to see that there are ways to achieve a renewed and transformed wardrobe without buying more clothes.

We look forward to continuing Clothing Swaps in 2023 as we work towards a circular Siena community.



Bronwyn Illott Head of Justice Education



Peta Mackintosh Head of Student Formation

Student Formation

Our Dominican identity very much informs our leadership at Siena. We consider the four pillars: prayer, study, community and service in our roles and this consideration is integral to our Pillars Leadership Program. The sessions were well attended by students who aimed to extend their knowledge in areas such as Dominican leadership, collaboration, delegation, organisation, wellbeing, identifying character strengths, servant leadership and public speaking.

2022 has seen the return of the House bake sales, where students baked items to fundraise for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, Afghan Women's Organisation of Victoria, Indigenous Literacy Foundation and St Vincent De Paul Society. The Student Representative Council (SRC) has worked incredibly hard to make these activities a success.

During SRC Week, students leaders organised various activities such as volleyball (staff versus Year 12 students), a hot chocolate sales and a disco. The involvement from the student body was wonderful and Siena College raised \$2,012.10 for Caritas Ukraine.

Through this initiative, the student body was able to learn about the plight and experiences of Ukrainians during the war.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the 2022 Student Leaders who gave their time, energy and ideas to organise events and support the many areas that student involvement was required over the course of the year. We look forward to working with the 2023 Student Leaders and welcome their participation and commitment to their roles next year. However, it should be noted that we have had many capable and worthy candidates who applied for the 2023 Leadership positions and I thank these students for their desire to be an active voice and representative of the College community.





Development

2022 5-Star Innovative School Award Winner

Siena College continues to excel. Recently we were awarded The Educator's 5-Star Innovative Schools for 2022. This award recognises schools who have demonstrated innovation and creativity, driving the education industry forward. From teaching approaches to learning spaces and curriculum design, the Innovative Schools report recognises institutions that are shaping the educational landscape of the future.

Read the full article here: bit.ly/3TTMYCY



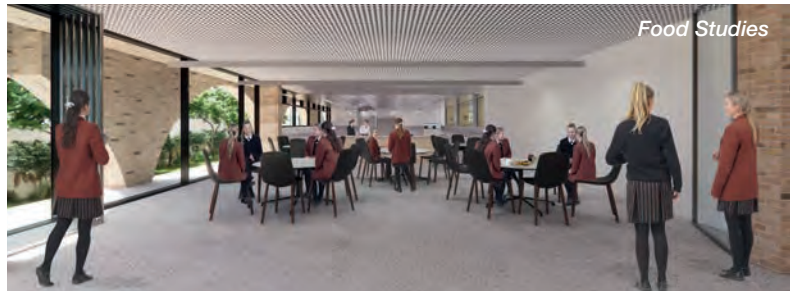
Annual Fees Raffle

The return to normality this year has allowed our Siena Parents' Association (SPA) volunteers to do what they do best at Siena. Throughout the year, SPA hosted several events which resulted in community engagement, and we also saw the return of the Annual Fees Raffle. If you have not purchased a ticket, please consider being a part of this Raffle. This year, we have opened the Raffle to the public, stand a chance to win the equivalent of a year's tuition fees in a travel voucher.

Fundraising for Equity Scholarships

On Friday, 2 December we hosted our seventh Siena Golf Day, which is a major fundraiser for the Equity Scholarship Fund. It was a successful day with over fourteen sponsors and seventy participants. Congratulations to the winning team, Alepat Taylor (Frank Ciampa, Laurie Dipalma, Adam D'Sylva, Tim McMahon). Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support of Siena.

Through the Siena College Equity Scholarship Fund, we will provide strong educational opportunities for students from socially and economically diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in supporting the Equity Scholarship Program or know of someone who could benefit from an Equity Scholarship, please visit the College website.



Master Plan

In September, we received feedback that VCAT had decided against approving our latest Master Plan including the provision of our new STEAM facility – which was due for completion in 2024. Following this development, we immediately regrouped with the architects and town planner to commence a revision of our current plans. We continue to steadfastly focus on the best possible outcome for the College and our students. Our aim is to ensure that the Veritas Centre can be delivered in a timely manner in consultation with all parties, for the benefit of all.

We are happy to advise that following several meetings, plans for the Veritas Centre are now revised and discussions will proceed with Booroodara Council. We are committed to ensuring we provide a state-of-the-art STEAM facility for optimal learning, which includes the reintroduction of Food Studies and a new Innovation Hub. Plans are well underway for interim arrangements to ensure the provision of these subject disciplines. We look forward to updating you in the coming months as the project continues to progress.

Introducing the New Staff of 2022

Earlier this year, Maree Joannidis joined Siena College as the Science Laboratory Technician and shares a little about herself below:



Can you describe your career pathway and what led you to work here at Siena as a Science Laboratory Technician? What is the best part of your career?

My keen interest in Chemistry and in exploring how to make things work better led me to study a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Science at LaTrobe University. I then took a gap year to work in the Chemical Research and Development industry before completing my degree with Honours. I enjoyed my work tremendously and made a decision to stay with the company after my University graduation.

I am always interested in sharing ideas and learning alongside others, which is what I love most about working at Siena. It has offered me plenty of different perspectives during my time with the Science department. I really enjoy working with experts from various disciplines as it is very dynamic.

What do you do outside of work to unwind after a hectic day?

I love to shop, you should see my shoe collection! I also enjoy cooking lots of traditional food with my family.

Describe yourself in five words.

Caring, detailed, resourceful, reliable and adaptable.

Do you have any Christmas plans in place?

I am having lunch on Christmas Day in the Yarra Valley with my (very big) family.



Our staff are an integral part of our College community, they are passionate and bring a wealth of experience in their areas of expertise which help shape the education and the future of our students. During 2022, we welcomed the following staff to Siena College.



Dan Allen
AV and Digital Technologies Innovator



Imma Boubouras
Alumnae Coordinator



David Collopy
Digital Media Coordinator



Carmela Di Iorio
Italian Language Assistant



Laurie Federico
Head of Finances and Services



Nance Frawley
Learning Diversity Officer



Lisa Grant
Learning Diversity Officer



Marian Jenkinson
College Archivist



Maree Joannidis
Science Laboratory Technician



Lida Mostert
Head of Learning Diversity



Anu Pande
Learning Diversity Officer



Andrew Prakash
Mathematics Teacher



Reece Todd
Property Services Manager



Samantha Zhang
Chinese Language Assistant

Antonio de Montesinos Award



Michael Petrie Public Speaking Coordinator

In Term 3, Siena College conducted the annual Antonio de Montesinos Public Speaking Award, where talented speakers across year levels competed for the highly regarded title. The award is named after prominent sixteenth century Dominican, Antonio de Montesinos who, with the backing of his Prior, Friar Pedro de Córdoba at Santo Domingo, bravely preached against the enslavement and harsh treatment of the Indigenous peoples on the island of Hispaniola (modern Haiti and Dominican Republic).

Our guest adjudicator was Siena alumna, Emilia Fuller (Class of 2014), who is also a past Waratah House Leader and Siena debater. Currently, Emilia is an on-air presenter and program producer for 3AW Radio, including management of the much loved (and much feared) 'Rumour File' segment. The competition provided a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their excellent public speaking skills and speak on issues that they are passionate about.

This year's winner was Year 7 student, Gabriella van Delden. Year 9 student, Alana Stravatos and Year 11 student, Sophia Velasquez received runner up and encouragement awards in what was an extremely close and hard fought competition by all six students. Not far behind were Helya Ezadi (Year 12), Charlotte Lang (Year 10) and Steph Cullinan (Year 8).

The participants first qualified as their year level public speaking champion before competing on the big night in front of a live audience of friends, family and staff. They presented a four to five-minute prepared speech based on the 2022 College Theme, *In Truth and Action*. They were then required to present a two to three-minute impromptu speech on an unseen topic displaying their skills of logic and reason.



Arts and Technology Exhibition 2022

The Year 12 Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition Opening was held on Friday, 14 October. We had the great pleasure of welcoming Siena alumna, Emme Orbach (Class of 2008), back to Siena to open the exhibition.

Emme is a practising artist who is best known for her crystal series, which involves minimalist aluminium sculptures and submerging them in a chemical solution. This process allows crystals to grow geometric structures upon the substrate, hence allowing systems of nature to coexist and collide with her sculptures over time.

Emme spoke to the audience about her journey as an artist, elaborating on how the willingness to be open to new opportunities brought about growth and new directions in her practice.

This year, we introduced a People's Choice Award for each of the Arts and Technology subjects. This year's winners were Caterina Orfanidis (Visual Communication Design), Amy Kessler

(Studio Art), Lily McPherson (Media), Charlize Biondo (Product Design and Technology). The Principal's Award went to Holly Molino for her artwork entitled 'You Decide'.

We would like to congratulate all the Year 12 Arts and Technology students on their success this year and wish them all the best for their future endeavours. I would also like to thank the Arts and Technology team who have worked very hard to develop and support the students over their time at Siena.



Claire Al-Noah Head of the Arts and Technology



▲ Holly Molino



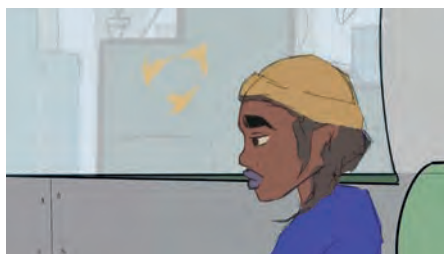
▲ Amy Kessler



▲ Charlize Biondo



▲ Caterina Orfanidis



▲ Lily McPherson

Summer Concert and Kopanang Christmas Market

Our annual Summer Concert was held on Wednesday, 7 December featuring fantastic performances by our bands, ensembles and choirs. Running alongside the concert, was a Christmas Market supporting the Kopanang Community in South Africa. Embroidery artworks and craft goods hand made by the women of Kopanang, as well as Kenshi candles, tea towels featuring student artwork, flower and herb seeds, and Christmas decorations and cards, were on sale during the event. It was a wonderful evening well attended by students, staff, parents and community members.



Acknowledging Our 2022 College Captains

We acknowledge the extraordinary work of our outgoing College Captains, Ashling O'Farrell and Macey Brick.

We wish you and the Class of 2022 the very best with your bright futures.



Introducing Our 2023 College Captains

Can you tell us a little bit about your family and how you arrived at Siena?

Hannah: I am an only child who is very lucky to have two wonderful and supportive parents, as well as a large extended family that I am super close with! My arrival to Siena was slightly unexpected. Ever since I was in primary school, my parents were fairly set on the secondary school I would be going to. However, they decided to visit more secondary schools for comparison, and lo and behold they fell in love with Siena.

Majella: My older sister, Hannah was a Year 10 student at Siena when I finished primary school, so my parents also decided to send me to the College. My family began our journey at Siena with multiple other families from our primary school, and we all felt very supported and welcomed by the Siena community. I also have three cousins who have had positive experiences at Siena, and I was fortunate to be able to share my first year with my cousin's last year!

Was it challenging moving back to onsite learning in 2022?

Hannah: Whilst of course I, like many, enjoyed the ability to wear my slippers and eat a hot cooked lunch while online learning, I am a super extroverted person who thrives off being in person with others. Of course there were challenges moving back into onsite learning, I sometimes find myself completely exhausted at the end of the day, purely just from interacting with people! It definitely took some time to adjust back into the old rhythm of onsite learning, however personally I could not have been happier to be back onsite at Siena with my friends and teachers.

Majella: During the COVID lockdown, I felt that we were well supported during our remote learning, and the College did an amazing job maintaining a sense of community. Currently, there are still many challenges moving back to onsite learning, including participation levels in various co curricular activities. However, I was really keen to return onsite learning in 2022.

What is your approach to leadership in 2023?

Hannah: My main goal for 2023 is to integrate everyone. Siena has such an amazing Student Representative Council (SRC) made up of leaders from all year levels, which I will be a part of for the first time in 2023! Through SRC, I would love to work on ways to get as many students as possible into being involved with Siena activities and initiatives. I would also want to encourage everyone to share new ideas and perspectives so that we can all make the most out of 2023!

Majella: My approach to leadership in 2023 is to continue building up the sense of community that we experience here at Siena. I want to continue working as a team with the SRC and encourage student voice among students, as I believe this is a really important way to make sure everyone is heard.

What are you looking forward to the most in your final year at Siena?

Hannah: I am so excited to spend my final year with my year level participating in all the Siena events, including the Athletics carnival, Swim and Dive carnival, Fiesta, and the list goes on. Of course it goes without saying, I am also super thrilled to be a College Captain in 2023 and for all the opportunities that this position will bring!

Majella: I am really looking forward to growing closer with my cohort in my final year at Siena. I am really excited for the many of last events, the Athletics carnival, Swim and Dive carnival and Fiesta!

Have you given much thought about tertiary studies?

Hannah: After Siena, I truly have no idea where life will take me or what I will end up studying. I would love to pursue Economics as it is currently my favourite subject for the past two years. I also have a great passion for the French language and would absolutely love to see where this would take me. Who knows, maybe I will pursue an Economics degree whilst living in France!



Hannah Rosel College Captain 2023



Majella Hine College Captain 2023

Majella: Siena has given me many opportunities to develop ideas about what I want to do upon graduation. I am really interested in pursuing Sport and applying for tertiary studies such as Physiotherapy or the Sport Science industry. However, I am willing to keep my options open and see where my chosen subjects will take me!

What is one invaluable thing that Siena College has taught you?

Hannah: The most invaluable thing Siena has taught me or rather shown me, is the importance of Social Justice. Siena has shown me the importance of being part of social justice initiatives and the importance of making a positive impact since I was a Year 7 student. I know the values that Siena has taught me – to be giving and to lead for change, will carry on with me far beyond my time here at Siena.

Majella: Siena has taught me about the importance of Social Justice, not just in the community but worldwide. The College has influenced me to 'give back' and use my education as an opportunity to support those who are not as fortunate.





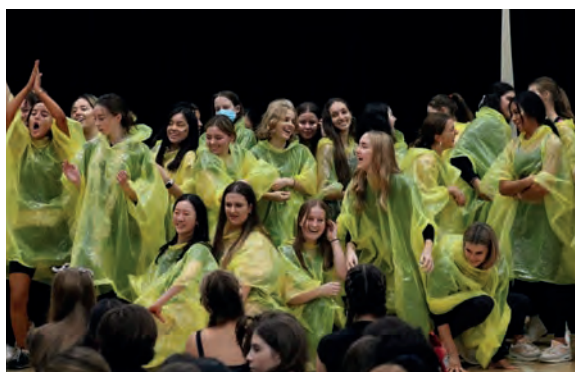
Year 12
Final Day



Athletics Carnival



St Catherine's Day Fiesta





Annual Music Concert



Open Evening



Community Awards 2022

We congratulate the following community members who were acknowledged at our Night of Excellence on Tuesday, 13 December 2022.

The Community award recognises individuals/families who contributed significantly to Siena College. The Dr Ursula McKenna award recognises excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The Notable Alumna award recognises a Siena alumna who has made an important contribution in their chosen field, or to the community on a local/global scale.



Andrea and Michael Kral Community Award Recipients



Dr Lisa Higgins (Class of 1993) Dr Ursula McKenna Award Recipient



Michelle Costa (Class of 1984) Notable Alumna Award Recipient



Reunions 2022

We enjoyed a wonderful Reunion season at Siena College in 2022. Even though the year began with a few unfortunate cancellations, it was so exciting to end the year having hosted two joyous Reunions at the College as well as two Overseas Reunions in London. The latter was a great way to reconnect with Siena alumnae who are currently living and travelling overseas.



Decade Reunions welcomed back the Classes of 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 and 2012, and we were delighted to again host alumnae from the 40s, 50s and 60s. Our Reunions are a great way to stay in touch with old friends and make wonderful new connections. Through our past and present connections, we can continue to grow in strength and produce continued success for the College.



Careers Showcase

The annual Careers Showcase was a highlight for students and alumnae. More than forty alumnae across twelve industries participated in a series of presentations and round table discussions. Receiving firsthand information about the career pathways taken by our alumnae provided invaluable insight for our students as they planned and transitioned into their next exciting stage of study and professional life. It was heartening to hear from our Siena alumnae who have deftly navigated life beyond Siena College to forge successful careers in a variety of fields.



Year 12 Tutoring Program

In September, we launched a Tutoring Program for our Year 12 students in preparation for their VCE examinations. Ten Siena alumnae from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 volunteered their spare time to help with revision and reviewing subject specific coursework. The alumnae tutors provided a positive support to our graduating students and we look forward to expanding the Tutoring Program in 2023, which would serve as a supportive network and additional study tool for our graduating cohort.



2022 Notable Alumna

Each year we seek nominations for inspirational members of the Siena alumnae community who have made a significant contribution in their chosen field, or have given back to our community on a local or global scale.

We are delighted to recognise Michelle Costa (Class of 1984) as one of the many inspirational Siena alumnae who are making a huge difference in the world. Michelle was inducted as the 2022 Notable Alumna at the recent Night of Excellence. We are very honoured to have Michelle represent this valued position.

Michelle Costa commenced her career as a nurse at the Alfred Hospital before moving into oncology pharmaceutical sales. Championing herself, she took a leap of faith and left a senior position with a major multinational company to start her own consulting business. She is also proud to have been part of the team that helped set up Melbourne's first heart transplant clinic.

As the first woman on an US multinational executive board and the first new mother to bring her baby to work, she described the challenge of balancing work and family as 'hard to perfect'.

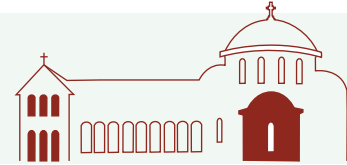
Michelle is a wonderful supporter of Siena College and has two daughters, Cara Graham (Class of 2020) and Ella Graham (Class of 2022).



International Women's Day Breakfast	Wednesday, 8 March 2023	7.00am
Alumnae Parent and Student Gathering	Wednesday, 4 May 2023	5.30pm to 7.00pm
Careers Showcase 2023	Thursday, 1 June 2023	7.00pm
Class of 2021 Reunion	Friday, 19 May 2023	5.30pm to 7.00pm
Classes of 1973, 1983 and 1993 Decade Reunion	Saturday, 14 October 2023	4.30pm to 7.00pm
Classes of 2003 and 2013 Decade Reunion	Sunday, 15 October 2023	4.30pm to 7.00pm

Births

Alana Arfi (Class of 2010) and Charlie Hay welcomed Sadie Helen on 2 April 2022.



We Remember

May they Rest in Peace.

Anne O’Keefe, née Davenport (Class of 1977) passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Coleraine, a place she loved dearly. The Davenport family have had a long standing and close relationship with Siena and we send our heartfelt sympathy to Anne’s family, including John and Paul Davenport and sister, Margaret Haughton (Class of 1971).

Barbara Shea (Class of 1946), aged 91, passed away in August. Barbara was one of our pioneer Siena College students and she would often tell stories to her family of her happy times at Siena, when teaching was undertaken by the wonderful Dominican Sisters in a small wooden building at the side of the Convent.

Kevin Bowles sadly passed away in April 2022. Kevin is the father to alumnae, Cherie Grabowski, née Bowles (Class of 1978), Buffy Bowles (Class of 1985), Jacqueline Burke (Class of 1987) and Suzanne McIlquham (Class of 1987).

Merree Ineen Janke, née Gleisner (Class of 1961) passed away on 3 September 2022. Her daughter, Jacinta, remembers that her mother had many fond memories of her time at Siena and would catch up annually with her classmates.

Eamon Ryan, husband of Margaret Winter, née Ryan (Class of 1955) passed away on 19 June 2022.

He is sadly missed by his daughters, Joan Weibrecht, née Ryan (Class of 1980); Bernice Cruse, née Ryan (Class of 1983); Nora Ryan (Class of 1985) and Kathryn Ryan (Class of 1999). Eamon had a long standing connection with Siena and we acknowledge his support of our community.

Karen Pearce (Class of 1978) passed away on 10 November 2022. She is the wife to Victor, mother to Kendra and Georgia. She is also sister to Janmaree Richardson (Class of 1971), Maureen Pasfield (Class of 1981), Linda Pearce (Deceased) (Class of 1983) and Helen Pearce (Class of 1989). An amazing, wonderful woman loved by all.

Alumnae Wall Inscriptions for 2022/2023

The Alumnae Wall, located in the Convent and Cloisters, is an historic tribute with a panel for students from each decade commencing from 1940. Every student who has attended Siena College has the opportunity to have their name inscribed on the panels of the Alumnae Wall.

Inscriptions are \$50 per student and further details are available via: events.humanitix.com/alumnae-wall-2023

This is an ongoing initiative with inscriptions for the 2022 to 2023 period closing on 30 June 2023.



SIENA GLOBAL CONNECT

Connecting Past, Present and Future

The Siena Global Connect app provides you with direct access to our network of alumnae. Scroll through our personalised news feed, find old classmates or attend a reunion.

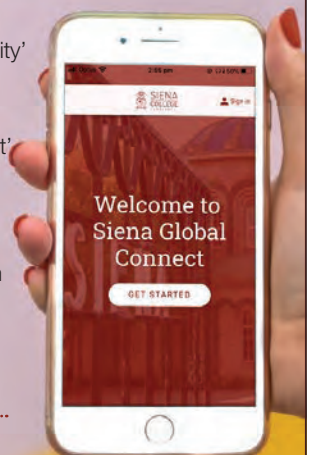
TO GET THE APP

iOS Users

1. Download “Graduway Community” from App Store
2. Enable auto updates (optional)
3. Search for ‘Siena Global Connect’
4. Sign in / Register

Android Users

1. Download ‘Siena Alumnae’ from Google Play Store
2. Enable auto updates (optional)
3. Sign in / Register



Visit sienaglobalconnect.com.au for instructions on navigating the app.



Meet Our New Archivist



My name is Marian Jenkinson and I started as College Archivist in November this year. I am very grateful to previous archivist, Maureen McAuley, for the incredible amount of information she was able to document before she left. Siena College is very fortunate to have had its archival collection cared for over many years by a number of dedicated archivists, and I certainly feel a sense of responsibility to uphold and continue their hard work.

I have worked in schools most of my career – for thirty years I was a Performing Arts and Humanities teacher. In 1993, I moved to Melbourne from Queensland, then to the Latrobe Valley for twenty-one years before returning to Melbourne in 2019. In 2015, I went on a one-year adventure: volunteered in a Tanzanian orphanage; participated in an archaeological dig in northern England; as well as visited Ireland, Northern Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland before heading home.

Returning to teaching was different after this time away, and so I decided to switch career paths. I completed a Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies in 2019, and soon started employment with the Old Treasury Building and State Library Victoria leading education tours which I thoroughly enjoyed. In 2020, I took up an opportunity to manage the archives at Camberwell Girls Grammar School. Since then, I have been on a very steep learning curve; I love being challenged and applying my teaching and leadership skills in my work.

I look forward to meeting current and past alumnae, and please do not hesitate to email me at mjenkinson@siena.vic.edu.au if you have any archives-related queries.



Siena Parents' Association (SPA)

As this is my last year at Siena College, I reflected on the last ten years as a SPA committee member with pride, so many achievements from this dedicated group of parents. Together we have raised in excess of \$300,000 which helped fund many items such as air conditioning and the scoreboard in the Gym, seating and umbrellas around the College and Agora Gardens, numerous water fountains, and music and sports equipment including the baby grand piano. Thank you to all our SPA team members and to the Siena Leadership Team for working collaboratively to ensure 2022 was another successful year for 'Team SPA'.

In 2022, the major focus of SPA was bringing events back after the COVID lockdowns, for these events provided an important link between parents and the College. Our SPA membership continued to grow to over forty members and volunteers who have a diverse range of experience and expertise. It has been a pleasure to see the tremendous work they have achieved this year.



Mother's Day Breakfast



Father's Day Breakfast





VISIT US!

Register today for
an Open Morning
or a College Tour



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

OPEN MORNINGS 2023

Friday, 10 February

Friday, 24 March

Monday, 22 May

Monday, 5 June

Friday, 28 July

Monday, 14 August

Friday, 8 September

Friday, 6 October

Monday, 6 November

Wednesday, 29 November

www.siena.vic.edu.au