

the Spirit



Issue 24 | 2023

Chicago: High School Edition (p11)

Spotlight on Siena Staff (p12)

Meet New SPA President, Nicole Wood (p16)

Do More • Be More

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

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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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 Rock by TS Eliot

*The Eagle soars in the summit Heaven,
The Hunter with his dogs pursues his circuit.
O perpetual revolution of configured stars,
O perpetual recurrence of determined seasons,
O world of spring and autumn, birth and dying!
The endless cycle of idea and action,
Endless invention, endless experiment,
Brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness;
Knowledge of speech, but not of silence;
Knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word.
All our knowledge brings us nearer to our ignorance,
All our knowledge brings us nearer to death,
But nearness to death no nearer to God.
Where is the life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?
The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries
Bring us farther from God and nearer to the dust.*

Written nearly a century ago in 1934, TS Eliot seems to be making two points. Here Eliot is flagging the dangers of a knowledge society based on an endless, unthinking search for knowledge that is ‘uncoupled’ with the experience of what it means to live a good life. A life of connection with the cycles of creation, a life of relationship, space and time for living, a recognition of the sacred wisdom that lies within and beyond us: *Where is the life we have lost in the living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?*

Eliot is perhaps also endeavouring to ‘relink’ knowledge and faith, following an era which emphasised scientific reasoning and the relegation of faith and belief to rational thought, rather than relational mystery and source of wisdom. As a poet with great influence and cultural authority in his day, Eliot seems to be issuing a message to his society that for all the greatness of the human mind, we must also heed the warning to stay connected to mystery, wonder and deep humanity.

What has this reflection got to do with our time, our College community, our young people, our world? Despite being written last century, it perhaps offers us pause for thought, to consider our own time and place. As educators in the Dominican Catholic Tradition, we do subscribe to this integration of knowledge and

wisdom, faith and fullness of life. Never more so than in our times, we seek for our young people to gain an appreciation of our connection with and responsibility for our shared common home, the Earth, and for our interdependence on God and each other.

Our Dominican Tradition states it this way:

At its heart, the Dominican charism is characterised by the energetic, purposeful and dynamic search for truth (veritas), which emerges from thoughtful contemplation. The Dominican motto, ‘to contemplate and share with others the fruits of contemplation’ underlines the fact that the Dominican charism is a living tradition, alive and continuing to evolve.

As Dominicans, we recognise that the search for truth leads us to a personal graced encounter with the God who is our centre. Dominican educators strive to inspire students to wakefulness, a wakefulness to wonder and awe, to beauty and joy. Learners are challenged to discover the Holy One in our world, and to recognise the innate dignity and creativity of each person. Such qualities are intrinsic to the Dominican tradition and encourage an eagerness to pursue the search for truth. Dominican educators are weavers of the thread of the tapestry that creates the ongoing Dominican story.

Source: DEA website

As our readers enjoy this edition of *The Spirit*, no doubt you will see these Dominican qualities alive and well at Siena; many weavers in a rich tapestry of learning and life!



Elizabeth Hanney
Principal



From the College Board



It was such a delight to learn earlier this term that our Principal, Elizabeth Hanney, had been shortlisted as Principal of the Year in the Australian Education Awards 2023.

Being shortlisted is in itself is an outstanding achievement. This news would not have come as a surprise to any community member who has had the opportunity to witness the discerning, innovative and inclusive leadership of Elizabeth since her commencement as Siena College Principal in 2020. As in all schools, the challenges faced are complex. Elizabeth's open, warm and considered approach have shone through. She leads and influences change with her actions matching her words. Elizabeth is an exemplary CEO, supporting the Board and Board Committees in formation and all aspects of governance. I am sure all community members would like to join with me in congratulating Elizabeth.

The College Board meets twice each term. Our role is a governance one. The work of the four Board Committees (Finance, Policy, Strategic Property and Risk) informs and supports the work of the Board to ensure all governance responsibilities and accountabilities are met. Each year, a combined Board and Board Committee inservice, ably supported by senior staff, is held. A key focus is that of formation in the Dominican Tradition, with this year's engaging presentation led by Director of Formation, Sr Sheila Flynn OP. The College Leadership Team also provided an update on enrolments, finances, the Masterplan and cyber security.

Siena has undertaken an external Victorian Registration and Curriculum Authority (VRQA) review this year. I acknowledge the work of senior staff along with the contribution of all staff in the extensive preparation required over many months. The Board and committee members were delighted to hear that initial feedback includes the achievement of perfect score on all aspects of compliance, including that of Child Safety.

I extend my good wishes to all Siena community members.



Judith Potter
Siena College Board Chair

Dominican News

Oceania Federation Meeting

In April, leaders and delegates across the five congregations of Dominican women in Oceania met in Auckland, New Zealand. This is an annual meeting but due to COVID, the first gathering since 2019.

The program included a focus on climate change with Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, as the primary source text. Guest speaker, Mary Betz, with a background in ecology and theology, guided the group's reflection, providing much stimulus for discussion: *Where are we now? Where do we want and need to be?*

During the days spent together, each congregation spoke about their particular group's activities and challenges faced over the past year, including aging members and declining numbers.

A liturgy was also held to remember the thirty-three Sisters who have died since the last gathering in 2019. A photo of each Sister, together with words of remembrance, laughter and tears were shared.

Annual Memorial Mass

The Memorial Mass for deceased alumnae, families of alumnae, parents and staff in the Siena community will be celebrated by Fr Kevin Toomey OP in the Siena Chapel on Thursday, 9 November 2023.

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, guests will gather for supper in the staff lounge to share memories.



Sr Julianna Drobik OP
DEA Trustee



Dominican Federation Delegates at the Oceania meeting in Auckland

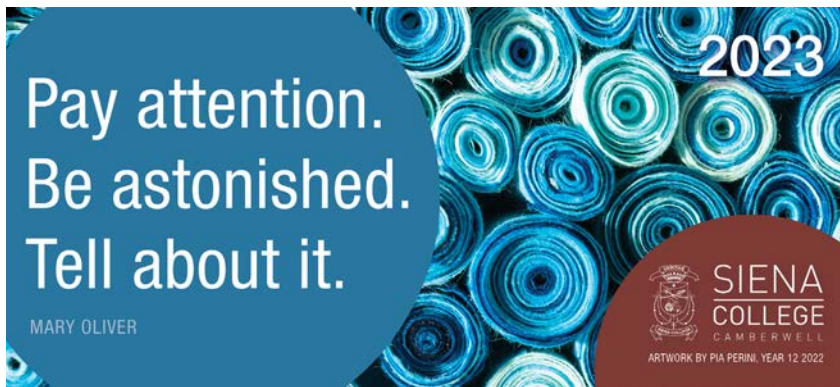
Now Available! Siena Central App

College news, notifications, absences and your daughter's learning overview at your fingertips.

Download 'Siena Central' via the App Store or GooglePlay



Mission and Identity



2023 College Theme

Our 2023 College Theme echoes the words of poet, Mary Oliver, in her piece *Instructions for Living a Life*:

Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.

As Dominicans, we need to *pay attention* to the big picture – in this case the global picture of our Catholic Christian tradition – *be astonished by it* and *tell about it*.

Timothy Radcliffe OP says it is imperative we do this 'in order to keep our charism recognisable, credible and meaningful for our people'.

Who are 'our people'? Our Siena students, families, staff and community.

Across this year, we need to continue to ask:

- What **are** we paying attention to?
- What **could** or **should** we pay attention to?
- **What** astonishes us?
- **Why** are we astonished?
- **What** will we tell about it?
- **Who** will we tell?

A Dominican education offers students a learning environment that equips them to 'be awake!' in the fullest sense of the word, providing them with lifelong learning skills grounded in a tradition that has withstood the test of time – eight hundred years of it! Our 2023 College Theme encourages each one of us to look into our hearts, lean into our potential and live into our promise.

Year 7 Dominican Day

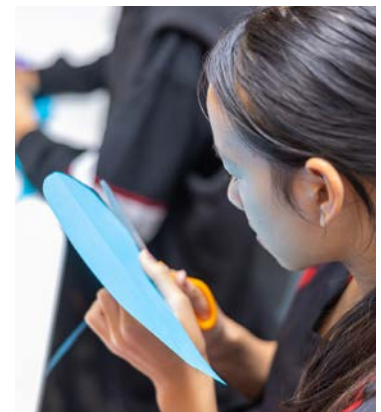
In early March, all Year 7 students participated in this integral part of their introductory Religious Education unit, Our Dominican Community. Students were engaged in the following workshop sessions facilitated by members of the Mission and Identity and Year 7 Religious Education teams:

- The Dominican Way – a journey through Siena
- Living Lent – Project Compassion
- Being Dominican – Action for Justice
- Our Dominican Family – Solomon Islands

It was lovely to see our Year 7s experiencing each workshop sessions through the lens of our College Theme!



Jennifer Levett
Deputy Principal
Mission and Identity



Learning and Teaching

The Learning Centre offers a variety of lunchtime clubs for students to hone their creative skills throughout the week.

Monday Maker's Club

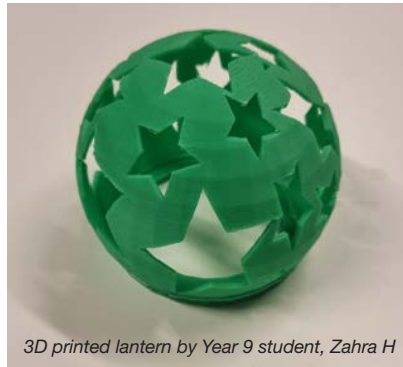
This club gives students space and materials to create using their imaginations. Students are presented with various projects to participate in, but are also free to explore their own projects and areas of interest. Projects included a 3D printed lantern to contain a battery operated tea light, and a 3D desktop name plate meant for a birthday.

Exploration of 3D printing enables spatial skill development and an understanding of technology limitations (a 3D printer can only print in one colour at a time). Year 7 student, Arianna G's 3D printed desktop name plate design was printed in several parts to allow for different colours and varying orientations, so as to ensure the best results (pictured right).

During Coding Club on Wednesdays, Arianna also created an interactive birthday card to accompany the 3D printed desktop name plate birthday gift she made. Utilising the Scratch coding platform by MIT University, she coded the birthday card. Arianna's code included custom sounds and animations, thanks to the 'broadcast' command she learned, allowing events to be triggered in sequence without user interaction.



A QR code link to the project was then generated to be included in the interactive birthday card. Have a look!



3D printed lantern by Year 9 student, Zahra H



Readers and Writers Club

After an inspiring excursion to the Melbourne Writer's Festival in early May, the Readers and Writers Club members have begun reading the shortlisted books in the Young Adult category in preparation for the Children's Book Council of Australia's (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards. Registered as Shadow Judges, the student group will evaluate the six titles against the same criteria as the official judges. Student votes will contribute to the official Shadow Judge's Award, announced at the end of National Book Week. The Shadow Judging team is also supported by a mentor from the Victorian CBCA branch. Winners will collaborate on a creative response to the title and share this with the wider community.

Students at the Melbourne Writers Festival Schools Day, meeting the authors and getting books signed which have been included in the Siena College Learning Centre collection (pictured right).



..... ALBERTUS MAGNUS LEARNING CENTRE

WRITE A BOOK in a Day

Calling all writers and illustrators! Do you want to write and publish a picture book? As part of 2023 Book Week, select students from years 7-10 will team up and produce a book.

Part 1: Planning Jul 27 9.30-11.30am Participants travel to Hartwell PS to meet with junior advisors (Grade 4s). Together you will explore picture books and plan your book.	Part 2: Workshop Aug 24 8.30-3.20pm Participants will spend the day creating their book and getting it ready to publish.	Part 3: Delivery Oct 11 9.30-11.30am Participants will return to Hartwell PS to present and share their printed books to their junior advisors.
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Places are limited

Apply as an individual or an author/illustrator team before Jun 9

Scan to access application form

Book Week

The Learning Centre is excited to be planning an action packed Book Week, to be held from Monday, 21 August to Friday, 25 August. Highlights will include the inaugural 'Write a Book in a Day' event, where author / illustrator student teams will be challenged and supported to create a picture book in a day. Published books will be shared with local primary schools, and added to the Learning Centre and State Library collection. Copies will also be made available for purchase by the Siena community.

Book Week will also feature competitions, music and plenty of celebrations to promote the joys and benefits of reading. The 2023 Book Week Theme is #CaughtReading. Please consider supporting the importance of reading for our students by contributing a photo of yourself #CaughtReading.

Photos can be emailed to learningcentre@siena.vic.edu.au.



Roxanne Summer
Head of Albertus Magnus Learning Centre

Wellbeing and Strategy

We are delighted to welcome two members, College Counsellor, Jessica Wong, and Director of Students, Natalie Kinsella, to the Wellbeing Team this year.



Natalie Kinsella (pictured bottom right) has been teaching and leading in Catholic Girls Schools for fifteen years in the areas of Health and Physical Education as Head of Learning, Year Level Coordinator, Head of House and now, Acting Director of Students at Siena College. Natalie is extremely passionate about student wellbeing and ensuring that students feel connected and supported to achieve their best.

As a mother of two young children and a keen netballer, Natalie is also passionate and enthusiastic about motivating others in the pursuit of their goals and maintenance of their health and wellbeing. Natalie prides herself on the strong connections she has with staff, students and parents, and strives to be the best person she can be.

Child Safe Work



We are thrilled to have Siena alumna, Danni Rowlands (Class of 1995), on our Child Safe committee. Danni works for the Butterfly Foundation as National Manager Prevention Services, engaging

with schools nationwide. Danni is an expert on positive mental health and body image promotion, eating disorders and early intervention of these issues affecting youth.



Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal
Wellbeing and Strategy

Dr Jessica Wong (pictured top left) is a warm, friendly, and compassionate psychologist who aims to establish a safe and trusting therapeutic relationship with her clients. She has over a decade of experience as a registered psychologist and has predominantly worked in health and hospital settings in Melbourne. More recently, Jess completed a Master of Clinical Psychology, and it is through this that she has discovered a passion for working with young people. Jess loves working within the Siena Wellbeing Team to support the emotional growth and wellbeing of the students. With two young children of her own she knows only too well the importance of a supportive school community, and her newly trained Therapy Dog, Rooley, is also loving his new role at Siena too.

Student Updates

We have welcomed an energetic group of Year 7s and new students from other year levels to Siena College. The Wellbeing Team has been able to offer these new students a wide variety of activities to support their transition to a new school setting. The Transition Program they participated in, aims to build connection within the Siena community, establishing growth mindsets for progressive improvement, and empathy and compassion for one another as they embark on a journey of lifelong learning here at Siena

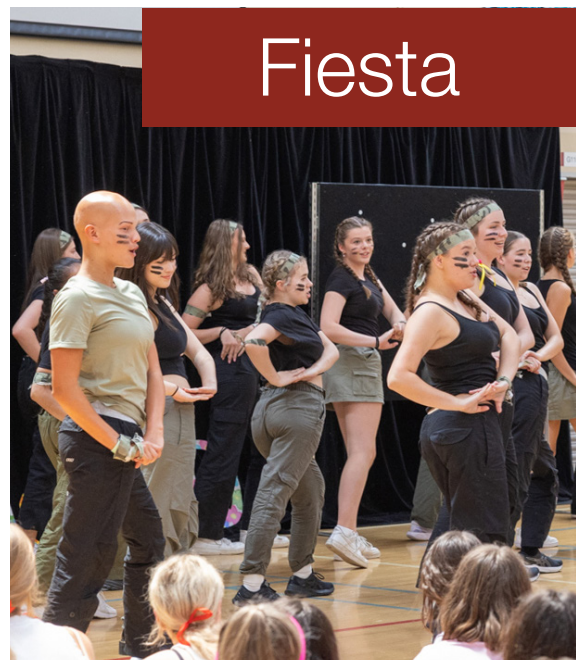
Kindness goes beyond being nice and one of the best ways to teach this value is by being intentional about it. The Kind Mind Club is a program offered by the Wellbeing Team to Year 7 students. It aims to provide a structured environment where students can build connections and friendships. The Term 1 focus was around friendships, mindfulness and organisation. The Term 2 focus was self care and growth mindset within the classroom. All Year 7 students are welcome to join.

Year 7 students have also participated in the Big Sister Little Sister Program designed to foster connections in the Siena community. This important time not only allows students to get to know each other, but also gives them the opportunity to orientate themselves on campus with the supporting presence of our Year 12 students. The Big Sister Little Sister program continues to run throughout the year.

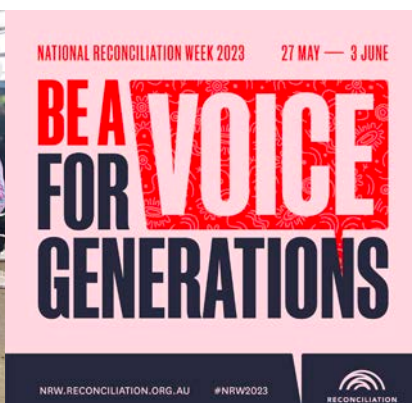
Community spirit was in overload in Term 1, as Houses came together for Fiesta! It was held in Week 2, the earliest date ever, and on one of the hottest days in Melbourne. It was a fabulous showcase of students' energy, commitment and creativity. Many remarked that it was possibly one of the best Fiesta days ever. It was great to see the students coming together and witnessing their hard work pay off. Congratulations to the overall winner on the day, Waratah!



Natalie Kinsella
Director of Students



Justice Education



Bronwyn Ilott
Head of Justice Education

Reconciliation Week 2023

As we recognise Reconciliation Week at Siena College, we are reminded of monumental moments in our Nation's History, lines in the sand that altered the narrative of our national storytelling and shifted the focus to that of truth telling. Reconciliation Week commences annually on 27 May, the date of the successful 1967 Referendum that elected to include Aboriginal people as citizens of our country and no longer as items of flora and fauna. Reconciliation Week concludes on the 3 June, the date of the High Court ruling on Mabo in 1992.

Recognising Reconciliation Week in 2023 once again provided the opportunity for Australians to reflect on the significant historical moment of our time, as our nation prepares to vote later in the year in a Referendum on issues pertaining to our First Peoples. The theme for Reconciliation Week 2023 was *Be A Voice for Generations*.

Our FIRE Carriers were invited to attend the Long Walk hosted by Aquinas College in Ringwood, walking in solidarity with other Catholic Schools from Melbourne. The first Long Walk in Australia took place in 2004 when Michael Long walked from

Melbourne to Canberra to meet with the then Prime Minister, John Howard, with the aim of raising awareness of issues relating to Aboriginal people.

As Dominicans, we are committed to searching for Truth and then through this gaining of knowledge, compelled to speak Truth. Siena College is committed to recognising, teaching, learning, questioning and dialoguing about Reconciliation and issues pertaining to our First Peoples. These actions underpin our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), ensuring that our community is educated and empowered to be a voice for generations.

Student Formation

In amongst the busyness and energy that is a school environment, it has been wonderful to see the 2023 student leaders respond in devising, planning, generating interest amongst their peers and facilitating a range of activities throughout this semester. The 2023 College Theme has been woven through our work and as Dominicans, we go to where the need is – we have had to *pay attention* and *tell about it*, in terms of the circumstances of others and the work of organisations in supporting these individuals. I have *been astonished* with the range of undertakings that the SRC have gone about navigating on top of their student responsibilities and expectations that come with their roles.

We have actively supported the work of Caritas with our Project Compassion initiatives that ran over the second half of Term 1. The SRC ran activities such as the Project Compassion Chalk Walk, which saw students transforming our path to the Agora Gardens with artwork and words, celebrating what they were grateful for and spreading awareness of the needs of others. The coin line was another way that students could raise funds and collaborate amongst students in their respective Houses. Always looking for new ideas, we ran the Siena Blind Auction where students were able to bid on items, with the catch that they did not know the exact item they could potentially win, having only been informed of the range of items on offer.

The generosity of SRC teams who donated goods and a Siena family with their Mecca hampers ensured that there were many auction items.

"During 2023 SRC week, all funds raised went towards the Kopanang Community Trust. This community is one which creates a safe space for women to learn new skills and make beautiful handmade artworks. I am sure the funds will be most appreciated by the women of the Kopanang Community!" – Year 7 Student Voice Leader, Chloe

continue ►



Peta Mackintosh
Head of Student Formation



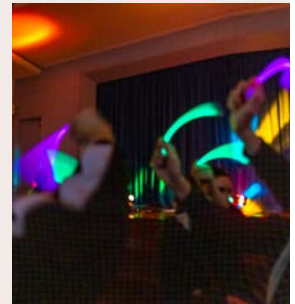
"We organised a disco during lunch time which had lots of fun music and dancing. There were lots of other great activities that raised lots of money, including the staff versus student volleyball game and House bake sales."

– Year 10 Dianella House Captain, Zoe

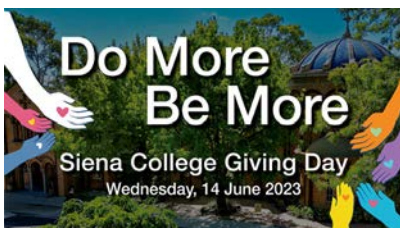
"We ran a fantastic sausage sizzle with lines so long they went right round the Science buildings! There were many smiles and satisfied looks from our students who were pleased to say that there were no burned sausages in sight."

– Year 9 Cassia House Captain, Olivia

"We have been very active this semester hosting Music Evenings and organising with the Music Department to celebrate International Women's Day with a lunchtime concert. Then moving on to engaging the talents of our students in making props for the Chicago musical which they have overseen during numerous art making sessions. Artwork to acknowledge the celebrations of the College have been generated by our Visual Arts Leader and the design and final published imagery has captured the essence of the event." – Year 12 Arts Leaders, Adele, Carla and Maddie



Community Events at Siena



2023 Giving Day

On Thursday, 14 June we hosted our third Giving Day, raising a total of \$113,500 for our Equity Scholarship Program. The *Do More, Be More* campaign demonstrated our commitment to providing opportunities for students from socially and economically diverse backgrounds. We currently have nine Equity Scholars and the 2023 Giving Day provided a further three scholarships. It is with deepest gratitude that I thank the Siena community. From our students who raised a phenomenal amount to our valued suppliers and donors for their ongoing support of our philanthropic endeavours.



General Excellence Scholarships

We recently announced the introduction of General Excellence Scholarships, a program designed to recognise and reward students who have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership skills, community involvement, and overall excellence in their pursuits. These scholarships are open to future and current students in Year 7, 8 and 9. Please visit our website to find out more.

ASPIRE Program

In Semester 1, we welcomed the following primary schools to Siena College for our ASPIRE Program: St Timothy's Primary School, Wattle Park Primary School, Hartwell Primary School, St Bridget's Primary School, Our Lady's Primary School and Solway Primary School. The ASPIRE Program invites primary school students to work with Siena students on STEAM based activities. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education is an integrated curriculum designed to equip students with knowledge in these five disciplines as they gain invaluable experience solving problems for which there is not one right answer.

The 2023 ASPIRE Program explores properties of different materials and the STEAM foundations of hypothesising, testing, observing and applying findings. Students participated in hands-on engineering activities, creating cardboard structures and lighting them up with sustainable energy.

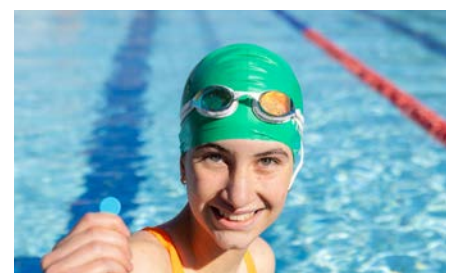


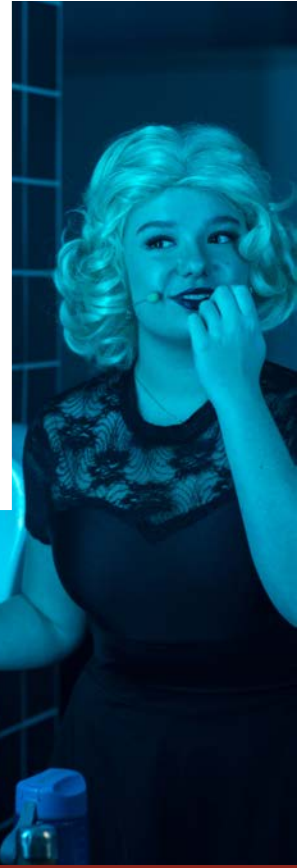
Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations





Swim and Dive Carnival





Spotlight on Siena Staff

Spotlight on Siena Staff is an ongoing series capturing the reflections, motivations and advice from some of our amazing Siena College staff. In this issue, we feature Head of Mathematics, Nick Roussidis, and Director of Learning and Innovation, Anne Rogan.

Nick, what do you love most about working as an educator?

I love working and building positive relationships with students each and every day. My favourite thing to witness is when students have a 'lightbulb' moment (when the student finally 'gets' a concept that they may have been experiencing some difficulty with). I think this shows the student that persistence, grit and perseverance will eventually help you to succeed.

What appeals to you most about teaching in a Catholic school?

To be able to adopt a holistic approach in developing students with the Catholic lens at the forefront. Using specific Catholic pillars to promote learning and support students in applying them beyond the classroom.

Who were your favourite teachers growing up?

My favourite teachers were always the ones that went the extra mile to build positive relationships with their students. This is why I place such a high emphasis on developing positive relationships with every student in my classes.

What advice would you give to your younger self starting out in the system?

Embrace the challenge. Throw yourself in the deep end and absorb as much information from experienced colleagues as you can. Celebrate your successes and ensure you spend time developing your physical and mental health, as teaching is a profession that is highly demanding at times.

What do you think Siena College does really well?

Siena's ability to not only develop the student, but to also develop the 'whole person' through various approaches centred around our Dominican values.



Nick Roussidis
Head of Mathematics

Anne, how did you become involved in teaching / working as an educator? How did it all begin?

I had been working in the Publishing industry for many years but was ready for a change, and I had always been drawn to teaching. Both my father and sister also worked in the Education industry so I felt like I knew what to expect. I resigned from my job at Penguin Books and pursued a teaching degree at Monash University. I also have an Arts and Law degree.

What appeals to you most about teaching in a single-sex school?

I enjoy working with young women and a single-sex school offers them the chance to shine without the distraction of boys. There is a great opportunity to engage these young women heading out into the world, hoping to make a difference.

Do you remember your first day at work as a 'newly minted' educator?

I remember one of my first days at work, running into one of the other graduate teachers in the yard and both of us feeling like we had no idea what we should be doing. But in hindsight, things actually started to fall into place pretty quickly. I also remembered seeing a group of Year 7s touring the school and they definitely looked more terrified than I felt!

What would your advice be to a parent who is looking for a secondary school for their child.

Whatever school you choose, it needs to be the right fit for your child. Trust your gut instinct – the feeling you get when you tour the school is a good indication of the school's learning environment. It is definitely worth speaking to some current students – they are the best ambassadors and can honestly answer your questions.



Anne Rogan
Director of Learning and Innovation





Class of 2021 Reunion

On a cold and wet May evening, we celebrated the two-year reunion of the Class of 2021. Over seventy-eight alumnae gathered to reminisce and catch up with friends. It was lovely sharing the evening with everyone, and hearing about their wonderful achievements and future plans. We are grateful to have you as part of our community and we are thrilled to continue supporting you in wherever life takes you next.



STEAM



Law



Architecture, Project Management and Town Planning



Psychology



Marketing and Media



Sports Management

Careers Showcase

For nine years, the Alumnae Association has hosted the Careers Showcase with the unwavering support of our informative and inspiring alumnae. The 2023 Careers Showcase was no different, with approximately three hundred students from Years 9 to 12 and their parents enjoying the immersive event.

Over thirty alumnae, who have excelled in their respective career fields, volunteered their time to impart their incredible knowledge and expertise as they guided current students through a wide array of career options and shared invaluable advice on how to pursue their dreams. And the overwhelming message they all had in common: *Do what you love and the results will come.*

We are very much looking forward to the ten year anniversary of the Careers Showcase in 2024!



International Women’s Day

The 2023 theme for International Women’s Day was *DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality*. We were thrilled to invite VP Enterprise and Global Technology at BHP, Liz Bevan (Class of 1986) to record a presentation for our students in celebration. Liz spoke on women’s ongoing participation in technology and the potential women has to provide creative solutions for the future, hence bridging the gender equality gap. The presentation was inspiring and well received.



Alumnae and Student Gathering

What a marvellous evening we had, celebrating our school with our alumnae and their children and grandchildren at the College. It was so heartwarming to see our former students now grown and bringing their own children to experience the unique community and spirit of Siena. Currently, we have twenty-nine Intergenerational families of mothers, grandmothers and students. We loved hearing everyone’s stories and memories of their time here, and it was an absolute joy to see the next generation of students excited about their future at the school. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us – we cannot wait to do it again next year!

Alumnae Reunions 2023: Save the Dates

Singapore Overseas Reunion	Friday, 1 September 2023	Book tickets here: events.humanitix.com/singapore-reunion-2023
London Overseas Reunion	Sunday, 3 September 2023	Book tickets here: events.humanitix.com/london-reunion-2023
Classes of 1973, 1983 and 1993 Decade Reunion	Saturday, 14 October 2023 4.30pm to 7.00pm	Book tickets here: events.humanitix.com/reunion-1973-1983-1993
Classes of 2003 and 2013 Decade Reunion	Sunday, 15 October 2023 4.30pm to 7.00pm	Book tickets here: events.humanitix.com/reunion-2003-2013

If your would like help organising an offsite reunion whilst you wait to celebrate your cohort’s milestone decade reunion, please contact Alumnae Coordinator, Imma Boubouras, who would love to help you with venue ideas and invitation mailouts. Contact her at alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au.



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.

Alumnae Wall Inscriptions for 2023/24

The Alumnae Wall located in the Convent and Cloisters is an historic tribute to our Dominican Sisters, Prioresses, Board Chairs and Principals, along with a panel for students from each decade commencing from 1940. Every student who attended Siena College from 1940 onwards, has the opportunity to have her name inscribed on the panels making up the wall.

Inscriptions are \$50 per student and further details are available via this link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/alumnae-wall-2024>

This is an ongoing initiative with inscriptions for the 2023 to 2024 period closing on 30 June 2024.

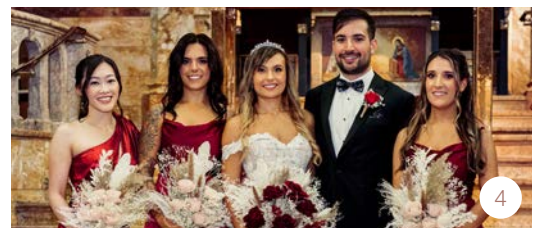
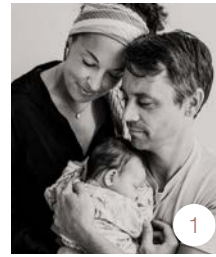


Births and Marriages

1. **Nicole Kapiniaris-Anson** (former staff member) and Tate Anson welcomed Billie Anson on 7 January 2023.
2. **Ruth Bamford** (Class of 2008) and David Mendez recently held their wedding across two continents. Ruth is also the daughter of staff member, David Collopy.
3. **Louise Taylor** (Class of 2009) married George Makris at St Dominic's Church on 30 April 2022. Louise also worked at Siena College between 2010 and 2014. One of Louise's bridesmaids was alumna, **Lauren Farrell** (Class of 2009).
4. **Elissia Hocking** (Class of 2009) married Michael Cardamone on 2 April 2022 at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew. The bridal party included maid of honour, **Janice Yu** (Class of 2009) and bridesmaids, **Stephanie Hocking** (Class of 2012) and **Elaine Cardamone** (Class of 2014). Elissia is also a former staff member at Siena College.

We congratulate the following staff members on their recent weddings, **Stephanie Vangelista**, **Chimene Bousejean** and **Dhanya Gunderweden**. We wish them many blessings for their future.

We welcomed news of Lachlan Lee born to **Jessica Mithen-Lee** (Class of 2006) on 18 July 2022, brother to Zoe.



We Remember

Geraldine Macdonald née Winter (Class of 1961) passed away peacefully on 1 February 2023 surrounded by family. Geraldine was loving wife for fifty-seven years to Brian, devoted Mother to Joanne (Class of 1981), Alexander (dec.), Katrina (Class of 1987), Genevieve and Clare (Class of 1989). She is also sister to Sr Joan Winter OP (Class of 1954), Frances (dec.) and Margaret (Class of 1955). She will be sorely missed by her grandchildren, Jason, Aaron, Madison, Alexander, Jessica and Matthew, and great grandchildren, Chelsea and Winona. Geraldine was a dedicated and deeply loving family women who had a long and successful career as a nursing executive. Geraldine was an exemplary women who lived her life to the fullest guided by her strong Christian values.

May She Rest in Peace.



From the Archives



Marian Jenkinson
College Archivist

In December 2023, one of Siena's longest serving teaching staff members, Bernie Daly (back row, seventh from the left), retired after more than three decades. I had the opportunity to spend some time to learn about his career path and the joy he derived from it.

Working as an auditor in the 1980s, Bernie decided to switch career paths – after attaining his Bachelor of Education, the rest is history. He accepted a job offer at Siena in 1989 after driving past the school. He witnessed building works occurring and thought *“the school must be going places”*. Bernie taught Accounting, then Economics and eventually, the newly introduced Business Management subject in the early 2000s. After gaining a Graduate Diploma from Christ College, Religious Education was added to his teaching load.

Bernie joined the Finance Committee as the staff representative, and with his accounting background *“knew what the reports were about”*. This was a time of large building projects, and he was proud of his efforts to convince the other committee members, with then College Principal, Gaynor Robson-Garth's support, that a third floor on the St Catherine Centre was necessary, and the school could afford the repayments during the time of low interest rates.

Whilst teaching has been a joy – seeing those lightbulb moments when a girl says *“I get it”* – sport was Bernie's passion. An avid tennis player himself, Bernie was happy to coach the GSV tennis teams for many years. When football was introduced as well, Bernie became a field umpire which *“kept him fit for tennis”*. Many past students reading this will have fond memories of being on camps and Year 12 retreats with *“Mr D”*. Bernie also noted that technology has been one of the many

changes to the school since 1990. Before online learning and individual devices, the *“modern”* technology included two TVs with VCRs mounted on a mobile stand. As they could not be taken upstairs, room changes were common, and the paper booking sheet proved contentious at times as to whose class would get to use the TVs.

When asked about his future plans, he replied *“more tennis... I'll be able to play the old geezers during the week now...”*, getting along to all the games of his beloved Collingwood, and travelling. He and his wife are looking forward now to becoming *“grey nomads”*.

He is also hoping to volunteer for Vision Australia to use his distinctive voice to read the news on the radio. His final words for the Siena community: *“Keep the great Dominican vibe going... and keep singing the Hymn to St Catherine with gusto!”*

Meet New SPA President, Nicole Wood

Nicole, why did you choose Siena for your daughter's education?

Coming from a creative background, I was seeking a school that offered a solid education in the fundamentals, in addition to school with a creative element. I felt the Art Department was filled with passionate staff members who would provide a creative learning environment. I loved that Siena embraces the Fashion and Product Design subjects offered at our school.

How has the year been for you so far and what are you looking forward to the most?

So far Siena Parent's Association has had a great year! Firstly we have been able to host our full schedule of events without restricted numbers or interruptions. Our major raffle was a success and we thank

all our sponsors for the wonderful prizes they donated. The Mother's Day Breakfast is always one we look forward to and it is great to see so many mums pull together to deliver the catering to three hundred and fifty people on the day. The fact that volunteers are able to provide an event that runs so seamlessly is a credit to our tight community.

What plans do you have in store for SPA and how has volunteering benefited you?

I hope to be in a position to double our annual pledge by increasing the capacity at some of our events and bringing back the Trivia Night. Being a SPA volunteer has made me feel connected to my daughter's learning environment and I have also made some great friends across year levels. Getting to know some of the College Leadership Team members has

definitely made me feel more involved in my daughter's education. We are always looking for more parents to become part of our network, and we are happy to have people float in and out based on their personal commitments.

Visit our website for more information: siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/siena-parents-association



Nicole Wood
SPA President (pictured above right at the Mother's Day Breakfast with daughter, Lulu)



Year 12 Breakfast



Mother'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, 28 July

Monday, 14 August

Friday, 8 September

Friday, 6 October

Monday, 6 November

Wednesday, 29 November

www.siena.vic.edu.au