

2024
SEMESTER 1

“It is the smallest of all the seeds,
but when it has grown it is the
greatest of shrubs and becomes a
tree” -Matthew 13:32

IT'S TIME

Social Justice Action Group

Cover design by Kevin Quach



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Forward

Seeds of Hope

Welcome to another edition of It's Time magazine published by the College's Social Justice Action Group (SJAG). This edition will look back on the past six months or more and give a summary of many related events and dive into some justice issues, brought to you by staff and students.

In moments of reflection, I consider where we have come from and where we are headed. There are often moments of doom and gloom when I see people blatantly disregard what is right and just, including the dignity of others and needs of the Earth. Who wants to live in a world where everyone is out for themselves? I would hope nobody. However, if we want others to care for us, we must care for others, including caring for the Earth.

Nonetheless, I also see seeds of hope, when I encounter many young people because of their passion and innate understanding of what is unjust. Many people often say that children cannot be involved in justice initiatives or campaigns (or at least until it serves their own purpose), but you would be surprised the wisdom they possess. Young people can see through an issue and not politicise it, which is what we always aim to do. Young people are not racist, hurtful or uncaring until they are taught to be. Let's listen to them and allow them to educate us in many ways. Some things are just simple and should remain so.

What inspires us then to work for justice or to help those in need? Often it comes from how we are raised and the conversations had at home. I clearly remember some of the things my father said to me when I was young which brought me to see all people as equal. My mother also taught me many great lessons and together they were models of volunteering – for our parish, our local community, our schools. Our faith communities are also a source of values and justice when they are authentic and not self-serving. Ultimately, what we do as adults and senior students can have such an impact on younger children. They see and hear everything and learn along the way. One invitation to our adults is the Adult Winter Sleep Out coming up on Friday 16 August. You can still register your interest here - [Adult Winter Sleep Out](#)

More regularly these days I do see complacency in terms of working for justice. Life is tough; we hear it all the time. True, but it is also a blessing, a joy! Perhaps we need to really consider what is important in life and work for that; work for improving the lives of all and not just ourselves. There is enough in the world to share what we have. Last week was Refugee Week, a time to think about sharing. No refugee ever wants to leave their home. Many of our families came to this country as refugees, yet now that we have everything we want to stop others having the same human dignity shown to them??!! Australia has changed in this space and not for the better. We need to be better.

There are always so many things to talk about in this space, but another area that I feel passionately about and that people are often complacent about is sustainable living so that we care for the Earth that feeds us and gives us life. While I have so much to say here, this article was shared with us from the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education this past week so I thought I would share it instead.

Forward

Godfathers of climate chaos': UN chief urges global fossil-fuel advertising ban
Oliver Milman, The Guardian, 6 June 2024

António Guterres says world faces 'climate crunch time' and announces dire new scientific warnings of global heating

Fossil-fuel companies are the "godfathers of climate chaos" and should be banned in every country from advertising akin to restrictions on big tobacco, the secretary general of the United Nations has said while delivering dire new scientific warnings of global heating.

In a major speech in New York on Wednesday, António Guterres called on news and tech media to stop enabling "planetary destruction" by taking fossil-fuel advertising money while warning the world faces "climate crunch time" in its faltering attempts to stem the crisis.

"Many governments restrict or prohibit advertising for products that harm human health, like tobacco," he said. "I urge every country to ban advertising from fossil-fuel companies. And I urge news media and tech companies to stop taking fossil-fuel advertising."

In his speech, Guterres announced new data from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showing there is an 80% chance the planet will breach 1.5C (2.7F) in warming above pre-industrial times in at least one of the next five calendar years. The past 12 months have already breached this level, with the average global temperature 1.63C (2.9F) higher than the pre-industrial average from June 2023 to May of this year, following a string of months with record-breaking heat, according to the European Union's Copernicus monitoring system.

Governments agreed in the 2015 Paris climate pact to restrain the global temperatures rise to 1.5C to avoid cascading heatwaves, floods, droughts and other ruinous impacts, and while a single year beyond this limit does not mean the target has been lost, scientists widely expect this to happen in the coming decade.

According to the WMO, there is a roughly 50-50 chance that the period of 2024 to 2028 will average above 1.5C in warming, globally. "We are playing Russian roulette with our planet," Guterres, known for his strident language on the climate crisis, told an audience underneath a suspended 94ft model of a blue whale at the American Museum of Natural History. "We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell."

Read full article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jun/05/antonio-guterres-un-chief-fossil-fuels-advertising>
[utm_term=6660d334350d818d410613d2a2d45667&utm_campaign=MorningMailAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=morningmailau_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jun/05/antonio-guterres-un-chief-fossil-fuels-advertising?utm_term=6660d334350d818d410613d2a2d45667&utm_campaign=MorningMailAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=morningmailau_email)

God bless you all and may the Spirit walk with you as you pursue what is right and just for all. Remember the journey starts somewhere so you only need to start small and that could be simply talking kindly about those who live on our margins, often forced there from our judgement. Let us work for the Kingdom of God here and now, thus working for the Common Good, because in our school context faith and action are one; they support each other. Please enjoy the magazine. Thanks to all those who contributed and the Year 12 SJAG students who put it together.

Gillian Daley
Director of Identity

SJAG Update

The foundational principle of Social Justice at St Patrick's College is acting out of care and compassion for the disadvantaged within society. In reflecting the actions of Jesus, as well as the College's Gospel values, the Social Justice Action Group (SJAG) works towards fulfilling this principle. Members of SJAG work in solidarity with the less fortunate in order to create meaningful change for the members of our society who need it most. This is done by acting as the driving force behind the Social Justice Initiatives the College runs.

Outside of the various Social Justice programs run by the College, including SOL Service and Social Justice Service (SJS), SJAG – along with Junior School Justice (JSJ) and the Faith In Action Team (FIAT) – provides a unique opportunity for students to engage with and contribute towards attempts to mitigate prevalent societal issues in the modern world. Working with Ms Daley as the Director of Identity, and Ms Lonard and Ms Zambrano as SJAG facilitators, the students in SJAG are able to work in unison with JSJ and FIAT, allowing them an opportunity to pursue their interests in tackling Social Justice issues. There is an emphasis on both education on pressing issues within our community, as well as how to be part of the solution through initiatives and projects.

The first major event for SJAG this year was the Lenten Appeal, which came much earlier than in the past this time round. Things kicked off with homeroom fundraisers and collections, this year working to help Chalmers Road School and Lucas Gardens School, which help students with disabilities receive an education that accommodates their needs. The SJAG boys stepped up to run a morning barbecue, which was a great success and contributed to the total collection of \$70 000 for our partners.

SJAG's work continued as we spent a few afternoons flat-packing tables built by Mr Viney and some Year 12 students to be sent to schools in Papua New Guinea. These will provide the tools for children in PNG communities to learn effectively. The Year 11 members also continued to maintain the sustainability gardens, which create beautiful green spaces around the school. A group of boys have also begun to plan for the revitalisation of several of the plots around the school, which will grow native plants to contribute to sustainability at the College.

SJAG Update

Currently, SJAG is working to coordinate donations for the Winter Appeal, and will host the annual Winter Sleep Out next term as a show of solidarity with those sleeping rough around the world. As a previous participant, I can confidently say it's an amazing experience and, as it's not just limited to members of SJAG, I'd recommend all students and staff take part.

“we people everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice..., the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love towards our fellow man” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Thomas Coorey
Social Justice Prefect



Lenten Appeal

“Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom ... In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.” – Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024

The season of Lent commemorates the period of 40 days where Jesus exiled Himself in the desert, fasting, while experiencing temptation from the devil. For Christians, Lent is a very significant period for ourselves; a time for preparation, reflection and, ultimately sacrifice. During this period, we can often reduce this season to simply just ‘giving up’ or abstaining from something, but this period encourages change and transformation. Lent, furthermore, inspires almsgiving, to donate goods and money, and to perform acts of charity.

Through a heavier dedication to prayer, and a higher regard on our everyday actions, the season of Lent becomes a season of introspection. Even if we fail to abstain or fail to give money, this season allows us to focus on ourselves, our actions and our relationship with God.

This year, our Lenten partners were the Chalmer’s Rd School and the Lucas Gardens School. Chalmers Road School is a school for students who have moderate or severe intellectual disabilities. Lucas Gardens School provides education for students with high and moderate support needs, including intellectual and physical disabilities. Overall, St Patricks raised over \$70,000, with over 1/3 being sourced from the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Lenten Dances, and almost another 1/3 coming from the Junior School Cross Country. Part of this money was used by Chalmers’ Rd to get a speech pathologist, as many students in this school are non-verbal. Lucas Gardens also used the money we fundraised to expand their school grounds to encourage more play and sport and to aid development in their physical skills.

As one of the year 10 students who had the opportunity to go on the Chalmer’s Rd visits, I got to see firsthand the impact our fundraising has on others. These visits showed how our own donations have a direct, noticeable effect on those in need, and served as a reminder of why in the season of Lent, we should always strive to give and donate.

Lenten Appeal

Ultimately the 2024 Lenten Appeal saw a time of reflection and renewal within the school community – the period of 40 days tested us to give up what we hold dearly, to donate and involve ourselves in charity-based initiatives and encouraged us to better strengthen our connection with our faith and with God. I hope that during Lent next year, we once again find ourselves inspired by the actions of Jesus to make a change in this world through our almsgiving, personal sacrifices, and reflections on our religion.

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” – Matthew 6:25

William Ters
Year 10 Student



International Women's Day

This year's International Women's Day acknowledges the achievements of women around the world. Emphasis is placed on the need for equity and equality, something expressed in the simple but thought-provoking theme of "Inspire Inclusion". This statement calls for us to value and understand the importance and need for the inclusion of women in all facets of society by emphasising the belonging, relevance, and empowerment of women.

This was apparent in the words of the two guest speakers at the separate College assemblies, Dr Angela Rassi, a general practitioner, who specialises in perinatal care, and Ms Anja Samardzic, a research analyst with a background in refugee research. Both speakers spoke of the positive impact young men could make, when we stand alongside women, bringing attention to their needs for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Dr Rassi further appealed to the hearts and minds of the students in her address, to imagine a world undefined by gender, allowing for equal opportunities for all regardless of sex. Dr Rassi also thoughtfully discussed the issues of inequality within the workforce which women faced, and her own struggles as a working mother within the medical field.

Students also got the chance to learn more about topics regarding domestic violence through lessons in PCL's. Homeroom and class teachers gave students further opportunities to discuss and understand issues regarding consent and domestic violence, and how, as young men, we must act and respond to avoid any harmful behaviours and actions.

Some of our own students and teachers were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to witness and participate in the Santa Sabina International Women's Day Assembly, in which our own Joshua Santangelo (Inclusive Community Prefect) was part of a staff and student leader panel, discussing the pertinent issues of female stereotypes within media, and the gender pay gap.

Lastly, three of our own students, Francesco Mazza (Year 10), Damian Laggis (Year 11), and Luke Hill (Year 11), along with Ms Daley, also had the opportunity to attend the International Women's Day morning tea presentation held by Strathfield Council at Strathfield Town Hall.

Collectively, this year's International Women's Day events provided the St Patrick's boys with ample opportunities for reflection and involvement, which ultimately encourages us all to foster ways to be an ally for women's issues in our culture.

Roman Petrolo
Year 10 Student

Harmony Day

Celebrating Harmony Day: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

Harmony Week, led by the Department of Home Affairs, is a national celebration of Australia's rich multiculturalism and a recognition of the diversity and inclusion activities that take place throughout the week. This annual event coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21. Since its inception in 1999, Harmony Week has seen over 80,000 events across various settings, including childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses, and government agencies.

What is Harmony Week?

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into the community. Australia stands out as one of the most successful multicultural countries globally, and Harmony Week emphasises inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic backgrounds. It is a time to reflect on and celebrate the core values that unite us as Australians.

How SPC Celebrated Harmony Week

At St Pat's Harmony Week consisted of a variety of activities, including a homeroom poster that fostered connection between an individual's culture and other cultures with reflection on how their own culture impacts their lives and how they appreciate other cultures with a theme of food being particularly common. Furthermore, homeroom quizzes involving teachers' ethnicities and other Harmony Day related trivia was completed with students' appreciation of others diversity considerably built upon. The Harmony Day ribbons were another highlight with boys and staff across the College wearing the ribbons as acknowledgement of the day. It is important to note many other important initiatives occurred across the College due to Harmony Week thanks to the support of the entire College community

Ultimately Harmony week was an extremely exciting time in the college and as a community it was clear that, in the words of our own Deputy Principal, Mr Byrne:

"We don't tolerate difference. We celebrate it."

Joshua Santangelo
Inclusivity Prefect

Holy Week Reflection

Holy Week, considered to be the sacred conclusion of Lent and the focal point of the Christian liturgical calendar, holds profound significance for millions of adherents. Traversing from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, Holy Week recounts the final days of Jesus Christ, marking fundamental events that describe Christian faith and doctrine.

Every year we hear the same story of Jesus' death and resurrection, but one question always plagued me in my youth: *Why did Jesus betray Judas?* Out of greed, lack of loyalty or because he did not appreciate his value. In our world we often under-appreciate things of great value simply because we view them as if they will never disappear and grow complacent due to their constant presence. This happened in Judas's case with his relationship with Jesus providing him with great value that he failed to appreciate leading him to sell out Jesus. His greed for money blinding him to the true value of Jesus' relationship and Jesus' innate human value.

Often, like Judas, we fail to appreciate things in our lives until either they are lost or broken. A relationship, with family, friends or others can often be broken by a decision to break their trust one too many times or take advantage of their forgiving nature. We must understand the weight of our actions and the flow on effects from ignoring God's message of love and peace as fuelling a world full of hate and persecution where each individual approaches life selfishly with no aim towards the common good.

Thus, Holy Week goes beyond its religious significance and becomes a period for personal reflection among individuals or in a community setting. Fasting, prayer and repentance are some of the practices that we engage in order to seek spiritual rejuvenation and development. It serves as a reminder about God's abiding love that has no limits; calling every person to think about their relationship with the divine and their interactions with the other.

In conclusion, Holy Week encapsulates the core beliefs and narratives of Christianity. It invites us to journey alongside Jesus in his final days, from triumphant entry to sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Through solemn observance and joyful celebration, Holy Week reaffirms the power of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

William Chahin
Spirituality and Faith Formation Prefect

The Ruben Centre

One organisation that is a key partner of SPC is the Ruben Centre, located in Mukuru, an urban slum in Nairobi, Kenya. A slum is a very densely populated area associated with poverty and poorly constructed housing. The Mukuru slum is located only 7 kilometres from the centre of Nairobi, and houses approximately 700,000 people. To give some context Marrickville and Birchgrove are located 7 kilometres from the Sydney CBD.

The Ruben Centre was established in 1986 with the objective of empowering and promoting justice within the Mukuru community. In practical terms the centre achieves the objective by providing high- quality education, health, financial and social services. The goals of the Ruben Centre are informed by the real needs of the people and to ensure that many of the most vulnerable lead a dignified life. The Ruben Centre works largely with families, and the safeguarding of children is of paramount importance. The Ruben Centre is supported by the Christian Brothers African Province.

Through the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia support for the education is provided. The Ruben Centre caters for formal education from early childhood to junior secondary, additionally it caters to children with special needs and provides vocational training for women and children. The AEF Ruben Primary and Junior Secondary School (sponsored by EREA) currently has an enrolment of more than 3200 students and is staffed by 67 teachers. Education is a vital component in enabling children to create a better future for themselves and their community.



The Ruben Centre

The Ruben Health Centre is a hub of medical excellence and provides a wide range of health services to the community such as an asthma clinic, dental care and a well-equipped pharmacy. In recent years a maternity unit was added in response to community needs. The centre's physiotherapy unit is one of its busiest units, catering up to 30 patients per day. The Ruben Health Centre has made a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the community by providing accessible and affordable healthcare services to a population that would have limited access to medical care.

Please keep in mind Jesus's teaching:

'Whatever you do for the least of my brothers you do for me'.

To learn more about the Ruben Centre please visit their website, found at: <https://www.rubencentre.org>

Anthony Karnaout
Year 12 Student



Clean Up Australia Day

[“Be the change you wish to see in the world” - Mahatma Ghandi](#)

Australia has a waste problem. As a nation we produce around 76 million tonnes of waste every year. To put this into context, in 2017 we were only producing about 60 million tonnes per year, a crazy amount nonetheless, but still a significant decrease from where we are today.

Our annual participation in Clean Up Australia Day is just one way that we, as a College community, can ‘be the change we wish to see in the world’ and do our part to raise awareness for our nation’s growing waste problem and combat the amount of it that goes to landfill as opposed to being recycled.

We had an amazing turnout of around 90 boys from across the cohorts who took to the streets, armed with bags and gloves, looking for rubbish to collect and dispose of correctly. While our contribution might seem like a drop in the ocean, especially in a suburb like Strathfield that is relatively clean already, all actions large or small can collectively make a difference.

What was disappointing to note, however, was the fact that we discovered more rubbish within the grounds of SPC than the entirety of the surrounding streets of Strathfield combined - a poor reflection on the attitudes of the boys towards something as simple as putting your rubbish in the bin.

Again, combatting these issues is all about ‘being the change you wish to see’, so never underestimate the power of seemingly simple actions – if everyone emulates their desired change, greater scale change becomes much easier to achieve. Some simple things you can do around waste-management include volunteering for a clean-up around your own suburb, recycling bottles or cans with the return-and-earn program or differentiating your household waste properly to avoid excess waste going to landfill.

Thanks go out to Mrs Sinadinos, Ms Cupac and Ms Daley who assisted in the behind-the-scenes organisation of the day and, most importantly, the other teachers and boys who all gave up their Sunday mornings to step up, clean up and be the change.

Daniel De Pasquale
Sustainability Prefect

SJS Highlights

Below are some of the places our Year 11 students participate in service

[St Merkourious Charity by Lucas Biscotto](#)

I had the pleasure of going to the St. Merkourious Charity warehouse with some other boys as part of the Year 11 Social Justice Service, where we were required to sort through various piles of food, drinks, and hygiene essentials in order to pack and arrange hampers for those who are less fortunate. As soon as these parcels were complete, we put them in the warehouse so that Sydney's less fortunate might later get them. This experience was both instructive and eye-opening for me because it demonstrated the labour of love that goes into producing these hampers. This has been a really fulfilling experience because it will bring smiles to many people's faces knowing that these hampers are going to those who need them the most.

[Head 2 Heart Program by Jacob Chahin](#)

As a part of my Social Justice Service, myself, numerous Year 11 students and various teachers participated in the "Head 2 Heart" program, managed by Eddie Rice Camps. Many of us were anxious and curious about what the upcoming 24 hours would bring as we spent time with children of those less fortunate, providing them a well-deserved break at the same time. Eddie Rice Camps provide a 1:1 volunteer to participant ratio, allowing for rich interaction and confidence-building and allowing many of the children to thrive. There are numerous advantages to allowing children to connect with positive, upbeat, and caring individuals who can act as wonderful role models in their lives. Every child deserves to grow up in happiness and security.

[Exodus Foundation by Mr Bottalico](#)

Along with a group of Year 11 Students, I had the pleasure of going to the Exodus Foundation. During the service, we had to pack a lot of fruit and snacks for the less fortunate. Some students not only had to pack snacks, but also serve hot meals and drinks to those on the margins who wanted to eat and snack while seated. This experience gave me and the other boys a deeper understanding of what underprivileged people look and feel like. Overall, this social justice work was a heart-warming experience that helped me and many other students gain a better understanding of what disadvantaged people go through on a daily basis. We learn throughout our lives that we should be grateful for the good life and the blessings we have and show dignity to all.

SOL Service

SOL Service is one of St Patrick's many opportunities for our community to be bigger than itself and have the students making real changes and putting the effort in for good causes. The boys are keen to be a positive part of our wider Strathfield community and a shining example among Catholic schools. We are constantly interacting with and working towards the betterment of the community.

Initiatives the students complete include activities in which we provide for those in need, such as the sandwich making initiative, one of the more popular picks to do. We also have students actively volunteering in ushering for events, school based or otherwise. An event the boys always enjoy are our Chalmers Road School visits, where a group of boys walk down to spend quality time with the younger students at a school down the street and offer guidance and a unique experience.

Another aspect of SOL Service aims to benefit the environment, such as the very popular nude lunch program. The boys make major changes year-round in the way they pack their lunches and heavily reduce the school's overall rubbish wastage. We also have clean-up-based initiatives which encourage the boys to be mindful of what they throw away.

The SOL Service program has helped St Pats become more interactive with the community, and better with the environment. Best of all, it gets all the boys involved and has everyone able to say they made a difference.

Roman Petrolo



Winter Appeal

“I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me.... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me“ - Matthew 25:36-40

This year’s Winter Appeal was a huge success. Over the two days of collection, we received an overload of each item that was designated to each house, showing the overwhelming generosity and demonstrating the remarkable character of the St Patrick’s College community. By the time we had collected all the donations, the Bangawarra Room was bursting at the seams.

These make a huge difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our society, especially with the growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness and extreme cost of living pressures. Giving people a warm place to sleep and the means to stay clean upholds their self-respect, recognising our Christian calling to affirm the dignity of all people.

This year, our donations have been delivered to St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol, the House of Welcome, Jesuit Refugee Services and a domestic violence shelter.

We thank our parent volunteers for making the deliveries to these partners as part of their service to the community – Claudia Elia, Monique Ghosn, Lucy Kassis, Elena Sagby, Grace Bogomiagkov, Raja Touma, Grainne Nixon, Sonia Bechara, Tina Vu and Thai Nguyen.

Once again, I’d like to thank everyone for their generosity and donations; it really does make a difference.

Thomas Coorey
Social Justice Prefect



Art and Unity: The Power of Creativity to Bring People Together

Art since the beginning of humanity, has always been used to connect people and bring ideas together. It is a powerful construct which allows people to shape and share commonalities of beauty and wonder in the world and holds the ability to show complex ideas and emotions. Artists play an incredibly crucial role in establishing a sense of connection and unity through individuals from all walks of life. Art transcends the physical, it goes beyond the realm of what we can see, but rather what we feel, smell, and hear. It is arguably one of the most fundamental and primal examples that exist in humanity that draws together unity.

One of my earliest memories of witnessing the unifying power of art was when I visited the famous Louvre Museum in Paris. As a young child, I laid my eyes on an artwork that still to this day I remember vividly - the renowned Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci. The painting was surrounded by a swarm of tourists eager to catch a glimpse of the masterpiece. As the Mona Lisa's eyes met the gaze of the audience, I realized that we were all connected through this shared experience. This momentous encounter with art had united us in a profound way, it was from this experience that I truly felt and experienced what art and unity really meant.

At its core, artists create artworks to act as a means of communication and expression. In the earliest examples of art documented, early tribes inscribed their history on the walls of caves, they etched and painted onto stone depicting who lived here and what they did. Thousands of years later, humans still yearn to create art as a means of communication and expression, whether this is in response to a significant world event a current social issue or even on a smaller scale it could be someone painting a flower or capturing a photo of a sunset. By creating works of art that speak to universal human experiences and emotions, artists can connect with audiences in a deep and meaningful way. By conveying powerful messages of hope, inspiration, and harmony, artists can inspire individuals to unite around a common cause. Through art, we can share our joy, pain, hopes, dreams, anguish, and fears, creating a sense of empathy and understanding that moves beyond cultural and linguistic barriers.

Art and Unity: The Power of Creativity to Bring People Together

As quoted by the Famous Modernist artist Ferdinand Hodler “The work of art will bring to light a new order inherent in things, and this will be the idea of unity”. By breaking down the barriers that exist across cultural groups and exchange, art allows individuals and communities alike to gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of human experience. By engaging with the art of other cultures, individuals and communities can build the bridges of understanding whilst developing a mutual respect.

In a world that often feels increasingly divided, art has the power to bring people together. Through viewing and engaging with art, we can better understand our shared sense of humanity, drawing on our need for compassion and connection. Art can be used as a form of solidarity which further breaks down the invisible barriers that divide humanity. This in turn will allow us the opportunity to be a community with a shared understanding and unified purpose, showing compassion to the world around us. It is important that we navigate these challenges that exist in the modern world and turn to art as a means of promoting and encouraging unity. By supporting our local artists, galleries, and institutions we can create a more just, equal, and compassionate society.

By sharing and celebrating our need for a common humanity through the power of art, we truly can become a better human and as a result a more unified world.

Mrs Adriana Karanfilovski
Visual Arts Teacher



Staff Spirituality Day

Staff had eight options related to Liberating Education on their Spirituality Day 'Liberate Me, Liberate You', this year. Here are some accounts of a few options.

'Open your Heart' - House of Welcome by Ms Meagan Compton

Visiting the House of Welcome for our Staff Spirituality Day was a moving experience. Being immersed in the welcoming atmosphere of their service, dedicated to supporting refugees and people seeking asylum, was a humbling reminder of the human spirit. Hearing of their important roles in supporting these members of our community highlighted the importance of empathy, understanding and advocacy in our own roles as part of the SPC community. As we reflected, we landscaped part of the backyard to enable their lawn to grow and planted herbs in the vegetable garden. Knowing that the produce from the garden would be used by the on-site catering group added another layer of significance to our efforts, reinforcing sustainability and self-sufficiency.

'The Soundtrack of My Life' by Ms Linda Zambrano

We all dance to the beat of our own drum... It is the rhythm of our lives... And the harmony that we seek! Ms Natalie Rocca gave us an opportunity to delve into the notes that create the music for each individual and how this generates the SPC ensemble of many voices and songs gathering synergism, united as one.

'God in Creation' by Mr Steven Fochesato

Thursday 28 March saw College staff members partake in several spirituality themed experiences that were spread across the Sydney Metropolitan Area. It was clear from the onset that all the "cool" staff were keen to marvel at God's Creation in our very own backyard.

Despite the slight hiccup here and there, (a flat battery in the bus/dealing with the inclement and uncertain weather), the show finally hit the road and it wasn't long before the troupe were reunited at Lane Cove National Park. Whilst the walk itself proved to be excellent exercise heading into the Easter weekend, what really stood out was the tranquil environment and the majesty of the nature underfoot and all around us. The walking party often stopped and spoke about places we had visited and the natural beauties we had seen within the four corners of the globe.

When you stop and think about it, there is so much to appreciate but you first need to find the opportunity to stop, reflect and share. Thankfully, Ms Daley provides us all with this opportunity yearly when we engage in Staff Spirituality days.

Speaking 4 the Planet

This year on World Environment Day, 5 June 2024, Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay organised Speaking 4 The Planet, a climate awareness-raising competition for secondary schools in the local area. Some of the boys from the Social Justice Action Group and keen volunteers from Year 11 went to Domremy College in Five Dock to participate – this year’s theme was ‘Journey to a Greener Future’.

The competition is in its second year and had more participants than last year and is still hoping to see even more people next year. We were delighted to see so many boys so eager to participate and raise awareness. Boys completed some writing pieces, a speech, digital and physical art, and a drama piece.

Journey to a Greener Future

Speaking 4 the Planet Competition

• Speaking • Writing • Drama • Visual Art • Digital Art

Enter in one or more of the five categories of this environmental competition and have your say about the importance of protecting our future, our Planet!

World Environment Day 5 June 2024
Domremy College, Five Dock

To participate, schools must register by **Thursday 7 March 2024**.
To register, contact Robin at footprintsCabcb@gmail.com

With support from

Burwood City of Canada Bay STRATHFIELD COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION Southsiders Shire Environmental Centre Paddy Power World Environmental Education Congress

Speaking 4 the Planet

We had great results with our Drama group, who placed first out of the 10 other schools that participated, as well as Luka Raspudic from Year 11 who came third with his writing piece about Journey to a Greener Future (read below). Congratulations to all the boys who put in the effort to raise awareness for a greener future for all.

Andreas Blatsos (Year 11 Student) & Mrs Lonard (Head of SJAG)



Nurturing our Faith

Attending a school with spirituality at its core means that nurturing faith is an important part of curriculum and beyond. As the Spirituality and Faith Formation Prefect, one of my initial aims in my role was to allow each student to foster a deeper connection with their own sense of faith. From faith, we receive strength, and if as a school community we are united under our faith, this will allow us to build a greater sense of connection with one another, grounded by the values of love and compassion that are at our faith's core.

To encourage this uplift in faith, I have, in collaboration with Ms Daley, worked to implement various practices which have been integrated into the daily lives of students, such as the Rosary on Friday lunchtimes, following Friday Morning Masses, partnering with young Seminarians to provide Faith Talks to all students, allowing them to deepen their knowledge and growth, the revival of the Angelus read daily by students to provide spiritual pause and Stations of the Cross during the season of Lent. I am hopeful that these small-scale initiatives have made the sense of faith more prevalent among the young men at the College, and have allowed for all types of students, along the spectrum of faith, to deepen their understanding and receive some form of spiritual guidance.

One of the most obvious ways to receive this spiritual guidance and continue to nurture our faith is attending mass, and yet it remains something that many adherents simply don't do. Boys of the College have an opportunity every Friday Morning to go to mass in our own Chapel to conclude the week, but beyond this, attending Mass on Sunday at your local parish is only an hour out of your weekend to give back to God. Additionally, many Churches offer Youth Masses, with St Patrick's in Mortlake with Parish Priest Fr Tom (who con-celebrated our Founder's Day Mass this year) having Youth Masses open to everyone planned every month - the next is scheduled to be on July 28 at 6pm.

I look forward to working with the boys through the rest of my time at the College as we all work together for the common good, fostering a stronger sense of community by placing Christ at the centre. Let us stand firm and be united in the richness of our faith, now and always and forever.

William Chahin
Spirituality and Faith Formation Prefect

Sustainability at SPC

So, what is sustainability?

In the modern world sustainability is one of our most important goals and initiatives, but many people remain unaware of what sustainability really is, fuelling misconception around the issues at heart. Sustainability, in simple terms, is the fulfilling of current human needs whilst maintaining our world for future generations. This must be done whilst maintaining and ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental conservation, and social wellbeing. The initial push for sustainability was in 1972 and was well embraced as a global vision recognising the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues. It should be noted that the pursuit of sustainable development is a balancing act: it requires the implementation of policies, strategies, programs, and projects that treat environment and development as a single issue; it also demands changes in the mindsets, attitudes, and behaviours of stakeholders.

What are we currently doing at SPC?

Currently, we have many individual initiatives running towards creating a more sustainable environment within our school. This includes our sustainability gardens scattered around the school, participation in the Return and Earn program to encourage recycling, our new canteen that is plastic free (canned water, bamboo utensils) minimising waste as well as our recycling and terracycle bins to encourage waste differentiation. Along with these internal initiatives, we also participate in various sustainability based events such as the Georges River Project, Clean Up Australia Day, Earth Hour and Speaking 4 the Planet, many of which we complete annually as an ongoing commitment.

Working for the Future

Whilst it may seem like we already do a lot, there is always more to do in regards to sustainability, especially on a broader scale. Currently I am working with Ms Daley as apart of our Sustainability Committee (made up of staff and students) to workshop and create a Sustainability Action Plan, similar to that of our newly released Reconciliation Action Plan, which will guide all our practices at SPC through a sustainable lens. Obviously, this is not a quick process, and will probably resolve after I have left the College, but central to the issue of sustainability is working for the future, not the present and looking beyond the end of ones term of power.

Daniel De Pasquale
Sustainability Prefect

Our Reconciliation Action Plan

The launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at SPC marks a significant step towards fostering understanding and unity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader school community. This initiative has encouraged reconciliation by embedding respect, recognition, and cultural understanding into the fabric of the school's ethos.

SPC's RAP implementation involved a comprehensive strategy, integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives across the curriculum. Through workshops, cultural events, and collaborative projects, students and staff were actively engaged in learning about the rich heritage and contemporary contributions of First Nations peoples. This inclusive approach not only acknowledges the past but also celebrates the present and looks forward to a shared future.



Our Reconciliation Action Plan

The significance of reconciliation extends beyond Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. For all students at SPC, engaging with the RAP promotes a deeper appreciation of Australia's diverse cultural landscape. It fosters empathy, respect, and mutual understanding, essential qualities for harmonious living in a multicultural society. Students learn to challenge stereotypes, confront historical injustices, and commit to ongoing learning and dialogue. These experiences build a foundation for social cohesion, equipping young people with the skills and attitudes necessary to be proactive and informed citizens.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, seeing their culture respected and valued within the school environment can enhance their sense of belonging and self-esteem. It affirms their identity and ensures their voices are heard and respected. Reconciliation efforts such as these can bridge gaps, reduce prejudices, and create an inclusive environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

In essence, SPC's RAP not only honours and uplifts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities but also enriches the entire student body. Reconciliation is vital for building a more just, equitable, and inclusive society. It teaches the next generation the importance of respect, understanding, and unity, laying the groundwork for a more harmonious future for all Australians.

Joshua Santangelo
Inclusivity Prefect



Fair Trade

What is Fair Trade?

Fair trade is a global movement that seeks to promote more equitable and sustainable trade relationships between producers in developing countries and consumers in developed countries.

What are its goals?

The goal of fair trade is to empower producers and workers in developing countries by providing them with fair prices for their goods and access to markets and technical assistance, along with other various forms of support.

So why is it important?

Overall, fair trade is an important movement that seeks to create a more just and equitable global economy. By supporting fair trade products, consumers can help to promote economic justice and sustainability around the world. Fair trade is based on the principle of social and environmental sustainability, requiring producers to adhere to strict labour and environmental standards. This ensures that fair trade products are produced in ways that are both socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.

Our ongoing practice

Buying Fair Trade is one of our core practices when we initiate social justice activities, as we always attempt to promote the work and utilise the products to in turn give back and allow for continued success in working towards a better future. This spans over multiple aspects of our College from chocolate stalls that SJAG runs throughout Easter with Fair Trade chocolates to the use of Fair Trade sports equipment in our fixtures.

Kevin Quach and Kain De Lisser-Howarth
Year 12 Students



Refugee Week

This year, Refugee Week takes place between the 16th and 22nd of June. A refugee is defined as a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

Refugee Week is dedicated to promoting greater awareness of refugees, the issues they face and the contributions refugees are making to the Australian community. Refugee Week follows a different and specific theme every year to highlight certain aspects of the refugee experience and to provide a common, cohesive message that can be promoted across our nation.

The theme of Refugee Week 2024 in Australia is 'Finding Freedom: Family'. RefugeeWeek.org.au writes "we aim to shed light on the transformative power of familial bonds as well as chosen bonds in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands".

But why is Refugee Week important to us?

As Christians, it is part of our duty as followers of Jesus and God to welcome all, no matter their identity, race, or religion, with hospitality and acceptance. Additionally, fostering inclusivity within our community is one of our four EREA touchstones. These core values of our religion can be used as a guide to care for and include those who have been forced to leave their own country. Leviticus 19: 33-34 states: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

In Pope Francis' message for the Second Global Refugee Forum, he solidifies this notion of support and compassion to refugees, writing, "To this end, we must acknowledge that being a refugee should not be a mere granting of a status, but a recognition of a full God-given human dignity. As members of the same human family, each individual deserves a place to call home". An example of a Catholic organisation that provides support to Refugees is the Jesuit Refugee Service, who 'inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, has the mission to accompany, serve, and advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum, refugees, and other forcibly displaced peoples'.

Refugee Week

Another aspect of Refugee Week is to recognise all the refugees in our community, and to understand more about them. I myself, find this aspect very important, as my own father is a refugee. Along with his family, he fled Lebanon when he was very young due to the Lebanese Civil War, which begun in 1975. His experience with his family, among others, makes him a living testament to this year's topic - 'Finding Freedom: Family'. Refugee Week allows us all to hear the real-life experiences of refugees, and, being inspired by our Christian values, to encourage unity and aid for all refugees.

William Ters
Year 10 Student



Find Out More QR Code	Coordinated By Refugee Council of Australia	Event Partner SSI for equality	Principal Partner Multicultural NSW, CITY OF SYDNEY	Major Partners CHRC, Green
Partners Canva, OFFICE NIAGARA, Foundation House, Jenny's Social Services, LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS, THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, SBS FOOD, thrive, WOMBA	Supporters AMK, A.M.R.C, ASD, Australia Post, Core, Mary's, Multicultural Education, DSST, SouthWest, Cerebrum, trans	Acknowledgements Cerebrum, trans		

2024 SEMESTER 1 *IT'S TIME*



Social Justice Action Group
Thanks to: Ms Daley and all student and staff writers who contributed

