

College Newsletter

7 SEPTEMBER 2026

From the desk of *The Principal*

Dr. Janine Biggin

Celebrating Father's Day

On Friday 4 September, the College community came together to celebrate Father's Day with Masses at both campuses. It was wonderful to welcome fathers, grandfathers and other significant men who joined their sons and daughters for this special occasion.

Thank you to Father Samuel and Father Joshua for celebrating the Masses and helping us acknowledge the love, guidance and example offered by fathers and father figures. We hope all fathers, grandfathers and significant men in our community had a very happy Father's Day.

Relay for Life

On Friday evening, students from Emmanuel College participated in Relay for Life, running or walking throughout the event to raise much-needed funds for cancer research. I commend every student who took part and represented the College with such generosity and community spirit. I have been greatly impressed by the amount raised so far and thank all families, staff and community members who supported the students' efforts. We look forward to sharing the final fundraising figure once all donations have been received and calculated.

Staff Spirituality Day

On Friday 11 September, all College staff will participate in our annual Staff Spirituality Day. This important day provides staff with an opportunity to step away from their usual responsibilities and reflect together on our Catholic and Marianist identity.

The day strengthens our shared understanding of the mission of Emmanuel College and renews our commitment to supporting the learning, faith and wellbeing of every student. It also allows us to reflect on how we bring our 2026 College theme, 'Peace be with you', to life through our relationships, decisions and daily work.

Calm Classrooms: Creating Consistency for Learning

Throughout 2026, the College has continued to embed its Calm Classrooms model. These processes establish clear and consistent routines at the beginning, during and at the conclusion of each lesson.

Students are greeted as they enter, prepare themselves and their materials for learning, participate in a quiet roll call and are given clear directions about the lesson ahead. At the end of the lesson, students complete their learning appropriately, pack up in an orderly manner and are dismissed calmly by their teacher.

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

From the desk of *The Principal*

Calm Classrooms: Creating Consistency for Learning - continued

These routines are not intended to make every classroom identical. They provide a consistent framework so that students know what is expected of them, regardless of their subject, teacher or campus. Predictable routines reduce unnecessary disruption, support students to regulate their behaviour and allow valuable lesson time to be focused on learning.

Consistency across the College is essential. When expectations vary significantly between classrooms, students can become uncertain about what is required. When staff consistently reinforce the same core processes, students experience calmer learning environments and teachers are better able to focus on high-quality teaching.

We ask families to support these expectations by encouraging students to arrive punctually, bring the correct equipment and respond respectfully to the directions of staff.

The Importance of College Uniform

Our College uniform is an important expression of belonging to Emmanuel College. It identifies students as members of our community and promotes equality, pride and a shared sense of identity.

Uniform expectations also help prepare students for the standards they will encounter in workplaces and other settings where appropriate presentation is required. Wearing the uniform correctly demonstrates respect for the College, fellow students and the families who make a significant investment in providing it.

For these reasons, the College will continue to ask students to comply with its uniform expectations. When staff address incorrect uniform, they are applying an agreed College standard rather than making a personal judgement about an individual student.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that students leave home in the correct uniform. If there is a genuine reason why a student cannot meet a particular uniform expectation, families are asked to communicate with the College so that the matter can be appropriately understood and managed.

Responding to Breaches of College Expectations

Emmanuel College is committed to providing a learning environment in which students and staff feel safe, respected and able to succeed. Poor behaviour can interrupt learning, affect the wellbeing of others and undermine the orderly environment our students deserve. The College therefore takes breaches of its expectations seriously.

Where concerns arise, staff will respond according to the nature, frequency and seriousness of the behaviour. This may involve restorative conversations, parent or carer contact and the development of clear goals for improvement. For repeated or significant breaches, a student may be placed on a formal behaviour contract.

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

From the desk of *The Principal*

Responding to Breaches of College Expectations - continued

A behaviour contract clearly identifies the behaviours that must change, the standards the student is required to meet, the support that will be provided and the consequences if the expectations are not followed. Parents and carers are important partners in this process.

The purpose of a contract is to establish accountability and provide the student with a structured opportunity to make better choices. At the same time, it sends a clear message that behaviour which compromises safety, respect or learning will not be accepted. Students will be supported to improve, but they must also accept responsibility for their conduct and its impact on others.

Seeking information from the College

We value open and respectful communication with parents and carers. If you have a concern or question about any matter at the College, the best first point of contact is your child's Homeroom teacher.

The Homeroom teacher can assist directly or ensure that your query is referred to the appropriate member of staff for follow-up. Beginning with the Homeroom teacher helps us direct concerns efficiently, avoid unnecessary delays and ensure that the staff member best placed to respond has the relevant information.

We thank families for working in partnership with the College as we maintain consistent expectations and support every student to learn well, engage positively and experience life to the full

Prayer

As we have taken the time to acknowledge the importance of men and fathers this week, I conclude this newsletter with a prayer honouring their significance in our lives.

Loving God,

*We thank you for the fathers, grandfathers and significant men
who bring love and guidance to the lives of our young people.*

Bless them as they walk beside their sons and daughters.

Give them wisdom in times of challenge,

patience in moments of uncertainty

and joy in the gift of family life.

May their words encourage,

their example inspire

and their presence help each young person

to feel known, valued and loved.

Through the example of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade,

help us to build families and communities

shaped by faith and family spirit.

Mary, our Mother, walk with all our families

and bring peace to their homes.

Amen.

Dr Janine Biggin
Principal

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Mission Integration

From the desk of the *Deputy Principals*

ALPHA

The Holy Trinity Parish warmly welcomes anyone curious about exploring their faith to attend Alpha at Queen of Peace parish house on the 9th of October from 10am to 2pm. This free event will include a meal, an opportunity to form friendships and engage in conversations about faith and life. See the flyer below for further details.

KNOW SOMEONE EXPLORING FAITH? WANT TO HELP SOMEONE FIND FAITH BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?
INVITE THEM TO ALPHA!

 **ALPHA**
YOU'RE INVITED!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- Join in fellowship over a simple meal
- Enjoy stimulating conversations on faith and life
- Form wonderful friendships
- Rekindle the sense of meaning and purpose

Alpha is FREE
(with free food!)
and everyone is welcome.

Register Today
Scan **HERE**



EVERYONE WELCOME!
Christians and non-Christians.

STARTING
9 OCT 2026
(Every Friday for 10 weeks)

TIME
10AM – 12PM
COST: FREE

VENUE
Queen of Peace Parish House
62A Everingham Rd,
Altona Meadows VIC 3028

QUESTIONS? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
alpha.htcp@gmail.com sms/call 0419 333 194

"Fr. Binh welcomes all to this parish program"


Holy Trinity Catholic Parish
LAVINGTON ALTONA MEADOWS POINT COOK

'Peace be with you'

John – 20:19

Mission Integration

Feast Day of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous

On Monday the 14th of September we will be celebrating the Feast Day of Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous. Marie-Thérèse was known to be "firm of hand, loving of heart".

She provided a home, rehabilitation, and work opportunities for those women who chose to leave prostitution and enter her 'House of Mercy'.

She only took women who came on their own free will and helped them find a hopeful self-sustaining future. All the while Marie-Thérèse remained Chaminade's closest collaborator on their plan to develop the new religious institution. Marie is the co-foundress of the Sodality of the Madeleine and the Society of Mary. She was always known for her "simplicity, humility, and sincerity".



As priests were imprisoned, killed or in hiding during the French Revolution, Marie-Thérèse filled the void, and she became the heart and soul of the parish community for the next six years. She gathered the parishioners for prayer, religious instruction, family counselling, and secret Masses celebrated by disguised and fugitive priests.

She brought comfort to the sick, taught catechism, visited prisoners, carried messages among the clergy and warned those at risk of capture that the authorities were pursuing them. She did all of these things at the risk of her own life. Many today describe her as the Mother Theresa of Bordeaux.

For all practical purposes, she was the "pastor" of the flock and was dearly beloved by all. In fact, when the French Revolution ended and priests could function in the open again, she had a hard time persuading "her" parishioners to go to the church again instead of coming to her.

May we be inspired by her strength, faith, courage and compassion in a time of crisis.

Mark Sciberras
Deputy Principal Mission Integration

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

From the desk of the *Deputy Principals*

Every Day Counts at Notre Dame Campus

As Acting Deputy Principal of Student Wellbeing at the Notre Dame Campus (NDC), I believe deeply that every day at school matters. Each day provides an opportunity for students to learn, strengthen relationships, experience success and take another step towards becoming the person God calls them to be.

Australian research shows that academic achievement declines as absences increase, and that every day of attendance contributes to a student's learning (Hancock et al., 2013). Attendance is also about connection, belonging, wellbeing and active participation in College life.

With only two weeks remaining in Term 3, every lesson matters. This is particularly important for our Year 12 NDC students, who have only four weeks of formal classes remaining. These weeks provide essential opportunities to complete coursework, consolidate knowledge, receive feedback and prepare for examinations.

At NDC, our approach is guided by the MACS Vision for Engagement and its six interconnected engagement practices.

1. Teaching Respectful Behaviour

Respectful behaviour creates calm, safe and productive classrooms. Guided by the Vision for Instruction, our teachers explicitly teach, model and reinforce classroom routines and expectations. Students are supported to arrive on time, come prepared, participate positively and take responsibility for their choices.

2. Fostering Belonging

Students are more likely to attend and engage when they feel known, valued and connected. Our Marianist characteristic of family spirit inspires us to build positive relationships through our homerooms, Houses, pastoral structures, liturgies, celebrations and everyday interactions.

3. Focusing on Attendance

Every absence represents learning and experiences that cannot be fully replicated. We monitor attendance, communicate with families and respond early when concerns arise. Through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports, or MTSS, we provide universal, targeted and individual assistance to address barriers to attendance.

4. Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing and learning are inseparable. Our staff explicitly teach skills such as emotional regulation, respectful relationships and help-seeking. When anxiety, health concerns or other challenges affect attendance, we encourage families to contact us early so that we can develop a supportive plan together.

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Student Wellbeing

5. Enabling Motivation

Students are motivated when they experience success and can see their progress. Through explicit teaching, clear learning intentions, guided practice and timely feedback, our teachers help students build knowledge, confidence and independence. Consistent attendance enables students to follow the sequence of learning and remain motivated.

6. Targeting Individual Learning Needs

Every student brings different strengths and needs. Through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, assessment information, student voice and communication with families, we provide targeted teaching and appropriate adjustments. This reflects our Marianist commitment to educating the whole person and adapting our practices so that every student can flourish.

Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

Parents, carers and guardians are our most important partners in keeping students engaged and on track. The College can monitor attendance, provide high-quality teaching and implement appropriate supports, but our work is most effective when families reinforce the same expectations at home.

During the remaining weeks of Term 3, we ask parents, carers and guardians to support us by ensuring their child attends school, arrives on time, and is present in every scheduled class unless they are unwell or there is another significant reason for absence. Wherever possible, please avoid scheduling appointments, holidays or other non-urgent commitments during school hours.

We also encourage families to monitor attendance through Compass, follow up unexplained absences and contact the relevant Homeroom Teacher, House Leader, Head of Student Engagement or Learning Leader if your child is experiencing difficulties.

Our commitment to attendance and engagement is grounded in our College motto, 'Life to the Full', inspired by John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

We want every NDC student to be known and valued, challenged and supported, connected to our community and hopeful about their future. With only two weeks remaining in Term 3, and four weeks of formal classes for our Year 12 students, let us work together to ensure every student is at school, in class and making the most of every opportunity.

That is why every day counts.

Anita Duhig

Acting Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Student Wellbeing

Year 9 Respectful Relationships Day

On Wednesday 26 August, Year 9 students at St. Paul's participated in a Respectful Relationships Day. The program supported students in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to build positive, respectful and healthy relationships.

Working in their House groups, students explored important topics including respect, empathy, communication, consent, personal responsibility and social responsibility through a range of engaging and interactive learning experiences.

Representatives from ThinkUKnow, an Australian Federal Police initiative, led a session focused on online safety and respectful digital relationships. Students discussed appropriate online communication and behaviour, as well as safe ways to share personal information and images.

During the Consent Lab, students developed their understanding of consent through scenario-based learning. They built confidence in communicating and asserting their personal boundaries and learned how to recognise and respect the boundaries of others.

The Proactivity session involved practical and physical activities that strengthened students' communication and listening skills. Students developed strategies for emotional regulation while building confidence, resilience and teamwork. They also practised cooperation, encouragement and respect for others.

As part of the Kids in Philanthropy session, students made a positive contribution to their community by preparing Breakfast on the Go or Morning Tea Bags for Father Bob's Foundation.

This was a highly engaging and successful day for Year 9 students. We thank Amanda Xavier (Director of Wellbeing) for her leadership of this program and Michael Gray (Head of Student Engagement) for his assistance.

Denis Palanci
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Inclusive Practices - Speech Pathology

SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK 23rd - 29th of AUGUST

FUN FACT ABOUT SPEECH: To speak you use about 100 muscles in your neck, jaw, tongue, lips, and chest, working together. Each muscle contains many tiny fibres that must move in the right way at the right time. Speaking is actually more complex than many sports movements.

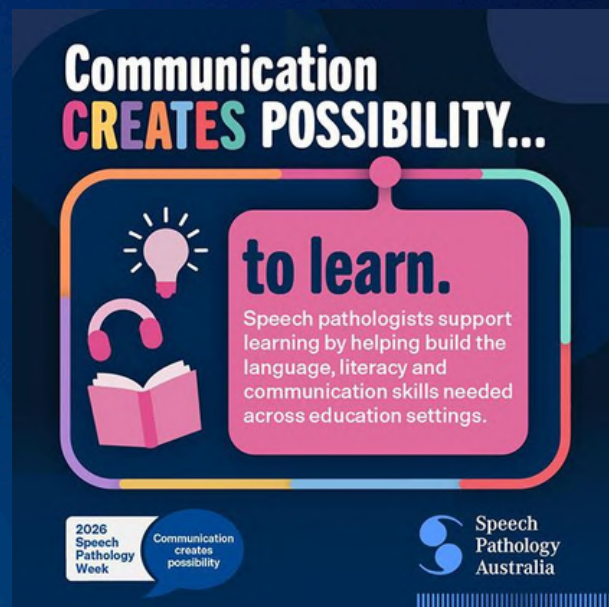
Considering this, I would like to raise awareness by sharing some basic information about our role and what we do. Speech pathology is also known as speech-language pathology or speech therapy. It is an allied health discipline that aims to treat and assist individuals with communication disorders and disabilities. This can include any of the following:

- Developmental language disorder - either receptive, expressive, or mixed (receptive + expressive)
- Voice disorders
- Speech sound disorders
- Pragmatic language impairments
- Social communication difficulties
- Swallowing disorders
- Hearing impairment
- Augmentative and Alternative Devices ACC for nonverbal individuals

We work with people of all ages and all walks of life who have communication or swallowing difficulties. We also play a vital role in the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. We also treat brain injured individuals as well as victims of stroke.

My role at Emmanuel College primarily is to diagnose students, support staff with strategies to allow all students to access the school curriculum as well as run Tier 1 and Tier 3 intervention programs for students with additional needs. However, I mainly focus on students with Developmental Language Disorders or Language Delays. If you have any questions or queries I am always available for a chat or consultation.

Julie Garcia
College Speech Pathologist



'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

McCluskey House Report

McCluskey House has had a fantastic term, with plenty of opportunities for students to get involved and connect with one another. We have introduced a range of fun homeroom competitions, including our popular "Guess How Many Lollies Are in the Jar" challenge, and we currently have an exciting art competition underway.

Our McCluskey student leaders have been working hard to develop even more engaging activities for students, helping to build house spirit and participation. We have also enjoyed our Friday outdoor soccer games, which have been a great way for students to stay active, have fun, and connect with their peers during lunchtime.

Clarissa deFreitas

McCluskey House Leader - NDC

Winters House Report

Winters House has had an exciting and enjoyable term, with a range of homeroom activities bringing students together and building house spirit. Our footy tipping competition has come to an end with Winters C taking out the top spot. Congratulations!

The homeroom decoration competition gave students the opportunity to transform their homerooms and showcase their creativity, teamwork and Winters House spirit. With results to come out very soon.

Similarly, the cupcake decoration competition brought out even more creativity, with students designing and decorating cupcakes while enjoying some friendly competition. These activities have encouraged participation and teamwork across Winters House.

On behalf of the Winters Student Leader Group, we would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped make these activities a success. The results of the competition will be announced soon, however the creations from our homerooms are included below:



Daniel Hindmarch and Lavinia Setini

Winters House Leaders - NDC

Arts Captains Report

It has been another busy few weeks in the Arts at Notre Dame, with students involved in performances, exhibitions, workshops and activities both within the College and across the ACC.

On Friday 21 August, our instrumental and vocal students participated in the ACC Concert Band and Vocal Workshops, hosted at the Notre Dame Campus. We were fortunate to welcome the Concert Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, who performed for students before working with our instrumentalists under the direction of the RAAF Band conductor. Our vocal students also participated in workshops with renowned singer and actor Fem Belling and contemporary professional artist Emma Duncan, both of whom have appeared on The Voice Australia. The day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from professional musicians, develop their performance skills and work alongside students from other ACC schools. These workshops form part of the ongoing ACC Music program leading towards ACCent on Music 2028 at Hamer Hall.

Music also joined in the celebrations for Book Week, with the theme Symphony of Stories. Our Senior Music students presented lunchtime performances in the Library, providing live music for students and staff and helping bring the Book Week celebrations to life.

On Wednesday 9 September, we will hold our annual Arts Showcase celebrating the creativity and talent of students across both campuses and Years 7 to 12. The evening will be held in the NDC hall, and will feature an Arts Exhibition showcasing student work from Art, Visual Communication Design, Media, Music and Fashion subjects commencing from 5.30pm, alongside performances from College ensembles and a selection of auditioned solo and group acts from 7pm.

We are excited to welcome all members of our College community to join us in celebrating the incredible work our students have produced across the Arts this year. A number of awards will also be presented on the evening including the Principal's Awards and People's Choice, recognising outstanding achievement and contribution across our Arts subjects. Keep an eye out for our Showcase award winners, who will be announced following the event!

Coming up on Monday 14 September, our Junior Rock Band ensembles from both campuses will head to St Mary's for the ACC Rock Band event. Students will take part in workshops on their instruments with industry professionals, providing a great opportunity to develop their individual musicianship and ensemble skills.

Our lunchtime Arts activities also continue throughout the term, including Music Club, Art Club and Film Club. These clubs provide students with an opportunity to get involved in the Arts, work creatively with friends and meet other students who share their interests. Get in touch with your campus Arts Leaders to find out more!

Finally, we wish all of our senior Arts students the very best as they enter an important stage of the year and work towards their final folio submissions and performances. After many months of developing, refining and rehearsing their work, we look forward to seeing everything come together as they complete their final assessments for the year.

We are incredibly proud of everything our Arts students have achieved so far and look forward to another busy few weeks ahead!

Ms Paige Byrne
Learning Leader - Performing & Visual Arts

Isaac Saliba, and Dean Kardas
Arts Captains

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

NDC Quiroga Hall
9th of September
SHOWCASE
2026

Art exhibition 5.30pm - 6.30pm

**Live performance 7.00pm -
9.30pm**

2-40 Foxwood Drive, Point Cook

Free Admission

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Cross Country

Cross Country

On Friday, 7 August, SPC held its annual Cross Country Day. Thank you to all students who participated, as well as staff and student helpers who assisted in making the day a great success. Congratulations to Winters House for winning this year's Cross Country Day!

1st Place - Winters	207 Points
2nd Place - Cassidy	194 Points
3rd Place - Chaminade & McCluskey	Equal 169 Points
5th Place - McCoy	120 Points

A further congratulations to the following students who placed in the top three in their respective year level:

Year 7: 1st - Stanley Fisher 2nd - Jack Bassos 3rd - Jackson Jensen	Year 8: 1st - Luka Glavan 2nd - Noah El-Houli 3rd - Joshua Felli
Year 9: 1st - Oscar Chetcuti 2nd - Michael Lavelle 3rd - Eamon Needham	Year 10: 1st - Joshua George 2nd - Euan Dragovic 3rd - Jack Stevanovski
Year 11: 1st - Lukas Hales 2nd - Malachy Coll 3rd - Ryley Hales	Year 12: 1st - Joe Wetzler 2nd - Tadhg Coleman 3rd - Max Collyer



Makayla Zulumovski
Sports Assistant

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Chess at Emmanuel College - Then and Now



1997

2007



2011

2023



Penny Cook
College Archivist

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19

Community News

PHOTOGRAPHY PROTÉGÉS YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS COMPETITION



Submit your own photo inspired by Brassaï and win a Secret Sofitel Experience

Love photography? [Photography Protégés](#) is a competition for aspiring young photographers that celebrates our newest exhibition, [Brassaï: Secret Paris](#).

Visit the exhibition in-person and take inspiration from Brassaï's iconic images of the people and monuments of Paris, submitting your own photo to win. Respond to how Brassaï plays with light and composition and how his photographs transform the everyday into something surprising and intriguing. Split into two categories, shortlisted entries will be exhibited at [Sofitel Melbourne On Collins](#).

Junior, 7–11 years old

Senior, 12–17 years old

In the spirit of the exhibition each category winner will receive an exclusive Secret Sofitel Experience for themselves and their family, stepping beyond the guest experience to uncover hidden spaces, stories and the inner workings of the hotel rarely seen by guests, followed by an elegant High Tea at No35 Restaurant.

Entries close Saturday 12 September

'Peace be with you'

John – 20:19

Calendar Term 3, Weeks 9A AND 10B

7 September	ACC Short Film Festival Competition
7 September	SPC Faith in Action Volunteering
8 September	SACCSS Senior Football/ Basketball Grand Finals
8 September	NDC Senior Girls Basketball
8 September	NDC Senior Boys Basketball
9 September	NDC College Showcase 2026
10 September	SPC Year 10 Social Evening
10 September	ACC Year 7 & 8 Basketball/ Hockey/ Table Tennis Grand Final
10 September	SACCSS Year 9 Premier League Grand Finals
11 September	Student Free Day
14 September	ACC Music Workshop
14 September	SPC Faith in Action - Environmental Cleanup
15 September	SACCSS Tennis Junior
15 September	ACC Year 10 Basketball/ Hockey/ Table Tennis Grand Final
15 September	VET Musical Evening NDC
16 September	ACC Cross Country
16 September	ACC Senior Basketball/ Hockey/ Table Tennis Grand Final
17 September	SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Round 1
18 September	Term Three Ends 3:15 PM

'Peace be with you'

John - 20:19