LIFE TO THE FULL
Emmanuel College

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools
Emmanuel College

# College Newsletter

## From the desk of The Principal

Janine Biggin

19 NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to Week 7 of Term 4.

### An Unusual End to the Week

Last week ended in an unusual way, with the Microsoft outage leaving many of us finding different ways to communicate and working through password recovery for other programs. It was a new learning curve as we adapted to the disruption and found ways to keep the work of the College moving. It has been a relief to have things nearly back to normal, and I thank our staff, students and families for their patience and flexibility.

### Learn Well at Emmanuel: Looking Ahead

Last week also brought all College leaders together for a day of professional learning, focused on expanding Learn Well at Emmanuel in 2027 and beyond. We are excited by the possibilities presented by our leaders and the thoughtful contributions they made to shaping our next steps. Building on our Marianist commitment to educating the whole person, we will continue to strengthen our instructional model and invest in staff development to support student learning. This shared work gives us a strong foundation as we look to the future.

### Finishing Well and Preparing for Headstart

We have reached that time of year when students are completing their current studies and preparing for the next stage of learning. I wish to acknowledge the effort students have made throughout their examinations and thank our teachers for their guidance and encouragement during this busy period.

We are also preparing to enter Headstart with our incoming Year 11 and Year 12 students. This is an important opportunity to establish positive learning habits and become familiar with the expectations of their subjects for the coming year. I encourage students to make the most of this time and approach their new studies with purpose.

### Celebration of Excellence

Our Celebration of Excellence takes place this Thursday, 19 November. One of the highlights of the College year, this evening recognises academic effort, commitment and excellence across our community. It is also the occasion on which our annual Marianist Awards are presented, honouring students who embody the values of our Marianist tradition.

We look forward to sharing this special evening with parents, carers and students as we acknowledge the achievements and contributions of our young people.

*'Peace be with you'*

John –20:19

# Principal

## School Fee Statements

School fee statements have been provided to families in recent days, outlining the fees, levies and laptop costs for all year levels. We encourage families to review this information carefully and contact the College if they have any questions about their statement.

## 2027 Timetable and Student Programs

The College timetable for Semesters 1 and 2 of 2027 is now complete, with final staffing arrangements being confirmed. Individual student programs and booklist information will be sent to all students shortly, confirming their allocated subjects, including electives, and enabling families to prepare for the coming school year.

## Remembering and Working for Peace

Last week, our College community marked Remembrance Day. I wish to acknowledge the students who thoughtfully prepared the commemorative presentation shared in our classrooms. Their care helped create a meaningful opportunity for students and staff to pause and remember those who have served and those whose lives have been lost or changed by war.

Within our Marianist tradition, remembrance also calls us to consider our responsibility to work for peace. In recognising the suffering caused by conflict, we renew our commitment to the dignity of every person and to building a community where understanding and compassion guide our actions. Our theme, Peace be with you, reminds us that peace is both a gift we receive and a responsibility we share.

**A Prayer for Remembrance and Peace**

*Loving God,*

*We remember with gratitude those who have served others in times of war, and we hold in prayer all whose lives have been lost or forever changed by conflict. Comfort those who grieve and draw close to communities still living with violence.*

*May our remembering deepen our respect for every human life. Following Mary's example of faith and courage, help us to listen with compassion and respond to division with understanding. In the Marianist spirit of family, teach us to recognise one another as brothers and sisters, and to make peace through our everyday choices.*

*May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.*

*Amen.*

Dr Janine Biggin
**Principal**

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

# From the desk of the Deputy Principals

## Building Connections and Supporting Students Through Change

As we approach the final weeks of the 2026 school year, it is an important time to reflect on the role that positive relationships, inclusion and school connectedness play in supporting student wellbeing and engagement. It is also an opportunity to consider how we can best support our young people as they prepare for the changes and opportunities that 2027 will bring.

At Emmanuel College, we recognise that a strong sense of belonging is fundamental to student success. When students feel valued, respected and supported, they are more likely to engage positively in their learning, develop meaningful relationships, and approach challenges with confidence. Creating an inclusive school environment, where every student feels that their voice matters and their contributions are valued, remains central to our approach to student wellbeing. Positive relationships are at the heart of this experience. The connections students develop with their teachers, peers and other trusted adults contribute significantly to their emotional wellbeing, resilience and motivation to learn. Small, everyday interactions, such as being welcomed into a classroom, having someone take an interest in their day or being included in a friendship group, can make a lasting difference to how a young person experiences school.

As we look towards 2027, these connections become particularly important. Moving into a new year level, adjusting to different teachers, navigating changing friendship groups and adapting to new learning environments can bring both excitement and uncertainty. For some students, these transitions are welcomed opportunities for growth and independence. For others, they can create feelings of anxiety, particularly when familiar routines and relationships change. Supporting students through these transitions requires a shared commitment between the College and families. Open conversations about what students are looking forward to, what they may be concerned about and how they can approach new experiences can help build confidence and resilience. Encouraging young people to recognise their strengths, maintain positive friendships and remain open to forming new connections can also support a smoother transition.

It is equally important to acknowledge that every student experiences change differently. Some may require additional reassurance, time or support to adjust. By recognising individual needs and maintaining strong communication between home and school, we can help ensure that students feel understood and supported throughout these changes. As parents and carers, taking time to listen, acknowledge concerns and celebrate personal growth can make a meaningful difference. Rather than focusing solely on academic achievement, we encourage families to reflect with their children on the friendships they have developed, challenges they have overcome, kindness they have shown and ways they have grown throughout the year.

Our Marianist tradition reminds us of the importance of family spirit, inclusion and adapting to change. These values continue to guide our commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive environment where every student is encouraged to flourish. As we prepare for 2027, our focus remains on helping students approach the next stage of their educational journey with confidence, resilience and a positive outlook. Through strong relationships, shared support and a willingness to embrace new opportunities, we can empower our young people to continue growing and experiencing Life to the Full (John 10:10).

Anita Duhig
Acting **Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing NDC**

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

# Wellbeing

## Black Dog Article 'Strategies to help your teen in an online world'

The Black Dog Institute is an Australian not-for-profit mental health organisation. It conducts research and turns its findings into practical support, including education, digital tools and clinical services. Its work focuses on improving mental health and addressing conditions such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder, as well as suicide prevention. The College will often refer to their resources and pass these on to families where applicable.

In this edition of the newsletter the College would like to share an article by the Black Dog Institute which focuses on navigating teenagers' digital wellbeing. Despite the length, it's an easy read and includes a contents page.

A summary is provided below. If you are at all concerned about your teenager(s) use of their phone, please take a look when you have some time to peruse this article.

The guide explains how parents can support teenagers' digital wellbeing through connection and open conversation, rather than focusing only on rules or screen-time limits. It explores seven common challenges: strong emotions online, the importance of staying connected with friends, online conflict, difficulty putting devices down, social comparison and self-esteem, sleep disruption, and deciding how much screen use is too much.

Its key message is that online experiences often reflect deeper concerns such as friendship, belonging, identity, stress, or exclusion, and that teenagers are more likely to talk when they feel listened to and respected. Parents are encouraged to stay curious about what their teenager does online, listen before trying to solve problems, acknowledge their feelings, and work together on realistic routines and boundaries.

The guide also recommends looking at the quality and impact of screen use, not just the number of hours. Technology can support connection, learning and creativity, but it can become a concern when it displaces sleep, exercise, hobbies or relationships. If difficulties persist or significantly affect a young person's mood, sleep, relationships or daily life, the guide advises seeking support from a trusted health professional or school counsellor.

**Read the article here:** teenagers-screen-time-digital-wellbeing-parent-guide.pdf

Denis Palanci
**Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing SPC**

# McCluskey House Report

What a great start to the term for McCluskey! With the end of the school year quickly approaching, there is plenty to celebrate.

A massive congratulations to our Year 12s who have officially reached the end of their schooling journey. We are extremely proud of you and wish you every success in your next chapter!

Good luck to everyone else preparing for exams. Keep putting in the effort, support each other and make the final weeks count.

We are also excited to share that our 2027 Year 12 and Year 11 House Leaders have been appointed, with interviews for the other year levels currently taking place.

The finish line is in sight, McCluskey. We are almost there, so let's finish the year with pride!

Clarissa deFreitas and Dominique Greaves
McCluskey House Leaders - **NDC**

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

# McCoy Homeroom Report - SPC

Throughout the year Homeroom in McCoy House has been buzzing, and below is a snapshot of some activities.

Ms **Mihara Mascarenhas - Barton Homeroom Teacher**
What a wonderful year it has been in Barton! Each and every student has been a positive contributor to the environment, bringing humour and enthusiasm, making it a pleasant start to each day.

Thomas (Year 7) - 'Year 7 is a challenging change from primary school but with my friends and support from all the teachers in school it has been a fun and great year. Our responsibilities have lifted and our school has changed so much. We are now preparing for exams, with Year 7 completing a Humanities exam, which is a little scary, but I know we will be fine. The Homeroom this year has been fun and amazing. It has allowed us to do some great things like meeting new friends and getting to know people beyond our year level. It has been a great year, filled with new friends and lots of ACC sport!'

Om (Year 8) - 'This year in Year 8 has been great, alongside the new friendships that I've made in class and in Homeroom. The year got even better when we got to do our Year 8 Eco-spirituality day excursion with another college where we did different types of activities like beach walking and taking photos of nature, allowing us to connect with our environment even more.'

Nathanial (Year 9) - 'Barton Homeroom is a great place to be, we have good kids from different year levels here. It is fun, chill, engaging, and every kid in our class is nice and helpful if you ask them for anything. I have made more friends here and in the school this year, which has been nice. I have found that Year 9 was a good transition from Year 8, and I want to say thank you to my teachers this year for making my classes interesting to be in.'

These are just a few of the wonderful students who continue to thrive in Barton Homeroom every day. Each and every one of them is so valued, and creates an environment where others feel comfortable and know that they have a person to approach if they need something. I wish them all the best in their time at the College and beyond!

Mr **Daniel Velardo - Deakin Homeroom Teacher**
It has been a fantastic time in Deakin Homeroom, with students embracing a wide range of opportunities both in and beyond the classroom. Students have enthusiastically participated in tennis, cricket and volleyball, demonstrating great sportsmanship, teamwork and school spirit. There have also been exciting opportunities to travel overseas for soccer tours, creating memorable experiences and representing the school with pride. Alongside these sporting achievements, students have enjoyed attending music concerts and engaging with the arts. It has been wonderful to see Deakin students getting involved, challenging themselves and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

# McCoy Homeroom Report - SPC

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Emmanuel College

### Elliott Homeroom - A Term of Achievement and Growth

It has been a positive term for our Elliott Homeroom students, with many students demonstrating growth, participation and commitment to school life. Throughout the term, students have embraced opportunities to contribute to the school community and have been recognised for their positive efforts, participation and achievements.

We are proud of the progress our students have made throughout the term. Many have demonstrated commitment to their learning and a willingness to contribute positively to the homeroom environment. These achievements reflect the ongoing efforts of our students and the support of staff and the wider school community.

As we approach examinations, we encourage all Elliott students to maintain a positive mindset, prepare consistently and approach their learning with perseverance and pride. We wish all students every success as they complete the year.

Well, done, Elliott! Let's finish the year positively and make the most of every opportunity.

### Ms Daisy Deng - Dunlop Homeroom Teacher

It has been a busy and productive term in our Homeroom. Students have continued to demonstrate positive attitudes towards their learning and have worked hard to maintain high standards both inside and outside the classroom. It has been pleasing to see students supporting one another, showing resilience when faced with challenges, and developing their independence as learners.

As we approach the examination period, students have been encouraged to begin their revision early and establish effective study routines. We have discussed the importance of being organised, reviewing class notes regularly, completing revision materials, and seeking assistance when needed. Consistent preparation will help students build confidence and perform to the best of their ability in their upcoming exams.

Many students have shown excellent commitment to their studies. It has also been wonderful to see a number of students receive Commendations and Personal Best awards in recognition of their outstanding work ethic, positive attitude, and dedication to learning. These achievements reflect the effort students have invested throughout the term.

We encourage all students to strive to prepare for the upcoming assessments in order attain their best results.

Jennifer Molloy
McCoy **House Leader - SPC**

# McCoy Homeroom Report - NDC

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, it has been a busy and significant time for students across McCoy House, with many important milestones, celebrations and upcoming events taking place throughout the College.

A particularly special occasion has been the completion of our Year 12 students' schooling journey at Emmanuel College. Following a memorable Graduation celebration, our VCE students are now completing their final examinations, while many of our VCE Vocational Major students are preparing to begin apprenticeships and take their first steps into the workforce. We congratulate all Year 12 students on their achievements and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Students across Years 7–11 are also currently completing their end of year examinations. We commend students for their preparation, commitment and resilience throughout this important period. With the Celebration of Excellence taking place next week, we look forward to recognising the outstanding achievements and contributions of students across Years 7–12.

Recently, students participated in Remembrance Day commemorations, taking time to reflect on the courage, service and sacrifice of those who have served our country. It was pleasing to see students demonstrate respect and maturity during this significant occasion.

Looking ahead, our Year 10 and Year 11 students will soon commence their Headstart programs, providing an opportunity to begin their 2027 studies and establish positive learning routines for the year ahead. Our Year 11 students will also participate in their upcoming Retreat towards the end of term, offering an opportunity for reflection, personal growth and strengthening connections with their peers.

Leadership opportunities remain an important focus within McCoy House. We look forward to announcing our Student House Leaders shortly, with preparations also underway to establish our 2027 Year 8–11 student leadership teams. We congratulate all students who have demonstrated an interest in leadership and a willingness to contribute positively to our House community.

As the school year draws to a close, we thank all McCoy students for their efforts, participation and contributions throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and finishing the year on a positive note.

Matthew Duke and Trevor Blackhurst
McCoy **House Leader - NDC**

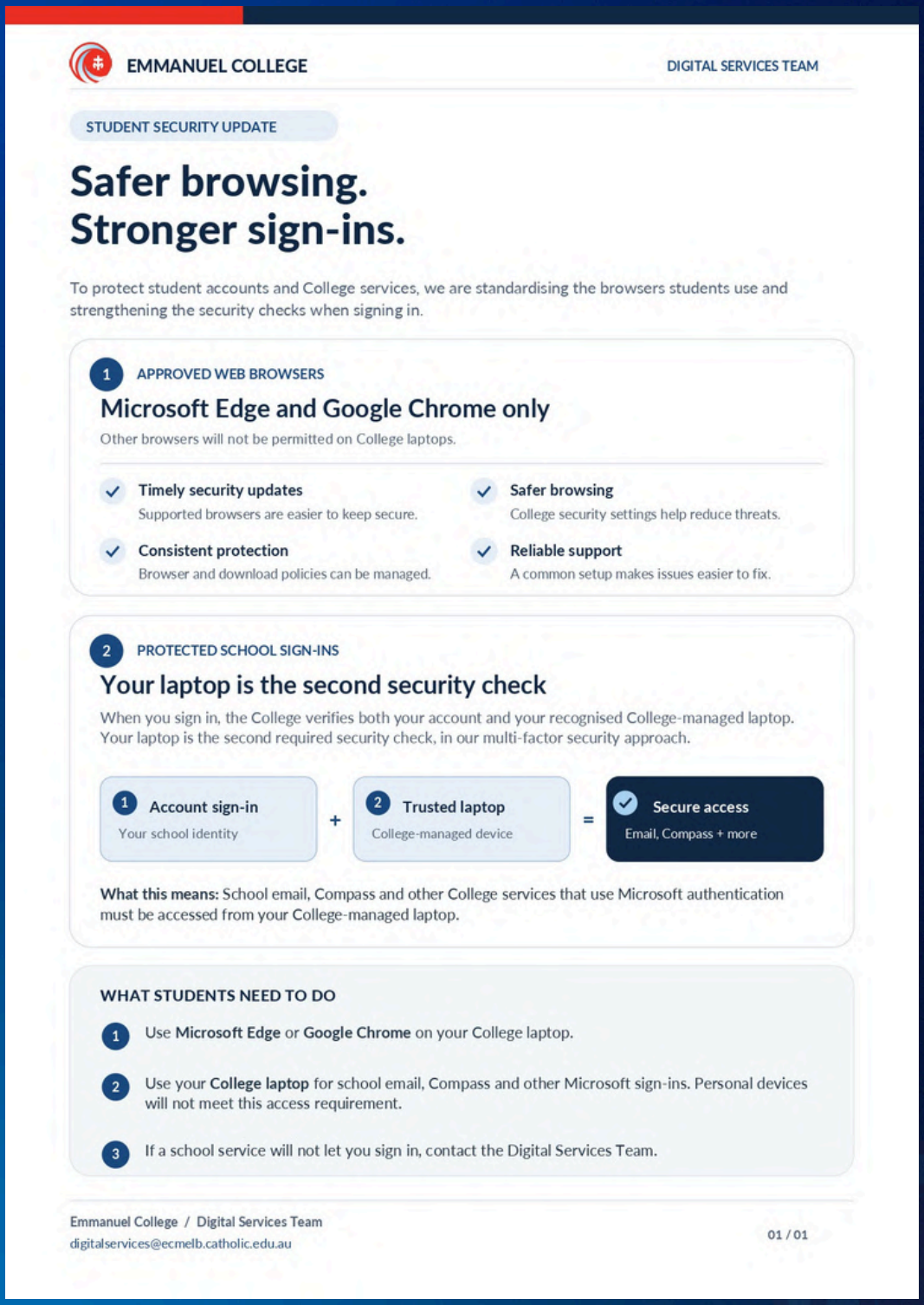
# IT Update

## Student Account Security

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening digital security and protecting our College community, we have introduced Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for staff and parent accounts. We are now extending this additional layer of security to student accounts.

As students are not permitted to use mobile phones during class, MFA for students will be managed through their College-issued laptops. The laptop itself will act as the second authentication factor, providing additional security without requiring students to complete any extra steps when logging in.

Please see below for further details..



EMMANUEL COLLEGE

DIGITAL SERVICES TEAM

STUDENT SECURITY UPDATE

# Safer browsing. Stronger sign-ins.

To protect student accounts and College services, we are standardising the browsers students use and strengthening the security checks when signing in.

1 APPROVED WEB BROWSERS

## Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome only

Other browsers will not be permitted on College laptops.

- **Timely security updates** — Supported browsers are easier to keep secure.
- **Safer browsing** — College security settings help reduce threats.
- **Consistent protection** — Browser and download policies can be managed.
- **Reliable support** — A common setup makes issues easier to fix.

2 PROTECTED SCHOOL SIGN-INS

## Your laptop is the second security check

When you sign in, the College verifies both your account and your recognised College-managed laptop. Your laptop is the second required security check, in our multi-factor security approach.

1 **Account sign-in** — Your school identity + 2 **Trusted laptop** — College-managed device = **Secure access** — Email, Compass + more

**What this means:** School email, Compass and other College services that use Microsoft authentication must be accessed from your College-managed laptop.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO DO

1. Use **Microsoft Edge** or **Google Chrome** on your College laptop.
2. Use your **College laptop** for school email, Compass and other Microsoft sign-ins. Personal devices will not meet this access requirement.
3. If a school service will not let you sign in, contact the Digital Services Team.

Emmanuel College / Digital Services Team
digitalservices@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au

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*'Peace be with you'*

John –20:19

# Team Sports at Emmanuel College - Then and Now



c1965 - Baseball



1991 - Lawn Bowls



2008 - Lacrosse




2025 - Netball

Penny Cook
College Archivist

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

We're pleased to invite Notre Dame Class of 2015 and Class of 2016 students to a

# Class Reunion

Catch up with classmates and teachers, view photos from the College Archives, enjoy some delicious food and drink and take a trip down memory lane!

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY **20** 6.00 - 8.30 PM

2026

## at the Notre Dame Campus

2-40 Foxwood Dr, Point Cook - enter via Foxwood Dr gate

RSVP by November 13 at https://www.trybooking.com/DOWHP

Alternately, email alumni@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au or phone Penny Cook on 8325 5167

*Register here!*

*This is an alcohol-free event*

We are pleased to invite you to a

# Class Reunion

1975
1976
1985
1986
1995
1996
2005
2006
2015
2016

Catch up with classmates and teachers, view photos from the College Archives, enjoy some delicious food and drink and take a trip down memory lane!

DECEMBER

FRIDAY **4** 6.00 - 8.30 PM

2026

## McCoy Hall, St Paul's Campus

423 Blackshaws Rd, Altona North - enter via Chambers Rd

RSVP by November 27 at
https://www.trybooking.com/DOWHA

*Register here!*

Alternately, email alumni@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au
or phone Penny Cook on 8325 5167

*This is an alcohol-free event*

# Community News







## Join our Lifeblood Team

At Emmanuel College - SPC & NDC, we're proud to be part of Lifeblood Teams, the group donation program for Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

Being part of a Lifeblood Team means joining something bigger than yourself. It's about doing good, together - working towards a shared goal and seeing how many lives you can save along the way.

Why donate?
Did you know 1 in 3 people will need blood, but only 1 in 30 donate? The need for blood is growing every day and your donation can help people who are:

- Fighting cancer
- Undergoing surgery
- Experiencing complicated pregnancies
- Living with blood disorders or auto immune diseases
- And countless more conditions

There's nothing like knowing you've genuinely helped someone, and we'd love to share that amazing feeling with you.
A newborn. A mate's dying wish. A free party pie. Everyone has a reason to give.




Useful links

- Check your eligibility to donate
- Find your nearest donor centre
- Book a donation

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

# Calendar Term 4, Weeks 7A AND 8B

**Week 7A**

| | |
|---|---|
| 18 November | All week - Year 10 and 11 Exams Continued<br>All week - Year 8 and 9 Exams Commence<br><br>Year 12 Exams Conclude |
| 19 November | Celebration of Excellence Awards Evening - Flemington<br>Student Leadership Day<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Netball Semi Finals<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Soccer/ Basketball/ Volleyball Semi Finals<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Soccer/ Basketball/ Volleyball Semi Finals |
| 20 November | Student Free Day<br>NDC 10 Year Reunion for Class of 2015 & 2016 |

**Week 8B**

| | |
|---|---|
| 23 November | All week - VCE Head Start 2027<br>Year 8 HPE Excursion - Surfing, Mountain Biking and Kayaking |
| 24 November | Year 8 HPE Excursion - Surfing, Mountain Biking and Kayaking |
| 25 November | Year 8 HPE Excursion - Surfing, Mountain Biking and Kayaking<br>Year 7 Musical Night |
| 26 November | Year 7 Retreat (SPC)<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Netball - Grand Finals<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Soccer/ Basketball/ Volleyball - Grand Finals<br>SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Soccer/ Basketball/ Volleyball - Grand Finals |
| 27 November | Year 8 URBNSurf Excursion Day 1 |