

February 2022: Term 1 Issue 1

SANTA SOPHIA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

e-Newsletter



Official College Opening & Blessing

CathEd Parra

Diocese of Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long has blessed and officially opened Santa Sophia Catholic College in Sydney's North West Growth Area.

The first school in the thriving new Box Hill suburb of Gables, the state-of-the-art Catholic school will meet the needs of up to 1860 students.

Bishop Vincent shared a hope that the school becomes not just a centre for academic excellence but also spirituality.

"Let Santa Sophia be filled with God's love, justice, hospitality and inclusion," Bishop Vincent said.

Foundation Principal Mark De Vries says the official opening and blessing of the College is an important milestone for the faith-filled learning community. "This day marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of our next," said Mark. "We are eager to see the College flourish as a leader in innovative contemporary learning within a Catholic faith community."

[Read more](#)

In this issue, we're covering:

- Official Blessing & Opening
- Parent Involvement
- Santa Sophia Connect
- 7-11 Swimming Carnival
- Incursions - Elevate, Starr's Planetarium
- Parent Resources



Parent Involvement

by Mark De Vries

Parent involvement is a vital ingredient for our College to run successfully. Currently, we have parent representation taking place through the **Parent Education Network (PEN)**. The PEN was introduced after consultation with our parents a few years ago and there was an overwhelming majority in favour of this form of parent representation. The PEN meets twice a term. One of these meetings is an event where we invite expert speakers to address issues which parents will identify in a survey. In the past, we have had high profile speakers such as Dr Justin Coulson offer their expertise to our parent community. The other meeting is a general forum open to all parents where issues identified in a 'Have Your Say' survey prior to the event will be addressed by the Principal and the Heads of Schools.

I realise that there are many new families who have joined our community and I would like to give them the opportunity to share their views on our current parent representation structures in a survey.



The PEN meets twice a term - one meeting features an expert speaker and the other is a general forum open to all.

Santa Sophia Connect

by Mark De Vries

Santa Sophia Connect is a virtual session hosted via Facebook Live or Zoom that provides our parent community access to learning support on a variety of topics (e.g. wellbeing and anxiety, time management, helping your child with literacy and numeracy at home). Due to the realities of the pandemic and parents being time poor, we have adapted our way of connecting with you as parents by holding these sessions virtually, accessible from home at your own convenience. Sessions are typically hosted in the evening and parents can join in LIVE and ask questions during the session or watch the replay. I would like parents to provide their preference for the days and times of these sessions by completing the survey below.

Complete the survey



7-11 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

With House against House, the Year 7-11 Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 23 February gave our competitive swimmers a chance to show the rest of the College what they're made of! The competitors with the best times will go on to represent the College at the Diocesan Swimming Trials (PDSSSC). Those who were not so competitive could still contribute to their total House points by swimming laps in the Lizard Lane.

[Watch the summary video](#)



RECENT INCURSIONS

In Week 4, we welcomed Elevate Education to give a study skills workshop to Year 9-11 students and Starr's Planetarium to teach our Year 1 students about space, the sky, stars and the planets.



UPCOMING EVENTS

02/03 Ash Wednesday
(beginning of Lent)

05/03 World Engineering Day

21/03 Harmony Day

REMINDERS

Leadership application due dates

School of Challenge (9-12)
Term 1 Week 5 (February 25)

School of Connect (5-8)
Term 1 Week 7 (March 11)

School of Curiosity (K-4)
Term 1 Week 7 (March 11)

PARISH NEWS

Return to Mass

During the height of Covid, Catholics from the Parramatta Diocese were dispense from their Sunday Mass obligation. However, from 15 Dec 2021, this Decree was revoked and Sunday obligation is now imposed once again. We look forward to seeing you at Mass at OLA Saturday 5.30pm (Sat Vigil), Sunday 8.30am, 10.00am & 5.30pm and (from 6 March) Santa Sophia Catholic College at 11.30am

Ash Wednesday – 2 March

There will be 2 parish masses at 9am and 7pm in the Church with ashes being distributed.

Sacramental Program

Children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised are invited to join our Reconciliation program which will commence on Thursday, 3 March.

For more info on any of the above, visit the [OLA website](#) or email the parish office:
parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au



In The Spotlight

STAFF - Miss Isabella Losco

Miss Losco is a competitive athlete in the realm of cheerleading. Her team has won four national championships and placed 1st out of 15 teams at the Cheercon competition. After over a year off due to COVID, her team has been practising routines over Zoom and is ready to compete internationally this May at 'The D2 Summit' that will be held at Disney World in Orlando Florida.

Miss Losco teaches **LOTE - Japanese**.

Parent Resources

In partnership with our parents who are the primary educators of their child, we want to see all students grow and become the best versions of themselves



Podcast: Happy Families' recent podcast episode is about Screen Addiction - are screens really as bad for our kids as we think they are?

[Listen and subscribe here.](#)



Webinar: Study Skills for Years 9 - 11
(Elevate Education)

[Watch the replay.](#)



Webinar: Communicating with my young person (Headspace)

Mon, 14 March 2022

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM AEDT

[Register free](#)

Santa Sophia Catholic College is a subscriber of *Happy Families* parenting resources. All families of the College receive a free membership! **Sign up here.**