

CapeStreet

OLMC Semester News • December 2020





The determination and sheer commitment of our Student Leaders, College leaders, musicians, choir and IT and multimedia staff were on full display in the weeks leading up to Mercy Day on 17 September, as they were on the day. Thanks to their enterprise, creativity and sustained planning efforts, and with the enormous good will of students and staff, a wide range of virtual activities enabled the College community to honour our Mercy heritage and to have some fun.

The day began with our Mercy Day Mass, streamed live through YouTube into over 800 homes of staff and students. The liturgy focused on the College's 2020 theme of 'acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8). The virtual spaces in which all of this transpired created the opportunity for students from other Mercy schools to be part of our celebrations, as well as Sr Bernice Loch, from Mercy House at Baggot Street in Dublin.

A number of students also wrote letters to the Sisters of Mercy living in Melbourne to reach out to them during lockdown, and to wish them a happy Mercy Day.

So much of a 'usual' Mercy Day at OLMC is about cutting loose from normal routines and having fun. In a year when students and staff have spent extended periods meeting only for classwork, this special day was a timely, wonderful and welcomed opportunity to do just that.

The activities on Google Meet following the liturgy were diverse and fun-filled. Some of the big-ticket items included:

A staff versus students Family Feud

A disco with DJ Dyring

Baking classes with School Captain, Olivia Zumbo

A virtual workout with the Sport Captains, Gemma Cox and Keely Bennett

Bees wax wrap-making classes with the Eco Justice Club.



Reserved for the Principal

This *CapeStreet* comes to you after both a long period of lockdown and a joyful return to onsite learning. Term 4 has been characterised by lots of squeals of joy, talking, laughing and student movement. It has felt much more like it should.

However, I hope that you will see from this edition of *CapeStreet* that even at home we were able to share so many moments of joy and find new and different ways to continue to celebrate together. The celebrations for Mercy Day, Year 12 Graduation and the welcoming back of our Year 7 students were characterised by innovative ways of gathering and sharing in prayer, fun and connections.

We celebrated Mercy Day in the last week of Term 3. It was the brainchild of a dedicated team of staff and student leaders and we had such great online attendance. We celebrated liturgy, watched the staff and student Family Feud, learnt to bake, meditated, completed a scavenger hunt and even attended a 1980s disco. Mercy Day continued to be a day filled with joy. It was a significant opportunity for our Year 12 students to lead in ways not normally available to them. It was also so important that our Year 7 students experienced some of the fun and significance of one of the most important days in our calendar.

Year 12 students had a whole day of celebration to mark the end of their secondary school journey and their time at OLMC. This year, it was so much more significant because it gave us a chance to not only recognise their contributions and time at OLMC, but to also acknowledge and applaud how successfully they navigated a year of constant change and disappointment. As I shared with them at the final assembly, as a cohort their journey will be remembered as one where they were able to rise when to fall would have been easier, for grappling with struggle when to give up would have been a relief, and for showing up when to hide would take less energy. They showed true resilience, grit and determination, and they confirmed that they are women of mercy – courageous, compassionate, just and joyful. It was highly evident that Catherine McAuley's message of being a shining lamp for all around has meant something to them.

We have also learnt so much about how we can better engage with our families. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have all had the opportunity to watch performances, attend our liturgies or view assemblies because we have been able to live stream all our events. We also recorded many events, allowing those who work to view them in their own time. In so many ways, we have shared some of the joys and blessings we experience every day at OLMC with many more members of our community.

As the year draws to a close, I look back in gratitude. I am grateful for our dedicated and hardworking teachers who, at a moment's notice, went into online learning and spent many hours recording lessons, preparing work and figuring out all of the ways that the new technologies could be used to support learning. I am grateful for all of the staff who had to find new ways to work from home and stay connected. They ensured that we continued to uphold OLMC's strong collegial culture.

I am grateful for all the parents who patiently supported their daughters as they navigated their own new working realities. Thank you to so many of you who took the time to thank teachers and the school in general. Your support and encouragement were a welcome boost when we were feeling weighed down.

Most of all, I am grateful for our students. They all demonstrated resilience, dedication and commitment in their own ways. They continued to learn online and participate in so many activities, even though it was all a little bit harder and not quite the same.

This year was unlike any other, but as a community we can celebrate the way we continued to be 'shining lamps to those around us', even if our lamps were glowing through the windows of our homes.

Judith Weir

Year 12s Final Days

Blessing

May you embrace all that life will present to you with courage and faith.

May the friendships you have shared continue to be a source of hope and joy throughout your life.

May you always take time to connect with the source of goodness within as a guiding light for the journey through life.

May your light shine for all the world to see.



VALÉ Year 12

College Captains' Farewell Graduation Address Excerpt

We are so proud that we can finally stand up here and say; 'We made it, we did it girls'. It has been a privilege to represent such an inspiring group of young women, who are each so remarkably talented, courageous and intelligent.

We truly are one big OLMC family and it has been an honour to have grown up with almost 200 sisters - each of whom have had such a significant impact on our lives and have shaped the people we are today.

OLMC has been a place of protection and shelter, built on the foundations of community and sisterhood. As we step into the world outside our red brick school, some of us may be overwhelmed with the emotions of having to say goodbye to our friends and teachers, but just like those never-ending Centenary stairs, we will get through the climb.

We cannot ignore the disappointments this year has brought, but we also cannot forget the moments we have shared in 2020, the moments that have made us better versions of ourselves.

You are strong, independent and valued OLMC sisters, and whilst it is time to say goodbye, we can't wait to see you tackle this crazy thing called life.

Isabella Mikus and Olivia Zumbo

Principal's Farewell Year 12 Final Assembly Excerpt

You are the class of 2020 and will probably always remember your Year 12 as the year of COVID-19. What a year! Nothing has gone how we envisioned or planned it, but here we are at the end - one which seems to have come around all too quickly.

You, more than any other Year 12 cohort, have been tested by the circumstances, however, you have not given up or lost faith. You have continued to show joy and to take pleasure in new opportunities. You have shown yourself to be women of Mercy, in particular OLMC women of Mercy.

I know it will just seem like words when I say that this experience will be such an asset as you make your way through your life. You have shown true resilience, grit and determination. It is evident that Catherine McAuley's message of being a shining lamp for all around has meant something to you.

Thank you. We will forever remember you, for your determination and your perseverance.

Judith Weir





Valedictory Awards

On Wednesday 28 October, at an assembly streamed to the whole school, we farewelled our 2020 graduates and honoured a number of Year 12 students with awards.

- Duce Maria Award for Leadership**
Isabella Mikus
Olivia Zumbo
- Sr Mercedes Hogan Award for Learning**
Karina Lewis
- Commitment to OLMC Sport Award**
Lucy Leutchford
- Sr Jan Geason Award for Performing Arts**
Eleanor Jones
- Past Pupils Award for Social Justice and Community Service**
Amy Gillies
- Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Award for Leadership**
Margarida Bacalhau
- Triple Platinum Colours**
Amy Shaw
- Double Platinum Colours**
Alexandra Ohanian
Eleanor Jones
Isabella Mikus

ISABELLA MIKUS, Duce Maria Award for Leadership

Isabella is inclusive, encouraging, kind and positive to all she meets. In her role as College Co-Captain, Isabella worked tirelessly to keep students connected and motivated in the lockdown periods. Her peers admire her ability to unite and support people, happily help others and bring out the best in those around her.

OLIVIA ZUMBO, Duce Maria Award for Leadership

Olivia has been described as determined, sure of her mind, passionate, and driven. Alongside Isabella, her College Co-Captain, Olivia played a key role this year in keeping the College community connected and motivated. Her peers admire her capacity to go above and beyond for those who need help.

KARINA LEWIS, Sr Mercedes Hogan Award for Learning

Karina loves to learn and this is reflected in everything she does at school. She is always willing to share her understanding with others or explain how the tiniest component of a study can have purpose in our futures. She has a passion for learning, especially in Maths and Science, has shown great diligence and independence in classes and is positive when engaging in class discussions.

LUCY LEUTCHFORD, Commitment to OLMC Sport Award

Lucy is described as 'humble', 'hardworking', 'positive' and 'a great role model'. She shows determination and perseverance, which she uses to learn from and grow. She constantly pushes herself and others to strive for their best and is there to support anyone who needs it.

ELEANOR JONES, Sr Jan Geason Award for Performing Arts

Eleanor shares her talents and inspires others. Her peers say that when she is laughing, anyone within a three-metre radius of her is laughing along too. When she is not the problem-solver, she is the listener, when she isn't leading, she is still helping everyone around her. Eleanor has an undeniable ability to be positive and is always willing to challenge herself.

AMY GILLIES, Past Pupils Award for Social Justice and Community Service

Amy continuously tries her hardest to participate in any social justice opportunity available. She has participated in Camp Heidi, Bell Bardia, Detention Centre visits, hosted Black Lives Matter meetings, been on a Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage, and is an active member of the Social Justice and Eco-Justice groups. She genuinely cares about making a difference.

MARGARIDA BACALHAU, Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Award for Leadership

Margarida is clear and forthright in her ideas and is also willing to listen and consider new viewpoints. When things need doing we can count on her to get it done. She leads by example and was a key player in organising the production and distribution of reusable water bottles to all staff and students in 2019.



Year 7 Reset

We have all had to make many adjustments in 2020, none more so than our Year 7 students. They have experienced a very different start to their secondary school life, with only seven weeks onsite in Term 1 and three short weeks at the end of Term 2. All of Term 3 and one week of Term 4 were spent at home, learning online, with all of its joys and challenges.

The College excitedly welcomed back our Year 7s to face-to-face learning on 12 October. It was wonderful to see their faces (and their colourful masks), hear their voices and see them in the yard and classrooms. Although the joy was evident, the Year 7s also returned with trepidation. They needed time to reconnect with their friends, their teachers and the school.

At the end of their first week back, we held an 'off-timetable' day, where they participated in a range of activities with their Pastoral Groups. The program was designed to rebuild a sense of belonging and connectedness with OLMC, foster peer relationships, provide some off-screen time and to have fun.

Each Year 7 Pastoral Group rotated through four different activities: a round robin of sporting skills, constructing a 'Spoonville', trivia with Mr Walpole, and creating a time capsule to look back on when they graduate in Year 12.



One of the highlights was the trivia run by Mr Walpole. Our Pastoral Groups were split into teams of about 5-8 people. The competition was tough and the scores were really close, which made the trivia even more exciting than it already was. Overall, it was a very entertaining day, full of enthusiasm and joy.

Tabatha Medina-Diaz, 7DBU

My last activity for the day was creating a Spoonville. We got to create our own spoon characters, real life inspirations of people or ourselves, or anything you wanted them to be. Sharing the day with my friends and looking at other spoon creations was fun. Although we all started with the same plain wooden spoon, the end creations were bursting with colour, materials, and a lot of glue and sticky tape! The idea to create a little village or patch of spoons is so cool, and when I pass the Spoonville in the mornings, I always look out for my spoon and my friends' spoons. It reminds me of the fun day we had celebrating the end of our first week back at school!

Alana Polazzon, 7GAU



Keeping the 'rise' in Horizon

Over the greater part of the last decade, the Year 9 Horizon experience has developed a reputation for many things – alluring mystery; a learning cauldron; experiences upon which to build memories and make connections; a Baggot Building bonanza with a side serve of 21st century skills, an enterprise education and capability focus; and a wonderment of wandering and pondering. Some students thrive in the flexible environment and some yearn to return to core studies. This awakening helps everyone understand how they learn best.

Putting the ‘rise’ into the Year 9 program - that is, creating the learning *oomph* and *pizzazz* that makes students want to participate - has never been as challenging as during a full city lockdown. Experiential activities, often the touchstone of the program, were no longer available.

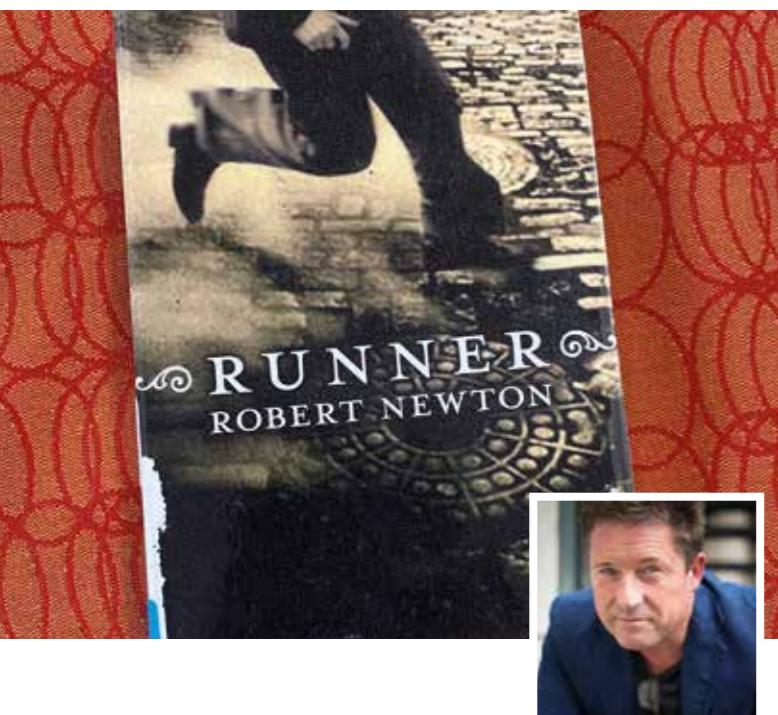
In groups, students were left to make decisions on genre, filming software, digital platforms, characters, plotlines, casting, assessment, time management and project planning. Initially, we had no way of knowing if students were using their time wisely, but once we witnessed the creative outcomes and collaborative efforts in action, we started to marvel at what was occurring.

We allocated a lesson per fortnight to watch every episode as an online cohort, and the teaching team became as involved in each twist and turn, as if the series were one of the latest Netflix offerings.

Brainchild of team member Ms Brighid Kelly, CoVideo 2020 asked student groups to produce a short, sequential video narrative across ten weeks. Cleverly combining COVID-19 and the web series concept, Ms Emily Scott suggested the title of 'CoVideo' and the teaching team was hooked. We based our emerging project on a mixture of capabilities and enterprise

Deflated by a global pandemic's influence on everything, we have all had to navigate expectations and build something new from behind the veil. It's hard to breathe life into learning from beneath these masks and beyond a screen. Our Horizon 2020 students have provided that necessary oomph to keep the rise in their alternative term, albeit differently.

Rosemary Jones, Horizon Coordinator



Author Visits Year 8

During Term 3, Year 8 English students read Robert Newton's novel, *Runner*, about a young boy living in 1919 Melbourne who is struggling to 'fill his father's shoes' and make the right choices for himself and his family. This is a novel that perhaps our students would not normally find appealing, and yet they thoroughly enjoyed its language and humour. So, it was an added bonus that they met the author through the many tiny windows on our Google Meet screens.

Robert spoke to the students about his brother who struggles with dyslexia, and how he started corresponding with his brother who was living overseas. Those letters soon morphed into stories, and one of those stories ended up being the first book he wrote, *My Name is Will Thompson*. Eventually story-writing became his passion and then his profession. His other novels for young people include *The Black Dog Gang* and *When We Were Two*.

The students asked Robert a myriad of questions: 'How long does it take to write a book?'; 'Will Runner be turned into a film in the future?'; 'Do you [Robert] have a favourite book?'

Students received some really good advice about the process of writing. Robert explained that to be a good writer you have to be 'a good observer and listener', as 'the smallest detail is often most important.' He encouraged students to 'surprise themselves' by writing about things that they are interested in, and not just what is expected of them.

Robert Newton is a highly engaging speaker and the 60-minute presentation flew by. It was a highly successful virtual visit. A big thank you is extended not only to Robert Newton but to Ms Boemo and Ms Nash for organising this valuable experience for our students.

Teri Papadopoulos, English Teacher



No Stopping our Debaters

In a year like no other, who would have imagined that our Debating and Public Speaking students would shift their schedule and place of work from evenings at Ivanhoe to the comfort of their own homes, in front of the computer? Thanks to the excellent coordination of the Debating Association of Victoria (DAV) and the support of teachers, our debating teams were able to continue honing their skills in some highly competitive and engaging encounters with other schools.

Thirty students from Years 7-12 accepted the challenge of debating online. They met regularly with their coaches to plan their arguments for thought-provoking topics such as: 'We should ban climate change denial'; 'We should incentivise people to relocate to the country'; and 'We should lift the ban on Russian athletes participating in international sporting events'. Our students would then don their school uniforms and go to work!

Considering the pressures and challenges of online learning, our students demonstrated confidence, logical and critical thinking skills and teamwork. Some excellent presentation skills were also on full display. Internet issues were occasionally a challenge, and sometimes students had to step in at the last minute to debate when a team member had lost the Internet. At these times, they showed resilience, resourcefulness and courage.

Every year level and team debated extremely well and they should be proud of their efforts. I thank our committed and motivated coaches for their dedication to the DAV program and for helping it to continue during COVID – Miss Salamone, Mrs Lewin, Mr Balme, Miss Di Giacomo, Miss Kelly, Mr Gleeson, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Marquet, Mrs Molinaro and Mrs Brislin.

OLMC looks forward to participating in other DAV and public speaking events in 2021, including the Frayne Festival, the Model UN conferences and the Victorian Government's Plain English Speaking Award (PESA).

Deb Butterworth, DAV Coordinator



Junior Production Goes Virtual

As with all learning experiences in 2020, we had to be inventive when it came time to plan for the M² Junior Production, knowing it needed to be virtual.

And so we have ***Super Happy Awesome News***, a production designed to be rehearsed and performed virtually and shared with online audiences.

Super Happy Awesome News is the story of two siblings who launch rival 'good news' networks and find themselves competing for the title of happiest news show. The correspondents are in a whirlwind of ecstatic musical reporting – from joyful weather forecasts, to cheerful cooking segments and blissful political updates!

The cast members took up the challenge with great gusto and determination, especially when it came to conquering the technical issues. The result was a fun-filled performance that lifted our spirits and delighted us all. Congratulations to all the amazing students from OLMC and Marcellin College.

Hayley Gamble Curran
Junior Production Director



Being part of this year's production has been incredible! The musical is funny and I have had a great time practising, filming and meeting lots of different people through this experience. I have enjoyed it immensely.

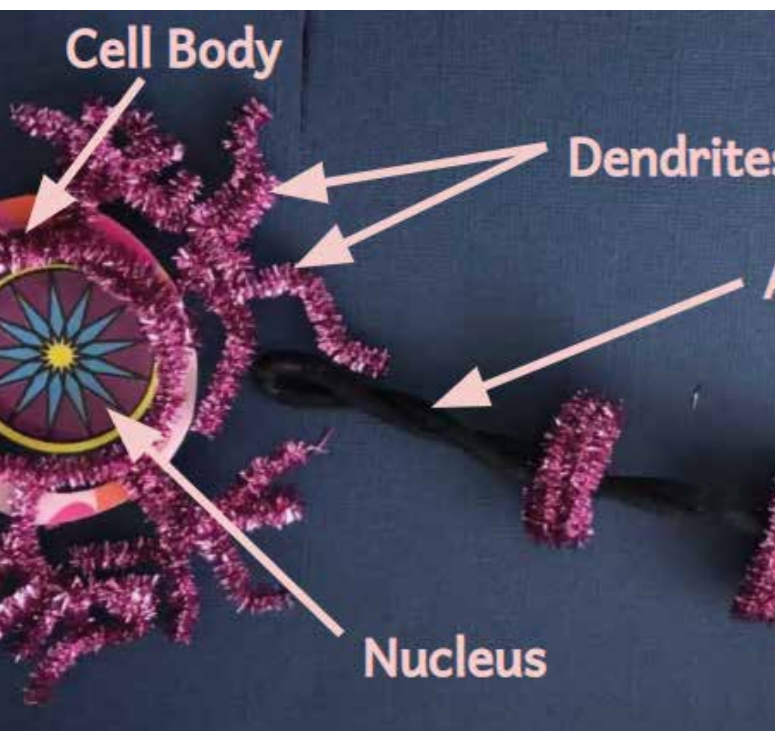
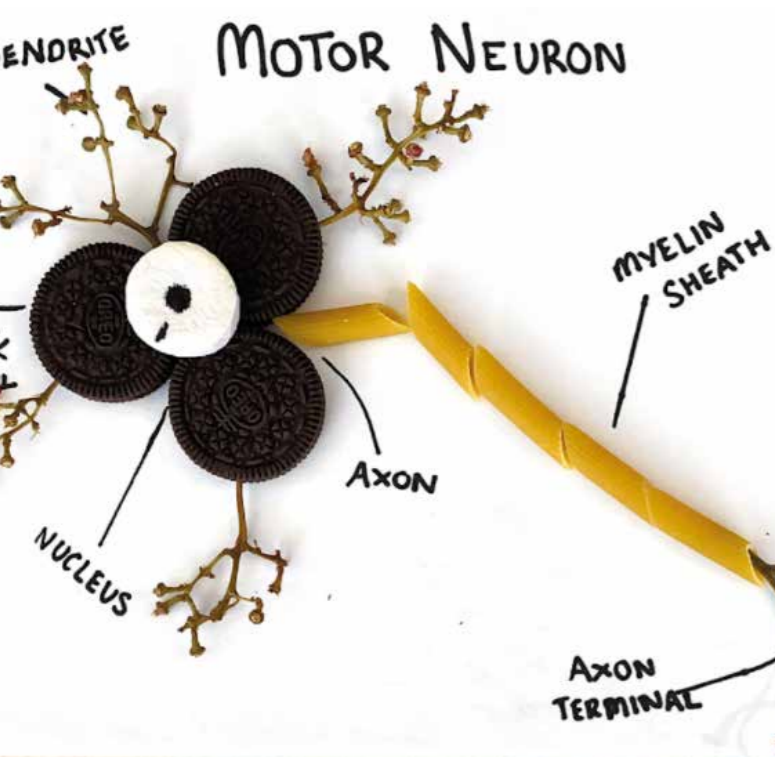
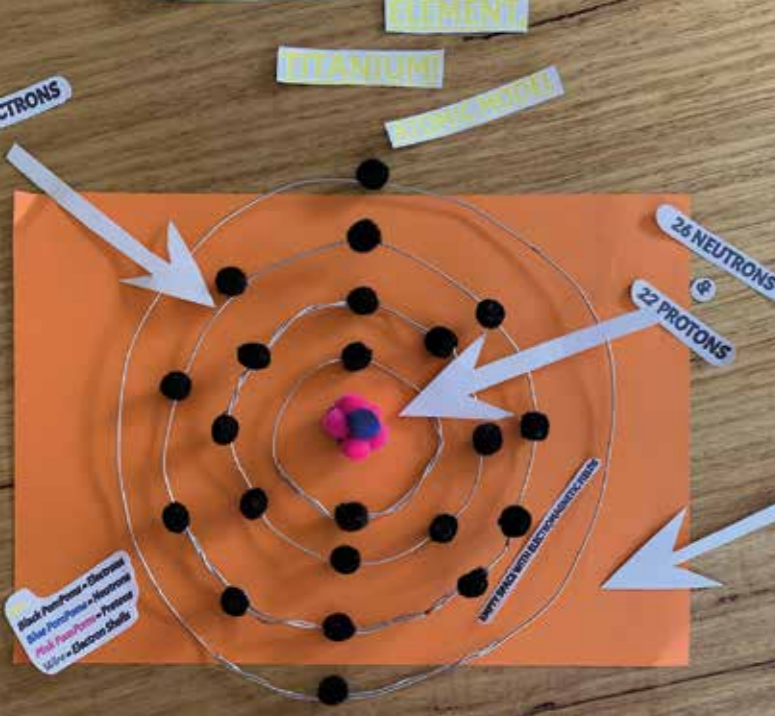
Molly Whyte, 7KWS

I have always wanted to be in the production. Having seen them ever since I was young, it was something I was really looking forward to. Having it online meant another level of teamwork and commitment. But besides learning to dance on the correct side and some technical issues along the way, it was really enjoyable and inspiring to be involved in the first online production for OLMC.

Lillian Marriner, 8CCH

Being in the cast was an amazing and unique experience. It was great to collaborate with the other cast members and teachers over Google Meet, and I am grateful for all their help and hard work to make this production the best it can be. Rehearsals were always something to look forward to each week. It was lovely to work with other students from different year levels and get to know some new girls. I had heaps of fun working on it from home and I hope that other students enjoyed watching our performance as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

Steffanie Belegirinos, 7GAU



Science in the Home

Scientific interactions are all around us. In many ways, it was a blessing in disguise that Science classes at OLMC were not confined to a science lab. During the months of remote learning, we were able to find science at home – in our kitchens, our gardens and in the creation of resourceful science models.

Building and analysing models that represent scientific concepts are skills addressed in the Victorian Curriculum through the Science Inquiry Skills strand. When scientists effectively model and critically review models, they can see functions, relationships and flaws in them. Their understanding is improved, particularly of things that are too small to see clearly, even with a microscope. Modelling the structure of the atom, for example, was a pivotal concept in Chemistry over hundreds of years, with our understanding progressing with technological developments.

Our Year 8 and 9 students were tasked with creating their own scientific models, using things they could find in their homes. The Year 8s created atomic models and the Year 9s created various types of neurons. The students approached their models with resourcefulness, using things that were easy to find to show sub-atomic particles, like buttons, wire and even dog food.

Learning at home also provided great opportunities for using technology to collaborate and communicate. Year 8 students recorded mini experiments to demonstrate chemical and physical changes, finding ideas in their fridges, fire pits and fruit bowls.

For their Earth Science presentations, Year 9 students popped up in Nepal as eye-witnesses to an Earthquake. They appeared in news rooms, a laboratory and even within a volcano. There was some awesome background trickery and some clever acting on display.

Our Budding Biochemists program continued, with students working on folding protein molecules such as antibodies through the Citizen Science online app, FoldIt.

To celebrate Science Week 2020 and our national theme of 'Deep Blue: Innovations for the Future of Our Oceans', our Year 7 students joined an undersea escape room. They used one of our learning platforms, Stile. Other groups engaged in some virtual interstate travel, for example joining the Sydney Science Trail and/or an underwater yoga session at the Sea Life Sunshine Coast Aquarium.

2020 has seen most of the usual events and competitions put on hold. One notable exception was the Chemistry Olympiad through Australia Science Innovations. We congratulate Olivia Voulgaris on achieving a Distinction in this a fiendishly difficult challenge.

In a year where science and scientific research have enjoyed a high profile, particularly as a result of COVID and the need for a vaccine, we are delighted and proud that Science studies at OLMC have engaged our students in meaningful ways. Whether at home or in the lab, our students have demonstrated adaptability, ingenuity and an enthusiasm for the world of science and technology.

Susan Long, Science Learning Area Leader

Musical Mondays

The requirement for online music lessons left everyone uncertain about how learning an instrument could happen through a screen. Both music teachers and students took up the challenge, and their dedication was evident in the amazing talent showcased on Musical Mondays, an online series of concerts held in Term 4.

As a VCE music student, I was very concerned with how I would go about performing this year. The high frequency of the flute often meant that when playing for my class over Google Meet, they couldn't hear me very well. I would try recording my performances so that they could watch a video, however, as a perfectionist (which most musicians are) I would often spend a couple of hours recording until I got the most perfect version of the performance possible. Let's just say I did not have much phone storage left after online learning.

These are experiences that most of the OLMC students had to face, and teachers too! I can only imagine how difficult it would be to assess students through a screen when there are constant technical difficulties. The sound quality was often poor, however, the amazing OLMC music teachers made it work! I can say confidently that the music students are very grateful for their persistence and helpful lessons during these difficult times.

Musical Mondays was a way for students to showcase the phenomenal efforts they have put into music this year. Every Monday at 7.00pm, over the span of four weeks, the music students were showcased in a video for parents, fellow peers and teachers. Some VCE students had the privilege of recording for Musical Mondays at school. We were able to dress up in performance wear and be professionally recorded in our school theatre. This was an amazing experience and gave VCE music students a taste of what professional musicians experience when performing (hopefully next time we can have a larger audience).

Watching these performances has been inspiring. Seeing the efforts that students have gone through this year to perform despite the challenges is very motivating. Musical Mondays have truly shown everyone that music can bring joy to so many people, even during a global pandemic.

Isabella Tsaketas, Arts Captain 2021





Timely Reflection Days

There have been many articles and documentaries about the different ways that people have taken time in this pandemic year to think more deeply about the kind of lives and world we seek, and the steps we need to take to ensure it is a reality. It has been a year like no other, a time of immense change, of restrictions, of learning new ways to connect and be together. There have certainly been multiple challenges and much to contemplate.

Reflection days in 2020 for our Year 11 and 12 students were massively different from our first plans and intentions. In the midst of all the uncertainty and limitations, we were determined to offer our students the opportunity to take stock and think about 'Daring Greatly' (Year 11) and 'Living Life to the Full' (Year 12).

For our Year 11s, we just managed to sneak in our day as one of the last before the Stage 4 lockdown began. It was our first day in masks, and it was the week where COVID cases were doubling each few days. The Daring Greatly theme was an invitation to be courageous, to show up and let ourselves be seen. Students considered the expectations they have of themselves and others and explored living wholeheartedly. This included an assessment of what we need to let go of, and what we would like to cultivate in our lives. Students also explored how they might take up the biblical prophet Micah's challenge 'to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8).

Living Life to the Full was the theme explored at the Year 12 Retreat. The day followed our Mercy Day celebrations and provided an intentional pause in order to reflect, re-energise and consider more deeply what 'life to the full' looks like and means for them. Students shared and remembered their OLMC journey, contemplated their own unique gifts and qualities, and took time to affirm one another.

On both days we had author, singer and actor, Clare Bowditch, join us as a keynote speaker. Clare also assisted in unpacking the themes. She exuded warmth and encouragement through the virtual space as she unpacked an additional theme of 'An Amazing Life'. Students later reported that they adored Clare's positive energy, found her tips helpful for managing self-doubt and the inner critic, and were encouraged and empowered by the invitation to consider what to do with their one rare and precious life. They were also appreciative of the way Clare listened to and engaged with them. It truly was an opportunity for the girls to nourish their spirits!

...We all had a truly wonderful day and appreciated the opportunity to reflect on both our spiritual and mental wellbeing. This experience has been enlightening to many of us about the importance of our school life and our personal lives, as well as the balance between the two. (Year 11 student)

Kate Garrone, Faith and Mission Coordinator



House Highlights

The Student Leadership Team continued to meet 'virtually' in Term 3 and focused on initiatives to foster a sense of House Spirit among students and staff. The Team was not going to let a worldwide pandemic stop our school from having fun!

We created new House events, such as the House Exercise Challenge and the House Remote Learning Photo Competition. Our Year 9 House Vice Captains created the House Bake-Off, with a new theme to inspire and challenge everyone each week. We also re-invented the much-loved House Arts competition.

Staff and students smashed it in the House Exercise Challenge as they walked, ran or rode as many kilometres as they could. Thank you to Mr Robertson for his dedication to this competition. Congratulations to Loreto House for completing the most kilometres.

In collaboration with the Communications Captains, the House Remote Learning Photo Competition was launched. It was great to see so many wonderful entries. Mercy House had the largest number of entries and took the points for this competition. (The winning photos for each year level can be seen on the back cover of this *CapeStreet* edition.)

We were amazed at the baking skills on show for the House Bake-Off. Every entry was very creative and looked delicious, even though they were all yellow, green, blue or red! A big thank you to our Year 9 Vice Captains for taking charge of this competition.

House Arts is an anticipated event that builds House spirit and showcases the very talented students that attend our school. Under the guidance of our Arts Captains, we were able to successfully run a virtual House Arts day and enjoy the talented performances of our fellow peers from the comfort of our homes. Well done to all involved. OLMC students are a talented bunch!

Amy Shaw, Communications Captain
On behalf of the Student Leadership Team

2020 House Trophy

Every year a trophy is awarded to the House with the most points accumulated via various events. It is a combination of participation numbers and success that lead to a House winning the coveted trophy.

Congratulations to all four Houses on an outstanding year and a big congratulations to Mercy House for winning the 2020 House Trophy!

Well done to House Captains, Sonia Rech and Cara Butler, and House Coordinator, Alicia McHugh, for leading their House to victory.

PLACE	HOUSE	POINTS
1 st	Mercy	2125
2 nd	McAuley	1725
3 rd	Carmel	1625
4 th	Loreto	1500

Re-booting

Years 7 and 8 Refresh their wellbeing

What better way to celebrate the first day of spring on 1 September than a Wellbeing Day? The 7–8 Year Level Coordinators and teaching staff designed a program that gave students a break away from their normal online lessons, and an opportunity to nurture their wellbeing.

Students were provided with a range of different options covering five areas, with encouragement to choose activities most likely to lift their spirits. They also attended a Pastoral Lesson to reconnect with their peers and share their pursuits.

The program choices were a great tribute to the teamwork, creativity and thoughtful planning of staff, and a wonderful example of the goodwill and readiness of students to shift their thoughts and energies to all things wellbeing.



- Join a year level fitness workout
- Make Strava Art
- Complete a Photo Scavenger challenge
- Try some new 'Just Dances'
- Create an obstacle course for your family



- Join a live year level yoga & stretching session
- Join a Book Club chat
- Complete a mandala with only one colour
- Meditate with Ms Marquet
- Pamper yourself with self-made face masks or bath bombs
- Create a spring mandala with flora/fauna from a garden or park



- Join the year level counselling conversation
- Learn the alphabet in AUSLAN
- Write a 'thank you' list that identifies the small (and big) things in your life
- Write a 'thank you' note to someone you value
- Write a letter to a Sister of Mercy



- View Mr Stojkovich's tutorials then create your own real-life drawing of a chair or an eye.
- Make a Rube Goldberg machine (view Ms Gilles' example)
- Enter the OLMC Cupcake Bake-off
- Make a friendship bracelet
- Create your Masterchef-worthy specialist meal



- Start planting something from a seed
- Spring clean your wardrobe and set aside some items for op-shop re-openings
- Clean out that messy drawer, bathroom cabinet or another household space
- Spoil a family member. Offer them a manicure, pedicure or assistance with a chore
- Find an area of your garden that needs some weeding and do it



Senior Students

In the 10 weeks of Melbourne's lockdown, few students escaped periodic bouts of diminished energy and motivation for learning. Even students who benefitted from the self-directed pace of their learning conceded that extended periods away from friends had taken a toll, and there were days when uncertainty and low productivity were prevalent.

OLMC's Wellbeing Team was in regular search of 'circuit breakers' for students. One decision the Team made was to schedule a dedicated Health and Wellbeing session for senior students. The senior program and house structure are sufficiently flexible to enable targeted workshops according to identified needs in each year level. On this occasion, different external speakers were engaged to work in a purposeful way with each year level.

Year 10 students focused on Safe Partying. Sonya Karras is an experienced presenter and advocate for safe partying amongst young people. Students learnt about the effects of drug and alcohol substances as well as how to look after themselves or others who may be affected.

Year 11 students engaged in the Big Sister Experience, designed to increase their self-awareness and resilience capabilities. Topics included self-worth, friendship, trust, navigating relationships, setting boundaries and mental health awareness. It was an engaging and interactive seminar for the Year 11s, with many useful tools and strategies presented on how to make wellbeing a priority.

Dr Anna Kelly, Hurstbridge Medical Centre, addressed our Year 12 students. As our Year 12s begin to process the end of secondary school and the start of 'adult life', they request information about how to take on greater independence. Mrs Williams facilitated a forum with Dr Anna Kelly about the health system, the role of a GP and some of the key terms and ideas that students might need to know to make informed decisions about their health care.

The feedback from students across all year levels indicated that the sessions were timely and helpful 'interludes' in 'the long game' of surviving the lockdown.

Staff Room News

Year-end is always tinged with a little sadness as we farewell staff who are moving on to new ventures. We pay special tribute to two departing senior leaders, Kate Garrone and Dimity Smith. We also congratulate retiring staff members, Jenny D'Agostino and Manuela Cerra, on their long and successful teaching careers.

Kate Garrone



Kate has been with us at OLMC since 2014 and was appointed to the role of Faith and Mission Coordinator in 2017. I know I speak for many staff and students in expressing profound respect for Kate's energy, tenacity and particular way of making the Gospel and Mercy stories come to life in prayer, liturgy and our retreat programs. Her creativity and positivity will be greatly missed.

In preparing to write about Kate's impact at OLMC, I took the opportunity to hear from some of the people who know Kate well and have benefitted from her passion and energy. Current Year 12 student, Izzy Vendramini, offered the following reflection:

Mrs Garrone has had a large impact on the way I view social justice. I can now more clearly see the disparities that exist so close to home. The memories of Bell Bardia, Detention Centre visits, the Vinnies Food Van drives and preparation for the South Africa immersion will always be some of my fondest memories. I know that she will be forever remembered at OLMC for the amazing work she did making every one of these opportunities possible.

We wish Kate, Brian and their children the best of luck in their lives in Queensland.

Bernadette Hogan, Social Justice Coordinator

Dimity Smith



It is with a heavy heart that we farewell Dimity Smith, Learning Area Leader of English since 2017. Dimity joined OLMC in 2008, teaching English until 2015, when she headed to the NSW/Victorian border to teach for two years. We were thrilled when she returned to OLMC in 2017 and became the English Learning Area Leader.

Dimity's bright personality is matched by her bold shoes and lipstick. She is passionate about reading and writing and through her role has brought a focus on grammar to the English Learning Area. Dimity is respected and admired by her colleagues for her prodigious work ethic and the high expectations she holds for her students, colleagues and herself.

There will be many things we will miss about Dimity. Above all we will miss her focus on and pursuit of learning, an ethos where she encourages us to go beyond what we think we are capable of, pushing us to stretch ourselves – in essence, to do better.

We wish Dimity all the best as she starts a new chapter, and we thank her for her service and contributions over many years to the OLMC community.

Andrew Gibson, Curriculum Coordinator

Congratulations and farewell to Jenny D'Agostino and Manuela Cerra. Both are soon to 'pivot' into retirement.

Jenny D'Agostino commenced at OLMC in 1985. She has been a Year 9 Level Coordinator, a Textiles Coordinator and Pastoral Leader working with students from various year levels. She has taught Art, Textiles, Food Technology, Religious Education, Humanities, Civics and Drama over the years, working across all the year levels. The folios of students undertaking VCE Product Design and Technology (Textiles) have long been highly regarded and are a reflection of Jenny's creativity and expertise in guiding her talented students.

Manuela (Manny) Cerra commenced at OLMC in 1987. Across the years she has been an IT Coordinator, Pastoral Leader and taught Art, Textiles, IT, Graphics and Visual Communications and Design across all year levels. Like Jenny, her VCE students have excelled in their final studies, with her guiding hand to assist them creating creative folios.

Over the years, Jenny and Manuela have been valued members of the Creative Arts team, then the Visual Arts team and now the DAT team. In addition, they have been generous in their broader contribution to the College and their profession, contributing to various extra-curricular activities and enjoying school camps with students from different year levels. Countless trainee and graduate teachers have benefitted from their mentoring over the years.

The College extends its gratitude to Jenny and Manuela and hopes that their retirement years will be as rewarding as their teaching careers at OLMC.

Maree Smith, On behalf of OLMC Colleagues

Community News

Arts Alumnae



In 2020, the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) celebrated its 150th anniversary. Many celebrations were cancelled or deferred due to the pandemic, however, one upcoming event is RCH's hosting of a spectacular Art Trail in Melbourne and Geelong. The trail is called Me and Uoo Uoo (pronounced You You), which comprises a series of sculptures displayed throughout laneways, streets, parks, beaches and public spaces. An Uoo Uoo is an imaginary Australian creature; a cross between a wombat and a dugong.

The College was pleased to learn that two of our past students were chosen to each paint an Uoo Uoo sculpture. Lauren Bester (Class of 2018) and Nicole Bester (Class of 2013) both studied VCE Studio Arts and have continued to be creative and participate in art for leisure. They were both past patients of the RCH so were honoured to be chosen and to have the opportunity to give back through their art.

Both Lauren and Nicole went on to study at ACU after leaving school. Nicole has completed her Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and Lauren is currently studying a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary).

The Me & Uoo Uoo Art Trail will be on display from 20 January to 21 March 2021. More information can be found on the website <https://uououo.org.au>

Thank you and farewell



While thanks and acknowledgement must and does go to all members of the Committee, the College and the Committee itself extends particular gratitude to the following retiring members:

- **Maureen Heagerty.** Maureen has been on the Committee for six years and has served as President for four of these years. We thank Maureen for her never-ending support and constant presence at all College events. Her positive outlook on life and her ability to see the possibilities has been much appreciated.
- **Lisa Gillies.** Lisa has worked tirelessly as our Fundraising Coordinator for five years. She has been a key player in the Trivia Nights and the very successful Comedy Night in 2019. Her 'can-do' attitude and her calm approach are inspiring to all.
- **Anna Tieppo.** Anna has worked as a Fundraising Coordinator alongside Lisa. Together they have made a remarkable team. Anna's caring nature, her no-nonsense approach, her sense of fun and her ability to bring a laugh to the meetings will be very much missed.
- **Jeanine Andrighetto.** As Treasurer, Jeanine has kept things 'balanced'. She is a quiet achiever who has worked diligently to support all Committee activities. Her positive outlook and detailed approach to organisational matters will be a hard act to follow.

Renewed thanks and best wishes to these four retiring members who have so generously served the Committee and the College community.

House Remote Learning Photo Competition 2020

YEAR LEVEL WINNERS



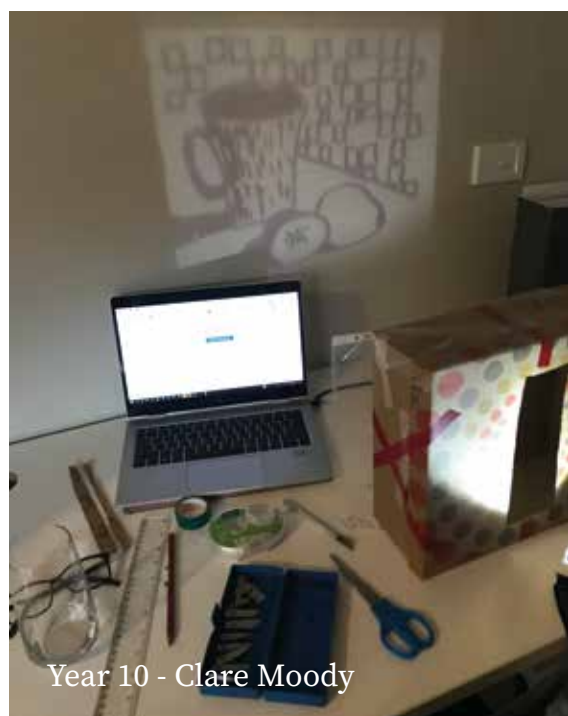
Year 7 - Alicia Cimino



Year 8 - Abbey Pearce



Year 9 - Cate Dynes



Year 10 - Clare Moody



Year 11 - Catherine Tootell



Year 12 - Gemma Cox