This was again a busy year. It commenced with the Welcome Mass which marked the last function as part of our ‘140 year’ celebrations. Term 3 then saw the opening of the Aquinas Library, which is now a wonderful new learning space and Writers’ Centre.

2014 was also the year of the inaugural MEL-SING Project where our first students visited Singapore in what we hope will eventually become part of our school curriculum. Another exciting new initiative was the collaboration between the College and local primary schools in the “Bright Sparks” Program. We also hosted a number of International Study Tours.

I hope you all enjoy reading this edition of the Windsor News, and I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2015!

Leonie Keaney
Principal
Experience Success

Term 1
Events Snapshot

January
- Tuesday 27: Teaching Staff Commence
- Thursday 29: Year 7s Commence
- Friday 30: Years 7–12 Administration Day and Photos
- VCE Induction

February
- Monday 2: Classes Commence
- All Year Levels
- Friday 6: Year 12 Retreat
- Thursday 12: Welcome Mass
- Sunday 22: Open Day
- Monday 23: Swimming Carnival

March
- Tuesday 3: Music Festival
- Monday 9: Labour Day Holiday
- Thursday 12: Year 9 Retreat (2 classes)
- Friday 13: Year 9 Retreat (2 classes)
- Saturday 14: Boarders Reunion
- Thursday 19: SCSA Swimming—Twilight
- Friday 27: Easter Liturgy
- Term 1 Concludes

School Tours
Semester 1, 2015

Term 1
- February
  - Tuesday 10: Open Day
  - Sunday 22 (Open Day)
- March
  - Friday 6
  - Wednesday 18

Term 2
- April
  - Tuesday 21
- May
  - Wednesday 6 (Open Morning)
  - Friday 22
- June
  - Wednesday 3
  - Friday 19

Some words of wisdom from our outgoing school captains

It seems surreal that I am in the company of two most competent ladies, Sally and Naomi, who have led PCW Melbourne this year. From school events to the Year 12 common room, it has been one extraordinary experience for all of us, enabling us to develop skills and gain new knowledge. These achievements are so rewarding and I know the future leadership teams will share the same success. The biggest advice I would give to future captains is to learn to balance your time between your schoolwork and your leadership responsibilities. It is vital to have that in check first, and I guarantee, your Leadership experience will be very enjoyable.

Emily Lai
Nagle 1, School Vice-Captain

I didn’t start Year 7 with the desire to become a College Vice Captain; in fact the idea only popped into my mind as I hit VCE. I’m so glad it did! This role has been incredibly rewarding, allowing personal growth, networking opportunities and the development of key skills. I have loved leading with both Emily and Naomi and it has been an experience I will never forget.

Sally Grainger
Kostka 3, School Vice-Captain

Year 12 Reflection

School life here at PCW has been incredible. Across all years I have felt supported and happy, but this year has definitely been my favourite. I recall being told by the Year 12s last year, that the final year of secondary school should be enjoyed as it goes by very fast. Yes, I thought, of course. But nothing could have prepared me for how fast it actually has flown by. It feels like yesterday when my friends and I were filled with nervous energy about the upcoming first Year 12 SAC. Now, end of year exams are at our feet! Besides the hours of studying, Year 12 has been one of the most fun and rewarding years of my life. Friendships have grown, and the class of 2014 have, I feel, become a lot, lot closer.

Eilidh Sdrojek-Heenan
Year 12, Nagle 1
Experience Success

2014 Dux

The College congratulates Damaris Kean on her outstanding achievement as 2014 Dux of PCW Melbourne! Damaris has studied English, Literature, RE, History, Art and Theatre Studies. Amongst her many Year 12 Awards achievements, Damaris has also been awarded the prestigious Sr Raymonde Taylor Art Award. We wish Damaris well in all her future studies and endeavours.

A full report of results for the Class of 2014 will be provided in The Lantern in February.

Interview:
Bruna Facó
International Student

Nome (Name): Bruna Facó
Idade (Age): 17
Nacionalidade (Nationality): Brazilian

Q. Bruna, why did you choose to be an International Student here at PCW Melbourne?
A. Well, I wanted to try different options for my education. I had heard that PCW Melbourne had a reputation for being a very good school. My parents wanted this opportunity for me and so did I. Previously, I had spent six months studying in New Zealand and loved it, and I wanted to continue to try new things.

Q. It is an adventure, but I’m sure that there may have been some things that you found a little difficult. Tell us about those.
A. The most difficult thing, actually, was making friends. It is not easy to break into established friendship groups, and the girls here have such warm friendships. However, I found that we all had a lot in common, sharing the same interests, so I was welcomed and now have lots of friends.

I also miss my family, for sure, but we Skype about five times a week, so that helps.

Another difficulty is that the weather is totally terrible for me! It is too cold!

Q. Despite the weather, you still look happy! What are some of the positive things about being at school here in Australia?
A. Things work! For example, the public transport system is efficient and runs regularly, so you can count on it. Also, I feel very safe here. There is a real sense of security and personal safety.

Q. How is education different here in Australia from Brazil?
A. In Brazil, only the expensive private schools have a good reputation. The public schools do not have enough money and resources and the teachers find it more difficult to teach.

Just like here, children may go to kindergarten (jardim de infância) or start in Prep (Pre) when they are five or six years old. Primary and secondary education will be completed at the same school.

Q. Tell us about Brazil—food, for example.
A. Well, we eat rice, red beans and steak. This is ordinary everyday food. On special occasions, we have feijoada—rice, of course, and different types of meats like pork and chicken and beef. Yum…

For sweets, a traditional food is brigadeiro which is easy to make and easy to eat! It is cocoa powder and condensed milk.

Q. And what about traditional Brazilian celebrations?
A. We have Carnaval at the end of February where there is lots of fun and singing and dancing. We love it! And then there is also Festa Junina in June. This celebrates everything to do with the country—we dress up in traditional costume, there is lots of music and dancing, and eating, of course! Corn especially.

Q. It sounds like a lot of fun and almost like one big party all the time!
A. Yes! Brazilian people are happy people, smiling, welcoming, generous and fun-loving. It is a happy place.

Q. Finally, Bruna, what do you hope to do at the end of the year when you finish your education here at PCW Melbourne?
A. At this stage I am not sure whether I will go to university here or in Brazil. I am still considering my options and will wait to see what happens during the rest of the year.

We would like to thank Bruna for sharing so many interesting details about her life and her wonderful country, Brazil, and wish her well in all she does as she graduates from PCW Melbourne.

Marie Rimpas
Editor
International Trips
This year, the International Program at PCW Melbourne has been vibrant and exciting. Currently, we have students from China, Taiwan, Singapore, Brazil and Thailand studying with us.

We also had exchange students from Italy, France and Germany join our College in the second half of the year.

In Term 3, PCW hosted three Study Tours. Students from Japan, China and India spent up to two weeks learning about Australia in a true cultural exchange.

And of course, the international trips to Italy, France, Japan, Vietnam and India provide our students with an invaluable broadening of cultural experiences.

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal, Students

Japan Study Tour
Travelling to Japan with PCW is an adventure that I am never going to forget! It was my first time going overseas, and the teachers and students on the tour made it the best experience I could have asked for. PCW どうもありがとうございました!

PCW, thank you very much!

Lauren Taylor
Year 12, Xavier 2

The Japan study tour was one of the best experiences of my life. We went to Tokyo Hiroshima, Kyoto, Miyajima and Kagoshima. Miyajima was my favourite city, so beautiful. There were a lot of おみやげ (souvenirs) to be bought and beautiful landmarks to visit, such as the Red Temple and Torii Gate. We stayed in a traditional hotel called a 里よかん (ryokan), where we were treated to a wonderful seafood feast in a traditional たたみ (tatami) room.

Mia Wansbrough
Year 11, Nagle 2

I have never had such a challenging and amazing experience in my life. I learnt so much on this trip. At the start of the week with my host family, I could barely say a sentence; by the end of the week I was speaking without even having to think about it. I can’t promote this trip enough!

日本語の生とのみなさん、がんばって下さい。

Jamie Long
Year 11, Loyola 2

I was extremely grateful to have had the opportunity for such a life-changing experience. Travelling to Japan was very significant—it allowed me to grow so much as an individual and I learnt to be strong and independent. Memories of people, cities, temples and shopping are just some that I will carry forever.

Sarah Khoury
Year 11, Nagle 2

Vietnam Reflections
The Vietnam trip was absolutely amazing—educational and unexpected in the best possible ways! We were busy every day with unforgettable experiences that opened our eyes to Vietnam. The Vietnamese cuisine, for example, never failed to excite my taste buds, as it was so deliciously different. There were some meals where we all felt like we were exceeding the limits of our stomachs—but the food was too good and we just had to eat it!

There were several aspects of the trip that I was really looking forward to, but I found the orphanage experience absolutely unforgettable. Our time at the orphanage was extremely rewarding, particularly feeding the children lunch, playing and drawing with them. They appreciated the smallest things. The smiles on their faces when we walked through the gate and waved to them were incredible. It was moving to see that even with so little, these kids were bursting with joy and happiness. I highly recommend next year’s Year 9 students to apply for this trip!

Zara Ljubetic
9 Red
Eachtra

The Eachtra program is made up of many parts and runs throughout the year. It is recognised that Middle School students need to be given opportunities to learn in a variety of ways. The range of activities is designed to achieve this.

End of Year Program

There are three distinct components to this year’s Eachtra program in November and December:

- **Melbourne: Inside and Out**
  (Melbourne Tour and BIG Questions)

- **Healthy, Wealthy and Wise**
  (Proud Race initiative, Missing Piece, Drug Education and Smart Start)

- **Body, Mind and Spirit**
  (Balnarring Camp)

Year 9 Camp

The Year 9 Camp is held at the Presentation Family Centre at Balnarring Beach. There will be an emphasis on mastering individual skills and on building friendships, developing leadership skills and group co-operation.

Eachtra has been developed as an important part of the Year 9 Learning Program at PCW and it is important that students have the opportunity to participate in all activities to enable the successful completion of Year 9, in readiness for transition to Senior School.

Nick Williamson
Year 9 Co-ordinator

Nagle Education Alliance of Australia: Presentation Schools Student Conference—Yeppoon, Queensland

On 21 September, Cara, Chi, Erin, Larise, Riley and I accompanied Ms Keaney and Mr Taylor to St Ursula’s College in Yeppoon. Presentation staff and students from 11 different Presentation Schools around Australia travelled to attend the 2014 Presentation Schools Conference. The theme of the conference was ‘Walking As One’, a topic upon which we based our activities, thoughts and discussions throughout the trip.

After two plane trips and a bus ride, we arrived at St Ursula’s College. The conference began with fun getting-to-know-you activities and presentations by each school about how they ‘Walk As One’. The next two days were spent participating in a retreat elaborating on the many meanings of ‘Walking As One’—as Presentation People, as Australians, with God and with Faith in our community. Attending the conference was particularly special and memorable as we were all Presentation People.

Stephanie Guzzardi
Year 10, Xavier 2

**MEL-SING Flyer Project**

Launched this year, the MEL-SING Flyer Project aimed to broaden our understanding of Asia’s place in a 21st century economic and geopolitical setting through a deeper understanding of its history and culture.

The program involved PCW Melbourne partnering with three Singapore Schools—NUS (National University of Singapore) High School, Republic Polytechnic and Singapore Sports School.

Our students experienced two days of classroom observations and Cultural Tour before participating in a three day Model United Nations Youth Sustainability Convention at NUS High.

Kelly McGurn
Deputy Principal, Staff

Bright Sparks

The Bright Sparks Program involved students from the Year 9 STEM class working collaboratively with Grade 5 and 6 students from a variety of different primary schools.

The aim was to produce a presentation convincing our society that world hunger can be eliminated by introducing insects into our diet! The teams consisted of two students from Year 9 leading four primary school students.

Students were able to develop a variety of skills in Mathematics and Science through completing project work and problem-solving.

Jessica Bustin & Assimina Semertjis
Bright Sparks Co-ordinators
Year 12 Solo Night

At Solo night on Tuesday 7th October, the Year 12 Music Solo Performance students played excerpts from their end of year recitals. The performance evening in the chapel provided a great opportunity for the girls to practise showcasing their pieces in front of an audience before they perform their 25 minute recitals for the VCAA assessors. The standard of performances was exceptional and it was very clear that the students have worked extremely hard throughout the year.

Angela Mallia
Head of Music

Interview:
Claire Grayston
Co-President Parent Association

Q. Claire, firstly, would you tell us a little about yourself—a little biography, if you will!
A. I grew up in Perth, having migrated from Bermuda as a pre-schooler. I became a Chartered Accountant and then fraud investigator, working on the prosecution of Laurie Connell (Rothwells Merchant Bank in the ‘80s), at the same time rowing for the WA Institute of Sport. I then decided travelling would be more fun and so headed to Africa in my late 20s and eventually Cameron and I ended up living in the UK, working, travelling and rowing there. We moved to Melbourne in 2000 to give the kids—Maddy and Gaby (Year 10 and 8 at PCW) and Alexandra (Year 5), an Aussie lifestyle. I returned to work, writing auditing standards for the Australian Government—how did that happen? Fraud makes for much better dinner conversation!

Q. And why did you decide to send your daughters to PCW Melbourne?
A. We sent the girls to PCW initially on the recommendation of friends and were attracted by PCW’s multiculturalism and down-to-earth girls who seem to value individuality, nurturing atmosphere and moderate size—all with the benefits of interaction with CBC. When we came to visit the school, we were won over by Leonie Keaney’s inspirational leadership and the staff’s commitment to the school. We still feel that way four years on.

Q. What do you believe is the role of a Parent Association, and what mutual benefits between the Association and the College do you feel can be achieved from a healthy and active PA?
A. The Parent Association’s role is both to support the school in activities which it runs for the girls and to create connections between the school and parents through social events. The informal interaction between the PA and the PCW leadership team really enables timely two-way feedback. The girls directly benefit from parents’ involvement and commitment. This commitment directly correlates with the commitment and connectedness our girls in turn feel for PCW, thus enriching their school experience.

Q. As Co-President of the Parent Association, what are some of the activities that you are involved in?
A. The Parent Association are really pleased to have committed to supporting the Music Department with both existing funds and fundraising to refurbish the band room. The Music Department has been doing a marvellous job in inspiring our girls to learn an instrument. Performances this year, in the new venue at Glen Eira Town Hall, were so impressive that we would like to support the girls’ enthusiasm for music by helping to create what we hope will be an inviting and inspiring working space for the bands and ensembles to rehearse. We hope to assist with acoustic insulation, redecoration and storage to make the band room into a space which will really work well for all performing groups to meet.

Q. Do you have any special plans or projects for 2015?
A. The Parent Association are really pleased to have committed to supporting the Music Department with both existing funds and fundraising to refurbish the band room. The Music Department has been doing a marvellous job in inspiring our girls to learn an instrument. Performances this year, in the new venue at Glen Eira Town Hall, were so impressive that we would like to support the girls’ enthusiasm for music by helping to create what we hope will be an inviting and inspiring working space for the bands and ensembles to rehearse. We hope to assist with acoustic insulation, redecoration and storage to make the band room into a space which will really work well for all performing groups to meet.

Claire, thank you so much for your time!
Presentation People of the Heart and the Temple

At this time of year, as days become longer and warmer, and shops are filled with all the promises of the material joy of Christmas, we as Presentation people are gifted with a special spirituality—one of both Heart and Temple.

During Nano’s time, devotion to the Sacred Heart was very popular in Europe. People desired to understand and experience the humanity of Jesus. Nano shared this devotion with many in Ireland. This devotion was so important to her, that she named her congregation, in this honour: The Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Over the years, theology around this devotion has changed. Now we are challenged to be God’s love for others. As we use the sacred time of Advent to prepare for Christmas, may we actively seek to experience the love of God—for others in need, our community, our world.

The second aspect of Presentation Spirituality is that of Temple. After Nano’s death the congregation needed to change its structure, also changing their name, to the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary, the mother of Jesus was very important for Nano and her sisters. The Presentation of Mary in the Temple, appears in the Gospel of James, and has always been very important within the Orthodox tradition; it became popular in the Roman Church during the Middle Ages. This feast celebrates Mary’s gift to all—it is where Mary is presented to God, where she encounters God. In Greek, Mary is beautifully described as Theotokos, the God-bearer. Today all Presentation people celebrate this feast on 22 November.

May we always be open to encounter God in our hearts and minds, and in our world; may we, like Nano, always be God’s love for others, especially those in need.

Shane Taylor
Head of Faith and Mission

Opinion and Social Commentary
Debut article: Mechanisms for Change?

Let’s face it, as women we face many challenges. Unfortunately, there’s nothing new about that. In 2010 Australia saw its first female Prime Minister, but it appeared we were not ready for her. Despite your politics or personal thoughts on Julia Gillard, her treatment as PM—and as a woman—was shocking. As a female, I was disgusted. It seemed that the Australian media was more concerned with Ms Gillard’s outfit than the policies her party was implementing. So I began to wonder: with the media’s focus so misguided, would there actually be a point in going into politics, or any other industry, to bring about change? Would the public ever take seriously or listen to someone who is constantly having her character attacked and ridiculed?

So on 7th October when Julia Gillard was in Melbourne, I asked her: is politics still an effective mechanism for women to bring about change?

Ms Gillard responded that it is because women struggle in politics, that more women are needed. She stressed that by strengthening our resolve, we help other women who perhaps don’t have a voice to be heard. This is how politics can effectively bring about change.

I tell this story not to focus on the politics, rather to emphasise that as women, we undoubtedly have faced and will continue to face hardship. As women we are pushed, but that only makes us stronger. I call on you to speak up if there is something that you are passionate about, something that makes you cry out at the injustice, and not to be put off by how others have been treated. While you are working hard to achieve your objective, it becomes easier for women after you to do the same. This is how we can work to achieve equality. From there it becomes easier to tackle other issues we want to resolve.

Any industry can be an effective mechanism for women to bring about change, if only we seize that opportunity, work together to achieve it and not be put off by adversity.

Now is not the time to be complacent, nor is it the time to be afraid. Now is the time to stand up and go forth!

Carina Field
Year 12, Loyola 3
Art Show

It was with much delight and excitement that past PCW student, Marita Dyson formally opened this year’s Exhibition. Marita graduated from the College in 1996 and happily returned to share her inspiring journey. She talked us through a montage of memories and photos, reminiscing about the worn and polished bluestone stairs of the College and making connections along the way to the rich and vibrant history of her beloved Melbourne.

The Art Show was an exciting and resounding success!

Jill Allen
Art Teacher

This prayer is dedicated to creative people from all walks of life, who strive to do things differently, who look at ordinary things from extraordinary viewpoints and are continually fascinated by the world around them. May they continue to delight us with their imaginative approach to all things.

Bless our time.
Bless our voices.
Bless our memories.
Bless our ideas, our minds, our hearts.
Bless our creativity.
Bless our tools: pens, paper, laptop, paint, brushes, pencils.
Bless those whom our words will touch.
Our desire is to do Your will through Your creativity in us.
Our desire is to bring Your love to others through Your creativity in us.
All this we ask of you, O Lord. Amen.

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2014
111 girls participated
37 girls completed
1,244 books read

Top Achievers

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