Term 3
Events Snapshot

July
Tuesday 12  Students Commence Term 3
Friday 22  Presentation Day
Wednesday 27  Years 10–12 Student Progress Interviews 2:00–9:00pm
(students dismissed at 12:40pm)

August
Thursday 4  Music Showcase
Friday 12  Year 8 Retreat
Monday 15  Mid Term Break
Tuesday 16  Parent Association 7:30pm
Scholarship Presentation Evening
Wednesday 24  PCW Melbourne Athletics Day
Wednesday 31  Year 9 Retreat/Community Service

September
Thursday 1  Science Expo
Year 9 Retreat/Community Service
Friday 2  Year 9 Retreat/Community Service
Tuesday 6  Parent Association 7:30pm
Wednesday 7  Year 7–9 Student Progress Interviews 2:00pm–8:00pm
(Years 7–9, 11 & 12 dismissed @ 12:45pm; Year 10 dismissed @ 1:45pm)
Tuesday 13  Art Show
Friday 16  Term 3 Concludes
Saturday 23  Vietnam Trip (two weeks' duration)

Open Mornings Semester 2, 2016

Term 3
Thursday 28 July
Thursday 15 September

Term 4
Wednesday 12 October
Monday 28 November

From our
New Principal
Filina Virgato

Welcome to what has been a semester filled with a myriad of engaged learning, together with individual and community-building opportunities!

We welcomed our new Year 7s and their families to PCW Melbourne; we were in awe of the passion, commitment, effort and creativity of our students at Music Festival; and we barracked and cheered at the numerous Sporting Activities in which we participated. On Open Day, blessed by beautiful weather, we clearly articulated our vision of a holistic education, together with our commitment to continuous improvement and the achievement of academic success. During the Year 7 and Senior Camps, students challenged themselves and each other in physical activities, worked on continuing to build positive relationships and further developed team-building skills.

At PCW Melbourne we experience success across many areas. Our school is a true celebration of the Mission of our College and the hopes for the future that we hold for our girls.

As the new principal of PCW Melbourne, I have been warmly welcomed and embraced by everyone. The staff and students are amazing and make each day a joy. Inspired by the educational vision of Nano Nagle, I feel very privileged and proud to be in this role, and strive to lead with courage and passion in thought, word and purpose to make a difference for the whole of the College Community. I look forward to a wonderful 2016 and beyond.

Filina Virgato
Principal 2016
Student Impressions of Our New Principal

"Ms Virgato is super nice and a lovely person."

"Ms Virgato is warm and open, very willing to listen to students and to take on board our suggestions."

"Ms Virgato is a people person, who is giving of herself to us and to the school."

"Ms Virgato is very clear about expecting academic success from students. We appreciated the speech she gave on this in Assembly."

"Ms Virgato is fun and enthusiastic when we did a dance on camp."

"Ms Virgato is super!"

"Ms Virgato seems bubbly and warm-hearted!"

"Ms Virgato came into our French classroom and told us a really funny story."

"Ms Virgato is a bit mysterious..."

"Ms Virgato looks positive and determined to make the school a better place."

"Ms Virgato doesn’t look scary but seems quite approachable."

"Ms Virgato was very funny at school camp when she was dancing."
Year of 2015 VCE High Achievers

Throughout the PCW Melbourne Community, we seek to celebrate Excellence in its many forms. On Wednesday 9 March, we celebrated Academic Excellence by acknowledging the achievements of our 2015 College Dux and Semester 2 High Achievers. Academic Excellence is the demonstrated ability to perform, achieve and excel in learning outcomes, and cannot occur without much hard work and perseverance.

Our College Dux for 2015 Matilda Boseley addressed the Assembly offering her words of wisdom and experience for students in Years 7 through to 12.

We also celebrated our High Achievers in Years 7-11 for Semester 2 2015. Students achieving a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 9.5 or above across all studies received the Principal’s Honours Award.

We congratulate all of our High Achievers and wish all of our students in the Class of 2015 every success in their future endeavours.

Kelly McGurn
Deputy Principal, Staff
Dux, Matilda Boseley

Hi PCW! Since graduating I have begun a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University, and am hoping to do a double Major in Journalism and International Relations, with a minor in Mandarin—a course load I refer to as “essay overload”! I have also joined ‘Mojo’, a Monash run news site as a reporter. While most of my life is taken up with bus trips to Clayton, somehow I have managed to start work as a Nanny, a profession which really brings into focus how tough teachers really have it. And if this isn’t enough, I have also adopted two chickens named Toff and Katara, who were rescued from battery farms, and they are objectively the most beautiful chickens in the world.

Now, here comes my cogent reflection on Year 12. So what do I think about it six months on? Last year I spent a lot of time being very loudly and publically annoyed at any one who would tell me that “VCE doesn’t matter the moment exams are over” and that there is “life after VCE”, because at the time, it really didn’t feel like that at all. Now I’m half way through my first year at University and maybe, just maybe, I’ll admit that they were right.

But, unfortunately, any of my sage wisdom about the meaninglessness of the artificial measurement of a fabricated capitalist definition of intelligence will be wasted on you, because—guess what—you aren’t out of the machine yet! And that’s okay! Because you will be soon!

So, instead, I have compiled a revised list of “Things to Help You Have a Better Day and Be Smarter Than You Were Yesterday”, alternate title “Things I only realised are important six months too late”.

- Study in solid time blocks; start off with an hour, then throughout the year, build up. By the start of October have it at three hours a day. Concentration is a muscle and you need to exercise it for the three-hour English Exam.
- Make sure you check in on how your friends are doing. They might not tell you they aren’t okay; it is your job to double check.
- Listen to the “Hamilton” cast album—it’s amazing and will inspire you to study.
- Do “Power Stances” before a SAC. This is where you stand, hands on hips, chest out, in an extremely assertive position, for 30 seconds. You look like an idiot but it really does boost your confidence. Do it with friends; start a club; go crazy with it.
- I have said it before and I shall say it again: ASK YOUR TEACHERS 100 QUESTIONS A DAY. If you are sending them less than 15 emails before a SAC you are not taking full advantage of them. (Again, teachers, I am sorry.)
- And my number one tip, (and one that I am still learning), “Doing your best” DOES NOT mean “Pushing yourself until you are so tired that you cry”. It’s just not worth it and not helpful. #vcelyfe

Oh, and of course, finally, follow me on Instagram @mattemat

Good luck! And remember, just because Mid-Year Exams don’t affect your ATAR doesn’t mean that it’s okay to skip them. They are good practice, and they help you learn the invaluable lesson: exams, even VCE exams, are actually no different than taking a normal test. GO TO YOUR MID-YEAR EXAMS!

Okay, I’m out. BYE! With love,

Matilda Boseley
Dux 2015
Year 12 Student Leaders...Reflections

When you have the opportunity to lead 600 girls into a new school year and through school events such as Music Festival and Presentation Day, you are given the unique ability to inspire, encourage and influence. You have the power to set an example that will be seen and replicated. As College Captain, I have learnt that what this role truly means at PCW Melbourne is the chance to make a difference; not only in our school as a whole, but in the lives of individual students, and to do so as a proud Presentation person.

Stephanie Guzzardi
College Captain

My leadership position enables me to actively encourage and inspire my peers to make the most of the opportunities presented to them at the College, whether that be in sport, academia or other activities. My role gives me a platform to empower girls to achieve their goals and exceed their own expectations. Thus, to take on such a role, it is important to be passionate and driven to assist the progression of the school. I am proud to not only be a leader at PCW Melbourne, but to be a part of the Presentation Community.

Stephanie McKinnon
College Sport Captain

When going for the position of College Music Captain and Loyola Music Captain, I took many things into account; in particular, what being part of the musical aspect of PCW Melbourne has provided me with over the years, and the reasons why I love it so much.

Music is something that brings people together, and it was within the Music Department that I found my first true friends at school, which is a gift. I will always be grateful for. When taking on these leadership roles I wanted to create an environment for the girls that was free of judgement, where they could express themselves and make lasting friendships through the magic of music—similar to the one past captains had provided me with.

Taking on this responsbility has given me a sense of pride, as I feel as though I can finally give back to the community that helped guide me throughout my entire school life.

Bianca Coppa
College Music Captain

I am very proud to be the International Student Leader at PCW Melbourne. My role gives me such a great opportunity to fully experience a different culture during my time there in Australia.

Being a leader makes no difference to me—except one thing—learning how to take responsibility and being organised. When I say it makes no difference to me, it means that my friendship with all my peers did not and will not change. Instead, I feel like I have the responsibility to help them and to care more about others.

Being a leader can be challenging, but it also gives you a great learning experience. I encourage any of students in PCW Melbourne to participate in Leadership roles. BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

Selina Zhang
International Student Leader

Year 12 College Leaders 2016

Captain: Stephanie Guzzardi
Vice Captains: Vy Nguyen, Erin O'Brien
International Student Leader: Yurou (Selina) Zhang
Music Captain: Bianca Coppa
Sport Captain: Stephanie McKinnon

Kostka
House: Larise Jones
Art: Indigo Tait Atkin
Environment: Jessica Lawson
Liturgy: Jessica Lawson
Music: Madeleine Edwards, Zoe Ford
Social Justice: Stephenie Gogos
Sport: Adelaide Agius, Jacqueline Monaghan
SRC: Estelle Titus

Loyola
House: Lily Polak
Art: Cara Fisher
Environment: Phillipa Bandis
Liturgy: Cara Fisher
Music: Iman, Wannahart, Bianca Coppa
Social Justice: Phillipa Bandis
Sport: Stephanie McKinnon, Cara Fisher
SRC: Riley Sherry

Nagle
House: Kirra King
Art: Eleanor Carrucan
Environment: Hannah Richards
Liturgy: Emmanuel Brizuela
Music: Kajsa Melkas, Leah Soljak-Heenan
Social Justice: River Sietsema
Sport: Charlotte Boboli, Laura Thomas
SRC: Isabella Gartsid

Xavier
House: Vy Nguyen
Art: Michelle McMillan
Environment: Erin Daman
Liturgy: Alix O'Gara
Music: Grace Thornbrough, Stephanie Guzzardi
Social Justice: Chloe Hailes
Sport: Cassandra Kalafatas, Elana Ryan
SRC: Popisa Buathed
Faith and Mission

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has been a key focus of Faith and Mission efforts so far in 2018. From the theme of our Opening School Mass ‘Merciful like the Father’, to its connection to faith on the Year 10 Retreat day in late April, the meaning of, and call to, Mercy has been explored in a number of ways.

Contrary to this, however, Nagle House showed no mercy when it took out the inaugural ‘Nano relay’ on the occasion of Nano Nagle’s anniversary! We remembered Nano through prayer, reflection and then celebrations at lunchtime, giving thanks for her wonderful life and legacy. The girls always respond with such enthusiasm and generosity as they did yet again, with our fund-raising and advocacy for Caritas’ Project Compassion campaign throughout Lent. This time of preparation was capped off with an Easter Liturgy which especially emphasized that we are all called to address the injustices that occur in our world today, and that ‘Mercy’ should be our guide.

Fiona McKenna
Mission Team
Social Justice

The first half of 2016 has proven to be a very busy time for the Social Justice Committee. The main focus in Term 1 was the Project Compassion Collection for Caritas and the Music Festival Fundraiser for the Presentation Sisters in India. Once again this year we are conducting our ‘Simply Sharing’ collection for the Sacred Heart Mission and St. Vincent De Paul in St Kilda. Both organisations support people on the streets, people who have no families or suffer mental health issues. Many of these people have been dealt an unfair hand in life and find themselves in these circumstances, often through no fault of their own.

As well as these activities the Social Justice captains (Stephanie Gogos, Philippa Bandis, River Sietsema, Chloe Hales) have been raising and exploring issues with the Social Justice group that have a direct impact on the disadvantaged, both locally and globally. It is inspirational to see such commitment, energy and empathy for the people on the margins of society.

Phillip McEvrae
Social Justice Team

Food Van

Kate is a past pupil who now manages three vans for Edmund Rice. She was a Social Justice Leader and has continued to be an advocate for social causes like this. Our students, Lily, Stephanie and Tong Tong were a credit to the College. They connected with the homeless respectfully and naturally. I also attended and was so impressed by their manner and capacity to connect with all the people they spoke to.

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal, Students

Edmund Rice Food Van Experience

You may think it some kind of joke—teenagers voluntarily sacrificing their precious Friday night, in favour of returning to school? It sounds unlikely if anything, but on Friday 20 May, that’s precisely what a group of passionate young girls and boys did.

Offered the chance to fill the empty bellies of dozens of St Kilda’s homeless, we couldn’t wait to get to work in CBC’s school kitchen, preparing sausages, sandwiches and soup. Chatting away in the hum of activity, it didn’t take long to get the job done, and soon we were distributing our offerings to the patient queues outside The Gatwick Hotel.

The best part of the night, however, was that after the lines had dwindled we were free to move off our serving stations to mingle with the crowd. Enthralled in our conversations with people from all walks of life, we discussed everything from life and the future to handy tips and fun facts. The hours flew by without us even noticing and the age-old barriers of social status crumbled as we spoke.

It was an amazing night, and not one that I could easily forget. My gratitude goes out to all those who made it possible, the organisers, the teachers and the Social Justice Captains who got PCW girls involved.

Lilith Rowles
Year 12, Nagle 1
Child Safe/Student Voice—A Pilot Project

PCW Melbourne was chosen as one of two secondary schools to work on this project and participate in a workshop using the ‘Students as Researchers’ methodology delivered by Sue O’Connell, Elina Raso and Doug Sandiford, Education Officers at CEM.

The Child Safe/Student Voice Project seeks to hear from students about their feelings of safety at school and measures they may suggest to increase safe practices. This project allowed the Year 7 and 8 students who were involved to positively impact on their environment and inform school practices. The data collected will inform our review of the College Anti-Bullying Policy. This website offers support for schools and parents and is highly recommended. Bullying No Way: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

Students were asked questions about what it feels like to be safe at school, when they may feel safe or unsafe at school and what they have learnt about safety. The students worked incredibly well together to address the questions and draw out the key themes. The CEM plans to use this workshop approach in Student Voice as a model for other schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne when addressing their child safety policies and practices.

We are planning to use this model with a range of students in the College to increase Student Voice in response to a range of aspects about school life.

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal, Students
Faculty News

Year 9 News

Sleep Out

75 students and 10 teachers, both alike in dignity
In the School Hall where we lay our scene.
We are pleased to report that there was no mutiny.
Have woken this morning feeling tired and a tad unclean.
Friends were all, not foes
Coming together to raise important funds to change life.
$3700.00 does last year’s total overthrow.
Experiencing a little of a life with strife,
We heard from our guest speaker the importance of respect and love,
How lives are damaged and broken by rage,
But with hope and support these things can be removed
Ms Braiden slept upon the stage.
We want the school with patient ears to attend
By working together and being committed, social problems we can strive to mend.
(We have studied Romeo and Juliet!!)

Active April

In keeping with “healthy body, healthy mind” the Year 9 students were encouraged to sign up to the Premier’s Active April Challenge and clock their activity for the month. Congratulations to the following girls for reaching—and in many cases, surpassing—the recommended 30 minutes of physical activity a day.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milly Purcell</td>
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<td>Pia Fullaonda</td>
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<td>Kyrie Murray – Walton</td>
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<td>Madeline Emery</td>
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<td>Elza Balta</td>
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<td>Lilly Anderson</td>
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<td>Arli Giles-Watson</td>
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<td>Diane Braiden</td>
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<td>Lucy Rule</td>
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<td>Rose Mavric</td>
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<td>Nattali Ashurst</td>
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<td>Cleo Lammardo</td>
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<td>Lahne Scrivener</td>
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<td>Haylee Brown</td>
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Di Braiden
Year 9 Coordinator
Year 7 Students Discover Traditional French Caramel

Engaging students with their French lessons is easier when they get to taste traditional French products! In a mouth-watering session, Rémi Tremal, a French artisan caramel maker, told Year 7 Students his story and the story of *le caramel au beurre salé*.

He makes it in copper cauldrons in small batches of 30 kilos and it can take up to five hours to prepare it with his wife, Broena.

The girls tasted it with Bleu Costello cheese (yes, it’s delicious with a sweet/salted savour), and with strawberries... Au passage, you educate your students’ taste for true and regional products.

But there was a story behind the story: Rémi was born in Lyon and has been a jockey for 22 years. It taught him the pursuit of excellence and the spirit of competition. He came to Australia in 2003 to further his career, but after a back injury in 2011, was forced to stay away from the track for several months. He decided to start a small business and remembered that his father made traditional French caramel and this family recipe went back five generations.

It was not easy to reproduce here, as the ingredients and the climate are different. But passion and perseverance helped him to succeed. The biggest challenge he found was that salted caramel was almost unknown here in Australia. Caramelicious was born.

Among the culture and the delicious tastings, the students also learned that hard work pays. He has been honoured with several industry awards and exports it overseas. Next move: he is going to make caramel bonbons. The girls can’t wait for it!

**Annie Haddad**
French Teacher

———

**Sport Science Year 10 ‘Bubble Soccer’**

On Tuesday 19 April, the Year 10 Sport Science class participated in ‘Bubble Soccer’. The bubbles and equipment were bought into the College Hall.

We all had so much fun banging into each other with our bubbles, ganging up on friends and scoring goals.

Thank you to John, our instructor, for giving us such an exciting experience, and to our teachers for organising this for us. We all cannot wait to play ‘Bubble Soccer’ again!

Sofi Georgias
Year 10, Kostka 3

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*Le caramel au beurre salé* is an amazing product. With deep roots in French History, French caramel is to the French what Vegemite is to Aussies. It’s made with butter, sugar, salt (*sel de Guérande*) and cream, which are only natural and quality ingredients.
Science and English Challenge

On 2 June, 27 Year 8 and 9 Students competed at the Science and Engineering Challenge at Victoria University, Footscray Campus.

PCW Melbourne came 3rd out of eight schools. This was a great achievement, since the other teams were mainly Year 10s. Our Year 10s were in Exams, but not wanting to let a chance go by, we entered the younger students.

One of the Year 8 Teams WON the Bridge event, which is the penultimate event of the day. They were just beside themselves! I was very proud!

Jo-Lee Kennedy
Faculty Leader, Science

Year 12, Global Politics

On Wednesday 4th May, the VCE Global Politics class were privileged to see a live recording of The Weekly with Charlie Pickering at the ABC Studios in Elsternwick. Prior to the recording, we were given a tour of the studios; studios we would see on television, and could only dream of seeing in real life. We were all completely awestruck when we entered the studio of our childhood, Studio 3.

During the recording of the season two finale of The Weekly, we were fortunate enough to see famous Australian comedians, Charlie Pickering, Kitty Flannigan, Tom Gleeson and Shaun Micallef. While giving us a comedic insight into the current state of Australian politics, this experience allowed us to be part of a live studio audience and see what happens behind the scenes. Everyone went home that night excited to see the backs of our heads, our professional applauds and even our laughs on national television.

The following Friday, we attended Social Education Victoria lectures for Unit 3. These lectures provided us with extra information, tips and tricks for our upcoming, mid-year Trial Exams, and also for our end of year Exams. Having this valuable information under our Year 12 belts is really reassuring as well as interesting.

A big thank you to Ms Borman for organising both events—we loved it.
To Mr Denny and Ms DiBlasi, thanks for coming along and supporting our class events.

Emmanuelle Brizuela
Year 12, Nagle 3
International Student Reflection

I have studied at PCW Melbourne for less than one year. Although everything is still new for me, I already feel that I belong to this lovely community.

I still remember my first day when I walked into PCW Melbourne, I was extremely nervous because I had no idea about the Catholic School system and what Australian High School would be like.

As an International Student, I worry that it is hard for me to make friends with local students and become part of the community. To my surprise, teachers and students here are enthusiastic and welcoming of all students.

The most impressive part of school life for me is praying every morning. This is the first time I have experienced this kind of activity. I feel it is so sacred and I think it is a ceremony that enables us to be grateful for all the things we have. Everyday school begins with this ceremony, which lets us cherish our opportunities and to accept education because education is powerful and can change everything in today’s society.

School life is pretty fun for me. As a normal high school student, studying is the most important thing. The subject selections are totally different from my previous school in China. I can choose what I want to do for further study here, whereas in my country, the subjects we study are all compulsory, which means we have no right to choose what we want. Teachers here are also nice and helpful; they always encourage me and give me a lot of academic and life support. They realise that learning subjects with an additional language is hard for us. At the same time, I ask various and even silly questions to teachers, which make me understand the classes more accurately and clearly.

I have made a lot of local friends as well. I am really moved that they always ask me if I need anything when I look worried. On the holidays they also invited me to the library and to hang out in the City, which helped me to become more and more confident to make local friends and communicate with them.

There are also a variety of events and activities on offer in our school. During the first term, we had Music Festival and Swimming Carnival. I joined in the Chinese dancing in the Music Festival. I was so moved that all the students and teachers here were glad and interested in watching our performance. I still remember that when we finished our performance, students and teachers hugged us and told us that we looked so amazing, which really impressed me. It has become the most memorable part in my life.

I really enjoy life at PCW Melbourne and I look forward to school every day. PCW Melbourne is a magical place...I want to stay here for the rest of my life.

Monica Ren
Year 11, Nagle 2
Staff News

Life for the PCW community over the past year has brought both sadness and joy.

Many staff members have lost loved ones, and it is with tenderness and affection that we remember those who have died.

Our Community has also had cause to celebrate and be joyful.

Congratulations to...

We congratulate Caitlin and her husband, Chris Brierty, as they anticipate the coming birth of their first child. Caitlin’s efficiency and marvellous ability to organise us all will be missed! We wish Caitlin and Chris joy in abundance for their growing family.

Congratulations also to Teresa Ciocci, who became engaged to Luke Cerra in Uluru on 9 April. They plan to wed on 9 April 2017, and our best wishes go out to them as they begin their new life together.

We also congratulate Sally Robertson, who became engaged to Peter Farr on 28 May. They plan to marry in 2017. We wish them love and joy in abundance during their engagement and throughout their married life together.

Farewell...to Faye Davenport

Faye first began at PCW in 1999. In her time at the College, Faye has taught Food Technology and VCAL. Faye has been on Long Service Leave since May, and officially, her final day at PCW was 24 June.

We thank Faye for the service she has given the College over 17 dedicated years. We wish her well as she begins a new life, without the worries of assessment, reports or parent interviews.

Finally, the College Community has also been enriched by the arrival of new staff members. We welcome: Fiona Bourne, Wei Jin, Avril Martinelli, Samantha Jansz and Kodilee Strahan.

Additions to Staff

Kodilee Strahan

Kodilee joins us as an AFL Trainee. She completed her VCE last year, and whilst she has no teaching experience yet, Kodilee aspires to be a Secondary Health and Physical Education Teacher. Her 13 years’ experience of being a student, however, will stand her in good stead.

Kodilee feels that completing her AFL Traineeship at PCW in 2016 will not only reassure her that this is the field she wishes to pursue a career in, but also provide her with knowledge beyond what she could currently imagine.

“I’m so grateful to be part of an amazing team that cares so much about what they do. This is an experience that will be truly motivating and inspiring!”

Fiona Bourne

Fiona has joined us from St Kilda Park Primary School (SKIPPS). She is an experienced Support Staff Officer, having worked for five years an Integration Aide in her previous position at SKIPPS. This will be her sixth year going into her new role as Learning Support Officer at PCW Melbourne. Before SKippS, Fiona was working as a Community Support Worker in the western suburbs.

Fiona loves travel, playing hockey, music…she has been collecting records since she was 18 years old and it has been a hobby of hers to organise and play at events/venues locally and internationally—not to mention, also doing radio over the years. She has been able to make a lot of contributions to the community and charities through her music which she loves, because helping others and making a difference gives her a sense of fulfilment.

One such cause was raising money for the Trench Town Reading Centre in Kingston, Jamaica which is a non-profit initiative developed to encourage a broad range of educational activities and provide a place for community activities. One year she raised enough money to help fund resources for one whole summer of activities.

Fiona especially enjoys family time and walks on the beach with her dog.

This year, Fiona bought a new house! Her focus will be on settling into her new home and new job and seeing what opportunities lie ahead. She completed a course last year (Cert IV in Disability) and really enjoyed it, so is keen to look at options and do further study.
Kelly McGurn, Deputy Principal Staff

PCW Melbourne is extremely proud of the achievements of our own Deputy Principal, Staff, Kelly McGurn. Kelly has distinguished herself in the Teaching and Academic world. In July, she will be attending the 3rd Gender & STEM Biennial Conference at the Newcastle University Business School, Science Central, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

This prestigious event will be hosted by International Gender and STEM Network. The aim is to gain a deeper understanding of the professional and career choices made by females (girls and women) as well as males (boys and men) in the broad field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This will be done by drawing on work from international researchers with diverse disciplinary perspectives, together with policy-makers and practitioners. From this, new research will be stimulated which will inform future inquiry.

The Conference will look at key issues which contribute to participation and retention of girls and women in the STEM field, including but not limited to, good practices within schools, universities and workplaces, and the roles of government and industry.

Kelly’s abstract to speak to this at the Conference was accepted. She will be presenting a Workshop entitled: Learning initiatives improving girls’ engagement in STEM studies in secondary school & beyond: The PCW Melbourne STEM project.

The objectives of the workshop will be to outline the key initiatives being undertaken by PCW, a girls’ Secondary College in Melbourne, Australia, as a part of a five year strategy to enhance student engagement in STEM subjects and increase student participation in STEM pathways in the Senior School and beyond. The workshop will outline a range of core and elective programs initiated by the College as part of a strategic STEM program that includes partnership programs with Primary Schools & Industry. The strategy was established in response to diminishing confidence and engagement levels by students in the Mathematics and Science subjects within Secondary School, which lead to falling transition rates into STEM Tertiary Studies. Participation in the workshop would be suitable for teachers (Primary/ Elementary and Secondary) and School Administrators. It will be an opportunity to share knowledge, invite responses, extend ideas and investigate possible partnerships between sectors.

Kelly has also been invited to be part of the Closing Panel, where discussion will focus on ways to implement research into policy. The panel is made up of complementary voices and she has been invited to join the discussion panel as a Teaching Leadership Representative, sharing many common goals with the Gender & STEM network.

Marie Rimpas
Editor
Alumnae

Interview:
Stephanie Dellaportas
Alumna 2010

Stephanie graduated in the Class of 2010. She is currently teaching at PCW Melbourne!

Q. Stephanie, when did you graduate? Tell us a little about your final year at PCW Melbourne.

A. I graduated in 2010. It was hands down the best schooling year of my life. I remember most of the year level sitting on the front lawn in a big circle laughing and sharing around food we’d bring. I’ll never forget our last day—to quote Ms Keenan in her final farewell: “This is by far the saddest I’ve ever seen a graduating Year Level.”

Looking back now, it’s funny to think how emotional we were. I’m talking tears and sobbing from 95% of us. We grew very fond of the little world we had created here at PCW and I think part of those tears was fear of leaving that world to join a much bigger one where our magical Milo tin would no longer produce an endless supply and Ms Rosati and Ms O’Donnell (our coordinator at the time) wouldn’t be able to rescue us from whatever crisis we were having. I was also Xavier Music Captain that year along with one of my best friends and to this day I consider it one of the most valuable life experiences I’ve had.

Q. Over six years of secondary schooling, what are the things that still stand out for you today?

A. School spirit is another thing. I’ve come to realise only now how much it really stands out as a fond memory. I’ve realised now being at other schools and sharing school experiences that it was something unique. Every school event that we could dress up for, sing chants, make posters for... even the whole culture of Music Festival—all things that I am so proud I was a part of. I felt there was a great deal of pride there for most; everyone wanted to play a role. This obviously grew throughout our years at PCW, and I’m sure, is what made our final year as a Year Level so enjoyable; as we were all so ready to embrace any special occasion that was offered to us.

Q. So where has life taken you in the years since?

A. Life has taken me many places! I’ve learnt new things, run my own design business, travelled overseas, graduated university and now am part of the working world. It constantly brings me new opportunities, allows me to continue my learning and work towards a successful teaching career. Although our lives have changed so much since we left, there are still a handful of girls whom I regard as my close friends from PCW, and when we get together it’s like we’re still on that front lawn. This is something, no matter where life takes me, that I will cherish.

Q. Based on your own experiences as an ex-Student and now a Teacher, what advice would you give to our girls?

A. Get involved, have fun and be kind to each other. Your teachers have your best interests at heart, and yes, it really does get better in Year 12 even though the thought of that year can be very overwhelming. There are new and exciting opportunities after school and the best way to prepare yourself for this is to embrace everything Presentation has to offer and what being a part of the Presentation Community means. I’ve realised having time away from this community and now being back, how much it helped me be the person and teacher I am today.

Stephanie Dellaportas
Alumna, 2010
Interview:
Nina Hooper
Alumna 2011

Nina graduated in the Class of 2011. She is currently in the Astrophysics Department at Harvard University.

Q. Nina, what are some of the memories that stand out for you of your time at PCW Melbourne?

A. The stand-out is Music Festival. It’s something that is unique to PCW, and as the Co-Captain for Loyola, I put in a lot of energy into making it as incredible as possible. I also loved being a part of the Social Justice Committee and have great memories about all the work we did together.

Q. Over six years of secondary schooling, what are the things that still stand out for you today?

A. School spirit is another thing. I’ve come to realise only now how much it really stands out as a fond memory. I’ve realised now being at other schools and sharing school experiences that it was something unique. Every school event that we could dress up for, sing chants, make posters for... even the whole culture of Music Festival—all things that I am so proud I was a part of. I felt there was a great deal of pride there for most; everyone wanted to play a role. This obviously grew throughout our years at PCW, and I’m sure, is what made our final year as a Year Level so enjoyable; as we were all so ready to embrace any special occasion that was offered to us.

Q. You have had some pretty exciting experiences since leaving PCW. Would you tell us about what you’ve done over the last five years?

A. The last five years have been amazing. After High School I spent nine months training as a pilot. (I got my pilot’s licence before I could drive a car!) Then I moved to Boston where I’m in College. I’ve also travelled a lot. I spent the Summer break between my 1st and 2nd year of College in Istanbul working for Microsoft. During that time I also visited Italy, London, Abu Dhabi, Finland and Israel. The following Summer I spent a month in China. I have been learning Chinese so it was fun to put my language skills to the test. I hiked Mt Hu Shan with my best friend and spent two weeks in Shanghai teaching Astronomy. I also visited my friend in Sri Lanka.

Q. Currently, you are at Harvard! Can you tell us about your work?

A. I came here specifically because I wanted to study Astrophysics and Harvard has the best Astrophysics department in the world. I’ve done research on black holes, exo-planets and my latest work is on asteroids. I’m very interested in “asteroid mining” (sending machines to space to collect resources from asteroids) and recently gave a TED talk on the subject!

Q. In what ways did PCW prepare you for life after school?

A. PCW offered me a lot of creative opportunities that helped me understand who I am and what I am good at. I think those are really valuable lessons to learn. I also learnt how to deal with not-always-pleasant social situations which made me a stronger person.

Q. What have been some of the difficulties that you have faced since graduating?

A. It’s not easy being so far away from your family all the time. However, I’m looked after very well here. Harvard provides housing, three meals a day (and I don’t even have to do dishes!), laundry services and more. I’m very lucky.

Q. Our current students would look at you with pride and admiration for all you have achieved. What advice would you offer to Year 12s, indeed, all students at PCW?

A. The best advice I can give is to set yourself really big goals, even if they seem crazy. If you believe that you are capable of doing something, you’ll find a way to do it. There are always many ways to achieve a certain outcome and if you set yourself a tough goal but don’t succeed at first, then there are still lots of other ways to get there — so don’t give up!

Nina Hooper
Alumna, 2011
Paula Mantelos
Alumna 2012

Paula graduated in the class of 2012. She is currently studying Law at the University of Melbourne.

In VCE, my two favourite subjects were Legal Studies and Health and Human Development. Doing these subjects cemented for me, what would become my two passions after graduating from PCW.

After graduating in 2012, I started my Undergraduate Degree at the University of Melbourne. I undertook the Bachelor of Environments, and graduated in 2015. I majored in Environmental Geographies, Politics and Cultures, with an emphasis on Human and Health Geography, which brought out my passion for Health and Human Development.

This year, I was accepted into, and have commenced my first year of the Juris Doctor at the University of Melbourne. A law degree can be exhausting and stressful, but also very rewarding. This year I have also become a member of the UN Youth, to ensure I continue developing my passion for Health and Human Development.

My advice to Year 12 students is to keep everything in perspective: the best years of your life begin after high school. Study hard, try your best, but also remember that your ATAR will not define you. Also, never compare yourself to others; focus on yourself and your goals.

Paula Mantelos
Alumna, 2012

T’la Field
Alumna 2012

T’la graduated in the class of 2012. Currently she is working as a Dental Receptionist at the prestigious Malo Clinic in South Yarra.

My name is T’la Field and I graduated in 2012 from Presentation College Windsor. Currently, I am working as a Dental Receptionist, although this was not what I had in mind as I studied VCE and graduated. I was actually unsure of what I wanted to do after school, so I got a casual job and decided to travel.

Career orientation comes easy to some but not to all. It can be very stressful. The entire focus is on what you want to do after school, but you are still so young, even after graduating. If you’re sure of what you want to do, go out there and get it, but if you’re unsure, keep your options broad.

One’s career is not static, but rather an evolutionary process that grows with you. My advice is to travel, take a break and get to know yourself; let yourself develop outside of school life. The world is big beyond those walls, and is a great educator itself. Keep in mind, things happen in life that constantly steer you in different directions, so be flexible and diverse. Most importantly, be yourself and follow your passion.

T’la Field
Alumna, 2012

Alexis Zapantis
Alumna 2012

Alexis graduated in the class of 2012. She has completed a University degree, worked and is pursuing travel plans.

Year 12 was a very stressful year but I am thankful for having supportive teaching staff and peers. My most notable memory in year 12 was winning the House Swimming Sports (Loyola 2012).

Since leaving PCW, I graduated from University in 2016 and have been offered an internship at Deakin University. Recently, in my part time job, I received recognition for being in the top 3% of jeans sales in the State.

Currently, I am working hard to save money to travel to Europe and America—hopefully next year.

PCW taught me many things. I am able to apply skills learnt at school into both my Work and University settings. For example, Networking/Time Management/ Communication/Organisation, together with Advanced Computer skills—these are all essential for life post-school.

One of the difficulties I have faced since graduating was narrowing down my choices in regards to various career opportunities. I found this process extremely hard as I had core strengths for particular areas but am still unsure which career option I wish to pursue.

I would definitely advise you to study hard in order to achieve your goals and create more opportunities for yourself. Strive for excellence to achieve the best ATAR score you can possibly get, as this will open up endless possibilities for you.

Alexis Zapantis
Alumna, 2012
Reunions

Throughout April, May and June, we welcomed Alumnae who graduated as recently as last year, to those who graduated decades ago!

The College always takes a great interest in the lives of our Past Pupils.

Sometimes, however, contact is lost. Therefore, please take a moment to ensure that the Alumnae Office tchester@pcw.vic.edu.au has your current details, including email address.

Also, please feel free, at any time, to contact me mrimpas@pcw.vic.edu.au with news, articles and photos. I would love to feature as many Alumnae as possible in the Windsor News.

Marie Rimpas
Editor

Class of 1976—40 Years

Class of 1996—20 Years

Class of 1986—30 Years
Enrolments for Year 7 2018
Applications close 16 September 2016
Letters of Offer: 14 October 2016
Acceptance of Offer: 28 October 2016

Class of 2015 1 Year Reunion
In May this year, we were delighted to welcome back our 2015 graduates, who were, in turn, delighted to visit!

Parent Association Trivia Night
Once again we are thrilled with the attendance at this year's Game of Life Trivia night. The Parent's Association is very proud to be part of the fundraising for the PCWM VCAL Room. Our girls have spun the spinner on their individual "Game of Life". They have made choices for their educational and career paths.

Denise Galuoppo
President, Parent Association

All current research indicates their path may well change a number of times over their lifetimes. During all of these changes the one constant that can remain is the connectedness each girl feels to her school and peer group. We hope the VCAL room will contribute significantly to student school connectedness and look forward to how the funds we raised will transform four walls into a place full of memories and stories that can be remembered and shared for years to come.

We thank everyone involved in making this a great night, and look forward to seeing you all next year!

Denise Galuoppo
President, Parent Association

WOMEN OF WINDSOR ANNUAL EVENT
SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER