

St Mary's College

"Together We Do Good Things"

Issue 3, Friday 11 March 2022

From the Principal

Dear St Mary's College,

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines 'vibe' as a distinctive feeling or quality capable of being sensed. People, places, the way someone dresses or speaks can all transmit a particular vibe.

In the 1997 classic Australian film "The Castle", Darryl Kerrigan goes to court to resist the compulsory acquisition of his home. In a classic movie full of quotable lines, the judge asks Darryl's inexperienced and frazzled lawyer what element of the constitution is in breach. In response, he is told, 'There is no one section... it's just the vibe of the thing.'

In a recent staff conversation about school culture, the word vibe appeared often. Key themes that emerged in the discussion were:

- Community
- Relationships
- Collaboration
- Expectations
- Pride
- Vibe – feel

A thriving school culture shows up in a myriad of ways. In the everyday learning and wellbeing; the extra-curricular program; the cycle of events and performances that happen each year.

Last week, we hosted Sports Day, held on a re-scheduled date given that our original time fell during the period of higher COVID restrictions. It was a last-minute green light, so the team's effort leading the event was enormous. The leadership of Lorna Starrs, Laura Gilbert, Sarah Balkwill and Michelle Darby was the foundation of a successful community event. Ultimately, it happened because of the collaboration of many staff, enthusiastic student leadership, and community engagement. And it happened despite the disappointment of key people in isolation.

Strong school culture takes on a whole new level of power when held in the face of a seemingly never-ending pandemic! I could not be at the re-scheduled date and felt the loss of not being able to join the community vibe of the day. As I write this, I realise how much school culture depends on us opting in and being fully present. We create the culture.

School culture is also evident in how we respond to what is happening in our world. In recent weeks, students have been asking questions about the war in Ukraine. Steve Todd hosted a lunchtime session for the History and Politics Club, approximately 80 students from Years 5 to 12 turned up. They listened, asked questions, and engaged in conversation about something present for all of us in the news. With the Coordinator of Outreach and Immersion Peter Batty, our Justice Leaders have set up a prayer wall, are collecting donations, distributing blue and yellow ribbons, and have worked with senior students and staff to collect items for care packages for refugees from the war. The response has been heart-warming in the face of a senseless global event.

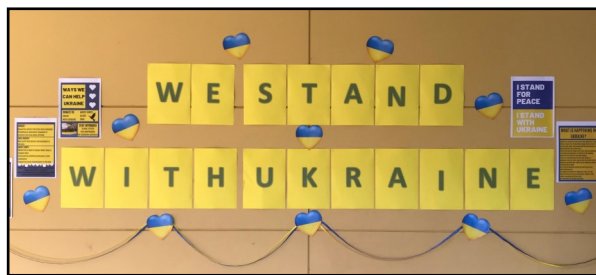
These examples of school culture at work are also beautiful illustrations of our theme in action – "Together we do good things"!



It would be interesting to talk with your girls about how they would describe the culture of St Mary's. I would love to hear about those conversations!

Enjoy the long weekend, and the extra day without school routines.

Warm regards, Clare



St Mary's College
253 Franklin Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000



T:8216 5700

F:8216 5730

W: www.stmarys.sa.edu.au

E: enquiries@stmarys.sa.edu.au

From the Deputy Principal

Curriculum Extension Activities (CEA) are a wide range of activities, linked to the curriculum, which occur outside formal classroom lessons.

The CEA programme contributes significantly to the life and culture of St Mary's College and is an important way for students and parents to become involved in the life of the community and to forge stronger connections with one another. CEA is part of the reason why many families choose to send their daughter to St Mary's College.

The CEA programme also contributes significantly towards building a sense of community for students, parents, and staff alike. Students come together to represent the school, often across year levels, at events and competitions outside of school, along with whole school gatherings before or during school. It provides opportunities for students to have very rich learning experiences outside the classroom that develops their confidence in a safe environment where they can try new things.

We have a strong sport and music programme at St Mary's College, which caters for students just starting out in these areas right through to students who have highly developed skills and are looking for extension and further experiences linked to their pathways after school. They are also an opportunity for students to undertake activities that support their passion and subsequently enhance their wellbeing at the same time.

Some of the activities we offer here at St Mary's College include a range of different sports such as badminton, soccer, football, netball, basketball, swimming, to name a few; a range of different music choirs, ensembles, and orchestras; and other interschool competitions such as debating, DaVinci Decathlon, Philosophon, etc.



If you are interested in being involved as a volunteer in one of these areas or other areas of the College, please let me know and I'll get back to you about our Volunteer procedures.

Lorna Starrs
Deputy Principal

Developing the Year 12 Creed 2022

Our first task as a Year 12 cohort was to develop a creed—a motivational statement and guide for success to remind us of our purpose as we navigate the challenges of our final year. The first challenge was ensuring we captured all voices in the process given we couldn't physically meet as a whole group. With both staff and students adapting to a hybrid model of online and in-class learning, we were flexible and creative in the way that we developed our creed. The first step in this process was for student leaders to facilitate the discussion and gather ideas from their respective Care Groups. Students were invited to share their reflections on the following:

- What values will we embody as the Senior students at St Mary's College?
- What goals do we have for our final year?
- What legacy do we want to leave as Year 12 leaders?


We collated the ideas from each Care Group, identified common themes, and through collaboration with Year 12 Justice leaders, SRC representatives and staff, developed a creed that reflects our values and expresses our vision

for the year. The process of writing our creed was a testament to fantastic collaboration, flexibility, and inclusivity of the Class of 2022.



Christina Kilishiri
Director: Senior School

2022
Creed




As the Class of 2022, we accept and acknowledge our roles and responsibilities as leaders and commit to serving the St Mary's College community.

Together in our final year, we endeavour to further understand each other's beliefs and values to foster a culture of belonging, inclusivity, and empowerment. Through genuine dialogue, we will inspire each other to become our most authentic selves.

Recognising the privilege that comes with leadership, we will create a vibrant and inviting environment that embodies the Dominican Pillars; Community, Service, Study and Prayer. We will live our school values and commit to caring for our common home.

Inspired by all leaders who have come before us, we promise to act with integrity. We will actively work towards achieving greatness, by broadening our understanding of ourselves, our community, and the world around us.



TOGETHER
WE DO
GOOD
THINGS