



Open Heart Open Arms

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2024 WEEK 7, TERM 4

YEAR 12 GRADUATION

In perfect weather conditions, it was a night to remember for the Tenison Woods College Class of 2024.

Family, friends, teachers and support staff joined together one last time, to celebrate the graduation of this wonderful cohort. The class of 2024 had an evening to remember, as they received their Certificate of Graduation from Principal David Meziniec, Head of Senior School, Kate Carroll and supported by Fr. Peter Zwaans of the Mount Gambier Catholic Parish.

Graduates joined together as they watched a special video presentation, before dancing the night away! Newly recruited AFL player Angus Clarke was acknowledged by Principal David (who is now a Bombers supporter!) We look forward following the journey of these young adolescents, and thank everyone who made this a fantastic event!



From the Principal



Year 12 Graduation

The Graduation on Friday 22 November at the Barn Palais was not only an opportunity to celebrate the journey of the students in our community over the years, but also an opportunity to wish them well as they greet life and take their place in our community.



In amongst the thanks to the students themselves for the significant contribution they have made to the school community; of all they have done, but mostly for all that they have been to us; I also offered thanks to their parents for the support of our community and the partnership we have shared together. It was also a time to extend appreciation to our dedicated staff for their steadfast commitment to these young people and their families, as well as the priests of our South East Deanery, Father Peter Zwaans, Father Olek Stirrat, and Father Arun Dev (in Naracoorte) for their outstanding support to the College in a range of significant ways.

In offering our gratitude for the significant contribution the graduates have made you have made to the school community, I encouraged them now to be citizens for the world, where they will use their experiences and gifts to SHINE and SWAGGER, knowing that they are loved unconditionally by our God, who is inviting you to a full and abundant life. And with that confidence may our graduates be the type of person who will, on a daily basis, live with an open heart and open arms" so that others can "let their light shine," and they will say of them "you are the type of person who makes us better."

Junior School and Middle School Rites of Passage

In amongst the transition days which are occurring we look forward to the Year 6 Graduation at 9:00am Monday 9 December, Poplars Concert 5:30pm that Monday evening, the Middle School awards Ceremony Tuesday 10 December at 9:00am and the Year 9 Graduation at 5:00pm that evening. Thursday 12 December will see us celebrate the ELCC Stepping Stones Kindy Graduations at 10:00am and 2:00pm. We look forward to these significant milestones in the learning journey of our students and understand that they are also opportunities to reflect on how we have made lived the school's theme this year of "open heart and open arms."

Senior Student Leaders Planning Day

I had the wonderful pleasure of witnessing the strong, committed and thoughtful discernment of our College 2025 Senior Leaders, who conducted their planning day this Monday 25 November under the guidance of Tania Sigley, Sally Telford, David Cole, Bernadette Fisher and other committed staff. It was a pleasure to hear about the gifts of the student leadership team, how they wanted to work together and with the school community and also how they wanted to be remembered as student leaders. In amongst the wonderful discernment about the types of initiatives which would assist us as the Tenison Woods College community to feel connected and collaborative, it was clear that this student leadership group is committed to serving our community so that all will enjoy the wonderful experiences our school community can offer.

Advent, Christmas and Gifts

We commence Advent Sunday 1 December. During Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas and the birth of Jesus, we are drawn to think of gifts. Likewise, as we conclude the school year, my appreciation is extended to the students, staff and parents who are the precious gifts of our community. I trust, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus and the wonderful gift for our humanity, that we are also drawn to see the people in our lives as gifts who have assisted us in our individual and communal journey. I trust that we have also learnt to look beyond the wrapping and external presentations of those gifts to see their intent, hopes and care they have for us.

My gratitude is also extended to the many people who have contributed their services to the school community in 2024. Thank you for your commitment to living with an "open heart and open arms." The quality of education at Tenison Woods College is due to the contribution of many people who support our committed staff, most particularly the members of the School Board and its subcommittees, LAP volunteers, and all those who have volunteered their service in a variety of ways throughout the College community. Thank you for your contributions and I trust there is a sense of satisfaction, knowing that you have been a gift to students and played a part in the ultimate quality of your child's learning, and that of many others.

The Giving Tree

As a College community we annually erect the Giving Tree in the Front Office, and this is an opportunity for everyone in our community to share the joy of Christmas. Gifts and money donated to the Giving Tree will be shared between AC Care and Vinnies who will assist local families this Christmas.

Families may also wish to consider the gifts that ensure others not necessarily known to us enjoy a better Christmas and life; a gift that keeps on giving. Such donations can be made by visiting the websites of such preferred Catholic charities as Caritas, Vinnies and Mercy Gifts. Other charities to consider in such a way may be Oxfam, World Vision, Salvation Army and The Smith Family.

Thanksgiving Mass

On Thursday 28 November at 9:00am we will gather in the Barrie Holmes Stadium for our whole College Thanksgiving Mass. At this celebration of Mass, an event which is the source and summit of our Christian lives, we celebrate and give thanks to God for the many gifts and blessings we have received throughout this school year. We remember our successes and our struggles, our joys and our sorrows in a year that we have "opened our hearts and our arms." We come with grateful hearts and spirits to meet our gracious God in Word and Sacrament.

Celebrating as a large learning community, that is comprised of and nurtures smaller learning communities, we will ask for God's blessing especially on our Year 6's moving into Middle School, our Year 9's into Senior school and our Year 12's who move into a journey beyond school.

Planning Stage 3 of our Master Plan

Behind the scenes in the past eighteen months a consultation and financial planning process has occurred to plan the next stage of our master plan. We are enacting a bold master plan that accentuates our ecological footprint well into the future and ensures the very best experiences for our young for many years. Next year we will finalise approvals of stage 3 of our Master Plan, accentuating Health, Physical Education, Outdoor Education and Performing Arts, and we will commence the building process during the year.

BYOD – YEAR 6 Families, ready for Year 7 in 2025

As the year flies by and we look to 2025, I remind families that if they are thinking about purchasing a device for next year, check out our Bring Your Own Device page on our website. The link is attached here:

<https://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/byod-information/byod-purchase-portal>

You can also find this page in SEQTA Engage by choosing the Portals option and selecting - [BYOD Parent / Guardian Information](#).

We encourage families to think about their child's needs a little earlier than they might normally to ensure that the device is ready for the start of 2025.

Key dates for the commencement of 2025:

A full list of 2025 key dates will follow soon, but to assist with planning I inform our College community of dates to commence the 2025 academic year:

Wednesday 22 January 2025 All Teaching Staff commence
Thursday 23 January 2025 Book collection day and staff planning day
Monday 27 January 2025 Australia Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 28 January 2025 Poplars, Rec, Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 commence Term 1.
Wednesday 29 January 2025 Years 1-6 and Years 8 and 9 commence Term 1.

God Bless,
David Mezinec | Principal



CIM Team News

Advent

The Church season of Advent will begin this Sunday. Advent is a period of preparation, extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. One of the most well recognised symbols of Advent is the Advent Wreath. The wreath has three purple candles and a pink candle surrounded by greenery representing life. Each Sunday, a new candle is lit, and the themes of Advent are focused upon; Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. In the lead up to Christmas, it is easy to become caught up in the busyness of commercialism of society. Advent helps us to focus on the importance of Christmas where Jesus brought love, hope, peace and joy to the world.

Junior School - Blessing of the Cribs Assembly

This Friday, 29 November, the Junior School will celebrate the Blessing of the Cribs in the Barrie Holmes Stadium during their assembly at 2:00pm. Fr Peter will say a prayer of blessing for over the cribs, before they take pride of place in the homes of our families. Students are encouraged to bring the crib from their Nativity Scene or if this is not possible just one piece from their nativity. Many classes will also create a nativity piece in class to bring home.

Carols in the Church

All families and community members are invited to join us for our 'Carols in the Church' event to be held in St Paul's Catholic Church on Thursday 5 December at 6pm. This is always a lovely celebration as we prepare for the joy of Christmas and showcases the wonderful talents of students and staff.



Masses and Liturgies at TWC

Mass is celebrated each Thursday of the term and is led by a different year level each week. Due to a shortened term, some Year Level Masses will take place on a Tuesday, indicated below. All are welcome to join us for these masses.

Upcoming Masses and Liturgies

Thursday 28 November 9:00am Whole School Mass (BHS)
 Tuesday 3 December 11:20 Reception Liturgy, 12:10 Year 3 Liturgy
 Thursday 5 December 9:10am Year 8 Mass

FROM THE PARISH

Christmas Nativity Play

This year we will be filming the Christmas Nativity Play which will be presented at the Christmas Masses in the Parish churches. We invite children to register their interest in being part of the play with Sally Telford (telfs@tenison.catholic.edu.au). Filming will take place on Sunday 8 December from 12pm.

Multicultural Shared Lunch

On Sunday, 8th of December there will be a multicultural shared lunch after the 11am Mass in St Paul's.



Upcoming Key Dates

WEEK 7

Wednesday 27 November

- College Board Meeting

Thursday 28 November

- 2025 Year 12 Beginning of Year
- End of Year Whole School Mass, 9:00am, BHS
- Year 3 Storm Boy Learning Exhibition | 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Friday 29 November

- 2025 Year 12 Beginning of Year
- Last day for Year 11's
- Years R-6 Assembly 'Blessing of the cribs' | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
-

WEEK 8

Sunday 1 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide
- First Sunday of Advent

Monday 2 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide
- 2025 Year 7 Orientation - Day 1
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp A, Robe. (Ryan)

Tuesday 3 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide
- 2025 Year 7 Orientation - Day 2
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp A, Robe. (Ryan)
- STAR's Giving Tree Shopping Spree
- Reception Liturgy, Chapel 11:30am-12:00pm
- Years 1-6 Orientation Visits, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday 4 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide

Thursday 5 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp B, Robe. (Aldridge)
- Carols Daytime Rehearsals, St. Paul's Church 9:00am-2:30pm
- Year 8 Mass 9:10am-10:10am, Chapel
- Giving Tree Stall
- Carols In The Church, 6:00pm-7:30pm St. Paul's Church

Friday 6 December

- Year 10 EIF Experience, Adelaide
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp B, Robe. (Aldridge)
- Last Day for Year 10's
- Year 1 End of Year Excursion, Wulanda
- Student Leaders Appreciation Morning Tea, 11:00am-11:30am

Saturday 7 December

- Second Sunday of Advent





Year 12 Student Angus Clarke Drafted To The Essendon Football Club

Congratulations to Angus Clarke who was announced as pick number 39 in the AFL Draft. Angus departed on Sunday to Victoria to join the Essendon Football Club. We wish Angus all the best and look forward to following his journey!



Scarlett Strachan Obtains SACE Credits Whilst In Year 7

Scarlett Strachan has had 10 Stage 1 credits (Year 11) added to her SACE statement. The SACE Board recognise the rigours of learning music and sitting Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) exams. We look forward to seeing many more students strive to complete grade 5 and above AMEB exams to see them achieve credits towards their SACE. Congratulations, Scarlett!

Penny Mansell | Head Of Performing Arts



From Little Things, Big Things Grow!

How amazing is this! A sunflower seed was given to one of our College grandparents this year by student Harry Leo, on Grandparents and Friends Day. After a lot of love and care, have a look at the size that it has grown!



Host A Japanese Exchange Student - A Cultural Experience Awaits!

Do you have a spare room and a welcoming heart? Tenison Woods College is seeking a local family to provide paid homestay accommodation for a term or longer, for a male 17 year old student from Japan, completing his senior studies at Tenison.

What's Required?

- A private bedroom for the student
- Unlimited WiFi access

All household members over 18 must have a current Working with Children check (or be willing to obtain one through the College's front office).

This is a unique opportunity to introduce your family to Japanese culture while sharing your home and daily life. Hosting an exchange student is a rewarding experience that fosters lifelong connections and mutual learning.

If you're ready to embark on this cultural journey, we'd love to hear from you! If you're interested in this enriching opportunity, please reach out to Yolande Langford, Homestay Coordinator, at langy@tenison.catholic.edu.au or call 8725 5455.

Year 3 Storm Boy Exhibition

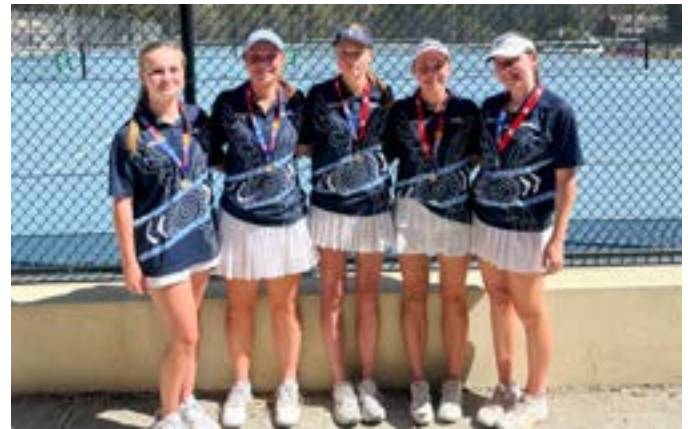
You are invited to join us in celebrating the amazing work we have completed during our 'Storm Boy' Novel Study. We will be showcasing the reading reflection booklets, humpy creations and our character haiku poems.

**Thursday Week 7
28th November 2024**

YEAR 3 HUB- MACKILLOP BUILDING

2:30PM- 3:30PM

light refreshments and nibbles provided



Year 9/10 Girls Division 2 Tennis Joint Winners

Last Tuesday, five Year 9/10 girls competed in the Division 2 tennis finals at Tea Tree Gully. Aiming for back-to-back glory, the girls got off to a fantastic start with convincing wins in both doubles and singles matches against Maitland Lutheran School, securing a dominant 5-1 sets and 34-8 games victory.

As the day grew warmer, the competition intensified as we faced Aberfoyle Park High School. After some tight tiebreak games, we secured an overall victory with 4-2 sets and 31-18 games.

The final match, which determined the first-place winner, pitted Tenison Woods College against Seaview High School. As the girls fatigued, the matches became tighter. Unfortunately, both doubles matches were lost, meaning we needed to win all of the singles matches. Two out of the four singles games went to tiebreakers with some huge fight backs. With a 3-set-all result, the count-back to games ended in a 27-game tie, making both schools joint winners, a fitting conclusion for the top two teams of the day.

Maggie, Ella, Kiersten, Zoe, and Chloe were relentless all day, showcasing incredible sportsmanship and determination. Maggie's composure, Ella's quick reflexes, Kiersten's resilience, Zoe's competitive spirit, and Chloe's energy were key to the team's success. They supported each other every step of the way, playing with skill and grit. Congratulations to all involved!



Canberra Camp - A Huge Success

Students from our school have recently undertaken, an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$90 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Carlee Ransom | Year 6 Teacher

YEAR 12 GRADUATION



YEAR 12 GRADUATION



CAROLS IN THE CHURCH

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

6:00PM | ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH | PENOLA ROAD, MT GAMBIER

FEATURING:

- IGNITE CHOIR
- BLAZE CHOIR
- CAROLS BAND
- BOYS CHOIR
- GIRLS CHOIR
- SENIOR VOCAL ENSEMBLE
- PARISH CHOIR

ENTRANCE FEE - GOLD COIN DONATION

**\$2.00 CANDLES FOR SALE OR
BATTERY OPERATED CANDLE**



9SHINE CAMP WRAPS UP FOR 2024

There were heartfelt reunions and warm embraces as students reconnected with their families. Over the course of last week, students challenged themselves to overcome closed mindsets, embracing new perspectives and experiences along the way. A quote from the final morning - "I can't remember the last time I was inside or saw carpet." The 9SHINE experience was one that the students will remember for the rest of their lives.



OUR LITTLEST LEARNERS JOINING US NEXT YEAR!

Last week, we welcomed our newest members of Tenison Woods College for their Transition Days in the 'Big School' in the MacKillop Reception Community. The photos and the smiles say it all! Looking forward to following the journey of this group as they start their formal education at the College in 2025.



HOLY CARP FISHING COMP PHOTOS

The fishing competition was designed to cull the carp population in the Valley lake, our students did not catch any despite their valiant efforts. I was really impressed with the high standard of behaviour from our students!! They did us proud!

