

FCJ COLLEGE

Benalla

Newsletter



2023



TERM 4 8 DECEMBER 2023

Dear FCJ College community,

The season of Advent, as we head toward the birth of Jesus, is a time to reflect on the things that we have in our lives and consider those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Youth Ministry students have recently created hampers to donate to St Vinnie's for their Christmas Appeal and it brings me great joy to see these students actively working to improve the experience of another person and in doing so, bringing to life the Kingdom of God in our local community.

Our annual Awards for Excellence evening was held this week, giving us a chance to recognise and celebrate the wonderful achievements our students have made across the year. Every day, there are students achieving a personal best in classrooms that are humming, in learning spaces that are always thriving and where they are being supported by skilled, professional staff. At the awards night, we provided a centre stage, and the opportunity for individuals to take the spotlight – to shine – and to receive the recognition they deserve for their hard work. I take this moment to congratulate all the award winners across the College.

As we rapidly approach the end of our 2023 school year, I look back with joy at the year that has been and thank God for the blessings that have been gifted to our school and community. I thank the wonderful staff that we have at our school for their tireless work, their commitment to our students and their efforts to ensure that all students can be the best version of themselves. I pray that they all have a safe, peaceful and refreshing Christmas break.

I also take this opportunity to thank our FCJ College families. Thank you for placing your trust in us to assist you in the important role of educating your sons and daughters. It is a privilege to walk alongside you in companionship. We pray that all our families and students will also find the Christmas break refreshing, safe and peaceful. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Each year, there are staff moving out of the College and into the College. This year is no different. I thank Ella Ogden and Eloise McDonald for their work as AFL trainees this year (always a difficult role joining a community in a different capacity). I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Carolyn Mackenzie for her service to our school over the last four years as she retires at the end of the year. We also thank Mr Mark Chynoweth for his dedicated service to our school, especially in the PE and sports area, for the past 3 years. We wish him well as he starts a new role closer to family.

We take this moment to welcome the following staff to our school from 2024:

- Amanda Clay (PE/Health/Science)
- Cheree Tregoning (PE/Health/Maths)
- Kursty Bookham (Japanese)
- Stephanie Symes (Humanities/Drama)
- Alexandra Keast (Health)

I know as you meet these people over the course of 2024 you will make them feel welcome and support them in their transition to our great school.

Go well and have a safe and Holy Christmas.

Shaun Mason
Principal

DOBSONS

Look smart

FCJ College Extended Trading Hours 2023-24

December 2023

Friday	8/12/23	1:00PM - 4:00PM	Last Day of Trade
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January 2024

Wednesday	17/1/24	10:00AM - 3:00PM	
Friday	19/1/24	10:00AM - 3:00PM	
Tuesday	23/1/24	1:00PM - 4:00PM	
Wednesday	24/1/24	1:00PM - 4:00PM	
Thursday	25/1/24	1:00PM - 4:00PM	
Tuesday	30/1/24	8:00AM - 11:00AM	
Friday	2/2/24	1:00PM - 4:00PM	

Standard Term Trading Hours

Friday 1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Make an Appointment

For personal fitting appointments outside of shop hours please contact the uniform shop on 5762 1222 or email fcj@dobsons.com.au

Or save time and shop online!

 dobsons.com.au 

A ONE NIGHT COMMUNITY CHOIR FOR EVERYONE

small TOWN SING

CHRISTMAS FRENZY

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER 7pm

Tickets \$15 online—visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CNBPP>
Or \$20 at the door. Drinks available at bar prices.
Under 18s to be accompanied by an adult

VENUE: MUNRO & SARGEANT CAFE
(Benalla Art Gallery)

Wear Something Christmassy

E: info@adamtoms.com



Proudly supporting Tomorrow Today assisting families
in need at Christmas

What's On

December

8	Last day of Term 4 for students
15	FCJ College Office Closes

January

18	College Office Opens
31	All Students Return

FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA 2024 COLLEGE CAPTAINS



Lily Meehan



Georgia Morrison

Congratulations to the newly appointed FCJ College Captains and Vice Captains of 2024. May their passion inspire positive change, unity, and excellence in the academic year ahead. We wish them all the best as they guide and represent their fellow students on this exciting journey.



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA 2024 COLLEGE VICE CAPTAINS



Abby Ogden



Thomas Leith

Congratulations





Honour Roll

The Honour Roll is the most prestigious award presented by FCJ College. This award is sponsored by the College Alumni. Every year, two students from the graduating class are chosen. These are students who, over the whole course of their time at FCJ College, have demonstrated a positive attitude to all school endeavours, achieved either academic or personal excellence, worked actively within the school for the benefit of others, represented the school, demonstrated Christian leadership qualities and have provided a positive role model for others. The recipients of this award, above all, have demonstrated pride in their College, a willingness to serve others and embody the ethos and values of FCJ College. I am pleased to announce the Honour Roll recipients for 2023 are Hannah Kubeil & Georgia O'Brien.



2023 Awards for Excellence Evening

FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

Dean Davy Award

The Dean Davy Award is the highest academic prize presented to one student in each year level who has received the highest number of Academic Excellence awards representing an A/A+ average throughout the year.

DION HOK
CHRYSA NTA SOLEDAD
MATILDA HOPKINS
SOPHIE HAMMOND
BLAKE SPOKES



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

Marie Madeleine Award

The Marie Madeleine Award recognises the student who most demonstrates positive leadership in their year level. The student leads by example and displays generosity and thoughtfulness to others by offering support. The recipient has a consistent positive attitude to school activities and participates willingly. They represent the values and beliefs of our school and the Charism of the FCJ Society foundress, Marie Madeleine d'Hoüet.

CHARLEE BRETHERTON
ELEANOR RENKIN
POPPY BROOMHALL
MEG COOKE
EMMA TOLLIDAY



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

Academic Growth

Mason Willett
Edmund Austin
Daina Harrop
Alida Ferguson
Zeke Mundy
Imogen Williams
Shaely Baldo
Ariel Margrie
Owen Tilton
Lachlan Campbell

Xavier Rhodes
Alice Mooney
Joseph Boyd
Bella Trait
Arron Mackrell
Imogen Putt
Lachlan Martin
Lily McLean
Lola Edmonds
Shailah McNamara



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

Spirit & Leadership

Charlee Bretherton
Daina Harrop
Noah Leith
Lachlan Doyle
Eleanor Renkin
Anaav Singh
Ruby Richardson
Keira Brown
Poppy Broomhall
Jayhe-Lee Quattrocchi

Bryce Cooney
Jack Walker
Meg Cooke
Zander Newham
Brayden Quattrocchi
Elizabeth Ireland
Riley Mayes
Alison Vecht
Emma Tolliday
Zanthe Newham



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

Academic Excellence

Charlee Bretherton
Abigail Sambell
Dion Hok
Noah Leith
Chrysanta Soledad
Amelia Keen
Kadey Macklin
Kirra Follett
Matilda Hopkins
Libby Ferguson

Molly Hayes
Tanisha Deao
Bronte MacPhee
Sophie Hammond
Jasmine Milner
Elizabeth Ireland
Lily Meehan
Ruby Jackson
Charles Thompson
Blake Spokes





PBL Olympics

To wrap up the school year on a high note, Year 9 students organised an exciting PBL Olympics event. The session was filled with a variety of fun activities, from balloon races and pop the balloon to donut on a string, funny hat making, and more. Games like mini golf, quoits, lolly poker, staring contests, cup pong, hangman, and Pictionary were also eagerly contested. It was heart-warming to see that traditional games can still bring friendly competition and shared joy to this generation. It was wonderful to see every student enthusiastically taking part.



ICS HUT PROJECT

Greetings Wonderful School Community!

Term 4 in Intercultural Studies has been nothing short of a creative whirlwind for our talented Year 7 students. Their exploration into the world of Aboriginal shelters and dwellings has yielded remarkable results, showcasing not only their learning but their incredible teamwork and innovation.

As part of their assessment, our Year 7 scholars formed small groups and took on the challenge of bringing Aboriginal shelters to life through sculpture. The catch? They could only use indigenous plants to fashion their structures – a true celebration of our unique Australian heritage.

Over a thrilling two-week span, our students transformed classrooms into vibrant workshops, with pencils sketching, hands moulding, and minds buzzing with ideas. From initial design to the hands-on creation and reflective pondering, every step was a testament to their commitment and creativity.

Now, the big reveal – the outcomes of this group project are nothing short of fantastic! The structures crafted by our Year 7 maestros are not just sculptures; they are living tributes to the intersection of culture and imagination. The hard work and dedication poured into each creation are evident, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

A huge round of applause for our Year 7 stars! Your passion, teamwork, and dedication have left an indelible mark on our school, enriching our understanding of diverse cultures and fostering a spirit of creative exploration. Well done Year 7s – your brilliance shines through!

Keep inspiring us all!

Abby Falzon (Teacher)



PBL FOOD DRIVE

Our Year 9 students have been learning about 'Food Security' and what it will take to feed our world's growing population. The students took meaningful action by organising and executing their own food drive, with the purpose of contributing to people in need this Christmas.

This collaborative effort reflects not only the students' understanding of the challenges related to food security but also their determination to be part of the solution. By actively participating in the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, the Year 9 students have demonstrated a sense of social responsibility and generosity that goes beyond the classroom.

Jayhe-Lee Quattrochi played a pivotal role in establishing the partnership and coordinating the delivery of the collected items, with the team of people she works with at Woolworths. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Year 9 students for their outstanding initiative and generosity.



St Vinnies Christmas Appeal



For the past two years FCJ College has had the privilege to be involved with the St Vinnies Christmas appeal. In supporting the Catholic social teaching principles of Solidarity, Common Good and Human dignity, we have raised money from casual dress days and collected donations from our families to assist in the making of pamper packs.

The Youth Ministry class spent time this week preparing the packs for St Vinnies.

A very big thank you to all of our families who once again have contributed to our fundraising initiatives this year.



VET Community Services

For Head Start, the new VET Community Services class for 2024 were tasked with bringing joy to more people surrounding Christmas. Students examined how the holidays can be lonely for some and the hardships that follow due to financial difficulty, especially on parents to provide entertainment and presents for children.

Each small group created an action plan for a mini project. These included creating craft packs and activity booklets that will be delivered to St Joseph's primary school for students who may need a little extra cheer over the school holidays. One group also organised a Christmas themed scavenger hunt in the Benalla Gardens for 82 accompanied by Mrs Burton. Well done to the winning team who completed the hunt in 11 minutes and 21 seconds, earning them a group canteen voucher!

We are keen to conduct as many community projects as possible next year in the fields of childcare, aged care, disability support, youth work and community environmental causes; so, if you have any community links or groups that would like to participate with our Year 11 group, please contact Miss Baker:
amber.baker@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au



Year 9 Woodwork

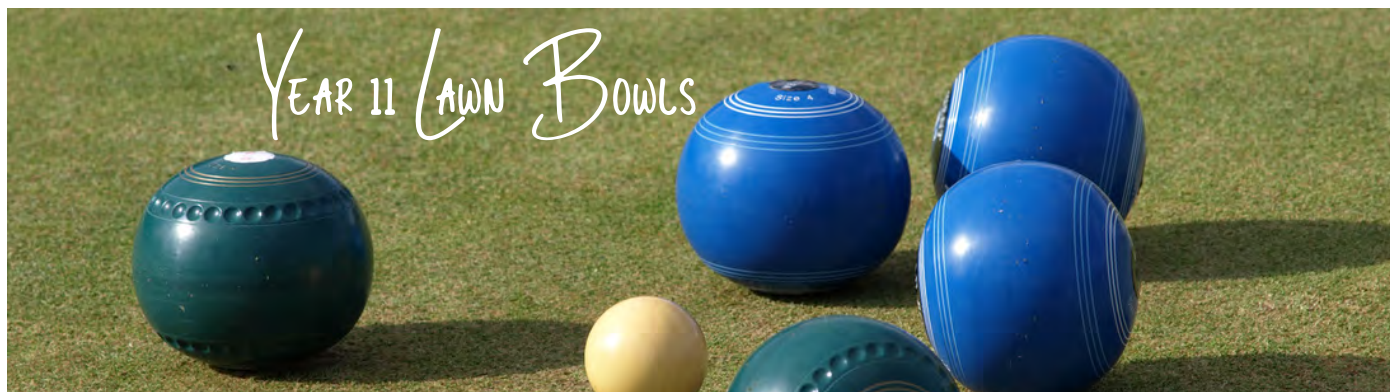
Students have been completing their projects constructing a utility box and a smaller wooden storage box. The utility box saw students work from plans to accurately reproduce a model to the same dimensions. The small storage box allowed students to build a box that suited their needs but needed to be made using only a 1000mm in overall length for the ends and sides. The boxes varied in size and shape, allowing the students to problem solve and personalise their work.





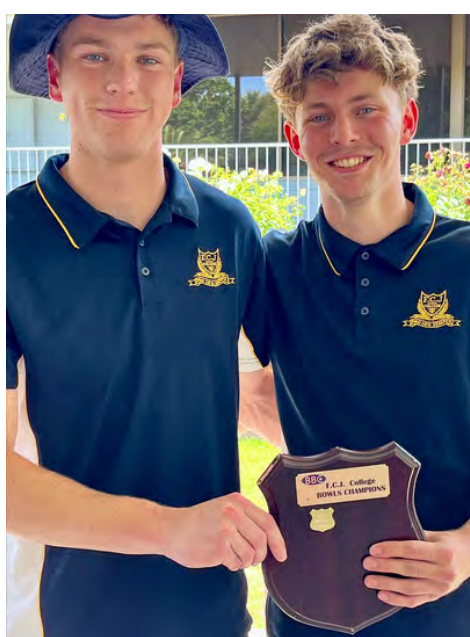
The Year 8 Language Japanese class celebrated World Food Day by participating in the Onigiri Action campaign. As part of this event, the students had the opportunity to make rice balls, also known as onigiri to support children in need.





On Thursday 23 November the Year 11 students were lucky enough to share an afternoon of lawn bowls with a group of kind and patient local bowlers at the Benalla Bowls Club.

A huge thank you to Julieann Richardson and Ian Hobson from Benalla Bowls Club for arranging a weekly bowls session during our lunch breaks that culminated in a win to James Cooke and Joe Berry with the last bowl of the day against Jamie Davis and Tess Walker.



Year 9s enjoying a afternoon at the pool to celebrate their school year prior to Headstart.



Year 7 Bubbles and Beach Ball Party

The Year 7 students finished the year on a high, with a chance to celebrate and enjoy each other's company, share food and play games at the Garden's Oval. True to promise, bubbles and beach balls added extra fun to the festivities, much to their delight.





The Yr 9 Food class has been learning how to decorate gingerbread houses. These are all being gifted to staff and students as a lovely surprise.



Love

Advent's week of love gives you the opportunity to show love towards your family and people in need.



Peace

Dear God, please help all of the people in Israel and Gaza to find peace within themselves and for others. Help them see that hope and peace are important. Please help them see that all of the fighting should stop. Please respond to their prayers and ours.

Amen



Love

Christmas is a time to express our love for others.

This pressure to give gifts, the stress of finding the right gift, and the pressure to spend resources has resulted in Christmas often being seen as more of a commercial event rather than the spiritual love that we know is the deeper meaning of Christmas.



A Woman for our Time

Venerable Marie Madeleine d'Houët... An 'older sister' who prays with us

November 2023 A newsletter issued by the Faithful Companions of Jesus Gumley House Generalate, TW7 6DN, UK

There have been ghastly images on our TV screens in recent weeks, but perhaps the most heart-rending are those of the premature babies in Gaza. One cannot begin to imagine the suffering involved. Giving birth in a war zone, parting from a new-born child and fleeing to an unknown future. This grief has no boundary and affects us all.

In a public audience in April 2021, Pope Francis reflected, *'One person's pain is everyone's pain, and one person's happiness is transmitted to someone else's soul. There is no grief ... that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace.'*

Pope Francis continues with a reflection on the communion of saints.

'When we pray, we never do so alone: even if we do not think about it, we are immersed in a majestic river of invocations that precedes us and proceeds after us. Contained in the prayers we find in the Bible, that often resound in the liturgy, are the traces of ancient stories, of prodigious liberations, of deportations and sad exiles, of emotional returns, of praise ringing out before the wonders of creation ... And thus, these voices are passed on from generation to generation, in a continual intertwining between personal experience and that of the people and the humanity to which we belong'.

The flight into Egypt of those 31 premature babies, is intertwined with our human story. The babies have low oxygen levels, one has an eye injury, several have low birth weight. Four of the mothers travelled with the babies but the status and whereabouts of the other parents is not known.

'Prayer is always born again: each time ... we open our hearts to God, we find ourselves in the company of anonymous saints and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure.'



There is no grief ... that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace.

Venerable Marie Madeleine d'Houët, the Foundress of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, is one such saint who intercedes for us as *'an older sister'* who has preceded us on this same human adventure.

Her story is one of joy and suffering, and a constant search for the better choice—and of growth in holiness. The story of her *'human adventure'* is miraculous - it is not explained in simply human terms.

Marie Madeleine experienced a longing to do good to others. This heart-felt **Longing** pulled and tugged her along the path of human adventure.

She longed to be a companion of Jesus and though she didn't set out to found a religious congregation this is where her human adventure took her.

A continual intertwining

'And thus, these voices are passed on from generation to generation, in a continual intertwining between personal experience and that of the people and the humanity to which we belong'. Pope Francis

A retired paediatrician who lives in USA and a friend of the FCJ Sisters, reflecting on her past experiences, writes...

"I see parenting as the hardest, most important job of all, the most important calling in the world, as well as the most rewarding.

In my medical practice, when I would follow the pregnancy of a mother and help in the delivery of her newborn, I was witness to an obvious miracle. Less dramatic but more profound is the courage, unconditional love, commitment and energy in the day-to-day, night-to-night care of the mother and father for their child. Marie Madeleine did not have the support and reassurance of her husband to share this responsibility and sometimes the worries. Long before establishing a new religious congregation, she learned about selflessness and dedication. Probably she was also humbled by the thought that God had entrusted this new human being to her care.

As a paediatrician I saw parents at vulnerable times -when their children were ill. It was usually an ear or throat infection; not infrequently a revisit after three days because "She won't take the antibiotic".

A single mother like Marie Madeleine may have help off and on, but usually not at night or early morning to help get the medicine down. Much more serious was the leukaemia requiring days of vigil and fear in the hospital while their child received chemotherapy. I will never forget the mother who, expecting to give birth to a healthy baby, delivered a baby with a serious congenital abnormality requiring lifelong special care. With help, the parents cared for and loved this child as their other two. What you see in such parents, underlying their love, is amazing grit and determination to do

what must be done. In the case of Marie Madeleine, there is the story of her son's stubbornness as regards learning to read. This went on for a while, until her mother-in-law declared that she would take charge. This opened Marie Madeleine's eyes to the need to be more stern with her son, and soon the reading improved! Every parent of a first born is on a steep learning curve about raising a child! In these years, and then during Eugene's schooling with the Jesuits, perhaps Marie Madeleine gradually realized the fundamental importance of a good education for the full development of boys and girls.

Once I retired from doctoring, I worked in our local library. Almost every day I would see a father with his older autistic son, who lacked many basic communication skills. We all heard his vocalizations as his father took him to the books on farm equipment. "He likes to see pictures of combines and hay bailers. He wants to understand how the bailer ties the bales." Being a parent forces one to step out of one's selfish egoic needs and focus on another's needs. Not all parents are good parents, but most are. They are not perfect but they are saints. I would say that Marie Madeleine was/is a saint if only for her lifelong dedication as a mother and then grandmother."

Nancy Thompson USA

Advent, a time of waiting, will soon be here.

*This is a time for making the pathways
of the human adventure
a little easier
a time for making the
rough patches smoother.*



Marie Madeleine,
is an 'older sister' who has
preceded us on this
human adventure.

**Let us ask her to intercede with us,
especially for
suffering mothers.**

A continual intertwining