



flame

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OLSH College Bentleigh Opportunities

From the Editor

This issue of *Flame* magazine presents the myriad of opportunities available to OLSH College Bentleigh students from travelling in Australia and overseas to learning for the future.

The Message from the Principal, Anne O’Loughlin, on page 1 recounts the significance of Feast Day and she remembers it as a highlight of 2016. The impressive way the students organised the day, with the help of staff, resulted in \$15,000 being raised to support the OLSH Sisters Missions in Kiribati and Papua New Guinea, a fantastic effort.

The unique Year 9 program called Issoudun provides some unforgettable experiences for students. It includes a one month residential stay in the Southern Highlands of NSW and a specially designed curriculum which provides life skills as the article on page 3 explains.

The article ‘Travel Opportunitites’ outlines the immersions and study tours offered at OLSH College Bentleigh. In the last school holidays, students travelled to the Northern Territory, the Pacific island of Kiribati and to China. Read all about their wonderful experiences on pages 4 and 5.

The Alumnae are a valued part of the community and you can read about the journeys of past students on pages 6 and 7. Many milestone reunions are held throughout the year and they provide the chance for old friends to reconnect. There are some great photos on pages 8 and 9 of these special events. Alumnae also assist by generously donating funds to the College, which we sincerely appreciate, and they are listed on page 8.

The Parents and Friends Association kindly give their time to support the College at many events and activities, such as the recent St Paul’s School fete; read about the P & F news on page 10 and about their exciting plans for next year.

There are two teacher profiles on pages 11 and 12 of this edition and they describe the paths taken by Howard Liston and Antonella La Greca during their long and proud association with the College.

Learning for the future is a focus at OLSH College and the article on page 13 explains how the curriculum is developed with the job markets of the future in mind.

I would like to thank the members of the OLSH community who contributed articles, information and photographs for this edition of *Flame*, including:

Anne O’Loughlin, Megan Donohue, Lynn Egan, Dina Oro, Linda Naylor, Carolyn Graffeo, Gina Coetzee, Robyn Rayment, Stephanie Cook, Shane O’Neil, Jacqui Rémond, Bernadette Vaux, Deanna Taylor, Elizabeth Meyers, Justine Paech, Angela Sorpreso, Howard Liston, Antonella La Greca, Tania Tickyj, Jacinta Moore, Julie Perrin and Rebecca Nielsen.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of the wonderful opportunities offered to OLSH College Bentleigh students in this issue of *Flame* magazine.

Annie Opray
Director of Development and Community



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 Follow OLSH College

Cover photo: Incoming 2017 OLSH College Captain Piwainashe Kahonde

Rear cover photo: 2016 OLSH College Student Leadership Team (absent Kate Tranter)

Disclaimer

All care has been taken to verify that the information contained in this edition of *Flame* is correct. However, we apologise if any inadvertent discrepancies have occurred. Please contact the College if you would like to reproduce any of the material in this edition of the *Flame* magazine.

Message from the Principal

Recently at our Year 12 Graduation Mass, held at St Peter's East Bentleigh, Fr Michael Sierakowski referred to the possibility of the current century becoming known as the century for women. The more I think about this idea the more it fills me with excitement about all the opportunities our students will be presented with in the years to come.

At OLSH College Bentleigh we place particular emphasis on the belief that OLSH girls can do anything. This phrase is often quoted and has become a source of inspiration and motivation in our community. There is no better proof of this than our graduating Class of 2016, who have grown into confident and capable young women. I watched with pride as they, along with the staff, organised a very successful Feast Day. They selected the theme 'Pacific Paradise', promoted the day, secured donations and made sure all their fellow students were on board. As a result, they raised \$15,000 to support the OLSH Sisters' Missions in Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. This is an outstanding example of the tangible generosity for others.



Anne O'Loughlin addressed the Class of 2016 final assembly

In the midst of the celebrations of the Feast Day we were provided with the opportunity to tap into our OLSH story. A beautiful liturgy at the beginning of the day set the scene for all of us who are in any way connected to this great College. It is important that we know and continue to remember our OLSH story. Each year and at every age our link with it will be somewhat different because we have grown, life experience has changed us, learning and wisdom have become a part of us.

As many of us know, it was Fr Jules Chevalier msc who gave Mary the title, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. His wisdom and inspiration was about Mary as a woman and a mother, the one closest to the Heart of Jesus, the Heart of God.

Mary is a mother for us.

She is full of tenderness.

None of our needs escape her.

Whenever we suffer trials, sorrows or difficulties her heart is moved with pity.

Jules Chevalier, Meditations II

Whilst we fondly call our College OLSH we should always remember the title behind the name proudly, in this century for women, we are Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College.

Regnet Christus!

May Christ Reign

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart pray for us.

Anne O'Loughlin
Principal



Students supported the Feast Day theme 'Pacific Paradise'

Dynamic Learning Spaces and Convent Redevelopment

Research studies show there is a direct correlation between dynamic learning spaces and academic outcomes. Students who learn in a light, bright and modern setting are more likely to achieve better study results.



OLSH College recognises the importance of providing students with areas conducive to collaborative learning as well as quiet study zones. The Board, together with the Principal Anne O’Loughlin, have devoted many hours to developing the OLSH College Master Building Plan, which will cater for students’ needs well into the 21st century.

Key elements of the plan are the OLSH Centre currently under construction and the redevelopment of the original convent housing the chapel. Stephanie Cook from William Ross Architects explains, “The refurbishment will breathe new life into the OLSH Convent. The design respects the existing building and creates an environment that fosters collaboration.”

There will be a new main entry point for the College and it is anticipated the project will be completed by

Term 2 next year. There will be a new main reception and administration area as well as a boardroom. Two new heritage rooms located at the front of the building will showcase a selection of OLSH College memorabilia from days gone by.

In the centre of the building there will be a courtyard which adjoins the new staff room and facilities. A foyer will connect this area to the OLSH Centre, a wonderful new learning area and event space. At the rear of the building is a new *al fresco* café for students who will also enjoy the large outdoor deck.

Stephanie Cook says, “The redevelopment of the Convent will provide the OLSH community with a greater connection to this iconic building. The design features of the new building include views across the oval, with floor to ceiling glass, timber floorings and high ceilings. This will provide a new space at the

College for student learning, special events and for the OLSH community to gather.”

The Master Plan also includes the future redevelopment of the existing administration building as a Senior Resource Centre, that will include a digital hub. All students will benefit from this new facility which will support them in their study efforts. This is especially true for senior girls who will have their own dedicated space in the Centre.

OLSH College has a long and proud history in the Performing Arts. The College has been awarded a grant from the State Government to redevelop the Theatre to provide a state-of-the-art performance space. The College will also contribute funds for the renovation. Major works will be undertaken to provide a new flexible performance space for drama, music and dance productions to showcase the depth of student talent at the College.

OLSH College subscribes to the theory of continuous improvement and the Future Directions Statement 2011 – 2020 focuses on creating a dynamic, stimulating culture of excellence in learning. The capital works projects currently being built, and those in the pipeline, will certainly assist in achieving this objective.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the College please contact the Business Manager, Mr Mario Marinelli, on 98520 9200 or email mmarinelli@olsh.vic.edu.au.

Year 9 Challenge

Author and futurist Jamais Cascio put it well when he said, “Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. Sustainability is about survival. The goal of resilience is to thrive.”

As many parents know, teenagers want a greater degree of independence as they grow. OLSH College Bentleigh understands this and has developed a unique Year 9 Program to help students to mature, develop and take on challenges in a safe environment.

Students in Year 9 are known as the Issoudun year level. Issoudun is the town in the heart of France where the Daughters of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were founded by Fr Jules Chevalier msc. There are two components to the program: a one month residential stay at Hartzler Park in Bowral in the Southern Highlands of NSW; and a specially constructed ‘Je Suis’ (I am) curriculum that is delivered on the Bentleigh campus. Half of the year level goes to Bowral prior to the mid-year break, and the other half travel afterwards.

As Ms Dina Oro, Assistant Principal Wellbeing, says “The residential program allows each girl to celebrate their giftedness, grow in faith, embrace their learning, and grow emotionally. They build positive relationships, venture beyond comfort zones, develop confidence and teamwork and connect with our OLSH history.”

The Hartzler residential experience provides Year 9 students with opportunities to develop personal capabilities such as self-awareness, self-management skills, goal setting and self-discipline. It also helps them to develop social capabilities so they can work collaboratively with others to achieve group goals,

resolve conflict and make decisions. The girls plan educational trips to Canberra and Sydney, connect with other students at Chevalier College, explore the rural environment, and participate in Outdoor Education and Ecotourism.

Rebecca Nielsen, the 2016 College Captain, reflected in her farewell speech, “By far the highlight of our whole time at OLSH was the Hartzler program. We all grew so much in those four weeks. We built friendships to new levels, learnt the importance of independence and created memories that will last forever. We are all so incredibly grateful for this experience offered to us and cannot describe how amazing it was and how much it has impacted our lives.”

Parents have also expressed their support of the program with one mother saying, “The girls open their eyes to life, they make friendships, become independent and hopefully resilient. “Another parent said, “This program was the reason I chose OLSH College as the school for my girls, and now having experienced the program I am thrilled with my decision.”

One staff member observed, “The Hartzler experience was a wonderful chance for the girls to spend time away from home, to learn in a safe environment and to take responsibility for themselves and their friends. It is very different to anything they have ever done before.”

The Year 9 curriculum fosters independence and peer



acceptance, cooperative learning and collaborative teaching. It has been designed to be challenging, integrative, and exploratory and it facilitates the students’ development to transition into the senior years.

Student-teacher relationships are strengthened and the girls are involved in decision making about content, process and assessment. It is important they have time to properly work on the complex tasks they are assigned. The Year 9 curriculum also provides opportunities for different interests, and learning styles.

The Issoudun Coordinator, Ms Linda Naylor, says, “There is enormous opportunity in the Issoudun program for students to gain greater independence, to connect socially and to understand themselves better. We witness their growth and the emergence of young people with qualities they hadn’t previously recognised.”

The special ‘Je Suis’ Year 9 curriculum, combined with the one month residential program, make the Issoudun year level at OLSH College unique. It allows students the chance to do what they are meant to do as they grow into young adults, which is to become independent and strong. As one mother said, “My daughter has truly had an exceptional time away, enjoying the many sights and activities. She got to know the other girls better, and I believe, became more aware of her own strengths and capabilities.”

Travel Opportunities

A willingness to travel across the globe to help others has been a hallmark of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart order. Since it was established in France in 1847 the Sisters have ventured far afield to minister to those in need. The same tradition is alive and well at OLSH College Bentleigh today, as students embark on immersion trips to assist local communities. Students are also offered study tours to further their knowledge, experience a new culture and improve their language skills.

Immersion

OLSH College students recently took trips to the Northern Territory and Kiribati in the Pacific. Mrs Gina Coetzee led the Northern Territory immersion group with assistance from Ms Robyn Rayment, the Year 10 Coordinator. The trip had a deep and lasting impact on the girls and many described it as “life changing.” Ms Rayment was in awe of the beauty of the landscapes and the wonderful work being done in the communities up north. She said, “The visit to the Northern Territory reinforced my respect for our land, in all its presentations, and forged a deeper understanding of the complexities that befall an ancient



School visit in Shanghai

culture and people coexisting in a modern world.”

OLSH College has had a long and close connection with the Sisters on the small island of Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean. Students who visit help by working in the local school and community. Some of the students who go to Kiribati come away with an ongoing commitment to help in any way they can. After the 2014 experience, a student recorded a CD and the profits were donated to the Kiribati community. This year OLSH College students realised that if the standard of English was improved it could lead to more opportunities for higher education for students on the island and provide a chance for them to contribute to their own people. To help achieve this OLSH College Bentleigh has established ongoing awards to be distributed to students at the end of each term for the next two years. They are called the OLSH College Bentleigh Awards for the most improved in conversational English. Year 10 student, Zoe Levey, who went on the last trip said, “Thank you for giving me the amazing opportunity to go to Kiribati. I had the time of my life and got so much out of it. I hope this experience



Students help on the the Pacific island of Kiribati

continues to be offered for many years to come.”

In 2015, the first OLSHIES trip was offered as an alternative to attending SCHOOLIES. Students who had finished Year 12 travelled to the Philippines where the OLSH Sisters do inspirational work. The girls assisted with the tutorial program and helped to feed undernourished children. It was at times confronting as they visited the poorer areas



Terracotta Warriors in China



At the Great Wall of China

of the Philippines; however they learned valuable life lessons and met many extraordinary people. The inaugural OLSHIES trip was such a success that it will take place again this year.

China Study Tour

Ms Carolyn Graffeo, Head of Languages at OLSH College, went to China with a group of students during the last school

holidays. Whilst there, they mixed with their peers in a school in Shanghai, visited a market and learnt how bargaining worked in Chinese society and visited many UNESCO listed historical sites. Landmarks such as the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors and the Forbidden City provided the girls with a deeper appreciation of history. The girls' language skills improved significantly during their

time in China and they appreciated trying all the different types of cuisine on offer. Ms Graffeo observed that it was "a beneficial opportunity for our students to see how another society operates. School in China runs from 7.30am to 4.30pm and then there is plenty of homework to complete. Safe to say our students were pleased they go to school in Australia."

Ametur Experience

OLSH College offers students an Ametur experience which, when translated, means 'everywhere'. There are exciting trips planned for 2017 with a Performing Arts trip to London and an Italian Cultural Immersion. Both groups will then meet in Paris to travel to the birthplace of the Daughters of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at Issoudun in the heart of France. This is yet another example of the wonderful travel opportunities available to OLSH College students. As the writer Henry Miller said, "One's destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things."



Visiting the OLSH school in the Northern Territory

Alumnae Profiles



Jacqui (Cochrane) Rémond 1991

Meeting Pope Francis has been one of the highlights for Jacqui in her work as National Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, the ecological agency of the Catholic Church in Australia.

After graduating from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Education in Science in 1997, Jacqui worked as an environmental educator at all levels of the education sector around the country.

She has spent many years developing partnerships and ecological conversion programs to enable the Catholic Church in Australia to better care for God's Creation through advocacy, education, research and collaboration.

Jacqui is currently the Convener of the National Council of Churches Australia Eco Mission Project, the NSW Eco Mission Network, as well as being one of the founding members and on the steering committee of the Global Catholic Climate Movement. She is also a member of the Australian Education Sustainability Alliance and the Justice and Peace Advisory Council in Sydney.

Jacqui is the mother of two children under ten and now lives in Manly, NSW.



Bernadette (Tutton) Vaux 1986

Making a life working in, and being really passionate about, community football was certainly not on Bernie's radar while at school.

After a year of Economics and Politics at Monash University, she left to work in the ANZ Business Banking department where she stayed for 10 years.

Seeking a new career path, Bernie studied life coaching and neuro linguistic programming whilst raising two boys, and created her own coaching and business networking company.

Then unexpectedly, she found herself in the world of community football. First it was Auskick (coaching and appearing in a national commercial), then junior football (coaching girls), which led into AFL umpiring, with Bernie becoming the first female Director of Umpiring of AFL in Australia in December 2012.

Bernie says her life lesson is to "be open to opportunities as they arise: there are no barriers to the roles that women can undertake, and in which we can excel!"



Deanna Taylor 2011

The quest for knowledge and a welcoming attitude instilled early in life were prime reasons for Deanna winning the Caltex Best All-Rounder award in her final year at OLSH College.

She is currently completing a Masters of Teaching (Primary) at the University of Melbourne and plans to be a primary school teacher while still running her Cub Scout Pack.

Meantime Deanna is broadening her skills, having developed a love of circus arts in the past two years, and is doing classes in general circus and aerial skills.

"I'm also currently working as a waitress in a café and as a maths tutor. Better busy than bored."

Deanna ascribes her success at school to seizing every opportunity to participate and challenge herself. She actively sought out role models: teachers who delighted in knowledge and students who were approachable and ready to give anything a shot.

"I have a sense of pride and achievement as I look back on my time at OLSH," Deanna says.



Elizabeth Meyers 1976

Liz completed a Bachelor of Education majoring in Media at Rusden State College followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Inter Ethnic Studies and Education at the University of Melbourne.

She then worked in the film and TV industry on a diverse range of projects including the feature films *Evil Angels*, *Dogs In Space*, her own short film *Higher Than High* and various music clips.

After marriage and children, Liz trained as an Adult English Language teacher and worked in Asia for a number of years. This experience was a particularly enriching one for the whole family.

Liz currently works with migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and overseas students as a teacher and assessor and is also a member of her local council's Multicultural Advisory Group.

Liz is strongly committed to living in a truly multicultural, just and humane Australia; a place where everyone is valued and welcomed.

"I have wonderful memories of my time at OLSH. The Sisters and teachers gave me a great education ... a great start."



Justine Paech 2005

Given the many extra-curricular activities she embraced at school, Justine Paech says it's no surprise that a career dealing with people would be her life's calling.

She played netball, volleyball and cricket, and participated in an out-of-school assistance program, which included tutoring underprivileged primary students and working at the Sacred Heart Mission serving breakfast on Sundays.

Now living in London, Justine works for finance recruitment specialist Michael Page. She manages two teams for the globally renowned firm and is on track for an associate director promotion.

Justine considers herself lucky to have had great teachers, a good group of friends and a supportive family.

"Anything you could do in high school, I tried at least once, except for music, because I was tone deaf and couldn't read a note."

Justine credits her mother with giving the best advice. "Mum always said prepare to be adaptable as things in life will often change. It's how you deal with it that will get you places."



Angela Sorpreso 1982

A first career in Accounting in the corporate investment sector lasted 12 years at which point Angela decided to follow her true passion and completed a Bachelor in Studio Arts.

In 2009, she established her company Bellaartista Designs specialising in 3D sculptural wall art and decorative panels and is now a business owner, artist and educator.

Angela works directly with interior designers and builders, and loves the collaboration with other creative individuals. She has exhibited at trade shows, such as Décor and Design and InDesign Melbourne, and is a member of the Design Institute of Australia.

This year, Angela started running Belart workshops using design to create harmony and inspiration. She says, "I strongly believe that art relieves stress and leaves you feeling mentally clear and calm."

Angela is very proud of her two daughters who have also followed her to OLSH: Natalie, 2013, and Belinda, 2016. She says, "I always teach my children that you are never too old to study and never ever give up on your dream."



Class of 2006, 10 year reunion

Donations

We are grateful for the generosity of the following donors to the Flame Scholarship Fund.

Lorna (Boland) Duncan, 1950; Joan (Worrell) Shiel-Ough, 1952; Maggie (Welch) Frye, 1958; Helen (Coghlan) Wood, 1959; Marie (Welch) Ferrari, 1960; Anonymous, 1961; Linda (Henderson) Bruce, 1966; Sandra (Drew) Johnson, 1968; Shane O'Neil, 1968; Giulietta (Facci) Gangi, 1969; Anonymous, 1993; Class of 1970 and Class of 1972.

We would also like to thank the Vakis family, the Kenne family and the Williamson family for their kind donations to OLSH College.

Donations are tax deductible. Please contact Shane O'Neil, Alumnae Officer, on 03 8520 9200 if you are interested in making a contribution to the education of current and future OLSH College girls.

Alumnae News

Please send us all your news: wedding, baby, qualification, new job, promotion, overseas adventure, etc. Email Shane O'Neil, Alumnae Officer, alumnae@olsh.vic.edu.au

2017 Milestone Reunions

Class of 1967 (50 years) Saturday 6 May 2017

Class of 1977 (40 years) Thursday 23 March 2017

Class of 1987 (30 years) Thursday 8 June 2017

Class of 1997 (20 years) Friday 24 February 2017

Class of 2007 (10 years) Thursday 17 August 2017

Class of 2012 (5 years) Thursday 14 September 2017

For further information about reunions or other alumnae enquiries, please contact Shane O'Neil, Alumnae Officer, on 03 8520 9200 or alumnae@olsh.vic.edu.au.

Regular updates are posted on the OLSH College Bentleigh Alumnae Facebook.



Class of 1976, 40 year reunion



Class of 1966, 50 year reunion



Class of 1986, 30 year reunion



Class of 1996, 20 year reunion

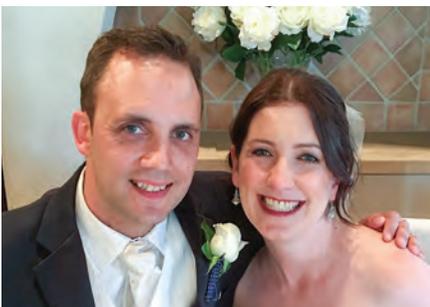
Weddings

Alana Oro, 2006



St Anthony's in Hawthorn provided the perfect setting when Alana married Daniel Mastrolebo on 10 September 2016. Maid of Honour was Vanessa Velluto, also a 2006 alumna. Alana is the niece of Dina Oro, Assistant Principal Wellbeing at the College, and works as a teacher at Tucker Road Bentleigh Primary School.

Jasmine Einsiedel, 2002



On 8 October 2016, Jasmine married Nick Andonov at the Yarra Yarra Golf Club, Bentleigh East. Maid of Honour was sister, Katherine, 2003, with mother, Michelle (Abourizk) Einsiedel, 1976; great-aunt, Jeanette (Abourizk) Burns, 1950; aunt Pauline Abourizk, 1975; cousin Anne McGinley, 1976, and family friend, Marcelle (Vitali) McIlraith, 1976, all being OLSH alumnae.

OLSH College Parents & Friends Association

The dedicated members of the OLSH Parents & Friends Association have been busy supporting the College by helping at a range of events and activities held throughout the year.



St Paul's fete

They organised a very busy and successful market outside the Hall on Election Day. Special thanks go to the organising team who raised funds that were donated back to the College. Other activities included an Easter Hot Cross Bun drive which was enjoyed by many OLSH families.

Members of the P&F Association kindly assisted at the OLSH Information Marquee at both the St Paul's and St Peter's fetes held recently. They spoke with families considering secondary school options for their daughters about their great experiences at the College.

The P&F Association have sponsored the catering for the opening of the Visual Arts Exhibition and they also

helped to serve refreshments at this event. P&F Meetings are held in the boardroom from 7.30pm once a month. Dates are published on the website and all parents are very welcome to attend. Please just email the Director of Development, Annie Opray aopray@olsh.vic.edu.au if you would like to get involved.

The P&F Association have a very exciting 2017 planned, including a parent social night featuring none other than BABBA on Friday 5 May and a Speaker Series for both students and parents featuring three high profile presenters. Stay tuned for more details.

Vale

We remember in prayer

Sr M. St Bernard fdnsc (Edna Ellen Dent) *Principal* 1978-1981

Sr Marie Cecile Sykes fdnsc

Sr Mary Lenaghan fdnsc (Sr M. Andrew)

Marie (Burke) Power, 1965

Anne Sullivan, 1968

Lynette (Natoli) Esposito, 1970

Maggie (Hannaford) Hill, 1976

Bernadette (O'Brien) de Maskens, 1977

Melody (Dexter) Kenne, 1978

Anna Tzouvelis, 1994

and other members of the OLSH College Bentleigh community who have recently passed away.

May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart hold them gently in her care and may their souls rest in peace.

A Quiet Achiever

Howard Liston is an unassuming man but when you spend time with him you quickly appreciate his keen intellect and kind manner, which are perfectly suited to the classroom.

Born in a town on the Murray River in South Australia, Howard has one brother and a sister. His family moved to Adelaide soon after where his father ran a deli. Both of Howard's parents did not have the opportunity of a formal education but his dad had an entrepreneurial streak. When he was just 11 years old Howard would wake before school at 5am to help out on the milk run, another business run by his dad.

Howard clearly remembers his first day at Marryatville Primary School. His Prep teacher was aptly named Miss Paste. He enjoyed the first morning and when the bell rang he packed up ready to go home, not realising he had to stay for the afternoon as well. Nonetheless, Howard enjoyed school and showed an aptitude for Maths and Science early on. He made friends easily and enjoyed playing football and basketball. He was especially fond of the camaraderie in team sports, although he didn't enjoy footy training in the winter.

School came easy to Howard and he is the first to admit he did not devote as much time to study as he should have. But after being awarded both a Commonwealth and a State Scholarship he buckled down and applied himself and as a result Howard was the first one in his family to go to University. He started a Science Degree at Flinders University but soon realised Biology was not his strong suit when he was not able to find a brain in the yabby he was dissecting. So he shifted his focus to Maths and Physics, a decision he has never regretted. He

recalls being in a lecture one day learning about linear algebra when it all clicked and made perfect sense to him, a powerful moment. Howard graduated with honours.

Melbourne University offered Howard a tutoring role and whilst there he commenced his Masters; however he found the unending research tasks boring. To distract himself he turned to the game of World Championship Chess and followed the master Bobby Fischer with a passion. He then took up the game himself as an intellectual pursuit. He has played for many years and is currently the President of the Box Hill Chess Club. He has discovered there is nothing more humbling than being beaten by a child prodigy at the game he loves.

Howard soon realised he wanted a career, as opposed to just a job and decided teaching fitted the bill. During his Dip Ed he spent time at Sunshine High and Fitzroy High and enjoyed both postings. He then applied to OLSH College and was interviewed by the Principal Sister Jane in 1977. From the very beginning, Howard appreciated the collegiality and the polite students although he was not familiar with Catholic traditions. One day he was 'busy' in the science lab when Sr. Jane stopped by to 'remind' Howard it was time to attend his first ever Mass, an experience he has repeated many times during his years at the College.

In 1985 the Principal, Sister Elaine, introduced a new member of staff, Dr Sue Heard, to the Science



Howard Liston

Department. Howard had heard that Sue was a high achiever who had been headhunted, and if the truth be told he thought she might be a bit 'high and mighty.' Howard has been described as an absent-minded professor, so he was quite surprised to discover a romance developing between the two. It blossomed and they married at St Paul's Church in 1988. They were blessed with three children, Daniel, Greg and Katrina, who are grown up now.

Howard cannot believe 40 years have passed since he began teaching at OLSH College. He says he doesn't feel his age and that his students keep him young. Every year his Specialist Maths class asks him if they are his favourite class and he always answers "Yes." Howard goes out of his way to ensure time spent with the girls in class is a positive experience for them to help build their confidence. He feels privileged to be on their educational journey with them. He would like to go on teaching for another 20 years but there is a lot to do: spend time with family, enjoy fine wine and food, and travel, travel, travel. For now he has the perfect blend of a job that he loves and many exciting things on the horizon.

Destiny Calls

There have been some sliding door moments in Antonella La Greca's life, perhaps the biggest decision of them all was to choose a career either as a teacher or a dentist. She selected the former and it could not have worked out better, for Antonella is a person who loves working with young people.

Born in Springvale, Antonella is the eldest child of Antonina and Domenico, who emigrated from Italy and met through relatives in Australia. They were blessed with another daughter Tina and a son Sam. Antonella enjoyed her time at Clayton North Primary school and she describes herself as a bit of a "goody two shoes." She did well at sport, with athletics her specialty, and she was elected a House Sports Captain in Year 6.

Education was highly valued in the Recupero household and the children were encouraged to study hard to achieve their goals. Antonella started in Year 7 at Sacred Heart College Oakleigh, and her ability in science subjects soon became evident. She remembers her favourite teacher was Miss Messina because she was kind, caring and encouraging, a fine example for Antonella to follow.

Her HSC results enabled her to gain entry to Monash University where she started a degree in Science, majoring in Biochemistry and Immunology. Whilst at university Antonella worked as a dental nurse part time, a job that she really enjoyed. This prompted her to consider a change in study paths. She was offered a place studying dentistry at Sydney University but declined as she wanted to stay close to her family. Just as well, because if she did move she would never have met her husband-to-be

in the dental surgery where she was working. He sent her a bunch of flowers anonymously and her mother, who knew the florist, did some detective work to find out a little more about this secret admirer. It was all good news and shortly afterwards they became known as the 'Colgate Couple'.

Antonella went on to do an Honours year; but it soon became clear to her that she preferred people to research and teaching seemed like a great option. This was confirmed during her many and varied teaching postings, in both single sex and coeducational settings. Perhaps Antonella is most famous for her arrival as a student teacher at Mazenod College. Her red Gemini collided with a Year 10 boy, who should not have been riding his bike through the staff car park. No serious harm done but her brother, Sam, a Year 7 student, was in the car at the time and needless to say he never lived it down.

Antonella and Tony married in 1991 at St Peter's East Bentleigh and celebrated with a reception for 350 guests, followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii. Their son Mark was born in 1993 and when he was two years old Antonella saw a job advertised at OLSH. She was a little worried about returning when her son was so young but her mother was a fantastic support. When she arrived for the interview with Sr. Pauline, Antonella ran into an old school



Antonella La Greca

friend from the same year, none other than Dina Oro who is now the Assistant Principal Wellbeing at OLSH. Antonella immediately felt at home at the College and nothing has changed all these years later. She feels especially close to the Sisters at OLSH and feels fortunate to have been able to visit Issoudun in France three times. Looking back, Antonella has a strong sense that OLSH is where she was always meant to be. Antonella has held a range of positions at the College including teaching Science, Maths, Biology and Religious Education. One of the roles she has most enjoyed is as a Year Level Coordinator where she has felt privileged to guide and mentor the girls in her care. She enjoyed the challenge of becoming the Acting Deputy Principal for a short period and also managed to complete a Post Graduate Degree in Student Welfare at Melbourne University.

Antonella's other passions include doing interior design work for the houses her husband builds for their family business. She also enjoys spending time at their beach house with her extended family. Some things are meant to be and for Antonella teaching was her fate. She finds her work extremely rewarding and looks forward to continuing in the profession she loves. The finest compliment for Antonella is when she learns that one of her past students has been inspired to become a teacher themselves. Now that is destiny.

Learning for the Future

Malcolm X the American human rights activist said, “Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

At OLSH College Bentleigh, the Curriculum Committee has the responsibility of ensuring students are taught the prescribed subjects over the course of their secondary schooling. Over and above this, it needs to identify the skills and expertise that students will require when they enter the work force of the future.

Lynn Egan, Assistant Principal Learning and Teaching, recognises the importance of an increased emphasis on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects across all year levels. She says, “There has been a shift in the way employers recruit new staff and this trend will continue into the future. Instead of just considering tertiary education results, companies like Google and Ernst & Young are also placing great emphasis on the so called ‘soft skills’, such as the ability to problem solve, adapt and work well in a team. We have recognised this and factored it into our subject offerings at OLSH College.”

Next year sees the introduction of the Digital Curriculum Technology curriculum across Victoria. OLSH College is well placed to deliver the new program which focuses on computational thinking. Digital devices are an integral part of everyday life and it is imperative students understand the sequence of steps that make them function. Coding is already taught at OLSH College as part of the Year 9 ‘Je Suis’ program as is the information

technology subject, ‘Life in the Cloud’.

Simon Peyton Jones’s TEDx talk explains it is important that students view technology as something they can understand and control rather than it controlling them. The Australia’s Digital Pulse report states that the number of Information and Communications Technology workers increased to 600,000 in 2014 and more than half of them (52%) are in industries outside ICT itself, including professional, administration and financial services.

Challenging students in their thinking is another strategy employed at OLSH to develop independent learners. The IGNITE program at the College provides activities to encourage students to

explore topics that use 21st century interdisciplinary themes. The IGNITE program focuses on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. Tania Tickyj, the Enhancement Studies Coordinator says, “IGNITE helps OLSH College students to develop their thinking skills, content knowledge and social and emotional competencies to navigate complex life and work environments.”

OLSH College students have many opportunities to apply their learning including the Tournament of Minds competition, philosophical and Socratic reasoning exercises, deductive science programs, and literature and creative art challenges. A group of enthusiastic and innovative OLSH College junior science students recently won the Glen Eira City Council Great Water Challenge competition, demonstrating that they really are learning for the future.



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