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FLAME



*OLSH girls
can do
anything*

Gratitude

From the Editor

As we head into our third term of learning back in a face-to-face environment, gratitude is a recurring emotion for our community. We are grateful to have our students back on campus, engaging in learning and sharing their education journey together. We are grateful to be sharing special events such as Sacred Heart Day, enriching our knowledge through excursions and camps and participating in co-curricular activities

such as debating. And we are grateful to be able to have families back on site, audiences at sporting and artistic performances and past students back for reunions.

The value of human connection has been heightened by our experience of the last two years and that connection shines through in this edition of *Flame*, as we showcase rejuvenation of connection through

our Issoudun (Year 9) program, we witness the joy of sharing the stage as performers and we celebrate the achievements of our students (past and present) in their sporting, artistic and academic pursuits.

Cath Ewart
Director of Development and Community Relations

Reflections: Investing for future growth

The 1950s was a period of significant growth for OLSH College, which saw investment to build the school for the future and forward thinking to expand the education offered. Four students completed their Matriculation in 1951, the first year that it was offered by the College. Just two years later, enrolments at the College hit triple figures for the first time and the girls were given a cupcake at recess to mark the occasion.

As enrolments increased, buildings were extended to include Domestic Science, Dress Design and Cutting facilities, and nearby homes were purchased so that additional buildings could be planned. In 1953, St Joseph's Park across the road from the school was purchased by Mr James Kennedy for the OLSH Sisters, for one thousand pounds.

We are grateful for the insight of those who came before us, to invest in the development of our College and continue the tradition of providing quality, innovative education for young women.



OLSH College Bentleigh acknowledges the Bunurong people on whose ancestral country the College stands.

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Front cover photo: Issoudun students Madeleine Coyne, Zara Greco, Ruby Burns, Madeleine Di Conza and Zara Longton, at Hartzler Park in Bowral, NSW.

Rear cover photos: Highlights from our school production High School Musical, presented with De La Salle College, Malvern.

Disclaimer

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From the Principal

“It is by the Heart that we are something” – Jules Chevalier msc

Our OLSH Proclamation for schools provides us with the blueprint for living our OLSH Spirit. In this blueprint we read often about our call to be “Heart people.” This becomes part of who we are as we share in the story and the mission of the OLSH Sisters. One of the key characteristics of being “Heart people” is the readiness to be grateful. A grateful heart remembers and knows that all of life is a gift. When our hearts are grateful, and importantly, we express that gratitude then, as Jules Chevalier says -*we are something*.

As this year has unfolded there have been so many opportunities for us to be Heart people who are grateful. The presence of Uncle Mik Edwards, Board Chair and member of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, who conducted a Welcome to Country for us was a significant event for our OLSH community. At this same event, Sherry Balcombe (Aboriginal Catholic Ministry) commissioned our FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education). We were so grateful to have Uncle Mik and Sherry with us – their wisdom words opened our hearts and minds across this sacred time.

Our celebration of Sacred Heart Day on 27 May was the opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the Eucharist. Something we had been unable to do on this special feast day for the previous two years. The most special part of this day is the time we spend together in prayer, song and performance. We celebrate the giftedness of our community and the deep connection we have with each other in our shared OLSH Spirit. With grateful Hearts we hold onto the moments that have touched us throughout this day. These sacred moments



are God’s Love in and around us. Indeed this is *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved!*

*Regnet Christus, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Pray for Us!*

Anne O’Loughlin
Principal



Issoudun ...where the heart is captured

When we ask our senior students to reflect on their time at OLSH College, they are nearly unanimous in speaking about the Issoudun program as the highlight of their secondary schooling. It is a special time of transformation and challenge, and truly one that captures the hearts of the girls.

The program, named for the town in France where the OLSH Sisters were founded, has been running for 10 years and until recently, comprised of two components – a four-week residential program at Hartzler Park in Bowral, NSW and a program onsite at Bentleigh and around Melbourne.

As our numbers have grown, we have added another module to the program, so that the students rotate through three four-week programs, instead of two. The new program, called *Nous Sommes (We are)* is in its second year and adds another dimension to the syllabus that focuses on teamwork and inquiry-based learning.

Nous Sommes compliments the existing *Je Suis (I am)* program which supports the students to look beyond the school gates and get to know the community.

As the only Victorian Catholic secondary school with a residential program in another state, we are proud of the unique opportunity this program presents and share with you below highlights of the three modules for the current Issoudun students.

Hartzler Park residential program

The Hartzler Program provides the students with an opportunity to spend four weeks away from home, building their independence and completing their curriculum in a different setting and format.

The program includes two days in Canberra visiting Parliament House, the Royal Australian Mint and the Australian War Memorial, and day trips to Sydney to explore the sites and complete the Bondi to Coogee walk.

The girls also make connection with our OLSH heritage, visiting the OLSH Sisters in Kensington, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Randwick and St Bernards Primary School in Botany. There are day trips and hikes in the areas surrounding Bowral, such as Fitzroy Falls and Mount Gibraltar, and weekend visits to the Bowral township.

Onsite at Hartzler Park, the girls embrace the daily routines completing project work, personal training sessions, sharing meals and evening study time together, and making connections through the shared experience.

As the program draws to a close, there is a retreat day where the girls have the space and time to reflect on the experience, acknowledging the lifelong skills they have developed, before a welcome return to family and loved ones.



Je Suis

Our Je Suis program looks outwards, taking the students on a journey of discovery of their local community and beyond. The students are encouraged to make connections, be inspired and challenged and develop their awareness and curiosity through cross-curricular activities.

A highlight of the program is a visit to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, spending time with a local Indigenous Elder who educates about the use of Indigenous plants by the original inhabitants of the land for food and medicine. The Elder also performs a Welcome to Country and takes the girls through the gardens to visit important landmarks and identify Indigenous plants.

As a follow up to the visit, the girls have an Indigenous cooking session where they use a range of local Indigenous ingredients in each item they cook.

The students also spend several days exploring Melbourne, focusing on different themes each time – architecture and buildings, laneways and arcades and the Southbank/ Federation Square precinct.

They also spend another day in Oakleigh, Springvale and Dandenong, taking in the cultural diversity of these suburbs and sampling culinary treats from each culture.

Back onsite at school, the students take time to reflect on their place in our diverse world and their connection with their local community. They work in teams to create a highlights video and a board game that draws on their experiences during the city excursions.



Nous Sommes

The Nous Sommes program allows for areas of the Victorian curriculum to be taught in creative and dynamic ways. It uses inquiry-based learning and encourages the girls to develop their creativity and design thinking, work collaboratively in teams and develop their independence.

Activities include a forensics day where the girls learn about blood typing and DNA, a cheerleading and ninja warrior day with internationally recognised trainers and the production of a mini musical-drama where the girls work together to script, rehearse and present a movie in a five-minute performance.

One of the major pieces of work in the Nous Sommes program is the Heart Project, where students spend 14 periods responding to the question *What touches my heart?*

This inquiry-based learning enables the students to choose a topic of interest and then research, design and present their projects in an exhibition for the whole school to visit.

The students can choose any topic and can present their response in any format they choose. The presentations covered topics such as global warming, physical and mental health issues, the importance of communities and ethical clothing choices. We've also seen great presentations that reflect personal passions such as mosaic, surf-life saving, dance and jazz music composition.



The Issoudun program provides experiences that are likely to be remembered and influence the students' learning journey into VCE and beyond. We are grateful to have the opportunity to include it in our curriculum program and for the support of the OLSH Community in shaping and delivering the program each year.

OLSH girls on the sporting stage

Participating in sport and representing a club or school is one of the great opportunities in life, and very often it can lead to competition at the state or national level.

At OLSH College, we offer around 20 sports to our students to try out for and represent that College in, including basketball, netball, AFL, cross country and soccer. Our whole-school swimming, diving and athletics carnivals are events that attract great participation and House spirit and provide a platform for students to go on to the next level of competition.

The first half of the year is traditionally busy on the sporting field for OLSH College and never more so than in 2022 when we held both our Swimming and Athletics carnivals in first term, in addition to other summer team sports.

A renewed enthusiasm for sport, particularly amongst our junior students, has seen great participation at early morning trials and training sessions for school-based and Secondary Catholic Sports Association (SCSA) teams. Our diving team were fortunate to train with four-time Olympian, Jenny Donnet in the lead up to the SCSA Swimming and Diving competition, taking with them the wise advice and tips Jenny passed on to them.

Our SCSA Athletics team had a great opportunity to build their competition skills when they stepped up to Division 1. While our triathlon team of 26 girls had blue skies and sun when they placed third in the SCSA competition in Geelong early in the year, the same was not true for our cross-country team who braved cold and rain, taking out first place in the Juniors and fourth for the team overall.

As we move through the second half of the year, the girls will have the opportunity to compete in SCSA competitions in soccer, volleyball, futsal, netball and AFL.



Competing at the national level

Two of our students have recently competed at the national level, representing their local sporting clubs. Gabi Trajer (Issoudun - Sweeney, below) competed in the State Surf Life Saving competition in Warrnambool, representing Mordialloc Life Saving Club and coming home with three medals. She was part of a gold-medal winning U15 beach sprint relay, and then went on to win Silver in the 2 x 1km beach long run and a Bronze in the U15 beach sprints.

It was Gabi's first time competing and her outstanding achievements resulted in an invitation to compete in the Australian Surf Life Saving titles on the Gold Coast. Gabi competed in individual events at the national competition and was part of the fourth placed under 15 girls' relay.



Faith Little (Issoudun – Sweeney, below) competed in the Athletics Australia National competition in Sydney, representing Victoria. Her recent state level achievements, including bronze in the 200m hurdle and silver in the 200m, saw her qualify for the 90m and 200m hurdle.

Faith ran a personal best in both the heat and again in the final. Her times also set a new record for her local club, Sandringham Athletics - an amazing result given the inclement weather in Sydney that weekend.



Striving for excellence

At OLSH College we are heart people who *pursue excellence*. This is the foundation of how we develop and deliver our education programs.

Excellence comes in many forms – persevering to develop a new skill, using creativity to deliver content or pushing the boundaries of our capabilities. There have been a number of outstanding achievements across this year, that we share with you below.

Recognising 2021 VCE excellence

We welcomed back students from the Class of 2021 in our Ceremony of Excellence, recognising our College Dux Danielle Simpfendorfer on her wonderful achievement and the many students who received a study score above 40 for a subject, placing them in the top nine per cent in the State.

We also recognised VCE students who received a Principal's Merit Award, for demonstrating resilience, growth and focus through their learning journey.



Off to the Ethics Olympiad international final

A team of senior students recently competed in the Ethics Olympiad, a discussion of ethics between students and across school communities. The competition helps students develop their ethical understanding and critical thinking skills, with students engaging in a meaningful debate about real-life, current and ethical issues.

The competition is judged by professors of philosophy from across the world and the OLSH College team came second, providing them entry into the international final.

Team member Emily Travers said, 'It's a great experience that allows deep thinking within communities and encourages different stances, of all kinds!'

Language Perfect

Three OLSH College students were recognised for their achievement at the 2022 Education Perfect Language Championships. Angelina Gomez, Zoe Shi and Lily Bree (all from Year 8) won awards that placed them in the top 5 per cent of participants in the competition, which had competitors from across the world.

The girls answered more than 8,000 language-related questions between them, an amazing achievement!



Great results in Big Science

This year a record number of students participated in the *Big Science Competition*, a 50-minute multiple choice competition testing science knowledge, critical-thinking and problem-solving.

Excellent results were achieved and the students who competed enjoyed the opportunity to compete and develop their skills under test conditions. We congratulate the two students who received a High Distinction, seven who received a Distinction and 32 who received a Credit in this competition.

We see examples of excellence in our students each day – in the classroom, in co-curricular activities and in interests that they pursue outside of school. Some of these achievements are celebrated publicly in our newsletters and assemblies, while others are recognised quietly with a smile and 'well done' as we pass in the school grounds. The acknowledgment may vary, but the sentiment and encouragement to continue to pursue excellence is unwavering.

Live performance returns to OLSH

One of the truly joyous aspects of being back on campus has been the return of live music and dance performance by our students.

After months of rehearsal, both in 2021 and 2022, we were thrilled to present *High School Musical* in partnership with De La Salle College, to four sell-out performances. The musical was originally scheduled for 2021, and many hours of rehearsals had been completed both face to face and online during that year.

This work provided a great foundation for adding the final polish to songs, completing lighting and tech rehearsals and coming together for a dress rehearsal for local students before opening night.

There were wonderful performances on stage with the cast working so well together, performing their solos and ensemble pieces beautifully. They were supported by a great band, slick backstage crew and professional front-of-house team, who came together to ensure the show was one to remember for all audiences.



Music on the green

We marked the end of Term 1 with a lunchtime concert, featuring performances from students across all year levels. Our inaugural *Music on the Green* concert was particularly special, held under the Jacaranda tree on a perfect autumn afternoon.



Music, dance and all that jazz

Our beautiful Performing Arts Centre has been the setting for several nights of instrumental music and dance performances during the first half to the year.

Our Junior and Senior Instrumental Music students presented a night of solo and ensemble performances and for many of the junior students who have only started playing an instrument this year, it was their first opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

We saw another evening of talent when the Junior and Senior Dance shows were presented, showcasing solo and ensemble pieces from dance students. The junior ensemble pieces showed great colour and energy, and the performances from our senior dancers were inspiring for those who hope to progress their talent.

The OLSH College Jazz Band performed at their first All Stage Jazz competition in what was the first performance of the newly formed ensemble in front of a live audience.

These opportunities are a great foundation for ongoing performances

as soloists and as part of the different ensemble groups on offer at the College.



Performing Arts Spectacular

A true highlight on the performance calendar and the culmination of many, many hours work, is the Performing Arts Spectacular, where each house presents a seven-minute musical that they write, choreograph, create sets and costumes for and rehearse. This year's theme was 'movies in the wrong decade', and the girls created performances that were clever and professionally presented with nuanced references to the popular culture of the decades. House spirit was truly alive and well with house chants following each performance and great appreciation for Sweeney as the winning house.

The Spectacular was followed by our annual talent show, adjudicated by three industry professionals, who provided valuable, constructive feedback to our talented singers, dancers and instrumental musicians.



From our Student Leaders

Our OLSH College Student Executive are working through their final semester of secondary school. They have each contributed much to the College over their time here and take with them experiences as leaders that will be with them always.

Joanne, Emily, Christie and Charlotte shared their insights from their time as our College leaders.

Being a leader at OLSH College not only assists in creating a warm and welcoming environment that the girls feel safe in, but also builds on beneficial skills important for self-discovery. Girls nominated by their peers to be a leader represent the school and the student voice in many aspects; this includes opportunities such as promoting the school at Open Mornings, working with staff to organising fundraisers and assemblies, alongside attending meetings to communicate ways their year level would like to improve their experience at OLSH. With lots of behind the scenes work, the leaders learn vital skills like active listening and organisation to be role models to their peers. Overall, it has been an amazing experience to lead the school community. – Joanne Bradshaw, College Captain

Throughout our leadership journey, we have introduced several initiatives in an effort to encourage students

to truly make the most of their secondary school experience. This includes events such as the St Vincent De Paul Blanket Appeal, International Women's Day and our most recent initiative – 'Heart Healthy Habits'. As a team, we recognised the importance of adhering to a daily routine whilst allowing flexibility to try new things according to our needs. As part of this new campaign, we email a weekly newsletter that details a 'Healthy Habit' for the week - examples include 'Active recall', 'The Pomodoro Technique' and 'Mindfulness'. Accompanying the email is an inspirational video where each of the leaders share their tips and advice about how we have incorporated each of these habits into our daily or weekly routines. We hope that we inspire others to discover new healthy habits they can adopt as we strive to practice acts of gratitude in our daily lives. – Emily Collins, College Captain

Whilst being a leader includes big speeches, crazy initiatives and meeting some incredible members of the community, we constantly

aim to remind ourselves of our priority – fostering love and positivity in the College, so each student can truly pursue excellence. One of our favourite ways to spread love and gratitude is through 'post-it-notes'! By writing a message of kindness on hundreds of sticky notes and attaching them to everyone's locker every now and then, we leaders aim to promote gratitude and encourage everyone to reflect on the value they bring through the College gates each morning. – Charlotte Bree, College Vice Captain

The idea of leaving OLSH College, as scary and daunting as it may be, isn't as worrisome as I thought it would be; thanks to all of the skills I have developed in my years of high school. I believe the three most vital skills I will take away are - my social skills, my social awareness and my emotional intelligence. And I am so grateful that through all my schooling, I have had a multitude of opportunities for these to be refined and improved. Through friendships and relationships between adults at school I am able to read and interpret social situations with ease, I am not afraid to raise my hand and I can respect others' opinions and viewpoints. – Christie Papadopoulos, College Vice Captain



Left to right: Christie Papadopoulos, Joanne Bradshaw, Emily Collins, Charlotte Bree

Vale Sister Gertrude Mary Kennedy fdnsc (1933 – 2022)

We remember with gratitude former Principal of OLSH College (1968–1972) Sister Gertrude Mary Kennedy fdnsc, who came face to face with the one she had lovingly and generously served for over six decades as a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, on 16th February.

Gertrude Mary attended Primary and Secondary School at St Mary's College, Grafton, then qualified with a Preliminary Certificate of Librarianship and was employed by Grafton City Council as a librarian.

After working for six years, she commenced her initial formation at Hartzler Park. Gertrude Mary made her first Vows on 6th January 1958 and then began her long life as a secondary school teacher, in Kensington, Bentleigh and Enfield. Having completed her BA and Dip Ed she taught French and Latin, as well as English, Maths, Geography and History.

She was appointed as Principal of OLSH College in 1968 and continued in this role for four years. During her time as Principal, student numbers at the College doubled to more than 600 students.

She oversaw the completion of several development projects at the College including the sewing room, five new classrooms, two science wings and a new library. As a trained librarian, this project was particularly special to Sister Gertrude Mary.

In 1969, she introduced the yearly magazine *Challenge*, the first school magazine since 1949. School trips to Tasmania for students were also introduced during Sister Gertrude Mary's time as Principal.

After leaving OLSH College Bentleigh, Sister Gertrude Mary had positions in school leadership and administration, taking great interest in the education and welfare of the girls and staff through these roles. She spent two years at Bowral and assisted the Catholic Education Office, before finishing her working life in administration at St Joseph's Aged Care Facility.

Sr Gertrude Mary was an unassuming beautiful person, a woman of deep faith and practical concern for others and a valued friend and colleague to many.



We thank God for the many gifts given to Sr Gertrude Mary, we thank the Kennedy family for their gift of her to our religious family.

Adapted from the Eulogy prepared by the OLSH Sisters for Sr Gertrude Mary

Triple capped Alana King visits OLSH College

We were thrilled to welcome **Alana King (Class of 2013)** back to the College. It has been a big year for Alana, selected in the Australian Women's Cricket Team in January, making her international debut and achieving a 'triple cap' by being named in all three formats of international cricket - the Australian Test, One Day International and T20 teams – in the space of fourteen days.

Alana, who is a leg-spin bowler, shared with us her experience of playing in these teams and her earlier move to Perth to play with the Perth Scorchers. She enjoyed catching up with teachers and students.

Not long after her visit, Alana headed off to Mumbai to play IPL cricket for the Supernovas and to Ireland for the T20I Tri-Series in July. She followed this up with a gold medal winning performance as a member of the Women's Cricket Team at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Alana is now playing with the Trent Rockets in The Hundred competition, in the United Kingdom and took the first ever hat-trick in the women's competition. Another first, well done Alana!



Stellar effort

Congratulations to **Stella Hammet (Class of 2021)** on being selected for the Monash Gallery of Art TOPshots exhibition. TOPshots is an annual celebration of emerging photomedia artists who have completed VCE Art, Media or Studio Art.

As part of her VCE Studio Art studies, Stella created a series of photos called *Let me get home safe*, focusing on the important issue of the safety of women at night time. The photo selected for TOPshots is a self portrait communicating the feelings and experiences of women at night.



Alumnae Profiles



Michelle Sheehan (1984)

My favourite subjects at school were geography, legal studies, PE and sport. I loved sport and was honoured to be voted College Sports Captain by my peers in Year 11. My involvement in sport gave me the chance to mix with girls in all year levels and several have become my best, and lifelong friends.

Sport taught me so much – how to connect with people, form close friendships, work as part of a team, practice persistence, resilience and so many more valuable life lessons. Since leaving OLSH, sport has continued to play a big part in my working and personal life.

I studied a Bachelor of Arts (Recreation) at Victoria Uni, followed by a Graduate Diploma in Sport Management. My first job out of uni was with Tennis Australia which was great fun, especially with lots of free tickets to the Australian Open and music concerts. I spent five years working with the Victorian Women's Hockey Association before moving to my current role as Executive Officer of the Association of Coeducational Schools. I am responsible for leading the Associations interschool sports programs which are held amongst seven independent secondary schools. In my role I liaise with sports and government bodies, coordinate with principals and directors of sport, write policies and develop and implement the Association's strategic plan.

My lifelong passion is travelling and exploring nature with friends. A highlight in my travels was trekking in Nepal to Mt Everest Base Camp and the Annapurna Circuit. I love music and playing guitar – even performing in a cover band for a few years. Family and friends are what matter most to me and I love creating short videos celebrating their milestones. My daughter Lakshmi who is 28 now is the light of my life.

My advice for students is to live in the moment, don't take yourself too seriously, find joy in the simple things, trust yourself and that everything will be ok.

OLSH College has given me my closest lifelong friends and I feel blessed to have had wonderful teachers and their guidance instilled values I still carry with me today, compassion, empathy, loyalty, discipline, joyfulness, friendship and kindness.



Siena Rossi (2010)

Since graduating OLSH in 2010, I completed a double degree in Commerce and Arts before beginning my career in the public sector. Just shy of 7 years in the public service, I have been fortunate enough to gain experience across multiple sectors at a national and state level.

I have recently been appointed as the project manager for the Commonwealth Games at Department of Transport, in which I look forward to playing a key role contributing to major strategic decisions and supporting an integrated transport solution for all Victorians for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and beyond.

Attending OLSH laid the foundation of who I am today and shaped my thinking, emotional intelligence and leadership skills. My time at OLSH made me incredibly passionate about working on projects that lead to positive social benefit and supporting and empowering women in the workplace.

As a mentor for the Women in Transport mentoring program, I am able to contribute to a culture of positive learning that supports the capability of women in transport and build momentum in the workplace by providing advice on developing leadership skills, goal setting and maintaining resilience.

I live in Bentleigh with my partner whom I met at the year 9 OLSH and St James social. We are currently renovating our second home together and foster greyhounds in our spare time.

My advice to current OLSH College students is to focus on growth and personal development, take risks where you can (at least calculated ones!) and be open to opportunities. Surround yourself with self-actualised people and don't be afraid to ask for help or make mistakes. No need to find your confidence when you can create it!



Chriselle D'Souza (2010)

I graduated from OLSH in 2010 and started an accounting cadetship while completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Monash. While at OLSH, I had come to the realisation that I was interested in pursuing a career in accounting or law. I decided to work in tax as that was the perfect combination of both law (tax law) and accounting. On completion of my Bachelor's degree, I started working at Ernst & Young (EY) during which time I went on to obtain a Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting.

In 2017, I decided that I wanted to move into industry and worked at an Australian tech company called Envato as their in-house tax advisor for a couple of years; and then as the tax accountant for the Bunnings Group for the last 3 years. I also completed a Master of Tax degree at the University of Melbourne in 2021 and will finally take a long break from studying for the first time since I started my schooling many years ago, as I embark on my next career adventure - as Senior Tax Specialist at a Swedish engineering company called Sandvik.

I have so many wonderful memories from my time at OLSH. I made some amazing friends, most of whom are still my best friends to this day. While at OLSH, I got involved in the debating team, the Amnesty International organisation, the St Vinnies Soup Van and so many other incredible opportunities. I visited Kiribati, Sydney (for World Youth Day), China, Vietnam and Cambodia (through World Challenge). It was at OLSH where I realised my love for travel and since then have had the opportunity to travel all around the world on my own and with friends – having some of the greatest experiences.

My only advice for current students would be to get involved with everything they can. We were so lucky at OLSH to be given so many opportunities and the friendships I made, the skills I obtained and the lessons I learned have allowed me to make the most of every new adventure I have embarked on over the last 12 years since I left OLSH.



Sarah Verrills (nee Freeman) (2015)

After leaving OLSH, I studied a double degree in Arts and Law at Monash University, majoring in Politics and Human Rights. As part of my Law degree, I did two placements at the Monash Law Clinics, a community legal centre providing free legal support and advice to the community. I also worked part time as a Paralegal at a personal injury law firm, working directly for the firm's Principal and learning all about litigation.

With my humanities background, I decided to pursue a career in policy, and began studying my Masters in Public Policy in 2020 whilst completing my Bachelors' degree. I completed an internship at dandolo partners, a policy consulting firm that works primarily for public sector clients across state and federal government. I loved the work and the ability to contribute to real government policy, so my supervisor encouraged me to apply for the Australian Government Generalist graduate stream.

I was successful in my application and accepted a graduate role with the Department of Veterans' Affairs for 2022. I moved to Canberra in January and am loving it!

I loved my time at OLSH! The teachers are incredibly devoted and passionate and I loved getting involved in different activities, like the Social Justice Club and ski trip.

The OLSH community is quite special; everyone really cares about you. The importance of helping others has definitely influenced my career path.

I encourage current students to study a language. I learnt Italian at OLSH and it was one of the best decisions. Being able to travel after school and immerse yourself in the local culture and language is really empowering.

It sounds cliché, but time really does fly! Enjoy being in secondary school and having the world as your oyster. It can be scary thinking of what comes next, but it's exciting to try new things and figure out what you are passionate about. Say yes to the opportunities that come your way, because you don't know where it will take you.

Lastly, it's okay to not know what to do next. So many people change their minds and explore different pathways. Each experience offers something and your pathway will change, but that's part of the fun.

Back to school, five decades later

We welcomed the Class of 1972 back to OLSH College recently for their 50 Year Reunion.

Nearly 50 former OLSH College students shared lunch and stories in the OLSH Centre, and then toured the grounds, finding rooms and spaces that were familiar to them and enjoying seeing the new spaces, including the Performing Arts Centre.

As they toured the grounds, the past students recalled memories of writing and performing their own plays, lining up for injections in St Michael's cottage and their trips to Central Australia and Tasmania.

In the five decades since they left OLSH College, these women have had a range of careers and life experiences and continue to stay connected to each other and the College and for that we are truly grateful.



Class of '65

The Class of '65 met for lunch recently at the McKinnon Hotel, to catch up and reminisce about their time at OLSH College and the friendships they still have more than five decades later. Kathleen Clark (Barry) who was at the lunch has a granddaughter in Year 7 at OLSH College.



News briefs

College Captain Emily Collins was recently named Runner Up in the Glen Eira Council Citizen of the Year awards. Emily was recognised for her outstanding leadership skills and for being a role model to others within and outside of our OLSH Community.



Our two choirs competed in the Victorian School Music Festival recently in the Open Secondary and Junior sections. It was the first public performance for the Junior choir and first performance in more than two years for the Open choir.

Participation in the competition also included an onstage tutorial with the adjudicator after, providing an opportunity to work on feedback and learn from industry experts. After their performance, the choirs were also able to listen to other school choirs, to learn from their performance and enjoy the talents of their fellow choristers.

Both choirs received the Gold award for their performances.



Reunions are back

We are so pleased to be able to hold reunions again, after two years of having to put them on hold. To ensure we catch up on all reunions, we are combining the '00 and '01 years for the 30, 40 and 50 year reunions.

10 Year reunions	Class of 2011 and 2012: Friday 11 November, from 6pm to 7.30pm
20 Year reunions	Class of 2001: Friday 7 October, from 6pm to 7.30pm Class of 2002: Friday 21 October, from 6pm to 7.30pm
30 year reunions	Classes of 1990 and 1991: Friday 4 November, from 6pm to 7.30pm Class of 1992: Friday 25 November, from 6pm to 7.30pm
40 year reunions	Classes of 1980 and 1981: Saturday 13 August, from 2pm to 4pm Class of 1982: Saturday 6 August, from 10.30am to 12.30pm

We hope you will be able to join us. Look out for your email invitation or follow our social media for details.

Stay in touch

Have you changed your contact details? Know someone who would like to be added to our Alumnae Register? Get in touch via email to alumnae@olsh.vic.edu.au.



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