



The Weekly Pines

Northern Beaches Secondary College

Manly Campus



Academic Excellence ★ Personal Best ★ Giving Back to the Community

Principal: Ms Kathy O'Sullivan

Deputy Principals: Mr Alex Newcomb
Ms Marisa Carolan

10 December 2021 – Newsletter No.20



*Wishing a safe
and happy
holiday season*

From the Principal

Presentation Day

NBSC Manly Campus will be holding our Presentation Day event next Monday 13 December.

There will be a separate ceremony on the day for each year group. Our audience will be able to join via our private live stream link:

<https://youtu.be/fA2wW8e001M>

Please note there has been some slight changes to the timing schedule;

- Year 11 will be held at 9:30am
- Year 10 will be held at 11:30am
- Year 9 will be held at 12:30pm
- Year 8 will be held at 1:50pm
- Year 7 will be held at 2:40pm

College Appreciation Awards

Today we recognised members of our staff who have made a significant contribution to the students of our campus, through the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Staff and Community Appreciation Awards. Recipients from our campus

included: Fiona Brien, Skye Campbell, Richard Crooks, Kate Farrow, Rebecca Fee, Melinda Larson.

I had the pleasure of reading the citations in front of all staff members detailing each person's significant contributions to our school and students, for which we are most appreciative.



CEO for the day @School Infrastructure NSW

Congratulations to Josephine Lo, Nick Weng, Hugh Liu and Oscar Martin who were selected to attend CEP for the day @School Infrastructure NSW.

This day is all about helping students understand the career pathways on offer in the infrastructure industry and include:

- An opportunity to meet with our CEO and talk to him about his role
- Insights into how schools are designed
- A focused session with leaders from across the organisation where students will hear how they shaped their careers and got their roles.

NBSC Manly Campus

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Congratulations G21

Last Friday we welcomed back G21 to say our farewells. G21, you achieved something extraordinary in the face of adversity and we are immensely proud of you.



We look forward to seeing Year 12 again at the Graduation ceremony on Tuesday 14 December at 3:30pm.

LED lighting upgrade

Our school has been selected to be part of the LED Lighting Upgrade Program (LED LUP), which commits \$157.8 million to replace inefficient lights with new LED lights in up to 1,000 public schools across NSW. This is expected to reduce operating costs for schools as well as deliver over 1,200 jobs in for NSW.

Our school has been prioritised to receive the lighting upgrade in Tranche 4 of the Program.

The benefits of LED lighting include:

1. Energy saving – reduced electricity usage and lower bills over the long term by replacing inefficient fluorescent lights with efficient LEDs.

2. Lower maintenance and repair costs when compared with fluorescent lights.
3. Improved learning outcomes in the classroom as a result of improved lighting.

The LED Lighting Upgrade Program will be planned to minimise interruption to school classes or learning. The installation will be planned outside school hours where possible and a typical installation program is expected to be completed within 4 to 8 weeks.

Farewell

Farewell and thank you to our members of staff who are retiring this year; George Cowan (Science), Dinah Eadie (Languages), Jacqueline Ellis (TAS) and Barbara Harrison (Library). Between the four of them there is over 100 years of service to public education.

In addition, we farewell Jess Rolfe (Science) and Ben Pimental (PDHPE) who will be leaving us this year.

We wish everyone the best and sincerely thank them for everything they have contributed to making our school so wonderful.

Thank you

This year, our students certainly have been strong and courageous, and they have been supported by our professional, talented and very hard-working members of staff to whom we are very grateful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of staff for their exceptional dedication and every member of our community for your incredible support. I wish you a Merry Christmas and holiday season – may you be safe, healthy and have a wonderful time over the summer.

2022 Return to school dates

Year 7, 11, 12 and students new to the school, along with Peer Support Leaders, will start back on Tuesday 1 February 2022.

Followed by all students back at school on Wednesday 2 February 2022.

A note that school photos will take place on Friday 18 February – see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Congratulations to:

- Ethan Feng (Year 8), who competed in the recent 2021/22 NSW Heron State Title. He placed first handicapped while representing Narrabeen Lake Sailing club in the boat Unleashed (10255). He will soon compete in the Australian Open Skiff 2021 Manly Cup. Ethan is also a supporter of the Narrabeen Lake Sailing Club, a not for profit organisation offering lessons for young people. Recently, the club house and equipment was lost to fire. There will be community events to support the rebuild and replacing of equipment.
- Jennie Kowalik (Year 7), who received her Delf 2 Certificate in French, achieving excellent results.



In this regular feature, we like to recognize students who have achieved highly in school and community events, competitions and activities. Demonstrations of the school ethos of academic excellence, personal best and giving back to the community deserve to be recognized. Parents are welcome to phone or email the school any achievements that we may not be aware of, for inclusion in *The Weekly Pines*.

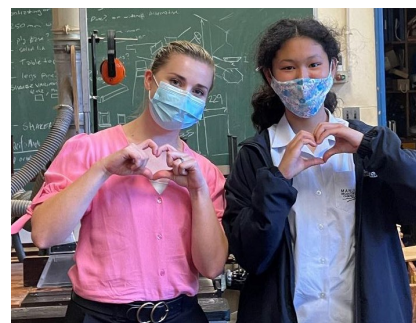
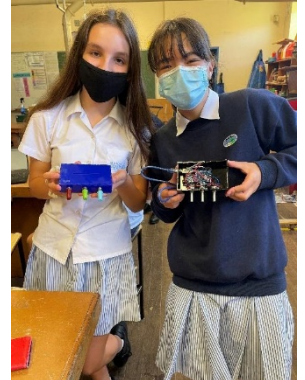
Kathy O'Sullivan
Principal

Year Adviser End of Term Reports

Year 7

It has been an absolute pleasure to support G26 through their first year of high school and what a success it has been. Although it's been a year like no other with a large portion online, Year 7 were up for the challenge and continued their involvement in school events and extracurricular activities.

Looking back at 2021, there are some amazing experiences to reflect on. From Year 7 camp, where friendships began and the initial shyness disappeared, to being involved in sports carnivals and SRC run events, we had an absolute blast.



Congratulations to all the students who excelled academically, as well as those who represented Manly Campus in extracurricular activities such as Musical, debating, sporting teams, bands and dance etc. It has been incredible seeing so many students supporting the band program by showing up week after week for zoom rehearsals. A big

thank you to Craig Driscoll and Maia Hopf for their efforts to keep band alive.



A huge congratulations to all G26 students and their families for getting through the first year of high school. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful break. I hope everyone has the opportunity to relax and come back ready for a brand-new year and a whole lot of fun in 2022.

Lanneke Grace
Year 7 Adviser

Year 8

G25 went back to face to face learning with a great deal of enthusiasm. The photos featured below are of the first day back on site. It was clear to see that the students were enthusiastic to be around their peers once more.



Many students volunteered to show our new 2022 students to G25, around the school on the recent orientation day. Certificates for Write a Book, as well as Year Advisor Awards were finally able to be handed out, and the cohort started to get excited about events planned for 2022, including Year 9 camp and another round of Raise Mentoring.

I was also impressed to see so many Year 8 students actively start on their organisation to form new clubs in 2022.

A lovely way to finish the term was the Chrismanly event, run by the SRC. It was great to see so many of the cohort get into the Christmas spirit and I thank the Year 8 SRC members for their involvement in the organisation of such a big event.

I wish all Year 8 a safe and restful holiday, filled with fun and laughter, and look forward to seeing their smiling faces in 2023.

Lucienne Herft
Year 8 Adviser

Year 9

In Semester 2, Year 9 were able to engage in leadership activities, with almost half of the cohort being chosen as either a Peer Support Leader or Peer Academic Leader for 2022. The Peer Support Leaders undertook their first session of training and showed the students new to G27 in 2022, around at Orientation Day.

Peer Support leaders will return to school with the new students on 1 February 2022, to start the official Peer Support program with the new Year 7 cohort.

A number of students continued to provide their voice for a Future Proofing study with the Black Dog Institute, and our Raise mentoring students graduated, finding the whole experience very rewarding, particularly as an extra form of support during COVID.



The wellbeing team wishes Year 9 a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing them in the new year.

Lucienne Herft
Wellbeing

Year 10

Just like that, G23 have completed Stage 5 of their schooling careers. As we look towards 2022 and Stage 6 just on the horizon, the HSC and then life after high school, are becoming an all too real experience.

As much as 2020 was a shock to the system, so too was 2021. With another round of lock downs and remote learning, it became evident that G23 would once again show their true colours and resilience by rising to the challenges put before them. Volunteering hours accrued, Stage 5's end in sight and a race to the 'hopefully not locked down Christmas holidays' seemed like the perfect motivator for the end of another tough year. But we did it.

I'm so very proud of each and every member of our cohort, and hope that you all have a wonderful and safe holiday break and I am looking forward to seeing you all for the start of your final senior schooling experience next year when we start Year 11 and our ultimate aim... completing the HSC.

Always remember... Who are we? G23!

Branko Goykovic
Year 10 Adviser

Year 11

2021 is now in the rear vision mirror, thank goodness. It has been one of the most trying years but as Charles Darwin once said *"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change."* G22 have demonstrated their resilience and their adaptability this year. In addition, the amazing dedication of staff (from the teachers to the wonderful admin staff supporting Year 11) continued to demonstrate why NBSC Manly Campus is such a special place.

This term, G22 received their long-awaited Year 12 Jerseys. Thanks to the jersey committee members, Caoimhe Daly, Hugh Huang, Sayano Kijima, Eden King, Daniel Martin, Elinor Williams, Eleanor Yetts-McKernan and Matthew Zabel for designing and helping with the organisation of this. All students look great in them.

Whilst the term might have started with a whimper in lockdown, it is ending with bang. The G22 accelerants have completed their HSC Advanced Maths exam, the festive frivolities of Chrismanly, and the annual celebration of academic achievement with presentation day. Thinking back over the year, while many activities were cancelled, the two standouts to me were, the fantastic school musical and the Year 11 urban challenge excursion.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort of Careers Advisor Bec Fee, has made for G22 this term. From the informative presentation about tertiary pathways during the Year 12 2022 information evening, to the engaging Medicine information night with past Manly alumni presenting how best to prepare for the UCATs. Thanks Ms Fee for your dedication, time, and wonderful ongoing support.

I wish everyone a relaxing, well-deserved summer holiday and look forward to continuing our adventure together in 2022.

Mr Richard Crooks
Year 11 Adviser

Chrismanly

Chrismanly was SRC 2022's first event, and Manly Campus' first student-led event since Term 2. The SRC planned creatively around the COVID-19 restrictions to provide an engaging event; a mufti day where students purchased candy canes, gingerbread men and soft drinks. Teachers also got involved by competing against each other with wreath decorations and costumes.



This event raised a record-breaking amount of money for Street Mission, a volunteer-based charity operating on the Northern Beaches that provides aid and support to the disadvantaged. Well done, SRC, for a festive day that also gives back to the community.

Mr Leung and Ms Woolven
SRC Coordinators

The Washington Post talks to Year 9

Hot off the press: on Friday Year 9 English students enjoyed a video call with *The Washington Post's* first Sydney bureau chief, journalist Michael E Miller. Mr Miller has worked as a foreign correspondent in almost a dozen countries and has covered the world's major news stories. He was able to share his experience and stories with

students, who asked him about a range of issues from his views on Australian politics to what he finds interesting about being a journalist Down Under. Mr Miller spoke about interviewing Donald Trump and how he manages potential bias by focusing on fairness and honesty in his reporting. This activity was an enriching experience for 9 English 3 and comes at the end of a gifted and talented media literacy unit on the representation of truth in texts.



Miss Koo
English



As always, our students have shown create resilience and produced excellent work (even in trying weather conditions!) Keep up the good work and always remember to wear SPF.

Skye Campbell
English

Drama



In keeping with COVID safety rules about wearing masks indoors, our Drama classes have been using outdoor areas creatively this term to playbuild and perform. From Year 9 making use of the natural environment to create settings suitable for Shakespearean texts to Year 11 working with the lines on the basketball court to create symbolic meaning in their text, each class has found a way to create and use space with meaning.



Visual Arts

Congratulations to students on their excellent efforts in Visual Arts this year. We have finished off the term with some hands-on activities, including drawing, painting and printmaking.

Year 7 finished their 'People' unit by completing an abstract figure painting, utilising their knowledge of the colour wheel and figure proportions to create works that have highly contrasting, bright colours.



Left to right: Emily Kim, Elise Heffernan, Noah Turner

Year 8 have been working on a skateboard or canvas design, inspired either by their excursion to Curl Curl beach in Term 2 or by the Street Art unit they did during online learning in Term 3.





From top on previous page; Kealan Giddy, Michael Elliot, Kristina De Montfort. Side; Lillian Hamilton, Kat Shalopa

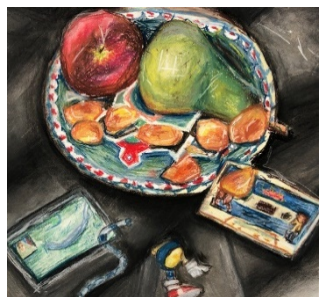


Year 9 have been working on a Body of Work, inspired by their experiences at Bundanon Art Camp which they attended in Term 2.



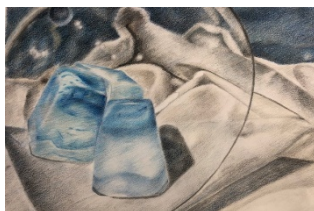
From top, left to right; Tessa Halverson, Esther Schroeter, Aneya Sarkar

Year 10 completed their study of Still Life by drawing a cropped image from their still life photography in monochrome or limited colours.



From top, left to right; Saba Kiani, Isabella White, Alicia Jiang

They then finished the year inspired by Rembrandt's etchings, using drawings completed in class of either fruit or floral compositions.



From top, left to right; Hannah Stephenson, Ella Maryska, Felicity Murray



Lana Prideaux-Remin
CAPA

Book Reviews

Year 9 2021 Summer Reading Guide - Enjoy these book reviews by some of our Year 9 students and get reading over the holidays!

La Belle Sauvage

La Belle Sauvage is the first book in a three-part series called *The Book of Dust* by Phillip Pullman. This series acts as a prequel to the already well-known *His Dark Materials* series of books. The book follows the protagonist, Malcolm who works in his parents' pub with 15-year old Alice. Every character in this world has a 'daemon', which is like their spirit animal except in real life. Every now and then Malcolm visits the priory near the pub and helps out with cooking and general maintenance. Malcolm soon finds a message that is directed to a secret organisation whose goal is to take down the oppressive government. The rest of the story follows Malcolm as he rescues an infant from the priory when all of Oxford floods. Although I can't say much more without spoiling the entire story, I can tell you that this thrilling sci-fi novel has been delicately crafted so that not only does it provide an amazing prequel to the *His Dark Materials* trilogy but it also makes perfect sense and a great read as a standalone book.

By Ethan G – 5 stars

Past the Shallows

Past the Shallows by Favel Parrett follows the eventful story of Harry, Joe and Miles growing up on the coast of Tasmania after the tragic events of their mum dying in a car accident and their Uncle drowning. The boys' father falls into a vicious cycle of drinking and fishing leaving them without a loving parental figure. Harry, as the youngest sibling, has to take the brunt force from their abusive father, leaving the other boys to help him. The book explores the themes of the fragility of youth, value of nature, blame, brotherhood, addiction in abuse in a new light that is unfortunately realistic in many cases. It shows the brutal truth of people who grow up without loving parents and have to find an escape such as nature. Using

sight, sound, scents and feelings, Parrett manages to create an immersive book that makes the reader feel like they are involved in the story. Overall, *Past the Shallows* is an exceptional read for teenagers and above who desire a riveting book. **By Sunny L – 5 stars**

Lies You Never Told Me

With dark and nail-biting twists, *Lies You Never Told Me* is a novel that follows the lives of four high school students - Elyse, Gabe, Sasha and Catherine. Sasha and Gabe are breaking up and Sasha will do anything to get Gabe back. Gabe meets Catherine, the new girl, and starts to fall in love with her.

The plot of the book starts off as exciting, but then the plot is lost among the various twists and turns that are thrown at the reader. Although the novel is for teens, mature adult themes are widely present throughout, and is recommended for teens over the age of 15. At times the novel can be slightly cringe-worthy, with some themes being childish and not well thought through. It is also hard to pick up on the plot and follow the events, but once caught on, the novel is enjoyable. The execution of the plot was not as good as it could have been, but if you are into books with lots of plot twists, then this is the book for you! **By Nihira M – 3 stars**

The Girl With All the Gifts

The Girl With All the Gifts is a story based around a post-apocalyptic scene in which the population of earth has been overrun by a pathogen that acts similar to a zombie infection. There is a group of children who have been infected by the disease but the group is not affected as much as the rest of the population, as they are able to maintain full brain function and act as normal children. The protagonist, Melanie, and numerous other children are trapped in a school as an emotional journey begins inside the mind of Melanie - the girl with all the gifts. The book is a tear inducing yet enticing story which involves a mixture of action and emotional description of the upbringing of zombie infected children. Carey uses a mixture of descriptive and intense language to create an astonishing and breathtaking novel that will keep you from putting it down. **By Jack S – 5 stars**

The Client

John Grisham's *The Client*, first published in 1993, is a remarkable novel that combines legal thriller with crime and mystery to form one gripping, suspenseful book. This novel follows the life of an eleven-year-old boy, Mark Sway, who crosses paths with a suicidal lawyer leading him to learn an explosive secret about the whereabouts of the most highly regarded body in America. Chased by the Mafia and a murderer desperate to cover his tracks, Mark is forced into court with his only ally, his lawyer. This forces Mark to either testify about where the body is hidden and live a life on the run from the Mafia or be put in jail for withholding information in a criminal investigation. This gripping novel will leave you on the edge of your seat, wanting more. For this reason, I rate *The Client* five stars and recommend it for everyone of a mature age. **By Joel H – 5 stars**

Courage to Soar

Courage to Soar (2016) is an autobiography written by Simone Biles, an American artistic gymnast with a combined total of 32 Olympic and World Championship medals, making her one of the most decorated gymnast of all time. This book shows the struggles and hard work that lead her to the gold medal in Rio creating an inspiring and encouraging story.

In this autobiography, Simone Biles recalls her early childhood, as a child, she was put in foster care until her grandparents adopted her and her sister. Much like many other prodigies, Simone had an early interest in tumbling, though, it wasn't until someone approached her while on a day care field trip at a gymnasium, that she truly got into gymnastics.

However, the book gets really rushed at the end. She takes her time talking us through her early years but then suddenly jumps to the Olympics in 2016. A few times this book felt a little too structured, but despite that, it's a really interesting look into Simone's life and I recommended it for any gymnastics fan or anyone interested in learning about gymnastics. **By Lauren B – 4 stars**

The Martian

The Martian, written by Andy Weir and published in 2011, follows the journey of an Astronaut, called Mark Watney, who is stranded on Mars, relying on his own skills to survive and return to Earth. The book is a perfect blend of humour and science that makes for a very entertaining read. While the story focuses on the psychological effects of being stranded, the technology is explained in detail, making rocket science and chemistry seem far less advanced to a more normal reader. The action is very well written, swapping between first person (Watney's point of view) to third person. This swapping between point of view and setting gives a different perspective on the action, and shows how mission control reacts to the situation. The different perspectives demonstrate the difference in how mission control handles certain situations compared to the first person perspective of Mark Watney. I would highly recommend this novel as its blend of science and technology with action and a bit of drama makes for a highly entertaining read. **By Sam S – 5 stars**

The Cat and the City

The Cat and the City is a series of short stories, compiled into a singular book that captures the lifestyle of the workers of Tokyo. The book highlights the struggles of those living in the megacity of Tokyo, using the motif of a cat as a harbinger of disaster. The adult-like themes of depression and anxiety give a sense of realism to the reader, giving an understanding of their lives. The book is a great book to pick up even for those who don't usually read. Each chapter requires no previous knowledge about the story (except for the Detective Ishikawa chapters) that allows people who don't usually read a chance to pick up the book from time to time and read without the worry of backtracking. For those who read often, the book is set in one universe, allowing for the reader to pick up references to previous chapters throughout the book. This book is intended for more mature audiences as there are sensitive themes throughout the story. I would recommend this for people who have an interest in the Japanese language

as there are many references to words that relate to their culture. Suitable for ages 15 plus. **By Andrew Y – 5 stars**

The Two Towers

J. R.R. Tolkien's *The Two Towers* is a 350-page fictional fantasy book that surrounds the adventures of two young hobbits (a type of small human-like creature) as they journey through Middle Earth to destroy the Dark Lord's Ring of Power in the Volcano it was forged in, Mt Doom. The second book in *The Lord of the Rings* series mainly focuses on the two hobbit's travels through marshlands and rocky lands as they reach the Black Gate of Mordor, with their new found guide Gollum, who is enticed by the ring that the Hobbit's hold, as it was the very thing that caused Gollum's initial deformation and desire to hide away. *The Two Towers* is a solid read as it incorporates many complex language techniques and the description of the setting, Middle Earth is stunning as well as the description of various races (e.g. elves, dwarves, men, orcs and goblins) within Middle Earth and the way they approach the way they live. However, some of the language is quite complex so the book would be most appropriate for people at a secondary school level or higher. **By Eshaan H – 4 stars**

The Alchemyst

The Alchemyst, written by Scott Michael in 2007 is the first instalment in the series *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. The story revolves around the twins, Sophie and Josh, a pair of ordinary 15-year-olds who have the ability to either destroy the world, or save it. The twins are working their summer jobs at The Coffee Cup, a coffee shop and the bookstore across the road, when a mysterious man comes into the bookstore looking for the Codex, and attacks the owner of the store, Nick. Josh then witnesses the stranger and Nick use magic, and then the stranger flees. Nick reveals himself to be Nicholas Flamel, the 14th century medieval French alchemist man who purportedly attempted to create the philosopher's stone (made famous in popular culture by JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* series). Flamel is joined in his quest by his wife, Perrenelle Flamel, who just happens to be the twins' boss at the coffee shop. The twins and the couple then flee across the globe, recruiting people to their cause as they travel. This book is perfect for everyone who is interested in mythology and history, and it puts a fantastical twist on it all.

By Charlie H – 5 stars

The Twelve Caesars

'*The Twelve Caesars*' is a non-fiction, 418 page, biography of the first 11 Roman emperors and Julius Caesar. It contains personal information around each of the Romans leaders and public opinion on each of them with their own achievements and downfalls. I found this book both informative and entertaining in its insights into their lives and surprisingly ordinary view on some of Rome's elite. However, the irregular format makes it difficult to follow the story of each character. I would recommend this book to those interested in learning more about the people who laid the foundations for the Roman Empire but the language is difficult to understand for a student below secondary school. **By De Xuan L – 3 stars**

Akarnae

One step. That's all it took for Alexandra Jennings to strand herself in Medora, a parallel world where the notion of escape is foreign to everyone except herself and Professor Marselle who is...missing. Akarnae Academy is her only hope of surrounding herself with companions who teach her that breaking out of the psychological dome that represents reality is the initial step for surviving in this mystical dimension.

Personally, I think this first novel in *The Medoran Chronicles* series is an excellent read. Seeing her make immediate friendships and resolve tensions between others reflects the social life of the typical teenager. The central themes illuminated are 'embracing the eccentrics' and 'the strength of individual willpower' and while these concepts seem entirely fictitious, it is arguably also relatable. Lynette Noni's optimistic storyline establishes the idea that one is never alone. Companionship is the driving force for Jennings to oppose the imagination and the deceiving appearance of the individual. Humour is apparent at every edge of this novel and throughout the series.

However, one who may like a fast-paced and action-based read may not appreciate all of this series' qualities. Hence, it is recommended for young adult readers who enjoy delving into the impossible and following one central character's conflicts and victories. **By Anna X – 4 stars**

The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, written in 1925, is a novel set in the Jazz Age and tells the tragic story of a self-made millionaire, Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of a young woman whom he had loved in the past, Daisy Buchanan. Narrated by Nick Carraway, a Yale graduate from the Midwest trying to start a new life in New York after WWI, he recounts the last two years living among the elite and rich through flashbacks that aren't always in chronological order. As the story progresses, Nick becomes even more entangled in the elite class after attending one of Gatsby's lavish parties and his love affair with his distant cousin, Daisy. Gatsby's obsession with his former lover and other external factors ultimately lead to his demise.

The Great Gatsby is considered to be a timeless classic as the themes in the book are still relevant in today's society. It is a great short read for anyone of any age and class, delving deep into the topics of The American Dream and the hollowness of the upper class. The language is beautifully written, adding to the greatness of the book. However, there are some mature themes in the novel that may not be suitable for younger years. **By Ivan H – 4 stars**

The Stand

The Stand by Stephen King follows the story of an incredibly lethal and contagious strand of the flu, which is accidentally released from a U.S department of defence facility, through a worker who escapes lockdowns and makes his way out of the state. After dying from the disease and crashing his car, he spread the disease to civilians and ambulance workers who came to help the man and his family. This kickstarts a mass spreading of the virus, which eventually kills more than 99% of

the population, leaving it to the few remaining people on Earth to decide how the new world that they live in should be operated. Although *The Stand* is a massive book with 1153 pages, it is exciting throughout with a thrilling ending, making the whole experience worthwhile. It is a story that has aged incredibly well in recent years, scarily similar to a world that was once envisaged not too long ago. I rate *The Stand* 5 out of 5 stars and would certainly recommend it to anyone looking for a book to read over the summer holidays.

By Arran D – 5 stars

Me Before You

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes is a unique, compelling, and heartbreaking love story between two people from separate walks of life united through love in its many forms. This book covers themes of love, acceptance, life, death and loss; the many aspects of humanity. It begins with the unlikely crossing of paths between Will Traynor, a bitter and cynical quadriplegic, and Lou Clark, an ordinary, unambitious 26 year old. After losing her job at a cafe, Lou unwillingly takes the job as a caregiver for Will, who has become weary and resentful of his wheelchair-bound life. Despite their clashing personalities and initial dislike toward each other, the two eventually warm up towards each other and develop a playful friendship. Their love story slowly begins to bloom.

Aside from the romance aspect, this book also deals with the harsh realities and struggles of quadriplegia and its psychological hardships for its victims. This book is not by any means a typical sappy romance. *Me Before You* is a beautifully riveting and emotional novel with a powerful message which inspires an unrestrained enthusiasm for life and adventure, to love freely and loudly, and to appreciate the wonders and beauties of life we constantly take for granted.

By Camilla D – 4 stars

A Certain Magical Index: Volume 15 Review

A Certain Magical Index is a light novel series written by Japanese author Kamachi Kazuma. *Index*, for short, is a series set in a modern world where both science and magic exists, with the two sides in conflict with each other. At the head of the science side is the techno-metropolis 'Academy City', a city 20-30 years ahead of the rest of the world that has even developed psychic powers in its 1.8 million students through the use of drugs and brain tests. These people are called 'espers', and are ranked in levels from 0-5. There are 7 level 5s, with the volume focusing on the #1 ranked esper, Accelerator. The world is on the brink of war, and Academy City's forces have left, leaving the criminals of the city's dark side to roam free. Accelerator's job is to stop internal conflict from becoming too dangerous. This book has plenty of action, with fights between powerful espers (and powerless level 0s too), and even magicians sneaking into the city, breaking out all over the place. I would give this book 5 stars, as the action is incredible and the characters are well written.

Warning: This book has mature themes of violence and death.

By Campbell F – 5 stars

Once

Once by Morris Gleitzman is an innocent, childlike account of WWII through the eyes of a young Jewish boy who is hiding from the Nazis in a Catholic orphanage. The only problem is that he doesn't know anything about the war and thinks he's only in the orphanage while his parents travel and try to salvage their bookselling business. When he thinks his parents are in danger, he sets off to warn them (straight into the heart of Nazi-occupied Poland). To Felix, everything is a story but as his journey gets increasingly dangerous, he begins to see horrors that not even stories can explain. However, despite his grim surroundings, Felix never loses hope. Gleitzman takes a painful subject and expertly turns it into a story filled with love, friendship, and even humour. I gave this book five stars as it is an amazing story. It gives you a different perspective on life and makes you think about how fortunate we all are now. I would recommend this book to an 11+ audience, seeing as there are some violent themes. *Once* is a heartbreaking, terrifying and sweet story, and it is guaranteed to make you shed a tear.

By Lily H – 5 stars

Keeper of the Lost Cities

Keeper of the Lost Cities, by Shannon Messenger, is the first of a nine book fantasy series that follows the story of a young girl who's always felt out of place. After waking up in hospital at age 5, Sophie Elizabeth Foster was overwhelmed with a strange new ability to read minds. She knows she cannot tell anyone about her telepathy, but living with it on her own is a huge burden, up until age 12, when her life is turned upside down by an otherworldly boy who takes her to the 'Lost Cities', revealing that she belongs among his species, the elves.

While the premise may seem basic, the story quickly destroys fantasy stereotypes, with unique and creative portrayals of classic species like dwarves, ogres and trolls, and a new take on 'magic' and locations of myth. The elves, believed to be the 'perfect' species are also revealed to be flawed in numerous ways. While they may not discriminate based on age, gender, skin colour, wealth or beliefs, they scorn and judge things like multiple births, special abilities, and who you choose to marry, all based on their want for the most powerful lineage and the best image of themselves.

Personally, this entire series is a great read. While some plot points early on are slightly rushed and cliché, the world and characters are very well built, and the plot is constantly developing, revealing numerous internal and external conflicts that are sure to keep readers on the edge of their seats.

By Tessa H - 5 stars





Finally, we have all been able to have a rehearsal. Strings have enjoyed their tutorials and all Wind players have braced the outdoors and had a morning rehearsal (a bit of a shock to get up early again!).

The Year 7 session was scheduled for Tuesday, 7 December but due to the strike, it has been moved to Wednesday 15 December.



Returning Instruments and Mouthpieces

If you have a shared or hired instrument, or a mouthpiece, please clean and return by Wednesday next week after the year 7 rehearsal if not earlier. Thank you

2022

The calendar has been approved and plans are underway for 2022. There will be concerts, tours, workshops and no covid (positive thinking!).

The year will start with auditions – more like a catch up with the Conductors after the holidays to see how your playing is going. Keep an eye on your email for dates – possibly the pupil-free days at the start of term.

We realise that after the year we have had, and a break over the holidays, some students may be hesitant to start again in 2022. Hopefully you will give it a chance and enjoy the full program again.

Your 'audition' will be the time to talk to the Conductors and let them know your plans for 2022.

Congratulations and Goodbye to Year 12

Congratulations to our wonderful Year 12 band members who have finished their school years! We are so grateful you have been part of Band, for your enthusiasm, your leadership and the joy and skills you have given. We will miss you all. Hopefully we will see you for the Musicale on the 12th Feb 2022 before you scatter for university so we can all play together again and celebrate.

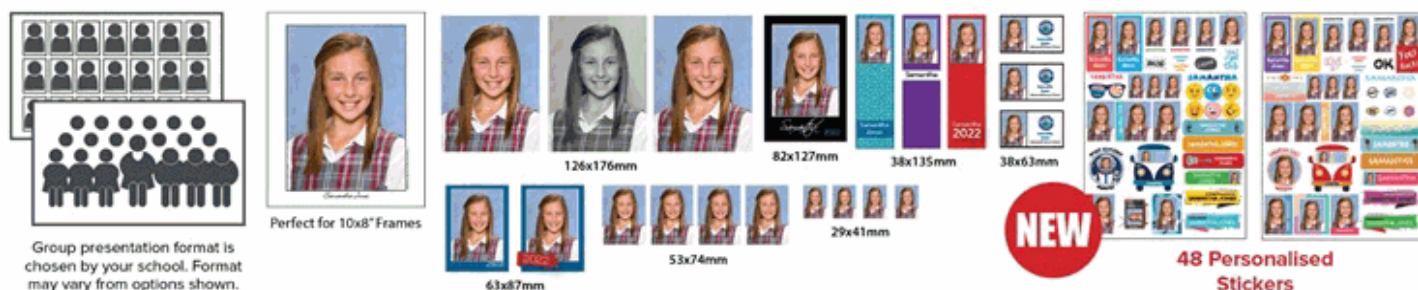
Happy Holidays

We wouldn't be Band if we didn't encourage you to dust off your instruments now and again over the break!

But most importantly, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved break over the holidays. We are looking forward to a brand new 2022 and much more music.

See you all in the New Year.

school photographs are coming up soon



Please note: Traditional or Composite group and the presentation format are chosen by your school. Sibling photos, if available, can also be ordered online and must be ordered prior to your photo day. A late fee will apply for photos purchased after ordering has closed.

how to order

order online

Online payment options include Visa, Mastercard and PayPal. Alternatively, you can choose to pay over 10 weeks using LatitudePay.

STEP 1

Go to www.advancedlife.com.au on your computer, phone or tablet.

STEP 2

Enter your school code:

KLN C7G JBL

in the 'order and download' box. This will take you to your school's secure online ordering site.



STEP 3

Click on 'Order Photos' and complete your details and procedures. During this process you can place orders for additional children at your school and sibling photos, if available

cash/envelope ordering

Your school prefers orders to be placed online. However, if you are unable to order online, please complete your order using the order envelope provided.

STEP 1

Complete a separate order envelope for each individual child's package/s ordered. If ordering for more than one child, payment should be enclosed in the envelope of the eldest child and this should be indicated on the envelope of the other child/children (the envelope that does not have cash enclosed).

STEP 2

Enclose exact cash payment in one envelope for the package/s you are ordering. Payment for more than one child should be in the eldest child's envelope and marked at the bottom of the envelope in the space provided.

STEP 3

Return your completed envelope/s, with correct cash payment, to our photographers on the day.

Please note: You must enclose exact correct payment, as change is not available. Credit card payments can only be made online and we no longer accept cheques. There is a separate envelope for sibling photo orders, should your school choose to offer sibling photos.

School photographs will be returned to your school 4-6 weeks after the day of photography

IMPORTANT - "not for publication" students

If you have instructed your school that your child's image is "not for publication" (sometimes called "do not publish" or "not for media release" instructions), the school will ensure that your child is not presented to our photographers on photo day and school photographs will not be available for purchase. If you wish to change your instruction, then you must notify your school, so they change their records and identify your child as able to be photographed for school photography purposes. All students presented to our photographers by your school on photo day will be photographed, their images will appear in school photography packages with their fellow students and these packages will be available to purchase by all families.

Contact us: www.advancedlife.com.au/contact

advancedlife
school photography & print specialists