

# Newsletter Term 1 2023



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Digby Mercer

#### NEW STAFF

In these times of extreme teacher shortages, the school has been fortunate to appoint five teachers starting next term.

Mr Rhett Brown has been appointed as the substantive HOLA of Health and Physical Education. Mr Brown is very experienced, having worked at Byford Secondary College as a HOLA and as an acting Deputy Principal. Sport is his passion, and he is excited to be taking up the position in one of the nation's leading schools in hockey and golf. Thanks go to Ms Shanara Patman who has done a great job as acting HOLA.

Ms Jorjiah Horn is returning to Como after a term away to take up a permanent position in the English Learning Area. We were very sad when Ms Horn left but delighted that she is returning. Mr Brent Skufca and Mrs Helen Hudson are taking well-deserved long service leave next term. They will be replaced by Mr Kevin Anderson and Ms Sunny Allsopp respectively. Ms Natalie Halse will be replacing Ms Kirsten Romany who is still on leave next term.

#### STEM CENTRE

As a part of the Government's election commitment, \$600,000 was provided for a new Science, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Centre. Planning has now begun for the project, which is expected to be open for the beginning

of next year. We think we have come up with an innovative concept that will enable the school to get the best value for money in an environment where the cost of building materials is high and the labour supply for trades is limited. The result we are aiming for is a multifunctional space that will provide indoor and outdoor learning opportunities.

#### SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board has welcomed three new members, Mr Steven Wolfenden and Mr Bob Davis who are parent representatives, and Ms Penelope Coutas who is a staff representative. Other members of the Board are Mr Leon Taylor (Chairperson), Ms Nicki Buckley (Secretary), Ms Sarah Blythe and Mr Bob Davis who are parent representatives. Digby Mercer (Principal), Jo May and Mr Rhyhard Sahely. Ms Pat Pinkus and Mr Chris Dun are community representatives. My sincere thanks go to retiring parent representative Glenn Dickson.

#### SCHOOL SPORT WA

Congratulations to 2 of Como's Health and Physical Education staff. Andy Stephens has been appointed Boys Coach to the School Sport WA Volleyball Team for 2023. The team will be competing in the School Sport Australia National Championships in Canberra, ACT in June.



Mr Jamie Warman has been appointed Boys Manager to the School Sport WA Golf 12s Team and Boys Manager to the School Sport WA Golf 18s Team for 2023. These teams will be competing in School Sport Australia National Championships in Perth, WA in November and School Sport Australia National Championships in Gold Coast, QLD in August respectively.

## Meet The Team

### HUDSON HUANG

Hi Como!

My name is Hudson Huang, I started teaching Humanities and Social Sciences at Como Secondary College at the start of 2022. I was a previous student at Como and took a scenic route through being a trade qualified Baker for a decade before turning my passion for the humanities and terrible jokes into my job through a degree in education.

I grew up in China, and attended schools in the US and New Zealand, before moving to Perth in 2005. It's a great place to be, and I especially love the many hiking spots Perth has to offer (do say hello if you bump into me in the Perth hills!). In my spare time, I love to try out new stir fry recipes (my family is very passionate about their food), work on DIY projects around the house (not just doing it for the bunnings snags I swear!), or just chilling and listening to any Hip Hop and Neo-Soul songs on Spotify. I'm also a huge gaming (The Last of Us being an all time fave. Hooray on the TV show being good!) and anime enthusiast (Aggretsuko being a recent watch).

I'm excited about my future at Como, teaching in the community I grew up in, alongside some of my previous mentors in a very supportive environment. My aspiration is hopefully instilling the same enthusiasm I have for the humanities to my students through analogies and awful puns.

I hope to talk to you all as the year progresses.



### MILAN BOSICH



Hi Como!

My name is Milan Bosich and I teach Humanities and Social Sciences. I started teaching at Como Secondary College at the start of 2021 as a Photography/Digital Technologies/Engineering/Visual Art teacher, but I have ventured into the HASS Department since the beginning of the 2022 school year.

I was born in Indonesia before migrating to Australia in 2004. It was interesting to adjust to the Australian way of living (playing Australian Football religiously and into the BBQ culture). Prior to COVID, I would often go back to Indonesia to see my family and friends.

I spend a lot of my spare time travelling around Western Australia (especially around the Toodyay region for their yummy bakery!) and taking nifty photographs of my travels. If not travelling or taking photos, I am usually home watching the current Anime shows and trying my best to learn a new musical instrument now and then. I can play the guitar, the very basics of piano (with heavy guidance from YouTube tutorial videos), and have some experience with DJ equipment.

I am looking forward to my future at Como Secondary College and if you see me around the college or out and about around Como please feel free to say 'hello'!

*Educating parents on practical strategies to help manage modern-day issues and challenges affecting today's youth across both primary and secondary school levels.*

Como Secondary College with the support of the P&C provide SchoolTV which offers a wide range of resources to assist with the challenges faced by students and families today. It can be easily accessed via our website homepage using the blue TV icon on the right, alternatively click on the link below.

All SchoolTV topics are divided into series. Take the time to explore each series and topic and make sure you visit the resources section. Here you will find useful factsheets, apps, books, websites and other additional videos - all on one single topic!

[Healthy Body](#)

[School Survival](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Cyber Safety](#)

[Positive Parenting](#)

[Special Reports](#)

## *From the School Psychologist*

SchoolTV is a great wellbeing resource to support parents and carers to navigate modern-day parenting. It can be accessed on the school website by clicking the TV icon on the right. You will find information across a wide range of areas including cyber safety, mental health, positive parenting, healthy body, and school survival. If you would like an overview of everything, click on "all editions" to access videos, apps, websites, and Fact Sheets, as well as a range of relevant topics such as managing screen time, online gaming, mindfulness, exam jitters, sleep...and a lot more.

Pharyn Thompson  
School Psychologist

# YEAR 10 EXAMINATIONS TERM 2 WEEK 8

## (TUESDAY 13 JUNE TO THURSDAY 15 JUNE)

This year, Year 10 students in EMITS, Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 will sit formal examinations in English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences (MESH).

Year 10 exams are useful for students because they get to understand:

- Which parts of the curriculum they know and understand well
- Which parts of the curriculum they need to pay more attention to
- Practice their revision skills before they get into Year 11
- Get their first taste of what ATAR exams are going to be like.

Teachers will use the exams, to understand their students' progress and to know more about their strengths and weaknesses in terms of subject knowledge and skills. This enables them to adjust their teaching to help students with weaker areas.

## Where Are They Now?

Jess Colleu was the first teacher to be employed as a part of the school's Intensive Learning Team. Jess is an outstanding teacher and went on to win a Commonwealth Bank National Teaching Award and a Churchill Fellowship. The South Australian Department of Education head-hunted Jess as a consultant to help their schools establish effective literacy interventions. She then went on to a similar but more senior position in the Canberra-Goulbourn Catholic Education system. Currently Jess is spending a year travelling the world as a part of her Churchill Fellowship. The focus of her Fellowship is to research the most effective teaching strategies for students at risk. She has been fortunate to meet with leading



Exams will be conducted in the Library and C1 on Tuesday 13 June to Thursday 15th June. Examinations are 1.5 hours in length.

Students are required to attend each day and their regular timetable continues where an exam is not scheduled.

Where a student is sick and unable to sit an examination parents must notify the HUB by phoning or emailing prior to the examination. The school admin and the relevant HOLA, will determine if the examination may be completed later.

The examination schedule can be seen on the SEQTA Yr10 portal page. Students will be provided with an examination schedule and exam procedure information 2 weeks prior to examinations commencing.

Examination results will be included in Semester 1 Reports.

academics and scientists from around the world. Her intention is to return to WA to do a PhD in this area.

Jess is pictured below (left) with three of Australia's leading education academics at a conference in Syracuse, USA. Left to right Associate professor Lorraine Hammond (ECU), Dr Tanya Serry (Latrobe University), Professor Pam Snow (Latrobe University).

Jess with Professor Stanislas Dehaene, French Scientist of the Year



Students are advised to have a study schedule to ensure they are adequately prepared for their examinations. The content of year 10 exams is everything that students have learned during Terms 1 and 2. Classroom teachers will let students know which sections of the curriculum they'll be tested on so they can focus on those areas in their revision.

If you're looking for more assistance regarding exams go the "School Survival Series" found on SchoolTV link at the College website. [Exam Jitters | Como Secondary College \(schooltv.me\)](#)

**Leslie Carruthers**

## Tell Them From Me

The Tell Them From Me surveys are a really important tool. They give us a lot of very specific information from our families and from our students and teachers about what works well at our school and what kind of areas need to be improved or the kind of areas we can look at. Como SC uses the data that we receive to strategically set the direction of the school.

The survey is anonymous, voluntary, and easy-to-use. It is based on a comprehensive questionnaire covering several aspects of the parents' perceptions of their child's experiences at home and school. The TTFM Parent Survey for 2023 will be open Term 2 week 2. A link to the survey will be sent via SEQTA.

We encourage all parents to take a few minutes to share your opinions and thoughts with us as your voice is essential to the work we do.

Students in Y7-12 will have the opportunity to complete their survey during week 1 of Term 2 answering questions focused on school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways teachers interact with them. Teachers will complete their survey on Friday 28th April 2023.

## SCIENCE

### SYNERGY SOLAR CARS CHALLENGE

Our Year 8 EMITS representatives took part in the Synergy Solar Cars Challenge at Lumen Christi College on the 23rd March. Como was one of 16 schools to participate in the South East Metro heats.

The Synergy Solar cars challenge is a joint project between Synergy and STAWA (Science Teachers Associate of WA) for year 8 students. Students work together in small teams to build and test a car that runs on solar energy generated using a solar panel. In class, we experimented with the placement of the panel, size of wheels, size of the gears, aerodynamics and with different energy sources (we also raced with battery power just in case it is cloudy). Students apply science inquiry skills and knowledge of electrical circuits in a team environment, building collaboration and leadership skills.

Our in-class challenge winners were Team "Dinosaur Train" made up of, Tristan G, Aprileen S and Isabel H (pictured far right). Como SC came third in our heat which unfortunately didn't put us through to the grand final. However, the students represented Como beautifully and should be very proud of their efforts.

**Claire Horner**  
Science



### YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY

The Year 12 Chemistry classes have been learning about Acids and Bases. As a part of their program they need to be able to do a titration – an analytical technique that is used to determine the concentration of an unknown substance. The students have been practicing their skills in class and then completed an assessment in class time. Working in pairs they must deliver a specific volume of hydrochloric acid to neutralise the base. They use an indicator that changes colour to determine when they have added enough. This assessment tests their understanding of acids and bases as well as their scientific skills. I'm sure I can speak for the Year 12s that they are very glad this task is over!

**Rhyard Sahely**  
Science



## Resources Technology Showcase

Year 9 EMITS students visited the Resources Technology Showcase at the Perth Convention Centre <https://rtsperth.com/> Students were able to experience highly interactive exhibits to broaden their knowledge of STEM careers and technologies used in the resource industry. They enjoyed taking helicopter flights; moon walks; tours of offshore gas plants; climbing to the top of wind turbines and more, all from the relative safety of the Convention Centre. This was a free event for all ages showcasing the innovations that the mining, resources, defence and space sectors have to offer.

**Penny Coutas**  
**EMITS Teacher in Charge**



## PI DAY CELEBRATIONS

On March 14, students from the year 7 Emits class got together to celebrate Pi Day. March 14 also happens to be the birth date of Albert Einstein -- which makes the day an extra special one. Because pi is 3.14159..., some schools hold their Pi Day celebrations on March 14 (3/14) at exactly 1:59 p.m.

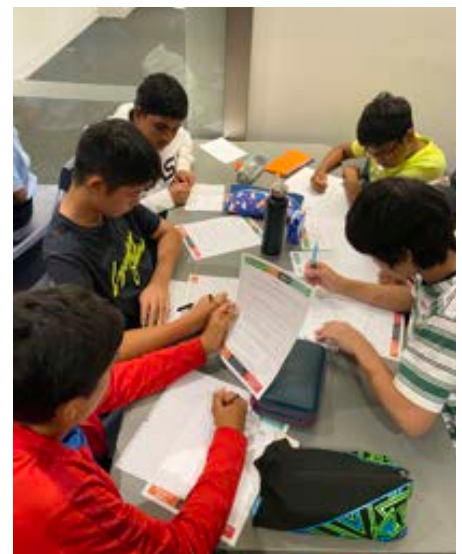
We started at 11.55am so not even close this year. Students brought in pi related food and students enjoyed devouring it. Thank you to all the parents who helped the students to put these together.

There was also a pi reciting competition with Shadi Manja managing to recite 145 digits of pi. Congratulations also to Mikah Luyer and Ryan Prakash for their credible efforts of 41 and 25 respectively. Well done to these students.

**Susan Reid**  
**Mathematics**



Answer: Piping hot



## Have Sum Fun

EMITS students from year 7 and 8 took part in the Have Sum Fun Competition at John Curtin College of the Arts in March. The Competition is an exciting mathematics initiative that uses a quiz-night format. Teams of six students race against the clock to solve four intense rounds of eight challenging problems.

It was a challenging and fun night with students working together under pressure. Well done to all.



# HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*Shanara Patman*

## INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

### Year 7

- |   |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Aleezah N  | Evan S    |
| 2 | Evita O    | William T |
| 3 | Chanelle M | Zain N    |

### Year 8

- |   |              |          |
|---|--------------|----------|
| 1 | Madeleine T  | Marcus G |
| 2 | Josephine G  | Lachie M |
| 3 | Antoinette V | Riley W  |

### Year 9

- |   |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Zoe G     | Mitchell M |
| 2 | Mia C     | Kyle L     |
| 3 | Mikaela S | Alec G     |

### Year 10

- |   |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Jessica L | Rhett B   |
| 2 | Ginger A  | George T  |
| 3 | Kate M    | Jarrahn M |

### Year 11

- |   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| 1 | Ruby W | Matthew L |
| 2 | Lucy T | James S   |
| 3 | Andy P | Tristan L |

### Year 12

- |   |           |              |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Georgia N | =1 Jackson H |
| 2 | Jade P    | =1 Xavier M  |
| 3 | Nene U    | Brandon K    |

**CHAMPION HOUSE: Flame**

**2nd: Jacaranda**

**3rd: Pine**



**INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**



A huge Congratulations to the Como Secondary College Interschool Swimming Team who participated in the 'B' Division SSWA Interschool Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 29th March. The team won the Meritorious Shield, finishing 4th overall and with 2 individual champion students -Jessica L (Yr 10G) & Matthew L (Yr 11B)

Thank you to Josh Findlater for his preparation and organisation, leading the team on the day and Michael Foster and Robyn Lewis who assisted on the day with managing students, marshalling and keeping spirits high.



**SSWA Interschool Basketball**

Como Secondary College entered a team to compete in the Senior Boys SSWA Interschool Basketball tournament on Friday 24th March. The team was coached and organised by staff members Michael Foster and Matt Gorton.



Competing in the Airport Zone our Senior Boys Representative team played fixtures in a one day carnival against Rossmoyne SHS, Clontarf, Sevenoaks, St Norberts and Belmont City College.

Well done to all students and officials who proudly represented the College and gained valuable competitive experience.

**Welcome Shayni Nelson**

Shyani joins the team as a Hockey Specialist Program teacher and brings with her a wealth of hockey experience. Shayni is also the Head Coach of the Girls U15 Gold WA State Team and will be busy over holidays as they travel to Darwin. To find out more about Shayni check out the links below



<https://www.hockeywa.org.au/news/shayni-nelson-400/>

<https://www.hockeywa.org.au/news/nelsons-hockey-flame-continues-to-fire/>



# COMO HOCKEY ACADEMY

## GRINDING IT OUT

Tanks are being built and bodies chiselled in the first term of the Como Hockey Academy Programme. All year groups have been completing tailored fitness programs to build a strong fitness base before on field hockey training starts in Week 8. Classes have been completing middle distance running and circuits with their Specialist teachers and strength sessions run with Alex Webster and James Prire at Curtin University in their new purpose group strength gymnasium. Strength sessions involve a structured movement warm up, free and rack weight exercise to work on strength and explosiveness and finish with core work on the mats. It has been a valuable experience for many students who have not completed supervised strength and conditioning training in a gym setting before.

## BABIES OF THE TEAM

Como Secondary College students, Jaeda R (Year 12) and Georgia H (Year 10) represented WA at the U21 National Championships in Sydney last week. The team had a successful week, smashing Tasmania in the Bronze Medal match 8-nil. Both players were the youngest in the age group but made a significant contribution to their team's success. The Men's team won gold beating NSW 1-nil in the final.

## SOCKS AND CROCS

Several Como Hockey Academy students will travel to Darwin, the land

of the croc, in the April school holidays to represent Western Australia in the U15 National Hockey Championships. Congratulations to the following students (and staff member) on their selection. Good luck and most importantly, enjoy the experience.

### U15 GOLD GIRLS' TEAM

Shane' B (Year 10)  
Peyton R (Year 9)  
Zoe G (Year 9)  
Mrs Shayni Nelson – Head Coach

### U15 BLACK DEVELOPMENT GIRLS' TEAM

Mia C (Year 9)

### U15 GOLD BOYS' TEAM

Harley M (Year 10)

### U15 BOYS STATE TRAIN-ON

Samuel S (Year 9)

## ON THE HORIZON (BUS THAT IS!)

### Captains' Cup 2023

Captains have been briefed and teams picked for this year's "Captains' Cup" which will be held on Friday 31st of March at the Perth Hockey Stadium. All students were drafted into teams which will battle it out in a 5-team round robin competition in Week 9. Games will be played across field to ensure a carnival like atmosphere and to encourage mingling between different year levels. The Hockey Academy staff and leaders will take the opportunity to also introduce academy members to the new values statement and agreement document which will drive the growth and improvement of the Academy in the years

to come.

Prizes will be up for grabs on the day for winning team and for genuine participation and sportsmanship.

## Club Trials

Club selection trials are currently taking place at all metropolitan hockey clubs. Make sure you find out when your year group trials are being held and get along to them. Try to put all of that new fitness and grit into practice on the field.

## Pro-League Games on Kayo

The Como Hockey Academy encourages its players to watch world class level hockey at every opportunity to learn from the best. The Hockeyroos and Kookaburras started their Pro-League campaigns recently. Tune into Kayo sports to watch all of the action.

## SSWA State Team Nominations

School Sport WA nominations of the State Under and 12s and 16s teams are open now open for students interested in nominating and trialling.

More information can be found at the links below:

<https://www.schoolsportwa.com.au/interstate/hockey/boys-girls-12s/>

<https://www.schoolsportwa.com.au/interstate/hockey/boys-girls-16s/>

**Shayni Nelson, Tate Napier and Bruce Emslie - Hockey Specialist teachers**





# COMO GOLF ACADEMY

Term 1 has seen our students using class time to focus on tournament scheduling and planning. This involves scheduling local and interstate events, whilst creating their own practice sessions that are relevant to what their statistics on the golf course highlight.

Students have been back out on the golf course fine tuning their craft. With a new coaching structure in place, our students are showing greater technical development leading to higher motivation and enjoyment on course. Students are currently undergoing short game assessments that will inform planning for Term 2.

Stopping in Perth before his flight to London, a select few Golf Academy students were invited to a 2-hour session with Ryan Lumsden of Q Golf. Ryan provided postural awareness, flexibility exercises, biofeedback, and golf-specific exercise drills to complement our students technical development and the learning of new "feels" associated with swing changes. Through Ryan's expertise, our students showed improved body awareness and an understanding of why certain drills and exercises are most appropriate to achieve desired movement patterns.

Over 25 students are currently undergoing golf specific physical screenings with Martin McInnes of GolfFit. This involves assessing their

body in relation to joint mobility, muscle strength and length, and general motor patterns and control. This is then related to the requirements of the golf swing. From this a golf specific exercise program is provided. This will lead our students to better and more consistent golf swings.

We were proud to have 5 Golf Academy students represented at this years Amateur Championship of WA. Congratulations to both Kortni H (Yr 8) and Aileen S (Yr 8) who made it through to the matchplay component of the competition. A special mention to Kortni, who defeated last years champion on her way to the semi-finals. A remarkable effort.

Year 11 Golf Academy student, Josiah E (Yr 11) received an invite into the PLAY TODAY NSW Open on the back of some outstanding interstate results. Playing against some of the best professional golfers in Australia, Josiah held his own, narrowly missing the cut. A great experience.

Despite COVID restrictions halting this event, we are glad to announce that Bridging the Gap will be going ahead this year. On 30 March 2023, all students in years 7-10 will be paired with senior golfers at Collier Park Golf Course to compete in a teams competition.

**Jamie Warman**  
**Golf Teacher in Charge**



## Canning Bridge to Curtin University Bike Link - Project Update



As you may be aware, the City of South Perth has been working with the Department of Transport (DoT) to create the Canning Bridge to Curtin Bike Link to:

- Create safe active streets (SAS) along Godwin Avenue, Pether Road and Davilak Crescent, to give priority to people riding bikes and walking
- Construct a shared path for walking and riding parallel to Manning Road from Pether Road to Gillon Street, where it will join the existing on-road bike lane on Walanna Drive which goes to Jackson Road via Waterford Plaza, where there is also a link to Curtin University.

As part of this project, the existing footpath from the end of Godwin Avenue, crossing Henley Street and along the southern boundary of Como Secondary College will become a shared path. In addition, a raised intersection will be installed on the Henley Street bend, to provide safer crossing for students, their families and the local community.

The designs have now been finalised and the DoT has just announced that the City will receive grant funding towards construction of the Bike Link, which will be carried out during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Please see the attached brochure for a map of the final designs, including the location of the Henley Street raised intersection and new shared path by Como Secondary College.

Please contact me by email or by phone on 9474 0777 if you'd like more information about the project, or visit [yoursay.southperth.wa.gov.au/bikelink](https://yoursay.southperth.wa.gov.au/bikelink).  
[Bike Link Brochure](#)

# THE ARTS

**Monique Laves**

## **Moulin Rouge – Creative Industries & Create@ Como Year 10**

The Certificate II: Creative Industries students and the Year 10 Create@ Como students had the opportunity to gain behind the scenes insights of the Moulin Rouge musical from the technical crew involved in putting on the show. The Musical team from Moulin Rouge deconstructed different scenes as they would at the end of the show allowing students to get a glimpse at what happens behind the curtain; this included Wigs/Hair and Make-Up, Lighting, Props, Wardrobe and Set Mechanists. Australian actor Simon Burke, then followed with live on-stage interviews with crew from each department.

Simon and the crew highlighted their function, responsibilities and daily tasks on the production and the numerous and fascinating pathways the crew have entered the performing arts industry from, before answering questions from the audience.



The session provided students with a better understanding of The Arts industry and the different careers within the Theatre and Entertainment industries. Students were left in awe and thinking

which new and exciting pathway they can take after school.

***It was an amazing experience!***

## **Welcome**

Hello

My name is Steven Williams and I am the new TIC at Como Secondary College. I play clarinet and saxophone and have performed all over the world on these instruments. My most memorable performances were at the Sydney Opera House and on numerous occasions at Disneyland, Los Angeles.

I love watching AFL and playing AFL Supercoach. I am happily married with 4 daughters aged 17-23 and have a dog named Monty and two cats named kitty and Saffran.

I was inspired by my father who has been a life long performer and the moment I picked up the recorder in Year 4 I was hooked! The passion intensified and I knew that I wanted to be involved with music for life and to share the love of music with people of all ages.

When I heard of a vacancy at Como Secondary College I jumped at the opportunity. Como has a rich heritage

in jazz and big band and this genre is one that I am particularly fond of and experienced in. I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to work alongside young musicians and to help further develop the jazz program with Como's talented music students.

Thank you to students and families who have made me feel welcome and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming performances.

Warm Regards,

***Steven Williams***  
***Music Teacher In Charge***



***Also new for 2023 is Alex Maiciver – Visual Art and Photography***

### ***Thank You Rotary of South Perth***

Rotary and Interact joined the Creative Industries students at the Parent/Teacher Interviews to fundraise for The Arts. It was a fabulous opportunity for our students to engage with our local community. Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders who dedicate their time and talent to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.

Thank you to Mrs Pat Prinkus and Susanne Wakeman our local Rotary and Interact leaders, for their organisation, time and good will. Our students really enjoyed working with these two inspirational ladies and greatly appreciate all funds raised. We look forward to keeping our communities connected for the future.

We are hoping to raise more funds for our 2024 production.



**CREATE@COMO**

*Visual Art students have finished their drawing and design development for the term and are ready to start their studio pieces. We are very busy down here in the Art Studios. Our aim is to work towards an up and coming exhibition. Watch this space!*





# YEAR 7 CAMP



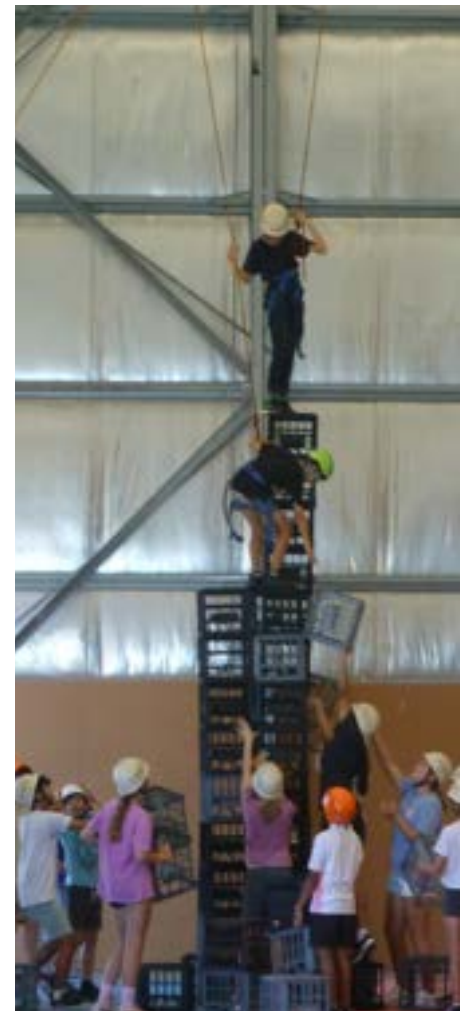


Year 7 camp saw 94 excited students and a handful of brave staff set off for an overnight stay at Point Peron Camp School. The students participated in rock-climbing, stand up paddleboarding, kayaking and the always popular team building challenge “crate climb”.

In the evening, students were treated to an amazing lighting display over the Indian Ocean and competed to be the quiz-masters of Como. This was highlighted by the music round hosted by Ms Stokes and Ms Kolman; picture 90 plus kids singing and dancing to “Sweet Caroline” to wrap up the night.

A fantastic time was had by all (although very little sleep), new friendships were forged and the cohort returned to Como SC ready to face the years of high school ahead.

*Michael Foster*



# STUDENT SERVICES

Nicole Richardson and Michael Foster

## Future Leaders

In Term 4 2022, Student Services took nominations from our Year 7 and 8 students for a new program called Future Leaders which commenced in 2023. The program hopes to provide leadership development and opportunities as well as providing a voice for our younger cohort of students.

The number of high-quality applicants was overwhelming. Forty 40 students were selected as the inaugural Future Leaders cohort, with 20 acting in an official capacity each semester. Our Semester 1 leaders have been proudly wearing their badges and have already stepped in to support the Interact Club for "Clean up Como" day.

We look forward to them being part of many, ore exciting events over the years ahead.

## Newman Senior High School Leaders

A group of Year 11 students from Neman Senior High school came to visit Como and spent the morning with the year 11 student councillors doing some team building activities, participating in a school tour and then attending a classroom lesson with them. For many of the Newman Senior High School students this was the first time in a Perth high school. This was a wonderful experience for school leaders from different schools to meet and collaborate.



## Year 12 Armed For Life

Our year 12 students participated in a 'party safe' presentation run by Armed for Life aimed at informing the students about drugs, alcohol and consent. This

was a very informative presentation and was well received from our year 12 students.

## Resiliency Plus

Our school Chaplain, Robyn Lewis organised a Resilience Plus For Teens four week program run through Life Streams for some selected year seven students. The interactive course is designed to develop strategies for a more courageous and optimistic growth mindset. Well done to all of the students who have participated in this program.

## GRIP Leadership Conference

On Tuesday March 21, our year 10-12 student councillors, along with two members of the Hockey Academy leadership group attended the Secondary School GRIP Leadership Conference 2023 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The students heard from some amazing speakers, participated in workshops and breakout groups, and upskilled themselves on ways to bring people together, promote and run events, manage conflict and speak in front of a large audience.

We look forward to seeing what exciting ideas they come up with for Como this year – watch this space!

## Year 7 Transition

Como Secondary College was excited to welcome our new year students to school on 1 February 2023. A jam packed four days of activities to start the year off was built around building friendships and school culture.

Some of the activities included a school scavenger, time capsule activity, history lesson on Maarli the swan run by Mr Mercer, constable Care interactive theatre on bullying and a faction Olympics full of team games run by Total Team Building.

## First Aid Qualifications

Our nurse Kerry Martin has been busy assisting some of our Year 11 and 12 classes get their 'Provide First Aid' qualification. Well done to the following Year 11 classes: Creative Industries, Golf, Hockey, Careers & Enterprise, Outdoor Education.

Our Year 12 Careers & Enterprise students are currently working towards the completion of their qualification.





## Harmony Day

Harmony day is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our students were invited to wear their cultural outfits to school or to wear orange. Our staff and students participated in a shared picnic luncheon on the oval to celebrate the day.



## Good Standing

Students who maintained their [Good Standing](#) as per the Good Standing Policy during the term were rewarded for their efforts. Well done to those who managed this. It was great to see so many students achieving in the areas of attitude, behaviour and effort, and attendance.



## Wellness Wednesday

Our Wellness Wednesday school connectiveness initiative is growing each term. This term we have added a DJ club run by Mr Greif and a Cochet Club run by Ibu Penny. All of our other clubs such as coffee club and fitness and chess club and many more clubs continue to run each Wednesday. We encourage all of our students to get involved.





# YEAR 12 BALL







The annual Como Ball held at Beaumonde on the Point, East Perth was a beautiful evening, with the majority of students attending. Students enjoyed a wonderful dinner followed by a night full of dancing and making memories.

The 'paparazzi' were out in force to capture the event and students were certainly dressed to impress, sporting the Hollywood theme. This year was the first year the Como Ball was exclusive to our Year 12 students and their guests. A decision making this occasion all the more special.

Mani W and Kiarn W were awarded 'Stars of the Ball' with Sam H and Ruby C taking out the "Cutest Couple" honours. It was great to see the cohort enjoy themselves. It's a big year ahead and we wish them all the best. Huge thanks for all staff who assisted and made it a night to remember.

*Josh Findlater*



# Peth Zoo Excursion Intensive English Course

PERTH ZOO TRIP - Kaur M Yr 9

Yesterday we went to the zoo with the class. We arrived there at 9 o'clock. Then a guide gave us a map. We had 15 minutes to go around in groups to see the animals, I went with my friend to see the penguins and the crocodile, we came back to the teacher and he introduced us to the Education Officer Caroline who showed us how they feed the frogs and the turtles. Thereafter she showed us the kangaroo and three wallabies, we fed them and we petted them. We went back to the class and she showed us the snake skin and we touched it, we also touched the blue tongue animal, after we went to see the other animals with our teacher. I saw the African savannah, Asian rainforest, Australian bushwalk and Australian wetland.

At the African savannah I saw the rhinoceros that was very big, then I saw the lion sitting on the rock and the lioness eating. I didn't see the giraffe. There were Hyenas too but I didn't see them. Lastly, I saw a meerkat playing with a ball. It was very adorable.

Then in the Asian rainforest I saw a female elephant and I was shocked because it was very big and beautiful. I also saw the Komodo Dragon that was barely moving with his head. I saw the white cheeked gibbon on the tree. I saw some otters. They were a little far but I saw them. We went to see the tiger but I didn't see it. Lastly I saw the red panda on a tree.

In the Australian wetlands I saw the crocodile underwater and I saw many fish in the tank, and I saw many birds in the cages. I saw some snakes and penguins.

Then we took a class photo and headed back to school. It was a beautiful day. My favourite part was when we saw the elephants.



PERTH ZOO EXCURSION  
BEN BERRYMAN YR12

Our class got together at 8:33am and waited for everyone at the bus until 8:47am then we all got on the bus and were transported to the Perth Zoo a little after 9am. Once the teacher had let us into the zoo, we walked straight to the penguin area in the Australian Wetlands for 15 minutes before heading back and introducing ourselves to an Education Office named Carolyn.

Carolyn had introduced herself as our Education Officer and proceeded to take us to a Discovery Room, to the left of the entrance of the zoo. When we entered the Discovery Room, we sat down while two zookeepers(docents) were feeding a baby turtle and two tree frogs. After the class took photos, we all started to listen to Carolyn's presentation on Australia's biomes and Australian mammals like the Kangaroo, wallaby and wombat. After the presentation, we all went outside the Discovery Room to meet, pet and feed some wallabies and a kangaroo.

After we thanked Carolyn, we all noticed the time and decided to go to the 11:15am Penguin 'talk and feed'. When we got to the penguin enclosure, there were a lot of kids and parents watching and listening to the docent as they were feeding the penguins. The penguins were in the water, waiting for the docent to feed them. After the penguins finished eating, people started to leave and so did the class.

Once the class left the penguin enclosure, we all made our way to the Australian Wetlands by following our maps. We all found out that there was a lion talk happening at 11:30am, so the class decided to rush through the African Savannah. We rushed past the painted dog and rhinoceros to get to the lion enclosures where we were just in time for the docent to start talking



about the lions. One of the lionesses was eating something behind a log while the other lioness and male lion were resting under a tree and on the ground in front of the glass. After the talk, the docent showed us the meerkats and how the zoo feeds them. After the meerkats were fed, people left and we followed and saw the giraffes and zebras.

After looking at the Galapagos tortoise, we all decide to see the Nocturnal House featuring the bilby and the ghost bat. Once we entered the nocturnal house, the only light we could see was the red light from the enclosures. Overall, the ghost bats, cane toad and snakes were really interesting to look at.

After we left the nocturnal house we walked past the orangutans and the bull elephant. At the time it was holding a metal hoop with its trunk, then walked to the other side of its enclosure and put the metal hoop on a traffic cone, then it walked back and hid away. We decided to visit the tiger. Once we got to the enclosure, we couldn't find any of the tigers anywhere. We decided to exit the enclosure and go to the female elephant enclosure and saw the elephant giving itself a shower and also drinking from a water fountain. Once we were finished looking, we had lunch.

After we had lunch my classmates and I went to the Asian Rainforest to see the last few animals at the upper part of the zoo. Wen and I went to visit the Red Pandas, but when we got to the enclosure, we couldn't



see them until someone pointed out that there was only one red panda sleeping in the TREE! Once we took our photos we decided to walk to the Komodo dragon enclosure, at first the lizard was still but after a little waiting the dragon decided to crawl towards the glass!!!

After we took lots of pictures we walked to the bus and got driven back to school by the bus driver Ken at 2:50pm. I enjoyed my day at the zoo.

# ADMIN & FINANCE NEWS

## Contributions and Charges

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges.

Contributions and charges form a large part of the school's income for learning and teaching programs in the school and supports the school in its focus to provide a quality education for all. The College is currently accepting payments for the 2022 and 2023 school year.

Turn one big payment into easy instalments, you may like to consider starting a payment plan now to assist with completing all payments.

Payments are accepted by cheque, cash, Visa, Mastercard, direct deposit and Qkr:

BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523 | Ref: student name

## Attendance

· Contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline **9365 2011** or email [Como.SC.HUB@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Como.SC.HUB@education.wa.edu.au) to advise the reason for student absence before 9.00am

· For early departure provide student with a written note to request permission to leave class

· Write an explanation for absence and send it via your child as soon as they return to the College

· Respond promptly to SMS and Absentee Letters

## Contact Details

Please advise changes via Consent2Go, email to [Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au) or Change of Details Form available at Administration.

**Communications are usually sent via email; please ensure we have your correct address**



The onboarding process of students onto SEQTA Learn and parents onto SEQTA Engage is proving positive on many fronts.

If you are experiencing any problems or have not received a parent login please contact the college on 9365 2000.

**Please remember to check SEQTA Notices to keep up to date**

# PARENTS & CITIZENS

## Meeting

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the College in the Elicos Room. Attendance at these meetings is a great way to find out more about what is happening in the College, its future plans and how these will affect your child and your family. It is also a venue for parents to voice concerns, raise issues and discuss ideas both with the Principal and with other parents.

## Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The second-hand uniform shop is run by the P&C with all funds raised going towards projects to benefit all students.

It is located in B Block and open during term each Friday, 8.30-9.15am. Non-students need to sign in at the front office where staff will assist to locate the shop.

The shop is run on donations only.

No longer required, preloved uniform items in good condition can be dropped at reception 8am-4 pm Mon-Fri.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HELP LINES

Call 000 in an emergency if you feel someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- CAMHS Crisis Connect supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hrs/7 days a week incl. public holidays for a tele-mental health assessment or advice) call 1800 048 636
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) is 24/7 for adults – 1300 555 788 (metro). Peel callers – 1800 676 822 (free)
- RuralLink for Rural and remote areas from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am (Mon to Fri) and 24 hrs (Sat, Sun and public holidays) - 1800 552 002
- Find your GP after-hours clinic
- Call after hours GP Helpline on 1800 022 222

## NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO

<b>Women's Domestic</b>	<b>1800 007 339</b>
<b>Violence Helpline</b>	
<b>Beyondblue</b>	<b>1300 22 4636</b>
<b>Crisis Care Helpline</b>	<b>9223 1111 Or</b>
<b>Country Toll Free</b>	<b>1800 199 008</b>
<b>Headspace</b>	<b>1800 650 890</b>
<b>Kids Helpline</b>	<b>1800 551 800</b>
<b>Lifeline</b>	<b>13 11 14</b>
<b>Men's Line Australia</b>	<b>1300 789 978</b>
<b>Suicide Call Back Service</b>	<b>1300 659 467</b>
<b>The Samaritans Crisis Line</b>	<b>135 247</b>

(7 am to 7 pm)