

By Makenna Coombs, year 9.

Semester 2 overview

In August, we have Gratitude Week: a week of activities expressing gratitude for different aspects of our lives, like gratitude for education, gratitude for water, and gratitude for family. The College Grandparent's Day mass occurred on Thursday 21 August. This event enabled all grandparents to come and have a day with their grandchildren, watch some student-led musical performances, and enjoy a morning tea. Week 7 holds the Year 12 retreat at Maroochy Waterfront Camp: 3 days 2 nights, reflecting on their high school experience and making lasting memories before external exams and graduation.

In September, we have Father's Day, with a lovely morning in the Salo enjoying delicious food, exciting raffles, and fun activities. Finishing off Term 3, we have House Express Arts where each House presents a performance incorporating all the Arts, and the inaugural Colour Run, organised by our dedicated House Captains and Heads of House, and Mrs Ruhle, Director of Sport.

In October, we start of Term 4 on Wednesday 8 October, Year 7 retreat (Project Hatch - Who Am I), Year 9 retreat (Project Hatch - Step in, Step up, Step out), 2026 Leadership Induction liturgy, Year 11 FACE retreat, and Dance Night. At Dance Night, all College dance troupes perform their pieces from the year, including Senior Dance Troupe, Senior Hip Hop Troupe, Junior Dance Troupe, Junior Contemporary Troupe, Year 10 Dance class, and various featured Year 11 and 12 dance items.

St Ursula's Week, in Week 3 of Term 4, has the student vs teacher debate on Monday, student vs teacher volleyball on Tuesday, Ursie Woman Challenge on Wednesday, Day of Change on Thursday, and finally Boat Race on Friday - a themed event all PCs participate in by making a boat, blurb and performance.

In November, we have Year 12 Formal - the girls get to dress up in their gorgeous dresses, shoes and clutches and have a fabulous night, as well as Year 12 Graduation on the same morning. The last day finally comes for Year 10 and 11 on Friday 28 November, and for Year 7-9 on Thursday 4 December.



By Mirabelle Lee, year 8; Esperance Tumaina, year 11; and Matilda Shoebridge, year 10.

Fusion of the Arts

The Culture Department's biannual *Fusion of the Arts* at the Salo Centre highlights student talent across Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Drama and Media. Led by Ms Pickard and Culture Captain Sienna Stockwell, the event features vibrant performances and displays, celebrating the college's artistic spirit and cultural identity.

Before the on-stage performance, various works from visual arts, Clay Club and film/media work, produced by our girls, were put on display. These exhibits showed creativity and innovation, and were certainly an eye-pleaser, with many interesting features and talent for the audience to see!

The show opened with performances by the Senior Dance Troupe and Junior Contemporary Troupe, including Maeghan Wilkes' IA2 piece. Dance also appeared in Film, as Year 10 Film students combined performance with cinematic storytelling in their assessed works.

Music played a key role in *Fusion of the Arts*, featuring standout performances by the concert band, choir, Year 9/10 band, Senior Music class, and Senior Guitar Band. A lively pre-show hosted by the Music Department showcased talents from both Junior and Senior music students, energizing the evening.

The fun didn't stop there; along with dance, music and numerous art displays, girls from Film and Media classes had the opportunity of having their amazing work presented to an audience. These films and short music videos featured the creativity and imagination of their producers, with unique elements of filming and media.

Drama was also a major section of the performance night, with an entertaining snippet of the Wizard of Oz, the Junior Play, being performed, as well as a number of hilarious year 7/8 drama assessment videos being viewed.

Overall, the 2025 Fusion of the Arts was a huge success, showcasing the amazing talent in girls from Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music and Film/Media; we look forward to the next one in 2027!

The view from the desk of... Ms Scott!
Petals & puzzles: Belly's summer shuffle.

In summer's glow, young Belly stands,
With petals clasped tight in her hands.
"He loves me, he loves me not," she'd sigh.

Two brothers in her heart do dwell—
Conrad, with secrets hard to quell,
Belly doesn't want to be their "love game" boss,
But sometimes she feels she's taking a loss.

Jeremiah, however, smiles, light as air,
With boyish charm but not always tender care,
He laughs, he lifts, he's always near,
Like a friendly stalker, but there is no need to fear!

She plucks a petal, torn between,
The love she's felt, and a love unseen.
Conrad's depth, a stormy sea,
Jeremiah's intensity, a desperate plea.

"He loves me," whispers in the breeze,
Then doubts like tides, "He loves me not," Belly's heart
swings with the tide's dance,
In a continuous cycle of summers and tangled chance.

With every petal, hope and fear,
She craves a love but still unclear.
Will Conrad's silence spark the calm,
Or will Jeremiah's cheating cause alarm?

Oh, summer's game of push and pull,
A love triangle, sweet but cruel.
"He loves me, he loves me not," she sighs,
As under the sun, her future lies.

By Helen Ameen, year 8.

Year 8 camp

Year 8 students enjoyed an action-packed three-day, two-night camp at Tallebudgera, filled with adventure and fun. Highlights included the high ropes course and giant swing, where students challenged themselves and cheered each other on.

They also took part in Indigenous games, learning through play and cultural connection. Down at the beach, students had a blast with beach games and bodyboarding in the surf.

It was a fantastic camp that built confidence, friendships, and lasting memories.



By Banazir Ameen, year 11.

ESU Public Speaking Competition

On 26 June 26, the Edmund Rice Cultural Centre at St Mary’s College came alive with eloquence, passion, and powerful ideas as Senior students from across the Toowoomba and West region gathered for the prestigious English-Speaking Union (ESU) Competition. The theme, inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s timeless words. *“In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock,”* challenged students to reflect deeply and speak boldly.

Seven outstanding candidates took to the stage, each delivering speeches that were thoughtful, inspiring, and rich with personal conviction. Representing St Mary’s College were Year 11 students CJ Moore and Ben Wightman, and Year 12 students Lucas Norton and Connor Leeson. From Downlands College, Year 11 student Caleb Nolan impressed the crowd with his insight, while Toogoolawa School’s Eloise Alderson from Year 12 delivered an amazing speech. And Emma Stinson, a Year 11 student from St Ursula’s College who brought fresh perspectives and powerful delivery with a poetic, rhyming speech that impressed everyone and truly embodied the spirit of the theme.

Emma Stinson claimed a well-deserved first place, captivating the audience with her poise and clarity; a charismatic, confident girl. Connor Leeson earned second place with a compelling and principled speech, and Eloise Alderson took third. Each of them leaving a lasting impression with their beautiful message.

Emma’s win secures her a spot in the state final, held in Brisbane on the 14 of August, a thrilling next step in her public speaking journey! We eagerly await her results.

A massive thank you to St Mary’s College for hosting the event and creating such a welcoming atmosphere. Special appreciation goes to the panel of judges for their thoughtful deliberation, and a heartfelt shoutout to Mr Lee, whose tireless efforts, alongside Ms Cooper from St Mary’s, made the event a reality. The day was smoothly guided by Nick Jewell, St Mary’s Culture Captain, who served as an exceptional MC and kept the energy up high.

Congratulations to all participants, you truly spoke with style and stood with principle!



Competition participants (from left): Eloise Alderson, Emma Stinson, Caleb Nolan, CJ Moore, Ben Wightman, Lucas Norton, Connor Leeson.

By Sophia Sanson-Male, year 9.

MC Cup

On the 25 of July, St Ursula’s College faced Downlands in the annual Merici-Chevalier Cup netball clash. Although the Downlands team secured first place with a narrow win over the Open Team, our Senior girls delivered a commendable performance in a display of determination and teamwork. With strong encouragement from the crowd and their fellow peers at school, the netball team showed great resilience, skill, and teamwork across the Downlands’ court.

With games underway at 4.00pm and the main game at 6.15pm, students showed support through bringing friends and family to watch, wearing the Ursie colours, and making noise for the netball players. To keep our stomachs full, various food and beverage trucks were located outside the court including Taste & Design Co, Abundant Food, and Runnin on Hot Spuds & Coffee.

Before the day, we showed support through multiple events at school over the span of 3 days. These events included Ursie Bear tryouts on Wednesday, banner painting on Thursday, and a spirit tunnel on Friday.

After the main match, players and supports mingled outside the court, sharing laughs, hugs, and hot chips. Although St Ursula’s did not win the Merici-Chevalier Cup, the loss didn’t dampen spirits however strengthened bonds between the teammates. Win or lose, we showed our unwavering Ursie spirit through courage and connection.



