



# MT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SVAPA NEWSLETTER TERM 1 TWENTYTWENTYONE

Welcome to all the new lovely parents and welcome back all the old weathered parents barely hanging in there.

In these newsletters, I document what took place in the last term and all the events coming up in the current term.

I like to have a news section on our current students and alumni. Shows they are involved in, courses they have received a place in, competitions won etc., If you have anything to share please email it to me and I will include it in the upcoming newsletter.

As of writing this, I haven't heard anything concrete from Perth Festival so we will just have to ride the train of uncertainty a little bit longer.

Moya Thomas  
SVAPA Coordinator

## SVAPA Alumni

The SVAPA students **Sophie Flanigan, Eli Metcalf, Rosie Dagless and Kirby Jones** have all secured a spot at WAAPA this year. Congratulations to those students, their teacher and their families.

## LAST TERM

### CO3 Dance Workshop

The highly talented Storm Helmore from CO3 Dance gave a beautiful workshop with our Year 7's last year. The students had already been working on the birds project for CO3's Perth Festival show, Archives of Humanity, so the workshop was a continuation of the collaboration and a gift to our students for their work from CO3. The students raved about it for days, so much so, that I have invited Storm back this year as an early morning class teacher.



**Dance workshop**

## Tiny Works



Tiny Works is the Year 9 SVAPA production. It's 12 small performances around the school by two/three students in each group – performed to an audience of just one. As an audience member you rotate through a program of performances.

Thank you for all the support from the mentors; Charlotte Otton, Kelli McCluskey, Steve Bull, Joshua Pether, Chloe Flockart and Andrew Sutherland. Thank you to the parents for continuing to support such a unique show and thank you to all the audience members who allowed our students to test out their new-found powers on them.

A massive thanks to my one and only drama wife for life, Natalie Diggins. The Certificate II students run the show under the guidance of Nat. Thanks to all those students as well.

I received many emails celebrating the students' work, here are just a few:

“While the big productions will always be a showpiece for the schools that decide to produce them, I am grateful that my children are part of a school that encourages and enables its students to create them – and this is where it starts. If someone told me that Phoebe Waller-Bridge was a graduate I would

not be surprised. This feels like the right place to find out if you are ready to find a way to bring ideas to life and a larger audience”

“It was so much fun to interact with the children in their performance and to see how they improvised to include the audience member in their little piece of fantasy or story, some hilarious, some beautiful and moving, some confrontational and some with a more serious message. It is a really difficult concept to explain to people who haven't been to a “Tiny Works’ show, that it's not a show to sit and watch, but that it requires participation from an audience member who could be anyone, young or old, reserved or outgoing”

“What was extra special about Tiny Works, is the opportunity for every student to contribute their ideas during development process and also have the chance to showcase their own particular strengths in each bespoke performance. Developing your students to a level whereby they can maturely interact with an adult audience while still delivering a high quality performance is a credit to your teaching and preparation of the students. The ability to perform in site-specific surroundings while engaging with the audience is a task I have seen many Year 12's (and adults) struggle with – I had to keep reminding myself these students were Year 9! Tiny Works is a unique, original performance which is clearly a culmination of three years of dedication and hard work by all those involved in SVAPA”



**Celebrating Tiny Works over a kebab**

# Year 7 Art Exhibition



Year 7's worked with artist Naomi Corteen to prepare for a SVAPA exhibition during the Music Sundowner. The combination of music, art and wine was a perfect way to end the school year. The work shown was excellent. Thank you to all the volunteer parents who came in on the Friday afternoon to hang the work. The exhibition will now be a recurring event during the music sundowner, with the early class teacher in Term 3 and 4 becoming the mentor for the Year 7 students' exhibition.



## SVAPA Planning Day

Thanks to the executive and the parent committee for supporting our annual planning day for the program which allows the arts teachers to reflect on their own practices and have a deeper look into the four subjects taught over the three years of development. We take that opportunity to map classes, discuss enrichment workshops, plan extra-curricular events and examine how our classroom arts curriculum can be elevated and supported. As a thank you to the staff for all their overtime throughout the year, the parent committee kindly pays for our lunch by way of the irreplaceable Home Ec. department. A very nice treat to end the year with.



### **SVAPA Planning Day**

(Thanks to the Home Ec Staff pictured here)

## Excursion to Oklahoma!

The Year 7 SVAPA's attended an absolute brilliant and fun production of Rogers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! at the Heath Ledger Theatre. As the audience we were placed on the stage in a theatre in the round style seating arrangement. The sounds of Oklahoma were instant with bluegrass and country music played live. At the end of the performance the cast got some of our SVAPA students up with them to do a bit of square dancing. The students went home raving about the production.



### **Oklahoma!**

## **THIS TERM**

**Early Morning Classes** are weekly lessons with a professional artist before school. There are no classes in the first week of term.

**Esther Longhurst** with the Year 7's in the Tricycle Theatre on Tuesday at 7.30am

Esther Longhurst is working her usual magic with the Year 7 students through teaching improvisation and ensemble performance. She makes the students feel cherished and cared for whilst embedding skills and knowledge of performance techniques in a safe environment. It's a great way to start the students journey in SVAPA.

**Storm Helmore** with Year 8's in the Tricycle Theatre on Friday at 7.30am.

Storm is a dancer with the CO3 Contemporary Dance Company.

"Storm is also developing her own choreographic voice and is particularly interested in the use of improvisation in the creation of work and in performance. She is constantly fascinated with the idea that our dancing bodies are an ever expanding collection of inherited and learned traits and knowledge and is exploring how to express the range of this information in her own body and in other"

**Jessie Appleyard** with Year 9's in Art2 on Friday at 7.30am.

Jessie Appleyard is a visual artist, performer and exceptional make-up artist. Jessie worked with our students last year as Mr Warren's Practicum student and we were so impressed by her kindness and creativity that we have invited her back to work with our year 9 students.

## **SVAPA Camp**

Every year we take the middle school SVAPA kids to Point Walter for a two-night Arts Camp. It is meant to be for the Year 7's and 8's however this first camp is for Year 8's and 9's to make up for last years cancelled camp due to COVID.

This year the guest artist is Katy Steele from Little Birdy. Katy is an alumni of our school; she graduated the same year as me, class of 2000. It will be just delightful to have her back, making music and having fun..... hopefully way more focused then when we were back in high school.

**This camp is on the 28th, 1st and 2nd of March.** Because bookings open up 18 months ahead for Point Walter the only weekend available was a long weekend, sorry if this conflicted with family plans.

The Year 7 and 8 Camp is during the start of Term 4 (24th – 26th October).

## **SVAPA Information Night**

The information night for potential SVAPA students will be held on the **29th of March at 7pm in the Tricycle Theatre**. If you have friends who would like some more information then this is a great opportunity to get a feel for the program.

## **Lawley Art Auction**

Sign up to to be part of our major fundraiser - The Lawley Art Auction. The meeting is the **16th of February at 7pm**, upstairs in the main admin building. Without new volunteers, its going to be tough to get that extra funding coming back to the arts program. Its a fantastic way to be part of this fabulous school and it's community. If you can't make this meeting and still want to be a part of the committee who meet regularly then please email [chair@lawleyevents.com](mailto:chair@lawleyevents.com)

## **SVAPA Parent Support Group Committee Meetings**

All SVAPA meetings start at 7pm and go for roughly an hour. All meetings are held in the green room of the Tricycle Theatre. Entry is at the rear of the high school from the north side of Learoyd St (off Central Ave/Stancliffe St) through the senior school gates while work undertaken on D&T building. You can park in the ECU carpark

TERM 1 DATES:

17th February

17th March

## **SVAPA t-shirt information**

There is a website for parents to buy SVAPA shirts: <https://mlshspandc.square.site/>

Thanks!

Moya Thomas