

MOUNT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

An Independent Public School



SPECIALIST VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Term 1 2022 Update



Department of
Education



Specialist
Programs



WELCOME

Dear new parents, 'old' parents, guardians and big kids,

Welcome to 2022! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, at home, with your children, 24 hours a day, seven days a week...

These newsletters are designed to show you some of the wonderful things we get up to during the past term as well as help you plan for the current term. If your students are involved in anything outside of school, receiving awards or accolades please let me know and I will include it.

Please also keep an eye out for our new SVAPA Program. It encapsulates everything SVAPA and is aimed at students interested in applying (and their parents), as well as anyone who wants to know about SVAPA. It's been a labour of love and we are very proud to have such a document to display.



I look forward to the events this term and I wish everyone a good start to the new year!

Moya Thomas
SVAPA Program Coordinator

2021 SVAPA AWARDS

Congratulations to Oscar C (Year 7), Rowen G (Year 8) and Aika Z (Year 9), recipients of the 2021 SVAPA Awards. These are presented to a student in each year group who demonstrates outstanding commitment, creativity and collaboration across the Arts.

PLANNING LUNCH

I would like to extend our greatest thanks to the **SVAPA Parent Support Group Committee** for funding a lunch for the SVAPA teachers during our annual planning. **Josie Baljic** created the most luscious gourmet food, the showstopper a vegan lemon cheesecake! This is a small gesture that means so much for the teachers who volunteer countless hours to make the program function. Thanks again to the parents, teachers and Home Economic department.

SVAPA ALUMNI

Our strong tradition of students gaining entry into WAAPA continues. **Ivy Miller** and **Georgia Dixon** are heading into Stage Management. **Ben Buchannan** is heading into Music Composition.

Charles Varcoe received a place in the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney.

Our lovely **Shannon Berry** (Class of 2013) is starring in Amazon Prime's The Wilds. Shannon has also appeared on Packed to the Rafters. I reached out to her to congratulate for her new role and she very heartedly and warmly remembers Drama class and the program.



Ben Buchannan (Class of 2021) is the winner of the 2021 Mindscape Youth Art Awards for his amazing piece 'On the train'.

His work was described by the judges as being "Superbly executed - with an expert choice of colour, light and shadow".

Hannah Davidson (Class of 2017) along with her company created AllStars for Fringe Festival directed by one of our regular Tiny Works mentors, Charlotte Otton. I went along last week and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Very funny and well performed.

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

We have a close relationship with West Australian Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo) and I was asked to nominate students from Years 7 -12 to audition a Perth Festival Show Body of Knowledge. After a few online auditions, some calls from the director of the show, **Samara Hersch**, and some more auditions, the casting was complete and an overwhelming amount of them were our students.

Congratulations to **Oscar C, Will M, Mikaeel J, Maisie K, Heidi T, Vienna O, Aliya P, Nicola W, and Isabella G**. Unfortunately, it has been pushed back to the end of the year, but I look forward to seeing it with some of the Arts staff.



WHAT'S ON*

*Events and activities are subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

EARLY MORNING CLASSES

EMC are weekly lessons with a professional artist held before school. Classes begin in Week 2 and are mandatory.

YEAR 7

When: Tuesdays, 7.30am**

Where: Tricycle Theatre

Sports shorts recommended.

** No class on 15/2

YEAR 8

When: Wednesdays, 7.30am

Where: Tricycle Theatre

Comfortable attire recommended.

YEAR 9

When: Fridays, 7.30am

Where: Art 1

PERTH FESTIVAL EXCURSIONS

* Subject to COVID restrictions.

YEAR 7 - The Smallest Stage

When: Sunday 27th February 2022

YEAR 8 - Patches Lighthouse

When: Thursday 17th February 2022

YEAR 9 - The Ninth Wave

When: Friday 4th March 2022

SVAPA INFORMATION NIGHT

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Parent Information Evening will now be online. Please check the school website at a later date for more information.

SATURDAY MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP

Guest artists and times will be emailed closer to the date. Students will need to dress comfortably and wear their SVAPA shirts. Year groups will not be able to mingle.

When: Saturday 19th March 2022

EARLY MORNING CLASS ARTISTS



Esther Longhurst

YEAR 7

Esther Longhurst is an improviser, actor, artist and all round fabulous human being.

She will be working with the Year 7 students, making them feel cared for, included and supported, as she teaches them ensemble improvising skills.

YEAR 8

Storm Helmore is returning to us, and turning her gaze towards to Year 8s. As studies become more academic and theoretical, dance is critical for Year 8s. Having the opportunity to focus on movement and creativity has great outcomes for health, happiness and wellbeing.



Storm Helmore

YEAR 9

Kelly Ngatai studied at ECU, focusing on Design and Technologies and Visual Arts before completing her teaching degree. She has been teaching at Mount Lawley on and off for the last 10 years and is currently the STEAM Coordinator. She has two children currently in the SVAPA program and continues to advocate for the SVAPAs, the significance of the program and the many opportunities this journey offers the students. Kelly is a Design & Technologies lecturer at ECU. She is interested in the space where technologies and the arts meet and the many exciting possibilities that can come from this blend. She spends any whisper of free time in her studio painting and making.



Kelly Ngatai

TERM 3 2021

YEAR 7 - AWESOME FESTIVAL

The SVAPA students visited the Perth Cultural Centre to experience a range of creative events. They were wowed by the author and illustrator **James Foly** and his book about a Zombie Rabbit. We created postcards and did some MASSIVE knitting. The experience finished off with a magical two-woman show incorporating sound, movement, puppetry and storytelling, leaving the students wanting to ask a million questions before they had to rush back to school. What a day!





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PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We have an expectation that you participate in either the Lawley Art Auction, SVAPA Support Group or Music Support Group Committees. The meetings go for roughly an hour, depending on how much fun we are having. If impossible, we ask for volunteers through the year, with either the Arts Festival, concerts, bake sales for productions, helping on the night of the auction, etc.

SVAPA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

When: 16th February 2022, 7pm
16th March 2022, 7pm
Where: Green Room, Tricycle Theatre

MUSIC PARENT SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

When: 10th February 2022, 7pm
10th March 2022, 7pm
Where: Main Music Building

LAWLEY ART AUCTION SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

When: 8th February 2022, 7pm
Where: Main Administration Building

ARTS AND LANGUAGES FESTIVAL

POSTPONED due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This day is an absolute blast of arts and culture as two learning areas (Languages and Art) lead an afternoon of festivities, food, activities and entertainment. SVAPA students play a major role in the day. It's one of their (and my) favourite days of the year!

ALL YEARS - SATURDAY MASTERCLASS 2021

On Saturday the 18th of September, the SVAPA students enjoyed a feast of activities that exposed them to new ways of thinking and creating.

Gayle Mason was our guest Visual Artist, who provided natural mark making instruction using charcoal and inks. An intensive Media workshop was facilitated by **Alicia How**. Last but not least, **Teresa Izzard** from First Feet Collective ran a fantastic Laban movement workshop. The students engaged in these masterclasses with maturity and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see their work developing in each workshop.





YEAR 8 - THE DREAM DINER PRODUCTION 2021

What a knock out production! You only have to look at the photos to know how much creativity, hard work, time and energy went into creating this highly entertaining show. Thanks to **Natalie Diggins** and **Tomas Mawer** in the Drama department, **Ivy Miller** our Stage Manager, and **Jill Barnet** who help tirelessly with costumes. Students were privileged to work with lighting designer **Chris Donnelly**, artist **Eli Smith** and assistant director **Mitch Whelan**.



TERM 4

YEAR 7 & 8 - SVAPA CAMP 2021

Our annual SVAPA camp was another hit of the year! Often cited as a highlight at the end of the 3-year program, our camp took place at Point Walter with views of the city and the Derbarl Yerrigan. During the day, Year 7 and 8 mix with each other through a rotation of five art forms. Learning techniques and exploring form.

During the evening students were treated to camp games, quizzes, a parade, a disco and a movie night. They also had the option of watching me singing Whitney Houston on the karaoke machine in the hall. Often it's just me.

On last day, students created their own site-specific work. **Natalie Diggins** wrote this below after watching the students: "Today I was audience to quite possibly the best theatre work I've seen from students in my 20 years of teaching. What makes it more astonishing is that this site-specific performance was created by fifteen 12 and 13 year olds in two hours. Sophisticated, immersive, contemporary, compelling and utterly complete, this creation will stay with me for a very long time. Stunning use of Language of Dance®, and BodyWeather facilitated by maestro **Marnie McKee**. I could not hide my tears of pride. Thank you **Moya Thomas** for leading yet another incredible SVAPA camp."





YEAR 9 - TINY WORKS 2021

For those who don't know, Tiny Works is our annual Year 9 devised show. The twist is that it only has an audience of one person at a time. 12 groups created small works around the campus and audience members rotate through them. It's a very mature and thoughtful show and the students rise to meet all the challenges along the way.

Last year I tried to make an Ikea stool on a game show whilst I had a leaf blower used on me, I created my own tea in a calming ritual and I took part in the Banal Olympics and won at being mediocre.

Thanks to all the students, parents and staff who have supported this show. We hope to see you back again.



YEAR 9 - SVAPA GRADUATION 2021

This was a delightful way to finish the year, with our inaugural SVAPA graduation to celebrate the Year 9 students' achievements.

Parents attended a breakfast on the last week of term to watch their children receive a certificate from **Lesley Street** (Principal), listen to some experiences from past and present students, and watch a slideshow of the last years of events.

Amaru Zachariassen – Baro (Class of 2017), our guest alumni speaker, left a few people in tears with a beautiful, sincere and poetic speech about his time in the program. Amaru just received top marks in graduating from sound design at WAAPA.

Arts teachers also attended the event in support of our students and it was a lovely moment to give back to teacher who give so much.

Thanks to **Renee Hill** (Upper School Associate Principal), **Jane Forward** (SVAPA Convenor), SVAPA parents and the 2022 Arts Captains **Keiden, Matilda** and **Jade**.





OUTDOOR MUSIC CONCERT AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

On Friday 3rd December 2021, Mount Lawley Senior High School hosted its annual Outdoor Music Concert.

This concert was fantastic, a night showcasing 14 bands and over 250 students.

The bands were sensational, performing in all genres. It was really well attended, the biggest number yet! Even Santa made an appearance.

Importantly, a special mention to music teacher **Dijon Summers** who did a brilliant job organising this huge event.



During the concert, the foyer of the Tricycle Theatre was transformed into a beautiful white space to hang and install the Middle School Art exhibition. The student work was created over two terms with the support and guidance of their art teachers, **Charles Warren** and **Jane Packham**, and their Early Morning Class teachers, **Ariel Katzir** and **Steph de Baisi**.

The works from the students was brilliant, often showing the processes in creating a final piece. The self-portraits were stunning and even though slightly abstract the personality shone through so you could see who it was.

A big thanks to **Charles Warren** and **Jane Packham** for their installing skills, and thanks to **Michael Camilleri**, **Andy Outten**, **Julie Moxey**, **Gerson Patete**, **Brett** and **Glenys Clements** for supporting the exhibition.

Last but not least, thanks to Term 4's Acting Arts Program Coordinator, **Michelle deRozario**, for helping to create such a magical night for staff, students, artists and teachers.





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