



SAN ANDREA SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

December 2006

AT SAN ANDREA SENIOR SCHOOL

A new initiative which has been launched recently is the eNewsletter - another way to cultivate better communication between students, parents and staff.

This newsletter, which is being circulated to those parents who have given us their email address, highlights the various daily activities which take place at Senior School. It is very important that all stakeholders of the school are aware of what is going on around them. This enables one and all to become more aware of the various projects and initiatives which are being taken up by the different Departments. In this way one may also appreciate the "behind the scene" efforts being done by the school community. One can witness first hand the vast array of activities which form part of our ethos of a holistic education. I encourage you all to discuss these events at home. Happy reading.

MS AUDREY GALEA

September 2006

- 1 Chemistry Practical Session for grade 12 students.
- 18-19 Staff Development Day for teachers.
- 20 Staff Development Day for teachers. Talk by Dr. C. Cefai & Prof. P. Cooper. re Behaviour Management.
- 22 Staff Development Day for teachers.
- 22 (p.m.) Welcome meeting for Grade 8 students and their parents.
- 23 Leadership Seminar @ Millennium Chapel organised for Prayer & Action Members.
- 25 Staff Development Day for teachers.
- 26 First day of scholastic year 2006/2007 for students. Whole school Mass celebrated in the Amphitheatre. Meetings held with the Grade Tutors. Commencement of lessons.
- 27 (p.m.) Launching of *Our Children Too* – sponsorship scheme to parents of grade 1 students during curriculum meeting.
- 29 (a.m.) House Colour Blob (whole school).
- 29 (p.m.) Talk by Dr. Charles Briffa re SEC examinations for grade 12 students and their parents.

October 2006

- 2 to 13 House Colour Tournament – Football – Girls – Grade 11.
- 3 Launch of eTwinnings Project “Caw Malta, Ciao Italia” between Grade 8 students and Istituto Comprensivo G. Cardelli, Sant’ Angelo, Abruzzo, Italy
- 3 First chaplaincy meeting for this scholastic year. Weekly meetings are held.
- 3 Breaktime Mass celebrated by Fr. Jimmy Bonnici. Weekly Mass held every Tuesday.
- 3 Launching of *Our Children Too* – sponsorship scheme to parents of Nursery students during curriculum meeting.

- Speaker: Mr. Peter Pace O’Shea and Sister Elizabeth from St. Rita Home, Tarxien.
- 5 Assembly: Reconciliation Theme 1: Animal Awareness (in conjunction with St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day). The prayer of St. Francis read out.
- 6 First meeting for SCOOPS for scholastic year 2006/2007. Membership open to students in grades 9, 10 and 11. Weekly meetings.
- 9 During Assembly - Donation of food and clothing to Mr. A. Micallef from AAA (Abandoned Animals Association) to celebrate Animal Awareness Day.
- 9 (p.m.) Curriculum Meeting – grade 10.
- 9 to 20 House Colour Tournament – Football – Boys – Grade 11.
- 11 (p.m.) St. Rita Home children came over to use Sports Facilities.
- 11 (p.m.) Curriculum Meeting – grade 11.
- 16 till 27 Presentations by grade 12 students of English Literature Themes – MacBeth & Animal Farm.
- 16 to 27 House Colour Tournament – Football – Girls – Grade 8.
- 18 Launch of Chess Club (mid-day break activity – held every Wednesday).
- 18 (p.m.) Curriculum Meeting – grade 9.
- 17 Talks to grade 12 students by representatives from post-secondary colleges - De La Salle and Verdala International.
- 17 Circular re SCC elections sent out to parents.
- 19 Educational Trip to Sicily – visiting Etna. Grade 9 & Geography option students in grade 10.
- Talks to grade 12 students by representatives from post-secondary colleges – MCAST.
- 19 Talk to a group of Grade 12 students: *Why do Maths?* By Prof. Ian Stewart.
- 19 Launch of Cine Forum Club (mid-day break activity – held every Thursday)
- 19 Educational Outing to Casa Antonia Retirement Village for grade 11 Home Economics students.
- 19 Educational Outing to Smart Supermarket (Grade 12 Home Economics students – group A) re investigative project on “Convenience Foods”.
- 20 Launch of Woodwork Club (mid-day break activity – held every Friday)
- 20 Application Forms for SEC O-level examinations handed out to grade 12 students.
- 23 Special Assembly – European Day of Languages.
- 23 Educational Outing to Smart Supermarket (Grade 12 Home Economics students – group B) re investigative project on “Convenience Foods”.
- 23 Members from the Prayer and Action Group meet to recite the Rosary in the prayer room. This activity is held regularly every Monday during mid-day break.

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- 23-31 Tests.
- 24 Talks to grade 12 students by representatives from post-secondary colleges – St. Aloysius College & Junior College.
- 24 (p.m.) Annual General Meeting (whole school).
- 27 Members from the Prayer and Action Group accompanied by a Senior School teacher who forms part of the School chaplainry, visit Early & Middle School to recite one decade of the Rosary with students from these sectors. This activity is held every last Friday of the month.
- 30-31 Special Assembly – Student of the Month certificates + SPHERE Award presented to grade 8 & 9; 10, 11 & 12 students.
- 30-10 Nov House Colour Tournament – Football – Boys – Grade 8.
- 31 School Cross Country.
- 31 (p.m.) A group of students, accompanied by Mr. Daniel Cordina, Teacher of Religion, attended the Gen Verde Concert given at Mriehel Girls' JL.

November 2006

- 2 (p.m.) Meeting for all sponsor families of *Our Children Too Sponsorship Scheme* held at St. Rita Home, Tarxien.
- 6 Deadline for SEC exam application forms.
- 7 Change to winter uniform.
- 8 Sponsor a Priest Appeal launched.
- 9 Reconciliation Day 2: Relationships. (Special assembly).
- 8 to 15 Book presentations by grade 9 students.
- 14 (p.m.) SCC election results.
- 16 President Emeritus Dr. Vincent Tabone & Mrs. Tabone visit the School re Remembrance Day.
- 13 – 17 Grade 10 students – English Language – project in conjunction with World Children's Day. Students, working in teams, prepared logo, slogan and speech and also

wrote about their concerns on the plight of children around the world.

- 17 Educational Outing – Grade 11 students – Drama Production of Scenes from MacBeth.
- 23 Walkathon (from school to Fomm ir-Rih and back).
- 24 Educational outing to Manoel Theatre to watch “West Side Story” – grade 9 students.
- 27 (a.m.) Questionnaire administered to grade 10 students re “Making the Right Choices” in collaboration with Caritas.
- 27 (p.m.) Performance of *Animal Farm* by students of Drama at St. James Cavalier
- 28 (a.m.) Performance of *Animal Farm* at St. James Cavalier to students from other schools.
- 29 Performance of *Animal Farm* at St. James Cavalier to San Andrea Students (grade 11 & 12) & other schools.
- 29 Class photos for grades 8 & 9.
- 30 San Andrea Day. Money collected from “Sponsor a Priest Appeal” donated to representatives from Mission Office. Eucharistic Day. Talk to grade 10 students from Caritas.

December 2006

- 5 Blessing of Advent Wreath. Talk to grade 10 students from Caritas.
- 6 Class photos.
Talk to parents of grade 10 students from Caritas.
- 7 Talk to grade 12 students re Relationships & Sexuality.
- 10 Pet Show/Football Tournament
- 14 & 15 Parents' Days.
- 19 Thanksgiving Mass for whole school.
- 20 Last day of Term 1.
- 24 Christmas Eve Mass.

French Christmas Customs and Traditions



In France, Christmas is a time for family and for generosity, marked by family reunions, gifts and candy for children, gifts for the poor, Midnight Mass, and *le Réveillon*.

The celebration of Christmas in France varies by region. Most provinces celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December. However, in eastern and northern France, the Christmas season begins on 6 December, *la fête de Saint Nicolas*, and in some provinces *la fête des Rois* is one the most important holidays of the Christmas season. In Lyon, 8 December is *la Fête de lumières*, when Lyonnais pay homage to the virgin Mary by putting candles in their windows which light up the village.

Le Réveillon

Although fewer and fewer French attend *la Messe de Minuit* on Christmas Eve, it is still an important part of Christmas for many families. It is followed by a huge feast, called *le Réveillon* (from the verb *réveiller*, to wake up or revive). *Le Réveillon* is a symbolic awakening to the meaning of Christ's birth and is the culinary high point of the season, which may be enjoyed at

Ms Marie Louise Vella

home or in a restaurant or café that is open all night. Each region in France has its own traditional Christmas menu, with dishes like turkey, capon, goose, chicken, and *boudin blanc* (similar to white pudding).



Throughout the French Christmas season, there are special traditional desserts:

- ◆ *La bûche de Noël* (Yule log) - A log-shaped cake made of chocolate and chestnuts. Representative of the special wood log burned from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day in the Périgord, which is a holdover from a pagan Gaul celebration.
- ◆ *Le pain calendeau* (in southern France) - Christmas loaf, part of which is given to a poor person.
- ◆ *La Galette des Rois* (on Epiphany) - round cake which is cut into pieces and distributed by a child, known as *le petit roi* or *l'enfant soleil*, hiding under the table. Whoever finds *la fève* - the charm hidden inside - is King or Queen and can choose a partner.

Joyeux Noël !

On Thursday 16th November 2006, the Humanities Department organised a “History lesson with a difference” in order to commemorate “Remembrance Day”, better known as “Poppy Day”, in honour of all those involved in the two World Wars.



Poppies are worn on this day because in World War One (1914-1918) the Western Front contained in the soil thousands of poppy seed, all lying dormant. They would have lain there for years more, but the battles being fought



there churned up the soil so much that the poppies bloomed like never before.

His Excellency and Former President of Malta Dr. Censu Tabone together with his wife, were present for this occasion. On their arrival at San Andrea Senior School, HE Dr. Tabone and Mrs. Tabone were greeted by the Head of School Ms. Audrey Galea, the Humanities Coordinator Mr. Stephen Briffa, as well as by the School Captain and Vice-Captain.

All the students studying History in Grades 8 and 9, as well as the History Option students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 had the opportunity to meet HE Dr. Tabone and his wife. After the Maltese Anthem was sung, some Grade 11 students read out a selection of poems about Poppy Day, whilst a number of Drama students performed a brief dramatisation of another poem about Remembrance Day. HE Dr. Tabone together with Mrs Tabone also watched the trailer of the film “Malta George Cross” that was produced by San Andrea School and features the current



Grade 9 students who had acted in the film when they were in Grade 7.

HE Dr. Tabone recounted some of his war-time experiences to the students and also answered their various questions and curiosities regarding both himself and the War. The event was concluded by the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Tabone and the presentation of the DVD “Malta George Cross” and a painting by



Grade 12 student Larissa Cacciottolo to Dr. Censu Tabone.

This successful event was extensively covered in the news bulletins on the national T.V. stations and also featured in most local newspapers. The students involved will surely remember this “History Lesson with a difference”!

COLOURS

Sherlyn Scicluna

As white as snow, as black as coal, red tape, scarlet red, blue blood, green with envy, brown like soil. Colours are important in our lives. They give life to our world.

During the Olympic Games the athletes show a flag with five different coloured circles that represent the five continents. People have different complexions in different continents. In Africa, the majority of the people have a dark complexion. In the world we find people who have white, brown and yellowish skin colour. There are also people with blue, green, brown, hazel eyes and brown, blonde, red and black hair. Colours give us an identity and make us individuals. Fashion designers de-

sign clothes full of colours so that people will look bright. Hair stylists dye models' hair.

The world is full of beautiful colours. The sun is bright and gives out light to lighten up the other colours around it. When we go on a vacation with our family or friends, the nature is full of colours. The trees have different shades of green or brown and yellow depending on the season. The colour of different fruits varies. Divers can also watch and enjoy the colourful fish in the deep blue sea.

How would life be without colour? Dull, boring, sad and lifeless. What do you think?

Standing at the departure lounge at San Andrea School while names of passengers are being called out and routes numbered. Unattended luggage ... only at Ms Anna. And there is still time for a last word, a joke, one final conversation before waving goodbye.

“What would it be like to have your private religion?” I was asked on a warm Tuesday afternoon.

“Very poor”, I thought to myself. But why this question, I wondered.

“It’s the Simpsons. Homer wants a lie in while his family go to mass on a cold winter day. Coming back from mass they spend an hour trying to get their car going while he enjoys a warm shower. He dreams of a private religion and a god who tells him ‘it’s ok’. Somehow his house is on fire, and once again the god tells him not to worry: ‘all new religions have a moment of crisis in the first eight hours’.”

That was all we could say as the final call for passengers attracted everyone out. But somehow I carried the conversation with me on the journey. I appreciated how Homer is asking important questions and trying to find meaning in life. In this sense the question of finding one’s religion is very important especially for young people. But I also asked myself:

“Is it God or something else

who is speaking in a private religion? Is it the voice of comfort luring me back to bed or the voice of God flaming my desire for growth and community? I wonder whether a private religion holds for more than eight hours on its feet. But let’s not dismiss it straight away.”

“Maybe in a private religion, with your own creed, you can be more free to mix all the good things you find in different religions and so have a better one in fact”.

“There is a point in asserting that there are many good things in every authentic



religion. But I wonder who can make a good mix on his own. Even with a simple cooking recipe, to mix Chinese sweet and sour sauce with spaghetti Bolognese, is not recommendable, to say the least. I guess this should be more so with faith – a perspective of wisdom that gives a specific taste, meaning, to one’s whole life. I would not risk my life on

my private cooking abilities!!!”

“But can I trust, when in life I can easily be deceived. Actually I have been deceived and let down”.

“I think that here we are getting at the heart of the matter. When a loved one lets us down, we find it natural to close doors and not open them again. We lose faith in the possibility of love, of being loved and think it better to live by ourselves. And yet even with a normal illness, if one has no desire to be healed and entrust oneself in the hands of a trusted person, one only lives with one’s preoccupations. They reassure us because they are there. But they keep us there, with our illness.

“To dare to trust in God is necessary for life. And when I’m afraid God will let me down, I remember God brought me up out of nothing in creation and remained faithful in his love even when they flogged him to death in Christ. Once again, raised to life. That’s what Christian faith is about. A private one? Let’s say that it’s personal!”

But now the journey is over and it’s time to eat. I hope my dish is based on sound cooking principles. And next time I go to mass, I will open my ears to hear God’s words that give life and entrust myself with others who face the cold or the heat, in the hands of God who won’t let us down.

Les élèves de Flaubert

Une soirée au restaurant

“Hier soir, je suis allé au restaurant avec ma famille. Le restaurant était chinois et le nom du restaurant était « Red Sun ». Il faisait beau et il y avait beaucoup de personnes. Les serveurs étaient tous chinois et ils étaient très sympas. Nous avons attendu une demie heure pour une table. Quand nous nous sommes assis, nous avons commandé immédiatement.

Mon père et moi, nous avons commandé la même chose, du poisson avec des crevettes. Ma mère et mes sœurs ont

commandé du poulet avec une sauce douce et aigre. Tout a été très bien ! »

Gerald Gambin

« Le dimanche dernier, je suis allé au restaurant avec ma famille. Nous avons commandé des boissons, de l’eau minérale et du jus de fruits. Plus tard, le serveur nous a portés le menu. Comme entrée, nous avons choisi de la soupe. Comme plat principal, on a

choisi de la viande et du poisson avec des légumes et des pommes frites.

A la fin, nous avons choisi le dessert ; j’ai pris un gâteau, mon frère a pris de la glace, ma mère, une salade des fruits et mon père a pris des crêpes. C’était une matinée très agréable pour tous. »

Malcolm Bamber

Strange but True

Mr. Gilbert Fenech

- ◆ The king of hearts is the only king without a moustache on a standard playing card!



- ◆ Tablecloths were originally meant to be served as towels with which dinner guests could wipe their hands and faces after eating!
- ◆ Forest fires move faster uphill than downhill
- ◆ Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- ◆ Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand!
- ◆ A mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet

long in just one night!

- ◆ A car traveling at 80 km/h uses half its fuel to overcome wind resistance.



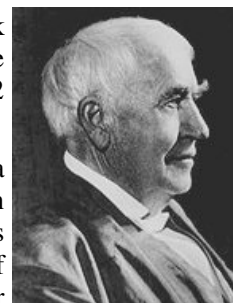
- ◆ Flying from London to New York by Concord, due to the time zones crossed, you can arrive 2 hours before you leave.

- ◆ The two-foot long bird called a Kea that lives in New Zealand likes to eat the strips of rubber around car windows!



- ◆ Fleas can jump 130 times higher than their own height. In human terms this is equal to a 6ft. person jumping 780 ft. into the air.

- ◆ Human jaw muscles can generate a force of 200 pounds (90.8 kilograms) on the molars.
- ◆ Sound travels about 4 times faster in water than in air
- ◆ No matter its size or thickness, no piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.



- ◆ Certain frogs that can survive the experience of being frozen.

- ◆ Thomas Edison, light bulb inventor, was afraid of the dark!

Reference used:

<http://www.strangefacts.com>

<http://www.hightechscience.org/funfacts.htm>

During the last scholastic year Grade 9 students were asked to conduct a small-scale survey on their neighbourhood for their English class. The following are two summaries of the results obtained.

RESULTS OF SURVEY ON NAXXAR

While 42% of those interviewed think that the facilities are either quite good or very good, the remaining 58% are not so pleased. Only 10% think that the facilities are very bad. 50% feel that the polyclinic service is not up to standard at all. Half the respondents also feel that the sports facilities are 'not so good'.

The majority (57%) feel that Naxxar is a safe place to live in and only 2% think that it is very unsafe. 20% of the respondents think that safety is 'very good'.

Only 5% of the respondents were 'very satisfied' with the appearance of their

village, although 1/3 think it is 'quite attractive'. Half of the respondents feel that there should be more attention given to vehicles which pollute the air. Moreover, 50% believe there should be stricter controls of building sites.

Bernard Valletta

RESULTS OF SURVEY ON IKLIN

This survey was carried out to find out people's opinions about Iklin. A questionnaire was given to 10 people to fill in and was analysed using MS Excel. The questionnaire was divided into three sections: FA-

CILITES AND SERVICES; SAFETY AND APPEARANCE.

According to the questionnaire, 30% of the respondents thought that the system of public transport to and from their neighbourhood was very good, whilst 30% thought that it was 'bad'.

This probably means that the system would be just better than 'fair'. As for safety the majority (40%) thought that their neighbourhood was very safe. A large majority (50% of the respondents) thought that their neighbourhood was attractive.

Malcolm Bamber

We had a super day today on our holiday. Malta is fantastic! Well, I won't mention my skin peeling off, or the cheap flip flops I got from the market; those that got torn after a day when I caught my foot in one of those broken pavements.

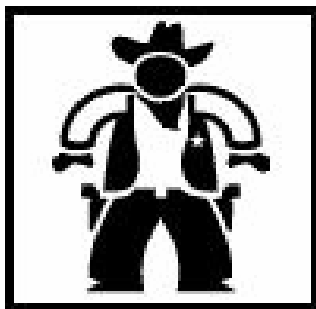
The hotel manager is a great guy- he came up himself to our room to kill the cockroach, and he got us a friend of his to take us to Valletta in his car. Mind you, I thought Lm10 was a bit too much for the trip. We took the bus back, and it was unbeliev-

able! The driver thought he was in a Formula 1 race and all the holy pictures fell off as we bumped at full speed over the pot holes. Anyway, we're off to the pub now. The beer's really cheap here.... What else do you need?...

Did you know that ...

Natasha Singh

- * It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- * The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
- * If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.
- * Each king in a deck of playing cards represents great king from history. Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts - Charlemagne; Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
- * $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
- * If a statue of a person in the park on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- * What do bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common? Ans. - All invented by women.
- * Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.
- * A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- * A snail can sleep for three years.
- * American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class.
- * Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- * The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- * The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.
- * Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over million descendants.
- * Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
- * Most lipstick contains fish scales.
- * Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different



EcOfficers

Join the club which makes a difference in our school's environment!

Waste Management, Arbor week, Negawatters are amongst the activities which we will be doing.

Interested?

Talk to Ms. Christine or Ms. Joanne

Between September and November 2006 the Grade 10, 11 and 12 Drama Students, under the direction of Ms. Daphne Said, have been working hard on Animal Farm – “a fairy story by George Orwell” adapted for the stage by Peter Hall. This performance took place at St. James Cavalier, Valletta over a period of three days (27th – 29th November) with five separate performances. St. Martins, Savio College, St. Michaels and St. Aloysius, as well as the Grade 11 and 12 Students of our school, came to watch us.

Animal Farm – An Allegory of the Russian Revolution

At the simplest level it is a fable about the way in which people may seize and keep power. In his self-proclaimed “fairy-story,” Orwell uses his allegorical farm to symbolize the communist system. Though the original intention of overthrowing Mr. Jones (who represents the Czars), is not inherently evil in itself, Napoleon’s subsequent adoption of nearly all of Mr. Jones’ principles and harsh mistreatment of the animals proves to the reader that indeed communism is not equality, but just another form of inequality. Eventually the power corrupts the pigs, and they turn on their fellow animals, eliminating competitors through propaganda and bloodshed.



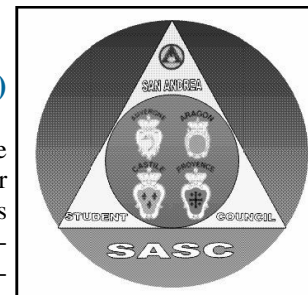
Cast List

The Boy	Timmy Alden / Saman Bugeja
Mr. Jones/Farmer	Darren Grech
Old Major/Mr. Whympers	Dale Camilleri
Boxer	Barrie Stott
Clover	Rachel De Martino
Muriel	Sue Cali
Benjamin	Jacob Bowdler
Mollie	Angela Vella Zarb
Snowball/Farmer	Joe Azzopardi
Napoleon	Dario Vella
Squealer	Julian Vella
The Cat	Abigail La Rosa
Moses	Gerth Bajada
Minimus	Chris Zahra
Young Pigs	Phillip Attard / Gianni Grioli
Sheep	Thomas Mallia / Chloe Waterfield
	Pippa Cutajar
Cows	Emma Claire Azzopardi
	Nicole Debono
Hens	Emma Grech / Claire Waterfield
Bull	Ryan Agius
Pigeons	Dale Camilleri / Ryan Agius



SAN ANDREA STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr. Trevor Francis Templeman (Link Person) and Timmy Bartolo (Chaiperson)



Dear teachers and students,

We have started yet another scholastic year at San Andrea Senior School. One, where we, as individuals, will continue to push the boundaries of our abilities further. A year, which will require our utmost concentration, be it in academics, sports and the house championship. The same is true of the San Andrea Student Council where nothing short of the above is expected.

New Student Council Members

This year Elections were conducted for the newcomers (i.e. grade 8 students) and for the grade 11 students. Nomination forms were distributed to students that were interested to form part in the student council. Each candidate had to have nominations from at least two other students from their particular class.

The following rules were applied in the election:

- ⇒ All students had one vote;
- ⇒ Students only voted in the election;
- ⇒ Voting was by a secret ballot;
- ⇒ Students had to vote for only one student of their particular grade.
- ⇒ Student council members counted the votes.

Two students from each grade (i.e. usually a male and a female, if possible) were elected. The following students were elected:



COLETTE SULTANA

Representative of 8.1 & 8.2



THOMAS BARTOLO

Representative of 8.3 & 8.4



JIANNI GRIMA

Representative of 11.1 & 11.2



CHLOE GAMBIN

Representative of 11.3 & 11.4

Student Council Officers

Moreover, interviews were conducted with the above listed candidates and marks were given on specific criteria. Congratulations go to the following list of highly involved and dedicated candidates that have been appointed as officers of the student council.

ATTARD JENNIFER has been appointed as PRO

PARIS TIMMY has been appointed as TREASURER

As I am sure you know, the student council engages in a number of activities and functions, always working co-operatively with students and teachers alike. We endeavour to reform systems and improve upon certain fields where the school may be somewhat lacking. The student council is meant to give a voice to students and to make their stay at San Andrea as pleasurable as possible. We do this through weekly consultations with students. A prominent issue is chosen and discussed throughout the week. A meeting is then held with the head so as to try and come up with solutions to the issue or propose any ideas we may have thought of. We also often have meetings with representatives from the school board so as to continue to give them your feedback upon certain issues. This is the process by which you, as a student, are being represented and given a voice!

Most of the first term has gone by and we have not been idle. We have already had a meeting with the school board and Ms. Audrey as a follow up from last year. During this meeting we discussed the quality of food and service the canteen is providing. The canteen seems to be operating without a cash register and this fact was highlighted along with the fact that prices are not being properly displayed. Much more was said regarding the canteen and I will not go further into the merits of this issue however I strongly urge students to come forth and report any more incidents regarding this issue.

The bathrooms and changing rooms were also discussed with particular reference on the fact that students find it rather uncomfortable to change in bathrooms. It was agreed that the grade twelve students should make use of the changing rooms for their next games lesson and if it proves to be successful, this method will be extended to grade eleven and ten. We also enquired upon the effect of the quarries' frequent explosions upon the school building. Board representatives assured us that MEPA is aware of the explosions and conducts annual checks on the matter. The board will continue to follow these checks so as to guarantee the safety of all people making use of the school building on a daily basis.

Regarding fundraising the student council hopes to hold at least one activity per term with plans for the first well under way. The money will go to redecorating the student council room so as to transform it into a true office. On another note the vice-chairperson and myself as well as Mr. Trevor will be aired on a local radio station, during a program hosted by Fr. Jimmy. This will be on the fifth of December and we will be discussing vandalism in connection with religion.

While looking forward to improve San Andrea further and to work in close collaboration with the head, school board and students I would like to thank every one for their support and contribution. I also urge all students as well as teachers to feel free and come forth to us with further suggestions. I am sure that we, as the very first Student Council in San Andrea history, will rise to the occasion and set a standard for all student councils that follow. I look forward to working with all involved, as always, to improve our school in each and every possible way.

Food for thought ...

Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963), commonly referred to as **C. S. Lewis**, was a Northern Irish author and scholar. Very few people touch their world as C. S. Lewis did. Over fifty books have been published to his credit including: *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, *Christian Behavior*, *The Great Divorce*, and *Surprised By Joy*. Annual book sales remain over two million - half of which comes from *The Chronicles of Narnia* written for children.

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels for children. It is considered a classic of children's literature and is Lewis' best-known work. The Chronicles of Narnia present the adventures of children who play central roles in the unfolding history of the fictional realm of Narnia, a place where animals talk, magic is common, and good battles evil.

The Chronicles of Narnia contain many allusions to traditional Christian ideas, presented in a format designed to make them easily accessible to

C.S. LEWIS



younger readers; however, the books can also be read purely for their adventure, colour, and richness of ideas, and as a result have become favourites of children and adults, Christians

and non-Christians alike. In addition to employing Christian themes, Lewis also borrows characters and ideas from Greek and Roman mythology, as well as from traditional British and Irish fairy tales.

However, Lewis's greatest achievement was not in an academic sense, but in the university of life. In a time when modern western civilization was entering the "post-Christian" era, Lewis dared to challenge the minds behind modernism and liberal theology.

Lewis read many works of Christian authors. He particularly admired

Ms Nicky Azzopardi

George Macdonald, a Scottish Christian writer. In his writings, Lewis found a quality of holiness he had not seen before. The works of John Milton, especially *Paradise Lost*, intrigued him as did the close friendship he shared with J. R. R. Tolkien who wrote *The Lord Of The Rings*.

"In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed . . . The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation." Lewis's final step to Christianity came when he accepted the incarnation of Jesus Christ as fact. *"I was now approaching the source from which those arrows of Joy had been shot at me ever since childhood. . . . No slightest hint was vouchsafed me that there ever had been or ever would be any connection between God and Joy. If anything, it was the reverse. I had hoped that the heart of reality might be of such a kind that we can best symbolize it as a place; instead, I found it to be a Person."*

What is Judo?



Judo was first developed in the early 1800s by the Japanese educator Kano Jigoro. *Judo* is not purely about physical skill. *Judo*, meaning 'the gentle way', is regarded as a sport, deriving from judo-jitsu.

The essence of judo is the skillful application of a combination of techniques, such as power of resistance and effective timing. The main focus of judo however, is the utilization of your opponent's body weight and strength against himself or herself. A small person can overcome a much larger opponent using skill, strategy and technique. The aim of judo is to neutralize an op-

ponent as opposed to injure or kill. It is very much viewed as a self-defence system.

A *judo* practitioner, a *judoka*,

wears a *judogi*. This consists of a heavy cotton jacket and trousers. *Judoka* train with bare feet on the matted [*tatami*] area. It is held in a *dojo*. Discipline is of the utmost importance in judo, not only to maintain respect and courtesy for the art and your opponent, but also to ensure safety. There are a variety of self-defence moves in judo for a *judoka* to deal with attacks from different angles.



Benefits of Judo:

Judo is suitable for people of all ages and abilities and the benefits to be derived from it affect many aspects of everyday life.

These include: health; fitness and stamina; confidence and well-being; self-defence skills; flexibility and agility.



Young Artists at Work

Ms Nadine Briffa



Abigail La Rosa, *Baby in spoon*



Angela Vella Zarb
Mother and child



Daniela Vassallo Medici
The gift of peace



Emma Grech, *Sky-scape*



Matthew Vella, *Lady working*



John Cascun, *Cartoon*



John Cachia, *Equality*



Liz Mallia, *Dragon*



Alan Pillow, *Still life*



Larissa Cacciattolo,
Unity

STEPHEN HAWKING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (2005-2006) & COMENIUS PROJECT (2003-2006)

Mr Paul Borg

The Stephen Hawking Science and Technology Project was organized for the fifth time at our school during the last scholastic year. This is as an educational initiative held annually at San Andrea Senior School, and is aimed at helping students understand that the sciences are not just subjects to study for an examination and hopefully get certification in, but should be interesting and useful areas of discovery and learning that lead into the technological world around us.

Professor Stephen Hawking's achievements, and his admirable determination against all physical odds, to reach his goals and pursue his studies and research, are attributes that I believe should be brought to the attention of all students. His *Brief History of Time*, and recently *A Briefer History of Time*, are books that give a new understanding not only of life around us, but also of the whole universe. The study of some aspects of the universe has now also been included as part of the MATSEC syllabus. Professor Hawking's first publication stirred some quiet waters in the literary and in the scientific worlds as it managed to bring science to the public in a very simple and rather attractive way.

Certification is naturally as important as ever in the local educational scenario, but by this annual extracurricular project which we call the *Stephen Hawking Science and Tech-*



nology Project, we try not only to target immediately the understanding of science in everyday applications, but we also leave no stone unturned to encourage *all* students to bravely *plunge* into doing a real science project *irrespective of what they think of their capabilities*. It is organized to end in an exhibition during a *Science and Technology* week.

The project is organized with the following main objectives in mind :

- ◆ To trigger and increase in the student an interest to discover the physical principles and laws that govern the world around us.
- ◆ To encourage and build important skills.
- ◆ To introduce our students to disciplined learning systems and information analysis.
- ◆ To increase students' self esteem, entice them discover their hidden talents, develop many skills and stretch to a maximum their natural abilities.
- ◆ To be inline with the spirit of the National Minimum Curriculum in Malta.

This year's theme was *Alternative Energy* to coincide with the newly launched project on the subject, and the creation of the Energy Terrace sponsored by the MIA. As usual all the Grade 11 students were asked to participate, by presenting a written and

researched assignment. This was followed by a public *viva voce* presentation on the topic given by students during the mid-day break. The presentation was used not only to test the students' comprehension of the topic chosen, but also as a very practical and useful way to share acquired information. Visual aids, AV resources, and 3-D models, were used during the presentations to further disseminate the information. Experiments were also performed in some cases.



The final presentation was held during a Science and Technology Week in May 2006. The winners of this year's project were Derek Bonavia and Andrea Vella Baldacchino with



the topic on *Alternative Energy*, and Marija Vella and Lorraine Attard on *Water Pollution*. These students joined another group of students from the Drama class, namely Dario Vella, Barry Stott, Suzanne Cali and Joe Azzopardi and went on an educational visit to Sweden. The latter mentored Swedish students and together put up a production called "*The statue which lost its smile*".



School

Our school cross-country takes place down in the valley next to our school. The first cross-country was held in the scholastic year 1999-2000. At that time there were only two grades taking part as the school had not a full complement as yet.



The following year, three grades took part and as from 2002-2003, we had all five grades taking part. Each grade starting from grade 8, has

specific distances. The distances covered for both boys and girls are as follows:

Under 12	-	1500m
Under 13	-	2000m
Under 14	-	2500m
Under 15	-	3000m
Under 16	-	3000m
Under 17	-	3000m

Each distance leads the students to half way, where judges will check every individual who crosses over before turning back to the finishing line. Along the path, marked distances are placed by the side of the road to show the pupils the distance covered every 100m. Boys and girls race separately according to their age. An under 17 race is also performed for students who are either over-age or repeaters. This gives every individual the opportunity to take part.

Once again the house system is involved.

- ⇒ if a student finishes in target zone A that student gets 2 points
- ⇒ if a student finishes in target zone B that student gets 1 point
- ⇒ the student that finishes 1st in the race gets 10 points
- ⇒ the student that finishes 2nd in the race gets 5 points
- ⇒ if a school record is broken, an extra 5 points go to the House



So every individual can gain points for his/her respective house. Target zones are given to the pupils before the beginning of each race. These are different for boys and girls for different distances covered. The following table shows the cross-country cup winners (The Bileci Cup) in the last eight years.

Year	House
1999-2000	No House system yet
2000-2001	Provence
2001-2002	Provence
2002-2003	Castile
2003-2004	Castile
2004-2005	Castile
2005-2006	Castile
2006-2007	Castile

The attendance percentage of students participating in the cross-country has been over 80% in the last four years, showing that students take this competition very seriously. Well done once again from the sports department.

Cross-Country

Mr Kevin Mamo

BOYS



GIRLS



Category	Distance	Name	Time	Year
Under 12	1500m	Borg Diego Miguel	6.11	05-06
Under 13	2000m	Gambin Gerald	7.56	05-06
Under 14	2500m	Cassar Torreggiani Andrew	9.52	05-06
Under 15	3000m	Alan Borg Olivier	11.12	06-07
Under 16	3000m	Matthew Bartolo	11.44	01-02
Under 17	3000m	Matthew Bartolo	11.21	02-03

Category	Distance	Name	Time	Year
Under 12	1500m	Stephanie Meli	6.45	99-00
Under 13	2000m	Martina DeMartino	9.17	06-07
Under 14	2500m	Steffi DeMartino	11.49	06-07
Under 15	3000m	Maxine Scerri	14.02	05-06
Under 16	3000m	Maxine Scerri	13.15	06-07
Under 17	3000m	Samantha Scott	15.26	04-05

INSIDE THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE... Shakhtar Donetsk

Alejandro Borg



Shakhtar Donetsk is an Ukrainian team which is playing in the Uefa Champions League 2006.

They are in group D that includes Valencia (that are 1st in the group at the moment), Roma(2nd in the group) and Olimpiakos(3rd in the group). Unfortunately for Shakhtar, they are last in the group with only 1 point. They lost twice, once against Roma(0-4) and once against Valencia(0-2). They got a point as they obtained a draw against Olympiakos(2-2). Shakhtar played home once and obtained a draw and played away twice and lost both games.



Shakhtar Donetsk are playing very well in their league (Ukrainian Premier League) but they are not doing so well in the Uefa Champions League. They are not even impressing their own fans that thought Shakhtar were going to get at least a win when they played

home. Shakhtar won the last league (2005-2006) and they are also in 1st position at the moment.

Chairman : Rinat Akhmetov is the richest Ukrainian Oligarch. He has around \$11.8 billion.

Executive Director : Viktor Prokopenko.

Head Coach : Mircea Lucescu is Romanian. He was a manager with about 11 teams including Inter, Galatasaray, Romania, Brescia, Pisa and Reggina. He has mostly trianed Italian teams.

For more information go on

Wikipedia.com or soccer.net.espn.com!!

Darba fost l-ohrajn, grupp importanti imsejjah "Commonwealth" iddeċieda li jagħmel laqgħa f'Malta. Din il-laqa' kienet se tkun avveniment ferm importanti. Qatt hadd ma holom li dawn jiġu Malta. Din il-laqgħa kienet se ġġib hafna kummerċ għal Malta, għax kienu se jiġu hafna rejjet u Prim Ministri. Il-kap ta' din l-organizzazzjoni kienet ir-Reġina Elizabetta.

Kull skola kellha tibghat żewġt itfal minn kull sena għaċ-ċeremonja tal-fuħ ta' din il-laqgħa. L-iskola tagħna

dlonk intebħu x'setgħu jagħmlu u allura fasslu dan il-pjan. Il-pjan kien li jitfgħu l-ismijiet tat-tfal ġo borża u jtellgħawhom bil-polza. Din kienet idea tajba. Bl-ghajjnuna t'Alla jiena u tifel ichor ġejna mtellgħin. It-tifel l-ichor kien h abib tal-qalb tiegħi, allura żgur konna se nieħdu gost.

Il-ġurnata waslet u ahna morna flimkien ma' xi għalliema tagħna, biex nattendu għaċ-

ċeremonja. Ma tantx domna biex wasalna. Wara ftit ir-regina bdiet tkellimna u ahna kellna ċans nieħdu b'idejha u nkelmuha ftit.

Meta wasalna lura l-iskola hbiebna laqgħuna u staqsewna kif morna. Ahna qsamna l-esperjenzi magħhom. X'hin walsalt id-dar għidt b'kollox 'l ommi u hi kienet ferm ferhana bija. Nirringrazzja 'l Alla li tani din l-esperjenza.

Mill-pinna ta'...

Mr. C. Xuereb

Il-Ġurdien

Hafna nies jibzghu minni.

Tgħidx kemm jgħajtu meta jarawni,
... emminni !

Jien nipprova noħroġ
meta ma jkun hemm hadd,
imma lil xi hadd dejjem insib.
Bhall-ahħar darba, tgħidx x'qatgħa ħadt!

Kien f'nofs ta' lejl,
meta qabadni l-ġuħ,
u għalhekk ħriġt mit-toqba,
għax xammejt riħa tfuħ.

Fuq mejda tonda,
kien hemm platt,
b'torta ta' l-irkotta fuqha
u kikkra ġelat.

Żaqqi waqagħtli bir-riħa,
u b'ġirja waħda fuq il-mejda tlajt,
u malli kont ser niekol l-ewwel biċċa
nara mara fuq sigġu taqbez'... u dak għajjat!

Ksaħt bil-qatgħa li tatni,
u bqajt iċċassat,
hi thares lejja
u jien lejn il-ġelat.



Imma f'daqqa waħda
mill-bieb feġġ xi hadd.
Kien ir-raġel tagħha,
kellu wiċċu tassew irrabjat.

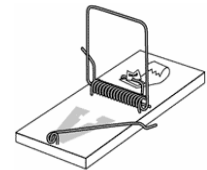
Inzilt nigri minn fuq il-mejda,
imma quddiemni nara qattusa!
Hrabt nigri nah'ohra,
tgħid mhux ser inbusa!

Ir-raġel ġera warajja,
ħataf l-okkażjoni,
u b'gazzetta imrebla f'idu
ried jieħu sodisfazzjoni.

Imma f'wiċċu baqa',
għax ġot-toqba lħaqt dħalt.
Trid tara kemm għajtet miegħu l-mara
u għajritu ċċassat!

Issa ta' kull lejl,
qiegħed ipogġi n-nassa bil-ġobon.
Mur għidlu li għalxej',
xbajt bil-mohbi nikolhom!

Nibqa' nistenna m'hemmx x'tagħmel,
infittex għall-ikel ma' l-art.
Sakemm fuq dik il-mejda
jergħu jpoġġu t-torta u l-ġelat.



KEATS POETS' CIRCLE

I AM

I am all I see
the grass, the trees, flowers

I am all I hear
the thunder, the wind

I am all I feel
the heat of summer, the coldness of winter

I am all I taste
the saltiness of fish

I am all I remember
fun days riding my bike

I am all I've been taught
how to be loving and caring

I am all I think
I am like a bike with no pedals
but I keep on going

I am the future generation

Liam Stivala

Lady Macbeth

*O listen and behold,
As the tale is now told
Of the ambitious Lady Macbeth.*

The story begins,
when a letter is sent
that tells of the prophecies
a new King is meant.

The lady she reads it
And commences to think
Of the murder of Duncan
Her husband a king.

She calls on bad spirits
Quotes 'Unsex me here'
Thus her conscience won't prick her
The lady won't shed a tear.

*Will you listen and behold
As of a plot you're told
By the devious Lady Macbeth.*

She uses her beauty
Her feminine wiles
When Macbeth from duty
Returns from the fights.

And then she does tell him
Of the murdering plan
She scolds and chastises him
For not being a man.

The deed was too onerous
Macbeth's help she must seek
As her father she sees
In Duncan asleep.

Then Macbeth he helps her
And a King he is made
Her love is forgotten
This the price to be paid.

*Now listen and behold
As the tale is further told
Of the insane Lady Macbeth.*

She walks in her sleep
And divulges the plot
Her guilt is too deep
On her mind preys a lot.

No future has the lady
But death a reprieve
It may have been nature
Or by her own deed.

There's no-one to weep her
Her memory does fade
But justice the reaper
To Macbeth by Macduff is made.

*Did you listen and behold
My tale is now told
Of the so dead Lady Macbeth.*

Jasmine May Cachia

The Dance

Thump, swish,
I only wish,
This dance will go well,
The girl next to me fell.

Stump, bash,
I hope we don't clash,
Do this, do that
Now go flat.

Kneel, shoot,
What a hoot,
Make nothing go wrong,
The song goes bong.

Now I have to shine,
The clock strikes nine,
Round off, back flip,
I hope I don't slip.

Clap, clap,
I didn't snap!
I ask myself how,
But I stay to bow.

"How did I do this?
I did it so bliss",
Oh my God,
All I can do is nod.

Yasmin Schembri

GOSSIP ...

Paula Gauci and Fabrizia Cassar

Britney Spears and Kevin Federline Call it Quits



On Monday 6th November 2006, Britney Spears (24) filed for divorce after a two year marriage to husband Kevin Federline (28). Her divorce petition stated "irreconcilable differences" with husband and came just two months after the birth of their second child. Britney did not ask for any spousal support but requested custody both legal and physical of the couple's two sons, one-year-old Sean Preston and Jayden James born on 12th September, with visitation rights for Federline. She also requested assets including "miscellaneous jewelry and other personal effects" and her earnings from after the separation date be confirmed as separate from her husband's property. NW reported "They are never in the same city together. Brit, 24, and Kev, 28, have been leading separate lives since Jayden's birth in mid-September, with Britney staying home to raise her sons while Kevin crisscrosses the US to promote his debut rap CD." Their marriage took place on October 6th 2004 just months after the annulment of Britney's 55-hour marriage in January to childhood friend Jason Alexander.

Britney and Paris party together!

Now that Britney Spears has ditched failed rapper Kevin Federline, she's ready to remind the world that she's still young and loves partying! On Sunday 19th November, Britney was seen clubbing in Las Vegas with none other than the infamous Paris Hilton.

The mother of two and the hotel heiress (who apparently have known each

other for a few years) hit the clubs in Sin City wearing matching hair extensions and danced on tables all night long.

Britney then topped the night off with a shopping spree in Dolce and Gabbana!



stars this week.

On Friday 17th November, the actress was spotted at an A-list restaurant being consoled by her pal Renée Zellweger ("Chicago", "Bridget Jones' Diary"). The two were later joined by Bruce Willis who spent over an hour trying to cheer up the devastated star.

Madonna adopts a one-year old boy in Malawi

There had been much speculation around Madonna and husband Guy Ritchie on planning to adopt. These speculations started as the couple began flying to Malawi visiting several orphanages and helping with the never ending poverty as well as the many problems of HIV and AIDS.



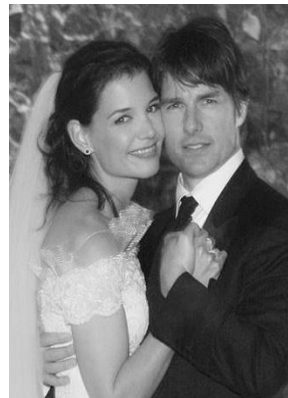
The 48-year-old singer already has two children, five-year-old son Rocco and nine-year-old daughter Lourdes. Madonna along with her husband and family decided on adopting one-year old David Banda whose father happily accepted the adoption.

Mr. Banda said: "I am the father of David, who has been adopted. I am very happy because as you can see there is poverty in this village and I know he will be very well looked after in America."

He told reporters that his wife Marita had died only a month after giving birth to baby David from child complications. Since then the child had been cared for at the Home of Hope Orphan Care Centre in Mchinji, a village near the border with Zambia. The adoption is not official yet as the Malawian court gave the singer and her husband, temporary custody of 13-month-old David Banda for 18 months and the adoption will be fully finalized in two years time.

TomKat finally Tie the Knot!

Hollywood's hottest couple got married on Saturday 18th November in the wedding of the year! The highly awaited wedding involved a wedding



cake shaped like a spacecraft, and some weird scientology vows from Tom's side.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, who had been dating since April 2005, invited celebrities such as JLo, John Travolta, Posh 'n' Becks, Jim Carrey, Will Smith and more. Also at the wedding was the couple's baby daughter Suri.

They got married in the 15th century castle in Bracciano, Italy, in front of a Scientology minister and are rumored to have shared a kiss that lasted for over 3 minutes!

Reese is Comforted by her Celebrity Friends

"Legally Blonde" star Reese Witherspoon, who has recently split from her husband Ryan Phillippe, was seen being comforted by two major Hollywood



All About Mr. Daniel!

Mr.D. hates noise, but became a teacher, hates driving, but drives to work, and tells us to read our religion booklet when the only book he's ever read is Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë when he was at school. Interested? Read on.

So, Mr. D, tell us a bit about yourself.

Well, my full name is Daniel Mario Joseph Cordina, I am 29 years old and married. I am the youngest of two brothers, I live in Attard, and I like cooking and aviation. And I sometimes read science books.

Cool. Do you have any kids?

Mr.D: Actually, no, I don't have any children. I would like to, as I have an ambition to be a father, but my wife wants to wait another year. If I had to call my kids something though, I'm crazy about the names Gregory and Esther or Jennifer

What's the most embarrassing thing you ever did?

Hmm, you see I used to have this job talking on a community radio, and once I had to interview one of Malta's ex-members of parliament. I'm not going to mention any names, but anyway, I had to go to his house, and when I met



him I got a fright. He was wearing nothing but an old white vest and tacky shorts, and he had sweat circles and he was really hairy, just not on his head.

What's the most interesting fact you

know?

The fact that true love exists. And I think I've found mine.

Anyway, what's the thing you hate and love most about yourself?

Well, I love the fact that I'm perseverant, I keep trying, like a stubborn old donkey. The thing I hate about myself is, well, isn't it obvious? I'm SHORT!!!!

Anyway, describe yourself in five words.

I think I'll say patient, caring, stubborn, thirsty, thinker. And thirsty as in for knowledge, not as in "I'm thirsty, get me a diet coke."

Diet coke? Oh well. So tell me, what would you do if you met an alien?

I'd ask him to take me for a ride. No, not in that sense! I'd ask him to give me a ride in his spaceship so that I could see the uni-

verse, etc.

What's the naughtiest thing you ever did?

Well, once again on the radio, it was a really boring day, so in 1996 I invented a competition with a gift pack as a prize! I told the people to call a number which was always engaged, and my friends to call a different one. It was really funny.

Yeah... so what would you do with a million pounds?

Oh, I'd buy a house in every continent, go live in Northern Italy, and I'd buy a jet and fly it myself, and of course give my future children everything they wanted.

What about your wife? And wouldn't you give to poor people who are starving to death, dying of disease and lack of water, freezing or dehydrating?

Oh yeah, that too.

Mr. D.M.J.C also once dreamed of managing to land a jumbo jet on St. Julian's bridge; he loves watching DVDs, eating oriental and Italian food, and likes the colours green and blue. He also plays the keyboard, and is utterly hopeless at rapping in English, Maltese or Chinese.

Natasha Singh



Participating in projects of a European dimension is vital in today's globalised world. Students need to be aware of their European citizenship and the diversity beyond our shores. In this respect, San Andrea Senior School has been twinned with the Istituto Comprensivo G. Cardelli in St. Angelo, a small town in the region of Abruzzo, Italy. This partnership was formed thanks to the eTwinning portal, a European based Web Site built with the aim to bring together schools from all over Europe. This provides schools with the opportunity to work together on common themes and exchange their outcomes.

"Caw Malta Ciao Italia"

The project, called "Caw Malta Ciao Italia" has been launched for Grade 8 students of Italian during the month of October. Grade 9 students will be joining during November. Such initiatives give students and teachers an opportunity to learn first hand information about other countries and cultures.

Students will work on a different theme each month. For the month of October the two schools exchanged perceptions about each others country. Grade 8 students expressed their perceptions on Italy through pictures whilst the Italian students sent paragraphs in English in which they expressed their thoughts about Malta.

During November, the students will be getting to know each

other. Grade 8 students are already working on the I.D. cards which will be sent to the Italian school at the end of November. A sample of this work is on display on the notice board next to room 33 on level D.

Grade 9 students are starting off their eTwinning experience through essay writing. Students will be sharing their experience of an unforgettable day.

I encourage all Grade 8 and Grade 9 students to eagerly participate in this opportunity and not underestimate the importance of getting in touch with foreigners to practice their language and broaden our horizons.

Ms Sharon Abela

Promising young writers

A nightmare trip

Andrè Azzopardi

My sister and I never thought that we would miss our home when we travelled to Sicily however we were proved utterly and miserably wrong.

It all started when my father set his mind on going on a family holiday to Taormina. On our outbound journey I sat next to a tall man who slept throughout the flight. That was fine for me but then he was snoring so loud that I could not even hear my own thoughts.

On our arrival in Sicily we claimed our suitcases and finally managed to get a taxi. Midway this car swerved because of a puncture - not in one tyre but two. Obviously our only option was to carry all our suitcases to the nearest bus stop - and believe me it seemed like hours before we spotted the 'fermata.'

At first sight the hotel looked cool but the second we stepped inside we came to the conclusion that my father had booked us into an old people's home.

The next day we hired a boat to visit the islands. As soon as I saw the skipper I thought it was the ideal time to put on our lifejackets. But I was wrong because we had to search for them once our boat was sinking.

After further unfortunate mishaps my father decided to curtail our trip and that is why that was the worst holiday ever.

A Performance at the Theatre

Timmy Paris

It was the fifth of August 1596 when my father came home saying that that evening we were going to the Globe to watch the "Merchant of Venice" by Shakespeare.

First we stopped at the "Boar's Head" (the closest inn to the Globe) for a wonderful meal. Then, after that we went to the Globe one hour before the play started. It was a magnificent theatre it, was tall and high.

Since my family was poor we could only afford the cheapest tickets for the pit in front of the stage, which only cost one penny. If you could afford to spend another penny then you would buy a seat, which would overlook the stage, and if you were rich then you would buy a private box with cushioned seats very close to the actors.

Throughout the play the audience was very noisy and because of this I could not always follow the plot. The play was about a man called Bassanio who wanted to marry

the beautiful Portia but he could not afford to woo her. Antonio, a rich merchant and a friend of Bassanio went to Shylock a moneylender to borrow the money. It was agreed that if Antonio did not pay the money back by a certain date then Antonio had to give Shylock a pound of his own flesh. After that Bassanio married Portia. The date came and Antonio was going to die. Portia dressed up as a lawyer and told Shylock that he could not shed a single drop of blood. They all lived happily ever after.

I really enjoyed the play so I always tried to go and see other plays by Shakespeare.

My Ideal School

Steffi DeMartino

My ideal school as a student would include sports facilities, such as a football pitch, a basketball court, an athletics track, and table tennis tables. Together with the use of all these facilities, tournaments should be organised during break for those who would like to take part. After all, these activities help to keep us healthy and fit.

With regards to lesson time, classes should be limited to fifteen students, a size small enough to allow individual attention but large to furnish the feeling of belonging to a group. Creative projects are ideal because it makes us students feel more comfortable with our classmates. Projects could include collecting money for charity, creating a website, or writing a collection of stories that might get published.

Each morning we should spend a few minutes discussing our projects so that they will be successful. No grades or competitions would exist while we are doing project work. Rather, the motivation to work would come from a desire to earn the respect of teachers and classmates and would establish a positive self-identity.

Each afternoon creative activities, such as art, music, physical education and drama would take place once a week. All classes could also get together and spend the afternoon discussing their feelings about any issue. This will help us students build a better relationship.

If these ideas could be successfully implemented, the learning environment in my school would be a fascinating self-journey. It would build our emotional knowledge, as well as sharpen our academic skills. Learning would be a fulfilling exciting experience, and students would not need to dread school.

Why should we have to dread school and get punished for not trying our best in the subjects we hate most? This can only bring unhappiness.



Pandas are astounding animals, with thick, black and white fur.

They live in warm surroundings in South Korea and South China. When they eat they are seated. They eat bam-

boo shoots and they also eat small birds and rodents. Panda cubs on average weigh 100kg and giant pandas weigh 150 kg or more.

When twins are born one of them must die as a cub. They may seem cute but if they're annoyed or in a bad mood they can be very dangerous. Pandas are an endangered species. The first reason is that people are capturing them for show. The second reason is that they are cutting down its natural habitat which is bamboo forest. Third reason is that they are being killed or captured by

hunters for their amazing fur to be sold or to be worn and also to be eaten.

Now a days in China if a hunter is caught killing or capturing a panda he will be executed by the law.



POSITIVE CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS BY 8.2 STUDENTS

- * Christmas is holy and pleasant;
- * Christmas is family, presents and decorations;
- * I like Christmas because I can play with my brothers and with my games;
- * I love spending Christmas with my family;
- * I like Christmas because we go abroad;
- * Christmas is a wonderful day because all the family is



gathered together and we give each other presents;

- * Christmas is a time of loving and giving;
- * Christmas is a spectacular day of my life because I like helping the poor at that time and going for a holiday with my family;
- * I like Christmas because we get presents;
- * I love Christmas because Jesus is born.



FILMS IN DECEMBER

Flushed Away - Santa clause 3 - The History Boys - The Holiday - The Nativity Story - Eragon - Deck the Halls - All the King's men - Stick It

The Nativity Story (06/12/2006)

Plot Outline: A drama that focuses on the period in Mary and Joseph's life where they journeyed to Bethlehem for the birth of

Jesus.

Eragon (15/12/2006)

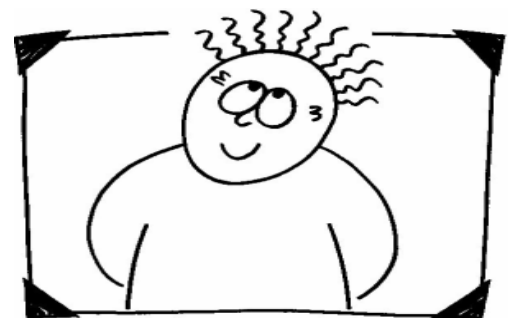
Plot Outline: In his homeland of Alagaesia, a farm boy comes across a dragon's egg -- a discovery that leads him on a predestined journey where he realizes he is the only person who can defend his home against an evil king.



A SHORT PRAYER

Dear
GOD
Help me to remember You ...
before I get into trouble.

Amen.



Every year the first lesson of PE is usually dedicated to the multistage fitness test (better known as the bleep test). Many students ask “But what is the bleep test?”

Well, the bleep test is an internationally recognized test that measures the person’s ability to perform aerobically. In other words it measures the endurance performance of a person.

Bleep test results are also scientifically reliable in giving a very good indication of a person’s VO₂ max. The test is very simple. Students have to run from one line to another at a 20m distance. The students have to be on either line when the bleep (from a cassette recorder) sounds. During the first min the speed will be very slow. The test gets harder after every min since the interval between bleeps will decrease.

VO₂ max is a value representing the ability with which a person transfers the maximum amount of oxygen from the environment into the working muscles. The value is measured in millimeters of oxygen per kg of body-weight per minute.

E.g. a person attaining level 4.9 in the bleep test will have a VO₂max of 29.5mmO₂/Kg/min.

On the other hand a person who reaches level 16 will have a VO₂max of 68mmO₂/Kg/min.

Our School Records stand as follows:

Grade	Boys	Level	Girls	Level
8	Diego Miguel Borg (2005)	10.8	Steffi DeMartino (2004)	10.6
9	Michael Giusti (2005)	11.5	Martina DeMartino (2006)	10
10	David Spiteri (2006)	11.9	Steffi DeMartino (2006)	10.4
11	Karl Pulo (2003)	14.2	Maja Sausmekat (2006)	11.4
12	Karl Pulo (2004)	13.6	Maxine Scerri (2006)	11.7
O/Age	Matthew Bartolo (2002)	13.1	Alexandra Mangion (2006)	11.4

Weather and Climate

Clouds and Rain

Karl Bonello

Cloud formation

The ground is warmed by the sun’s rays. The ground in turn warms the air right above it. The warm air rises and it cools down. Clouds of tiny droplets are formed when water vapour condenses.

Water droplets join to make larger drops and fall down as rain.

Main types of clouds

Cumulus clouds:

Fluffy clouds that form low in the sky and cause short, heavy rainfall.

Stratus clouds:

Dull clouds that hang low and cover all the sky. These give only light drizzles.

Cirrus clouds:

Thin wisps of high clouds which are made of ice crystals. Bad weather is on the way!

Rainfall:

Three types of rainfall are caused by air rising for different reasons. These are:

Convictional rainfall:

Convection currents (warm air rising) form low clouds full of water vapour and heavy rain follows.

Relief rainfall:

This is caused when the wind moves the air and meets a line of hills or mountains. The air rises and cools and we get rain.

Frontal rainfall:

Warm and cold air masses meet causing the warm air to rise and this is followed by rain.

N.B – rising air means air pressure is low. Bad weather will follow.

High air pressure means air is sinking. Nice weather follows.



Cumulus Clouds



Stratus Clouds



Cirrus Clouds

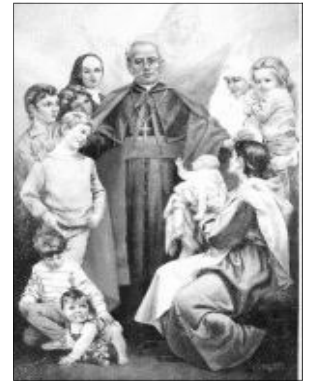


SAN ANDREA SCHOOL

Our Children Too' *St. Rita Home, Tarxien.*

**A sponsorship scheme promoted
by San Andrea School, L-Imselliet.**

ST RITA HOME



In June 2005, San Andrea School launched the Sponsorship Scheme, 'Our Children Too' by inviting parents and all members of staff to be part of the scheme by making a monthly commitment towards the needs of the children in the care of the Ursuline Sisters at St. Rita Home in Tarxien.

The number of benefactors grows each year as new parents and teachers join the scheme. A commitment of any amount from 50 cents monthly can be made. Each member of the scheme receives a Sponsorship Card which is also a record of all contributions made. Once a year, at the end of September, all participants receive a Financial Statement showing all movements of funds.

St. Rita Home presently caters for around 20 children between 3 and 13 years of age. The needs these children have are many and support is always of great help to the nuns who care for them.

We therefore invite you to be part of this humanitarian experience. If you wish to make a monthly contribution, simply fill in the form below and send it with your cheque to, St.Rita Home, Tarxien. May we point out that you may opt out of the scheme whenever you wish to do so.

Should you wish to visit the home and meet the children and the nuns who care for them, simply phone and ask for Sr. Elizabeth, the mother of the home, to make an appointment.

**Ursuline Sisters
5, Manwel Buhagiar Str.,
Tarxien. PLA 04.
Tel : 21672693 / 21677992
Fax : 21807486
st_rita@maltanet.net**

We thank you for your support and together, *'let us do something beautiful for God by doing a little with a lot of Love'*
– *Mother Tereza.*

I wish to make a monthly/yearly donation of Lm..... towards the needs of the children at St. Rita Home, Tarxien.

Name & Surname Tel. No.

Address e mail

.....

Scrittori in erba

Tutti hanno la fortuna di andare a scuola ma io non sono come tutti gli altri. Mi devo alzare presto la mattina perché mia madre dice che chi dorme non piglia pesci. Anche se sono un ragazzino devo andare a lavorare con il proverbio "chi non lavora non mangia" sempre in testa.

Lavoro sempre fianco a fianco di mio padre e quando lavoriamo insieme mi sento più al sicuro. Non vado a scuola perché la mia famiglia non ha soldi. Quando sono con i miei amici sono felice. Al contrario quando incontro dei bianchi mi prendono in giro. Non sono come loro perché ho la pelle scura o 'nera' come dicono i bianchi.

Ogni giorno è indimenticabile.

Alla sera, quando è buio, mia madre prepara la cena. Ringraziamo Dio che siamo vivi e almeno abbiamo del cibo da mangiare. Per questo motivo ogni giorno è indimenticabile!

Ezekiel Psaila

Mi chiamo Eryl Vella ma tutti mi chiamano Super Boy per via dei miei superpoteri. Ogni giorno volo sopra la città per vedere se c'è pericolo. Se vedo un mostro che sta divorando mezza città o un semplice ladro che ruba lo fermo con i miei occhi laser o i miei supermuscoli senza battere ciglio.

Nessuno, tranne il mio migliore

amico Isaac, sa che Super Boy è anche Eryl, che deve fare anche i compiti. Ogni giorno salvo la vita di tante persone innocenti e i soldi che mi danno vanno tutti alle persone malate o ai poveri. Qualche volta passo anche la notte in bianco per salvare qualcuno oppure per sventare qualche rapina, ma alla fine finisce tutto in bellezza.

Dobbiamo rendere il mondo un posto più tranquillo, e per fare questo ricordiamoci che l'unione fa la forza, così non ci saranno più ladri ed io potrò avere il tempo per fare i compiti. Ed è per questo che ogni giorno è indimenticabile.

Eryl Vella

Fashion world

Autumn/Winter 2006/7

As the weather cools down we all turn to our wardrobes to make sure that the new trends are all in there. This season is all about the amazing textures, layering and remarkable colours.

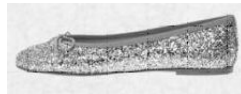
The colours for autumn and winter are mainly dark but there are brilliant flashes of colour like red (very essential), deep blue, purple, grey (VERY IMPORTANT for this season and it gives you a chic and edgy look) and nevertheless black and white.



Black and white are a must like every winter, and you can see them in bold stripes or clean lines. They always give you a simple, chic but smart look. Big oversized chunky knits and cardigans are everywhere and hopefully also in your wardrobe. If you want to shape them up you can always wear a chunky belt. Skinny or loose jeans are very fashionable this autumn.

The dress has come back and with revenge. Short, long, waisted and baby doll are more than ever popular.

Tartan skirts and tweed jackets seem to make a bold statement this season and so it is important to have, so as a touch of leopard skin! The fur trim on jackets is also a good way to dress up jackets.



Accessories are going to be big and bold. Any metallic touch this season on

clothes will give it a better look. Ballerina flats, animal print shoes are very fashionable. To sum it all up,



the perfect accessory is a big, huge, small or clutch bags. Nonetheless hats and hoods are an up and coming trend. Hope that these tips will help you on your next shopping day!!!



PRADA

The Past and the Present

Fashion Designer Prada was founded in 1913 in Milan, Italy as a manufacturer of leather bags. What is known today as

Prada is mostly the work of the founder's granddaughter Miuccia Prada. Miuccia Prada was born in 1949.

After university, she entered the family business in 1978 and soon revolutionized the appearance of its products. Her interest in unusual fabrics led to the distinctive trademark of Prada products: the surprising combination of materials. In 1989, she introduced women's wear with instant success, men's wear followed in 1995.

Prada is said to be the most prominent example of a new form of inward-directed luxury. Prada clothes avoid very loud clouting and easily appealing appearances. They are described as cool, comfortable, pure, graceful, and minimalistic.

Miuccia Prada, who is entirely in charge of the company's creative decisions, says she bases her decisions mostly on intuition. Her husband Patrizio Bertelli is the business-man behind Miuccia Prada. He is responsible for the commercial side of the products and the retail strategy.



OLD SAN ANDREANS

Claire Abela

Hey there,

I was told to write an article on this newsletter, so here it goes. I left San Andrea nearly two years ago, and as you can all see I didn't actually leave, because every now and then, I always come for a visit! At the moment I am attending the Higher Secondary School in Naxxar. Although I like it there, have made new friends and have learnt many things, I still consider San Andrea as my second home.

During last year's drama evening it was

fabulous! It felt so nostalgic for me: for the first time I was in the audience and not performing on that stage. Well done to all of you who took part, you all performed brilliantly, especially the drama students.

For all the students who are still in San Andrea, make the most of the time you have left there because when you leave your life changes completely and you will miss San Andrea. I'm telling you this from my personal experience.

I'll surely never forget those hilarious weekend camps and all those memories, good and bad, in such an amazing school.

Anyway, I think I've said enough! One thing I said, and shall say again is treasure every moment spent in San Andrea, because believe me it's worth it!

Love,

Claire Abela.

NEWS AND VIEWS ... The 3 R's

The 3 R's: Reason, Respect, Responsibility

To San Andreans, these are three pillars that can dramatically improve the quality of our decisions and thus our characters and lives. How exactly should we uphold these principles?

Reason: To reason means to ask yourself what you ought to do, or what it would be best to do. Our life is truly our own when our various

ambitions, hopes, desires, intentions and actions are guided by reason.

Respect: Everyone has a right to be treated with dignity. We should treat everyone with respect, regardless of who they are and what they have done. We have a responsibility to be the best we can in all situations, even when dealing with people who might seem unpleasant. Respect prohibits violence, humiliation and manipulation. It reflects notions such as civility, courtesy, decency, dignity, tolerance and acceptance.

Ms Felicienne Mallia Borg

Responsibility: Life is full of choices. Being responsible also means being in charge of our choices, and thus our lives. It means being accountable for what we do and who we are. It also means recognising that our actions matter and that there are consequences to our actions.

A true San Andrean should seek to build his values around these guiding principles and continuously reflect upon his commitment to these values.

From Mr Mark

I would like to thank all the students and teachers who have worked hard on this issue. Whoever wants to join in the action is welcome!

I'd like to encourage you to participate in the competitions. May I remind you that there are wonderful prizes to be won for our competitions. The title of the next one is:

"People who made a difference in the history of mankind".

Send pictures, poems, essays and interesting information at scibi@waldonet.net.mt. I promise to include all those articles which have not been published yet in the coming issues.

Thank you for reading us and hope you enjoy it! Enjoy your holidays!

The Editor

Superiority – doing things a little better than anybody else can do them.

Orison Swett Marden