

Lateral Learning in the Senior School

Term 3 has certainly been a busy term for Lateral Learning. We have celebrated Book Week and STEM Week, Meriden teams have been successful in Tournament of Minds, and Year 7 students have completed a Research and Critical Thinking Workshop on Study Skills. I extend my thanks to the Coordinators of Learning Link and the Library team for ensuring these events run in a successful manner.

Students have participated in public speaking competitions and this term has also seen the organisation of various philosophy excursions and competitions. It is wonderful to see the critical and creative thinking of our students as they think deeply about a range of issues whilst developing their communication skills.



Alana Ikladios, Year 10

Legacy Junior Public Speaking

Year 10 student, Alana Ikladios, represented Meriden at the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Regional Final last month. Alana competed against other finalists in the Sydney region. In addition to her prepared speech, Alana delivered an impromptu speech on the topic, "Top of the Range". Alana engaged her audience with a discussion of the Matilda's recent performance and the need for our continued focus on equal prize money and coverage for women's sport. We congratulate Alana on her achievement.

Meeting of the Minds Day

Over the course of this year, The Philosophy Club has explored the issue, "What makes a good life?" Recently, ten students from Years 7 and 8 participated in an inter-school Meeting of the Minds, during which they participated in thought experiments, group activities and a Community of Inquiry discussion that encouraged the students to think collaboratively on the topic of courage and character, in relation to what it means to live a life well-lived. Below, four Meriden students share their experiences of the day:

"I enjoyed discussing with other students about the topics presented and working collaboratively to come to a conclusion. I think that prompting each other with questions and building on our ideas was one of the most valuable experiences as it taught us cooperation and new ideologies. Overall, the day was full of fun and academically rigorous discussions, with very interesting discussions on life and what is right."

- Ashley Shu, Year 8

"Meeting of the Minds was one of the most interesting and engaging excursions I have attended. The topics and discussions we had were fascinating and we all contributed to the conversations. I enjoyed interacting with people outside of the Strathfield and Sydney circles. We learned about Aristotle's 'golden mean' and the qualities that Aristotle believed define a good person. Meeting of the Minds is an amazing experience. I definitely recommend it."

- Chantal Lou, Year 7

"Meeting of the Minds was an excellent opportunity to participate in Community of Inquiry discussions and experience a wider range of ideas stemming from topics that we know well. Thus, we were able to develop and exhibit critical thinking skills and extend our knowledge of concepts like courage and being a good person." - Olivia Kim and Amelia Von, Year 8



Meriden students attending Meeting of the Minds

Philosophy Competitions

Meriden's Junior Philosophy Competition is now in its third year, and it was pleasing to see fifteen students from Years 7 to 9 submit an entry. The topic for this year focused on the theme, "Friendship". Students were asked to submit a creative response, an infographic poster or a podcast that explored the concept of friendship and what it means to be a good friend. Students considered Aristotle's views on the different types of friendships and considered factors such as length of time and the reciprocal nature of friendship in determining its value.

Congratulations to all students who entered for their thoughtful responses and the high quality of their thinking. A special congratulations to our prize winners in the competition.

First Place: Ila Bains, Year 9 (Podcast)

Second Place: Olivia Kim, Year 8 (Infographic poster)

Third Place: Katherine Kljajic, Year 7 (Podcast)

Highly Commended: Anja Chan, Year 7 (Infographic), and Gabriella Correia, Year 8 (Creative Writing)

This year, Meriden's Philosophy Captains, Aria Zhang and Angelina Wang, also ran a Philosophy Photo and Art Competition. Students were invited to submit an original artwork or photograph that spoke to the theme of "Existence". Congratulations to our prize winners:

First Place: Iris Gai, Year 8

Second Place: Gabriella Correia, Year 8

Third Place: Caiyi Zhang, Year 7, and Lucinda Russell, Year 11

Highly Commended: Chantal Lou, Year 7

Ms Priscilla Curran

Dean of Lateral Learning