

Issue 60
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the INSIDER

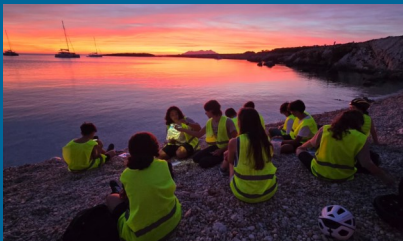
an Andrea School

NEWSLETTER



*Reason
Respect
Responsibility*

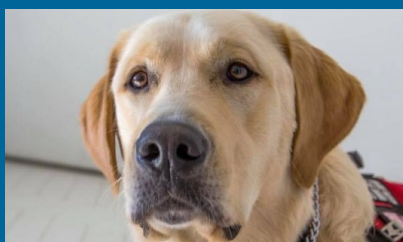
IN THIS ISSUE



School Trips & Outings



Grade 7 Camp



In Memory of Ilio

A New Look and a Celebration of Excellence.

We are thrilled to introduce the 60th issue of The Insider, our school newsletter, a fresh new design! For the first time, we're excited to feature all three sectors, Early, Middle, and Senior in one comprehensive edition.

As we reflect on the first term, we're filled with joy and gratitude for the incredible experiences we've shared. From engaging lessons to exciting extracurricular activities, our students have truly thrived. We've witnessed students grow, learn, and develop new skills, and we're proud of their achievements.

As the festive season approaches, we wish all our students, parents, and staff a happy and joyous time. We're grateful for the opportunity to be part of this vibrant school. Looking forward to an exciting second term. Happy holidays!

*Mr Gilbert Fenech
Editor*

IN THIS ISSUE



Students' Work



Welcome Buddy System



Student Council Meeting



'Through our Eyes' Sections

The 'Through Our Eyes' sections feature articles and pictures taken from our students' viewpoint, highlighting their ideas, experiences, and observations. The logo, designed by Juliet Camilleri, symbolizes an eye focused on school life, showcasing student perspectives and memorable moments. Well done Juliet!



'Scool' Sections

'Scool' sections feature articles and pictures related to our numerous school activities, showcasing sports, fun games, and academic learning. The colourful logo, designed by Leah Abdilla, represents the diverse experiences that form part of everyday life at San Andrea. Well done Leah for designing such a brilliant logo!



EMY Half Term Highlights:

A Fantastic Start to the Year!

The first half term of the school year has been full of energy, achievement, and excitement! From new clubs and outdoor adventures to leadership opportunities and community spirit, there's been something for everyone.

School Council Elections and First Meeting

We kicked off the term with our annual School Council elections. Pupils across the school put themselves forward, gave inspiring speeches, and campaigned with creativity and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all who took part! Our newly elected councilors have already held their first meeting, sharing ideas on how to make our school even better. We're looking forward to seeing what they achieve this year.



Outing to PlayCon

One of the highlights of the term was our outing to PlayCon, where students explored hands-on exhibits, games, and workshops that sparked imagination and teamwork. It was a morning filled with discovery and fun!

Big Break Clubs

This term also saw the launch of our Big Break Clubs — giving everyone a chance to try something new during break time. From gardening, arts and crafts, chess and library skills, and doing philosophy for children, these clubs have been a fantastic way to relax, make friends, and learn new skills.



Sports and Outdoor Fun

Our Grade 7s showed amazing determination and team spirit at the Cross Country event, cheering each other on every step of the way. Many congratulations to all! Meanwhile, Grades 5, 6, and 7 took part in our annual Walkathon, walking together to celebrate the outdoors, fitness, showing kindness, and community. Well done to everyone who participated — what a great show of stamina and school spirit!

Grade 6 and Grade 7 camps

We had a lovely time during our Grade Camps. We went on outings on the Friday, then we had a great time at school playing games that helped us to get to know each other better. The highlight of these camps was sitting around a fire eating roasted marshmallows! A big thank you to educators who have planned real fun activities and given up precious sleep!

As we look ahead to the next half term, we can't wait to see what more our students will accomplish. It's been a brilliant start to the school year — full of learning, laughter, and togetherness!

VALENCIA

A City that Steals Your Heart



During our stay in Valencia, we took part in many cultural activities and also attended Spanish lessons in the afternoons. On the first day we visited the Silk Exchange, the Central Market, and the Miguelete Tower. Another day we went to the Fallas Museum and the City of Arts and Sciences, which we found really impressive. We also explored the Town Hall Square and the North Station, and we did some shopping. One of the most fun experiences was the escape room, and afterwards we enjoyed some relaxing time at the beach.

"an experience we will never forget."

The boat trip on the Albufera was very special, as well as the day trip to Xàtiva. We also took part in a photo hunt around the city, played like kids in the Gulliver Park, and had some free time to buy souvenirs. In addition, we loved cooking our own paella, an experience we will never forget.

In the evenings we got to know Valencia better with a city tour, a visit to the Marqués de Dos Aguas Palace and a flamenco show which we really enjoyed.

Overall, it was an unforgettable week in which we learned a lot of Spanish, made new friends, and discovered Valencian culture. We would like to thank Ms. Maria and Ms. Nicky for their patience and for making this trip possible.

Ms Maria Zammit
Teacher of Spanish





Favignana Fieldwork Trip 2025

Learning Beyond the Classroom



Last September, as in previous years, the Sciences Department organised an exciting fieldwork trip abroad to the island of Favignana—part of the beautiful Egadi Islands. Equipped with bicycles, quadrats, fieldwork tools, and an infectious dose of enthusiasm, a group of Biology students, accompanied by Ms Sarah and Ms Geraldine, set off on what has now become a much-loved tradition.

Favignana offers the perfect setting for scientific fieldwork. The island is surrounded by a Marine Protected Area, features diverse terrestrial habitats within short distances, and provides a safe, almost car-free environment ideal for immersive, hands-on learning. Add to that its stunning landscapes, turquoise waters, and unforgettable sunsets, and it becomes more than just a trip—it's a full sensory learning experience.

During their stay, students carried out fieldwork across a variety of habitats: underwater, in rock pools, woodland, garrigue, and tuff quarries. They also sailed around the island on a guided tour focusing on marine life, coastal formations, sea caves, and even the elusive monk seal. Beyond the science, the experience included group living, shared responsibilities, and the invaluable lesson that learning can be fun—especially when surrounded by nature.

The locals now instantly recognise us as “the Maltese students from San Andrea” and greet us with smiles and waves wherever we go. Of course, we are hard to miss—cycling around in reflective vests, helmets, and head torches! But what truly makes us proud is the praise we receive for our students' excellent behavior and their

*more than
just a trip,
it's a full
sensory
learning
experience.*

genuine enthusiasm for learning. Whether enjoying downtime or mid-adventure, they are always ready to dive straight into the next scientific investigation with energy and focus.

As a department, we strongly believe that real, lifelong learning goes far beyond the classroom or the lab. When students connect with concepts in the real world, those lessons become far more meaningful—and unforgettable!

So, while we returned home a little tired after a week of cycling and adventure, we came back with big smiles, full hearts, and memories to last a lifetime.

Applications for the September 2026 Favignana Trip will open around December 2025 to January 2026. Places are limited, so keep an eye out to secure your spot in time!

Ms Sarah
Science Department
Senior Sector

Educational Trip To Sicily

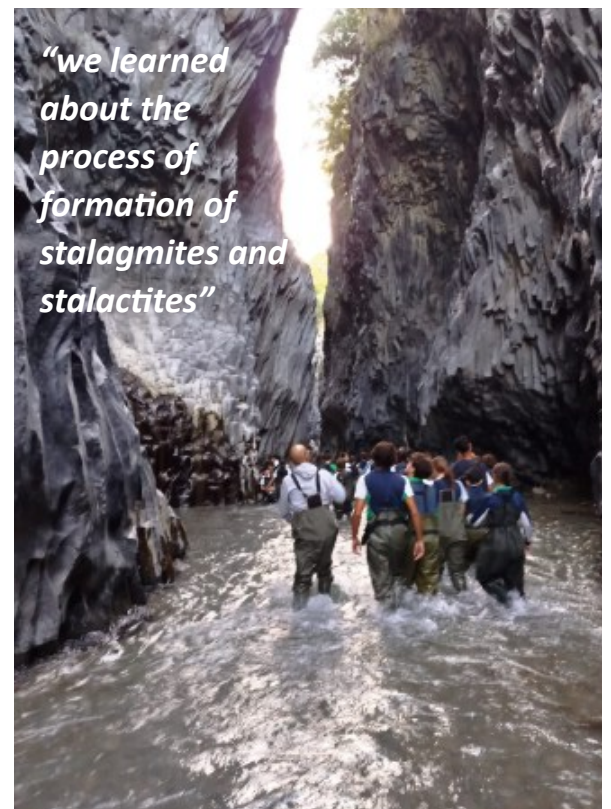
Enjoyable memories that we will never forget.



During this educational trip we explored many geographical features. We saw the volcanic features first-hand climbing Mount Etna and were shown interesting parts such as the structures and formations of craters and specifically lava tubes, where we learned about the process of formation of stalagmites and stalactites over time. We also visited the Alcantara river and discovered fascinating features of the river landforms and processes of transportation and erosion.

We made many enjoyable memories thanks to the great organization and management from the leading teachers. From trying our best at river-walking in the Alcantara river to climbing challenging obstacles at Parco Aventura, this packed trip was never short of fantastic experiences for the students and teachers involved. This was definitely a memorable trip to be repeated in the future.

Nathan Azzopardi Muscat, Illyse Meli,
Estelle Vella and Emilia Nina Huhn
Grade 12 Geography Option Students.



In Memory of a special dog

Ilio



“His calm, gentle presence made me feel safe and reminded me that things would get better.”

Recently, our school lost a very special four-legged canine. To most people, Ilio was the school’s service dog, but to me he was also a friend and a teacher. When I first started at San Andrea, I didn’t like reading out loud. But having Ilio by my side helped me feel brave enough to try, and soon I started to enjoy it.

When I was hospitalised for four long weeks, Ms Steph somehow managed to get permission for Ilio to visit me. I will never forget that day. His calm, gentle presence made me feel safe and reminded me that things would get better. When I finally returned to school, Ilio even dressed up as one of my favourite book characters to welcome me back. He stayed close to me when I walked in with my

crutches, as if he wanted to make sure I was okay.

Ilio and I shared many adventures our weekly sessions, our walks around school, and even special moments like visiting the President of Malta or attending the Animal Awards together. He made ordinary days feel special.

Although Ilio is no longer with us, his memory will stay in our hearts forever. I know that every San Andrian who was lucky enough to know him will always remember the wonderful service he gave us, his kindness, and the way he made our school feel like home.

Andrew Bonett

Grade 9.1



Football For the Goals

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

On Friday 24th October, 2025, Neil Cauchi and I attended the Official launch of Football for the goals at the Centenary Stadium in Ta' Qali. The event was organised by the PE department. We drove to Ta' Qali with Ms Elise – we got there early which in a way was good because that meant that we could see the organisers preparing for the event. The event featured the official draw of Sustainable Development Goals. It was very exciting because Neil and I were chosen to do the draw! This was followed by distribution of T-shirts for the players. The T-shirts have encouraging mottos which Neil has already shared with his friends, but I'm keeping it a secret for now! I had a lovely time and had so much fun!

And just remember girls – you can play football too!

Julia Farrugia Preca

Grade 7.1



*"Leading Today,
Shaping Tomorrow"*

STUDENT COUNCIL

EMY

Why I want to be on the Student Council

By Noah Sammut 6.1

I have been elected by my friends as their representative on the School Council. It was my wish to be on the Student Council for several reasons – firstly, I wanted to help my school by organising fundraisers, and secondly, I want to have lots of fun experiences with and for our classmates. In Student Council, we aim to donate to different charities every year. In the past, the Student Council was also responsible for organising activities such as beach clean ups and embellishing gardens.



GRADE 7 CAMP

17 – 18th October 2025

On Friday 17th October 2025 the Grade 7 had a camp at San Andrea School. Fortunately, the sun was smiling that day,

“we had a science investigation which was a lot of fun.”

which meant that all the outdoor activities planned for the day could take place.

First stop was at Buskett - we started with Science with Ms Antonella where we had a science investigation which was a lot of fun. We had to find

living organisms and other materials. After that, we had a yoga session with Ms Joanne, and it was as calming as a gentle breeze. We then made art with Ms Selin, and we used objects that we found on the woodland floor to create pictures with. Finally, we had a Math quiz with Mr Daniel.

Our next stop was Mdina, where we had a long walk to Palazzo Falson - some fun facts - Palazzo Falson is five hundred and thirty years old. It looks like a castle; however, it is really a house even though it has thick stone walls, a courtyard and a tower. We were told that the owner was a cat lover and he left money in his will to feed stray cats!

Penultimately, we went back to school where we put out our camping mats and sleeping bags. We had a lovely dinner which was followed by a disco and smores! This was followed by another party in the playground. After lots of coaxing from our educators, we went to bed, and it was lights out!

On Saturday, after breakfast we had fun activities. Camp was great fun - we had a blast. It was as fun as popping bubble wrap.



Nick Spiteri Sacco

Grade 7.1





**"Empowering Voices,
Building Futures,
Together!"**

STUDENT COUNCIL

SENIOR SCHOOL

SOPHIE ANN AZZOPARDI

G11 REPRESENTATIVE

1. What made you want to join the Student Council?

I wanted to join the student council because I wanted to make a difference in my school and improve it to be a better place than it already is. I also joined because helping students and giving them a voice is very important to me. We are young, but we still have

opinions and solutions, so I wanted to allow them to be heard.

*"be kind and
open-minded
to others."*

2. What's one thing you'd like to help improve at school?

I want to initiate amphitheatre clean-ups; a lot of trash gets blown around our amphitheatre, and there is a lot of dust; it gets really dirty to the point that some students can't sit down during assembly. By initiating the clean-up, students learn how to be more responsible for their surroundings.

3. How do you help others at school?

Along with my other grade representative, I take suggestions from students and try to make them work as much as possible. I help with fundraiser planning and speak in assembly to keep the students informed about events that go on in our school.

4. What do you hope to achieve as a Student Council member this year?

This year, I hope to put a large emphasis on mental health awareness, even if we already did a day where we wore orange for Mental Health Day and ADHD day. I hope to do more activities surrounding this to make people more aware of how many people are affected by mental health disorders, not just in other countries but in our school.

5. What advice would you give to younger students who want to be leaders?

I would tell them to always be kind and open-minded to others' suggestions, even if you don't agree with them. If you don't get voted to be in the student council, try again, be determined and always fight for what's right. There will always be those who want to put you down, but you always push yourself up and try again, no matter how hard it gets. This is about the students; you are here for them.

LUKE ZAMMIT

Grade 9 Representative

1. What made you want to join the Student Council?

I wanted to help make our school a better place and be part of a team that makes a difference.

2. What's one thing you'd like to help improve at school?

I'd like to make school events more fun and make sure everyone's ideas are heard.

3. How do you help others at school?

I help classmates when they need support and try to include everyone.

4. What do you hope to achieve as a Student Council member this year?

I hope to plan great activities and make school more enjoyable for everyone.

5. What advice would you give to younger students who want to be leaders?

Be kind, listen to others, and don't be afraid to share your ideas..



The Senior School Student council meeting Mr. Stephen and Mr. Christopher on Tuesday 11th November 2025.

MIKELA ANN SPITERI

G10 REPRESENTATIVE

1. I wanted to join the Student Council because I wish to give the students a voice and make sure they know their voice is heard. I also wish to help the school in any difficulties and projects to keep on making our school a better learning environment.
2. I would like to improve the lighting on Level A, because since there is little sunlight, the level does not get well lit and it might be uncomfortable for students to work with little amount of light.
3. I help others by helping in schoolwork or homework, making sure everyone is always included and not leaving anyone alone, and sending the work if they are sick.
4. I hope that by the end of the year, a canopy or umbrella is placed outside in learning spaces so that learning outdoors with any weather is possible. I also hope that a water dispenser is added on level C because many students use that level and it would be more accessible to them. I also wish that by the end of the year, the soap and toilet paper dispensers will be always full in the bathrooms.
5. If you have an idea, don't hesitate to voice it and give your input. Don't be discouraged if someone does not agree with an idea, just make sure to listen to their opinion and make a final decision. Try to always have a second alternative idea just in case the first idea does not work out.



The first term was packed with events and activities organized and attended to by the Senior Student Council.

We started the school year by celebrating Educator's Day on the 6th of October. School Ambassadors arranged a special assembly reading a poem and sharing a quote to honour our teachers.

The new Student Council for 2025-2026 was inaugurated on the 14th of October after holding democratic elections. The day after, the School Captain and Vice-Captain attended the Student Council Democracy Awards and received the Silver Award on behalf of the previous council.

We began work immediately liaising with the PSCD department to launch the Anti-Bullying Campaign by contributing with an awareness speech in assembly and creating a mural to mark our stand against bullying.

On October 22nd we organized and held ADHD Awareness day where we invited all students to come to school wearing casual wear with a hint of orange against a donation. All money raised was donated to ADHD Malta.

"We are dedicated to continue representing our students, putting on spectacular events and working hard to make the school a better place."

Many meetings with members of the SLT were also held where we proposed student feedback being active voices for all the students.

Most recently, we organized and held the World Children's Day event. We celebrated by inviting students to come to school in casual wear against a donation for MISSIO. Furthermore, we sold donuts and popcorn with all proceeds going towards our Student Council initiatives.

As a Student Council we thank everyone for their active participation in our endeavors. We are dedicated to continue representing our students, putting on spectacular events and working hard to make the school a better place.

Nathan Azzopardi Muscat

School Captain



The Welcome Buddy Programme

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



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As part of our commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive school environment, during the first term, we launched the **Welcome Buddy System**. This initiative pairs each new student with a designated peer who helps them settle into school life.

“Welcome Buddies play a vital role in introducing new students to classmates”

The programme aims to create an inclusive atmosphere, provide social and emotional support during the transition period, and help students navigate the school premises, routines, and policies. It also encourages friendships, promotes integration into the school community, and boosts confidence and engagement in both academic and

extracurricular activities.

With guidance from teachers, Welcome Buddies play a vital role in introducing new students to classmates, other teachers, and key staff members. They offer support by helping them understand the school layout and daily schedule, answering questions, and encouraging participation in school events.

Most importantly, they ensure that every student feels comfortable, included, and valued. Through this initiative, we hope to make the transition into our school smooth and enjoyable, while nurturing a culture of kindness, connection, and belonging.

The first workshop of the Welcome Buddy Programme was held in October, with enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from students. We look forward to continuing this meaningful journey of peer support and community building. The Welcome Buddy System is more than just a helping hand, it is a celebration of student leadership, empathy, and the power of friendship in shaping a positive school experience.

Here is what the students had to say about it:

“I loved this experience, I thought it was super fun! I'm not a new student, so I'm not sure if they made new friends but I really hope they did!”

Paola Sosa Russo





"I really enjoyed the workshop. The games were really fun. The 'buddy' and me managed to stay in contact on teams. I hope all the new students managed to integrate into San Andrea and perhaps next time we get to build something with crafts or something else so we get to team up...?"

Julia Farrugia



"I really enjoyed the workshop a few weeks ago. The games were loads of fun and made me laugh:). I think it made the new students feel more comfortable being at school since they know that they have more friends and some more familiar faces. I think it was a really good idea since usually most new students find it hard to integrate and this was something where we had fun as welcome buddies, and I hope so did they. I cannot wait for the next workshop and making more friends. I also hope San Andrea will continue doing the work shop every year since more people join every year."

Karl Callus



"I enjoyed the workshop dearly as it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know people at San Andrea and I made a few friends".

Anais Monique Farrugia

"I also enjoyed the workshop, it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other in a fun and engaging way. Looking forward for the next one".

Norah Saliba Thorne



"I really enjoyed the workshop, it was very fun and well planned out. It was an amazing opportunity to make new friends and connections! It was a super fun experience!"

Elena Bartolo

"I really enjoyed the workshops of the buddy system and the activities that we did in these work shops were very fun to do. They helped me make new friends and learn more about others who were already my friends. I hope that next year the workshops will continue to take place for the new students and the grade 8's of next scholastic year so that they can feel welcome! "

Dominique Portelli

"I really enjoyed the workshop because it was fun and engaging. It helped new students make friends and feel more comfortable with each other."

Jade M Ellul

"I really enjoyed the workshop and the activities planned. I was able to make friends with the students I met, and I think it helped the new students know where they can go if they need help. This activity helps our school by strengthening the bonds within the student community, helping our school grow every day."

Sophie Anne Azzopardi

"I love the idea. The games we played were so much fun and would love to continue the workshop and thank you for the initiative and opportunity."

Leah Abdilla

"I really enjoyed all the workshops the buddy systems activities where loads of fun and during the last workshop we did an amazing activity. These activities helped me with making new friends and integrating more in the school. I hope we will continue to do these activities. Thank you."

Alessandro Carcone

Ms Marie Louise Kara

Assistant Head Senior Sector

Erasmus Project Coordinator



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Senior School Art Students'

SHARING THEIR WORKS & THOUGHTS



This mountainous landscape represents the beauty of nature and the harmony that mountains and trees bring with a river. This artwork makes me feel at peace due to the use of bright blue colours and the way that the trees reflect off of the body of water. As a medium I chose to use acrylic paints, because they allow me to layer colours whilst also offering an array of vibrant colours.

Elisa Caruana

Grade 12.1



I chose gouache to paint a distinctive scene of Santorini. Blue symbolizes the serenity of the sea and the sky, while white represents the purity of light and architecture. The interweaving of the two creates the unique visual poetry of Santorini. Gouache allows for better transitions from light to dark and warm to cold. Such transitions give the walls more depth and the picture a more breathing quality. Meanwhile, the light reflected among the white walls will add a touch of light blue to the shadows. This "airiness" treatment is the soul of the Santorini scene.

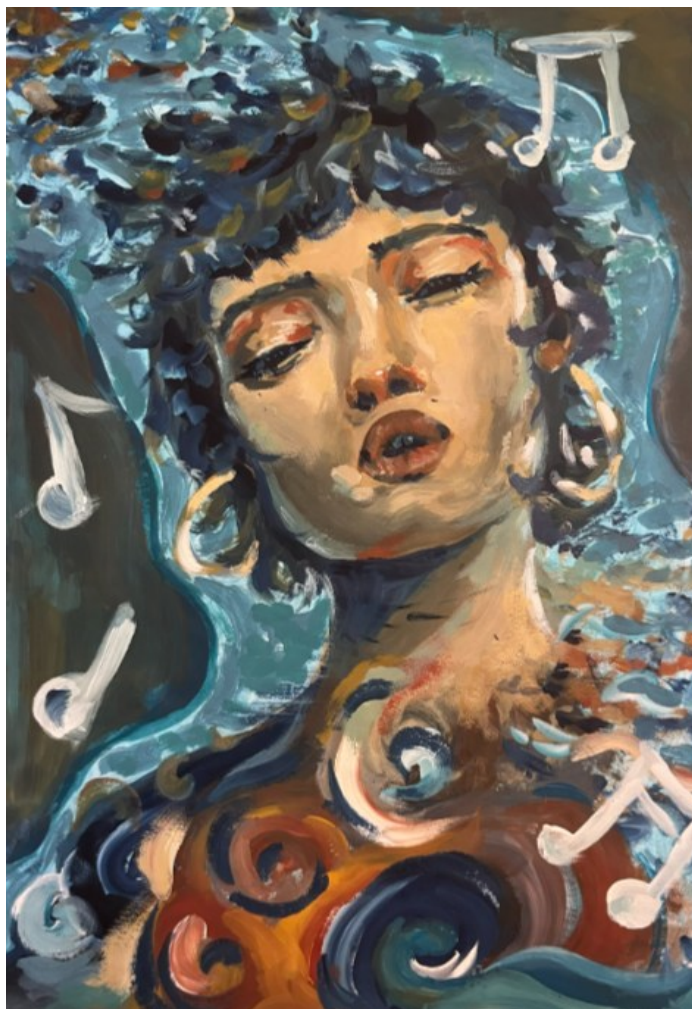
Xiyu Gu

Grade 12.3

This painting is about the effects music has on us as people, how it connects us with others no matter the culture and how music speaks through the art of listening more than understanding. This painting reflects my understanding of music and how it impacts my day to day life and my emotions, a part of me I can express not through my own words but through the understanding of another person with similar emotions to me. More so, I painted this using *gauche* as the colours blended out smoother, acting as watercolour in a way to mimic the flow of music (like water) but pigmented enough to express the true vibrancy music brings out in people, hence why I used more blue toned and orange colours to represent contrast in emotion when one listens to any music piece.

Amélie Lauren Delicata

Grade 12.3



This artwork shows how people often hide their true emotions behind different masks. The woman is holding a smiling mask in one hand and a damaged mask in the other. The damaged mask is melting; this shows that it has been overused so many times to hide her true feelings that it's worn out. Her true expression is sad and depressed, which represents how we never really know what someone is going through. Even the happiest people can be hiding how depressed or hurt they truly are. I used colored pencils because they allowed me to blend the colors smoothly and add small details to add more emotion to the drawing. I feel proud of this work because it sends an important message that many people can relate to.

Celine Joy Mifsud

Grade 12.2

Compiled by :

Ms Nadine - Senior School Art Teacher

Outdoor Learning in Nature:

Exploring the Mud Kitchen

Outdoor learning provides children with a wonderful opportunity to connect with the natural world while building important skills through hands-on exploration. One of the most beloved areas in our outdoor space is the Mud Kitchen, a place where imagination, curiosity, and creativity truly flourish. Here, our Pre-School children experiment with mixing soil, water, leaves, stones, and other natural materials, transforming simple ingredients into imaginative creations.

“opportunity to connect with the natural world while building important skills through hands-on exploration.”

As children scoop, stir, pour, and combine materials, they engage in rich sensory play that supports their fine motor development and hand-eye coordination. The mud kitchen also naturally introduces early maths and science concepts, such as measuring, comparing quantities, observing changes, and making predictions.

These playful experiences lay the

foundation for problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Beyond academic learning, the Mud Kitchen is a social space where children collaborate, negotiate roles, share resources, and communicate their ideas. Working together encourages teamwork, patience, and confidence as they create “meals” or build their own imaginative scenarios.

Most importantly, the Mud Kitchen nurtures a genuine love for outdoor play. It invites children to explore freely, get messy, and discover the joy of learning through nature. Every moment spent there is filled with meaningful experiences that spark curiosity, build resilience, and support holistic development.



Ms Sabina Sixsmith

Assistant Head Early Years

- A huge thank you to The Insider Newsletter Team for their hard work and dedication!
- Appreciation also goes to the students who contributed their creativity and insights, making this issue truly special.
- To all the teachers who shared their expertise and support, your efforts are truly valued and appreciated.



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
to all San Andrea Community



Christmas Spirit at San Andrea School - Early School Classrooms Decoration!