

# Star of the Sea Catholic College

## Newsletter

25th February 2020

Vision is capturing  
God's assignment.

- Gary Rohrmayer

Attentiveness  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion



Corner Friend & William  
Street  
George Town  
TAS 7253  
(03) 63821242

### From the Principal

Homework is tough at the best of times. Imagine if your homework was set by God! And imagine if it was due every day of the week!

Last Thursday at our Induction of College Leaders we took the opportunity to announce our Vision and Mission Statement. These sorts of statements have been around for a long time. You can go into various businesses and see Mission statements, usually with words about "customer satisfaction" attached to them. Other places produce glossy brochures with wonderful pictures for visitors to see when they enter. But there's a danger in *just* hanging something on a wall, or *just* putting it into a glossy brochure. Because then the Vision and Mission is not something which is *lived*, it is only something which is produced in order to tick a box. The words are quickly forgotten, the brochures quickly gather dust and we continue on doing what we've always done.

But when a Catholic school produces a Vision statement, it

can be looked at another way. Our Vision statement tries to capture what God is calling Star of the Sea to do and to be in the coming years. In other words, it tries to capture God's assignment for us. Rather than producing it to tick a box, we produce it to remind ourselves of who we are and what we hope to become.

But how do we know that our Vision is truly what God calls us to be? Basically, by doing a lot of discernment. The word discern comes from a Latin root meaning *to separate apart*. In other words, we try to separate apart what ideas are from God and what ideas are from us. For Star of the Sea, that involved discussion and reflection amongst various groups. It also involved *reading the signs of the times* to discern where and how Star of the Sea fits in to George Town in 2020. Along with this we made sure our Vision and Mission was true to our founding charism - that of Nano Nagle and the Presentation sisters.

So, from last Thursday, our assignment begins. Like any sort of homework, sometimes we'll get it right and sometimes we'll get it wrong. Some of it might be done nice and neatly, sometimes it might be done messily. And, yes, sometimes the dog will eat our homework. That is, other things will get in the way of us truly living up to our Vision and Mission Statement.

But we must keep trying. God doesn't want perfection. God wants us to grow. And we can only do that when we keep persisting with the homework. The recent publicity around St Kevin's College in Melbourne remind us of the dangers of being perceived as not sticking to your assignment. As part of the Star of the Sea Catholic community, we must remember to have a go at our assignment every single day of the year.

Mr Richard Chapman  
Principal

CALENDAR

Wednesday 26th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ash Wednesday (<b>No meat products will be sold at the canteen</b>)</li><li>9.00am - 10.30am SetUp (formerly Playgroup)</li></ul>
Thursday 27th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.15pm Primary Assembly</li></ul>
Friday 28th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clean Up Australia Day</li></ul>

Reminder that Wednesday 26th is **not** a pupil free day at Star. School as usual.

Star of the Sea Catholic College acknowledges the Leterremairener people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.

# Religious Education and Faith Development

## Small Change Can Make a Big Difference

### Project Compassion 2020

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising appeal. Every year millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty and promote justice.

This year the face of Project Compassion is Shirley who is an indigenous woman from a remote village in the Philippines. She is a mother of four and the sole breadwinner of the family, as her husband is sick. Shirley was struggling to support the whole family and keep her children in school, but with the support of Caritas, Shirley has trained to become an indigenous health worker and a leader in her community. She has learned to supplement her income and is able to feed her family. The program has also helped Shirley's children with school fees, uniforms and supplies.

At Star of the Sea, we come together and raise much needed funds to help the most vulnerable women, children and men in Australia and around the world through our annual inter house money line. The aim of the competition is to see which house can form the longest line of coins and last year the results were so close there were only centimetres between first and second place.



**We can all make a difference and help people like Shirley by collecting and saving all our small change for our 2020 Money Line, which is being held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

Heart  
Spirituality



Attentiveness  
Hospitality

#### Stars of the Week - 20th February 2020

Kinder	Danica Sweet	For always taking care of her classmates.
Prep	Henry Pride	For being very helpful around our classroom.
Grade 1	Chelsie Jenkins	For always creating such beautiful artwork. Well done Chelsie, you are a great artist.
Grade 2/3	Allira-Grayce Harris	For helping clean and organise our classroom.
Grade 4/5	Alyssia Sky	For her thoughtful and interesting science ideas.
Grade 5/6	Chloe Gofton	For her respectful attitude in always having a go during all learning activities. Well done! Keep up the good work!

## SetUp for Success

Last week saw our first SetUp session with lots of families joining us despite the wet weather!

Sensory play was a big part of last week's session. Sensory play is beneficial to children as it builds the nerve connections in the brain which help them to complete more complex learning tasks, as well as supporting language development and the development of fine and gross motor skills.

➡️ SetUp, an Early Learning program for children aged 0-5, is on every **Wednesday morning during term time between 9:00am and 10:30am in the Kinder room.** There is no cost and is a service of Star of the Sea to the families of George Town.



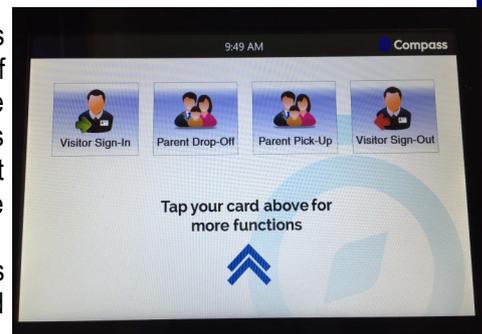
## Welcome

We welcome Indi (Year 9), Nevada (Grade 5) and Janelle (Year 8) their families to Star of the Sea Catholic College. We hope they enjoy their time here.

## Signing In and Out from the College

Some of our parents may have come across our *Kiosk* in the office, which is basically just an iPad on a small stand. The purpose of the *Kiosk* is for staff and parents to be able to sign in and out at our school and for parents to be able to sign students out if they leave early. It replaces our written registers which used to do the same job, it links to Compass (our Student Management System) and we use it to keep track of who is on the property should there be a fire alarm or some other need for an evacuation.

The move to Compass and the *Kiosk* has provided some challenges for us with regards to coming up with good processes which are not too taxing, and we are still working on some areas. However, a basic rule of thumb is this:



- *Students cannot sign themselves in and out. Only people on our contact list for each student can do this.*
- When a parent or carer comes to the school to sign a student out because they are sick or need to leave early, they do so by using *Kiosk* at the front office.
- If a parent or carer cannot make it into the school but would like their child to walk somewhere from the school, the office can be contacted and there is a possibility for the school to sign the student out on the parent's behalf, but this usually needs approval from someone in our College Leadership Team. However, primary students always need to be signed out by a parent or carer.
- It is preferable that all students come to the office if they need to sign in late.

## Vision and Strategy

As the saying goes, if everyone doesn't know your strategy, you don't have a strategy. With this in mind today's newsletter includes a copy of our Vision and Mission statement and our Strategic Priorities for 2020.

The **Vision and Mission Statement** is a set of guiding statements about who we are and who we hope to be as Star of the Sea.

The **2020 Strategic Priorities** are actually part of a bigger document which we have been working from for the past two years. The 2020 priorities are the parts of the document we don't believe we have covered over the past two years and would like to focus on them this year.

We invite families to take time to have a read of these documents. They will hopefully provide a greater understanding of why we choose to do the things we do!

## Communication

We have been using the app, *Skoolbag*, for a number of years now, however we will not be renewing our contract with it at the end of March. The main reason for this is that, by mid Term 2, we hope to give all of our parents and carers access to our Compass Parent Portal which will serve the same purpose. In the meantime there will be a "gap" in our forms of communication. Facebook will still be used and the newsletter will also provide important information each week. We also have the ability to send SMS messages for important messages should we need to.

## Secondary Students Congratulations Cards

Week 2 winners:

Alex Rigby Smith (\$10 canteen voucher)

Maeve Lazdauskas (\$10 canteen voucher)

Well done!!



### George Town Council need your input

George Town Council wish to bring to your attention a couple of key consultations they running which would benefit greatly from having the views of parents and children. Please follow the links below:

1. Regent Square Master Plan (rotunda location) <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/news/2020/community-consultation-regent-square's-band-rotunda-placement/>
2. The Sports and Recreation Strategy <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/news/2020/george-town-sport-and-recreation-planning/>



Congratulation to our College Leaders for  
2020





## Our Vision

*In the spirit of Nano Nagle, our vision is to be a Christ-centred, welcoming and compassionate community, providing quality education so we can embrace the future as people of hope.*

## Our Mission

### As people who are attentive we will strive to:

- Promote life-long learning and support each student to reach their full potential
- Work in partnership with parents in the education and socialisation of students
- Promote and live the values of our Presentation charism
- Be a community who hold prayer at the heart of celebrations and daily life

### As people who are compassionate we will strive to:

- Recognise, acknowledge and celebrate differences
- Teach, live and celebrate the Gospel within the Catholic tradition
- Develop a school culture where staff, students and parents reach out to others in our College community, wider community and the world

### As people who are hospitable we will strive to:

- Provide a learning community that welcomes everyone regardless of background, belief or ability
- Create an environment that makes others feel safe and valued, promoting wellbeing and inspiring learning
- Celebrate, as a community, feast days, milestones and achievements, as well as school and local events
- Foster a culture that encourages staff and students to build a relationship with Christ

# **Strategic Priorities 2020**

## **Make Disciples of All (Mt 28:19)**

- That students will have the opportunity to be involved in outreach and service in the local community.
  - By strengthening Outreach programs in both the Primary and Secondary areas

## **Excel in Learning for All (Jn 10:10)**

- That the College will promote high standards and aspirations amongst our students.
  - By forming a working party to investigate ways of raising the aspirations of our students
- That the College will aim to become “autism friendly,” to make the school a safe and inviting environment for everyone.
  - By using the Victorian *Autism Friendly Schools* matrix as a guide for our College

The following two priorities will still be a focus, however the strategies used to achieve them will be changed from the original document:

- That the College will use data to better monitor and review the progress of our students.
- That the College will promote nutrition throughout the school community.

## **Nurture Leadership of All**

- That our staff will have the opportunity for professional learning that is suitable for their current needs.
  - By using Teacher Meetings as key opportunities for Professional Learning
- That our staff will have learning around Visible Learning and be able to implement that in their classes.
  - By continuing to encourage the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria in classes