

# Star of the Sea Catholic College

## Newsletter

24th March 2020

“Status will get you nowhere. Only an open heart will allow you to float equally between everyone.”

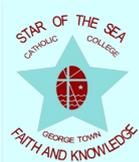
- Mitch Albom

In this time of uncertainty we often need clear messages. Here is Star of the Sea Catholic College's message:

- Until we are told otherwise, Star of the Sea Catholic College is open as per normal.
- Even though most of our activities have been cancelled, we will continue to provide normal classes with normal class structures.
- We will offer support with fees for any family that has been impacted financially by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Our staff will continue to do their best to offer the best education they can to the students at our school.

Now that's something you can be certain of.

Attentiveness  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion



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

# From the Principal

How should we react in uncertain times? What is our best response as human beings when we don't know what the future may hold?

A lot has been spoken about the hoarding of food and toiletries by people in Australia in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Whether this is a good or bad thing, it is probably not a surprising thing. In uncertain times, people look for certainty. Our hoarding of food is one way we try to be certain when we are plagued with uncertainty. Others look for certainty by picking up snippets of information from the internet. Again, whether this is good or bad it is not a surprising thing. We might see a piece of information that soothes us, or confirms our own thoughts and beliefs, and we hang onto it as it gives us a sense of certainty. Whether or not the information is correct doesn't matter. It provides us with what we need.

Psychologists often tell patients who have anxiety to learn to be comfortable with uncertainty. That's easier said than done, especially when those around you are not particularly comfortable with it!

But there is another way we can react in times of uncertainty, and that is by having an open heart. Life can be tough, and often we develop a thick skin, losing our capacity for innocence, curiosity and compassion. But these are exactly the virtues we need in uncertain times.

**Innocence** allows us to see things that others don't because they think they already know the answers. It seems today that everyone has an opinion on what governments and health officials should be doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and more often than not these opinions are contradictory! By approaching uncertainty with innocence we are able to approach problems by not pretending to have the answers, but by admitting we don't while still maintaining hope.

**Curiosity** helps us to hear what the innocent people are saying. If we think we have all of the authoritative knowledge, then we won't be open to new information which may go against that knowledge. We need to rid ourselves of pride, and instead be prepared to say to ourselves, "This is interesting. I wonder what will happen next."

And **compassion** helps us to understand what others might be experiencing. It helps us to understand their pains and their joys. When we become callous in our responses, we fail to understand others and their needs in their time of uncertainty. Understanding others helps us to understand what our own reactions should be.

At Star of the Sea Catholic College we need to approach times of uncertainty, and all times, with an open heart. This allows us to stay calm, humble and keep a clear mind - exactly those things that everyone else wants to see from us.

*The ideas from this reflection are taken from Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky's article, "Leading with an Open Heart."*

**Mr Richard Chapman**  
**Principal**

# Religious Education and Faith Development

## Catholic Education Week



Heart  
Spirituality



Attentiveness  
Hospitality

Although the events of the past weeks now prevent us from celebrating as a community, this week is still a great week to recall the gift of our Catholic schools. As a Catholic community in George Town our vision statement calls us to be: 'A Christ-centred, welcoming and compassionate community, which provides quality education and embraces the future with all its opportunity and possibilities.

We are proud of our Presentation beginnings, and like Nano Nagle, our founder, we value the empowerment and opportunities education offers our young people, and pray that each one of them reaches their potential. So we praise God for the gift off our schools, our teachers, our support staff and the wonderful children you have entrusted us with.

### Money Line

Each year, we at Star of the Sea College raise money to assist projects that will contribute to building healthy self-sustaining communities through our money line. The money line this year will be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. I encourage all our students to begin collecting all their small change. This is a house competition so your efforts will help your house be the champion house and change lives.



### Stars of the Week - 19th March 2020

Kinder	Kirra-Lyla Harris	For her wonderful drawings of people.
Prep	Finley Upston	For his wonderful reading during group time.
Grade 1	Chantz Brown	For producing a beautiful painting of the outdoors. Well done Chantz
Grade 2/3	Ruby McDonald	For her consistent effort across all subject areas.
Grade 4/5	Indiana Cartwright	For her continued focus an effort with her school work.
Grade 5/6	Shekinah MacFarlane	For her diligent work ethic in all areas of learning.

## COVID-19 Update

### **Is school still on?**

Yes. Our school will remain open and run normal classes until told otherwise.

### **Is anything else on?**

Not a lot. Most other activities have been cancelled for the moment in an effort to not have too many people in the same place at the same time for too long.

### **What about camps?**

All camps have been put on hold for the moment until we see how the situation develops. We are still open to running all camps in some format should we be allowed to later in the year.

### **What is the school doing about hygiene?**

Our cleaners are coming in halfway through the day to wipe down frequently used surfaces. We are trialling a method for students to wipe down shared devices before use. All students are being encouraged to wash their hands on a regular basis and our Primary students have soap and water in the classroom to aid this. Students are also being reminded to cough and sneeze into their elbows rather than their hands.

### **Should I keep my child home from school?**

If they are unwell, yes. If they have been asked to stay away from school by a medical professional, yes. Otherwise, they are most welcome to continue their education. At this stage, because COVID-19 is not being spread within the Tasmanian community (all cases have come from interstate and overseas), students are no more likely to get sick from being at school as at any other time in the past.

### **What has Star of the Sea's attendance been like?**

Over the past two weeks we have averaged just under 90% attendance (sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less). At this time of year we would usually expect an attendance of closer to 95%. On Monday, after the Prime Minister's latest announcement, our attendance was 75%.

### **If I keep my child at home, will the school provide work for my child?**

If they are away on doctor's orders, we will try to provide work from home. If it is a personal family choice, we can't guarantee we will provide work as it creates too much of a strain for our teachers who are busy trying to teach their classes as normal.

### **What about social distancing?**

Parents and carers will appreciate that social distancing is a little hard in a school environment, and having 4m<sup>2</sup> for every person like the latest suggestion from the Federal Government will only work if we double our classroom size or ask half the students to stay at home! However we are reminding students about the need for distance and discouraging hands-on as much as we can.

### **What will happen if schools are asked to close down?**

Although the Government has strongly suggested they want schools to remain open, most schools, including our own, are starting to look at ways we can continue student's education remotely in the event of school closures. If you do not have access to the internet, nor have a device i.e. iPad, Laptop or computer, could you please contact the College office.

### **What if my job has been affected by the COVID – 19 outbreak?**

Unfortunately many people have been stood down because of the outbreak. If you are worried about school fees, don't be! Just call our Bursar, Mrs Kathryn Condric, and the school will support families on a case-by-case basis.

### **Can I still come into the school?**

Yes. Parents and carers of Primary students are still welcome to drop their children off at the classroom, however we would encourage that, if you are sick, to have another carer drop them off. We are discouraging Parent Teacher meetings at this point and most contact will be made via phone, although there will always be exceptions.

### **What if I still have other questions?**

If you have any further questions around our COVID-19 response, please feel free to ring our College office.

## Staff Movements

Mrs Jane Fleming, Star of the Sea Catholic College's music teacher for many years, has announced she will be finishing her time at the school. Mrs Fleming has always been generous with her time whilst at the College and many of our students and staff will miss her gentle nature and passion for music. Mrs Fleming is currently on leave and will officially finish at the completion of her leave. We wish her all the best for the future! We are currently advertising for her replacement.

Mrs Suzi Romein will be absent this week. Her classes will be covered by Mrs Jen Parish.

Mrs Karen Stewart will be absent for the remainder of this week and her classes will be covered by Mr Will Claessens.

## Compass Parent Portal

Last week all of our parents and carers would have received a letter inviting them to sign up for our Compass Parent Portal. If you did not receive a letter you can call into the office for one. We ask all parents and carers to log in to this over the next week or so. And if you already have, you might be one of the first to be reading this newsletter via Compass!

## NAPLAN

Parents and carers may have heard on the news that, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there will be no NAPLAN testing this year.

## Mother's Day Donations

Parents and carers are still welcome to bring in donations for our Mother's Day stall. How we actually run the stall in the light of the current situation will be decided next term, but given that there will not be a big number of students accessing the stall at any time (it is run in class groups) it should be able to be done risk-free.

## Winter Uniform

In Term 2 we move into winter uniform. Parents may want to check to see if last year's uniform still fits. The uniform shop is open on Thursdays 2- 4pm

### Vinnies Easter Raffle



Raffle ticket books were sent home to each family last week for our annual

Mini Vinnies Easter Raffle.

The tickets will be \$1 each

and all funds raised will go directly to

St Vincent de Paul.

*Tickets \$1*

*Books need to be returned by 3rd April or sooner if you have sold them.*



*Vinnies Easter Raffle*

## Are you connected?

As school prepares for the possibility of closure due to COVID -19, we are preparing for ways students can learn at home. In order to help us, if you do not have access to the internet, nor have a device i.e. IPad, Laptop or computer, could you please contact the College office.

## SetUp for Success

It is disappointing for all that Setup is on hold at the moment, but I will share some ideas each week for you to try at home.

I know I've shared before how wonderful play dough is for developing many concepts and skills in young children.

Below is the recipe I use.

### Ingredients

2 cups of plain flour 4 tbs cream of tartar 1 cup of salt 2 tbs cooking oil  
2 cups of boiling water food colouring

### Optional

Scents like peppermint essence or any other non-toxic oils Glitter or rice to give texture

### Method

Place flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a bowl. Encourage children to smell, feel and taste the ingredients.

Also count with them as you measure the cups and spoons of ingredients. Allow them to stir the ingredients to help build arm and shoulder strength.

Measure the boiling water into a jug and add food colouring. Take this opportunity to discuss the dangers of boiling water. Add water to the dry ingredients and stir. Once the ingredients are pretty well mixed I tip it out onto the bench and knead until smooth. As the play dough begins to cool allow the children to take over the kneading.

Let the fun begin!

The play dough will last for ages if stored in an airtight container.

# SETUP for SUCCESS



## Visit from Tasmanian Fire Service



## Prep patterning



## Shout Out Week 7, 2020

Student's Name	Reason
Blake Miller	Working hard and not calling out in learning activities.
Karol Aziz	Finishing work quickly.
Ruby Davidson	Listening well and staying on task.
Kobi Barrenger	Being kind and respectful during group activities.
Rilee Brown	Working so quietly on task.
Sabian Hawes	Music - good attitude in music today.
Maddison Hyland	Working hard all of the time.
Kobi Barrenger	Attending to end of day Year 6 duties.
Miley MacFarlane	Helping to clean.
Maverick Watson	Helping to clean.
Chantz Brown	Really doing well in whole class challenges.
Jennifer Munro	Working diligently to complete her handwriting tasks.
Carlie Lowe	Offering to help someone .
Connor Judd	Cleaning the room.
Joshua Chapman	Always being friendly to others.
Kobi Barrenger	Your patience and determination.
Maverick Watson	Holding the doors open as we walked across & back from music.
Evie King	Working so quietly on her task.
Belynda Hyland	Her amazing effort in creating the BFG book cover.
Damien Milner	Excellent handwriting.
Axle Sturzaker	Helping to pick up rubbish.
Kobi Barrenger	Telling the truth when it was hard.
Isaac Leslie	Excellent times tables.
Ruby Davidson	Being a good friend and sharing.
Axle Sturzaker	Asking for help to improve his learning.
Joshua McConnell	Always being friendly to others.
Ruby McDonald	Great job at the boom whackers today.
Brooke Baillie	Working so quietly on her task.
Lindsie Barrett	Working quietly on her task.
Miley MacFarlane	Finishing work quickly.
Joshua McConnell	Always being friendly to others.
Alyssia Skye	Kindness towards others.
Karol Aziz	Helping to clean.
Belynda Hyland	Dedication to being a competent and articulate public speaker.
Malakai Hyland	Being ready to learn.
Thomas Lowe	Focusing on completing all his work on time.
Charlotte Power	Her extra effort at contributing to class discussions.
Lillian Hockey	Working hard to complete all tasks
Ashton Meessen	Excellent handwriting.
Maverick Watson	Holding the doors open as we walked across & back from music.
Erin Vanderzwan	Consistently looking for feedback to improve her learning.
Isaiah Widdowson	Excellent work on punctuation.
Blake Miller	Assisting a teacher other than his classroom.
Damien Milner	Excellent handwriting.
Bernard Moore	His efforts learning slap, clap and shuffle.
Lucinda Hockey	Music: picking up a mess that was not hers.
Chloe Gofton	Being focused during her mathematical learning.
Scarlett Baillie	Helping to clean.
Ruby Gower	Not complaining when asked to move to a new desk in the classroom.
Shekinah MacFarlane	Remaining focused when seated beside a talkative classmate.

### PBS Focus:

We are engaged when we play by the rules.

### Shout Out Winners:

\*Jennifer Munro - 10 minutes extra recess for the whole class

\*Mia Barker - 10 minutes extra recess for the whole class

## Secondary Students Congratulations Cards



Week 7 winners:

**Isabelle Ackerly (Absent) & Ashton Harrison (\$10 canteen voucher)**



**Most Reverend Julian Porteous, DD**  
**Archbishop of Hobart**

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20 March 2020

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been necessary to make a very hard decision to cease the celebration of public Masses in Tasmania in an effort to assist in limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

It is clear that many people are disturbed by the global struggle to control the spread of the virus. Governments across the world have taken strong measures in an effort to protect their people. We have witnessed our government here in Tasmania make more and more stringent efforts. All this is for the common good and the wellbeing of the people.

This weekend there will be no public Masses celebrated in Tasmania. I have asked all priests to say a private Mass offering it up for the intentions of the people. The principal Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart will be live-streamed on Sunday morning, beginning at 10.30am.

This is a time when we all seek spiritual comfort and reassurance. I would encourage you to use the capability offered by modern communication technology to engage with the Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. The Mass will be able to be accessed via the Archdiocese of Hobart's YouTube channel.

Our Christian tradition declares Sunday as "The Lord's Day". We are taught to "keep holy the Sabbath Day". In this time of uncertainty I would encourage you to turn your heart towards the Lord, especially on this coming Sunday. You may like to call the family together to watch the Mass from the Cathedral and have some time for prayer and reflection as a family.

I hold the people of Tasmania and the Catholic community in particular in my heart and prayers at this very troubling time for us all. I seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to end the spread of the virus.

Yours in Christ,

Julian Porteous DD  
**Archbishop of Hobart**

Dear Parents, this is part of a three page letter that was sent home yesterday .

## Uniform Policy

Why have a dress code:

Student uniform dress code reinforces the students pride in their appearance and supports the college ethos. It makes a statement about commitment to the College and assists in creating a feeling of belonging and community. Issues of equity, safety, economy, health and safety are also contributing factors for the need for a dress code.

Implementation:

- Any deviation from the dress code will require a note from a parent to the class teacher of the child.
- Parents seeking exemptions to the Dress Code due to hardship, religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, disability or health conditions are requested to apply in writing to the Principal. For temporary exemptions contact the class teacher.
- If uniform infringements are persistent and/or unexplained the parents will be contacted to rectify the situation.
- Key items of the student dress code will be available for purchase from the College Uniform Shop.
- The Dress Code may apply when students are attending or participating after hours and/or off-site activities involving the College.
- The change over from summer to winter uniform is the end of Term 1, and from winter to summer uniform is the end of Term 3.
- PE uniform is to be worn on the one day of the week that HPE is timetabled for the student and on any day when the student has been given special permission in advance.
- For primary student's school hats are part of the summer uniform and must be worn during outdoor activities. Hats are not to be worn inside. For secondary s students school hats are encouraged but not mandated.
- Jewellery such as earrings or watches may be worn if they are simple and reasonable sized. Overly ornate or oversized jewellery may be requested to be removed. Some activities (such as some sports) may require jewellery to be removed all together or covered for an amount of time. Necklaces are only to be worn if they can be safely concealed inside the clothing.
- Cosmetics are discouraged from being worn to school. Some light foundation to cover blemishes, clear nail polish, clear lip gloss etc will be tolerated. At all times the aim is to appear natural and real.
- Extreme hair colours and/or extreme hair styles are discouraged. In the interest of Health and Safety Primary school students must have hair up and Secondary school students with hair longer than collar length are required to carry a hair band at all times. In certain activities the students will be instructed to wear their hair up.
- Hair accessories are requested to be plain in nature and in school colours.

**Winter Uniform:**

- Lace up black leather, Velcro or T-bar strap shoes only. No ballet flats.
- For warmth in winter options are College jumper/blazer or both. Spray Jackets for rain protection are to be maroon or black. Scarves are maroon or black. Jackets and scarves are not worn in class.
- Students may wear grey winter trousers with a light blue school shirt and jumper/blazer.
- Female students may wear our checked winter skirt, a light blue school shirt and a school jumper/blazer.
- Students should wear dark grey socks or maroon socks with the trousers. Students should wear black tights or maroon or grey socks with the winter skirt

**Summer Uniform:**

- Lace up black leather, Velcro or T-bar strap shoes only. No ballet flats.
- Shorts and dresses must not be too short. As a guide the length should reach lower thigh or longer.
- Students may wear grey shorts with a light blue school shirt and jumper/blazer.
- Female students may wear our lighter checked summer dress, and a school jumper/blazer.
- Students should wear dark grey or maroon socks.

**PE Uniform:**

- Our Physical Education uniform consists of black track pants (plain black....no stripes or lettering), black school shorts, the College maroon polo top and maroon track top with College logo or College Rugby tops.
- PE shoes must be regular sports shoes (not Converse boots, street shoes, Crocs etc).
- Track pants must be tracksuit type trousers not leggings or skins.
- Socks must be plain black, white or maroon.

Please assist us in maintaining high standards by ensuring that your student is dressed in accordance with the Dress Code.

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

## Children's Sacramental Program

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish is starting the Children's Sacramental Program for 2020 shortly.

If your child is in Year 3, or higher, and they wish to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation, please contact Mrs Nora Wood on 0402 113 546 to register your interest.



## Mother's Day Stall

Mother's Day is fast approaching and this year our Mother's Day stall will be held on Thursday May 7th.

The stall will provide an opportunity for our Kinder to Year 10 students to purchase gifts for their Mother's, Grandmother's and other important women in their lives. Items will range in price from 50c to \$5.

We would be grateful for any gifts you may be able to donate to the stall such as:

- Any suitable store bought items
- Handmade items
- Cellophane, gift bags, ribbon etc
- Cash which the Parents and Friends Group can use to purchase items for the stall
- Glass jars with or without lids

Items can be donated at the office any time between now and the end of term 1.

Thank you for your support.

