

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

24 th November 2020

From the Principal

Daniel Thomas delivered the reflection at Friday's Presentation Feast Day Mass on what Nano Nagle meant to him. Here is a shortened version of his address.

I am quickly approaching the end of my school life at Star of the Sea; a Catholic College that has offered me so many opportunities to learn and to be part of a unique community. I say unique because we are a Presentation school with Presentation values and our own unique story here in George Town. The things I value about my time at Star have been inspired by a woman who was born more than 300 years ago, Nano Nagle. Nano emerged in a time of great need and responded to a real need. She was not only inspired by the actions and teachings of Jesus, but she went on to inspire others to see that life offers possibilities and that everyone should have the opportunity to be empowered through education.

Nano was determined to change her attitude of self-centeredness. She went back to Ireland and she was desperate to help. Even though she was scared she still walked the dangerous streets of Cork searching for a way to help her people.

The poor were trapped in a cycle of hopelessness and fear. Her solution comes to her through prayer and daily contact with the people. Education was the solution because it gives people dignity and power. For this to work she had to build a school which she kept hidden to protect the community.

At the same time, Nano continued her work with the poor in the city by taking them food and attending to their illnesses. She built a home for elderly homeless women. She brought comfort and instruction in their faith to the Irish people. As you see people always make time for what is important to them.

The story of Nano Nagle has been told throughout the world as an example of hope and that when you put your mind to it you can achieve more. To live out Nano's last wish we need to follow what it's like to be a Presentation person.

There are six ways we can show we are Presentation people:

- We can live out our faith by responding to God's loving invitation.
- We can be people of community by supporting one another. When we do this, we grow a community.
- As Presentation people we should be compassionate by widening our circles of friendship and caring for each other like a family. Next time you find someone who might not be having a good day just welcome them into your heart because then we are opening our hearts to God.
- At Star of the Sea we need to be people who spread God's love and forgiveness. We do that through our words and our actions
- As Presentation people we try to be giving and present with whatever we do. For example, when we are in class, we need to take in what the teacher is saying or when you are with your friends in the playground and they tell you a story about the time they scored five goals for their club we need to listen to their story.
- Finally, as part of the Star of the Sea community we need to follow Nano mission of loving your neighbour and helping out those who are less fortunate.

Nano's way of life has influenced my approach to my time here at Star of the Sea. We are given so many opportunities to improve ourselves and help others, and if we follow in Nano's footsteps then we need to, like Nano, bring our best effort and attitude. Remember, nothing worth having was ever achieved without effort.

I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service to a great many parts of the world.

- Nano Nagle

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Feast of Christ the King

On Sunday the Church celebrated the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of Ordinary Time before we begin the season of Advent, which draws us into the countdown to Christmas.

The term 'kingdom' is misleading, especially when we refer to the Rule of Christ. The kingdom Jesus speaks of is not a kingdom defined by borders or a place of pomp, wealth and ceremony. Rather, God's kingdom is all embracing, still coming, and inclusive of everyone and everything in creation.

Christ is the Universal Ruler and the light of the world who came to lead us in a different way. He shows us God's way. When we follow his leadership, we begin to see the world differently. We see the earth as our Common Home. We see those different from ourselves as our brothers and sisters. We see people's suffering as an invitation from Christ to reach out in love and compassion.

Pope Francis says that God's rule might look like: people in solidarity with one another, not in isolation from one another. God's rule is about seeking the 'common good' and reaching out to the most vulnerable people in our society.

Throughout this pandemic, we have seen people who have answered the call to take care of those who have been left behind. Food banks, healthcare workers and community leaders have responded to community needs. Neighbours have reached out to those who are isolated, artists have used their creativity to lift people's spirits, there has been an increasing awareness of the plight of those who are homeless and great support for those whose mental health has suffered.

To live God's rule may mean doing simple things to make sure no one is left out. It is a call to us all to be like Jesus was towards others.

Stars of the Week - 19th November 2020

Kinder	Alby Hawkins	For always helping to pack up both inside and outside.
Prep	Thomas Singline	For cleverly working out his subtraction story problems.
Grade 1	Zoe Gillies	For working hard with her reading and writing activities.
Grade 2/3	Allira-Grayce Harris	For her consistent effort across all subject areas.
Grade 4/5	Ashton Meessen	For excellent participation at the Athletics Carnival.
Grade 5/6	Axle Sturzaker	For working hard during all his PAT testing! Well done Axle!

Wednesday 25th November	9.00am –10.30am SetUp for Success 1.30pm-2.00pm Little Stars (for enrolled 2021 Kinders)
Thursday 26th November	2.10pm Primary Assembly
Monday 30th November	9.00am Advent Prayer in the Primary Gallery Year 10 Exam Week
Tuesday 1st December	K-2 Athletics (info going on Compass this week)

SetUp for Success

SetUp, our Early Learning program is for 0-5 year olds and their families. It runs every Wednesday during term time from 9:00am to 10:30am in the Kinder room and is absolutely free. As per usual, please do not attend if you or your child is sick.



COVID-19 Update

We thank all of our families for the way they have followed the COVID-19 restrictions that have been placed upon schools. Here is our usual reminder of what they are:

- Students should not come to school if sick (especially with cold or flu symptoms), and parents and carers are also asked not to come on to the property if sick.
- If waiting for your child outside the buildings, please maintain social distance from others.
- If attending Primary assembly, please sign in and use hand sanitizer. We will space the chairs out.
- Should you wish to contact your child's teacher but are reluctant to come into the school, you can contact them through phone or email.
- If you have any questions, please contact the College office.
- Tasmania is currently asking those who have returned from South Australia recently to be quarantining on their return.

End of Year Assemblies and Year 10 Farewells

Because COVID-19 restrictions prevent us from having more than 250 people gather in an indoors space, we have had to rethink our end of year functions. We have consulted with our Grade 10s and have decided to put the following in place:

- **Thursday 10th December - Year 10 Farewell and Awards Presentations.** This event will be held in the evening at the church and will be for Year 10 students and their families, Year 9 students, staff and award sponsors. At this event we will hand out awards for Year 10s, including the Dux of the College and the Star of the Sea Award.
- **Thursday 17th December - End of Year Assembly Kinder-Year 9.** This event will be held during school time and will be for Kinder to Year 9 students, staff, parents of award winners who are able to attend and award sponsors.
- The Year 10 Leavers Dinner is able to go ahead as per normal on Monday 14th December.

More information about these events will be published closer to the date.

Kinder to Grade 1 Swimming Program

This week sees our early years students participate in their swimming program at the George Town Pool. This will take place after lunch each day.

Year 10 Exams

Next week our Year 10s will have their Exam Week. The main purpose of exams is to give the students experience of an exam situation (including studying beforehand) so they are prepared for it next year.

2021 College Captains

The process for selecting our 2021 College Captains has begun. Today the candidates addressed the student body before voting took place. The 2021 College Captains will be announced on the evening of the Year 10 Farewell.

Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, the period leading up to Christmas when we wait for the Lord's coming. Every Monday during Advent we will gather as a whole school for a prayer at the beginning of the day. Parents are welcome to join us in the Primary Gallery for this.

End of Year Reports

Our teachers have now started to collate marks in order to complete the End of Year Reports. These are scheduled to be made available on Compass in the last week of school.

2021 Book Packs

A message regarding 2021 Book Packs will come out on Compass early this week.

2021 Classes

A number of our Primary classes will be composite next year, so many of our parents will be wondering which class their child is in and who will be their teacher. We hope to be able to pass on that information to parents within the next week.

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who donated food items on Presentation Feast Day for the Vinnies Christmas Hampers.



Lesley Gardner from Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania. She is presenting out students with a community kindness award.



NHSSA Athletics Report

Last Thursday the Star Academy of Sport took a team of 47 students to the NHSSA Division 3 Athletics Carnival at St. Leonards. We competed against Deloraine, St. Mary's, Flinders Island, Campbell Town and Winnaleah.

Prior to the event we stressed that this was a "Team" event and we would have a "Team First" approach in regards to playing our role, our effort, support and care for our team mates. We also spoke about opportunities that are afforded to us and how best to make the most of those opportunities, along with the choices that we face along the way.

As many would know these events can be daunting and intimidating and during the day our students chose not to fear failure, but to reach for success, putting nerves and anxiety aside.

Although we finished a close 3rd on points in the Aggregate Shield, we demonstrated all the traits and behaviours of long term winners including the willingness to take risks, show perseverance, sportsmanship, determination, care and support for one another and maintain a never say die attitude, even when facing defeat and/or fatigue.

I am extremely humbled to be a part of this group and unbelievably proud of the way our students represented themselves and their school.

Congratulations to all involved and a big thanks to our staff who supported on the day William Claessens, Amelia Hardwick and Kara Long.

I also extend thanks to ex students Caleb Coghill and Aidan Sternek who acted as Team Managers on the day, it's great to see former students supporting our current crop.

Oliver Cook, HPE Coordinator

Year 5/6 Camp - My favourite thing was.....

My favourite thing at camp was the boat cruise and the amazing race. (Blake, Grade 6)



My favourite thing on the camp was the campfire. (Sianna, Grade 6)



My favourite thing on the camp was the beach discovery which we did on the second day. (Belynda, Grade 6)

The thing I liked most about camp was the games room. It had two pool tables. (Kobi, Grade 6)



My favourite thing about the camp was rock climbing and the rock-climbing wall was humongous. (Shiloh Grade 5)



My favourite part of the camp was going to Archery and seeing everybody having a go. (Luci, Grade 5)

On day 2, and after tea, we went to the beach and we saw all kinds of rocks and we went rock pool hunting. (Maddi, Grade 5)





PRESENTATION



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