

# Star of the Sea Catholic College

## Newsletter

2nd February 2021

### From the Principal

#### ***Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?***

A song I heard recently reminded me of a Gospel passage where Jesus is encouraging his followers not to worry by saying, "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" (Mt 6:27). Whether we see ourselves as Christians or not, it's a good question for us to reflect upon.

Last year was full of many worries for many people. There was probably a time when all of us were worried about COVID-19 and its effects. Perhaps the worries were around whether or not someone would catch it or perhaps they were around what effect the lockdown would have on our lives and perhaps our jobs. Hindsight is always 20/20, but when we look back now we know that our worrying didn't add any more time to our lives.

To worry is natural, and if it leads us to think about possible solutions and ways forward, it can be a good thing. But it seems that our world is full of worries and anxieties much more than it used to be, and this is affecting students as well as adults. I wonder what has led to this?

Some would blame social media which leads some people to not only worry about what is happening in their own lives but to also worry about what is happening in other people's lives, along with worrying about how our life compares to others. We hear about people "doomscrolling" where they consumes large amounts of negative online news at once, affecting their mental health.

So how do we overcome our worries? When asked about how he maintained serenity in his role, Pope Francis said, "The Italians offer good advice: to live in peace you need a healthy dose of not caring." It is indeed good advice in our fast-paced world. There are some things we need to care about but there are many more things we don't need to care about, especially those things which don't affect us. I always think back to "sandpaper-gate" when three Australian Test cricketers tampered with the ball and this saw them suspended from the team. There was lots of media coverage at the time, but in the end we didn't need to care. The only people who needed to care were those involved. The rest of us just needed to wait it out and see what the result was.

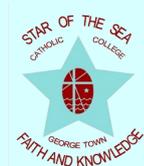
As we enter into a new school year people within the Star of the Sea Catholic community may feel lots of worries and anxieties about the year ahead, whether we be staff, students or families. But in the end the worrying won't add any more time to our lives. We are better off letting the year unfold as it will and responding with hope, faith and love to any difficulties that arise.

**Mr Richard Chapman**  
Principal

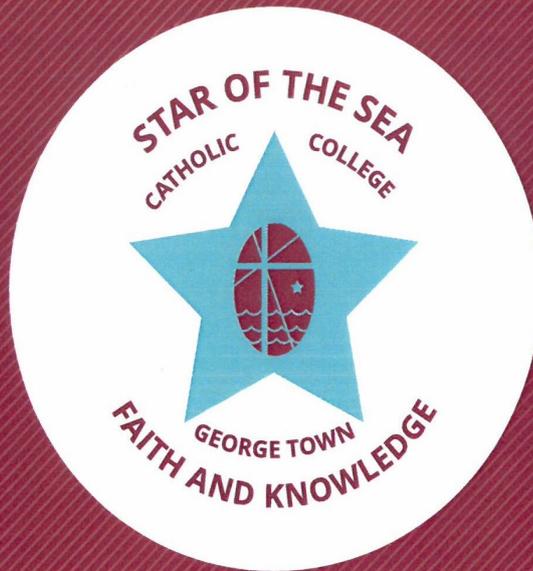
Worrying is using your imagination to create something you don't want.

- Abraham Hicks

*Attentiveness,  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion.*



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



## 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.*

### 2021 Calendar - Term 1

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday 4th February</b>   | - Primary Assembly starting every Thursday @ 2.10pm  |
| <b>Wednesday 10th February</b> | - Induction of College Leaders<br>- SetUp for Success starting every Wednesday @ 9.00am -10.30am |
| <b>Tuesday 16th February</b>   | - Shrove Tuesday   |
| <b>Wednesday 17th February</b> | - Ash Wednesday  |
| <b>Monday 8th March</b>        | - Eight Hours Day public holiday   |
| <b>Tuesday 9th March</b>       | - Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival (Grades 3-10)  |
| <b>Friday 26th March</b>       | - TPSSA Athletics Carnival   |
| <b>Monday 29th March</b>       | - NHSSA Div 2 Swimming Carnival  |
| <b>Tuesday 30th March</b>      | - Money Line Caritas fundraiser  |
| <b>Thursday 1st April</b>      | - Holy Thursday; Term 1 ends; End of Term Assembly   |

## Welcome

We welcome everyone in the Star of the Sea Catholic community to the 2021 school year. We hope it is another great year. We especially welcome:

**Kinder:** Bienvinido Bennet, Elijah Bromley, Enoch Daire, Jaxon Hillard, Victor Hugo, Chad Jenkins, Marli Leslie, Oscar Millen, Amelie Olivera, Maddi Sturzaker, Mia Syms, Dante Saunders, Isabelle Saunders, Lachlan Smith, Jackson Summers, Carter Upston, Lucas Vincent, and Isabel Walker

**Prep:** Bronte Heppel, Maliah Cunningham and Evie Evans   **Year 1:** Sophia Giles   **Year 3:** Tobias Jones

**Year 6:** Sarah Summers

**Year 7:** Lauren Archer, Matilda Clarke, James Boon, Austin Evans, Billy Jones, Lisa Kamel, Lilly Logan, Caeden McCutcheon, Will Upston, Rasia Russack, and Karlee Wayne

**Year 8:** Ashley Byard   **Year 9:** Hayden Simmons and Tristan Millwood

## New Staff

We welcome to our staff this year Mrs Fiona Harmer (Secondary Maths, Science and HaSS, Primary Technologies and Secondary Digital Technologies teacher), Dr Melissa Rogers (Secondary Music teacher), Mrs Kelsey Lundie (Primary Music teacher), and Domenic and Karena Brunacci (Canteen and Uniform Shop managers). We know that our families and students will make all of our new staff feel welcome. Just a reminder that the Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 2-00-4.00pm.

## College Newsletter

Our College newsletter comes out every Tuesday during term time. It is distributed via Compass and our College Facebook page, whilst a hard copy is provided to the youngest siblings in the Primary school. We also provide hard copies for our secondary students to pick up outside the office should they want to take one home, along with any parents or carers.

Rather than overloading our families with too much information in the first week (!), we will use future newsletters to provide further important information, such as, who to contact around the school and information about our strategic priorities for this year.

## School Calendar

Included in this newsletter is our school calendar for Term 1, 2021. We will only be providing calendars on a term-by-term basis and as a school we won't be planning any events too far ahead. As always, dates are subject to change, but this should give a good indication of what we hope to achieve this term.

## Primary Assemblies

Primary Assemblies will occur on Thursday afternoons at 2:10pm, starting this week. This is a time for students to practise their public speaking skills and for us to recognise the great things the primary students are doing. Each class has a turn at running the assemblies and families are usually informed of when their child's class is hosting the assembly. Families are also informed of when their child is receiving a Star of the Week.

Please do not attend assemblies if you are sick. Please sign in and use hand sanitizer if attending assemblies.

## SetUp for Success

Our Early Learning program, SetUp for Success (simply known as *SetUp*) will begin next Wednesday 10th February and runs from 9:00am to 10:30am in the Kinder room. Mrs Trudy Hoffman will run the program, which is a free early learning program for children aged 0-5 and their families. Watch out for more information on our Facebook page in the coming weeks! We ask families not to attend SetUp if they or their children are ill.



## Arriving to School Early

Our teachers start their supervision of students at 8:30am each day, both in the primary and the secondary area. Students who arrive before this time are encouraged to wait in the secondary play area (for secondary students) or in the area outside the Grade 1/2 classroom (for the Primary students). Students will only be let in earlier than 8:30am if there is inclement weather.

## Traffic Management

With more students at our school this year we may have more traffic in the mornings and afternoons. Please note the yellow lines along William St out the front of the school, indicating no parking and no stopping. This extension is for the safety of students so drivers can see the crossing more clearly. There are also No Parking signs in effect along Friend St so that buses can move freely at the beginning and end of the school day. We all need to do our part to keep our school safe for our children.

## Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 16th February is Shrove Tuesday, the day traditionally set aside for feasting before entering into the fasting period of Lent. It is also traditionally the time when we eat pancakes (coming from the idea of using up certain types of foods before Lent) and, as we have done in previous years, we hope for our students to be able to share in some pancakes. If any parents or carers are able to help cook these for our students, can you please contact the College office by next Friday 12th February. You will need a WWVP card to help out.

## Induction of College Leaders

We will be holding our Induction of College Leaders next Wednesday 10th February. Unfortunately due to the maximum number of people we are currently allowed to have seated in the church, the only families that will be invited to attend in person will be the families of the College leaders themselves. We hope to put some of the highlights of the event on Facebook.

## Communication Across the Community

Star of the Sea Catholic College uses the following methods to communicate information to our community:

- *Compass* - this is our primary method of communication to families. Messages, letters home, reports and attendance are all maintained through Compass. All families should have access to Compass. Please contact the office should you need your password reset. For parents new to the College, a letter will be posted home to families in regards to Compass, including App setup and passwords.
- *Newsletter* - this is mainly used to communicate upcoming events and general notices to our families and the broader community, along with keeping the community up-to-date with what is happening at our school.
- *Facebook* - our Facebook page is mainly used to keep the community up-to-date with the great things happening around our school. It is used very rarely to send notices, unless those notices affect people outside the school community.
- *Hard Copies of letters home* - we are trying to reduce the number of hard copies of letters to go home as we strive to become more sustainable. Most letters that come home as hard copies have a permission slip attached to be returned to the school.

## COVID-19 Restrictions

We thank all of our families for the way they have followed the COVID-19 restrictions that have been placed upon schools. Every fortnight we will put a reminder of these restrictions in our newsletter, assuming there are no significant changes. Here is this week's:

- 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 or dropping off your children, please maintain social distance from others. Only stay as long as you need to in classrooms.
- 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.