

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

9th February 2021

From the Principal

People will feel welcome if we can show our pleasure that they have joined our community.

Our Vision statement proudly states that we have a vision to be a *welcoming* community. We could probably look at schools around the country, both Catholic, Government and Independent, and find hundreds who also use the word “welcoming” in their Vision statement or equivalent. So it is good for us to pause and reflect on what exactly Star of the Sea means when it says it aims to be a *welcoming* community.

The original meaning of the word *welcome* was a *person whose coming is pleasing*. In other words, if we are truly a welcoming community, it is us as the community who should be pleased with the arrival of someone new. People will *feel welcome* if we can show our pleasure that they have joined our community. We can show our pleasure by greeting them, by talking to them, and, most importantly, by taking time to recognise what strengths they bring to the community. If we spend our time looking at the weaknesses of a new arrival, they will never feel welcome and we will probably not recognise what strengths they bring to the community.

Who should be doing the welcoming? Who should be the people to show pleasure at the arrival of a new person? Quite simply, all of us. Because if we are to be a *welcoming community* then we all must be involved in the welcoming. It is all very well to have a “Welcoming Committee” but then the only people new arrivals feel welcomed by are the people in the Committee. That’s not very sustainable in the long run. We all have a part to play in making people feel welcome.

Does making people feel welcome ever stop? Absolutely not! It is something we need to work on every day with each other. All of us need to feel welcome - staff, students and families. Every day we need to find ways to show our pleasure that each of us is part of the community. Usually it only takes a “hello” in the mornings, a wave or a smile to make people feel welcome and glad that they came to school.

Who should be welcomed? In the Catholic tradition - everyone. We are all created in God’s image, we are all children of a loving God. When we do not welcome someone it is the same as not welcoming God. When someone new arrives we don’t ask about their race or religion, their job or their sexuality. That’s not welcoming. That’s judging. Instead, the first question we need to ask is, “How can the Star of the Sea Catholic community serve you?”

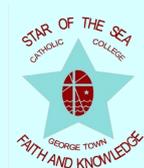
No one is perfect at this sort of thing. We all have our biases and, no matter how hard we try to hide them, they creep to the surface. But a Vision is not an end point, it’s a journey, and the Star of the Sea Catholic community will continue on the journey and keep striving to be pleased with everyone who joins it.

Mr Richard Chapman
Principal

Make sure that every person, of whatever background, can find in you a welcoming heart.

- Pope Benedict XVI

*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*



PO Box 206
Corner Friend &
William Street
George Town 7253

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

From Our Vision and Mission Statement

Our Mission

As people who are attentive we will strive to:

- Promote life-long learning and support each student to reach their full potential
- Promote and live the values of our Presentation charism

2021 Calendar - Term 1

Wednesday 10th February	Induction of College Leaders SetUp for Success starting every Wednesday @ 9.00am -10.30am
Tuesday 16th February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 17th February	Ash Wednesday (12pm School Service)
Monday 8th March	Eight Hours Day public holiday
Tuesday 9th March	Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival (Grades 3-10)
Wednesday 24th March	Year 7-8-10 Immunisation (forms to be sent home shortly)
Friday 26th March	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Monday 29th March	NHSSA Div 2 Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 30th March	Money Line Caritas fundraiser
Thursday 1st April	Holy Thursday; Term 1 ends; End of Term Assembly

Welcome

We welcome Noah (Year 9), Jarod (Grade 5) and Kiara (Kinder) and their families to Star of the Sea. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Shrove Tuesday

Next 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 this Friday 12th February. You will need a WWVP card to help out.

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday 17th February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The school will hold two services - one for the Prep to Grade 2s in the Primary Gallery, and another for the Grade 3 - 10s in the Church, both at 12pm. Parents are welcome to join us. Please sign in on entry.

Anointing of the Sick

This weekend (13th and 14th February) the Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic parish will have the Sacrament of Anointing available during mass times (5pm Saturday and 11am Sunday). During these masses Fr Bala will invite anyone who is sick to come forward and receive the sacrament, and we will also be focusing our prayers on those who are sick. If you or someone you know wish to receive the Sacrament of Anointing, all are welcome.

Induction of College Leaders

Tomorrow will see our Induction of College Leaders. Because of COVID restrictions we are only able to invite the families of the leaders to the ceremony, as our whole school will be present. We hope to put highlights of the ceremony on Facebook before the end of the week.

SetUp for Success

Our Early Learning program, **SetUp for Success** (simply known as *SetUp*) runs every Wednesday from 9:00am to 10:30am in the Kinder room starting tomorrow! Mrs Trudy Hoffman runs the program, which is a free Early Learning program for children aged 0-5 and their families. We ask families not to attend *SetUp* if they or their children are ill.

Our *SetUp for Success* Facebook page is now up and running.

To receive posts from this page please use the following:

1. *log into our Facebook page (Star of the Sea Catholic College)*
2. *find a recent Setup post*
3. *click on the icon and it will take you straight to the Setup page*
4. *once there, like it and you will then receive all Setup posts*



Who to Contact

In this week's newsletter we have included a basic guide of who to contact around the school. Schools can often be complex operations and we don't always know the most appropriate person to speak to, so we hope that this guide provides some help to parents, carers and families.

Medical Information

It is necessary for us to keep the students' medical information up to date. Student Medical Background forms were sent home with each student last week. If there has been any changes to your child's medical requirements, to which the school should be notified, please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible.

CET Concession Card Information

Star of the Sea Catholic College has a vision to be a welcoming community, to offer affordable, quality education to the children of George Town. With this in mind, the Catholic Education Tasmania has a policy that families on certain types of concession cards have an automatic discount in fees with further support available if needed. Included in this week's newsletter is some information about this. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Bursar, Kathryn Condric, through the College office.

College Counsellor

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our College Counsellor, Natasha Lebrocq, who finished with us last week. Natasha was employed through CatholicCare and will take up a position in another school. Natasha was assigned to Star of the Sea about 2 years ago and, in that time, proved to be an enormous asset to the College, building great relationships with staff and students alike. She will be greatly missed.

Our new counsellor will start in about 4 weeks and they will be at the College three days a week.

In the meantime, Anne Marie Simms will work at the College every Tuesday to make sure our students have their needs met.

Secondary Students Congratulations Cards 2021



Term 1 Week 1 winners:



Keegan Jacobs & Sianna Brunacci

(Both students choose \$10 canteen vouchers)

School Communication Procedures

Schools can get busy and we sometimes can be unsure of who the most appropriate person is to contact at Star of the Sea Catholic College.

The following, while not covering every possibility, gives a brief guide. Sometimes it may not be possible to speak to the person you want straight away, but by leaving a message at the office the person you want will be able to get back to you.

- **Mr Damien Taylor (Deputy Principal)** - for major concerns about behaviour or student wellbeing; for when students are reluctant to come to school.
- **Mrs Melissa McGillivray (Student Support Coordinator)** - for questions about special learning needs, Learning Plans, student wellbeing and NAPLAN.
- **Mrs Sally Walters (Curriculum Coordinator)** - for questions about curriculum and reporting.
- **Mrs Rose Briscoe (Religious Education Coordinator)** - for questions about Reflection Days and College prayer and liturgies.
- **Mr Oliver Cook (Year 10 Coordinator)** - for questions about Year 10 events and activities.
- **The class teacher (Primary)** - for questions or concerns about academic progress or social issues; for minor issues about behaviour.
- **The class teacher (Secondary)** - for questions or concerns about overall academic progress or social issues.
- **The subject teacher (Secondary)** - for questions or concerns about academic progress or behaviour in a certain class.
- **Mrs Kathryn Condric (Bursar)** - for questions or concerns around fees.
- **The College Office** - for all other questions or concerns. While the people in the office may not know the answer straight away, they will be able to find out from the appropriate person.
- **Mr Richard Chapman (Principal)** - while the Principal delegates certain duties to different staff around the College, if you feel your concerns have not been addressed adequately you can book an appointment with the Principal to help to address them.

Catholic Education Tasmania



Catholic
Education
Tasmania

Concession Cards information

In order to simplify the application process for fee remission discount, families with a Valid Concession Card can present these for verification with Catholic Education Tasmania in order to receive reduced fees.

The card must list, as dependents, the students for whom the discount is sought. The card holder must be the person legally responsible for paying the school fees i.e., the person who has signed the enrolment form. The card must be current (e.g., not expired) on the first day of term.

Concession Care Cards

Only cards with the following concession codes are subject to an income test that qualifies to be eligible for the reduced fee amount:

- CP/CAR (Carer Payment)
- LI/LIC (Low Income)
- PA (Partner Allowance)
- PP/PPP (Parenting Payment) (partnered)
- JSP/JS (Job Seeker Payment) includes old codes NS/NA/SA/NSA (New Start & Sick Allowance)
- SL/SpB (Special Benefit)
- WA (Widow Allowance)
- AU (Austudy)
- FA (Family Allowance)
- FTB (Family Tax Benefit Part A max rate)
- FH/LHS (Farm Household Allowance)
- PPS (Parenting Payment Single)
- YA (Youth Allowance)
- DSP (Disability Support Pension) **single only**

Health Care Card example



Pension Card example



The following concession codes do not qualify for the reduced fee amount:

- AP (Aged Pension)
- DSP (Disability Support Pension) couple
- FO (Foster Child Health Care Cards)
- CA (Carer Allowance caring for a child under 16 years)
- EH (Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card)
- SHC (Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card)
- CD (Child with Disability)
- DVA (Department of Veterans' Affairs)
- MOB (Mobility Allowance)

continued overleaf

How much is the reduced fee amount?

The amount is determined at the start of term 4 for the following year as is communicated by Catholic Education Tasmania. For 2021 the maximum amount a family is required to pay per student is \$750 per primary student and \$1750 per secondary student with an eligible concession card. This includes all fees and levies with the exception of any interstate or overseas camps or trips. A family discount applies to these amounts for 3 or more children at Catholic Education Tasmania.

How to apply?

Eligible parents and carers can apply for the concession by completing the **Concession Card Discount Form** and allowing the school office to sight their concession card. Electronic forms will be accepted via email. Alternatively, the application can be submitted directly to the school office.

The fee discount will then be applied to the current year's fees invoices. For families with children at more than one Catholic Education Tasmania school this process must be repeated for each school.

The discount arrangement will expire on the expiry date of the card.

Parents and carers receiving a discount have a duty to inform the school of any renewal or change in eligibility for the card.

What if a family is still not able to pay the discounted fees and levies?

Families in significant financial hardship are asked to complete the **Application for financial assistance form** and make an appointment with the School Principal / Finance officer who will assess whether the family's financial circumstances meet the criteria for additional support. The process looks at family income, the number of dependents and the family's cost of housing (rental or mortgage). This process requires full disclosure and is treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

No child will be denied enrolment due to financial difficulty.

What if a family without a means tested concession card is having difficulty in paying fees?

Families without an eligible Concession Card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their School Principal/ Finance Officer to apply for special consideration. Families will be asked to complete the **Application for financial assistance form** and make an appointment with the School Principal / Finance Officer who will assess whether the family's financial circumstances meet the criteria for additional support. The process looks at family income, the number of dependents and the family's cost of housing (rental or mortgage). This process requires full disclosure and is treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

No child will be denied enrolment due to financial difficulty.

Further information

Please contact the school office