

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

23rd November 2021

From the Principal

One of the things we constantly need to keep asking ourselves is, "Who is our school for?"

I heard recently of a principal in Western Australia who said he would rather shut his school down rather than be forced to have a COVID vaccine. Fair enough, I thought, but what do the students think? And what do the staff think? And what does the parent community think?

One of the things we constantly need to keep asking ourselves is, "Who is our school for?" When we ask it in this way, the answer seems obvious. The school is, primarily, for the students. But even though the answer might be obvious, we can sometimes lose track of this simple fact.

Sometimes as staff we can think the school is for us! We do this when we try to make decisions for the students that they can make themselves. Sure, it is important that the adults in the school ensure it runs smoothly and safely, but that shouldn't make us dictators. If we go down this track our school just becomes a place that kids are forced to go each day and where they feel no connection.

Sometimes as parents we think the school is for us. After all, we choose to send our children to the school and we pay fees. So the school should be based around our needs and wants. The problem with this is that the school starts to be put in a direction by people who don't even attend it each day!

But if we take the mindset that the school is for the students, then that should affect every decision we make, and, more importantly, it should force us to invite the students into the decision-making. Students should be consulted, where possible, on decisions that are made about them and their education. It is actually a fundamental human right.

Does Star of the Sea do this? Well, we thought we did, but recently our Validation process suggested to us that it was an area we could improve in. What we found out was that while we were consulting students on various things that the staff raised, we didn't give the opportunity for students to raise their own issues they have with our school. It became obvious to us that we didn't have a mechanism for students' voices to be properly heard.

What do we do about this? It is something we are already looking at addressing so we have something in place so that students' voices can be authentically heard from the beginning of next year. So although it was humbling to be told "You haven't got this right," it also should spring us into action so that we can be constantly improving.

In the Star of the Sea Catholic community, everyone's voice is important, and in a way, the school is for all of us - students, staff and families. But let us not forget that, without the students, we wouldn't be here. It is the students who "own" the school, and therefore it is them we should be listening to the most.

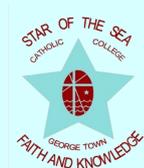
**Mr Richard Chapman,
Principal**



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

Our job is to create rooms filled with students' voices. Not be the main voice.
- Pernille Ripp

**Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.**



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Religious Education and Faith Development



Heart

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Attentiveness



Hospitality

Compassion



Thank you to everyone who supported the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Your kindness and generosity will go a long way in making Christmas special for some of our more vulnerable families in the George Town Community.

Blessings to you all!

Stars of the Week - 18th November 2021

Kinder	Dante Saunders	For her willingness to take part in all Kinder activities.
Prep/1	Brooke Baillie	For her effort during Assembly practice.
Grade 1/2	Arthur Millen	For being kind and considerate towards others.
Grade 3/4	Carlie Lowe	For her excellent performance in assembly about the Good Samaritan story. Well done, Carlie.
Grade 5/6A	Indiana Cartwright	For working hard at research and note taking.
Grade 5/6B	Jack Lindfors	For consistently 'stepping up' to help others in the classroom.

COVID Vaccinations

The State Government has announced that bookings for COVID vaccinations are now open to 12 to 15 year olds. At this stage there are no plans to have vaccinations here at the College, so we would encourage parents and carers to book vaccinations by ringing the Tasmanian Public Health hotline (1800 671 738) or booking online. Bookings can also be made at the George Town Medical Centre.

The Tasmanian Government also has incentives for 12-18 year olds to get vaccinated, including going into a draw to win an iPad or iPhone for those who get vaccinated and for those who are already vaccinated.

Go to coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vax-incentive for more information.

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 few weeks we will put a reminder of these restrictions in our newsletter, assuming there are no significant changes. Here are 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 check 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.
- Please check in using the Check In Tas app if entering any buildings.

2022 Enrolments

We are now accepting enrolments for all year levels for 2022. If you would like your child to attend Star of the Sea in 2022, or know of someone who would like their child to attend, enrolment forms are available at our office and through our website (www.starsea.tas.edu.au).

ArtStart

QVMAG's ArtStart Program invited submissions from students this year, and a number of Mrs Romein's Grade 3/4 class submitted artwork.

We congratulate Karol Gerges, Miley MacFarlane and Scarlett Baillie whose artwork will be shown at QVMAG until June 2022! The opening of the exhibition occurs this Saturday.

Triathlon Challenge

This week will see a number of our secondary and primary students involved in the Triathlon Challenge in Devonport. We wish them well and thank Mr Cook and Mr Taylor for organising the days, and for the staff who are attending. Secondary (Wednesday 24th) and Primary (Thursday 25th).

College Captains 2022

This Friday, our College Captain nominees will speak to the Grade 5-10s about why they think they would make a good College Captain. This will be followed by voting. It can be a nerve-wracking experience to speak about yourself in front of your peers, so we wish them well and we are sure that all will do a great job.

Primary Transition Morning

Next Tuesday, 30th November, our Primary students will spend two lessons in the class and with the teacher that they will have next year. We do this to help ease any nerves and so students can start the year knowing what to expect. Following this day our staff will meet with each other so that information and suggestions about each student can be shared.

Staff Movements

Natasha McCutcheon finished her teacher prac with us yesterday. We wish her well for her ongoing studies.

Shout Out - Term 4, Week 6, 2021

Luis Lee	Trying his best at a tricky book.
Alby Hawkins	Clever "ch" spotting.
Thomas Smith	Reading a tricky book.
Charlotte Judd	Reading a hard book.
Bienvinido Bennett	Doing his best in every activity.
Dante Saunders	Being an enthusiastic learner.
Zoe Gillies	Excellent reading.
Ether Daire	Excellent behaviour in Assembly.
Jessie Anlezark	Being kind and respectful in your friendship group.
Ruby Davidson	Excellent reading.
Hunaisha Ahmed	Excellent reading.
Elijah Bromley	Being quiet and co-operative in library time.
Evie Evans	Awesome seasons picture.
Luis Lee	Beautiful art work.
William Singline	Trying his best at a tricky book.
Leo Batte	Great maths work.
Malakai Hyland	Great maths work.
Kirra-Lyla Harris	Reading a tricky book.
Malakai Hyland	Trying his best at a tricky book.
Danica Sweet	Cleaning our class.
Niklaus Quilty Maguire	Awesome seasons picture.
Finley Upston	Awesome seasons picture.

You are a Star

PBS Focus: "We are safe and respectful when we make good choices in the school yard".

Shout Out winners are:

Finley Upston for great Maths work. Finley chose 10m extra recess.

Jackson Summers for listening to the teacher. Jackson chose a game for the whole class.

K/P/1/2 Athletics Afternoon

Next Thursday, 2nd December, we will be holding the K/P/1/2 Athletics Carnival. The carnival will begin after lunch at about 1:30pm and run until the end of the school day on the Primary Oval. The K/P/1/2 students need to wear their full sports uniform on this day. Parents are welcome to attend. Please make sure that you sign in using the Check In Tas App..

There will be no Primary assembly on this day.

NHSSA Athletics Carnival.

Last Thursday, the Star Academy of Sport participated in the NHSSA Athletics Carnival. It was a tight tussle all day between Star, St. Helens and St. Mary's. In the end St. Helens came out on top and Star of the Sea finished third.

All students who competed on the day did so with an outstanding attitude and participated to the best of their ability. It was once again a pleasure to oversee this team and witness the fantastic traits that were displayed on the day. Although, our focus is on the team and each person playing their role, I would like to specifically recognise Ashton Harrison who was selected to represent the NHSSA at the State Athletics Carnival this Friday. Good luck, Ashton.

Presentation Feast Day

The sun was shining, the birds were singing and the guinea pigs were petted. Last Friday we had a great Presentation Feast Day. The students involved themselves in the Mass and activities with great enthusiasm and everything went well. We thank Mr Taylor for organising the day, along with Mrs Briscoe for the Mass and Mrs Tame for the food. But we especially thank the students for their great involvement!



Updated Calendar for the remainder of the year

Wednesday 24th November	Secondary Triathlon Challenge
Thursday 25th November	Primary Triathlon Challenge
Monday 29th November	Year 10 Exam week begins
Tuesday 30th November	Primary Transition morning
Thursday 2nd December	1.30pm K-2 Athletics Carnival - NO PRIMARY ASSEMBLY
Thursday 9th December	Last Day for Year 10s 6.00pm Year 10 Presentation Evening Primary Pool Day
Friday 10th December	George Town Christmas Parade.
Monday 13th December	Year 10 Leavers Dinner
Tuesday 14th December	Secondary Big Day Out
Thursday 16th December	Last day for students 10.00am End of Year Assembly
Friday 17th December	Last day for staff

Thank You

Earlier in the year Star of the Sea embarked on a fundraising mission to purchase some mountain bikes to utilise the trails that have recently been constructed.

The Year 9 and 10 students spent some time familiarising themselves with the bikes last week during HPE.

Thanks to all who have donated towards the bikes and a special thanks to Cycle 2 and Nathan Jackson who sponsored the program through supplying helmets, bottle cages and personally delivering the bikes.



College Sports Uniforms

Could parents and carers please ensure any College sports uniforms are returned by the end of this week. After this week we will begin to send out invoices for the cost of any uniform not returned.