

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

6th December 2022

From the Principal

We have entered the second week of Advent, and for a lot of us the reality of the closeness of Christmas and the end of the school year is dawning upon us. All of a sudden we feel busy and that we need to get things done to be “ready for Christmas.”

However, being “ready for Christmas” in modern society is very different to what it means in Catholic tradition. For many of us, being ready for Christmas means making sure we have bought all of the presents, put up the decorations, bought the food, cleaned the house and maybe even planned a holiday.

When we talk about being ready for Christmas in the context of Advent, though, we start to measure our readiness in a very different way.

The word Advent comes from Latin, basically meaning to come or arrival or about to happen. It is where we get the word adventure from, the idea of something exciting is coming. And indeed, something exciting is about to happen.

In modern history, there have been perhaps a couple of events which have changed the world and the way we see it. One would be the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11, 2001. The COVID pandemic is another. And we will probably end up seeing the invasion of Ukraine as another.

But just over 2000 years ago, another event happened which was to completely change how everyone saw the world. The event didn't have an effect straight away. In fact, it was pretty low-key. Just another birth in the ancient world. And even when that person who had been born died and rose again, it took a while for people to catch on just how important he was. But when they did catch on, the idea became transformative.

Because the idea that Jesus Christ brings, the good news, is that no longer do we have to live lives of conflict, of suspicion, of storing wealth and of ignoring those in need. Instead we can live lives of love, where we look out for each other, where we find ways of working together to solve our differences.

In his encyclical Fratelli tutti, Pope Francis says that we need to become aware that “we are either all saved together or no one is saved.” The good news that Jesus brings at Christmas is that we can be all saved together. His teachings, parables and miracles give us direction as to how we can do that.

So how will we know we are “ready for Christmas?” When we are ready to open our hearts to those around us, we know we are ready. When we feel that we don't need to argue with those whose opinions are different from ours, we know we are ready. When we realise that life is not a competition but a gift, we know we are ready.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community, may we, through the way we interact and treat each other, be truly ready for Christmas, for the adventure of life that God invites us on, not just every December, but every day of the year.

Richard Chapman, Principal



We are either all saved together or no one is saved. - Pope Francis in Fratelli tutti.

*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.

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion



Thank you to everyone who sent in items on College Feast Day to donate to 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!

Advent

The season of Advent is the beginning of a new year in the Church calendar. We are now in a time of preparation and expectation of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The colour for Advent, purple, reminds us to get ready for a joyful event and do all we can to welcome Jesus, Light of the World, into our lives once again.

Wishing you a blessed Advent.

May your home and heart be filled with peace, hope, love and joy.



Stars of the Week - 1st December 2022

Kinder

J'Kobi Carnie

For trying really hard during literacy lessons.

Prep

Carter Upston

For being an amazing listener and always displaying excellent behaviour on the mat.

Grade 1

Alby Hawkins

For his amazing artwork.

Grade 2

Thomas Smith

For working hard during literacy activities.

Grade 3/4

Allira-Grayce Harris

For excellent focus on all literacy tasks. Well done, Allira

Grade 5/6

Jai Jacobs

For his fantastic attitude to improving his knowledge and skills in maths and reading.

Year 5/6 Camp 2022

Last week, the Grade 5 and 6 students travelled to Blue Lagoon Christian Camp at Dodges Ferry for our three day camp. Here are some of the comments from our students.

"I thought that camp was going to be hard, but it was actually a fun experience" (Ashton, Connor B, Carli)

"Some of the fun outside activities we did were archery, a beach explore and a day trip to Port Arthur where we got to go for a boat cruise around Dead Man's Island" (Billy, Bernard, Keegan, Chase)

"Mr Taylor taught some of the boys 'Gaga ball' and we had a great time beating him" (Maverick, Billy, Ashton, Keegan, Zayden)



Last Weeks of School

The last two weeks of school are very busy with events happening across all year levels. Here is a snapshot of what parents and families might need to know:

Wednesday 7th December - Year 10 Big Day Out

Thursday 8th December - Year 10 last day and Awards Ceremony (6:00pm); Primary Big Day In

Friday 9th December - George Town Christmas Parade

Monday 12th December - Year 10 Leavers Dinner; Primary Transition morning

Tuesday 13th December - Secondary Big Day Out; Primary Christmas Celebration and Nativity (2:10pm in the Church)

Wednesday 14th December - Reports released on Compass

Thursday 15th December - last day for students; End of Year Assembly (10am in the Church); Talent Show

Friday 16th December - last day for staff; College Office closes at 3.00pm

Staff Movements

Mrs Bronwyn Witt finishes her time with the Kinders this week, and tomorrow's SetUp will be her last day. Mrs Hoffman returns next Monday. We thank Mrs Witt for her time here.

Darren Darko has commenced in the role of relief Utility Officer and will work in our school while Mr Harris and Mr Lazdauskas take leave at various times. We welcome him to the staff and he has already proven to be a valuable asset to our community!

College Opening 2023

The College Office will reopen on Monday 30th January 2023.

Book sales will occur on Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th January 10:00am - 4:00pm.

The Uniform shop will be open Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th January 2023, 10:00am - 4:00pm and Thursday 2nd February 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Families on the Move

If your family is on the move next year and your children will no longer be attending Star of the Sea, please inform the College office so we can plan for 2023.

2023 Enrolments

While we are open for enrolments for next year, time is running out to have things organised by the end of the 2022 school year! If you or someone you know is hoping to enrol their children at Star of the Sea next year, please contact the College Office in the next week.

George Town Christmas Parade

The George Town Christmas Parade is being held this Friday 9th December. Please refer to the message on Compass for further details and to let the school know you are attending.

Advent Prayer

Our final Advent Prayer is next Monday in the Primary Gallery, starting at about 9am. Parents and carers are welcome to join us to prepare for Christmas.

Primary Transition Morning

Our Primary Transition Morning will be held next Monday 12th December. On this day, students in the Primary classes will have the opportunity to move into the classes they will be in next year with the teacher who will be teaching them. Mrs Halley will join us for the day to take the Grade 2/3 class for 2023.

College Captains 2023

Last Friday we had seven College Captain candidates deliver speeches to the Year 5-10 students, just before the students voted. All seven did a magnificent job and it was a credit to them all how well they spoke and presented themselves. The 2023 College Captains will be announced at our End of Year Assembly on Thursday 15th December at 10:00am in the Church.

Compass Events

There have been some changes in the way we operate regarding consent for excursions and events at the College. With the Compass system, all consent and payments will now be conducted on the online platform. This will save copious amounts of paper, admin time and hopefully streamline and make things easier for families.

There will be three types of events to consent for:

1. **Compulsory events/excursions that don't require a payment.**
2. **Compulsory events/excursions that do require a payment.**
3. **Opt-in events/excursions that require a payment.**

To give consent/pay you will need to open Compass and click on "Events." The particular event for your child should be listed. With options 1 & 2, the Compass event will direct you to "Give Consent" or "Give Consent and Pay".

With option 3, your child will be "Invited" to attend. You will need to accept this invitation. It will then direct you to "Consent & Pay".

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Primary Christmas Assembly

The **Primary Christmas Assembly** will be held on **Tuesday 13th December** starting at **2.10pm** in the **Church**. The Year 1 students will be performing the Nativity Play while the other classes will all be performing Christmas songs.

Parents are most welcome to attend.



SetUp for Success & Little Stars Christmas Party

The 'SetUp for Success' and Little Stars Christmas party will be held on Wednesday 14th December starting at 1.30pm.



Shout Outs Term 4 Week 8

Arthur Millen	For picking up other people's mess in the classroom.
Madeline Paine	For picking up rubbish.
Kirra-Lyla Harris	For wonderful reading.
Hazel-Mae Provis	For being a wonderful helper around the classroom

This weeks Shout Out winners are:

Wyatt Parkes - for being a tricky word superstar - pick from the prize box

Brock Holden - for being a quick flash - \$2 Canteen voucher

Primary Big Day In

This Thursday, 8th December the Primary Students will be having a Big Day In.

This is a fun celebration day for the students to enjoy as we work our way towards the end of the year. The students are able to wear their sports uniform on the day if they choose to do so.

They will be farewelling the Year 10 Students after recess followed by a Talent Show in the Primary Gallery at approximately 12:00pm.

Parents are welcome to attend the Talent Show.

After lunch the students will get to choose a fun activity to participate in. These activities will include watching a movie, craft making or games in the hall.

Students will need to choose one of these activities and spend the afternoon participating.

There will be no moving from activity to activity.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

GEORGE TOWN - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

24TH DECEMBER 2022 HOLY MASS 9.30 PM (9.15 pm Carol Singing)

25TH CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10.00 AM

31ST DECEMBER (SATURDAY) THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS 5.00 PM

01ST JANUARY 11.00 AM NEW YEAR MASS

SACRED HEART CHURCH - KARoola

24TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE 6.30 PM

1ST JANUARY 9.00 AM NEW YEAR MASS