

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

14th February 2023

From the Principal

This year we are focusing on *character strengths*, loosely defined as “positive parts of your personality that impact how you think, feel and behave.” (see viacharacter.org for more information). Put quite simply, we want our students to recognise their strengths and be able to use them more and more in their everyday life. We also want to see our students being open to those things that are not strengths, and to take the opportunity to build them into strengths.

Last Thursday, at our first Secondary assembly, we introduced the idea of *character strengths* and concentrated on one in particular - perseverance.

We probably all know of people who persevere. Great athletes usually have this strength because of the amount of training they need to do to stay at the elite level. We also hear of other people who, despite repeated failures and rejections, continued to persevere to be successful. J. K. Rowling's first *Harry Potter* book was rejected by 12 different publishers before finally being accepted. Abraham Lincoln lost many elections before finally becoming one of the United State's most famous presidents. Even late last year Australian Nedd Brockmann ran across Australia in 47 days to raise money for charity - the ultimate example of perseverance!

Equally, we are probably aware of people who we feel give up too easily. People who, after the first failure, don't bother trying again because they think they will never be good enough. Whether it be in sport, the arts, academic work, or even relationships, perseverance is necessary.

Learning to play a musical instrument takes lots of perseverance as hours of practice is needed to teach the fingers where to move. Learning a new concept in mathematics takes perseverance as practice is needed to understand it. And relationships take perseverance as we need to take time to truly understand each other. For anything to be successful, it requires perseverance.

So what happens if perseverance doesn't come naturally? How do we improve it?

Small steps are often the best way. Practising the instrument for 10 minutes one day, then 15 minutes the next, and so on. Running for 500m one day, then 600m the next, and so on. Spending 10 minutes on Maths homework one night, then 15 minutes the next, and so on.

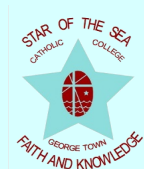
All of us have the ability to be successful at things that we may not even realise. But the key ingredient is perseverance. In our Star of the Sea Catholic community we need to encourage each other to persevere with whatever things we find difficult so that we may become who God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman, Principal



Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races, one after the other.
- Walter Elliot

Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.



PO Box 206
Corner Friend &
William Street
George Town 7253

Ph: 6382 1242

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

Pray for the People of Turkey and Syria



Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion

Sometimes life seems hard, and it is difficult to find the light at the end of the tunnel. Last week life became much harder for many people who were victims of a catastrophic earthquake which struck Turkey and Syria and resulted in over 9,000 deaths. Winter is coming and this will only increase their suffering. Pope Francis is calling for prayers to protect the victims of the earthquake that levelled entire towns. Let us pray for all these people who are suffering because of this devastating earthquake and give thanks for those who are working to give them assistance.

Almighty God, we pray for the people of Turkey and Syria, for the victims, the injured, and all those affected by the devastating earthquake.

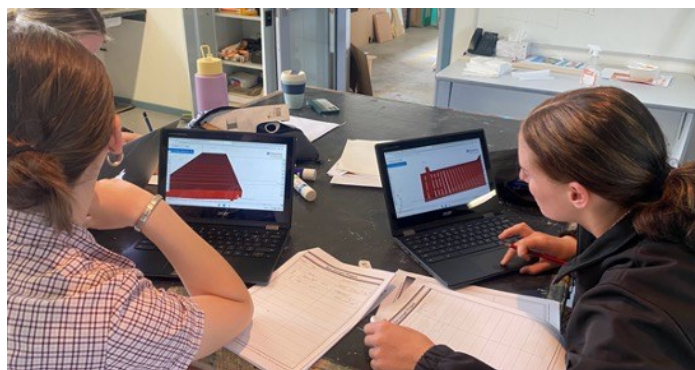
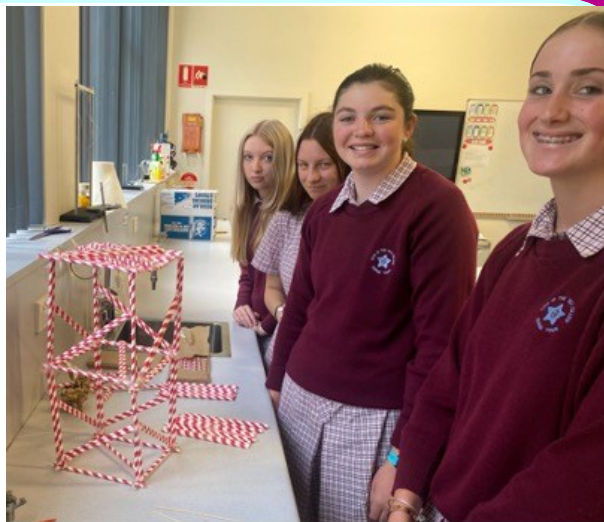
We pray for first responders, and all those working tirelessly to rescue survivors from beneath the rubble. May God's peace sustain their efforts.

We pray that the God of Life will comfort the grieving families and friends and give them the strength and courage they need during this very difficult time.

May God's love and compassion comfort them. Amen. (Edmonton Catholic Schools)

Term 1 - 2023	
Wednesday 15th February	Induction of College Leaders in the Church at 12:00pm
Tuesday 21st February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 22nd February	Ash Wednesday
Tuesday 28th February	Andrew Chinn visit
Friday 3rd March	Clean Up Australia Day
Monday 13th March	Eight Hours Day (Public Holiday)
Tuesday 14th March	Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival (Grades 3 - 10)
Wednesday 15th March	NAPLAN begins
Monday 20th March	Circle of Life classes begin (Primary)
Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd March	Star of the Sea Athletics Carnival (Grades 3 - 10)
Monday 27th March	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Thursday 30th March	NHSSA Div. 3 Athletics Carnival (TBC)
Tuesday 4th April	Caritas fundraiser
Wednesday 5th April	Year 7 & 10 Immunisations
Thursday 6th April	Holy Thursday - End of Term Assembly - Term 1 ends

First days of school 2023



SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2023 and will begin tomorrow, **Wednesday 15th February**. It is on every Wednesday during term time between 9:00am and 10:30am in the Kinder room and is for children from birth to 5 years of age. It is completely free and all are welcome. Mrs Trudy Hoffman will run the first SetUp for the year, then Mrs Selina Taylor will take over for the rest of the year.



Welcome

We welcome Kailan (1) and Melaney (3) and their family to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Radford are away today and tomorrow on Professional Learning.
Mrs Tame is taking leave this Thursday, Friday and next Monday.
Mrs Robotham is on leave next Monday.
Mrs Walters will be away next Tuesday on Professional Learning.

Breakfast Club

We are currently in the process of advertising for a Chaplain, and we hope to have employed someone in this role in the next two weeks. When this is done, we hope to restart Breakfast Club.

Induction of College Leaders

Our Induction of College Leaders ceremony will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 15th February in the church at 12pm. Families and friends are most welcome to join us.

From the Parish

70th Anniversary

This Sunday 19th February the Star of the Sea parish will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the opening of the first Catholic Church in George Town (which stood where the Hall now is). There will be Mass at 11am in the Church followed by a shared lunch in the Hall with plenty of memorabilia and story-telling. All are welcome.

Sacraments

If you are interested in having any of your children receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist (First Communion) and/or Confirmation, the Star of the Sea Parish is ready to welcome you! You are invited to become part of a Catholic faith community and grow in a deeper relationship with God so we may become the people God calls us to be. Whilst there are no age barriers as to when children can be baptised into the Catholic Church, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation are usually received from about Grade 3 up.

If your child goes to Star of the Sea, please see Mrs Lynelle Davis to find out more.

If your child goes to another school, feel free to contact Father Bala (Parish Priest) on 0447498660 or 6382 1489.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is fast approaching (February 21st) and, as is tradition, we hope to be able to provide our students with pancakes. If there are any parents or friends who would like to help with this, please contact the office. The day usually runs from about 8:50am to 12:30pm with lots of pancake cooking in the College kitchen.



The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (Address Collection) is undertaken each year by non-government Approved Authorities and their schools.

This collection will take place in March and more information will be sent out about it via Compass.

In the meantime, we would ask that all families ensure that their details (e.g. address) has been updated on Compass if you have moved house in the last 12 months. This can be updated by contacting the College office.

College Board

Would you like to join the College Board? The College Advisory Board is an important part of the school. It meets 6 times per year in the evening for about 1 hour and gets an update on how the school is going, asks questions of the Principal and gives advice to the Principal. There are no real other commitments outside these meetings (unless you are the secretary).

If you would like to get a bit more involved in the school and feel that you could help in this way, please contact the College office, leave your name and number, and Mr Chapman will get back to you.

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.

From the Deputy Principal, Mrs Carmen Robotham

Our year at Star of the Sea has begun with great enthusiasm from students and staff. It has been pleasing to see our students demonstrating welcoming habits toward others, embracing the invitation that was given to them on the first day of the term. I have certainly felt a sense of welcome from the school community and appreciate the warm smiles and cheerful "Good Mornings" that I have received from so many people. It has been a privilege to join this school community and I look forward to working with staff, students and families in my role as Deputy Principal this year.

Our PBS focus for the start of Term One has been SAFETY. In our recent Primary Assembly we have focused on reminders about Sun Safety and who our Safe People are. We will continue to focus on being safe people in our upcoming assembly as we look at how we can be safe in our school environment. "At Star of the Sea we are Safe, Respectful, Engaged Learners. As Mr. Chapman has outlined, our Secondary focus has been on building our character strengths. Throughout the year we will look at the attributes of different character strengths and ways we can continue to build these strengths in ourselves.

Immunisation Year 7 & Year 10

Year 7 (Gardasil 9 & Boostrix) & Year 10 (Nimenrix) immunisation will be administered on Wednesday 5th April at Star of the Sea Catholic College. Forms will be sent home shortly and these should be completed and returned to Star of the Sea as soon as possible, whether your child will be having the immunisation at school or elsewhere.

We have been notified of a case of Chicken Pox in the College Community. Symptoms can include blister, scab, ulcers, or red spots, fatigue, fever, or loss of appetite headache, itching, sore throat, or swollen lymph nodes. Please seek medical advice, if you have any of these symptoms.

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.

Mrs Carmen Robotham (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 and our literacy strategy.

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. Or if you just want to have a chat about nothing in particular, you can usually find him on bus duty every morning out the front of the school.

Shout Out Term 1, Week 1 & 2, 2023

Dyson Bromley	For showing respect after the fire evacuation and holding the door open.
Archie Davidson	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Eliana Dodge	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Elsie Sherriff	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Hamish Bannon	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
James Moore	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Logan Hawkins	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Lucas Ratcliffe	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Mason Giles	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Rafael Tilain	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Zoe Provis	Sitting safely at the fire evacuation.
Elsie Sherriff	Being a kind friend.
Lucas Vincent	Being a great worker.
Jaxon Hillard	Excellent numbers.
Mia Syms	Remembering messages.
Raphael Tilain	Being kind to Hamish and colouring with him.
Lucas Ratcliffe	Saying awesome things about what Chanden was making.
Lucas Ratcliffe	Being a helpful friend.
Chanden Prissall Jackson	Saying how much he admired Lucas' play dough cake.
Hamish Bannon	Spending a very long time doing a colouring in with Rafael.
Archie Davidson	For cleaning up his work area.
Zoe Provis	Being kind at the play dough and sharing.