

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

21st February 2023

From the Principal

We often think leaders should be extraordinary people with high levels of charisma who can say inspiring words with every speech they give. But in reality, leaders are very rarely like this. Every day in our community people who are quietly going about their business are showing great leadership.

In 2010, a cave-in at a copper and gold mine in Chile left 33 miners trapped. They had enough food for 2 days. In the absence of a leader, the result could have been the loss of life of all 33 of the men. But a man by the name of Luis Urzúa, who happened to be the shift supervisor, took charge. He organised the men, organised the food so it could be rationed out, and kept up the spirits of the men during the time they were trapped underground.

Their food for 2 days kept them going for 17 days, until they were found. However, their ordeal was not over. It would take another 53 days before they could be brought to the surface.

During this time, Urzúa showed leadership skills. Not by giving inspirational speeches, but through his gentle humour and by making sure all decisions were made by a majority of the men.

Last Wednesday some of our Year 9s and 10s were inducted as College Leaders for 2023. For some of them, it will be their first real experience in a leadership role. This year will be a time of learning for them. Others may have had leadership roles in the past. This year will be a chance to build on their current ideas of leadership and see what works and what doesn't. None of them will do things perfectly. But that's all part of learning how to be a leader.

However, when I spoke to the students at Wednesday's Induction ceremony, I reminded them that we all had the responsibility to support these leaders. Where leadership often falls down these days is that we think we have no responsibility to support those in power. Democracy seems to be misunderstood. Rather than leaders being elected and the rest of us supporting that election, it seems that, no matter who is elected, we feel that we can insult them, tell them what a bad job they are doing, and refuse to follow. We forget that we all have a responsibility in a democracy, whether we are leaders or not.

Even in the world outside of school, leaders don't do things perfectly. Unfortunately, some of these leaders go beyond being imperfect into being unprofessional (we only have to look at the last few Australian Cricket captains to see examples of this). But in most cases, people like you and me are just giving it a go, trying to do the best for their people.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community, we need to recognize we all have a part to play in democracy, whether we are leaders or not. It is only through our respect for leaders, and for the democratic process, that we will truly become the community God calls us to be.

**Richard Chapman,
Principal**



*A healthy democracy
requires a decent
society; it requires
that we are
honourable,
generous, tolerant
and respectful. -
Charles W. Pickering*

*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

Ash Wednesday

Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion

This week we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We call it Ash Wednesday because many Christians around the world receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. Ashes are a sign of sorrow and repentance, and they remind us we know we are not perfect. It also reminds us that God is always journeying with us. We are called to be hope-filled people who encourage, inspire, and support each other



This is a special time in the life of all Christians to help prepare for the rising of Jesus to new life at Easter. The awesome significance of the gift of our salvation and the promise of everlasting life from Jesus, the Christ has great significance for us in today's world where there is so much suffering and death.

Every year as we journey to Easter, we have an opportunity to renew our faith in this amazing truth: In Christ life always triumphs over death

Reminder: As it is Ash Wednesday on the 22nd of February no meat products will be sold in the canteen that day.

Stars of the Week - 16th February 2023

Kinder	Harrison Walker	For sitting and listening so well at mat times.
Prep	Eliana Dodge	For consistently growing in her character, and making responsible and respectful choices when it comes to behaviour with her peers in the playground and in her classroom.
Grade 1	Archie Bennett	For an excellent start in Grade 1.
Grade 2/3	Tristan Ackerly	For a wonderful start to the new year.
Grade 3/4	Lindsie Barrett	For the incredible amount of effort she is putting into her work!
Grade 5/6	Connor Judd	For his enthusiasm and commitment to completing his homework tasks in a timely manner. Keep up the good work!

Induction of College Leaders

Congratulations to our 2023 College leaders who were inducted on Wednesday 15th February at a special ceremony in the church. Our College Captains are Nikiah Edwards and Robert Tame. Our Student Leaders are Luke Chapman, Hayley Ford and Ashley Byard and our House Captains are Miya Webb, Emma Thomas and Sianna Brunacci. Sister Elizabeth Vagg, a Presentation Sister and past teacher, was there to witness their induction.



Star of the Sea Art

Some pieces of art from our 2022 students are currently on display in a shop window on the main street (2 doors down from the newsagent). Check out what the students have been up to next time you're around that way!



Literate Learners for Life Update 2023

We are now in the second year of the literacy strategy, launched by Catholic Education Tasmania, called *Literate Learners for Life*. This strategy aims to help *every student, every subject, every year* in developing literacy skills. We have been excited about the results already shown in the improvement in literacy.

This year we continue to deliver consistent phonics and literacy programs in Kinder to Year 4. Year 5/6 students will be undertaking a spelling program that explicitly teaches spelling skills and morphological knowledge. We are continuing to provide evidence-based reading interventions for all year levels. We have also added a literacy lesson each week in the timetable of the Year 7 and 8 students. This lesson is additional to the English lessons already timetabled. Students are grouped into four groups according to their need and receive intense, explicit instruction on skills such as decoding, fluency and comprehension.

Our teachers have worked hard to make this happen and we are looking forward to furthering literacy gains for our students.



Deputy Principal's Message

In the spirit of Nano Nagle, our Vision at Star of the Sea Catholic College is to be a Christ-centred, welcoming and compassionate community, providing quality education so we can embrace the future as people of hope. Our Mission is to strive to be attentive, compassionate and hospitable people.

Now that students have had the chance to settle into the term, it is a good opportunity to be reminded of some of our school-wide expectations. I would encourage parents and guardians to take the time to discuss these expectations with your children so that there is a clear understanding of what is expected of everyone when attending school.

Uniform

Students are expected to wear the full formal uniform. This means that all items being worn are designated parts of the formal uniform. We do not accept substitute items, this includes footwear. Excess jewellery, piercings, make-up, or accessories such as false/long nails and nail polish are not suitable items in our school community. Students should not wear these to school. Consequences will apply to students not meeting these expectations. If there are concerns about a student not having access to the correct items, please speak with the student's classroom teacher or make contact with me and we can discuss support options.

Positive Behaviour Support

As a welcoming community we strive to be hospitable people. This means we show kindness and acceptance toward others. There is no place in our school for behaviours that are disrespectful or harmful. We expect all members of the school community to use respectful language and behaviour. Our focus is on building strong, positive relationships where each person's dignity is upheld. We understand that young people need guidance in developing positive relationships and our school-wide positive behaviour support framework focuses on supporting students in their actions and choices. Positive behaviours are affirmed through initiatives such as "Shout-Outs" and "Star of the Week" in Primary and "Congratulations Slips" in Secondary. Students receiving these affirmations are acknowledged in assemblies and in a range of ways within the school community.

Negative behaviour is addressed in a variety of ways. Classroom or yard duty teachers will be the first step in intervening when concerning behaviour is observed or reported. At times a conversation will be the most suitable response. However, more significant behaviour will result in further follow up and a consequence. In the Primary area this might be a relocation to another space or some form of time-out. It will always include a conversation between the student and a staff member. It may include follow up by the Deputy Principal or Principal. Parent contact will be made if the staff member considers the behaviour of suitable concern. Parents are certainly encouraged to make contact should there be any perceived behaviour concerns.

Secondary Study Centre

The Study Centre is a formal part of behaviour management in the Secondary area. If a student is making negative choices, the classroom teacher follows a behavioural flowchart. If inappropriate behaviour continues or is significant enough the student is sent to the Study Centre for a period of time. Students may be issued with a Green Card or an Orange Card. For Green Cards, the teacher managing the student usually deals with the situation. For an Orange Card, a member of the Leadership Team usually becomes involved. Parents are contacted after an Orange Card and the student also receives a lunchtime detention. When a student has received 3 Study Centre periods they have an automatic half day Internal Suspension. During their time in the Study Centre students are required to complete a Student Reflection form. This is designed to assist the student to reflect on their behaviour and supports the teacher to engage the student in a restorative conversation.

Deputy Principal's Message continued

Detentions and Study Room

Detentions may be set for students who are out of uniform without a note, caught chewing gum, late to class or school without a reasonable excuse, work refusal in class and when consequences are needed for students who have been sent to the Study Centre. Detention runs from 12:50pm - 1:10pm during lunch time.

The Study Room is also available and supervised during lunchtimes. Students are encouraged to use the Study Room to finish off class work and assignments, to read quietly or to go on with quiet private study.

If you have any questions about this information please make contact with me at school. Overall our students have made a wonderful start to the year. We have seen many examples of students demonstrating exemplary behaviour and engagement with their learning, which highlights their endeavour to be the very best versions of themselves they can be.

Carmen Robotham

SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2023.

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 Selina Taylor will run SetUp this year



We Keep in our Prayers

We keep in our prayers the Meessen family, with Adam Meessen dying recently. Adam's children are past and present students at Star of the Sea.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Staff Movements

Mrs Robotham is at meetings and professional learning from tomorrow to next Tuesday.

Mrs McGillivray has Professional Learning next Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs Harmer and Mrs Radford are on leave this Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Wood is on leave this Friday.

Andrew Chinn Visit

Andrew Chinn Concert: On Tuesday 28th February, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Rainbow", "An African Blessing" and "Rise Up!" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. The concert will take place in the Hall, at 1:40pm to 2:55pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Earlier in the day, Andrew will be working with a small group of Grades 3 to 6s who will form a choir.

Shrove Tuesday

Today our students had the opportunity to share in some pancakes, as is traditional on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent starts.

A big thank you to Mrs Armstrong and the College leaders for making it happen.

Ash Wednesday

Tomorrow is the start of Lent, the period of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that leads up to Easter. Our students will be participating in Ash Wednesday services, with the Prep to 2/3 class having their service in the Primary area, while the Grades 3/4s to 10s will have their service in the Church. Both services will start around 10:15am.

ChatGTP Ban

Catholic Education Tasmania will be temporarily banning ChatGTP (a chatbot) in Tasmanian Catholic schools. The main reason for this is that the user needs to enter into a legally binding agreement and be over the age of 18 or have guardian permission. This would require schools to seek parent permission for the school account to be used in the creation of a user account. This would be difficult to control technically, and require that a manual process be in place to deal with students whose parents do not approve.

GFG Student Programme

Feeling curious and courageous? Ready to get out of your comfort zone a little?

The GFG Foundation Student Programme 2023 has applications open now. This is open to all students in Years 9 and 10 and can be accessed now via the GFG Foundation Website;

<https://www.gfgfoundation.org.au/student-programme/>

Apply now - Applications close on March 7 at midnight.

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.

Vision and Strategy

As the saying goes, if everyone doesn't know your strategy, you don't have a strategy. With this in mind, today's newsletter includes a copy of our Strategic Priorities for 2021-2023.

The 2021-2023 Strategic Priorities were developed towards the end of 2020 after consultation with staff, students and parents. When we talk about Priorities we are really saying that these are the things we will spend our time and money on, usually because we either believe they are important and we want to do more of them, or that they are important and we feel we aren't doing them well enough! That doesn't mean everything will be worked on at once; it has been a three year plan.

Term 1 - 2023	
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

Shout Out Term 1, Week 3, 2023

Mason Giles	Being kind and considerate
Lindsie Barrett	Amazing work during HAAS
Zoe Provis	Being so kind at the playdough and sharing
Hamish Bannon	Getting better and better everyday with puzzles
James Brown	Doing the hardest puzzles all by himself
Logan Hawkins	Doing the hardest puzzles for ages
Hamish Bannon	Keeping hands to himself
Chanden Prismall Jackson	Keeping hands to himself
Rilee Brown	Picking books up off the classroom floor
Brooke Baillie	Brooke was 100% engaged while reading
Kirra-Lyla Harris	Cleaning up rubbish
Charlotte Goodger-Austin	Cleaning up rubbish
Hazel-Mae Provis	Being a super good friend
Nate Walker	Focusing on his work
Brock Holden	Sitting quietly and respectfully
Ruby Davidson	Learning DRSABCD
Oscar Smith	Learning DRSABCD
Bienvinido Bennett	Helping others with their spelling
Rilee Brown	Sitting quietly and respectfully
Rilee Brown	Keeping our oval clean by picking up rubbish
Carter Upston	Cleaning the classroom
Dante Saunders	Cleaning the classroom
Brooke Baillie	Sitting quietly and respectfully
Lindsie Barrett	For the effort she put into her dragon drawing
Demitrius Quilty-Maguire	Focusing on his work
Victor Hugo	Excellent listening
Malakai Hyland	Sitting and being engaged while listening to 101 Dalmatians
Oscar Millen	For being an excellent learner

You are a star



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021-2023

Make Disciples of All

We will strive to:

Provide opportunities for our students to be involved in outreach to the community (AC)

Work with all of our community to build positive relationships with each other

Provide opportunities for the formation of staff, students and parents (AC)

Excel in Learning for All

We will strive to:

Provide opportunities for our students to be involved in active learning, both onsite and offsite

Provide a range of different learning and teaching approaches for our students

Seek ways to be more collaborative as teachers, both within Star of the Sea and with other schools

Nurture Leadership for All

We will strive to:

Seek ways to strengthen student leadership across the school, with an emphasis on the role of student leaders to be a way of consultation and increasing school spirit

Focus our staff professional learning on behaviour management, students with special needs and pedagogy

Seek opportunities for the formation of student leaders (AC)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

We will strive to:

Improve the school community's knowledge of Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture through our *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Plan*

Sustainability

We will strive to:

Create a culture of sustainability within our school community