

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Newsletter

7th March 2023

From the Principal

Last week we were lucky to have Andrew Chinn come and visit us. He did some work with a small choir and then held a concert for the Primary school (and a few lucky Year 10s). At the end of the concert, as he was packing up, we got talking about his past experiences. How one of his daughters had died from cancer, how he used to be a teacher, how some schools provided positive experiences and some didn't.

Then he was off in his car again, getting ready for the next show in the next school. And I got to thinking that, despite the many people who he would interact with over the course of the two or three weeks he was in Tasmania, it must be quite a lonely time to tour around by yourself.

This is not a new idea. Many famous musicians have described how lonely it can be while touring, despite the hundreds of thousands of fans. Tennis players, especially, talk about the physical and emotional effects of being on tour, and many aspiring tennis players don't make it past the first season of touring because of the loneliness involved in the job.

When I'm travelling to meetings I listen to a podcast called *Desert Island Discs*, where well-known people are interviewed and asked what songs they would take with them if they were about to be cast away to a deserted island. As part of the interview, they are always asked how they think they will go being alone. For some, they think they will be okay because they like to be alone anyway, but many declare that not having family or friends around would be too difficult.

As human beings we seem to be hardwired to not be alone but to seek out others. If we are to be fully human and fully alive, it means being in contact and in relationship with others. Yet we often find loneliness in the most unlikely of places.

I have taught in schools much bigger than Star of the Sea before and it is common to come across staff and students who feel incredibly lonely, despite all of the people around. The same can be said for big cities that, despite the number of people around, there are many people who feel very lonely and have very little contact with others.

One of the aims of *Dining with Friends* which runs out of our hall every Thursday evening is to tackle this loneliness. Many of those who come to the meal don't actually need the meal, as such, but crave the company.

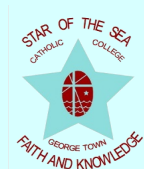
Within our Star of the Sea Catholic community, we need to continue to be alert for those in our community who do feel lonely. People who feel lonely in a community often believe they don't belong to the community, or that they are not welcome. But part of our mission and vision is to be a welcoming community. But we are also called on to be attentive. Being attentive means recognising when some members of the community do feel lonely, and making sure we welcome them in. It is only then that all of us will truly be who God calls us to be.



**Richard Chapman,
Principal**

*Loneliness and the
feeling of being
unwanted is the most
terrible poverty. -
Saint Mother Teresa*

*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.

Stars of the Week - 2nd March 2023

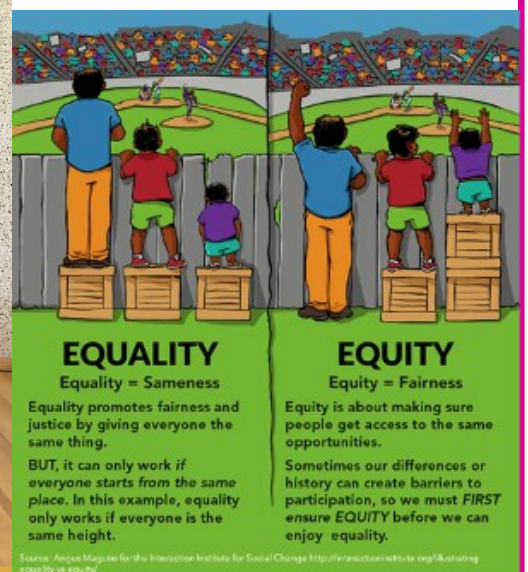
Kinder	Ella Hugo	For her fantastic fine motor skills.
Prep	Lucas Ratcliffe	For listening to all the rules and expectations in Prep and never needing a reminder.
Grade 1	Isabel Walker	For excellent concentration during reading activities.
Grade 2/3	Oliver Bennett	For being a thoughtful helper in the classroom and for trying so hard with his work. Welcome to our school.
Grade 3/4	Ashton Ratcliffe	For his participation and enthusiasm during our InitialLit lessons. Keep up the great work!
Grade 5/6	Allira-Grayce Harris	For her willingness to always "have a go" during classroom discussions and learning activities. Keep up the great work!

Soroptimist International Women's Day Breakfast

Can you imagine a gender-equal world? A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Well, Soroptimist International is trying to do just that.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement with a network of around 72,000 club members in 121 countries. It advocates for human rights and gender equality. Their members work on grassroots projects that help women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in communities worldwide.

Today, our female Grade 9/10 leaders were invited to attend a breakfast held in the memorial hall of George Town. Several inspiring women from our community spoke about their achievements and the struggles experienced in their workplaces. It was great to listen to their stories and acknowledge how far we have come with female equality and equity.



Andrew Chinn's Concert



Deputy Principal's Message

It has been pleasing to see so many of our students settle into their learning environments. As I visit classrooms in the primary area, it is evident that our students are showing sustained learning focus and excellent endeavour. Each student is on their own pathway to learning success and I encourage parents to talk to students about the ways they can be successful at school. These things include listening carefully to their teachers, being respectful in their learning environment and doing their best, even if things seem hard.

In the secondary area, students have settled into the routine of their changing classes and teachers. Students have now experienced each of their option subjects and have an understanding of the different experiences they will encounter in these new learning areas. At the start of the term, we asked students to show persistence with their learning and a willingness to really try with their learning activities. Many students have embraced this challenge, however there are some students who could really improve in this area. We would encourage parents to affirm the importance of persisting with learning challenges, as it is through persistence we find success. Persistence is concentrated effort and determination, repeated over and over again, until we find success. We have all had to persist with something in life, in order to master this and be successful. Talking about these moments can help young people develop greater resilience with learning new things and the challenges that come with developing new skills and acquiring new knowledge.

Respect has been a key PBS focus in the school in recent weeks. Students can demonstrate respect in the ways they interact with others, in the way they treat the school equipment and environment and in their approach to learning. At all times, we expect students to use respectful language and behaviours.

It was wonderful to see students showing respect for the school grounds and the broader community environment during the Clean Up Australia Day activities on Friday March 3rd. Students worked in house teams to collect rubbish from our local area. A substantial amount of rubbish was collected which will go a long way to ensure our waterways and local environment is not contaminated with these items. A huge thank you to Mr. Cook and the student leaders for your planning and preparation. The day ran smoothly and was certainly a success. Congratulations to Nagle House who were proclaimed the winners of this house challenge, collecting the most rubbish overall.



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



Staff Movements

Mr Chapman will be out this Thursday at a meeting.
Mrs Taylor will be out this Thursday and Friday.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be posted on Compass this Friday. The purpose of these reports are to simply give parents and carers an indication as to how their child has started the year in each of their classes. Some teachers may have requested that parents or carers make contact. If this is the case, please contact the College office to arrange a time. Meetings could either be face-to-face or over the phone.

ArtRage Excursion

The Year 8s and the Year 9/10 Art class will be on excursion this Thursday to see the ArtRage exhibition in Launceston. We thank Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Broughton for organising this.

Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival

Our Year 3 - 10 Swimming Carnival will be held next Tuesday. Keep an eye out on Compass for further details.

Year 8 Camp

Our Year 8s will be on camp on the East Coast from next Wednesday to Friday. We thank Mr Cook for organising this and we also thank all of the other staff helping out.

NAPLAN

Our Year 3s, 5s, 7s and 9s will take part in NAPLAN, beginning next Wednesday. Please see Mrs McGillivray if you have any questions around this. NAPLAN is an opportunity for teachers to see what level their students are at in literacy and numeracy (although we find that teachers pretty much know this already). We do not spend much time preparing students for NAPLAN as there is a lot to cover in the curriculum already.

Public Holiday

A reminder that next Monday 13th March is a public holiday across Tasmania for Eight Hour Day. As such, the school will be closed for the day.

STEM Club

STEM Club will start this Thursday 9th March 2023 between 3.15pm and 4:30pm at Star of the Sea for students in Years 5, 6 and 7 in George Town schools. The club will convene to ponder the meaning of life and tinker in the Science lab. Experiments will be based on the interest of the students. STEM Club@Star will be coordinated by Star of the Sea Maths, Science and Digital Technologies teacher, Mrs Fiona Harmer.

STEM



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



MATHEMATICS

CALENDAR, TERM 1, 2023

Term 1 - 2023	
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

Easter Raffle 2023

We are preparing to launch our annual Easter Raffle and we are asking for donations to fill our baskets.

We are aiming to be able to start selling tickets March 14th and the raffle will be drawn at the final Term Assembly on April 6th.

Please help by donating either confectionary or other Easter themed items.

Proceeds will be split this year with half going to the fundraising goals of the student leaders and half going to our Caritas fundraising.

