

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 8th August 2023

From the Principal

Last week myself and Mrs Briscoe attended the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA) conference in Hobart. NEAA is perhaps a fancy way of saying schools that were started by the Presentation Sisters, as Star of the Sea was, and so share the same charism through the founder of the sisters, Nano Nagle.

One of the speakers at the conference was a historian, Deidre Raftery, who spoke about the early Presentation Sisters, especially those who joined the congregation in the years after Nano Nagle's death and were sent overseas to start schools. In particular, she focussed on how young they were. Many who joined the convents in those days were only about 17 to 20 years old. That led many of us to start thinking about whether students who were currently in Year 11 would be happy enough to hop on a boat for a 4 month journey to the other side of the world to a sparsely settled region to help start a school, knowing that they would probably never see their family again.

And we may immediately think that, no, the current generation would not be able to do that. But I wonder if we undersell our children and perhaps don't give them credit for what they could possibly achieve.

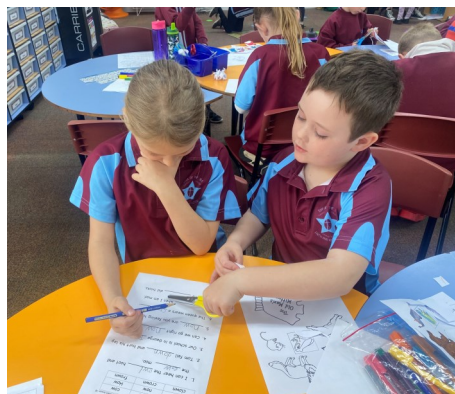
Even in recent years we hear of people like Greta Thunburg, the climate activist, who really started her work when she was 15 years old. Or Malala Yousafzai who won the Nobel Peace Prize at age 17. Both of these were on the world stage before finishing school!

And we may think that these two examples are uncommon, but even students in our own school achieve things at a young age. There are currently students at Star of the Sea who work each week for almost as many hours as they are at school. When we hear this we pause and reflect about the way we treat and speak to our students. Do we see them just as "students," or do we recognise that, 200 years ago, these would probably be the people helping to run the school?

On Sunday in Lisbon, Portugal, hundreds of thousands of young people gathered for World Youth Day and for Mass with Pope Francis. Despite all we hear about the Catholic Church dying, there is still energy among the young for it. However, this energy quickly dies when they are not encouraged to be fully part of it and instead are relegated to the back pews by older parishioners.

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community, may we learn to see the great potential of our young people and treat them accordingly, giving them the opportunity to fully be the people God calls them to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal

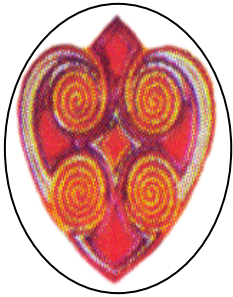


*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Young people,
when informed
and empowered,
when they realize
that what they do
truly makes a
difference, can
indeed change
the world.
Jane Goodall*

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

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

Religious Education and Faith Development

Celebrating Saint Mary Mackillop and Catholic Education Week

This week we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education and our first Australian saint, 'Saint Mary of the Cross' Mackillop. Mary is a saint for our times. Our world currently presents us with many challenges, rapid changes, and financial insecurity but we are challenged and encouraged by Mary's deep faith and her ability to trust in God's providence. Mary was able to put it all in God's hands and trust in his plan for her and her group of like-minded women, who ministered to the many poor and disadvantaged families.



Mary was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on the 8th of August 1908. She saw the isolation and suffering of many colonial families, and she responded by providing, food, clothing, housing, and education for them. She shared her life with the poor and offered special care for destitute women and children.

A compassionate, strong, radical, and adventurous woman, Mary risked everything to bring education and God's love to the poor and those living on the margins. Like Nano Nagle, she was a practical woman who understood the needs of her communities and she was fearless in achieving her goals, even at the risk of excommunication.

As we celebrate this amazing woman, our first saint, let us give thanks for the gift and empowerment of education and God's goodness and ever presence in our lives.

Calendar Term 3 2023

Wednesday 9th August	Catholic Education Week Mass
Tuesday 15th August	Mass for the Feast of the Assumption
Wednesday 16th August	English Competition
Monday 21st August	Book Week Parade (<i>Read, Grow, Inspire</i>)
Tuesday 22nd August	Science Competition
Thursday 31st August	Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
	Maths Competition
Thursday 14th September	RUOK Day
Tuesday 19th September	RYDA (<i>Year 10</i>)
Thursday 28th September	Country Gold - Girls Footy Gala Day
Friday 29th September	Term 3 ends; End of Term Assembly

Literate Learners for Life Update

Tasmanian Catholic Education introduced a new literacy strategy in 2022 in order to improve the literacy outcomes of all students in Catholic schools. It is called **Literate Learners for Life**.

This update outlines where we are at in 2023.

Reading, based on the Science of Reading

- Kinder are continuing to use PreLit, a literacy program that lays the foundation for children to learn to read.
- The InitialLit program is firmly established in Years Prep to 2/3.
- Secondary students who have been identified as likely to benefit from reading intervention are receiving four lessons a week using the program MacqLit.
- In addition, we have established a literacy lesson each week for Year 7 and 8 students. In this lesson students are grouped according to their needs and are given extra help in developing fluency and comprehension skills.
- We have identified students in Years 3-6 who would benefit from intervention and are now planning what this will look like for the rest of the year.

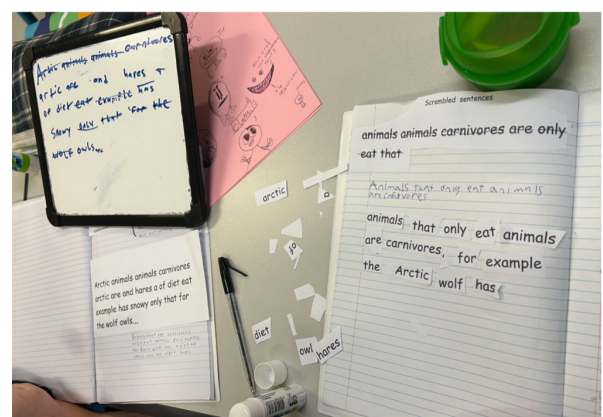
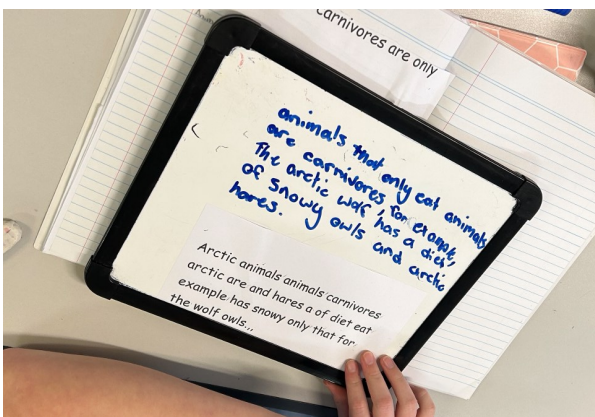
Writing Instruction

It has been quoted that, 'writing is the most academically challenging task students undertake.'

At Star of the Sea, we have begun rolling out a writing approach stemming from a method called *The Writing Revolution*. This approach focuses on the Hochman method for explicitly teaching writing through a set of evidence-based strategies. The method enables students to master the skills that are essential if they are to become competent writers, which in turn assists with reading and communication and therefore further develops their thinking and understanding of our world.

Three of our teachers undertook training in teaching this method and they are now presenting this to the entire teaching staff during staff meetings. Staff are presented with a different strategy at each meeting with examples of how to teach this in the different grade levels.

Over time we will have developed a scope and sequence of how this looks from Kinder to Year 10.



Deputy Principal's Message

'Arise and go!' This is the theme for Catholic Education Week, which is being celebrated in Tasmania from 6-12 August. In his newsletter article this week, Mr Chapman has reflected on the influence of young people in our world, both historically and also more recently. Throughout history, young people have made significant contributions to our world by using the gifts bestowed upon them and by responding to God's call.

However, our gifts do not flourish if we do not make use of them. 'Arise and go' encourages us to step into the world each day, ready to make a difference by using our gifts. It is through the cultivation of these gifts that we grow as people. Growth is achieved step by step and each time we use our gifts, they become stronger.

Recently in our primary assemblies we have focused on goal setting. Goal setting is an excellent way to focus on growing our gifts and abilities. Each time we set out to use our gifts and abilities we learn more about how we can apply these effectively. We also learn about self reflection, perseverance, grit and determination. We learn what can be achieved if we set our minds on seeing a goal realised. However, it is not for ourselves that we focus on self improvement but for God, so that we may reach our true human potential.

When we talk to young people about the goals they might set for themselves, it helps them to think about taking responsibility for their own learning and self improvement. It empowers young people to actively engage in their learning and life journey. We encourage parents to talk to their children about the goals they are setting for themselves and about the ways those goals might be achieved. We also encourage conversation about trying again, if a set back occurs, and looking for opportunities of realising a goal if at first it seems almost impossible. Of course some goals we might set ourselves are impossible to achieve but it is through imagining our future selves and working toward realising our human potential that we move closer to the person God calls us to be.

‘Arise and go!’

Year 10 Term 2 awards

As our Year 10 students were on work placement at the end of Term 2 the presentation of their awards was postponed until this term.



SetUp for Success

'SetUp for Success' 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.



Book Week - Early Notice

Monday 21st August will see our Book Week dress up day and parade. The theme this year is *Read, Grow, Inspire*. On this day we invite students to dress up as their favourite book character. Families might want to start thinking about costumes now!

Feast of the Assumption of Mary Mass

On Tuesday 15th August the whole school will gather for Mass in the church to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. The Mass will be at 11:40am. Families are most welcome to join us.

Enrolments for 2024

Enrolments for 2024 for all year levels (except Year 9 for 2024) are now open. Families wishing to enrol into Star of the Sea for 2024 can call into the office for an enrolment form or download one from our website: starsea.tas.edu.au. We encourage all enrolments to be finalised by the end of this term so that we can organise transition days for Year 7 and our Little Stars program for Kinders. Interviews for those who have given their enrolment form to the office will begin in coming weeks.

Catholic Education Week Mass

This week we celebrate Catholic Education Week and, as part of this, our Grade 5/6 class will attend the Northern school's Mass tomorrow. This week we celebrate the contribution that Catholic Education has made to Tasmania over the past 200 years.

Parent Engagement Group

Our first Parent Engagement Group meeting took place last Tuesday and at it we discussed ways of getting more parents involved in the group. Stay tuned for more information in this area!

Country Gold 2023

Last week saw the Country Gold trials. We congratulate the following students who have made it to the TPSSA teams for Country Gold on September 21st:

- **Netball** - Maverick Watson and Zayden Kerr
- **Hockey** - Bradley Maney and Paityn Tunks
- **Soccer** - Chase Tunks

Father's Day Breakfast

Father's Day is getting closer and with it, our traditional Father's Day Breakfast will be held on Thursday 31st August. If you would like to help with preparing and serving the breakfast, please contact the office. The preparation usually starts around 6am.

Found

A dog lead was found by a Prep student. If it belongs to you, please contact the school office.

School Student Broadband Initiative

The **School Student Broadband Initiative** aims to boost education opportunities by providing up to 30,000 Australian eligible families with school age children (K-12), with **free nbn-powered broadband at home for 12 months**.

To be eligible for the School Student Broadband Initiative families must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school in 2023.
- Not have an active nbn network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.
- Be referred by a nominating organisation.
- Live in a premises that can access the nbn network.

If you wish to apply please contact Star of the Sea Catholic College and we will submit your details

Father's Day Stall

We will be having a Father's Day Stall on Thursday 31st August.

Gifts will be between \$1 and \$5.

All students will have an opportunity to attend the stall.

Donations for the stall will be gratefully accepted and appreciated

Donations can be left at the office or given directly to Mrs Tame.

