

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 28th November 2023

From the Principal

Robert Frost wrote a famous poem called The Road Not Taken, made famous by the lines:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

I was reminded of this recently while travelling along the West Tamar Highway for the sake of a university assignment, and I pulled in and out of small towns along the river, taking photos, getting my shoes stuck in the Tamar mud, and trying not to get sunburnt.

I drove on roads I had not been along before. I saw all of the jetties in Rosevears where the gates were padlocked and the jetties were marked as "Private," as people tried to bring some sense of certainty to their lives. I looked over Brady's Lookout and wondered if, in 100 years time, those convicted of stealing today would have places named after them. And I met a guy trying to keep invasive fish species out of the Tamar.

Travelling to different places can open our eyes and our minds as we experience different things. But not everyone has the chance to do it. I'm often surprised when I speak to people who have lived in Tasmania all of their lives but have never been to the West Coast. Others I meet have never left Tasmania. But travel can sometimes be a privileged thing. People who survive on little money or who have poor health are often not in the position where they can take holidays out of their hometown. That goes equally for people living on the mainland as it does for Tasmanians.

But taking the "road less travelled" doesn't always have to be a journey somewhere. We can choose the road less travelled with our lives and how we spend them. Nano Nagle, in making the decision to serve the poor and needy of Cork, in Ireland, certainly took the road less travelled. This is especially so given that she did have the choice at one point to live a life of luxury, or to become a cloistered nun.

As our Year 10s finish in the next two weeks, they have to make decisions about what road they should take. Just like Robert Frost in his poem, they don't really know where the paths they choose will take them. But sometimes the road that everyone else has taken is not as interesting, or may not suit individuals. In these cases, the road less travelled may be exactly what they need.

God doesn't always call us to "play it safe." Playing it safe doesn't always lead to growth. If we are going to follow God then we, too, may just need to be prepared to take that road less travelled.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Two roads diverged in a
wood, and I -
I took the one less
travelled by,
And that has made all
the difference.
Robert Frost*

*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

The Present of Presence

Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion

The Church's season of Advent is almost upon us, a beautiful season which marks the four weeks of preparation before Christmas. The word 'Advent' means 'coming' or 'arrival' and is the period where we once again prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.



The focus of this season is the Advent Wreath, which is a symbol of our journey to Christmas. The wreath features four candles (three purple and one pink) to be lit on each of the Sundays of Advent. The candles represent the feelings associated with this time of waiting. The first candle (to be lit on the 3 December) symbolises hope.

This time of the year life gets very busy, and Advent gets lost in the 'Christmas rush'. The messages are all around us, buy this and you will be happy. Our culture keeps promoting material things as a sign of how much we love others. In our busyness it is easy to miss awareness and a coming together with those around us, and with those in our world.

Advent is a good season to be more deliberate in sharing the **present of presence**. It might be in a text message or phone call or it a visit. It might be in being with someone who needs you or spending time with a loved one. You may think of other ways to share your presence. When we share our presence, we grow in love and gratitude. If we work on giving the gift of presence, our ability to warm the lives of other becomes the gift of 'love'.

Stars of the Week 23rd November 2023

Kinder Sebastian Cunningham

For working really hard during literacy lessons.

**Prep Hamish Bannon
Mason Giles**

For working really hard on Reading Eggs
For working really hard on Reading Eggs

Gr 1 Lachlan Smith

For his enthusiasm and excellent research skills in Science.

Gr 2/3 Melaney Maney

For always trying her best, being persistent and not giving up.

Gr 3/4 Nate Walker

For his consistent effort across all subject areas. Keep up the great work!

Gr 5/6 Bradley Maney

For his enthusiasm towards learning about all aspects of Science.
You are an inspiration to others!

Presentation Feast Day - Friday 24th November



THANK YOU, YOU ARE AWESOME!

Thank you so much for your Christmas hamper donations. Your generous contributions will help St Vincent de Paul provide Christmas cheer and food for some of our most needy families in George Town.

In a year where so many people are doing it tough, you have all given so generously. Thank you for sharing the love.



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.



From the Deputy Principal

Star of the Sea Colour Run

Our Star of the Sea Colour Run is now two weeks away. It is great to see so much excitement amongst the students. Our fundraising efforts have had a real boost in the past week and our overall tally is now at \$3308.00 which is absolutely fantastic. There is still time to add to this and for all students to get on the fundraising tally board.

Every student who raises at least \$10 is eligible for a prize. Prizes need to be ordered from the school fundraiser website and the closing date for ordering prizes is December 1. Although fundraising can continue after this date, prizes will not be able to be ordered at a later date. Students will need a white or light t-shirt or top to wear for the Colour Run.



Presentation Day - Friday November 24

Last Friday we celebrated Presentation Day commencing with a beautiful Mass with Father Bala. This was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the examples given to us of servitude and faith in our world through the work of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. We continue this legacy in our daily lives at Star of the Sea, as servant leaders and faithful companions. Thank you to Father Bala, Mrs Briscoe and the students who were involved in the preparation and celebration of Mass.

Another wonderful contribution to the day was the completion of the mural which is located in the secondary school. This has been a collaboration between student leaders and staff and culminated in students placing their handprints along the branches of the tree, in House colours, symbolising the leaves. Interwoven into the design are the House symbols. Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in this project. It has certainly added a focal point to the secondary area. Throughout the afternoon students had the opportunity to join in a wide variety of activities including face painting, mini tattoos, badge making, giant games, giant bubbles, basketball hoop shooting, pony rides and circus activities. It was wonderful to see students trying out new things and showing a great deal of perseverance with the circus activities which included stilt walking, diablo, flower sticks, juggling, hoop twirling and more. We are appreciative of the way students participated in the afternoon in a positive way. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the afternoon and supported our students to have a wonderful day.



K-2 Sports Afternoon - Wednesday December 6th

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 2 will be participating in a fun athletics afternoon on Wednesday December 6. Although this is not a regular school day for Kinder students, they are certainly invited and encouraged to come along for the afternoon activities. Students will wear their sports clothes on this day and will need to bring a hat and their drink bottle out with them for the afternoon. Sunscreen will be provided and students will be asked to put this on throughout the afternoon.

Tasmanian Science Talent Search

Congratulations to Erin Vanderzwan and Dakota Joslin for their success in this years Tasmanian Science Talent Search.

Erin received first prize and Dakota was awarded a finalist certificate in the Poster and Infographic Division.

They completed their entries in Science and Mathematics Extended.



Staff Movements

Mr Chapman will be away tomorrow (Wednesday) for a meeting.

George Town Christmas Parade

The George Town Christmas Parade will take place on Friday 8th December. The theme this year is 'A Christmas Tree Extravaganza'. We are inviting all students to participate in our walking float and are asking them to dress up as a Christmas ornament (think baubles, angels, stars, etc). We will provide some small Christmas trees for students to carry. Permission slips and further details will be released on Compass closer to the date.

Transitions to Star of the Sea

As we start to prepare for next year we are holding transition days for new students to the College.

Kinder - we have already started our Little Stars program which Mrs Taylor is running every Wednesday afternoon.

Year 7 - Our full-day transition is on Thursday 30th November.

Primary school - at this stage we are looking to have a Transition morning, where students in Primary move into their classes for next year with their teacher, on Monday 11th December. We will provide more details when this is finalised.

Enrolments

Our College office closes on Thursday 14th December. If any families would like to enrol their children we would encourage them to do so before then.

K-2 Learn To Swim

Our K-2 Learn to Swim program will take place next Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Details will be provided this week.

Year 10s

Our Year 10s have exams this week. Next week they will participate in a Service Day, a Reflection Day and a Big Day Out before they finish on Thursday.

Uniform and Book Sales

Our Uniform and Book Sales will take place on Thursday 1st February and Friday 2nd February 2024 from 9am to 4pm. School returns for students on Wednesday 7th February.

Books Packs 2024

The prices for our Book Packs for 2024 (which we get through Officeworks) are as follows:

Kinder	\$49.00
Prep	\$42.00
Grade 1/2	\$88.00
Grade 2/3	\$88.00
Grade 4	\$98.00
Grade 5/6	\$93.00
Year 7	\$90.00
Year 8,9,10	\$42.00

Some things to note:

Most of the difference between the Year 7 price and the Year 8-10 price is due to Year 7s purchasing a scientific calculator which they keep for 4 years.

A number of Primary classes will have textbooks for our literacy programs. However, these will not be given to the students with their book packs, but instead given to them once it has been decided what level, they will be given a new textbook of the appropriate level (they don't have to buy a new one).

Guess the Lollies

Congratulations to Titan Palmer (Grade 8) who guessed the correct number of lollies in the lolly tub which was 750. Great estimating Titan!

Emergency Practice

Within the next week, while at recess or lunch, we will hold an unannounced emergency practice with staff and students, to test our response to a potential scenario that staff may identify a threat warranting the school go into lockdown (opposite to evacuation). Like for fire evacuation drills, we recognise the worth to test this process.

We have plans in place to make this practice as least disruptive as possible.

If you have queries please call our Safety Officer, Katie Gardner on 0456 849 497

TERM 4—2023

<i>Thursday 7th December</i>	<i>Last Day for Year 10s; Year 10 Presentation Evening</i>
<i>Friday 8th December</i>	<i>George Town Christmas Parade</i>
<i>Monday 11th December</i>	<i>Year 10 Leavers Dinner</i>
<i>Tuesday 12th December</i>	<i>Secondary Big Day Out; Primary Nativity Play - Primary Colour Run</i>
<i>Wednesday 13th December</i>	<i>Last day for students; End of Year Assembly</i>
<i>Thursday 14th December</i>	<i>Last day for staff</i>

**Star of the Sea Parish
Christmas Raffle**

Tickets \$1

1st Prize: Weber Portable Outdoor BBQ
2nd Prize: Hamper & \$50 Kaizen Hair & Beauty Voucher
3rd Prize: Tassie Scene Painting/unframed + \$50 Meal Voucher at Gray's Hotel
4th Prize: Hamper + \$50 Gift Card (Woolworths)

Available for purchase at the College Office.
Drawn on Sunday 17th December after 11:00AM Mass.

Term dates for 2024

Term 1	Staff Return Students Return Easter Holidays Good Friday 29 th March – Easter Students finish Staff finish	Thursday, 1 st February 2024 Wednesday 7 th February 2024 Tuesday 2 nd April Thursday 11 th April 2024 Friday 12 th April 2024
Term 2	Staff and Students Return Staff and Students finish	Monday 29 th April 2024 Friday 5 th July 2024
Term 3	Staff return Students return Staff and Students finish	Monday 22 nd July 2024 Tuesday 23 rd July 2024 Friday 27 th September 2024
Term 4	Staff return Students return Staff and students finish	Monday 14 th October 2024 Tuesday 15 th October 2024 Friday 18 th December 2024