

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Wednesday 13th December 2023

From the Principal

And so we have come to the end of another year. Each of us might reflect back on the year and think of good things that have happened, bad things that happened, moments that challenged us and moments we grew from. All of these things are neither good nor bad, they just are. The year has been what it has been and any attempt by us to wish we had done something differently will make no difference to where we are at the moment.

I spoke to the Year 10s last Thursday at their Awards Presentation Evening and I got them to reflect upon why they had made it to the end of Year 10 while some of their previous classmates hadn't. The word and character strength I put to them was grit. Grit is the ability to keep going, to have perseverance in order to reach a long term goal. And the reality is, not everyone has it.

Our Year 10s were particularly challenged when they were in Year 7 in 2020. It was that year that the world was hit by the COVID virus which was to change our lives forever. The students were sent home from Term 1 early and missed about 8 weeks of Term 2. And for some students around Australia, that was all it took from having the habit of coming to school, to losing that habit and to gradually drift away from school. Unfortunately, they never had the perseverance to work towards a long-term goal.

That's not to say that these students didn't have grit in other areas. Quite often we surprise ourselves with our own perseverance when tackling tasks we are interested in. The reality is, for most of us we do jobs that see us doing the same thing, day after day. For successful sportspeople, they only became successful after training the same way day after day. For successful business people, they became successful after turning up to work and doing the same thing, day after day. Life can be a grind, and we need to just keep turning up in order to have success.

This is the same in our relationships as well. We need to keep "turning up" to our friends, our husbands, our wives, our partners. "Turning up" just doesn't mean being physically present, but also emotionally present. We need to be on hand when we are truly needed, and not try to avoid the situation.

Did Star of the Sea teach the Year 10s to have grit? Maybe we played a part, but equally families play a part in children learning the value of perseverance. When they see significant adults persevering and trying to reach long term goals, children are more likely to pick up that habit. We wish our Year 10s well in the future, and know that the grit that got them to this place will also help them to become the people God calls them to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Grit is living life like it's
a marathon, not a
sprint. -
Angela Duckworth*

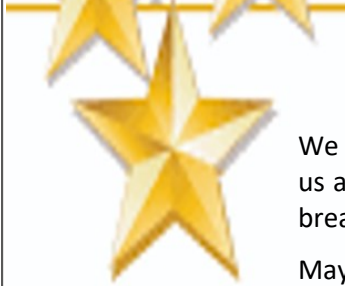
*Star of the Sea Catholic
College
acknowledges the
Leterremairener
people as the
traditional
custodians of the
land on which our
school stands.*

Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion



A Prayer for the Holidays

We put ourselves into Your hands and pray that you will bless us and our families during the wonderful time of the Christmas break.

May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, peace, and safety.

As we celebrate the birth of your Son, may we begin to see the world in the light of your understanding.

You chose the poor and lowly to receive the greatest news the world has ever known.

May we count our blessings but also remember our brothers and sisters who are not so fortunate.

May we be generous and considerate and enjoy the blessings summer brings.

Stay close to us and remind me that my relationship with you should never take a break.

Stars of the Week 7th December 2023

Kinder Axel Grimsey-Gray

For fantastic effort and thinking with number work.

Prep Eliana Dodge

For reading all of the words, tricky words and sentences in her InitialLit checks.

Gr 1 Jaxon Hillard

For his kindness and consideration towards others.

Gr 2/3 Danica Sweet

For her thoughtfulness and consideration towards others.

Gr 3/4 Blaide Burston

For his excellent participation during our InitialLit spelling lessons.

Gr 5/6 Bernard Moore

For his wonderful rendition of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" sung in German. You are a great entertainer. Well done!

Grade 2/3 Christmas Decorations



TSO Visit

Last Friday we had a visit from some members of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra who led the Grade 3/4 class through a percussion workshop. The instruments the students used were then donated to the school. We thank Tracey and Kim for their time and their generous donation to the school.



K - 2 Athletics



Colour Run



Primary Nativity Play



Year 10 Last Day



Year 10 Award winners

Ampol Best Allrounder

Nikiah Edwards

County Women's Association

Miya Webb

Soroptimist International of George Town

Isabelle Ackerly

RSL Bursary

Nikiah Edwards

ADF Long Tan Award

Nikiah Edwards

ADF Future Innovations

Hayley Ford

Lions Club

Robert Tame and Tempress Tunks

Nick Duigan

Alex Rigby-Smith and Olivia Hockey

College Dux (Bell Bay Aluminium)

Nikiah Edwards

Star of the Sea Award

Hayley Ford

College Captains

Robert Tame and Nikiah Edwards

House Captains and Leaders

Miya Webb, Hayley Ford and Ashley Byard

Subject Awards -

Religious Education

Nikiah Edwards

Maths

Ashley Byard

Health/PE

Nikiah Edwards



End of Year Awards 2023

Michael Ferguson Young Leader	Harry Clark
George Town Council "Not Words But Deeds"	Maverick Watson and Will Upston
Mayor's Encouragement Award	Erika Clark and Ruby Clarke
Dalrymple Rugby Club	Caeden McCutcheon and Zayden Kerr
Marian Elliget Award	Emma Thomas
George Town Medical Centre	Connor Judd
Soroptimist International of George Town	Rosemary Laughren
Catholic Women's League	Ryder Hawkins
Country Women's Association	Imogen Ackerly
George Town Historical Society	Payton Tunks and Brock Johnson
Janie Finlay "Resilience Award"	Chad Jenkins
Tas Electrical Services Bursary	Connor Judd
Nano Nagle Awards (Presentation Sisters)	Kinder Lucas Davis
	Prep Logan Hawkins
	Year 1 Lachlan Smith
	Year 2 Oliver Bennett
	Year 3 Melaney Maney
	Year 4 Ashton Ratcliffe
	Year 5 Sabian Hawes
	Year 6 Isobel Walker
	Year 7 Ruby Clarke
	Year 8 Briana Currie
	Year 9 Drew Daniels
Application to Learning (Lions Club)	Kinder Aylah Summers
	Prep Chanden Prismal-Jackson
	Year 1 John Lethborg
	Year 2 Chase Davis
	Year 3 Matilda Jacobs
	Year 4 Nate Walker
	Year 5 Scarlett Baillie
	Year 6 Bradley Maney
	Year 7 Ruby Clarke
	Year 8 Joshua Chapman
	Year 9 Erin Vanderzwan
Academic Awards (Liberty Bell Bay)	
	Year 8 Samara Davenport
	Year 8 Isabella Stocks
	Year 8 Hayley Daniels
	Year 8 Joshua Chapman
	Year 7 Indiana Cartwright
	Year 7 Erika Clark
	Year 7 Ruby Clarke
	Year 7 Alyssa Wayne
Subject Awards for Option subjects (Liberty Bell Bay)	
	Year 8 Samara Davenport
	Year 8 Isabella Stocks
	Year 8 Hayley Daniels
	Year 8 Joshua Chapman
	Year 7 Indiana Cartwright
	Year 7 Erika Clark
	Year 7 Ruby Clarke
	Year 7 Alyssa Wayne
House Captains 2023	Emma Thomas and Sianna Brunacci

College Captains 2024 Erin Vanderzwan & Drew Daniels

Staff Movements

Mr Tim Wedlock will finish his time at Star of the Sea this week as he moves into a new career away from teaching. We wish him well in the future and thank him for all of his work in the PE department, with both Primary and Secondary, and his great ukulele playing!

Miss Maddie Jones will finish her time as Chaplain with us this week. Maddie has certainly been a great addition to the school in the last 3 terms, and those students who have been lucky enough to work with her will be able to tell of her gentle and caring nature. We wish her well in her ongoing studies and work.

Office Closure and Reopening

Today is the last day for students. Our staff will finish tomorrow. The office will be open tomorrow (Thursday) between 8:30am-3:30pm.

Our office will be closed over the holidays and reopen on Thursday 1st February at 8:30am.

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 are working at. When students move up a level, they will be given a new textbook of the appropriate level (they don't have to buy a new one).

Primary Class Transition Day

On Monday December 11th, students from Kinder to Grade 5 had the opportunity to spend the morning with their 2024 class teacher and peers. This was an opportunity for teachers to meet their classes and to begin to establish the classroom routines and relationships that will underpin the year ahead. Thank you to our hard working teachers and teaching assistants for the planning that went into this morning. We hope this was a positive step in each student's transition into their 2024

Grade 6 Celebration Day

On Friday December 8th, we celebrated the end of the primary learning experience for our Grade 6 students with a breakfast and liturgy. The Grade 5 students assisted Mrs Robotham, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Baker to prepare and serve breakfast to the Grade 6 students. This opportunity brought the Grade 6 students together to share grace and breakfast. This was a memorable way to finish Grade 6 with students exclaiming it was one of the best breakfasts they have ever had.

The liturgy was an opportunity for Grade 6 students to reflect on their learning journey so far and to lead the primary students in prayerful reflection, giving thanks for the gift they have received in being part of the Star of the Sea community. The liturgy had a focus on the people we are called to be; people of listening and welcoming hearts, full of courage, determination, passion and integrity. People who can be sparks of love, compassion, justice and hope for those who are oppressed or in need. Mrs Davis shared an affirmation for each of our Grade 6 students and the students were presented with a small gift, which was a palm cross. We hope this reminds them of their faith and encourages them to continue to live their lives connected to God and endeavouring to become the people God truly wants them to be.

From the Deputy Principal

The Season of Advent

In the midst of Advent, as the school year comes to a close and with Christmas close by, it can be a busy and sometimes overwhelming time. There is a lot for us to think about and to fit into our days. Amongst all of the hype that goes with Christmas, end of year gatherings, parades, concerts and whatever else seems to spring up on our calendars, we can lose sight of the real reason for this season of the year. Taking the time to pause and reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas, as a time for reflection and thanksgiving for Jesus being brought into our world, helps us to focus on the things we are called to be: loving, faithful, prayerful, empathetic people, capable of making a difference in the lives of others through our actions.

It is important for us to bring this understanding of Christmas to our children, to help them to develop an appreciation for how they can also make a difference in the lives of others. Mr Chapman has shared some examples in this week's newsletter of how children can become involved in doing thoughtful things for others. At the Mass held at the Church of Apostles in Launceston on Sunday, Father Jesse spoke about the way we can incorporate children into Mass celebrations and why this is so important to the lives of our children and also to the continuing life of the Church. Father Jesse spoke of the way children are sometimes noisy, or fidgety or unsettled during Mass, yet he encouraged parents to bring their children even if this is the case. It is only through participation that children can develop an understanding of what it is all about.

Sometimes people do not come along to Mass because they feel it is not for them, or they think they are not faithful enough or not worthy or that they do not belong. Each person is called to take that step, to take that "leap of faith" in the direction of God. Advent is a perfect time for this to happen.

Jesus said "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14.

Whatever you do over this Christmas period, I hope that it is filled with love.

Merry Christmas

Primary Nativity

On Tuesday December 12th, our primary classes joined together to share in the end of year Nativity Play and class performances. Mrs Sikkens' Grade 1 class shared a beautiful Nativity Play and we thank the students and staff for the time and thought that went into preparing and sharing this. Each class also shared a song. Well done to everyone for your wonderful performances and thank you Grade 1 for helping us to keep the story of Jesus' birth in our hearts and minds during this special time of the year.

Primary Big Day In

Following the Nativity Play, primary students had the chance to select from a range of activities including Christmas baking, Christmas craft, a movie, a dance workshop, mindfulness activities and sporting games which enabled students from different classes to come together to share in a fun activity. This continued the focus we have had this year, on connecting students from different classes together to help strengthen the relationships and experiences across the primary school.

Secondary Big Day Out

While the primary students had a Big Day In, the secondary students had a Big Day Out instead! Grade 10 students attended their Big Day Out in their final week of the year. Students in Grades 7-9 travelled to Launceston on December 12 and had the opportunity to participate in a great day of activities including Escape Rooms, bowling and shared lunches. It was a fun day to conclude the term. Thank you to the staff involved in planning these activities and for offering students an opportunity to participate in a fun end to the term.

Colour Run

The Star of the Sea Colour Run has been run and won for 2023! However, rather than there being specific winners we are all set to benefit from the fundraising efforts of everyone involved. Almost \$5000.00 dollars was raised this year (\$4898.77 to be exact) which is a tremendous effort and more than double the amount we set out to raise. We hope everyone had a great time getting blasted with colour and participating with their friends. Thank you to Mr Wedlock for the planning and organisation and to our staff and the Grade 10 students for coming in to help with the colour blasting.

Grade 10 Leavers' Dinner

The Grade 10 Leavers' Dinner was held on Monday evening at the George Town Memorial Hall. Students joined with parents, guardians and staff to celebrate the end of their time at Star of the Sea. The excitement and mixed emotions of finishing high school make this a milestone event in many people's lives. Having the opportunity to celebrate together provides a focal point for students and families as this life experience comes to a close. Events like this do not happen without a lot of work from people behind the scenes and we particularly thank Mr. Cook for his ongoing commitment to the Grade 10 students and for his leadership and guidance throughout the year. Thank you also to the staff who assisted in making this evening a success.

Holiday joy on a budget:

How to create magical Christmas memories and a strong family bond

As the holiday season approaches the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program offers a few simple parenting tips for families to create the gift of connection, strengthen their bond, and build a lifetime of memorable moments, even on a tight budget.

Triple P's budget-friendly ideas

Give the gift of time

Giving your undivided attention to your child – even the smallest of moments – is a great way to help them feel special and will strengthen your relationship in the years to come.

Explore fun family traditions

The best traditions are often free or low cost – think visiting local light displays, holiday parades, or having a themed movie night at home. Children can feel a sense of family belonging and have lots of fun with family traditions, as well as add new ones!

Encourage 'less is more'

It's normal for kids to dream big and want lots of presents, but in the current climate, this is getting harder for parents to achieve. Set a realistic price range early on and ask children to name one or two presents on their "top wish" list. This helps manage expectations and makes it more likely the presents will be appreciated and used.

Inspire the spirit of giving

Encourage your child to create handmade or upcycled gifts like cards, ornaments, or personalised crafts as a low-cost way to give to their friends and family while turning it into a creative activity. You could also give back to the community by volunteering as a family.

Take time out for self-care

It might sound counter-intuitive, but caring for your own needs first and taking the time to recharge your battery by doing something healthy and beneficial can make it easier to remain calm and positive during stressful times. Modelling this behaviour can in turn show kids how to cope with uncertainty and difficult situations.





Christmas and New Year Holy Masses

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

George Town



24th December (Sunday) Holy Mass @ 9:00pm
(8:30pm Carol Singing)
25th December (Monday) Christmas Day Mass @ 9:00am

1st January 2024 (Monday) @ 9:00am
New Year's Day Mass

St. Anne's Church - Lilydale
24th December (Sunday) Christmas Eve @ 6:30pm

Sunday Obligatory Mass will be **one celebration** on Saturday 23rd December @ 5:00pm in George Town

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