

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 5th December 2023

From the Principal

“Are we there yet?” There are not many parents who haven’t heard their young children say this while driving to a destination for a holiday or to see family. It is often a sign of boredom, or impatience, that young people show as their brains are still soaking up everything about the world around them. They need stimulation and sitting in a car for hours on end doesn’t give that to them.

It also might be something that students and teachers say as the school year draws to a close - “Are we there yet?!” This time, rather than being a sign of boredom, it is more a sign of exhaustion. We feel our bodies getting tired and we are looking forward to a holiday where we can recharge and relax.

When we have a relation who is due to give birth, we often ask “Has it come yet?” There is a certain amount of expectation and excitement while we wait for a new baby to come into the family. Grandmothers wait anxiously for a phone call to hear about the arrival of the next grandchild they are able to spoil.

As we enter into the season of Advent, which started on Sunday, we might ask both of these questions - “Are we there yet?” and “Has it come yet?” As Advent continues the level of excitement grows as we get closer to Christmas.

But Advent is also a time of reflection. The season of Advent is not really about buying presents and eating a chocolate from our Advent Calendar each day. It is about reflecting on our lives and being present to every moment as we await the birth of Jesus once more in our hearts. The story of Mary and Joseph finding no room at the inn causes us to ask ourselves - “Have we got room for Jesus?”

This can be a confronting question, because many of us don’t have room for Jesus. We fill our lives with things to keep us busy - shopping for presents, jumping on social media, going from one Christmas event to another - and in doing so we don’t allow ourselves time to reflect on who we are and what God is calling us to be. How can we make space for Jesus?

The simple answer is, one moment at a time. We make space for Jesus when we are able to stop and be in the present moment, listening to the sounds around us. We make space for Jesus when we turn off our devices or TV a few minutes earlier than usual and just sit in silence reflecting on our day and asking God for the strength to tackle tomorrow to the best of our ability. We make space for Jesus we recognise that someone else needs our help, and we drop what we are doing to help them.

This Advent we are called to make space for Jesus. We are called to become the stable that Jesus can rest in. We are called to quieten our minds and be ready and patient for what is to come.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*The Lord is coming,
always coming. When
you have ears to hear
and eyes to see, you
will recognize him at
any moment of your
life. Life is Advent; life
is recognizing the
coming of the Lord.*

- Henri Nouwen

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



PO Box 206, Corner of Friend and William Street, George Town, 7253

Ph: 63827242 Email: sots.reception@catholic.tas.edu.au

Religious Education and Faith Development

THANK YOU, YOU ARE AWESOME!

Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion

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.



"St Vincent de Paul, George Town would like to thank the students, their families and staff for their very generous donations to make up the numerous Christmas Hampers that we received last week.

These will make the lives of many of our community members easier this Christmas, The recipients are always very thankful."

Stars of the Week 30th November 2023

Kinder Oliver Hewitt

For outstanding participation in our class play "Wombat Stew".

Prep Zoe Provis

For using her initiative and being so helpful whenever she sees the chance.

Gr 1 Kailan Wheeldon

For his helpfulness in the classroom and his amazing manners.

Gr 2/3 William Singline

For working so well, especially in Literacy and Numeracy. Well done!

Gr 3/4 Hazel-Mae Provis

For being a helpful member of our class. Keep up the great work!

Gr 5/6 Seth Sturzaker

For making a wonderful effort to participate in classroom learning activities. Keep up the great work!

Year 10 Awards Presentation Thursday 7th December at 6.00pm in the Church

Star of the Sea Catholic College

Year 10 - 2023



Principal: Mr Richard Chapman

Teacher: Mr Oliver Cook

Back Row: Izaak Holz, Alexander Rigby Smith, Robert Tame, Luke Chapman, Giovanni Gandolfi, Nikiah Edwards

Second Row: Oliver Cook, Kailey Johnson, Hayley Ford, Ashley Byard, Olivia Hockey, Maeve Lazdauskas

Front Row: Madison Milner, Miya Webb, Lily Kelly, Isabelle Ackerly, Dakota Joslin, Tempress Tunks

Absent: Hayli Bannon, Maddison Westergreen



Star of the Sea Catholic College

Kinder - Year 9

End of Year Awards Presentation

Wednesday 13th December 2024

@ 10:00am

In the Church

This is not a Kinder day but Kinders are most welcome to attend.

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Upcoming Events

To help parents and carers get their heads around the next week of school, here is a brief summary. More information about some of these events can be found further down in the newsletter:

- Wednesday 6th December** - Year 10 Big Day Out; K-2 Athletics afternoon
- Thursday 7th December** - Year 10 Final Day and Awards Presentation Evening
- Friday 8th December** - Grade 6 Breakfast and Liturgy; TSO visit; George Town Christmas Parade
- Monday 11th December** - Primary Transition morning; Year 10 Leavers Dinner
- Tuesday 12th December** - Secondary Big Day Out; Primary Nativity Play; Primary Colour Run
- Wednesday 13th December** - End of Year Assembly; last day for students
- Thursday 14th December** - last day for staff; College office closes

Year 10s Final Week

Our Year 10s are engaged in their final full week at Star of the Sea. Tomorrow they will have their Big Day Out before their last school day on Thursday. The Year 10 Final Prayer and Awards Presentation will be held on Thursday at 6pm in the Church. The Leavers Dinner will be held on Monday 11th December at the George Town Memorial Hall with arrivals from 5:30pm.

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.

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 in the secondary building. 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).

From the Deputy Principal

It is hard to believe that the end of the 2023 school year concludes next week. 2023 has been a tremendous year of growth and opportunity for everyone at Star of the Sea, including the staff and in particular, for myself. When I was invited to step into the role of Deputy Principal at Star of the Sea, I did not know a great deal about the school, other than its location, near Kanamaluka in George Town and that it was a Catholic College that included approximately 180 primary and secondary students. A year on I know a great deal about this amazing school and the beautiful families and community that it serves. I am excited to be continuing at Star of the Sea and very much look forward to the opportunities we will have as a school community into the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for making me feel so welcome this year and for the time many of you have invested in greeting me, meeting with me or building our partnerships so we can support the young people in our care.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. With that in mind, I feel very fortunate to have found my way to this village and to have the opportunity to work with these children and their families.

Advent Prayer Gathering

On Monday December 4, Primary and Secondary students gathered in the primary gallery for the first of our Advent Prayer Services. This was an opportunity to share a prayerful moment focused on the Advent Season and to light the Advent wreath. This week's service was capably led by our Grade 9 students. Thank you to Mrs Briscoe for her planning and preparation of this. Our second Advent Prayer Service will be held next Monday December 11 at 9:00am, and will be led by students in Grade 8. Parents are welcome to attend.



Transition Days for 2024 Grade 7 Students

Over the past few weeks students moving into Grade 7 at Star of the Sea next year have been invited to participate in three transition days. The first of these was held on November 16 with students coming into the secondary school for the morning to work with several key staff. This was an opportunity for the group to engage in some "getting to know you" activities with the current Grade 7 Class Teacher and the Deputy Principal. We were impressed with the way the group worked cooperatively and were inclusive of everyone. On Monday November 27, the students had the opportunity to work with Marty Ogle, who is a regular visitor to the school. Marty runs faith based activities and reflections with students at Star of the Sea as part of the MJR program. It was great to see so many students join in this opportunity. The third transition day occurred on November 30 and this provided the students with the opportunity to be in the school for the whole day, working with a number of staff who will be teachers of this group in 2024. It was fantastic to meet new people and to welcome all of our incoming Grade 7s to the secondary school during these transition visits. We look forward to working with you all in 2024.

PRIMARY SCHOOL EVENTS

Over the next two weeks there will be a number of extra events happening in the primary school. A summary of these events is outlined below.

Learn to Swim Program - December 4, 5, 7

Students from Kinder - Grade 2 are participating in their Learn to Swim Program this week. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and to develop confidence and safety in the water. Well done to all students who have participated positively in this experience so far. The final day for the Learn to Swim Program will be Thursday December 7th.

K-2 Athletics Afternoon - December 6

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 2 will be participating in an afternoon of athletics fun which will be organised and run by Mr. Wedlock. This will commence at the end of lunch on Wednesday. Students are to wear their sports uniform to school on Wednesday and are reminded to bring their hat and a drink bottle out to the oval for the afternoon. Although Kinder students do not usually attend on Wednesdays they are invited to come along for the afternoon and join in the activities. Please ensure Kinder students go to the Kinder room first to ensure their attendance is taken prior to heading out to the oval.

Grade 6 End of Year Breakfast and Liturgy - December 8

Students in Grade 6 will attend a breakfast with their classmates at school on Friday December 8th. Grade 5 students will be working with Mrs Robotham to prepare and serve the breakfast. A Grade 6 End of Year Liturgy will be held in the Church commencing at 12:00 pm on Friday December 8. This is an opportunity for the Primary students to thank the Grade 6 students for their leadership and guidance during their time at the school and to wish them well in their transition to high school. Parents, carers and families are warmly invited to attend. Please be seated by 11:50 am if you would like to join us for this event.

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Visit - December 8

The TSO are offering students in Grade 4 the opportunity to participate in a TSO workshop. This will occur in the Hall at 10:00 am on Friday December 8. All Grade 4 students will be involved in this opportunity. Grade 3 students from Mrs Honeychurch's class will remain in their classroom and will work with another member of staff.

George Town Christmas Parade - December 8

All staff and students from K-10 are invited to participate in the Christmas Parade which is occurring this Friday December 8. Students are asked to meet in front of the Fire Station around 5:00pm. The parade begins at 5:30 pm. Mr Chapman and Mrs Robotham will be present to supervise students who are involved.

Primary Transition Visits

On Monday December 11, students in the Primary school will have the opportunity to meet their 2024 class teacher and will spend some time with students who will be in their class for 2024. This will occur from 9:30 am - 10:50 am.

Primary Christmas Nativity Play

The Primary Christmas Nativity Play is being held on Tuesday December 12, commencing at 9:30 am. Parents and families are warmly invited to attend. If you would like to join us please be seated by 9:25am. Each class has prepared something to share on this day. Students will wear sports uniform and if they need to change into a costume they will do this at the start of the day. Please speak with your child's class teacher if you have further questions.

Primary Big Day In

On Tuesday December 12, between recess and lunchtime, students will have the opportunity to participate in some planned activities as part of our Big Day In. More information will be given to students later this week about which activities will be available.

Colour Run

Our Colour Run is now one week away and will be held Tuesday afternoon, December 12, commencing at 2:00 pm. A reminder that students will wear sports uniform on this day and should bring a white or light coloured top to change into to wear for the colour run. This will become splashed with colour so it does not need to be a new item. If you are having difficulty obtaining a suitable item, please contact Mrs Robotham.

WOW! Our total raised at the end of last week was a massive \$4828.77

There is still time to continue our fundraising efforts over the next week. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Colour Run fundraising and well done for the tremendous effort toward our fundraising goals this year! Parents, carers and families are warmly invited.

End of Year Assembly

On Wednesday December 13, all students will gather in the Church for our End of Year Assembly which will commence at 10:00 am. This is an opportunity to reflect upon the year and to present specific awards to students in recognition of their achievement throughout the year.

Production 2024

Mrs Robotham and Ms Gay would like to offer students of Star of the Sea the opportunity to be involved in a production in 2024. Being involved in the performing arts builds connections with others, confidence and skills in many areas. We would like to encourage all students to consider being a part of this experience. Recently we invited students who might be interested in being a part of this to meet with us. Further information about this opportunity will be shared with students who have indicated an interest in being involved. If your child would like to be included in this list please email carmen.robatham@catholic.tas.edu.au

FINAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school term concludes for students on Wednesday December 13. The last day the College Office to be open is Thursday 14th December.

Students commence Term 1, 2024 on Wednesday February 7th. The Office will reopen on Thursday 1st February.

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.



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; Primary transition morning</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>

Term dates for 2024

Term 1	Staff Return Students Return	Thursday, 1 st February 2024 Wednesday 7 th February 2024
	Easter Holidays Good Friday 29 th March – Easter	Tuesday 2 nd April
	Students finish Staff finish	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