

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 20th February 2024

From the Principal

When you get to a certain time in your life, you come to the realisation that, actually, you don't *own* anything. Or maybe a better way of saying it is, you can't take anything with you when you die. We tend to accumulate a lot of stuff throughout our lives, and every so often we have a clean-out to lessen the amount of stuff we have, but when it all comes down to it, there will come a time when we will die and all of the stuff we have will be worthless to us. Not only that, our relatives will probably end up throwing out or donating anything we did own at our time of death.

So if we don't *own* any of our stuff, what is our relationship with it? Perhaps the best way of describing it is that we are custodians of it. And the more valuable the things we are custodians of are, the greater our responsibility we have to look after them.

I may have the perception that I *own* the house I live in, or the land on which it stands (and according to the law, I do), but really it is just a place I live in and look after until the next person comes along. I am simply the custodian of it. As a Principal, I am very much aware that I don't *own* Star of the Sea in any way whatsoever. I am only the custodian of it, trying to look after it until the next person comes along. And I acknowledge that I am not the original custodian of the school. Many Principals have come before me who have looked after the school, and I am grateful for their stewardship of the school that has enabled me to continue the traditions of Star of the Sea.

So who owns Australia? Or Tasmania? Or George Town? Well, no one. All of us are simply custodians of these places, looking after them until the next generation takes the reins and it is their turn to look after them. However, it is good for us to acknowledge the people who have come before us who have looked after these places.

When we acknowledge the previous custodians, it isn't just a case of recognizing them. We can recognize lots of things while doing nothing about them. Instead, it is a case of being grateful for how others have looked after something before us. When we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, as we did yesterday at our smoking ceremony, what we are really doing is showing gratitude to all who have come before us, as our Catholic tradition calls on us to do regularly.

Jesus tells us not to store our riches here on earth "where moths and rust consume" (Mt 6:19), but instead store them up in heaven. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mt 6:21). If we want our hearts to be full of gratitude, then it is important for us to practise gratitude, towards the original custodians of our land, and towards all in our lives.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

**Stewardship is the hall-
mark of life on earth. -
Sunday Adelaja**

*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

First Week of Lent

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.



Heart
Spirituality
Attentiveness



Hospitality
Compassion

Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.



Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.



Stars of the Week - 15th February 2024

Kinder	Finley Wolf	For helping his friends join in and be happy at Kindergarten.
Prep	Harrison Walker	For a great start to Prep and great listening.
Grade 1/2	Archie Davidson	For excellent focus and completing all of his work.
Grade 2/3	Bienvinido Bennett	For fantastic focus with all of his work.
Grade 4	Rilee Brown	For her kindness and consideration towards her classmates.
Grade 5/6	Sabian Hawes	For his fantastic 'MC' skills when leading our first 2024 Primary Assembly

Shrove Tuesday



Smoking Ceremony and Acknowledgement of Country

Djuker Willis-Hart came to Star yesterday to perform a special Smoking Ceremony and Acknowledgement of Country.



Staff Movements

A number of our Teacher Assistants are on leave over the next couple of weeks as they participate in professional learning.

- ⇒ Mr Chapman is away on Friday for a meeting.
- ⇒ Ms Gay is on leave on Friday.
- ⇒ Mrs Brunacci is on leave on Friday but the canteen will be open.
- ⇒ Mrs McGillivray is on professional learning next Monday.

COVID

It would seem a number of our community have been affected by COVID recently, especially in the primary school. It is difficult for us to know exactly how many, as some have been tested while others have not, while still displaying the symptoms of COVID.

It is a timely reminder for all of us to continue with good hygiene, while students should stay away from school if they are sick.

SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2024 and will begin on Wednesday 14th February. 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. Our Kinder teacher, Mrs Selina Taylor, will run SetUp this year.



Sacraments - a note from Father Bala

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

All Catholic parents are advised to bring up their children in the Catholic faith. In recent times many Catholic parents have not taken the spiritual foundation and nourishment of their children with sacraments and Catholic faith practices as seriously as the Church hopes. By bringing up children in the Catholic faith we shape their lives in faith and morals. This will help them in the future, both in their personal and professional lives. When Catholic parents do not fulfil their Catholic responsibility, it can have impacts on the future of the family and society.

I humbly request that Catholic parents show special attention to their children regarding the Catholic faith formation and sacraments, at least the sacraments of initiation. Grandparents, please help and encourage the young ones about the spiritual values of the sacraments and faith life.

Children who have reached the age of 12 and above are eligible to receive the sacraments of initiation (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation). If you would like your child to receive the sacraments of initiation, please contact Father Bala, the contact number is in the church newsletter.

Fr. A. Balasundaram CPPS

College Board

Would you like to join the College Board? The College Advisory Board is an important part of the school. It meets 6 times per year in the evening for about 1 hour and gets an update on how the school is going, asks questions of the Principal and gives advice to the Principal. There are no real other commitments outside these meetings (unless you are the secretary).

If you would like to get a bit more involved in the school and feel that you could help in this way, please contact the College office, leave your name and number, and Mr Chapman will get back to you.

Who to Contact

In this week's newsletter we have included a basic guide of who to contact around the school. Schools can often be complex operations and we don't always know the most appropriate person to speak to, so we hope that this guide provides some help to parents, carers and families.

School Communication Procedures

Schools can get busy and we sometimes can be unsure of who the most appropriate person is to contact at Star of the Sea Catholic College. The following, while not covering every possibility, gives a brief guide. Sometimes it may not be possible to speak to the person you want straight away, but by leaving a message at the office the person you want will be able to get back to you.

- **Mrs Carmen Robotham (Deputy Principal)** - for major concerns about behaviour or student wellbeing; for when students are reluctant to come to school.
- **Mrs Melissa McGillivray (Student Support Coordinator)** - for questions about special learning needs, Learning Plans, student wellbeing and NAPLAN.
- **Mrs Sally Walters (Curriculum Coordinator)** - for questions about curriculum and reporting and our literacy strategy.
- **Mr Oliver Cook (Year 10 Coordinator)** - for questions about Year 10 events and activities.
- **The class teacher (Primary)** - for questions or concerns about academic progress or social issues; for minor issues about behaviour.
- **The class teacher (Secondary)** - for questions or concerns about overall academic progress or social issues.
- **The subject teacher (Secondary)** - for questions or concerns about academic progress or behaviour in a certain class.
- **Mrs Kathryn Condric (Bursar)** - for questions or concerns around fees.
- **The College Office** - for all other questions or concerns. While the people in the office may not know the answer straight away, they will be able to find out from the appropriate person.
- **Mr Richard Chapman (Principal)** - while the Principal delegates certain duties to different staff around the College, if you feel your concerns have not been addressed adequately you can book an appointment with the Principal to help to address them. Or if you just want to have a chat about nothing in particular, you can usually find him on bus duty every morning out the front of the school.

From the Deputy Principal

Positive Behaviour Support at Star of the Sea

Positive Behaviour Support, or PBS as it is also called, is an approach to student management that focuses on using positive reinforcement and explicit teaching to support students to engage in positive behaviours. At Star of the Sea we strive to create a safe and supportive environment for everyone in our school community. This includes students and staff. We promote life-long learning to support students to reach their full potential and work in partnership with families in the education and socialisation of students.

In order to create a safe and supportive environment, as a school we have developed a set of expectations that members of the school community are expected to uphold and demonstrate. These expectations are underpinned by our main PBS statement which states that:

At Star of the Sea we are Safe, Respectful, Engaged Learners.



As a school we break down this statement into smaller parts and then focus on what it means to be safe, respectful and engaged learners. Students are explicitly taught strategies and behaviours that promote these three things.

A Focus on Respect

This week our focus is on respect. To support students to better understand how they can demonstrate respect we provide strategies that support students to be respectful and timely reminders about how to show respect. In the primary school we are using an acronym STARS to help remind students how they can sit respectfully and show respect during assemblies and classroom learning time. STARS stands for: Sit Tall Attentive Respectful Silent. Our students in the primary school are doing a wonderful job of demonstrating this behaviour regularly in assembly and in classrooms. Please talk to your child about the way in which they are able to be a STAR in our school by showing respectful behaviour.

Another area where we are encouraging students to be respectful is by asking them to follow an instruction the first time it is given. This can be more difficult for some students and this is a reason to practise and continue to remind students of this expectation. So far, many of our students are doing an excellent job of demonstrating this expectation.

In the secondary area we have been focused on creating respectful learning environments. Students are demonstrating a positive response to some of the recently introduced teaching approaches that are being used as part of the Insight work the school has embarked upon. The outcome of all students engaging positively in these strategies is that our classrooms are respectful, positive places of learning.



Primary Swimming Timetable

Tuesday:

- **1:20 - 2:10** - Year 2/3 Swimming
- **2:10 - 3:00** - Year 4 Swimming

Wednesday

- **No Swimming**

Thursday

- **1:20 - 2:10** –Year 5/6 Swimming

Reminder:

All students in the Kinder, Prep and Year 1/2 class will complete their swimming program in term 4.

Easter Raffle 2024

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

As Easter is coming fast we are aiming to be able to start selling tickets around March 4th and the raffle will be drawn on Holy Thursday (March 28th).

Please help by donating either confectionary or other Easter themed items. Proceeds will be donated to Caritas to support the great work they do.

Tickets can be purchased at the office by parents or you can request a book to be sent home by contacting Mrs Tame or the office.

Secondary students can buy tickets at the canteen. There will be senior students selling tickets in the primary playground at lunch times.

Thanks for your support.



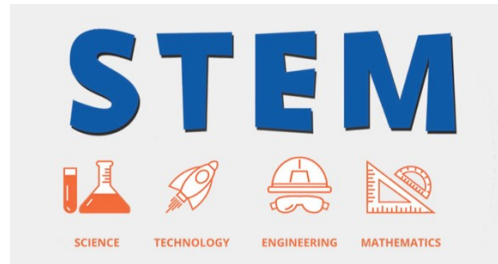
Term 1 - 2024	
Friday 1st March	Clean Up Australia Day
Monday 11h March	Eight Hours Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 12th March	Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival (Grades 3—10)
Wednesday 13th March	NAPLAN begins
Monday 18th March to Wednesday 20th March	Year 7 Camp
Wednesday 20th March to Friday 22nd March	Year 8 Camp
Tuesday 26th March	Caritas Fundraiser
Thursday 28th March	Holy Thursday prayer: beginning of Easter break
Wednesday 3rd April	Return to school from Easter break NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Friday 5th April	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Thursday 11th April	End of Term Assembly; last day of Term 1 for Students



Primary Assembly time change

Due to the Swimming Program commencing in Week 2, Primary Assembly will be held before lunch at 12:00PM on:

Thursday 15th February, 22nd February, 29th February and the 7th March.



STEM CLUB@Star 2024

Are you a budding Scientist, a clever mathematician, a computer geek or a Lego building extraordinaire? Then *STEM Club@Star* might be for you.

Starting weekly Thursday 22nd February 2024 between 3 pm and 4:15pm at Star of the Sea, 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.

The STEM Club is open to students in Years 5, 6 and 7's from any of the three George Town schools.

Why Join a STEM club?

Any student involved in a STEM Club has the potential to improve their confidence, learning and understanding of STEM subjects, which increases skill sets and levels of attainment. Through their enjoyment and enthusiasm in taking part in Club activities, students can challenge themselves and learn more about STEM subjects and the influence they can have on their life and the world around them. Participation in a STEM Club helps students realise that STEM subjects can be for them, increasing their confidence and overall employability skills.

What will we do?

Eventually *STEM Club@Star* will be driven by the students' ideas and focus, however to start with the club will have activities or discovery sessions like:

- who has the best helicopter competition using scrap paper, paperclips, scissors and a stairwell
- who has the fastest coke can racers
- what eggshells are made of
- make a conker
- who has the stretchiest slime

To register for the club or to find out more email fiona.harmer@catholic.tas.edu.au

OR

contact the Star of the Sea College office on (03) 6382 1242.