

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 27th February 2024

From the Principal

This week's newsletter contains a copy of our Strategic Priorities for the next 3 years. In a school, priorities are good to have. They keep us focussed and help us to stay on track. Without them, there is a danger we move from one thing to the next without really achieving anything.

Just like we have our priorities in schools and businesses, each of us individually has our own priorities. There are things that we would like to put above everything else. Many people would say that family is a priority, in that the needs of our families come before anyone else's needs. For others, a particular sporting club might be a priority, and no matter what else is happening, they won't miss a training session or game. Other's still might have their faith as a priority, and they will stay true to their beliefs no matter what.

While having priorities can be good, they can also take us down the wrong track. If prioritising our children's happiness leads us to spoiling them and them not learning responsibility, then our priorities have gone too far. If not missing a training session means we are neglecting those close to us, our priorities are doing more harm than good.

Within the Catholic Church at the moment, it is interesting to hear Pope Francis' priorities, and then to hear those who have different priorities getting upset with him. It would be fair to say that the Pope has as his priorities the idea of a church which is welcoming, as well as trying to get people to recognise that war and climate change are real threats to our common humanity. Others, though, think that these shouldn't be priorities and, instead, we should be focussing on people's sexuality or other particular "rules" within the Catholic Church.

In the end, our priorities say something about us as individuals and what sort of people we want to be. The things we spend our time and energy on tell others about the sort of person that we are. I would hope that our school priorities say something about the sort of school we want Star of the Sea to be - one that is welcoming, has the students' needs at the centre, and is interested in seeing students achieve well academically and socially.

So what are God's priorities? Or, what does God want our individual priorities to be? The answer to this is made pretty clear in the Gospels. Love your neighbour, look after the poor, comfort those who mourn. It's pretty simple stuff, but it is stuff we need to keep returning to time and again to make sure that our priorities don't conflict with God's, and we can be the people God calls us to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*If you will make time
with God your first
priority, everything else
in your life will fall into
place.*

- Joyce Meyer

*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

Second 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



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partner in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

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 - 22nd February 2024

Kinder	Willow Brown	For always listening well and following the routines at Kindergarten.
Prep	Lenny Hardinge	For his excellent start in Prep and having a go at all things.
Grade 1/2	Logan Hawkins	For her kindness and willingness to help others.
Grade 2/3	Yueni Tan	For her focus and always working hard to complete set tasks. Well done Yueni.
Grade 4	Hazel-Mae Provis	For an excellent start to Grade 4 and her determined focus on completing her work
Grade 5/6	Rhiannon Moore	For a wonderful start to Year 6! Your enthusiasm toward learning is to be commended.

Staff Movements

- A number of our TAs will be away tomorrow for Professional Learning.
- Mrs McGillivray will be away tomorrow for Professional Learning.
- Mrs Harmer will be away tomorrow for a meeting and next Tuesday for Professional Learning.
- Mrs Briscoe is on leave on Thursday.
- Mr Cook and Mrs Robotham will be away next Monday for Professional Learning.
- Mrs Taylor and Mrs Sikkens will be away next Tuesday for Professional Learning.
- Mrs Davis is on leave all of next week.

Vision and Strategy

As the saying goes, if everyone doesn't know your strategy, you don't have a strategy. With this in mind, today's newsletter includes a copy of our **Strategic Priorities for 2024-2026**.

The **2024-2026 Strategic Priorities** were developed towards the end of 2023 after consultation with staff and students. When we talk about priorities we are really saying that these are the things we will spend our time and money on, usually because we either believe they are important and we want to do more of them, or that they are important and we feel we aren't doing them well enough! That doesn't mean everything will be worked on at once; it is a three year plan.

We invite families to take time to have a read of these documents. They will hopefully provide a greater understanding of why we choose to do the things we do!

What's With All of the Mini-Whiteboards and Icypole Sticks?

Students from across the school may have come home in the first few weeks and talked about how they are using mini-whiteboards and that the teachers are using icypole sticks to pull out names. What's going on?

- In 2024, Star of the Sea has become an *Insight* school - that is, just like most of the other Catholic schools in Tasmania, we are changing the way we teach so we can get the best out of our students.
 - The way we are changing is that we are moving more and more to *explicit teaching*, which means teaching is a lot more teacher-directed and a lot less student investigation.
 - We are moving towards *explicit teaching* because, when all is said and done, research shows time and time again that *explicit teaching* is the most effective way to teach and leads to the best results for students.
 - Tasmania is not the first to go down this track - Canberra-Goulburn Catholic schools have been doing it for a few years now, with great results, and it has recently been announced that Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne will now use this method.
 - All of our staff have attended professional development days about *Insight* over the past year, and this year six of our secondary teachers and two of our primary teachers will be involved in more intensive learning.
 - Mini-whiteboards are used by teachers so they can quickly check for student understanding, while icypole sticks with student names on them are used so everyone in the class is on notice that they may have to answer a question, not just those with their hands up.
- ⇒ To find out more about *Insight*, visit <https://catholic.tas.edu.au/insight>.

Launceston Cup

Tomorrow (Wednesday) is the Launceston Cup and, while it is a holiday for Department of Education schools, it is not a holiday for Catholic schools and Star of the Sea will be operating as normal.

From the Deputy Principal

Positive Behaviour Support at Star of the Sea

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

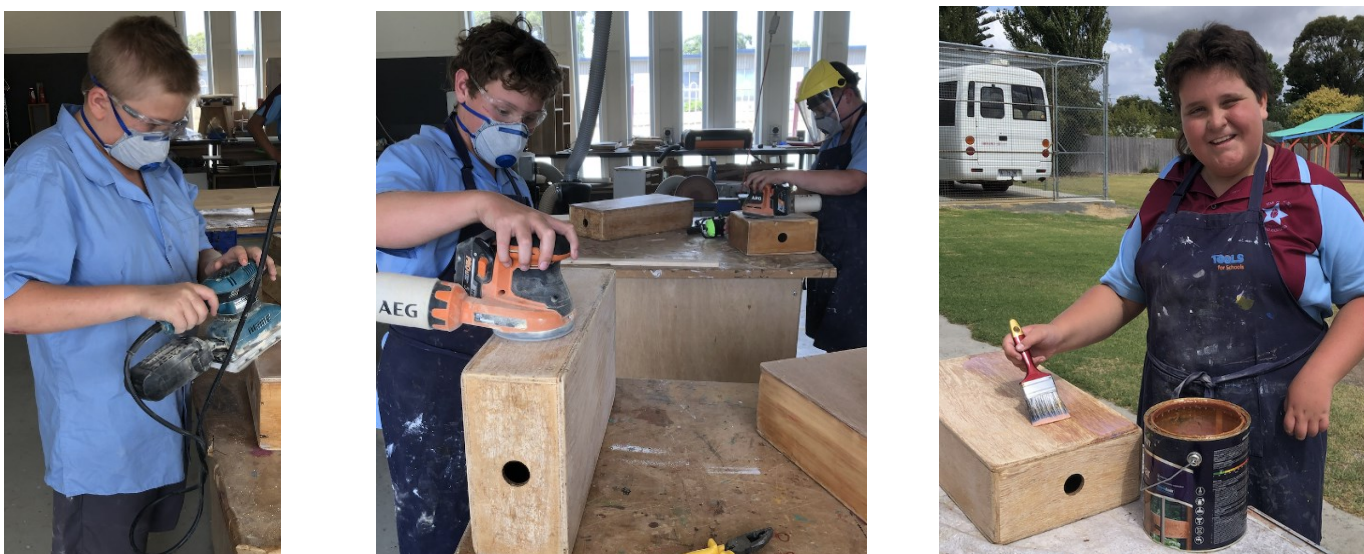
Over the past few weeks we have focused our attention on developing students' awareness of the ways they can ensure they are being safe and respectful students. This week our attention has been focused on being engaged learners.

Across the school there are many ways we work together to support student engagement in learning. This includes the way teachers carefully plan learning activities that relate to the relevant part of the Australian Curriculum and the age of the students and the way teachers embed quality teaching practices into their daily routines. Mr Chapman has written this week about the way staff are also using Insight strategies in the classrooms and these are an additional way to support student engagement. Our staff are very mindful of the needs of learners at different ages and stages and put thought into the way they can make learning engaging. Our hard working teaching assistants provide support to teachers and students, helping to guide student learning and participation. We are also very fortunate to have a group of quality relief teachers who work with enthusiasm to engage students in ongoing learning activities when staff are unable to be in the classroom.

Here is a snapshot of some of the wonderful learning experiences students have been engaged in over the past week at Star of the Sea.



Kinder students have been learning about puzzles and problem solving! They have also been learning about healthy habits and why it is important to wash their hands.



Secondary students who are involved in the Alternative Curriculum Program (Construction Projects) have been learning how to refurbish some of the Kinder equipment



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2027

Make Disciples of All

We will strive to:

Provide opportunities for our students to be involved in outreach to the community (AC)

Organise masses and prayer during school time that encourage the participation of youth and families (AC)

Develop a plan for the ongoing formation of staff (AC)

Excel in Learning for All

We will strive to:

Improve the physical environment of our school

Provide a range of different learning and teaching approaches for our students so that students are engaged in meaningful learning, including alternative programs

Seek ways to engage and inspire learning and participation of students throughout the school

Nurture Leadership for All

We will strive to:

Work with all of our community to build positive relationships with each other

Communicate constructively, both within the school and between school and home

Create more roles and opportunities for student leadership and teacher leadership throughout the school

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

We will strive to:

Improve the school community's knowledge of Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture through our *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Plan*

Sustainability

We will strive to:

Implement sustainable practices within our school community

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.



Shout Outs Term 1 2024 - 7th February to 21st February

Ella Hugo	Being kind and respectful
Lincon Penfold	Lovely manners, saying 'Good Morning' to Mrs Robotham
Eathen Maney	Awesome lining up
Chelsie Jenkins	Awesome lining up
Kiara Fisher	Awesome lining up
Evie Jacobs	Awesome lining up
Charlotte Judd	Awesome lining up
Vanessa Linley	Awesome lining up
Ella Hugo	Awesome lining up
Zhen Gbenimacho	A beautiful morning greeting to Raymond
Oliver Hewitt	Safe eating
Lenny Hardinge	Awesome lining up
Lucas Ratcliffe	A beautiful coloured dragon
James Moore	Continuing with his work
Rafael Tilain	Colouring his dragon beautifully
Elsie Sherriff	Cleaning our classroom
Logan Hawkins	A beautiful coloured dragon
Lucas Vincent	Continuing with his work
Noah Vincent	Being so kind and creating a space for our TA
Harrison Walker	Trying his best to be engaged in class activities
Noah Vincent	Being still during meditation
Oliver Hewitt	Being resilient
Lincon Penfold	Following instructions and keeping safe
Lucas Davis	Contributing (sharing) in class activities
Raymond Simpson	Asking clever questions
Lenny Hardinge	Always being engaged in all class activities
Zhen Gbenimacho	Sharing with his friends
Ella Hugo	Being very thoughtful
Brock Holden	Excellent spelling
Lindsie Barrett	Excellent spelling
Malakai Hyland	Excellent spelling
Chantz Brown	Excellent spelling
Hazel-Mae Provis	Excellent spelling
Arthur Millen	His love of Charlotte's Web
Rilee Brown	Modelling good behaviours at swimming
Dyson Bromley	Excellent spelling
Sophia Giles	Excellent spelling
Ella Hugo	Fantastic thinking and sorting
Lucas Davis	Keeping our room safe
Lucas Davis	Helping out others

You are a Star

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.



Primary Assembly time change reminder

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.

Term 1 - 2024	
Monday 4th 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



Archdiocese
of Hobart

**"The world offers you COMFORT, but
you were not made for comfort.
You were made for GREATNESS."**

Pope Benedict XVI

LIFE '24 to the FULL conference

26 - 28 April, 2024

Camp Clayton,
Turners Beach

High School aged
students (grade 7-12)

*\$230 per ticket includes
food & accomodation
(sibling discounts available)*

Love changes everything...

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To register, scan the QR code, or visit:
<https://events.humanitix.com/life-to-the-full>

