

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 11th February 2025

From the Principal

Do you have hope? You may hope to win Tattslotto. You may hope that we'll get some rain soon. Or you may hope that Carlton finally win that premiership.

All of these things are fine, we all desire that certain things will happen in our lives. But from a Catholic point-of-view, *hope* takes on a slightly different meaning.

In Catholicism, *hope* is a virtue, a quality which is considered good in people. And it is not about desiring things here in this life, but desiring happiness in the next. And, most importantly, it is placing our trust in Christ rather than on our own strength.

Now would you say you have *hope*? Who do you place your trust in?

This year is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church, a special year of prayer and conversion. Pope Francis has given it the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. In other words, we are asked to journey through this year with *hope*. We are asked to journey through the year placing our trust in God, being aware of God's presence in our everyday lives.

This is a difficult thing to do with the current state of the world. There are many conflicts around the world, there are the ongoing effects of COVID-19, there are concerns around the climate and the effect that this is having on communities, and there are many within our own community who are suffering illness or are struggling to make ends meet. How can we just "trust in God" when all of these things are happening?

Firstly we need to be realistic about what we can and can't do. Very few of us can have any effect on the conflicts in Ukraine or Gaza. However many of us can support those in our own community. Whether it be through visiting the sick, supporting those in need or just being a friendly ear, we need to realise that we are all called to be *Pilgrims of Hope*, that is we journey together through the year.

The Vision Statement of Star of the Sea calls on us to be a "welcoming and compassionate community, providing quality education so we can embrace the future as people of *hope*." We don't just "trust in God" that everything will be alright, but by being welcoming and compassionate we show ourselves as people of hope.

As we journey through the 2025 school year together, let us all remember our call to be people of hope and let us also remember that we all play a part in this. Our whole community takes this education journey together - staff, students, parents and carers. Like any long journey there will be tough times and easy times, times of great pain and times of great beauty. But we take it together. We support each other on our journey, we rely on God's strength rather than our own, and we look forward to the adventure ahead.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

**All it takes is
one good
person to
restore hope.**

- Pope Francis

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



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Star of the Sea Catholic College

Religious Education and Faith Development

Jubilee Year

This year, 2025, has been declared a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church. Jubilee years happen every 25 years, and are sacred times of prayer, pilgrimage, and conversion.

We are called to experience God's mercy through sacramental repentance and spiritual renewal.

The theme that Pope Francis has given the Jubilee Year is *Pilgrims of Hope*, a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the
whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.*

Amen



First day back - 2025



Welcome

We welcome Alyssa, Ari, Ashton, Audrey, Aurora, Avaya, Azalia, Bria, Connor, Christopher, Daisy, Eden, Ellie, Elijah, Imogene Jackson, Jasmine, Joseph, Kayleb, Kiara, Kiarnah, Lily, Lilyan, Logan, Macie, Madalyn, Makenzie, Mason, Medea, Sophia, Ruby, Tahi, Te Koha, and Zavier to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

- Welcome to **Mrs Shona Freeman** who is taking on a new role this year as our PE and Health teacher in the Primary area, along with co-teaching secondary PE. Mrs Freeman had the role of Student Wellbeing Office last year.
- We also welcome **Mr Jamie Laurence** who will teach secondary Health and co-teach secondary PE, along with other subjects in the secondary area. Mr Laurence is replacing Mr Cook for Term 1 while Mr Cook teaches in another school.
- During the holidays **Mrs Sally Walters** announced her retirement. Mrs Walters had been a teacher at Star of the Sea for 48 years and had played a big part in making the school what it is today. We wish her well in her retirement and we hope to give her a proper farewell in the coming weeks.
- Mr Goodall will only be teaching 4 days a week in 2025.
- Mrs Honeychurch will teach 4 days a week in 2025. On Wednesday the Grade 1/2 class will be taught by Mrs Freeman.
- Mrs Jones is taking leave for Terms 1 and 2 this year.
- Mrs Halley is our Instruction Leader of Religious Education, and as such has a certain amount of time out of class each week to support our Primary teachers with Religious Education. Mrs Freeman will be in the Prep class for most of Friday each week while Mrs Halley is performing this role.
- With Mrs Walters retirement, Ms Gay will teach 4 days a week in Term 1 until we advertise for a replacement.

Smoking Ceremony and Induction of College Leaders

As part of our ongoing commitment to recognising the original custodians of the land, we will have a special Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country this Friday 14th February at 10am. This will be followed immediately by our Induction of College Leaders in the church. Parents and carers are welcome to join us. The Smoking Ceremony will take place outside the lower Primary classrooms.

Dropping Off Students Reminders

Some reminders for all families for the start of 2025:

- When dropping off students, please do not park or stop on the yellow lines in William St as it blocks the view of the crossing for oncoming traffic and blocks the view of oncoming traffic for those using the crossing.
- Our school duty of care begins at 8:30am when we open the doors. For students who need to arrive before that time we would suggest that Primary students wait around the back near the Grade 1/2 classroom.

SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2024 and will begin on **Wednesday 19th 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.



College Newsletter

Our College newsletter comes out every Tuesday during term time. It is distributed via Compass and our College Facebook page, whilst a hard copy is provided to the youngest siblings in the Primary school. We also provide hard copies for our secondary students to pick up outside the office should they want to take one home, along with any parents or carers.

Rather than overloading our families with too much information in the first week (!), we will use future newsletters to provide further important information, like who to contact around the school and our strategic priorities for this year.

Communication Across the Community

Star of the Sea Catholic College uses the following methods to communicate information to our community:

- *Compass* - this is our primary method of communication to families. Messages, letters home, reports and attendance, consent for excursions are all maintained through Compass. All parents should have access to Compass. Please contact the office should you need your password reset. For parents new to the College, a letter has been emailed home to parents in regards to Compass, including App set up and passwords.
- *Newsletter* - this is mainly used to communicate upcoming events and general notices to our families and the broader community, along with keeping the community up-to-date with what is happening at our school.
- *Facebook* - our Facebook page is mainly used to keep the community up-to-date with the great things happening around our school. It is used very rarely to send notices, unless those notices affect people outside the school community.
- *Hard Copies of letters home* - we are trying to reduce the number of hard copies of letters to go home as we strive to become more sustainable. It will only be on rare occasions that the school sends home hard copies of letters, as most of this type of communication will be conducted through Compass.

Swimming Program

Our swimming program for Year 3-10 starts this week. Students please wear PE uniform on these days.

Monday / Tuesday / Friday

Grade 3 - leaving school at 1:10 pm returning around 2:00 pm

Grade 4/5 - leaving school around 1:30 pm returning around 2:30 pm

Grade 5/6 - leaving school around 1:45 pm returning at 3:00 pm

Wednesday

Grade 9/10 - leaving school around 1:30 pm returning by 3:00 pm

Thursday

Grade 7/8 - leaving school around 1:30 pm returning by 3:00 pm

From the Deputy Principal

Term One has begun in a really positive way with enthusiastic students fully engaged in their learning. We have a particular focus at the moment on our school-wide expectations. When students are safe, respectful, engaged learners they are going to be doing a lot of things right and this increases the instances of expectations being demonstrated by all students.

This week curriculum programs have had a strong literacy and numeracy focus in primary classes. In older year levels students have been introduced to their subject specific learning goals and have launched into their learning activities in a focused manner. We have also begun our Swimming Program with students from Grades 3 through to 10 and this will continue for the next 3 weeks in the lead up to the swimming carnival which is being held on Wednesday March 12th.

Across Australia, as well as internationally, today is Safer Internet Day. This is an opportunity to raise awareness about issues related to internet use and internet safety. We are focusing on safe and respectful use of internet resources and pages as well as personal safety whilst online. You can find out more about the messages being promoted by visiting the Safer Internet Day hub at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid>.

There are also many resources about safe internet use available on the Kids Helpline website: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/issues/staying-safe-online>. We also have our Star of the Sea School TV page that has resources for parents and families about safe internet use https://starsea.tas.schooltv.me/searcher?search_api_fulltext=online+safety

Term 1 Calendar

Friday 14th February	Induction of College Leaders and Welcome to Country (10am)
Wednesday 19th February	9:00-10:30am SetUp for Success starts
Wednesday 26th February - Friday 28th February	Year 7 Camp
Friday 28th February	Clean Up Australia Day
Tuesday 4th March	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 12th March	Star of the Sea Swimming Carnival Yr 3-10 NAPLAN begins
Wednesday 2nd April	NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Thursday 3rd April	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 8th April	Caritas fundraiser
Thursday 10th April	End of Term Assembly; last day of Term 1 for students
Friday 11th April	Staff Spirituality Day
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day