

# Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 18th February 2025

## From the Principal

The Jubilee year in the Catholic church began last Christmas with Pope Francis passing through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica.

The idea of passing through a Holy Door is surrounded in symbolism. The Holy Doors (there are four around Rome in different churches) are meant to represent the passage to salvation, a path to new and eternal life. It was this path that was opened up to us by Jesus.

As part of the Jubilee Year, we are all encouraged to pass through the Holy Doors. Obviously we all can't get to Rome to do this, so every diocese and archdiocese have their own Holy Doors (in Tasmania's case, they are at the Catholic churches in Westbury, Richmond, Ross and Lutana). Many people and parishes will take pilgrimages to these churches or others around Australia or the world to pass through the Holy Doors, to remind themselves of the path to eternal life.

Pope Saint John Paul II encouraged people to pass through Holy Doors as "to pass through that door means to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; it is to strengthen faith in him in order to live the new life which he has given us. It is a decision which presumes freedom to choose and also the courage to leave something behind, in the knowledge that what is gained is divine life."

But during this year we are also asked to open "the doors of our hearts." We are asked to recognise those in need and to provide hope where we can. Passing through a Holy Door can not be a selfish act. It is only beneficial if we see it as opening up something in ourselves.

Last Friday we commenced our school year formally with a Smoking Ceremony and Induction of College Leaders. Both of these events are examples of how we open the doors of our hearts. Our Smoking Ceremony opened us up to recognising that we are grateful for the role the Aboriginal people of Tasmania played in looking after the land for the last 40,000 years, with many still looking after the land today. It opens our hearts to the realisation that we all have a role to play in this.

Our student leaders have also opened their hearts. Student leadership is an act of service. It is a role which requires our students to think of others and to ask themselves how they can serve them.

This Jubilee year, let us all think of ways we can "open the doors of our hearts." We may not all take a pilgrimage to one of the churches with Holy Doors, but we can all look to recognise the needs of others and do what we can as pilgrims of hope. It is in this way we become the people God calls us to be.

**Richard Chapman**  
Principal



*Attentiveness,  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion.*

*Throw open the  
doors of your  
heart.*

*Everyone knows  
how to do it.*

*Everyone knows  
whether their  
door is closed or  
half-closed.*

**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

Heart  
Spirituality



Attentiveness  
Hospitality  
Compassion

## Religious Education and Faith Development

### Psalm for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.



## Term 1 Calendar

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

### SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2025 and will begin tomorrow, **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.





## Induction of College Leaders



**Our College Leaders,  
Henry Lindfors, Ruby Gower, Harry Clark, Shiloh Leslie,  
Lillian Hockey, Maddison McDonald and Brianna Currie with Sister Elizabeth Vagg**

## Smoking Ceremony





## Staff Movements

- Mr Chapman is away on Friday for a meeting.
- Mrs Tame is away next Tuesday for a meeting.

## Sacraments

If your child is a baptised Catholic and you would like them to receive the Sacraments (Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation) you are welcome to have a discussion with our Grade 5/6 teacher, Mrs Lynelle Davis, or contact Father Bala at the Parish Ph: 6382 1489 or Mob: 0447 498 660. Parents of students in Grade 3 and upwards are welcome to explore this opportunity to become a full member of the Catholic church.

If any parents would like their child of any age to become a baptised Catholic, they are also most welcome to contact Mrs Davis or Father Bala.

## 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.

## Buses

We have a list of which Primary students we expect to be on each bus in the afternoon. Mrs McGillivray is on afternoon Bus Duty every day she is at school. If your child is going to catch a bus in the afternoon when they wouldn't normally do so, we would ask that you contact the College office to let them know. Otherwise they may not be allowed on the bus by the duty teacher!

## Secondary Students at Recess and Lunch

Now that the school year has begun and students are settled into routines, we will start to provide more opportunities for our secondary students to make greater use of the Primary play area and engage with the Primary students during recess and lunch. Last Friday the Year 7s were allowed to start to use all of the Primary playground (except for the play equipment) and we expect by the end of this week the Year 8, 9 and 10s will be able to do the same.

## Hot School Lunches

School lunches begin this week and are as follows:

- Prep to Grade 3 will have their lunch on Friday
- Grade 4 to 6 on Wednesday

## 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.

**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 or Mrs Natasha Davis (Finance Officers)** - 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.

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## Working With Vulnerable People Cards

There has been a change in legislation regarding the need for people who come on our school site to have Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) cards.

As of this year, any contractor, volunteer or guest speaker at Star of the Sea must have an up-to-date WWVP card.

In the past it was okay for these people to come onto the site and do work or volunteer without a WWVP card, as long as they were accompanied by a staff member who did. This is no longer the case. Without an up-to-date WWVP card, people will be unable to work or volunteer at the school, even as a once-off.

This also applies to parents if they are working or volunteering at Star of the Sea. It does not apply to parents and carers when they are dropping off or picking up their students, or coming into the school for a meeting with a staff member, or participating as a parent in SetUp.

## From the Deputy Principal

*At Star of the Sea we are safe, respectful, engaged learners.*

Being safe, respectful, engaged learners is a key focus for us here at Star of the Sea. Our work with students is underpinned by this and our approaches to teaching and learning are shaped around supporting all students to achieve these expectations. At the start of each year we explicitly teach our expectations related to being safe, respectful, engaged learners and it has been pleasing to see the way in which the majority of students have embraced this over the past few weeks.

Our endeavour is to guide our students to reach their potential as learners and as members of our community. We are focused on challenging students to be the best version of themselves. When we do this, students feel challenged. For some people, being challenged is exciting and helps them to strive for greater things. Some people thrive on this and feel a real sense of accomplishment. For others, being challenged can be hard and at times it can feel overwhelming. If your child is feeling overwhelmed by any of their learning experiences at school please ensure you share this with your child's teacher so we can provide the right support to help them navigate the challenges they are facing. It is natural for a student to feel that a new year level is harder than the previous one. Use encouraging statements to help build your child's confidence and remind them that with perseverance they can do hard things. If you are concerned please let someone know.



Soon we will be calling for Easter egg donations for our major fundraiser for Term One. Our Easter raffle raises money for Project Compassion, which supports the work of Caritas throughout Australia and around the world. Easter egg donations can be left at the front office and it would be greatly appreciated if these could be received by early March so we can put our raffle prize on display. Raffle tickets will be available from the first week in March.

### STAR CODERS LEGO LEAGUE

Lego League will be commencing Wednesday 26th Feb in the secondary area at 3.15 to 4.30 pm

This is open to any George Town student from Grade 4 to Grade 7. Please bring snacks, drinks, and a computer and your best team spirit.

Please note parents are responsible to collect students at 4.30pm.

