

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 25th March 2025

From the Principal

It seems that giving and receiving feedback is the way to go, these days. Every time I step into a hotel, get a parcel delivered by mail, or use an app, it seems people want me to rate their performance. Everybody says they like getting feedback, until they get feedback.

Although we all realise the importance of feedback to help us get better at what we do, it can also be pretty scary. None of us really like having people tell us the areas in our lives or our work that we can improve upon. It takes a great deal of humility to be able to accept negative feedback without getting defensive about it.

Currently, I am on both sides of the feedback coin. We have recently completed interviews for those who applied for a role at our school here for next term, and I will be required to give feedback to both successful and unsuccessful candidates. On the other side of the coin, I have invited many of our staff to provide me with feedback about my leadership here at Star of the Sea and that feedback will eventually be provided to me to reflect upon. I have to ask myself how I would like to receive feedback and then keep that in mind when providing feedback to others.

And just to complete the trifecta, our school is undergoing a process where it will collect feedback from staff, students and parents through a School Effectiveness Survey (which many parents and carers would have received an email about recently). This feedback will let us know how our school is doing in different areas and provide some clarity for how we move into the future.

So what should we do when we get feedback?

Some say the first step is in how you receive it. We should be aiming to receive it with grace and poise, neither rejecting it or being enthusiastic about it. We need to allow ourselves to listen to what the feedback actually is before reacting to the first possibly negative word we hear.

Once we have heard it, we then need to let it bubble around for a while. We need to be curious about it. We need to ask ourselves what the feedback is actually telling us. The beauty of feedback is that it gives us the chance to hear how other people perceive us. The difficulty can be when those perceptions don't match our own. We need to explore this and ask ourselves why that is.

Finally, we need to act honestly on the feedback. If we receive feedback and make no changes, then it was a waste of time getting it. A good way of going about it is asking ourselves - if the same opportunity for feedback was given in 6 months, what would I need to change so that the feedback was more positive.

Getting feedback is hard, no matter who we are. But if we are in the business of serving others, like our school is, then we need to be prepared to listen to feedback so that we can make sure what we are doing is hitting the mark. We will only improve if we know what to improve.

Richard Chapman, Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Feedback is the
breakfast of
champions. -
Ken Blanchard*

*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: 6382 1242 Email: sots.reception@catholic.tas.edu.au

www.starsea.tas.edu.au



Star of the Sea Catholic College

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion



Religious Education and Faith Development

Third Week of Lent



Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, unsure if he could ever achieve his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia. Through this initiative, Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. Along the way, he built confidence, made friends and gained a sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.

Lam's journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives.



Will you walk alongside people like Lam this Lent?

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, buying a ticket in our Easter Egg raffle or by scanning the QR code.

Stars of the Week - 20th March 2025

Kinder

Lilyan Monaghan

For her positive and enthusiastic approach towards everything in Kindergarten.

Prep

Lillian McKean

For listening so well in lessons and speaking up in a loud and clear voice. Keep it up!

Grade 1/2

Zhen Gbenimacho

For being a kind friend and a caring member of our class.

Grade 3

Chad Jenkins

For his focus and high engagement with all InitialLit literacy tasks. Well done Chad.

Grade 4/5

William McKean

For his consistent focus in completing his written work.

Grade 5/6

Chantz Brown

For her dedication to always ensuring her mathematical learning is neat. Keep up the great work!

Primary Assembly Sharing:

This week: Grade 5/6

Next Week: Grade 4/5

Harmony Day

On Friday schools and communities around Australia celebrated Harmony Day.

This was an opportunity to connect with others and share messages about positive relationships and acceptance.

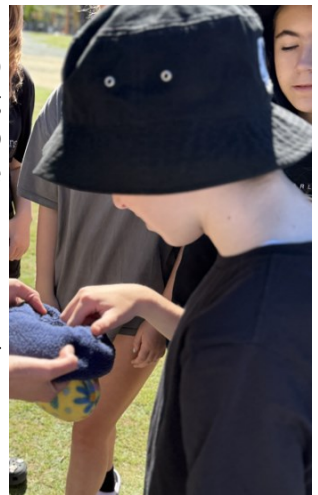
The colour for Harmony Day is orange and we encouraged staff and students to wear a pop of orange on the day. Some of our students completed Harmony Day activities in class, had their nails painted orange, or joined in the recess and lunchtime activities



Year 8 Camp

Last week students in Year 8 had the opportunity to participate in their camp experience. The group had a wonderful three days on Tasmania's East Coast visiting Natureworld near Bicheno before setting up camp for their two night stay. The group went on a foreshore walk from Waub's Bay to the Gulch in Bicheno investigating the granite rock formations and interesting features of this part of the coast line before cooking dinner together at the campsite.

On Wednesday everyone travelled to the Freycinet peninsula for a picturesque kayaking trip across Coles Bay followed by a walk to the Wine Glass Bay lookout. The day concluded with a trip to Cape Tourville, dinner at a local cafe and a penguin tour near Diamond Island.



On Thursday everyone packed up the camp site and headed to the Waub's Bay Whaling Lookout. A beach walk and visit to the blowhole that was pumping a tremendous amount of water up over the granite rocks was the final part of the itinerary in Bicheno.

A stop in Campbell Town for lunch broke up the bus ride back to school. We were very impressed by the group of students who joined us on camp. They participated in the camp experience positively and worked cooperatively throughout the three days.

We would like to thank Mr Laurence, Mr Davis and Mrs Robotham for joining our students on camp.



Staff Movements

Mrs Briscoe is on leave tomorrow (Wednesday).

Mrs McGillivray is at Professional Learning on Thursday.

Mrs Robotham is at a meeting on Friday.

Mrs Tame is on leave on Friday.

Mrs Davis is on Long Service Leave and will return next Monday

Compass Portal at the Office

Have you used our Compass Portal before? When students are signed out of the school before the end of the day, parents are asked to come into the office to sign them out via the Compass Portal. This is the thing that looks like an iPad just inside the office window.

The process of signing a student out takes about 30 seconds.

Sometimes parents want their child to leave school early with a person who is not on our records as being a carer for that child. In those cases, we simply ask parents to contact the office and let the office know who will be picking them up. Obviously the office can't let any student leave with someone who is not their carer or who the carer has given permission for.

Rainbows Program

We are very lucky to have Mrs Helen Halley who can deliver the Rainbows Program here at Star of the Sea. We would encourage everyone to have a read of the information included about this in today's newsletter, and to contact Mrs Halley for any further details.

School Lunches

School Lunches will be normal days this week:

Wednesday - Grades 3-6

Friday - Prep - Grade 2

Book Pack Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Book Pack survey.

In the interest of transparency, these were the results:

How satisfactory was the way the school organised this year's Book Packs?

Very satisfactory - 43.2%

Satisfactory - 45.9%

Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory - 5.4%

Unsatisfactory - 5.4%

Very unsatisfactory - 0%

Would you prefer to have a Book Pack organised for your children or to purchase the materials yourself?

Prefer to have a book pack organised - 76.3%

Prefer to purchase the materials myself - 23.7%

We have an option of working with a supplier so parents or carers can order online ONLY the stationary that they need.

I would prefer to order online ONLY the stationary that my children need - 42.1%

I prefer the current way Book Packs are organised - 57.9%

Where to from here? We will take these results and see what option will be most suitable for the 2025 Book Packs process.

Message for Secondary Students

Last Friday during the Secondary Assembly, Mr Chapman reminded students about what is appropriate to bring to school and what is not.

We say this every year, not because it is an issue for us, but because Tasmania Police ask us (and all schools) to be very clear to students about what is okay and not okay to bring to school.

The following is a list (that is not exhaustive) of what should never be brought to school:

- Guns
- Knives
- Anything that can be used as a weapon
- Vapes
- Cigarettes
- Non-prescription medicine
- Drugs
- Anything expensive that could get damaged at school.

Mr Chapman also reminded students that putting any images or video of staff on social media without their permission is a very serious offence, and can lead to that student being asked to leave the school.

Again, we don't have issues with students bringing weapons to school, but we will keep being clear with students that they shouldn't!

College Board

Last week we had our College Advisory Board AGM, along with the first Ordinary meeting.

The College Board for 2025 is:

Heidi Brown (Chair)
Megan Sherriff (Secretary)
Dianha Coetzer
Ashley Lee
Richard Chapman (Principal - *ex officio*)
Fr Bala (Parish Priest - *ex officio*)

There is still room for one or two more members to join the Board. Please contact Mr Chapman if you are interested.

Re: School Improvement Surveys

Insight SRC is conducting this survey on behalf of Star of the Sea and Catholic Education Tasmania. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of their children's experience of school.

The results will benefit everyone within the school by providing valuable information about the ways in which the school can use staff, student and parent input to plan programs and activities to improve your child's experience at school.

While your participation is voluntary, it is important to remember that the success of this important project is dependent on the involvement of all parents.

Login details will be sent home to all parents this week.

IN THE CLASSROOM

The Australian Curriculum

Over the past 12 months staff have been working on updating their curriculum documents in line with Version 9 of The Australian Curriculum. This has meant that some subjects have undergone changes in content and this is now reflected in the units of work students are covering in class. During Term One, all subject teachers have reviewed and updated their Scope and Sequence documents to ensure these align with the updated curriculum content.

In Secondary classes students have had new options introduced in Years 9 & 10 as well as the opportunity to participate in Vocational Education Training. The Alternative Curriculum Program is also operating for older students in the College.

Primary Literacy Testing

Over the past few weeks our primary students have participated in some literacy testing which helps to provide an overall picture of their strengths and weaknesses in this area. Teachers and TA's continue to lead programs in the classroom that focus on improving literacy skills. A lot of time and effort has gone into the preparation for the literacy testing and the follow up data entry. We thank all staff who have been involved in this and congratulate the students on the positive way they have participated in the testing.

Early Numeracy Screener

Students in Prep and Year 1 will soon be participating in the Early Numeracy Screener Project. Schools around Australia are participating in this project and Star of the Sea has been invited to be a part of this. Parents of Prep and Grade 1 students should have received an email with a link to an online consent form earlier in March. A follow up email has also recently been sent. Please ensure you have completed this consent form and entered your child's classroom teacher's email in the correct section. We would appreciate all consent forms being completed by Wednesday March 26th. Thank you to parents who have already completed the consent form.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

George Town Futures Expo

On Wednesday students in Years 9 & 10 will visit the George Town Futures Expo being presented by the Northern Employment and Business Hub at the Memorial Hall. There will be over 40 exhibitors at the expo, with opportunities for students to hear from industry professionals and community leaders about career pathways and experiences.

School Based Admin Traineeship

An opportunity is available for a Year 10 student to take up a School Based Administration Traineeship with KEEN (Key Employment and Education Network) in George Town.

The successful applicant will need to have proficient IT skills and will be required to work during the school week during an arranged period of time between 7-14 hours.

If you are interested in this opportunity please speak to Mrs Robotham this week.



Rainbows

Dear Parent/Carer

The Rainbows program is designed to be supportive of children being affected by changes in the family structure. Sometimes your child may feel worried, upset, confused, guilty or angry because their family structure has changed. They may feel out of place or overwhelmed in their new family situation. Or they may be grieving and sad because of a painful loss in their family. If your child is part of a single-parent family, a step-family or struggling through a painful experience of loss, this program could assist them to express and understand their feelings.

At school we would like to offer time for your child to get together with other children their age. Here they can share their feelings, talk about their grief in a safe, secure and confidential environment and develop appropriate coping mechanisms which they can use as lifelong skills. This group is called "Rainbows", based on God's promise of the Rainbow after the storm. The group will run for approximately 10 weeks for an hour a week on Fridays.

If you think your child would benefit from participating, please fill out the registration form below and return via your child's class teacher or at the School Office or email consent to the email address below.

Please don't hesitate to contact Helen Halley if you require any further information either in person or at helen.halley@catholic.tas.edu.au

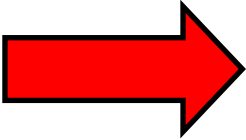
Child's Name _____ Age ____ Class ____

Parent's name/s _____

Parent's signature _____

Please tick appropriate box

- Family member has died
- Parents are separated or divorced
- My child's experience is _____



Star of the Sea Catholic College
1st – 2nd -3rd Prizes
Tickets \$1
and available from the College Office



SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back for 2025.

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.



Wednesday 2nd April	NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Thursday 3rd April	TPSSA Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 8th April	Caritas fundraiser
Wednesday 9th April	End of Term Assembly
Thursday 10th April	Last Day of Term 1 for students
Friday 11th April	Staff Spirituality Day
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day