

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 26th August 2025

From the Principal

Each week I share with the staff a *Policy of the Week*. What that basically means is that I choose a policy that the school abides by and offer it to the staff to read and ask questions about. It is a good chance for me to refresh myself with policies as well. Like most people, I read policies once and then only bring them out again when a certain situation arises. None of these policies are secret - they are all available on the Catholic Education Tasmania website (<https://catholic.tas.edu.au/policies>) as they are applicable to all Catholic schools in Tasmania.

Last week I shared the *Enrolment Policy*. It is not a policy I refer to regularly at Star of the Sea, as it more applies to city schools that are bursting at the seams and need a process to go through to decide which children should take priority around enrolment time. At this stage there are not enough children in George Town for any school to be bursting at the seams! (Although when our current Grade 5's hit Year 7, we may have to refer to the policy...)

With all this in mind, it was good to read it with fresh eyes, and I was drawn to one particular point in the policy - *The preferential option for the underprivileged, disadvantaged, and marginalised is fundamental in Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools have a responsibility to positively discriminate in favour of those who are in any way marginalised.*

It is something which people outside of Catholic schools often aren't aware of. Unfortunately some Catholic schools have a reputation of being quite prestigious and uppity, only accepting enrolments from a certain *type* of family. People sometimes describe Catholic schools as private schools, as if only a privileged few can enrol in them.

But that's not what most Catholic schools are all about, and certainly not Star of the Sea. If we go by the wording of the policy, Catholic schools should be welcome to all, but especially those who are marginalised in some way. We need to be prepared to take this to the point that, if there were two people enrolling and there was only one spot available, and if one family were wealthy and stable and the second family couldn't afford fees or uniform and one of the parents was in jail, then we offer the spot to the second family and support them with paying fees.

This may go against some people's perception of a Catholic school and what we're about, and, fortunately, I have never been put in the position where I have had to decide between enrolling one student or another. Instead, I have been able to welcome all families who would like their child to be educated at a Catholic school.

All of this helps us to reflect upon what Catholic schools hope to achieve. We would prefer that our children don't grow up in a society full of inequity, where their trajectory in life is decided by whether their parents were able to pay for an education or not. We would like everyone to have a good chance in life, and getting a sound education is one way that this can happen. To be part of the Star of the Sea Catholic community means being a part of a community where all are welcome, regardless of background. In this way, we hope to embrace the future as people of hope.

Richard Chapman

Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Education is the
most powerful
weapon we can use
to change the
world.*

- Nelson Mandela

*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

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

Psalm for 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.



Stars of the Week - 21st August 2025

Kinder	Lilyan Monaghan	For being such an energetic student and ALWAYS focusing her energy in the right direction at Kinder
Prep	Finley Wolf	For doing such great work in class, especially with his InitialLit and Maths.
Grade 1/2	Lucas Ratcliffe	For always working to the best of his abilities in all learning areas.
Grade 3	Joseph Pride	For demonstrating great focus and consistently high achievement in Spelling Mastery.
Grade 4/5	Charlotte Judd	For her dedicated effort and positive attitude towards learning.
Grade 5/6	Thomas Singline	For always being respectful and a kind participant during Winter Sport.

Staff Movements

Mrs Robotham is on PL on Thursday.
Mrs McGillivray is on leave next week.

Welcome

We welcome Isaiah (Year 7) and Melody (Kinder) and their families to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Sick Students

Last week saw the latest cold/flu/COVID strains pass through our school, and we had lots of students away, especially in the secondary area. Many teachers slowed down their teaching due to lack of students in class, and will try to catch up as the year goes on. Hopefully everyone is on the improve soon and we keep all who are ill in our prayers.

Works in the Secondary Area

Over the next two weeks we are having windows replaced on the northern side of the Secondary campus. This affects our Finance office and Mrs Tame's office. During this time, Mrs Condric will only be at school for short periods of time and Mrs Natasha Davis and Mrs Tame will work out of other spaces within the school.

Winter Sport - Primary

This Friday will see the last round of Winter Sport for our Primary students. We wish them well and we thank the staff who have supported these days as well as the Year 9 and 10 students who have been assisting with umpiring.

Winter Sport - Secondary

Our Winter Sport for Secondary students is also coming to an end, with only our Year 9/10 netballers to play this week. We thank the students for their efforts and all of the staff who have coached and managed teams.

Cancer Council Fundraiser

Rhianna Crowden from South George Town Primary is raising money for the Cancer Council by running 15km on 28th September in support of staff at the school. A donation tin can be found at the front office for this important cause.

Lockdown Practice

Yesterday we had a lockdown practice to see how we would approach a lockdown being called whilst students were outside. The students were made aware that there would be a practice and we will take our learnings from it to make any adjustments needed.

PISA Testing

It was reported in last week's newsletter that PISA testing was this week, but it will now be the week of September 8th. This only affects a small amount of secondary students.

Enrolments for 2026

Enrolments for 2026 for all year levels are now open **and we are currently conducting enrolment interviews for those who have handed their enrolment forms into the school.**

Families wishing to enrol into Star of the Sea for 2026 can call into the office for an enrolment form or download one from our website: starsea.tas.edu.au. We encourage all enrolments to be finalised by soon so that we can organise transition days for Year 7 and our Little Stars program for Kinders.

Star of the Sea Church Times

Father Bala is currently on holidays and this means there is no Saturday evening Vigil Mass for the month of August. Mass will only occur on Sundays at 11:00am at the George Town Catholic Church (Our Lady Star of the Sea) which is located in Goulburn Street, across the road from the Hall.

School Lunches this Week

School lunches are as normal this week:

Wednesday- 3s to 6s

Next Monday - Preps and 1/2s

Prize Donations for Trivia Night

Are you able to make a donation toward our Trivia Night Hamper Prizes? The winning table and runners up will receive a hamper full of prizes that can be distributed amongst the contestants from that table. We are looking for donations of items that can be included in our gift hampers such as boxes of chocolates or other gifts, vouchers for local businesses or health and beauty services. Other things that could be donated are Gift Cards for online shopping, Xbox or Play Station gift cards, pamper or self care items and gourmet food items. Items can be left at the front office or dropped off to Mrs Robotham's office over the next few weeks.

Primary Chess Competition

Next Monday, September 1st we will have a group of students travelling to Launceston to participate in the Primary Chess Competition. Students who have regularly participated in the Monday Chess sessions who are in Grade 4, 5 or 6 have been invited to attend. If your child would like to be included in this opportunity and they have regularly been a part of the Monday Chess group, please contact Mrs Robotham. We only have a limited number of places available and student numbers will be finalised this week.

Trivia Night Friday September 5th



The Year 10 Student Leaders are in the process of planning this year's Trivia Night.

The proceeds from this event will go towards the outreach work the Year 10's do toward the end of the year when they purchase gifts for The Wishing Tree.

We hope you can join us for this great social event, a night of brain teasing fun, on the spot prizes and a chance to win one of our giant prize hampers. Tables of up to 10 can be accommodated.

Tickets can be purchased individually for \$15 per person or \$150 for a table of 10.

Tickets will be available from the front office.

Medication at school

Parent responsibilities



Complete and submit the Authorisation for Administration of Medication form annually or whenever medication requirements change.



Ensure medication is supplied ready to administer in the exact form and dosage required, as staff must not modify medication. (e.g. cutting tablets).



Supply medication that is in-date and provided in a pharmacy-labelled container or a pharmacy-prepared Webster-pak



Medication should never be sent in unlabelled bags, food containers, lunch boxes, or any other unsuitable packaging.



Advise the school promptly of any changes to their child's medication, medical condition, or treatment plan.



For self-administration, provide written permission from a medical practitioner, dentist, pharmacist, authorised nurse practitioner or optometrist using the Authorisation for the Administration of Medication form

Thank you for your support in keeping the students safe at school

SetUp for Success 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, is running SetUp this year.



Winter Sports Years 7, 8, 9 & 10

Week 5 results

- Yr 9/10 Netball 22-2 loss
- Yr 9/10 Soccer 6-1 loss
- 7/8 Soccer Forfeit
- 7/8 Netball 22-7 loss



Week 6 games

Wednesday 27th August Years 9/10

- Netball Vs Newstead Christian School at Hobblers Bridge



Calendar Term 3 - 2025	
Thursday 4th September	Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
Tuesday 9th September	Year 9 Reflection Day
Wednesday 10th September	Year 8 Reflection Day 9/10 Winter Sport Grand Finals
Thursday 11th September -	Year 10 Reflection Day 7/8 Winter Sport Grand Finals, RUOK Day
Wednesday 24th September	End of Term Assembly
Thursday 25th September	Country Gold
Friday 26th September	Term 3 Ends

Father's Day... Is only one week away.

So we are starting to collect Father's day presents now for our stall.

If you are a skilled person who could make a few donations

Or a dedicated shopper with an extra few dollars.

Or you have a few extra unused things around the house.....

We would love a gift from you and your family.

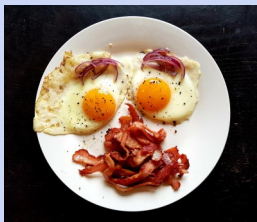
All donations gratefully accepted.



Emotion of the week

Overwhelmed

We feel overwhelmed when we are submerged by our thoughts and emotions about all of life's current problems, to the point where we lack productivity and feel frozen or paralyzed. (*talkspace.com*)



Father's Day Breakfast

Thursday 4th September

7.30am to 8.30am



Fathers and father-figures are welcome to come to school and enjoy bacon, sausages, eggs, beans and toast with the students

For catering purposes please RSVP by Thursday 28th August.

_____ will attend the Father's Day breakfast with my child/ren

We will be there about (please circle) **7.30am** **7.45am** **8.00am** **8.15am**

Can you please cater for the following dietary requirement/s

Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

The following classes will be leading assemblies over the coming weeks:

WEEK 5	Thursday 28th August	12.10pm	Kinder
WEEK 6	Thursday 4th September	12.10pm	5/6
WEEK 7	Thursday 11th September	12.10pm	4/5
WEEK 8	Thursday 18th September	12.10pm	3

Please note that this roster may change

Parent Information Evening - Free Webinar September 3rd at 7:30 pm Social Media, Screen Time, Brain Development and Parental Controls



A FREE WEBINAR Digital media literacy & safety

PART III

Supporting Primary & Secondary students

This webinar is **Part III of a series**.
In this session, topics include:

- New Social Media Regulations
- Digital Footprint and Reputation
- Screen Time and Brain Development
- Parental Controls



Online, Wednesday
3 September, 2025
7.30 - 8.30 pm



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

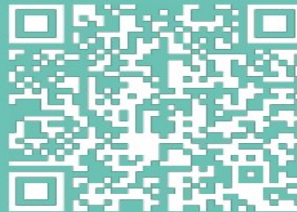
Renowned child and adolescent psychologist. Michael has years of experience working with young people and families and was Chair for the Cybersafety Committee.



Susan McLean

As Australia's foremost cybersafety expert and founder of Cyber Safety Solutions, Susan will offer proactive strategies to help keep young people safe.

**Don't miss out.
FREE event.
Scan to register.**



Star of the Sea Catholic College has partnered with School TV to provide parents with resources that inform our community about topics relevant to children, adolescents and families. On Wednesday September 3rd, a free webinar is available for parents which will focus on the new social media regulations, digital footprints and online reputation, screen time and brain development and parental controls. We will be offering this webinar free of charge to parents. **Parents are welcome to join us at school to view this webinar.** We will be sharing this webinar with our parent community on Wednesday September 3rd at 7:30 pm. If you would like to attend this event at school please contact the office to register your interest. Alternatively you can email carmen.botham@catholic.tas.edu.au. Please advise how many adults will be attending.

Parents can also register to view this webinar at home. Please refer to the information on the event poster for registration details.