

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 17th March 2026

From the Principal

Sometimes, no matter how much we plan something, all of our plans have to go out the window.

For some, this is no big deal. They're flexible and adaptable and are happy to adjust to things as they go. For others, it is a big deal. It can really upset their mindset when something they expected to happen, doesn't.

This week, as a school, we had put in plans to run NAPLAN for our Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. Everything was in place, computers were charged, desks were separated, timetables were changed and teachers were ready to go. And then the system broke down, not just for us but for schools around Australia.

I also had a personal experience lately of throwing plans out the window. I am going on leave soon and, as part of that, I planned to spend some time overseas. All that was looking good, accommodation was booked, cars were hired, and plane tickets were booked...to stop over in Qatar. But, of course, war started in the Middle East, airports have been shut down and my travel plans have been thrown away.

When these sorts of things happen in our lives it is good to first of all step back and take a look at the bigger picture. We ask ourselves, in the long term, do any of these things matter? In the case of NAPLAN, not really. The tests can be done on another day and, even if we had to cancel the tests, it wouldn't have any major effect. NAPLAN was cancelled in 2020 at the height of COVID and everyone survived.

The same goes for my travel plans. It might be annoying, but, in the bigger scheme of things, it doesn't matter. It is perhaps better to be sitting at home safely in Tasmania rather than being shot out of the sky by a rogue drone. For me, life goes on.

We also have to be open to what opportunities open up to us when things go wrong. The cancelling of NAPLAN enables us to return to normal classes, while the cancelling of travel plans opens up the opportunity to explore other parts of the world closer to home.

And for those of us who are spiritual, we ask ourselves, what is God saying to us through these events? I am not egotistical enough to think that God didn't want me to travel overseas so he orchestrated a war in the Middle East to stop me. But we do ask ourselves, what is God asking of us when our plans are upset? And it usually comes down to the same thing - think about where you put your trust. When we put our trust in God, rather than in our own plans, we won't get upset when the plans go wrong. We need to trust that the universe is unfolding as it should, and trust that God's plans for us are for good, and not harm.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Trusting God's
plan is the only
secret I know in
the gentle art of
not freaking
out. - Lysa
TerKeurst*

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



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

Reflection for Lent

There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces homemade flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are Prayer finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'

We pray for all who lack the necessities of life, especially food security, that support for Project Compassion this Lent will enable Caritas to become a source of hope for them and for all those who hunger and thirst.

Amen



Sacraments

If parents would like their child to receive any of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, they are most welcome to speak with our Grade 6 teacher, Mrs Lynelle Davis, about this.

Generally, students are able to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation from Grade 3 upwards.

If parents would like their child to be baptised into the Catholic Church, this can occur at any age.

All families are most welcome to explore this opportunity.

Welcome

We welcome Jasmine (Grade 3) and her family to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

Mr Chapman will be away on Wednesday and Thursday while he attends the Installation of the Bishop of Ballarat.

Mrs Robotham is away from tomorrow for the rest of the week as she attends a Deputy Principals meeting. Mrs Robotham is also on leave next Tuesday.

Mr Goodall is on leave next Monday.

Mr Chapman on Leave

Mr Chapman will be taking some leave from Wednesday 25th March to the end of the term and will return at the beginning of Term 2. During this time, Mrs Robotham will take on the role of Acting Principal and Mrs Nesbit will be the Acting Deputy Principal.

College Advisory Board

Our College Advisory Board met last Wednesday for its AGM and first ordinary meeting. We thank Mrs Heidi Brown, who will continue as Chair of the board, and Mrs Megan Sherriff, who will continue as Secretary. If you or someone you know would like to join the Board, please contact the College office. We have space for one or two more members. The Board meets 6 times a year for about one hour. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month during term time and start at 7pm. The role of the Board members is to receive reports from the Principal (a Principal's report, a Finance report and a WHS report) and to discuss these, give the Principal advice and bring up any other business.

Hot Lunches

Hot lunches for this week are as normal:

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

This week's meal is Teriyaki Chicken Bowl with Fruit.

If students have dietary requirements but you would still like them to participate in the Hot Lunch program, we can often accommodate this. Please inform the class teacher of any of these.

Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 7	Thursday 19th March	12.10pm	Kinder
WEEK 8	Thursday 26th March	12.10pm	Grade 6

Progress Reports

We hope to have our Progress Reports available on Compass on Friday. Progress Reports give a quick indication as to how students have started the year. They also provide an opportunity for parents to make contact with teachers after seeing the reports.

Easter Raffle

Tickets in our 2026 Easter Raffle are now available. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased from the front office. There are three Easter baskets on offer as first, second and third prizes. All proceeds from the Easter raffle will go toward our Project Compassion fundraising for Caritas. Thank you for the donations already received which have been included in our Easter baskets, they are certainly looking bright and cheerful and are full of some fantastic gifts including plenty of chocolate Easter treats and other Easter surprises.

Harmony Week

We will celebrate Harmony Week at Star of the Sea Catholic College from March 23rd - 29th. Harmony Week is an opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate diversity in our community. We will have a range of activities across the week that promote the message of respect and inclusion. As part of this week we hope to gather information about some of the cultural experiences and celebrations different families in our community might participate in. The Student Leadership Team plan to create a display of cultural activities that different families share. Next week students will have the opportunity to bring in some information, photos or a story that tells about the cultural experiences in their family. A family does not have to have connections to countries other than Australia, to participate in this activity, there are many ways we celebrate our unique cultures and we are interested in all types of celebrations no matter where they originate from. More information will be available during Harmony Week.

Mothers Day

**Mothers Day is fast approaching.
We will be having our Mothers Day Stall in the
first week of Term 2.**

**We would really appreciate your donations
of appropriate gifts for mums.
Any donations can be left at the front office.**

Thank You for your generosity.





Stars of the Week - 12th March 2026

Kinder	Emilia Taipaletti-Warren	For making such a great best friend at Kindergarten and being sure to play with, talk with and sit with him.
Prep	Audrey Suitor	For a super start to her Prep year, with great thinking and great persistence.
Grade 1/2	Elijah Cowen	For his great enthusiasm for learning.
Grade 3/4	Kiara Fisher	For great focus and demonstrated understanding during Maths.
Grade 4/5	William McKean	For his strong leadership skills and willingness to work hard.
Grade 6	Lindsie Barrett	For her dedication to improving her mathematical skills. You are an inspiration to others. Keep up the great work!

Black Jacket ordering

LAST CHANCE - ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12 NOON THIS THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

As the weather cools down, students often wear the black school jacket outside during recess and lunch for extra warmth.

Due to space restrictions, we don't stock the jackets in our uniform shop, but instead we invite families to order the jackets each year.

Now is the time to order jackets for 2026.

Here's how you can order:

- Through Flexischools (pay now, but the jackets won't come in until early Term 2). If the jackets aren't on Flexischools yet, they will be by early next week.
- By contacting the school and placing an order.
- By coming into the Uniform Shop (open Thursdays 2pm to 4pm) in the next two weeks.
- Secondary students can order through the canteen at recess or lunchtime.

How will you know what size you want?

If you don't know what size you will need you can:

- Come into the Uniform Shop (open Thursdays 2pm to 4pm) in the next two weeks and try on the sizes.
- Check with family or friends who may already have a jacket and work out the size from there.
- Secondary students can try on jackets at the canteen at recess and lunch and then place the order.

Other than paying through Flexischools, you won't be asked to pay until the jackets are delivered to the school. Then you can pay when picking them up.

We will close off orders Thursday 19th March so we can have the jackets delivered by early Term 2.

Calendar Term 1 - 2026	
Monday 30th March	Walk for Water
Wednesday 1st April	NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Thursday 2nd April	School gathering for Easter NHSSA Swimming Carnival
Friday 3rd April	Good Friday - Easter break begins
Wednesday 8th April	students return
Thursday 9th April	TPSSA Athletics Carnival **note date change
Thursday 16th April	Last day of Term 1 for students End of Term Assembly 10:00am
Saturday 25th April	ANZAC Day
Monday 4th May	First day of Term 2 for students



SetUp for Success

Our early learning program, SetUp, is back in 2026 and is on every Thursday 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. Mrs Ros Ashenden will run SetUp during Term 1.



Catholic Education Commission Tasmania

AWARDS NOW OPEN

25 Years of Service

If you have completed 25 years of service within Catholic education this is your chance to shine a light on your remarkable journey by completing the self-nomination form.

Help us recognise your passion for education, and your steadfast dedication to our shared mission. Your commitment to Catholic education has not only impacted countless lives but has also been instrumental in shaping the future of our schools and communities.

If you have reached this significant milestone in your career, we encourage you to seize this opportunity and self-nominate for the 25 Years of Service Awards.



Recognition Awards

Do you know someone whose dedication and commitment have positively impacted Catholic Education Tasmania? Now is the time to shine a spotlight on their contributions!

Whether it's a devoted staff member, a supportive friend, or a passionate advocate, we encourage you to nominate those whose efforts have made a lasting impact on our educational landscape.

Submitting a nomination is easy: simply fill out the online nomination form and share why your nominee deserves to be recognised!



Nominations close Friday 17 April 2026 at 5:00pm.



Walk for water

As part of our Project Compassion fundraising, the Student Leaders will be hosting a Walk for Water event. On this day, classes will recreate a daily experience that many young people from around the world participate in every day. This is a walk, done daily and up to three times a day to collect water in jugs, bowls or buckets so that families can have water to drink. Sometimes young people are walking several kilometres to collect water and then carry this back to their families. Having to collect water in this way for daily survival impacts the lives of young people in many ways. One of the people we have been learning about, Sisilia, who lives in Tanzania, walks several kilometres, three times a day to provide water for her family. This has an impact on her education and her safety.

As part of the Walk for Water event we will be asking students to gain sponsorship or a donation of a specific amount of money which aligns with a level of sponsorship. Students will walk with their class for a specific distance and take turns carrying water, helping them to understand the burden and responsibility other young people around the world have in providing water for their families. Donations or sponsorship can be brought in to the school prior to the event or in the days following the event. We understand not all families are in a position to donate large amounts of money, so sponsorship or donation levels will begin at a gold coin amount and progress incrementally to larger amounts. All students who make a contribution will receive a certificate of participate.

We anticipate our Walk for Water event will occur on Monday March 30th. We are aiming to raise \$1000 through our Walk for Water event to add to our Project Compassion contribution. If each student and staff member is able to raise \$5.00 in sponsorship or donation, we will reach our target amount. More information will be provided via Compass and upcoming notices.

An example of some of the sponsorship and donation levels is summarised below:

Sponsorship category	Amount
Gold fish	\$2
Clownfish	\$5
Starfish	\$10
Seahorse	\$15
Sea turtle	\$20
Sealion	\$25
Dolphin	\$50
Manta ray	\$100

Has an adult told
you to keep a secret?

Made you feel
uncomfortable?

Scared you into
keeping quiet?

If you said yes
or you're not sure

TELL
SOMEONE!



People who sexually abuse children hide behind secrets. Adults should not ask you to stay quiet about something that doesn't feel right.

Scan the QR code or visit tellsomeone.tas.gov.au to get help and support.

