

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

From the Principal

About a week ago in Las Vegas, the first *Enhanced Games* was held. Events were held in athletics, swimming and weightlifting, but the difference to regular international sporting events is that there was no drug testing. Competitors could take as many performance enhancing drugs as they wanted to in the lead up to the event, and were even encouraged to. It was supposed to show what human beings could achieve with the help of science. In short, it was trying to use science to come up with the optimum human being.

Also last week we heard that Neale Daniher died. He was an AFL football player and coach, but became more well known as someone who raised a lot of awareness and money for MND (motor neurone disease), which he himself had. He began the tradition of *The Big Freeze* which sees celebrities slide down a water slide into a pool full of ice at a football game played on the King's Birthday. The campaign has raised about \$115 million for MND research. Last year he was announced as Australian of the Year.

As the years went by, we saw the effects that MND had on Daniher more and more. He gradually lost his power of speech and the use of his body, and in the last few years he would appear in public in a wheelchair with a computerised voice machine to help him communicate. But he never stopped working to raise money to find a cure, and he never lost his sense of humour.

Of course, all of this raises the question of what we think an optimum human being is. Is it someone who can swim really fast and has a well-defined six-pack, or is it someone who lives in a wheelchair, suffers from a disease and devotes their lives to helping others?

And amongst all of this, Pope Leo XIV released his first encyclical (which is basically his first official teaching document) - *Magnifica humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*. In it he talks about rejecting the idea that "progress" is overcoming human limits. The Pope reminds us that limits aren't something to eliminate, but an important part of what it means to be human. It is only through recognizing our limits that we are able to mature as human beings. The Pope tells us that while technology can alleviate human suffering, it cannot replace the essence of humanity, which is our capacity for relationship and love.

Many in our country, like Neale Daniher, may struggle with MND or other diseases, but that does not limit them with regards to what it means to be human. It doesn't limit their capacity for relationship and love, and, in many cases, it only strengthens it.

We live in a world where many people think that science and technology, whether it be performance enhancing drugs or AI or something else, will make us *optimum* human beings. But when we think about what it means to be truly human and truly flourishing as a human being, it isn't how big our muscles are or how smart we are.

It is our capacity for love.

St Paul reminds us that it is when we are weak that we are strong (2 Corinthians 12:10). It is only through recognizing our limitations that we are truly able to be human and to recognize God's love for us.

Richard Chapman
Principal



<https://redlandbaysidenews.com.au/neale-daniher-2025-award/>



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Humanity
flourishes not
despite
limitations,
but often
through them.
- Pope Leo XIV*

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



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

Prayer for those who are sick

*Lord, look upon us with the eyes of your mercy.
May your healing hand rest upon those who are sick,
may your life-giving powers flow into every cell of their bodies
and into the depths of their souls,
cleansing, purifying, restoring them to wholeness and strength
for service in your kingdom.
O God, grant to us a deep awareness of your surrounding presence
so that we may permit you to give us health and strength and peace,
through Christ our Lord.*

Amen



Star of the Sea Church Times

Mass times for this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm Saturday

Sunday Mass - 11:00 am Sunday

at the George Town Catholic Church (Our Lady Star of the Sea) which is located in Goulburn Street, across the road from the Hall.



Welcome

We welcome Zoe (Grade 1) and Demetrius (Year 7) to the Star of the Sea Catholic community. We hope they enjoy their time here.

Staff Movements

Mr Chapman will be out at meetings from tomorrow for the rest of the week.

Mrs Halley is on leave from tomorrow for the rest of the week.

Mrs Harmer is on leave on Friday and next Tuesday.

King's Birthday Public Holiday

A reminder that next Monday is a public holiday due to the King's Birthday. As such, the school will be closed. We will reopen on Tuesday 9th June.

Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop

Archbishop Tony Ireland is releasing his first Pastoral Letter to the faithful of Tasmania on the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday 7 June.

The letter, entitled, '*Pilgrims of the Eucharist: Towards the International Eucharistic Congress Sydney 2028*', will be distributed to every Catholic school around Tasmania.

Students will receive one to take home either later this week or early next week.

Practice Lockdown

Yesterday we had a practice lockdown towards the end of lunch. We did the practice to test our response to a lockdown being called whilst students are outside. Star of the Sea practices either lockdowns or fire evacuations once a term.

Enrolments

Kinder 2027 - We have now officially opened enrolments for Kinder 2027. We encourage all forms to be handed into the College office by the end of Term 2.

Year 7 2027 - If you know of someone who is wishing to enrol their child in Year 7 for next year (from another school), please encourage them to have their enrolment form into the office by the end of this term (July 10th). We may have limited spaces for enrolments next year so enrolments will not necessarily be done on a first come first served basis.

Space left in 2026 - Many of our classes are close to full, so we are currently accepting enrolments on a case-by-case basis. Our Grade 1/2 class is officially full and has a waiting list.

School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week:

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

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

Utility Officer Role

Mr Zen Lazdauskas has recently informed us that he will finish his role as Utility Officer at the end of this month. Mr Lazdauskas has been with us since 2016 and has done a magnificent job keeping the grounds well maintained, along with helping to fix other maintenance issues around the school. We thank him for his service to the school community.

We will soon be advertising for a full-time (38 hours per week) Utility Officer role.

School Photos

Monday 15th June is school photos day. On this day students are expected to be in full school uniform. For consistency, students are to wear either a blazer or jumper. Kinder and Prep will wear PE as usual. Students not in full school uniform may not be able to have their photo taken. An information flyer on how to order photos, will be sent to Parents, via Compass.

Grade 7/8 Winter Sport

Soccer - 11-1 to Prospect

Netball Div 2 netball: 13-7 to SOTS

Div 3a netball: 13-6 to Cressy

Div 3b netball: 32-0 to Kings Meadows

Unfortunately not as many positive results this week for our junior winter sport. We faced strong competition but students continued to find a way to be positive and encouraging to each other.

Next week the soccer team will travel to Queechy to play Queechy, while the netballers continue to play their 3 games at The Hub.

TPSSA Cross Country

Last Thursday 25 students represented Star of the Sea in TPSSA Cross Country. All students had outstanding runs, with many of them placing in the top 10. We are ready to send a team to All Schools Cross Country later this term.

Well done to all involved.



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 2.

SETUP for SUCCESS

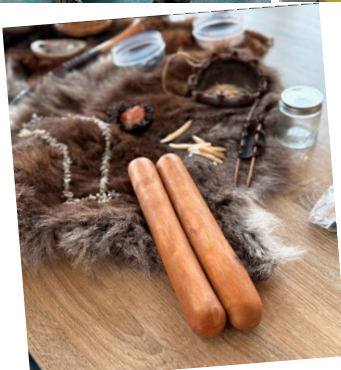
From the Deputy Principal

National Reconciliation Week - May 27th - June 3rd

Over the past week our school community has been learning about the ways in which we can support reconciliation. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2026 is **All In**, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. Learning about the experiences, histories and cultures of other people assists us to better understand the way in which other people view their lives and the things that impact their lives.

During National Reconciliation Week we have participated in activities that explore ideas about reconciliation and the ways in which we can promote a community that is respectful, welcoming and inclusive for all. A part of our mission at Star of the Sea is to be a community that is welcoming, hospitable and compassionate.

To begin National Reconciliation Week, Bianca Templar ran an afternoon of connection and knowledge sharing activities that used cultural items to promote conversation and exploration. The group of students who participate in these activities were invited to deepen their connection to culture through story, conversation and reflecting upon their experiences.



Respectful Relationships and Consent Education (Live Life to the Full)

In 2025 Secondary students began lessons aligned to the CET Respectful Relationships and Consent Education program. This program has been developed in conjunction with Choicez Media and aims to introduce students to valuable information about their rights and responsibilities when it comes to engaging in respectful relationships. The content also addresses the legal and moral obligations each person has in relation to consent and the way consent is needed in order to engage in respectful interactions and relationships and to promote the dignity and safety of all individuals.

Students learn to recognise how external influences such as media and popular culture influence and shape their attitudes and behaviour. They learn to see how these attitudes build or undermine respectful relationships. Students learn the importance of privacy and respectful language about the body and human relationships. They also develop awareness of safe and unsafe situations and strategies to manage these in a way that honours their dignity and the dignity of others. Students have opportunities to discuss the ideas that are presented in the program and to ask questions and discuss their viewpoints and their developing understanding of the content and ideas raised.

The program covers a broad range of age appropriate topics and is delivered in specifically timetabled lessons. In 2026 this program will also be delivered to students in all year levels from Kinder - through to Year 10. Primary classes will commence this program in Term 3.

Stars of the Week - 28th May 2026

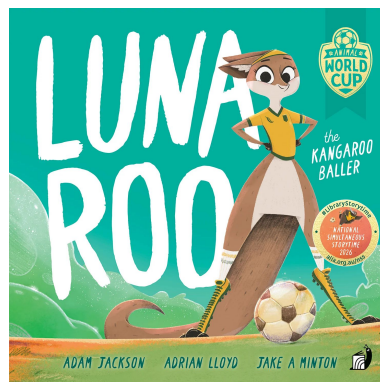
Kinder	Melody Bullock	For always remembering to ask for turns at things and to share with her friends.
Prep	Nirvan Mahamada Arachchilage	For great participation in class and great learning. And for doing an amazing job at reading at Assembly.
Grade 1/2	Raymond Simpson	For making huge improvements with his learning.
Grade 3/4	Lachlan Smith	For amazing application to his classwork.
Grade 4/5	Makenzie Victor	For her positive attitude and diligence in completing her academic work.
Grade 6	Rilee Brown	For always working to the best of her ability and seeking feedback to improve her learning. Keep up the great work!

2026 National Simultaneous Story Time

Last week, on Wednesday 27th May, students at Star of the Sea came together to celebrate **National Simultaneous Story Time**, joining children all over Australia as they enjoyed the same book at the same moment. Mrs Nesbit gathered the primary students in the gallery to watch this year's story, *Luna Roo, the Kangaroo Baller*, being read live. After the event, teachers were encouraged to follow up with simple classroom activities linked to the story, and students were able to use the live link to re-watch the session and learn how to draw some of the characters.

The Year 1/2 class were lucky enough to be invited down to the Kinimathatakinta (George Town) Library for the reading of *Luna Roo, the Kangaroo Baller*. Richard, the General Manager of Bell Bay Aluminium, was the guest reader, and he kept us well entertained. After reading the book, students were able to participate in a range of activities provided by the library staff. We all had a wonderful time and are very grateful to have been given a copy of the book through a generous donation from Bell Bay Aluminium.

Mrs Nesbit and Mrs McGillivray



Calendar Term 2 - 2026	
Friday 5th June	Real Talk (Secondary)
Monday 8th June	King's Birthday public holiday
Monday 15th June	School Photos
Tuesday 16th June	Primary State Cross Country
Monday 22nd June	Premier's Reading Challenge
Thursday 25th June	Grade 6 Presentation Charism Day
Friday 26th June	TPSSA Winter Sport Round 1
Sunday 5th - Sunday 12th July	NAIDOC Week
Friday 10th July	End of Term Assembly; Term 2 ends for students
Monday 27th July	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 28th July	Students resume Term 3

Futsal Competition

Last Tuesday and Wednesday we had 3 teams compete in the primary futsal tournament in Launceston. Although being faced with an extremely tough competition, the students showed resilience, team work, great sportsmanship and gave their best effort in every game. Thank you to all the families for supporting the students in this event.



Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 5	Thursday 4th June	Grade 6	12.10 pm
WEEK 6	Thursday 11th June	Grade 4/5	12.10 pm
WEEK 7	Thursday 18th June	Grade 3/4	12.10 pm