

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 9th June 2026

From the Principal

There are some who claim, and have the data to support it, that the current generation of school students will be, on average, the first in history that won't be smarter than their parents.

Up until this point, each generation has been smarter than its parents. That makes sense. We tend to learn from our parents and then expand on that knowledge. Schools are places where the latest knowledge is taught, so those who are at school should be getting more up-to-date information than their parents, again making them smarter than their parents.

And it's important that our children are smarter than us. After all, we want our children to be able to solve the problems of the world which their parents have helped to create! If children weren't smarter than the previous generation we would never have been able to see vaccines created and polio would still be ravaging Australia. We wouldn't be able to travel by plane around the world, or stream our favourite TV shows on demand.

But, it would seem that by the test results that are coming out of some countries, on average our children won't be smarter than us.

So what has caused this?

It depends on who you listen to, but some would argue that it is being caused by computers, and, more specifically, the skimming that occurs when students are using computers. When children are asked to find out information using computers in class, most will tend to skim what they are reading. They won't go into any depth. And, most of the time, the computers discourage us from going into depth. Instead, they provide summaries at the top of the search results.

But unless we are prepared to go into depth, we will only get a surface-level understanding of anything. And a surface-level understanding of anything will not lead us to expanding on anything and building on its ideas, so things won't get better.

We see this in the way debates are held in the public forum, especially through social media. Comments are made using the minimal amount of words (even by using emojis), things are boiled down to either being good or bad, and anytime someone does go into more depth, people just scroll over it as it takes too long to read.

In my Year 10 Religion class, we are currently studying life issues - euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, Just War theory. My big message to the students is that you shouldn't have an opinion on something if you don't know anything about it, and you shouldn't dismiss the Catholic Church's view on something if you don't know what it is or why that is the opinion.

All is not lost! We can ensure our children are smarter than us. We just need to give them the time and direction to explore things more deeply and not be satisfied with a surface-level answer.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*Either you
decide to stay
in the shallow
end of the
pool or you go
out in the
ocean. -
Christopher
Reeve*

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



Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart
Spirituality



Attentiveness
Hospitality
Compassion

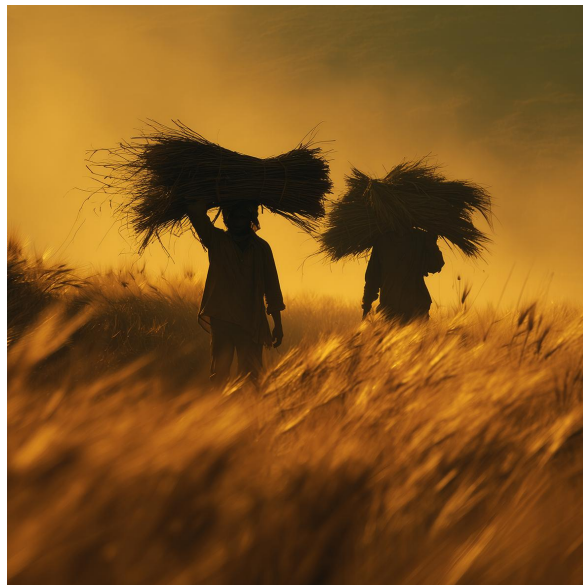
Psalm for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.*

Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.



Star of the Sea Mass 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.

Staff Movements

Mrs Harmer will be at Professional Learning on Friday.

Mr Chapman will be at a meeting on Friday.

Mr Fleming will be on leave on Friday.

Mrs Nesbit will be at Professional Learning next Tuesday and Wednesday.

School Photos

Next Monday we will have school photos taken. These will occur from about 12pm onwards.

For students to be in their class photo, the correct uniform must be worn. This means:

Kinder to Grade 2 - PE uniform

Grade 3 to Year 10 - winter uniform. For consistency, students are to wear either a blazer or the maroon school jumper.

The uniform shop is open on Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. Items of uniform can also be ordered through the Flexischools app.

If there are any issues about obtaining the correct uniform, please contact the school by the end of this week.

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 be done on a first come first served basis.

Spaces 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.

Wednesday - Grades 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

This week's meal is Chicken and Corn Soup.

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.



The logo features the word 'SETUP' in large, bold, blue letters. The letter 'T' is replaced by a blue cross. Below 'SETUP' is the word 'for' in a smaller, lowercase font. To the right of 'for' is a large, teal arrow pointing upwards. Below these elements is the word 'SUCCESS' in large, bold, multi-colored letters (red, orange, yellow, green).

From the Deputy Principal

Student Representative Council (SRC) and Student Voice

The Student Representative Council has recently identified some areas of the school where they would like to see some changes. Some of these ideas are things that they can see enacted through their own initiatives, with the support of the staff. One of the ideas recently raised was to make some changes to the layout of the Primary Assembly. The students felt they would prefer the orientation of the assembly to be toward the northern windows that face the yard.

On Thursday, June 4th, this new set up was trialled for the first time. To support the transition, classes were given specific areas where they would sit. Parents and guests also had a section positioned outside Mrs Sikkens classroom. The SRC are keen to gather some feedback about the recent change. If you are attending an assembly in the coming weeks, you can expect to see the new layout in use. If you would like to provide feedback to the SRC, this can be given to Mrs Robotham who regularly meets with the members of the SRC.

If students have ideas they would like to raise with the SRC they can share their ideas with their class representatives or pass their ideas on to Mrs Robotham.

Interschools Chess Tournament

The Term Two Interschools Chess Tournament will take place on Monday June 29th. Students who have regularly been participating in the Monday Chess Club sessions will be invited to attend. At this stage we will only be taking students who are in Grade 4 and above. Students will travel to Riverside High School in either the school van or the school bus. All students who will be representing Star of the Sea, will be required to wear the full Winter Uniform. Students who would like to participate in this event are to speak to Mrs Robotham this week to express their interest at being included in the team. Mrs Robotham and Mr McKerihan will finalise the team after next week's Chess Club session.

Stars of the Week - 4th June 2026

Kinder Lucas Zanchetta

For focussing so well at daily review times every day at Kindergarten to learn new things.

Prep Mason Davenport

For always being a kind friend and all his helpful ways in Prep.

Grade 1/2 Leah Janse van Rensburg

For becoming a more independent with her reading and writing.

Grade 3/4 Zoe Provis

For demonstrating sustained focus and attention during Maths.

Grade 4/5 Marli Leslie

For her beautiful and creative sketch of flowers during Art.

Grade 6 Lindsie Barrett

For always working diligently to improve her skills, knowledge and understanding across all subjects. Keep up the great work!

Calendar Term 2 - 2026	
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
Monday 29th June	Interschools Chess Tournament
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

Primary Hockey

Last Thursday we had Pip from Hockey Tasmania come and do some skill work with our primary school students. We learnt some fantastic new hockey skills and displayed excellent listening to make sure we were playing safely.



Term 1 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

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

Grade 7/8 Winter Sport

Thursday 4th June

Soccer - cancelled due to weather

Netball -

SOTS Div 2 - 14-12 win against KMHS

SOTS Div 3a - 14-12 win against PHS

SOTS Div 3b - 7-1 win against BHS



A terrific week for grade 7/8 sport with all three netball teams achieving a win and some against very strong competition.

Due to their early success and dominance, the Div 2 team has now progressed to Div 1. This means they'll be facing the top teams from various Launceston schools which SOTS haven't done for a number of years.

Prep news

Prep made their own skittle games from recycled materials. They had heaps of fun playing each other's games, and their ball rolling skills certainly improved. They got a few strikes in the end!



2027 Term Dates

Term One

Monday Friday 5th February - Thursday 8th April

Term Two

Monday 26th April - Friday 2nd July

Term Three

Tuesday 20th July - Friday 24th September

Term Four

Monday 11th October - Wednesday 15th December

2027