

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 15th September 2026

From the Principal

A recent report suggested that one third of teaching time in Australian schools is lost due to misbehaviour of students. That would mean that, on average, 15 minutes of every 45 minutes of a lesson at Star of the Sea would be lost to misbehaviour. It sounds a lot worse when you equate that to 13 weeks a year!

So do students lose 15 minutes per lesson to misbehaviour at Star of the Sea? The simple answer is, no. On an average day the time is probably 1 minute, and rather than it being lost to misbehaviour it would be fairer to say that the 1 minute goes towards settling students, particularly at the beginning of a lesson.

Do individual students lose 15 minutes of learning time due to their own misbehaviour? Sometimes, but rarely. The reality is some students will struggle to maintain focus for long stretches of time and will be off-task. But this is more individual students rather than a whole class. And the inability to maintain focus can be a result of things ranging from a diagnosed condition to trauma to having too much on their mind on a particular day.

There are a small number of children (not just at Star of the Sea but anywhere) who simply cannot stay on task for 45 minutes, especially when they are younger. For some, they don't reach the stage of focusing for that long until they get to secondary school. If we think of ourselves, very few of us can focus on one thing for 45 minutes without our minds drifting off, even if it doesn't become misbehaviour!

At Star of the Sea, students whose behaviour is affecting the learning of others are given a chance to improve on that, and if they don't improve they are then removed from class for a period of time until they are ready to learn again. This is not always a "punishment," but sometimes a reality check for the student that they are not ready to learn while others are. They have the chance to come back into the class when they are ready to learn.

Schools need good processes around behaviour and expectations. But along with this, we need to recognise that different students will have different abilities to stay focused for long periods of time. What is important for whole classes is that if one student loses focus, it doesn't affect the rest of the class.

Over the past few years, by taking on Catholic Education Tasmania's *Insight into Learning* program, we have put a lot of effort into making sure students are engaged for large chunks of the lesson. This has seen issues around misbehaviour in class drop dramatically. And while we don't always get it right, the time lost to student misbehaviour is certainly much less than 15 minutes!

In our Star of the Sea Catholic community it is important that students learn to focus for longer periods of time the older they get. But we all play a part in that. We can't just leave it to 8 year-olds to get it right! The teachers also play a big part in this by promoting engagement in each of their lessons. But in the long run, the more students can focus, the greater their opportunities in the future.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*We are what we
repeatedly do.
Excellence,
then, is not an
act but a habit.
- Will Durant*

*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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.



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.

Father Bala farewell

Fr Bala is finishing his time in the George Town Parish and will be returning to India. His last Mass in the Parish will be the 11am Mass on Sunday 20th September. Following Mass we will have a shared lunch in the Hall. If you would like to attend, please bring a plate to share.

We will also be farewelling Father Bala as a school this Thursday at 12:15pm in the Church. Families are most welcome to come along.

Staff Movements

Mrs Nesbit is on professional learning tomorrow and on leave on Friday.

Mrs Robotham is on leave Thursday afternoon and Friday.

Mrs Condric and Mrs Natasha Davis are both on leave next Tuesday, so there will be no one in the Finance Office on that day.

School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3-6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

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.

Enrolments

Kinder 2027 - Enrolments for Kinder 2027 are still open. We encourage all forms to be handed into the College office as soon as possible.

Year 10 Work Experience

Our Year 10s will be going on work experience next week. We thank Mrs Tame for organising this and we also thank all of the businesses who are taking on the students.

Year 8s Supporting St Finn Barr's

About 10 Year 8 students will travel to Launceston with Mr Laurence on Friday to support the St Finn Barr's Catholic Primary school Athletics Carnival. St Finn Barr's greatly appreciates the support from Star of the Sea and its students.

Chess Competition

The final Chess Tournament for 2026 will be held this Friday September 18 in Launceston. Students who have regularly been a part of the Monday Chess Club have been invited to enter this competition.

We wish all of our players the best of luck for their final tournament for the year.



2026 Calendar

Term 3 - 2026	
Thursday 17th September	Farewell for Father Bala - 12.10pm
Thursday 1st October	Country Gold
Friday 2nd October	Term 3 ends; End of Term Assembly
Term 4 - 2026	
Monday 19th October	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 20th October	School resumes for Students
Thursday 22nd October	3-10 Athletics carnival at St Leonards (note there is no half day on the Wednesday anymore).
Thursday 29th October	TPSSA swimming carnival at Scottsdale
Mon 9th -Wed 11th November	Grade 5 / 6 Camp
Tuesday 10th November	K-2 Athletics carnival

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 3.

Dymocks Children's Charities Grant

Star of the Sea have been lucky enough to receive a grant for \$7000 from Dymocks Children's Charities for a refresh of our school library books as part of their Library Regeneration Program. This has allowed us to purchase over 350 new books for the library! That means students will have a greater selection of books to choose from as we continue to promote literacy throughout the school. We are most grateful to Dymocks Children's Charities for their generosity through this program.



Well done to everyone who has signed up and started fundraising for this event which will occur early in Term 4. Our fundraising so far has been really strong. Congratulations to Kinder and Year 8 who were the classes with the highest percentage of students signed up in the portal after the first week. There is still time to sign up and get started with your fundraising. Students who raise \$10 or more are eligible to select a fundraising prize based on the amount of money raised. Information about these prizes can be found in the brochure that has been sent home with students or on the Australian Fundraising website. Visit <https://myprofilepage.com.au/> for more information.



On Thursday, September 10, we held an **RUOK? DAY** event in support of **RUOK? DAY** which is held across Australia each year. We had a particular focus on raising awareness about mental health and wellbeing and how we can support our family and friends. The day started with an **RUOK? DAY** Breakfast as part of Breakfast Club. We held a Dance Party at recess which was a lot of fun and enabled students from all grades to connect and have a great time doing something active and fun. There were also **RUOK? DAY** information tables and **RUOK? DAY** activity stations for students to visit throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Remember everyday is a good day to ask someone if they are okay.



Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

WEEK 8	Thursday 17th September	Farewell for Father Bala - Whole School	12.10pm
WEEK 9	Thursday 24th September	Grade 4/5	12.10pm
WEEK 10	Thursday 1st October	Grade 3/4	12.10pm

8 Winter Sport

Results 10/09/2026

Netball:

SOTS Div 1 vs KMHS - Forfeit

SOTS Div 3a Def SOTS Div 3b

Soccer:

SOTS vs QHS - Loss

17/09/2026 Games

Netball:

The Hub - Mowbray

SOTS Div 3 A vs Cressy

12.50pm

Stars of the Week - 10th September 2026

Kinder

**Elah Janse
van Rensberg**

For always taking such good care of our school vegetable and flower gardens, and for the work she did to plant our new native trees.

Prep

Christopher Banks

For making big efforts with learning his words and his writing. And for great persistence in completing puzzles and tricky activities.

Grade 1/2

Parnika Bandaru

For always being polite and offering to help out in the classroom.

Grade 3/4

Kiara Fisher

For consistent focus in all areas of literacy. Well done Kiara.

Grade 4/5

Joseph Pride

For his amazing artistic work and a great improvement in handwriting.

Grade 6

Hazel-Mae Provis

For her efforts with researching and creating a postcard as part of our Geography and Literacy learning activities. Well done!

Beaconsfield Gold Mine Excursion

Last week, our Grade 3–4 students visited the historic Beaconsfield Gold Mine as part of our Science Inquiry into forces. We explored why rockfalls occur and learnt about the incredible story of miners Todd Russell and Brant Webb, who were trapped underground for two weeks following the 2006 mine collapse.

Students also enjoyed gold panning and discovering the history of the Grubb Shaft Mine. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that brought our science and local history to life!

