

Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 25th August 2026

From the Principal

Sometimes, we just don't care anymore.

I was reading an article recently about people's directions to US President Donald Trump's posts on his social media platform. When he first began his second term in office, people were taking each post seriously, wondering what impact it might have for the world. Now, however, most people just don't care. Because he tends to backflip with decisions so much, people are just ignoring what he says and moving on with their lives.

It's a good example of focusing on what is important in our lives. It is actually good to reach a point where we give up caring about things we have no control over. It is best just to get on with our lives.

The flip side of this, though, is that we can give up caring about people. When the war in Ukraine started over 4 years ago, there was a great outpouring of support for the Ukrainian people. Now, four years later, that support has waned as the rest of the world has just tried to get on with their lives.

We often see this happen with natural disasters. How long is it before we stop caring about the victims of the floods in Nepal and Tibet? Do we care any more about those affected by the earthquake in Venezuela, or the ongoing crisis in Gaza? Or do we just get on with our lives?

In these examples, most of it is out of our control. We can have no direct impact that will make things better for these people. But does that mean we shouldn't care anymore?

Some people never give up caring. Daniel Morcombe's parents started a foundation in his memory after he was abducted and killed in 2003. They are still very active in promoting child safety across the country. Walter Mikac started the *Alannah & Madeline Foundation* after his daughters were killed in the Port Arthur massacre. Again, that foundation is still active as it aims to keep children and young people free from violence and trauma. It would have been easy for these parents to give up caring, but they chose not to and Australia is a better place for their decisions.

Sometimes it's easy for us to give up caring about what our children do. We come to the conclusion that we have no influence anymore. But our children need us to care, no matter how hard that can sometimes be. Because if we don't care, who will?

Choosing not to care anymore can be a good thing, especially when we are holding grudges or hanging on to the past. But we can't give up caring about our family and our children. God calls us to love one another, and caring for each other is how we show that love and be who we are called to be.

Richard Chapman
Principal



*Attentiveness,
Hospitality
and
Compassion.*

*We must take
care of our
families
wherever we
find them. -
Elizabeth
Gilbert*

*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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.



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.



Staff Movements

Miss Fox is away tomorrow on professional learning.

Mrs Harmer is on professional learning next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr White has finished his time in the Grade 6 class, but will be helping out in the Grade 3/4 class until the end of term.

Father's Day Breakfast Helpers Wanted

We will be holding our Father's Day Breakfast on this Thursday 3rd September. If you would like to help out on the day, please contact the office. The help required is cooking the breakfast (sausages and bacon, scrambled eggs, baked beans, toast), serving the breakfast and helping to set up and clean up. The morning typically starts around 6am and clean up finishes around 9:30 am. We are looking for helpers for any or all of that time.

Father's Day Gift Stall

Our Father's Day gift stall will be on this Thursday morning.

The gifts range from \$1.00 to \$10.00



School Lunches

School lunches will be as normal this week.

Wednesday - Grades 3-6

Friday - Prep to Grade 2

Grade 3/4 Class to Beaconsfield Mine

The Grade 3/4 class will travel to Beaconsfield next Tuesday to visit the Beaconsfield Gold Mine and to learn a bit about the history of the region.

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.

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.



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.

From the Deputy Principal

Reflection Days at Star of the Sea

Over the past week our Year 8, 9 and 10 students have participated in their class based Reflection Days. Leanne Pritchard, the CET's officer for Catholic Identity and Evangelisation, worked alongside teachers from the school to facilitate the Reflection Day programs.

Each Reflection Day provided an opportunity for the class to step away from their regular timetabled lessons to focus on a specific idea related to who we encourage them to become.

In Year 8, the focus was on caring for our earth and the environment. We used Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which is a letter written by the Pope to the people of the world, as inspiration for our work. Our day began with an Acknowledgement of Country and prayer and was followed by a reflection that focused on our environment. We explored the messages of *Laudato Si* and considered the ways in which each of us can contribute to caring for our common home. Students participated in a clean up of the area around the cove and then planted their own piece of nature which they are planning to nurture and care for. Students came up with practical ideas for how they can take positive action to care for the environment and the world in which we live. We thank Leanne for her work and look forward to seeing our students take their ideas and turn them into actions for change.



Taking Action to Respond to the Call of Laudato Si'

10 Things You Can Do



The Colour Fun Run is coming to our school in early Term 4. We will be launching this event in our upcoming assemblies and ensuring the online portal is open for parents and students to set up students profiles. Please note the event has been taken on by a different provider so the portal and material will look different to previous years.

If you have not been involved in a Colour Fun Run event in the past, you may not know very much about what it is and why we have this event. Over the coming weeks, more information will be shared about the event and what we are fundraising for. Keep an eye out for the emails, newsletter information and Compass event details over the coming weeks.



We have introduced My Mind Check at Star of the Sea to further support the ways we work with students. My Mind Check is a student mental health and wellbeing check-in tool for Australian schools, developed by youth mental health experts and funded by the Australian Government.

Students are invited to participate in a check-in session at school. Students will be supported by their teacher to access the check-in which occurs via an online portal. Students will use a computer or ipad to respond to age-appropriate questions about how they're feeling and they will be able to skip any questions they don't want to answer. My Min Check can be completed by all students from Kinder to Year 10. The types of questions and the way in which students are asked the questions is age appropriate.

Only certain school staff will have access to a student's check-in outcomes. For example your child's Class Teacher, the Student Support Coordinator or the Principal or Deputy Principal. The most appropriate person will follow up on any identified needs.

We currently have an excellent participation rate from students in all grades. If you have not yet accessed the Compass event portal to provide consent for your child to participate, please do so this week so we can include all students in this initial check-in who wish to participate.

8 Winter Sport

Results 27/08/2026

Netball:

SOTS Div 1 vs PHSa 12-23 loss
SOTS Div 3a vs CDHS Forfeit
SOTS Div 3b vs PHSc 8-5 win

Soccer:

SOTS vs QHS Loss

03/09/2026 Games

Netball:

The Hub - Mowbray
SOTS Div 1 vs PHSb
SOTS Div 3a vs BHSb
SOTS Div 3b vs PHSb

Soccer:

SOTS Vs BHS
At BHS

Term 3 Primary Assembly Roster

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

Please note that this roster may change

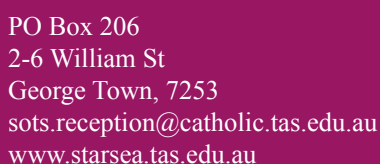
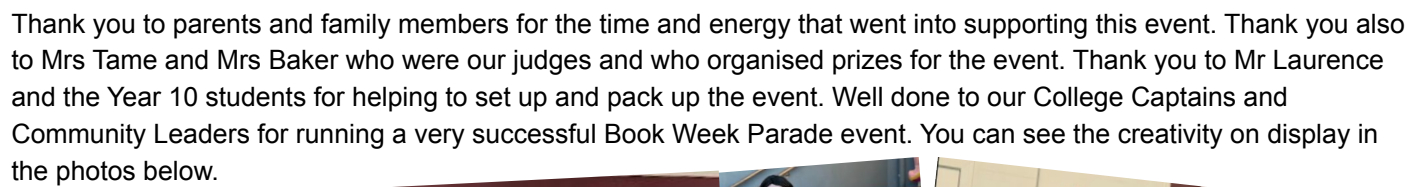
WEEK 6	Thursday 3rd September	Kinder	2.15 pm
WEEK 7	Thursday 10th September	Grade 6	12.10pm
WEEK 8	Thursday 17th September	Grade 4/5	12.10pm
WEEK 9	Thursday 24th September	Grade 3/4	12.10pm
WEEK 10	Thursday 1st October	Grade 1/2	12.10pm

*** **Please note a change of time for this week's primary assembly - 2.15pm** ***

Stars of the Week - 27th August 2026

Kinder	Lucas Zanchetta	For his dedication and commitment to learning how to hop, so that he can play hopscotch games.
Prep	Jackson Barwick	For trying so hard with his work and for showing amazing perseverance with tricky activities.
Grade 1/2	Eason Kettle	For always meeting behaviour expectations and doing his best work. What a superstar!
Grade 3/4	Willow Norman	For improved focus and demonstrating a growing understanding of how to represent fractions and decimals.
Grade 4/5	Luis Lee	For consistent hard work and helpfulness during the term.
Grade 6	Thomas Singline	For his impressive resilience facing challenges during Winter sport.

It was certainly a symphony of colour and creativity for our Book Week Parade and dress up day last Thursday. Students arrived with enthusiasm and excitement as they showcased their imaginative creations that were linked to their favourite character from books and much loved stories. The whole school community joined together to share in the excitement for our Book Week Parade.



Term 3 - 2026	
Thursday 3rd September	Father's Day Breakfast and Stall
Thursday 10th September	7/8 Winter Sport Grand Finals; RUOK Day
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

16 km for S&S

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Rhianna (Year 7) and her younger sister Izzy who, together with their family, organised a 16km run to fundraise for the Cancer Council. The run was held last Sunday 23rd August and there was great support, both by those participating in the run and those who supported the event through donations and buying raffle tickets. The girls managed to raise \$4234, which is a sensational effort! In the last two years the event has raised over \$8000.

