



Star of the Sea School

*2025 Annual General
Meeting*

2024 Annual Report

Open Hearts Open Minds

Contents

Star of the Sea School	1
Chairperson's Report	4
Parish Report	5
Principal's Report	6
High Quality Teaching and Learning	7
Parent and Community Engagement	9
Administration and Resource Management.....	12
Farewells	13
Catholic Identity	15
Visitors and Events	21
Partnerships and Income	22
2024 Educational Projects	22
South Australian Environment Awards	24
Staff & Volunteers.....	24
Marine Studies	25
Grounds & Maintenance Report	26
Compliance Report 2024	28
Our Vision for Learning	29
School Performance Report - NAPLAN	31
<i>School Summary</i>	31
<i>Year 3 Proficiency Results</i>	32
<i>Year 5 Proficiency Results</i>	32
School Performance Report - LLL	33
Year 2 - Year 4 Student Survey Results.....	33
Year 5 & Year 6 Student Survey Results	34
Teaching & Leadership Survey Results	35
Parent Community Survey Results	36
School Performance Report - Other	37
Enrolments.....	37
Student Attendance	38
Staff Statistics	39

Teacher Qualifications	39
Professional Learning.....	39
Key Focus Areas in 2024	40
School Financial Report	41
Income and Expenditure 2024	41
OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES:	42
Marine Discovery Centre (MDC).....	42
Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)	43
Canteen	43
Parent & Friends.....	43
Overall Result.....	43
Income and Expenditure 2024	44
Board Election Nominees	45
Libby Hartley.....	45
Abi Lahon	46
Rachel Cooke.....	47
Frank Parrello	48
Alexandra Bishop	49
Timothy Sarris	51

Chairperson's Report

Dave Slovinec – Chair of School Board

The last 12 months have been busy for the Star of the School community and school board. Here's a recap of some of the milestones we achieved; we finalised the new build (which looks magnificent), continued the upgrade of the oval and school facilities, appointed two new co-principals, achieved wonderful NAPLAN results, saw wonderful events implemented by the P&F and have seen the board and leadership working on initiatives aligned with the school's strategic plan.

The school community said "Happy Retirement" to Mr Week's last year. After enjoying 10 weeks of long service leave Damian decided that it was time for him to enjoy what retirement brings. Damian was a wonderful principal for the community. He came in during COVID times and navigated the continuous changing landscape that COVID gave us. With literacy at the heart of his teaching he made this a focus, and the results speak for themselves. On behalf of the Board and as a member of the school community I would like to sincerely thank Mr Weeks and all he did for the school and wish him all the best in retirement.

With Damian's retirement this meant that we were recruiting for the school's new leader. Catholic Ed, Father Manu and I were very pleased to appoint not one but two wonderful candidates to the role and welcomed Kelly and Annette as co-principals of the school. Kelly has been a part of the community for many years and Annette, having been appointed deputy principal in late 2023, made her mark on the community from day one. Star of the Sea are leading change within Catholic Education. It is the first school to introduce a joint principal appointment, and we should be proud of this. Kelly and Annette are real assets to the school and will do wonderful work leading our children's learning and development over many years.

It is with some sadness that this will be my final report as Chair and board member for the school. It has been wonderful to be able to give back to the school community and help prepare the school for its future. Over my six years I have seen the construction of two new buildings, welcomed three (technically four) principals, several leadership appointments, and have seen many wonderful initiatives delivered. I am pleased to see that there is significant community interest with record numbers nominating to join the new board, and a team that will continually develop the school and community moving forward.

I wish you all well and thank you for the opportunity and trust that you placed in me.

Parish Report

Father Manu Kumbidiyamackal - Parish Priest

I am happy to present this report from the Parish. The year 2024 was a year of blessing both for the Parish and the School. There were many opportunities of working together as we aspire to fulfill our dream of being together as a Church. I would like to thank the leadership team, the school board and the staff for their wholehearted support in all our efforts to bring about this togetherness.

The celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion together with Dean Marin, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese was a beautiful experience. Both the Parish and the School put in wholehearted efforts towards organising the celebrations in a meaningful way. It all went smoothly and in a suitably reverent and welcoming manner. Feedback from teachers and parents was positive and appreciative of all who helped with the formation of the children. There were various Holy Masses celebrated together with children as whole school and sometimes just for a class. They were all special occasions of formation, welcome and coming together.

The new school building was a much-needed addition. A solemn blessing of the same is awaited. The retirement of Damian and the shared Principal's role between Annette and Kelly brings in new aspects to working together for the school and the parish. I would like to thank Damian and the other members of the staff who retired during last year.

The dates for this year's celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are already finalised and we are working towards organising them in the best way possible. This year the Archbishop is going to be here for the celebration. As a chaplain, I visit Queen Elizabeth Hospital and four or more aged care facilities in the parish. The change from having 3 or 4 priests in the parish to just one priest, without any reduction in activities makes it sometimes impossible for me to be present for all the functions at school, especially the board meetings which happens on Monday nights at Mass time in the parish.

One important matter to be considered with urgency is the maintenance and upkeep of the car park which is in need of urgent repairs.

Once again, I would like to thank Mr Damian who was the principal at the beginning and Annette and Kelly who are sharing the role at the moment, Mrs Dominique our APRIM, the school office staff and teachers for all that they do as a leadership team. I thank the School Board and Finance Committee, Star Outreach and other support groups who make Star of the Sea such a vibrant place of learning in a Catholic environment.

Principal's Report

Annette Diassinias - Acting Principal

Foreword

2024 was a year that began with change as our building project became complete with a new administration area, board room, general learning areas for students in Year 1 and Year 3, additional tutorial rooms and a breezeway connecting the new build to existing buildings. Annette Diassinias joined our leadership team at Star of the Sea as Substantive Deputy Principal and Damian Weeks made the decision to retire and say farewell to the Star of the Sea Community.

This annual report highlights many successes and achievements throughout the 2024 school year, demonstrating our commitment to high-quality learning, wellbeing and heart spirituality, so that all who are part of our community flourish.

Star of the Sea is characterised by a strong community spirit, excellent teaching and learning; it is a place of inclusivity and collaboration, a place where the dignity of every person is honoured and respected.

We have an outstanding staff team who work together to build a culture of welcome, belonging, inspiration and excellence. I commend the staff at Star of the Sea because they often go above and beyond the call of duty. It is their commitment, unity and partnership with families that strongly defines our community of learning, faith and wellbeing.

In the following pages, I provide a summary report of the key developments made throughout 2024 in the follow areas which are central to our vision and mission.

- Catholic Identity
- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Administration and Resource Management



High Quality Teaching and Learning

At Star of the Sea, we are committed to delivering high-quality teaching and learning that is informed by the latest research and best practices. Our dedicated staff set high expectations for every student, using a diverse range of innovative and evidence-based teaching strategies to both support and challenge learners. A key strength of our school is the consistency in our teaching approach across all year levels, underpinned by strong collaboration between our early years and primary teams.

Our teachers foster a love of learning by nurturing key dispositions such as independence, resilience, and risk-taking. We are also committed to developing essential capabilities, including literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, and problem-solving. To ensure students are engaged and empowered in their learning, teachers use high-impact strategies such as learning intentions, success criteria (e.g., rubrics), and Bump It Up Walls to provide clear expectations and guide student progress.

A Focus on Numeracy

In 2024, our staff placed a particular emphasis on Numeracy, engaging in a structured and intensive approach to improving mathematics teaching and learning. Our Leaders of Learning and Leadership Team worked closely with our Catholic Education System Coach on a fortnightly basis to develop a whole-school approach to Mathematics. This collaborative model provided intentional, frequent, and structured support, ensuring sustainable improvements in pedagogy and student outcomes.

Key initiatives included:

- ♦ The development of a whole-school Numeracy Agreement to provide consistency in practice.
- ♦ The exploration and implementation of purposeful resources to enhance student learning.
- ♦ A dedicated Pupil Free Day in Term 2, where teachers mapped out the Mathematics curriculum and assessment framework aligned with Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum.
- ♦ A focus on key pedagogical practices and resources for teaching Mathematics effectively, ensuring learning is meaningful and engaging for students.
- ♦ A deeper understanding and implementation of the Numeracy Block, including daily reviews in Mathematics to consolidate learning and improve student retention of key concepts.

Enhancing Literacy Instruction

In Terms 3 and 4, we welcomed Linda Clune, a highly experienced Literacy Consultant and Specialist Dyslexia Teacher, to support our continued growth in literacy teaching. Linda worked closely with teachers, providing lesson observations, modelling best practices, and offering targeted feedback to refine instruction and improve student outcomes.

Her expertise has been instrumental in strengthening our Structured Synthetic Phonics approach, ensuring consistency and effectiveness in literacy instruction across all year levels. The impact of this work is evident in our students' increased engagement and progress in foundational literacy skills.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Results from the CESA Surveys (Classroom Pulse and Living, Learning, Leading) reaffirmed the strong sense of connection and belonging our students experience at Star of the Sea. The data highlighted overwhelmingly positive student attitudes towards their learning environment, friendships, and relationships with staff. These findings reflect the strength of our school community and the genuine commitment of our staff to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment.

Our ongoing commitment to professional learning and innovation ensures that teaching and learning at Star of the Sea remains of the highest calibre. As we move forward, we will continue refining our approaches, embedding best practices, and maintaining high expectations for every child, ensuring they are challenged, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Highlights

Some highlights of the learning program in 2024 included:

- ♦ Engaging marine lessons and beach trails with Karno and Georgia at the Marine Discovery Centre.
- ♦ Successful grant applications through the Australian Sporting Schools program, enabling specialised yoga lessons.
- ♦ Development of innovative "Rick Task Designs" to enhance mathematics learning.
- ♦ A range of sporting events throughout the year, including the Swimming Carnival and programs for Years R-3, Aquatics programs for Years 4-6, Interschool Athletics, Cross Country, Netball Carnivals, and our annual Sports Day.

- ♦ A dynamic Term 4 dance program, culminating in a spectacular concert performance.
- ♦ Exciting camp experiences, with Year 5 attending El-Shaddai and Year 6 exploring Woodhouse.
- ♦ A variety of enriching excursions and incursions for all year levels.

Parent and Community Engagement

Our vibrant community spirit was on full display throughout 2024, as meaningful partnerships between our school families, Parish, and the broader community flourished.

Parent engagement is intentionally embedded into our school year, fostering positive partnerships that enhance our children's learning and strengthen connections within the school. Through active involvement, collaboration, and shared experiences, our community continues to thrive, benefiting all who are part of it.

As a staff, we actively use digital platforms to communicate with families, ensuring transparency and strengthening the partnership between home and school. I extend my sincere gratitude to the parents, grandparents, and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to supporting our school community.

One of the highlights of 2024 was our new building celebration in Term 2. This event provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome families, past students, and members of the Star of the Sea community to tour our school grounds, guided by our exceptional student leaders. Our school bands delivered outstanding performances, and the School Board generously hosted a free sausage sizzle, further fostering our community spirit.

Contribution of the School Board

The School Board plays a crucial role in the strategic direction and decision-making processes of our school. I extend my sincere appreciation to all Board members for their commitment, time, and voluntary contributions, which positively impact our community. It has been a privilege to work alongside the Board in implementing our strategic plan and achieving key milestones.

A special thank you to our Chairperson, Dave Slovinec, Finance Representative Nathan Foulis, Liz Sarris and Amy Diggins who are fishing their time on our School Board and for their outstanding support. Thank you also goes to all our Board members for their dedication to securing the best outcomes for our students. Your leadership and vision continue to strengthen our school's future.

Throughout 2024, our community has remained connected and engaged, with positive collaboration evident in various school initiatives and events.

Contribution of the Parents and Friends Committee (P & F)

The Parents and Friends (P&F) Committee is a dynamic and committed group of parents who play an essential role in fostering community spirit and coordinating events that enrich school life.

In 2024, the P&F successfully organized numerous events that brought joy to students and families alike. Highlights included the Easter Raffle, Donut Day, Colour Fun Run, Disco, and Mother's and Father's Day stalls. Parents also enjoyed social gatherings such as the Quiz Night, Star Night Out, and Ladies' Night, strengthening bonds within our school community.

While community-building remains the Committee's core focus, significant funds were raised throughout the year. The allocation of these funds will be finalized for 2025 projects, ensuring they contribute meaningfully to school initiatives. Additionally, the P&F generously donated \$1,000 to support our lunchtime clubs in 2024, which was greatly appreciated by our students.

Parent Volunteers

The support and generosity of our parent and grandparent volunteers play an invaluable role in enriching school life. In 2024, volunteers contributed to various aspects of school activities, including assisting with excursions, the canteen, and special class events.

Without the selfless efforts of our volunteers, many of these opportunities for our students would not be possible. The time, energy, and dedication you bring to our school community are deeply valued, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Thank you to each and every volunteer for your generosity and commitment—your contributions truly make a difference in the lives of our students and staff.

Highlights

Some highlights of the learning program in 2024 included:

- ♦ Carnevale
- ♦ Continuing to involve parents in the educational journey through book a chat and Parent Teacher Interviews
- ♦ Shrove Tuesday, Donut Day, Colour Fun Run, Ladies Night, Quiz Night and Star Night out organised by the P&F
- ♦ Fun Bun Friday
- ♦ National Simultaneous Storytime
- ♦ Walk Safety to School Morning
- ♦ Children's University
- ♦ Stars Got Talent
- ♦ Showcase Concert
- ♦ Book Week Parade and Family Open Morning
- ♦ Little Stars Transition Program
- ♦ Carly Ryan Parent Workshop
- ♦ Whole School End of Year Mass
- ♦ Playgroup led by our Education Support Officers - Kylie Casey and Denise Gariboli
- ♦ Mother's Day and Father's Stalls



Administration and Resource Management

The effective management of our school's human and physical resources, finances, and infrastructure has remained a key focus throughout the year. This has been a collaborative effort involving the leadership team, our Finance Officer Karyn, school staff, the School Board, and the Finance Committee. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of them for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the financial stability and ongoing growth of our school.

In 2024, we successfully completed our major building project, a significant milestone for our school community. This project delivered six new classrooms designed to enhance student learning, along with a new staff room and administration building to support our growing team. Specialist music tuition spaces were created, and multiple breakout rooms and learning areas were introduced to support flexible and inclusive learning. Additionally, an undercroft play area was developed, providing students with additional recreational opportunities. As part of the project, several existing classrooms were refurbished, and all learning spaces were seamlessly connected to create a strong sense of flow and cohesion across the school.

These outstanding new facilities reflect our commitment to providing an environment that supports student learning and well-being.

To complement our modern learning spaces, we also invested in new, flexible desks for students in Years 1-6. These desks allow for easy reconfiguration to support individual, paired, and small-group learning, aligning with our contemporary pedagogical approach. This investment ensures that our furnishings not only enhance learning experiences but also match the high-quality environments in which they are placed.

As part of the project, the staff and School Board were invited to vote on the name for our new building. In keeping with our school's charism and heritage, the decision was made to retain the name Chevalier Building, in honour of Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. This building remains at the heart of our school's identity, and we look forward to formally celebrating its opening in 2025.

In addition to these significant developments, we have embarked on an exciting playground redevelopment project, set for installation in 2025. This process has been guided by valuable input from our Student Representative Council (SRC) and staff, ensuring that the design reflects the needs and aspirations of our students. These developments reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing learning environments and ensuring that our school continues to grow as a place of excellence, engagement, and belonging for all.

Some other significant developments in 2024 included:

- ♦ Supporting Families – In 2024, we continued our commitment to supporting families by freezing school fees, ensuring costs remained the same as in 2023.
- ♦ Staffing Updates – This year, we welcomed several new teachers to our school community: Gabriele Di Bartolo (Year 5), Iliana Toumbas (Year 2), Ella Borlase (Mid-Year Reception), Olivia Watts (Permanent Relief Teacher),
- ♦ Deputy Principal – We were pleased to welcome Annette Diassinas as our new Deputy Principal.
- ♦ New Educational Support Officers – Over the course of 2024, we welcomed 15 new ESOs to our school.
- ♦ OSHC Leadership – We were delighted to welcome Elly Tsinivits as Assistant Director and Miffy Young as OSHC Director.
- ♦ Canteen Support – Mel Turow joined us as a Canteen Assistant.
- ♦ The Right to Disconnect legislation came into effect on August 26, 2024, under the Fair Work Act 2009, reinforcing employees' right to disengage from work communications outside of their contracted hours.

Farewells

- ♦ We bid a heartfelt farewell to **Damian Weeks (Principal)**, who retired after 37 years in Catholic Education, including his dedicated time as Principal at Star of the Sea. Damian's passion for education and commitment to fostering a faith-centered, supportive environment have left a lasting legacy in our school community. We are deeply grateful for his leadership and vision.
- ♦ After an extraordinary 44 years of service, **Alison Rebuli** retired. Her kindness, dedication, and profound impact on generations of students, families, and staff will be dearly missed.
- ♦ We also farewelled valued staff members **Deb Tucker, Paula Ogilvie, and Donna Marshall**.
- ♦ In addition, we said goodbye to our dedicated teachers **Trish Jauncey, Gabriele Di Bartolo, Sheena Pattinson, and Olivia Watts**.

Concluding Comment

The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to the strength and vibrancy of our community, working together to ensure that every child thrives. I am deeply grateful to each member of our community for their dedication and collaboration in making this school year a resounding success. This collective effort has not only united us but also strengthened our foundation for the future. As we look ahead to 2025, we embrace the exciting opportunities for growth and change with enthusiasm and confidence.



Catholic Identity

Domenique Laurendi - Assistant Principal Religious Identity & Mission

At Star of the Sea our Catholic Identity is at the heart of everything we do. Underpinning our Catholic identity is the Mercy Charism and our school values of Respect, Inclusivity, Collaboration, Compassion and Honesty.

Each year our we choose one value to focus on. The value we are focusing on in 2025 is the value of Collaboration. This year is also a Jubilee year, and Pope Francis calls us all to be Pilgrims of hope. Therefore 2025 is a year were we, as a community, walk together in hope and faith to ensure everyone can become the very best they can be.

As we reflect on the year that has passed, Our Catholic Identity was a pillar of our community and was celebrated throughout the year in the following ways:

- ♦ Class and Whole School Masses and Liturgies and significant liturgical events occurred including: Beginning of the Year Mass, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Harmony Day, Assumption of Mary, Season of Creation pilgrimage, Mission Week, Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass.
- ♦ Our student Representative Council, House Captains and School Justice Leaders were key leaders in our community supporting many social justice causes some of which included Caritas' Project Compassion, Winter Dignity Drive, Mission Week and Fun Bun Friday.



- ◆ Through the Sacramental Program we had 70 students receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion for the first time. The Vicar General celebrated these special milestones in the students' faith journeys with the students and their families.
- ◆ Year level families supported the Parish Children's Mass every month at the 9:30am Sunday mass at the Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church. Many of our students and their families took on special ministries at these masses.
- ◆ We held our annual Staff Retreat Day at Sunnybrae Estate, where we invited Sister Cynthia and a group of Sisters of Mercy nuns and lay teachers to facilitate a day for all the staff to learn about and immerse themselves into the Mercy Charism and values and history of Star of the Sea School.
- ◆ Our students celebrated Mission Week by learning all about the life of Catherine McAuley and how she founded the Sisters of Mercy. The week involved a variety of activities such as a Mercy Walk, Design a Cross competition and various learning activities.
- ◆ To conclude Mission Week, we held our annual Mission Day Market, where the students ran a variety of stalls and activities to raise money for some of our Catholic Charities.
- ◆ In 2024 we had seven staff members begin their Graduate Certificate in Religious Education through the University of South Australia. These studies will strengthen their knowledge and understanding in theology, scripture and curriculum.
- ◆ As we continue to honour and uphold our connection to our MSC charism and Heart Spirituality, we continued to practice Heart Moments each Friday morning. Heart Moments is when our whole school community stops for 2 minutes of quiet reflection and prayer and connects their hearts to God. Students and staff hold a small squishy heart to focus their energy and help them to be centred.



OSHC Report

Miffy Young – Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Director

2024 was a year of significant growth and change for our service. With Donna's resignation, I was honored to step into the role of Director, alongside the appointment of Elly as Assistant Director. These leadership changes have provided fresh opportunities to strengthen our service and continue delivering high-quality care for our wonderful families.

One of the key milestones of the year was the commencement of our Accreditation process. In early November, we welcomed the Education Standards Board for an initial visit, where they assessed our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. This was the first step in a more comprehensive review, with a follow-up visit planned over two days to ensure the Approved Provider's operations align fully with the highest standards. This process has been invaluable in affirming our commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

We were also pleased to successfully obtain additional licensed places to accommodate the needs of our growing community. This achievement required careful planning to ensure every child has adequate space, emergency procedures are well-practiced, and all regulatory requirements are met. Expanding our capacity means we can better support families and provide care that meets their evolving needs.

Like many services, we faced financial challenges due to staff changes and the increasing cost of living, resulting in a deficit of \$31,112. However, with a renewed focus on service utilisation and sustainable planning, we are optimistic about achieving a better financial position in 2025.

At the heart of our service are the families who entrust us with their children. We deeply value the relationships we have built with them and the ongoing feedback we receive. Collaboration with families is essential in shaping a nurturing and enriching environment for the children in our care. We are committed to maintaining open communication, actively seeking input, and working in partnership to provide the best possible experiences for the children.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities for continued growth and improvement. Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and the wider community for your trust and partnership. Together, we will continue to build a service that is responsive, inclusive, and committed to excellence.

Parents & Friends Committee

Emma Marsden – Parent and Friends Committee President

2024 was a successful year for the Parents & Friends Committee (P&F). Our team of volunteers are passionate about creating as many social opportunities and fundraising events as possible for our community and 2024 saw us reach new heights!

Like 2023 we continued to shift our strategy to try new things and seek feedback from our community with new events added for our children and parents. Our social media presence continued to grow which enabled us to partner with different vendors who were supporting our events, we could provide brand awareness for them and to our community, whilst seeking a discounted offering of product or service from them when they partnered us at different events throughout the year.

From an events perspective yet again our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls were a huge success, with over 2000 gifts purchased at across both events, equalling a combined amount of just under \$5000 raised. Due to the success of these events, they will return for 2025, and the P&F team are excited as ever to see the children's faces light up as they walk into the Stella Maris Building and see tables full of gifts for them to purchase for their loved ones.

Our Star Quiz night proved successful for a third year in a row, we saw record numbers with 120 people attending. We continued to use the external Quiz Company to come in and run the event this year, however we mixed up the games and some new fundraising ideas like a Voucher / Prize Wall and a Basketball shots game, allowing us to utilise the facilities at Nazareth High School, who kindly let us use the hall free of charge.

As our School Gala Ball is a biannual event meaning it was our off year in 2024. With that in mind we wanted to trial a new event, A Star Night Out! With the concept being a night out for our community, with no fundraising push and only charging the cost for the ticket. The event was to focus on bringing our community together for a fun night out and to support fostering a strong community bond.

The highlight of the year was the School Colour Fun Run, an event that was last coordinated at the school in 2019. Our school community rose to the occasion, and we raised an amazing \$40,000.00! The day of the event was filled with fun, laughter and a community vibe you could hear and see. We had 25 volunteers on the day, who had just as much fun as the kids!

Proud is an understatement of how I felt when we closed out 2024, it also saw the end to my term as President of the P&F Committee. The committee went above and beyond to invest their time, passion, and effort into making each event unique, successful and a memorable experience for our community.

The P&F Committee raised \$45,000, less expenses of \$15,000 which left us with a profit of \$30,000 for the 2024 year. An outstanding amount!

The P&F is currently working with the School Board, Student Representative Council and the community to invest the funds raised on upgrading the school facilities that will prove beneficial and valuable for the students. Further communication on this will be advertised through the 2025 school year.

2025 has kicked off and it is fair to say the committee is full steam ahead! This year will see Jade Pounendis step into the President role which is exciting for her and our school community. Jade is passionate about the school, with both her daughters now in attendance, Jade has some great ideas for this year to continue to fundraise, but more importantly create an environment where friendships can grow and our community can thrive.



The committee have held their first event for 2025, The Family Fun Day, an extremely successful event which saw 450 people attend, the school oval was buzzing with face painting, balloon making, go karting & more.

The Biannual Gala event will return this year, if you haven't locked this date in your diary please do so, it will be another event to remember which is scheduled for Saturday August 16th.

Our leadership group this year on the P&F consists of:

- ♦ Jade Pounendis – President
- ♦ Candice Deutrom – Vice President
- ♦ Belinda Bird – Treasurer
- ♦ Cassandra Nixon – Secretary

We also have 7 dedicated committee members. They all volunteer their time for one reason and that is to ensure that we change the lives of our children for generations to come by giving back as much as we can to improve the school facilities.

In closing, I loved my role on the P&F Committee and getting to know our community and the SOTS staff better over the past 3 years, was a highlight and something I valued dearly. I am excited for what the committee will achieve in 2025, and I ask you all to continue to support the events the committee runs, volunteer if you have the time and keep showing up, we are a unique community, one that gets behind the school and the P&F and for that I will always be grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you for another successful year!

Marine Discovery Centre (MDC) Report

Carmen Bishop – Marine Discovery Centre Director

The Marine Discovery Centre (MDC) is pleased to present its Annual General Meeting (AGM) report for the year 2024.

Visitors and Events

Over the past year, the MDC welcomed 9,860 visitors, comprising 7,647 students and 2,213 adults. These visitors came from a diverse range of educational institutions, corporate groups, and the wider community.

A total of 138 schools participated in MDC programs, including 77 DECD schools, 26 Catholic schools, and 34 Independent schools, alongside 6 homeschool groups, 9 corporate groups, 1 university, and 2 TAFE groups. The MDC team also participated in school incursions to Brighton, Hallet Cove Conservation Park, Mawson Lakes, Meningie, Brompton and Seaview Downs.

In addition to school and group visits, the MDC hosted 33 public events, engaging with local communities through open days, regional tours, professional development seminars, science fairs, and participation in major public exhibitions.

Key events throughout the year included:

- ♦ 11 Open Days at the MDC
- ♦ Kaurua Tools Workshop
- ♦ Port Augusta Regional Tour
- ♦ Science Alive
- ♦ Royal Adelaide Show
- ♦ Science Fairs in Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Golden Grove, Salisbury, and Playford Civic Centre
- ♦ Nature Festival
- ♦ Tennyson Dunes Open Day

These events provided valuable opportunities for community engagement, education, and the promotion of science and cultural awareness, reinforcing the MDC's role as a key educational and outreach institution.

Partnerships and Income

The MDC received \$229,781 in total funding, which included income from school visits and contributions from our valued partners and supporters, reflecting their trust and commitment to our mission.

Key contributions included:

- ♦ \$58,164 from Green Adelaide, for producing an educational series and inclusive beachcombing experience
- ♦ \$29,752 from the Royal Commonwealth Society
- ♦ \$21,200 from CESA, representing ongoing institutional support.
- ♦ \$10,000 from BUPA Community Grants
- ♦ \$5,000 from Community West Bank, supporting weekend Community Days at the MDC.
- ♦ \$4,500 from Inspiring SA to establish the Great Southern Reef VR experience
- ♦ \$98,617 Income derived from Centre visits and incursions (excluding outstanding invoices)
- ♦ \$2,548 from merchandise sales

2024 Educational Projects

Beachcombing - Accessibility for all South Australians

Funding from Green Adelaide allowed a new project to commence, promoting beach activities at Henley Beach. The MDC developed an online and VR platform to enhance the Beachcombing experience, ensuring accessibility for all, regardless of geographic location. By integrating this initiative with a Citizen Science Project, individuals across the state had the opportunity to participate in classifying items found on South Australian beaches.

Great Southern Reef VR Experience

Thanks to funding from Inspiring SA, the Marine Discovery Centre and Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries (EMS) joined forces to immerse Australians into the breathtaking depths of the Great Southern Reef, unveiling the wonders that inhabit this marine wonderland and highlighting their critical role in the ecosystem.

A 15 minute VR video was filmed by EMS with 15 marine species found in the Great Southern Reef. Footage includes Humpback Whales, Giant Cuttlefish, Seadragons, Port Jackson Sharks and more. The voiceover was done by Heaps Good Productions and Karno who voiced the Kaurna name of the species. In 2025, the footage will be available on the Marine Discovery Centre YouTube channel so that it is freely accessible to the community for education purposes.



Porci's Ocean Patrol

In 2024, 10 episodes of the Porci's Ocean Patrol series were successfully released, offering an engaging exploration of South Australian marine life, conservation, and Aboriginal culture. This series builds upon the Marine Discovery Centre's existing educational resources, providing an immersive learning experience for students.

Through interactive content and viewer question segments, Porci's Ocean Patrol empowers children to become advocates for marine sustainability, fostering awareness and action within their communities. The series is complemented by educational resources developed by Kids Media, which are aligned with the Australian Curriculum, ensuring accessibility and relevance for both teachers and students.

The series has achieved significant reach, with a total of 188,136 views on YouTube. In 2024 alone, 266 downloadable resources were developed to support teachers and students, aligning with the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum. Thousands of students have engaged with the project and continue to benefit from its valuable content, reinforcing its role as a key educational tool in marine conservation.

South Australian Environment Awards

On World Environment Day, Wednesday 5 June, the Marine Discovery Centre was acknowledged at the 2024 South Australian Environment Awards, held at the Adelaide Zoo

The Marine Discovery Centre was a finalist for the 'Working Together Award'

"Today, with an annual visitation of 10,000 individuals through school and community visits, the Centre fosters environmental consciousness and cultural appreciation in South Australians.

Through engaging marine exhibits and workshops highlighting Indigenous knowledge, the Centre encourages scientific curiosity and instils a profound respect for the ancient wisdom of Australia's First Peoples in managing marine ecosystems"

In addition to a Certificate of Commendation for the Green Adelaide Pelzer Prize.

Carmen Bishop: Certificate of Merit for Marine and Coastal Education

Staff & Volunteers

In 2024, the MDC team comprised the following staff:

Carmen Bishop, Director - 30 hours per week for 48 weeks

- ◆ Georgie Kenning, Marine Scientist - 32.5 hours per week for 42 weeks
- ◆ Karno Martin, Cultural Educator - 16.5 hours per week for 40 weeks
- ◆ Jessica Leopold, Marine Scientist - 16.5 hours per week for 48 weeks

Jessica's tenure at the MDC concluded at the end of 2024 following the completion of her 12-month contract, which was funded by the Minister for Education, Training, and Skills. We sincerely thank Jessica for her contributions and dedication throughout her time with us.

Our dedicated volunteers played a crucial role in supporting the centre, contributing a total of 1,140 hours. This included 15 regular volunteers, 5 University of Adelaide interns, and 10 high school work experience students. Their collective efforts represent a labour contribution valued at \$56,452.80, based on the current Volunteering SA/NT hourly rate of \$49.52.

Marine Studies

The marine studies program provided by Georgie Kenning, Marine Scientist, continued to provide an engaging and enriching educational experience for Star of the Sea students throughout 2024. Each student participated in a dedicated five-week block of marine lessons, covering a diverse range of marine science and geography topics tailored to their year level. These lessons aligned with both ACARA standards and UNESCO's Ocean Literacy principles. Students eagerly looked forward to their visits to the Marine Discovery Centre, where they had the unique opportunity to observe aquarium feedings and interact with real marine specimens. The hands-on learning experiences and high-quality educational resources provided to Star of the Sea students are truly unique in South Australia, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the marine environment.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team, whose passion and expertise continue to shape the MDC's success. Our Marine Scientists, Jessica Leopold and Georgie Kenning, have been instrumental in developing engaging educational resources, ensuring that every visitor leaves with a greater appreciation and understanding of our marine environment. This year, we farewelled Jessica following the completion of her one-year contract, and we thank her for her valuable contributions during her time with us. Karno Martin, our Cultural Educator, remains a highlight for visitors of all ages, offering profound insights into Aboriginal Culture and its deep connection to Sea Country.

I would also like to acknowledge our esteemed Patrons—Chris Daniels, Karl Telfer, Dr. Zoe Doubleday, and John Schutz—whose vast knowledge and steadfast support have played a pivotal role in the MDC's continued growth.

Finally, a sincere thank you to our volunteers and community partners. Their unwavering dedication and generosity are the backbone of the centre, ensuring its ongoing success. The MDC would not be what it is today without their invaluable contributions.

Grounds & Maintenance Report

Michael Burgan

Jess Rutkiewicz – Board Member

The school is pristinely maintained and kept in an exceptional condition by Michael Burgan, with the use of external contractors to undertake work as required.

The Board would like to extend their gratitude to Michael for his continued dedication and hard work around the school, ensuring the school is maintained and the budget provided for maintenance and improvements are well planned and utilised.

The previous calendar year had a focus on finalising the major capital works to the school, with Michael providing extensive support to the building contractors ensuring the major works were completed on time and as seamlessly as possible. Following completion and handover of the new building, Michael continues to provide extensive maintenance support. A large amount of effort has been undertaken throughout the new building from a Grounds and Maintenance perspective and will continue throughout the current calendar year.

New furniture has been sourced and provided for the offices and classrooms, new joinery was installed in the sick room. Currently fresh painting and uplifting of the library and installing new shelving and carpet tiles is in progress.

Mid-year reception classrooms over the course of two terms have had new carpet, new lighting and new paintwork throughout. The timberwork has been freshly painted aligning with the rest of the colour scheme throughout the school.

The new reception classroom has been completed and freshly painted, with new technology and furniture sourced and installed ready for the commencement of the school year.

Replacement of the turf on the school oval was undertaken in January 2024. Regular maintenance of the school oval includes aerating, cutting, coring and fertilising the turf. The committee continues to explore initiatives to ensure the school can provide a safe and appropriate playing oval for the school to utilise.

The imaginative play space vertical garden was rejuvenated with fresh succulents and other durable varieties during the previous calendar year by staff members, resulting in a very small cost to the school. The personal time donated was very much appreciated.

The front verge paving for 'Kiss and Drop', is now complete. The area is no longer a safety issue, with the paving uplifting the look and feel of the kiss and drop area at the front of the school.

There is a focus on ensuring the colour schemes align throughout the school, with areas being freshly painted white/gloss white to match.

Other tasks performed as below:

- ♦ General school maintenance
- ♦ Installed new moulded skirtings to mid-year reception classrooms
- ♦ Cleaned and sanitised all air-conditioner filters
- ♦ Clean grounds around school, including weeding, leaf blowing, nature play clean etc
- ♦ RCD Electrical testing and Timed Emergency lighting test
- ♦ New Lighting in Mercy Convent hallway.
- ♦ Main carpeted areas and walkways have had a carpet clean, as well as main cloth seated areas
- ♦ Nature play maintenance. All the loose bark stripped, including sanding and grinding of the nature logs and re-oiling the logs.
- ♦ Painting the ceilings and woodwork in the Mercy convent building, in addition to some rectification work required, due to some extra building works.

New carpet to level 1 Mercy convent



Compliance Report 2024

The following School Performance Report presents specific data that we are required to report according to Australian Government compliance regulations under the Australian Education Act.

Star of the Sea is an R-6 co-educational Parish school. The Parish, "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", is run by the MSC order. The school was established in 1912. Originally founded by the Sisters of Mercy as a secondary school for girls, it became a primary school campus when Siena was established. As well as the influence of the Mercy Sisters, the MSC Priests have pastorally attended to the needs of Star of the Sea for over 100 years concluding their work at the end of 2022. At the start of 2023 we welcomed Father Manu Kumbidiyamackal as parish priest of Henley Beach Parish. Father Manu is a Missionary of St Francis de Sales.

Star of the Sea is a beach school; it is nestled across from the beach. As such, the beach becomes an additional facility to be used for study, recreation and fitness activities. The school enjoys an excursion centre on site called the Marine Discovery Centre. This is available to Star of the Sea students on Fridays and to all other schools for the rest of the week. Together with the Director of the MDC, the Principal is directly responsible for nurturing, developing and administering this unique South Australian icon.

Star of the Sea enjoys a very strong parental support. There are over 250 parents and grandparents who have a Catholic police clearance and regularly volunteer within the school.

At Star of the Sea, we seek to challenge students to aim for the highest possible level of achievement in all areas of school life: academic, spiritual, cultural and sporting. We hope our students will question and search, explore and discover as they become self-motivated learners who will view with critical eyes the society in which they live. We believe children learn best in a caring, accepting environment. We believe that when children are encouraged and supported, they will experience success. Our direction is clear. We are aware of the need to be constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students, staff and parents. We make a commitment to provide a safe and caring environment with an open approach to decision making.

Our Vision for Learning

At Star of the Sea we want to guide our learners to be self-managed, innovative and critical thinkers who have a strong sense of who they are and their responsibility in the world.

We value the skills necessary to build meaningful relationships and to be connected to learning.

We encourage our learners to question, search, explore and discover so they actively contribute to a more just, peaceful and forgiving society.

On this we base our school motto:

'Open Hearts - Open Minds'



At Star of the Sea Primary School, we are committed to fostering a culture of learning in partnership with our community and within our unique environment. Our school values success and relationships that are built on trust, respect, and cooperation. We strive to provide a broad and engaging curriculum that enables our students to develop their full potential.

Student learning remains at the core of all our policies, procedures, and practices. Our curriculum is structured to equip students with essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to navigate an ever-changing society. The Key Learning Areas include Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Italian, Science, Technologies, The Arts, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

We are fortunate to have specialist teachers who deliver high-quality programs in Physical Education, Music, Italian, Art, and Science. Additionally, our well-resourced library supports students' academic and recreational reading needs.

Our school is dedicated to meeting the diverse learning needs of all students through targeted intervention programs, including Tiered Phonics support and a Coordination Program. We employ a School Counsellor and implement a range of inclusive education initiatives designed to enhance student emotional and social well-being.

Beyond the classroom, we offer an extensive extra-curricular program in Music and Sports, ensuring students have opportunities to develop their talents and interests. The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a key priority, with all classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards, Sound Field Systems, and access to a range of digital devices, including laptops, Vivis, and iPads, enabling seamless, anytime learning.

To support families, we provide Before School, After School, and Vacation Care programs. Our engaged and proactive Parent Community Committee plays a vital role in coordinating both friend-raising and fundraising initiatives that contribute to the school's ongoing development.

Star of the Sea Primary School remains a safe, inclusive, and nurturing educational environment with a strong focus on student well-being, resilience, and independence. We take great pride in celebrating the learning achievements and successes of every child, reinforcing our commitment to excellence in education.



School Performance Report - NAPLAN

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) Analysis

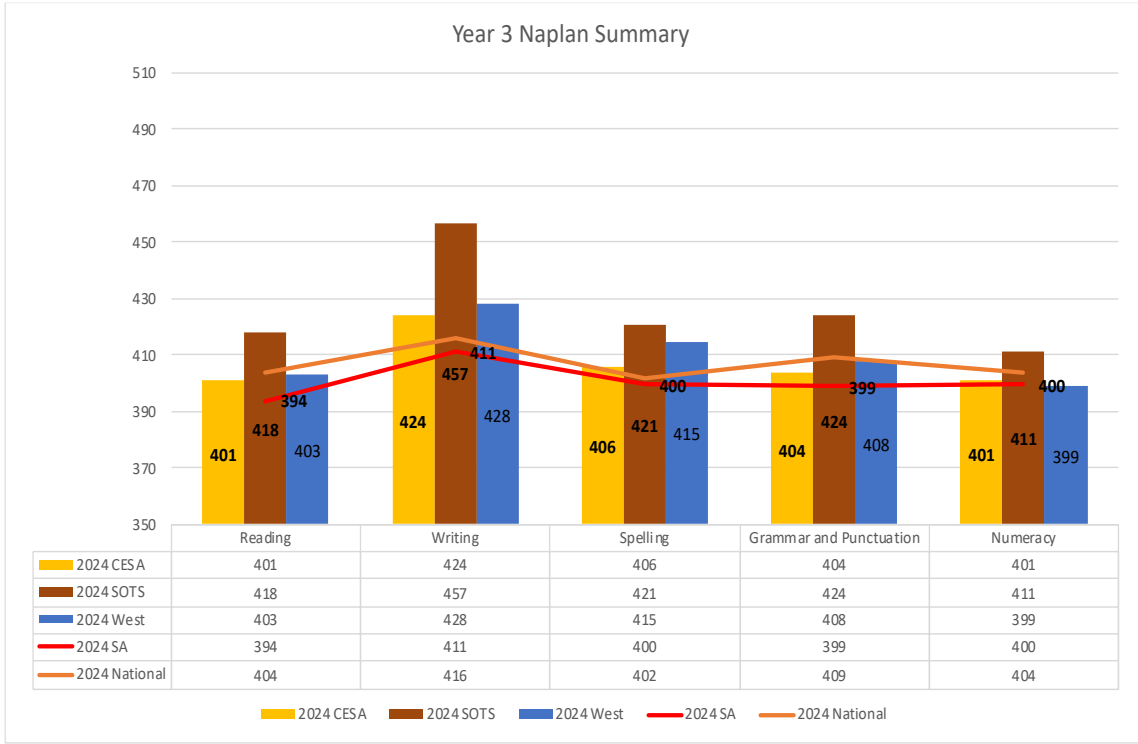
At Star of the Sea, we pride ourselves on delivering high quality learning. The collection and interpretation of multiple data sources helps us plan for student development and growth. NAPLAN is one source of data that we utilise when monitoring our Year 3 and Year 5 students. It offers comparative data in the domains of Literacy (Writing, Reading, Spelling, and Grammar and Punctuation), and Numeracy. Used in conjunction with other data sets it informs whole school improvement sources that will assist in differentiating and personalising the curriculum for students.

School Summary

Students' participation was high. There were some student withdrawals at both Year 3 and 5. The Year 3 and Year 5 students' proficiency levels were strong in all areas. We saw significant growth in Year 5 when comparing data from 2023 to 2024. Across all Catholic schools in SA, our students performed above the average, especially in the Western Region.

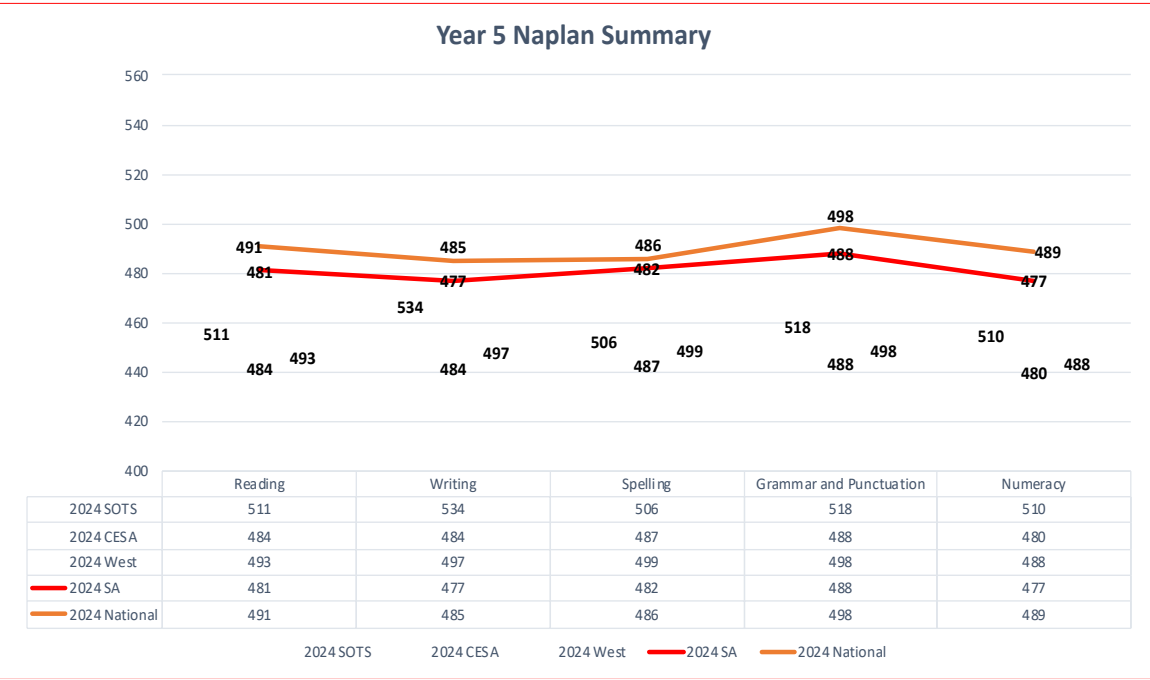
Year 3 Proficiency Results *Please refer to graph below:*

Comparative performance both nationally and regionally demonstrates excellent student achievement in all domains.



Year 5 Proficiency Results *Please refer to graph below:*

Comparative performance both nationally and regionally demonstrates excellent student achievement in all domains.



School Performance Report - LLL

LLL (Living, Learning, Leading) Survey Analysis

Year 2 – Year 4 Student Survey Results

194 Students Participated in Years 2 to 4

All area rated about 4 which is consiered strong.

Highest Rating;

- ♦ The extent to which students feels their teacher believes they can succeed
- ♦ The extent to which students feel their teachers support the to improve their work
- ♦ The extent to which the classroom is a welcoming place to learn

Areas of focus in 2025 would be;

- ♦ Student Agency
- ♦ I help the teacher decide what I work on in class

Balanced Score Card: Student Perceptions (LLL Framework)

Catholic Identity	Identity				Student Agency, Identity, Learning and Learning Support – Curriculum and Co-Constructed Learning –	Learning and Wellbeing			
	Catholic Education: Mean=4.66, SD=0.3					Learning Support: Mean=4.71, SD=0.32			
	1		4.66	5		1		4.71	5
	Religious Education Classes: Mean=4.54, SD=0.42					Student Influence: Mean=3.69, SD=0.83			
	1		4.54	5		1		3.69	5
					Autonomy and Independence: Mean=4.47, SD=0.39				
					1		4.47	5	
Resourcing	Resourcing				Community Engagement	Community			
	Infrastructure: Mean=4.5, SD=0.48					Welcoming and Safe School: Mean=4.57, SD=0.44			
	1		4.50	5		1		4.57	5

Year 5 & Year 6 Student Survey Results

96 Students Participated in Years 5 and 6

All area except one rated about 4 which is considered strong.

Highest Rating;

- ♦ The extent to which students feels their teacher wants them to do their best
- ♦ The extent to which students feel safe at school
- ♦ The extent to which they students feel they take responsibility for their learning

Areas of focus in 2025 would be;

- ♦ Student Agency
- ♦ Time management of work

Balanced Score Card: Student Perceptions (LLL Framework)

Catholic Identity	Identity			
	Catholic Education: Mean=4.49, SD=0.4			
	1		4.49	5
	Religious Education Classes: Mean=4.36, SD=0.54			
	1		4.36	5
Resourcing	Resourcing			
	Infrastructure: Mean=4.34, SD=0.5			
	1		4.34	5
Community Engagement	Learning and Wellbeing			
	Learning Support: Mean=4.52, SD=0.4			
	1		4.52	5
	Student Influence: Mean=3.65, SD=0.69			
	1		3.65	5
Community Engagement	Community			
	Welcoming and Safe School: Mean=4.45, SD=0.52			
	1		4.45	5

Teaching & Leadership Survey Results

100% Teaching/Leadership Staff participated.

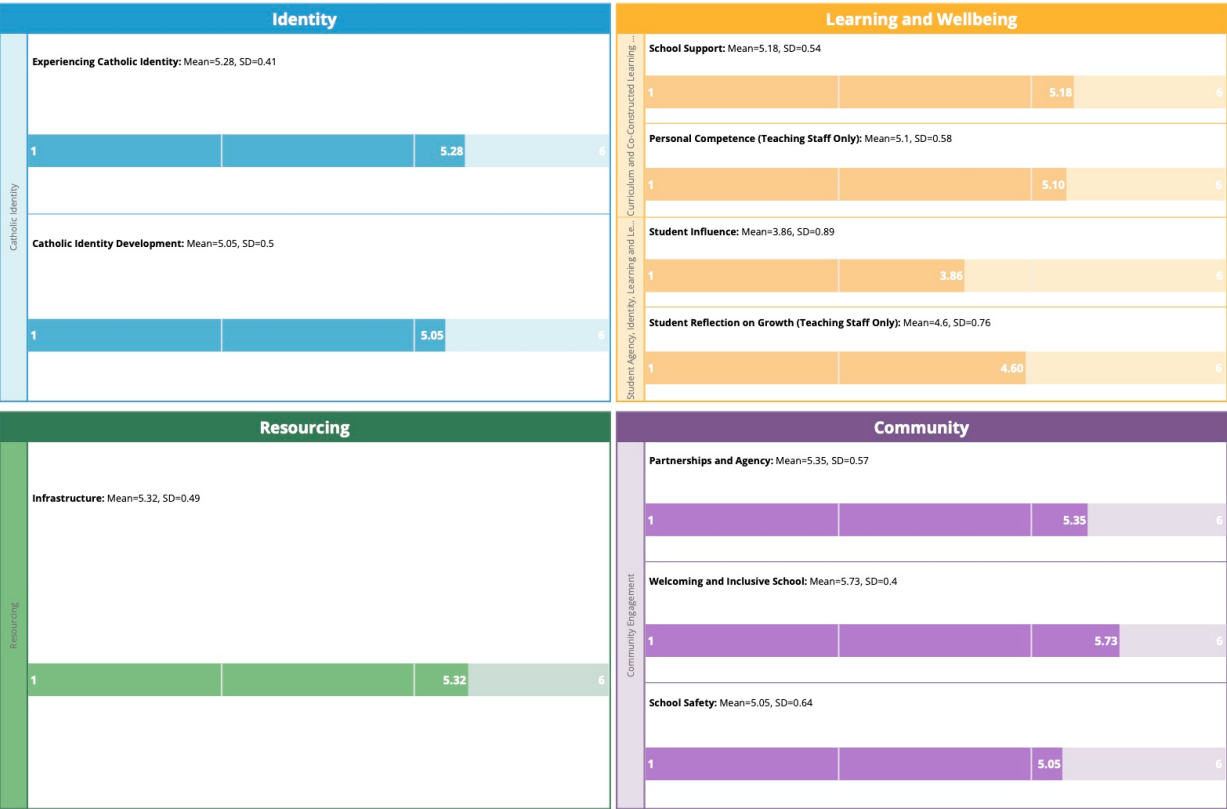
Highest Rating;

- ◆ Being a welcoming and inclusive school
- ◆ Experiencing Catholic identity

Areas of focus in 2025 will be;

- ◆ Student reflection on growth
- ◆ Students direct their own learning

Balanced Score Card: Teacher & Leadership Perceptions (LLL Framework)



Parent Community Survey Results

42 Parents Participated

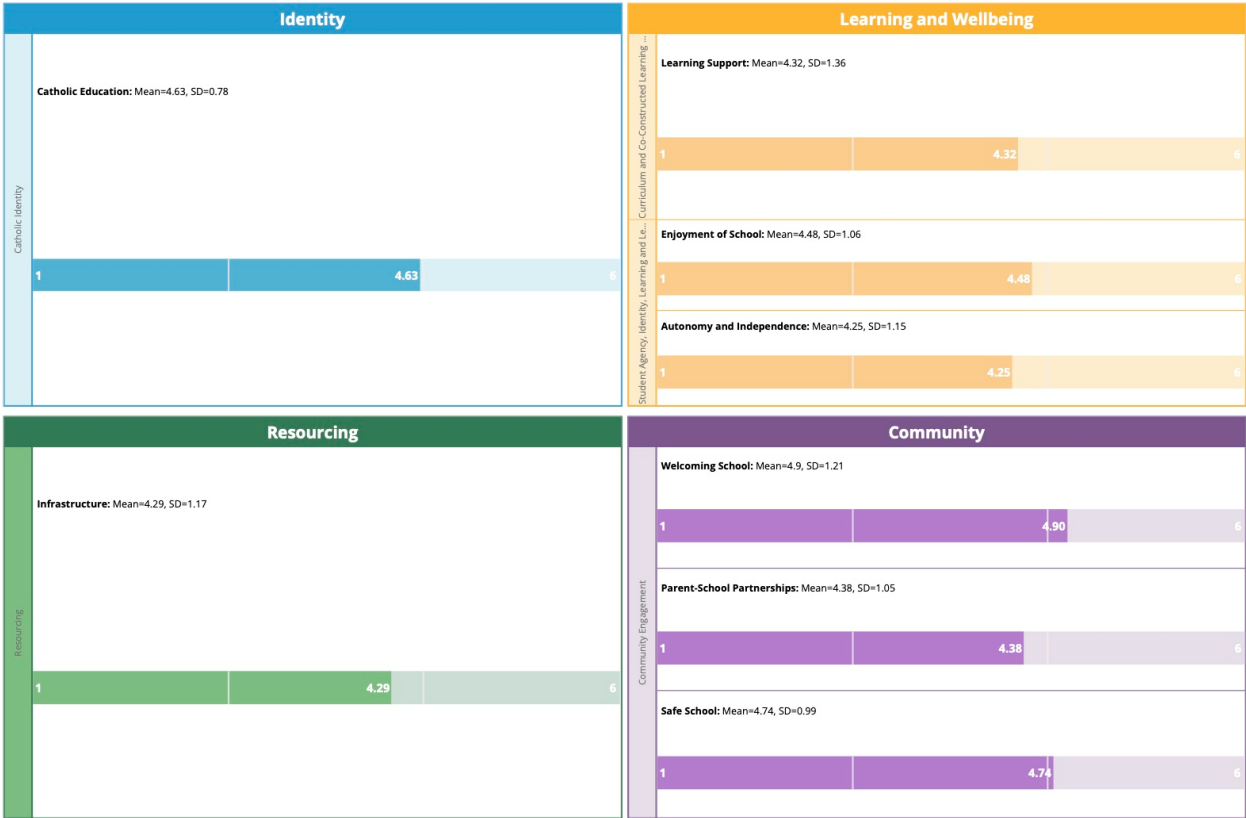
Highest Rating;

- ◆ Being a welcoming school
- ◆ Being a safe school

Areas of focus in 2025 would be;

- ◆ Parent-School Partnerships
- ◆ Developing more time management skills with children

Balanced Score Card: Parent & Caregiver Perceptions (LLL Framework)



School Performance Report - Other

School Statistical Analysis

Enrolments

Census data in August 2024 shows the following enrolments with the 2023 data included for comparison.

Year Level	Enrolments 2024	Enrolments 2023
Reception	115	106
Year 1	77	78
Year 2	80	82
Year 3	83	79
Year 4	81	74
Year 5	75	74
Year 6	75	53
TOTAL	589	546

Male	284	264
Female	305	282

Indigenous Enrolments	4	<1%
Students with Disabilities	111	20.1%

Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate is reported as a percentage and is calculated by comparing the number of absent days against the total number of days students are expected to attend school. The primary reasons for student absences include illness and family leave.

To ensure accurate attendance records, parents are required to notify the school of any student absences. This can be done via:

- ♦ Phone call or in-person notification
- ♦ School App or email
- ♦ Voicemail message on the school's answering machine

For extended absences, parents must provide a written notice detailing the duration and reason for the absence, with approval from the Principal.

In cases where absenteeism is linked to other challenges, individual attendance support plans are developed in line with our Student Absenteeism Policy. These programs may address transport concerns, family circumstances, and other relevant factors, ensuring that students are supported in maintaining regular attendance.

Year Level	Attendance 2024 (%)	Attendance 2023 (%)
Reception	90.8%	93%
Year 1	91.5%	92.7%
Year 2	91.6%	89.5%
Year 3	90.8%	93.8%
Year 4	91.3%	88.4%
Year 5	88.7%	90.8%
Year 6	89.3%	92.8%
TOTAL	90.6%	91.6%

Staff Statistics

Staff numbers in accordance with 2024 August Census.

	2024		2023	
	No of Staff	FTE	No of Staff	FTE
Teaching	38	30.80	42	28.75
Non-Teaching	34	17.50	17	13.6
Total	72	48.3	59	42.35

Teacher Qualifications

	Number of Teachers 2024
Masters Degree	3
Bachelor Degree	26
Graduate Certificate in RE	4
Graduate Diploma in Education	4
Diploma in Teaching	4

Professional Learning

At Star of the Sea, we are committed to fostering personal and collective growth through ongoing professional learning and community engagement. All teaching staff and Education Support Officers (ESOs) actively participate in professional development opportunities, either through manager recommendations or self-identified learning pathways.

Key Focus Areas in 2024

Throughout the year, staff engaged in targeted professional learning to enhance educational practices and student outcomes. This included:

- ♦ Numeracy Development – Staff explored key focus areas such as Numeracy Agreements, CES Performance Standards, and Curriculum Planning & Mapping, supported by a System Coach from Catholic Education South Australia (CESA).
- ♦ Literacy Enhancement – A continued emphasis was placed on SEQTA and Literacy development, with a specific focus on our Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP) program to strengthen foundational literacy skills.
- ♦ Collaborative Learning – In addition to individual professional development, all staff participated in whole-school professional learning sessions during pupil-free days and afternoon staff meetings, ensuring a shared approach to continuous improvement.

This structured professional development ensures that our educators remain equipped with contemporary best practices, enhancing both teaching effectiveness and student engagement.

School Financial Report

Anthony Filpi – CESA Appointed Finance Officer

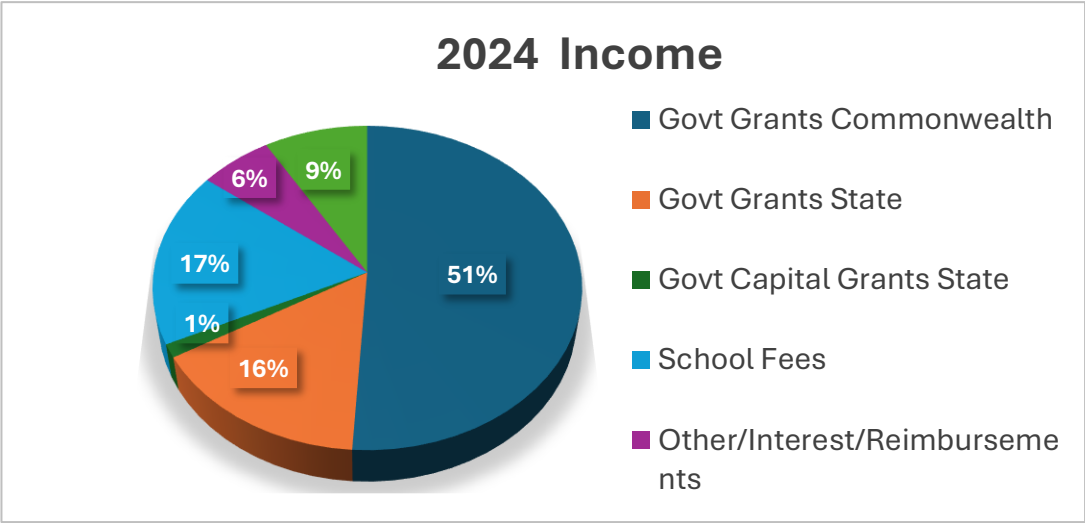
Income and Expenditure 2024

The information below is an unaudited representation of the Income & Expenditure for 2024.

Star of the Sea School continues to operate under sound financial position due to careful and considered budgeting and planning to ensure that funds are expended to support and facilitate learning and infrastructure.

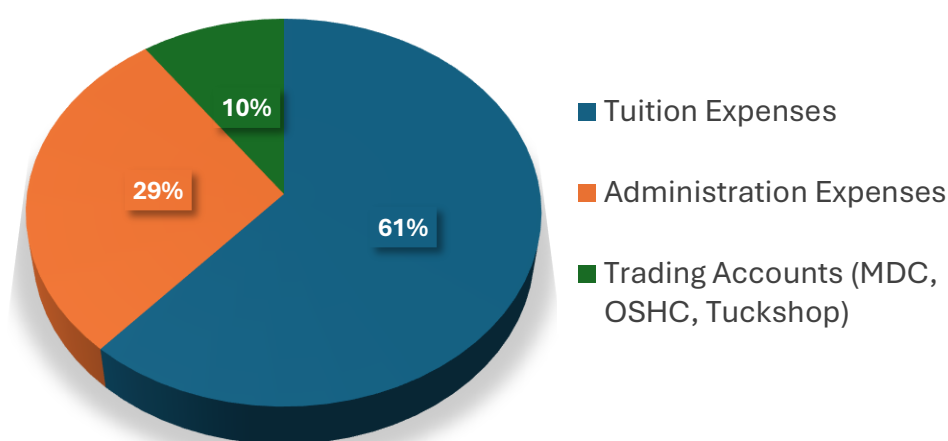
Student enrolment numbers for 2024 were 552 students as reported at the August Commonwealth Census date compared to 548 at the same time in 2023.

Student numbers directly impact the level of State and Commonwealth Government funding received every year and represents the largest portion of Revenue/Income received by the school, as illustrated by the graph below.



School expenditure continues to be closely tracked with emphasis on maintaining adequate reserves for future development without compromising the children’s education or commitment to the community. The graph below summarises the areas of expenditure.

2024 Expenses



Stage 2A and 2B building works was completed in 2024, which is a multi-level building housing the school entry, administration offices, classrooms and multipurpose spaces for staff and students. The project which was completed in 2024 at a construction cost of \$8M and was funded with a capital loan, school funds held in reserve and a State Government Capital Grant.

Other items of notable capital expenditure for 2024 included the purchase of student and staff devices.

OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES:

Marine Discovery Centre (MDC)

In 2024, the MDC recorded a deficit of \$101,127, in contrast to a surplus of \$65,896 in 2023. This variance is primarily due to the allocation of a State Government Grant received in 2023, which was recorded entirely in that financial year instead of being distributed across 2023 and 2024. As a result, while the 2023 financial outcome appeared stronger, the 2024 deficit reflects the absence of this additional funding. Moving forward, adjustments in grant allocations will be considered to ensure a more balanced financial representation across reporting periods.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

In 2024, OSHC recorded a deficit of \$31,112, primarily due to unexpected salary payout figures and the investment in updating and purchasing essential OSHC resources. While this resulted in a financial shortfall, the program remains a vital service for our families. Looking ahead, the introduction of new OSHC leadership and an anticipated increase in enrolments in 2025 are expected to strengthen financial sustainability. These changes will support a positive budget turnaround, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality care for our school community.

Canteen

In 2024, the Tuckshop recorded a deficit of \$1,104, compared to a surplus of \$862.47 in 2023. This shift is primarily attributed to increased salary costs resulting from lower levels of volunteer support. As the Tuckshop is expected to operate at a break-even point, ongoing community engagement and volunteer involvement are essential to maintaining its viability and keeping prices affordable for families. We extend our gratitude to Dee Taggart and her dedicated team of volunteers for their hard work and commitment throughout 2024.

Parent & Friends

In 2024, our dedicated and hardworking Parents & Friends volunteer team successfully generated a surplus of \$33,603 through a range of fundraising events and activities. Their efforts have made a significant contribution to our school community, supporting valuable initiatives and enhancing the experiences of our students and families. We extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers for their commitment and generosity in making these events a success.

Overall Result

The school reported a cashflow deficit of \$964,460 which was a result of the building project payments that were from school reserves.

Supporting copies of the audited 'Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income' which reflects income and expenses and the 'Statement of Cashflows' which reflects the cashflow position are included with this summary.

Income and Expenditure 2024

CASHFLOW BUDGET						
	PTD Actual	PTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Variance % Annual Budget
School Fees	57,574	75,000	1,968,434	1,808,700	159,734	9%
CEO & Other Income	22,756	250	526,259	305,950	220,309	72%
Government Grants	119,687	371,864	7,183,100	6,813,485	369,615	5%
Trading Account	106,143	56,500	921,883	831,750	90,133	11%
Cash Inflows	306,160	503,614	10,599,675	9,759,885	839,790	9%
Tuition Salaries & Allowances	-813,119	-654,083	-6,185,800	-5,796,959	-388,841	7%
Other Tuition	-60,465	-42,000	-447,174	-384,850	-62,324	16%
Admin Salaries & Allowances	-84,136	-62,133	-576,679	-524,100	-52,579	10%
Grounds, R&M & Cleaning	-16,755	-12,000	-307,084	-340,750	33,666	-10%
Utilities	-6,877	-4,200	-110,363	-98,500	-11,863	12%
Insurance	0	0	-86,655	-85,000	-1,655	2%
Administration / Other	-13,787	-125	-124,300	-106,000	-18,300	17%
Levies	-28,762	0	-511,553	-512,200	647	0%
Interest	-19,877	-21,170	-240,716	-267,262	26,546	-10%
Training	-216	0	-21,640	-22,500	860	-4%
Trading Accounts	-116,262	-88,329	-1,055,934	-895,771	-160,163	18%
Clearing accounts	94,234	0	205,602	0	205,602	0%
Cash Outflows	-1,066,023	-884,040	-9,462,297	-9,033,892	-428,405	5%
Net Operating Cash Flows	-759,864	-380,426	1,137,378	725,993	411,385	13%
Loan Drawdowns	0	0	912,176	1,310,000	-397,824	-30%
Loan Principal Repayments	0	-51,673	-131,340	-543,437	412,097	-76%
Capital Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other Capital Income	0	0	25,307	10,000	15,307	153%
Capital Expenditure	-204,797	-200,000	-2,225,926	-2,580,000	354,074	-14%
Net Capital Cash Flows	-204,797	-251,673	-1,419,783	-1,803,437	383,654	-21%
Non Cash Flow Items	200	0	570	0	570	0%
Total Cash Flows	-964,460	-632,099	-281,835	-1,077,444	795,609	-8%

Board Election Nominees

Parent Nominations

Libby Hartley

I'm excited to put myself forward for a position on the Star of the Sea Board. As a parent of two current students and one future student, I care deeply about the school and its ongoing development. I'd love to offer my time and experience to help guide the school's direction and contribute a parent's perspective on how we can best support our kids.

My family and I have been part of the Star of the Sea community for four years now, and over that time, my husband and I have enjoyed getting involved through volunteering for school sports, excursions, and other events. It's been a great way to connect with the school and support the kids.

I'm a youth counsellor with my own practice and have had the chance to work with a range of schools, including Star of the Sea. I've also presented to both teachers and parents on how we can best support students emotionally and psychologically. I feel this gives me a solid understanding of what works well in school environments, particularly when it comes to wellbeing.

I also work at Pulteney Grammar as their school counsellor, where I'm part of the wellbeing team, running programs for primary and high school students, and doing one-on-one counselling. Through this role, I've seen the difference that boards, parents, and school communities can make.

I'm not currently on any boards or committees, because I believe it's important to be fully committed before taking on a role like this. But I'm passionate about supporting the school and believe I can bring a fresh perspective, especially in terms of student wellbeing and how we can grow under the guidance of the new leadership team.

Abi Lahon

My name is Abi, and I am eager to contribute meaningfully to our school community. As a new parent at Star of the Sea School, I've closely followed its academic progress and community initiatives over the years. Enrolling my son in Reception this year has been a rewarding milestone, and I am excited to play an active role in shaping the school's future. I want to help ensure that our school remains a place where all students feel supported, included, and inspired to reach their full potential.

I am particularly passionate about student well-being, the school's strategic direction, and promoting accountability within the learning environment. By joining the school board, I aim to provide valuable insights, collaborate on the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2025-28, and strengthen connections between families, educators, students, and other stakeholders.

In my professional life, I serve as a Director at APOD (Australian Partners of Defence) - Australia's largest military benefits and financial well-being program, and as an Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Through these roles, I have developed strong leadership, communication, marketing, project management, and youth development skills, all of which I will bring to the board. As a new candidate, I look forward to the opportunity to bring fresh perspectives to the board and work together to create a meaningful impact.

Rachel Cooke

I have 3 children at Star of the Sea and have been involved in the community since starting at playgroup at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in 2015. My eldest daughter is in Year 6, my son in Year 3 and my youngest daughter in Year 1. I have previous Governing Council experience, where I was a member for each of the 3 years my children were at Preschool in 2018, 2021 and 2023. I have seen Star of the Sea grow immensely over the past 10 years and I would love to contribute back to the community by becoming a member of the School Board.

I am an active member of the school, volunteering as Class Rep for the past 7 years, previous member of the Parents and Friends Committee for 2 years, attendance at class excursions, officiating at sports events including soccer team manager and helping in the tuck shop. If elected, my focus will be on the wellbeing and spiritual development of the students to enable social, emotional and academic growth. I will work on community connections, collaborating with families to nurture the students at Star of the Sea School.

Frank Parrello

I am a grandfather aged father of a Year 2 boy attending this school.

My association with this school goes back a long way as it's the first school I attended when I came to Australia in 1957. I have very fond memories of the time I spent at Star of the Sea. Back then the school was also a convent, and I recall the nuns giving me porridge for breakfast.

I have degrees in Applied Science and Chemical Engineering and have worked in the Public Buildings domain. My work included setting maintenance standards for schools to cover the schools' mandatory legislative obligations.

After I retired a number of years ago, I married and became a father, both for the first time.

As an accredited volunteer for the school, I help in whatever capacity I can, but I would like to be able to do more. I am especially interested in trying to get a hall built at the school.

Alexandra Bishop

My name is Alexandra Bishop, and this is my family's first year at Star of the Sea. My husband, my daughter and I arrived from Sydney last year to build our lives in Adelaide.

The school has helped transition our life to Adelaide in a seamless way, and I would like to give back to this welcoming and nurturing community.

My professional background is in advocacy. I work with community groups, industry and governments to advocate on behalf of household and small business energy consumers. I also run my organisation's grants program, so I have first-hand understanding of grant applications, government and philanthropic funding, and fundraising.

I was on the P&F at our last school in Sydney. I have completed the Company Directors course through the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and I am eager to put my knowledge of governance, operations and risk to use.

The school has already given me and my family so much, providing a support system for us as new arrivals to the area. I would be honoured to offer my experience and perspective as a board member.

Kate Peebles

Our son joined Star of the Sea in 2023, so we have been actively involved in the school community for the last couple of years. I would like to be more involved in this community and help develop it for the betterment of the school and ultimately the students. It is due to this I would like to nominate for the School Board.

I have previously been part of St Margarets Kindergarten Management Committee which oversaw the operations of the Kindy and the associated fund raising and working bee events. I enjoyed being an active participant in this group.

Working in defence, I am used to managing competing priorities and projects. In my work, I see the future opportunities for our children, especially in the STEM fields, and actively work with the Subs in Schools program. I see there are growing opportunities in the early learning space that the school could be part of. If chosen to be part of the School Board, I look forward to growing opportunities for our school to continue to grow into a great educational provider and stronger community.

Timothy Sarris

My name is Timothy Sarris and this is my second year at Star of the Sea, and I have truly appreciated being part of such a welcoming and supportive community.

I would like to nominate myself for a position on the School Board for the first time, as I am passionate about contributing to the continued growth of our school and ensuring that both students and teachers thrive in the nurturing environment that has been created.

As a Senior Project Manager in the Civil Engineering field for twenty years, I bring valuable skills in decision-making, problem-solving, human resource, health and safety and strategic planning—skills that would be beneficial in supporting the Board as we navigate the future of our school. I am also deeply committed to mentoring, particularly in guiding graduates, new professionals, and women in construction. This passion aligns with a key focus on the well-being of all members of our school community.

I believe these skills and experiences in managing high performing teams with large value and ministerial commitments translate well to supporting Star of the Sea in shaping educational policies and programs that supplement our children's learning journey. If elected, my goal will be to ensure that every decision made prioritizes the rounded education of our students and teachers, providing them with the best possible foundation for a bright future.

I would be excited and honoured to contribute to the School Board and navigate alongside fellow members to support and strengthen the Star of the Sea community.