



Important Dates

Year 3 Children's
Parish Mass 9.30am
Sunday 18 February 2024

Board Meeting
6.30pm
Monday 19 February 2024

Sacramental
Information
Meeting 7pm in
Church
Tuesday 20 February 2024

School Tour
Wednesday 21 February
2024

Whole School Mass
11.30am
Thursday 22 February 2024

Whole School
Assembly 2pm All
Welcome
Wednesday 28 February
2024

From the Principal

Dear Families

Our two weeks at school have been a very successful start! We devote most of this time to social and emotional learning, which is the beginning of our Student Wellbeing program which continues throughout the school year. This week we have begun to turn our attention to the curriculum and academic learning.

PARENT TEACHER CHATS

Teachers have been putting in long hours last week offering an opportunity to meet your child's teacher. If you missed the opportunity, please contact your child's teacher directly.

PLAYGROUP

Our very popular playgroup began last week. It is again held on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall. The group is run in conjunction with the Parish and is for any child in our wider community, accompanied by Parents or Grandparents or Caregivers. Bookings are not necessary just turn up at 9:30am.

SCHOOL ROUTINES

As school routines begin to take shape you will notice that homework will begin to appear, the majority of which is reading. The importance of reading cannot be underestimated and has been the topic of thousands of pieces of research. For example, in a study of the out-of-school activities of fifth graders, Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding (1988) found that time spent reading books was the best predictor of a student's reading proficiency. Some examples from the study are...

- A student reading at home for 2 minutes a day would read 100 000 words a year and would be in the bottom third of reading ability when compared with all 10 year olds
- If that student increased their reading by 10 minutes a day, they would bump up into the top third of reading ability when compared to all 10 year olds
- Those students in the top 10% of readers, when compared with all 10 year olds, read for 21 minutes a day, reading nearly 2 million words a year away from school

Please keep in mind that when children bring home readers they should be quite easy for them to read. The rule of thumb is no more than 5 errors per 100 words, this is because the aim of reading is to comprehend the text.

AUDIRI application is our major link to families delivering school alerts, information as well as our new electronic version of the school newsletter instantly and directly to your smartphone and/or tablet. In your devices "App Store" search for "Audiri" and follow the very simple instructions.

STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL FACEBOOK SITE

This year we are continuing our Facebook site to celebrate some of the fantastic things happening around our school. On Facebook you can search for our site by using Star of the Sea School.

SCHOOL HOURS

Just a reminder that children are welcome at school from 8:20am, when our gates are opened and teachers are on yard duty. In the morning children can play in the Nature play area, on the MDC courts or playground. This year there is no playing on the oval before and after school.

At the end of the day, we supervise children in the yard till around 3:25pm. Any remaining children are then seated in the front office and should be picked up no later than 3:30pm.

CARS AND CHILDREN

The safety of our children is paramount to the operation of any school and where our children and cars share the same space every care is needed. We make many appeals to parents about parking, kiss and drop etc. Sometimes we have neighbours and their visitors or workmen not paying attention to the parking signs. In our last newsletter you will have found a full description on this.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Many thanks for all the pancake mix and condiments that the older children brought along. Thank you also goes to the many volunteers on the day who cooked, cleaned and served the pancakes.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

With Father Manu away we held a liturgy in the church this year, run by our APRIM Dominique Laurendi. I must commend the children

on their behaviour in the Church which was excellent. Next week we have our beginning of the Year Mass and again invite any adults to come along, Thursday 11:30am in the Church.

CARTNAVALE

Congratulations to Lisa Lata and Tania Condelli for putting on this fantastic event last Friday. It was a great way to bring the community together and a great way to start the year.



Kind regards
Damian Weeks

[View this article online to read more](#)

Recent News

15.02.24

From the Deputy Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to Week 3! It has been amazing to see our students settling into school routines, developing and strengthening relationships with their peers, teachers and ESO's and forming positive learning experiences. It has been wonderful getting to know many of the Star of the Sea students and families and I thank you all for the continued warm welcome.

LUNCH TIME CLUBS

We are extremely fortunate to run lunch time clubs at school for students in both the Early Years (R-2) and Primary Years (3-6). Lunchtime clubs are an opportunity for students to have fun and interact with peers, including peers from different year levels, who have similar interests and passions. They help build student engagement and social skills for all students and provide opportunities for students who may like a quieter place to play during their break.

Lunchtime clubs can also have the following benefits for students including:

- Engagement in teamwork, co-operation and collaboration

- Opportunity to increase interests, knowledge and skills
- Increasing feeling of safety whilst at school
- Decreasing loneliness
- Learning social cues and opportunity to practice social skills

Whilst we have many resources for lunch time club including games and puzzles, we are always on the hunt for more to provide a wide variety of activities for our students. If you have some items in great condition that you no longer need and would like to donate to the school for lunch time club, we would greatly appreciate it.

Items include:

- Puzzles
- Board Games
- Lego/Duplo
- Marble Runs

Any donations can be made directly to the front office. Thanks for your support and generosity.





MEET THE TEACHER

It has been wonderful to see so many families take up the opportunity to come and meet their child's class teacher. I know our educators have found these meetings beneficial in building a learner profile and working in partnership with you to support your child. As you are aware, open communication at Star of the Sea is vital and welcomed. Your child's class teacher should be your first point of call if you have any concerns or celebrations you wish to share.

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy)

At Star of the Sea School, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN assessments during Week 7 and 8 of this term. The

NAPLAN assessments are linked to the Australian Curriculum. The aim is to determine whether students are developing the essential skills; predominately in literacy and numeracy, that they will need in life. It is important to understand that this is one form of assessment that is used to gather data about your child's attainment of literacy and numeracy skills. At Star of the Sea, we use a variety of ongoing assessment and reporting processes to inform our teaching and support student learning. If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN, please contact your child's class teacher.

CANTEEN

A reminder for families to ensure recess and lunch is packed each day for you children. We understand that sometimes lunch boxes are forgotten but getting your children into a positive routine by packing their own schoolbags everyday will really help with this. We kindly provide something small from the canteen when recess or lunch is forgotten but this has some impact on the running costs of our canteen. We want to ensure our school canteen continues to be financially successful for our school community and your support will really help with this.

2024 CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Catholic Education Awards. The awards will be presented as part of Catholic Education Week in May. Nominations close March 8 2024. Please find further information below from the link: <https://awards.cesa.catholic.edu.au/>



Do you know someone making an outstanding contribution to Catholic Education?

The Catholic Education Awards are your opportunity to shine a light on a teacher, support person, leader, volunteer or program making a positive difference! NOMINATE NOW.

Nominations close March 8 2024.

awards.cesa.catholic.edu.au

Have a safe and happy fortnight.

Annette Diassinias

[View this article online to read more](#)

15.02.24

From the APRIM

Just as there are seasons of the year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. So too, the Church's year has seasons. Each season celebrates a part of Jesus' life.

This week was a very important time in our Liturgical Calendar. It began with Shrove Tuesday followed by Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a new season in the Church's year. The tradition of the Church has been to see Lent as a time of renewal and preparation for the great feast of Easter.

On Tuesday our students celebrated Shrove Tuesday by eating yummy pancakes that were cooked and prepared by our wonderful parent helpers. A huge **THANKYOU** to Michael Burgan, Joe Rachou, Pina Birbas and all the parent helpers who came and served all the pancakes.



Also a big shout out to the families of the Year 4 students for supplying the mixture and the Year 6 families for supplying the condiments.

An absolute testament to our wonderful community here. We are truly blessed.

Yesterday our school marked the beginning of the Church's season of Lent by celebrating with a whole school liturgy in our church. Our students and school community were marked with ashes on their forehead. This is a public expression of our faith and humility. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During our celebration each class received a Project Compassion gift bag. These contain boxes which will be sent home to collect donations for Caritas Australia.

Project Compassion

During the season of Lent we have been called to Pray Fast and Almsgiving. 'Alms' is what we do and give to people in need. As a school community we are Almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. We thank our families who will generously to Project Compassion through money donations. **Donations can also be made via QKR.**

Kind regards

Dominique Laurendi

[View this article online to read more](#)

Star of the Sea School Swimming Carnival

Last week was the annual Star of the Sea School Swimming Carnival we had some very competitive races lots of cheering and fantastic parent support. Congratulations to Fitzpatrick on successfully winning the 2024 swimming carnival.



Star of the Sea School is ALLERGY AWARE



Star of the Sea School is concerned about the safety and well-being of all our students. Many of you will know someone who is affected by anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction. Our school does its best to be an allergy aware school. Staff have had training in severe allergy management and we have implemented lots of strategies to help keep students at risk of anaphylaxis as safe as we can. We have a number of students who live with the risk of anaphylaxis to foods and insect stings. Whilst these children are being taught to care for themselves at an age appropriate level, we ask that you help us educate your child on the importance of not sharing food with others, washing hands after eating and calling out to an adult if they think their friend with allergies is sick. With increased awareness and understanding of anaphylaxis, you will be able to help protect those around you.

A food allergy is an immune system response to a normally harmless food protein that the body believes is harmful. When the individual eats food containing that protein, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, triggering symptoms that can affect a person's breathing, gastrointestinal tract, skin, and/or heart. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life-threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention.

It is estimated that up to 400,000 (2%) Australians, including 1 in 20 children suffer from food allergies and some of them will experience a life-threatening (anaphylactic) reaction.

Symptoms of food allergy can include:

Mild to moderate allergic reaction

- Tingling of the mouth
- Hives, welts or body redness
- Swelling of the face, lips, eyes
- Vomiting, abdominal pain (note these are signs of a severe allergic reaction if the person has insect allergy)
- *Severe allergic reaction- anaphylaxis*
- Difficult/noisy breathing
- Swelling of the tongue
- Swelling or tightness in the throat
- Difficulty talking or hoarse voice
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

9 foods cause 90% of food allergies. These foods are:

- Egg
- Milk
- Peanut
- Tree nuts (cashew, almond, pistachio etc)
- Wheat
- Sesame Seeds
- Soy
- Fish
- Crustacea(prawns, lobster, crabs etc)

Peanuts are the leading cause of severe allergic reactions, followed by tree nuts, shellfish, fish and milk. Adrenaline/epinephrine is the first line treatment for severe allergic reactions and can be administered via auto-injector, called the EpiPen®.

To learn more about anaphylaxis and food allergies, go to www.allergyfacts.org.au and www.allergy.org.au

As the only way to manage a food allergy is avoidance, the school has implemented several strategies to help prevent a severe allergic reaction. We can never totally eliminate the risk of an anaphylaxis but we can all do things that will help lessen the risk. Please consider the child with food allergy when packing your child's lunch or when sending in food for any occasion, including school excursions. Foods that 'May contain traces of nuts or nut products' are fine for the non- allergic students to consume at school as long as they do not share food.

View this article online to read more

Staff List Term 1 2024

Please find attached [Term 1 Staff List](#).

School Fees

Statements will be coming home with your child next week. There is plenty of information about School Fees on our [website](#) including information about our low-income fee.

The website also has all the forms that you may require for payment of school fees. As most people know, there are many ways that fees can be paid. One of the most popular is Direct Debit and this can be arranged through the school with our Finance Manager, Karyn Burlow. If this is your preferred payment method you can find the form on the website and forward this to Karyn.

If you have already lodged paperwork for 2024 Direct Debits these are currently being processed. Just a reminder these forms need to be completed each year. From February 26th Karyn will be working from her new office in the new building (currently access is still via our current library front office).

If you are ever experiencing financial difficulties with school fees please make contact with Karyn so we can see how we can help.



We will again be offering participation in the Children's University program at our school in 2024.

Registrations will open in approximately 3 weeks. We await information regarding a new registration process the CU program is trialing this year. Apologies for the delay.

Here is the information we have so far from the CU team about the 2024 program

The Registration Process

In 2024 CU will pilot an **online registration process** whereby there will be a **QR code** that links to an online form with membership information being

submitted directly to CU.

Please note, that the process for payment between through QKR! will remain the same.

This means you will need to go to QKR and the new online form to complete registration. Once this is up and running I would welcome feedback about this process to share with the CU team.

The final cut-off date for all membership registrations will be **Thursday 28 March 2024, Term 1, Week 9**, also the day before the Easter break.

CU Graduation Ceremonies

CU Adelaide metropolitan graduation ceremonies are scheduled to take place during Term 4, however, ceremonies will now commence at **10:30am**. There won't be any after school ceremony options.



THIS IS THE FIRST SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDER FOR 2024

- **ISSUE 1 NOW OPEN – LAST DAY FOR ORDERS FRIDAY February 16th.**
- **Expected delivery of books ordered from issue 1– March 12 – March 16th.**

**NO CASH ORDERS PLEASE
ORDER VIA LOOP**

**LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.**

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by cred card visit:

www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

|