



Newsletter Term 3 Week 9

Important Dates

Sacrament of Holy
Communion 6pm
Saturday 21 September 2024

Sacrament of Holy
Communion 11am
& 5.30pm
Sunday 22 September 2024

Year 5 Assembly
2.30pm SMB
Wednesday 25 September
2024

Season of Growth
Whole School Walk
Friday 27 September 2024

End of Term
Friday 27 September 2024

18.09.24

From the Principal

As Term 3 ends, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the exciting and productive few months we've had at Star of the Sea. This term has been rich with memorable experiences, including Camps, Incursions, and Excursions, and we've celebrated special events like Book

Week and the Sacraments of Confirmation.

I wish all our students and their families a wonderful school break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4.

DOGS ON SCHOOL SITE

I would like to inform the school community of an important update regarding our school. For the safety and comfort of all students, staff, and visitors, dogs are no longer permitted on school grounds.

While we understand that many families enjoy bringing their pets during drop-off and pick-up times, this decision has been made with careful consideration of several factors, including:

- **Student safety:** Some students may feel uncomfortable or anxious around dogs, and even well-behaved pets can react unpredictably in a busy school environment.
- **Health concerns:** We have students with allergies and conditions that may be aggravated by the presence of animals.
- **Hygiene:** We want to maintain a clean and safe environment for everyone, and managing animal waste can be difficult in public spaces.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to this, ensuring that our school remains a safe and welcoming space for all.

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER: PLAYGROUND USE AND SCHOOL GROUNDS

We would like to remind all families about after school play. For the safety of all students, **the school playground is not to be used after school hours** unless children are under the supervision of a staff member. Without proper supervision, the risk of injury increases, and we want to ensure that everyone remains safe.

Additionally, our OSHC service utilises the playground after school. It becomes difficult for staff to manage the space effectively when children who are not enrolled in OSHC are also using the equipment.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines to help maintain a safe and organised environment for all students.

RECEPTION CLASSES 2025

I am thrilled to announce the addition of a fourth Reception class for 2025. This decision is part of our commitment to providing the best possible start for our youngest learners, and it will be in place as a trial for one year only, based on current enrolment numbers.

The introduction of this fourth class brings several important benefits. With smaller class sizes, students will benefit from more individual attention, fostering a nurturing environment where every child can thrive. A lower teacher-to-student ratio will allow for more focused group work and tailored learning opportunities, enhancing the overall early childhood education experience.

In addition to academic benefits, the smaller groups will help create a stronger sense of belonging and enable students to build deeper relationships with both their peers and teachers, which is vital during these formative years.

Following Reception, these students will transition into our established three-stream education approach across all year levels from Year 1 to Year 6, ensuring consistency in their learning journey and social development.

This bubble class reflects our school's flexibility and dedication to meeting the needs of our growing community. We look forward to seeing our Reception students flourish in this supportive and enriched learning environment!

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR 2025

As we begin planning for the 2025 school year, we will soon be working on class structures and student placements. If you have specific requests regarding your child's placement for 2025, we kindly ask that you submit the form found on our [website](#) by Friday 18 October (Friday, Week 1). These requests may relate to your child's specific learning, social, or emotional needs.

In addition to parent input, students will also have the opportunity to contribute by selecting a few friends they would like to be with next year.

Please note that while we will do our best to accommodate requests received by the due date, it becomes increasingly challenging to make adjustments once this date has passed. The placement of one student can impact the entire class dynamic, making late changes difficult to manage.

We want to emphasise that requests for specific teachers or teacher gender will not be considered. Our teachers invest significant time and professional judgment into the class placement process, relying on their knowledge of each student's unique needs. Once placements are finalized, changes will not be possible. It is important to recognize the complexity of placing 500 students into groups that best support their learning and social development.

Please email any requests to vandrews@star.catholic.edu.au

Rest assured, these will be shared with the teachers to assist in the placement process.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Just a reminder about day one of Term 4, Monday 14 October will be a Pupil Free Day.

With Kindness,

Annette Diassinias

Acting Principal

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

Recent News

From the Acting Deputy

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Week 9!

School Camp: Building Confidence and Resilience

Last week, I joined the Year 5's on their school camp experience at El Shaddai, in Wellington and it brought back many memories of my personal camp experiences from Narnu Farm in Year 3 right through to a whole week 'off the grid' in the Flinders Ranges in Year 11 and everything in between. I was quickly reminded of the many wonderful opportunities that the school camp experience brings to our young people and for many it was their first time away from home. We cannot underestimate how significant this can be for some of our students.

It was wonderful to witness, in action, the many benefits of being connected to nature and off technology, even for 2-3 days. The camp allowed our learners the opportunity to showcase different strengths that may not always be visible in the classroom setting. Teachers commented about 'seeing' their students in a different light. Additionally, this camp experience strengthened relationships between peers and showcased the warmth and care our teachers demonstrated to those entrusted in their care. Furthermore, independence was fostered, new activities were experienced, and confidence was built.

I must acknowledge the hard work of all our educators who tirelessly planned behind the scenes to ensure a successful camp experience, not to mention the 'around the clock' supervision and care to ensure everyone's wellbeing was taken care of. The payoff for us as educators is that we were fortunate to witness some significant milestones being demonstrated by our students. Being resilient was definitely at the forefront of our minds and this was expressed when our students tried a new challenge, like kayaking for the first time, holding a snake courageously, tasting a new food at mealtime and one, not to be underestimated, falling asleep in a foreign bed and away from the comforts of home.

I hope that all the skills, dispositions and memories learnt and experienced by our campers will be long lasting. I did smile when I some students commented about wanting the camp to last for a whole week..... I wonder how our fabulous teachers (and parents) would feel about that! Ultimately, it confirmed just how much the camp experience continues to be a value add to the primary school curriculum.

Smart Watches and Mobile Phones

I would like to remind parents and students that smart watches and phones are not to be used for contacting parents or others during school hours. We appreciate the times in which we now live and that these devices in many instances support families particularly at the end of day with pick up arrangements. Please be assured that if you need to get a message to your child or vice versa, this will be followed up by the front office staff. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Lost Property

As we head into the term break, I remind students and families to check our ever-growing pile of lost property items. We have two full tubs of clothing that belong to someone! Lost property is located in our tuckshop area.

Literacy Approach

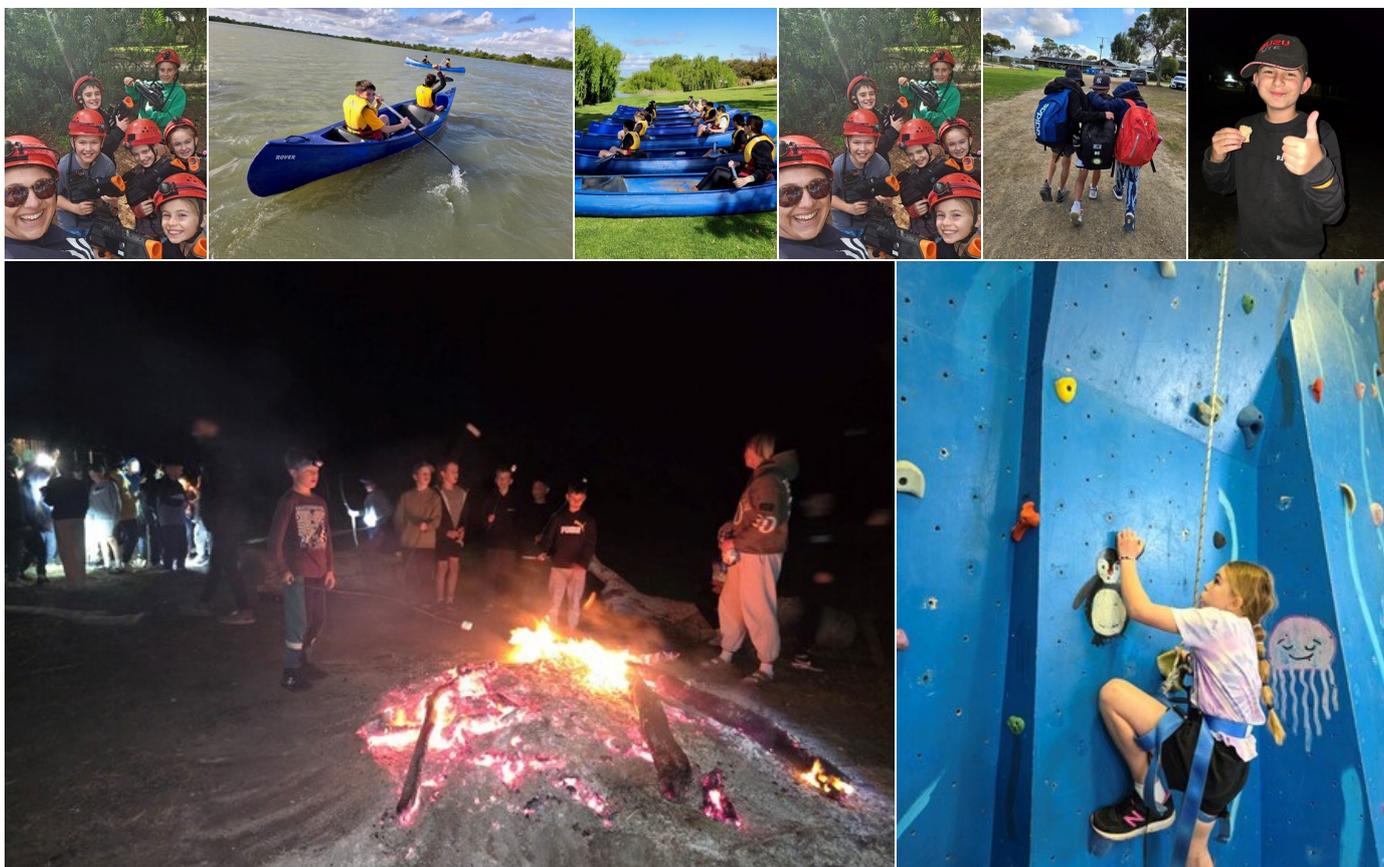
Our Playberry Laser literacy approach is unapologetically thorough, routine based and rigorous. Using retrieval practice in many forms, students benefit from ample opportunities to reinforce and solidify their skills. Practice makes permanent. In addition to the decodable

readers, connected texts and good fit interest books, parents often ask if there a quality apps or websites to support reading at home. Here are some quality ones that many of our educators and tutors use that you may like to use at home with your children.

Reading Doctor: Evidence based that promotes phonics and phonemic awareness skills. [Click her for more information.](#)

Nessy: Especially designed for students with dyslexia but can be used for any child. It is based on the Science of Reading, [click her for more information](#)

The Five from Five website is very informative for parents and has a list of online games which you may find useful.



18.09.24

From the APRIM

Sacramental Program – Sacrament of Confirmation

The past week has been a very special time for 60 of our Star of the Sea Students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These were celebrated over 3 evening ceremonies. We were fortunate to have Fr Dean Marin, the Vicar General, who came to preside the ceremonies. This coming weekend, these students will also receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion where they will be welcomed into the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Henley Beach Parish.

During the past few months these students have been growing and journeying together, reflecting on their lives and their own experiences. They have grown in their knowledge and love of God; that same knowledge and love they have shared within their families and within the life of our Church.

I would like to personally thank the Year 4 class teachers, Adam Francis, Maria Trimarchi and Mel Tokic for preparing these students and assisting me with the entire Sacramental Program

Thank you to all the families, friends and sponsors for supporting these young students on this important milestone in their faith journey.

May God continue to shine upon them all and bless them always.



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



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

We are currently in the **Season of Creation**, a time when we are all called to give thanks for the creation that God has given us.

Pope Francis calls us all to be 'Stewards of our Land' and to pay attention to the many gifts that surround us each day

Next week our students will engage in a number of activities in class, ending in a **Whole School Pilgrimage to the beach** to celebrate this special time.

Students are invited to wear casuals and bring a gold coin donation. Please make sure they are being sun smart, NO singlet tops, and remember to bring a hat to wear.

We will be leaving school at approximately 9:15, returning by recess.

Each class will engage in a prayer service and then spend some time enjoying the beach; making sandcastles, drawing in the sand, before participating in a beach clean-up. Students will not be going in the water or anywhere near the water.

Each class needs 2 parent volunteers to assist us with walking to and from the beach, and supervision while we are there.

If you have all relevant checks, please contact your class teacher, or the front office.

We look forward to a nice morning, giving thanks to God for all creation.

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

Yesterday we were lucky to have Patrick's Dad visit us in his truck. The children asks some very engaging questions. Before the truck visit we talked about how many wheels are on different trucks. We will use our boxes to construct our own trucks.



The Marine Discovery Centre has now released 8 exciting episodes of *Porci's Ocean Patrol!* Porci (pronounced "pour-key"), a friendly Porcupine Fish, takes viewers on a journey through the fascinating marine life of South Australia's oceans, while teaching valuable lessons about protecting these creatures, exploring Aboriginal culture, and promoting environmental sustainability.

In addition to starring MDC's own Karno and Georgie, episodes from episode 2 onwards feature students from Star of the Sea School. Each episode is about 8 minutes long and comes with downloadable activities and teacher resources. Plus, students participating in the Children's University program can earn hours towards their passport by completing these tasks through the Children's University portal.

The Marine Discovery Centre is working towards generating income from YouTube once we reach 1,000 subscribers. We're calling on our community to help us reach this milestone! Please subscribe to our channel using the link below, share it with friends and family, and be the first to know when new episodes drop.

Your support helps sustain the Marine Discovery Centre—thank you for being part of our mission!

<https://www.youtube.com/@porcisoceanpatrol>

You can also download all of the free educational resources for each episode here: <https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol/series-episodes>

One-minute videos and student activities here: <https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/porci-s-ocean-patrol/activities>



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youtube.com/@porcisoceanpatrol



& JOIN THE FUN

**GREEN
ANLAIDE**



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THRIVE WITH 5

3. READ

Reading with, and to, your child sets up attitudes and behaviours for later learning. Modelling reading, too, influences your child's reading habits. Reading is more than books; it's reading the packaging on a breakfast box, the signs and notices around us and the stories your children write. Through books, children boost their imagination, creativity and knowledge.



1. PLAY

2. TALK

3. READ

4. EAT WELL

5. SLEEP

READINESS FOR LEARNING



APPA Australian Primary Principals Association

Why Reading with Babies is Awesome!

Reading with babies isn't just fun – it's super important for their growth! Here's why:

- **Boosts Language Skills:** Reading books, talking about pictures, and sharing stories help babies learn speech sounds, words, and how to talk.
- **Early Literacy:** Doing these activities every day helps babies get used to books and words, setting them up to be great readers when they grow up.
- **Fires Up Imagination:** Stories make babies dream big and learn about the world around them.
- **Bonding Time:** Reading together is a special time for you and your baby to connect and enjoy each other's company.

Fun Tips for Reading with Babies:

- **Start Early:** You can begin reading to your baby from birth!
- **Quiet Time:** Newborns love calm reading sessions. By 12 months, they'll be excited and involved in story time.
- **Interactive Reading:** Point out words and pictures and make your voice lively with different tones.
- **Pick Fun Books:** Babies love books with rhymes, rhythm, and repetition.

Remember, every time you read with your baby, you're helping them grow smarter and stronger! So, grab a book and start the adventure together!

Self-Care September

Self-Care September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential.	2 Notice the things you do well, however small.	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly.	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it.	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes.	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time.	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'.
8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed.	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect.	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok.	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy.	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost.	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one.	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break.
15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low.	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly.	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself.	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you.	19 Notice what you are feeling without any judgement.	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories.	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside.
22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still.	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you.	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love.	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing.	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents.	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans.	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn.
29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself.	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are.					

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

This month's calendar from the Action for Happiness platform, is a timely one as we near the end of term! With so much happening for many of our young people and their families, self-care must be a priority for all of us. There are a few on here that I know can be more challenging than others, like giving yourself permission to say no. I hope some of these gentle reminders can be useful for you or your children.



SAVE THE DATE! CAROLS NIGHT

Friday 6 December
at Star of the Sea School
more info to come



[Click here for the latest edition of The Southern Cross](#)

STATE BASKETBALL CENTRE

JUNIOR CAMP

2 DAY

30 SEP - 1 OCT

**maher
ninnis**
BASKETBALL



South Australian basketball legends
Brett Maher and **Scott Ninnis**
invite you to join their team!

MaherNinnis Basketball welcomes
kids of all abilities to grow their
love of the game and have fun in a
safe and supportive environment.
Make new friends and improve your
game with us.

30 SEP - 1 OCT
9AM - 3PM DAILY
AGES 7 - 16



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



