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## Important Dates

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NAPLAN Online  
Testing(Mon-Wed)  
Sunday 20 March

Board Meeting  
6.30pm  
Monday 20 March

Michael Mangan  
Concert  
Tuesday 21 March

Sports Day 2023  
Thursday 13 April

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16.03.23

## From the Principal

Dear Families

Yesterday we held our first assembly for our whole school for a number of years. It was great to see so many people under one roof. Congratulations to this semester's SRCs who received their badges on the day. We will hold another whole school assembly in the middle of next term.

Next term, there will be Year level assemblies in the Stella Maris Room, that families will be invited to. These assemblies will be where the Year level will celebrate the work that is happening across their cohort.

### **NAPLAN**

Congratulations to the Year 3 & 5 students who have begun their National testing this week. The NAPLAN testing has been brought forward this year in the hope that results are available to schools much earlier. The timing is interesting, as the publicly available results for 2022, have only just been released. When watching the news there has been a lot of doom and gloom in the reporting as SA results and many national results have gone backwards... well not here at Star of the Sea!

### **For the record...**

We are in the top 10 in Catholic Schools across the State for the first time  
Almost all the results for our School have increased on last year's excellent performance  
Compared to schools in our area we have again increased the gap between our schools across most areas of the testing  
We have had enormous growth in numeracy  
We are well above the CESA SA and Australian averages in almost all areas

This comes as no surprise to us, who closely monitor our students with screening testing several times a year. This data is interrogated so that we can adjust our teaching to the needs of our students, particularly to those performing beyond or below the expected year level. Many thanks to our staff who have done an incredible amount of work over the last three years in this area as the results speak for themselves.

For those students with the greatest needs, we produce Personalised Plans for Learning, an integral part of the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD), the process whereby the Australian Government funds extra support for students. The process used by our staff and the time they put into this area has resulted in a huge increase in support for our students. When I arrived at the school, we had 7 Education Support Officers working across the classes, today we have 25!

### **NCCD**

Currently teachers are putting in a lot of work in the background collecting information for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). In our school nearly 100 students are included in this process.

## **The NCCD is a collection that counts:**

the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability

the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The Disability Standards for Education 2005 define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School Principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

## **PUPIL FREE DAYS (PFD)**

A tradition in our school is to hold these valuable professional learning days at the start of terms 2, 3 & 4

### **TERM 2, Monday May 1st will be a PFD.**

Our first PFD of the year is devoted to Faith Formation. Our school motto of "Open hearts, open minds" has much history behind it. It was over ten years ago that the school staff worked together on this motto. Today, we have more staff that were not here ten years ago than we have staff that were! We are going to use the day to "break open" this motto, the theology, the links to our charism and the practices in our school that link back to the motto.

## **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Just a reminder that the next formal opportunity to meet with teachers will be early next term (weeks 2 & 3), when we hold our Parent Teacher Interviews. If your child has a PPL this will be emailed to you beforehand and the meeting will be a discussion around the adjustments for this year.

## **SEMESTER 1 REPORTS**

As outlined in last week's newsletter our new School Reports are going to be a much-slimmed-down version compared to what we are used to, as we move to CESA's SEQTA reports. Due to the changes we are currently working with teachers on continuous reporting and you may notice a change in this area (on Seesaw or with books that come home). This also makes the Parent Teacher Interviews and important time where teachers can share information about your child's progress before the report comes home.

## **BUILDING**

It looks like slow progress but we are still on target! We are towards the end of the ground work and the countdown is on for the big concrete pour, possibly around March 27 at this stage.

## **LAST DAY OF TERM – CASUAL CLOTHES**

As is the tradition in our school the last day of every term is a casual clothes day. Families might like to make a donation to Project Compassion through the QKR app (maybe \$5 for the whole family but this is a suggestion only).

Children will be dismissed at the usual time (3:05pm).

Regards

Damian Weeks

## Recent News

16.03.23

### From the Acting Deputy Principal



Dear Families,

I trust the long weekend was a recharge for you all as we near the end of Week 7. This week our Year 3 and Year 5 students are undertaking the NAPLAN assessments. We encourage families with children engaging in NAPLAN to continue to support them by speaking in a positive manner about the assessments, letting class teachers know if your child is experiencing any anxiety, ensuring a smooth and calm start to the school day and like all the staff here, offer encouragement and positive dialogue for them to just try their best!

#### **CESA Classroom Pulse Check In**

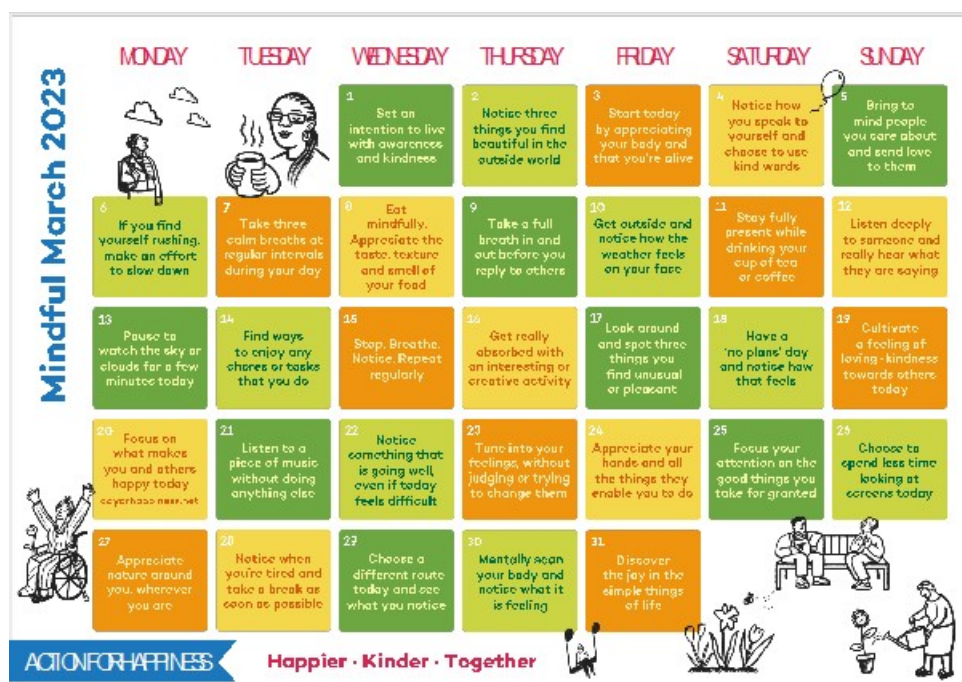
Last week, all children from Reception to Year 6 completed the first of Catholic Education SA Classroom Pulse Check Ins. This survey occurs once each term and is an initiative to find out about how our students are currently feeling about their experiences at school. Questions that are asked relate to identity, learning, relationships and belonging. The data collected is state-wide, however as part of our commitment to know every learner in our school, the Leaders of Learning and Leadership team review the data and connect with students whose responses identify any potential social, emotional, and learning needs they may have and whether follow up conversations are required. If you have any questions about the Pulse Check Ins, please contact your child's class teacher. The link below offers some further information, sample questions and some parent Q&A's that you may find useful.

<https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/news/wellbeing-initiative>

#### **Mindful March**

I recently came across a great resource I am using with my own children and family. It is fair to say we all live very busy lives and often find ourselves under enormous pressure. The need to stop and pause is more necessary than ever before. The Action for Happiness website offers families a user-friendly resource with different foci each month. This month's calendar is titled Mindful March and is full of

actions to live in the moment. You could print the attached calendar and place it on your fridge or alternatively download the free Action for Happiness app for iOS or Android. I hope you find it a useful tool for your family.



Community Events

It was wonderful to see a large turnout of parents and friends at our community prayer assembly yesterday. We look forward to gathering again in Term 2.

Our hardworking P&F committee are also hosting a Ladies Night on Friday 31st March at the Mosaic Hotel at 7:30pm for all ladies and their friends (do not have to be Star parents). A great way to connect with other people from our school community!

Additionally, our wonderful Star Outreach group are hosting a Lenten Reflection in the Sacred Garden at the Glen Osmond Parish Monastery for all parents, friends and grandies. All are welcome to attend this special experience followed by a bite to eat on Friday 31st March at 10:00am. Please register following the link below or contact Vania Dotto vanialdw@icloud.com for more information.

[Please register here](#)

We are fortunate to have so many opportunities across the year to build connection and community at Star of the Sea School!

Enjoy the remainder of your week.

Go well,  
Kelly Manera

Acting Deputy Principal

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

16.03.23

## From the Acting APRIM

Yesterday we came together as a school community to celebrate our first 'Community Prayer Gathering' for 2023. It is has been a long time since we have been able to come together for an assembly gathering and we look forward to having our gatherings every term.

### Student Representative Council

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their SRC badge yesterday. We look forward to working with you in this important role within our school.

Class	Student	Class	Student
RD	Evie, Charlie	3G	Luis, Valentina
RWT	Isla, Liam	4F	Archer, Sienna



RH	Kai, Jaelen	4LF	Sienna, Lachlan
1B	Aria, Flynn	4L	Fabian, Aurelia
1DF	Isabelle, Ethan	5P	Xavier, Lexi
1MF	Sonny,Olive	5SS	Lea, Lucas
2J	Gianluca,Alexia	5T	Mia, Jensen
2P	Milan,Mia	6C	Charla, Flynn
2PI	Benji, Lana	6S	Jacob, Sophia
3C	Stavros, Valerie		
3S	Samantha,Adam		



### Harmony Day

On Tuesday the 21st of March we will celebrate Harmony Day.

Harmony Day was created in 1999 to celebrate unity and diversity. It was originally an Australian celebration, but it is now marked worldwide. Harmony Day is a day to reflect on the wonderful diversity amongst Australians. It is a great opportunity for children to be exposed to the various cultures we have in our school community and a time to reflect on how we are inclusive of all.

To begin the day, each class will hold a Harmony Day Prayer Service in their classroom. This is to remind us that we all creations of God and that everyone belongs here at Star of the Sea.

To celebrate Harmony Day at Star of the Sea, we have invited Michael Mangan to perform a concert for us. Michael Mangan is a composer, teacher, performer and liturgist who has composed over 250 pieces which are widely used in Liturgy and Religious Education programmes throughout Australia.

The colour of Harmony Day is orange and the theme this year is EVERYONE BELONGS. Students are invited to wear casual clothes with a splash of orange to mark this special day. Children can come dress in all orange clothes, or just a splash of orange such as a ribbon.



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

16.03.23

## Star Outreach Kitchen

Thanks to our generous sponsor Gaganis Bros. and our wonderful volunteers we are pleased to have the community kitchen back up and running.

The community kitchen is an initiative that was started to support school families with simple meals.

There are times in all our lives when we need some support, and a home cooked simple meal, made with love and care, can make life a little easier.

The meals are cooked fresh then frozen for ease of use, storage and shelf life.

The freezer is located in the canteen area. It is the small freezer on far right of all the other freezers. There is a poster on the freezer identifying the community kitchen.



The canteen area will be open by roller door, school days until OSCH closes at 6pm.

Please, if this service would be helpful to you, please head to the freezer and grab a meal or two.

And if you'd like to volunteer in cooking some simple meals for the community kitchen, please email [sotscommunitykitchen@gmail.com](mailto:sotscommunitykitchen@gmail.com)

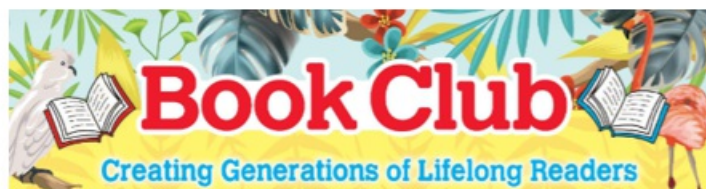
Star Outreach Committee

View this article online to read more

16.03.23

## Scholastics

Star of the Sea has transitioned to a cashless Scholastic Book Club. Please see letter below.



- **ISSUE 2 NOW OPEN – LAST DAY FOR ORDERS FRIDAY MARCH 17**
  - **Expected delivery of books ordered from issue 1 – MARCH 30- APRIL 6**
- 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 credit card visit:  
**[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)**

View this article online to read more

## Friday 14 April Casual Day

### LAST DAY OF TERM – CASUAL CLOTHES

As is the tradition in our school the last day of every term is a casual clothes day. Families might like to make a donation to Project Compassion through the QKR app

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## Family Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish – 3rd Sunday of every Month



On the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:30am, a Family Mass is held at the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. This is a great opportunity for children and their families to be involved in the parish community.

The parish are currently looking for children to attend their Family Masses

(3rd Sunday of each month) with their families and take part in the Mass by saying a reading (First reading, Psalm or one of the Prayers of the Faithful).

Families might also like to volunteer to be part of the Offertory Procession and bring the gifts forward as a family.

There will be someone at the Church on the day to greet your child and show them where to sit and where to read from.

If your child would like to be part of this Sunday's Mass (19th March), or any Family Masses in the future can you please contact Eileen Giles at [Eileen.giles@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Eileen.giles@unisa.edu.au)

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## Ladies Night

# LADIES NIGHT



Friday 31st March  
Mosaic Hotel - 7:30pm - late



free drink on arrival | nibbles all night | door prizes |  
raffles | dancing | drink specials |  
connect with other ladies from the Star community.

Tickets \$40 on QKR!

Last chance to buy tickets to Ladies Night!

Meet us in the Mosaic private function room for your free drink on arrival, nibbles all night, door prizes, raffles, dancing and amazing drink specials - including our very own signature G&T... all while connecting with other ladies from the Star community.

**Tickets available on QKR! until 24 March 2023.**

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## P&F Latest Newsletter

Welcome to the [March](#) edition of the Star of the Sea Parents & Friends (P&F) Committee newsletter. In this edition we'll introduce you to our brilliant Treasurer Sharon, give you an update on our fundraising and highlight some of the exciting events coming up.

[Read More](#)

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## Congratulations





Congratulations to Saoirse who took part in the SA Long Course State Championships. Saoirse not only won 2 gold, a silver and a bronze medal but she also got Personal Best in all of her events. Well done Saoirse you are a role model to us all.

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## Sport News

### **2023 Swimming Carnivals**

SACPSSA Swimming Carnival, Monday, 27 March, 2023. The team has been selected and students have registered. Please stay tuned for further information regarding the day.

SAPSASA Swimming Carnival, Friday, 31 March, 2023. Email has gone out regarding the selected teams and registrations. Please stay tuned for further information.

### **Football and Soccer**

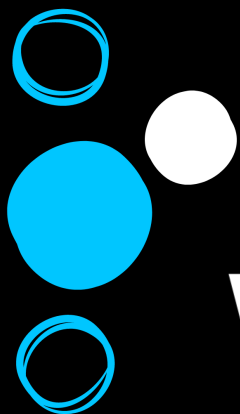
Football and Soccer registrations closed Wednesday 15 March 2023. Please stay tuned for team information.

### **Star of the Sea School Sports Day**

Sports Day will be held at Henley Oval Week 11, Thursday 13 April, 2023. Students will have the opportunity to order Subway for lunch please stay tuned to Skoolbag app and Qkr! For further information regarding this.

Kind regards  
Kristen Victory

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