



Important Dates

**Port Augusta
Christmas Pageant**
Friday 1 December 2023

**R-6 Carols
Performance (note
rescheduled date)**
Tuesday 5 December 2023

**Caritas College
Board Meeting**
Tuesday 5 December 2023

**Rite Journey Return
& Homecoming
Ceremony**
Wednesday 6 December
2023

**R-2 Cinema
Excursion**
Thursday 7 December 2023

**Middle School
Transition Days (day
1)**
Monday 11 December 2023

**Middle School
Transition Day (day
2)**
Tuesday 12 December 2023

**Yrs R-9 Last Day of
Term 4**
Wednesday 13 December
2023

Year 7-9 Splash Day
Wednesday 13 December
2023

Year 7-9 Assembly
Wednesday 13 December
2023

**Parish Mass of
Thanksgiving**
Wednesday 13 December
2023

Student Free Day
Thursday 14 December 2023

Student Free Day
Friday 15 December 2023

Term 4 Concludes
Friday 15 December 2023

From the Principal, Mr Damian Smith

Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent reminds us to reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. It is a special time of joyous anticipation for what will unfold on the 25th December. It is a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires.

*Lord God,
only You can see into my heart and know that under all the busy-ness of my life, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes You more deeply into my own life. My heart desires the warmth of your love and my mind searches for Your light in the midst of the darkness. Help me to be a peacemaker this Advent. Give me strength and courage. Allow me to find joy and happiness as we wait for Your coming at Christmas.
Amen.*



Staffing

With more than 70 staff at our College, it is normal for us to thank and farewell people at this time of year. Firstly, Jack Muirhead and Chelsey Caputo will be on leave next year, so we wish them all the best for their travels and adventures. At the end of this year, we will be saying thank you and goodbye to the following staff: Mary Manning, Anna Beach, Emma Ruffles, Madeleine Hibbard, Ruby Bambrick, Filomena Mercurio, Courtney Redden and Grace Hill. These staff members have all contributed to our school community in different ways. They have left lasting impressions on students and families.

It is particularly important to recognise Mary Manning, Anna Beach and Emma Ruffles who have been part of the staff at Caritas College for more than 33, 29 and 17 years respectively. Their commitment, service and dedication to our school community is commendable and deeply appreciated.



I know the whole College community will join me in offering our best wishes and prayers to all the staff who are leaving Caritas. May their road ahead be blessed with joy and happiness.

While there are a number of processes underway to fill positions, I am unable to finalise staffing for 2024 at this time. I can, however,

welcome the following staff who will join our College community next year: Matthew Freeman (secondary teacher), Gus Nelson (secondary teacher), Harrison Ruth (secondary teacher), Chris Robinson (secondary teacher), Toni Freer (secondary teacher) and Ashleigh Bolitho (primary teacher). Further appointments will be communicated to families as soon as possible and practicable in the New Year.

Year 10 and 11 Final Assembly

The Year 10 and 11 students held their last assembly today to formally conclude their school year. They shared stories and memories from throughout the year that shed light on the things they have learnt and how much they have grown. Awards were presented to students for their individual efforts. It was great to be able recognise and congratulate this cohort of students on their achievements this year.



R-6 Family Carols Night

Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather forecast, we have rescheduled the R-6 Family Carols event that was scheduled to occur on Monday 4th December. As per prior communication, the Carols and Dance performance will now take place on Tuesday 5th December from 9:15am-10.15am (approx.) under St Mary's Shelter. The event will begin with the presentation of the class awards for 2023. Parents are welcome to join us for the event. While it is disappointing that we have had to reschedule this event, we need to ensure the

safety and wellbeing of everyone with consideration of the weather. Students are able to wear their PE uniform with a Christmas accessory.

Port Augusta Christmas Pageant

Our College will be participating in the Port Augusta Christmas Pageant again this year. It is always a joyous occasion that is well supported by the local community. Our Year 3/4 students will be supported by some of our Year 7 students to host a float with the theme of "The First Christmas". It will be lovely to see our students engage in a large-scale community event and share the joy of the Advent season.

Transition

Our Caritas Cubs will graduate from their transition program at the end of Week 8. This means they have familiarised themselves with names, places and faces around the school and they are ready to join our school community as Reception students at the beginning of next year. This is very exciting for these young people and their families!

We also look forward to welcoming a number of new students into our school community in Week 9 for transition into Year 7 and other year levels. Miss Alanah Rowe and our middle school teachers have planned and prepared a range of experiences for our new students to engage in before they start their schooling with us in 2024.

It is a great privilege to be able to share our welcoming and friendly learning environment with new students and families as they transition to our school community.

Class Placements for 2024

Teaching staff have spent considerable time and effort placing students into classes for 2024. A range of factors are considered and inform these placements which include:

- Progress of learning
- Student's individual needs (social/emotional, learning, physical, behavioural)
- Relationships
- A balance of sexes

Sometimes other factors may also need to be considered. Please be assured that the process for class placements focuses on the overall learning and wellbeing needs of each student. Class placements will be communicated to parents during the week prior to school starting next year. This will happen via an email detailing your child's teacher and classroom. A text message will also be sent alerting you that this information has been emailed to you.

End of Term

Our Reception to Year 9 students will remain engaged and learning until Wednesday 13 December. Thursday 14 and Friday 15 December are student free days where staff will complete First Aid Training and engage in learning and processes to support the transition of students from one year level to the next.

From the Leader of Catholic Identity, Chloe Shanahan

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday night saw some of our students and young parishioners celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This was a wonderful celebration, held at All Saints Church, with Fr Jim celebrating a liturgy before each child coming forward to receive this Sacrament. We keep these young people, and their families and faith friends, in our prayers at this time as they continue their initiation into full and active participation within the Church.

On Sunday 3 December at 11:30am or Wednesday 6 December at 7:00pm, there will be a parish celebration of communal Reconciliation. This is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the things we may have done wrong and an opportunity to receive forgiveness. This will help us in our preparation for Advent and the birth of Christ at Christmas.



Advent - A Season of Preparation

The Church season of Advent begins this Sunday, 3 December. Advent is a season of preparation, extending over 4 Sundays before Christmas. One of the most well recognised symbols of Advent is the Advent wreath. The wreath has three purple candles and one pink, surrounded by greenery to represent life. Each Sunday, a new candle is lit and the themes of Advent are hope, peace, joy, and love. In the lead up to Christmas, it is easy to become caught up in the busyness of and commercialism of society. Advent helps us to focus on the importance of Christmas where Jesus brought love, hope, peace, and joy into the world.

As we light the first candle of our Advent wreaths, we stop and consider hope. This candle takes us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all the promises that God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.



Year 9 Rite Journey Community Day

Throughout their Rite Journey class, Year 9 students have been exploring what they have to offer the community, which is connected to their RE learning of what they stand for as young people. Students have also considered the impact that their actions can have on the lives of others and what it means to be active citizens. On Tuesday, students gathered together at All Saints Church to participate in a range of activities to learn about different organisations, how they connect with people, the services that they offer, and to give back to the wider Port Augusta community.

After morning mass with Fr Jim, who spoke about the good works of Dorothy Day and how she lived out her Catholic faith by giving to community, students were split into groups to participate in different activities. Time was spent assisting Fr Jim in making sandwiches to give to those in need, as well as beautifying the Church grounds in preparation for the summer, and visiting Vinnies and assisting in dressing the window mannequins, sorting through donations, setting up the Christmas display, and of course, purchasing items.

The highlight of the day for a couple of groups was visiting the Senior Citizens Centre to engage with some of our elderly citizens by playing cards, carpet bowls, bocce, and spending time talking to and listening to their stories. It was clear that there were benefits to both our students and elderly citizens after the time they spent together.

Students embraced our school theme Called to Community throughout the day and have made an impact on the community in their acts of service learning.



Immaculate Conception of Mary

Whilst we move into the season of Advent, and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it may seem a little strange that we side step and turn our focus to Mary. Whilst the beginning of the Christmas story has its focus on Mary and Joseph making their way to Bethlehem to be counted in the census, we stop to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on 8 December.

This is the day we celebrate Mary's conception; the time when she was conceived free from original sin in order to become the mother of Jesus. It wasn't until the 18th century that this particular day was celebrated and declared an important feast day in the Church's calendar.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*



Teaching and Learning

Year 1 Gold - Religion

This term Year 1 Gold have been learning about the Holy Rosary. Sr Shelia came to visit and talked to the students about how the Rosary is significant to us as Catholics and how it helps us to connect more to God. The students enjoyed having Sr Sheila visit and shared their prayer book that they had made as a whole class



Year 9 - STEM

The Year 9 STEM class are building hydraulic machines to solve a problem. They have selected their problem, brainstormed a machine, and are now building and refining a prototype. In the process they're learning more about forces in complex machines.

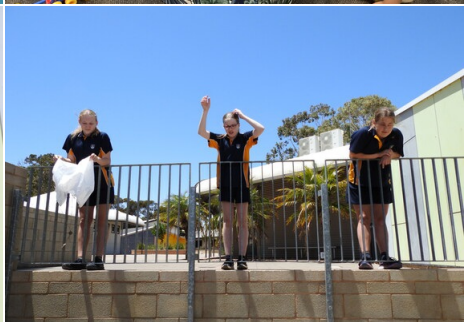
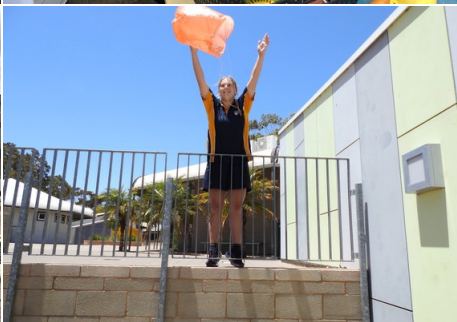


Year 10/11 - Food & Hospitality

The Year 10 Food and Hospitality students have been having fun and getting creative in the kitchen building gingerbread houses. It can be a fiddly task but we think they have done a great job!



Out and About



LAST CARITAS CUBS PLAYGROUPS FOR 2023



Monday 4 Dec

9.00am - 10.30am

Tuesday 5 Dec

1.30pm - 3.00pm

Wednesday 6 Dec

9.00am - 10.30am

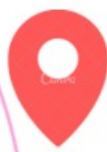
Caritas
cubs



CARITAS ART

EXHIBITION

*Experience the journey of
Caritas' senior Art students
and their 2023 creations.*



**THE PLATFORM GALLERY
CURDNATTA GALLERY
2 Stirling Rd, Port Augusta**

**Opening Night Wednesday,
22nd November
Displayed until 8th December**

UNIFORM SHOP DETAILS



Please note that Perm-A-Pleat Schoolwear will be closed from 21st December to 9th January for Christmas holidays.

To receive your order prior to Christmas:

- for free bulk delivery to our school: Last day to order is 11 Dec 2023
- for home delivery option (fee charged): Last day to order is 15 Dec 2023 (please note orders will be left without signature). Orders after this date will be dispatched from 10 Jan 2024.

To receive your order in the New Year prior to school commencement:

- for free bulk delivery to our school: Last day to order is 16 Jan 2024.
- for home delivery option (fee charged): Last day to order is 19 Jan 2024.

Please note there will be a price increase from 1 Jan 2024. Please refer to our website for further details.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Special items for Christmas such as puddings, cakes, biscuits or treats



Baby food and formula



Cordial, long-life juice or fruitboxes



Pre-packaged food like pasta, rice, noodles etc



Tinned ham, tuna, salmon etc

Christmas crackers or decorations



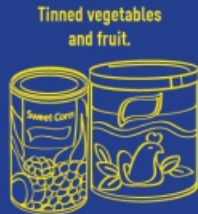
VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOOD DRIVE



Long-life milk or custard



Jams, spreads, honey or vegemite



Tinned vegetables and fruit.



Tea, coffee or milo



Preserved fruits

ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND WILL BE ORGANISED INTO HAMPERS AND DELIVERED TO THE PORT AUGUSTA ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY IN WEEK 9.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

PORT AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

Christmas
Carols
in the park
Celebrating the birth
of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023,
6:30PM @ GLADSTONE SQUARE

- * Bring your chair/blanket
- * Food and drinks for sale
(BBQ, Donuts, Ice-cream)
- * Bring your best singing voice

for more information phone Gaye on 0407 034 604 or email pacma5700@gmail.com



Caritas
COLLEGE

JOIN OUR
TEAM!

YEAR 7-12 ART TEACHER +
YEAR 3-6 PRIMARY TEACHER

- Full Time Permanent Positions ✓
- Commencing 23 January 2024 ✓
- \$10k incentive payment ✓

APPLY NOW! +

Visit: www.cesa.catholic.edu.au