



Important Dates

**NAPLAN Testing
(12-24)**

Wednesday 12 March 2025

**Years 7 and 10
Immunisation
Program**

Monday 17 March 2025

St Joseph's Day

Wednesday 19 March 2025

**Rec-Year 3
Assembly**

Thursday 20 March 2025

Year 12 Tennis

Thursday 20 March 2025

R-12 Sports Day

Friday 21 March 2025

**Year 11 Outdoor
Education Canoe
Trip (24-26)**

Monday 24 March 2025

**SAPSASA
Basketball**

Thursday 27 March 2025

Year 12 Tennis

Thursday 27 March 2025

**Rite Journey Calling
& Departure
Ceremony**

Friday 28 March 2025

**TAFE Auto Block
Week (31-4)**

Monday 31 March 2025

Years 4-6 Assembly

Thursday 3 April 2025

From the Principal, Mr Damian Smith

Sr Mary Laurencia's Anniversary

On Tuesday, we commemorated the anniversary of the passing of Sr Mary Laurencia, a pioneer of Josephite education in Port Augusta. Following Sr Mary Laurencia's profession at the age of 18 years, Mary MacKillop asked her to live and teach in Port Augusta. In 1878 the school and church shared the same building on the corner of Commercial Road and Flinders Terrace. One evening Sister Immaculata and Sister Laurencia began to clear away things in preparation for school the next morning. Subsequently, a kerosene lamp caught fire and spilled over onto the two Sisters catching them alight.

Suffering from extreme burns, Sr Mary Laurencia asked for Mary MacKillop to come to her in Port Augusta. Mary MacKillop travelled from Adelaide to Port Augusta to be with her on her deathbed. After eight days of excruciating pain, Sr Mary Laurencia died on Sunday 11th March. She was only 19 years of age. Her dying wish was answered and Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop, was with Sr Mary Laurencia when she died.

To remember Sr Mary Laurencia each year, the SRC visit her grave at Stirling North Cemetery and celebrate a Liturgy in her honour. During the Liturgy, students laid 19 roses on her grave, symbolising each year of her short life.

Sr Mary Laurencia's legacy is alive and well in our school. The "E Block" building is named in her honour and a stained-glass window is heralded in the front office area. It was donated by Sarah and Richard Honner, the parents of Sr Mary Laurencia, to honour their young daughter's life.

Heavenly Father,
We remember and honour Sr Mary Laurencia, a pioneer of Josephite education in Port Augusta. We give thanks for her dedication and the legacy she left behind, which continues to inspire us.
May we be reminded of the sacrifices she made and the love she shared with her community.
We ask for your blessings upon our school community as we continue to walk in the footsteps of Sr Mary Laurencia and Saint Mary MacKillop.
May their example inspire us to serve others with love and dedication.
Amen.



Sports Day

The anticipation of Sports Day is growing as we edge closer to next Friday. We always look forward to it being a wonderful display of community, competition, camaraderie and more. Our PE staff are working hard to organise all the different aspects that need to be considered in hosting a whole-school event with so many moving parts. Important information about our Sports Day has been sent home to families. Please note the slightly earlier start time of 8:30am, which assists us in getting through all the events and activities for the day. You can access this information on our school website by clicking [here](#). Let's hope that the weather forecast is kind to us and brings a nice warm (but not too warm!) sunny day.

Year 7 Camp

Our Year 7 students headed off for their Camp to Wallaroo on Wednesday. Their two-night camp focuses on teamwork, communication, and resilience building activities. This camp occurs at an important time for our Year 7 students as they continue to settle into the secondary setting and navigate all the changes that come with it. The weather has been perfect for some time near the beach! We look forward to hearing about their experience when they get back today.



College Board - Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday, we held our Annual General Meeting for the College Board. The Board is responsible for governance and setting the direction for the College, always aiming to serve the best interests of our students, staff, and families. I am grateful for the dedication of our Board members and look forward to collaborating with them this year to further enhance our College's success and achievements.

Please see below the members of our College Board for 2025. There is a vacancy for a parent/caregiver to join the board. If you are interested in this opportunity or would like to nominate a person for the role, please contact the College.

Ex-Officio Members

Fr Jim Monaghan (President)

Damian Smith (Principal)

Nominated Members

Sr Catherine Mead (Sister of St Joseph)

Lexie Morris (Staff Representative)

Elected Members

Alanna Grover

Emma Davies

Adele Broadbridge

Suzy Graham

Kristen Scharenberg

Unfilled Vacancy

NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN testing started this week for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and will continue until the end of Week 8. These tests provide useful data for individual achievement in comparison with national results and are a means of identifying particular needs at each year level. We recognise that these assessments can sometimes cause a level of concern for some students. Nonetheless, we have been very pleased to see our students demonstrate a positive mindset, self-regulation and perseverance in the way they have engaged in the NAPLAN assessments. If you have any questions about NAPLAN please don't hesitate to contact the College.

Out of Hours Contact

While technology is undoubtedly part of our everyday lives, it's fair to say that we continue to adapt to the challenges presented by increased digital communication. As such, we need to acknowledge the importance of respecting our teachers' right to disconnect. Our staff work very hard to provide the best possible learning experiences for all of our students, both inside and outside the classroom. However, it's essential to recognise that they also need time to rest, recharge, and focus on their personal wellbeing. While we encourage open dialogue between parents and teachers, respecting our teachers' right to 'switch off' not only ensures their wellbeing but also promotes a healthy work-life balance, which ultimately benefits the entire school community.

Staffing

I will be taking leave from 24 March until 27 April 2025 (Week 8, Term 1 – Week 1, Term 2). I am pleased to announce that Lexie Morris has been appointed to the position of Acting Principal and Alanah Rowe to the role of Acting Deputy Principal for this period of time. Both Lexie and Alanah are well known to the Caritas College community in their current leadership roles. I am grateful for their willingness to lead the school community while I will be away and wish them all the best.

From the Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission, Chloe Shanahan

Project Compassion

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, students across the College will learn about the work of Project Compassion and how it helps provide individuals and communities across the world with much needed money or equipment to access basic human resources.

This week, we introduce Lam, a young man from Vietnam who dreamed of becoming a graphic artist but struggled due to his physical disability. Through Caritas Australia's partner program, I-SHINE, Lam completed a six-month IT training course that equipped him with professional skills and restored his confidence and social connections.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients locally and internationally. Lam's story shows how vocational training can empower people with disabilities to overcome barriers and achieve their dreams, inspiring others to do the same.



Caritas Ks

Our Year 11 students continue to reflect upon their personal experiences from their Caritas K's walk the other week and are now seeking donations to support our Project Compassion campaign. You can donate online through the QR code or click [here](#)



St Joseph's Day

Next Wednesday, 19 March, we will gather to celebrate the feast of St Joseph. St Joseph, the patron saint of Caritas College, was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. He was a carpenter, an ordinary and humble man, but he was able to see and speak with God in extraordinary ways. Not much is known about Joseph from the Gospels, but what we do know is that he encountered and listened closely to God in his dreams, protecting and caring for Mary and Jesus with deep compassion.

As this year is the Ordinary Year of Jubilee, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, we will focus on the deep trust and hope that Joseph had in God and the journeys that Joseph made, often with Mary and Jesus, as they lived out their faith. Joseph and Mary, after travelling to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, were headed home when they realised that Jesus was not with their travelling group. They headed back to Jerusalem, where they found a 12-year-old Jesus teaching in the temple. The worry and fear that they must have had would have been great, however Joseph's calm and trusting nature, gave hope to the situation.

Let us continue to ask St Joseph to intercede for us to think about the things that we say with great love that will leave a lasting and positive impression and a sense of hope to all in our community.



Sacramental Preparation Program

The 2025 Sacramental Preparation Program will begin in Term 2, with Year 4 students preparing to receive their first Holy Communion. Letters to students in Years 3, 4 and 7 would have received an email from Fr Jim Monaghan this week advising of a change of date for the information session, originally being held on Thursday 14 March. Please note that this will now be held next Thursday 20 March, at 7:00pm, at All Saints Catholic Church.

If you did not receive a letter about the program, please contact the All Saints Catholic Church on 8642 2847



Children and Young People's Mass

The All Saints Catholic Parish will be holding a Children and Young People's Mass on Sunday 30 March at 10:30am. This will be an opportunity for children and young people of the parish to lead this mass – reading, bring forth the gifts and singing. We would love to see as many families as possible attend this mass, as we begin to celebrate these once per term with the celebration of each Sacrament. If you would like your child to be involved, please contact Mrs Chloe Shanahan at Caritas College on 8648 9700 or chloe.shanahan@cc.catholic.edu.au

From the ATSI Team Leaders, Belinda Clohessy and Christine Kemp

ATSI Meet and Greet

At recess on Friday week 5, we had a meet and greet with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across the primary and secondary school. This was an opportunity for students to connect with friends and family members they might not see during school time. The event was well attended, with our school leaders serving food and plenty of games to play. Students were introduced to the schools lead teachers, with Mrs Clohessy assisting students in Receptions to Year 6 and Mrs Kemp assisting students in Years 7-12, who are keen to build a strong sense of community and hope to create more opportunities for students throughout the year.



Teaching and Learning

Rec Blue - Design and Technology

This week our Reception Gold students worked on their design and build skills to form their very own castles! Once their structures were solid, they then decorated them with shells, rocks and colourful feathers. Some even went so far as to build their own moats surrounding their castles!



Year 4 - Physical Education

Our Year 4 students have been diving into the exciting world of hockey, where they're not only learning the basic skills of stick handling, and shooting but also discovering the values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. They have been developing new techniques, understanding the rules of the game, and working together to achieve a common goal.



Year 12 - Chemistry

Our Year 12 Chemistry students took their learning to the next level by designing and conducting their own Rate of Reaction practicals to support their curriculum learning in topic 2 Managing Chemical Processes! Students planned their own investigations, selected variables, and carried out experiments to explore the factors affecting reaction rates. Their creativity and scientific thinking produced some great experimental designs that obtained reliable sets of data. A huge well done to all students for their enthusiasm and curiosity



Out and About





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COLLEGE

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TEAM!+

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EASTER RAFFLE

HI EVERYONE! AS PART OF PROJECT COMPASSION, WE ARE HOLDING AN EASTER RAFFLE AIMING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. IT WOULD BE EGGCELLENT IF YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE BY DONATING ANY EASTER PRODUCTS TO THE FRONT OFFICE.







SPORTS DAY
FOOD STALL

donations needed
can you help?

DONATIONS CAN
BE DROPPED OFF
TO THE FRONT
OFFICE BY
9.00AM ON
FRIDAY 21 MARCH



JUST A REMINDER

**Supervision of
students at Caritas
College is provided
from 8.20am.**

**Students should not
be on school grounds
prior to this time
unless otherwise
arranged.**

