



Issue 4, 19 March 2024

Important Dates

**NAPLAN Testing
Period (13-25)**

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Chrism Mass

Wednesday 20 March 2024

**Year 10 Outdoor Ed
Mountain Bike
Excursion**

Thursday 21 March 2024

**Years 4 & 6
Multicultural Event**

Thursday 21 March 2024

**Grave Dedication -
Harry Peel**

Thursday 21 March 2024

**Clean Up Australia
Day**

Monday 25 March 2024

**TAFE -
Electrotechnology
(26-28)**

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Good Friday

Friday 29 March 2024

Easter Saturday

Saturday 30 March 2024

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31 March 2024

Easter Monday

Monday 1 April 2024

**TAFE - Auto Block
Week (2-5)**

Tuesday 2 April 2024

**SAPSASA
Basketball**

Wednesday 3 April 2024

**Year 7 Camp -
Wallaroo (3-5)**

Wednesday 3 April 2024

R-3 Assembly

Thursday 4 April 2024

**Year 12 Overnight
Seminar Days (11-
12)**

Year 9 Girls Flinders Term 1 Concludes
Uni Incursion Friday 12 April 2024
Thursday 11 April 2024

From the Principal, Mr Damian Smith

Saint Joseph's Feast Day

Saint Joseph's Feast Day is celebrated on 19th March. This is always an important day for our College. Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop were so inspired by Saint Joseph they named a religious order after him. Subsequently, all of the schools that were founded by Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph were then called 'St Joseph's'. Indeed, our school was known as St Joseph's School up until 1971 when we adopted the name 'Caritas College' to mark our centenary celebrations.

Students will celebrate class liturgies to commemorate this special day. May we not forget that the beginnings of our College started with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. May we continue to embrace and draw great inspiration from Saint Joseph's story.

Loving God,

On Saint Joseph's Feast Day, may we come together as a school community to remember his legacy of humility and caring for others. May we follow his example, embracing our roles with courage and love. Grant us the grace to nurture a spirit of compassion and service within our school, guided by St Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.

Amen.

Sr Mary Laurencia's Anniversary

Last Tuesday we commemorated the 143rd anniversary of the death Sr Mary Laurencia. Our Year 5-12 student leaders visited her grave at Stirling North Cemetery and engaged in a Liturgy. As part of the Liturgy, the students laid 19 roses on her grave, one for each year of her short life. Events such as this help us to understand and appreciate our Josephite charism. Our story is unique and special. The beginnings of our story continue to inspire the work we do today. Sr Mary Laurencia was one of the early pioneers of Josephite education in Port Augusta. May we continue to be thankful for the foundations she laid for us, along with all the other Sisters of Saint Joseph.



Sports Day

Sports Day was once again a great success for our school community. I am tremendously proud of the way everyone comes together to make this event a spectacle. Staff have worked very hard over the past few weeks to plan and prepare for more than 500 students to engage and compete in a wide range of activities and events. The students have also spent considerable time practising their track and field disciplines, along with chants to cheer on their house team. The students competed with good spirit and sportsmanship. Families and friends did an excellent job of cheering on the students, encouraging them to try their best. It was a great day that captured and reflected who we are as a school community.

Mackillop were fortunate to win their fifth consecutive cup. Joseph and Tenison weren't far behind in points, making it a competitive and fun day for all. Joseph were recognised as a team for their impressive spirit for the way they supported each other and added to the atmosphere of the day. Congratulations to all the individual trophy winners.



College Board - Annual General Meeting

Last Wednesday we held our Annual General Meeting for the College Board. The Board has a responsibility for governance and setting direction for the College and seeks to serve the best interests of the students, staff and families. I am appreciative of the willingness of our Board members to contribute to our school community and look forward to working in partnership with them throughout 2024 to build on our College's success and achievements.

Ex-Officio Members

Fr Jim Monaghan (President)

Damian Smith (Principal)

Nominated Members

Lexie Morris (Staff Representative)

Elected Members

Aaron Clifton

Alanna Grover

Emma Davies

Adele Broadbridge

Suzy Graham

Kristen Scharenberg

Student Free Day

On Friday 8th March all teaching staff participated in professional development sessions. The primary focus of our training was to enhance our familiarity with individual student data and to integrate multiple data sources to gain a deeper understanding, analyse effectively, and utilise data across all year levels. This comprehensive learning process enables us to embody our vision for education, ensuring that our College functions as a cohesive community of learners.

Mobile Phone & Personal Devices Policy

The College Board recently approved a new Mobile Phone & Personal Devices Policy. This document has been developed following consultation with students, staff and parents/caregivers over the past 12 months.

I encourage all parents/caregivers to read and familiarise yourself with the policy. You can access it [here](#). Please read closely the table in the section under Acceptable Practices which outlines the use of mobile phones and personal devices at school across R-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Flowing on from the Acceptable Practices in the document is another table that steps out the procedure for any breaches of acceptable practices.

The policy, for the most part, is very similar to what we are already used to. It aims to minimise, as much as possible, any issues involving mobile phones and other personal devices and create a safe and supportive learning environment at school. Some aspects of the policy and procedure will be new and different for students, staff and families. It may take some time to get used to these new expectations. The policy will be implemented in full at the beginning of Term 2, so I encourage all parents/caregivers to discuss this with your children.

NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN testing started last week for students in years 3, 5, 7 & 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 (and also parents/caregivers!). I have been very pleased to see our students demonstrate self-regulation, love of learning and perseverance in the way they have engaged in the NAPLAN testing. 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

Reception Mid-Year Intake

We are finalising enrolments for Term 3 this year. Your child may be eligible for a mid-year enrolment if they turn 5 on or before the 31 of October. We ask that an Enrolment Application form be completed as soon as possible, as placements are limited. This form can be requested from our website [request an enrolment pack](#) or collected from the front office at any time. Please note that there are no fees for 2024 mid-year Reception enrolment intakes.

The relevant dates for new Receptions are:

- If your child turns 5 on or before the 30 April they can start school in Term 1 of that year.
- If your child turns 5 on or before the 31 of October they can start school in Term 3 of that year.
- Children starting in Reception in Term 3 will have a minimum of 6 terms in Reception.
- Children whose birthdays fall between 1 November and 31 of December are not eligible to commence school before the following year.

If you have any questions regarding enrolling your child and/or starting dates please contact the College and we will happily help you.

From the Leader of Catholic Identity, 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.

This week we introduce Memory, the eldest child in a low-income farming family in Malawi. Memory faced many barriers to her education and was required to support her family with domestic chores such as farming, carrying water, cooking and cleaning, as well as assisting her parents with her four siblings.

After being identified by local leaders in her village as a capable candidate for a vocational skills course, Memory was referred to a technical college near the city of Blantyre with support from CADECOM, Caritas Australia's local partner in Malawi. Through the A+ program, CADECOM supported Memory with the provision of logistical support like tuition and boarding fees with funding from Caritas Australia.

Memory decided to pursue vocational training in carpentry to prove to her community that women can work in male-dominated industries.



Caritas K's

Large numbers of children across developing countries need to walk to obtain fresh water for their families. This can impact on their ability to access an education as they consider the needs of their family. Our Year 11 students, as part of their Stage 2 Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning course, have been exploring the concept of social justice. On Tuesday, students will participate in a 5km walk in the area around the College carrying buckets of water to understand the great lengths that some children have to go to access fresh water. You can donate online through the QR code or alternatively [here](#)



Sacramental Preparation Program

The 2024 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 this Thursday 21 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.

Sr Mary Laurencia Honner

Tuesday saw our Year 5-12 SRC representatives attended a memorial liturgy at the Stirling North Cemetery for Sr Mary Laurencia Honner. There was something special about being present there this year, 146 years to the day, that Sr Laurencia was buried in the cemetery with Mary MacKillop present. To be standing on the same holy ground as our first Australian Saint, commemorating the life of a young Sister and teacher taken too, is awe-inspiring.

In 1874, a young Mary entered the Sisters of St Joseph and was given the name Laurencia. In 1877, she was professed a Sister of St Joseph and at 18, in 1878, Mary MacKillop asked her to live and teach here in Port Augusta. On March 3, there had been devotions in the Church, and as Sr Laurencia and Sr Immaculata were clearing the church and preparing it for school the following day, a kerosene lamp caught fire, burning both the sisters. 8 days later, on 11 March 1878, Sr Mary Laurencia passed away, aged 19 years.

The beautiful stained-glass window which adorns our College Reception area, was donated by Sarah and Richard Honner, Sr Mary Laurencia's parents. This window comes from the old convent chapel on Flinders Terrace.

We continue to give thanks for the Sisters of St Joseph who have responded with enthusiasm and love to the call to serve in the remote and rural areas of South Australia. May we here at Caritas College, continue to walk in their footsteps and to find courage when times are difficult and consolation from the love of those around us.

Lent and Easter Eggs

We are now in the fifth week of the season of Lent, the time of preparation for the season of Easter. As Catholics, we remain in Lent and Holy Week until Easter Sunday, celebrated on 31 March. The themes during this time are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. On Easter Sunday, we move into the joyful season of Easter which is 50 days of celebrating. In honouring the significance and this wonderful tradition, the giving of Easter eggs is encouraged to happen only after the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

If you are looking for a way to enjoy your Easter treats that support ethical and sustainable practices, consider purchasing slavery-free certified chocolate Easter eggs. This sends a message to chocolate companies that consumers care about social justice and responsibility, connected to our Catholic Social Teaching of Dignity of the Human Person.

Stations of the Cross

Throughout Holy Week in Week 9, students across the College will gather in year levels to commemorate the Stations of the Cross. Since the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians have made pilgrimages to Jerusalem to walk in the footsteps of Jesus during his suffering, death and resurrection. During the fifteenth century, Christian began the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Passion of

Christ by reproducing the pilgrimage in what we now know as the Stations of the Cross. By walking with Jesus, we join our personal suffering with his, knowing that he will lead us to new life through his Resurrection.



Out and About







Drawn Week 10

EASTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets available to
purchase from Wednesday 20
March through to Thursday 28
March at Recess and Lunch.

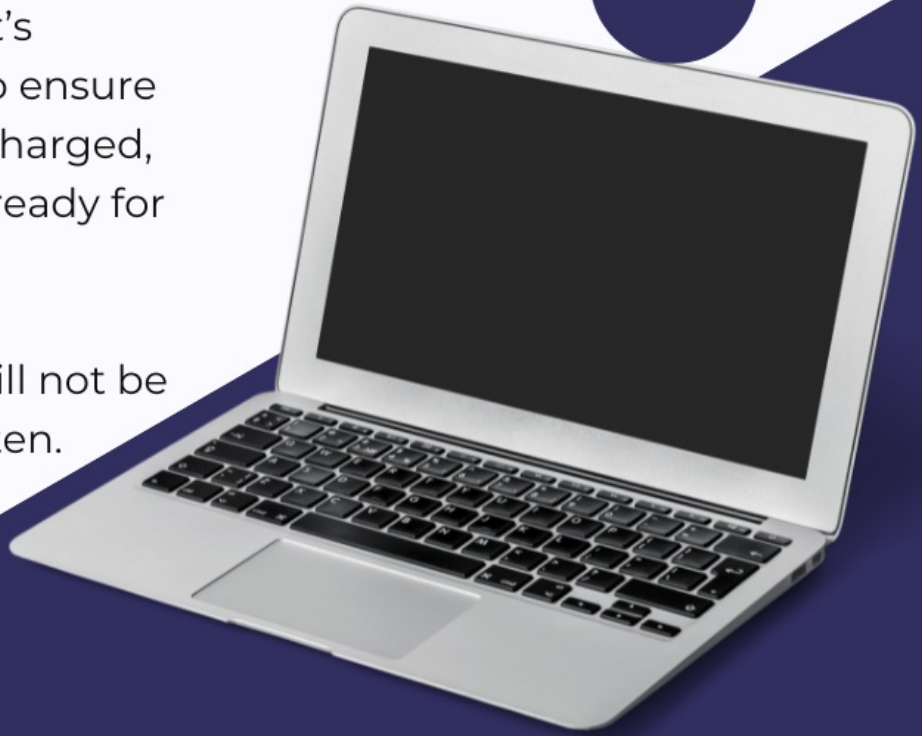
Look for the Senior SRC
members under the shade sails
in front of the Canteen.

50c each or 3 for \$1.00

LAPTOP REMINDERS

It is the student's responsibility to ensure their laptop is charged, protected and ready for learning.

Loan laptops will not be issued if forgotten.



year 7-12 students



R - 12 SPORTS DAY

CONGRATULATIONS

MACKILLOP HOUSE



EASTER RAFFLE

WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR
PROJECT COMPASSION AND NEED
YOUR HELP!

WE ARE HOLDING AN EASTER
RAFFLE AS PART OF OUR
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND WE
ARE ON THE 'HUNT' FOR
DONATIONS. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO
CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE DROP OFF
ANY EASTER PRODUCTS TO THE
FRONT OFFICE

Student Exchange Program

The local Rotary Club has been asked to take on an exchange student for a year from July. We are seeking expressions of interest from families of Caritas College who would be willing to be a host family. This means that the student becomes a part of the family they are staying with and is involved with the family's day to day life and activities for a couple of months.

Expression of Interest - to be a host family

Age of Student: Around 15 - 16yrs of age

Length of Stay: This can be discussed - usually 3-4 months (Depending on number of host families)

More Info: email youth@rcpa.org.au or 0447 877 680

