



Important Dates

Book a Chat 5/2-11/2

Wednesday 5 February 2025

P&F Meeting in the SMB

Monday 10 February 2025

Volunteer Induction Morning 9am

Tuesday 11 February 2025

Carly Ryan Parent Session 6pm in the SMB

Tuesday 11 February 2025

School Tour

Wednesday 12 February 2025

Beginning of Year Mass all welcome

Thursday 13 February 2025

Board Meeting

Monday 17 February 2025

30.01.25

From the Co Principals

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Greetings and welcome back to the start of a new school year for 2025: Our Year to Thrive! It has been wonderful to see everyone

return refreshed from the summer holidays. We trust your break from school was pleasant and revitalising. It is amazing what a change of scenery and time away can do for the soul. The staff and students have returned with renewed vigour and excitement about what the new school year will bring. We are excited about the year ahead and know that it will be filled with many learning opportunities, community connections and collaboration – our Mercy value theme for 2025.

We warmly welcome to Star of the Sea, all new students and their families to our beloved community. We have many new families in Reception commencing their journey and a number of new students joining in various year levels. If you know of a new family, please make them feel a part of our community by introducing yourself and offering your support. In addition to new students and families we welcome several new staff to our team.



As usual, schools are very busy places! We invite you to please take note of the School Calendar for this term as it has a number of activities, many of which are approaching quite quickly. [Our live digital calendar is found on our school website.](#) To ensure you are able to join in supporting our school in a variety of ways please ensure your volunteer check is updated and if not, we welcome you to the volunteer induction course on Tuesday 11th February at 9:00am in the Stella Maris Building. If you require any further information, please contact the Front Office.

We look forward to a successful and productive school year and are eager to work together to provide the best education for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate us.

Book A Chat

During Week 2 and 3, Wednesday 5th February to Tuesday 11th February, you will have the opportunity to book a 10-minute chat with your child's teacher(s). The aim of the chat with the teacher is for you to share with the teacher your child's needs, strengths, interests and future goals. You will be able to log into PTO and book your interview. The last date to book online is Tuesday 4th February 2025.

Attached will also be a MS Forms we would like you to complete to provide further information about your child to their teacher. Please contact Vivian Andrews on 8115 7412 or email vandrews@star.catholic.edu.au if you have any questions about your booking.

Carparking

We are fortunate to be able to use the Parish carpark in the mornings and afternoons. In the morning there are Parish Masses being held so we kindly ask you to please vacate the Parish carpark by 9:15am. **There is ample parking available along the beach, just a short 2-minute walk away. Please make every effort to park there.**

Enhancing Communication for Our Families

We value the feedback from our school community and always strive to make communication clearer and more accessible for families. In 2024, we heard your concerns about receiving the same information across multiple platforms, sometimes three or four times. To make things simpler and more efficient, we are streamlining how we share important updates.

Moving forward:

Whole school event information will be shared on **Audiri** (with teachers optionally resharing on Seesaw).

Classroom-specific updates will be shared directly by teachers on **Seesaw**.

School reports will continue to be available via **SEQTA**.

To keep communication clear and consistent, other platforms such as Parent Facebook groups will no longer be used for official school updates. Our goal is to ensure families can easily access important information without feeling overwhelmed.

Families will still have the opportunity to post comments on Seesaw; however, for any direct communication with teachers, we kindly ask that this be done **in person or via email**. This ensures that important conversations receive the attention they deserve and allows for more meaningful and effective communication.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Birthday Celebrations

As part of our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and healthy environment for all students, we kindly remind families not to send food or treats to school for birthday celebrations. **Any such items brought to school will be sent back home.**

This is in place to ensure:

- **Safety for All:** Many students have food allergies or dietary restrictions, and even minimal exposure to allergens can pose serious health risks.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** By avoiding food-based celebrations, we create a more inclusive environment where all students feel equally valued, regardless of their family's circumstances.

We also want to emphasise that there is absolutely no expectation for families to provide anything for birthday celebrations. However, if you would like to acknowledge your child's special day, here are a few thoughtful, non-food suggestions:

- Donate a favourite or meaningful book to the classroom library.
- Arrange a fun class activity or game in coordination with the teacher.

Provide small keepsakes like stickers, pencils, or bookmarks.

Uniform

At our school, we take great pride in our uniform as it reflects our sense of community and belonging. We kindly ask families to take a moment to review our uniform policy to ensure they are up to date with our expectations. For your convenience, a copy of the policy is attached below. Thank you for your support in helping our students wear their uniform with pride!

Swimming Carnival

Excitement is building as we gear up for our School Swimming Carnival next week at Immanuel College! This event is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 3-6 students to showcase their swimming skills, participate in both individual and team events, and most importantly—have lots of fun! We look forward to cheering them on.

P&F Family Fun Gathering – Save the Date!

Our amazing Parents & Friends (P&F) group is hosting a **Family Fun Gathering** on our school oval on **Sunday, 2nd March**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families, enjoy some fun activities, and celebrate our school community. More details will be shared soon but be sure to mark your calendars—we'd love to see you there!

Beginning of Year Jitters

If your child is experiencing some anxiety or beginning of the year jitters, here are some conversation prompts that may help you commence a dialogue with them.

- 'Being nervous doesn't mean you are not brave. You can be nervous and brave at the same time.'
- 'When I was a kid, I used to have lots of worries. Have I ever told you about that?'
- 'There is something about this that doesn't feel good. I believe you. Let's work through this together.'
- 'I see you are having some big feelings. That is why I am right here.'
- Starting something new can feel uncertain, but remember a time when you were nervous and it turned out okay?'

These prompts can help open up a conversation and provide reassurance as they adjust to the new school year.

As always, our door is always open to discuss any matters pertaining to our school. We also encourage you to reach out to your child's class teacher in the first instance for any matters relating to their learning or wellbeing.

We look forward to seeing you around the school in the coming weeks and are committed to leading Star of the Sea as a school of

inclusion, excellence, community and faith.

Enjoy the weekend ahead!

Go well,

Annette Diassinias and Kelly Manera
Co Principals

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

Recent News

30.01.25

From the Assistant Principal/ Learning and Wellbeing Co Ordinator

Thank you for the very warm welcome to the Star of the Sea community. The support and warmth that I have received from staff and students has made me feel like I have been part of this community for much longer than two weeks.

I thought I would start my first newsletter article with an introduction to myself as it is very early in the school year to jump straight into curriculum talk.

I have started here at Star of the Sea after 15 years of teaching across various Catholic schools in the western suburbs. After I finished my Bachelor of Education (Primary / Middle) I was fortunate enough to teach at St Michael's College where I spent a number of years in the early years classroom. I am very passionate about early primary education. These years are pivotal into ensuring successful learning for students throughout their years of schooling.

Whilst at St Michael's, I took on leadership opportunities and future studies to find ways I can improve on my teaching and best practice to support student learning. I completed a Master of Education (Cognitive Psychology and Educational Practices) where a large focus was on teaching practices and how to ensure students are getting the most out of their time in class.

In 2021 I began a Master of Educational Leadership (Leading Learning) when I became the Leader of Learning at Dominican School, Semaphore and St Joseph's Memorial School, Norwood. Throughout my time there I implemented whole-school processes and practices to assist in cohesive and consistent practices across the year levels.

I am excited to start on this next adventure in assisting leading the teaching and learning, as well as the wellbeing of students and staff here at Star of the Sea. With a dynamic leadership team with innovative ideas, I am sure Star will continue to soar to great heights for all in our community.

Kind regards
Nick Ryan

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

30.01.25

From the APRIM

Jubilee Year of Hope 2025

Every 25 years the Catholic Church celebrates a Year of Jubilee that invites people into a deeper relationship with God, each other and the world around us. In 2025 for the Year of Jubilee, Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". This beautiful theme offers all people an opportunity to focus intentionally on the notion of hope. Hope holds a special place in Christianity and indeed across all of humanity.



“Pilgrimage is a symbol of life. It makes us think of life as walking, as a path.

If a person does not walk, but instead stays still, this is not useful; it accomplishes nothing.

Think of water: when water is not in the river, it does not course, but instead it remains still and stagnates.

A soul that does not walk in life doing good, doing many things that one must do for society, to assist others, or who does not walk through life seeking God and inspiration from the Holy Spirit, is a soul that finishes in mediocrity and in spiritual poverty.

Please: do not stand still in life!” – Pope Francis

“May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, so that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

As we here at Star of the Sea embark on a new school year, we ask that we be blessed with constant hope, with confidence in what awaits us, and a strong trust that all shall be well.

Together we walk with courage. Together we walk with trust. Together we walk with hope.

Sacramental Program 2025

In the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Sacramental Catechesis occurs within the local parish with the focus on a strong partnership between families, parish and school. We acknowledge that parents are the first and enduring nurturers of faith in their children. The local Catholic community supports parents and families in their role and the parish community welcomes and supports each family as they undertake the sacramental journey within the community.

This journey begins with the decision taken by the family to initiate their child into the faith and life of the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism. Parents then make the decision for their child to participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion based on the readiness of each individual child.

A letter of invitation has already gone out to all current Year 4 families, however if you feel your child is ready to embark on this journey and you would like them to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion this year, then we ask that you fill in the questions via the Forms survey to show your interest and commitment towards the program.

<https://forms.office.com/r/gyU1aMFb1D>

View this article online to read more

Welcome to 2025



Carly Ryan Foundation Parent Internet Safety Session



the *Carly Ryan* foundation.

Parent Online Safety Presentation

Register here



<https://bit.ly/CarlyRyan>

Star of the Sea School

Tuesday February 11th 6:30pm

333 Military Road, Henley Beach

The presentation explores

- Online Safety
- Opportunities vs risks
- Privacy settings
- Awareness
- Managing self
- Emotional intelligence
- Resilience
- Critical thinking
- Understanding the law
- Image based abuse
- Respectful relationships
- Communication
- Practical guidance
- Connection to support services

carlyryanfoundation.com

Creating a positive experience online
for all Australian families.



**PLEASE NOTE
THAT THIS
SESSION IS NOT
SUITABLE FOR
CHILDREN**

Carly Ryan Foundation Parent Internet Safety Session

As part of our school's commitment to guiding children to be responsible digital citizens, On Safer Internet Day, Tuesday February 11th, in Week 3 of this term all children in Year 4 will participate in an information session provided by the Carly Ryan Foundation. Year 5 and 6 also have responsible digital citizen learning opportunities planned.

In addition to the student session, The Carly Ryan Foundation, a certified eSafety Education Provider, will be providing a 1-hour session designed to provide adults caring for children with the most essential and up-to-date information needed to keep their children safe online.

At 6:30pm on Tuesday Feb 11th we are calling all adults in our school community to attend this important presentation that addresses current risks posed to children online, and tips to manage these within your families.

Our children are accessing the world through their internet-connected devices, and that borderless world may not always be a safe one. Child Exploitation is a Global Public Safety Issue and children in Australia are just as susceptible as anywhere else. Research conducted by the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) shows that parents are not accurately informed about how predators can access, manipulate, and coerce children online, or how to prevent this.

Our school will be hosting this very important event on **Tuesday 13 February at 6:30 pm in the Stella Maris space for all parents across R-6.**

PLEASE NOTE that this event is not appropriate for children.

Please invite Grandparents, friends, Aunties and Uncles. The information shared by the Foundation at this session is relevant to all technology users, especially those in the care of children.

We hope that this event is well represented by adults in our community. To RSVP for this important event please use this link <https://bit.ly/CarlyRyan>

Thank you
Kim Martin

Canteen News

Canteen Term 1 2025 Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We're fortunate here at Star of the Sea to have a canteen which is here to ensure every child has access to lunch and drinks throughout the school day. To help things run smoothly, we'd like to share a few reminders about our canteen procedures:

Forgotten or dropped Lunches

If your child forgets their lunch, or their packed lunch has been dropped/soiled or they are still hungry they'll need to ask their teacher for an **'I don't have lunch' yellow slip** before heading to the canteen. This helps us keep track and ensure no child goes without food.

In these situations, the canteen will provide a plain sandwich (buttered bread, vegemite, or plain cheese). You'll receive an email with the amount owing for payment which can be paid via QKR!

Drink Bottles

Please remember to pack your child's drink bottle each day. If a drink bottle is forgotten or misplaced, your child will be directed to one of the school's water fountains for a drink. Bottled water will no longer be provided as an IOU.

Placing Lunch Orders

To make sure your child's lunch order is processed:

- Use the **QKR! app** to place orders by **9.00am**
- You can plan ahead by ordering up to **two weeks in advance**—just double-check you've selected the correct date
- Don't forget to **finalise your order at checkout**, as this is the most common reason for orders not being processed.

Cancellations and Refunds

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, you can cancel their lunch order through the app before **9.00am** on the day. This will give you a credit for future use. Unfortunately, cancellations made after 9.00am cannot be refunded.

We truly appreciate your support in making the canteen run smoothly for all students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Dee Taggart and Melissa Turow

Term 1 Canteen Menu

Please click on the following [link](#) for our latest Canteen Menu

'COME AND SEE' ALPHA WINE & CHEESE NIGHT



**TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
7-8:30PM - CHURCH HALL
REGISTER FOR CATERING**



4 FEB 25

**REGISTER
HERE**



Henley Beach Parish, 420 Seaview Road, Henley Beach

