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## Important Dates

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Parent Teacher  
Learning  
Conversations  
August 1 - 4  
Monday 1 August

Whole School Music  
concert  
Thursday 11 August

P&F Bogan Bingo  
Saturday 13 August

Science Week  
August 15 - 19  
Monday 15 August

Book Week Parade  
Friday 26 August

School Photo Day  
Thursday 1 September

Pupil Free Day  
Friday 2 September

Year 5 Camp  
October 26 - 28  
Wednesday 26 October

Year 6 Camp  
November 1 - 4  
Tuesday 1 November

Pupil Free Day  
Monday 14 November

Sports Day  
Friday 18 November

Year 4 Camp  
November 23 - 25  
Wednesday 23 November

End of Year Mass  
Wednesday 7 December

Last Day of the  
Year  
Wednesday 14 December

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## Introduction

*We welcome a new term with enthusiasm and renewed energy, we celebrate our Parish Saint and the important role of Grandparents, we continue our building work and look forward to many great events throughout Term 3. This is Week 1 of Term 3!*

## From the Principal



### WELCOME TO TERM 3:

It's great to be back! As I wandered through classrooms this week, I was so pleased to see smiling faces and a readiness to learn. I

asked all classes “How were your holidays?” – The answer back was generally “great” or “fun”. I also asked our students who was pleased to be back? And I can report in all honesty that the very high majority of students all indicated that indeed it was great to be back! Although some of the kids will tell you that they ‘want more holidays’ – I can assure you that deep down they are all very excited to be back at school. There are smiling faces, friends they haven’t seen in a while, games they haven’t played and a structure and routine which although they need a break from, provides them with a great sense of calm and peace.

It was also a delight to welcome 25 new students and their families to Stella Maris. Of these, 19 are brand new to our school. We are very pleased that you have chosen us to support your child’s educational journey. We very much look forward to working with you over your journey with us.

#### **FEAST OF ST ANNE AND JOACHIM:**

We had desperately hoped that we could gather in the Church for our first whole school Mass since 2020 on Wednesday morning. Alas, COVID disrupted these plans once again. None the less, classes engaged in a liturgy celebrating the Grandparents of Jesus – St Anne and St Joachim. In our liturgy, we were asked to reflect on the role of our ‘Grandparents’. I often joke to my own parents that I sense they love their ‘Grandkids’ more than me! But on reflection, I think it is a very different love to a parents. They have fun, they laugh and give lollies and they provide a sense of the ‘past’ that is so important to our kids.

We also acknowledged the many Grandparents not with us anymore who brought so much joy and love to our world.

#### **BUILDING UPDATE:**

If you’ve done a drop off this term, you will see the enormity of the last 4 weeks at Stella. In this time we have transported 5 transportable buildings to the grass space in readiness for our ongoing building works. Paving has been complete to ensure a safe and aesthetically pleasing area. A deck will also be built between the classrooms to allow for ease of access and school bag storage.

It was really a big few weeks. Anyone who has recently tried to get any form of ‘building or improvement’ work done will know the demand on trades is extremely high. I thank the following companies for their very collaborative approach to our work and the hard work they have done to ensure there has been very limited disruption to our learning program.

- A1 Transport (Scott and his team)
- Fleurieu Cranes
- Splendid Creations
- Rhino Steel Fabrication

And I also thank Tony Carbone for his tireless and ongoing work on site in ensuring quality and timely work has been completed.

From here, we continue to move through the approval process with plans currently at Council and CESA for ongoing approval. We are very much looking forward to sharing these plans with you in coming weeks.

#### **REPORTS:**

On Tuesday you would have received your child’s Progress Report for Semester 1. As the name suggests, this was a ‘progress update’ on how your child is tracking thus far this year. This formal report is one of a number of ways in which we communicate to you about your child’s holistic development. I hope you found the information useful.

Next week we will follow these reports up with parent-teacher conversations. Details on how to book these conversations have been sent a couple of times via email.

I have been meeting with each of our teaching staff individually this week and having read the reports, have challenged them all to think about how we can ‘progress’ a student in each learning area of their learning development. While it’s not realistic for all students to receive an A grade, it is possible for ongoing improvement and progression. Our staff are committed to ensuring that your child achieves their absolute best while here at Stella Maris.

#### **PARENTS AND FRIENDS EVENTS:**

Our Parents and Friends remain a very vibrant group this year! Coming up quickly will be one of the most highly anticipated nights of the year – “Bogan Bingo”. You can see the advertisement with full details in today’s newsletter. Please note that tables are selling fast, and with a cap on numbers, they will sell out. Get in fast to secure your ticket (either by booking a table or individual tickets for the night via QKR).

#### **HOMEWORK CLUB:**

We are excited to again partner with a number of Y10-12 MSOL students of Sacred Heart College who will support students in Y4-6 through our Homework club. Back by popular demand, not only is this a great opportunity to complete homework with supportive older

students, but we found the connection between students and the conversation about 'high school' to be of major benefit to those who joined the group.

More information about this initiative will be sent out by Ella Kirkham in the coming days.

#### **EMAIL COMMUNICATION:**

One of the key ways we communicate with parents is via email. Often whole school messages are sent out to the email address we have on file. This week, emails have been sent out to all parents regarding:

- Reminders about the Music Concert and ticket sales, Parent-Teacher conversations and COVID reminders – sent from me
- Address collection and privacy information – sent from Cathy

We have been notified that at times these emails are going straight to spam or junk files, and some parents have chosen an email address which they rarely check and as such not getting the information in a timely manner. We would ask that you ensure that you have received these emails and if a change of email address is required, you contact Cathy in the front office.

#### **NCCD:**

In 2016 the Federal Government implemented the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability. This is an annual, national collection of data that anonymously counts the number of school students with a disability and the level of educational adjustments they are provided with.

The Disability Discrimination Act and Disability Standards use a very broad and inclusive definition of what constitutes a disability, it does not necessarily require a medical or professional diagnosis.

This can include students with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, auditory processing disorder and health conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes and asthma.

The decision as to whether a particular child falls within this definition for this data collection relies on the professional judgment of school staff about each child's additional educational needs. Throughout the year, parents of students who are counted on this list, are consulted with and provided with information about the adjustments occurring for their child. If you have a question regarding whether or not your child will be counted on this list, or you do not wish your child to be included please contact me as soon as possible.

#### **2023 PLANNING:**

Believe it or not, we are well and truly in planning mode for 2023. Enrolments and enrolment interest at Stella Maris is at an all time high and we have very limited places available throughout the school. As such, I would ask that if you know for any reason you will not be returning to Stella Maris next year you let me know as soon as possible. Our 2023 Reception enrolments are now at a maximum number and a waitlist has had to be started. We are also close to doing the same for 2024 already.

As always, please know that my door is open and I am always interested to hear from you about any aspect of your child's growth and development.

Stay safe,

James

## **From the APRIM**

### **CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION PARENT/CHILD MEETING 9 AUGUST, 6.30PM HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH**

On Tuesday 9 August, 6.30pm at Holy Spirit Church, we will hold our next meeting for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. At this meeting we will be exploring more closely the Sacrament of Confirmation. We ask that all children preparing for these Sacraments are in attendance at this meeting, with at least one of their parents. A reminder to please return the Confirmation name and sponsor form at this meeting.

### **YEAR 5 CLASS MASS TUESDAY 9 AUGUST 9.15AM HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH**

Parents of our Year 5 Students are invited to join us at our Parish Mass on Tuesday 9 August. Students will be involved in the Mass and will bring joy to the Parishioners with their singing which will be led by our music teacher, Victoria Traeger. We look forward to seeing those who are able to join us at this Mass.

### **WALK A MILE – HUTT STREET FUNDRAISER – FRIDAY 12 AUGUST**

This year as a school community we will be holding a 'Walk a Mile' fundraiser in support of the Hutt Street Centre for the homeless. By walking a mile or more, students will be showing solidarity with people doing it tough, as well as funding essential meals, hot showers, loads of laundry, and much needed support so people can rebuild their lives.

In 2022, the aim for the walk is to collectively walk 60,000 miles, for the 6,000 people experiencing homelessness in South Australia. This walk will be undertaken on the week of 7-13 August, which is the week just after National Homelessness Week.

At Stella Maris we will hold our walk on **Friday, 12 August**. The Year 3-6 students will begin the day with Community Prayer followed by a 1 mile (1.6km) walk around the neighbouring streets. The R-2 classes will complete their walk at the park, starting at approximately 9am and following this will hold their Community Prayer. The prayer services will be held in the Church.

**As a school we are excited to help highlight awareness of homelessness in our community and to raise much needed funds. We are therefore asking all students to bring in a gold coin donation on the day, or to make their donation using the QKR app (we will open the QKR app facility to make donations during the week of the 8-12 August).**

#### **FEAST OF STS JOACHIM AND ANN, MOTHER AND FATHER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 26 JULY**

This week we had hoped to hold our first Whole School Mass in the Church on Wednesday to celebrate the Feast of Saints Joachim and Ann, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Due to the current recommendations from Catholic Education to hold off non-essential gatherings, we made the decision to place this plan on hold. Instead, each class has participated in a liturgy in their own classrooms to celebrate this important feast. Students reflected on the role of Grandparents, or those who are like Grandparents to them and made links to how Saints Joachim and Ann were the Grandparents of Jesus.

#### **SOUTHERN CROSS:**

The current edition of the Catholic newspaper put out by the Archdiocese called, 'The Southern Cross,' is available at:  
[www.thesoutherncross.org.au](http://www.thesoutherncross.org.au)

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

A kind word spoken can make another's day. A kind word not spoken leaves an empty hole.

## Procedure Requirements

### **SCHOOL PROCEDURES:**

As we begin a new term, it is always an opportune time to revisit some important school procedures and requirements. I would ask that you make yourself aware of these school procedures as the new term starts:

#### **Procedure for informing the school that you will be picking your child up early:**

If you are picking up your child early for a known appointment, we would ask that you let the class teacher know via a See Saw or email message prior to the day. This will allow the teacher to ensure the child is ready to go on time for you.

#### **Procedure for informing the school that you child will be absent from school:**

If your child is absent from school, we ask that you either ring the office (a message can be left on the voice mail) or text our absentee text line on 0408 279 478. While it is respectful to let your child's class teacher know about the absentee via See Saw or email, the initial and most important part of the process is letting the front office know (as above). Often See Saw or email messages are not seen by teachers until later in the day and so are not appropriate for absentee messages.

#### **Procedure for parents to follow when an external therapist/tutor wants to come into the school to work with children:**

We have a large number of Allied Health Specialists visiting our school, including Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, the list goes on. We are very aware of their expertise in this field and see our partnership with them as an essential element of the development of your child. However, with the increase in our student population and the need for these services, also comes a problem with finding space for these services to operate in. There are also many requirements – both from a Child Protection and WHS perspective that are required by our school. As such, we would ask that if you are thinking about using any particular service or allied health professional, in the first instance you contact me here at school so that I can explain and step through the process with you. Obviously, the input and involvement of your child's class teacher is a vital element of this process as well.

### **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROCEDURES:**

A reminder that our school gates open at 8:15am and we ask that students are NOT left unattended outside school gates prior to this time. We have a before school OSHC service which operates for families if and when required.

Our school day concludes at 3:00pm and students will be dismissed at this time. While students are permitted to play on the Playground after school, this can only occur if there is DIRECT and ACTIVE supervision of the child by a parent occurring. We have a bell which rings at around 3:10pm which signifies that our gates will be locked and parents should exit our school area.

I again also remind parents of our Kiss and Drop expectations. We ask that people completing the pick up please DO NOT wait in Ramsey Avenue and clog up this road while waiting for a spot on Mulga Street to open up. Please do a lap of the block and come back to Mulga Street when it is clearer.

As always, I thank the vast majority of parents who abide by these procedures and expectations.

Thought you'd seen it all?  
Stella Maris P&F Presents:

# Bogan Bingo™

When: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Doors open: 6pm

Where: Marino Community Hall

- BYO food and drink
- Games/Prizes before show
- Wine Wall
- Raffle
- Best Dressed Prizes

**Tickets: \$30 via Qkr!**


Bring gold coins for pre bingo games and raffles

PRIZES GIVEN TO



SOUNDTRACK: EVERY ROCK ANTHEM FROM THE 80'S AND 90'S

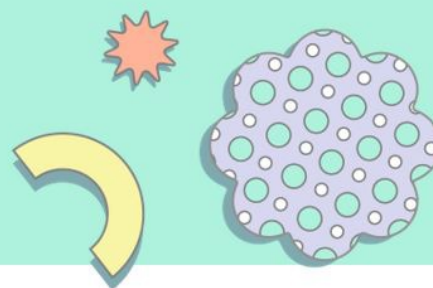
AVAILABLE TO BE RELEASED AND UNLEASHED AUSTRALIA WIDE

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# Newsletter

week 1 term 3 2022



welcome back all our regular families and a special welcome to all the new children and families in our school.

At oshc we have enjoyed a wonderful fun packed holiday program where the children enjoyed playing virtual golf, developing new skills as they went roller skating, trampolining, gymnastics and explored new games and experiences as we spent a day being pirates with Viking ships and climbing monkeys, thank you for all the positive feedback about the children's enjoyment of these experiences.



This term we will be exploring our world as we discover world facts that children seek answers to. Supporting the children to gain knowledge and understanding of their world while guiding their curiosity to explore our planet and solar system. This will assist children to research information, explore new ideas through art and craft as we create a space themed display and extend their interest in their world.

We welcome any information about your child's interests that we can further explore in our service. Please feel free to chat to staff about these interests or pop a note in the parent feedback box.

Thank you

From your friendly oshc staff



## Uniform Information



The new Active uniform can be fitted (by appointment only) and ordered at at our offsite uniform shop:

<https://belgraviasportsonline.com.au/collections/stella-maris-parish-school>

Their uniform warehouse is located at 10 Newton Road Campbelltown

phone: 0451 725 600

email: [campbelltown@belgraviasports.com.au](mailto:campbelltown@belgraviasports.com.au)

The full range of uniforms and sizes are available for fittings at SMPS. Please contact Tony in the office to make an appointment time.

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## WHS Inductions for Volunteers

These are conducted at 2:30pm on Tuesday afternoons and 9am on Wednesday mornings. Please contact Tony or Cathy in the Office to make an appointment time.

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## Holy Spirit Church

**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Thursday, 9am - 2pm

**Phone:** 08 8298 1044

**Email:** stannparish@adam.com.au

**Address:** 24A Ramsay Ave Seacombe Gardens SA 5047

**PARISH MASS TIMES:**

**St Bernadette's Church:**

Sunday 10:45am

Wednesday & Friday 12 noon

**Holy Spirit Church:**

Saturday 6pm

Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am

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