



Important Dates

**NAPLAN tests
continue**

Friday 17 March

**Parent Teacher
Interviews - Week 9**

Monday 27 March

**Reconciliation
Meeting**

Tuesday 28 March

**School Fees - Early
Payment Discount
Cut Off Date**

Friday 31 March

**Principal's Tour @
915am**

Wednesday 5 April

**Good Friday -
Public Holiday**

Friday 7 April

**Easter Monday -
Public Holiday**

Monday 10 April

Term 2 Starts

Monday 1 May

**Year 5 Camp May 8
- 10**

Monday 8 May

**Reconciliation
Meeting**

Tuesday 9 May

**Reconciliation
Celebration**

Tuesday 16 May

Public Holiday

Monday 12 June

**'Back In My Day'
school concert -
Westminster
Theatre**

Wednesday 5 July

**'Back In My Day'
school concert -
Westminster**

Theatre

Thursday 6 July

Pupil Free Day

Friday 7 July

**Confirmation
Celebration**

Tuesday 22 August

**First Communion
Celebration**

Friday 25 August

School Photographs

Wednesday 30 August

From The Principal



Welcome to Week 7!

BUILDING:

As the photo above shows, our building project continues to take shape. This week significant preparation and civil works has continued in preparation for the concrete slab to be prepared in the coming weeks.

LENT:

We are almost half way through the Lenten season. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus. During this time, which lasts for 40 days, we are asked to consider how we can be 'better people' – people more like how God would want us to live our lives. At Stella Maris, we name this type of life as living out our school values and to be a 'Stella Person' – living with Compassion, Respect, Inclusivity and Courage.

SOME IMPORTANT SAINTS TO CELEBRATE:

This week we recognise two significant Saints days. St Patrick's Day occurs today - the 17th of March and St Joseph's Day is on Sunday 19th March. Significantly, if not for both of these men, we probably wouldn't be doing what we are doing in our school today.

St Patrick was an Irish missionary born some time in the 5th Century. This feast day has always held a significant cultural and religious presence in Australia because of the legacy of Irish history, faith, culture and religious practices of the Catholics in early Australia. St Patrick's story – involving pirates, kidnapping and escape is the stuff of a Hollywood blockbuster! His strong faith in God and his commitment to spreading God's message around the world make him a very important Saint in history.

St Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus, with his spirit of simplicity and humility so inspired St Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Sisters (to this day) in their faith and everyday works. In South Australia there are over 30 schools with the name St Joseph, and all Catholic schools have strong links to the life and work of St Joseph. Without the influence and inspiration of St Joseph, Mary MacKillop may well have never begun the first Catholic school Penola in South Australia.

Both of these days are significant in our Catholic life. We are offered the opportunity to reflect on the messages and lives of these two great saints.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS:

Our Parents and Friends have been a busy committee over the last few weeks, with their first committee meeting occurring and a number of fundraising events on the go.

You will have or will shortly receive information about:

- **The Colour Run** – we are excited to have this very popular event back for this year. The 2023 Colour run will occur on Friday April 14th (last day of Term 1) after lunch. Families received this information about how this will work in hard copy form last week. We are looking forward to a 'colour-ful and fun' afternoon.
- **Kyttons Easter Fundraiser** – for all your Easter and holiday needs -including Hot Cross Buns, Choc-Chip cookies, Lamingtons and everything in between. Orders are due by 29th March and can be completed via QKR!
- **Easter Raffle** – we are looking for donations from all families so that raffle prizes can be put together for our Easter Raffle. Families will also be asked to purchase a book of raffle tickets – or even better to sell them to family and friends. We will draw the prizes at the end of Week 9.

Our next Parents and Friends meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 7:00pm here at school and as always, all parents are welcome to attend this meeting.

NAPLAN:

This week our students in Year 3 and 5 began sitting the NAPLAN tests. These are national assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. This year these tests are being sat earlier than normal. Our students have managed the Writing and Reading tests well and next week will tackle the Language Conventions (including Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Numeracy tests.

Our students are encouraged, as they are in all aspects of their schooling, to give their best in these assessments.

CLASSROOM PULSE SURVEY:

Over the last couple of weeks all students in Reception – Year 6 completed the Classroom Pulse Survey. This is effectively a 'Well-being' survey which asks students 8 questions about how they feel about school life. There are two different surveys, one for Reception – Year 3 students and another for Year 4 – 6 students. The surveys ask them the same thing, while using more age-appropriate language depending on the survey. These surveys are then re-done in Week 5 of each term.

We have access to these results straight away and we make it a priority to ensure that we look at and use this data at an individual student, class and whole school level. In all this terms survey results, the data that tells us the very high majority of our students are happy, feel safe and feel like they are learning.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT:

Our Pupil free day last Friday was dedicated to Wellbeing. We spoke about the importance of understanding Wellbeing and the interconnected nature of Wellbeing and learning. We also spent a fair bit of the day looking at a new project which we will be working with this year. The Resilience Project - Partnership Program - is a school based educational program with a strong focus on Wellbeing and learning about the importance of Emotional Literacy, Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness. Our staff have begun to engage with the project and the school program, and we will begin to use this in classes over the next few weeks. Early in Term 2 we will be inviting parents to take part in parent workshops where we will unpack this work further and explain how you can use this program to support your child's Wellbeing.

For more information about The Resilience Project, you can visit this site:

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

On Wednesday night we held our Annual General Meeting. This is an opportunity for us to review and discuss the 2022 school year – the things which we were proud of, our achievements and growth and the areas which were challenging. As part of this process, an AGM Booklet with all of the reports is produced. If you would like a copy of the AGM booklet, please email Carol in the front office and she will send you copy.

On the night, we also formalised our 2023 School Board personnel. This year we had 3 Board members whose tenure had come to an end. Andrew Colette (Xavier Y1 and Ethan Y4) and Katherine Thrussell (Phoebe Y6) renominated for another term and we farewelled

Brendan Duffy who after a number of years of service to the Board will be taking a break.

HARMONY DAY:

Next week is Harmony Week and as well as various activities through the week, we will acknowledge this important day on Thursday 23rd March. Harmony Day is a 'Nation wide' day that aims to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This sits so comfortably and aligns perfectly with our School Values of Compassion, Respect, Inclusivity and Courage. Activities will occur in classrooms and students are invited to wear a 'splash of orange' OR dress in cultural dress which celebrates the cultural diversity of students in our school.

PARENT-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS:

Parents would have received an email from me earlier this week regarding Parent-Teacher Conversations which for most classes will occur in Week 9 of this term. Please read the email carefully and book in for a conversation with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

As always, please know that my door is always open should you wish to come and chat to me about anything at all.

Take care,

James

From the APRIM



Dear families and friends,

We are now in the third week of the Lenten Season and I thought it timely to put a human face to the recipients of our generosity when we donate to Caritas Australia's, Project Compassion.

Let me introduce you to 'Priscilla who lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles and two of their grandchildren. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. During times of intense drought and food shortages, Priscilla had to commute to the town centre and wait in long queues to collect food. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising in conservation farming. Priscilla also used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.



While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the techniques, tools and resources she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.'

If you go to the Caritas Website, you can find many such stories of vulnerable people and communities who are supported and provided with targeted education, materials, mentors and funds to regain their independence and open the door to a hope filled and promising future. So please don't forget to try and fill the donation box your child/children brought home a couple of weeks ago, or if you prefer you can donate via the website. Every little bit helps! www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion.

Stella Project Compassion initiatives

We are very grateful to our Yr. 6 classes who are putting 'justice into action' by selling ice blocks each Wednesday at lunch times to raise funds and are participating in the Annual Caritas Fun Run/Walk on Monday March 27, with other schools in our region. Also, Chandra has organised a Book Sale this coming Monday (see information attached) and the money raised will be going to Caritas as well.

Sacramental Programme

We have received a few more Registration forms from families and it is not too late to still put one in. The Sacramental Team has met to plan and is very much looking forward to the first Family Session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which is at 7pm on Tuesday March 28 in the Holy Spirit Church hall. Please email me if you need an information sheet and form. tanya.stott@smps.catholic.edu.au

Classes attending Tuesday Morning 9.15am Parish Mass

Next Tuesday March 21 our Yr. R – 2 classes will be joining parishioners for the Tuesday morning mass and the following week, our Yr. 3 students will be attending. We warmly invite families and friends to join us – it really is a lovely way to begin the day!

Celebrating St Patrick (Patron Saint of Ireland) and St Joseph (husband of Mary)

The feast days of these two well known saints fall on March 17th and 19th respectively. We honour St Patrick for the work he did in bringing the Christian faith to Ireland and for living his life true to the Gospel values. St Joseph is honoured for the love, care and dedication he gave to his little family – Mary his wife and Jesus.

I will leave you with a traditional Gaelic blessing....

"The blessing of light.

May the blessing of light be upon you, light without and light within...

And in all your comings and goings, may you ever have a kindly greeting from any you meet along the road."

Many blessings,

Tanya Stott

Be You

Next Thursday (23rd March) students are invited to wear a splash of orange, or cultural dress as we celebrate Harmony Week, which is a "Celebration of Cultural Diversity." The theme this year across Australia is "Everybody Belongs". Students will engage in activities across the week, with the main focus being on Thursday where they will participate in a Bollywood Dance Lesson and spend some time with their buddy classes looking at how 'everybody belongs' in Stella Maris.

We are fortunate to have a diverse cultural background in our school community, which makes our school an interesting and enriching place to be!

Emily Hughes

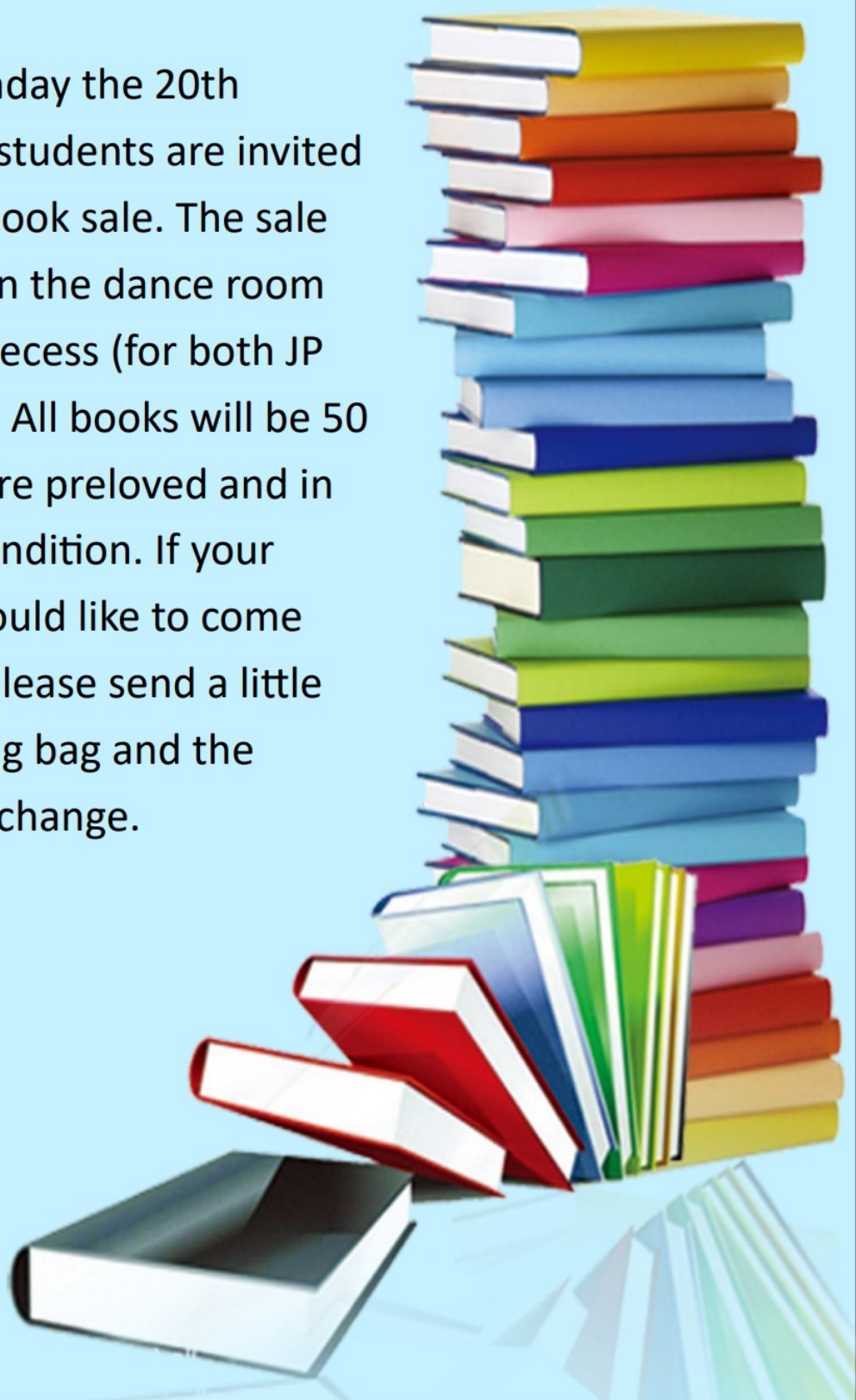
Pastoral Care Support

School Fees - Early Payment Discount

A reminder to all families wishing to receive the early payment discount of \$100 per student (\$50 per student with split family accounts) that full payment of fees is due by 31 March 2023. Please contact Kathy Groat, Finance Manager, telephone 8306 4833, if you have any questions.

Big Book Sale

On Monday the 20th March, students are invited to our book sale. The sale will be in the dance room during recess (for both JP and UP) All books will be 50 cents, are preloved and in good condition. If your child would like to come along, please send a little shopping bag and the correct change.





HAPPY Easter

IT'S RAFFLE TIME!!!

Last easter we were able to raise \$1952 from raffle sales and we couldn't have done this without all your generous donations!!!

THIS YEAR WE WANT TO GO BIGGER AND BETTER!!!

If you would love to share your support to help raise money for the school, please donate any Easter chocolates/gifts/crafts to your child's class who will have a basket for collection.

We will then wrap these into raffle prizes and draw them before Easter (Date TBA)

Donations will be collected until

Friday 24/3/2023



P & F Colour Run



PRIZES COURSES

COLLECT SPONSORS

2:00PM-3:00PM
VOLUNTEERS ON THE DAY NEEDED

RAISE MONEY TOWARDS UPGRADING
OUR OUTDOOR SPACE,
POST BUILDING UPGRADE

FOR EVERY \$5 RAISED, YOU WILL GO INTO
THE DRAW TO WIN A PRIZE!
ALL DONATIONS TO BE MADE VIA QKR!

RAMSAY RESERVE, SEACOMBE GARDENS

P & F Colour Run

STELLA MARIS
EST 1956

STELLA MARIS
COLOUR RUN

FAQ

How can my family and friends pay via Qkr?
They can either set up their own access via Qkr1 or the

They can either set up their own access via QR: or the simplest way would be to pay yourself and you pay on their behalf.

My child doesn't like the colour, do they have to participate?

Of course they don't have to, if they would like to run the obstacles but avoid colour as much as possible we will have coloured wrist bands to help identify them, or they can avoid the obstacles where colour is stationed at.

I don't have a white t-shirt for my child.

T-shirts are available from Big W for \$2.50, Kmart for \$3.50 & Target \$5.00

Do I have to fundraise?

No, you don't have to raise money to participate, but if you were able to raise a small amount, every dollar counts to help create a future outdoor space at the school.

Raffle

We will still have a raffle for an array of small prizes. For every \$5 raised your child's name will go into a draw to win.

Cabra Enrolments



CABRA
DOMINICAN COLLEGE

*Stories
of the past,
dreams
of the future*

Apply now for Year 7, 2025 and beyond

Visit cabra.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/overview
for further information and for Principal's Tour dates.

For those considering enrolment at Cabra Dominican College in **Year 7, 2025** of the following key dates:

- Applications for **Year 7, 2025** will close on **Friday 14 April 2023**.
- Siblings of existing students will need to complete an enrolment application form.
- Applications received after the above closing date will be placed onto a waitlist.

Our final Principal's tour for Term 1 will be held at the college on:

- **Thursday 16 March at 9.15am**

If families are interested in attending, please visit the enrolments page at www.cabra.catholic.edu.au for the registration link.

For families still seeking enrolment at Cabra in Year 7, 2024, there is a waitlist which will continue to be reviewed throughout the remainder of the year.

Darlington Scouts



1st Darlington
Scout Group



1st Somerton Park
Scout Group

OPEN DAY

Sunday 19th March 2023, 11am – 3pm

Darlington Scout Hall
12 White Cres, Seacombe Gardens,
with some activities on the Darlington Primary School Oval

Come along and join our Joeys, Cubs and Scouts for some
FREE and FUN activities, games, and more!

There will also be a FREE BBQ as well.



Joey Scouts

5-7 Years Old



Cub Scouts

8-11 Years Old



Scouts

11-14 Years

For further info, contact Mike Sellwood (Darlington Scout Group Leader) 0401 691 228



Student Absence Notification

Please use one of the following three options to notify the school that your child will be absent:

Absentee Text Line: 0408 279 478

Absentee Phone Message: 8306 4888

Absentee Email: contact@smps.catholic.edu.au

Uniform Information



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

<https://www.belgraviaapparelschools.com/pages/shop-campbelltown-schools>

Their uniform warehouse is located at 10 Newton Road Campbelltown

phone: 0451 725 600

email: campbelltown@belgraviports.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.

WHS Inductions for Volunteers

Please contact Kirralee Philips to arrange a time.

E: kirralee.philips@smps.catholic.edu.au

P: 8306 4888

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

Music Tutors

Guitar - Chris Larsson

Mobile: 0424 241 040

Email: chrisslarsson01@gmail.com

Piano - Patricia Heller

Mobile: 0403 645 271

Email: patricianheller@gmail.com

Singing - Hallmark Music Studio

Email: kylie@hallmarkmusicstudio.com.au

Violin - Jenny McDonald

Mobile: 0410 441 974

Email: jenjen7@outlook.com
