

WE ARE INCLUSIVE
WE ARE DIVERSE
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE
WE ARE CARING



From our Principal

For the remainder of the week, I will be spending my time at Tasmanian Catholic Principals' meetings in Hobart. It is a long way to go, but the information we are provided, along with the discussion and planning for the future is valued.

Of course, this time of the year can be frantic. There are so many things going on in the life of a school during Term Four and this year we are at the "pointy end" of a building project! In general, life tends to be busier these days. Is this of our own doing?

From a family perspective, running the children around to sport, having to be places, both parents needing to work, the list goes on. And then there's the future. In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, future plans. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face.

This Sunday is the first of the Advent season, the beginning of the 2018 liturgical calendar. This Advent, we are challenged to stop and think.

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Unfortunately, life gets so busy that we often miss the many ways Christ tries to comfort us or send us to others. Advent is a great time to slow down and be watchful. When you hurt, be alert; Christ will send people to help you. Pray for help to see them and the humility to accept their help. When others hurt, Christ wants to send you.

Like the servants in this week's Gospel reading, Christ has important work for you to do in healing this broken world. Pray for help to see those people whose lives you can change. Take the time to express gratitude for what we have; freedom, choice and one another. Our community is so rich in life, energy and prosperity.

Take these four weeks of Advent to slow down through prayer and meditation. Let Advent remind you that Jesus really comes into the world every day. But we miss that unless we watch for Christ, accept Christ's love, and help others in Christ's name.

In the busyness of the remaining weeks of school, please take the time you need for yourself, to stop and think.

In partnership,

Gregg Sharman
PRINCIPAL

School Farm Update

On Monday we held a meeting with interested members of our community. It is worth noting the following (but not limited to) actions:

- Elliott Mainwaring is following up with a community network to devise an agricultural plan for our 40 acre site
- We have plans for an animal nursery at school
- The small football oval on the top playground may be expanded out into the paddock to create a larger, more suitable play space than the existing bottom oval.
- The paddocks will be cut soon, with new fencing to be installed.

Our school vision, inspired by the Gospel, is to plant the seeds for faith and learning, nurture the growth and celebrate the harvest

The core concepts for this project include:

1. Outstanding educational experiences for our students particularly in STEM and Digital Technology
2. Learning about sustainable practices
3. Generating high levels of community engagement
4. Building a profitable project

On Wednesday 20 December at 6pm, we will be holding our final "Think Tank" meeting. All members of our community are invited to attend, including all currently engaged in this project, members of the School Board, Parents and Friends and Parish Council.

A final presentation will take place as we lead into the Christmas break and launch for 2018. If you haven't been before to these meetings, do not hesitate to come along.

Food and refreshments will be provided for all attendees. Please contact melissa.thorp@catholic.tas.edu.au to RSVP or contact the school office.

Uniform Arrangements for the Remainder of the Year

As per the letter sent home to families yesterday, due to students participating in dance in preparation for the Christmas Concert, some changes to the usual uniform requirements have been made. These changes are as follows:

- Tuesday - Prep, Grade Two, Three, Four/Five VK and Four/Five JM - to wear PE uniform.
- Wednesday - Grade One and Six - to wear PE Uniform
- Friday - All Classes to wear PE Uniform

	Tuesday's	Wednesday's	Friday's
Prep	Yes		Yes
Grade 1		Yes	Yes
Grade 2	Yes		Yes
Grade 3	Yes		Yes
4/5JM	Yes		Yes
4/5vK	Yes		Yes
Grade 6		Yes	Yes

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Book Sales - Online

Yesterday, families received information around the booklists for 2018. You are now able to purchase your books for 2018 online at www.officemaxschool.com.au. Use your class access key to order your packs. If you have misplaced your information form, our school access key is: 5RS5U.

For more information or questions please contact the office.

Learning Treasures

A reminder to families this coming Monday, 4th December, will be the last Learning Treasures session for 2017.

Grade Three Camp

Grade Three are heading off to Camp Clayton tomorrow for their overnight camp. We hope you all have a wonderful time for your first school camp experience.

Sausage Sizzles

Over the next three weeks in lieu of no canteen we will be having Sausage Sizzles as a Canberra fundraiser on Thursdays. Please refer to the letter sent home for more details.

Advent Mass

On Monday, 4th December at 9:15am the whole school will come together for our Advent Mass. Family, friends and parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

MJR Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October, the St Peter Chanel Catholic School Athletics Carnival was held at the Smithton Recreation Ground. Congratulations must go to all our Kinder to Grade Six students on two super days of athletics. It was a carnival full of fun with some superb individual performances. Every student was able to compete in every event, and it was amazing to see every single student trying their best and having a go at all of the events. A huge congratulations goes to Marian who were the overall house winners of the carnival, in a very close race. The final points were as follows:

Marian: 2107

Hanlon: 2064

Gibson: 2039

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A special thanks goes to all staff and families for making the day a success. We would also like to thank the Circular Head Little Athletics for the use of the equipment over the two days. While this was a very successful day we are aiming to make it the best possible carnival and would love your feedback on the day by answering the questions from the link below. I would be very appreciative of all feedback as we strive to make this the best carnival for the child, staff and parents.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfww-ifCBcGsr1JT_BWCT7uWC2mbSWwrqua6tsXeWMgtttDrA/viewform

North West Athletics

A group of 39 students were selected from our school athletics carnival to represent St Peter Chanel Catholic School at the North West Athletics championships. The students participated to the best of their ability and displayed great sportsmanship and team attitude. A big congratulations must go to these students for the way in which they represented the school. Here are some photos from the day.



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High School Orientation

The Smithton High School will be holding their orientation day for students attending in 2018 on Friday 1st December.

Circular Head Christian School orientation is on Friday 8th December for students attending in 2018.

Bookclub

Issue 8 Book club orders are due to the office by Wednesday 6th December.

Kinder Orientation 2018

Our final Kinder Orientation for 2018 will be held this Friday 1st December. We are looking forward to having you with us next year!

Swimming

Swimming has now finished for 2017. Thanks to all our parent helpers and Miss Smith and Miss Pitt for your time throughout the program.

Grade Three to Six MJR Surf Carnival

Our annual Surf Carnival is being held on Friday 8th December at Boat Harbour Beach. Students will travel by bus and compete in various events. A letter and consent form will be sent home to families with important details.

Thank You Morning Tea

On Tuesday 19th December we will be holding a "Thank You" morning tea for all of our helpers and volunteers.

End of Year Mass

Our end of year Mass will be held on Wednesday 20th December at 9.00am in the church. All families and friends are invited to join us.

Plain Clothes Day

The last day of school (Thursday 21st Dec) will be a plain clothes day fundraiser for Canberra. Students are able to come to school in free dress with a gold coin donation.

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Graduation Mass

On Sunday 17th December, we will be holding our Graduation Mass. This is where we will present our end of year awards for our Grade Six students and our Chanel and MacKillop awards for students in Prep to Grade Five. All families, friends and parishioners are invited to attend to help us celebrate another wonderful year.

Grade Six Leaver's Dinner

The Grade Six students will celebrate their last week of primary schooling with their leavers dinner on Monday 18th December with staff. Parents are invited along for coffee and cake afterwards. A reminder that RSVP's for the leavers dinner are due to the office asap.

2018 Staffing

We will send home a notice regarding staffing arrangements for 2018 on Friday. Thank you for your patience on this matter.

Prep - Grade Five Orientation Session

On Friday, 15 December we will be holding our Orientation Sessions for 2017. This gives the students an opportunity to spend time with their teachers in preparation for the year ahead. We are very excited about 2018.

St Brigid's Sports Day: Fr Phil McCormack Cup

Next Thursday, students in Grade Five and Six will be participating in a sports day with St Brigid's. They will play against each other in Cricket, Netball and Soccer.

Building Update: Attention Prep and Grade One families

Relocation of Prep and Grade One to the northern end of the school will take place on Tuesday 5 December, to the Grade Three and Four (2018) classrooms. Classes will remain in these rooms for approximately a week before they return. Please contact Mr Sharman if you have any questions.

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Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert will be held on 12th December, in the Parish grounds from 5.30pm. As per usual every class will be singing an item on the evening. This year students will also perform a dance. Students will bring home the words to their classes song this week and we ask that you help your child learn the words, to make it easier for them to perform. A letter will go home soon letting you know what will be required to wear on the night. Looking forward to an exciting evening celebrating Christmas with you and your families.

The Parents and Friends will be running a barbecue on the night, as well as holding a raffle. Your ongoing support of the Parents and Friends is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about this event feel free to email Jessica.smith@catholic.tas.edu.au

Christmas Cooking Drive - Canberra Fundraiser

A reminder to families that the Christmas Cooking Drive forms are due back to the office with payment by Friday 1st December.

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RE News

Well, Advent is almost here and many of you will have noticed the Advent candles and wreaths throughout our school. Some classes have set up their Nativity scenes and all that seems to be missing is Christmas music! Music can help people get into the mood of Christmas, but as Catholic Christians, we need only to observe our traditions of lighting our Advent candles to remind us of how special this time is. Advent is a time to "get ready" and to build up the hope within our hearts for the promised coming of Jesus Christ! We do so by repenting of our sin and renouncing our wrong choices and getting back on the path of Christian Life.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Our whole school will prepare for the coming of our Lord on Monday, 4th December at 9:15am. Every Monday until we finish the 2017 school year, each class will light their candles and pray together to prepare for our Lord's coming.

On Tuesday, 28th November, a small group of Grade 5 students participated with peers from various Catholic schools along the North-West and West Coast of Tasmania, in a leadership day run by Caritas. Caritas is a Catholic organisation highlighting Catholic values such as Compassion and Social Justice. The students reflected on how we all can help make our world more fair and just.

Our spiritual leader Pope Francis often reminds us of how important it is to remain connected with God. He asserts, "In our times, which seem so dark...we often feel lost in the face of wickedness and the violence that surrounds us. We should never give up hope, because God, with his love, journeys with us, He does not leave us alone, and the Lord Jesus has overcome evil, and opened up the path of life".

Happy Advent!

Altar servers:

For Sunday 3rd December at 10:30am are: **Kohan Bishop and Kaylah Bishop**

For Youth Mass, Sunday 10th December at 5pm: **Ben & Alexis Donovan**

Peace, Love and Joy,

Andrea Jaffray Morf

RE Co-Ordinator

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PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING

Relationships and Sexuality Education

The first lesson for sexuality education comes from home. Learning about trust and love, touch and affection, bodies, nudity, privacy, toileting ... Day-to-day life provides plenty of opportunities to learn information, values and attitudes from our family. Ideally, students learn that they are able to talk to their parents and carers and ask questions.

School life – the second lesson. Primary school brokers the child's experience of learning the rules for getting on in the rest of the world. A surprisingly large part of school interactions can relate to sexual territory. School camps, managing periods, love affairs, swear words, calling others 'sissies' and 'tomboys', peeking under toilet doors and bashfulness in the change rooms are all examples of school activities linked to sexuality. Students will often ask questions about their bodies, babies and conception; after all, their own bodies (and their peers' bodies) are changing while still at primary school.

Life on TV – the third lesson. For all of the excellent children's media and communications technology that are fun, entertaining and educational, students use a lot of other media that is difficult for adults to predict and control. Communication technologies make our lives easier in many ways but they have also changed how we make friends, how communication can occur between students and parents, and our access to information.

Let's face it, it is difficult, awkward and can be embarrassing to name the different body parts between girls and boys. Not just for children but also parents, carers and teachers. Not being able to name these body parts has a side affect... **the incapacity to have an open discussion about these issues.** The purpose of sexuality education at the very least is to enable us to talk about these issues together. It is to acknowledge these difficult feelings & create an environment to talk about awkward parts.

Here at SPC we want to create that environment where the children can learn how to be more comfortable with these discussions. We are going to engage Grade 4 and Grade 5 students with a sexuality program called *Catching on Early*.

Catching On Early is an educational program that aims to support and enable school communities to begin education about this important topic earlier, providing a framework in which to safely discuss health, personal, social and emotional development that may not be included in existing programs.

The program uses active learning strategies to build on students' early learning and experiences about gender, bodies and relationships. It combines the biological, social and emotional aspects of sexuality education to assist schools in meeting students' needs as they relate to sexual growth and change.

[The purpose of school-based sexuality education is to address the sexual aspects of growth and development. Sexuality education promotes students' social skills, health and wellbeing](#)

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Christmas Berry Swirl

Ingredients

Cake Filling

- 1 cup frozen raspberries.
- 750 g cream cheese, at room temperature..
- 2 tablespoons full-fat plain or Greek yoghurt or sour cream.
- 3 tablespoons coconut cream.
- 1/2 cup rice malt syrup. 1 egg.
- dash vanilla powder.

Cake Base

- 1 cup shelled pistachios or hazelnuts.
- 1 cup shredded or desiccated coconut.
- 1 cup almond meal, or other nut meal, or LSA.
- 120 g unsalted butter, softened.

To Decorate

- extra raspberries and mint leaves.



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C/Gas Mark 3 and line the sides and base of a 23cm spring-form tin with baking paper.
2. To make the cheesecake base, grind the nuts in a food processor until semi-fine. Add the coconut, almond meal and butter and rub with your fingers to make a dough. The more you rub, the more you'll release the oils in the nuts and achieve the right doughy consistency. Add more butter if required. Press into the tin, covering the base and sides to an even thickness (about 5 mm). Bake for 5–8 minutes until starting to turn golden. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely in the tin.
3. Meanwhile prepare the cake filling. Place raspberries in a blender and slowly drizzle in enough water to make a puree. Transfer to a small saucepan and stir over a medium heat until raspberries thicken to a syrup-like consistency. Allow to cool.
4. Combine the remaining ingredients in a large bowl using a wooden spoon. Don't over-mix, and try to keep the aeration to a minimum while stirring (too much air will make the filling puff up and then collapse during cooking).
5. Spoon half the mixture into the cold base and smooth the surface. Dot teaspoons of raspberry sauce over cheesecake surface. Using a skewer, swirl raspberry over cheesecake surface. Pour remaining cream cheese mixture over and smooth surface. Return to the oven for 20–30 minutes or until the mixture pulls away from the base a little and the centre is custard-like (don't overcook).
6. Place in the fridge for at least 2 hours to firm before serving. Decorate with extra raspberries and mint leaves. Be sure to allow the cheesecake to cool for several hours before serving; otherwise, it can taste too eggy.

<https://iquitsugar.com/recipe/christmas-berry-swirl-cheesecake/>

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Calendar of Events - December

27 - Learning Treasures - Prep & Gr 2 Swimming Make up Lesson - Think Tank Meeting 6.00pm	28 - Grade Five Caritas Just Leadership Day	29	30 - Grade 3 Camp	1 - Kinder Orientation 8.45am - 10.30am - Grade 3 Camp - Christmas Drive Orders Due - SHS Orientation
4 - Final Learning Treasures - Advent Mass 9.15am	5	6 - Issue 8 Bookclub Due	7 - SPC Vs St Brigid's Sports (5/6)	8 - CHCS Orientation - Surf Carnival
11	12	13 - Christmas Concert	14 - Kinder to Prep 2018 Orientation	15 - Prep to Grade Five 2018 Orientation
18 - Grade Six Leavers Dinner 5.30pm	19 - Christmas Cooking Delivered	20	21- Students Last Day - Plain Clothes Day	22 - Staff Last Day

Sunday 17th December - Graduation Mass 10.30am

Term Dates for 2017

Term Four - 16th October to 21st December

Term Dates 2018

Term One - 8th February - 13th April

Term Two - 30th April - 6th July

Term Three - 23rd July - 28th September

Term Four - 15th October - 20th December

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