



Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2012 school year. I hope all families had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. This year promises to be an exciting one with many new initiatives being launched at Sacred Heart. All these initiatives will hopefully, not only enhance the students learning outcomes, but also their health and wellbeing. This year we will be asking all community members to contribute to our new school improvement plan that we will be developing. This will be a great opportunity to reflect upon the areas that we are doing well in and focus on areas that need improving.

We are fully launching into the new Australian curriculum and are continuing our commitment to ensure our students have the latest technologies and resources to support their learning. We are hoping to have thirty new ipads in the school in a few weeks time and also launch our ipad trial where all grade 6 students will be given an ipad to use for the year at school and home.



Dates for your diaries

Monday 13th Feb - Public Holiday Hobart Regatta
Tuesday 21st Feb - P&F Meeting 9.00am
Thursday 23rd Feb - Welcome BBQ
Monday 26th March - Pupil Free Day

Welcome

This week we welcomed a number of new students, families and staff to SHCS. Welcome to Miss Sarah Hinchon our new Assistant Principal and Grade 5/6 teacher and to Miss Anna Demarco our new Kinder teacher. Welcome back from leave to our PE teacher Mrs Kari Thomas and Miss Kathy Cane. Miss Cane will be replacing Mrs Campagna and Miss Hinchon (1 day each) when they are released from their classroom teaching duties to undertake their leadership responsibilities.

I would like to welcome all our new Kinder students – Sophie Abbott, Cloey Anderson, David Bleathman, Regan Brittain, Cayden Burgess, Lewis Burgess, Olivia Clayton, Jake Dowling, Hannah Drysdale, Bridie Fraser, Elke Nelson-Bletz, Mitchel Nichols, Evelyn Ralston, Darcy Riley, Sophee Riley, Campbell Scanlan, Brooke Short, Leo Stewart, Bailey Van Den Broek, Tommy Wall & Joseph Ward.

We also have a number of new students commencing this year across the other grades - Tiahn Abbott (Grade 3), Jude Riley (Grade 3), Connor Soward (Grade 5), Tom Twaits (Grade 3), Daniel Twaits (Grade 5), Jacob Phillips (Prep), Reine Chafey (Grade 2) & Denver Chase (Prep). We also have a couple of families arriving in the Valley and commencing at SHCS over the next few weeks.

Primary Teaching Structures for 2012

Towards the end of the 2011 school year I wrote to families to inform them that unfortunately due to our projected enrolment numbers for 2011 we were going have to ‘drop’ a class in our primary grades. The great news is that over the holiday period we have been able to replace the students that departed at the end of last year, which means we have met the requirements to have our normal number of classes. This is exciting for our community as it means we will be able to employ another primary teacher and return to our normal structures that have proven successful the last four years. We will return to a Grade 3 & 4 Team and a Grade 5 & 6 Team. Mrs Fran Reynolds is also employed for a number of days to work across these grades. This means we will have not three (as planned at the end of 2011) but five teachers working across the four primary grades with the ratio between teachers and students being 1 teacher for every 21 students not 1:29, which was how we were going to commence the school year.

I will be advertising for a teacher this week and I expect a very competitive field. A number of other Catholic schools in the South were in a similar situation during the January holidays and had over 60 teachers apply for positions. The new teacher will be employed in the 5 & 6 learning area to teach collaboratively with Miss Hinchon. Mrs Doherty (Grade 3) & Mrs Campagna (Grade 4) will continue their teamwork in the 3/4 Team. We hope to commence the new teaching position ASAP. I fully understand that it is not ideal to make changes at the beginning of the year but I hope parents understand the positive impact this appointment will have on student learning outcomes.

The grade 3 – 6 students will commence this week in their original groupings (3/4, 4/5 & 5/6) until we can finalise the new arrangements. More details will be sent home to parents of primary students in the next few days. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please note that this decision couldn’t be made until today because we were waiting to ensure all students had returned after the holiday period.

Welcome BBQ

Our hardworking Parents & Friends Association are holding a welcome BBQ on Thursday 23rd February for all families in our community. This is a great way to commence our school year together. Please put this date in your diaries. There will be more information in the newsletter next week.

Public Holiday

A reminder that this Monday 13th is a public holiday for Hobart Regatta.

Book Day

Thank you to all families that ensured books were purchased before the beginning of the school year. We trialed online ordering this year and about 30% of families used this service. The book sales in the hall were busy at different times during the morning. I would like to thank parents and students for their patience if they had a considerable wait.

Office Routines

A reminder that all parents are required to ring the school office and inform us if your child/children are absent from school. If we haven't heard by 9.30am the office will contact parents.

School diaries were handed out to all students this week. This diary is the main form of communication between home and school, particularly regarding information related to changes to bus arrangements.

We have a new procedure for students that are picked up by family members before the end of the school day. Parents are required to report to the school office and complete a slip that will be handed to your child's teacher when you take them from the classroom. This small but important procedure will ensure clear lines of communication between families, the office and the classroom teachers.

School Hats

The students are required to wear their hats in the playground during term 1. Please ensure hats are at school at all times.

Asthma & Anaphylaxis Management

Last Friday the whole school staff updated their qualifications in the management of asthma and anaphylaxis. All students that have asthma or severe allergies are required to have a management plan signed of by their family doctor. The school office will be sending home information for these families asap. **A reminder that as part of our Anaphylaxis management we ask that children do not bring food items to school that contain nuts, fish products, eggs or shell fish.** This also applies to staff and any visitors to the school, including parent helpers.

School Volunteers

It is a requirement of the Catholic Education Office that all volunteers and helpers at our school are registered volunteers with the Archdiocese. This means that the necessary paper work needs to be completed and an up-to-date police check carried out. The paper work is available from the school office or can be downloaded from our website. This has been policy in all Catholic schools/colleges for a number of years.

PUPIL FREE DAY

All Catholic Schools in Southern Tasmania are having a PUPIL FREE DAY on **Monday 26th March**. This is a great opportunity for staff across our system to get together to participate in some high quality professional learning. Please add this date to your calendar and diaries.

P&F Meeting

Please note that our next P&F Meeting has changed to **Tuesday 21st February** at 9.00am.

PE Classes

PE Classes will commence in week two.

Looking forward to a great year together!

Stuart Kelly

Principal

Australian Mobile Recycling

Sacred Heart Catholic School has registered as part of the drive to recycle unwanted mobile phones.

Australian Mobile Recycling was founded in September 2011.

Our aim is to collect as many used and unwanted mobile phones as possible.

All mobile phones received will be recycled for reuse. This means they will be refurbished for resale.

Each handset is restored to factory conditions and all sim card and memory cards are destroyed.

Any phones that are beyond repair will be broken down into their constituent parts and recycled by Australian licensed recyclers.

For your efforts your organisation will receive \$3 for every mobile phone returned.

If you have any unwanted mobile phones please drop them into the school office.