CHRIST THE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

CHRIST IS THE KEY

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Friday 8th December, 2023

Ciao a tutti,



Boy oh boy, hasn't the 2023 school year flown! So much learning and so much to celebrate. I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking two staff members who will be leaving Christ the King. Thank you Olivia Gray, who will be moving to a CRT role in 2024 and Katelyn Pistikakis, who has been granted Permission to Teach in her final year of University and will be teaching part time at Lumen Christi in Point Cook. Your contributions to Christ the King this year have been immense and the staff, students and families will miss your bubbly personalities and welcoming spirit. We wish you luck with your future endeavours.



This brings me to welcome a new staff member who will be joining our team; Nadia Cronk joins us from St Therese's in Essendon. She is an experienced teacher with strong interests in STEM and high quality teaching practice. She will be working two days a week in our Grade Prep Learning Community as an additional Cohort Teacher. Her passion for education and interest in supporting students to learn shines through in all interactions, so I look forward to you all meeting her in the new year.



I would also like to congratulate Caitlin Doyle on her Leadership Appointment as the school's Student Leader and Resource Smart Leader. This is an important leadership role within our school as it enables and empowers student agency and voice. We look forward to supporting Caitlin in this new role. Next week, Caitlin's first task is to speak with each of our 2024 Student Leader applicants and share with them feedback regarding their application. All student applicants will be told of their success and a formal announcement of Student Leaders for 2024 will be made in the first Newsletter of the year.



Yesterday our Grade 6 students enjoyed their 'Fun Day' of surfing, beach games and a BBQ to celebrate their schooling journey here at Christ the King. So much enjoyment could be seen in the faces of our students and some quite impressive surfing and boogie boarding skills were also shared! A big thank you to our Grade 6 teachers, Keegan Doherty and Kieran Whelan for organising the day. Next week we celebrate our Grade's as a whole school community during our End of Year School Liturgy; here we will celebrate their Graduation. As has been the case for the last few years, and as has been communicated to Grade 6 families via Compass, **all graduating students have 2 seats available to them for their family.** This is the same for all graduating students, please remember this decision has been made to ensure fairness and equity to all and the school would appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.



Finally I have two big messages of congratulations! Firstly, congratulations goes to Steph Guy who has formally been recognised as a Highly Accomplished Teacher by the National Teacher Certification Program. Steph has been working through this complex and challenging process for the entire year, having had observations by Assessor's outside of our school community and formal interviews to achieve this certification. Steph, we are proud of your efforts and achievements!! Another shout out of congratulations goes to our FIRST Lego League Team who will be travelling to Tasmania on the 16th of December to compete at the National Championships (South). We wish them luck and will be sure to share their journey with you all via Facebook and Compass. This year's Christmas Raffle will support their travel expenses, so if you are able to, please return your tickets before this Friday to have a chance to win the great prizes that are available.

Please enjoy below 'A year in review' written by each of our school leaders. As mentioned at the beginning of the Newsletter there has been much to celebrate this year!

Parish Connections

Please find this week's Parish's Bulletin linked here and I have again included the Parish's December calendar sharing the different Masses that are available in the lead up to and celebration of Christmas. The Parish Christmas Carols are on Sunday between 2pm – 4pm. The Carols event will go ahead rain, hail or shine as we are having it inside the Basilica. The Parish Christmas Raffle tickets will be for sale after the 6pm Vigil Mass; 9.30am Mass and 11am Masses (and at the Carols event). There are 16 chances to win.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone for their well wishes, kindness and words of encouragement as I embark on the journey of parenthood. Whilst I will be back at school in the second half of next year, I am confident that Simone Nott (Acting Principal) and Keegan Doherty (Deputy Principal) will ensure that the same high expectations, learning experiences and enjoyment of learning will continue to be of priority in my absence. I look forward to sharing my special news with you all, once our little man arrives.

Buon Natale a tutti,
Louise Vakirevic

A Year in Review from our School Leaders









Simone Nott
Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching

What a successful year of learning we have had in 2023! The staff at Christ the King continue to lead their classes with innovative and engaging learning approaches, including Problem-Based Learning, rich technology integration, and lots of hands-on activities. As always, they continue to foster a deeper understanding and love for learning in our students. This year we have seen students stretch their thinking by designing a range of solutions to real world problems including water sustainability, local playground improvements, aviation engineering and pollution reduction.

It has been a pleasure to welcome families to the school as they engage in Student Led Learning Walks and Learning Expos. We are proud to continue fostering strong relationships between students, families and teachers, as we work together creating a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel safe to explore, experiment, and ask questions.

This year we have continued to embrace personalised learning by adapting our curriculum and instruction to meet the individual needs and learning styles of each student. This resulted in significant growth and progress for all learners. We were proud of our outstanding results, not only in NAPLAN, but in the academic growth in students across the whole school. In 2023, our students have thrived not only in Literacy and Numeracy but have displayed their incredible skills in music, dance and drama through our school production of *Being Hueman*.

Next year we are delighted to be the recipient of a number of Learning and Teaching grants including STEM Rocketry, Italian Language and Lego League.

Overall, this year has been a remarkable success for our primary school. We are proud of the achievements of all our students, and teachers, and we are excited to continue building upon this foundation of excellence in the years to come.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas and New Year,
Simone







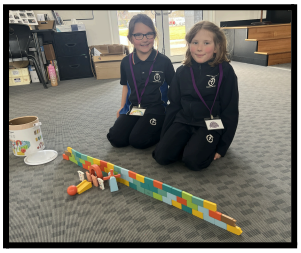
Keegan Doherty
Deputy Principal - Religious Education

As we approach the close of another memorable year, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to each member of our community for making it truly special. Your collective efforts have created an environment of warmth, learning, and collaboration that defines our Catholic school identity of *Christ the King*.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our exceptional Student Leadership team. Over the year, they have organised multiple events that have enriched our shared journey including our recent Christ the King Feast Day Celebration (fostering unity and spirituality), our Italian Celebration Day (developing a rich appreciation for cultural diversity), and of course, the many social justice events (such as our Parish Pantry Fundraiser and annual Kickin' For Viqueque events). All of these events have exemplified our commitment to not only learning about, but living the Catholic Social Teachings.

Just 5 months ago, I returned from a transformative pilgrimage to Italy and Portugal. Exploring sacred sights and delving into the lives of saints deepened my understanding of our Catholic Faith. The resonance of this journey extends to the incredible response from our families within the community. As we conclude the school year, your steadfast support in guiding our children through sacraments and learning has made our spiritual journey richer. Thank you for being an integral part of this experience.

Bring on 2024!







Kate Schaller (née Watts)
Student Wellbeing Leader

There is so much to celebrate in the sphere of Student Wellbeing for 2023! We relaunched the School-Wide Positive Behaviour matrix which incorporated a significant amount of student voice from Prep to Grade 6 which included our 'Gotcha Cards' at Recess and Lunchtime. Being able to recognise and celebrate when our students demonstrate our three school keys via the newsletter has been very exciting. The transition to Grade 4 Friendship Club leaders added another level of passion and leadership experience. The leaders took their roles very seriously and loved being able to run whole-school games while also assisting other students to join in games and establish new friendships.

A massive THANK YOU to the members of our community who participated in the new Volunteer induction process! We really enjoy when our families support our students and school community in a volunteer capacity. We also appreciate your understanding of our volunteer induction process so that all volunteers who interact with our students have been screened as thoroughly as possible, as per our commitment to safeguarding the students at Christ the King.

There are so many Student Wellbeing initiatives and opportunities planned for 2024 and I am so excited to share these with you in the new year!

Have a safe and happy summer!
Kate



Monica Rylance
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

2023 has been an insightful year in my new role as Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader. There have been many highlights and positives for me.

To begin, I was fortunate to receive training from Melbourne University and the Royal Children's Hospital at regular intervals throughout the year and I also attended the Mental Health Conference. These have been great opportunities to build my knowledge and to share what I have learned with our school community.



Working collaboratively with our Wellbeing and Learning Diversity Leaders to provide professional learning to our staff in areas like the Children's Mental Health Continuum and Literacy, and Brain Breaks have been a huge support in my role. Throughout the school, teachers are using Brain Breaks as an important part of learning to help students focus, attend and regulate emotions.



I've been fortunate to work with small groups across the school where we often talked about our emotions, how they change throughout the day and identified strategies we could use to help self-regulate. This was certainly a highlight for me to work with our students in this capacity.

Forming the Mental Health and Wellbeing Parent Group has definitely been an important initiative for our school. Knowledge sharing, providing feedback and looking at ways to enhance mental health knowledge across our school community were an important focus of this group. Organising our first Community Conversation about Transitions and Anxiety was another highlight. A huge thank you to Jess Swain, our school counsellor, for facilitating this conversation and for all the parents who were able to attend these meetings and the Community Conversation.



Our involvement in the 'R U OK? Day' was an opportunity for our students to explore the importance of understanding our own mental health more deeply through social and emotional lessons and prayer. The 'R U OK? Day' theme was also explored in specialist classes through the creation of artworks and the learning of a song and dance that students performed at Line Up.

I have loved my work in this area and I'm looking forward to 2024 where we have lots more planned in the area of Mental Health and Welbeing.

I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and holiday break and a fantastic 2024.
Monica



Gabby Pratt
Learning Diversity Leader

A big thank you to all the parents and carers, who during the PSG meetings we held throughout the year, shared with their teachers and myself all the things that make their child unique. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and your children and what we can do as a school to best support them to be successful learners. I look forward to working with you all again next year.



A big shout out to the children in Years 1, 2 and 3, who I worked with this year. Your enthusiasm and willingness to engage in lessons with me was a credit to you all. Your achievements in literacy have been outstanding and I look forward to seeing you all continue to achieve great things next year.

Also a huge thank you to the school leaders, teachers, LSO's and the office staff for all who have done to support all the children at school but especially those children who have additional learning needs.

Have a great and safe holiday!

Carolyn Freebairn
Indigenous Perspective Leader



A 'BIG' thank you to all the families that have supported the many different initiatives that were started in 2023 to help raise awareness of First Nations cultures and perspectives within our school and community. From establishing the school Acknowledgement of Country, a prominent feature at all formal events and assemblies to becoming a FIRE Carrier School. Special mention goes out to our FIRE Carrier Leaders for their contribution in highlighting the importance of reconciliation within our school community.

I'm sure many would agree, a stand out event for the year was our 'Grandparents Hour' in honour of the 2023 NAIDOC Week theme, 'For Our Elders'. It was great to see the excitement and engagement in our students as their grandparent/s and/or special elders shared with them either a story or memorabilia item.



Similarly, another HUGE success in 2023 was 'The Great Book Swap.' Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the school community, every student had the chance to take home a book, and collectively, we raised over $300 to support literacy resources for children in the Tiwi Islands. Once again, a big thank you for your unwavering support, especially in our final taking action event of the year—the CTK's 'Share the Dignity' Christmas Hamper campaign. Your involvement has been instrumental in making these initiatives possible.

I look forward to sharing with you more about our school Reconciliation Plan (RAP) that will be developed in early 2024!

Have an enjoyable and restful break!
Carolyn

Child Safety

Just a quick reminder that if you are coming into the school building during school time, all parents are required to sign in at the Office. Please check with the office staff (Meril or Colleen) before moving past the office. This is part of our safeguarding practices at Christ The King and we thank you for partnering with us to keep our students safe.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour

Gotcha! Card Recipients

The following children have received a ***Gotcha!*** Card for demonstrating our positive behaviour expectations in the **playground** over the last two weeks!

PLC
Cash Charles
William Jones

JLC
Evie Stones
Winter Davis
Rocky Tupolo Faatonia
Jacob Zappia
Lynzee Cob
Pippa Allan
Jet Mathers

MLC
Rex Smith
Louis Scorpo
Olivia Mineo
Isla Krauzowicz
Elke Borovec
Ellie Chrystal
Elsie McHutchinson
Indy Holdsworth
Charlotte Scheelings
Charlotte Hamilton

SLC
Isla Griffiths

REMINDERS

School Uniform

Throughout Term 4 it is expected that all students will be in full Summer uniform. For further details please visit the school's website. All uniform items can be purchased from Noone Uniforms.

Uniform Term 4 - 2023



BOYS:
Shirt sleeve striped school shirt
Navy school shorts
School Jumper
Navy socks
Plain Black Leather School Shoes
School Hat

GIRLS:
School Jumper
School Dress
White socks
Plain Black Leather School Shoes
School Hat

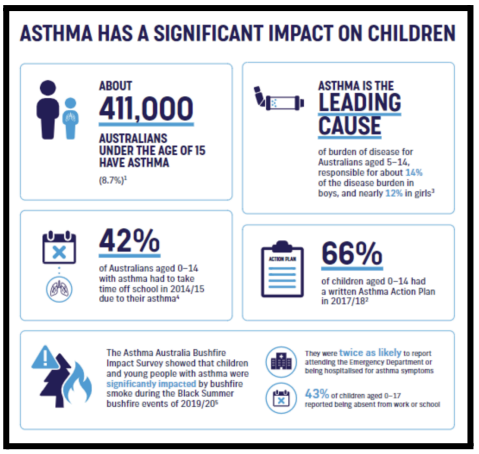
Some additional information below from our School Uniform Policy:

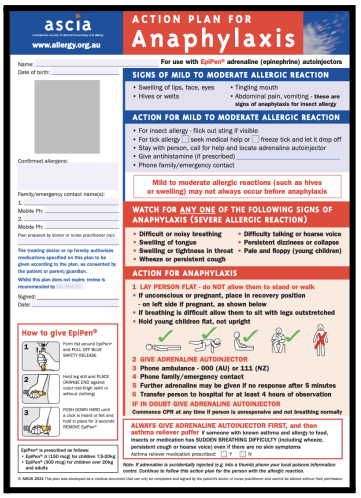
- **Hair** As per the advice of the Head Lice policy, long hair must be tied back. Ribbons and other accessories must be school colours - navy blue, white or red. Extreme hairstyles and unnatural hair colour are not acceptable (exemption may occur for approved fundraising days).
- **Jewellery** No jewellery (except tight sleeper/stud earrings)
- **Tattoos** Tattoos are not permitted

Classroom teachers will contact you directly if students are out of uniform. It is every parent's responsibility to make sure their child is in correct uniform, and if there is a uniform hiccup, please contact your child's teacher via the diary to let them know the reason for your child being out of uniform. We do have some spare articles of uniform at school, but these are mainly for when someone has an accident.

Medical Management: Asthma & Anaphylaxis

We have a number of children in our school who suffer from Asthma and Anaphylaxis.





CHRIST THE KING - 2024 KEY DATES

TERM ONE
30 JANUARY - 28 MARCH

29 JANUARY	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
30 JANUARY	STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL
5 -7 FEBRUARY	SLC CAMP
8 FEBRUARY	SLC RECOVERY DAY
15 FEBRUARY	CONFIRMATION PARENT EVENING
22 FEBRURARY	BEGINNING OF YEAR PICNIC AND LITURGY
7 MARCH	PREP COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
11 MARCH	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
13 - 18 MARCH	NAPLAN TESTING PERIOD
TBC	SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
27 MARCH	EASTER BONNET PARADE AND RAFFLE

TERM TWO
15 APRIL - 28 JUNE

18 APRIL	ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
23 APRIL	SCHOOL PHOTOS
25 APRIL	ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
26 APRIL	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
10 MAY	MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA
30 MAY	JLC COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
6 JUNE	KICKING FOR VIQUEQUE
10 JUNE	KING'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
26 JUNE	REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIOS RELEASED

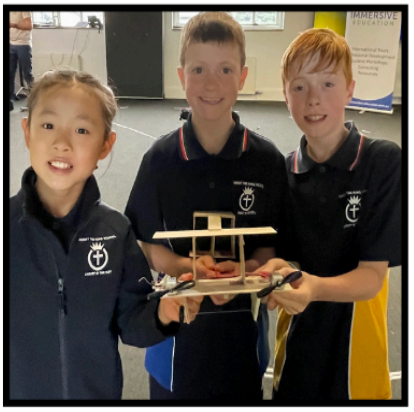
TERM THREE
15 JULY - 20 SEPTEMBER

15 JULY	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
31 JULY	EUCHARIST FAMILY EVENING
14 AUGUST	MLC COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
30 AUGUST	FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA
4 SEPTEMBER	ART SHOW
19 SEPTEMBER	ITALIAN CELEBRATION DAY
TBC	AFL GRAND FINAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY

TERM FOUR
7 OCTOBER - 18 DECEMBER

23 OCTOBER	SLC COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
4 NOVEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
5 NOVEMBER	MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY
22 NOVEMBER	CHRIST THE KING FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
11 DECEMBER	REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIOS RELEASED
17 DECEMBER	END OF YEAR LITURGY AND FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS











Entering an Attendance Note in the Compass App

If your child is going to be away, you can add an Attendance note to Compass to advise the school.

1. Push the blue Shortcuts button (marked with a plus sign).
2. Click Submit attendance note.
3. Select your child.
4. Provide the reason and any details.
5. Select the start and end date.
6. Attach any necessary documentation (ie. medical certificate)
7. Select the blue Add Attendance Note button.

