



Tuesday 1st March Week Six - Term One

Dear families

Over the next few weeks, I would like to share with you our core goals for 2022 that have been developed from key priorities and core data collected. These goals are a few of our main focus areas but, of course, does not cover everything that encompasses teaching and learning at Star of the Sea.

With the suffering and uncertainty pervading our world at present, it seems fitting that one of our goals is to deepen our knowledge of trauma aware practices in education.

We began this journey last year, resulting in our **Positive Behaviour Policy** which can be found on our website. This year we will explore ways of making that policy come to life in our school. We will do this through lots of education and by making expectations clear.

Behaviours need to be taught, just like the many other skills we teach our students. We need to model and practice with them what the expected behaviours look like and revisit them regularly. For some children, just like in other subject areas, extra support may be needed in this area.

We will also try to allow the students to inquire and have a voice in this area so that they feel a personal responsibility and have the chance to offer valuable feedback and suggest what help they need.

When I look at what is happening in Ukraine at the moment, I realise the importance of these lessons in the skills and attributes that make us successful learners and community members, full of wisdom, integrity, justice and compassion.

One of the lessons we teach when discussing the topic of bullying with our students is the important role of the bystander.

The bully is someone who uses their power to repeatedly intimidate another. Whilst there are strategies we teach for both the bully and the victim, it is often the bystanders that have the most power in rectifying the situation and helping peace to be restored.

It is heartening to see the bystanders around the world speaking up in horror at what Putin has instigated. It is my prayer that these voices work together as a more powerful force than the hatred currently being thrown at the Ukraine people.

We begin the Season of Lent tomorrow, and we remember a God who chose to walk with us and experience the suffering and injustice that humans can inflict on each other. Let us journey closer to Him this Lent through our honest self-reflection, our prayers and our service. **Pope Francis has urged us this Lent to unite in prayer and fasting for the people of Ukraine and for Peace.** His message is included in this newsletter.

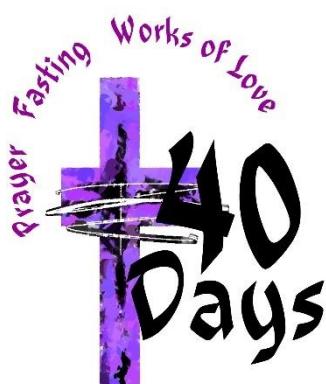
Prayer for Ukraine

*God of Peace and Justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
That your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
For wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
That You would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.
Amen.*
(by Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell)

God bless you and Live Jesus in Your Hearts Forever!

Jennett Mullan
Principal
jennett_mullan@rok.catholic.edu.au

From our APRE



I really couldn't say this any better – **A reflection from Sr Kym Harris osb.** It puts things into perspective for us.

Backburning in Lent

Last week, I visited the beautiful place where I spent my teens. It is the small township of Helensburgh and is surrounded by bush - Royal National Park, Water Board and Coal Board land. I was horrified. Last winter less than a third of the planned burn offs were done. It has rained continuously since October and the bush is like a solid brick wall closing in around the town, along the roads, towering above. Backburning has to be taken seriously, very seriously this winter, or we will have yet another day named with the word Black in front of it. It is an almost formidable job ahead but the consequences, if it is not faced, will be dire. Properties and possibly homes will be lost.

There is a lesson here for our own lives. We too have aspects of our lives that get out of control unless they are regularly disciplined. Traditionally, the Church has called them to 'passions'. These are not necessarily bad – just out of control. We easily recognise overeating but what about all the other things we do too much of. Are we too lazy, too angry, too critical? Do we drink too much, spend too much time on media? The list could go on, but you know what is out of whack in your life, as I do in mine. You know what undermines your ability to love those around you, to love yourself and to love God.

Lent, which begins this week, is the time the Church invites us to face ourselves and confront our sins, to really consider what undermines our living life to the full. This is not like New Year's Day, when we make good resolutions. This is when we really face the weakness that destabilises us, and as we do, we discover just how weak and broken we are. Where this differs from the nice New Year's resolution is that we have Jesus by our side. He wants to help us cut back what could

destroy us, wants to help us burn away the rubbish so that we can flourish in love. During this week, take time to think of one 'passion' that is distorting your life, and ask God for the wisdom and strength to face it this Lent.

Loving Jesus, in this time of Lent, give me the strength and wisdom of your Good Spirit to really look at myself and confront what is out of balance in my life. Let me live so that I can truly love my family and friends. I ask this in your name, knowing you will hear me.

Sr Kym Harris osb

Classes will promote Project Compassion this week as we begin our campaign. At no point do we **expect** students to bring an amount of money in for the missions. One way we promote helping others during this season of Lent is to think about a regular treat we might enjoy – an iceblock from tuckshop, happy meal, ice-cream sundae; and go without the treat and instead, putting that money in the classroom mission box.

Year Four students will give us a weekly update of money collected for the missions at Star of the Sea – thank you for your generosity.



What we do today will make a difference for people in the future.

Kellie Richardson

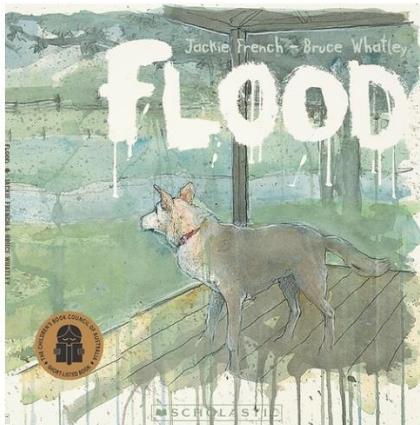
*Assistant Principal: Religious Education
Kellie_richardson@rok.catholic.edu.au*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to your generosity our Free Dress Day on Friday raised **\$441.60** to go towards the Tonga Volcano Appeal.

Our community never ceases to amaze me with their generosity – you are all wonderful.





Inspired by the Queensland floods, Flood is a moving and sensitive story of a natural disaster as seen through the honest eyes of a cattle dog that has been separated from his family. The floodwater mercilessly rips through the towns, and finally recedes, leaving a devastating widespread path of destruction.

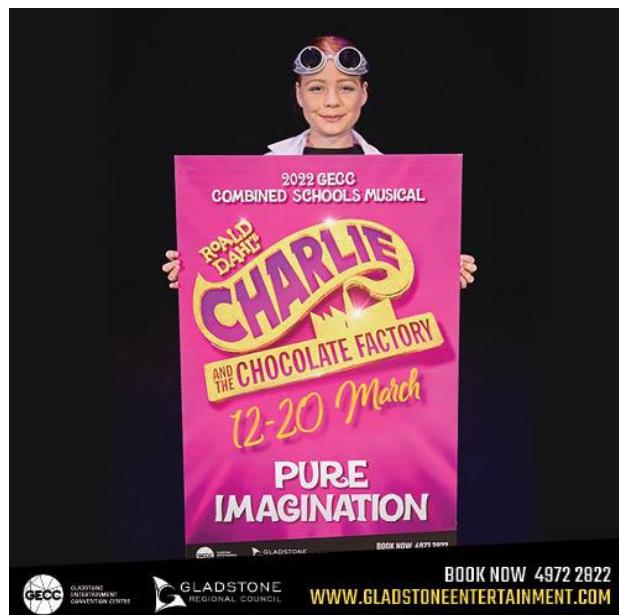
But from the ruins, courage and kindness emerge. A tiny tugboat heroically guides a wayward boardwalk out to sea; rescuers pluck friends and strangers from the dangerous waters; communities gather, providing aid, shelter, comfort and — above all — hope. (Jackie French – Author)

Two weeks ago, I read the book mentioned above to my Year 4 class. This book was used as part of my Spelling Project for this term, we looked at past tense verbs. We focused on how this flood was in the past and the book was written as a tribute to those who were affected and to those who helped clean up and re-build.

The class and I then used the iPad to look at some of the footage of the Brisbane Floods in 2011. It is hard to believe that the South East of Queensland, particularly Gympie and Brisbane are now in the exact same situation, if not worse. The footage on the news seems like history has repeated.

Many of you may have family and friends dealing with the flood and I hope they are ok. My thoughts and prayers are with all who are affected by this terrible situation.

LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS PHOTO!!



It is our Year 6 student Bonnie Auld!!!

Bonnie has been rehearsing for months and will soon be on the stage performing in the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Combined Schools Musical.

The Gladstone Regional Council has added two Sunday Matinee performances, for the Charlie and Chocolate Factory Combined Schools Musical. Sunday the 13th March and Sunday the 20th March @ 11am.

You can either book tickets:

- online through the webpage: <https://gladstoneentertainment.com/event/charlie-the-chocolate-factory/>
- over the phone 49722822
- in person at GECC Box Office

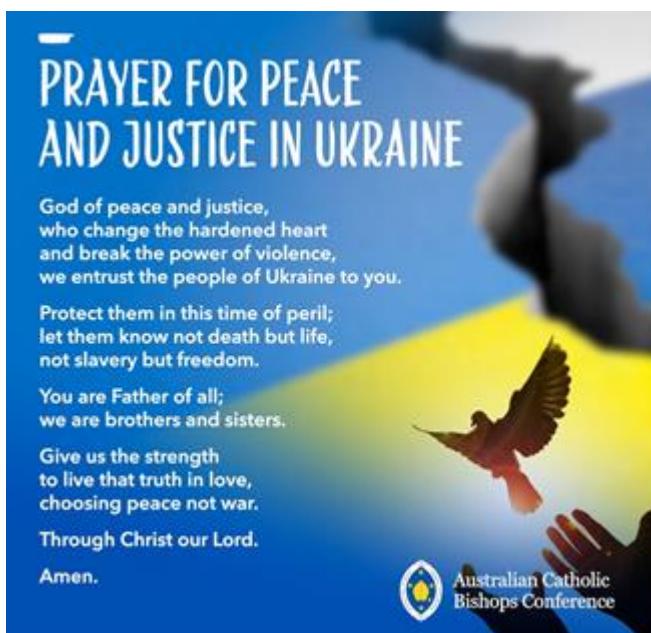
Bonnie is part of the Nut Room Slinger's group and the Reporter's Crowd. She would love to see her Star of the Sea school mates at one of the Matinee performances.

Have a good week everyone.

**Anthony King
Assistant Principal: Curriculum**

IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for those who suffer the fear and injustice of war: May those with power have their hearts moved to peace so as to make decisions that support it.
- We pray for all those affected by the floods in Qld and NSW: May they receive the support and the strength they need to recover from this tragedy.
- We pray for those members of our school community who are battling sickness and suffering in their life: May they find healing and comfort.
- We pray for all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in any way: May they not lose sight of the virtues of hope and endurance.
- We pray for those who have died, including Lois Richardson, mother of Brad, mother-in-law to Kellie (APRE) and grandma to Benn, Luke and Kasi (past students): May they rest in the peace and joy of Heaven and may their loved ones be comforted in their grief.



AN APPEAL FROM POPE FRANCIS



Make Ash Wednesday (2nd March 2022) a Day of Prayer for Ukraine.

Pope Francis has made an urgent appeal to all of us to reach out for peace through prayer and fasting this Wednesday...

"My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up.

Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again, the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

Pray for Peace in Ukraine

Star of the Sea School Board Information Evening



Have you ever wondered about what our School Board does or why it exists?

We would love you to join us on Tuesday 15 March at 5:30pm in the Staffroom (via the ramp at the end of the car park).

This is just an information evening with no expectations for membership.

**P & F MEETING NEXT
TUESDAY 8th March
6:30PM**



Looking forward to seeing you all next week at our P and F Meeting.

With the restrictions lifted next week we can meet on site in the staffroom (accessed via the car ramp at the end of the car park).

Please only attend if you are well.

The first of our Volunteer Inductions will begin at 6pm.

DATE CLAIMER

2022 CROSS COUNTRY

**THURSDAY 31 MARCH @ BLAIN PARK
9am - 11am**

Our whole school Cross Country event will take place on the last Thursday of this term.

Students from Prep to Year 6 will travel to and from the event by bus with our Year 6's starting the first run of the day at approximately 9am.

Please email or contact the school office if you are available to assist on the day (sosg@rok.catholic.edu.au).

Volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated and have completed a 2022 Volunteer Induction.

More details will be sent home soon.



**ARE YOU PLANNING ON
HELPING IN THE CLASSROOM
OR AT SCHOOL EVENTS SUCH
AS SWIMMING CARNIVALS
AND CROSS COUNTRY?**

**You will need to join us for a
Volunteer Induction first
please!**



These inductions do not take long but serve a very important purpose in helping us to provide a safe and supportive environment for your child.

*Please join us **in the staff room** for one of the following sessions:*

- Tuesday 8 March @ 6pm
(Before P&F Meeting)**
- Friday 11 March @ 8:45am
(after Assembly)**
- Monday 14 March @2:30pm**
- Tuesday 15 March @ 5:15pm
(Before Board Inservice)**



Please note that volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated to assist us in this way.

If you cannot make one of the induction times, you are allowed to sit in the office waiting area and read through the relevant paperwork, signing our register when finished.

Please only attend if you are well.

**WHEN MAY YOU
DROP YOUR CHILD
TO SCHOOL?**

Please remember that supervision for your child is not provided until 8:10am each morning.

No child should arrive at school before that time please.

We have a Before Hours Care service that is licensed by the department to care for our students before the official school hours begin. This means that children outside the care of that service cannot be on site while this service is operating in the licensed area.

If you do need your children on site before that time you will need to enrol them in our Before Hours Care Service.

More information about our OSCHC Service can be obtained via our website:
<http://www.staroftheseagladstone.qld.edu.au/about-us/oshc.html>

We appreciate your support in keeping your child safe and complying with the legislation we are bound to work under.

Student Absentee Phone Number



If your child is not attending school, you can call us, 24/7, to leave a message to report the absence. The **Student Absentee phone number is 4994 8301**.

As always, absences can be reported using Parent Lounge or by emailing your child's teacher (with a cc to SOSG_Absentee@rok.catholic.edu.au).

This designated phone line gives you the opportunity to call the school at a time that is convenient to you.

Port Curtis 10-12 Years AFL

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Port Curtis 10-12 Years AFL team.

- Dax Andrews
- Kaelan Gott
- Layni Mallie-Roberts

The Capricornia AFL trials will be held in Rockhampton on Mackay on Tuesday 15th March. Well done to you all!!

Prep 2023 Enrolment Applications

Children born between 1st July 2017 and 30th June 2018 are eligible to commence Prep in 2023. If you have a child eligible for Prep in 2023 please visit the school website and complete the Online Application Form.

<http://www.staroftheseagladstone.qld.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information.html>

All current families with a child eligible to commence Prep 2023 are required to complete and online application form.

Instrumental Music Notes

"Scientists have found that music involves the left, right, front, and back portions of the brain, which explains why people can learn and retain information more readily when it is set to music."

A warm welcome to all of our continuing and new band families!

Please check the Term 1 timetable for lesson times. Timetables were emailed to parents. Paper copies can be collected from the school office.

Intermediate Band is 7.45am on Tuesday mornings;
Beginner Band is 8.00am on Wednesday mornings.

Places and instruments are still available for your child to learn a musical instrument and play in our school band. Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are able to learn flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, oboe, tenoroon, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or percussion. School instruments are available for hire.

If your child is interested, please pick up an information pack from the school office or contact Mrs Mallett.

*Mrs Kerrie Mallett
Instrumental Music Teacher
Email: kerriemusic@gmail.com*



Caulfield

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Thank you to our 2021 event Sponsors.

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