



## Mini-Newsletter – Week 8

### Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

For our school celebrations, on Monday of this week, we lit the third Advent wreath candle which is the pink candle. The pink candle is a sign of joy.



Paul's letter to the Philippians encapsulates the joy that marks our faith in God's eternal love and mercy. *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4).

Joy, like hope, is often mistaken for something it is not. It doesn't equate with happiness or excitement, both of which can come in short bursts and flame out as quickly as they emerge. Joy is deep-rooted and grounded in an interior sense of well-being. It often emerges at unexpected times and in unusual ways.

May you all know the deep joy that our faith brings to Advent and Christmas time.

#### *Mark 1: 1-3*

- 1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,*
- 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" —*
- 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

#### ADVENT – VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This is our last week of collecting for our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We would love to accept any donations for the Appeal. Items can be dropped into the collection boxes in the MPLA.

The theme for donations is anything that a family would appreciate to make their Christmas celebration special and the donations need to be non-perishable.

Representatives from our local St Vincent de Paul will attend our Monday Morning Assembly next week (Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December) to accept our donations. We look forward to welcoming them and handing over our donations.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

All students who have held leadership roles throughout this year: Class Captains, House Captains, School Captains, will be presented with Appreciation certificates at our Monday morning 9.00am Assembly, 11<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are most welcome to attend the Assembly for the presentation.

Students have grown in personal responsibility and confidence in these leadership roles during the year and it has been wonderful for them to have had these opportunities. We want to congratulate and thank them.

## END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

A reminder that all parents are welcome to attend our End Of Year Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 11.45am in Star Of The Sea Church. The Mass is a celebration and thanksgiving of our year. Following the Mass we will have a graduation ceremony for our Year 6 and 9 students. There will be end-of-year awards and presentations to staff and students. All parents are welcome to join us.

## ST MARY MACKILLOP SINGERS CHOIR

This Saturday morning our Singers Choir will be singing Christmas carols at 10.00am at the Wallaroo Markets. Please come along and support them and this community event.

Thank you to all of our Singers and their parents and especially to our choir coordinator Bernie.

## EXCURSIONS

It's a busy and exciting time as we celebrate our year with activities and excursions:

- 2/3 Wehr and 3/4 Kotz have enjoyed local excursions to Wallaroo main street
- Reception and Year 1 classes combine for their Splash Town excursion tomorrow
- This morning our Year 6 and 7 students headed off for aquatics camp at Port Vincent for three days
- On Monday, Year 6-9 will head over to Kadina for a game of putt-putt and lunch
- Next Thursday, Year 4-5 will have an excursion to Splash Town

We love being able to offer these opportunities and experiences to students and I am thankful to our staff and parent volunteers who make it all possible.

## REPORTS AND NOTIFICATION OF 2024 CLASSES

Student reports will be sent home to parents on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December (Week 9), this allows two days for follow up parent-teacher interviews upon request.

Class allocation slips (class and teacher) for 2024 will be included with the reports.

On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, the students will visit their classroom and class teacher (where possible) for 2024, this visit will take place 9.00-10.00am.

## PLANNING AHEAD 2024

Following are some dates for 2024 that you may find helpful to add to your calendar:

- OSHC will commence Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (available for students attending SMMS in 2024 only)

**The staff days for Week 0 of 2024 will be:**

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January
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**Uniform and book sales days will be:**

- A-L surnames: 12-5pm Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- M-Z surnames: 8am-1pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Students commence school Term 1, 2024, on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

## PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that we have a pupil free day on the last day of term Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December; staff will be involved in planning and handover of student information in preparation for a smooth start to 2024. OSHC is available on this day.

Blessings for the week ahead.

*Ms Michelle Miller*  
PRINCIPAL

## SUBWAY LUNCHES



### SUBWAY LUNCHES – FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

On Friday, we will have Subway lunches, Friday school lunch orders will not be available. Please send a packed lunch if your child has not ordered Subway.

## THANK YOU MORNING TEA

Last Friday, Middle School students hosted a morning tea as a way of saying thank you to all of the people and groups who have supported their camp fundraisers this year.

Guests enjoyed a cup of coffee (or two!) and morning tea, all made and served by the students.

Thank you to everyone for attending.



Knights of the South Cross & Vinnies



P & F



Volunteers



Parents



## PREMIER'S BE ACTIVE CHALLENGE

Well done to the students that completed the Premier's Be Active Challenge in Term 3! The Challenge involved students being active for 60 minutes per day for 5 out of 7 days in the week for 4 consecutive weeks.

