

continued from p1

an Education Support Officer (ESO), they definitely have no requirement to be checking emails or 'working' outside of their paid hours. Some can apply for phone calls – staff may not see the note to call you back until the following day and may not get to that until then. If you have an urgent reason to talk to a teacher, please contact the relevant Front Office who will assist with your urgent concern.

Early arrivals

We remind parents/caregivers to ensure you do not drop your child off at school too early. Supervision starts at 8:30am at Primary and at 8:20am at Secondary. The Secondary Library is open from 8am. There are days where there are no staff at all on some campuses (attending an event or staff session elsewhere) until 8:30am. If dropping your child off before these times is a genuine issue for you, please contact your child's Head of Campus. If your child is getting themselves to school (walk/bike) then please speak to them about arriving at the appropriate time.

Bullying Info and Parent Guide

We remind all our families of a very handy and informative document we have on our website about Bullying – it is found in the 'Student Support' section of both Primary and Secondary sections. This provides all families and students with some direction as to what to do if and when it happens or if your child is bullying or what will the school likely to do if etc. It also has a section about cyberbullying. Please have a read through this to assist us if you ever need to raise a concern about bullying. Also let us know if any links do not work or you don't understand a section. We are also updating our popular Parent & Student Guide. This is a very handy document that outlines some school rules/procedures, some tips and some responsibilities for families.

The Samaritan Way

Did you know that beneath our modern Valentine's Day traditions of chocolates and flowers lies the story of a saint who showed deep faith, selfless love, and courage—St Valentine. His story invites us not only to celebrate love but to reflect on how we can plant *seeds of hope* in our world.

St Valentine was a 3rd-century Roman priest and physician who lived during a time when it was dangerous to be a Christian. When Emperor Claudius II banned Christian marriages, believing single men made better soldiers, Valentine secretly performed Christian weddings. He saw marriage as a sign of God's love and wanted to help Christian couples.

Valentine was eventually arrested, but even in prison, he continued share his faith with the other prisoners. It is said he healed the blind daughter of his jailer and before his execution on February 14, 269 AD, he wrote a farewell note to her, signing it, "*From your Valentine.*"

The story of St Valentine calls us to a deeper, more selfless kind of love—one that plants *seeds of hope* in others. Hope is nurtured through kindness, generosity, and faith, just as St Valentine showed courage and compassion in the face of hardship.

At Samaritan College, we are invited to *plant seeds of hope*—to spread hope through small but meaningful acts of love. Whether it's comforting a friend, including someone who feels left out, helping a younger student, or simply offering a kind word, these small acts can blossom into something greater.

How can I plant seeds of hope in my family, my friendships, and my community? Instead of focusing only on gifts and cards, let's look for ways to bring hope to those who need it most. Just as a tiny seed can grow into a great tree, even our smallest acts of kindness can make a lasting impact.

May we be inspired by St Valentine's courage, faith, and love, and may Samaritan College continue to be a community where hope lives and grows.

Happy St Valentine's Day!

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM

Loving God,

You are the source of all love,
A love that is patient, kind, and everlasting.

As we remember St Valentine,
May we be inspired by his faith, courage, and selfless love.

Help us to plant 'seeds of hope' in our families,
In our friendships, and in our Samaritan community.

Teach us to love as Jesus loves—
With open hearts, generous hands, and forgiving spirits.

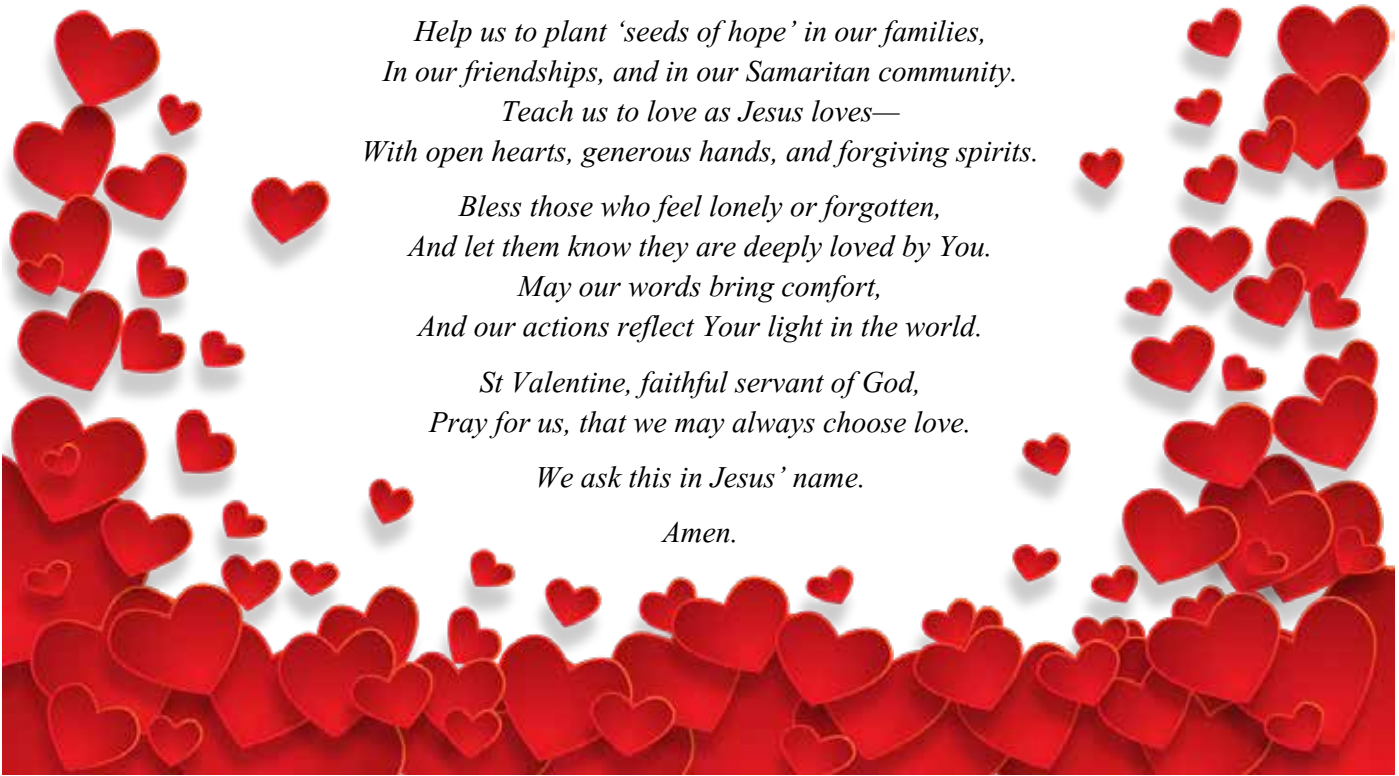
Bless those who feel lonely or forgotten,
And let them know they are deeply loved by You.

May our words bring comfort,
And our actions reflect Your light in the world.

St Valentine, faithful servant of God,
Pray for us, that we may always choose love.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



College News

Road Safety

We have had a number of 'near-miss' incidents involving students attempting to cross the roads surrounding our campuses, before and after school.

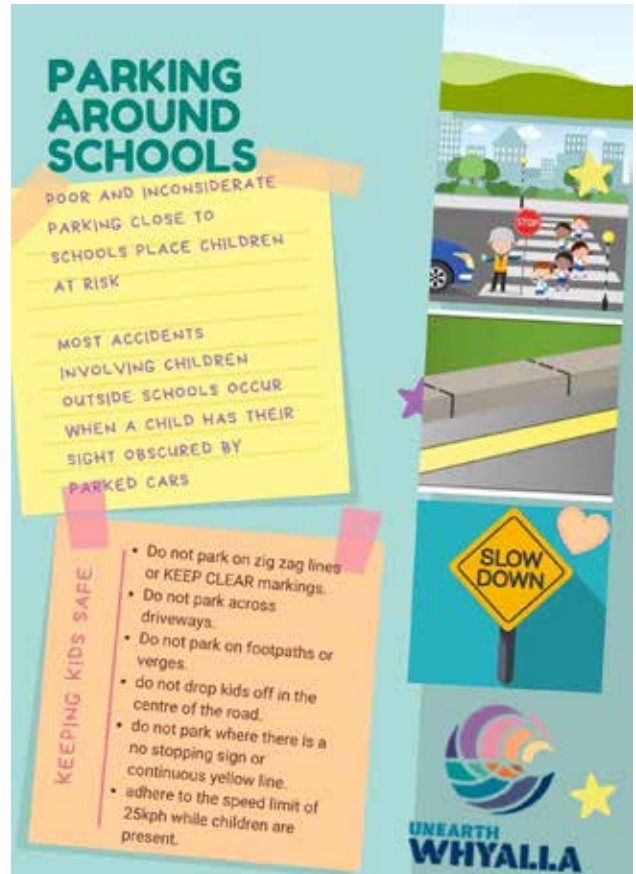
To ensure we maintain a safe environment for our students, staff and families please:

- Ensure you are slowing to 25km/hr when entering the school zone and a child is present
- Ensure you arrive in time to park safely and legally
- Do not park on the solid yellow lines - these are NO STANDING zones and this restricts the vision of those attempting to cross the road
- Do not block driveways with your vehicle
- Do not park your vehicle on a kerb

Council has been engaged to assist us with this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration in keeping our school zones safe for everyone.

Terri Bray
WHS COORDINATOR



School Fees

The payment method forms are being mailed to families this week. It is a requirement of the College Board for all families to complete this form (if an ongoing payment plan has not already been established) and send back to any campus by Friday, February 28.

It is important that a payment plan is entered into as soon as possible to ensure all fees are paid by the end of the school year.

Families eligible for school card are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme> or pick up a hard copy at the front office of any campus.

Families not eligible for school card but are experiencing financial hardship may be eligible for financial assistance.

For any fee related queries or discussions regarding financial scholarship applications, please contact the Business Manager, Terry Costello on 8645 8568.

Terry Costello
BUSINESS MANAGER

Primary Campus News

Parent Forms

Just a gentle reminder to return any outstanding medical or consent forms that would have been handed out at the beginning of the year – please also remember to contact the front office if you have changed any contact information recently.

SEQTA Engage

SEQTA engage is now live, this will be the main platform for all communication regarding events, assessments, and reporting. If you have had trouble accessing SEQTA engage, please contact your child's teacher.

Meet the Teacher Nights

Thanks to all the families who engaged with both campuses' Meet the Teacher Nights. Building school-family relationships is so important for a sense of belonging. If you wish to have a more in-depth chat with your child's teacher or a member of leadership about any immediate concerns, please contact the relevant front office to book an appointment.

Special Visitors!

A very special visit yesterday from two special people. Good Samaritan Sisters Margaret Barry and Glenys Dellamarta returned to Whyalla after working in our community in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Mr Judd attended a parish luncheon with them before they visited two current staff, who also worked with them at Our Lady Help of Christians School, in Mrs Fitzgerald and Mrs Judd. Mrs Perry popped in to say hi as she was a student taught by Sr Margaret.

Lots of reminiscing!

Matt Quist & Jenna Edwards
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES



Secondary Campus News

Secondary attendance hotline: 0473 989 587 - TEXT messages only, otherwise please phone 8645 8568.

Start to the Year

The first two weeks of the academic year have been busy, to say the least, but such is the nature of Samaritan that there always seems to be something on. As I mentioned in our first newsletter, our Achievement Assembly was held in week one, and last week our campus had the pleasure of hosting our Opening School Mass. It is an amazing sight to see every Samaritan student assembled on the grandstand and oval, and it always amazes me how smoothly things run - as you can appreciate, having 900 or so staff and students receive communion or a blessing has the potential to go awry! I was particularly struck this year by the number of parents and caregivers who attended, and their presence was greatly appreciated.

Last Monday we held an informal parent-teacher 'meet and greet' on the Grandstand. The oppressive heat was not enough to deter a sizeable number of parents from attending, and I thank them for taking the time to invest in their child's education in this small but meaningful way.

Last week some of Year 11 students began their automotive and electrotechnology VET courses at TAFE. For the students, their TAFE courses will contribute to their SACE and if completed, they will gain nationally recognised qualifications that can lead to further training and/or apprenticeships.

Next week some of our students will attend Life Education presentations on a variety of age-appropriate topics such as cyber-safety and smoking (including vaping).

Uniform

As the weather starts to warm up and temperatures hit the mid thirties and beyond, I am often asked by students and staff whether students can wear their PE uniform as part of our 'hot weather policy'. The short answer is no. Students are permitted to wear their PE uniform when they have double PE lessons, and Year 7 students can wear it Wednesday for their Rock and Water program, but other than that students are expected to wear their formal uniform on other days. The reason for this is simple - all classrooms, including Home Ec, the Library, Tech Studies, Art and the computer room - are air conditioned, so there is no benefit to be derived by wearing PE clothes. The library is always open during recess and lunch and on days deemed too hot to allow students on the oval and basketball courts additional classrooms are opened to provide respite from the heat. We appreciate parent and caregiver support in this regard.

Mobile Phones

In line with the college's *Information Communication Technology and Electronic Devices Access and Use Policy*, students are not to access electronic devices during school hours or at specific school events that may occur after school hours (e.g. camps and excursions), where the teacher has directed that phones and other electronic devices be away. Prohibiting the use of such devices during school time is designed to enhance teaching and learning experiences and minimise opportunities for cyber bullying and harassment of members of the school community. It is an expectation that students switch off their mobile phones and keep them out of sight, ideally in their lockers. Staff have the authority to confiscate devices, in which case parents will be informed and the item kept in the Front Office for students to collect at the end of the school day. Repeated violations may result in more severe consequences.

Pop-Up Breakfast

Our first pop-up breakfast for the year was held last Friday. The next breakfast will be held on Friday February 21 (Friday Week 4).

Sports Day

Sports Day is rapidly approaching, with the date set for Friday Week 6 (March 7). House captains have been busy choreographing their houses' march past routines, with the first practice being held tomorrow. Good luck to all the houses as they prepare for this special feature of Sports Day.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Samaritan students Saije Coleman (Year 7), Harper Anderson (Year 8) and Sheree McIntyre (Year 8), who read the Acknowledgement to Country to open the Steelers basketball carnival on the weekend.

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS



Group Session

The senior campus is proud of budding First Nations program we initiated last year with families. The highlight of which resulted in securing a grant for students to design and create a native garden. We are excited at the prospect of this cultural recognition growing, due in no small part of the continued work of Rachael Anderson, Amelia Grindell and Kellie Abdulla, and the opportunities our First Nations students will get to create long-lasting friendships and connections.

The overall aim of our cultural program is to strengthen identity, set individual goals, connect with community, and learn positive health and wellbeing strategies, at the same time encouraging regular school attendance and positive behaviour towards learning.

Last week Amelia and Kellie ran a 'getting to know you and team-building games' session. As the accompanying images show, the students had much fun connecting with our new Aboriginal Support Officers and their peers.

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS



Community News

"The services and events contained in this section are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children."



Find out more

Follow us on social media



Opening hours


Monday - 9am - 5pm
Tuesday - 9am - 5pm
Wednesday - 9am - 6pm
Thursday - 9am - 6pm
Friday - 9am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm
Sunday 10am - 2pm



 **Whyalla
Public Library**

**Welcome to
the library**

 **Libraries
SA**

 19 Ekblom St,
Whyalla Norrie


 8645 7891

LEGO AT THE LIBRARY

Join us at the Whyalla Public Library for Lego Club!

After school, 4pm - 5pm on Thursdays!

Bookings essential via Humanitix




WHYALLA

Learning Club

at the library
Wednesdays
3.30-4.30

Libraries SA

For all who seek.



We can always **talk about** being safe online

no shame

no blame

In our family, anything that is worrying us online can be discussed without shame or blame.

We can talk openly about:

- Safe and unsafe situations and people
- How we behave with others online
- What we see online and how it makes us feel
- Where to get help if we need it



Australian Government | eSafety Commissioner



visit us at [eSafety.gov.au/parents](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)



Receive up to \$500 from ANZ for education costs

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Achieve a savings goal for 10 months and ANZ will match it up to \$500. You need to:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

saverplus
saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

Terms and conditions apply.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL PORT AUGUSTA

A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

FREE! COMMUNITY EVENT

BEAUTIFULLY YOU BELLY DANCERS, CHINESE ROVING PUPPET DRAGON, THE THREE AMIGOS, HENNA PAINTING, FACE PAINTING, CULTURAL FOOD & ACTIVITY STALLS

GLADSTONE SQUARE | PORT AUGUSTA

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 2025 | **10 AM UNTIL 2 PM**

SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME

CONTACT: PHONE: 8641 9100
COMMUNITYDEVELOPMENT@PORTAUGUSTA.SA.GOV.AU

benevolent | EXPLORE | PortAugusta



February 25th LEA MEMORIAL THEATRE 5.00PM SHOW

Join the Glow Squad for an interactive children's glow concert perfect for kids ages 2-10.

An electrifying family theatre experience that blends storytelling, music, dance & dazzling special effects. Immerse yourself in cutting-edge light displays, smoke effects, drums, bubbles and floating LED glow planets, transforming the stage into a glowing galaxy.

Children join in on the dances, learning the moves and becoming part of the show.

Follow the Glow Squad on a mission to restore 'glow' on planet Earth, learning valuable lessons about friendship, self-love, kindness & well-being.

DURATION APPROX: 65 minutes

FREE THIS IS A FREE FAMILY EVENT
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CZBYV](https://www.trybooking.com/CZBYV)



WHYALLA Free Kids Crabbing Event

SPORTFISHING CLUB INC. EST 1979

Join us for a fun filled day of Crabbing!

Date: Saturday, 8 March 2025
Time: 7.30am - 1pm (followed by a free BBQ lunch)
Location: Sign-in & collect your crab net from the Whyalla Sports Fishing Club, then over to the Whyalla Jetty

All equipment provided - you will also get to keep your new crab net!
Free BBQ lunch and drinks for all participants/family (Bar facilities available)
1st Prize: 4-person trip on Steve Storic's Glass Bottom Boat
2nd & 3rd Prizes: Donated by Tackle World Port Lincoln
Mystery Prize, Give aways and much more!

To register, email communitysupport@spalliance.com with:

- Names and ages of children participating (required for crab nets)
- Name & emergency contact number of parent attending

