

Secondary Sports Day

Next week are our Annual Sports Days for our secondary campus. This is an extremely important and popular event in our college – along with our Primary Sports Day later in the year. Students are expected to be at school – it is always a little concerning for schools to have to remind parents/students about that fact. Your child should be attending all events at school even when one of these events is at Jubilee Park. Parents/Caregivers are welcome to attend and we have back up plans for inclement weather (hot or wet or windy). Thursday is a half day Sports Day as we cannot fit in all events on the Friday i.e. 1500m events do take a while to run! The March Past (aka Cheerleading), held on Friday morning next week, is a real highlight!

Parents on Site

I assume many of you saw the video image of the incident at a school in Adelaide where parents of the school came into a class to confront another child. Putting the serious issue of an adult threatening a child to one side, one of the other issues that arose from this was the fact that so many parents/caregivers had entered the classroom – this was a secondary classroom. Aside from the usual processes around our Junior Primary classrooms and gathering areas for parents, where we do happily allow parents/grandparents to gather near the classrooms, no parent should be entering classrooms unless they have signed in at the Front Office and with the teacher present and aware of the visit. Even if you have something to discuss and even if the matter is quite serious, it is never acceptable for an adult to bypass the usual sign-in procedures and confront a child on site. The same applies for confronting staff without making a time first. Please direct all concerns to the Front Office who will make the arrangements to inform the relevant staff member or make contact via email with the relevant staff member. When we have 'public' events at school i.e. Sports Day or Book Week etc and signing-in at the Front Office is not required, please still follow the correct protocol when seeking information about an incident.

Annual General Meeting

The college holds its AGM on Tuesday March 25 at 7pm. It will be held in the Saint John's Centre at Saint John's College (upstairs – enter via the main front doors). Drinks and nibbles are provided. There is also room for 2-3 new parent reps on this important advisory board. This section of our website outlines what is and isn't involved in being a board member – it may be not what you think! <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/home/community/board-and-governance>. To nominate simply email the college at info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au or submit the form on the website. The AGM itself is a fairly short meeting but it does go through the college's financial position, the achievements of the past year and the challenges and opportunities facing the college in the coming years. Come along – you won't be 'dobbed' in for a job!

Support from Centacare

As many would know, we contract the services of Centacare Whyalla to coordinate our Student Counselling Program. This has proved to be a very successful and valuable relationship and partnership between the two Catholic agencies. It is important to note the Centacare counsellors are not teachers but are professional counsellors. The college does not receive information about individual cases, unless agreed to by students and parents, but we do get overall data about numbers of consults and general themes about the issues. It can vary between campuses as to what needs the counselling programs serves. Anxiety, for example, maybe a more common matter at one campus whereas friendship issues may be a topic at another campus. The counsellors then work with the students and their families, if needed, around strategies to assist them. The counsellors also run proactive courses and sessions for the students to help with issues before the need may arise. Parents are welcome to speak to the counsellors and students are shown how to make discreet appointments. Simply contact the front office at the relevant campus to talk with one of our Centacare counsellors.

Emailing myself or Mr Czechowski on SEQTA

If you use SEQTA to contact myself or Mr Czechowski, which you may be using for your child's other teachers, it may mean we do not see your email. SEQTA email is used by teaching staff but not leadership or Support Staff. If you would like to contact myself or Mr Czechowski via email, please use info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au. This will ensure it makes to the relevant staff member.

The Samaritan Way

“Unite Against Poverty”

Ash Wednesday

Next week as a Samaritan College community, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Lent lasts for forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and finishing on Holy Thursday. The rich symbolism contained in the ashes being present at our Ash Wednesday Liturgies, reminds us to turn back to God who is full of tenderness and compassion.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are called to reflect on our thoughts and actions. Christ invites us to renew ourselves through a transformation of our hearts.

The virtues of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are at the heart of our Lenten experience. Through prayer we are drawn closer to God so that we are better able to realise our baptismal promise to live justly as Jesus teaches us. Fasting joins us in solidarity with the poor who often have no choice but to live without basic essentials. Almsgiving or giving to others, is a sign of our commitment to justice as we are called to acts of service.

Caritas Australia brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Each Lent, Caritas launches its Project Compassion appeal - a practical way of bringing hope to live our campaign of Christian service.

This year's theme 'Unite Against Poverty' reminds us that the good that we do today will impact the lives of generations to come. Our 2025 Jubilee year theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' is also a special invitation to come together with hope and 'Unite Against Poverty' It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and for the future.

Next week, each campus will celebrate an Ash Wednesday liturgy. During this sacred time, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God and prepare our hearts for Easter. The ashes we receive on our foreheads are a powerful symbol of humility and repentance, reminding us of our need for God's mercy and the call to turn our hearts toward Him. As a Samaritan community, our liturgies encourage us to journey together in faith, seeking to grow in love, kindness, and compassion throughout Lent.

Project Compassion 2025 Prayer

*God of our journey
we are all pilgrims of hope
brought together by your love and your wish that we*

may all be one.

*We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are
called to greater justice
and care for our common home that we may Unite
Against Poverty.*

*May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed
and the renewal of creation.*

*May our compassionate minds and generous hearts
help bring about a
world where all can live in peace.*

*May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and
prayer*

bring us closer to your loving heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Pope Francis

Pope Francis has been a guiding light for the Church leading with humility, compassion, and a commitment to justice for all people. As he faces serious illness, please say a prayer, asking God to grant him strength, comfort, and healing. In our Catholic tradition, prayer unites us as a community of faith, reminding us that we are never alone in times of suffering. Please join together in prayer for Pope Francis, trusting in God's loving presence and care.

Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving and merciful God,

We place Pope Francis in Your tender care.

*In his time of illness, bring him comfort and peace,
surround him with Your healing love,
and give him strength in body, mind, and spirit.*

*Bless those who care for him with wisdom and
compassion,*

that they may be instruments of Your grace.

*Lord, as he has faithfully served Your people,
now hold him close in his time of need.*

*May he find rest in Your presence,
hope in Your promises, and courage in Your love.
We entrust him to You, knowing that You are ever near,
guiding him in this moment and always.*

Amen.

**Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM**

Deputy News

Parent & Student Guides are a popular document published by the College. They are frequently revised to provide families with up-to-date information on the many day-to-day happenings within each campus. Topics include Uniform expectations, Absentee & Arrival procedures, Communication guidelines, Homework advice, Helpful tips etc etc. There is a Parent & Student Guide for Secondary families, and a separate publication for families with children at our Primary campuses. Both have recently been revised and will soon be available under the 'General Information' tabs on our website.

This week, students across the College will commence the termly Catholic Education Pulse Check Survey. Additionally, students in Years 5-12 will participate in the national Resilience Youth Survey, conducted by The Resilience Project.

The Resilient Youth Survey is completely voluntary and anonymous. It collects the self-reported resilience and wellbeing of students and will provide valuable information to help us create and maintain the best culture of wellbeing and resilience possible.

The resulting data is invaluable to us as leaders and educators. Data from the survey will be reported in aggregate descriptive form only, by year level and gender, and no individual student responses can be identified.

Part of my role is responding to datasets from each campus but to also help students appreciate the value of surveys and what can be gleaned from them. The Pulse Check is one of many tools Samaritan College uses to support student agency. It presents opportunity to listen and respond to students often, most powerfully through a conversation and takes on a renewed emphasis as we seek to ensure that all students have strong relationships and a sense of belonging at school. Data from the pulse check survey is presented to the school board at regular intervals throughout the year.

Brett Czechowski
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

College News

NAPLAN 2025

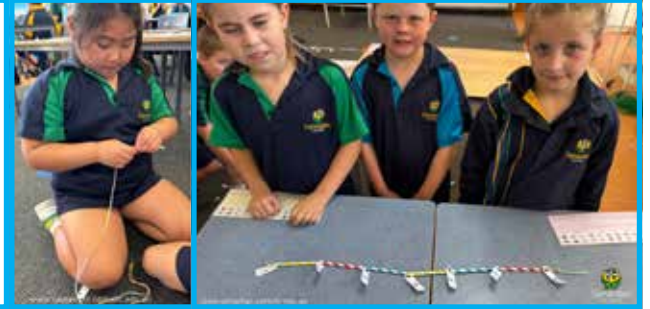
Students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be participating in NAPLAN in Week 7 of this term. Many students completed the Coordinated Practise Test this week to prepare for the upcoming sessions. Parents of these students will be sent further information about NAPLAN, should you have any concerns about your child participating in the test please contact your Campus Based Leader of Learning - Kathryn Pech (Saint John's Campus), Ash Mayne (Our Lady Help of Christians Campus), Lisa Phillips (St Teresa's Campus).

Primary Campus News

Year 1/2 Peden

This week we have been learning about ordering numbers. Yesterday, the students worked together to create their own number lines using string and straws. This was a fun and interactive way to learn to work as a team and practice our fine motor skills.

Sophie Peden
TEACHER



Valentines Day

"I love YOU to pieces" – heartfelt artwork from our littlest Samaritans in Reception Harris.



www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au



New Receptions

Huge smiles and thumbs up from our new Reception students - it's been a great start to 2025 for our littlest Samaritans.



Primary Leaders

Congratulations to our Primary Student Leaders. Officially commissioned into their leadership roles at assemblies during Week 4.

"Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus. Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow. Amen"

We acknowledge the ongoing commitment to leadership and responsibility of all our students.

We thank our Student Agency and Well-Being leaders Jenna Warren and Kristin Murray for guiding the young leaders through their assemblies.

St Teresa's Campus Representatives	
Rec Davies/Judd	Luna Papoulis Oliver Duncan
Rec Raymond/Judd	Hannah Kneebone Archie Wright
Rec Harris	Faye Cameron Owen Young
1/2 Ness	Elijah Jones Lottie Stokes
1/2 Fechner	Adrianna Bryant Jai Heysen
1/2 McArthur	Brodie Raymond Darcey Young
3/4 Murray	Rinn Owen Levi Inglis
3/4 Phillips/Fiebig	Efimia Michaelides Blake Faulkner
4/5 Crowe	Lilian Meredith Olli Morgan
5/6 Foran	Alfie Kroll Isla Colyer
5/6 Baulderstone/Rodda	Will Bennie Emily Barrington
Mullu Mullu Gulya Leaders	
Joe Richards-Cowan	Manuel Gonzalez

Our Lady Help of Christians Campus Representatives	
Rec Morani	Lucas Wheeler Allanah Baker
Rec Warren	Mason Smallacombe Harper Hodder
R/1 Crompton	Jax Kingi Ella Leech
1/2 Peden	Zavier Robertson
1/2 Marschall	Jaxon Bostock-Boundy Maliah Parker
3/4 Mayne/Lynch	Tayte Gill Aquah Khan
3/4 Shiell	Nikolai Anderson Violet Hughes
5/6 Arcobelli/Coad	AoMarama Doidge Mohi Violet Calgaret
5/6 Marinkovich	Michael Paul Raezzielle Williams
Mullu Mullu Gulya Leaders	
Malakai Marich	Jayla Taylor

S-Squad - St Teresa's Campus			
Hudson O'Keefe	Darcy Rodda	Isla Perry	Georgia Hewett
Franklin Walsh	Kodi Wilkes	Hamish Holmes	Braxton Jeromin
Alabama Hedger	William Macdonald	Delaney Owens	Janice Abakah-Odoom
Callun Massarotto	Willow McCarthy-Golding	Ryan Caldwell	Cody Faulds
Miles Arundell	Xander Atkinson	Scott Baverstock	Jensen Cosgrove
Paisliegh Freymark	Phoebe Powell	Spencer True	Aubree Golding
Levi Curtis	Kara Faulkner	Max Jaritz	

HOUSE LEADERS					
	St Teresa's Campus			Our Lady Help of Christians Campus	
BENEDICT	Lara Giddings	Ivy Dickinson		Shaine Shaw	Darcie Skinner
MACKILLOP	Lily Weetra	Layla Smyth	Maddie Weetra	Lachlan Carr	Haleigh Giumelli-Brown
RICE	Dax Owens	Indy Klippel	Mia Asperti	Harrison Clarke	Malakai Marich

Parents on site

Whilst we are very welcoming of parents on site during the school day, we remind that there is a general procedure around appropriate interactions during the designated school day.

If you are picking up your child early - please come into the Front Office so staff can coordinate pick ups. This can also apply to dropping suitable items during the day (food, clothes, water bottles etc).

If you need to speak to the class teacher, please engage prior so a time can be agreed upon, or discuss a suitable time that a more in-depth discussion can take place. This can also be done via the front office if you haven't been able to communicate with the teacher prior.

There has been media coverage of parents in metropolitan schools entering into classrooms attempting to deal with child conflict issues themselves. We remind families that this is never OK. We as a staff will always dedicate time and energy to dealing with behavioural issues that arise, and that parent concerns need to come through the class teacher and leadership at both sites, via appointment.

Coming up...

Class Assemblies and Liturgies have started in the last week – please keep an eye out for a message from your child's teacher regarding any assemblies over the coming weeks.

Both campuses hold their events 9:00am on Friday mornings, St Teresa's Campus in their Shelter Shed and at Our Lady Help of Christians in the Vessey Unit.

Assembly generally involves children from all classes, however, Liturgy will run in Upper or Junior Primary groups to make sure the Prayers are contextual.

The Official Clean-Up Australia Day is this Sunday, March 4, however, Samaritan will be holding their Clean-Up Australia Day activities in Week 5.

Please keep an ear out for any NAPLAN communication – the practice tests have been administered and the nation-wide testing will be completed during Week 7 and 8.

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.*

SRC Induction

Tomorrow we will present our Year 7 – 11 student leaders to the school community at our annual SRC Induction Assembly. Families are more than welcome to attend this short but significant event, which will be held on the grandstand and begin at 8:40am.

Student Absences

Most students and families would appreciate the detrimental impact regular and/or continued absence can have on a student's learning. These absences are often unavoidable – illness, funerals, medical appointments cannot always be scheduled during the holidays or, in the case of our Year 12s, study lessons. Parents and caregivers are asked to notify the **Front Office** of student absences so we can record them as 'explained' and hence meet our reporting obligations.

If students are away for all or part of a day, parents/caregivers are asked to **notify the front office staff rather than teaching staff**. Teachers do not always get a chance to check their emails or SEQTA DMs during the day so might miss these notifications. As the front office staff are the ones who update student absences, they need to be informed of these. Please also note that the hotline number is text only; if you

need to ring the front office, please use the campus landline (8645 8568).

Vaping

Vapes, also known as e-cigarettes, are becoming increasingly popular among young people, and it would be naive to think that Samaritan students are immune to the temptation e-cigarettes pose. The extent of the harm both nicotine-free and nicotine based vaping products pose is unclear, but evidence suggests that vaping is not risk-free, and as such vaping is illegal for children under the age of 18. It is for this reason that Samaritan College cannot condone the practice, and students who are caught vaping on school property will be responded to in the appropriate manner. SAPOL has advised that school staff are within their rights to confiscate and destroy vaping products found in a young person's possession, locker or school bag.

Student Near Misses

We have had a number of 'near-miss' incidents involving students attempting to cross Norrie Avenue before or 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 parking here 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

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

Sports Day

Students have been rehearsing their March Past routines (choreographed by their house captains) for the past few weeks, in preparation for next week's Sports Day (Friday). Parents and caregivers are invited to support their children at Sports Day, which will be held at Jubilee Park.

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS

Sports Day

Sports Day is being held across Thursday and Friday of Week 6 (March 6 & 7). The Thursday will be our "Half Sports Day" held at school, where students will be participating in the 1500m, Triple Jump and Shot Put. This will run from 8:50am until 12:00pm, with a 30 minute interval at 10:05am for recess. Year 7 and 8 students will also be participating in Javelin and Long Jump throughout the remainder of the day in their lesson times.

The full day Sports Day is once again being held at Jubilee Oval, on Friday, March 7. The day will commence at 8:40am, with the annual "March Past" competition, and events commencing at 9:15am. The day should be wrapped up by approximately 3:20pm. There will be various food and drink available from vendors such as Whyalla Norrie Rotary Club (BBQ), Blended Cafe, and the Little Athletics canteen will also be open.

Families and friends are encouraged to attend!

Sam Daw
SPORT COORDINATOR

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."



WHYALLA TOWN OSHC
OPENING 28 APRIL 2025*
*Subject to service approval
ENROLMENTS OPEN 3 MARCH
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE | the **Y**



YMCA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

- ▶ Before and After School Care
- ▶ Quality Educators
- ▶ Not-for-profit Organisation
- ▶ Child Led Programs
- ▶ Nutritious Foods
- ▶ Physical and Creative Activities
- ▶ Vacation Care
- ▶ Excursions and Incursions

For more information
contact us
oshc@ymcasa.org.au
8200 2516



**CHILDCARE
SUBSIDY
APPROVED**



**OUT OF SCHOOL
HOURS CARE**





Highlighting Women

Topic - Gambling

- ✓ 14th March (Fri) 11:30am - 12:30pm
- ✓ Ladies, come for a cuppa and casual conversation
- ✓ Learn about amazing women in our community

67 McRitchie Cres, Whyalla Stuart
 whyallahaven@cccsa.org.au 0477 219 410



Government of South Australia
Office for Women



Ladies! Do you have control of your finances?

FREE budget workshop

- ✓ 20th March 12:00 - 3:00pm
- ✓ Light lunch provided
- ✓ Limited spaces - Call or email to register

67 McRitchie Cres, Whyalla Stuart
 whyallahaven@cccsa.org.au 0477 219 410



Government of South Australia
Office for Women



Cuppa & Connection

for women

- ✓ Tuesdays 11am - 12:30pm
- ✓ Chat over craft, cards or games
- ✓ Free library

67 McRitchie Cres, Whyalla Stuart
 whyallahaven@cccsa.org.au 0477 219 410



Government of South Australia
Office for Women



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

4 Day Training

Great opportunity to connect to the community and to make South Australia a safer place for women.

- ✓ Empower local women with information
- ✓ Give back to the community
- ✓ Training 17th, 18th, 24th, & 25th March 2025



67 McRitchie Cres, Whyalla Stuart (08) 8303 0590
 wis@sa.gov.au Haven: 0477 219 410
 wis.sa.gov.au



Government of South Australia
Office for Women

