

Term 1 Week 9

27 March 2025

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 31 - APRIL 2

- Year 12 Retreat

APRIL 1 & 3

- Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews, p7

APRIL 7 & 8

- Secondary finishes 3:10pm

APRIL 7 & 8

- Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews by appointment, p8

APRIL 8-9

- Diocesan Assembly

FRIDAY APRIL 11

- Last day of Term 1, 12:30pm finish

MONDAY APRIL 28

- Pupil Free Day - Staff Formation

TUESDAY APRIL 29

- Term 2 starts

For more events, please check the calendar on our [website](#)

PO Box 351, Whyalla, SA 5600
 info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au
 www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au

St Teresa's Campus

Telephone (08) 8645 8381
 Facsimile (08) 8645 1129

Our Lady Help

of Christians Campus

Telephone (08) 8649 2077
 Facsimile (08) 8649 1911

Saint John's Campus

Telephone (08) 8645 8568
 Facsimile (08) 8645 8186

Uniform Shop

Toal Street, Whyalla Stuart
 Telephone (08) 8649 3168
 Wednesday 8:00 - 10:00am
 Thursday 1:00 - 4:30pm

Key Points

- Lent
- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Year 12 Retreat
- College AGM
- Staff Formation Day
- Keeping Children Safe
- Complaints/Concerns
- Easter Raffle
- School Counselling Program
- Student Accident Insurance
- Welcome new staff
- Uniform
- Traffic Awareness
- Mobile Phone Distractions
- Social Media
- Things that should just stay at home!
- Staff Farewell
- Staff News

On Tuesday it was the **Feast of the Annunciation** when Mary said “yes” to the announcement by the angel Gabriel to be the mother of God’s son Jesus. Mary is a “handmaid of the Lord” (Luke 1:38). God offers her his love and she opens herself in complete trust to receive it. She believes in the words spoken to her. We too can model ourselves on servanthip by being open to opportunities God places before us in our lives. By assisting others through Project Compassion we provide the valuable necessities to communities in need. By accepting the diversity of others in the community and valuing their contribution, we build strong peace filled environments and teach acceptance and tolerance to our children. Mary is a good model of faith filled and dedicated service to God.

*Hail Mary,
 Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.
 Blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.
 Amen.*

Lent

It can get a little confusing for some given the fact that the dates for Easter each year is determined by the phases of the moon. This time last year, it was Holy Week – but in 2025, we are still just under a month from Holy Week! Nevertheless, we are getting closer to the most important week in the Catholic calendar and we continue to prepare ourselves through our Lenten commitments.

continued p2

Damien
 Damien Judd

PRINCIPAL

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews are a critical part of any child's education. Please be proactive in seeking out a time with your child's teachers or responding to requests from staff for a meeting. Whilst parent-teacher meetings can occur anytime, these planned sessions at this time of year allow parents to meet with a number of staff in a short time frame.

Year 12 Retreat

Another important and traditional event is held next week. All Catholic schools hold 'retreats' for their senior students and these can take on a variety of forms. We are lucky that we can still have all our Year 12s in the one location for their retreat – some schools split their seniors into smaller groups. We pray for our Year 12s for a safe and rewarding few days at Port Hughes.

Staff Formation Day

This is a reminder that the first Monday of Term 2, April 28, is a Staff Formation Day – meaning students do not attend school that day. Staff have a range of professional development to work on that day including 1st Aid for staff on camps, Compliance training for our ESOs, Behavioural Training updates and further development of our learning improvement strategies.

Keeping Children Safe

Whilst this is always front and centre of what all schools do, there are a range of policies and procedures that schools and their staff follow in this very important area, including our Board and volunteers. Please have a read via these links below.

- [Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie Child Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Responding to Online Safety incidents in South Australian schools: Guidelines for staff working in education settings](#)
- [Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum information for educators \(Department for Education SA\)](#)

Complaints/Concerns

If you ever have concerns or complaints, this page on our website will help you contact the 'best' person: [Samaritan College | Contact Us](#) Similarly in our Parent-Student Guides, also on our website, there is a table that helps families get to right person – this is especially handy given our three campus R-12 structure.

The Samaritan Way

In last Sunday's Gospel from Luke (13:1–9), Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree — a tree that has not borne fruit for three years. The owner wishes to cut it down, but the gardener pleads for one more year to care for it, giving it a chance to grow and thrive. This story reminds us of God's patience, mercy, and desire for us to turn back to Him. During Lent, we are called to reflect on our lives, acknowledge where we have fallen short, and seek repentance.

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are given an opportunity to grow closer to God. Just as the gardener nurtures the fig tree, God gives us the grace and time to change our hearts and bear good fruit in our lives. His forgiveness is not limited — it is given freely when we sincerely seek it.

At our Samaritan College community, we encourage everyone to be inspired to make positive choices, forgive one another, and deepen our relationship with God. May this Lent be a time of renewal, hope, and spiritual growth for us all.

As part of our Lenten journey, we support **Project Compassion**, Caritas Australia's annual appeal. Through Project Compassion, we are invited to show compassion and solidarity with vulnerable communities around the world. Our contributions help provide access to clean water, education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods. By giving generously, we put our faith into action and help build a more just and loving world.

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, unsure if he could ever achieve his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia. Through this initiative, Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. Along the way, he built confidence, made friends and gained a sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.

Lam's journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives.

[Watch Lam's story here](#)

Will you walk alongside people like Lam this Lent?



Photo credit: Caritas Australia



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*

Easter Raffle

Have you got your tickets for the **Eggtraordinary Samaritan College Easter Raffle.**

Primary tickets have already gone home and SJC tickets are available from care groups now. The cost is 50 cents each

Our Easter raffle is no yolk—grab a ticket for your chance to win!

Please continue to donate 'Fair Trade' Easter eggs, bunnies and baskets to your campus office. All donations gratefully received.

Some 'bunny' will win big—will it be you?



College News

School Counselling Program at Samaritan College

At Samaritan College, Centacare Catholic Country SA offer therapeutic counselling onsite across all campuses. School Counsellors are qualified counsellors and social workers and are trained in therapeutic interventions. Students may seek counselling for a wide range of issues such as anxiety, stress, lack of motivation, sadness, anger, conflict with others (including friends, teachers and family), grief and loss, study load, bullying, self-esteem, relationship issues, family separation or concern for a friend. School counselling is a confidential service, and counsellors are not permitted to repeat content of sessions to anyone without permission, unless there is risk to a person's safety.

Students, staff and caregivers can all refer to the service. At each campus we have a referral box with Student Counselling Referral and Intake forms placed next to these. These can be filled out and placed in the boxes which are checked regularly. This form is also on the college website, it can be filled out electronically and emailed to the relevant school counsellors. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us,

Claudia St Teresa's Campus Monday and Thursday 9am-2:30pm claudia.marino@samaritan.catholic.edu.au	Bec Our Lady Help of Christians Campus Monday and Wednesday 9am-2:30pm Rebecca.Marks@samaritan.catholic.edu.au	Jayde and Hayley Saint John's Campus Monday - Friday 9am-3:30pm SamaritanCollegeSJC@cccsa.org.au
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Centacare School Counselling Team

Please note: **If parents or caregivers do not wish for their children to utilise the counselling service at the school, please let the school know in writing addressed to Principal, Mr Damien Judd**

Student Accident Insurance

All students attending Samaritan College that sustain any injuries as the result of an accident that occurs at school or on a school organised activity, are covered under the Catholic Education Student Accident insurance policy.

Insurance cover includes payments for medical services where that service is not already covered by Medicare. Depending on the type of injury, a lump sum payment may also be provided.

It is important to note that the policy only covers ACCIDENTS. If an ambulance is called for a health related issue (seizure, anaphylactic, diabetes etc), the ambulance is not covered under this policy. Families of children with pre-existing conditions should always be encouraged to hold their own ambulance insurance.

To make a claim you can access the claim form [here](#) and complete all sections up to Page 5. The forms can then be forwarded to your campus Administration with copies of relevant medical reports. The college will complete the remainder of the form and submit on your behalf.

Further details regarding the policy can be obtained from the insurance provider on (02) 8256 1770 or claims@csnet.com.au. The policy number is 2300112119.

Terry Costello
BUSINESS MANAGER

Primary Campus News

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Claudia Marino to our Centacare School Counselling Team at Samaritan College.

Claudia joined Centacare in 2025 and will be working at both Samaritan College and Whyalla Secondary College. She graduated with honours in 2024, having completed her undergraduate degree in psychology, and is currently pursuing her master's degree in professional psychology. Her extensive knowledge and experience make her a valuable addition to our team.



Claudia will be onsite at St Teresa's Campus every Monday and Thursday. We are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our students.

Harmony Week

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity. The theme for 2025 is 'Everyone Belongs'.

Together we celebrate cultural diversity, peace and a respect for all.

This message of respect and belonging goes beyond the week-long celebration. It can be lived by each of us, every day

Students at our primary campuses wore "dash of orange" on Friday March 21 to celebrate Harmony Day!



Year 3/4 Mayne

This week in Maths, Year 3/4 Mayne/Lynch have been learning about multiplication. We have been learning how to use arrays to help us solve multiplication problems. We used different Maths equipment to create arrays, draw them in our books and record the answers to the multiplication problems.



Gather-Round Tour

During Week 8, as a part of the AFL's Gather Round, the SANFL facilitated a 'Road-Show Tour' of the AFL, AFLW, SANFL and SANFLW trophies. Children at both campuses were presented the trophies and the history of each was explained. It was a great chance for the children to see them before they are presented to the Adelaide Crows and Glenelg Tigers later in the year.

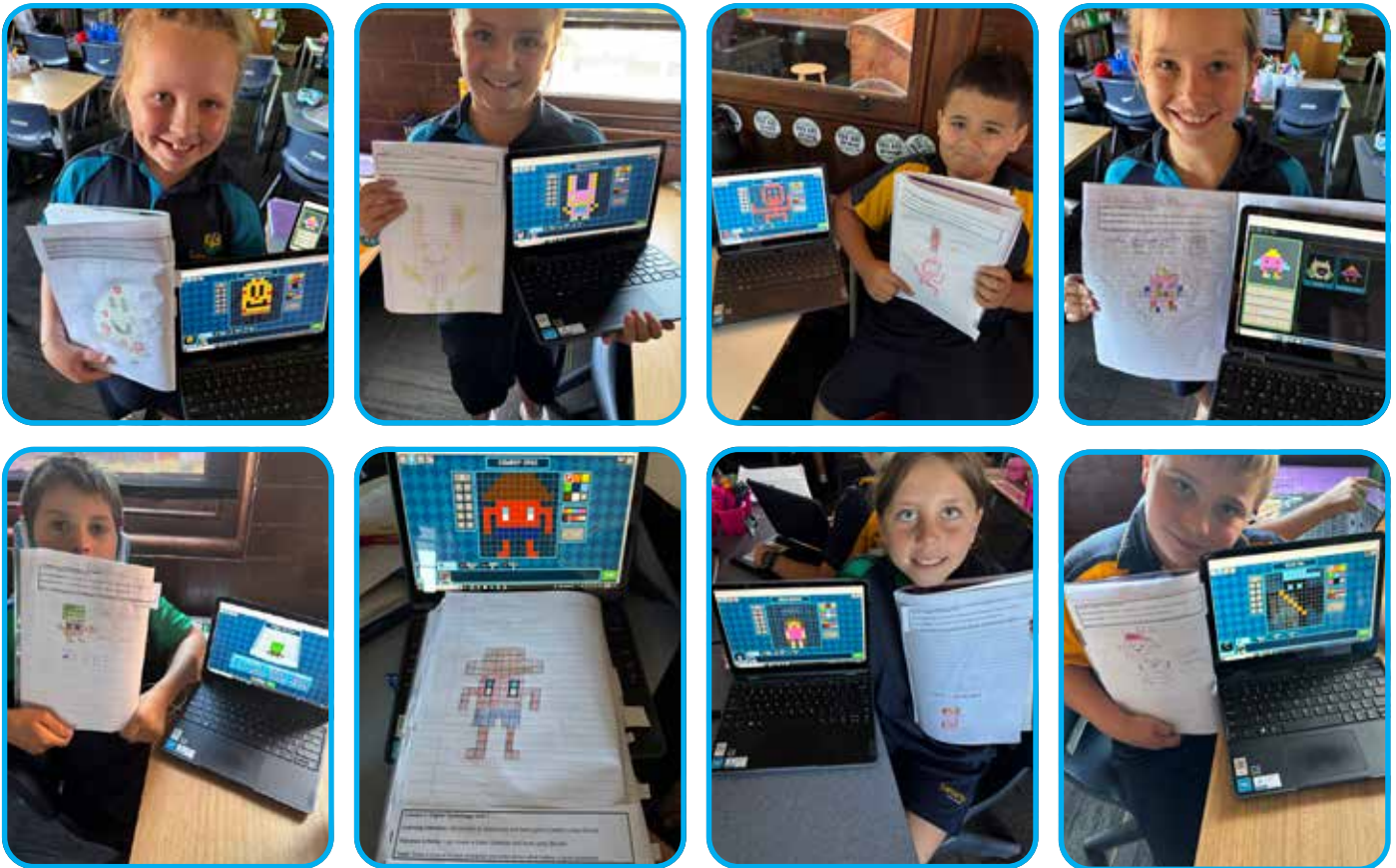


Year 4/5 Crowe

In Year 4/5 Crowe Digital Technologies, we have been exploring the Bloxels program. Students were required to draw and plan the character that they wanted to create. From this, the students used their ICT capabilities to bring their characters to life.

The students expanded their understanding through using various coding techniques to make their characters have different walking, running, jumping and falling animations.

Take a look at our awesome creations!



Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will run in Week 10 (next week) at both campuses. Please use the following information to book in your interview time, FYI - portal/log-in details below

The interviews will run in the existing, 10 minute format and you should have received information via SEQTA engage, email and a note sent home.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code>

Campus	Code
Our Lady Help of Christians Campus	h7qjt
St Teresa's Campus	mm28T

Welcome new staff

St Teresa's Campus has welcomed two new staff to the team – Tyler Bodinner and Abby Paterson. Tyler and Abby will be working as Education Support Officers (ESOs) across classrooms and will also be supporting students in the yard at recess and lunch. If you see Abby or Tyler please say hello.

Matt Quist and Jenna Edwards
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES

Secondary Campus News

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

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held at the Saint John's Campus on Monday April 7 and Tuesday April 8 from 3:30 to 6:30. To facilitate this process, we will use the 'schoolinterviews' platform again. This can be accessed at <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code>. Parents need to enter the code 4b532 to book suitable times to speak with staff. The portal is now open and will close April 4 at 5:00pm. Parents and caregivers who do not have internet access can make bookings via the Front Office. Students will have an early dismissal of 3:10pm on these days to accommodate this event.

Uniform

Term 2 has traditionally been the time students transition into their winter uniform; however, students are now permitted to wear their summer or winter uniform at any time of the year. This change also means students can wear short-sleeve shirts with long pants. If they choose to wear a jumper, however, students must wear a long-sleeve shirt and a tie.

Traffic Awareness

As many of you can attest, traffic outside the school gets busy at the start and end of the school day. This congestion, inattentive and/ or impatient students and sometimes obscured lines of vision can make for a hazardous environment. I therefore urge everyone - parents/caregivers and students - to please pay attention to their surroundings and take care when crossing the road or merging back into traffic.

Mobile Phone Distractions

As a school we understand that some of our students need to have a mobile phone in the classroom – but not all of them. Does your child need to have a mobile device on them all day? Teachers can confiscate phones when they are seen, but that often creates conflict and time lost when the teacher could have been providing support to another student. In the time that it takes a teacher to secure a confiscated mobile phone at the office, usually at the end of a lesson, there have been numerous pop-up banners appear for 'Messages', 'Snap-Chat', and other social media apps that students use. Consider the impact on your child's learning with all these distractions! And consider the improvement to their learning outcomes if they do not lose time in class checking and sending messages or scrolling through social media feeds. Please support us to maximise your children's learning by getting them to leave their phones at home; or, if they must bring them to school, ask them to leave their phones in their lockers.

Social Media

There is no doubt that social media can be effective communication and education tools; however, they can also be used to bully and harass, and when that happens at school, or the consequences are felt at school, teachers and the campus leadership will act. Parents can assist by alerting staff to instances of online bullying and harassment and limiting or blocking their children's access to apps that can be used to intimate. It is difficult, however, for schools to act when the bullying and harassment occurs outside of school. In such instances it could be appropriate for parents to contact the police.

Things that should just stay at home!

We list a number of items in our Parent-Student Guide (available on the website) that are not permitted on campus, such as aerosols, lasers, vapes and cigarettes. But there are thousands of items that common sense tells us should not be brought to school – we cannot list them all. That said, we recognise that isn't that easy for parents to know what their children have brought to school. Some items are not illegal but just do not need to come to school. Items we have seen over the years that probably should have stayed at home include rope, pepper spray, expensive jewellery, expensive toys, valuable books, family photos, and spare phone. And, of course, anything that is or can be considered dangerous should start at home, such as Stanley knives (for after school jobs) and fishhooks. Medicines are required to be stored in the front office. Anything that can be sprayed, even if not an aerosol, can pose a risk to staff/students with breathing issues i.e. asthma, so should not be brought to school.

Staff Farewell

In just over a fortnight, we say farewell to old scholar and current MacKillop House Leader Caitlin Davidson. Caitlin has been a popular member of the school community for several years, and as an experienced Year 12 teacher she will bring a wealth of expertise to her new school. We sincerely wish Caitlin and her partner the very best for their move to Adelaide. Saint Columba are very lucky to have you on staff, Caitlin.

Staff News

Caitlin's departure, and other staffing matters, means there will be some minor adjustments to Term 2 timetables. Christine Duffield will return for the remainder of the year to teach Caitlin's senior classes. Other staffing changes will be communicated to students and parents in due course.

Native Garden

It was an exciting morning last Thursday working with some of our First Nations students to plant our native garden. Based on students' designs, the garden is still a work in progress but is starting to take shape. I would like to thank the students for their enthusiasm and hard work, as well as groundsman Brandon and Greg for assisting us on the day.



Clean Up Australia

Earlier this week our students played their part in making Whyalla a little tidier as part of Clean Up Australia Day. Over 30 bags of rubbish was collected in just half an hour, with Benedict judged to have collected the most and winning a sausage sizzle lunch next week as a result. Rebekah Pickering (MacKillop), Ty Rogers (Benedict) and Declan Mitchell (Rice) won canteen vouchers for their enthusiastic involvement in this event.

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS



Sports Day

Friday, March 7 marked the secondary school Sports Day at Jubilee Park. All students came to the event with a positive attitude, ready to participate and earn lots of points for their teams. All students participated enthusiastically in numerous athletic events.

The day began with the much-anticipated March Past. The students worked diligently to prepare an imaginative display that our audience thoroughly enjoyed. They were all creative, well-choreographed and environmentally sustainable performances, and the house captains and leaders should be proud of

themselves for creating routines in such a short space of time. Benedict House were adjudged the overall winners of the March Past. Their performance was well put together, and incorporated both students and teachers perfectly. Well done to all houses for some very entertaining cheerleading. It is a credit to all involved.

With a large level of participation points and athletic success, MacKillop were the overall winners of the day with 1919 points. Benedict House came in second on 1828 points, leaving Rice in third with 1723.

Two new records were set in 2025:

Event	New Record	Previous Record
Open Girls Triple Jump	Jacqueline To – 9.31m	Amelia Melville-Smith – 9.29m
U/13 Girls 100m	Mia Reeves – 14.19s	Molly Main – 14.88s

Each year the Spirit of Samaritan award is given to students who display a high level of sportsmanship, positively assists in the running of the day and generally shows good spirit. This year's winners were Amaya Skinner (Year 10), Dwight Lawless (Year 10), Ava Faulds (Year 11), Melody Lin (Year 11) and Dimitri Milovanovic (Year 12).

Sports Day is a fantastic opportunity for all students to display their spirit and their athletic talent.

The dedication that all students showed to their house teams was commendable. We would like to

congratulate all students for their impressive efforts throughout the day.

We would like to extend a sincere thanks to the fantastic staff who helped coordinate the event, House Leaders and Captains in preparation for March Past, Whyalla Little Athletics Club for allowing us to use their facilities and their canteen. A special mention to St John's Ambulance, Whyalla Norrie Rotary Club for the BBQ, Blended Café and all our teachers and volunteers. Additionally, we thank the students who displayed a tremendous amount of spirit and enthusiasm.

Sports Day Final Results	March Past Results
First place MacKillop: 1919	First place: Benedict
Second place Benedict: 1828	Second place: MacKillop
Third place Rice: 1723	Third place: Rice

Age Champions

Age group	Champion	House
Under 13 Girls	Mia Reeves	MacKillop
Under 13 Boys	Michael Wanganeen	Benedict
Under 14 Girls	Kaitlyn To	MacKillop
Under 14 Boys	Mason Shaw	Benedict
Under 15 Girls	Molly Main	MacKillop
Under 15 Boys	Reef Gillis	Benedict
Under 16 Girls	Harper Matthews	Benedict
Under 16 Boys	Dylan Matsapa	Rice
Open Girls	Ruby Main	MacKillop
Open Boys	Charlie Wilson	Benedict



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."



Could Saver Plus help with your education costs?

Google

to see our quick explainer video and find out if you're eligible.



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and social justice organisation the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL).

It is delivered in partnership with not-for-profit organisations The Smith Family, Berry Street and BSL.

ANZ and the Department of Social Services fund it.

saverplus.org.au

Terms, conditions and eligibility criteria apply.

