

St Stephen's
Catholic College



St Stephen's News

Issue 18 - 2022

Principal: Ms Kerry Manders
Deputy Principal: Mr Simon Vaughan
Assistant Principal Religious Education: Ms Janai Sugars
Assistant Principal Students: Mrs Jayarani Salerno
Business Manager: Mr Hadyn Flynn



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Christmas Blessings to our College Community



*Christmas Hampers are presented to Eileen, Brez and Debbie of the St Vincent de Paul Society.
Thank you to all who have been charitable in sharing the joy of Christmas with families in need this year.*

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Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

My feeling as I farewelled the students today is not relief, but one of overwhelming pride, gratitude, and humility. I am enormously proud of this community and the steadfastness of all members to ensure that the 'best' year possible was achieved. As I write my last newsletter for the St Stephen's community, I reflect on my amazing three years in the Principal's chair. Within seven weeks of taking the reins, the COVID-19 global pandemic was declared. And yet at each step in this journey, I have been supported and nurtured by the parents, staff, and students of this wonderful community.



I am very grateful for the College Leadership team who have worked both strategically and practically, always with good humour and significant efforts, to seek excellence in teaching and learning, pastoral care, our Catholic encounter, and the sustainability of the College into the future. Thank you.

I am very grateful for you, our parents and caregivers, who have worked tirelessly in partnership with us to help your children achieve successful outcomes. Thank you.

I am very grateful for our staff who have stepped above and beyond time and again to ensure our students are engaged, learning, and connected. And for the way you nurture our partnerships with parents for student success. Thank you.

I am very grateful for our wonderful students from years 7 to 12 who have worked hard, helped each other, and shown their flexibility to respond to everything that has unfolded. And for the way you care for and develop quality relationships with each other, our staff, and the environment. Thank you.

I am grateful for the St Stephen's spirit, the charism of service, courage, and faith. For the way trust in the Lord has been our beacon. It has shone constantly lighting our path over the year.

Most of all, I am humbled by the contributions of each person to support each other to grow and to keep moving forward as we have navigated the highs and lows of 2022. I feel very blessed to have been in this wonderful community.

Staffing Update

We farewelled Ms Anelli Kruss, Learning Support Officer and wish her well as she continues her studies full-time. We congratulate staff on the following opportunities - Ms Laura Gilbert will be Middle Leader Curriculum – Religious Education, Mrs Samantha Malcolm will be Head of House – McAuley and Mr Liam McGuire will be Mentor – Student Diversity.

Christmas Message

There have been many inspiring stories shared through our newsletter this year, so it is fitting that our final newsletter for 2022 should conclude with the most inspiring story of all – the story of God becoming human in the form of a defenceless child.

The joy of Christmas, in the gathering of friends and families, the buying and receiving of presents, the decorations and the carols, reminds us of just how special this event was in the history of humanity and continues to inspire in us a desire to spread peace and happiness to others. We see signs of peace displayed at Christmas, a universal sign, Christians and non-Christians alike are drawn to a season of peace and joy.

Principal's Update

Sr Joan Chittister shares the following thoughts on what is meant by 'the peace of this season':

There is another kind of peace. This kind of peace does not come either from the denial of evil or the acceptance of oppression. This kind comes from the center of us and flows through us like a conduit to the world around us. This kind of peace is the peace of those who know truth and proclaim it, who recognize oppression and refuse to accept it, who understand God's will for the world and pursue it. This kind of peace comes with the realization that it is our obligation to birth it for the rest of the world so that what the mangers and crèches and crib sets (nativity scenes) of the world point to can become real in us—and because of us—in our own time.

The award-winning foreign film "Joyeux Noël" reminds us of another Christmas Eve. This one in Europe during the bloodiest period in WWI. Knee deep in wet snow and ice that jammed their weapons and froze their souls, two armies—one French and Scottish, one German—faced one another across a barbed-wired field. Hundreds of fallen soldiers had already died on both sides of the rough and blood-soaked land. Then suddenly, the Christmas truce began. The men put down their weapons, ceased for awhile to be soldiers, and bowed their heads while they listened to the other side sing Christmas carols.

That is the kind of peace—disarmed, foreign to hate, and receiving of the other—that was born in the manger we remember at Christmas time. That is the kind of Christmas peace we must ourselves seek to be. Then "Merry Christmas" will really mean something.

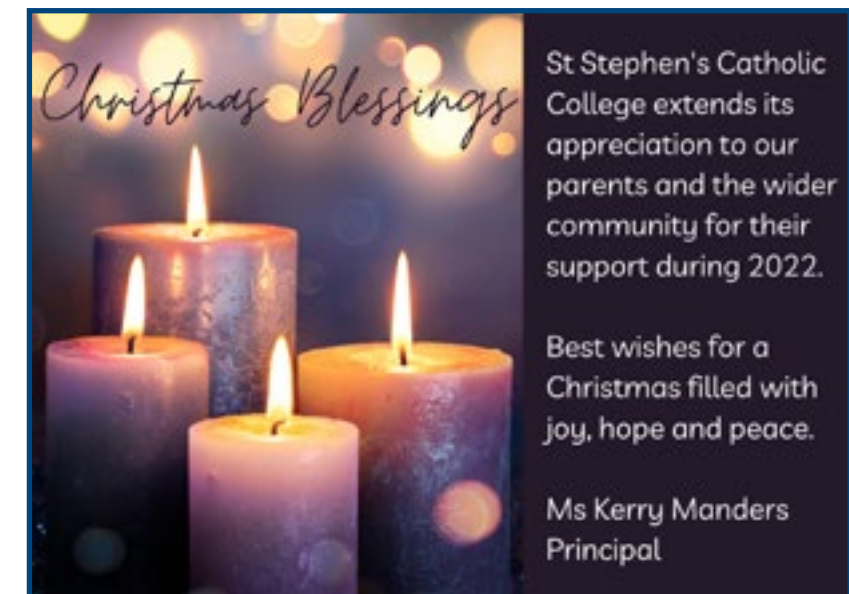
Extract from <https://johnmenadue.com/a-christmas-message-from-sister-joan-chittister/>

I send blessings to all that this Christmas may be a time of peace and joy for you and for all those you love. May you be inspired to share the peace that Christ brings to all you meet.

God bless for a safe, happy and holy Christmas,

Kerry

Ms Kerry Manders | Principal
Email: ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au



Assistant Principal Students, Mrs Jayarani Salerno

Congratulations to the students on finishing Term Four so well. We have had many events where students have shown courage and enthusiasm and upheld St Stephen's culture. It will be great to finish the last day of school with the Christmas shirt fundraiser, pastoral activities, end-of-term liturgy and the attendance raffle.



School can be both a source of great happiness, and sometimes stress, for many children. As a school, we aim to develop cognitive flexibility and re-framing and help your child understand that different ways of thinking and interacting with other people exist. These situations can influence emotions and behaviour. Throughout the year, there have been times when emotions and behaviours have not been ideal, and students have required support to get back on track. Students must grow and learn in their relationships, identity, emotional understanding, and overall well-being. After all, children are multi-dimensional "whole" beings whose development

is complex and rich. Therefore, St Stephen's continues to strive to teach academics and foster students' development in their relationships, identity, emotional skills, and overall well-being.

We aim to encourage **positive relationships**, including trust in the teacher, and positive emotions, such as interest and excitement, to open up the mind to learning. Negative emotions, such as fear of failure, anxiety, and self-doubt, reduce the brain's capacity to process information and learn. Children can build skills and awareness to work with emotions in themselves and their relationships. Creating a positive school climate based on strong relationships is what we are about at St Stephen's, providing a bedrock for learning. Students need to feel a sense of safety and belonging to thrive in school, and we want our St Stephen's students to feel our school culture positively. In 2023, please keep the lines of communication open between your child's teacher and Head of House.

Attendance is vital for students to build strong relationships with their peers and teachers. The research concludes that if a student's yearly attendance falls below 90%, student gain and achievement are significantly impacted for that year.

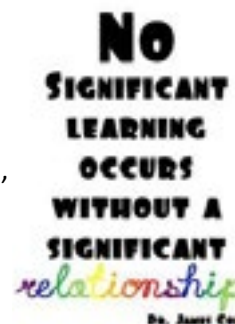
The relationship between attendance and educational success is given below:

Greater 95% attendance = Positive Education Learning

90 – 95% attendance = Learning is at Risk

Less than 90% attendance = Significant adverse effect on learning

Attendance is vital for student academic success and improvement. St Stephen's Catholic College staff are committed to supporting the school community in improving this metric so ALL students can have greater well-being and learning. Every day and every session is vital for your child. As attendance will be a focus for our school in 2023, students who have a 90%, or above, attendance rate will attend a day at Sugar World at the end of the year.



Assistant Principal Students, Mrs Jayarani Salerno

Uniform and Grooming: The Christmas break is a great time to examine your child's school uniform and ensure they are looking their best for 2023. This year, I have noticed that some sports shorts and skirt lengths are not compliant with our uniform and grooming policy. Remember, school sports shorts are not meant to be fitted and must be mid-thigh in length. Furthermore, girls' formal skirts need to be knee-length. Also, it is a great time to assist your child in locating their school socks and finding the matching pair. If your child is moving into years 10 – 12 next year, they need to have a tie for Terms Two and Three.



UNIFORM POLICY



YEARS 7, 8 and 9

YEARS 10, 11 and 12

Uniform Policy Statement: The College uniform reflects the conservative nature of the school. Hair and jewellery fashion change regularly, our standards **DO NOT**. The uniform and grooming policy is expected to be met in spirit and specifics.

Hair: Students are expected to have a natural single colour or shade. Hairstyles are to be compatible with the uniform. Undercuts are not to be visible. Students are not permitted to have shorter than a "number 2" clip. Hair is to be kept neat and tidy. Girls with hair that touches the collar should have their hair tied back using white, beige, or navy-blue hair restraints. Long hair is to be restrained and not to fall across the face. Boys' hair must be a conservative cut, above the collar, tidy and not to fall across the face; hair ties/restraints are not permitted. Boys must be clean-shaven. Final decision regarding appropriate hairstyles is at the Principal's discretion.

Jewellery: Students may wear up to two silver or gold plain, fine round or stud earrings <5mm. A plain fine metal neck chain with a Christian religious medal or crucifix attached is permissible, along with a watch and a medic alert are also allowable. No other visible body jewellery is accepted, including piercings covered by band aids. No visible tattoos are permissible.

Other Uniform Aspects:

- Any form of make-up including eyelash extensions, artificial nails and/or nail polish are not permitted.
- In extenuating circumstances, any alteration to the standard school uniform must be accompanied with a written explanation from a parent/guardian that should be provided to the home form teacher.
- Continuous infringements will incur consequences.
- Aerosol cans are not permitted at College, however, to maintain hygiene the use of roll-on deodorant is permitted.

Uniform Supplier:

Tina's Fashion, 209 Byrnes St, Mareeba. Phone: 4092 4096



Assistant Principal Students, Mrs Jayarani Salerno

Introduction of the Student Agency Team: In 2022, this group included all student leaders and captains, class representatives and college ambassadors. It has been a great group to work with, and they provided many great ideas which we were able to implement this year. Below are some of the Student Agency Team enjoying the end-of-year break-up lunch.



Finally, I wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas break. May you enjoy time with your loved ones and have a safe holiday whether you are travelling near or far. We look forward to your child's return in 2023, refreshed and ready for a new and exciting year.

Mrs Jayarani Salerno | Assistant Principal Students



I hope this season fills you with faith, renewed hope and good health that will last you a lifetime.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Business Manager Update, Mr Hadyn Flynn

The 2022 results are in from parents, staff and students for the annual school satisfaction survey. It is very pleasing to see that the College facilities continue to be highly rated by our whole community. It is great to see the majority of our students becoming stewards of their own school environment by keeping all areas neat and tidy.



Facilities

- **Admin Refurbishment** – The main administration building will receive upgrades over the Christmas holiday period. The project should be completed during Term 1 2023.
- **Minor Capital Works** – Our Facilities team will also be working over the Christmas holidays on the construction of more lockers. Preliminary planning will also continue on the proposed Innovation Centre.

Finance

- **Please ensure your fees are fully paid by the end of the year.**
- **2023 Budget** – The budget was presented to the Diocesan Board of Governance in October. The budget was within all benchmarks set by the Diocese and approval will allow us to continue to deliver excellent educational outcomes in 2023.
- **End of Life 1:1 Devices** – a reminder that these devices will only be returned to outgoing Year 12 and Year 9 students when the outstanding family fee balance is zero.
- **Finance Package Transition** – During 2023 the College changed finance systems. AX 2012 was replaced by D365. This is happened in all Colleges in the Cairns Diocese. We had some minor disruptions as our term 2 fees were issued later than usual. I would like to thank all families for the patience during the transition.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a happy and holy Christmas. May God bless you all.

Regards,

Hadyn Flynn | Business Manager

Members of the Student Agency Team enjoy the end-of-year break-up lunch.



Student Diversity Update, Mrs Karen Rolfe

Semester 2 has been a busy one for me and the Student Diversity Team. I have been learning and developing my new role, getting to know the St Stephen's community, and exploring what inclusion and diversity look like at SSCC. Together the SD team have reflected on our individual and collective roles with inclusion at the centre. Inclusion is founded on providing an educational environment that honours the gifts and talents of each student. Inclusive practice respects and values the diversity of students, providing equitable access to the curriculum while supporting their individual needs.



Student Diversity Team reflections:

"Safety support allowing for independence in the workshop for Furnishings."

"Goals achieved: asking for help, support, or clarification when not understanding something."

"Sometimes it takes more courage to ask for help than to act alone."

"This year I enjoyed supporting students in different classes achieving their learning and assessment goals."

"Modelling skills so that students can learn self-regulation skills and adapt to adversity."

"Promoting a welcoming and accepting school community where all members feel valued, welcomed and accepted."

"The person of each individual human being, in their material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: therefore, the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School."

(John Paul II, Address to the National Meeting of the Catholic School in Italy. 'Osservatore Romano. 1991, p.4)

Some images from the amazingly gifted students we have had the privilege of supporting this year.

Mrs Karen Rolfe | Student Diversity



Engineering and Design Update, Mr Keith Pelka

Recently St. Stephen's Catholic College entered several students into the Annual BLA DATTA awards. This competition recognises the achievements of students in the field of Industrial Technology and Design across several different areas. Six students achieved awards. These included:



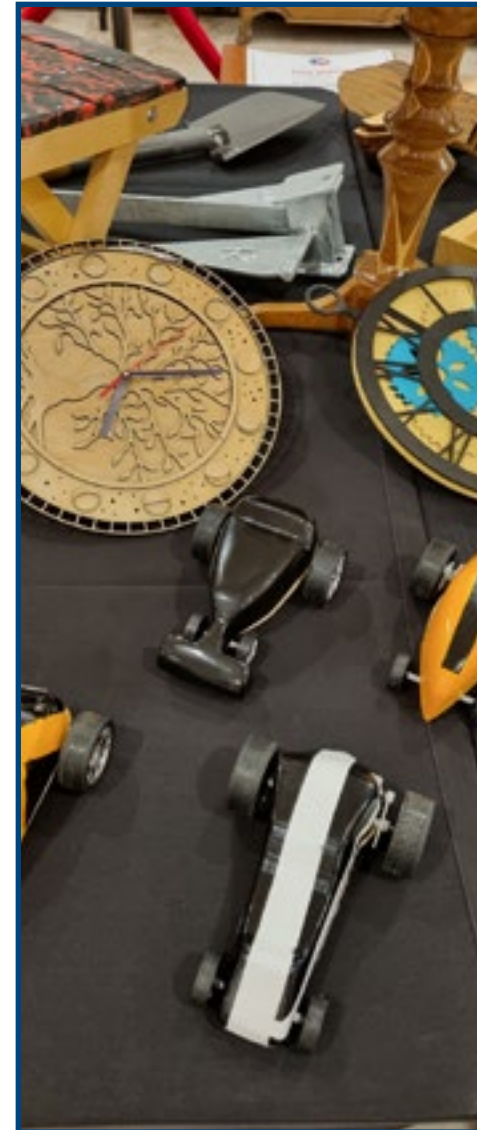
- 3rd place for Jordan Kolijn in the 7/8 open design category.
- 2nd place for King Dang in the 7/8 open design category.
- 3rd place for Samantha Bauer in the 9/10 open design category.
- 1st place for Isabella Teasdale in the 9/10 open design category.
- 1st place for Myles Dobbs-Brown in the 9/10 closed design category.
- 3rd place for Natalie Millerd in the 11 ATAR Engineering category.

Congratulations to all students who received awards on the evening.

We would also like to congratulate Paul McLennan on his second place in the teacher category.

A big thank you to the BLA and all the sponsors for supporting such a great event.

Mr Keith Pelka | Engineering and Design



Muluridji Pastoral House Update, Mrs Michelle Brammer

Congratulations to everyone for finally arriving at the end of the year – we have made it, another year of high school done and dusted. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding year of learning and development, and all students have acquitted themselves to the best of their abilities.

I would personally like to thank every Muluridji student for the contribution they have made to the St Stephen's story of 2022, regardless of whether that be academically, through the array of sporting opportunities and achievements or through the varied pastoral activities.



Most recently, I would like to acknowledge every student who nominated for student leadership roles in 2023 and congratulate our elected HF representatives.

Year 7 – Kye Harris, Jem Williams

Year 8 – King Dang, Rita Montagiani

Year 9 – Amelia Scianni, Henry Brammer

Year 10 - George Leonforte, Tully Smith

We look forward to seeing your leadership flourish in St Stephen's motto of faith, service, and courage and hope that the week 9 Leadership retreat provides inspiration and direction for intentional and rewarding leadership next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Muluridji Pastoral team of Mrs Stacey Crockford (7.4), Miss Julia Debel (8.4), Ms Kristen Tennyson & Mrs Tippie Viljoen (9.4), Mr Mike Luff (10.4), Ms Peta Ide (11.4) and Ms Morgan Ah Gum (12.4). On behalf of all Muluridji students, I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for the commitment and contribution you have made in fostering routines and establishing strong relationships with our home forms. This role is integral to the sense of well-being and belonging we wish for every Muluridji student to experience, and we truly appreciate your efforts.

To the students leaving the Muluridji community of Stephen's, we say a fond farewell and wish you every success in your next chapter. We hope that St Stephen's will hold a memorable place in your education journey.

Look forward to 2023 with a renewed sense of optimism and ambition to achieve all that is desired.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Mrs Michelle Brammer | Head of House, Muluridji

Snapshots from the running of the Inaugural “Muluridji Cup”



Library Update, Mrs Simone Gillies

SSCC Library Report 2022

Busy Days

- 903 extra classes and exam supervisions (not including timetabled classes) through the library this year.
- Visitors during breaks (average per day):
B.S - 62
R1 - 48
R2 - 125



Books

- 1567 new records created
- 451 - the number of books borrowed by 7.2
- 164 reservations placed

Most popular genres:
Fantasy
Graphic Novels
Contemporary



Activities

Readers Cup
Library Lovers Day
Lego Club
Crime Week
Book Week
Escape Room
Reading
Book Art
Smartie of the Week
Jigsaw Puzzles
Board Games
Origami
Colouring sheets
Displays
+ many more



LearnPath & Canvas



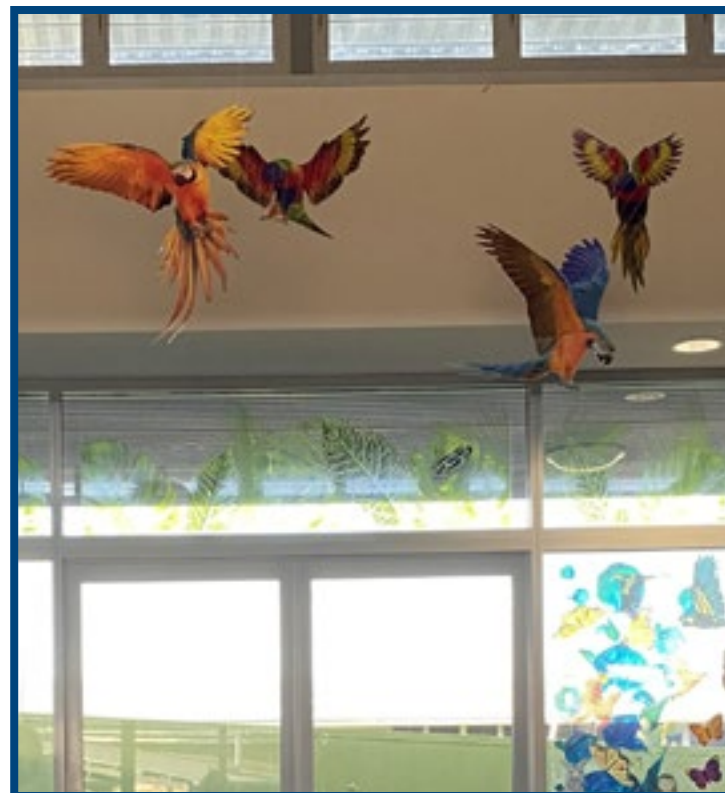
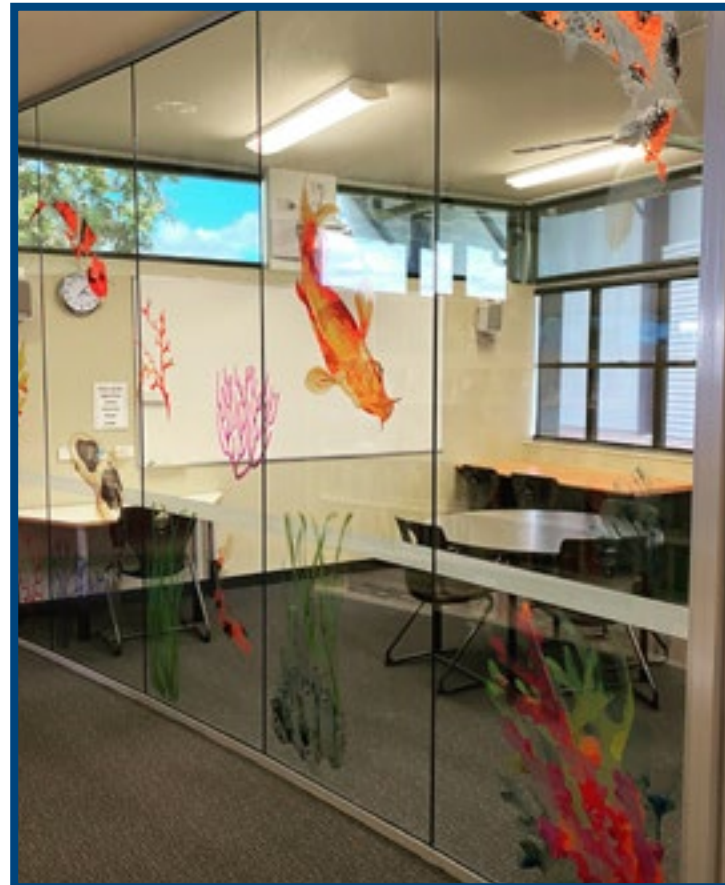
4269 views on LearnPath Guides.
Referencing pages most popular.
Followed by Databases pages

399 views (average per week) on
Canvas Library Course
What I'm Reading, Podcast, ebooks
and Study Action Pages receiving the
most hits.

Quote

"It's funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to politicians, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed!"

Paula Poundhouse



Communications

AT ST STEPHEN'S, WE USE
VARIOUS METHODS TO
COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES:

Broadcasts and Parent Slips

These are sent to your email address and usually focus on important reminders, updates, and upcoming events. You may be asked to respond to questions and/or provide permission for your child to participate in an activity.

Email

Used for general communications and is a good method to contact your child's teacher.

MMS

Used for urgent reminders or to advise of your child's absence from school (where formal notification has not been otherwise received).

Newsletter

A fortnightly publication, emailed to our school community every second Friday, and available on the website. The newsletter provides useful updates and information, details on upcoming events, recognition of student achievement and important reminders.

Facebook/Instagram

Recognition of student achievement, reminders and links to relevant information.

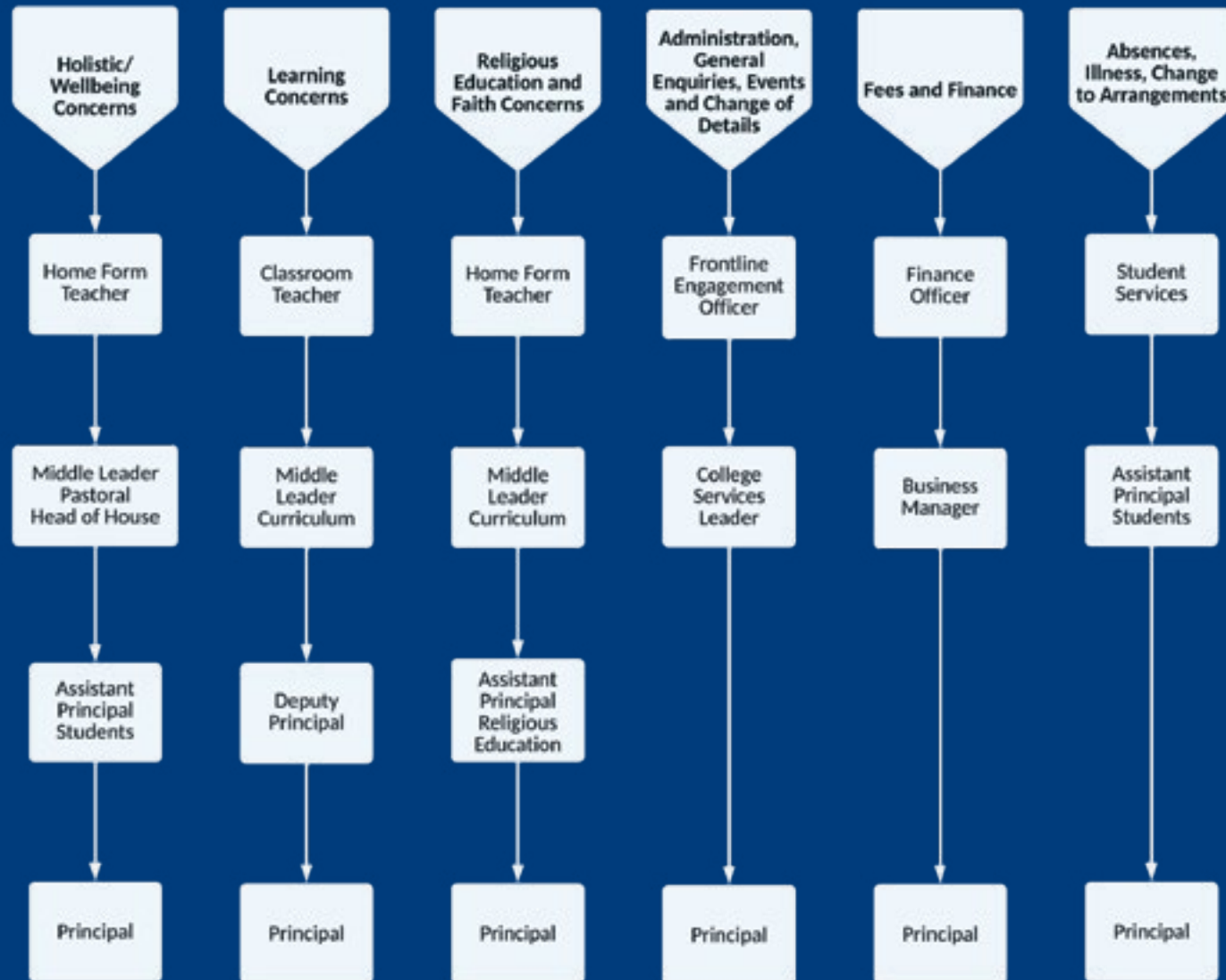
Parent Portal

Your child's report cards and other important documents are available here.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP IN
TOUCH! PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS AND
UPDATE US IF YOUR DETAILS CHANGE.



How can we help? Contact Guide: Who and When



FREE PARENT RESOURCE: SCHOOLTV



We support our families with access to SchoolTV, an online resource that provides credible information on a range of parenting topics.

You may access SchoolTV now at: sscc.qld.schooltv.me

SchoolTV: Managing Screen Time



With school holidays approaching, it is timely to reflect on how to manage screen time in the family home.

As a result of the global pandemic, there has been a noticeable shift in the amount of time people spend on screen-based devices. Families are transitioning back to pre-COVID routines but many are still struggling to re-establish the boundaries and rules around screen use. Some continue to deal with digital conflict and tech-tantrums on a daily basis. The latest research found that 77% of teenagers spend more than five hours on screens per day, but it is important to note that not all screen time is considered equal.

Parents play a crucial role in modelling a positive and healthy approach to using screens and assisting children to navigate the content they watch. It is better to model and mentor screen use, rather than monitor it. Children tend to do more of what they see us do, and less of what we tell them to do. However, it is still important to outline the risks and highlight the benefits of screen use to ensure you keep a balanced attitude. Encourage discussions around the issues that people experience in monitoring their screen time and be honest about your own difficulties.

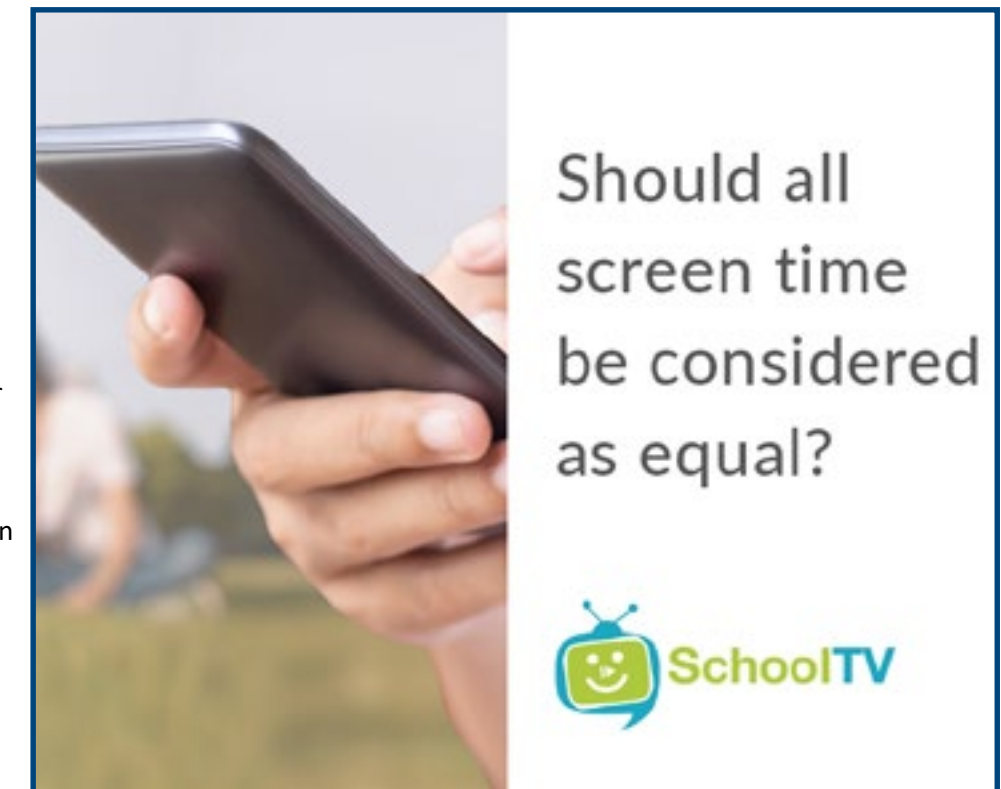
Parents need to remain firm in their approach to managing screen time. Excessive screen time can be detrimental to a child's overall wellbeing. Ensuring the correct privacy settings are in place is vital to prevent children from being inadvertently exposed to inappropriate content or online predators. Parents need to also be mindful of the potential impact screen time can have on a child's social, emotional, educational, behavioural, and even physical domains.

In this edition of SchoolTV, care-givers will be provided with a range of guidelines and strategies to help manage screen time at home.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the Managing Screen Time edition of SchoolTV:

<https://sscc.qld.schooltv.me/newsletter/managing-screen-time>



Carols by Candlelight

ROTARY MAREEBA

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 4th December
Food from 5pm • Entertainment starts 6pm
ARNOLD PARK, MAREEBA

Bring a chair or blanket

Christmas Carols, Performances, dances

Pizzas, Fish & Chips, cold drinks, coffee & candles on sale

Christmas photos

A visit from Santa and his Elves with Lollies for the kids

Fireworks display to end the night!

Thanks to the following businesses for sponsoring this community event

Mareeba & Dimboola Community Bank branches

Bendigo Bank

Kids Campus

MAREEBA MITSUBISHI

EXPRESS

MPO

MORO AUTO REPAIRS

Apels

YOUNG & COUNTRY LEGAL

4AM

SONCIN

GLASS & ALUMINIUM

Attention Year 12: Next Step Survey

Have your say...

take part in the
Next Step
 survey!



- Who?** All students completing Year 12 in 2022
- What?** The Next Step survey will ask you about your activities since finishing school like study and work.
- How?** Expect to be contacted by phone, mail or email. To help us reach you, please check your contact details are correct in your learning account by logging into the student portal at <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>
- When?** March to June 2023
- Why?** Your answers to the Next Step survey help schools and further education providers improve their services for future students.

More info at www.qld.gov.au/nextstep



Working together because

Attendance MATTERS

Attendance Matters (why it's important)

- ✓ A bright future for your child starts with good school attendance every day, all day
- ✓ Good attendance doesn't guarantee positive outcomes for students, however, positive outcomes are unlikely to occur without good attendance.

Every minute matters

- ✓ Being just ten minutes late every day adds up to nearly half a year of lost schooling from Prep to Year 12.
- ✓ Good time keeping means making sure that your child is at school and ready to learn before the school bell rings.

Good habits start early

- ✓ It is important that children develop regular attendance habits (over 95%) at an early age. The pattern of attendance in Year 1 is highly predictive of what patterns of attendance will be in subsequent years.

Let's work together

- ✓ Our attendance goal is 90% or more of students attending 90% or more of the time and 0% unexplained absences.

The main reasons for absence and what we can do

- ✓ **Sickness** – Naturally there are times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.
- ✓ **Holidays** – It is vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.
- ✓ **'Day off'** – Think twice before letting your child have a 'day off' as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.
- ✓ **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy and the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, contact your classroom/pastoral teacher so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns
 Learning with Faith and Vision

Ken Frost Homes Netball Academy



2022 Kenfrost Homes Marlin Coast Academy Team at Sunshine Coast Lightning Academy Camp

KENFROST HOMES MARLIN COAST NETBALL ACADEMY

PLAYER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2023

Players from across the region wishing to enhance their netball performance are invited to register for the Kenfrost Homes Marlin Coast Netball Academy. There is no cost to register, and players selected in the Academy will pay \$50 to secure their place. Please scan the QR Code or visit www.marlincoastnetball.com for more information. Registrations close 1 February 2023.



Players aged 11-17 in 2023 are eligible to:

- Trial for the Academy on 26 March 2023 @ Cairns Netball Assoc
- Participate in the junior or premier league competition
- Attend the Festival of Netball in October 2023 (costs apply)

Players selected in the Academy receive:

- Coaching from high profile presenters
- Home program and training singlet
- Invitation to trial for Academy team

The Academy team may be invited to the International Quad Series in Singapore in June 2023 (TBC)



Notices

Upcoming Events

Term 4

Friday 25 November

Last Day for Students

College Mass

Wednesday 30 November

Year 6 Transition Day

Term 1 2023

Tuesday 24 January

First Day for all Students

Thursday 26 January

Australia Day Public Holiday

Friday 27 January

Student Free Day

Chess Club

with Mr Harnischfeger (Mr H)

Room: MCR - during Recess 2

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Maths Tutoring Available

Tuesday and Thursday

Recess 2 - MCR

(all students welcome)

Wednesday

3.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Library

Years 10 -12 only

Term Dates 2023

Term 1: 24 January to 31 March

Term 2: 17 April to 23 June

Term 3: 10 July to 15 September

Term 4: 3 October to 24 November

Celebrating Success!

Please inform the college if your child has achieved success in an extra-curricular activity not directly related to school, so that the college community can celebrate these achievements. Please email the principal (ssm.principal@cns.catholic.edu.au) with any information and photos.

Change of Details

Please keep us up to date with any changes to your contact details.

This can be done by email or phone:

ssm.office@cns.catholic.edu.au

4086 2500

Absentee Email

If your child is absent, please email:

ssm.absentee@cns.catholic.edu.au





Trust in the Lord

St Stephen's Catholic College



- Celebrating 17 years of Quality Catholic Secondary Education -