



St Augustine's Parish School

NEWSLETTER No.16 ~ Term 4 Week 9, 2023

Address: 25 Commercial Road, Salisbury – Phone: 8182 7900 – Fax: 8182 7999
Website: www.saps.catholic.edu.au Email: info@saps.catholic.edu.au



ABSENTEE PHONE: 8182 7915 OR

ABSENTEE SMS: 0497 154 391

PLAYGROUP every Tuesday & Friday (9.00am – 11.00am)

OCCASIONAL CARE every Wednesday (9.00am—11.30am)

ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES every Monday (9.15am—12:15pm)

ADULT DIGITAL ENGLISH CLASSES every Thursday
(9:15am-11:15am)

UNIFORM SHOP - All orders online:
belgraviaapparelschools.com

DIARY DATES

Thur 14/12/23

Last Day of Term 4
12:30pm finish

Mon 29/01/24

First Day of Term 1 for all
Reception Students

Tues 30/01/24

First Day of Term 1 for all
Year 1—6 Students

YEAR 6 RETREAT DAY

Reflecting on our Year 6 Retreat Day was a journey of mindfulness and faith. Dr. Tullio lead this day, together with their teachers to help explore the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus Walks on the Water. We discovered the value of seeking hope in times of trouble and anxiousness. Creating Mr. Cowan in the sand challenged us to sculpt his image, fostering creativity and unity within our groups. The joy we found in crafting together echoed the beauty of togetherness. Our beach walk unveiled the wonders around us, reminding us to appreciate the world's marvels.

Each of the activities throughout the day enabled us to think deeply about things, we worked together, and we felt peaceful and calm in our surroundings. This day brought us all together one last time, connecting us spiritually with cherished moments.

QUOTES FROM STUDENT LEADERS:

My favourite part of the day was when we needed to make a sand sculpture of Mr Cowan. It was really funny when Mr Cowan lay down next to ours. By Olive

The playground was epic and exciting. I really loved the ginormous slides. By Esther

I really liked the flying foxes because the girls pushed Mr Cowan so hard and fast that he almost fell off. By Lana

I really enjoyed playing basketball on the courts there because you were able to lower the ring and dunk on it. By Amalia



PRINCIPAL, DAN COWAN'S END OF YEAR MESSAGE

Good morning everyone, and a special good morning and welcome to all of our parents, grandparents and friends who have joined us.

What a beautiful mass and celebration of the year. Thank you, Fr Shibu and Mrs Tulio. This year we have had so many beautiful celebrations here in St Augustine's Church.

To Fr Shibu and the whole parish team, thank you for your ongoing support of our school and community. During a year of many changes in the parish, Fr Shibu, you remain a constant. Your care for our school, our staff, children and families is felt, it is noticed and it is appreciated.

This year also marks the end of over 30 years of service from the Canossian Sisters here in the Salisbury Parish. We are sad to be saying goodbye to the sisters and are so grateful for their contribution to our parish and school. On a much more personal note, Sister Elda and Sister Jessica, we will miss both of you terribly.

It has been another incredible year here at St Augustine's. The Vision for Catholic Schools in South Australia, including ours is based on the statement: Thriving People, Capable Learners and Leaders for the World God Desires. There is a danger that phrases such as this become a bit of a catch cry and lose their meaning. Today I want to briefly talk about how I see this lived out in our wonderful school on a daily basis.

Thriving People

At St Augustine's, I see people thriving every day. As a school, our focus on wellbeing comes from this. In order to thrive, you need to feel good about yourself. You need to understand who you are. You need to understand the gifts and talents you have and what makes you you. Self belief comes from being in an environment where you feel valued and nurtured. Underpinning this is our belief that there is also a God who loves you – unconditionally. And everyone in our school and community is invited to explore that relationship. Through the good stuff and the not so good stuff.

Capable Learners

To be a capable learner you need to be a part of the learning process. Learning needs to happen with you and not to you. Learning is complicated and messy. And to learn, you need skills and dispositions to access it. We are constantly evaluating how and what we teach. Throughout this year, we have made some changes to how we teach literacy and the results are incredible. To access learning you need to be literate, numerate and being able to communicate. This is our ongoing focus.

Capable learners are empowered and engaged in the learning process. This means they understand what they are learning and why and how they will know when they are successful. Our teachers continue to focus on this. To share feedback and to develop capable learners who understand themselves, where they are at and how to grow and improve.

And finally, Leaders for the world God desires.

Our school values of Respect, Service, Excellence and Integrity help us to frame what leadership looks like at St Augustine's. This year we have incorporated these values into our awards and recognition at assemblies.

And in our Catholic School and Community, when we talk about leadership, we also have Jesus as our role model and guide. Jesus was brave and fearless. He was compassionate and kind. And he was willing to do anything – absolutely anything to stand up for what he believed in and to help others.

it is this that sets us apart as a Catholic School. I often reflect on this. When I think about all of you here today, and what I hope for you in your time here at St Augustine's, I come back to Jesus and to God. I think of the unconditional love God has for the world and for us. As staff in a Catholic School, we often talk about being the face of Jesus to others. For this to be a real and lived experience, it has to mean that the children in our school feel this unconditional love. Through the ups and downs, they know they are cared for, they feel valued and are always treated with dignity and respect. In doing so, this is us living out the world that God desires.

So to all of our children I say congratulations. A lot happens in a school year. You grow, you learn, you change. It can be fun. It can be challenging. It is always rewarding and let's be honest – it can also be exhausting. So enjoy the break ahead and know we will be ready and waiting for you in 2024. And to those who are leaving us this year to join new schools and communities, you go with our blessing.

To our wonderful staff I say thank you. I always hear myself saying to visitors and colleagues that we have the best staff in the world – and I mean this. Schools are complex places. To work in a school as a teacher, or an ESO takes enormous commitment and passion. There is so much that goes on in any given day. I love the way I see our staff working together, supporting our children, families and each other. Educating children and young people is one of the most rewarding vocations you can do. I feel so proud when I tell people I am the principal of this school.

This time of year is always one of change. As we welcome new staff into our school and community, we also say goodbye to others.

This year we farewell:

Yasamin Qalandari

Nicole Van Nisterloooy

Toni Stanford

Jasmin McDonald (St David's)

Leah Dickson (St Mary Magdalene's)

Sarah Roden (Xavier College)

Maree Conte (Whitefriars)

Catherine Morrison (Rosary)

Just for next year, we are saying see you soon to Courtne Caldinez who is taking leave and will return in 2025. We may see her from time to time as a relief teacher.

This morning it is also an opportunity for us to say thank you and farewell to Kerri Dent.

Ms Dent has been a part of this school and community over many years, in many roles and at different times.

During the 1990's, Ms Dent was a teacher here. Many staff who have gone on to be leaders in catholic schools seemed to have spent some time here at St Augustine's. It sounded like a great time to be a teacher and a learner. When Ms Dent speaks about her time teaching here, she lights up. Her passion for this community is contagious. Her ability to care for and focus on the needs of each individual is an obvious strength and her commitment to bringing catholic identity to life in real and meaningful ways is evident.

Upon returning as a leader here, Ms Dent had many roles; from leading Catholic Identity and Mission, Deputy Principal and at times, Acting Principal. Each role was taken on with passion, determination, and an unwavering commitment to always acting in the best interests of the children in her care.

When I began here as principal, I was struck by the depth of knowledge Ms Dent had about this school and community. Each child, each family, each staff member. Ms Dent spoke to me about the importance of understanding the individuals, their stories and the many parts that make us whole. This knowledge and wisdom, so graciously shared, allowed me to quickly understand our school, our people and how to continue our growth and development together.

Kerri, thank you for all you have done for our school over many years. We wish you well for whatever comes next.

I now invite Kerri to say a few words.

Finally, it is time to farewell our graduating Yr 6s. You have been incredible leaders this year. Here at St Augustine's, we hold our seniors to a very high standard and you have met this at every opportunity.

I hope you leave us with a strong sense of justice, a deep understanding of who you are and what makes you unique and most importantly, I want you to know that you can make a difference in the world. Thank you for leading us this year, for all you have done for our school and don't forget us!

Finally, as we continue our journey through Advent, I would like to wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas. Stay safe and enjoy the break ahead.

Dan Cowan & Michelle Thomas

CATHOLIC IDENTITY UPDATES

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY:

The beautiful drawing by Alice in Year 2 captures who we really are as a school and as a Parish community.



Her details include the Church, Fr Shibu, the ever-present carpark where people gather to drop off or collect children, the boundaries of our school, the buildings and the nature areas.

For Alice, there is no separation of Parish and Parish School when she thinks of St Augustine. Our endeavour is for everyone to see St Augustine's as a beautiful relationship of people, all seamlessly working together as one.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024:

Next year I will be visiting Year 2 to Year 6 children to talk to them about the Sacramental Program and about Baptism. I often have children approach me to ask about how they can receive Jesus, especially after they have been to Mass. If your child has been asking you about this, please email me at rtullio@saps.catholic.edu.au for a confidential chat.

TURNING 70:

In 2024, St Augustine Parish School is turning 70! Next year we will have a couple of special events to celebrate this important milestone. Watch this space!

DATE CLAIMERS:

I have organised for the well-known performer and singer, Andrew Chinn, to run a workshop at St Augustine's of Monday, 18 March. From 1.50pm to 2.50pm he will be performing a concert and families are invited to attend. As there are limited seats, there will be more information about this wonderful celebration in the new year.

MULTICULTURAL MASS:

On Sunday 7 April 2024, we will be celebrating our Multicultural Mass at 9.00am in the St Augustine Church. This will be followed by a shared lunch/morning tea in the school grounds. Please note this important date as we encourage children to dress up in their cultural dress. Parts of the Mass will be prayed in different languages.

ADVENT:

As we approach the third Sunday of Advent (17/12/23) we prepare our hearts and minds to receive and welcome the child Jesus.

Welcoming babies is a very important gesture. The house is prepared, the family and friends wait in anticipation and there is a sense of joy with the impending arrival.

This is the same for the arrival of baby Jesus.

PRAYER:

For the worried
for those missing loved ones
for those facing relationship challenges
or money worries
for those with unsteady mental health
for family who is overseas
for those with a crushing diagnosis
for children who are sick (Joseph – aged 4)
for those unsure of living arrangements
for parents who are estranged from children.

Lord, this is but a snapshot of our concerns. But just as Mary and Joseph faced uncertain times during Christmas, we entrust to you, everything that robs us of our joy. Be with us always. For you, Lord, care for all of us without reservation. And for this we are grateful. Amen.

Blessings, *Dr Rachele Tullio*

Annual School Fees 2024

St Augustine's Parish School in consultation with Catholic Education South Australia and the School Board would like to announce there will be no increase to 2024 school fees.

This decision is based on our commitment to keeping school fees as low as possible and ensure a Catholic education is affordable and accessible to all.

Our 2024 school fee structure is detailed below:-

Fee Summary	Annual Fee
Level 1 Income over \$70,994* per annum	\$1,990
Lower Income Fees – School Card Income under \$70,994* per annum	\$1,190

The school prides itself on working closely with our families to ensure fees are affordable. If you are experiencing financial difficulty or your financial circumstances have changed please contact the school to discuss available options.

St Augustine's Parish School are considerate and sensitive in the assessment process and all information remains strictly confidential.

Enquiries regarding fees should be directed to the Finance Team on 08 8182 7900.

LEARNING Through MUSIC



Join our school
instrumental
music program

Lessons are held at school once a week

Instrument hire is available

Please contact us for lesson prices
and instruments available

Music books available at an additional cost



Contact LTMusic for more information
or to complete an enrolment form:
info@LTMusic.com.au
www.LTMusic.com.au