

Term 1 Week 1 1 February 2024

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2

- Little Stars Program, 9-10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5

- Saint John's Campus Parent Information Evening, 7-8pm

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6

- St Teresa's Campus Parent Information Evening, 7-8pm

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7

- Our Lady Help of Christians Campus Parent Information Evening, 7-8pm

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9

- Opening College Mass, Saint John's Campus oval, 9am

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

- Welcome
- Year 12
- New Staff
- Hot Weather
- Canteen News
- Parent Information Nights
- Receptions
- Communication
- Parking
- Hats!
- Senior Student Council
- Achievement Assembly

The 2024 theme for the Port Pirie Diocese and its schools, which also becomes the theme for Samaritan in 2024, is 'Let your light shine!'. Schools provide many opportunities for students to 'shine' and everyone has a gift in their own special way. And one can imagine the power of over 950 staff /student lights shining at once.

You will see other examples of how our lights can and will shine during 2024 including a beautiful piece of art commissioned by the Diocese that was created by a Bargala woman and a Diocesan school leader.

Our Diocesan Prayer for 2024 has a line that reads ... "we are called to flavour the lives of others through sharing our gifts with us all."

Welcome to the 2024 school year!

A very special welcome to all our new families (there are a lot of new families) and hello again to our returning families and students. I wrote some of this newsletter article on the weekend as I visited each campus and I saw a stream of teachers arriving to prepare rooms, lessons, displays, curriculum etc for your child. Many staff worked on the public holiday and were back early Saturday and Sunday morning, all in readiness for an exciting 2024. And well before most of the teachers started arriving back our maintenance team and contractors have been busy fixing, building and painting a whole range of things. Our grounds look magnificent.

Year 12

Congratulations to Bethany Hall on being the College DUX for 2023. Bethany's ATAR was the highest in the region. 2023 saw some of our highest ATARs

Damien
 Damien Judd

continued p2
 PRINCIPAL



continued from p1

that have we seen for many many years. Special congratulations to Ciara Francis who received a Merit for Year 12 English. Merits are given for those students at the very elite end of their Year 12 subject. We are also very proud of the variety of options that our Year 12 cohort have taken since leaving school. A number into work and apprenticeships straight away, some off to Uni both in Adelaide and interstate and a number remaining in Whyalla to study plus some students simply having a break or looking to do other courses or work when the time is ready. Well done.

New Staff

Each campus will share who their new staff are. An exciting array of new faces to accommodate the expanding enrolments in 2024.

Parent Nights

Our annual "Meet the Teacher" evenings are on during Week 2 – next week. Please see website or Facebook

for details for your child's campus. All are 7-8 pm and are informal ways to meet your child's teacher, visit their campus or classroom or to say 'hi' to the campus leadership team.

Hot Weather

All information relating to what we do and don't do with students or school during severe hot weather can be found in the Parent Student Guides for both primary and secondary which are on our website. In short, students are not sent home from school if we have very high temperatures. Almost all rooms/spaces have refrigerated air conditioning and outdoor activities including recess/lunch are simply moved indoors or postponed.

Please return any forms that were sent home as soon as possible so that the school has your most up-to-date information.

Deputy News

A warm welcome to you all as we begin our school year together.

In addition to preparing teaching and learning resources ready for their first day back in the classroom, teachers have also readied lessons as part of the second-year deployment of our wellbeing and mindfulness programs.

We continue with **LifeSkillsGo** as our primary campus wellbeing platform in 2024. Our work will be enhanced with the appointment of Jenna Warren (OLHCC) and Kristin Murray (STC) as Leaders of Wellbeing and Student Agency.

LifeSkillsGO (assessed and approved by [BeYou](#)), is an evidence-based, curriculum-aligned online blended learning platform delivering social, emotional and physical learning for students.

- Explicitly teaches and measures social and emotional learning
- Proven to improve concentration, communication, listening and self-regulation skills and effectively support anxiety management
- 150+ age appropriate social, emotional & physical learning lessons
- 200+ videos, activities, games and printables to run or supplement our wellbeing program
- Comprehensive wellbeing reports on individual students

For more information please visit the website at: www.lifeskillsgroup.com.au

At secondary, **The Resilience Project** continues into its second year. Bec Clark moves into a new role as Junior School (7-9) Director of Students along with Kim Ryan as Senior School (10-12) Director of Students; both assist the Campus Leader in managing student need as it relates to wellbeing.

The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of **Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM)** and **Emotional Literacy** to build resilience.

Check out their website for more information:

[The Resilience Project](#)

And check out TRP@HOME; a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family, to help improve your wellbeing and build resilience.

[TRP@HOME](#)

For more information, please see the final page of the newsletter - Welcome to the Resilience Project.

Brett Czechowski
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

The Samaritan Way

Let Your Light Shine

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5: 13-16

Welcome to the 2024 school year. What an exciting time the first few days is for our students and staff. Lots of 'first times' happening over all three campuses. Starting at a new school or campus, meeting new teachers and students, making new friends are all part of the journey.

The Diocesan theme for this year is "Let Your Light Shine" This will be our theme at Samaritan College for the year as well.

Jesus is asking his disciples and us to shine our light for all to see. What a great challenge for us. Light has many functions. Light reveals what is there and shows the way. It can offer comfort and support. Light can drive out the shadows. When Jesus told his disciples, 'You are the light of the world', He was telling them and us live in such a way where other people can see God's goodness. That we are an example of God's goodness to the world.

How can we shine our light for others to see? If we let our light shine are we living out our faith authentically, and having a positive impact on the world?

The following diocesan prayer calls us to let our light shine

Radiant God,

You bless us by shining Your light in us, with us, and around us.

Your light brings compassion, warmth and hope in times of lightness and darkness.

May we embrace Your mission to strike the match, ignite the flame, sprinkle the salt and be the light within Your beautiful Creation.

As the salt of the earth, we are called to flavour the lives of others through sharing our gifts with all.

Enable us to walk alongside others, listen to their stories, light their way, and celebrate their gifts.

Bless us and keep us.

May Your light shine on us and be gracious to us.

Look kindly upon us all and give us peace.

Let our light shine!

Amen.

Please join us at our Opening College Mass on Friday February 9, Week 2 on Saint John's oval. We gather together as a whole College to celebrate our Catholic Identity and give thanks in gratitude for the blessings and love we will receive over the coming year. All are welcome.

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM

College News

Canteen News

As part of our annual review of canteen pricing, we are pleased to advise that more than 75% of our items will not see a price change in 2024. In this challenging cost of living environment, we have unfortunately had to increase prices on some items that were being sold below the cost price last year. As always, our focus has been on ensuring our range of healthy options remain affordable and available to all of our families. New canteen price lists have been updated on SEQTA and the college website.

In other exciting canteen news, we have been working on the implementation of an online ordering system for families to place lunch orders. Called 'QKR', we expect to be rolling this out in a few weeks time. Keep an eye out on your SEQTA messages and the newsletter.

Terry Costello
BUSINESS MANAGER

Primary Campus News

Welcome back

Welcome back to all our returning families and our new families to the Samaritan Community. This year the Diocesan Theme is 'Let your Light Shine' truly embraces the diverse nature of our community where within our college, all people have their own opportunity to 'shine'.

We approach 2024 with grace and are thankful that we are able to have so many experienced and enthusiastic people in the positions to inspire the children in our school community.

New Staff

We welcome a range of new teaching and support staff to the primary campuses,

St Teresa's Campus

Miss Chloe Robinson – Chloe will be taking one of our Year 1/2 classes after working across all 3 campuses in a variety of context during 2023.

Miss Genevieve Foran – Genevieve is back at St Teresa's Campus after a year at Saint John's Campus, she will be taking a Year 3/4 class.

Mrs Melissa Tilbrook – Mel will be back at St Teresa's Campus after taking leave throughout 2023.

Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

Miss Emily Shiell – Emily has moved back to Whyalla and takes a Year 3/4 class after completing a short contract and working as a TRT throughout 2023.

Mr Daniel Marinkovich – Daniel will take a Year 5/6 class after working as an ESO and TRT throughout 2023.

Miss Jasmine Pacini – Jasmine volunteered in Term 4 in a variety of ESO roles in 2023 and will undertake a Learning Support role in 2024.

Mrs Jo Murray – Jo re-joins the Our Lady Help of Christians Campus team after working at LSPS in Term 4 2023.

Parent Information Nights

We will be running Parent Information Evenings during Week 2;

Saint Teresa's Campus – Tuesday February 6, 7-8pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Campus – Wednesday February 7, 7-8pm

This is a great chance to come and say hello to your child/ren's teachers for 2024. Please remember this is designed to be a light, informal catch up and greeting, if you required discussions of greater depth about learning or social/emotional well-being, please book a separate time with the teacher or campus leader so we can attend to the matter with the appropriate time.

Receptions

What a wonderful sight to see our new cohort of Receptions at both campuses! It is exciting to have 5 classes of receptions with over 50 students!

We also have a mid-year intake for students born between April 1 and October 31 as well as our Little Stars program which will be up and running on Friday's from February 2 from 9:00am – 10:30am, coordinated by long-term staff member, Chelsea Leech.

Communication

Samaritan College prides itself on open communication with families. Teachers will have sent home information about the SEQTA Engage app which is a fantastic innovation for instant information families can receive regarding a range of important aspects of your child's education.

Please be mindful of contacting teachers outside of school hours, although they will provide communication options, it is not an expectation that they will respond immediately or outside of the regular working day!

If you have matters of importance you wish to bring to leadership, please still go through the normal channels like ringing and booking an appointment through the front office or emailing the Campus Leader.

Parking

Just a gentle reminder to make sure we are not parking in the visitor's parks at both campuses during pick up and drop off time! Please keep these free for parents who are coming into the front office and the various contractors that need to access the facilities!

Hats!

Just a reminder, particularly while it is hot, that hats are an important part of the uniform – these can get lost after prolonged breaks, if you need a new hat, please contact the front office.

Matt Quist & Gareth Molyneux
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES

Secondary Campus News

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

Please follow up phone calls with a note to the caregroup teacher.

Welcome

Welcome to a new school year! It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you all back and, to our new families, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children as the year progresses.

I hope many of you are able to attend our Parent Information Evening on the Grandstand this Monday (February 5). This is an hour-long informal event starting at 7pm which gives families an opportunity to 'put a face to the name'.

We are very excited to have an enthusiastic group of teachers join our campus. Some have been teaching at other schools, whilst for others this is their first time in charge of their own classes. They are settling in well, and are keen to work with your children to help them develop their full potential.

There have also been some additions to the campus's leadership team. These are outlined below.

With so many teachers and leadership members on the secondary site, it can be confusing knowing who to contact when issues arise. Hopefully the following helps to clarify who is best placed to assist students and parents/caregivers:

Subject teachers are responsible for designing and implementing lessons and assessment tasks for students in their subjects, including those with additional learning needs. Parents/caregivers are well within their rights to view these at any time, and to request information on their children's progress. Any issues or queries relating to course content, assignments and homework should be directed to the subject teacher in the first instance.

Caregroup teachers are the first port of call for parents and caregivers when it comes to uniform, attendance/absence and pastoral care. Most questions can be answered by, or issues dealt with, caregroup teachers, but more serious matters will be referred to House Leaders

House Leaders oversee student wellbeing, including ongoing absences or uniform infractions and student behaviour. Depending on the nature of parent/caregiver concerns, they will deal with matters themselves, refer them to caregroup teachers or work with a Director of Students.

The **Directors of Students** work with parents/caregivers and students to resolve serious and/or on-going matters such as repeated misbehaviour and bullying. If required, these matters can also be handled by the Head of Campus and/or the Deputy Principal.

The **Director of Campus Administration and Inclusive Education** oversees timetabling and the implementation of curriculum for students on modified programs, for example, students with additional learning needs.

The **Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning** oversees curriculum across Samaritan's three campuses, up to Year 10. She is supported on the secondary campus by the Assistant Leader of Learning.

The **Assistant Principal – Head of Campus** oversees VET as well as having the ultimate responsibility for student behaviour.

The **SACE and Careers Coordinator** oversees the SACE curriculum, including resulting, as well as careers and work experience.

If you are unsure whom to contact with your query, please provide a brief overview to the front office staff and they will direct you to the appropriate staff member.

Benedict House Leader: Michael Baker	
JB1	James Baverstock
JB2	Roshni Kowlessur
JB3	Kira Zippel
SB1	Nicholas Schulz
SB2	Sarah Seeraj
SB3	Julia Bugden

MacKillop House Leader: Caitlin Davidson	
JM1	Dustyn Brauwers
JM2	Tim Cluff
JM3	Sam Custance
SM1	Sean Sheedy
SM2	Alicia Bugden
SM3	Kathryn Pech (also Assistant Leader of Learning)

Rice House Leader: Sam Daw	
JR1	Alison-Jane Hunter
JR2	Bianca Christian
JR3	Lauren Shivvaan (also SACE and Careers Coordinator)
SR1	Antoinette Daniels
SR2	Jessica McKay
SR3	Paul Bicknell

Teachers without caregroups	
Rachael Anderson	Art, Food & Nutrition
Tallulah (Tully) Boyle	Maths, Visual Arts
Antoinette Daniels	Mathematics, Religious Education, Clothing and Textiles, Digital Technologies
Adel Elhalawani	Mathematics
Muskaan Gupta	Mathematics and Science
Hayden Gill	PE, Outdoor Living
Sophie James	Performing Arts
Matt Thursby	Technology Studies and Doorways 2 Construction
Jillian Turnbull	Relief Teacher
Caitlin Sharp	Science
Kar-Lee Yarwood	Mathematics and Science
Amber Young	Mathematics and Science

Campus Leadership	
Damien Judd	Principal
Brett Czechowski	Deputy Principal (R-12)
Tanya Gibson	Assistant Principal - Head of Campus (Saint John's)
Rebecca Sinclair	Assistant Principal in Religious Identity and Mission
Jenna Edwards	Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning (R-12)
Jodie Hopkins	Director of Campus Administration and Inclusive Education
Bec Clark	Director of Junior Students (Years 7-9)
Kimberley Ryan	Director of Senior Students (Years 10-12)

Senior Student Council

At the end of 2023, Year 11 students nominated to serve on the senior Student Representative Council. Voting occurred and interviews were conducted by campus leaders to determine who would hold the coveted positions of Head and Deputy SRC leaders. It is my pleasure to inform readers that our senior leaders for 2024 are:

Head Leaders – Matilda Smith and Tom Abdelmalek

Deputy Leaders – Lucy French and Deborah Pickering

Further to this, students in each House elected House captains, who are:

Benedict House – Ethyn Hards and Taleya Huish

MacKillop House – Bree Puddy and Kaleb Reeves

Rice House – Connor Lipczyk and Nyasha Mativenga

Achievement Assembly

Earlier today we recognised the various successes of our senior students. The 2023 Year 12 students with the top five ATARs were publicly acknowledged, and I now take this opportunity to congratulate Bethany Hall (Dux), Ciara Francis, Lily Murray, Summer Beaty and Madison Merentitis.

The successes of our current Year 12s were also celebrated. Both James Butler and Caleb Fisher have secured school-based apprenticeships and Kaitlyn Geering already has her SACE, completing her compulsory subjects in Year 11 and is now able to focus on post-school pathways.

Several Year 11 students are also well set up for SACE success, having gained traineeships as part of their Year 11 studies. We wish Riley Oosthuizen, Shaylee Stam and Thomas Hoskin all the best as they undertake their blended studies this year.

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS

Employment Opportunity



Assistant Maintenance/ Groundsperson

Permanent position

Up to 37.5 hours per week

ESO2 (\$66,176)

Samaritan College is seeking applications from suitably experienced people who meet the following criteria:

- good interpersonal skills
- assist with the general development, maintenance and upkeep of all grounds and facilities
- knowledge and experience in gardening and maintenance
- trade background useful but not essential
- awareness and active experience in WHS requirements

Visit <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/our-college/employment> for full information and application criteria.

All applications are subject to Catholic Education SA screening procedures.

Enquiries: Karen McGinnis on 8645 8568 or email karen.mcginnis@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

Applications close:

4pm, Friday, 16 February 2024

Email applications to:

info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au

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 Public Library



1 February 2024

Welcome to The Resilience Project

PARENTS & CARERS

This year, we are excited to bring The Resilience Project (TRP) into our school community!

WHY?

Current research tells us...

Why mental health matters

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT



One in four Australian adolescents will experience mental health problems this year

Nearly two thirds of them will not seek help.



One in seven primary school students are also likely to experience mental health problems this year.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Resilience Project is committed to **teaching positive mental health strategies** to prevent mental ill-health and **build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.**

We will be implementing their evidence-based **Teaching and Learning Program** throughout our classrooms, staffroom and school community.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of **Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM)** and **Emotional Literacy** to build resilience.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT HOME?



To learn more about The Resilience Project and get involved from home, you can start exploring the ideas, activities and resources which bring **Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM)** to life on **TRP@HOME.**

EVIDENCE-BASED

The Resilience Project's School Partnership Program has been independently evaluated by both The **University of Adelaide** and **The University of Melbourne**. Click the links or scan the QR code to find out more about the impact the program has on **emotional wellbeing** and **behavioral changes**.



The Imperfects podcast, led by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, is all about how perfectly imperfect we all are. Hugh, Josh and Ryan chat to a variety of interesting people who bravely share their struggles and imperfections, and we all learn some valuable take-aways we can apply to our own imperfect lives.

