

Term 1 Week 7

14 March 2024

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 13 - 25

- NAPLAN

MARCH 18 - 20

- Year 12 Retreat
- Year 7 camp group 1

MARCH 20 - 22

- Year 7 camp group 2

TUESDAY MARCH 19

Campus Tours

- 9am St Teresa's

- 11:30am Our Lady's

THURSDAY MARCH 28

- Holy Thursday, school finishes 12:30pm

TUESDAY APRIL 2

- Saint John's Centre, Official Opening and Blessing

THURSDAY APRIL 4

- Half day Sports Day at Saint John's Campus

FRIDAY APRIL 5

- Secondary Sports Day at Jubilee Park

FRIDAY APRIL 12

- Last day of term, normal end of day

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

- Strategic Plan
- My Tenure
- Diocesan Assembly
- Year 12 Retreat
- NAPLAN
- Trees
- Holy Thursday
- From the Resilience Project Desk - Gratitude
- Bike Racks
- Parent Parking and School Zones
- Student Devices
- Year 7 Camp
- Doorways 2 Construction
- Jewellery
- SRC

This week, through their Project Compassion reflections, the students heard the story of Memory, a young woman from rural Malawi. Memory said "Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don't have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes.'

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible.

We pray for all people who make things.

We thank God for their skill.

May our support of Project Compassion help

people around the world find the opportunity

to use their talents to support their families and communities.

Amen



Strategic Plan

The college's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan has now been ratified by the College Board. A copy of this plan is found here: <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/our-college/strategic-plan>. It is a living document in that it still means additions and changes can and will be made to this over the next three years. But it does provide a framework for future planning including acknowledging the impact of recent industrial announcements.

My Tenure

Many of you should have received information from our Director stating that my 12 year tenure as Principal

Damien
 Damien Judd

PRINCIPAL

comes to an end this year. 12 years is the maximum period one can be a principal in our system without having the position re-advertised. Principals who reach this 12 year mark can re-apply for the position if they choose, however their application would be considered with any others that are received.

Diocesan Assembly

Next week I attend the Annual Diocesan Assembly in Port Pirie. This important gathering of priests, sisters, religious, principals and parishioners from all over this vast diocese and even beyond happens in the weeks leading into Easter. At the conclusion of the Assembly, there is the annual Christ Mass in the Cathedral. Mr Czechowski will attend this with some of our senior primary students.

Year 12 Retreat

I will take an early minute from Day 1 of the Diocesan Assembly to then drive to Port Hughes to join our Year 12s on their Retreat. The Year 12 Retreat is a massive part of the final year of schooling for all students in Catholic schools – it often receives the most praise of any of the events that take place during Year 12. It provides a special and distinct time away

from home and school for the students to reflect on their school journey and to prepare for the spiritual challenges that lay await post school.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is underway already for our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. It is an important checkpoint for students and schools to see where those students are in terms of achievement of the Australian Curriculum. It helps schools to plan for areas of improvement and to help specific students with targeted help i.e. case manage.

Trees

The college undertakes regular checks of all its trees (we have a lot of them) using a qualified arborist. They make recommendations and we adhere to those recommendations i.e. trim branches or even completely cut down some trees. Unfortunately, there will be unexpected incidents especially during or after extreme weather.

Holy Thursday

A reminder that school concludes at 12:30pm on Holy Thursday.

The Samaritan Way

St Oscar Romero is a modern-day saint. One of my favourite quotes from St Oscar Romero is...

“Aspire not to have more but to be more”

Oscar Romero was born in Ciudad Barrios, a town in the mountainous east of El Salvador, on 15 August 1917. One of seven children he grew up to become a priest. In February 1977, Oscar Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador.

As Archbishop, Father Romero was a source of strength and hope for the poor and oppressed of his country. St Oscar Romero used his position to speak out for the oppressed and the vulnerable. He challenged the unjust government of his country. After calling for international intervention and as a consequence of his actions, including his pursuit for justice and peace for his people, St Oscar Romero was assassinated on 24 March 1980 as he was saying Mass in his home town. Pope Francis canonized Oscar Romero as a saint on 14 October 2018.

During this Lenten time, it is important to look at our own lives and to examine whether we are living a life that reflects our faith in Jesus. Matthew in his gospel said, ‘let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

How are we ‘Letting our Light Shine?’ Are we looking out for everyone in our community: the poor, the vulnerable, the sick and the lonely? Are we treating the people in our community and in our world with dignity and respect?

It helps to remember that Jesus has inspired many people to follow in his footsteps. One person who modelled his life on Jesus was Saint Oscar Romero.

Caritas Australia works to bring justice, peace and hope to those in the world who are struggling and living in poverty. Jesus asks us to come into the light of his love. We can be someone who hears the cry of the poor by donating to Caritas Australia through Project Compassion this Lent.

Rebecca Sinclair
APRIM



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.



Watch [Memory's Story](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Please continue to donate to the *Eggstraordinary Samaritan College Easter Raffle*

Donations can be made to the office of your campus.

Tickets go on sale soon!

Sadly, many eggs are made using slave and child labour or are sold through companies that use slave labour or unfair trading methods. As part of our Easter Raffle this year, we would like to promote the buying of Fair Trade and 'slave free' eggs. Please consider buying eggs with the logos featured below.



Deputy News

From the Resilience Project Desk - Gratitude

Working on gratitude helps us to be thankful and appreciate what we have in our lives, rather than focusing on what we don't have or what we want. When we practise being grateful, we start to scan the world to look for positives – this only takes 21 days! Practising gratitude every day increases our levels of energy, helps us to feel happier and more focused, determined and optimistic. It even helps us have a better sleep, lowers levels of anxiety and depression and we are less likely to get sick. So many benefits – let's all try to be grateful for the things and people in our lives every day!

Whole Family Activity:

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

- As a family create a scavenger hunt list of things that make you happy or you are grateful for, you can make your own list or use the examples below:
- Something that makes you happy
- Something you love to smell

- Something you enjoy looking at
- Something that is your favourite colour
- Something you like in nature
- Something that is useful for you
- Each member of the family uses the list, and has to find as many things as they can.
- You can hunt for things inside or outside, or both. You can hunt for real things, or you can also do this using magazines or pictures from the internet.
- After a set amount of time hunting, come back together, have a look at what each person collected and let them explain why they are grateful for each item.

Family Habit Builder:

Every night at dinner, have each person talk about their favourite thing about that day.

Brett Czechowski

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Primary Campus News

Bike Racks

At both primary sites we have Bike Racks to store bikes and scooters that children ride to school. We strongly encourage children to bring a suitable lock to make sure they cannot be taken by people who are not their owners, particularly at Saint Teresa's Campus where bikes can be seen from the street.

Parent Parking and School Zones

Just a friendly reminder when travelling around St Teresa's Campus to adhere to the 25 kmph school zones, particularly during pick up and drop off times. We also ask that at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus to use the parent carpark off McRitchie Crescent so that the visitor spaces next to the Front Office can be used for appointments in the Front Office.

Matt Quist & Gareth Molyneux
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES

International Women's Day

Last Friday, 8 March was International Women's Day!

We are privileged to watch our girls grow into faithful, wise and compassionate young women every day...

Let's celebrate all women in our lives...

Year 1/2 Marschall celebrated International Woman's Day by celebrating the important women in our lives! We are so grateful for these women who support us through all that life brings.



Clean Up Australia Day!

At Our Lady Help of Christians Campus we really focused on sustainability this week and challenged students to be more sustainable throughout the day, as well as participating in the whole school “clean up”. Students were able to earn Guidera Cup points for their house team for picking up rubbish at Recess/Lunch, bringing reusable containers for their lunch orders or slushies, or bringing a plastic free lunch box.

Jenna Warren

LEADER OF WELLBEING & STUDENT AGENCY.



Year 1/2 Fechner

Year 1/2 Fechner participate in Playberry lessons each day as part of their morning Literacy block. This time includes daily handwriting, reading and spelling words with the focus sound, dictation sentences, learning new spelling rules and partner reading. The repetitive nature of Playberry helps to reduce the “forgetting curve” and allows students the opportunity to put their knowledge in their long-term memory

Kylie Fechner



Our Lady Help of Christians Campus Arts

Term 1 The Arts at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus has started out busy. The Receptions have been creating visual art, including dragon puppets for Luna New Year. The Year 1/2s have been learning pitch instruments, Year 3/4s have been learning about dynamics in music and the Year 5/6s have been creating media art canvas artworks.

Sophie James
ARTS TEACHER.



Pop-up Band Performances

Members of the Samaritan College Senior Ensemble recently staged "pop-up" performances at each of the Primary campuses - entertaining the young students and "drumming up business" for any interested future musicians who would like to join the Band Programme.

With an exciting mix of repertoire performed expertly by the team - and enjoyed by the enthusiastic audiences - we are certain that 2024 will be another fun-filled year for our Bands!

Alison Hams, Mark Tempany & Kym Jenkins
BAND EDUCATORS.



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.

Student Devices

We have had a 'bring your own device' policy on this campus for several years now. As part of this program, we have reduced the number of laptops available for student loan from the library. These devices are reserved for students whose own device goes flat during the day – they are not for students who do not have their own laptop. We understand that for some families, laptops are a burdensome expense which is why we have payment plans available. Families who are yet to purchase devices for their child(ren) are asked to check out the BYOD Order Portal. Samaritan College has partnered with Learning and Technologies to provide an online purchasing portal to assist families with purchasing a laptop. This will provide families with access to:

- Devices selected by the College for school use
- Education pricing from the largest education supplier
- Multiple warranty and additional cover options
- Lay by and Interest-free financing options

The portal can be accessed through <https://samaritan.orderportal.com.au/>

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 camps are less than a week away. Parents are asked to return forms ASAP so we can finalise numbers for accommodation and catering purposes.

Doorways 2 Construction

Mr Matt Thursby and our budding tradies spent their first day at our Doorways house last Friday. The building, generously provided by Housing SA, will be renovated by the Doorways team with help from local tradespeople and TAFE. The students spent the day demolishing structures in readiness to install a new kitchen and bathroom in the coming weeks and months. This program is unique to Samaritan College and has helped countless students gain apprenticeships during the more than 20 years it has run.

Jewellery

The college's grooming expectations are very clear and are agreed to by families and students upon enrolling at Samaritan. Our current uniform code states that jewellery, in general, should not be worn to school; however, the following basic items are permitted:

- A watch (no other items, including bracelets and rings, should be worn)
- One pair of earrings in each lobe. Earrings are restricted to studs, sleeps or 'huggies'. Hoops and 'dangling' earrings are not permitted.
- One crucifix or affiliated religious medal on a plain chain, worn beneath clothing

Students who regularly breach this code could have their jewellery confiscated and kept in the Front Office (to be returned at the end of the school day).

Tanya Gibson
HEAD OF CAMPUS

SRC

The Year 7-12 SRC met for the first time. We discussed upcoming events and made some exciting plans for the return of our much anticipated SRC assembly.

We brainstormed ideas around improving our college environment and discussed other topics such as addressing the build-up of students in the canteen line.

We were proud as all year levels worked collaboratively, they confidently shared ideas, and listened with enthusiasm. We look forward to many more productive meetings!

Kimberley Ryan and Bec Clark
SENIOR AND JUNIOR DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS



Sports News

Congratulations to James Abdulla who won the Cricket Grand Final for Under 14's for Norths. He also won the man of the match for the Grand Final.

Good luck to 3 of our Samaritan students who have been selected to represent South Australia at the junior Aus cycling track national championship during March which is held in Brisbane.

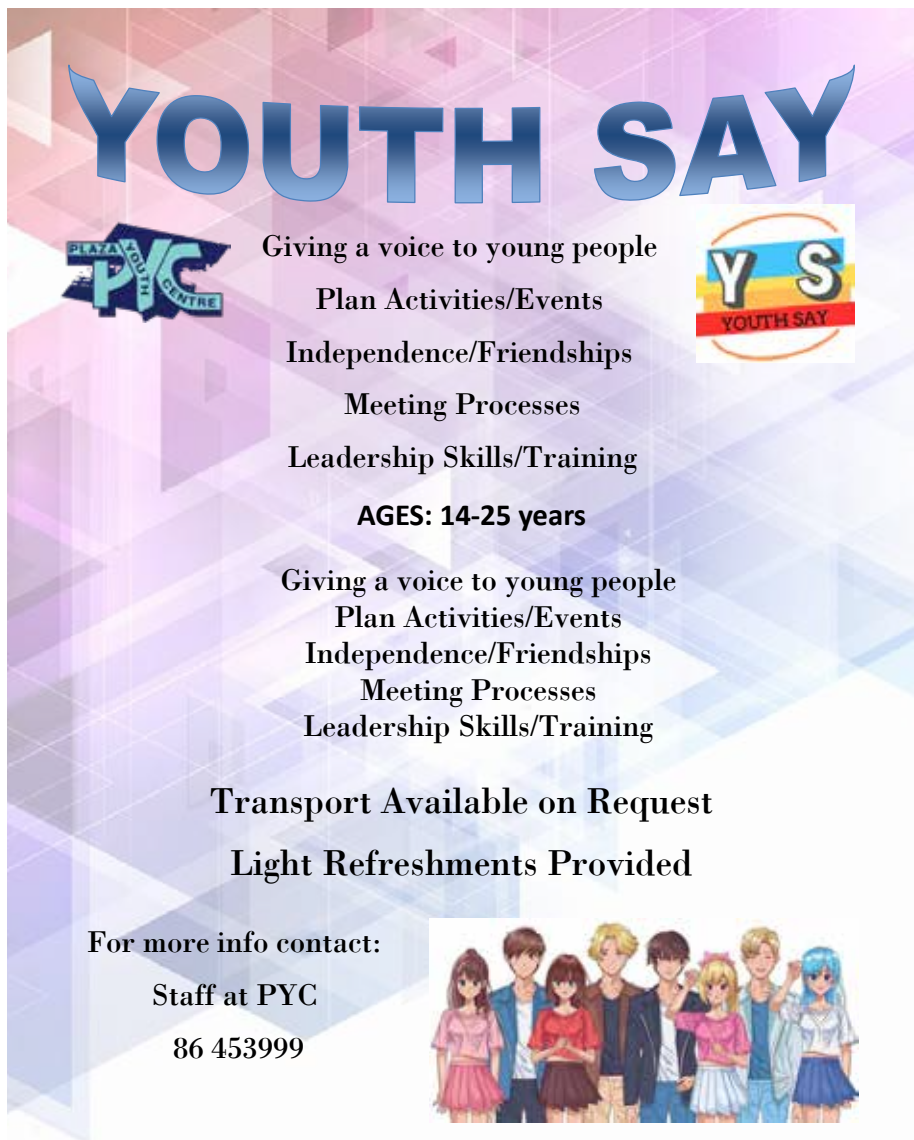
Ben Kade
Libby Smith
Kane Azzopardi

Good luck also to Hayden Phillips who will be shooting at the National Championships in Wagga Wagga.


Sean Sheedy
SPORT COORDINATOR


Community News

"The services and events contained in this section are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children."




YOUTH SAY

 Giving a voice to young people
Plan Activities/Events
Independence/Friendships
Meeting Processes
Leadership Skills/Training
AGES: 14-25 years

 Giving a voice to young people
Plan Activities/Events
Independence/Friendships
Meeting Processes
Leadership Skills/Training

Transport Available on Request
Light Refreshments Provided

For more info contact:
Staff at PYC
86 453999



If you're feeling unwell or have **ANY** flu like symptoms (ie cough, sore throat, runny nose fever etc.) or you have tested positive to Covid-19 or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive to Covid-19 within the last 10 days, **You will need to** Phone Staff 8645 3999 to Discuss your situation **Before entering the building**