

**Term 2 Week 2**

**8 May 2025**

### COMING EVENTS

**MAY 8 & 9**

- Mother's Day Stall at Primary Campuses

**MAY 12 - 16**

- Catholic Education Week

**TUESDAY MAY 13**

- Board Meeting

**FRIDAY MAY 16**

- Primary Soccer Carnival

**MONDAY MAY 19**

- CESA Executive Team Visit

**MAY 19-20**

- Year 11 Retreat

**MAY 29**

- Careers Roadshow

**MAY 27 - JUNE 3**

- National Reconciliation Week

**FRIDAY JUNE 6**

- Pupil Free Day (Staff Formation Day)

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

- Mothers' Day
- Farewell
- Social Media
- Student Accident Insurance
- Election of the new Pope
- CESA Executive Team Visit
- Samaritan College Primary Band
- Mother's Day Stall
- Welcome Back
- Staff News
- Uniform and Grooming
- End of Semester 1
- Bikes

### Mothers' Day

We pray for those who have been blessed with the wonderful mystery of being a parent or a parent figure and enjoyed the special acknowledgement of Mothers' Day. We offer prayers for families who have endured the challenging times, whereby such a day can be a poignant, painful and joyful reminder all at once. And for those of you who could not go home to see 'Mum', we hope you had the chance to connect and reflect.



*Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. Proverbs 17:6*

### Farewell

Tomorrow we say thank you and goodbye to Colleen Dowling. Colleen has worked in our Front Office at Saint John's College/Campus since April 2003. In that time, she has seen several Principals come and go, her college became a campus of Samaritan College and most of all she has kindly served 1000s of students, staff, parents and visitors to the College. Colleen has truly been the face of Samaritan for 22 years and we are very grateful for her service. Enjoy your retirement!

### Social Media

Some families may not be aware but all staff in South Australian schools (not just Catholic schools) follow this document in relation to Protective Practices i.e. how staff 'behave' with students or interact with students. It can cover things right to down basics i.e. keeping a door open when meeting individually with a student to more complex

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*Damien*  
Damien Judd

PRINCIPAL

protection matters, especially in country towns where staff may play sport with students or have students as close friends due to the relationship between the staff member and their parents and so on. One particular area that is an absolute 'no' for staff, is for them to be 'friends' (or similar) on social media with students or interact with them on social media (in whatever form that takes). Regardless of whether it is school related or harmless chat, it is not OK. Monitoring that, however, can be difficult and we do need parents to continue to check who their child is interacting with online – not just school staff. If you find someone you do not know, please challenge your child as to who that person is. This would also apply to 'group chats' – your child may be in a number of 'group chats' with students from school – it can be helpful to check the topic of these chats or what images may be getting shared. The other challenge for staff, is that they can get weekly even daily 'friend' requests from students. Whilst the staff member would politely decline or simply ignore the request, it can be helpful for parents to discuss this with their child as to why they cannot or should not seek out school staff to be 'friends' online. SEQTA or school email are the only two electronic communications staff should be using to communicate with your child. The document that covers all this can be found here: [Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people guidelines for staff working or volunteering in education or care settings](#).

## Election of the new Pope

We continue to keep this process in our prayers. It can take a short time or a long time but nevertheless the election of a new Pope is no small matter.

## Year 7 Camp

Welcome back to the Year 7 campers who had a great few days at the traditional Year 7 Aquatic camp location at Port Vincent. Some of you may have been aware that a large shark was seen in and around Port Vincent a week before our campers were due to arrive. The Aquatics section of the camp is run by the Department for Education and they adjusted their program and put in other changes to manage risk – even though no sighting had been recorded for nearly a week. They kept the school informed of their risk management processes and we signed off as being satisfied with the changes. This sort of liaising happens regularly and many camps and excursions have to have Plan Bs in their Risk Management plan – especially those that go during fire ban season. Some Plan Bs include not going at all.

## CESA Executive Team Visit

On May 19, we will have the full Catholic Education SA Leadership team visit Samaritan. This is the team that leads/runs all of Catholic Education SA (separate to the SA Commission for Catholic Schools which includes the Archbishop and Bishop). They are seeking to hold some of their regular leadership meetings outside of their usual location in Thebarton and get out to the country schools – with us having an airport nearby and with our local major employer making national headlines, we were an obvious choice.

# College News

## 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](mailto:claims@csnet.com.au). The policy number is 2300112119.

**Terry Costello**  
BUSINESS MANAGER





Counseling is offered for recipients of Dina's CD...



*Farewell Colleen Dowling*



# The Samaritan Way

We were all saddened by the news of the death of Pope Francis just after Easter. As the 266th pope, Pope Francis served faithfully and compassionately since his election in 2013. He will be remembered as a shepherd who brought a spirit of humility, mercy, and justice to the global Church.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis defended the dignity of every person, reminded us of our responsibility to care for the poor and the Earth, and invited the Church to be more inclusive, loving, and responsive to the signs of the times. His messages called us to be people of hope, kindness, and action.

Pope Francis led with a heart like Jesus. He chose to live a simple life instead of seeking riches or power. He listened and spoke kindly to others, even when they disagreed, and he tried to walk alongside people instead of judging them. In a world that can often feel divided or harsh, Pope Francis reminded us to care for one another, to stand up for what is right, and to believe in a kinder, more peaceful world.

As a Samaritan College community, we join Catholics everywhere in mourning and taking time to pray. We also look ahead with hope, as cardinals from around the world gather in Rome to choose the next pope. This special process, guided by the Holy Spirit and long centuries of Church traditions, reminds us that the Church is alive and always needs strong, faithful leaders.

We are thankful for Pope Francis — a man who loved the message of Jesus and followed Him with great courage. As we wait to hear who the new pope will be, let's stay united in prayer — for the Church, for the cardinals in Rome, and for the world that Pope Francis cared for so deeply.

Rebecca Sinclair  
APRIM

## The Pope Who Chose Simplicity

*He could've had gold shoes.*

*He chose black ones – worn, practical, and ordinary.*

*He could've lived in a palace.*

*He chose a small apartment, ate in the staff dining room, and carried his own bag.*

*He could've stayed behind the scenes.*

*He stepped into prisons, refugee camps, and slums.*

*He bent low to wash feet – of the poor, of women, of people society forgets.*

*Pope Francis showed the world that leadership is service.*

*That faith is action.*

*That the Church is most alive when it moves beyond comfort and into courage.*

*And he reminded every teacher, every leader, every person, every child:*

*What you do – how you love, how you teach – matters.*

*Loving God,*

*Thank You for Pope Francis and all the good he did.*

*May we always remember his kindness and love for others.*

*As the Church says goodbye, be with us and bring comfort.*

*Be with the cardinals as they meet to choose a new pope.*

*Help them listen to Your Holy Spirit and choose a good leader —  
someone who will love, serve, and guide us like Jesus did.*

*Keep us strong in our faith,*

*kind to others,*

*and open to Your love.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*



# Deputy News

For avid readers of our newsletter, you may recall some information last year about a new behaviour education program introduced at secondary called, Positive Behavioural Interventions and Support (PBIS). This program is now being deployed at primary with the following leadership team.

Brett Czechowski – Deputy Principal

Jenna Edwards – Assistant Deputy Principal, Head of St Teresa's Campus

Kristen Murray – Student Agency and Support Coordinator (St Teresa's Campus)

Matthew Quist – Assistant Deputy Principal, Head of Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

Jenna Warren - Student Agency and Support Coordinator (Our Lady Help of Christians Campus)

PBIS is the application of behavioural science in schools. It's a way of getting organised about behaviour and treating it much like a subject (we plan, we teach, we evaluate, we collect data etc). In much the same way we scaffold curriculum to suit varied learning needs, PBIS is also scaffolded using a multi-tiered continuum of support. We layer more intensive environmental supports to increase the likelihood students are academically, emotionally and socially successful.

PBIS is not about changing students – we cannot 'make' students learn or behave. PBIS is about changing the environment to make it more likely that students will succeed, both academically and socially/emotionally.

At our pupil free day last week, primary staff gathered to start implementing key ideas of the PBIS framework. They were asked to develop some school wide values – broad guiding principles, valued

behaviours and attitudes for students to experience success at school. Classroom rules/expectations are then constructed from the values. These rules/expectations are then explicitly taught by the teacher to create positive, consistent and equitable classroom environments.

The draft primary campus expectations are...

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Kind

Be Brave

The school advisory board will soon be presented with a draft Matrix of these expectations for consultation and further development. I look forward to sharing more updates in subsequent newsletters.

*Brett Czechowski*  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

## Primary Campus News

### Easter at Primaries

#### Reception Warren

In Reception Warren we did lots of fun Easter themed art, cooking and design and technologies tasks. We decorated some Easter ornaments, painted Easter eggs, designed and decorated Easter biscuits, and designed and made Easter baskets.



## Rec Davies/Judd

Happy Easter from our littlest Samaritans in Reception Davies/Judd!



## Reception Raymond/Judd

This week Reception Raymond/Judd began our learning journey about Holy Week. We listened to and viewed the story of Palm Sunday and then discussed the meaning. We sequenced the events and then made our own palms.

We continued our journey to learn about Holy Thursday; Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We remember Jesus' love and sacrifice, and we used the time to think about how we can be kind and loving to others while we decorated our bread and wine pictures.



## Samaritan College Primary Band

The Samaritan College Band Programme has had a fabulous Term 1 commencement across all 3 campuses with some of our younger musicians practicing in small groups at their Primary Campuses last week.

We are pleased to welcome many new musicians to the programme, and welcome back our long-term members for another fun-filled year, learning Band pieces on their chosen instruments and rehearsing together as a team.

The 2025 Samaritan College Band Programme is again coordinated by Stormfront Productions' Mark Tempany and Alison Hams.





## Sporting Schools – Term 1

We've had a fantastic time Term 1 with the Sporting Schools tennis program running at our school! Students from Years 1 to 6 have been getting active, learning new skills, and having a blast on the court.

A huge thank you to our amazing coach for bringing such great energy and expert instruction—it's been awesome to see everyone giving it a go and building their confidence in tennis.





## Year 5/6 Boulderstone/Rodda

During Term 1 in Year 5/6 Boulderstone/Rodda, we read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for our class novel. We celebrated the end of Term by watching the movie, doing some Wonka themed literacy and numeracy activities, and having a class party. Some of us were even lucky enough to win a golden ticket of our own!





## Anzac Day liturgies

Year 4/5 Crowe and Year 5/6 Marinkovich led the Anzac Day liturgical events at our primary campuses, both were very reverent and paid tribute to our fallen ANZAC soldiers and service men and women. The students were particularly well behaved when participating in the liturgies.

## Staff changes

We welcome new Learning Support Staff at both Primary Campuses. Tyler Bodinner and Abby Paterson started at St Teresa's Campus late in Term 1 and Emily Byfieldt and Vino Ravichandran have started at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus last week. We wish all four staff members the best and welcome them with open arms into the Samaritan Community.

## Mother's Day Stall

Samaritan College Parents & Friends Mother's Day Stall will be held Thursday, May 8 and Friday, May 9 at both Primary Campuses!

We wish all the special women in our lives a Happy Mother's Day on Sunday May 11.

## Uniform

As the weather starts to cool down please be mindful of what students are wearing to school. The rugby top, spray jacket and Year 6 Commemorative Jumper are the options. We will never let children 'go cold' if they present in alternative clothing, however, please contact the front office if you have misplaced items or students have outgrown items and we can support families to get these pieces of clothing.

*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.*

## Welcome Back

It is hard to believe we are already in May and almost two weeks into Term 2 - goodness how the year is flying by! The general 'vibe' around campus is positive and it is great to witness staff and students enjoying each other's company. We have several new families join the Samaritan Community, to whom I extend a special welcome.

## Staff News

It is with much regret that I inform the school community of the immediate resignation of Mr Peter Homes. While we support Peter's decision he will be missed by both staff and students. Plans are currently in place to cover Peter's absence, and could include changes to the junior school timetable (of which families will be advised).

## Uniform and Grooming

As part of students' return staff are reinforcing college expectations around uniforms and grooming. It is pleasing to note that most students generally do the right thing, and when gentle reminders are issued, most students respond in the appropriate manner.

There are times, however, when students choose not to follow the college policies, in which case parents may be contacted. In these instances, we value and appreciate parental support as we try to instil in our young people attitudes and values that will stand them in good stead in 'the real world'.

## End of Semester 1

It might seem odd talking about the end of the semester when the term has just begun but time flies and the new semester will be here before we know it. In fact, there are just over seven weeks before students move into their new elective classes and, for our Year 11s, before their semester one results are sent to the SACE Board. Given this, students should be preparing for their final assessments and, for students in Years 10 and 11, preparing for exams. What does this mean? Well, it includes things like making sure they are up-to-date and catching up with teachers if they have missed work or do not understand something that was taught in class. Leaving things until a week or two before exams or final due dates could be too late.

## Anzac Day

At the end of the holidays, members of the school community marched in the Whyalla Anzac Day parade as a sign of respect for current and past residents who have served our country. As a campus we held an Anzac Day commemoration liturgy last Thursday. This was led by Mrs Sinclair and the senior SRC. The young people involved did a magnificent job, especially those who spoke confidently before their peers.

## Life Education

Our fast-paced and complex worlds can be a difficult one for young people to navigate, especially with the added pressures of social media. As part of our role in educating students to become thoughtful citizens, we hosted a series of Life Education workshops this week for students in Years 7 – 11. The topics covered included responsible decision-making, smoking/vaping, alcohol use and illicit drug use. Of course, these workshops are not designed to usurp parents and caregivers; they merely seek to support the work families already do.

## Bikes

Last week a member of the public rang the school after she almost hit a Samaritan student on his bike. Students are reminded they must be vigilant when riding to and from school, especially at the start and end of the days when there is a lot of vehicular traffic around.

*Tanya Gibson*  
HEAD OF CAMPUS

# 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."



**National Families Week**

# WHYALLA PARTY IN THE PARK

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**  
**2PM-6:30PM**

**NORTON PARK  
(MCRTCHIE CRESCENT)**

**FREE FOOD, DRINKS & ENTERTAINMENT**  
INCLUDING A SPECIAL APPEARANCE FROM THE CENTACARE CARE BEARS

**THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**

**Centacare** Catholic Country SA

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**MISSION AUSTRALIA** together we stand

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