Welcome to this new school year! We especially welcome all students and families who are joining the Caritas community for the first time.

School Theme

At our Opening School Liturgy to be held on 16 February, we will gather to launch our theme and commission our student leaders for 2017. Staff and students have begun exploring our theme Once Upon a Time... is Now, and its relevance to us individually and collectively as a focus for our work and learning this year. I have had the pleasure and privilege of reflecting, reading and listening before formulating this theme, and share the following insights to capture what I am hoping for my own leadership and for our school community this year:

This year Caritas College celebrates 146 years of continuous Catholic education conducted in the Josephite tradition, since Saint Mary of the Cross and two sisters established the first Catholic school in Port Augusta in 1871.

Our theme calls us to unwrap the gift of right now – the present. We are invited to be writers of our school story, and to be ‘right-ers’ of our story. We have the opportunity to bring God’s Kingdom to others through how we choose to live each day. There are no limitations to how we are the best model of who we can be – today, and each day.

How we live today creates the story to be told tomorrow. The story we are ‘writing’ frames the mission and identity of our school and explains why we choose to contribute to it. We have stewardship of our story, and a responsibility to protect our story, to bring others into our story, and to create it in a way that is meaningful in today’s context.

We need our own stories. Our stories define us, shape us, enrich us. They help us grow. What has our story been? What do we want our story to be? What must we do now to write this story?

We tell our story over and over again, refining it, updating it, and driving it home. Through living our story in a way that suits this time, this here and now, we will help others understand why we are here, what we are doing and where we are going.

Living with joy today honours the past and gives hope for the future. Throughout this year, may we celebrate and be thankful for the gifts we have each been given.

May we be the gift of the present.

Matthew 5:1-2; 14-16

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them...

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
Merciful is God — In All Things Love  Luke 6:36

In Matthew’s gospel, these two verses precede Jesus teaching the Beatitudes which invite us to live our lives as virtuous people; striving to be the best version of ourselves possible, and understanding our responsibility to consider the impact our choices have on ourselves and others. The model of Positive Education which is explicitly and implicitly taught throughout our school complements and draws motivation from such Gospel values, providing a new framework for old wisdom, inviting ourselves and our students to take up opportunities to think and act in meaningful and mindful ways.

As we write our school story throughout 2017, may our thoughts, words and behaviours be laced with love and concern for others, prejudiced toward those who have less than ourselves, and contribute positively to our school community.

A New Beginning

The start of the year is full of hope, excitement and possibility and for many anxiety. Our role as teachers, with the support of families, is to provide structure, routine, boundaries and consistency that will help alleviate the uncomfortable feelings associated with new beginnings and lack of control over change. We also need to ensure that we take the time to celebrate this precious time with our students. These early days are critical in establishing positive relationships, clear guidelines and hopeful, welcoming, safe and positive classrooms. Much work has been done by staff to prepare for the start of the new school year, and support structures and processes implemented. I encourage families to make contact with your child/ren’s class teacher to introduce yourself and share any information that will support your child’s learning and wellbeing at school.

I know that families join me in welcoming new staff to our College community this year:

- Mrs Penny Archer – Principal’s PA
- Ms Chelsey Caputo – Year 3/4W
- Mr Cameron Hall – Year 7-12 Music
- Ms Taylor Meyer – Year 5/6W (Term 1); Year 5/6W with Mr O’Shaughnessy and R-4 HPE (Terms 2-4)
- Mrs Tina Baxter – Education Support Officer – Student Support (one day per week)
- Ms Lauren McConnal – replacement Term 1 covering Leah McConnal’s and Kaye Walker’s leave

We also welcome Ms Kali Rodda back to Caritas to take Year 3/4G and 3/4B one day per week. Mrs Lexie Morris (0.4) and Mr Troy Clohessy return from leave this term, and Mrs Narelle Brine, Mrs Tiffany Brown and Mrs Emma Ruffles resume full-time teaching loads this year. Mrs Ella Kirkham will share her Year 5/6 class with Mrs Amanda Havelberg from Term 2.

Staff on leave this term include: Mr Leigh O’Shaughnessy (Term 1); Mrs Jasmin Eckert (Weeks 1-4); Mrs Leah McConnal (throughout Term 1); Mrs Kaye Walker (Weeks 6-8). Mr Greg Shirley will be with us for Term 1.

We especially congratulate Sr Helen Duke who celebrates 50 years since her religious profession as a Sister of St Joseph this year. We are so blessed to have Sr Helen involved in our school and parish community, and give thanks for her generosity, creativity, support and deep commitment to Pt Augusta and Caritas College. We will have the opportunity to congratulate and thank Sr Helen during our school celebrations this year. Our continued prayers and blessings are with her.

2017 School Priorities

In line with our recently developed 3-5 year Strategic Improvement Plan, and with the Catholic Education SA Improvement Framework, I have devised our key priorities for the year. In addition to the many areas of ongoing development, we will incorporate particular strategies and resources to support: Catholic Identity (symbols and sacred spaces; ecological conversion; celebrating and living stories), High Quality Teaching and Learning ( Unit design; achievement standards; STEM; educational leadership), Student Wellbeing (Trauma Sensitive Schools project; Positive Education), development of an ICT strategic plan, capital development in line with the College Master Plan, financial stewardship, and engagement with families.

Our school leadership structure reflects these priorities, and I thank and congratulate the following staff who have positions of responsibility this year. In addition to myself, Mrs Mary Manning (Deputy Principal) and Mr David Beltramé (Business Manager), students and families will be supported by:

- Directors: Mr Nick Callary (7-12) and Mr Leigh O’Shaughnessy (R-6)
- Coordinators: Mrs Therese Noll (School Coordination/SACE), Mrs Veronica McLachlan (Inclusive Education), Mrs Jasmin Eckert (R-12 Learning), and Mrs Belinda McClure (Religious Education)
- Lead Teachers – curriculum support: Mrs Bridget McInnes, Ms Fiona Plunkett and Mrs Emma Ruffles (STEM), Mrs Susy Rogers (VET)
- Lead Teachers – co-curricular support: Mrs Bridget McInnes and Ms Fiona Plunkett (SRC), Mr Tom Jordan and Mr Jack Muirhead (Sports), Ms Celeste Fontanabella and Mr David Salamone-Violi (co-curricular support)
- Ms Anna Beach and Mr Cameron Hall (Music)
Capital Development
You would have noticed some improvements that have been undertaken during the break, including painting and new carpets laid in the Penola Learning Centre and Junior Music classrooms. Our building project has also progressed: ongoing refurbishment to the Administration building and continuing work on the new Visual Arts Centre and staff amenities was undertaken. It is envisaged that we will move into these areas during this coming term.

In addition to the new Year 10 Learning Centre and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) laboratories that were completed late last year, we have also furnished spaces to provide Year 12 students an informal lounge and larger independent study room.

Mrs Nichii Mardon, Principal

Representation at SAPOL Leadership Camp
Congratulations to Griffin Finlay-Brooks who was nominated by Caritas College to apply to take part in the 2017 SAPOL Youth Leadership Camp, having been selected from hundreds of applicants. Participants undertook challenges including rock-climbing, abseiling, assault course, and many team-building and leadership activities, including meeting inspirational guest speakers.

Upon his return, Griffin reported, “We were challenged physically, mentally and emotionally. We were pushed to our limits and beyond, past our comfort zones and into exciting and sometimes daunting encounters. This camp has changed the way we look at life for the better, as well as boosting our leadership understanding, capabilities and qualities.”

Griffin’s strong leadership skills were recognised at the end of the camp when he was awarded the David Barr Award for Excellence in Leadership. This award presented to one male and one female attendee by members of STAR Group and camp coordinators. Congratulations Griffin!

Volunteer Training
We will be holding a Volunteer Induction and Responding to Abuse and Neglect for Volunteers training session on Thursday 16 Feb at 5:00pm in the Tappeiner room. All registered volunteers who did not attend last year and any prospective volunteers are encouraged to attend. This session is site specific and compulsory along with registration for anyone volunteering for Caritas College. A further session will be offered in Term 3 for those unable to attend. Thank you to all of our current volunteers for supporting us in this process. Please contact the school office to register your attendance.

Cameroon Hall
Year 7-12 Music

Taylor Meyer
Year 5/6 White

Chelsey Caputo
Year 3/4 White

Penny Archer
Principal’s PA
**Coming Events**

**Reminder: Student Medical Information Form (Pink)** to be returned to the front office as soon as possible.

This allows the school to exercise duty of care while students are attending school and school excursions. It is the parent’s/caregivers’s responsibility to provide current information to the school, ensuring students are able to attend excursions, sporting activities, etc., and also enables prompt contact with parents in cases of medical emergencies.

**R-12 Family Information Meetings**
Tuesday 7 February 2017

**Volunteer Training**
Thursday 16 February 2017

**Parent /Teacher Interviews**
Tuesday 28 February 2017 and Thursday 2 March 2017

**Shrove Tuesday**
Tuesday 28 February 2017

**Ash Wednesday**
Wednesday 1 March 2017

**Annual General Meeting**
Tuesday 14 March 2017

**Email addresses**
Please ensure you have registered your current email address to enable school communication.


**REMOTE ACCESS - Caritas Network**
[https://remote.cc.catholic.edu.au](https://remote.cc.catholic.edu.au)

**OFFICE HOURS**
8:15am—4:15pm
Telephone 8648 9700
Email info@cc.catholic.edu.au
SMS for absentees 0428 937 348

**6 day cycle**

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**Alter Service**

All Saints Parish invites children in Year 5 or above to participate in the life of the parish as an alter server. This involves active engagement in the liturgy and the parish community. If you would like your child to be involved, please contact Fr Paul Crotty on 8642 2847, or contact the school.


**2017 Private Instrument Tuition**

Tuition on the Piano, Guitar & Bass Guitar is available at the school through private tutors. Mrs Margaret Carpenter will teach Piano & Theory of Music on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Mr Ben Green will teach Guitar & Base Guitar on Wednesdays. Please talk to Ms Beach or Mr Hall for more information.

**Week 1 Fun**

![Week 1 Fun images]

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![Week 1 Fun images]