



"peace be with you"

Principal's Message

Thank You

As the year draws to a close, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone in our College community. Thank you to the students for bringing such happiness and joy into our lives each day. Thank you to the parents for allowing us to share in the privilege of educating your most precious gifts. Thank you to the staff for your professionalism and dedication that goes beyond just teaching and learning. I feel incredibly blessed to be able to be part of the Caritas College story, which is a true and contemporary expression of Catholic education and St Mary MacKillop's legacy.

Staffing

With 60 staff at our College it is normal for us to farewell staff at this time of year. At the time of printing, we will be saying goodbye and thank you to the following staff: Samuel Blagg, Emma Genockey, Carlo Librino, Leah Carling, Aaron Toome, Steve Hodshon, Kevin Schwab and Liz Harris. These staff members have all contributed to the Caritas College story. Some have contributed great things to our community in a short amount of time and others have added value to our educational setting in significant ways over a number of years. It is important to recognise Steve, Kevin and Liz who have been part of the staff at Caritas College for 15, 16 and 22 years respectively. I know the whole College community will join me in wishing them all the best with our prayers and blessings for wherever the road may take them next.

While there are a number of processes underway to fill positions, I am unable to finalise staffing for 2020. I can, however, welcome the following staff who will join our College community next year: Henry Wallis (Middle School Teacher), Nathan O'Brien (Secondary Maths/Physics), Emily Coymans, (Middle School Teacher) and Caitlin Jones (Dance Instructor). Further appointments will be communicated to families as soon as possible and practicable in the New Year.

Uniform Review

As many of you will be aware a review of our uniform has been conducted by a committee this year on behalf of the College Board. It was comprised of representatives of all sections of the College community including the Principal, Board representatives, staff representatives, students and parents/caregivers. The committee consulted with the College community to develop an understanding of the effectiveness of our current uniform. The committee also spent considerable time exploring the possibilities of change. The work of this committee is now complete and I sincerely thank the people who volunteered their time to contribute to the review. The outcome of the review will be communicated to the College community early next year. I am foreshadowing that there will be some new and exciting changes to our school uniform. These changes will be implemented over a two year period, once approved, to ensure that families can make full use of current uniform items. Therefore, families can feel confident and assured in continuing to purchase and wear the current uniform for the foreseeable future.

KEY DATES

2020 Term Dates

1	Tues 28 Jan – Fri 9 Apr
2	Tues 28 Apr – Fri 3 Jul
3	Tues 21 Jul – Fri 25 Sept
4	Mon 12 Oct – Wed 9 Dec

Further information on upcoming events is available on our website
<http://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/news-events/calendar>

T: 08 8648 9700

Absentee SMS:
0428 937 348

www.cc.catholic.edu.au

2020 School Fee Schedule

As shared in recent newsletters, the 2020 School Fee Information is now available on our website https://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/files/f/16445/2020_Fee_Schedule.pdf. The new School Fee Schedule has some significant changes that continue to support all families to access a Catholic education in Port Augusta. The below table outlines some of the major changes in the 2020 School Fee Schedule:

No increase to school fees for 2020	<i>There is no percentage increase to fees in 2020 (excluding school card holders).</i>
New tier for R – 2 students	<i>A fourth tier has been included for R – 2 students which offers a reduction in fees for families who currently have a student in R – 2.</i>
1:1 Laptop Program	<i>In 2020, we will be commencing a 1:1 Laptop Program for all students in Years 7-12. The implementation of this program will be rolled out over two years. Next year, all students in Years 10-12 will be provided with their own laptop. In 2021, the program will be extended to include Years 7-9. The cost of this device is included within the 2020 School Fee Schedule</i>
Booklist	<i>The fee structure has been extended to include the supply of stationery items for all students. Families will no longer be required to order stationery items at the beginning of each school year. Stationery items will be distributed to students on the first day of school in 2020.</i>
School Card Holders	<i>As per the School Fee Collection Policy, the collection of fees is necessary in order to complement State and Commonwealth Funding to assist Caritas College in resourcing education. Therefore, it is deemed both equitable and necessary for all families to contribute towards school fees in the current challenging economic environment. All new students to the College whose families are school Card approved will receive a 75% reduction in tuition fees and will need to contribute 25% of the fees.</i>

We invite families to contact the College if you have any questions regarding the 2020 School Fee Schedule.



Class Placements

Teaching staff have spent considerable time and effort placing students into classes for 2019. A range of factors are considered and inform these placements which include:

- Progress of learning
- Student's individual needs (Social/emotional, learning, physical, behavioural)
- Relationships
- A balance of sexes

Sometimes other factors may also need to be considered. Please be assured that the process for class placements focuses on the overall learning and wellbeing needs of each student. Staffing matters and changes to enrolments can impact on class placements over the holiday period. Therefore, class placements will be communicated to parents during the week prior to school starting next year. This will happen via an email detailing your child's teacher and classroom. A text message will also be sent alerting you that this information has been emailed to you. Therefore, it is important that the College has your up-to-date contact details to ensure that you receive this communication.

Merry Christmas

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" - John 3:16

I wish all of our families a safe and happy holiday break. May you lose yourself in the wonderful mystery of Advent which is a time for faithful preparation where we are given an opportunity to renew ourselves. May all the blessings of this most joyous season be with you in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support over the 2019 year. We look forward to continuing working with you in 2020. God Bless!



Damian Smith, Principal