

NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley

8 February 2023



**"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!"**

Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go!



Bright sunshine and big smiles marked the start of the 2023 school year. Our staff were delighted to welcome our returning students, new students, and parents/caregivers to Immaculate Heart on Friday. Yesterday, 29 Kindergarten students took their first steps on their educational journey with us. We are blessed to have the following kinder students join our school community:

Akna	Lilly
Angus	Lucy
Archie	Maisie
Arlo	Miles
Benjamin	Patrick
Bodhi	Qiu (Eason)
Elijah	Rose
Hamish	Ruby
Harvey	Scarlett
Henry	Sevana
Hugo	Shawn
Imogen	Tabitha
Jeshan	Toby
Jude	Willow
Leon	



It is an exciting year for us at Immaculate Heart. On Monday, the Leadership Team saw the “first draft” of our school Master Plan and Stage 1 designs for the delayed commencement of work to our current Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4 and multi-purpose room. I look forward to sharing this with our School Advisory Board and more broadly with the whole school community in the coming weeks.

Insight & Wellbeing

In the context of learning, during the four days preceding the start of term, our staff participated in rich professional development opportunities, both school based and system-wide, to set us up for continued growth and success in 2023. These included the launch of Insight, Catholic Education Tasmania's approach to supporting each learner, and to become the most improved education system in Australia.



“INSIGHT, based on the science of learning and reading, encompasses the way we teach in every classroom. This teaching approach empowers all educators to help their students grow in knowledge, wisdom and service.” I invite you all to explore Catholic Education Insight Website: [Insight: Catholic Education Tasmania](https://insight.catholiceducationtasmania.edu.au/)

Throughout 2023, we will continue to develop our Literacy Strategy with InitialLit (Prep-2); the introduction of Spelling Mastery (Grades 3-6) and the introduction of 'The Writing Revolution'. We are also reviewing our Maths programs, with three of our classes preparing to trial Pr1Me Maths. Throughout the year, we will plan “open mornings” for parents to see for themselves, our focus on teaching and learning in action.

We are also incredibly excited to be introducing a more structured and specific approach to “Wellbeing”.

We will be holding Parent/ Teacher Conversations in Week 5 of this term (Tuesday 28th February & Monday 1st March). We ask all parents to come in at this early stage of the year - mapping the way forward for each student. Bookings will be available via Compass in week 3.

3 Part Wellbeing Approach at Immaculate Heart

Wellbeing is linked to improved academic achievement, enhanced mental health and responsible life choices.

1. Student Wellbeing Check In

In the student wellbeing space, we will be implementing 'Pivot Wellbeing for Learning' a feedback platform that assists schools to improve student wellbeing with actionable, data-informed insights. Our Grade 3-6 students will complete a weekly check in, allowing us to track and support student wellbeing ensuring we create the best environment for learning.



Kinder - Grade 2 students are working towards using the Zones of Regulation framework to increase their understanding and vocabulary of how they are feeling and strategies to regulate emotions.



2. Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC)

PEEC is a research-based explicit Positive Education curriculum that has been developmentally sequenced. Content is firmly based on the science of wellbeing, underpinned by research in the fields of Positive Psychology and Education. Our classes will participate in a



'Wellbeing Wednesday' initiative this year, where we work through a sequence of lessons looking at topics such as leadership and teamwork, grit and persistence, and empathy and compassion.

3. Positive Behaviour Support Framework

This year as a school we will work to develop a Positive Behaviour Support Framework. Our goal for this framework is to create an environment where expectations are clear and students feel confident to be themselves. Once complete, the framework will be explicitly taught to students and will be visible in learning areas. It reduces stress, clears up much-needed time for teaching, improves overall student behaviours and is known through research to improve school culture.

Online Safety

Safer Internet Day is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

This worldwide initiative is celebrating 20 years in 2023, making it a great time to reflect as well as look forward. Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge.

These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important. That's why we are calling on Australians to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

Safer Internet Day 2023



Connect safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

Reflect before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

Protect ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, we have IT Agreements in place and explicitly teach students how to make safe and responsible choices, learning and being safe in the online world. We also have open and honest communication with parents to support what is happening beyond school.

All parents and carers are invited to access the eSafety Parent Webinars here: [eSafety Parent Webinars](#)

Communication

Quality relationships are at the core of our work. We believe parents are the first educators of their children and we partner with them on their learning journey. Good communication is vital to successful partnerships. At IHMS we communicate with parents and the wider community through a variety of means.

School to Parent Communication

- Compass is our management system for communicating to parents. If you need help to access Compass, please contact the school office.
 - Fortnightly school newsletters are emailed via Compass, which are also available on the website. Usually published on Wednesdays.
 - Electronic and face-to-face conversations with teachers. Emails will be answered within 24 hours during business hours. Any urgent communication can be sent to the office via email: ihms@catholic.tas.edu.au or by phoning 6228 3335.
 - Formal reporting:
 - Term One- Term Four: Ongoing Feedback Formative and Summative Feedback (via our SeeSaw Platform)
 - Term One: Compulsory Parent/Teacher Conversations
 - Term Two: Formal reports and requested interviews
 - Term Four: Formal reports
 - Individual Learning Plan meetings are conducted as needed throughout the year
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- Transition meetings will be held prior to school starting and coordinated by the Learning Support Coordinator/Class Teacher
- Facebook: To celebrate and connect with and beyond our school community. (Our school assemblies are live-streamed).

Parent to School Communication

- Always meet with your child's teacher if you have a concern, the sooner the better. The teacher is the first port of call for concerns. If you are not satisfied, then a meeting can be arranged with the Deputy Principal and Teacher. Concerns may be escalated to the Principal in urgent cases, or if the issue remains after previous teacher/Deputy Principal meetings.
- After school is a good time to see your child's teacher on an informal basis. Please note on Tuesday and Thursday after school, teachers have staff meetings.
- Formal meetings with teachers may be arranged in person, by email or phone.
- Absentee notes can be sent through the Compass portal.

New Staff

A huge Immaculate Heart welcome to new members of our staff in 2023:

Miss Nikita Williams: Prep Class Teacher

Mr Kieran Gill: Grade 1 Class Teacher

Miss Demi Tsai (Miss T): Grade 2 Class Teacher

Miss Jessica Murray: Auslan Teacher

Miss Chloe Mead: AFL Sportsready Trainee

Specialist Timetable

Class	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Kinder		Drama		PE	
Prep		Auslan	Music & Drama	PE & STEM	PE
Grade 1	Music	Auslan & Drama			PE & STEM
Grade 2					
Grade 3	Music	Auslan & Drama			PE & STEM
Grade 4	Music	Auslan & Drama			PE & STEM
Grade 5	Music	Auslan & Drama		PE & STEM	
Grade 6	Music	Auslan & Drama		PE & STEM	

2023 Term Dates - (recently revised)

Term One: Fri 3 February 2023 - Thu 6 April 2023
Term Two: Wed 26 April 2023 - Fri 7 July 2023
Term Three: Tue 25 July 2023 - Fri 29 September 2023
Term Four: Tue 17 October 2023 - Thu 14 December 2023

Please note the following days are STUDENT FREE days:

Monday 24 July 2023
Monday 16 October 2023
Friday 15 December 2023

Please click here for our school calendar: [School Calendar](#)

I am more than excited about the coming year; working collaboratively as a school community to nurture students' holistic growth and celebrate all their successes.

Warm regards

Rachel Kelly
Principal

