

# NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School  
10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley

13 December 2023



## Christmas Prayer for Families

Loving God, During this holy season of Christmas,  
we ask for your blessings on all families.

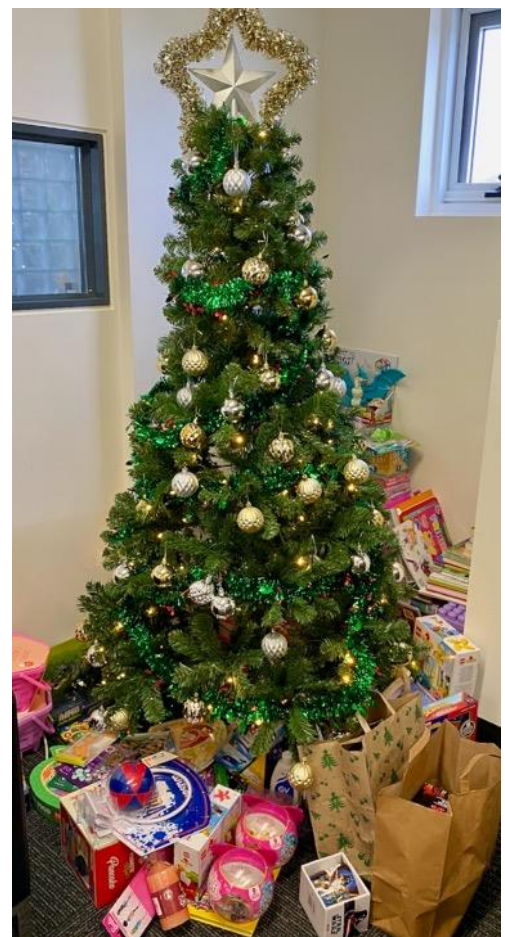
Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways  
be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope  
during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a  
spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen  
to embrace all families.

For this we pray. Amen



Here at the end of the school year, it is with immense gratitude and joy that I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you. I am truly humbled by the collaborative spirit, dedication, and kindness that makes Immaculate Heart of Mary the place that it is. The love for this school and community is evident in the tireless efforts of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our families.

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Tomorrow our Grade 6's come to school for the final time. They are outstanding young people who have certainly left the mark on our school community.

Grade 6, as you move on to secondary school, continue to be someone who cares ...

"Care about others, care about your education and use your gifts to make your new school, your community and the world a better place, care about justice and fairness.

As well, take care and be gentle with yourselves.

Our hope for you is that you will seek out the good things and accept all of God's graces and gifts with open arms to enable you to flourish and grow.

And just like Mary MacKillop ....

**In the face of fear - be daring;  
In the face of anxiety - be trusting;  
In the face of impossibility - choose to begin.**

God bless you Grade 6, now and forever."

Congratulations to our Grade 6 Award Winners:

Award	Recipient
Immaculate Heart of Mary Award	Elliot Lethborg
Mary MacKillop Award	Ashika Stanfield
Academic Excellence	Zac Littleton
Sporting Excellence	Hayley Rubenach
Growth Mindset Award	Stella Leggett
Principal's Awards	Jacob Luttrell Oprah Nseka Liliana Bone
The Arts Excellence Award	Phoebe Sewell

## 2024 School Leaders

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Congratulations to our 2024 School Leaders:

Captain: Thomas Clifford (Term 1 & 2)  
Vice Captain: Jacob Morse (Term 1 & 2)  
Dillon House Captain: Connie Millar, Ollie Knuckey  
Young House Captains: Atsedey Chide, Jack August  
Donohoe House Captains: Kidus Mesfin, Kheenan Speed

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## Christmas Tree Appeal

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An enormous and sincere thank you to all our families who donated so generously to our Christmas Tree Appeal. All gifts have been collected by St Vincent de Paul with great appreciation for our thoughtfulness for those in need.

## Sacrament of First Reconciliation

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Congratulations to Joseph O'Connor who received that Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday.



## Last Day of School

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Tomorrow students are welcome to wear Christmas t-shirts / festive headwear etc with their sports uniform tomorrow.

As is customary at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, we invite our families to join us for a BBQ on the last day of school. This will commence at 12.00pm and students are welcome to leave with their parents at the end.

Sausages will be \$2 and drinks will be \$1.

## Staff Farewells

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We thank and farewell the following members of our school community and wish them every happiness and blessings in the future:

Mr Paul Egan will be retiring at the end of 2023. Over his time at Immaculate Heart, Paul's leadership and influence has been pivotal in driving school improvement and improved learning outcomes. We thank Paul for his significant contributions to students of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, and more broadly, Catholic Education Tasmania, over his many years of service and wish him every blessing in retirement.

Mr Jesse Romeo has accepted an ongoing teaching position at Sacred Heart College, New Town. Jesse commenced his teaching career with us in 2022 and has left a remarkable impact over his two years with us. We are very grateful to have had Jesse at Immaculate Heart of Mary and wish him all the best in 2024 and beyond.

In 2023, Sarah Carless stretched her workload over two schools to provide our students with the opportunity to learn Japanese. In 2024, Sarah returns full-time to St Therese's. Sarah, we say Arigato  
ありがとう - thank you.

Mr Nick Bealey, who has worked with us as a Teacher Assistant, will be leaving us to finish his studies in Physiotherapy interstate. Nick has been a wonderful asset to our staff and students. We know Nick will make an outstanding physio, albeit a little sad that pursuing a career in education is not his calling. Our soccer games at Edge will never be the same Nick - thank you!

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## Staff on Leave in 2024

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Mrs Kate Jackson will be taking 12 months leave to work in a remote community in Western Australia. Kate's dedication and passion as our Key Indigenous Teacher has been extraordinary. Whilst we will certainly miss Kate, we know her experience in a remote community will enrich her professional learning journey and we look forward to the valuable insights this will provide our community in 2025.




Miss Elise Jackson will also be taking 12 months leave. Elise has been a wonderful Teacher Assistant in our Early Years since 2021 and we will certainly miss her brightening up our days next year as she steps out to explore life beyond Immaculate Heart.

Mrs Therese Kelly will be taking an additional 12 months' leave, continuing to work as ILRE (Instruction Leader Religious Education) with Catholic Education Tasmania and working at both Sacred Heart Catholic School Geeveston and St James Catholic College Cygnet.

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## Charlie McGuinness Fundraiser - February 2024

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# Charlie McGuinness

I'm swimming 15km in February to raise money for sick kids.

## Why I'm a Super Swim Hero

In February 2024, I'll be taking part in Super Swim to raise funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Did you know that every minute of every day a sick child is admitted to hospital in Australia?

Please sponsor me to help me reach my fundraising goal and brighten the lives of sick kids in hospital.

My name is Charlie. I am 11 years old.

I was born with a rare disease called imperforate anus. IA is one of 7,000 conditions classified as rare diseases, or diseases that affect fewer than 200,000 people. IA is a congenital abnormality and affects 30,000 babies around the world each year. Without surgical intervention at birth, I would have died within 24hr hrs.

Across my first year of life I spent a significant amount of time in hospital, particularly NICU.

I had three major surgeries before my first birthday.

I am a very healthy 11 year old now thanks to my medical team.

I cannot imagine the struggles children go through daily who have a continuing battle with serious illness.

I am swimming 15km in February to raise much needed funds to support children who are unwell.

Every little bit counts, so please dig deep and contribute.



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## 2023 Term Dates

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Term 4: Final day - Thu 14 Dec 2023

**Friday 15 December 2023 is a STUDENT FREE DAY**

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

## 2024 Term Dates

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Term 1: Wed 7 Feb - Thu 11 Apr  
(incl. Easter: Fri 29 Mar - Tue 2 Apr)  
Term 2: Mon 29 Apr - Fri 5 Jul 2024  
Term 3: Tue 23 Jul - Fri 27 Sep 2024  
Term 4: Tue 15 Oct - Wed 18 Dec 2024

### Student Free Days 2024:

Friday 12 April 2024  
Monday 22 July 2024  
Monday 14 October 2024

We wish all our families a safe, restful, and joyous Christmas break. An exciting 2024 awaits...

Warm regards

Rachel Kelly  
Principal

Calendar of Events	
Thu 14 December	NO CANTEEN
Thu 14 December	FINAL DAY FOR STUDENTS 2023
Fri 15 December	FINAL DAY FOR STAFF 2023
Thu 1 February	FIRST DAY FOR STAFF 2024
Wed 7 February	FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS 2024

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