

NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley

7 February 2024



***A community is a
group of people who
agree to grow together***

A huge 'heart' welcome to all our students, families and staff to a new school year. I hope you all had a break from routine and enjoyed some of the glorious weather we were blessed with over the summer. Today, there is certainly a buzz of excitement around the school as we join together to grow as a community in 2024.

I want to take the opportunity to especially welcome our special little people in Kinder, new students in other grades and all new families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School community. We also welcome new staff members to our school in 2024.

The commitment of our staff to prepare for the year ahead has been tremendous. As we commence the school year together, the first two weeks will be a focus on building relationships, class connection, routines and rhythms, and building a strong foundation for effective learning and positive wellbeing.

Parent/Teacher Conversations

Our first Parent/Teacher Conversations will be held on Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st February. At this early stage in the year, we ask all our parents to make an appointment with class teachers. We have purposely made this opportunity so early in the year as it is pivotal in working together to support the growth and learning of each student. Bookings will be open on Compass next week.



Lent

With the season of Lent upon us, next week we have significant events happening in our school. On Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday in the Catholic tradition, we will be having pancakes and our Grade 6 Leaders will represent our School at the launch of Project Compassion. Next Wednesday our Welcome Mass will incorporate Ash Wednesday - the official start of the Lenten Season. During this service we will commission our Grade 6 Leaders for the year.

Student Leaders

Congratulations to our Grade 6 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



Sacramental Program

Registrations are now available for the 2024 St Mary's Cathedral Sacramental Program. This program is for all children in Year 3 and upwards (Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist).

Please register at the Parish Office by phoning 6234 4463 or email: smcsacramentalprogram@gmail.com.

Enrolment and Information Night is Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 6pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

Teaching Structure 2024

Class Teachers:

Kinder:	Lucy Brook
Prep:	Nikita Williams
Grade 1:	Lily Adams
Grade 2:	Simon Treweek & Emma Bayly-Stark (Term 1)/ Stephanie Bruce (Terms 2-4)
Grade 3:	Trudi Merkel & Emma Coad
Grade 4:	Demi Tsai
Grade 5:	Millie Cooke
Grade 6:	Nicole Morozoff & Kieran Gill

Specialist Teachers:

Health & Physical Education:	Sandy Clark
Performing Arts:	Stephanie Melitsis
LOTE - Japanese:	Kellie Stimson
Technologies:	Trudi Merkel

Leadership Team 2024:

Early Years Coordinator & Literacy Leader:	Shae Longey
Primary Coordinator & Insight Instructional Leader:	Kieran Gill
Student Support Coordinator:	Cristy Mahony
REC & Insight Instructional Leader:	Simon Treweek
Deputy Principal:	Jackson Cracknell
Principal:	Rachel Kelly

Cyber Safety

[Parents | eSafety Commissioner](#)

With the 2024 school year upon us, now is the perfect time to have conversations with your children about online safety. The eSafety Commissioner ([eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)) has practical resources to help with hard-to-have conversations, information for children under 5 and cyberbullying. To learn more, visit the link above and share this with your friends and family!

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, we have in place IT Agreements and explicitly teach students how to make safe and responsible choices, learning and being safe in the online world. This year, we will be asking all parents to site and sign these during our Parent/Teacher Conversations.

Uniform Expectations

We take great pride in our school uniform and the expectation is that all students wear this correctly. Please take time to read our school uniform policy. If you require clarity or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Nurturing Hearts

Our Nurturing Hearts Program (Birth - 4 Years old) will commence next week in Kindergarten. A wonderful opportunity to learn with your child and connect with our families. Mrs Brook and Mrs Wall can't wait to see you, commencing Friday 16 February.

Traffic Around McCann Crescent and Edge Avenue

We kindly request your support in ensuring the safety of our precious students during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be mindful of traffic rules and parking guidelines around the school zone. Your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines is crucial in creating a safe and secure environment for all our students and respecting the residents who live in close proximity to our school.

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 – 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.
- To support workplace wellbeing, our staff have boundaries around communication timeframes and will respond to communication on school days during business hours.
- Formal reporting:
 - Term 1- Term 4: 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.
 - 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.

Please note, that due to privacy restrictions and copyright issues, we will no longer be able to live stream our school assemblies.

Parent – 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 Deputy Principal / Principal and Teacher.
 - After school is a good time to see your child's teacher on an informal basis. Please note on
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Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.

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

PBS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School

Positive Behaviour Support Matrix



	All the time, everywhere	Learning Spaces	Transitions	Playtime	Gatherings
Be a Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in all activities to the best of your ability • Include and encourage others • Looking at and listening to the person speaking • Help others succeed • Understand we all behave and learn differently • Use toilets during break times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to and follow directions • Be an active learner • Ask for help when needed • Accept and respond to feedback • Technology as a learning tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be organised with all belongings • Be quiet and aware that others are learning • Be on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good winner and loser in games • Show fairness in all games • Use positive strategies to solve problems • Follow wet weather expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in songs, prayers and events • Celebrate the success of others
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet & objects to yourself • Be aware of others • Follow the expectations of the place you are in • Choose the right thing to do when no one is watching • Be kind to yourself and others • Speak up when something feels wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move around learning spaces appropriately • Stay in your learning spaces • Follow ICT Agreement when using a device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move carefully • Line up with your class and wait patiently • Stay to the left, look to the front • Enter play spaces when duty teacher arrives • Walk between spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek an adults help straight away when needed • Use equipment safely and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions • Be aware of others' personal space
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show good manners by acting and speaking respectfully • Value personal and school environment • Listen when others are speaking • Appreciate others ideas • Be a role model for younger students • Wear your uniform with pride • Consider the privacy and personal space of others • Accept feedback and decisions positively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain attention by raising your hand • Allow others to participate in learning • Work cooperatively and allow others to contribute • Treat devices with care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk and wait quietly • Line up with your class and wait patiently • Stop your game when the bell goes • Be on time • Hold equipment still • Calm body, calm voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put food and rubbish in your lunchbox or bin • Be thoughtful of others and their space with your games • Look after school property and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to and from Gatherings respectfully • Listen when others are speaking • Calm body • Move silently during transitions

Key Dates

	Parent/Teacher Interviews - Tues 20 Feb & Wed 21 Feb
	Swimming Carnival - Friday 1 March
	Mother's Day Breakfast - Tuesday 7 May
	Cross Country Carnival - Thursday 9 May
	School Silent Disco - 12 May
	Father's Day - 30 August
	Athletics Carnival - Thursday 12 September
	Grandparent's / Grandfriend's Day - 25 October

Important Dates

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

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

Warm regards

Rachel Kelly
Principal

Calendar of Events	
Wednesday 7 Feb	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm - 4.00pm
Monday 12 Feb	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday 13 Feb	Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day
Wednesday 14 Feb	Welcome/Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am
Wednesday 14 Feb	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday 14 Feb	Canteen orders due by 9.30pm
Thursday 15 Feb	Canteen Day
Friday 16 Feb	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am - 10.30am
Tuesday 20 Feb	Grades 5 & 6 Class Mass 11.50am
Tuesday 20 Feb	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 21 Feb	Canteen orders due by 9.30pm
Wednesday 21 Feb	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm - 4.00pm
