
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 4.23

Friday 17 March 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Community Members

Students becoming "the best of themselves"

In her insightful publication, "Between the Dark and the Daylight – Embracing the Contradictions of Life", Joan Chittister explores the role of "failure in success" and "the success of failure". In her explanation, she emphasises the following:

- *"life is not about winning. It is about trying, about participating, about striving, about becoming the best we can be, not the best by someone else's measure."*
- *"We are NOT born to win, we are born to grow, to develop, to become the best of ourselves" (p57)*

It is the spirit of growth, encapsulated in these chosen quotes, that students must embrace as they critically reflect on their level of achievement during first term, and prepare for their forthcoming Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. They must gain a clear understanding of what they can do, what they cannot do **YET** and, more importantly, what they must do in order to progress in their learning.

All students have the potential and the opportunity to progress in their learning and, as their parent and teacher educators, we have an obligation to operate out of a shared mindset reflecting this reality. It is imperative to their success in learning that we relate to them out of a growth mindset. A mindset which is enabling of learning. **A mindset which does not collude with low expectations and does not "dumb down" their learning.**

Now is the time for students to engage in honest reflection about progress in their learning; plan for improvement and commit to doing the "little things" each day that lead to growth in learning. "Little things" like committing to a daily routine of homework and study and sticking with it; limiting "leisure time" spent in front of a screen; getting adequate exercise and sleep; enjoying the "outdoors"; removing technology from bedrooms and forgoing the use of technology 1-2 hours before bedtime and including the completion of Mathematics exercises, reading and non-fiction writing, as part of their DAILY homework routine.

Our shared role as their educators (parents and teachers), is to seize the opportunity now to encourage, guide and support them to take greater responsibility for their learning. **It is their learning and we must not, and cannot, do it for them.**

Now is NOT a time for blame or recriminations, but rather a time to learn, a time for students to reflect on and discuss how they got to this point and what they need to do in order to continue to move forward in their learning.

Students making a commitment to improvement in their learning is a critical first step in becoming "the best of themselves" in learning, as it is in life.

Blessings

Larry Keating
Principal



BURKE
Sister Agnes
(formerly Sister Mary Michael of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus)

Born 4 February 1931
Died 6th March, 2023, at
Southern Cross Mawson Retirement Community, Caves Beach,
in her 92nd year,
the 71st year of religious profession.

We give thanks for the life of Sr Agnes Burke, a dearly beloved, precious and faithful member of the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar. Sr Agnes was a former member of St Mary's Gateshead community between 1972-1973.

Sr Agnes served as a Secondary School Teacher and Principal at Lochinvar (2), The Junction, St Mary's Gateshead, Shortland, Clifton Gardens and Summer Hill. She was highly respected as a Teacher, Principal and Scholar. She lectured at both the Catholic College of Education and the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. On retiring, she assisted at Australian Catholic University in a supervisory capacity.

It was a privilege to be present at her Funeral Mass and join with her fellow Sisters and family members in the celebration of her life of love and service given so generously and caringly to those entrusted to her.

**Go, therefore,
make disciples of all the
nations;
and teach them to observe
all the commands
I gave you.**



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – LEARNING & TEACHING



17 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find in Compass the Interim Report for your child relating to their first term of Year 7 - 11. The Interim Report is not a full academic report, this will be issued following the completion of Semester One. The purpose of this report is to provide parents and carers with meaningful and timely feedback regarding their child's commencement of the 2023 academic year.

Students in Years 7 - 11 have been assessed on their learning attributes not the academic results attained to date. These simple criteria have been applied, are self-explanatory and aim to give parents and carers a basic overview of their child's progress and the manner in which they have settled into their learning for 2023 here at St Mary's.

SMCCG Approaches to Learning - Being a safe, respectful learner
Independently motivated to learn
Is prepared with personal equipment
Demonstrates on task behaviour
Demonstrates persistence and initiative
Reflects on and employs feedback
Listens Respectfully
Respects the learning environment – teacher, students, space & resources

This report can be a basis of conversation with the student's teachers and, depending on trends identified, could be the source of intervention that leads to greater level of support being offered.

Bookings for Year 7 – 11 Parent/Student/Teacher (PST) Conferences will be available via Compass from **Friday 17 March** evening and you are encouraged to take this opportunity to meet with your child and their teachers. **The SPT Conferences will be held over two days:**

- **Thursday 30th March 3.30pm – 7.00pm**
- **Friday 31st March 8.00am – 2.00pm in The Josephite Centre and adjacent rooms.**

Students will be informed that they are expected to lead this conversation and they will be provided with a series of questions to guide this discussion. The guiding questions are:

- What am I learning?
- Why am I learning this?
- How am I doing?
- How do I know?
- How can I improve?
- Where can I go for help?



Continued ...

We trust that the information contained within the report is found to be useful and that the meeting with teachers proves to be very beneficial for your child. The College remains committed to the strong partnerships between school and home and we welcome your feedback and questions relating to this Interim Report and the transition to the 2023 school year.

Finally, please note that on **Friday 31st March classes for our Year 12 students will continue** as per the timetable. **Year 7-11 students will only attend school on this day at the time of their conferences.** There will be no supervision provided to 7-11 students on this day.

Your sincerely

Cathy O'Gorman
Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

The term “conference” is used in Compass to refer to Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews.

We will be using Compass to book Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews.

To book via a computer/laptop:

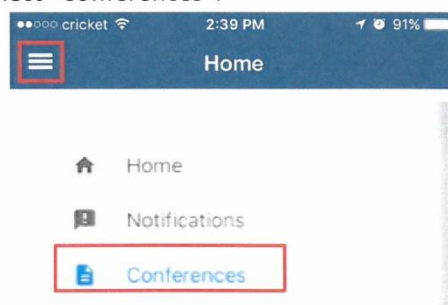
1. Login to Compass using your parent login details. Please contact the school office if you require assistance.
2. A link will appear on your Compass home page when the booking cycle is open.
3. After the booking cycle is closed the link will disappear, as an alternative and to view your bookings, you can still access the booking system through the Community Icon under “Conferences”.



4. Instructions on how to book are provided once you open the booking system.

To book via a mobile device/iPad:

1. Login in through the Compass app.
2. Click the three horizontal bar icon in the top left corner, highlighted in red in the image below. Then select “Conferences”.



3. From here you will be able to select the booking cycle.
4. Select the student you wish to book for if you have multiple children.
5. Select the teacher with whom you wish to book an interview time and you will see the available booking times. Click confirm booking.
6. To see all of your bookings click the little book icon at the top right, highlighted in red in the image below. This will take you to the 'My Bookings' screen where you can see the times and details for all of the bookings that you've made for this conference cycle. If you need to cancel a booking you can do so by clicking it from the list and selecting the 'Remove Booking' button.



Creative Arts & Languages Faculty

On the 2nd of March, while the rest of the school was at Charlestown Pool, Our Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts classes were in Sydney soaking up inspiration at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Our students had the opportunity to explore the new contemporary art space in the North Building, before hitting up ArtExpress and the other galleries in the South Building. Despite an early start and a late ending, our students really embraced the opportunity.

Thank you to the families who supported this amazing educational opportunity and to the students who represented our school so well.

Morag Aitchison

Leader of Learning – Creative Arts & Languages



English Faculty

Year 12 Advanced English out on the town!



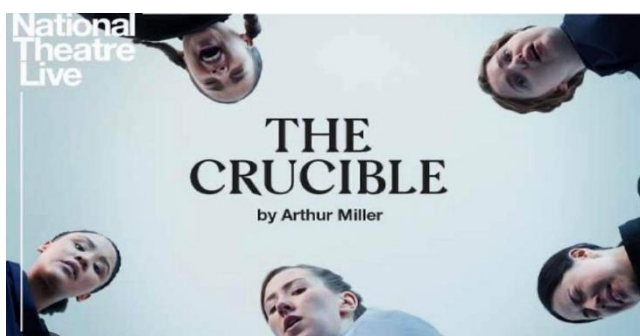
It was a busy week of theatre-going for our Year 12 Advanced English team last week. We travelled by coach to Surry Hills to watch a powerful live performance of Shakespeare's tragedy 'Richard III' by Sport for Jove. It was amazing to see the conversation of two classes as they witnessed the incredible skill and confronting tale of a much-maligned king. It was 39 degrees in a sweltering old 1880's church building and the cast were dressed in full medieval costume. The production was site specific, and the world of prophecy, curses, fate, predestination, and deceit was conjured by an impressive cast of the best storytellers. The week-long season was fully sold out and we were blessed to get tickets.



Later in the week a smaller gathering of the cohort made their way into the Civic Playhouse, weaving through the petrol-heads who seemed to be en masse on Newcastle Friday evening. We viewed The National Theatre Production of 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller. The play is set in Salem in 1692 and traces a story of the witch hunts and trials that followed; a time that no audience member would want to live in. The production made understanding the play much easier and completed a dramatic week of the arts and culture for Year 12 Advanced English.

The students were a joy to spend time with and represented our college beautifully on each occasion.

Elisa Milajew and Emma Greal
Advanced English Teachers



HSIE Faculty – Year 11 Ancient History

Year 11 Ancient History students completed their first Assessment Task recently under the guidance of Ms Andrews. Researching an allocated archaeological site, students were 'pioneers' investigating, not exactly the historical context of the site, but how the site was found, by whom and the technologies that has assisted in this process. They were to find evidence to analyse and discuss how the evidence lead to today's interpretations of the site which establishes its significance in the modern world. We hope you enjoy these images of our resident "academics"!



Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

In Week 10, students in Year 7 will complete the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

This test measures students' reasoning abilities in three areas:

- Verbal
- Quantitative
- Nonverbal

The verbal battery measures how well the student is able to learn and solve problems related to words. The quantitative battery measures your child's ability to apply numerical concepts. The nonverbal battery assesses skills in using figures and pictures to solve problems.

Like any standardised test, the CogAT measures only some of your child's skills, and the results represent ability on the day the test was given. Therefore, these scores form one point of reference to measure a student's potential. Test scores should never be used alone to make decisions about services or supports, but they can be helpful when interpreted in conjunction with other information and metrics. In the Maitland – Newcastle Catholic Schools Diocese, CogAT results are used as one of several measures to inform classroom differentiation, supports, enrichments, and extensions.

If you have questions, please contact Louise Henderson, Gifted Education Mentor at louise.henderson@mn.catholic.edu.au ; or the Gifted Education Officers, Maree Karaka maree.karaka@mn.catholic.edu.au or Cathy Curk catherine.curk@mn.catholic.edu.au

Louise Henderson
Gifted Education Mentor

Easter Mass Times

Boolaroo-Warners Bay Parish

Holy Thursday (Warners Bay)

Good Friday (Warners Bay)

Easter Saturday (Warners Bay)

Easter Sunday (Warners Bay)

7.00pm - Mass & Washing of Feet

10.00am - Stations of the Cross

3.00pm - Service with veneration of the cross

6.30pm - Vigil Mass with the service of Light and Blessing the fire

8.00am (Warners Bay); 10.00am(Boolaroo); 6.00pm (Warners Bay)



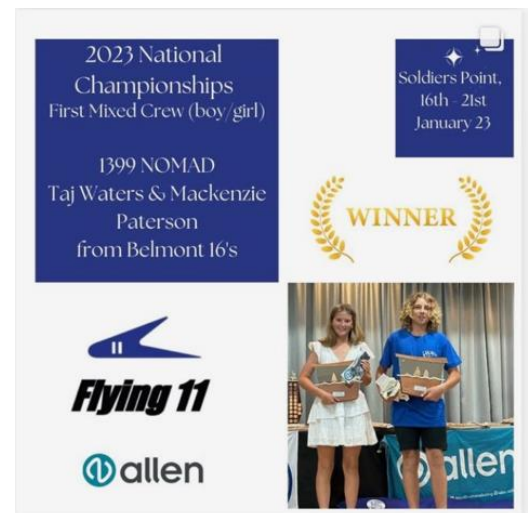
DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OR SERVICE	CHURCH	
Friday	31 March 2023	5:00PM	Sacrament of Penance for Lent	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Saturday	1 April 2023	6:00PM	Palm (Passion) Vigil	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Sunday	2 April 2023	7:30AM	Palm (Passion) Sunday	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		9:00AM	Palm (Passion) Sunday	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Monday	3 April 2023	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Tuesday	4 April 2023	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		7:00PM	Chrism Mass	Sacred Heart Cathedral	HAMILTON
Wednesday	5 April 2023	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Thursday	6 April 2023	7:00PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
Friday	7 April 2023	10:00AM	Way of the Cross	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		3:00PM	Friday of the Passion of the Lord	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Saturday	8 April 2023	9:30AM	Morning Prayer	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		6:00PM	Mass - Easter Vigil	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Sunday	9 April 2023	7:30AM	Mass - Easter Sunday	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
		9:00AM	Mass - Easter Sunday	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Mackenzie Paterson – Year 8

In January, a fleet of 40 boats from around Australia competed in the 2023 Flying 11 Championships at Soldiers Point. All were vying for the winner's trophy, but Year 8 student **Mackenzie Paterson** was the victor and along with her teammate, Taj Waters, took out the title of 2023 National Championships First Mixed Crew.

Congratulations Mackenzie, we are all so very proud of your dedication and achievement!



Dean Larson – Year 12 2020

Dean Larson was recently offered his first senior A-league contract with the Central Coast Mariners in the A-league under coach Nick Montgomery.

Dean's father contacted St Mary's to let us know that he has been included in the team that is playing against Macarthur Bulls on Saturday afternoon at 5.00 pm, and they are extremely hopeful that he will start, if not he will start off the bench.

We wish him the very best of luck on his new football journey.



Jonah Pezet – Year 12 2020

"A Storm youngster with shades of rugby league Immortal Andrew Johns is set to make his NRL debut after being named in Melbourne's 17 to meet the Gold Coast Titans on Saturday afternoon.

Twenty-year-old halfback **Jonah Pezet** has been named in Melbourne's No.14 jumper for the club's third-round clash. The call-up followed a man-of-the-match performance in last year's under-19 State of Origin clash at Leichhardt Oval, in which the Hunter product chalked up four try assists to lead New South Wales to a 32-4 victory."



Article taken from wwos.nine.com.au

Congratulations to each of our students – past and present – for their wonderful, well-deserved, achievements.

Aboriginal Education

Dancing with Hilary

Well done to the Aboriginal students in Year 7 and 8 who participated in a dance session with Wonnorua woman, Hilary Jonas last week. Students were joined by students from St Paul's. Gateshead. Hilary first taught all the students a 'Cleansing Dance'. The boys then learnt a 'Hunting Dance' and the girls a 'Gathering Dance'. Students will be offered a second session next week.



Dancing with Levi

Apologies for the postponement of the Year 10 Culture and Dance session with Levi Briggs this week. We are now looking at presenting this on 28 March.

Personal Learning Plans

All families of students who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are invited to participate in a goal setting meeting for their son or daughter.

These introductory meetings will take between 20-30 mins and will involve the student, family member or members, one classroom teacher and myself. Please contact school to arrange a time to meet next week.

Paul McKay

Aboriginal Education Teacher

ENROLMENTS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR:

YEAR 7 to YEAR 12 (2024)

Enrolment Packs are available from

St Mary's Reception or can be downloaded from the College website:

<https://www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information/>

Completed enrolment packs, with supporting documentation, are being accepted up to Thursday 6 April 2023



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, GATESHEAD 2024 (YEAR 7) ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION TIMELINE

TERM 1 – 2023	
Tuesday 14 March 2023	Information Evening for prospective parents of Year 7 (2024) students. Venue: The Josephite Centre (Hall) Time: 7.00pm Please register your attendance with Reception on 4944 4800 or admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au
Thursday 6 April 2023	Completed Enrolment Applications due at St Mary's Reception. ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.
TERM 2 – 2023	
Week 2 – Monday 1 to Thursday 4 May	Enrichment Day for Year 6 students from Catholic and Government Schools Venue: The Josephite Centre (Hall) Time: 9.00am to 3.00pm – <i>Time slots for individual schools will be advised</i> Note: Students to wear their formal school uniform (not sport uniform)
Wednesday 17 May 2023 Catholic Schools Week	OPEN DAY Grandparents Liturgy and morning tea: 9.00-10.17am Tour Times: 10.17-11.34am; 4.00-5.00pm; 5.00-6.00pm
Friday 2 June 2023	The outcome of Applications for Enrolment notified to parents by mail. The notification will outline the steps in the Induction process for Year 7 (2024)
Friday 16 June 2023	Acceptance of offer of placement to be notified to St Mary's Reception together with Enrolment Fee of \$100 (non-refundable) payable to Finance Office either in person or by telephone – 4944 4804. Offers of placement NOT received by this date will be withdrawn and reallocated to applicants on our priority list.
Friday 23 June 2023	Correspondence outlining next steps enclosing required documentation posted to Year 7 (2024) families to be returned by Friday 21 July 2023
TERM 3 - 2023	
Friday 21 July 2023	Required enrolment documentation returned to St Mary's by 21 July 2023
Wednesday 19 July to Friday 28 July 2023	Booking period for interviews – please call Reception (4944 4800) to arrange your interview time. Please indicate if you wish to discuss Learning Support matters.
Monday 31 July to Monday 14 August 2023	Parent/Student Interviews (Face to Face) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews are face to face. Learning Support interviews are by appointment.
TERM 4 - 2023	
Wednesday 22 November 2023	Year 7 (2024) Orientation Day for ALL students at 9.00am – gather at The Josephite Centre (Hall) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are required to wear their Primary school SPORT uniform Students to be collected at 12.30pm Parent Orientation Information Session – 7.00pm – The Josephite Centre (Hall)



FOR THE ATTENTION OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Last year was a shocking one for young driver accidents. RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program) is a professionally developed and maintained road safety initiative that delivers an integrated road safety education program to young people that does not come from driving lessons, books or classroom.

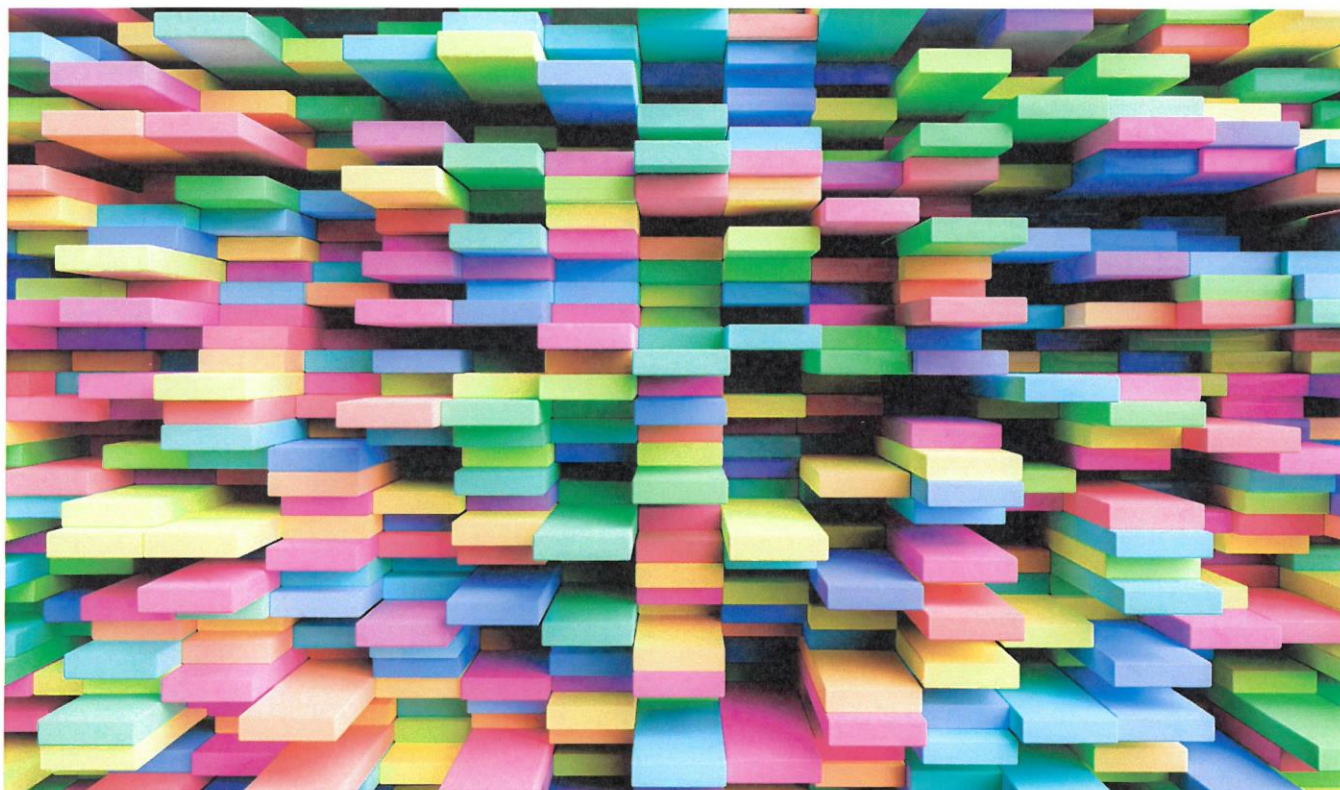
The Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise along with Road Safety Education intends running the RYDA program for Year 11 students again this year. The first sessions are planned to be held 20th to 23rd March again at the Broadmeadow Showground precinct. A second week will be arranged for later in the year. The one-day program costs \$15 per student and up to 180 students can be accommodated each day.

If you would like any further information or bookings please contact me, Meredith How or RYDA co-ordinator, Keith Finnie, contact details are:

Meredith How: phone on 0498 970 140, by email at howmeredith@gmail.com

Keith Finnie: phone on 0417 268 818 or email at keithfinnie49@gmail.com

HUNTER REGIONAL NSW DA VINCI DECATHLON 2023



CHAOS

"In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity" Sun Tzu

Decathlon resources
www.davincidecathlon.com

Further details will be published on Compass

Tuesday 9 May 2023
Years 7 and 8

Wednesday 10 May 2023
Years 9 and 10

Thursday 11 May 2023
Years 5 and 6

Proudly hosting by Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College




EASTER IS A SYMBOL OF HOPE,
RENEWAL AND NEW LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
FREE

HAPPY EASTER HIGH TEA

EASTER EGG
HUNT FOR THE
KIDS



15 APRIL | 10:30am

MACKILLOP PARISH PASTORAL
FUNCTION ROOM, 7 MILSON ST
CHARLESTOWN

PLEASE RSVP BY 5 APRIL
TICKETS ARE FREE
4943 4153



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NEW SOUTH WALES



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AT \$160!**



- Free Lunch
- Family Fun
- Fishing Skills



SUNDAY MARCH 26
Catherine Hill Bay
9.30am to 3.30pm

LEARN MORE & REGISTER NOW
bit.ly/GoneFishing-LakeMacquarie



Term 1 Calendar 2023	
Week 9 (A Week)	
Mon 20 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmony Week – 20.03.23 to 26.03.23 • Year 10 Male and Female PPEP Talks • NAPLAN – Years 7 & 9
Tues 21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmony Day • College Assembly • NAPLAN Catch-Ups until Thursday 23 March
Fri 24 March	Athletics Carnival - Glendale
Week 10 (B Week)	
Sun 26 March	"The Way of the Cross" – St Joseph's Kilaben Bay
Mon 27 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Court excursion – Year 12 • "I Believe" program • Year 10 Minimum Standards Testing
Tues 28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Assemblies • Landcare • Year 10 Culture Workshop with Levi Briggs • Year 7 and selected Year 8 COGAT (Periods 1 & 2) • Year 10 Minimum Standards Testing
Wed 29 March	Year 10 separate PP&E Talk
Thurs 30 March	Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 - 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Fri 31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 – No classes* • *Year 12 classes as per timetable • Newsletter 5.23
Week 11 – (A Week)	
Mon 3 April	Year 10 Luna Park excursion
Tues 4 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Assembly • The Tut Roadshow • Newcastle and Hunter Combined Schools ANZAC Service
Wed 5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Studies Museum excursion • Knights Knock Out U/14's
Thurs 6 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 6 Food Tech, Hospitality and Textiles Tour • Holy Thursday • Feast Day Celebrations – Liturgy, Stalls, Colour Run • Final Day for Acceptance of Year 7 (2024) Enrolment Applications
Fri 7 April	Good Friday – Public Holiday
Sun 9 April	Easter Sunday
Term 2 Calendar 2023	
Week 1 – Term 2 (A Week)	
Mon 24 April	Term 2 commences ANZAC Day Ceremony – Noon
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Fri 28 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter 6.23 • Year 8 Formation Day • Dramafest - UON