



Welcome to our Catholic schools in the North-West of Adelaide

Our schools have a long tradition of providing high quality, affordable education to generations of students, based on Christian values and moral formation. We welcome students from all faiths and cultural backgrounds and build coherence and connection by working closely with parents in the education of their children.

Each Catholic school nurtures the faith, learning and wellbeing of every child. Students learn to accept God's grace and presence in their lives and our Catholic vision and values invite students to be advocates of harmony, justice and mercy in their school, family and community.

Catholic schools emphasise that EVERY child matters and value each child as a capable, competent learner. Our teachers are committed to high expectations and learning outcomes that support deep engagement and high achievement for each student and joyfully celebrate successes and achievements.

Every Catholic school has a strong commitment to eco –sustainability in caring for God's earth and minimising harm to the environment, through learning how to care for our environment, reduce waste and protect life.

Uniquely linked to South Australia's development and growth through industry and immigration, our local schools celebrate diversity and benefit from unity. We work together to mutually benefit our students and families, delivering a quality Catholic education accessible to, and inclusive of, all here in the north-western suburbs. Engagement with parents in home-school relationships is central to our success.

Cooperative approaches between our schools create innovative partnerships. These partnerships enhance unique learning opportunities within supportive and welcoming communities to promote student excellence.

Be part of our strong, vibrant tradition, and contact a Catholic school today to experience the joy, vision and mission of an education system deeply committed to a socially just and dignified community where every child is nurtured and can flourish.

Introduction

Unity Newsletter

This is the first edition of the Catholic North Western Community of Schools Newsletter 'Unity'.

Unity is about connecting our communities, celebrating our developments/ideas and sharing our work living, teaching and celebrating the message of Jesus in a contemporary context.

We aim to produce 3 editions of Unity each year.

This edition of Unity looks at:

- * Information about Catholic Education and where CNWC is placed within it.
- * Information about CNWC and what we are trying to achieve together
- * Information about activities at our member schools
- * Year 7 on The Move
- * Mt Carmel College 'School Musical'
- * Science, Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) initiatives
- * Focus Principal': Mary Hemmings, Whitefriars School

Enjoy reading about the innovation and cutting edge practices happening in our CNWC schools

For school related matters please contact your local Principal

*Please direct general enquiries to
Paul Cahalan, Community Strategic Manager
m: 0447 441 500 p: 08 8449 6300 e: pcahalan@dominican.catholic.edu.au*

About the Catholic North Western Community Schools

About The Catholic North Western Community of Schools

The Catholic North Western Community of Schools (CNWC) consists of Dominican, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Joseph's, Whitefriars', St Patrick's, Our Lady of The Visitation, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, and St Margaret Mary's primary schools as well as Mt Carmel College, our secondary school.

Grounded in an unwavering commitment to living, teaching and celebrating the message of Jesus in a contemporary context, the CNWC is open to all students, regardless of background or circumstance.

We represent a future-focussed approach to the provision of a high-quality, relevant and sustainable education for our students.

By working in a collaborative manner, we are able to ensure our students receive the highest quality education and care at an affordable price.

Students enrolled in our schools have access to clear learning pathways, improved access to specialist staff, specialist support programs and cutting edge teaching practice. In the CNWC, teachers from all our schools meet together regularly to share good practice, ideas and resources with each other. Research has shown this practice improves student learning outcomes

The CNWC model enhances our ability to meet the spiritual, social/emotional, physical and academic needs of learners and their families. We understand that optimising these elements has a positive impact on the wellbeing and learning of our students.

The CNWC model enhances our ability to utilize the experience and skill of our staff across all our schools. As this vision develops, CNWC will continue to work at being sustainable through avoiding duplication of effort and resources across our schoolsfreeing these up to be better aligned to meeting student need. This will enable costs for families to be kept to a minimum.

The CNWC represents an exciting and innovative pathway for all local students and families.

Dominican School

At Dominican School, we believe relationships are at the heart of good teaching and learning. Together, in partnership with families, we build positive and strong relationships through a rich culture of learning, faith and community building. We welcome families from all faiths and cultural backgrounds and build coherence and connection by working closely with parents in the education of their children. We value and celebrate experiences that bring our community together, such as **Breakfast Club, Outreach Activities, Parent Workshops, Coffee Mornings with our Wellbeing Coordinator, Children's University, Liturgies, Class Masses, Social Justice Groups, Playgroup, Assemblies, Sports events, Community Prayer, VIP Days, Harmony Days and more.**

Our most recent community event involved a coming together of generations of fathers, grandfathers and important men in our students' lives. Students invited all dads to join them in sharing a barbecue breakfast together, cooked by our amazing staff, parents and friends. The morning proved to be a huge success with over 180 dads, grandads, uncles and brothers sharing stories over a communal breakfast. This is just one example of the many events at Dominican where the community and children come together to experience a sense of belonging, togetherness and inclusivity.

*....well done to all concerned to all concerned for the Father's Day breakfast this morning. What a magnificent turn out and it was one of the best gatherings of its' kind at Dominican. I was a very proud Dominican School Chairman. **Jarrod Meers***

*....Great community school that is very supportive of the individual needs of children. **Tracy Riddiford***



Year 7 On The Move



Excitement is building as we get closer to 2019 when students in Catholic schools will study Year 7 in a secondary school. Lots of planning and preparation have already occurred. Many Year 4 and 5 parents have attended information sessions about how primary schools and secondary schools are preparing for the change. In the Catholic North Western Community, staff from the primary schools and Mount Carmel College meet regularly to share ideas and plan the preparation of students for the change. Special arrangements will be made in 2018 so that Year 6 and Year 7 students are all senior students in their primary school and they will have opportunities for leadership, special events and graduation rites of passage. In some cases the ceremonies and celebrations will be celebrated with both year levels together and for other occasions there might be separate year level events.

In secondary school, new buildings and complete upgrades of buildings are occurring to accommodate the influx of Year 7 students. Year 7 students will have access to all of the secondary school specialist facilities such as Science Labs, Technology Centres, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Labs, Visual and Performing Arts, Music Centres, Sport and PE facilities. The Australian Curriculum is followed by all primary and secondary schools, so Year 7 in secondary school will be a smooth transition from Year 6 in terms of familiarity with the skills and content as well as homework expectations.

This is an exciting time as Catholic schools in South Australia fall into line with every other state of Australia to provide specialist teachers and facilities for Year 7 students in a secondary setting.

Mount Carmel College

High School Musical

The Mount Carmel College biennial musical production was the ever-popular Disney love story “High School Musical”. Our students performed to packed houses in the two matinee shows and an evening performance in Scott Theatre at Adelaide University. Over 1,000 students from our Catholic North Western Community primary schools attended the matinee shows and they clapped and cheered so enthusiastically and made immediate stars of the Mount Carmel College student actors.

The students had spent time in the holidays as well as every Monday after school since the start of the year preparing and honing their acting, singing and dancing skills. It is always delightful to see how dedicated our students are and collectively, how supportive they are of each other. Special mention to our extremely talented student choreographers, Antonia Macadam and Nicola Fogarty. These two star dancers crafted amazing routines and coached the 40+ ensemble to make them look so sharp and with such beautiful dance moves. Special congratulations to Mrs Lisa Bartemucci (Director), Mr Pedro Ferreira (Music Director) and Miss Jodi Pomazak (Artistic Designer).

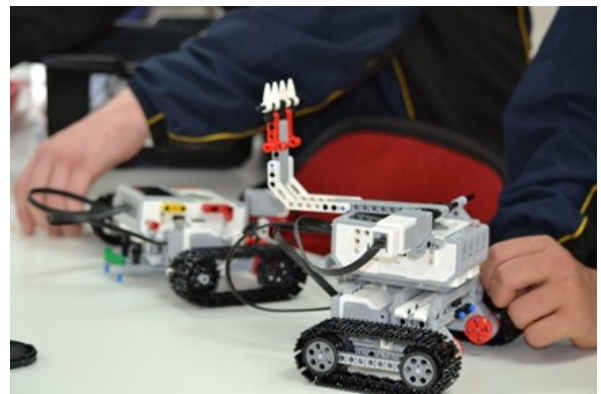
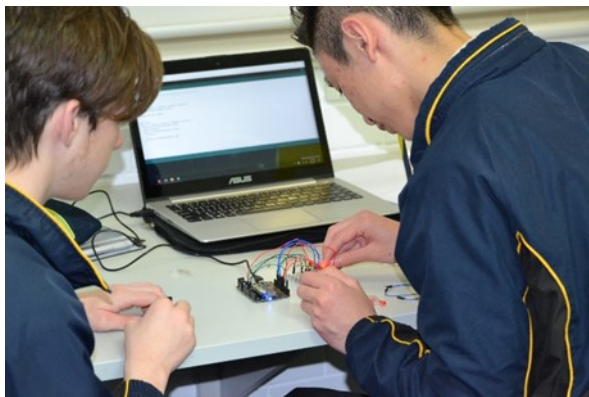
The experience of being involved in a whole school production is invaluable and the memories made are just as invaluable. The Musical is just one example of the many curriculum extension activities available to students of Mount Carmel College.



Mount Carmel College – STEM Projects

This year Mount Carmel College has entered the STEMIE17 challenge. STEMIE17 stands for Science Technology Engineering Maths Innovation Experience 2017. This is an invitation only program in which a number of schools from around the state engage in a range of activities based on a theme.

This year the students are working on 4 projects associated with setting up a fictitious town in country South Australia – the town to be named Delores. The town will be linked by a high-speed rail line not only to Adelaide but also to Melbourne and Sydney. The train will travel up to 500 km/h which will make access to the new city quick and easy. We have been involved in similar challenges over the past few years, however this is the first time we have been able to embed the tasks into a range of Year 10 and 11 subjects. There are over 40 students who are involved in these projects. Six of our students will be chosen to represent Mount Carmel College at a Regional Showcase in late October. The school that comes out on top within our region will then move on to the State Final in November.



Walk a Mile in my Boots

Our Lady Queen of Peace students joyfully participated in a walk-a-thon initiative for Homelessness Awareness. Donations were collected for the Hutt Street Homeless Centre. Students were involved in learning more about the plight of homeless people in Adelaide and how small donations can make a huge difference to those struggling with day to day living. The students' goal was to raise enough money to provide 200 meals. This was easily achieved by the generosity of our school community, which enabled further support in providing shower and laundry service for three families for a month, and providing 36 hot lunches which was 'shouted' by Our Lady Queen of Peace staff.



Our students' responses below reflect their understanding of how they can make a difference.

Max (Reception student): *I really felt happy and excited walking around with all the kids with the music loud. I didn't know if we were really doing this, everyone walking and dancing with boots on!*

William (Year 7 Student): *It was a good example to show the little kids how we can all be good role models in our community.*

Tylah (Year 6 Student): *It was a lot of fun and knowing that all the money raised is going to help others is a great feeling.*

Mount Carmel Parish School



Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish School

We are located in the north western suburbs of Adelaide. We have a proud history as a co-educational primary school, beginning in Pennington in 1909.

We are committed to connecting with all our families and making a difference to the lives of those in our community. We achieve these goals informed by our Josephite tradition/support, the Carmelite priests who were part of our parish, and many past families and staff.

Our school has a strong focus on the development of skills and knowledge that will enable students to engage with their world and support life-long learning.

Student wellbeing is supported by a range of programs under the broad umbrella of KidsMatter.

Student's academic development is assisted by a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Individual student priorities are identified through reflection on a range of student data and are responded to using a diversity of research-informed practices.

St Margaret Mary's School

St Margaret Mary's School has always been committed to finding ways to live out the Jospehite motto of the school, 'In all things Charity'. This has taken the form of a strong social outreach program, supported across the school and by the school community, who are always prepared to give in different ways to those less fortunate.

This winter, classes across the whole school supported the work of the Moore Street Centre in providing soup for those who are in need in Adelaide. Each student from the classes involved brought in a vegetable to use for the soup, which they then prepared and cooked with the help of their teachers and many generous parent volunteers.

It was wonderful to hear the conversations children had after they had learned about the work of Moore Street Help Centre and how they were supporting this work in a real and practical way,

"If people don't eat they get weak...we made soup to help," said pre-school student Prayag.

"Some people don't have heating or warm food so we can bring them soup to help," added Mac, a Year 5 student.

This has been a very simple, yet extremely successful initiative in the school community that has seen over 140 litres of soup made and delivered to Moore Street Centre.



Our Lady of the Visitation School

Our Lady of The Visitation School is a Preschool to Year 7 Catholic primary school, situated on the Le Fevre Peninsula. We offer a pathway from Preschool to year 7 that enables all students to develop in a creative, dynamic and progressive environment where learning prepares children for the world of today.

Literacy and numeracy, as well as student wellbeing are a strong focus at Our Lady of The Visitation. We teach and nurture all students in how to be responsible for their learning, actions and relationships. We are committed to working in partnership with parents, families and the community. At Our Lady of The Visitation, we offer a diverse range of extra-curricular learning activities as well as our specialist programs that include music, Italian, physical education and specialist sports.

You are welcome to visit our school and discover more.

St Patricks School

St Patrick's is a coeducational Catholic primary school for students from Reception to Year 7 in the Josephite tradition and is part of the Croydon Park Parish. St Patrick's School is a multicultural school with around 220 students. It has a strong literacy, numeracy and ICT focus, with teachers undertaking professional learning in these areas.

Students have the opportunity to have weekly specialist lessons in music/drama, physical education and also can choose to study Italian or Vietnamese.

St Patricks has two playgroup sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30-11.30am. Students can also choose to be part of after school sport, instrumental music lessons and choir.

We have a Special Education Unit that enables students to learn in a special class as well as the mainstream class.

St Patrick's offers both before and after school care.

St Joseph's School

A three-day leadership program called the Journey to Emmaus is facilitated for Year 7 students from St Patrick's and St Joseph's Ottoway and draws inspiration from a Gospel Story (Luke 24:13-35). A similar program is also conducted at St Margaret Mary's and Whitefriars.

The program provides opportunities for the students to develop their understanding of leadership and how they can use their knowledge and creative energy to provide service in the school and wider community. Guest speakers Jayne Short from Vinnies and Fr Marek from Ottoway Parish, have spoken about what inspires them to help others. The students have visited the Vinnie's shelter in Whitmore Square and heard Tony Roach talk to them about what services are in the city to help people in great need.

The students have been motivated to fund raise and to collect goods and next term we will conclude the program with day of action. This will include cooking muffins and soups which will be delivered to the shelters. Other actions have included a baby clothes drive for the children in a South American orphanage supported by Fr Marek and a Mission's Day to collect funds for various Catholic Charities. Another highlight of this program was a tour of the St Francis Xavier's Cathedral which included a wonderful demonstration on the pipe organ.

Whitefriars School Community

Whitefriars School Community...a great Community in which to Learn and Grow!

Mary Hemmings: Feature Principal.....

I have been fortunate to have been a part of Whitefriars School community twice: as a teacher and Religious Education Co-ordinator in the 1990s, and as a Principal since 2008.

I loved being a teacher as it enabled me to work with children and watch them grow as young people who had much to give. I hope that I was able to touch hearts and provide valuable learning opportunities for all whom I had the privilege of teaching (some of whom are now parents at the school!)

As a Principal I love the opportunity of working with all in the community. Making people feel welcome and valued is important to me, be they students or parents, staff or visitors, because when people feel valued they are empowered to give of themselves. I especially enjoy visiting classes where I can 'see' a love of learning developing in children as they engage in the myriad of activities that take place in a school day.

I greatly value our school motto "*In All Things Kindness*" as it provides a simple yet powerful inspiration for us to continually invite children to embrace and live by. Children can readily see that 'living it' can make such a difference to ourselves, others and our environment.

At the end of this year I will conclude 40 years of working in Catholic education, nearly 16 of which I will have spent in the Whitefriars School community. I have been truly blessed to share in the lives of many families in this time and have been enriched by the diversity of cultures, the goodness of people and the wealth of opportunities that have been a part of my time here. I hope that Whitefriars continues to be a place where God's love and the spirit of Mary MacKillop is experienced by all.



Mary Hemmings

Whitefriars School Events

Friday before Fathers' Day at Whitefriars School dawned clear and sunny. Staff and some mums arrived early to set up ready to cook bacon and egg muffins. Dads and children then began arriving. This was our first time of offering this hospitality to our Dads and it was great to see many who are only occasionally able join in activities at school. Providing the opportunity for Dads and children to share some time together was a delight to see. For two Dads who know each other through work scenarios, this was the first time they realized that their children attend the same school! Strong communities are so important in creating an environment in which children can grow and flourish. We next look forward to our Community Carols Night to further these community connections!