

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council

July 2022



SCHOOL AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

As Term 2 comes to a close, the TCSPC would like to recognise the efforts Parents, Principals, Teachers and other staff have taken during Terms 1 and 2 to ensure engagement between parents and the School/College as a whole has been maintained.

We are still seeing COVID affecting the way things are done (to a lesser degree thankfully), and we know that everyone is taking extra steps to ensure children in Catholic Schools are receiving the best education as possible. Ensuring engagement between Parents and Schools/Colleges is maintained and nurtured helps with this overall journey. Catholic Education Tasmania, led by Dr Gerard Gaskin, has also shown strong leadership and assistance and to Dr Gaskin and the whole CET team, we say thank you and acknowledge their efforts.

The TCSPC understands the role parents play in regards to school/parent engagement, and we have decided to introduce Parent Engagement Awards later in 2022. More details will be provided in the next newsletter, but a parent from each School/College will be recognised for their involvement and engagement.

Catholic Schools Parents Council (CSPA)

New Chair

National Parent Body CSPA has welcomed award winning journalist, author and media commentator Madonna King as their new chair. Madonna was voted in as chair at CSPA's annual general meeting in Sydney earlier this month. CSPA farewelled outgoing chair, Karl Rodrigues.

Madonna brings a wealth of expertise to her new role, having reported on education and politics over many years, as well as a thorough knowledge of the issues affecting families with children in Catholic schools.

"COVID, for example, and the legacy it continues to provide, presents ongoing and serious challenges, but so do many other issues.

"Our children's education has never been more important, and the home-school partnership plays a vital role in this.

**Term 2 Holidays: Monday 11 July to Friday 22 July.
Term 3: Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September.**

ATO - Tax, Super + You

New website/free resources

The ATO has launched a new Tax, Super + You education website with free resources to help improve financial literacy, teach the value of tax and super, and prepare secondary students for the workforce.

The new [website](#) includes hundreds of high-quality resources designed by teachers, for teachers. The resources are mapped to the Australian and state curriculums and involve real-world concepts. All content is available in online and printable formats once a user has registered for free.

While developed for teachers, Tax, Super + You also offers a parent toolkit, a student zone for self-directed learning, and a two-hour work-ready course to help young people know what they need to before they start work. It's now quicker and easier to find engaging content and activities and plan face-to-face or virtual lessons that are aligned to the curriculum.

"Preparing kids for their working life is really important," ATO assistant commissioner Kath Anderson said.

"That's why we've worked with teachers to develop resources that they can use to help young people develop a baseline understanding of tax and super, which will be of significant benefit when they enter the workforce."

For more information on Tax, Super + You [online](#).

Encourage Safe Digital Play over the School Holidays

Winter holidays can mean more time indoors and more [time online](#).

eSafety can help you manage the change in routine with fun activities like [Be an eSafe kid](#). Get your children reading along with the colourful characters to learn about positive behaviours and what to do if something goes wrong online.

You might also like to check out [The eSafety Guide](#) to learn about popular apps, games and social media. Some apps offer safety and privacy features such as [Messenger Kids](#) which allows parents to monitor their child's chat.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY



UPCOMING SURVEY:

Catholic School Parents Australia is keen to Hear from Parents and Carers with Children in Catholic Schools

In the weeks ahead, [Catholic School Parents Australia](#) (CSPA) will be working with state and territory Catholic parent bodies, including the TCSPC, school parents and friends groups, diocesan directors and principals on the rollout of a parent survey which will be available on the new [ENGAGE](#) website from 25 July.

The survey aims to capture parent perspectives on issues of concern that impact their children's health, wellbeing and learning, to help inform future federal government policy and the Catholic education community.

Feedback through this survey will also add to the bank of evidence on how parent engagement can enhance student learning and wellbeing. CSPA has partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) in relation to this work.

Catholic School Parents Australia, the national representative body for parents and carers with children and young people in Catholic schools, recently launched the [ENGAGE](#) social media platform. This new site is tailored to inform parents and carers about issues affecting Catholic schools across Australia and has a major focus on parent engagement in student learning and wellbeing.

Parents and educators can learn more about parent engagement through resources already developed by CSPA and available on the [Parent Engagement Toolkit website](#).

TCSPC SCHOOL GRANTS FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT

So far in 2022 the TCSPC have provided Grants to 13 School/Colleges totaling \$13500, to assist with School/Parent Engagement. The grants have been used for a multitude of purposes including Cyber Security Parent Information sessions, School/Parish/Parent initiatives, Pre-Kinder program, Reading Strategies, and helping with improving Resilience. The Grants program remains open for the remainder of the year. School Principals. Please contact don.rvan@achtas.org.au for further information.