Dear Families, Friends and Students,

Welcome to the brand new school year of 2015. I hope you have enjoyed a restful break from the school routine with your family. There is so much excitement about the start of school. There is an energy about welcome and reconnection. It's hopeful and optimistic. We look forward to another wonderful year with many opportunities for learning and growing. We hope you will feel comfortable and involved with your child’s learning throughout the year. We welcome your presence at school, encourage you to become active partners in the education process, and invite you to volunteer at the school whenever possible.

We had a fantastic first day with outstanding numbers at our P&F Coffee and Chat followed by our Welcome Assembly. Building and fostering a vibrant and positive community is one of our strategies to providing a meaningful education. We warmly welcome all of our 42 new families to the St Joseph’s school community. Particular acknowledgement to our Reception students as they embark on their first year of schooling. We are delighted that you have chosen St Joseph’s as your family school. We now begin the journey of a new year together.

Year Of The Family
This year, Bishop Greg and The Diocese of Port Pirie will be celebrating the Year Of The Family. We have decided to also embrace this idea as our school theme for 2015. We take pride in our commitment to foster a culture of togetherness, unity community and most of all family. This will work in well with our School Strategic Plan as well as our Relationships focus with KidsMatter.

Staff Formation:
On Monday and Tuesday last week, teaching staff of the four Riverland Catholic Schools combined to develop a question of inquiry around Literacy in the Australian Curriculum. There was a special focus on English. Julia and Marianne from the Catholic Education Office led us through a series of activities designed to assist teachers in developing strategies around the explicit teaching of literacy in the classroom. This is a long-term project and our staff will meet throughout the year to reflect on and refine what they have learned. I look forward to reporting on the outcomes of these meetings in future newsletters.

21st Century Learning:
The school is looking fantastic after the opening of our Outdoor Learning Space and some minor maintenance during the holidays. We take great pride in our fantastic facilities and the positive learning environments that have been created. The staff have been working hard to prepare their learning spaces ready for our excited students. We are committed to consolidating our “21st Century Learning” methods. Please share your ideas, encouragements and concerns with us so that we can provide the best possible learning environment for your child.
Welcome Night/Staff Info Night:
I wish to promote our Welcome/Staff Info Night scheduled for next Thursday 5th February. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff/parents/carers and students to join together in a fun and welcoming manner. Staff will also be presenting brief details about their class structures and processes. More details will follow shortly.

Port Pirie tragedy:
My home town of Port Pirie was devastated by the recent road accident that resulted in the death of a father and his two sons. James and Leigh Camporeale and their father Michael were builders and integral members of the community including the small Italian community. I personally extend my heartfelt condolences to the whole family. Please keep Dot (mother and wife) Carolyn (sister) Michelle (wife) and Jasmine (wife) and their families in our prayers and thoughts.

We enjoy and understand the extra dimension of community that is a feature of St Joseph’s. We aim to work with our whole community to bring to St Joseph’s the confidence, skills, knowledge and particularly the enthusiasm necessary to see our students reflect on their schooling firstly, as enjoyable, with memorable relationships, a spiritual dimension to their life and an attitude that learning is a life-long process.

"Be eager in your desires but humbly patient in your accomplishments"
(Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop)

Regards,
Don DePalma

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Counsellor

Hi, my name is Cate Robins and I am your new Centacare School Counsellor. I started my teaching career in 2001 and after further study became a counsellor working in schools in 2005. I have just moved to the area and am very excited about being in the Riverland and being able to work at your school. I will be at St. Josephs School Renmark every Thursday. I will be available half an hour before school and after school if you want to drop in and chat about any concerns you may have about your child. I can also be contacted through the school office by phone. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Cate Robins

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Play Group

St Joseph’s School PLAYGROUP
Families of St Joseph’s Renmark are invited to bring along your children aged 0-5 years to Playgroup. Lots of fun including art, craft, outdoor play, singing, storytime and more!
Fortnightly on Fridays in the Italian Room, 9am-10.45am, $3 per child or $5 per family (more than 1 child) per visit.
Please bring along a piece of fruit to share.
TERM 1 DATES are 6th February, 20th February, 6th March , 20th March, 10th April

Julie Slagter & Emma Warner

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Welcome to our New Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reception Years:</th>
<th>Chelsea Docking</th>
<th>Emmy Phan</th>
<th>Sophie Britton Year 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anu Arkan</td>
<td>Mahlia Gill</td>
<td>Hamish Pitman</td>
<td>Amy Logos Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dino Atsaves</td>
<td>Kaelen Greenhalgh</td>
<td>Archie Preusker</td>
<td>Brooke Allen Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nadine Beresford-Murray</td>
<td>Harry Keynes</td>
<td>Sophie Robertson</td>
<td>Ayden Schloithe Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jasleen Bhangoo</td>
<td>Georgio Loulas</td>
<td>Lily Schloithe</td>
<td>Zac Logos Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luca Blackwell</td>
<td>Noah Martinson</td>
<td>Kendall Schutz</td>
<td>Cooper Britton Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayos Bronish-Rice</td>
<td>Eloise McConchie</td>
<td>Tate Stoneham</td>
<td>Riley Ward Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaxon Curtis</td>
<td>Eli McLeod</td>
<td>Ashley Thomas</td>
<td>Inder Singh Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel DePalma</td>
<td>Henry Meuret</td>
<td>Yianna Tzanavaras</td>
<td>Max Logos Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew DiCerbo</td>
<td>Annika Milich</td>
<td>Eliza van Dyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lochlann Dinning</td>
<td>Gurtaj Nagra</td>
<td>Alyssa Bentley</td>
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