Dear Families, Friends and Students,

With our biggest intake of new families ever we have had a very busy two weeks of school. Swimming Lessons, Year 7 Leadership Program, Welcome Night and establishing new classroom settings have all made the first two weeks very productive. We all have a satisfying relief that the year has begun successfully and once again we have settled comfortably into a productive routine.

**Welcome** again to our school community for this year, where coming together is a beginning and working together will bring success. We hope that we can all work together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practise positive school habits.

If parents are involved and become committed to school decisions, student achievement will improve and student behaviour will be cooperative; this will lead to the enjoyment of high quality education. Parents know their children better than anyone and when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children's education.

It is important that parents and teachers have good communication opportunities. Productive communication is about speaking and listening actively and respectfully and about not making assumptions or having minds made up before conversation has commenced. Conversation is not simply an exchange of words but about listening and hearing. If problems arise, they do not have to be stumbling blocks; they can be opportunities to work together to find positive and creative solutions - solutions that will benefit children.

We hope that throughout the year, our community will come together to participate in and volunteer at a variety of school functions, activities and events, including celebrations of our Christian faith. In this way relationships are formed and positive attitudes developed that give positive input to our children. It is said that a child's life is like a piece of paper, on which every person leaves a mark. Hopefully, all marks left during the year will be indicative of respect, care and encouragement.

**Family—Personal Reflection:**
This week I attended the Funeral of Carol Bristow and then joined family and friends in Port Pirie for the funeral of Michael, James and Lee Camporeale. As my deepest thoughts and prayers continue to be with them and their families, words can not describe the many emotions and feelings that were experienced. It is during these times we think about what is important in our lives. I was reminded that we should never whinge or complain about life, especially when we have it! I was also reminded of the value of family and that we should never take it for granted. We should treasure the times we have together and show love to each other.
each day. We never know what is around the corner and should live for today and prioritise what is really important—our Families.

*May they rest in peace*

**Welcome Night:**
We were very pleased with the success of the Welcome/Information Night. We were very appreciative of the strong support of our families. I congratulate the staff on their professionalism. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to join together as a community and share in the kind, caring and friendly environment that we are providing at St Joseph's. I appreciate and thank everyone who helped in any way, especially all the volunteers with cooking, serving, setting up and packing up.

**Communication:**
As outlined in Staff presentations we welcome feedback and encourage positive interaction and communication between staff and parents/carers. Some guidelines include:
- To read all notes carefully.
- To see class teacher/s directly with any concerns or queries.
- To appreciate that engaging in yard gossip is non-productive and could result in further misunderstandings or queries.
- The sharing of grievances using social media is also inappropriate, hurtful and ill informed.
- If you're not sure of something please come and see the teacher/s directly.

**Annual General Meeting:**
Please note that the AGM of the St Joseph's School Board will be held Tuesday 24th February 2015 in the Library at 7.30pm. Nominations have been called and are due to be returned by 3.00pm Tuesday 17th February 2015. Please see the enclosed nomination procedure for more information.

**Uniform:**
At St Joseph’s we have a very clear uniform policy and its main purpose is to develop in students a sense of identity within our community, to present a positive image of St Joseph’s to the wider community and to create a level of consistency and equity for all students.

Some general points to remember include:-
- Hair should be neat and tidy and tied back if longer than shoulder length with appropriate school coloured hair ties.
- No hat no play policy.
- Appropriate school shoes are required.
- Sandshoes are to be predominantly white.
- No finger nail polish.

We thank all parents and students for their support, cooperation and understanding. We are all very proud of our uniform which has a very important role to play in the overall makeup of our fantastic school.

**Child Safety—Drop Off & Pick Up Times:**
We thank all Parents/Carers who are following the start and end of the day procedures when dropping off or picking up their children. However, we have received reports that people have been reckless and inconsiderate of safety at times. We are aware that we cannot control what happens outside the school grounds but by using friendly reminders we may highlight child safety as a priority. We wish to outline the following points:-
- Remember the speed limit when approaching the crossing—25km/hr (this should apply all around the school).
- Cars should not stop at intersections or crossings to collect children.
- Please use the ‘flagged’ road crossings appropriately.
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to park their vehicle and come to the collection point.
inside the front gate, to collect their child/children.

- A phone call is appreciated if you are running late for collection at 3.15pm.

Leadership:
We have again had a very strong emphasis on Year 7 Leadership. Mr Slagter, Miss Foody and the students have participated in our Leadership Program which included many activities to learn about the dimensions and skills around Leadership. Andrew Levak, Manager SA Pathology, Berri presented a wonderful talk about Leadership which included points about responsibility, being role models, decision making and selflessness.

Year 7 students also went to the Renmark Paringa Council Chambers to hear about leadership from Mayor Neil Martinson and CEO Tony Siviour. The students learnt about the expectations and processes that leaders at the council go through as part of their daily lives. I wish to thank Andrew, Neil and Tony for their contribution to our leadership program.

ICT Update:
We are very lucky at St Joseph’s to have excellent ICT facilities. We believe that our students have excellent opportunities to access information quickly and anywhere. We have increased these opportunities to our oldest students with 40 new laptops, 12 new iPads and 4 tablets.

Newsletter:
We believe that our school newsletter is not only a source of information but also a story of everything that is unique at St Joseph’s. We put considerable time and effort every fortnight to share events, activities and learning that occur within our school and our wider community. We do believe in using technology to send out our newsletter but also continue to have a traditional mindset with hard copies. They provide valuable opportunities for families to share the many stories and pictures. We encourage all families to use the newsletter as a catalyst for discussions at home or around the dinner table and to encourage and families to embrace the joy of reading a text without the use of a screen.

Pastoral Car Worker—Hayley Ramsay:
We are very pleased at the appointment of Hayley as our Pastoral Care Worker. She comes with valuable experiences and qualifications including a Bachelor Degree and has nearly completed her Graduate Diploma in Education. She also has had roles working with students at the Renmark High School and also in OSHC. She will be given the responsibility of supporting students with their emotional and social wellbeing. Responsibilities will include coordinating our Mini Vinnies program and being involved in our SRC program. This is a school appointment that was made possible after our successful application to the National School Chaplaincy Program. We are pleased to have received the funding through our State Government. We are excited at the possibilities and opportunities that Hayley will provide for our students and staff.

Welcome Fr Paul and Brett Czechowski:
I wish to welcome Fr Paul as Parish Priest and Mr Brett Czechowski as St Albert’s new Principal. They were formally commissioned by Bishop Greg recently. We wish them well as they start their new roles in the Riverland.

Finally I wish to thank all families, staff and students for a very positive start to the year. I look forward to sharing more experiences throughout the year.

Regards,
Don DePalma
Principal
Religious Education

We will be celebrating our first School Mass on Monday, 9th February at 11:30am in the St Therese of the Child Jesus Church. Please join with us to acknowledge our School and House Captains and our SRCs for Semester One 2015.

On Tuesday 17th February we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes for all students which helps us prepare for the start of Lent on Sunday 22nd February.

Wednesday, 18th February, is Ash Wednesday. It is traditionally a day of fasting and abstinence for adults and is traditionally a meat free day. Students are encouraged during this day and the 40 days of Lent to think about how they might 'Feast or Fast'. Students will be encouraged to see how they can make a difference to others by their thoughtful actions and words - hence the Feasting aspect of Lent. They will be encouraged to perhaps go without an ice block and put the money into the Project Compassion Box, or to help out more at home - these are the 'Fasting' aspects of Lent.

At the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, adults and children will receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads. This cross will be made with cold ashes which are blessed by the priest and are a symbol of new life rising from the ashes.

We will be having our Ash Wednesday Liturgy on Wednesday 18th February at 11:30am in the St Therese Parish Church. All families and friends are welcome.

Susan Frawley

Hi all and welcome to St Joseph’s for another school year. We hope that you all have a great year and really feel like you are an important part of the St Joseph’s community.

With your help and participation the KidsMatter Action team hope to foster and build upon the positive and welcoming feeling felt around the school.

Staff will be working hard with all children during Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Lessons to help teach children the skills required to be successful in handling a range of different situations. The focus on our SEL lessons for this term is Family and Relationships. By focusing on this, we aim to instil in students a range of skills and ideas that they can apply to help them effectively deal with social situations.

Beginning soon, we will be providing access to interesting and informative information from the KidsMatter website through Konnective. We will regularly be updating Konnective with this information and we encourage you to read through it and explore the KidsMatter website. The KidsMatter website contains some excellent information sheets, videos and strategies on dealing with a number of issues facing students today. This is a fantastic resource backed up by research and can be a very useful place to answer any questions/concerns you may come up with.

The website is http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families

Another fantastic resource is the KidsMatter facebook page. If you search for and like the KidsMatter page you’ll be provided with regular articles on a range of topics.

Tony Luxton & The KidsMatter Team
Students from Reception to Year 2 will be participating in *Move to Learn* - a research proven movement based program which lays the physical foundations for development and wellbeing. The program has been facilitated by Occupational Therapist, Mieka Main, with the support of Susan Frawley, R-2 teachers and Hannah Foody during PE lessons.

The students have participated enthusiastically and have already shown great potential as they progress through the initial stages of the program. Movements such as rolling, commando crawling and creeping on hands and knees wire the brain for increasingly sophisticated functions as children age. Having all students participate in *Move to Learn* ensures each child’s brain and body are fully integrated, enabling students to reach their full potential in school and beyond.

*Susan Frawley*

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**Parents and Friends News**

Our first meeting was held last Tuesday and we welcomed some new faces. We planned activities for the whole year and discussed many new ideas.

All members of our school community are part of our Parents and Friends group. P&F is a wonderful experience of friendship and sharing gifts and talents to support the school. The P&F role is to build community through engaging and enjoyable social events throughout the year. These events help to build friendship and support and help to identify us as a community. Often the results of these social gatherings helps to raise funds for projects around the school. Over the years these projects have included resources for classrooms, school camera recorder, school sign, school digital camera, prayer tables, sports equipment, funds for Christmas activities and many more. But most of all P&F is about having some fun and working together in teams to make great things happen for our school.

Please consider joining our energetic and passionate group of parents to help support your school in 2015. You would be most welcome.

*Jordan Armes & Sarah Dinning are assisting with the P&F community.*

*The beautiful Bibles given to our new students.*
To the Students, Families and Staff of St. Joseph's School,

We are deeply grateful for your interest and support of our family prior to and after the loss of our extraordinary Eva. This indicates to us that you are a community of deeply compassionate individuals who should be admired for working so hard to help others in need. You are a powerful and positive example for other communities everywhere.

Since Eva’s death we have been working on establishing the charity Braver Stronger Smarter Inc created as a legacy to her and communities such as yours who helped her in different ways. Your generous donation of $1000 to this charity will help support its mission:

- To encourage and support high quality global research into high risk childhood cancers, with the aim of maintaining and improving human health.
- To promote public engagement with medical research through our Superdoll Project.
- To establish memorials for children who have lost their lives to cancer in line with family wishes.

Community support is essential to build awareness, source funds and find cures for childhood cancers, and we are ever grateful for the wonderful generosity of everyone around us.

Kind Regards,
The Wheatley Family

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Reading Club

The 1/2 class have established a reading club where the students come in to the classroom at 8.30am and read to older students and to parents. The younger students love sharing this special time with their older peers and parents. We thank all those that are volunteering to listen to students.

Mrs Luxton & Miss Allen
Year 7 Leadership

The Year 7 Leadership program has run the last two weeks. Mr Andrew Levak spoke to the class about his role and the how leadership is a big part of what he does. The students also visited the Renmark Paringa Council chambers where CEO Tony Siviour and Mayor Neil Martinson spoke to the students about leadership, government and the challenges and rewards involved.
21st Century Learning at our School
St Joseph’s Play Group

Families of St Joseph's Renmark came together for our first Playgroup session. Families are invited to bring along your children aged 0-5 years to Playgroup. We had lots of fun including art, craft, outdoor play, singing, storytime and more! Playgroup is held 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

Happy Birthday for the month of January:

Happy Birthday for the month of February:
Harrison Keynes, Dino Atsaves, Sophie Britton, Angus Pittman, Maria Tzanavaras, Madeline Ramm, Bhavanjot Bhullar, Lachlan Schuetze, Toby Johnson, Seth Heading, Stuart Lehman, Alex Ram, Maiya Rice, Kyeton Frawley, Ramdip Kaur, Paige Vause, Ryan Ranford, Lachlan Hefford, Josh Crook, Hamish Lawrie.

Canteen

A huge thank you to Sophie Kernich & family for the beautiful and very large watermelons (home-grown by Sophie) which were cut up and distributed to the children. There were lots of happy, sticky faces and fingers. YUM!!

Also, thank you to James Haslett & family for some plums. Delicious!

I am requesting canteen helpers for Term 1 so please come and see me if you can assist any days. The canteen can not operate without the generous support from our wonderful volunteers. Thank you.

Jami-Lee