Dear Families, Friends and Students,

Welcome to the brand new school year of 2016. 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.

First Day—Welcome from our Director
Miss Brenda Keenan (our Director) extends her best wishes for the start of the year. 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 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 Mercy—Doorways
Bishop Greg sends his best wishes to all members of our community. This year, Bishop Greg and The Diocese of Port Pirie will be celebrating the Year Of Mercy. Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year Of Mercy where we are encouraged to leave the past and walk through a new phase. We have been encouraged to use the symbolism of the Holy Door and explore ways to show mercy by showing forgiveness, kindness, compassion and gratitude. This theme resonates through what we are all about at St Joseph’s. At the heart of our mission is the challenge to help our students embrace and experience the Catholic faith and the values, morals and life lessons that will bring. While our school is rich in history and tradition, we provide a modern and dynamic school environment. Together with KidsMatter we aim to foster experiences that balance academic ability with social and emotional wellbeing. If our students are happy then that is when they will learn best.
Staff Formation:
Recently, our staff have been immersed in activities, presentations and professional development opportunities. We have reviewed all our practices and procedures. We have been challenged and inspired about our role as educators in a Catholic School and we have committed to building positive relationships with each other and with all our parents/carers and students.

The learning opportunities were so valuable which has helped with our staff formation and provide an excellent platform for a very positive year.

21st Century Learning:
The school is looking fantastic especially with the completion of our Natural Play Space. The students had a wonderful time in it today. We sincerely thank Mr Adrian Hunt for all his time and effort coordinating this phase of our project. We also thank all our parents/carers and students who helped at the recent Busy Bee.

With other minor maintenance during the holidays, our school is looking wonderful. 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 this Thursday 4th 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 are provided in the note distributed today.

Farewell—Mr Luke Prokopec:
Mr Prokopec has decided to leave our community and pursue other interests. We sincerely thank him for his positive contribution to our students and staff. We wish him well in his future plans.

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.

 Regards,
Don DePalma

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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, storytelling and more!
Fortnightly on Fridays in the Italian Room, 9.30am-11.00am, $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 12th February, 26th February, 11th March & 8th April.
Rachel Dring & Elisha Brown

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Welcome to our New Students

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<tr>
<th>Reception Years:</th>
<th>Riley Hunt</th>
<th>Emerson Vincent</th>
<th>Year 1:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaxon Allen</td>
<td>Leo Liebich</td>
<td>Noah Warner</td>
<td>Ethan Bussenschutt</td>
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<td>Louis Brown</td>
<td>Eloise Lloyd</td>
<td>Isabelle Wutke</td>
<td>Year 2:</td>
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<td>Kailyn Burn</td>
<td>Lachlan Major</td>
<td>Hamish Young</td>
<td>Hunter Major</td>
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<td>Aleisha Bussenschutt</td>
<td>Ruby Malinovski</td>
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<td>Year 4:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell Dring</td>
<td>Amy Martin</td>
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<td>Milie Koumbarakos</td>
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<td>Meikah Gittos</td>
<td>Kyra Rasheed</td>
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<td>Flynn Koumbarakos</td>
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<td>Max Hunt</td>
<td>Kyan Taylor</td>
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<td>Year 5:</td>
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<td>Harley Schapel</td>
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