Dear Families, Friends and Students,

With all of our new students and families, we have had a very busy two weeks of school. The 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.

**Year Of Mercy: Building Positive Relationships**

This year we have a strategic direction to build positive relationships. As we are also looking at ways to show mercy, we believe 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.

**The Season of Lent:**

The season of Lent is upon us and we are so proud of the way we embrace the life long learning experiences that this will provide. We joined with our local parishioners and displayed beautiful reverence at our Ash Wednesday Mass. We enjoyed eating pancakes provided by our generous parents on Shrove Tuesday. The students have taken on the responsibility of helping those less fortunate than themselves through Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion work. The students also understand and act out their awareness that their work for Project Compassion is more than simply placing coins in a box. The teachable moments for promoting social action during Lent is alive and well in our school. The Lenten season certainly allows us to learn how we can be better people in society and also reminds us that learning is not only about numbers and letters.

**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.
Annual General Meeting:
Please note that the AGM of the St Joseph’s School Board will be held Tuesday 1st March 2016 in the Library at 7.30pm. Nominations have been called and are due to be returned by 3.00pm Tuesday 23rd February 2016. Please see the enclosed nomination procedure for more information.

Uniform:
At St Joseph’s we have a very clear uniform policy and it’s 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.

Leadership:
We have again had a very strong emphasis on Year 7 Leadership. Mr Grundy, Mrs Sciancalepore and the students have participated in our Leadership Program which included many activities to learn about the dimensions and skills around Leadership. They have discussed 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 a part of their daily lives. I wish to thank Neil and Tony for their contribution to our Leadership Program. We will have a special Leadership Induction Ceremony on Monday 15th February at 9.30am where we will present and congratulate all our Captains and SRC representatives.

Parent Interviews/Online Interview Process
This year we are looking at a different format for Parents Interviews. We will have interviews at the start of the year (Week 4) instead at the end of the term. The aim is to be proactive and at the same time establish positive parent/teacher relationships earlier.

We are also initiating an online system to book your times. Please refer to the included parents details about booking your time. Bookings can be made from this weekend. Please see your class teacher if you have any problems or questions.

Social Media—Konnective and Facebook:
We are pleased with the response for our social media tools including Konnective and Facebook. Together with our comprehensive Newsletter, we aim to share and celebrate the wonderful learning opportunities experienced by the students but also to keep our families well informed. Please complete enclosed permission note and return to your child’s teacher.

Natural Play Space:
The students returned to school with the excitement of the completion of our first stage of our Natural Play Space. Our creek bed and outdoor classroom is proving to be a very popular place where all ages come together to climb, talk and explore. We are very pleased with the final result and can already see the benefits of this style of play.

Staffing News:
We welcome Rehna Sotto who has been appointed our Pastoral Care worker under the Federal Government Chaplaincy Program. She will work one day a week and will predominately be working with the Year 7s and the Mini Vinnies Project. We also welcome Tayce Morath who will work part time as an ESO. Tayce has completed Year 12 and will have a gap year before she starts her studies as an Occupational Therapist. We believe in supporting young locals and providing them with real life working experiences. As we have done in the past, Tayce will provide valuable support to teachers under this ‘Graduate Program’.

Year 7s at the Renmark Paringa Council for their Leadership Program.
Lent and the Year of Mercy

My Brothers & Sisters

The old English word Lent has the meaning of Spring, a new growth. Let us this Lent heed what Pope Francis is urging upon us, to allow our sense of the mercy of God to invade us, growing us anew.

"Think of the love the Father has lavished upon us", Scripture says. It also says, "Be still and know that I am God". Let that be our Lenten resolution, to stop and listen a minute or so each day, to allow God to be God for us within.

"Lord, if you want to you can heal me! Of course I want to!" Jesus replied.

"Have mercy on me God in your kindness; in your compassion blot out my offence", prayed the Psalmist. Let us turn those phrases over in our hearts each day in Lent. Simple, but it will draw us to encounter with Mercy, the heart of God.

+ G.J. O’Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie
Religious Education:

**Shrove Tuesday:**
On Tuesday, 9th February, students celebrated Shrove Tuesday by enjoying pancakes made by our parent volunteers. A big thank you to Steve Lawrie, Jamie Milne, Teresa Valente, Karen DiCerbo & Ang Gibbons for making and serving the delicious pancakes. Shrove Tuesday helps us to prepare for the start of Lent.

**Ash Wednesday:**
On Wednesday, 10th February, we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a whole school and Parish Mass. Students received the sign of the cross on their foreheads. These crosses were made with the cold ashes from last year’s Palm Sunday and were blessed by Fr Paul Bourke. These ashes are a symbol of new life rising from the ashes. Traditionally this was a day of fasting and abstinence and was a meat free day, however, today we focus on how we can help others. Students are encouraged during this day and the 40 days of Lent to think about how they might make a difference to others by their thoughtful actions and words. They will be encouraged to perhaps go without an ice block and put the money into the Project Compassion Box.

**Sacramental Candidates 2016:**
The Parish of St Therese and St Joseph’s School are pleased to introduce our Sacramental Students for 2016. Those making their Reconciliation are Kalan Curtis, Mia DePalma, Torren Frawley, Angus Morris, Cooper Neef, Wyatt Neef, Angus Pitman, Emily Robertson, Madison Young.
Those making their First Holy Communion are Jacob Burn, Skyla Halliday, Zane Halliday, Seth Heading, Paityn Martinson, Wyatt Neef, Madeline Ramm, Ayden Schloithe, Zoe Siviour, Darcy Slagter, Katherine Tran, Emilia Valente and Alana Young.
Those making their Confirmation are Josh Bright, Alex Curtis, Jamie DiCerbo, Declan Johnson, Renee Johnson, Danielle Leonard, Aiden Richardson, Jessica Sadlier and Michelle Tran.
Please keep all of these students in your prayers as they undertake their commitment in further continuing their Catholic initiation.

**Project Compassion:**
On Wednesday 10th February, as part of the Season of Lent, the annual Caritas Australia fundraiser, Project Compassion, was launched. During Lent we are encouraged to find ways in which we can help our neighbour, whether it is physically the person in the house next door or an unknown neighbour somewhere in the world. We invite the families and friends of the St Joseph’s School Community to support Project Compassion during the next 40 days of Lent, in whatever way you are able. With your newsletters this week each family has received their own Project Compassion boxes to contribute to throughout each week of Lent. These will be collected in Week 10 of this term.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 focuses on Learning More Creating Change. As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

For the next six weeks of Lent, students will look at, and read in class, the inspiring stories from Project Compassion 2016 featuring people from the world’s poorest communities and learn how their lives have changed through the support of Caritas Australia’s development projects. To access these stories go to www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

**Week 1—Malawi:** With the help of local Caritas, CADECOM, the people of Doney’s community have learned to harness their strengths. Today they are building new livelihoods and growing literacy skills to create paths to a better future.

**Week 2: Hum Noy - Laos:** Duangmala feared that her son, Hum Noy, would never reach his potential because he has Down Syndrome. However, he now has a chance to learn and thrive at a special School supported by Caritas Australia.

The teaching of Lent and Project Compassion allows students to further develop the necessary skills required to meet the Australian Curriculum guidelines. Students develop skills not only within Religious Education, but within English, Health, Science and Design & Technologies. They learn through activities that are centered around identifying and promoting health, safety and wellbeing, different governments, patterns and relationships, mapping skills, types of resources (natural, human and capital) and the importance of environments to animals and people to name a few.

Susan Frawley
Happy Birthday for the month of January

Happy Birthday for the month of February
Kailyn Burn, Dino Atsaves, Sophie Britton, Harrison Keynes, Angus Pitman, Bhavanjot Bhullar, Madeline Ram, Maria Tzanavaras, Seth Heading, Toby Johnson, Stuart Lehmann, Lachlan Schuetze, Kyeton Frawley, Ramdip Kaur, Alexandra Ramm, Maiya Rice and Paige Vause.

SJSR PLAYGROUP
Families of St Joseph’s 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
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
12th February 11th March
26th February 8th April
**Rainbow Reading:**
We are very fortunate to offer the Rainbow Reading Program to students we feel would benefit from participating. Rainbow Reading is an audio-assisted reading program developed in New Zealand. It is colour coded rather than numerical, as are the take home books and those we use in classrooms. We shall be offering this support to students in Years 3 to 6 this term.

**Rainbow Reading facilitates success through:**
- Building fluency and comprehension through audio-assisted reading.
- Providing clear audio models of fluent reading.
- Levelled high-interest books, by a variety of authors.
- Opportunities for students to reread in a supportive environment.
- One-to-one conferencing with teacher or tutor.
- Encouraging students to self-monitor and to read fluently, for meaning.

**Literacy Workshop:**
I regularly support teachers in the Early Years by holding a workshop for parents of new students to help understand our Literacy curriculum. (How we teach reading, writing and our spelling programme-THRASS). These shall be held on Tuesday 22nd of March at 2pm and at 7.30pm. Parents shall receive more information, closer to this date but in the mean time, please chat with me if you are wanting to know anything or if you need to book a different date to catch up.

Ruth Daws (Key Literacy Teacher)

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**Parents & Friends:**

Hello and welcome to P&F 2016!
My name is Kristine DePalma and I’m very excited to be the new president of the P&F committee.

We had such a great start and turn out for the first meeting held Tuesday with many new parents wanting to be involved with their child's school events, from fundraising to general planning and volunteering.

With so many new and great ideas for 2016, St Joseph's will continue to be an amazing school to be involved with.

We also filled new positions on the committee with Mel Wagnitz stepping into the secretary role with back up by Rachel Dring. Sarah Haslett will continue as treasurer but will be supported by Kirsten Bentley. Jordan Whitelaw and Giulia Del Zoppo are the teacher representatives.

The P&F is always looking for new members and assistance, involvement and suggestion is always appreciated - no matter how big or small! Our children just love seeing their parents involved and around the school!

Please feel free to leave your email address at the front office so we can keep everyone up to date with plans.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday of Week 7 (Tuesday, March 15) with a guest speaker Ann Bliss from Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities. More info will follow in regards to the event and EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

Thankyou
Kristine and the P&F Committee
Second Hand Uniforms:
A selection of good second hand uniforms are available from our Canteen on Monday & Wednesday mornings only from 8.40am. Please come and have a look.

We also have a number of back packs for $10 each. (Bargain!)

School Captains:
Congratulations to Brooklyn Di Salvio and Jamie DiCerbo who were elected today as our School Captains for 2016 by their peers. We will present them with their certificates and badges as well as the House Captains and SRC members at an Induction Liturgy on Monday 15th February at 9.30am under our shelter.
Parent & Teacher Interviews:

1. Website: www.schoolinterviews.com.au
   Enter code: QYT3T
   Click on green Go

2. Parent/carer to enter the following details.
   Email: eg. abc123@
   Parent's Full Name: eg Lyn Leuders
   Phone: eg 0123 456789
   Book for: select from dropdown box how many children you want interviews for.
   Student's name: eg Daniel
      eg Reeni
   Click on green Go

3. From the dropdown box select each student's teacher.
   Click on green Go

4. This screen will show the available dates and times for each student and their teacher.
   Choose one timeslot.

5. A confirmation email will be sent.
   Please see your class teacher if you do not have access to the internet or the Admin team in the front office.