Dear Families, Friends and Students,

As we continue to work through the Year Of Mercy, we have seen many examples of how our students, staff and Parents/Carers have shown acts of kindness, generosity and compassion. As a Catholic School this is a unique opportunity to foster and promote positive values and morals through our whole community. To build this into our curriculum certainly adds to the extra learning experiences that we provide at St Joseph’s. As we continue the journey through the season of Lent may we reflect on how we are trying to make changes in our daily lives to become better people. As we have started the season of Autumn, leaves fall from the trees and the weather starts to get colder. It is a season of change. Let us take this opportunity during Lent to remind ourselves and our children about the changes we want to make for ourselves.

Joys of a Principal:

One of the many joys of being a Principal is sharing with our families the many wonderful events and celebrations that we experience. Last week I was very fortunate to be at Mass and share the baptism of little Emma Meuret. The genuine sense of pride and joy from the whole family and the congregation certainly made it a very special occasion. Baptism, the first of the initiation Sacraments, is truly a celebration of God’s love and welcomes us into the extended family of the Church. I take this opportunity to congratulate Ben, Natalie and Henry and their whole family for allowing us to share in this memorable event.

St Joseph's/Harmony Day/National Day Against Bullying:

Our school will celebrate this important day in our school calendar on Monday 21st March. The day will include a Special Liturgy, Class Activities, Shared Lunch and Project Compassion Stalls organised by our Year 7s. The day will recognise Harmony Day, St Joseph’s Day and National Day Against Bullying. This year is the 150th Anniversary of the founding, by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, of the little school at Penola in the South East. Mary’s legacy lives on through the numerous Josephite Schools, including our own, that have sprung up throughout our state during the past 150 years. Many, many South Australian Catholics have been schooled in the tradition of the Josephites. Mary’s legacy lives on in a plethora of ways including Catholic Social Justice teaching through the Mary MacKillop Foundation, Missionary work in Peru, Australia and East Timor, as well as Josephites in Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and Brazil. The sisters also run grief counselling, partnership with banks in giving out micro loans and other activities which help those in need. The sisters are officially the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Mary’s devotion to Jesus, Mary and Joseph is well documented.

As a St Joseph’s School we too follow in Mary’s footsteps especially through our support of the Mary MacKillop Foundation. I strongly endorse and promote St Joseph’s/Harmony Day on Monday 21st March. This will be a fantastic day and I welcome our whole community to be involved. Please see the included flyer. More details will be provided next week.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation:
I wish to acknowledge Kalan Cutis, Mia DePalma, Torren Frawley, Jesse Hammond, Angus Morris, Angus Pitman, Emily Robertson and Madison Young. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Together with their families, we wish them well as they embrace their journey and show commitment to their spiritual development.

Clean Up Australia Day:
Last Friday our whole school participated in Clean Up Australia Day. At St Joseph’s School, we take pride in our school and in the amazing community our school belongs to. On this day we showed our community spirit and respect for the environment. The students who participated showed our civic pride and our concern for the removal of rubbish that can cause damage to the wildlife found in Renmark and in the Murray River eco-system. We thank the parents who volunteered to help as supervisors.

P&F Meeting:
I wish to promote our P&F meeting this Tuesday night starting from 7.00pm. We will welcome Ann Bliss from the Catholic Schools P&F Federation. We are very privileged to have her visit our school and make a presentation to our parent community. This aligns with our Strategic Plan to continue building positive links with our Parent Community. We will have a café style presentation which will include opportunities to chat and collaborate. We will also be provided with tea, coffee, nibbles, wine etc. All welcome.

Beware of over-functioning for your kids:
As a parent of our school, I join with all our other parents and carers and often find myself reflecting and reviewing my own parenting skills. As both my children grow I also find that the skills needed for us parents are always changing and this can sometimes be challenging. I often refer to an article by Erica Reischer, a proven clinical psychologist, who outlines that making mistakes and experiencing “failure” and disappointment are essential life experiences that provide the opportunity for young people to learn and practice good coping skills. However, during the article she outlined parents are at risk of ‘over-functioning’, that is, doing something for their kids that they are already capable of doing, or can learn to do, themselves.

She used the term Helicopter parents (who ‘hover’ above children, constantly worrying and fussing over them) which has received a lot of negative attention in the media over the past decade. But then she went on to use the term Lawnmower parents. Lawnmower parents clear a path for their child before they can take a step, pre-empting possible problems and mowing down obstacles in their way. So I wondered if this relates to me and what I should consider when I am trying to support my children. It made me realise that over-functioning is potentially detrimental to my child’s sense of self-confidence and independence. Erica also outlined that being a lawnmower parent can be very draining for the parent themselves, with constant pressure to make everything ‘right’ and be aware of all potential obstacles. These parents may be viewed as too competitive or difficult to get along with, impacting social relationships. My wife often describes me as too competitive which she finds frustrating. Does this then have an impact on my children?
The article highlighted some basic points for me when I am doing things with my children.

·Why am I doing this?

·Are they capable of doing this for themselves?
·What would happen if I didn’t do this for them?
Reflecting on potential changes that can be made may make your parenting job a little easier!

Thank You: Parent participation and involvement:
Once again we have been blessed with special help from parents in many ways:-
Cooking pancakes, P&F meeting, AGM, help with Literacy time, reading, Discovery Time, supervision, Clean Up Australia Day, gardens, oval maintenance, KidsMatter Team, Canteen and much more.
I sincerely thank all our community for their willingness to support our school and become involved. As mentioned many times, positive staff/parent/student relationships develop positive learning outcomes.
Have a great long weekend. See everyone Tuesday.
Regards,
Don DePalma
Principal

Reminder of PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Monday 14th March ~ Adelaide Cup
Friday 25th March ~ Good Friday
Monday 28th March ~ Easter Monday

Maths at home:
“Beat My Score” Partners have two dot dice, take it in turn to roll the dice and add the two values together. Record who has the larger number and tally the winners.
Project Compassion: The next two inspiring stories for the Project Compassion 2016 Food for Life are the stories of:

Week 5: Sreymom - Cambodia
Education and training have helped Sreymom transform from an inexperienced young midwife into a confident healthcare worker. Now she has the skills to provide vital healthcare, support and information to indigenous mothers and children in remote Northeast Cambodia.

Week 6: Dhaniram - India
Dhaniram is driven to help create change in his village. Through the grass-roots Hamara Haq (‘Our Rights’) project, run by Caritas India and supported by Caritas Australia, he’s gained the skills to help his community claim what’s rightfully theirs and develop their plan for a better future.

To access these stories at home go to www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Reconciliation: St Joseph’s School and the Parish of St Therese are pleased to introduce our Reconciliation students for 2016. Receiving their Sacrament on Wednesday 23rd March at 6:30pm are Kalan Curtis, Mia DePalma, Torren Frawley, Jesse Hammond, Angus Morris, Angus Pitman, Emily Robertson and Madison Young.

Susan Frawley

Mini Vinnies:
On the 21st March we will be celebrating St Joseph Harmony Day. There will be range of stalls run by all Year 7s and everything will be $1.00 or less. There will be stalls such as car racing, spiders, photo booth, hippy hairspray and many more. All of our donations will go to Caritas Australia and we are hoping to raise over $2,500.

For more details there will be big posters outside the activity room and there will be smaller posters around the school.

We hope to see you all there having a fun time.

Jessica Sadlier and Danielle Leonard.
Marketing Committee

ST THERESE’S RENMARK
Fr Paul Bourke 85821894
Fr John Stuart-James 85882452

EASTER MASS TIMES
GOOD FRIDAY 3.00PM
EASTER VIGIL 7.00PM

OTHER RIVERLAND CENTRES
Holy Thursday 7.00pm
Berri, Loxton
Good Friday 3.00pm Barmera, Waikerie, Renmark
Easter Vigil 7.00pm Renmark
Easter Sunday 9.00am
Berri, Loxton
Easter Sunday 11.00am
Barmera, Waikerie

ST THERESE’S RENMARK
NEW MASS TIMES
2 April Saturday 6.30pm
10 April Sunday 9.00am
16 April Saturday 6.30pm
24 April Sunday 9.00am
30 April Saturday 6.30pm

Special Liturgical Celebrations
17th March ~ St Patrick’s Day
19th March ~ St Joseph’s Day
20th March ~ Palm Sunday
24th March ~ Holy Thursday
25th March ~ Good Friday
28th March ~ Easter Monday

PARISH PICNIC
Sunday 13th March
Hello everyone!
The P&F are inviting everyone to our next meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th March in the Activity Room. Our guest speaker Ann Bliss will be visiting to talk with us all, so it would be great to have support for her. The meeting will start at 7 pm with Ann speaking from 7:30pm. Coffee and chat morning will also be held before Assembly on Tuesday as well. This is a great time for parents and carers to get together to have a cuppa and share their stories among each other. All are welcome to come into the Activity Room 8:30am.

A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped with Clean Up Australia Day. This is just another way we show our great support for our children and school. Harmony Day and St Joseph’s Day on 21st March will be a great celebration in which our P&F will be involved with helping our children celebrate with a special shared lunch. We would love help from our parents and carers to put out the food & tidy up after. If anyone can stay and be involved please return the bottom of the separate flyer. All assistance is greatly appreciated!

Thank you from Kristine and the P&F Committee.

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The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities is coming to Renmark!

What's the Federation for Catholic School Parent Communities you say??
The Federation is the voice of Catholic school parents in South Australia. Join us to hear from Ann Bliss about how the Federation works on your behalf to make sure an excellent Catholic education remains affordable and accessible for all families. Hear how the Federation represents you in its work with the federal and state governments and within Catholic Education SA. Hear about the resources and services that are available to you to support your child’s learning and wellbeing. Hear how you can stay connected to the work of the Federation.

Most importantly, Ann is keen to hear what’s important to you so, come along on Tuesday and ...

**Be Connected. Be informed. Be Heard.**

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**Social Media Info:**

Did you know that St Joseph’s have a Facebook Page? https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-School-Renmark

Through our page you can:
- Gain a ‘behind the scenes’ look at classes, events and initiatives and see what we do!
- Find out more about our Community programs and services.
- Discover opportunities for involvement.
- Celebrate our success!

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**P&F Footy Tipping:**

Once again this year the P&F will be holding their Footy Tipping Competition.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!The challenge is out there. We can’t let Mr Grundy or the other teachers win this!!

Please sign up to our footy tipping competition. There are some great prizes to be won.

Simply enter the link http://supercoach.adelaidenow.com.au/afl/tipping/?p=register&id=4462 and register. Once registered, follow the instructions to select your team and then go to the League page to view Michael Slagter's private league, of which you will be a part of or if you’ve already registered you can join Michael Slagter's league manually, by logging in and following the "CREATE/JOIN" link from your league page. Enter the code LEAGUE CODE: 326956 to join.

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Thank you to Paul & Chris from the Riverland Police who spoke with the Year 4, 5, 6 & 7s about Cyber Bullying. Please visit the website www.thinkuknow.org.au for excellent parent/student resources and information.
KidsMatter

As a part of the school’s commitment to the KidsMatter program, this year will see staff running a structured Social and Emotional Learning Program. The different classes across the school will be taught common social skills and values. These lessons will be referred to as Social and Emotional Learning (or SEL) lessons. The aim of this is to create consistency across the different year levels and to allow for specific focuses within the school. By having a focus it allows for teachers to highlight certain issues both in the classroom and in the yard. The other benefit of this is to be able to inform parents and guardians. It is hoped that if you are aware of the focus at school you too will be able promote and highlight these positive skills and values at home.

This term the staff have placed their focus on relationships. In particular the next 2-3 weeks will focus on Friendship, Getting along and the Art of Conversation. Staff will be looking for students to demonstrate good, positive and friendly behaviours. Some of the key points that will be addressed with students are:

- If you want to HAVE a good friend, you need to BE a good friend
- Getting along with others and making friends will make you happy
- Social skills are the things you can do to get along well and make friends
- What makes a good friend
- Conversational skills (including listening)

Tony Luxton, Amy Thompson & the KidsMatter Team

Our SRCs recently discussed safe and enjoyable play using our play equipment especially the new Nature Play Space.

Bullying NO WAY!:

Students continue to be working through activities and lessons on the prevention of bullying at St Joseph’s.

We, the pupils of St Joseph’s School, Renmark pledge our loyalty to God, to our country and to our school.

We promise to show care and concern for each other, and to work with teachers, doing our best at all times.

We do this, so that our school can become a good school, a happy school, a school in which we can take pride.

 sjsr playgroup

Our last gathering for Term 1 will be Friday 8th April. We’d love to see you from 9.30am-11.00am in the Italian/Science Room. Please bring along a piece of fruit to share.
This term our numeracy focus is on number. So far we have explored subtraction, addition and decimals. We used interactive number lines to represent and order decimals. Students measured various objects and added them to a combined total. They used rounding to the nearest whole number as a way to check their answers. Worded problems such as:

There are four cards numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6. In how many ways can the cards be arranged to form odd 4-digit numbers?

challenges the students daily.

Did you know that white chocolate isn't actual chocolate as it doesn't contain cocoa? These and other interesting facts were discovered by students during our current novel study on ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’. In small groups and independently, students complete set tasks related to each chapter. Weekly spelling, handwriting and genre writing activities engages them in tasks to improve their persuading techniques.

Our history focus on Colonisation in Australia has had students involved in research topics such as what Australia looked like before British people arrived. Students drew pictures of their ideas after class discussions.

In Week 4 we finally met our buddies from Mrs Whitelaw’s class. We had a great time using sports equipment and the playground together.