

Messages from Nicole:

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

A warm welcome back to Term 1 2024. As you would be aware Mr Don DePalma is on Long Service Leave for the entirety of Term 1 and I will be replacing him in the role of Principal. I am thrilled to be part of this wonderful community here at St Joseph's School and am looking forward to meeting you all.



This week's newsletter is a great opportunity to introduce myself so here is a little bit of information about me. I live in the beautiful coastal town of Port Lincoln and work at St Joseph's School which is a Pre-School through to Year 12 co-educational school. My role is from Pre-School to Year 12, and I teach Visual Art and Religious Education. I am the Assistant Principal of Religious Identity & Mission and am a part of the Executive Leadership team that oversees approximately 850 students. I am originally from Adelaide and grew up in Gawler where I attended Xavier College. I have a son who will be joining me here at St Joseph's and a cheeky cavoodle dog. I have only been here for a short time but have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far. I thank all the staff, students and families for making me feel very welcome.

Our staff have been working hard to prepare the school for the return of students and have set up inclusive and welcoming spaces for the children to thrive. We encourage all families to attend our Family Welcome & Class Information Night where you will get to meet your child's teacher and find out important information for the upcoming year.



Staff from all five Catholic Education Schools in the Riverland gathered together recently.

First Day - Welcome from our Bishop and Director:

Bishop Karol and Mrs Nichii Mardon (our Director) both extend their best wishes for the start of the year. They remind us of our Diocesan theme, **'Let Your Light Shine'**, which celebrates how we are integral to God's mission of bringing God's light and love to the world. Our theme is taken from Matthew 5:13-16 (Salt & Light) and shows us that there is a piece of light in all of us, God's light, and we are called to let our light shine before others. We will use this message to promote shining our own light and the light of others within our community this year.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

3 Feb Sat 6.30pm
11 Feb Sun 9.00am
17 Feb Sat 6.30pm
25 Feb Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 1 Family Welcome & Class
Info Night
- 2 8.30am Coffee'n'Chat
9.15am Welcome
Assembly
- 5-8 Year 3-6 Swimming
- 5 7pm P&F Meeting
- 9 9am Mass by 6/JM class
- 13 Shrove Tuesday
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 16 9.15am SRC &
Leadership Inductions
- 19 9.15am Assembly by
4/5PH class
- 21 School Photo Day
- 23 9am Mass by 4/5TL class
- 27 Board AGM

March:

- 1 Clean Up Aust Day
- 1 Be 'Green' Wellbeing Day
- 11 Public Holiday**

Welcome:

Building and fostering a vibrant and positive community is one of our strategies for providing a meaningful education. We warmly welcome all of our 37 new students and their families to the St Joseph's School Community. Particular acknowledgement is given 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.

Kiss and Drop / Pick Up:

The opportunity to visit teachers and classes yesterday was a great success. As we start this year, we are looking at ways to again invite parents/carers into the school. As always this is a focus of our school to build strong relationships and partnerships between school and home. We have learnt that our children respond very well to Kiss and Drop structures and procedures and parents/carers value the efficient and supportive way to drop their children off at school. In doing this, students develop valuable skills such as responsibility, independence, and organisation. This also allows formal learning to start promptly and on time at the start of the day which proves to be so much more affective. So, as we start to establish our respective routines, I encourage all families to use our successful Kiss and Drop/Pick Up structures. We also ask that parents/carers understand and respect that lessons begin at 8.50am and should be out of classrooms before the music starts. I thank everyone for their support and understanding.



Parent Information Night:

I wish to promote this night scheduled for Thursday, 1st February. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff, parents, carers and students to join together in a welcoming manner. Staff will also be presenting brief details about their class structures and processes and will outline Parent Handbooks with thorough information. More details are provided in the note distributed with this newsletter.

Communication:

We understand that communication is very important and we hope that we will support all our families to understand the many dimensions of our school environment. Today you will receive a comprehensive pack with numerous requirements. Please refer to the checklist and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Teaching and Learning/Positive Communication:

Following on from the above, at St Joseph's we are proud of the positive learning environment and whole school culture we have established. We operate with positive actions and attitudes and regularly promote all our successes and celebrations. We understand that the start of the year could present numerous

feelings and emotions and that parents/carers may occasionally be faced with challenges and questions. We welcome feedback and encourage positive interaction and communication between staff and parents/carers. With all grievances or questions we invite parents/caregivers to come in and see class teachers as the first point of contact. With this overt approach, we welcome feedback and encourage constructive points for future consideration. Everything we have done and will continue to do is based around learning, resulting in improving student outcomes for your child. St Joseph's School is committed to moving with society and striving to significantly improve student outcomes, underpinned by current and progressive research. We are always consulting with other schools and systems and our Inquiry Strategies are student centered, cater for students' needs and allow all children to experience success.

theories, English and Maths Programs, Home Learning models, Wellbeing practices and discussed how we can use data to inform teaching. We believe that team work is fundamental to how we want to work and accept the high standards and expectations that have been outlined. We have reviewed all our practices and procedures and look forward to how they will result in positive outcomes.

P&F and Wellbeing Meeting:

We welcome all parents to join our community at the first Parents & Friends and Wellbeing meeting on Monday 5th February, 7pm at the Hotel Renmark Function Room. This is a very good opportunity to look at our community connections as we look at ways to make the school better. We discuss activities, ideas, events and ways for families to be more involved in the school environment. All welcome.



Students enjoyed returning to our St Joseph's Community this morning.

Some ways you can support your child is to:

- read all notes carefully and return them by the due dates.
- see class teacher/s directly with any concerns or queries. Class teachers are the first point of contact.
- appreciate that engaging in yard gossip is non-productive and could result in further misunderstandings or queries.

If you're not sure of something please come and see the teacher/s directly.

Staff Formation:

Recently, our staff has been immersed in activities, presentations and professional development opportunities. We joined together with St Francis of Assisi College and the other Catholic Primary Schools in the Riverland to participate in a Mathematics Professional Learning Day, which is aligned to the Diocese of Port Pirie and School Annual Improvement Plan. We collaborated, looked at planning, programming and what is best practice. Our staff have explored contemporary teaching

Staff News:

We wish Greg Reeks all the best as he takes leave for Term 1. We hope he enjoys the break and his time away. We thank Belinda Pfeiffer and Giulia Del Zoppo who will be covering Greg's lessons while he is on leave.

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 as enjoyable, with memorable relationships, a spiritual dimension to their life and an attitude that learning is a life-long process.

We look forward to a fantastic term working together.

Regards

Nicole Russell
Principal

Parent Information & Welcome Night

Thursday 1st Feb 2024

Dear Families and Friends,

We will be holding a Parent Information and Family Welcome Night this Thursday 1st February. The aim is to provide parents/carers with details of class structures, processes and expectations, and to provide parents/carers an opportunity to meet your child's teacher/s. We will split class presentations to allow parents every opportunity to listen to all of their children's class teacher/s. All presentations will be held in the Tenison Woods Centre.

Welcome Night



The P&F will be providing a FREE sausage sizzle for families from 5.30pm onwards. There will also be music under the shelter, games on the oval and colouring in activities for the children. This will provide teachers and parents a chance to go to presentations and mingle with our school community.

Teacher Presentation Times ~ Tenison Woods Centre

6.00~6.20pm: R/LH, R/PH & R/SH Classes
 6.20~6.40pm: 1/2KC, 1/2KV & 1/2SP Classes
 6.40~7.00pm: 3/HM & 3/HS Classes
 7.00~7.20pm: Wakakirri presentation
 7.20~7.40pm: 4/5PH, 4/5RW & 4/5TL Classes
 7.40~8.00pm: 6/JM Class



Let Your Light Shine Diocesan Prayer

Radiant God,
 You bless us by shining Your light in us, with us, and around us.
 Your light brings compassion, warmth and hope in times of lightness and darkness.

May we embrace your mission to strike the match, ignite the flame, sprinkle the salt and be the light within Your beautiful Creation.

As the salt of the earth, we are called to flavour the lives of others through sharing our gifts with us all.

Enable us to walk alongside others, listen to their stories, light their way, and celebrate their gifts.

Bless us and keep us.
 May Your light shine on us and be gracious to us.
 Look kindly upon us and give us peace.
 Let our light shine!

Amen



BOARDING PASS

RENMARK → ??????

ST JOSEPH'S ANNUAL P&F SOCIAL NIGHT

LOCATION:

Hotel Renmark
 Function Room

DATE:

Saturday, 24 February
 2024

TIME:

6:30pm - Midnight

INVESTMENT:

\$50:00 which includes a
 3-course meal

FLIGHT:

SJ2024

BRING:

GOLD COINS FOR RAFFLES &
 A LOUD VOICE FOR
 THE LOST LUGGAGE AUCTION

RSVP:

16 FEBRUARY 2024 VIA
 QR CODE OR VISITING
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/4D](http://tinyurl.com/4D)
 VDVWFZ

PLEASE NOTE:

ADULTS ONLY EVENT/BAR AVAILABLE

