

Messages from Nicole

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

We have had a very positive and busy first two weeks of school with our Welcome Assembly, Parent Information Night, Swimming Lessons and the Year 6 Leadership Program. Our new families and new staff have settled in very well to our community, and it has been great to see a real sense of belonging around the school.



This year our Diocesan theme is **'Let Your Light Shine'** which is based on Matthew's Gospel (Mt 5:13-16). Bringing salt to the earth as a follower of Christ gives it flavour, taste and also preserves it. Through the many blessings we receive, the light of God shines on us. We are called to radiate the light we have been given, and to 'let our light shine' on others. An act of kindness, sharing our gifts, treating others with respect, are all ways we can share God's light with the world. This year we are asking students how they can shine their light or be shining lights in our school community.

Parent Information:

We were very pleased with the success of the Parent Information Night. We were encouraged by the attendance, and we appreciated the strong support of our families. As I discussed on the night, research shows that parent engagement can make a major difference in student outcomes. I congratulate the staff on their professionalism and the way they presented thorough and comprehensive details. We thank our P&F for the sausage sizzle and activities for the children. 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.



37 new students, and their families, were welcomed to our St Joseph's Community recently.

P&F Community:

We thank the many parents who attended our recent P&F meeting, which once again highlights the willingness of parents to get involved. We have an amazing group of parents who are committed to providing the best for our students. It was encouraging to see new members and we congratulate Jo Lloyd on her re-appointment of President. If parents are involved and become committed to school decisions, there is a flow on effect to how their child feels in our learning environment, which will lead to the enjoyment of a 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.

Communication:

As outlined in staff presentations we welcome feedback and encourage positive interaction and communication between staff and parents/carers. We have been pleased with the start of the year and have welcomed all the face-to-face contact we have made. As always, I encourage you to always contact





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

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 9.30am Mass by 4/5TL
class

your child's teacher first and foremost as they are your first point of call.

Annual General Meeting:

Please note that the AGM of the St Joseph's School Board will be held Tuesday 27th February in the Tenison Woods Centre at 7.30pm. If you are interested in nominating for a position please contact me. Nominations are due by 3.00pm Tuesday 20th February.

Uniform:

I wish to again thank all our families for their support and cooperation with our Uniform Policy. At St Joseph's we have clear uniform requirements, 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.

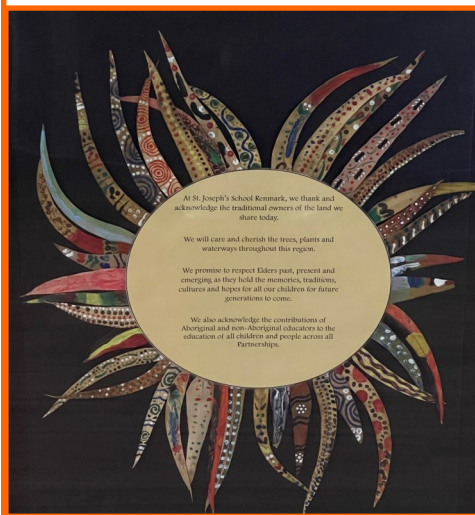
Some general points to remember include:

- Appropriate school shoes are required – All Black Sandshoes or Predominantly White Sandshoes on the appropriate days.
- Hair should be neat, tidy and tied back if longer than shoulder length with appropriate school coloured hair ties. No extreme haircuts.
- No hat, no play policy.
- No fingernail 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. Thank you to Yates Menswear for being our supplier.

Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that St Joseph's School students, staff and community live, study and work on Erawirung Land. We acknowledge the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee as Traditional Custodians of the Riverland region and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We respect the deep connection Aboriginal people have with land, animals and waters.



Thank you to the families who attended our Class Information and Family Welcome Night last week.

Child Safety—Drop Off & Pick Up:

We thank all Parents/Carers who are following the start and end of the day procedures when dropping off or picking up their children. The morning routine is working well, with the 'Kiss and Drop', and our dismissal structure is working well with R-2 students meeting under the shelter. The safety and wellbeing of our children is a priority and we provide the following points:

- Please show patience and care when in the line of Kiss and Drop.
- Pull in when there is a space at the end of the line, and move up as far as possible in the designated area.
- Parents remain in the car whilst students get out – staff will be there to help if needed.
- When leaving the area please do not pull out in front of the car that is in front of you. Wait for your turn to move off.

- There is NO parking in the Kiss and Drop zone.
- Remember the speed limit when approaching the crossing—25km/hr (this should apply to all areas around the school).
- Staff supervision starts at 8.30am. Students should not arrive prior as there is no supervision for them.
- Cars should not stop at intersections or crossings to collect children.
- Please avoid parking in laneways and across residents' driveways.
- A phone call is appreciated if you are running late for collection at 3.15pm.
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to park their vehicle and come to the collection points to collect their child/children.
- Use the 'flagged' road crossings at all times to cross the road appropriately.

Leadership:

We have again had a very strong emphasis on leadership and how all students across the school can demonstrate specific skills and attributes such as, manners, responsibility, care and respect. The Year 6 students have worked through a specific Leadership Program that has included many activities to learn about the dimensions and skills around leadership. They have discussed responsibility, being role models, decision making and selflessness. The students learnt about the expectations and processes that leaders go through as a part of their daily lives. They will finish by selecting the leadership roles for 2024 including School Captains and House Captains. We will have a special Leadership Induction Ceremony on Friday 16th February at 9.15am where we will present and congratulate all our Captains and Class SRC representatives.

Finally, I wish to thank all families, staff and students for a very positive start to the year. I look forward to sharing more of the amazing experiences that we have at St Joseph's throughout the term.

Regards,
Nicole Russell
Principal



Special thank you to Kate Schofield for supporting our students with their swimming.



Religious Identity & Mission:

Prayer

We have a focus on Prayer throughout the school for the beginning of the year, as we provide opportunities for students to spend time connected to God. Classes have created welcoming Sacred Prayer spaces in their classrooms.



Sacramental Dates:

Thank you to the families that have completed the form sent home last year to enrol in our Sacramental program this year. Please email me if you need to still do this. I have met with Fr Hau and the other APRIMS in the OLOR Parish to coordinate the Sacramental dates - the following dates have been organised for our Renmark Centre celebrations.

Reconciliation - Tuesday 26th March 6.00pm

First Eucharist – Saturday 1st June 6.30pm Mass

Confirmation - Sunday 1st September 9am Mass (at OLOR Berri)

We look forward to supporting the students on their faith journey through these special Sacraments.



Parish Mass:

Mr McGuire's Year 6 class led our Parish Mass at the church today. It was a beautiful mass followed by a lovely morning tea back at school. Thank you to Mr McGuire and Mrs Guy for their work in preparing the students, Fr Emil for celebrating the Mass with us, the parishioners, parents and friends for their attendance and the students for all their preparation and their faith leadership.



Lent – Project Compassion:

Next week the students feast on delicious pancakes for Shrove Tuesday in preparation for our Lenten journey.

We will then gather as a school community on Wednesday, 14th February at 11.30am, with a reverent Ash Wednesday liturgy, receiving the ashes and beginning our Lenten season of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. All families are welcome. Our Lenten Time is a time to grow and change – reflect on our lives, stop doing some of the things that we do and start doing new things.

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion is an important aspect of our almsgiving during Lent. Today all families have received a Project Compassion box, and we encourage everyone to put their compassion into action and donate to vulnerable people around the world during this time. Please visit this link for more information <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/>

Chrissie Grocke
APRIM



Leader of Learning:

Learning

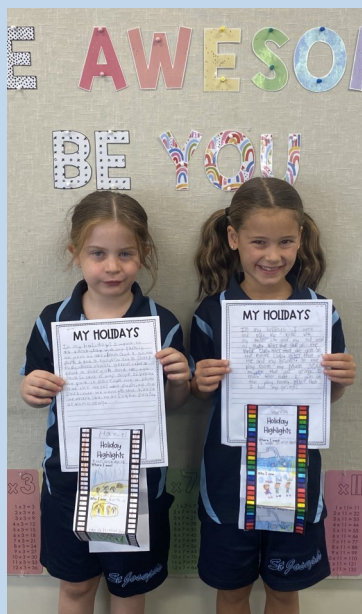
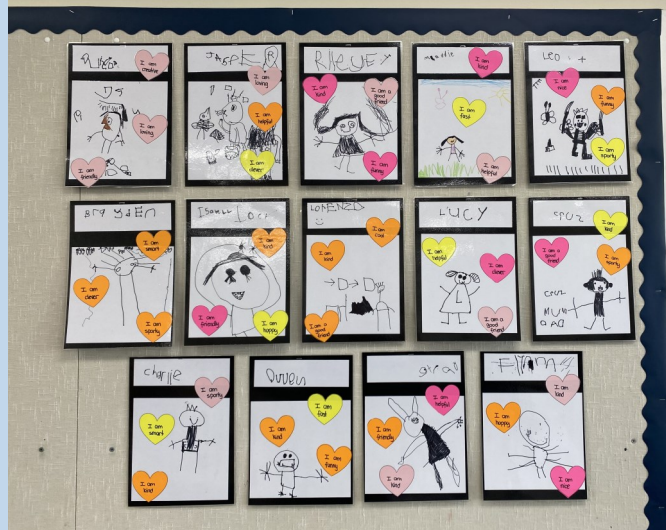
Our preparations prior to the students commencing school were very productive. One of our focus areas was on developing the scope and sequencing of year level content outcomes, and adopting uniform documentation of the teaching and learning in our school.

Classes have had a wonderful start to the year, collaboratively building a positive culture in their classes, developing routines and expectations, as well as building relationships. Teachers have facilitated opportunities for students to develop trust, respect and understanding between all members of the class, which will support a healthy learning environment for all to thrive.

Analysing student data to inform teaching and learning is pivotal in determining the zone of proximity. Students have completed beginning of year assessments to inform teachers of the required 'next steps' in learning when crafting their classes curriculum for the term, aligned with Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum. Exciting subject learning is evident in all classrooms with student's engaged and challenged to achieve goals.

We congratulate our staff on their presentations at our successful Parent Information Night last week.

Chrissie Grocke
Leader of Learning



Student Wellbeing:

Nude Food and Nutritious Lunch Boxes

Eating a nutritious, balanced diet, fuels our bodies so we have enough energy to go about our everyday lives and participate in all the activities we love to do. Not only are we fuelling our bodies, but our brains as well. This can help improve students' ability to focus in class, and therefore, learn and interact with their peers in a positive way, and is important to both their physical, and mental, health too. We understand that each child is different and has their own preferences for food, and packing lunchboxes can be overwhelming for the parent/carer! It is important to include foods that you know your child is familiar with and will eat. Including them in the process and asking them what they would be willing to try is a good way to expose them to new foods. In your communication pockets we have included a resource with some suggestions for packing a nutritious lunchbox, and with minimal impact on the environment.

In Week 5, we will be holding a 'Be Green' day to align with Clean Up Australia Day. Last year, our waste bill was over \$8000. Our aim this year is to reduce the number of red bins that go out each week by raising awareness about caring for our environment and reducing the amount of waste that we bring to school each day.

We encourage students to bring nude food lunch boxes. We use the term 'nude food' at St Joseph's but what does the term 'nude food' mean? Nude food is a part of the trend in reducing single use plastic, foil containers or wrapping by using washable containers or bees wax food wraps to help reduce the amount of rubbish being brought to school and going into landfill.

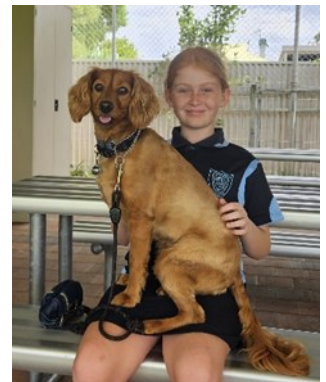
We can all make a difference, if we look after our environment, we can also look after students' growing minds and bodies!

There are many ways to pack an interesting nude food lunch box which has zero impact on the environment.



Charlie-in-Action

Charlie is very excited to be back at school. He is getting to know our new student's and is enjoying the many pats and cuddles. Charlie is loving spending time with 3/HM.



St. Joseph's School Renmark
Wellbeing
COMMITTEE

