

Messages from Nicole

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

The last two weeks have seen numerous learning experiences for the whole school. Whilst visiting all the classrooms and interacting with the students, I have experienced a true sense of welcome, inclusivity and sharing of gifts, which aligns with our theme 'Let Your Light Shine'. This has been highlighted at our recent assemblies, P&F meetings, attendance at SRC & Captain Induction Ceremony, pancake preparation and cooking, involvement in swimming lessons and assistance at SAPSASA Swimming Carnival.



The Season of Lent:

Last week on Ash Wednesday was the beginning of Lent which lasts for 40 days in the lead up to Easter. During this time, I hope we are all able to make some regular time and space for quiet reflection. Even a minute to consider what connects us to each other, to be grateful and to set our intentions to become the best possible versions of ourselves. This is what God wants for all of us, wholeness and joy. May Lent be a time for all of us to know and become our true selves.

Last Tuesday our wonderful Parents & Friends (P&F) came into school to cook pancakes for the students and staff. We appreciate the generosity and support of our parents and carers who volunteered to help. Our Year 6 students joined with our local parishioners for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy where ashes were given to our Year 6s to bring back for our school liturgy. Back at school students participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy where ashes were used to mark the cross on students heads.



Billy, Jaxon, Riley, Elise, Elsie, Kacie, Lucy, Katie & Madeleine enjoying Shrove Tuesday pancakes.

During Lent, the students will be asked to take on the responsibility of helping those less fortunate than themselves through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion work. They are learning to give up something special (sacrifice) but with positive attitudes and actions are also trying to do something special (good deeds). 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 will be very active in our school. The Lenten season certainly allows us to learn how we can be better people in society and reminds us that learning is not only about numbers and letters.



ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

25 Feb Sun 9.00am
2 March Sat 6.30pm
10 March Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

February:

27 Board AGM

March:

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

At school, we will be asking all our students to think of three main actions during Lent:

- To encourage students to participate in Prayer and reflect on all the good in their lives.
- To make a sacrifice or give something up – chocolate, computer time, iPad time, gaming, soft drink etc.
- To perform a regular act of generosity and kindness - donate some spending money to Project Compassion, help with the dishes, do chores without asking, try hard with their Home Learning, help students at school, etc.

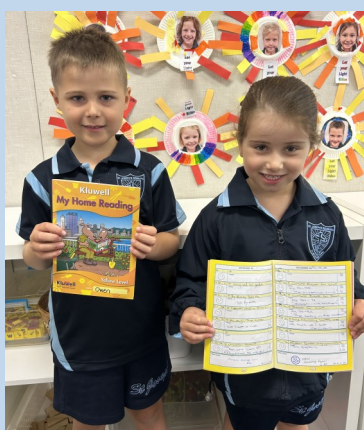
Reading and Learning Journal Report:

We continue to review our Reading Journals and how this tool has encouraged daily reading at home. Over the coming weeks we will send home a Report for your child which outlines the following information:

- Number of nights read so far this year
- Percentage of nights read
- Average percentage for your child's class
- Average percentage for the school

I am particularly interested in the results and will use the data to inform future parent and student conversations. I again emphasise the importance of reading. Studies have shown the link between regular reading and high achieving students. Reading just 20 minutes a day has been shown to increase the vocabulary and grades of students and increase it dramatically.

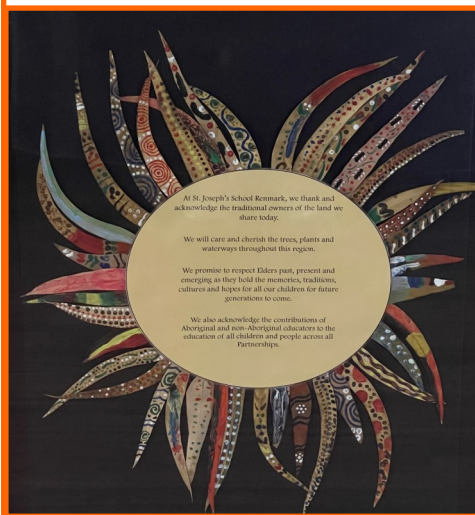
As discussed on the class info night, research shows that parental engagement promotes better student outcomes. At St Joseph's we value that parents are the first educators for children and therefore acknowledge the responsibility that parents/carers have on positive educational outcomes. We believe that the Reading & Learning Journal is a simple way for parent/carers to show interest in Home Learning. It is expected that parents/carers check and sign the Reading & Learning Journals every night, recording how long your child has read. We will continue keeping a record of the number of nights all students have read, with the aim being to increase student reading across the whole school.



Owen & Riley have enjoyed completing their Home Reading books every night

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.



Annual Improvement Plan- Strategic Priorities:

One of our key strategic priorities this year from our annual improvement plan is numeracy and in particular all students achieving growth and improved learning outcomes in mathematics. To help us achieve this goal we will be working with the Learning Team in the Catholic Education Office on a fortnightly basis. Our teachers will be guided by the Learning Team to use data to inform curriculum and develop rich and common assessment tasks that cater to the needs of every student. To further support this goal, we have introduced two new roles Literacy & Numeracy Leader for R-2 and Year 3-6. These leaders will support staff and our Leader of Learning in professional development and analysis of data. We look

forward to sharing more of our strategic priorities throughout the year.

SAPSASA Swimming:

Congratulations to all the students on their collective performances this week and to all students who participated showing good sportsmanship and persistence. Thank you to parents for assisting on the day. Well done to Mr Smart for organising a successful SAPSASA event.

Leadership Inductions:

Last Friday we held our Leadership Induction Ceremony where our school leaders and Student Representative Council were inducted by the Mayor, Mr Peter Hunter. We thank Peter for attending this special ceremony and providing the future leaders of our community with some inspiring words. Congratulations to the following students, and we look forward to witnessing your leadership in our school community.



School Captains: Clara McLeod & Matthew Latorre

House Captains:

St Joseph's Gold Isla Martinson & Mabel Malinovski.

St Mary MacKillop Blue Ava Lindner & Lily McLeod.

St Patrick Green Hallie Nagel & Riley Maywald.

St Therese Red Eloise Hammond & Poppy Milich.

Class SRCs:

6/JM Sophie Wutke & Armaan Neelon

4/5RW Piper Wolf & Dino Demou

4/5TL Olive Hammerstein & Apollo Atsaves

4/5PH Lucy Watkins & Lucas Drowley- McElroy

3/HM Mersadez Bronish-Rice & Harry Sever

3/HS Jade Coombs & Ryleigh Adamczyk

1/2KC Lily May & Patrick Luxton

1/2SP Hazel McLeod & Kadam Randall

1/2KV Bridget Cooper-Adamczyk & Luke Timmins

R/PH Mila Cullen & Judd Atkinson

R/SH Amir Arkan & Cohen Greenhalgh

R/SH Lucy Thorpe & Cruz Karantonis

Classroom Pulse Check In:

This Term every student in a Catholic School in South Australia will again participate in a simple

online Classroom Pulse Check In. This Check In has been developed to ascertain how students are currently feeling about their experience in school. It is tailored to allow your child's teacher/s to check in and provide immediate feedback and support to them. The Check In will be carried out during the school day during Week 5 and Week 6.

Board Annual General Meeting:

We wish to promote our AGM which will be held in The Tenison Woods Centre on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm. We encourage and welcome all staff, parents and friends to attend. We see this as an excellent opportunity to share and highlight all our successes and challenges from 2023. Furthermore, this is an excellent meeting which highlights the partnership between staff, students, parents, parish and the wider community.

Captain Inductions

Back: Hallie Nagel, Riley Maywald, Matthew Latorre, Clara McLeod, Isla Martinson.

Front: Ms Russell, Poppy Milich, Eloise Hammond, Ava Lindner, Lily McLeod, Elsa Malinovski, Mr Hunter.

Clean Up Australia Day:

St Joseph's has enthusiastically embraced the initiative of being actively involved in the National Clean Up Australia Day for schools being held on Friday 1st March. All our students will be involved in cleaning up local and neighbouring environments. Parents are required to assist with supervision outside of the school. Further information will be distributed soon via Seesaw. We are the stewards of creation, and this activity heightens the awareness of our personal responsibility to ensure that we maintain a clean and healthy environment for each other and future generations. On this day the Parents & Friends will cook students a delicious sausage in bread for the clean up efforts.

NAPLAN - Withdrawals:

The NAPLAN testing will be conducted in Weeks 7 of this Term. We are distributing a letter and supporting information to our Year 3 & 5 students who are encouraged to participate in the tests. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as parental beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. These issues should be

discussed immediately with your class teacher so that a course of action can be determined before the testing dates. Please contact your teacher if you have any concerns or questions.

Gratitude for my staff :

I am so proud of all efforts of the staff so far this term. The last two weeks have been very busy but they have been amazing with their calmness, patience and diligence whilst working with our students. In recent weeks, all our students undertook internal testing with a staff collecting lots of valuable data. This testing informs our teaching and learning and allows us to examine the growth in every child. The staff have worked

tirelessly to collect this data and I take this opportunity to acknowledge their commitment, effort and collaboration.

We have a fantastic school and it has been a privilege to become a member of this wonderful community. It is with much pride that we highlight, recognise and acknowledge staff, students, parents, events and activities. Have a good week and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Tuesday.

Regards

Nicole Russell

Principal

Star Student Awards:



Back: Amelia Wang, Angus Hill, Elodie Oelofse.
Front: Owen Edwards, Isabella Lock, Peyton Preece, Savannah Markham-Crosbie, Billy Papageorgiou

SRC Presentations:



Back: Ms Russell, Luke Timmins, Bridget Cooper-Adamczyk, Kadam Randall, Hazel McLeod, Lily May, Patrick Luxton, Mr Hunter.

Front: Cruz Karantonis, Lucy Thorpe, Cohen Greenhalgh, Amir Arkan, Judd Atkinson, Mila Cullen.



Back: Lucas Drowley-McElroy, William Petersen, Maxwell Russell, Ninke Gardner, Archie Sutton, Gurfateh Singh.

Front: Jessica Sumner, Josef Seekamp, Jacob Elliott, Binishma Panta.



Back: Ms Russell, Lucas Drowley-McElroy, Lucy Watkins, Piper Wolf, Dino Demou, Olive Hammerstein, Apollo Atsaves, Mr Hunter.

Front: Ryleigh Adamczyk, Jade Coombs, Armaan Neelon, Sophie Wutke, Harry Sever, Mersadez Bronish-Rice.

Champion Citizen Awards:

Congratulations to

**Matthew Latorre and
Bridget Cooper-Adamczyk**

who were recently presented with our
Champion Citizen Awards.



Religious Identity & Mission:

Shrove Tuesday:

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday last week with delicious pancakes made by members of our wonderful Parents and Friends committee. Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins).

Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!



Ash Wednesday:

Our Year 6 class represented the school at the Parish Ash Wednesday Mass last week. The local parishioners were very pleased to see the students at the Mass. We also celebrated back at school with a liturgy where the rest of the school received Ashes from their teachers.

In Lent, we talk to the students about what they are doing for others and how we can all help to make the world a better place. Talk to your children about what they are learning and show them what we can do for others, at home as well as at school. Maybe show them how you regularly put in spare change from your purse/wallet into the Project Compassion boxes, or how you give surplus clothes to charity. By seeing what you are doing at home, and how this relates to what we are doing at school, our students will grow into people who care about justice and fairness for all people of the world.



Project Compassion:

Project Compassion, which is run by Caritas, is our major charity we support during Lent. It is based on Catholic Social Teaching principles. Each week we learn about a different person and community that Caritas has helped. Project Compassion boxes with a flyer about what it is all about went home with the last newsletter.

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

Week 1

Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

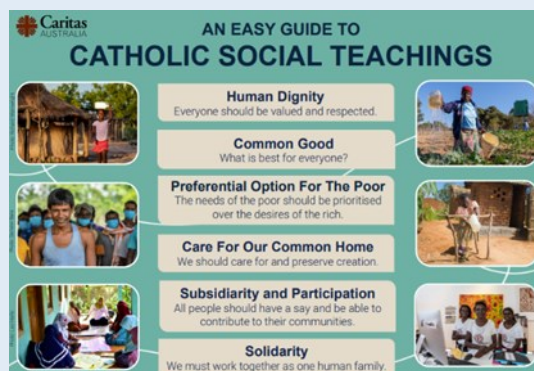
Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

“I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself,” she said. “I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you.”

Chrissie Grocke

APRIM



Leader of Learning:

NAPLAN:

The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will take place from Wednesday 13th March until the 25th March for students in Years 3 and Year 5. Students will participate in practice sessions over the next couple of weeks to support them in being familiar with the online assessment. A letter has been placed with this newsletter, with a return slip, for all Year 3 and Year 5 parents with more information. Please see your class teacher, Mrs Grocke or Ms Russell if you have any questions.

Numeracy:

Mr Hooper's Reception class has been developing automaticity with their facts of 10.

Chrissie Grocke
Leader of Learning



SAPSASA News:

On the 20th of February, 12 students from St Joseph's Renmark travelled to the Loxton swimming pool to compete in SAPSASA swimming.

We had students competing in the 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly.

Along with these events, four students competed for the Uzzell Shield in a medley relay and the Appleton Shield in a freestyle relay where they managed to finish 1st, what a great achievement.

It was amazing to see the students demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and support for their peers.

Mr Thomas Smart
SAPSASA Co-ordinator



Successful team members were from back Archie Sutton, Max Jarvis, Elsa Malinovski, Isla Martinson, Harper Brown, Ava Lindner, Olly Stoneham. Front is Marcus Flett, Piper Wolf, Dino Demou, Annie Hooper & Felix Zunic.



Our Champion
Relay members
were
Annie Hooper
Isla Martinson
Ava Lindner
& Max Jarvis

Parents & Friends:



A big thank you to
the parents who
helped prepare,
cook and serve
pancakes for
Shrove Tuesday.

The students really
enjoyed them.



Shrove Tuesday



Student Wellbeing:

After School Meltdowns

After school meltdowns are often a challenging aspect of a child's day, characterised by emotional outbursts, frustration, and exhaustion. The transition from the classroom to home can be overwhelming for some children as they navigate the demands of academic, social, and extracurricular activities. Fatigue plays a significant role, as children expend considerable mental and emotional energy during school hours. Strategies such as establishing a calm and consistent after-school routine, providing a quiet space for decompression, and encouraging open communication can be helpful in mitigating after school meltdowns and fostering a more positive transition from school to home life.

Here are some suggestions on how to support a child experiencing the after school restraint collapse:

Spend an extra 5 to 10 minutes with them before school.

Pack something in the car for them to hold, eg. Soft teddy, fidget toy.

Send them to school with notes in their lunch box or a picture of something they find special that will make them look forward to coming home.

Instead of focusing on the goodbye and telling them all the fun things they will do that day, redirect their attention to your next hello, eg "Have a great day -when I pick you up, shall we...?"

Pack a snack for the trip home.

Delay asking them about their day.

Get to know what your child needs once they are home (which can change from day to day) - do they need time to relax, or some physical activity?

Have some down time before doing school work (if your child has any).

Offer understanding and empathy rather than punishment or discipline for any unwanted behaviour.

Parents/caregivers often find themselves wondering why these big emotions and challenging behaviours are occurring. If you are experiencing this, it is likely because your child sees you as their safe person, and home as a safe space, for them to release these.

BE GREEN DAY



Join us on a journey to raise awareness about how waste impacts our school and planet, and the importance of doing the three R's -

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Friday 1st March from 1.45-3pm

Join a buddy class for fun activities

Free sausage sizzle provided at lunch time by the P & F Committee

THIS SPECIAL DAY IS A NUDE FOOD DAY!

Our planet needs us!

Charlie-in-Action

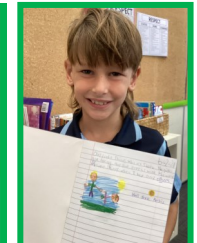
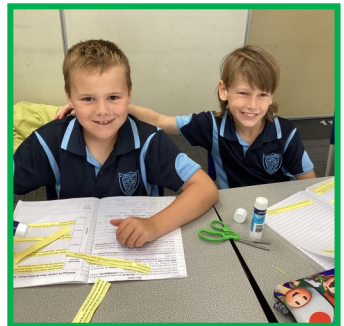
Charlie enjoying some pats at the Captains & SRC Induction assembly, and students sampling the yummy apples we grow in our school garden!



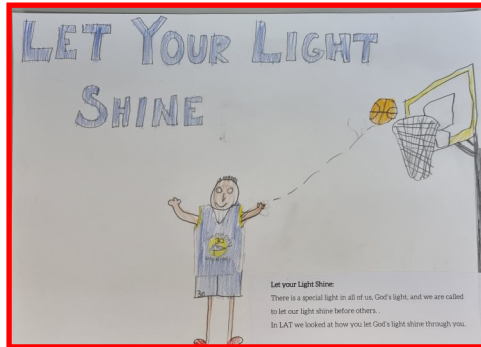
St. Joseph's School Renmark
Wellbeing
COMMITTEE



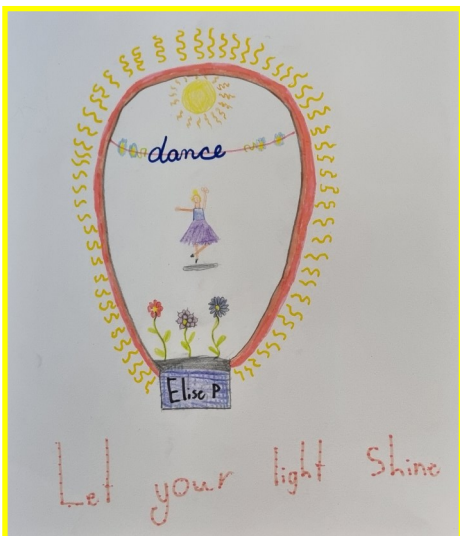
A great start to the year with 3/HS



LAT Work samples:



Let your Light Shine



There is a special light in all of us, God's light, and we are called to let our light shine before others. In LAT we looked at how you let God's light shine through you.

