

## Messages from Nicole

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

Can you believe that we are just over half-way through Term 1. The first 6 weeks have flown by with many wonderful learning opportunities and strong relationships and connections being formed in classes. I have been making my way around classrooms and chatting to students in the yard about Lenten promises made on Ash Wednesday. I have heard positive stories from the children of some of their sacrifices, including giving up chocolate, no lollies and helping out more at home. I have also seen amazing examples of kindness, from donating spending money to Project Compassion and helping their teachers and fellow classmates. The Lenten focus to pray, sacrifice and give, is not always easy to stick to as time moves on and so we all need reminders and help to remain committed to this meaningful and values building learning opportunity.



### AGM Announcement:

I congratulate Anna Petersen, Sally Milich and Steve Atkinson who were re-elected to the School Board for 2 more years. I also warmly welcome and congratulate Nathan Burgess who has joined our active members this year. I look forward to our next meeting on Tuesday 19th March.



Year 3/HS students reading at today's Mass

### SRC meeting:

Our SRCs had their first meeting today. They outlined important aspects of their role and looked at planning their class meetings. They are busy thinking of ideas, activities, and events. I thank Mrs Amy Thompson for her initiative and support of the SRC students.

### Children's University - 2024 Launch:

Our students have the opportunity to again be involved in an exciting program: 'Children's University Australasia' (CUA). Mrs Del Zoppo is our Coordinator and recently had a very positive response for our students.

CUA aims to encourage high quality 'out of school hours' activities for children aged between approx. 8 and 14 years of age, engaging the wider community as learning partners in this process. The most important principles of CUA are that participation is voluntary and activities must take place outside the





## **ST. THERESE'S RENMARK**

Fr Hau 0401 367 337  
8582 1894

### **MASS TIMES**

10 March Sun 9.00am  
16 March Sat 6.30pm  
24 March Sun 9.00am

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March:**

- 11 Public Holiday**
- 12 9.15am Assembly by 1/2KV class**
- 2pm Python visiting**
- 7pm P&F Meeting**
- 13 NAPLAN starts**
- 13 AFL & SANFL Cups visit**
- 15 St Patrick Green Team celebration day**

normal school day, during lunch, after school, weekends and holidays. Students choose what activities to do and when, and the learning always has a link to something they could do at a 'grown up' university.

In partnership with The University of Adelaide, we aim to raise aspirations and develop a love of learning by issuing students enrolled in CUA with a 'Passport to Learning,' which records their individual learning journey. To support this very valuable learning opportunity we subsidise the cost of registration. We look forward to sharing many positive stories and learning experiences.

### **P&F/Wellbeing Meeting – Footy Tipping Competition:**

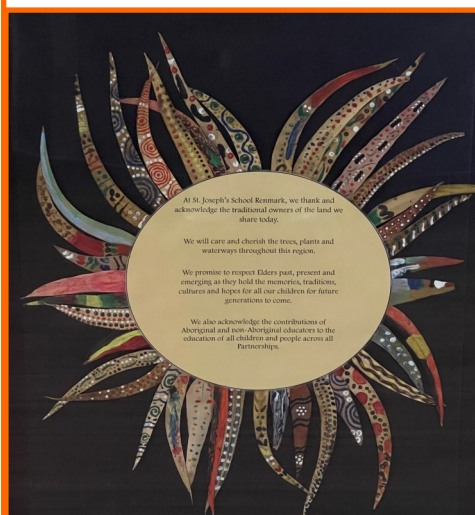
I wish to promote our upcoming P&F/Wellbeing gathering on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, at the Renmark Hotel Function Room. I congratulate Jo Lloyd who was successful in being nominated once again as President. We look forward to Jo leading discussions to plan exciting ideas and events. I also take this opportunity to promote the P&F Footy Tipping Competition which is a free activity with excellent prize money.

The AFL, AFLW, SANFL & SANFLW Cups are coming to St Joseph's Renmark on **Wednesday 13th March**. You may wear a AFL or SANFL Footy Team top over your normal school uniform. All classes will have an opportunity to have a photo taken with the cups and ask questions about them.

St Patrick Green Team  
**Celebration Day**  
**Friday 15th March**  
**ONLY** St Patrick Team Members may wear green socks, t-shirt or hair ties. This is not a casual day - It must be green!  
Bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share with your team in the Tenison Woods Centre at 2.15pm

## **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.



### **St Joseph's Day:**

In Week 8 on Tuesday **March 19th**, we will celebrate one of the most important days in a Josephite school, St Joseph's Day. The Josephite charism permeates throughout all aspects of school life here at St Joseph's with students being guided to follow the vision and inspiration of our Patron Saint, St Joseph, and co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. To celebrate this day students will participate in a special whole school liturgy and after lunch our wonderful Year 6 students will run their Project Compassion stalls.

### **Harmony Day:**

Harmony Day is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our school will celebrate this important day on Thursday **21st March**. In classes students will learn about the meaning of this day and are encouraged to wear a splash of orange with their full school uniform.

### **Annual Improvement Plan- Strategic Priorities:**

One of our key strategic priorities this year from our annual improvement plan is student agency and in particular all students understanding what student agency is and being able to apply this within the classroom and their own learning. We have three actions to help us achieve this goal which are outlined below:

- Develop a whole school approach to student agency.
- 3-Way learning conversations.
- Develop an understanding with students around responsibility and ownership of their own learning.



We have already begun working towards our priorities this term through staff meetings and professional development. Our next steps will be working with students, parents and the wider community on common language around student agency. We look forward to sharing more of our work in this area in the coming weeks.

### 3-Way Learning Conversations:

This term we will be implementing 3-way learning conversations. A 3-way learning conversation actively involves parents, students and teachers in reflecting on student progress and setting future goals and targets. These learning conversations provide a student voice to discussions about performance and progress, and will allow students to take ownership and responsibility in their own learning, developing their student agency. In the upcoming weeks further information will be provided to parents about these conversations. The 3-way learning conversations will be held in Week 11 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and we will be using our Online Booking System.

### Classroom Pulse 'Check In':

Last week and this week students have completed the Classroom Pulse 'Check In'. This is the wellbeing initiative introduced by CESA across every Catholic School in South Australia. This initiative has a strong strategic focus that aligns with the Living Learning Leading Framework. This survey provides valuable data to how our students are feeling about daily school life, their friendships, learning and their connection with the school as a community. This feedback enables us to put additional processes, procedures and programs in place to better support students at school in terms of student learning and wellbeing. We are looking forward to analysing the data.

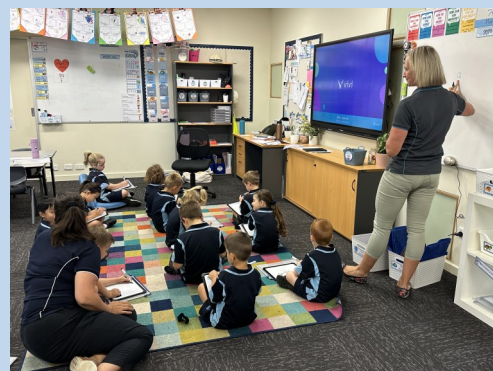
Stay safe and cool with the coming hot weather and enjoy some family time this long weekend. I look forward to Tuesday's Assembly at 9.15am.

Regards  
**Nicole Russell**  
Principal

## Leader of Learning:

### Engaged Learning:

As you can see from these photos, students are engaged in their learning. On my walks through the classes I have enjoyed talking with the students and sharing in their growth.



### NAPLAN

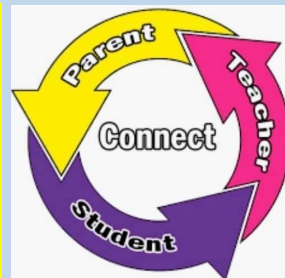
Next week our Year 3 and Year 5 students will participate in the NAPLAN testing to demonstrate their skills in literacy and numeracy. The idea behind NAPLAN is to provide a snapshot of how the nation's children are performing in these areas. We recognise that this National test is one of the significant systematic tools to collect data and we wish our students well in these tests.



## Parent Teacher Student 3-Way Learning Conversations

Week 11 ~ Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
8th, 9th & 10th April 2024

**Chrissie Grocke**  
Leader of Learning





# Religious Identity & Mission:

## 3/HS Class Mass:

Congratulations to Mrs Hayes and Mrs Smith's class on the reverent way they led Mass today, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of March. This is another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrates their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity.



## Our Lenten Journey – Caritas Australia – Project Compassion:

Our fundraising for Project Compassion during this Lenten season is going really well so far. Students have been learning how their contributions help Caritas Australia in their work in other countries in our world. Please continue to discuss with your child/ren about how their care and actions can make a significant difference to others who are less fortunate than themselves. This week they have shared Leaila's story from Samoa, where they learnt that with the support from fundraising, Caritas Australia has been able to install a water tank at her home, improving her health and living conditions.



## Crossways Professional Development:

Teachers have participated in Professional Learning in crafting teaching and learning programs using the Crossways Framework this week, with a major focus on contemporary resources and assessing students against the Performance standards.

Crossways is the Religious Education curriculum for South Australian Catholic schools that is mandated by the Bishops.

The Crossways Curriculum consists of:

- Crossways Content articulated across 6 strands: A skills and dispositions strand called Wisdom and 5 Knowledge Strands: God, Us and Faith, Sacred Texts, Church for the World, Moral Life and Sacramentality and Prayer.
- A Scriptural Text Scope and Sequence
- Achievement Standards



## The Gospel Message:

In class each week across the school, we unpack the Gospel that will be proclaimed at Mass on the following Sunday. This week the students have explored the message in the Gospel, which tells us that God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative! God loved us so much that he sent his Son so that we can see and learn how to be forgiven. The Gospel reading also speaks about people and actions that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light' which links magnificently with our diocesan theme "Let there be Light." Students have explored some of the wonder questions : What are some actions in our community today that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light'? What are some actions 'of the light' that we can take on that would make a difference in other people's lives?



Chrissie Grocke  
APRIM





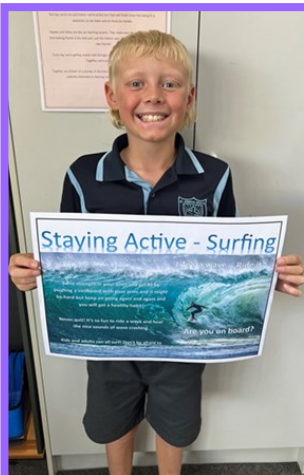
**Be Green Day**

"Be Green Day" was a wonderful opportunity for our students to reflect on the many ways we can help our planet and why it is important. Our students started their busy day with 'Clean Up Day', followed by a well deserved sausage sizzle for lunch. They then came together with their buddy classes for a fun afternoon of craft and activities using recycled items. Our aim is to raise awareness and try to reduce the amount of waste at our school by using nude food lunch boxes and by doing the 3Rs Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, each day when we empty and sort our bins.





## Some great learning has happened in 4/5RW class:



Exploring the Power of Persuasion: Our students crafted persuasive advertisements promoting healthy habits. Through engaging projects, they showcased their mastery of persuasive techniques, urging others to embrace a healthier lifestyle.



Delving into Number Mastery: In our recent Mathematics lessons, students have been immersed in the world of numbers and place value. Through hands-on activities, they selected numbers of their choice and delved into various ways to understand and explore their numerical significance.

Exciting PE Sessions at St Francis of Assisi College: Our students enjoyed energetic athletics training sessions led by their peers from Year 8. It was a fun-filled opportunity for everyone to enhance their athletic skills and teamwork spirit!

