

Messages from Don:

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on how this year has again been an incredible journey with this very special faith and learning community. This was highlighted by the amazing school spirit displayed with our recent Splash and Dash Day. The children had so much fun and the genuine feeling of community was so wonderful, with the staff and students joining together to share in the exciting activities. As I continue to reflect on the whole year, I am so appreciative of the amazing support and encouragement that I have received from so many people. I have watched our children grow into wonderful young members of our St Joseph's School. I have valued getting to know more and more families and finally, I have enjoyed the growth and development of all our staff.



Advent:

Our school is certainly in the Christmas spirit with fantastic activities, decorations, and symbols. Our classes proudly display the Nativity Scene, the colour purple and the Advent Wreath. The Season of Advent focusses on looking forward and waiting for something greater. This is also relevant to how we are thinking at this time of the school year. This is a time when we are reflecting on the past year with all the wonderful events and activities and positive learning opportunities. We are also looking to the future with classes, learning styles and new expectations. As a Catholic School, these are important activities and events. 2023 has provided precious memories and valuable experiences. They also highlight the different and meaningful learning opportunities that are offered. It illustrates the positive community spirit that is present at our fantastic school. I look forward to an exciting end to the year and hope to witness our community spirit with some final events including, Year 6 Graduation, Concert Night and End of Year Mass.



Children's University students attended their Graduation and were presented certificates for their efforts.

Children's University:

I was so proud to join our families to witness the Children's University Graduation Ceremony. I believe that promoting community involvement is such an important value, that enhances the skills and attributes of our children. I want to congratulate all the students on their efforts and participation. I also acknowledge Mrs Del Zoppo for all her work and organisation. This extra responsibility is highly valued in our school.



ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

10 Dec Sun 9.00am

16 Dec Sat 6.30pm

24 Dec Sun 6.00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 11 Year 6 Celebration Day
- 13 Year 6 Graduation
- 14 Concert
- 15 9.30am School Mass
- 15 12.30pm Dismissal

January

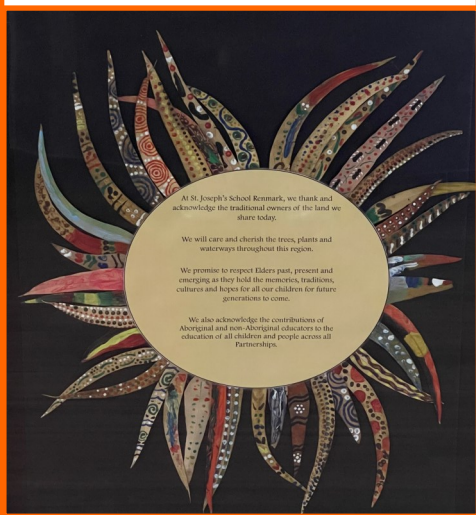
- 29 Student Free Day
- 30 Start of Term 1

February

- 1 Welcome Night & Parent Info
- 2 Welcome Assembly

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.



Positive Minds - Class Placements

The end of the year brings many feelings and emotions particularly when it comes to class placements. As parents it is normal to have these feelings as supporting our children is our priority. But knowing that our children's emotions are interconnected with our feelings can help prepare them for next year. So how we react will model how our children will react. Every year school brings different experiences of learning - new friends, different teachers, different learning environments. Guiding our children (not fixing it for them) through these situations, helping them to develop skills of working through change, is a powerful and valuable experience.

As a school, we have a very comprehensive process to follow when we are constructing classes, where many aspects are considered. We have been working hard to meet the needs of every child. We greatly appreciate the support, understanding and cooperation from our families and hope that by using a positive mindset that everyone will be ready for next year. Please see attached the article we distributed with many ways to help our children make a smooth transition for 2024.

Pageant:

This was a huge success and what a great feeling it was for our whole community. We were so pleased to participate and enjoyed seeing the joy and happiness in our children and all our families. I sincerely thank all our staff for their time and effort with organisation and participation. I wish to also acknowledge Mr Neil Martinson who was very influential in getting this event back in



Semester 2 SRCs held their final meeting yesterday and enjoyed a shared lunch. They have raised funds with various activities, and contributed ideas and suggestions throughout the year. Well done to ALL SRCs for 2023.

Amy Thompson
SRC Co-ordinator

Renmark.

Carols In The Garden:

I was again a very proud Principal as I enjoyed our participation in the Carols In The Garden last Sunday at Jarrett Memorial Gardens. To see our staff and students join together and perform was outstanding. This was a significant event in our community and our participation again promotes our school identity and culture. I acknowledge Mrs Charnstrom for her outstanding commitment and organisation and the many staff who attended to show their support.

Premier's Reading Challenge:

Our students have been amazing with their efforts completing the Premier's Reading Challenge. The participation and enthusiasm was wonderful with 240 students officially recognised. Our continued commitment promotes and encourages the importance of reading in our community. Well done to Mrs Slagter for all of her organisation, parents, students and staff for all of their support.

School Board Thanks

The School Board members enjoyed their final meeting last night at the Paringa Hotel. I acknowledge and personally thank each one of them for their positive guidance, support and counsel as we

continue to work though many aspects of our school. We look forward to a positive future under their direction. I thank Jarrod and Simone Skinner for hosting us last night and the beautiful



meal we shared together with all our partners.

Concert:

We are all very excited about our upcoming concert to be held next Thursday 14th December. Everyone has been working extremely hard to prepare for this special event. I look forward to seeing you all there! More details soon.

End Of Year Mass:

The End Of Year Mass will be celebrated on Friday 15th December at 9.30am. We invite all parents, family and friends to attend to celebrate the year and to farewell our Year 6 students. The Year 5 students will be part of the service in a Leadership Handover Ceremony at the start of the Mass. We will also present our school-based awards at this special gathering. This will be the last official gathering for the school year and we hope to see many parents and families attend.

Reports:

The staff have worked very hard producing End Of Year Reports which will be distributed next week. They include content from the Australian Curriculum. It is essential to understand when a student achieves a C grade, it means that child is demonstrating an understanding of the concepts studied appropriate for their year level. The most significant aspect of the report is the teachers' comment and the attitude achievement. Parents should acknowledge and focus on the effort as a highlight and not only the overall grade.

Reports will be distributed on Friday December 15th at 12.30pm. Arrangements can be made in writing for a nominated person to collect the report if students are going to be away. Class placements for the 2023 school year will be included in the report envelope.

I'm so pleased with the many wonderful learning opportunities and experiences that have been recently provided over the past two weeks. We look forward to our final week with great anticipation.

Regards

Don DePalma

Religious Identity & Mission:

Class Mass:

Miss Eckermann and Mrs Whitelaw's Year 3/4 class led our Parish Mass at the church last Friday. The theme for the Mass was to understand that God's love and word will never change, unlike other things in our life using the Fig Tree as an example. It was a beautiful Mass followed by a lovely morning tea back at school. Thank you to the teachers and Mrs Guy for their work in preparing the students, Fr Ranjith 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.



Merry Christmas:

As we enter the Christmas season, we hope that all our families have a safe and happy time and remember what Christmas is all about. In this time of consumerism and personal greed, it is important that we reflect on the original Christmas story. And not the one that we see on glossy Christmas cards and stylised artworks and re-enactments. The two Gospel stories that tell of the birth of Jesus have very different accounts. One has shepherds, one does not. One has some 'wise' men (maybe not 3 of them?) who visit Jesus in a house, but the other does not. None of them mention any animals in the 'stable', or even a stable, only that Jesus was laid in a manger, an animals' feeding trough. Our combined, and probably, watered-down idea of the birth of Jesus is different from the two versions portrayed in the Bible. But it doesn't change the meaning of the story-that two thousand years ago a child was born to a young girl in a land a long way away, and that child went on to become the person we know as Jesus. The same person who changed the world and influenced billions of people around the world to share his story, his beliefs and his love. As we open presents on Christmas morning, are we thinking about that child born a long time ago, or are we thinking of ourselves? Hopefully we are thinking of both. Hopefully we are thinking of how connected we are to our God

Religious Identity & Mission cont.....:

and happy that we have the lives full of love, that Jesus professed for all. May God bless you and your family at this wonderful time of the year!



Our Giving Tree:

PLEASE SUPPORT US TO SUPPORT OTHERS

Our Mini Vinnies Committee invite all families to think of those who are less fortunate this Christmas and send along a gift to go under our tree. Thank you to all the families that have supported them so far.



Caritas Christmas Appeal:

Are you struggling to find a gift for someone who has it all? Or just looking for a way of supporting those who need our help? Caritas invites us all to support their work for the poor and vulnerable. You can make a big difference to the lives of vulnerable families this season of giving. Donate now to spread the joy of Christmas to those in need. This is a great way of celebrating the real Christmas spirit of giving. Go to <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/> to donate today.

Chrissie Grocke
REC

Leader of Learning:

Narrator performance at Public Library:

Last week our Year 4 students visited the Renmark Paringa Public Library to see Stig Wemyss. Stig is Australia's most loved narrator of audio books for children and young adults. He has narrated hundreds of audio books from such great authors as Tim Winton, Paul Jennings, Anh Do and is the voice of all the Andy Griffiths books which are available through BorrowBox (libraries audio book database).

In keeping with the theme of the Andy Griffiths books, Stig presented a show that was irreverent, funny, interactive and completely compelling. He explored the themes presented in many of the books for this demographic through humour, acting and improvisation skills. He engaged the audience and created excitement around literature, reading and listening.

Chrissie Grocke
Leader of Learning



"Give Thanks" End of Year Mass 2023



St Joseph's School Renmark

End of Year Mass:

We look forward to celebrating and Giving Thanks for our Year with our End of Year Mass at St Therese church next Friday at 9.30am. All are welcome.

Sacrament Program 2024:

If you're interested in enrolling your child in the St Joseph's School Sacramental program in 2024, please complete the form sent home today and return it by December 15th. Thank you very much for your cooperation!



Star Student Awards:



Back: Ryan Moldovan, Hamish Gudgeon, Nate O'Bryan, Ivy Stoeckel, Abbey Smith, Vlassios Papageorgiou
Front: Tyson Anspach, Hazel Kinnear, Logan Townsend, Billy Papageorgiou, Kadam Randall, Harry Sever.



Back: Seth Penno, Sandra Nguyen, Eloise Hammond
Front: Harley Johnson, Axel Penno, Jonah Sutton, Max Preusker, Partap Gill

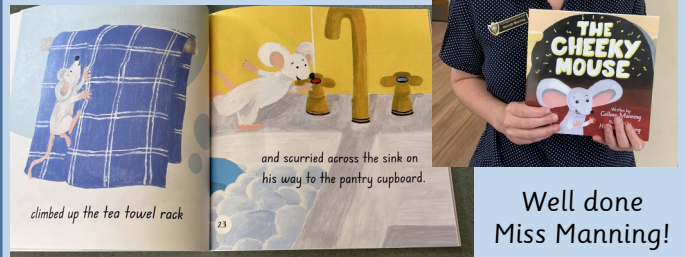
Champion Citizen Awards:



Congratulations to
Mehtaab Dehal, Agum Arkan, Khushreet Khinda, Gurleen Sharma & Jashan Grewal
who were recently presented with our
Champion Citizen Awards.

Staff Artist:

Our Year 3/4 teacher, Miss Hannah Manning, has been hiding her artistic talent. Miss Manning recently created the illustrations for her Auntie Colleen's book, *The Cheeky Mouse*. The story is about a mischievous little mouse who has built his home inside a house, and the lady of the house is not happy about it!



'Design a Cap' Award:

Congratulations to Chloe Camplin who has won the Surf Lifesaving Club SA 'Design a Cap' competition for Renmark Paringa Council. It was part of the Nippers on the River program delivered recently to students. Lily McLeod, William Petersen and Olly Stoneham were awarded Runner Up positions.



'Peace Poster' Award:

Congratulations to Charlotte Evans who was recently announced as the winner of the Peace Poster Competition.

Charlotte was presented with her certificate at our recent assembly by the co-ordinator Celeste Pettigrew.

Thank you to Mr Reeks for guiding the Year 5 & 6 students in this project.

A w e s o m e w o r k
Charlotte!



Student Wellbeing:

Hope

This week our school value is Hope. Hope is a trusty companion throughout our lives. It is like a magical spark inside us, a special kind of belief that makes everything seem possible. It's the feeling that cheers us on when things seem tough, telling us that we can do it! Whether it's solving a tricky math problem or making new friends, hope is a friendly helper. It's the bright rainbow after the rainy day, showing us that good things are just around the corner. So, we should hold onto hope tightly, and let it will guide us through many adventures in learning. With hope by our side, every challenge is just a chance to discover something amazing! Hope reduces feelings of helplessness, increases happiness, reduces stress, and improves our quality of life.

Hope is like the heartbeat of the human spirit. It's crucial because it empowers us to persevere through adversity, to envision a better future even in challenging times. Here's why it's so important:

Resilience: Hope gives us the strength to bounce back from setbacks. It fuels resilience, helping us to withstand difficulties and keep moving forward.

Motivation: It's a powerful motivator. When we're hopeful, we're more likely to take action towards our goals, no matter how big or small.

Emotional Well-being: Hope has a positive impact on mental health. It counters feelings of despair or helplessness, promoting a more optimistic outlook.

Coping Mechanism: During tough times, hope provides a coping mechanism. It offers a sense of control and helps manage stress by focusing on potential solutions.

Inspiration: Hope inspires creativity and innovation. It encourages us to think beyond the present, fostering new ideas and possibilities.

Relationships: It can strengthen relationships, fostering trust and mutual support, especially when individuals share hopeful perspectives.

Health Benefits: Studies suggest that hopeful individuals tend to have better physical health outcomes, including lower stress levels and improved immune function.

On behalf of the Wellbeing Team, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

We look forward to seeing all your lovely smiles in 2024.

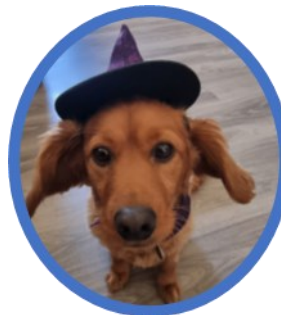
Love from
Keisha, Linda,
and Charlie.

Merry Christmas



Charlie-in-Action

Charlie joins in with our students when it comes to dress up days and special events. The students love seeing the many faces of Charlie.



St. Joseph's School Renmark
Wellbeing
COMMITTEE



Renmark Christmas Pageant:



A big thank you to all the students and staff involved in this wonderful community event.

Also, thank you to Murray Knowling, Gerry and Ryan.



Premier's Reading Challenge Presentations:





Splash & Dash



2023 Concert

All students are to be in their classrooms by 6.00pm for a 6.15pm start.

More details to be distributed next week.

P&F CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

TICKETS : \$1 EACH

RAFFLE DRAWN ON CONCERT NIGHT

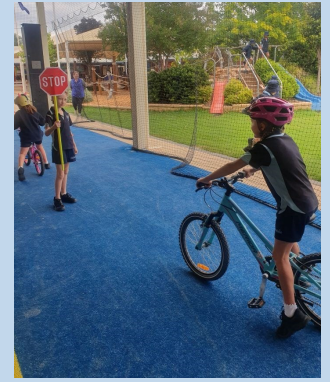
1ST PRIZE - 108L ESKY VALUED AT \$500 FILLED WITH CHRISTMAS TREATS

2ND & 3RD PRIZE - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT OFFICE. BOOK OF TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE TO SELL

Bike Safety Lessons:



Christmas light display at Paul Tassios':

In a tradition that spans half a decade, the Christmas lights display at 101 Rialto Street in Renmark West is growing in size and popularity as each year passes. Paul Tassios and his family have been bringing joy to the Riverland Community with a breathtaking display of over 67,000 Christmas lights around their property. If you get an opportunity to witness this fabulous display you will not be disappointed. Cash donations are being accepted towards the Childhood Cancer Association.

