

## Messages from Don:

Dear St Joseph's School Families,

As I write my final newsletter for the year, I look back and give thanks. As I reflect and review, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for being part of this amazing community. Our recent Graduation ceremony, Concert and Farewell Mass means these last few days have been challenging, industrious and simply amazing. I am so proud of the many events and activities that have been shared. We have certainly established a positive and vibrant school culture for our entire community.



### End of Year Mass:

Today we celebrated our End of Year Mass at the Church. It provided us with an opportunity to respectfully farewell our Year 6 students from the school and to give thanks for the school year. We heard from students Ivan Atsaves and Alexandra Tassios as they reflected on their primary schooling. We also acknowledged the recipients of the St Mary MacKillop Award, Tahlia Slagter, and the Josephite Award, Farhad Rajabi. These are awarded to students who have shown compassion and friendship, have been a positive role model for their peers and displayed loyalty to the school community. The Hotel Renmark Champion Citizens were awarded to Lexie Neal, Lara Stoneham, Harper Brown and Charlotte Evans for their resilience, positive attitude and overall efforts throughout the year. The Tim Whetstone Award went to Madden Hardwick for his overall efforts in all areas of schooling. Imogen Neilly received the BVMS Scholarship Award for her excellent results in Academics throughout the year. Finally, the RSL presented their award to Sylvie Gill and Ruby Jarvis for displaying good leadership values and always giving 100% effort.



Cassie & Travis Stoneham were presented with the Volunteer Award.



Year 6 final farewell



Cooper, Madden, Ivan & Jack thanked Mr DePalma.

### Concert:

As I addressed the whole community at last night's Concert, the sight of the crowd before me captured what St Joseph's School is all about. Staff, parents and students coming together as one, where school and family have worked together in the tradition of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. I must sincerely thank all parents, carers, community members and students who volunteered their time and helped with the organisation.

I congratulate Cassie and Travis Stonham for receiving the Volunteer Award and thank them for their substantial contribution to St Joseph's and the wider community over many years.

We bid farewell to 17 families whose time has come to a close with the St Joseph's Community. We wish these families all the best with their future endeavours.





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

Fr Hau 0401 367 337  
8582 1894

### **MASS TIMES**

16 Dec Sat 6.30pm

24 Dec Sun 6.00pm

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **January**

29 Student Free Day

30 Term 1 2024 starts

#### **February**

1 Welcome Night & Parent  
Information Night

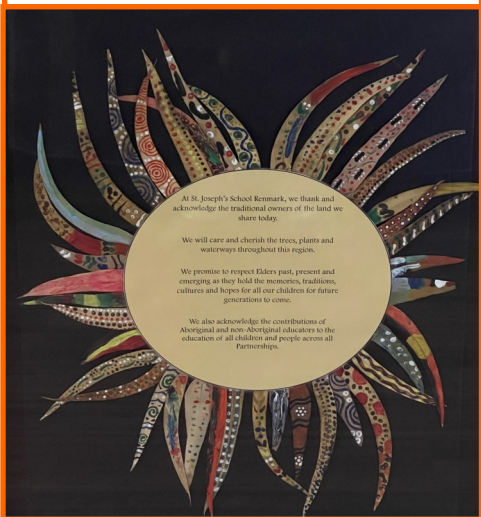
2 Welcome Assembly 9.15

5 Years 3-6 Swimming

16 Captains & SRC Induction  
Assembly 9.15am

## **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.



I must also acknowledge our wonderful staff. We are very fortunate to have staff who are willing to 'go the extra mile' for our students, providing them with a full and varied enrichment program. All year we have provided these types of experiences for our students. They provide opportunities to become well rounded learners. Great schools not only demand the highest academic standards, but also a depth of character, range of skills and common sense which can only be achieved through access to positive learning experiences. We have had many activities and events throughout the year which highlights the diverse, varied, flexible, engaging and fun opportunities that are provided to our students and our community.

### **Graduation:**

This was a special night where the Year 6 students were formally recognised and acknowledged for their time at St Joseph's School Renmark. We joined together with staff and families which created a wonderful feeling of community. I congratulate all the students on the way they conducted themselves and thank Mr Luxton, Miss Williams and Miss Hauptman for all their time and effort preparing the students and for organising the event.

### **Challenge Cup:**

The results of Challenge Cup were announced today. 1st place ~ St Joseph Gold 17 points, 2nd ~ St Mary MacKillop Blue 15 points, 3rd ~ St Therese Red 14 points, and 4th ~ St Patrick Green 13 points. This activity promotes commitment, graciousness, inclusiveness, and accountability from our students. We commend them on their efforts for supporting the Challenge Cup for 2023.



**Staff performing at last nights Concert.**

### **Staff**

I wish to announce that we will welcome Mikayla Warner on staff next year. She will be working under the AFL Sports Ready Program which supports young people who will looking at pursuing a Career in Education. We look forward to supporting and welcoming Mikayla as she starts her professional journey.

### **Reports:**

The staff have worked very hard producing Semester Two reports which were distributed today. The new SEQTA format includes content from the Australian Curriculum. It is essential to understand that reporting and grade interpretations have changed significantly over the years and it is imperative that we have a clear and common understanding when reviewing reports. We have communicated the grading system that recognises each individual achievement and where they are at with their learning journey. 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.



### My Study Leave – Good Luck to Nicole Russell (Acting Principal):

As mentioned previously, I will be taking Study Leave in Term 1 next year. I sincerely thank the CEO for granting me this time to be able to complete my Master's in Educational Leadership at ACU. Whilst I am nervous and excited about completing this extensive requirement, I have lots of other emotions about not being at school at the start of the year, not being present in our wonderful community and what will I be missing. But, I am looking forward to having some quality family time and then celebrating completing my successful graduation in my study. I wish Nicole Russell all the best as she takes on Acting Principal in my absence and trust we will make her feel very welcome.

### **P&F:**

I'd like to say a huge WELL DONE to all students and staff involved in last night's concert – what a fabulous night it was! Also a big congratulations to the winners of our raffle - Lucca, Kerry & Ryan.

As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every parent, grandparent, carer or friend who has made a contribution to the school community in 2023.

No matter how small you feel your contribution was, please know that it was hugely appreciated!

I wish all St Joseph's students and families a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to another fun and successful P&F year in 2024.

A special thank you to Santa for his visit.

**Jo Lloyd**  
**P&F President**

### Start Date for 2024:

A reminder that school resumes on Tuesday, 30th January 2024. On Thursday, 21st February we will hold our P&F Welcome Night in conjunction with the Class Information Sessions, where parents and carers can meet teachers and gather some information about their child's learning for 2024. We will welcome many new families to our school community during a special assembly on Friday 2nd February at 9.15am under the shelter. I sincerely thank you all for your support, commitment, respect and dedication throughout this entire year. I have embraced and enjoyed my year as a Principal only because of the fantastic team that has been around me.

I wish you all a restful holiday and a blessed and Holy Christmas.

Regards

**Don DePalma**  
**Principal**





# Year 6 Graduation ~ Farewell and Good Luck!:



Tahlia Slagter  
Mary MacKillop Award



Farhad Rajabi  
Josephite Award



Sylvie Gill  
RSL Award



Ruby Jarvis  
RSL Award



Madden Hardwick  
Tim Whetstone  
Award



Lexie Neal  
Champion Citizen  
Award



Lara Stoneham  
Champion Citizen  
Award



Harper Brown  
Champion Citizen  
Award



Charlotte Evans  
Champion Citizen  
Award



Imogen Neilly  
BVMS Academic  
Award

