



St Joseph's School Renmark

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ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Renmark SA

St Joseph's
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
School

Renmark
Tuesday 27th February 2024



*St Joseph's
School
Renmark*

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Reporting on the 2023 School Year, 27th February 2024

ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT & OVERVIEW

Our School is committed to sharing aspects of our school performance with the parent/carer community. All Catholic Schools are required to prepare an Annual Report on school performance for their parents and the community each year as a requirement of the Schools Assistance Act 2008. This requirement is additional to the publication by ACARA of data on the MySchool website. With this in mind, and with our commitment to providing you with information about our school, we are pleased to present this report to you.

As you read the following report, you can see that the school has forged ahead over the past 12 months with many important initiatives that characterise the school as progressive and an exciting learning community.

We have an exceptionally dedicated team of 41 teachers, school officers and other support staff at St Joseph's. I'm confident that all parents join me in commending and thanking them for the outstanding work they do in education and for the very many ways in which they go "above and beyond" in the service of the school.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Parents and Friends Community and the School Board for their outstanding dedication, commitment, and support in 2023.

Please see attached Don DePalma's Principal report for 2023.

Nicole Russell
PRINCIPAL
February 2024

St Joseph's
School
Renmark

Principal Annual Report:

This year started with relief, and celebration, with the high-water risk averted. We were very grateful that school resumed with minimal flooding impact. We were so fortunate to have hard working members of our community who joined together to keep us safe. I acknowledge and thank the many people who contributed in many ways, especially our own parents/caregivers in our St Joseph's community. As a small country town, we definitely showed our strong sense of community.

I always enjoy the opportunity to write in our end of year Magazine as it gives me great joy to look back over 2023 and reflect upon what has been achieved by the staff, students and families at St Joseph's School, Renmark.

Our Bishop, Karol Kulczycki, and Director, Nichii Mardon, launched our Diocesan theme for 2023 which was 'Called To Community'. This reminded us about our culture which is about finding ways of bringing people together and creating a sense of togetherness. We used this message to promote kindness, help others, show friendliness, compassion, and show respect for diversity.

We have been very pleased with our continual growth, again receiving very positive enrolment numbers. Our future projection is looking very bright, which gives us optimism for the coming years. We value the diversity of families that choose St Joseph's for their children's education, which proves to be a major strength of this school. We regularly promote basic values such as manners and friendliness but also strongly develop qualities such as respect, tolerance, and inclusion, whether in the yard or the classroom, at assemblies, masses, and liturgies. Long may this continue.

We continue to strengthen as a community in our mission of shaping students to be thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires through the implementation of the Catholic Education South Australia system wide 'Towards 2027' strategy. This, as well as other CESA directives, guided our 2023 Annual Improvements Plan which outlined our aspirations, goals, direction and actions for the year. We continued our work with our Master Plan, developing exciting concepts and designs to enhance and support our growth and future direction. At the heart of our plan was the children, with a commitment to focus on the academic and social development of each student in our community.

We have consolidated our learning environment with our work with educational expert Lyn Sharratt, and the teachings in her book, 'Clarity'. This was supported effectively with our new Literacy Philosophies, Reading for Success and PLD (Promoting Literacy Development). We also introduced a new reporting System using SEQTA, which was received positively by all staff, students, and families.

Our Parents and Friends, and Wellbeing Teams continued to work together which proved to be a fantastic network that provided a positive link between school and home. One of the highlights was our very successful Wellbeing EXPO. With more than 800 people attending, we certainly enhanced our community focus and highlighted the amazing school community that we are all privileged to be part of. Other highlights included Welcome Night, Bibles, Walk to School Day, Mother's Day, Shrove Tuesday, Father's Day, Disco, Parents volunteering to read with students, Sports Day, and many more. I sincerely thank the contribution and support of all our parents/carers and appreciate the many ways they have been involved in our school.

In a regional area, staffing in education can be a real challenge. But for us at St Joseph's, I was very pleased with the staffing model that we had created. I was so proud of all our teaching and ESO support staff who continued to be a real strength of our school. They worked in unity and with strong collaboration to provide an excellent environment to support the needs of all our students. They showed their unique ability to support the vision of the school and bring with them positive teaching skills and innovative pedagogy, collegiality, and passion. They continue to make the classroom a place of inquiry, excitement, and achievement.

Memorable moments and events are many in my memories of this year, some historical, musical, and sporting, others relating to sacraments, excursions, and performances. They are all great memories and ones I'm sure will live long in our students' minds as well. Along with our existing learning opportunities, they all provided a well-rounded and rich learning environment.

I would like to thank the School Board who have provided wise counsel, energy, and sure support to the vision of the school and to myself. Together we have achieved so much and all with strong financial stewardship. We have finished the year with minimal debt with a very strong financial position for the future.

The student leaders also have provided wonderful service to the school this year. School Captains Ruby Stuetzel and Madden Hardwick, and our Sports Captains, have again set a high standard for those coming into these roles in the future.

At the heart of all our work are our amazing students. It is a privilege to have the responsibility to guide these young people to become lifelong learners and citizens in our community. They accept the high expectations we promote and through the many events and activities they always provided us with so much joy. I would like to mention our Year 6s who have embraced their roles as leaders. They showed amazing development, maturity and responsibility which was highlighted in many ways including Project Compassion stalls during Harmony Day, Cardboard Box Sleepout and Sports Day.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our dear friend Fr Paul, who has served in our Riverland Community admirably for the past 10 years. His leadership and service has always been with such strong support and guidance. He not only has been a close personal friend, but he has also been so instrumental with his service throughout the whole Riverland. We ask God's blessings upon him, and we pray for him as he continues his vocation and service in the community of Pt Lincoln. We are so grateful to Fr Paul for all he has been for us at St Joseph's School Renmark.

With Fr Paul's departure we congratulated Fr Hau who was appointed as our new Parish Priest, and we also welcome our supporting Parish Priest and friend Fr Emil from Tanzania. Then later in the year we were so fortunate to welcome another Priest, this time from India, Fr Ranjith.

I have only been able to describe a snapshot of the 2023 year at St Joseph's School. I again say a big thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of my leadership role at St Joseph's School. We try to be a school that our own, and the wider Renmark, community can be proud of.

May the blessings of our faith be with every member of our community this Christmas.

Don DePalma
PRINCIPAL
December 2023

School Profile:

Introduction

St Joseph's school has a proud history beginning in 1918 with the pioneering work of the sisters of St Joseph. We are a Catholic parish school which continues to value the Josephite tradition of learning and spiritual ideals. The Catholic environment is central to our school. We offer a nurturing community where children will be valued and respected, God is named and recognised and gospel values are lived out in daily life.

The Socio Economic Score for St Joseph's is 93.0.

Student Profile

The following information describes our student body totaling 268 students in 2023:

Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
56	32	38	42	33	28	39

Indigenous students: 5

Students from families with background in languages other than English: 56

Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate for the school during 2023 was 88%. School attendance rates by term are shown in the following table:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
92%	88%	88%	90%

Student attendance rates per year level are shown below:

REC	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
91%	92%	88%	87%	87%	89%	92%

Parents are required to provide a written explanation for any student absences, as well as having the opportunity to contact the school office by phone. There are well-established school practices in place that require staff to follow up any unexplained absences. Each year a number of our students travel interstate and overseas for extended periods of time to visit relatives.

Staff Profile

Our staff consisted of:

- Teaching staff: 23 teachers making up 19.9 FTE.
- ESO staff: 18 ESOs making up 9.64 FTE.
- One staff member identifies as being of Aboriginal heritage.

Teacher Attendance and Retention Rates

The average teacher attendance rate during 2022 was 96%. This figure does not include teachers on planned long service leave or maternity leave.

The teacher retention rate from 2022 to 2023 was 98%.

Professional Learning

All staff have been engaged in professional learning throughout the year. Much of this learning has been completed after hours and on pupil free days, however, there are times when teachers were absent from the classroom to engage in professional learning.

The major professional learning initiatives engaged in were:

- RE – Prayer
- Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) – Literacy Screening- assessing and measuring the acquisition of literacy skills.
- Reading - Word-recognition strands (phonological awareness, decoding, and sight recognition of familiar words) and Language-comprehension strands (background knowledge, vocabulary, language structures, verbal reasoning, and literacy knowledge).
- Mathematics – Riverland Schools Collaborative Project
- Australian Curriculum - Integration
- Inclusive Education – NCCD, Trauma, ASD
- SEQTA
- CLARITY – Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Bump it Up Walls
- Data Analysis
- Pedagogy – High Impact teaching Strategies, Engagement Norms
- Multisensory Literacy
- Assessment – Progression Standards
- Living, Learning, Leading Key Capabilities Continua

All staff at St Joseph's School are appropriately qualified, the majority being equipped with post-graduate qualifications. One staff is currently studying for a Masters in Religious Education and another a Masters in Leadership.

The following applies:

Bachelor of Education – 99%

In 2024 we will continue to encourage all staff to engage in Professional Learning.

Faith and Spirituality:

As a Catholic School we are committed to the enhancement of Religious Education in the Catholic tradition, in response to God's desire and mission that "all people know themselves as loved by God and as called into relationship with God, one another and all of Creation." Our Diocesan theme for the year was 'Called to Community.' This theme was about recognising that all of creation is our neighbour, and we are called to reach out and show love, kindness, and compassion to all. This isn't limited to the person who lives next door to you, the list of neighbours is endless! Throughout the year we provided our community many opportunities to reach out to our neighbours, opportunities to become better people and be a light in our world. Fr Hau, Fr Emil, and Fr Ranjith provided ministry and support to staff and students within the liturgical and spiritual life of St Joseph's School. Their friendship and support enabled us to build a vibrant faith community for our students. It was wonderful to resume our Friday Parish Masses again where students could display their faithful leadership.

The Staff gathered for a reflective faith formation day at Banrock Station, based on the theme 'Called to Community – Chosen and Loved.' We reflected on Scripture from St Paul's letter to the Colossians, our Mission, Vision and Values at St Joseph's School Renmark and Pope Francis' teaching around vocation and our Divine Spark.

2023 saw a significant change to the Sacraments program throughout the Port Pirie Diocese. The Parish became more involved with the preparation of children who were receiving

Sacraments through events such as an Enquiry weekend, Rite of Commitment, Parent's Education weekend, Rite of Election, Celebration of the Sacrament, Commissioning of Children.

In the classroom Religious Education learning throughout the year students in Years Three, Four and Six had a specific focus on the seven Sacraments, in particular Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, as students from these year levels celebrated these Sacraments. Members of our school community participated in daily prayer and Christian meditation within the classroom, we also had many celebrations throughout the year such as, for Ash Wednesday, Harmony Day, Holy Week, St Joseph's Feast Day, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day, and Remembrance Day.

Our focus of professional learning in Religious Education was based around developing skills in crafting authentic prayer experiences and the NEW Revised Crossways Curriculum. Staff collaborated to create units using the new curriculum to facilitate the teaching and learning in their classes.

As a whole school we continue our 'outreach' and justice programs with the students being involved in raising funds for Caritas (through Project Compassion), Catholic Mission Charities and St Vincent de Paul - Mini Vinnies. Throughout these fundraising events we have always been committed to students learning about caring for those in need, as well as putting our kind words into action with a focus on being 'Called to Community.'

Learning:

Curriculum is defined as all that is facilitated by a school, both formal and informal. This year the formal curriculum was a core component of the focus at St Joseph's School. Staff used the Australian Curriculum for planning in Curriculum areas, which gives specific guidance to what should be the minimum content required at a specific year level. There was a focus on data informing their planning for all students with a case management approach, ensuring the inclusion of specific differentiation. The direction because of the SQPT CLARITY learning was with ensuring the development of student agency. This resulted in a focus on deliberate learning outcomes and success for students with Lesson Learning Intentions, Success Criteria and Bump It Up Walls, as well as whole school data to guide future pathways. High impact teaching strategies creating effective pedagogy was also a focus, guiding teachers professional learning plans.

Our Years 3 and 5 students undertook the NAPLAN testing in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. The overall picture for the past five years is illustrated below and comparisons with like schools can be accessed on the My School website provided by the Federal Government.

Overall Analysis of St Joseph's School Renmark 2023 NAPLAN Results

This year the structure of NAPLAN reporting was changed with student achievement in NAPLAN being reported against 4 proficiency standards, as opposed to 10 reporting bands and national minimum standard (that had been in place since 2008). The new standards are reported on a reset measurement scale, with a new NAPLAN time series beginning in 2023. The means results from 2023 cannot be compared with results from previous years.

The proficiency standards provide simpler and clearer information on student achievement and represent a challenging but reasonable expectation of what students at each level know and can do at the time of NAPLAN testing.

There is a proficiency standard for each assessment area within each year level. Students' results are measured against 4 levels of achievement: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support.

The mean scores and Proficiency Band for Year Three and Year Five are as follows.

	YEAR 3		YEAR 5	
	Mean Score	Proficiency Level	Mean Score	Proficiency Level
Reading	358.5	Developing	458.4	Strong
Writing	411.4	Strong	456.8	Strong
Spelling	381	Strong	469.9	Strong
Grammar and Punctuation	393.6	Developing	459.4	Developing
Numeracy	389.8	Strong	459	Strong

Year 3:

This is the first experience in NAPLAN for year three students and their results were mostly as expected. The Year Three cohort consists of 42 students with 38 students taking part in the NAPLAN tests (4 students withdrawn). This means that each individual student holds a weighting of 2.38%.

	Needs Additional Support	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	15.78%	47.37%	28.95%	7.89%
Writing	2.7%	67.57%	18.92%	10.81%
Spelling	15.79%	47.37%	23.68%	13.16%
Grammar and Punctuation	21.05%	36.84%	34.21%	7.89%
Numeracy	15.79%	26.32%	52.63%	5.26%

Year 5:

The Year 5 cohort consists of 28 students, with 27 students taking part in NAPLAN tests (one student withdrawn). This means that each student holds a weighting of 3.7%

	Needs Additional Support	Developing	Strong	Exceeding
Reading	3.7%	44.44%	44.44%	7.41%
Writing	18.52%	33.33%	37.04%	11.11%
Spelling	18.52%	29.63%	33.33%	18.52%
Grammar and Punctuation	11.11%	51.85%	33.33%	3.70%
Numeracy	7.41%	40.74%	51.85%	0%

One of our goals in 2023 was to support as many students as possible to participate in and enjoy sport and cultural activities in our Extra-Curricular program. This year our individual and collective successes have been numerous and while we have been delighted at these successes, we have been particularly proud of the positive sporting attitude shown by our students which was highlighted in SAPSASA involvement. We also held our end of year Concert and participated in community events.

St Joseph's School delivers far more than the standard curriculum. Students in 2023 participated in fundraising activities for several charities and were involved in co-curricular programs with other district schools which included sport carnivals, the performing arts, camps and leadership camps.

Students were given numerous opportunities to reach out and support those in need with the school's involvement in Project Compassion, Catholic Missions, Caritas and St Vincent de Paul. As a Catholic school we have continued to focus on opportunities to evangelise. The older students were involved in a Leadership Program culminating in a workshop day, Young Leaders Forums with other schools and an Adelaide Hills company Woodhouse, facilitating local activities.

Recognition of individuals and groups occurs at Parents and Friends meetings and through the newsletter. We also acknowledge the following:-

- School Assemblies are held every three weeks.
- Celebrations and achievements are also a focus of these assemblies.
- Student leaders/school captains have held various roles this year including: welcoming and taking visitors and new enrolment families and children on tours, public speaking and, participating on behalf of the school community at invited and sporting events. All students are encouraged to have a go and are trained and supported to prepare and present, especially in school and class Masses.
- Community responsibilities are shared amongst students; watering plants, care of resources and care of sports equipment are all weekly tasks for which students of all ages are responsible.
- Students' initiatives are encouraged. Proposals are prepared and presented to staff for consideration. eg. Year Six student t-shirts, Challenge Cup activities and fundraising activities.

Programs: Intervention programs including Spelling, Reading and Mathematics - number.

Catholic Culture: Prayer, Liturgies, Masses, Reflection Days.

Arts: School Performances, Riverland Schools Choir, individual acting positions.

Extra Curricular: Sports events, Young Leaders Day, Excursions, Mission Day and camps.

Many of our learning activities were able to be shared with parents during welcome evenings, open days, assemblies, parent-teacher interviews as well as informal meetings between parents and teachers. We will continue to open our school and classrooms to others with many visitors from other schools, and the Catholic Education Office of SA, coming to observe learning in action at St Joseph's. They are always very complimentary of our learning and wellbeing initiatives.

Wellbeing:

Wellbeing is a key strength of the St Joseph's community. The level of care, concern and genuine love that members of the community have shown towards one another has been outstanding. This is no more clearly witnessed than amongst our staff that go way above and beyond the call of duty to pastorally care for our students and families. 2023 has also seen the continuation of our Wellbeing Committee made up of staff and parents, whose aim is to promote wellbeing (in all its forms) within the community.

Wellbeing is integral to the learning process and a learner will engage readily with their learning when they are in an optimum state of wellbeing. In 2023 we had a lot to celebrate in this area, focusing on continuing to build a positive school community that is inclusive of all and where 'every child matters'. Be You is designed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our students, as well as provide greater support for any students experiencing mental health

difficulties. A structured and consistent Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program has been continued across the school from R-6. This has allowed for staff and students to use consistent language and phrases when dealing with issues relating to Social and Emotional Learning. These programs have been supported by teachers, our School Wellbeing Team and ESOs. We also continue to work in partnership with families and members of the wider community to support students.

Our therapy dog Charlie has continued to play an important role in the support of student wellbeing both in and out of the classroom.

LLL Survey Information:

During Semester 2 of 2023, Satisfaction Surveys for parents, staff and students, developed by Catholic Education South Australia (CESA), were distributed to monitor and report of the performance of our school according to the Living, Learning, Leading standard. The survey was designed to accumulate feedback in the four components of the LLL standard – Catholic Identity, Curriculum and Co-constructed Learning and Assessment design, Student Agency, identity, Learning and Leadership, and Community Engagement.

Parent & Caregiver Perception Survey

Component	Construct	Question	Result
1 Catholic Identity	Catholic Identity	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that their children's experience of Catholic education at school is meaningful.	76.8%
2 Curriculum and Co-Constructed Learning Design	Learning Support	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that their children's teachers support their learning, engage them in planning and self-assessment and have high expectations for their success.	80.7%
3 Student Agency, Identity, Learning and Leadership	Enjoyment of School	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that their children enjoy school and find it interesting.	78.6%
	Autonomy and Independence	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that their children are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and provided with the skills to work independently.	74.6%
4 Community Engagement	Welcoming School	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that the culture of the school is welcoming and that they are respected when they are at school.	85.7%
	Parent-School Partnership	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that the communication between home and school is sufficient and there are partnerships between families and the school.	76.8%

Safety	Safe School	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel that the school provides a safe environment for their children.	82%
Infrastructure	Infrastructure	The extent to which parents and caregivers feel positive about the school buildings and grounds.	86.1%

Staff Survey

Component	Construct	Question	Result
1 Catholic Identity	Experiencing Catholic Identity	The extent to which teachers experience a Catholic identity at school.	82.2%
	Catholic Identity Development	The extent to which the identity development of students is contemporary, authentic, and meaningful.	83.5%
2 Curriculum and Co-Constructed Learning Design	School Support for Continuous Improvement and Collaboration	The extent to which teachers feel that there are structures in place at the school to support continuous improvement and collaboration	83.7%
	Personal Competence (Teaching Staff Only)	The extent to which teachers feel that they have high levels of competence and knowledge of contemporary curriculum and assessment theory, practices, and processes.	81.9%
3 Student Agency, Identity, Learning and Leadership	Student Influence	The extent to which student voice is embedded in the school improvement cycle and students are actively engaged in the planning structuring and sequencing of learning activities and assessment.	65.5%
	Student Reflection on Growth (Teaching Staff Only)	The extent to which students reflect, self-assess, and revise their goals and develop insights into their own capabilities.	75.9%
4 Community Engagement	Partnerships and Agency	The extent to which the school has built strong relationships with the parish, families and communities and has developed structures to ensure that families have agency in the decision-making process.	90%
	Welcoming and Inclusive School	The extent to which teachers feel that the culture of the school is welcoming and inclusive of parents, caregivers and their families.	83.8%
Safety	School Safety	The extent to which the school's policies and practices help create a safe environment for all.	87.5%
Infrastructure	Infrastructure	The extent to which the school's infrastructure meets the needs of the students and assesses the school's capacity to plan future capital development.	83.5%

Student Survey

Component	Construct	Question	Result
1 Catholic Identity	Catholic Identity	The extent to which students feel that their experience of Catholic education at school is meaningful.	91.6%
	Religious Education Classes	The extent to which students feel that their religious education classes are interesting and allow them opportunities to ask questions and share their ideas.	87.7%
2 Curriculum and Co-Constructed Learning Design	Learning Support	The extent to which students feel that their teachers support their learning.	93.1%
3 Student Agency, Identity, Learning and Leadership	Student Influence	The extent to which students feel that there are opportunities for them to have a voice, choice, and propensity to take action to influence and direct their own learning and assessment.	79.4%
	Autonomy and Independence	The extent to which students feel that they are expected to and provided opportunities to work independently.	87.4%
4 Community Engagement	Welcoming and Safe School	The extent to which students feel that the culture of the school is welcoming and that they are safe when they are at school.	91.7%
Infrastructure	Infrastructure	The extent to which students feel positive about the school buildings and grounds.	91.3%

Resources Management:

Enrolments at St Joseph's remain consistent which has allowed our funding to continue to resource our school to provide the best education and care for our students. Mrs Karen Trenwith and the Finance Committee are to be commended on their management of resources.

School Income:

Broken down by funding source:

School fee income	\$ 259,994
Other/Private income	\$ 206,528
State Government Recurrent Grant	\$ 1,083,362
Australian Government Recurrent Grant	\$ 3,906,695
Total Recurrent Income	\$ 5,456,579
Capital Income	\$ 28,888
Total Income	\$ 5,485,467

Community Participation and Public Relations:

We acknowledge the collective student body of St Joseph's as a vibrant, energetic group of students who bring us much pride and joy. It is a pleasure to see so many of them trying each day to be the best person they can be. Thank you to the families of our School. The support of our parents and carers is greatly valued and appreciated. I especially acknowledge all those who have helped in numerous ways throughout the year in classes, on excursions, during class activities, at school celebrations and events and at various fundraising activities.

The P&F and School Board members work hard at building community. We thank Jo Lloyd and the P&F community, Steve Atkinson (chair of School Board) and Adrian Hunt (chair of Buildings and Maintenance) for their untiring efforts to ensure 'things happen' at St Joseph's. We need to continue to work together to support the development of our students and community.

The staff at St Joseph's is an outstanding and committed group who spare no effort in working to provide the very best for our students. I thank each staff member for their work throughout the year.

Please find the following reports:

- Report from Parish Priest
- Report from Chair of School Board
- Report from Chair of Parents and Friends
- Report from Work, Health & Safety

Nicole Russell
Principal
February 2024

President's Report:

A warm welcome to all our students and staff as we commence our new school year, especially our new families. There are many new faces in our school community this year including our Acting Principal for Term 1, Nicole Russell, as Donny DePalma takes some study leave. We wish them both well in the generous ways they are serving our school community. To all who have since moved on, we thank them for the positive impact they have had on our community. This includes Fr Ranjith who was with us until the end of last year to gain some parish experience in Australia having arrived from India. He was able to share some of his cultural experiences with some of the students at St Joseph's, which was well received. He has now commenced his new appointment in Jamestown.

Last year, I was given the opportunity to represent the youth in our diocese at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. It was a very uplifting and encouraging experience to see such a youthful church in one place and hope to instil some of that youthfulness in our parish here in the Riverland. We have received much positive feedback with the newly implemented Sacramental Program as a way of affirming and accompanying our young candidates at these important stages of their life. It aims to nurture not just the faith of the children but also the whole family.

It wasn't so long ago that we had our Christmas celebrations which is always a wonderful time of year for our children, and now we enter this most holy season of Lent. As we do every year,

all our students take part in Project Compassion as a way of showing how our Christian love should cost us something as we see with Jesus in the Easter story. Our parish has once again produced an excellent Lenten prayer resource to be used in all our school communities, "Proclaim: Sharing our Mission." It allows us to reflect on our mission as a Catholic community in our diocesan family. Blessings for the new school year and may the light of Christ guide our way through 2024.

Fr Hau
Parish Priest
February 2024

Chairperson's Board Report:

As I am writing my first report as board chairperson, I wish to thank Emma Warner for her dedication to our school community as our previous board chairperson and board member. I strive to bring that same passion to our school as I take on the position, knowing our school community is strong and unified providing our students with the best learning opportunities. This year has seen our students getting back out into the community, through our sporting activities, bush discovery days, and the Cardboard Box Sleepout to name a few. Each opportunity fosters important life skills.

I wish to thank the leaders of our incredible team at St Josephs. To Donny for his positivity and drive and to our teachers and education support officers for their unwavering commitment both in and outside of the school. This extra effort does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

This year our teachers have navigated their way through a new reporting platform to be able to provide highly personalised reports for our students. They have been working hard on our reading program, supported by the Parents and Friends committee with the purchase of additional Read3 Learning Kits. The support from our wonderful parents and caregivers never ceases to amaze me. The time that is donated to our school, for events, morning reading, attending assemblies and on many more occasions is so valuable to our children.

The future for our students is extremely exciting with our school masterplan being endorsed. New and updated classrooms and creative learning spaces are all part of the vision over the coming years. I would like to thank all the members of the school board for their valuable input into this evolving project.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer and looking forward to 2024.

Steve Atkinson
Board Chairperson
February 2024

School
Renmark

Parents & Friends Report:

The St Joseph's Parents & Friends Community have had another great year of supporting the students and wider school community through a range of events.

Four of our members took on executive positions this year: Chloe Jarvis as Secretary, Kim Atkinson as Treasurer, Laura Sever as Staff Rep and Linda Lawton as Wellbeing Rep. I took on the role of Board Rep in addition to my role as President.

Many hours have been volunteered by P&F members to provide school community with:

- Lovely children's Bibles given to all new students
- Several Coffee & Chat mornings before assemblies
- Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday
- Purchasing a new coffee machine for our fabulous staff
- Hot Cross Buns at Easter
- Fruit for Walk to School Day
- Footy Tip competition
- Purchasing two "Read 3" reading kits for the students
- Selling earrings for Mother's Day
- Providing prizes for the raffle at the Mother's Day afternoon tea
- Cake stall on Mary MacKillop Feast Day
- Selling socks for Father's Day
- An extremely successful cake stall at Sports Day
- Providing morning tea for Grandparent's Day

The P&F held a School Disco in September for all students which was an amazing success. Discos had previously been held annually, but due to Covid there had not been one for a few years. It was so great to see all the kids dancing and having a great time!

Unfortunately, our major social event for 2023 – Flight Night - had to be postponed but we hope to see many members of our school community there in February 2024. It will be a great night and lots of fun.

Being part of the P&F can be as hands on as you like: attending meetings, baking for a cake stall, cooking or serving pancakes, helping to plan social events, or manning the cake stall at Sports Day for an hour or so. Any involvement you have is greatly appreciated.

Seeing us involved in the school (no matter how small you think your contribution is) shows our children that we place importance on them and their schooling.

There's nothing better than seeing the smiles on kids' faces when they buy a yummy cake from the Sport's Day cake stall!

We welcome any and all new members to our P&F. Please join us in 2024, attend a meeting or two and help us continue to grow the fantastic community and St Joseph's School that we all love.

Jo Lloyd
P&F President
February 2024

Renmark

Work, Health & Safety Report:

Incident Reports: 4 minor incidents were reported in 2023 on school grounds, no further action required.

SafeWork SA: No notifiable incidents or complaints.

Union Matters: Nil.

Policy / Procedure:

Procedures were reviewed by CSH&WSA during 2023

- Assessment and Reporting Policy
- Bus and Transport Policy
- Camps and Excursion Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Drug and Illicit Substances Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Private Vehicle Use Policy

Audits:

Catholic Safety Health & Welfare SA (CSH&WSA) conducted their audit for St Joseph's in term 4 2023.

Two non-conformances were identified and are being rectified.

Internal workplace inspections were carried out by our WHS Officer in Semester 1 and again during Semester 2. Each inspection form was reviewed, and any outcomes reported were actioned.

Training: New staff were inducted and made aware of school policies and procedures.

The Staff Training Register was monitored and kept up to date. Training carried out in 2023 included

- Slips, Trips and Office Risks
- Ergonomics and Manual Handling
- Fire and Other Emergencies

Other:

Electrical testing including testing and tagging, emergency lighting and the 90-minute exit sign battery discharge test was completed as required in July 2023.

Risk assessments were conducted for all school activities during the year.

Emergency Drills for fire and lock ins were carried out.

Contractor file was kept up to date to include dates of contractor induction, current police checks, current licence and public liability insurance details.

Church WHS A workplace inspection was completed in Semester 1 and 2. The inspection forms were reviewed, and any outcomes were reported and actioned.

Work Health and Safety Consultant, Lucas Parfitt from CSH&WSA visited the site twice in 2023 to prepare for the Audit which was undertaken in Term 4.

St Joseph's School Renmark continues to be a safe ground and community for staff and students.

Rachel Dring
WHS Coordinator
February 2024