

Messages from Donny

Dear Families, Friends and Students,

Our term continues to pass by at record speed! This week is 'Laudato Si' week, which is a Catholic milestone that celebrates the progress we have made to promote care and concern for our world, all living things and the effects of climate change. It calls us to examine our hearts, transform our social values and take action for global solidarity. This was highlighted during Catholic Education Week when we switched off our electricity and raised awareness and money for the Great Barrier Reef. We were so pleased to get a call from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, who applauded our initiative and congratulated our school for the great work.



The past two weeks has seen many positive learning experiences and success stories including Class Masses, SAPSASA Netball and Cross Country, Scholastic Book Fair, Board Meeting, Assembly, P&F Quiz Night, and Catholic Education Week celebrations and activities. I congratulate all staff, students and parents who have been involved.



The students enjoyed decorating their individual candles



Students created a coin line to fundraise for our Great Barrier Reef. \$412 was raised. A fabulous effort!

National Reconciliation Week:

The theme for #NRW2024, "Now More Than Ever" is encouraging all Australians — individuals, families, communities, organisations and government — to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives. We aim to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples for the benefit of all Australians. This vision of reconciliation is based on five main concepts: historical acceptance; race relations; equality and equity; institutional integrity and unity. These five areas are interrelated and must weave all together. As a school we are committed to show our respect to Reconciliation and continue to spread this strong message within our community.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

1 June Sat 6.30pm
9 June Sun 9.00am
15 June Sat 6.30pm
23 June Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

27-31 National Reconciliation
Week celebrations

31 "Be The Light" Wellbeing
Day

June

7 Reception Mass

10 King's Birthday Public
Holiday

Assembly:

We had a wonderful assembly on Monday celebrated by Mrs Hayes and Mrs Smith's class. The students read very well and they proudly shared their excellent work. Thank you for starting our week with such joy! Star Student and Champion Citizen Awards were presented and there was a strong theme of 'positive attitudes' throughout. I congratulate our students who continue to demonstrate the values that we respect and promote throughout our school. A positive attitude is very important each and every day! We welcomed a new family to our community, Alice Abrey and her parents, Annie & Matt. We hope that your start at St Joseph's has been smooth and that you enjoy being a part of our special community spirit.

Classroom Pulse:

This term, we will again participate in the Classroom Pulse Check-In. This is a Catholic Education Tool developed to ascertain how students are currently feeling about their experience at school. This then provides immediate feedback and provides us with valuable data which we use for our ongoing support for our children.

Catholic Education Week:

Amongst all the liturgies, events and activities I was filled with much pride as I reflected on the respect, reverence and positive behaviour displayed by all our students. I enjoyed the comradery shown at St Francis of Assisi College and how our students interacted positively with students from all other Riverland Catholic Primary Schools. I must personally applaud and thank our whole staff for their outstanding effort and professionalism in preparing for this whole week. Their time, dedication and commitment was a testament for the great people we have here at St Joseph's School, Renmark.

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.



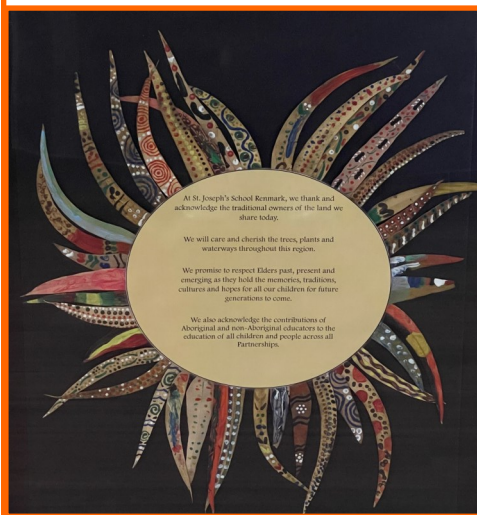
Teaching and Learning:

Our Annual Improvement Plan for 2024 continues to drive all our priorities and focuses. We are looking at the progress and levels of all our students and working hard to again produce positive outcomes for all students. Our Four Priorities include:

- Faith Formation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education
- Mathematics
- Student Agency

My Studies:

I wish to thank the parents who have asked how I am going with my studies. I am pleased to announce that I have finally submitted my final assignments. I must admit I did have some stressful times, but I now wait nervously for my final results. I look forward to keeping you up to date.



P&F: Quiz Night:

I was so pleased to host the Quiz Night, which proved to be a great success. We gathered and had so much fun, which was a highlight. We raised funds for our children and fostered a terrific sense of community. I want to acknowledge the effort of all those who helped on the night and with all the planning and organisation. Special thanks to Giulia Del Zoppo, Jo Lloyd, Chloe Jarvis, Matt Jarvis, Nigel Lloyd, Lyn Leuders and Chrissie Grocke.

Events like this help build and foster our strong and positive school culture. We look forward to celebrating future events.

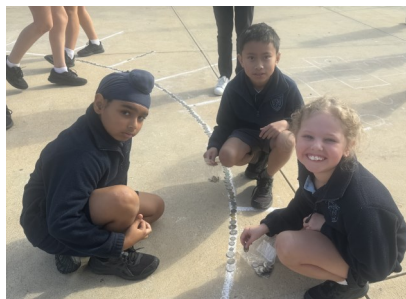
Positive Parent Communication:

We highly value the positive relational culture we have established at St Joseph's. We continue

to try and improve and be the best we can. We will be asking for positive and constructive feedback on various aspects of our school. We invite you to refer to Seesaw for communication and information. We look forward to many more learning opportunities including First Holy Communion, Reconciliation Week, Mid-Year Intake transition days and the start of interviews for future 2024 Receptions. Our school is certainly a place where great things are happening. We wish to thank our whole community for sharing the many celebrations of the past two weeks and look forward to many more opportunities to learn.

Regards,
Don DePalma
Principal

Catholic Education Week celebrations:



Religious Identity & Mission:

Class Parish Masses:

We have already celebrated Mass with the Parish twice this term. Thank you to Miss Williams Year 4/5 class and Miss Pfeiler's Year 1/2 class for their excellent preparation and commitment in leading our faith community. This is another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrates their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity.

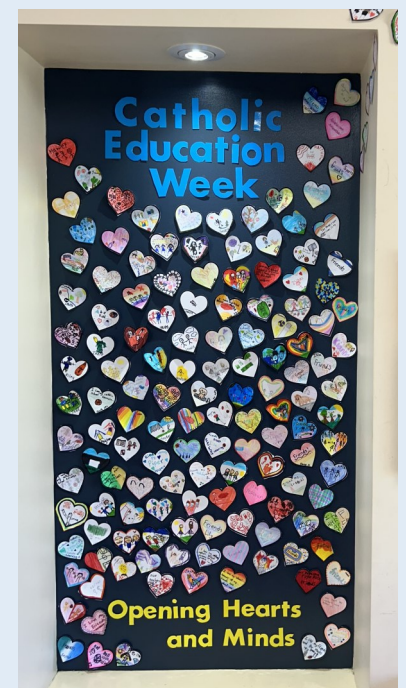
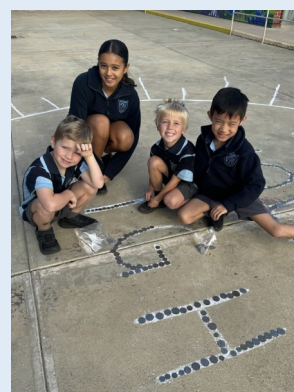


Catholic Education Week:

We loved celebrating all the wonderful things we love about our Catholic Education during Catholic Education Week. Our 2024 theme was 'Raising Hearts and Minds to the wonder and awe of God's creation through the lens of ecology and stewardship - Let Your Light Shine.' Students engaged in prayer with our launch of the week, created unique "Let your Light Shine" candles, created hearts of reasons why they love our school and took photos of the different ways they enjoy learning at our school.

We also enjoyed a wonderful day, gathered with the other Riverland Catholic Schools to celebrate Catholic Education in liturgy and fun activities. We concluded the week with the focus on our Catholic Social teaching of 'Care for our Common Home and Laudato Si' by switching off our connection to electricity throughout our school for the afternoon, learning about the Great Barrier Reef crisis and creating a Coin Line to fundraise for the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Chrissie Grocke
APRIM



Star Student Awards:



Back: Hazel Kinnear, Charlie Hooper, Nirvair Brar, Harper Stoneham, Archie Bassett.
Front: Bonnie Robertson, Katie Blackwell, Jack Sever, Tayah Lee, Eleanor Sutton.

Champion Citizen Awards:



Congratulations to
**Amelia Wang, Elise Pfeiffer,
Max Jarvis and Georgie Woolford**
who were recently presented with our
Champion Citizen Awards.

New Family Welcomed:



We warmly welcomed our new family,
Annie, Alice, Noah and Matt Abrey,
to our St Joseph's School Community.
Alice was presented with her Bible by P&F
member, Chloe Jarvis.
Alice is a Reception student in
Mrs Luxton & Mrs Hill's class.

Challenge Cup Award:

Congratulations to St Joseph's Gold who won the Challenge Cup activity for 'Walk Safely To School Day' participation with 64 points. St Patrick Green finished with 63 points, followed by St Therese Red on 55, and St Mary MacKillop Blue on 51 points.

Pictured right are Mabel Malinovski and Isla Martinson, captains of St Joseph's Gold, with team members, Christian Gittos, Chloe Camplin and Kianna Solly



Student Wellbeing:

EMPATHY

This weeks school value is empathy

What is empathy?

Empathy is the ability to share someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

Empathy can be defined as the ability to sense other people's emotions, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling. Having a great deal of empathy makes you concerned for the wellbeing and happiness of others.

Why is empathy important in life?

Empathy is an important ability for all people to have. It helps us to understand and relate to people from all walks of life. It improves your capacity to communicate with others, to be part of a team and to better your leadership skills.

How can we teach empathy?

Empathy builds on the ability to see things from another person's point of view, which most children acquire at around the age of four or five. But being fully empathetic also means being able to regulate your own emotional responses, care about how others feel, understand what they need and respect views, even if they're different from our own.

Some tips for practising empathy:

Because empathy is, fortunately, a skill that can be learned and strengthened, there are many ways we can encourage children (and adults) to practise being empathetic. You can:

- work on listening to people without interrupting.
- pay attention to body language and others of non-verbal communication.
- try to understand people, even if you don't agree with them.
- ask people questions to learn more about them and their lives instead of talking about yourself.
- imagine yourself in another person's shoes.

Empathy is

seeing with the eyes of another,
listening with the ears of another,
and feeling with the heart of another.



Charlie-in-action

Charlie recently graduated his Level One in dog obedience with flying colours. A big thank you to Gill Atkinson from Gill's Canine Coaching for her guidance and support.



St. Joseph's School Renmark
Wellbeing
COMMITTEE



SAPSASA News:

SAPSASA Boy's Netball:

The first ever boys SAPSASA Netball event was held on Thursday May 9th in Loxton. The boys volunteered their lunch breaks to have quick crash course in the many technical rules with the sport.

We only had 7 players and managed to win 4 out of 5 games taking us to the finals. We managed to achieve reaching 4th out of 11 teams! All the boys should be congratulated for representing our school's values out on the court.

SAPSASA Girl's Netball:

On Friday May 10th the Division 2 netball team had a full day with 4 games in their pool, competing against Loxton Lutheran, OLOR, Berri Primary and Renmark North Primary schools. The girls showed excellent effort, teamwork and sportsmanship all day, graciously taking turns to play their preferred positions.

After coming third in our pool, our team competed in a 5th place play-off against Monash Primary with a convincing win 12-5. Finishing the day 5th from 11 teams in Division 2 overall.

The Division 1 girls played 5 games coming away with 2 wins and 3 losses. We finished 3rd from 11 teams. The girls showed amazing sportsmanship, being recognised from other coaches as well, for assisting their opposition players with directions from the umpires and helping them when they were unsure. The girls were able to play many various positions with Isla Martinson and Ninke Gardner being selected for the Riverland team that will compete in Adelaide later this term.

We thank the families who were able to come along and help with scoring and cheering the students along.

Thank you to Mrs Thompson, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Blackley for coaching the 3 teams.

Mr Thomas Smart
SAPSASA Co-Ordinator

Div 1: Poppy Milich, Chloe Camplin, Ava Lindner, Isla Martinson, Mabel Malinovski, Elsa Malinovski, Ninke Gardner, Sophie Wutke & Eloise Hammond.



Rajpreet Gill, Jenson Hardwick, Lawson Dring, Matthew Latorre, Joel Stoeckel, Mrs Thompson, Riley Maywald and Kon Atsaves.



Div 2: Mya Elliott, Lily McLeod, Khushreet Khinda, Agum Arkan, Hannah Keynes, Kianna Solly, Hallie Nagel & Piper Wolf.



Parents & Friends:



The Mother's Day stall was a big success for our students. Being a mother is the greatest gift of all. Receiving gifts from my children, that they purchased and are proud of, is something special. Giving this opportunity to the students is something the P&F love.



The P&F Quiz Night was on Saturday night. It was a really fun night out and a great opportunity to socialise, have a laugh and for our school to make strong community connections.



A big THANK YOU - to everyone who attended, the P&F Committee, Donny for being the best quiz master, Lyn and Chrissie for keeping him on track and keeping count, and all the amazing family businesses that donated to the night. What a great event for our school - the night raised over \$3000!



Mrs Giulia Del Zoppo
P&F Committee

