

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 2 Week 8 ~ 18th June 2024

Rec LH, PH and SH:

Throughout Term 2, we have continued to have a strong focus on embedding literacy strategies to support student's phonological awareness and their ability to read and write words with growing independence. Reception students participate daily in an ability-based word study group and Heggerty (a phonological awareness program). Other literacy specific learning throughout the week include; Book Study, handwriting and sentence writing where students have the opportunity to use their phoneme (letter sound) and heart word knowledge to independently write.

Each Reception class continues to start their math's lesson with a Math's Chat which consolidates previous learning and supports automaticity of digit recognition, number facts, subitising and provides an opportunity to discuss number problems as a class. Our teaching units this term have included number and addition. During both these units students have been involved in a range of hands on learning experiences, using manipulatives to help demonstrate their knowledge.

We continue our Religion focus God's love for us. The Receptions hosted their first class mass and they did an amazing job. In Science we are focusing on Living things and we were lucky enough to have Bunnings come in and teach us how to make a bee house as well as Kerry from Half Barrel honey talk to us about bees. We are continuing with our SEL and Child Protection programs as per last term.

Term 2 has been full of special events which have included Catholic Education Week, Reconciliation Week and Simultaneous Story Time, these special events have provided a range of teachable moments that have extended students learning experiences both within and beyond the classroom. Our biggest highlight was our excursion to the Adelaide Zoo, it was an amazing experience and memories for the students that they won't forget in a long time. The students were amazing and everything went smoothly. Huge congratulations to all staff involved for their support and making it a truly amazing experience for all students involved.

As Term 2 nears to an end, teachers are busy writing reports, reflecting on the growth of each student since starting school. It has been so rewarding to reflect on the growth in confidence, independence, literacy and numeracy. We are also looking forward to and preparing for transition, which starts next week, for our mid-year intake, each class will have 3 new students.

1/2 KC, KV and SP:

The Year 1/2 cohort continues to smoothly travel through the year. Lily Haynes has just completed her final placement with Mrs Charnstrom's class and is looking forward to continuing her teaching career at St Joseph's.

Our parents and friends committee hosted a wonderful night for our quiz night. It was very well organised and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the quiz questions and good company.

In Religious Education, our school participated in Catholic Education week, promoting our Catholic identity. We participated in a number of lessons and activities linked to the theme of 'Let Your Light Shine', which gave students the opportunity to showcase their personal identity including interests and strengths. We contributed to a coin line, raising money towards Great Barrier Reef research and participated in 'Switch Off Day', including a insightful liturgy based on caring for God's creation. Students loved attending St Francis for the day, celebrating Catholic Education Week in unity with other Riverland Catholic schools. We started with a beautiful liturgy followed by lots of fun participating in a range of different activities, ran by the students of St Francis.

In Maths, we have been focusing on revisiting our addition and subtraction unit, along with our multiplication unit. Students have enjoyed learning and participating in a range of different hands-on activities indoors and outdoors. We continue to look at data collection, collecting some core

number collection for moderation and reporting. We will be looking at conducting the Year 1 Number check in the near coming future that will provide us with some useful information. In Literacy, we have continued our data collection for reports through looking and comparing writing samples, heart words, alphabet recognition, phonemic awareness in word study and our reading assessment – Sparkle. Students have also enjoyed looking at story retell, looking at the structure of a story (beginning, middle and end). We are now excited to begin our unit on procedure writing, which will include hands on experiences.

3 HM and HS:

The Year 3 cohort have been ‘humming along’ through Term 2. In Week 5, students participated in activities around Reconciliation Week in classes, reflecting on this year’s theme ‘Now More than Ever’. Teachers are currently writing Semester 1 reports and will be contacting parents to discuss grading if necessary.

English: We continue to stream spelling lessons with five groups, utilising ESO support and ensuring that each student is having spelling words that are catered to their needs. Mrs Amy Hunt is working closely with groups of students for spelling intervention on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Eva Matulick is also conducting spelling support with a small group on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This intervention also supports students with their decoding/reading skills.

Three times a week students write from a themed task card called ‘Let’s Write’. This program focuses on writing stamina and creativity. Students have completed their unit on Narrative writing and have begun to learn about a new text type, Observational Recounts. Through this unit there will be opportunities to integrate learning with their current Science unit, as they write recounts about the experiments they conduct.

Mid-year DIBLES reading assessments have taken place and reading programs continue to run in the classes with a focus on comprehension.

Mathematics: Mathematics this term began with a focus on addition and subtraction, with students developing their skills to solve problems using a variety of strategies. Classes are now focusing on multiplication and division, as well areas of Space and Measurement, including shape, length, perimeter and area.

SEL and Child Protection Curriculum lessons: This term in SEL there is a focus on areas of Relationships from Program Achieve and Child Protection Curriculum. Some lessons that will be covered include, what makes a good friend and getting along.

Religion: This term in Religion students have been learning all about the Bible, including why the Bible is sacred text for Christians and why it is important to many people. In recent weeks, students have enjoyed interviewing Mrs Chrissie Grocke on this topic, and sharing their learning through range of mediums including pamphlets, videos and using their computer skills.

HASS and Science: We have a focus on both Physical and Chemical Sciences this term. Classes have concluded the unit on Heat Energy, having explored sources of heat energy and how heat energy is transferred from one object to another. They are now focusing on States of Matter, investigating the observable properties of solids and liquids and how adding or removing heat energy leads to a change of state. The students are also learning about how to make a hypothesis, record the results of an experiment and discuss their findings.

Our excursion to the Adelaide Zoo was fantastic with a number of special learning experiences that the children enjoyed. They were excited to learn about all about the different animals and their habitats.

4/5 PH, RW and TL:

I am pleased to provide an update on the recent activities and progress across various subjects within our Year 4/5 classrooms. Our students continue to show enthusiasm and engagement in their learning, and I would like to highlight some key areas of focus and accomplishments.

Students have been diligently working on their narrative writing projects. This term, the emphasis has been on creating narratives from the perspective of a convict, inspired by their HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) lessons. This interdisciplinary approach has enriched their understanding of historical contexts while enhancing their storytelling skills. The students have embraced this task with enthusiasm, showing a keen interest in developing their narratives and demonstrating considerable creativity and engagement.

In Mathematics, we have transitioned into the study of fractions while continuing to reinforce proficiency in the four basic operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Our goal is to build a solid foundation in fractions, ensuring students can apply their numeracy knowledge across different areas of the mathematics curriculum. The students are showing steady progress and are beginning to integrate these concepts effectively into their broader mathematical understanding.

Our science curriculum has been particularly engaging, with students participating in the Makers Empire modules. These modules focus on addressing local issues such as fruit fly infestations, flooding, and drought. Currently, students are in the planning stages of their projects, where they are applying scientific principles and innovative thinking to propose solutions. The hands-on, problem-solving nature of these modules has been very well received, with students actively participating and showing great interest in the topics.

Excitement is building as we prepare for our upcoming overnight camp at AFL Max. This will be the first camp experience for many of our students, and their anticipation is passionate. They are looking forward to participating in a range of activities designed to foster teamwork, resilience, and physical fitness. The camp promises to be an enriching experience, contributing to the students' social and personal development.

Overall, our students are demonstrating a high level of engagement and enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum. Their willingness to participate and their growing proficiency in various subjects are commendable. We look forward to continuing to support their educational journey and to witnessing their continued growth and achievements.

6 JM:

Term 2 has flown by, it's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year. This Term the students completed their first Immersion Day at St Francis and had the opportunity to experience a full day of high school lessons. The formal transition days for high school will be occurring in Term 4.

English: In English we are making our way through our class novel "Us Mob Walawurru" by David Spillman, which is a novel that follows the life of a young indigenous girl growing up in Central Australia in the 1960s. The story highlights situations and dilemmas related to cultural differences in education, language, relationship to country and environment, and the ideas of ownership. The reading of the book is linked with our writing unit, as well as some grammar skills, including writing complex sentences and using conjunctions to join independent and dependent clauses. Before the end of the term, the students will use their knowledge, skills and understandings they have gained this unit to write a historical recount about Federation.

Maths: In Maths we have just finished our unit on Fractions, and it was pleasing to see the growth from the class in their overall confidence towards the content, as well as their skills and understandings. Our final unit in Maths this term will be measurement, and the students will first

complete a pre-test to highlight any areas that need to be worked on, before starting the new learning.

Science/Technology: This term the Year 6s and the 4/5s will be taking part in a program called “Kids in Space”, which is endorsed by CESA. It is a project related to space and the students will get the opportunity to work in a team to either identify and solve a problem for astronauts in space, or use space-based technology to solve a local problem on Earth. The students have worked through the design-thinking process to define their problem, and come up with their ideas, and they are now at the stage where they are creating their prototypes to print on the 3D printer, and collating their information to display on a large poster. Next Term the classes will all get the opportunity to present their work to the rest of the school, and one group from the Year 6s or the 4/5s will travel to Adelaide to present their project at a state-wide Space convention.

Religious Identity:

First Holy Communion: our Parish community gathered to celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion with eleven of our students - Emma Lloyd, Eli Vowles, Marlon Brown, Daniel Latorre, Peyton Johnson, Lucca Del Zoppo, Amy Clohesy, Billie Milich, Isabel Wagnitz, Malakai McElroy, Jack Hughes. Fr Hau spoke of Communion being linked to community and how when we share in a meal with community, we are in communion with each other. Thank you to Fr Hau for his beautiful ministry of the celebration and the teachers – Tony Luxton, Rowie Williams, Rachel McLeod, Paige Hauptman for their preparation and support for the students. We also thank Desiree Guy for the wonderful work she has, and is still doing, in her Youth Minister role.

Reconciliation Week: We acknowledged Reconciliation Week in our Community with students engaging in learning focussed on the theme Now More Than Ever - reminding us that, no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue. The students participated in a prayer service, decorated the whole school display for reconciliation recognising how their hands of action can make a difference, as well as deepened their understanding of the importance of being thankful for and respecting country by creating Thank you Circles from the Heart based on the book Circles of Life by Gregg Dreise.

OLOR Parish 10th Inauguration Birthday Celebration: Preparations have begun for this special occasion in our Olor Parish Community of which our local parish is a part of. The celebration will be held in Berri on Sunday 11th August 11.00am. As part of this joyous occasion, we have been invited to form a choir to sing two songs at Communion time during Mass. We believe that the voices of our students will add a beautiful and meaningful element to the celebration.

Parish Masses: Three of our classes have reverently led Friday Parish Masses this term. This is another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrates their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity.

We CAN do it!: Our Mini Vinnies have joined with our SRC students to focus on how we CAN make a difference to the lives of others this winter. During the last two weeks of this term, we will be holding our campaign “**We CAN make a difference.**”

We will be inviting students and their families to participate in our campaign by donating cans of tinned food, blankets, empty bottles and cans (A trailer will be located at school to collect donations) and participating in a Pajama Day with a gold coin to raise money for ‘Swags for Homeless’

Lantern: Across the Port Pirie Diocese our schools and communities stand in solidarity to bring to life the Diocesan Theme for 2024; Let Your Light Shine, and in doing so embrace God’s mission. As a symbol of our commitment the Diocesan Lantern will be welcomed into each of our 14 Catholic Schools during the 2024 school year. This week we welcomed the lantern to our school. I will be visiting classes with the lantern, and we will have a whole school liturgy where leaders in our

community will sign the register to show our connections to other Catholic Schools in the Port Pirie Diocese, and our common commitment during 2024 to be the salt of the earth and to bring light to the world. When the Lantern leaves, to continue its journey around our Diocese, we send with it our prayers and good wishes for the next school community.

HPE and School Sport:

Years R-2:

PE - Students have completed their Soccer unit and have enjoyed playing modified games with our new goals. We will be learning skills required for Netball using the games and resources from Net, Set, Go. We are continuing to encourage different games and activities for recess and lunch.

Years 3-6

PE - Students have been learning Soccer sport skills in Physical Education lessons along with the tactical principles of invasion games and transferring these skills into a variety of sports.

SAPSASA:

St. Josephs continues to represent well in SAPSASA. The Netball teams competed well at their carnivals. Two girls, Ninke and Isla were selected for the Riverland team.

Our Cross Country SAPSASA team competed well and we had Piper and Joel represent the Riverland at Oakbank recently.

The recent Soccer carnival was a was another highlight for our school in SAPSASA as we had both a boys and girls team compete this year.

LAT: Giulia & Belinda

All classes have been using the green screen and the iMovie app to create movies. Tasks have been designed in line with the Media Arts and Drama Curriculum. Students have created story boards and characters, and learnt about using voices for characterisation. They have showed lots of skills while using the technology associated with the green screen and all classes are excited about our Movie Premiere scheduled for Week 10.

R-2 Students have been learning about French icons and what they represent in France. They have presented their information in books, posters and through artwork.

Year 3-6 students have been researching about France icons and will present their findings to the class and an oral presentation or short movie.

We will finish the term focusing on artwork based around France.

ESOs:

We congratulate Lily on the completion of her placement and welcome her back to our ESO team and a warm welcome to Rhianna McPhee and Robert Courtney who have joined us in the Reception classes. Michelle Ware has also joined us, helping the 1/2 classes with Intervention, which has been going well.

We thank Adrian for all his hard work around the school with the play space upgrades and maintenance.

We celebrated our wellbeing day, Let Your Light Shine. Walk safely to school. Receptions and 1/2 classes Zoo excursion. This term has been busy with different SAPSASA events, netball, cross country, and soccer. All have been well supported by our ESOs.

With many teachers and ESOs away sick and on placement, the ESOs have worked well to support teachers and students where needed. We all collaborate well, adapt and continue to support each other. This also gives us a chance to build on our own individual skillsets.

Student Wellbeing:

In week 5 we celebrated 'Be the Light Day' which ties in with our Catholic Education theme this year, 'Let Your Light Shine'. On this special afternoon the students joined their buddy classes for some fun activities. Our students were able to reflect on how they each let their light shine and what values and qualities they possess. The whole school also contributed to the 'Let Your Light Shine' tree display on the large blue board by the canteen. Each student personalised a lantern which have now been hung on the tree. Seeing students spending time with their buddies is always very rewarding and these special school value days are very beneficial and enjoyed by everyone.

Following on from 'Be Green Day' last term, we have maintained our focus on sustainability with the purchase of our new bins in each classroom. This has seen to the improvement with the correct use of the bins resulting in less red bin waste and tidier bin spaces due to the larger size bins. We continue to educate our students on this matter, and we have already seen a reduction in the number of bins going out each week. It has also been positive to see many students still bringing nude food lunch boxes each day.

Keisha and I continue to work with students in small groups, in one-on-one therapy sessions and during regulation sessions. Connecting in with this year's catholic theme, 'Let Your Light Shine' we are encouraging students to look at their values and qualities. We have a range of activities for students to interact with and discuss. This intervention helps to support students' wellbeing and learning outcomes, helping students to feel connected and ready for learning, regulated, and ready to challenge themselves. These groups are helping to support and build stronger relationships between students.

It has been wonderful this term, with the combined recess and lunchtimes to see our students interacting at playtimes. These combined play times give many opportunities for our students to learn valuable social skills and problem-solving skills. Our upper primary students are role models for the juniors and are quick to step in and lend a hand. Overall, the students care, support and consideration for each other is commendable. These successful playtimes help contribute to happier, calmer and regulated students and classrooms.

In the sensory/wellbeing room we have a variety of activities available to support students when spending time in there to regulate. Within this space, Charlie (therapy dog) is also available when an adult is present. The students can choose to have some alone time and read a book curled up in a bean bag for their break or they may choose to have company and to talk to someone, during this time they can take Charlie for a walk, play a game of UNO or Jenga or simply go pick veggies from the veggie patch. The wellbeing and sensory room are a calm safe place for students to regulate or have quite time to themselves. Our students really enjoy helping in the vegetable garden and tending to the 3 worm farms at school. These activities are a good chance for us to connect with students and help support them socially by meeting and mixing with other students and learning new skills.

Charlie has been busy supporting students at kiss and drop and has loved spending time in different classrooms and interacting with students and staff. Charlies daily schedule consists of helping students regulate before school and during classes, emotional support for students, and helping to create a calming atmosphere when he is in the classroom.

We are looking forward to more exciting things happening this term.