

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 3 Week 3 ~ 6th August 2024

Rec LH, PH and SH:

This term we have welcomed 9 new Mid-Year Students. They have settled in amazingly and have been supported and encouraged by our current Receptions.

In Maths we have been learning about measuring, and we have started our unit with a focus on length. The students have enjoyed many hands-on lessons using manipulatives such as UniFix blocks, counters, dice and blocks. We continue to review and consolidate our learning with daily Let's Calculate lessons.

In English we have resumed our Word Study lessons, where children are grouped in different levels allowing for more tailored lessons focusing on the needs of each child. We have introduced Let's Write lessons, where children are given a picture prompt and asked to write as much as they can about the image. We have been blown away by the progress that we have seen in each and every child and are so proud of the effort that all children are making in sounding out and recording words and sentences.

In Religion we have started a unit on Creation, with a focus on sustainability, water and how we can care for the gift of creation. We have also introduced the Kindness Monster, a soft toy that goes home with one child a week. Kindness Monster encourages children to participate in acts of kindness. When kindness monster comes back to school, the children share what act of kindness they participated in. We are so excited to see our children inspired to spread more kindness in our world.

In HASS we have been learning about our Place, with a focus on our amazing Riverland, and what makes our region so special. We have also been participating in some fun Olympic games' activities and can't wait for our school mini Olympics. In week four we will be holding our very own Potato Olympics, which is going to be so much fun!

In SEL we continue to work on our resilience, being bucket fillers, and how to be a good learner and friend. We've had a fantastic start to Term 3 and can't wait to see just how far our students come this term.

1/2 KC, KV and SP:

The 1/2 cohort has certainly hit the ground running this term, with a very busy and productive start! A big focus of the start of the new term and semester has been re-establishing and re-enforcing routines and classroom expectations. We have been 'knuckling down' (if you will) with PBIS school-wide norms, particularly those of ensuring students are walking around the school grounds (as opposed to running) and joining the class at the end of break time, seated silently underneath the shelter.

This term, we have seen a large shift in the proceedings when it comes to our literacy intervention. We now have an established whole-school intervention room which many students from the 1/2 hub access. We have also seen the integration of a 'wellbeing room/hub.' This has proved to be an invaluable resource for students who require extra support with learning/wellbeing and is being utilised where beneficial by classrooms.

We have launched our word study program again this term, using the 'Reading for Success' literacy program, intertwined with the MSL scope and sequence. Students have been re-assessed and placed into individualised groups based on their ability and phonemic awareness for the new term. In Genre Writing, we have been learning about persuasive writing, and in Grammar, we have been again using the Syntax Project to guide our planning. In Numeracy, students have been learning about measurement and concepts such as duration, mass, capacity, and length. This unit has allowed the opportunity for lots of hands-on learning experiences. Students continue to practice and consolidate our skills of fundamental numeracy like formation, using number lines/100s charts, and skip counting throughout our lessons and daily maths chats (Let's Calculate).

In Religion, we have been learning about 'reduce, reuse and recycle.' Students made their own recycled animal creations. We have been learning about rights and responsibilities in Child Protection/SEL and living things and their needs/habitats in Science.

Staff and students have had a wonderful start to the term and cannot wait to see what the rest of the term brings.

3 HM and HS:

The Year 3 cohort has started the term strong and ready for learning. Students have been maintaining classroom and school routines, rules, and school values. Semester Two SRC representatives have been finalised and they received their badges in a special assembly last week. We look forward to the students having a voice in the school. The Year 3 cohort is very excited to receive new class sets of laptops and we will begin putting these to good use this term.

Religion: This term students will look at areas of Caring for Creation and look closely at the life and dedicated work of Mary Mackillop. We started by looking at nature around our school, emphasising the awe and wonder of the natural environment around us.

English: Throughout our English curriculum this term, we will continue our PLD Spelling, Handwriting Grammar, and Let's Write lessons. We have integrated the Olympics into the first few weeks of the term, researching Australian athletes, and their achievements and exposing the students to biographical texts. Students are excited about our novel study on the book 'Runt' by Craig Silvey. They are enjoying the story so far, and we will integrate writing tasks and focus on the various components of comprehension using this text. We are looking forward to Book Week and we'll also explore book reviews and book-centred activities during this time in Week 5. We are continuing to complete reading, spelling, and writing assessments multiple times a term to collect data about each student in our classes.

Mathematics: In Mathematics we are beginning the term with the topics of Fractions and Locations. Students are building on their fractions experience in Year 2 by learning different unit fractions, the various ways we can represent fractions, and fractions of collections. In Location, students are starting with learning grid referencing, giving directions, and mapping. We are continuing to revise timetables to become increasingly fluent.

SEL, health, and child protection curriculum lessons: This term we have been focusing on areas of emotions, the different kinds, and how we may feel these emotions differently.

HASS and Science: This term we are focusing mostly on Biological Science, looking into the characteristics of living and non-living things. This will also integrate with our Religion 'Caring for Creation' topic.

4/5 PH, RW and TL:

We are pleased to report that the term has started on a positive note, with students returning to school with new goals and an improved focus. This report outlines the significant learning activities and achievements in the Year 4 and 5 classrooms across various subjects.

In English, students have embarked on a journey to understand information reports, integrating this with our Geography unit. This approach enriches their learning experience and ensures a more profound understanding of the subject matter.

- Year 5 Students: Focus on Europe
- Year 4 Students: Focus on South America and Africa

Students began the unit with preliminary lessons on their respective continents. These lessons provided a foundation before delving into the structure and language features of information reports.

In Mathematics, our focus has been on Fractions. Students have shown commendable progress and engagement in understanding this concept. We are nearing the conclusion of our Fractions unit and will soon transition to Statistics and Probability, themed around the Olympic Games.

In our upcoming unit, statistics and probability, students will explore the Olympic Games while learning about data collection, analysis, and probability. This unit promises to be both educational and exciting, offering practical applications of mathematical concepts.

Our Geography unit has been both engaging and insightful. We are studying biomes, human impact on the earth, and natural disasters.

- Biomes: Students are learning about different biomes and the unique characteristics of each.
- Human Impact: We are discussing how human activities affect these biomes.
- Natural Disasters: Students are exploring various natural disasters and their implications on both the environment and human populations.

In Science, we have begun our exploration of living things. This unit is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics, needs, and habitats of various living organisms.

Overall, the term has started with a dynamic and engaging curriculum that spans multiple disciplines. The integration of Geography with English, the thematic approach in Mathematics, and the focus on environmental awareness in Geography and Science ensure an engaging learning experience for our Year 4 and 5 students. We look forward to continuing this momentum and achieving further educational milestones as the term progresses.

6 JM:

It's been a positive start in Term 3 for the Year 6 classroom. Term 2 was full of many exciting and engaging learning opportunities, and in Term 3 we look forward to many events such as SAPSASA Basketball, Book Week, Sport's Day, Mini Olympics, and Cardboard Box Sleepout.

English: In English this term we have begun reading the novel "Once" by Morris Gleitzman, which is a historical novel that follows the journey of Felix, a Jewish boy who escapes an orphanage in Poland to find his parents. It is set in 1942, so it touches on events during the Holocaust and Nazi Germany. This text will anchor our novel study unit, our writing on Information Reports, and ties in with our HASS – Geography learning about Asia. It will also help the students when they start writing their War Narratives at the end of the term. The novel has covered some previously unheard of themes and ideas, such as the conflict between the Nazis and the Jewish people, so it has been interesting to hear some perspectives and ideas so far.

Maths: In Maths, we complete a Daily Number routine with times table club on a Monday, and then a Daily Review PowerPoint on the other days. This helps the students with their recall and automaticity with number, as well as reinforcing and practicing concepts taught in lessons. We have started the term by looking at measurement, covering area, perimeter, volume, as well as being able to read timetables and plan journeys using timetables. This term in Maths we will also be looking at Shapes, Angles and some more work on Number.

Science/Technology: Last 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 got 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. Late last term there was a group of Year 6 students who represented St Joe's at a Space Convention in Adelaide, and travelled to present their project to a panel of Space Industry professionals. This term we will also be holding a Science expo where all the groups can present their projects to the rest of the school.

Religious Identity:

We CAN do it: Our commitment to Catholic Social Teachings – Preferential Options for the Poor was certainly evident in our school at the end of last term with our 'We CAN do it Campaign,' facilitated by our Mini Vinnies and SRC. Families were extremely supportive of the campaign with collecting over 400 cans and blankets which have been donated to our local St Vincent de Paul, as well as donating over \$578 recyclable cans and bottles and \$320 raised from PJ Day which will be donated to 'Swags for the Homeless.'

ReLAT - Religious Literacy Assessment Tool: Our Year 4 students will be participating in an assessment in Religious Education in Week 8 of this term. Teachers have participated in professional development about the test to ensure all relevant content has been taught. This assessment is conducted each year for all students in Year 4 in Catholic schools in South Australia. ReLAT is designed to assess some of the basic knowledge taught in Religious Education lessons. Please note that the assessment is not a measure of a child's faith nor their participation in the broader life of the Catholic community. The data from the ReLAT assessment is collated and used by the school to inform whole-of-school professional learning needs and the continuous improvement of teaching in Religious Education.

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day: We celebrate Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast Day on the 8th of August to commemorate Mary's journey of faith, her life, and her legacy. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is the Patron Saint of our Port Pirie Diocese. She opened the first Catholic school in South Australia in Penola, educating the children who were considered poor and not able to gain an education. Mary rejoiced in her God, loved the poor deeply and believed God would provide. She was a Spirit-filled person who was faithful to her God even when times were tough. Mary saw herself as God's humble servant

and was always ready to do God's will. Students are participating in activities to learn about the qualities she showed in her life.

Confirmation: We have 5 students preparing for Confirmation this year, held on Sunday the 1st of September. Preparations have begun for the celebration which will be held at St Mary's Church in Berri at Bishop Karol's request. A Confirmation unit for teaching and learning in Religious Education is being facilitated in the Year 6 class this term.

Vinnies school Sleepout: Our Year 6 annual Vinnies School sleepout will be held on Thursday the 19th of September. The Vinnies School Sleepout allows students and school communities to get a glimpse of the realities of homelessness on a personal level by 'sleeping rough' for one night. The Sleepout encourages students and teachers to gain a deeper understanding of homelessness, raise awareness of the realities faced by people experiencing homelessness and raise funds to support Vinnies homeless services in the local community. Students will cook their own soup for the evening and sleep over night in boxes outside under the shelter.

Religious Education Programming and Planning: Teachers will continue to work with myself and the Catholic Identity and Mission Team from CEO to program and plan rich units of work for the teaching and learning in Religious Education. We have a focus this term on Assessment Tasks. Most classes have begun the Term focusing on some element of Care for our Creation. We will be teaching Human Sexuality MITIOG (Made in the Image of God) during weeks 8-10 this term.

Staff Reflection Day: On Friday the 6th September staff will gather for a Spiritual Reflection Day, focusing on the spiritual and biblical dimensions of indigenous art, exploring how they resonate with our 2024 Diocesan theme 'Let Your Light Shine.'

HPE and School Sport:

As we are prepare for Sports Day, Amy and Thomas will be revising Athletics disciplines and small team games (Junior Primary). We are looking forward to Sports Day at St Francis of Assisi once again. The Health Hustle is being prepared with the assistance of the Year 6 Sport Captains.

SAPSASA - This term we have our Basketball carnival just completed on Friday where we entered 2 teams. Amy Thompson took charge of the girl's team and Jackson McGuire the boys. The girls came out triumphant in Division 2 whilst the boys fought courageously showing great sportsmanship and determination.

LAT:

We started off the term with DelPfeiffer cooking class. All students are enjoying learning new skills in the kitchen. Some of them are chopping, rolling, spreading and sprinkling. So far the students have made Cheese scrolls, chocolate croissants and potato gratin. It has been a huge success, and we look for to more cooking classes next week. The Australian Curriculum exposes students to food technology and the production of food and fibre.

We have integrated this unit with a language focus on Auslan vocabulary specific to the tasks. Students are also learning to sign the alphabet and their names.

ESOs:

After a restful holiday period, we are all looking forward to the many exciting events this term has in store! It's crazy how fast the year is going!

Term 3 has begun with changes to the ESO timetable, with the return of three ESO's from their university placements. However, we as a team, have continued to work together to provide the best support possible for all teachers, students and families. Further from this, all ESO's have shown great flexibility and collaboration, where a positive staff culture and 'above the line' attitudes have been demonstrated.

We extend our thoughts to Jami Lee who has taken a few weeks leave, however, we look forward to welcoming her back soon. In the meantime, as an ESO team we have worked together to cover any potential 'gaps' and this has worked effectively.

Our student free day, returning in Week 1, saw an introduction to many positive initiatives and programs, as a school are beginning. We are looking forward to implementing these programs to develop our

professional education practices. The ESO team is eager to learn more about the Initial Lit and Spell Ex programs that will become a whole school practice used in classes during the literacy learning focus. Furthermore, our team have been introduced to 'Australian Teacher Aid'; a training specifically designed for ESO's that we are fortunate to be able access.

This term we welcome our 9 new Mid-Year intake students into our Reception classes. We extend a welcome to all of their families and hope to build positive relationships to create a strong home to school connection. We look forward to watching them flourish in their learning journey at St Joseph's School Renmark!

On Monday 29th July, our new Student Representative Council students were inducted. We wish them all the best in their journey of leadership in representing their classes and whole school.

An upcoming event that many of our students and staff are involved in is 'Wakakirri'. Wakakirri will be held at the Norwood Town Hall on Friday 9th August (Week 3). We wish all involved the best and look forward to hearing the many memorable stories that will be shared upon their return.

Regarding school events, this term we look forward to; St Mary MacKillop Feast Day, Wellbeing Day, Book Week, Footsteps Dance Program, numerous SAPSASA events, R-2 Bush Discovery, Cardboard Box Sleepout, Father's Day Breakfast, Sports Day and Confirmation.

With a strong passion in literacy intervention, we are excited to share that Kiara has taken on the role of 'Whole School Intervention Coordinator', where she will work with staff and students to target student learning goals to improve academic outcomes. The children partaking within this specific and targeted intervention will be supported by Kiara Lodge, Amy Hunt and Michelle Ware.

Looking towards next year, we are excited to start seeing some of the 2025 new enrolment families make their way around the school. This is an exciting time, especially for our younger students, who are always eager to see our new friends that are going to join our school community.

We look forward to an eventful and exciting term!

Student Wellbeing:

This term we are trying something new to support wellbeing and learning in our school. Our wellbeing team have converted Room 2 into a new Wellbeing and Learning Centre. The Centre has three zones, a Learning Zone, Motor Zone and Calming Zone. Mrs McLeod and Ms Lawton are based in this space along with Charlie! The Learning Zone is a place where children can work 1:1 or in small groups with Mrs McLeod on tasks set by the classroom teacher. The Motor Zone can be used to develop gross and fine motor skills, as well as heavy work to assist in regulation. These activities create resistance input to the muscles and this feedback helps to calm and regulate the child's nervous system. Lastly, the calming zone provides a peaceful space for children to calm and reset their emotional battery. This space can be used independently or when required an ESO, Mrs McLeod or Ms Lawton can provide co-regulation. This Centre intends to provide alternate learning and regulation space to meet the diverse needs of all learners. We have already had lots of visitors to the centre, and we have enjoyed seeing them utilise our new space. We look forward to seeing the positive impact the Centre will have on our school community.

Ms Lawton will continue to support students who require support for regulation, friendship building and social group sessions. Along with Charlie, they are available in the Wellbeing and Learning Centre each day.

Charlie has settled in well in his new space in the Wellbeing and Learning Centre. He has a separate room which is gated off to give him a safe space to reside and rest. Students can choose if they wish to spend time with Charlie for their breaks or to support their regulation. Charlie has been busy supporting students at Kiss and Drop and has loved spending time in different classrooms and interacting with students and staff. Charlie's 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.

This term we will hold another school value day focusing on mental health. It will align with RU OK Day. On this special day, we hope to show understanding and care toward others who may be struggling and teach our students the importance of 'asking are you ok'.

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