

Messages from Donny

Dear Families, Friends and Students,

As hard as it may be to believe, we are at the end of yet another school term! We have had many exciting events this term and the students have engaged in a variety of learning opportunities. I thank the parent community for your continued support and dedication to your child's education and the wider St Joseph's School community. I also wish to thank the wonderful staff for their continued dedication to this school community and the education of your children. I hope all families will use this holiday break to rest and refresh, ready for Term 3.



We Can Do It Campaign:

Our strong Catholic Identity was highlighted and celebrated and I was so proud of the way we have supported the 'We Can Do It' Campaign. Our Mini Vinnies joined with our SRC students to focus on how we can make a difference to the lives of others who are less fortunate, vulnerable, marginalised and those faced with difficulties. The three events including, refundable cans and bottles, canned food, and pyjama day have all be so successful and raised significant funds. We used these opportunities to promote and teach our students selfless attitudes and actions of care for others, kindness, charity and empathy which are so valuable in todays society. I sincerely thank our whole community for the way they supported and embraced this amazing real life and meaningful learning opportunity.



This week we have recognised and celebrated NAIDOC week.



The 3 Reception classes celebrated 100 days of attending Reception on Wednesday.

NAIDOC Week:

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. We are so proud of the respect shown to all cultures in our school, and proud to acknowledge the indigenous heritage of our region and our country.

SEQTA Reports:

Semester 1 reports, which includes current content from the Australian Curriculum, were sent home today. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are using a Catholic Education of South Australia wide management system called SEQTA.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

28 July Sun 9.00am
3 Aug Sat 6.30pm
11 Aug Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

22 Student Free Day
29 SRC Induction & new
student welcome
assembly 2.15pm

August

2 9.30am Mass by 4/5PH

September

6 Student Free Day

We encourage families to use positive comments with their child, whilst reading their reports together. Adopting a positive attitude and committing personal effort have been proven to be critical factors to being a successful learner. Here are a few suggestions to assist you when reading your child's report:

- Talk to your child about their effort and what they see as their strengths and challenges. Highlight and celebrate these successes and identify ways you can work together with the school to support their ongoing learning, particularly in areas that are challenging.
- Share information with the teacher/s about what you know about your child that may enhance or hinder their learning.

It is essential to understand that reporting and grade interpretations continue to be an important element with Reports. We have maintained grading against Achievement Standards and General Capabilities. I believe that the most significant aspect of the report is the teachers comment and the effort achievement. Parents should acknowledge and focus on the effort as a highlight and not only the overall grade.

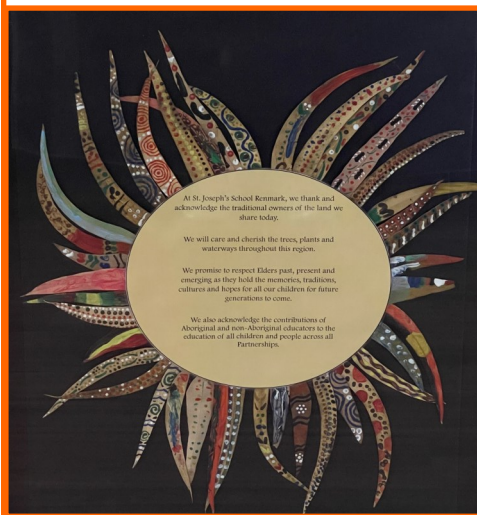
After spending considerable time reading all our student reports, I am pleased with the overall results, efforts and attitudes of St Joseph's School students. I encourage children to regularly read during these holidays and to keep practising and improving their skills and knowledge of Literacy.



Year 4/5PH SRCs, Lucas and Lucy, sorting the recycling containers.

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.



Student Representative Committee:

This week the Semester 1 SRCs concluded their roles with a special lunch. I congratulate them for their positive ideas and activities, and commend all the SRCs for showing excellent initiative and leadership. We look forward to inducting our new SRC students for Semester 2 at a special Assembly on Monday **29th July at 2.15pm**. Families will be notified and are all encouraged to attend this ceremony. I continue to look forward to some interesting and constructive conversations and ideas soon. I also acknowledge and thank Mrs Thompson for all the work she does in facilitating our SRC.

One area our SRC do an amazing job with is our recycling of the drink containers that we send to the local depot. I was recently informed by the owners of the depot that our students are wonderful in preparing, sorting and cleaning these items.

Enrolments for 2025:

I continue to meet with prospective families for next year. They have attended enrolment meetings and have praised our school, the resources and the positive learning environment they have observed. At this stage we have strong interest with nearly 40 families in Reception already. Our school is in a very positive position for the future.

Assembly:

On Monday, Mrs Sever, Mrs Hill, Mr Hooper and their students led the school Assembly and shared some of their learning with us. We also presented and acknowledged our Star Students recipients. We believe our Assembly is an important community event which promotes positivity, success, achievement and highlights the many values we want our students to display. I congratulate all of the students who were presented with awards this week and thank them for their contributions to our school community.

Successful Completion of my Masters Study:

After 8 long years it is with much, pride, exhaustion, excitement, relief and overall satisfaction that I share my significant news that I have finally passed my studies. I am very much looking forward to getting back much needed personal and family time and realign my focus for my professional responsibilities to enhance my leadership skills and be the best Principal I can for our amazing St Joseph's community. I sincerely thank all parents and staff for their support and encouragement which was very much appreciated and valued.



Dear Don

Congratulations!

I am pleased to advise that you are now Course Complete in the Master of Educational Leadership.

I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed your studies at ACU. We would be delighted for you to remain part of the ACU community by joining our alumni network or returning to us as a student again. I wish you all the best for the future.

Regards,

Cheryl Fullwood

Academic Registrar and Director, Student Administration
Australian Catholic University



Staff update:

I wish to announce that Mr Greg Reeks will be returning next term and will be working with the Reception to Year 2 students in delivering Digital Literacy skills. We welcome Greg back and are excited with the possibilities that this role will have with our younger students.

Start of Term 3:

A reminder that Term 3 begins for students on **Tuesday the 23rd July**. Staff will be using the student free day on Monday 22nd July to participate in essential Professional Development opportunities. We thank you for your understanding in this. OSHC will be available - please contact Nicole 8586 4481 to make a booking if this service is required.

At St Joseph's I am very grateful of our positive learning environment and family community, where parents show respect, genuine care and support of our teachers. We continue to work hard on building strong parent/teacher/student relationships. I have personally invested much of my energy, feelings and emotions to establish a culture that continues to encourage face to face communication. I believe that as a leader and as a person, my own reputation is impacted by our school culture and identity. I firmly believe that building positive relationships is vital.

Along with all my staff, school board members and the P&F Committee, we are all committed to continue to foster a positive school community. With the support and understanding of all parents and carers we can collectively confront all challenges and difficulties and work together to provide a safe and productive learning environment for all our children. I personally give my absolute promise that I will continue to give my all, for the best interests of all our community.

I wish to acknowledge the supportive families that provide me with ongoing encouragement and feedback. I often reflect on the many media



The students enjoyed the recent 'The Bully Is Back' performance.

reports that describe challenges and difficulties that Principals and schools are facing in today's society.

I want to again take the opportunity to thank our teachers for their dedication and the caring way they lead this school community. Thank you to all the support staff who serve this school community so well and thank you to our supportive and positive families who help our school community to be a caring environment for all our children.

Have a safe and happy holiday break.

See everyone on Tuesday 23rd July.

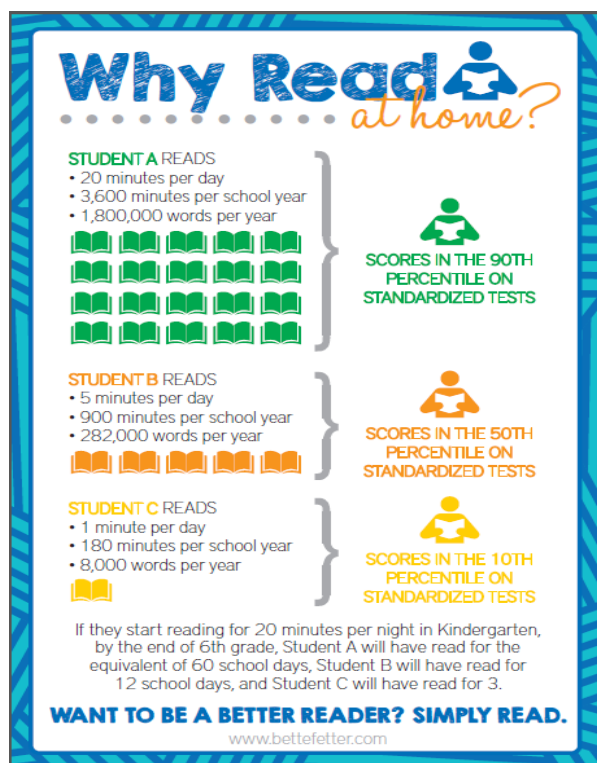
Regards

Don DePalma
Principal



Why READ at home?:

Education is a partnership between home and school. Reading every day helps children grow smarter, explore new ideas and dream big about their futures. By developing skills and becoming a confident reader, we open pathways to succeed.



Kids in Space Program:

This term, the Year 6s have been working through the Kids In Space program, as part of a 3D designing program called Maker's Empire. As part of this program, the students worked in groups to solve a local problem using space technology. They first identified the problem, and then worked to find a solution, including printing a prototype on the school's 3D printer. On Monday, a group from St Joseph's travelled to Adelaide to present their project at the CESA Kids in Space Showcase. The group of Hallie Nagel, Lily McLeod, Kianna Solly, Chloe Camplin, and Poppy Milich, designed a drone that would help to combat their identified problem of Fruit Fly.



The girls should be very proud of the way they confidently articulated their project to a panel of 6 judges from the space industry, as well as the other schools in attendance.

Star Student Awards:



Back: Daisy Camplin, Max Kennedy, Mia Williams, Beatrice Neilly, Logan Townsend.
Front: Jaxx Yard, Amir Arkan, Cruz Karantonis, Oliver Everingham.



Back: Partap Gill, Jett Lever, Alice Colligan, Marcus Flett, Gurleen Sharma.
Front: Ella Phan, Charlotte Maywald, Mia Wardle, Aria Amezdroz, Hayden Sumner, Sam Hughes.

Bonnie & the Governor:

Bonnie Robertson met Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson, Governor of South Australia during her recent visit to Renmark. The Governor participated in the Renmark Rowing Club's Annual Long Row event from Renmark to the Woolshed Brewery on Saturday 22nd June by rowing the last leg of the event with one of the Renmark Crews.

We also congratulate Mrs Karen Trenwith who was one of the main organisers of the large event.



Religious Identity & Mission:

MGL:

Last Thursday, Sr Bernadette Toohey and five members from 'The Missionaries of God's Love' youth team, visited Renmark with their youth program. They joined our Year 6 students, facilitating an engaging workshop of games and then interacted with students from other grades with outdoor activities. The day provided students with another opportunity for spiritual growth and highlighted the Catholic Identity and Culture at our school.



We CAN do it!:

Our commitment to Catholic Social Teachings – Preferential Options for the Poor was certainly evident in our school this week with our 'We CAN do it Campaign,' facilitated by our Mini Vinnies and SRC.

As you can see in the pictures, families have been extremely supportive of the campaign with collecting cans and blankets which will be donated to our local St Vincent de Paul, donating 10c recyclable cans and bottles, and participating in our PJ Day. We will be visiting the Recycling depot in the holidays and the money from that and the \$320 raised from PJ Day will be donated to 'Swags for the Homeless.'



Year 3 Class Mass:

Congratulations to Miss Manning's class on the reverent and engaged way they led Mass last Friday. The students read, responded and sang beautifully. This is another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrates their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity.

Chrissie Grocke
APRIM



Student Wellbeing:

VULNERABILITY

This weeks school value is vulnerability. Vulnerability is a state of emotional exposure that comes with a degree of uncertainty. Learning how to be vulnerable involves a willingness to accept the emotional risk that comes from being open to show emotions and provide honest expression despite fears.

Here are some ways to teach and demonstrate vulnerability with your children:

Share Life Stories

Sharing life stories with your children can be a great way to connect more deeply with them. Not only will reaching back into your personal memories give you practice with vulnerability; the process of sharing your life experiences and the surrounding lessons and emotions can also empower your children.

Say "I don't know"

Simply answering a question by saying 'I don't know' or responding to a request for help by saying 'I actually don't know how to do this' is a great way to be vulnerable with your children. After you admit you're not sure how to do something, take time to show you care by finding the answer — and make it a bonding opportunity by involving your child in the process.

Say "I'm sorry"

No one likes to come off like they are in the wrong, but failing to admit you're wrong can have a negative impact. It better to admit responsibility and make an effort to say "I will do better next time."

Be Open About Your Emotions

Sharing how you feel helps the kids connect with you. It allows you to model behaviour that encourages them to open up about their own feelings.

Observe How Your Kids Are Feeling

Connecting emotionally with your kids can be as simple as being in tune with their emotions. Try matching the inflection and tone of your voice to match the child's emotion. This is a powerful example to the child that shows how profoundly you can identify and understand their feelings.

Say these words: "I understand what you're going through"

Empathy is an important way to connect with your children. When you identify with their feelings, they'll feel more connected to you and less ashamed or isolated in their own experiences.

Ask for Help Publicly

We don't want our children to think they have to deal with their problems on their own, or be embarrassed to ask for help. It's important to demonstrate its ok to be vulnerable and ask for support from others. Reaching out for help teaches your children that everyone needs help, love and support.



Charlie-in-action

It is always wonderful to see the smiling faces of students when they get to have a cuddle with Charlie. Charlie definitely loves it too!

