

## Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

I have been very pleased with how the students are progressing this term. They are engaging positively in their learning and the rooms are abuzz with interest and excitement with the work that they are doing.



The last two weeks staff and students have been immersed in many positive learning experiences from our Mini Olympics, St Mary MacKillop Day, SAPSASA Basketball, Wakakirri, Assembly and much more. Through these activities, together with our regular class lessons and our strong wellbeing focus, they are experiencing the many dimensions of learning and how to work through challenges in a positive way and take responsibility for their choices. I can only say that the future will be in great hands with their hopefulness, their vitality and their creative ways of dealing with their lives and respecting the lives of others. I wish to highlight that this is one of the features of being in a Catholic School, as we not only focused on academics, but also the human side of people.



Rishit, Judd, Kacie, Apollo, Jonah, Harley & Miss Halliday enjoying our Mini Olympics.

### Catholic Schools Open Week:

You may have noticed that Catholic Education in South Australia is actively advertising in numerous media formats. This week Catholic Education South Australia will promote OPEN WEEK and together with 101 schools, 52,000 students and 8,000 staff we will show how proud we are of our culture that allows young people to experience the learning, wellbeing and faith that are so strongly interconnected in a Catholic school.

At St Joseph's we believe we live our vision statement of **'Raising Hearts and Minds'**, as we always seek to support and enable young people to pursue and grow in their curiosity, talent and passion. Guided by our strong values and morals, we encourage students to become agents for good, influencing and leading their own learning, and able to confidently become catalysts of change in our community and society.

We value our strong community reputation and culture, and we do this by promoting trust, respect, forgiveness and reconciliation. In current circumstances, this mission is more important than ever. Thank you for entrusting your child to our care. You place enormous trust in us when you make the choice to send your child to a Catholic school, and we promise to fulfil our mission to the very best of our ability.



## **ST. THERESE'S RENMARK**

Fr Hau 0401 367 337  
8582 1894

### **MASS TIMES**

17 Aug Sat 6.30pm  
25 Aug Sun 9.00am  
31 Aug Sat 6.30pm

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **August**

21 Bookweek Parade 9.15  
23 Girls Footy  
27 Yr 3&4 Hot Shots Tennis  
30 Father's Day Breakfast

#### **September**

6 Student Free Day

### **Wakakirri Results:**

The 'Raising Hearts and Minds' message was evident in our recent Wakakirri performance. We are so proud to be promoting the Arts in our school and are so pleased to provide this valuable and life long learning experience for our students and staff. This was extremely fulfilling and filled us with so much pride. Please see the article in this newsletter for more details. I was a very proud Principal to witness this amazing performance and again congratulate Rachel McLeod, Dana Hanson and all the students. I wish to also acknowledge helpers, Teresa Colligan, Ruth Sutton, Belinda Pfeifer and Giulia Del Zoppo all the parents who travelled and helped in any way.



**Dana, Teresa, Ruth, Rachel & Belinda ~ Lila & Piper**

### **NAPLAN Results:**

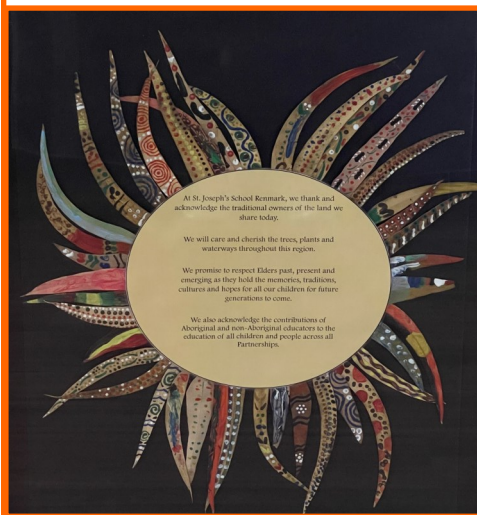
Parents of Years 3 & 5 students received their child's results of the 2024 NAPLAN testing with our last newsletter. We wish to congratulate all students for their effort and achievements. We were very pleased with this year's results which indicate positive growth and development throughout the whole school. This certainly affirms all our structures, interventions, philosophies and teaching methods. We value the conversations that these results create, but wish to remind all parents, that these tests do not assess all of what it is that make each child special and unique. By law we are bound to assess traditional subject disciplines which we still highly value but at St Joseph's we believe that in the 21st Century, our young people need learning of a higher order, such as that described in the Australian Curriculum. Skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, deep literacy and numeracy and ICT knowledge, collaboration and communication, and a sense of personal and social responsibility. We consider that children may play a musical instrument, dance or paint a picture. We also consider that friends count on each other to be there for them, and that the children's laughter can brighten the dreariest day. We also see the children who write poetry or songs, play or participate in sports, wonder about the future, or that sometimes take care of little brothers or sisters after school. We consider that children have travelled to a really neat place or that they know how to tell a great story or really love spending time with special family members and friends. We value that the children can be trustworthy, kind or thoughtful, and try every day to be the very best. This highlights that the scores the children get will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything. There are many ways of being smart.

### **Book Week:**

We again promote Book Week which is the longest running children's festival in Australia. Each year, many schools and public libraries from all over Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Book Week highlights the importance of reading and draws on the joys of stories and creativity of Australian books. The theme of Children's Book Week

## **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.





2024 is Reading Is Magic. We are excited about our Dress-up Day and parade this week on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 9.15am. We encourage all students to come dressed as a book character and welcome parents/carers to come and join in the fun, excitement and colour.

### Father's Day Breakfast:

I am very excited to announce that we will be able to have our very popular Father's Day breakfast for dads, grandads and special friends which will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August from 7.15am - 8:15am at our school. It is important to acknowledge the positive contribution dads make to their families and the wider St Joseph's Community. It is important that our children see that parenting is a shared responsibility. For this reason, I invite the dads, grandads and special friends to this special event. I encourage dads to do the morning drop off, enjoy the breakfast, then stay and engage with their children in their classrooms for morning learning activities. Please complete and return the recently distributed form to your child's class teacher. I thank the P&F for donating a prize to raffle for all who attend.



Mary MacKillop Team celebration

### Sports Day:

You may have noticed that our Sports Day was included in the Term Planner that was distributed last term. We are excited that it will again be held at St Francis of Assisi, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This is an exciting event for our school that brings staff, students, and families together. Our P&F will have an active presence and will provide a great opportunity for us to celebrate and enjoy this great day. I wish Mr Smart, Mrs Thompson, all our staff and students all the best as they prepare for this big day. More notes and information will be distributed very soon.

### Living, Learning and Leading (LLL) Framework Surveys:

Thankyou to the parents who have completed the LLL survey. This survey is a CESA initiative

which provides feedback/data from all 101 Catholic schools. It is then aggregated and a report is provided to the schools. The report gives us a snapshot and feedback about what we are doing well or need to work towards. We will use this data and feedback as we begin the process to review our Strategic Plan. This also provides us with an opportunity to compare our data with other Catholic schools.

### Strategic Plan Review:

As mentioned above, as a community we will soon begin the process of review and planning our new Strategic Plan. The School Board will also be involved in a process of consultation and review. Our aim is to design a Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2028. This strategic plan helps us to define what we intend to achieve when it comes to being a school of integrity, support, cooperation, acceptance, respect and friendliness. Working in partnership across the school community, this strategic plan sets out our priorities for the next three years across six main areas of continuous improvement:

- Catholic Identity
- Orderly and Safe Learning Environments
- High Quality Teaching and Learning,
- Strong Home, School Community Engagement,
- Focused Vision and Goals and Strong Leadership
- Effective Administration and Resourcing

Why have a strategic Plan?

Communication is vital in any school community. With a strategic plan it clearly communicates to our families the direction and focus of the school. Our strategic plan allows us to:

- Articulate a shared vision, mission and values
- Organise the school and staff with a direction and commitment
- Define how success can be monitored and measured
- Assist School Board with governance decisions and provide direction for the future
- Increase communication and engagement
- Keeps us all connected
- Get to our priority - student learning

This strategic plan constantly reminds us; **it is all about providing the best for our students.**

The planning process involves reflection of our current position through the analysis of data from students, teachers and staff, families and the wider community. Data is received in many forms,

including student testing (PAT tests, NAPLAN, etc), teacher review feedback and family surveys.

The feedback from data gives us an understanding of where the school is doing well and areas that may need development. This helps the strategic planning to set goals, put in place actions and ensure we have the resources available to be successful.

### **2025 Planning: Master Plan Update**

Our school continues to grow with ongoing enrolment interest. This growth highlights our positive school culture and excellent learning environment that we provide. As a school we continue to collaborate and respond with decisions and plans that consider our future. We focus on providing our students with the resources, ICT and tools that support a positive and contemporary learning environment. Our students are very fortunate to have access to excellent teachers, support staff and many resources and certainly do not go without. The structures put in place for this year has allowed the school to run smoothly and for students to be successful. Preparing for 2025, the staff, School Board and students continue to work through the vision, ideas and suggestions. We continue to work through all elements of our Master Plan and after acquiring the properties on 11<sup>th</sup> Street this year we are exploring and investigating all options. This plan allows us to accommodate our growth, continue providing excellent resources and looks at capital projects that will focus on ongoing improvement.

### **Student Free Day Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September:**

Recently the School Board approved a Student Free Day so that the staff can spend the day in Spiritual Reflection with the staff from St Albert's and Our Lady of the River schools, based on our

## **Champion Citizen Awards:**



Congratulations to  
**Ava Lindner & Beatrice Neilly**  
who were recently presented with our  
Champion Citizen Awards.

Staff Faith formation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Annual Improvement Goals. The day will be facilitated by Fr Elio Capri where we will collectively delve into the spiritual and biblical dimensions of indigenous artwork, exploring how they resonate with our theme and how they nurture the faith formation of staff and illuminate our understanding of shining our own lights in the world.

At St Joseph's we value the strong bonds we have created with Parents/Caregivers and other community organisations. This certainly contributes to the many positive learning experiences that we aim to provide for our students. Please enjoy this newsletter which highlights many wonderful learning opportunities.

Regards,  
**Don DePalma**  
Principal



How frustrating!!



## **Star Student Awards:**



Back: Navraj Dhaliwal, Zara Edwards, Jaxon Little, Henry Woolford, Mila Nolan-Chambers.  
Front: Levi O'Bryan, Indie Cutts, Flynn Woodgate, Jasper Yap.



Back: Poppy Milich, Nathan Carslake, Lee Nguyen, Dino Demou, Ryan Moldovan  
Front: Mersadez Bronish-Rice, Hamish Gudgeon, Kelly Nguyen, Delilah Anderson



# Religious Identity & Mission:

## Mary MacKillop Feast Day:

What a wonderful day we had last Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August celebrating St Mary MacKillop's Feast Day. The school gathered with a beautiful liturgy celebrating her life and reflecting on how we can be more like Mary MacKillop in our lives.



Mary MacKillop was canonized a Saint because of the amazing way she lived her life. She was...

**A Woman of...God** - God was at the centre of Mary's life. Her actions of his love in the ordinary events of every day.

**A Woman of ...Courage** - Mary's courage in the face of opposition, in hardship, when those she trusted let her down

**A Woman of...Action** - Mary showed a passion for God calling her, she saw a need and it had to be answered through action especially children's education

**A Woman of...Compassion** - Mary showed compassion towards all those who were in need of any kind, those who were neglected by society. Even those who hurt her.

Students participated in numerous learning activities throughout the day and our MacKillop sports team celebrated with their afternoon tea.

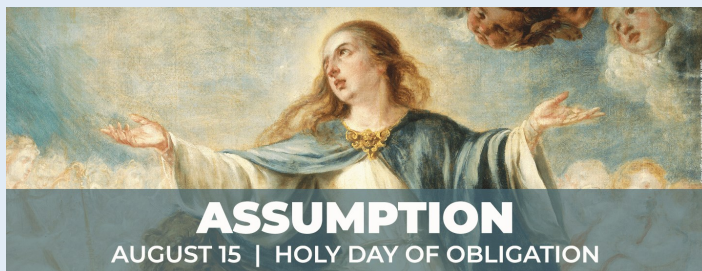
## Our Lady of the River Parish 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration:

Parishioners from the centers of St Therese in Renmark, St Francis Xaviers in Barmera, St Mary's in Berri, St Albert's in Loxton, St Thomas More in Waikerie, and St Ursula in Morgan gathered and celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the amalgamation to form Our Lady of the River Parish on Sunday. It was a wonderful celebration!



## The Feast of the Assumption:

Yesterday was the Solemn Feast of the Assumption of Mary. We celebrated at school with a special Liturgy held in each class. Students learnt about the sacrifice Mary made saying yes to God to be the mother of Jesus, as well as celebrating her Assumption into heaven to sit with Jesus forever. Mary is a very important woman in the Catholic church and students learnt about how they also can say yes to God.



## Parish Mass

Congratulations to Miss Venables class on the reverent and engaged way they led Mass this morning. 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





# Leader of Learning:

## Celebrating Our NAPLAN Success and Looking Ahead to 2025:

I am excited to share some outstanding news regarding our recent NAPLAN results, which reflects the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. Our Year 3 students have excelled, surpassing both the CESA and National averages—a testament to the effectiveness of our teaching practices and the robust programs we have in place. The effort put in by our teachers in programming, planning, and differentiating has been exceptional, and the commitment of our students to their learning has truly shone through.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Year 5 students, who participated in the NAPLAN testing this year. While our results at the upper end of the school didn't reach the same high benchmarks as our Year 3 cohort, we are incredibly proud of the significant growth demonstrated by each student since their Year 3 assessment. This growth is a clear indicator of the progress and development occurring throughout our school, and we remain committed to supporting every student on their educational journey.

As we look forward to 2025, our focus is on forward planning to continue enhancing our curriculum. I have been deeply involved in a mathematics project that promises to bring some exciting developments to our program next year. Given our strong performance in mathematics, these changes are designed to further strengthen our approach and ensure that all students continue to thrive.

In addition to Mathematics, we are embarking on an exciting transformation of our literacy blocks. Next year, we will be rolling out the MultiLit suite across the school, implementing structured teaching and learning in reading and reading comprehension. This whole-school approach is designed to provide our students with a strong foundation in literacy, ensuring they develop the skills necessary for lifelong learning.

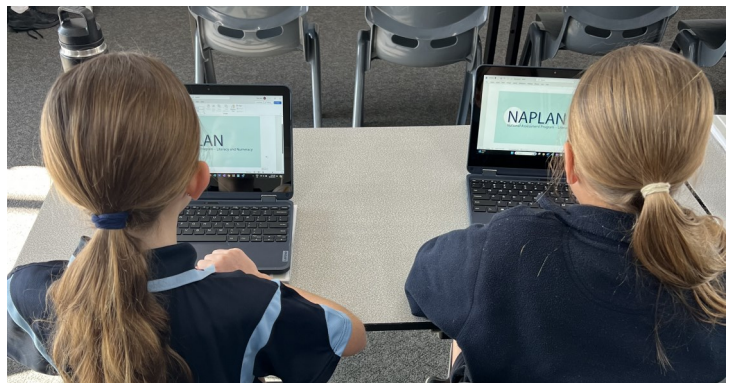
These are just a few of the initiatives we are currently working on, and I look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming months. Our commitment to excellence in education remains unwavering, and I am confident that the steps we are taking now will lead to even greater successes in the future.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students.

**Rowie Williams**  
Leader of Learning

# NAPLAN

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy



## Science Week:

As part of National Science Week this week, the Year 3 classes were invited to join with the Year 8 students at St Francis of Assisi for a morning of Science! The Year 3s thoroughly enjoyed their time at St Francis in the brand new science labs, with Year 8 students presenting a range of different exciting experiments and explaining the science behind them.





## Parents & Friends:

### Dominoes Pizza Drive:

We are so grateful for all of those who purchased Pizzas for tea last Thursday from Dominoes. The school raised \$264 from Pizza sales. This contribution has been matched by the family of Alexi & Owen Le, so \$528 raised. Thank you to Trish from Dominoes and to the Le family. What a wonderful effort by everyone!



### Father's Day stall:

On Monday 19th August students will have an opportunity to purchase a gift for Dad or someone special. They will go with their class at an allocated time to choose and item or 2.

### Thank you:

The P&F have purchased 5 new trolleys for classes to use for Sports Day, excursions and many other things. A big thank you to Wills and Co Mitre 10 for kindly donating two of these.



### Double Choc Banana Bread:

This is a really delicious cake and my kids love a slice of it for recess. You can also bake it into cupcakes, they will just take less time to cook.

Ingredients: 1 cup SR flour, 3 Tbspn cocoa, 1 tspn cinnamon, 250g banana (approx 2-3 medium), 1 tspn vanilla extract, ½ cup mild olive oil (or melted butter), ¾ cup brown sugar 1tspn baking soda, 2 Tbspn hot water, ½ cup dark chocolate chips.

Method: Heat your oven to 180 degrees. Line and or grease a loaf tin. Whisk or sift together the flour, cocoa, and cinnamon. In a second bowl, mash your bananas. Add the oil/butter, vanilla extract and brown sugar to the bananas, mix until combined. Mix the baking soda with hot water. Add this to the wet ingredients and stir well. Add the wet ingredients to your dry ingredients. Combine them gently and fold through the chocolate chips. Spoon the batter into the prepared tin. Bake for 40 mins, or until the loaf has risen and when a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool on a rack before removing from the tin.



Jo Lloyd  
P&F Committee

## SAPSASA News:

### Basketball:

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, St Joseph's Renmark had two teams that participated at SAPSASA Basketball in Loxton. Both teams were placed in Division 2 with four minor round games and then they both played finals.

The boys' team had a great day managing to win two games. They showed great skill and passion for the game.

The girls won all their games to then compete and win the grand final match. The girls worked great together and showed amazing sportsmanship throughout the day.

A big thank you to Mr McGuire and Mrs Thompson for coaching, as well as the parental support from families.

Mr Thomas Smart  
SAPSASA Co-Ordinator



# Student Wellbeing:

## *Instilling Bravery In Our Children: Through self-awareness and values*

This weeks school value is Bravery. We see and hear of many amazing examples of bravery every day. At St Joesph's we believe this is an essential value to posses and is beneficial for success and self belief.

When we teach our children how to be brave, we are giving them important tools to thrive and navigate their ever-changing, and sometimes tough, life journey.

We teach our children to stand up to peer pressure, refuse to go along with the crowd when something feels wrong, try new activities or classes, stand up to bullying, master something new in the face of frustration, or ask for help in difficult situations – **THIS IS BRAVERY!**

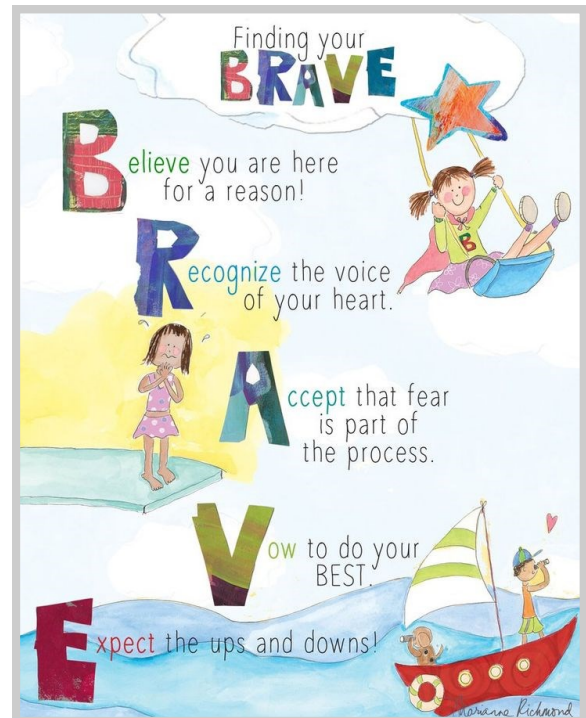
We are a vital source of support for our children to learn how to demonstrate bravery. We help them learn the important life skills of standing up for their values, knowing who they are and what they believe in. Bravery is a lesson we want to teach our children from the beginning - we are their most important influential teachers. Life will inevitably bring on extremely pleasant and extremely tough circumstances, and everything in between. How we model and handle the tough times, the uncertainty, and the changes, are vital to what our kids will learn. You can also turn to other resources that display bravery by offering positive role models from history, story books, movies, and television shows. Demonstrate to your child that despite discomfort, tough emotions and circumstances, standing up for your family values is always encouraged. Praise your child when they are demonstrating this important self-awareness; the bravery of knowing what's important to them, what's on the inside, and how they courageously share that with the world around them.

As our children, and us, develop greater self-awareness, the better we connect to ourselves – living a life that is in line with our values and beliefs. Self-awareness also enhances our relationships and connections with others. These are the skills we want to pass on to our children.



Self-awareness builds within us; knowing our own emotions, our ability to accurately label and assess our emotions, personal displays of self-confidence, perseverance, and intrinsic motivation. All of these are vital to building self-awareness – a key to building and exuding bravery!

Bravery comes in all shapes and sizes. The biggest parts are being able to turn to your insides, knowing yourself, following your values, being confident in your personal choices, then speaking and acting that way on the outside.



### Charlie-in-action

Charlie enjoyed his pats and cuddles at our recent awards assembly. It was lovely to see and feel the sun shine!





# Mini Olympics with 3/HM





# Wakakirri:

On Friday night 41 talented students from Year 3-6 performed 'Rapunzel' for the Wakakirri Festival at the Norwood Town Hall. This was our third time participating in the Festival, which we do every other year.

Our item this year was 'Rapunzel', choreographed by Mrs Rachel McLeod and assisted by Miss Dana Hansen with help from our awesome teachers Mrs Giulia Del Zoppo and Mrs Belinda Pfeiffer and parents Mrs Ruth Sutton and Mrs Teresa Colligan. Our students conducted themselves beautifully at all times, representing our school to the highest standard. Their performance was outstanding. We even got to open the show!

We received the following feedback and awards on the night.

"A very creative way to showcase our motif belonging, Utilising the story of Rapunzel from tangled. I enjoyed the mediaeval costumes

accompanied by some hard hitting rave music, you've created a very entertaining production and shout out to the costume team for producing some very accurate and high quality costumes. Everyone knew their characters and knocked it out the park. A very crisp, well rehearsed and thorough work. Well done and congratulations." - Kate Burgess, Wakakirri Ambassador.

Show Awards:

- Storytelling Award for Strong use of the Festival Motif
- Ensemble Award for Acting Performance
- Storytelling Award for Story Theme and Concept
- Storytelling Award for Story Construction and Clarity
- Ensemble Award for Overall Performance

**Rachel McLeod**  
Instructor

