

Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

Remembrance Day 11th November:

It is with great honour and respect that I start our newsletter acknowledging Remembrance Day. Each year Australians observe one minute silence at 11am on 11th of November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. We are very proud that we will have a presence from Staff and Students at our local service on Monday morning. We will also hold our own school service which will be led by our Year 5 students.



The 2025 Reception students are enjoying their transition visits. Part of the skipping team at practice.

My 2 Year Appraisal:

Today I was working with CESA Consultants, Belinda and Angela, on my 2 year appraisal, which is an opportunity for me to review my position as Principal at St Joseph's School, and look at successes and reflect on opportunities for further growth and improvement. I sincerely thank the staff, parents, parishioners and students who were part of the process, and provided valuable feedback through interviews and phone calls.

When reflecting on my past two years, I am proud of the progress we've made in strengthening our school's culture, enhancing student outcomes, and building a more inclusive environment. When I was reappointed two years ago, my primary focus was to foster a learning community that embraces our catholic values and morals, and values collaboration, resilience, and continuous improvement. Over these two years, I have worked closely with teachers, parents, and students to create a supportive and engaging environment for all.

A significant highlight has been the advancement in our academic performance, with our students demonstrating marked improvements in literacy and numeracy. I congratulate all my teachers and the support from ESOs for their positivity with initiatives including, interventions, professional development in high impact teaching methods, and how to meet our students' varied needs more effectively. Additionally, introducing data-driven approaches has helped us identify key areas of improvement, allowing our staff to refine their strategies in real time.

Creating a positive and inclusive school culture has been another priority. We have initiated a whole school Positive Behavioural Interventions and Support (PBIS) schoolwide approach aimed at establishing positive student culture and individualised behaviour supports necessary to create a safe and effective learning environment for all students.



ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

10 Nov Sun 9.00am
16 Nov Sat 6.30pm
24 Nov Sun 9.00am
30 Nov Sat 6.30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

11 Remembrance Day
13 Be Grateful Day
15 2025 Reception visit
20 Pogo Pulse & Skipping demo
21 Year 3 Excursion

We have also maintained a strong focus on Well-being by adding a Wellness and Learning Centre, and ensuring students have access to ongoing social and emotional support.

Parent engagement and strong relationships has been an ongoing priority. I highly value the feedback I receive from parents and have used it to guide initiatives, from curriculum updates to extracurricular programs.

Moving forward, I aim to continue building on these foundations, with a renewed focus on leveraging technology for learning and further enriching our students' social-emotional development. I am committed to leading with integrity, adaptability, and a passion for creating a thriving learning environment. These two years have been rewarding, and I look forward to guiding our school toward continued success.



Our 2025 Reception students are enjoying their recent transition days.

Transition Days:

Today, we continued our 2025 Receptions Transition Program. This was another wonderful day with our 34 new students visiting for their second Transition Day. St Joseph's was filled with much excitement as our whole school warmly welcomed students and their Parents/Carers. Our Year 5 students showed outstanding leadership, support and guidance as they embraced their responsibility as buddies of our new students. We look forward to further success with their final visit next Friday.

As we approach the final weeks of 2024, St Joseph's continues to strive for excellence in all that we do. Recent gatherings of parents whose children are in the Reception transition stage have indicated that St Joseph's enjoys an excellent reputation in the wider community. They have provided such positive feedback about our school and our Transition Program. It is affirming, as Principal, to know that what we do with children and young people to improve their learning and wellbeing is effective. As always, those students and families who support their children to develop the habits of excellence are the ones who achieve continued success.

Parents are the first and most important educators and can influence significant learning. I encourage you, as the year is drawing to a close, to keep encouraging and supporting your child to:

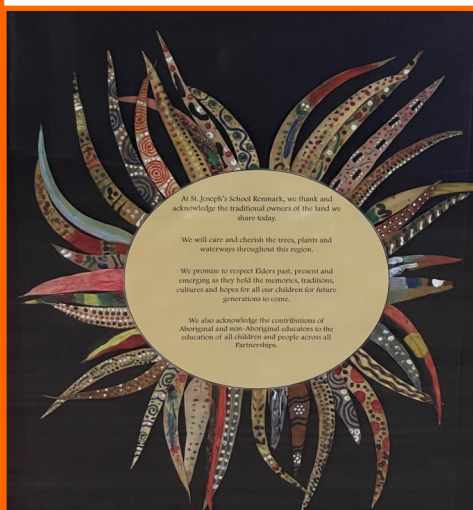
- be at school everyday.
- be punctual for school and lessons.
- complete work assignments.
- give their best.
- be involved and be positive with the St Joseph's community and beyond.

Peter Combe Visit:

We're thrilled to announce that beloved children's entertainer Peter Combe is coming to our school next Tuesday 12th November at 10am. Known for his timeless songs like "Wash Your Face in Orange Juice" and "Spaghetti Bolognaise," Peter Combe has been delighting young audiences for decades with his fun, interactive performances.

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.



Peter will also use this performance to promote two of his latest songs 'A Frog in My Cheese Sandwich' and 'Planet Earth 3rd from the Sun.' This is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to enjoy a morning filled with music, laughter, and sing-along fun! The event promises to be an unforgettable experience, celebrating creativity, rhythm, and the joy of live music.

Wellbeing "Be Grateful" Day:

We are excited to promote our upcoming Well-being Day on Wednesday 13th November. We will use this day to focus on two important themes: Being Grateful and World Kindness Day. Throughout the day, students will engage in activities that encourage appreciation, compassion, and the power of simple acts of kindness. Our goal is to create a positive, supportive environment where everyone can feel valued and inspired to make a difference. Let's come together to celebrate gratitude, spread kindness, and make Well-being Be Grateful Day an uplifting experience for all!



We are excited about Peter Combe attending our school on Tuesday.



Volunteer Award:

We sincerely appreciate the considerable contribution many volunteers make to our School Community. We would like to present the Volunteer Award at our end of year concert. This is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge a volunteer who has made a positive impact in our community. Please see the enclosed flyer for details about nominating a person who may fulfil this criteria.

School Uniform:

As mentioned previously we are 'raising the bar' this term with higher expectations across the board. The School Uniform is one area we will be focusing on. As we head towards the end of the year, please ensure that your children still maintain a high level of presentation and have all correct uniform requirements. This includes hair, hats, jewellery and shoes. It might be time to check the length and sizing of their uniform as I'm sure they've grown. If any clothing items are damaged or misplaced, please send a note in with

P&F/Well-being Teams:

As we move through the final term of the year, I am always reflecting on all our structures, processes, and groups and how we can continue to improve all the great things we do at St Joseph's. The P&F/Well-Being Community is one of those structures that I highly value and appreciate for its many positive outcomes. I acknowledge and extend my gratitude for the volunteers' contributions and willingness to help in so many ways.

At our recent School Board meeting, we reviewed the recent minutes and were so impressed with the many items that was outlined. I was particularly interested in the survey idea and welcome the opportunity to gain your feedback, thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how we can continue to provide these important groups in our community. I have created a survey which will provide an appropriate platform for you to offer your input. All responses will be collated by myself which I will use in future discussions and plans. The link will be shared on Seesaw.

your child explaining why they have incorrect uniform and try to rectify the problem as soon as possible.

National Recycling Week – 11th -15th Nov:

Recycle Week 2024 is a dedicated campaign that aims to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and encourage individuals, communities, and organisations to take action to reduce waste and promote sustainability. Mrs Thompson, Miss Hansen and our SRCs are very passionate about recycling and how we can think of ways to reduce waste to help protect our environment. We look forward to promoting this important message with multiple activities and lessons next week.

Social Justice in our school:

One of our key components of our school is the promotion and education of social justice. We aim to teach our children that everyone deserves the right to be happy, safe and healthy. With this we consider the marginalised, the poor, the sick and those less fortunate than ourselves. We promote values of empathy, kindness, compassion



and always look at ways to raise money for those who may need our help.

I was very proud of the work by our Year 6 Mini Vinnies students who presented the local St Vincent dePaul members with a donation to support them on all the amazing work they do for people in our community.



Pogothon & Skipping:

Our students continue to show excellent progress and improvement with all their pogo and skipping skills. As mentioned, this is a unique program that promotes resilience and wellbeing. We look forward to our Demonstration Day on Wednesday 20th November at 11.30am. I thank Mr Smart, Mrs Thompson, and Miss Halliday for all their excellent organisation and time. I also sincerely thank Gay & Wayne Woosnam from Tri State Graphics for their considerable support with our shirts.

Master Plan Update:

This important project is moving along as we continue to refine our options. Our plans include class extensions, upgrade of our existing Administration Building and School Entrance, New Classrooms, upgrade to our current COLA and play spaces. It is hoped our first plans and designs will be officially approved by the Catholic Education Office in Adelaide. We now look forward to continuing the design phase and working in more detail with architects and builders.

Class Lists:

Class lists and structures are nearly completed, and final outcomes will be notified in the next newsletter. There is a deliberate process that is followed when constructing and finalising class lists and school structures, with the students' best interests at the centre of our decision making.

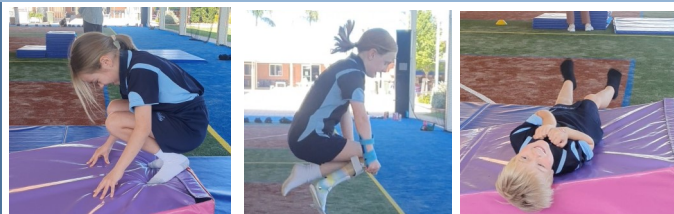
I value putting together our newsletter which helps promote and celebrate what we are about at St Joseph's. We enjoy and understand the extra dimensions of our community that is a feature of St Joseph's. We aim to work with our whole community, to bring to St Joseph's the confidence, skills, knowledge and particularly

the enthusiasm necessary to see our students reflect on their schooling, firstly as enjoyable, with memorable relationships, a spiritual dimension to their life, and an attitude that learning is a life-long process.

Regards

Don DePalma
Principal

Physical Education:



The Reception to Year 2 students showcasing the skills learnt in their gymnastics sessions during P.E.



Star Student Awards:



Back: Ashton Schumann, Frankie Camplin, Lexi Kennedy, Hamish van Dyk, Kaylee Gordon, Gustavanne Liu.

Front: Charlie Hooper, Peyton Preece, Cohen Greenhalgh, Savannah Markham-Crosbie, Riley Eske.



Back: Marlon Brown, Annie Hooper, Ava Lindner, Matthew Latorre, Felix Zunic, Elsa Malinovski.

Front: Emma Meuret, Abbey Smith, Sophia Mai, Billie Milich, Evie Leml.

Religious Identity & Mission:

MITIOG:

It has been wonderful to witness the teaching and learning of the Made In The Image Of God (MITIOG) curriculum throughout the school at the beginning of this term. Our Catholic understanding is that all humans are made in the image of God and therefore deserving of the utmost dignity and honour, and that our sexuality is a fundamental dimension of the human person. We acknowledge that the beliefs, values and insights of the Christian Tradition and Catholic moral teaching enrich our lives.

The MITIOG Human Sexuality and Respectful Relationships Curriculum is an inclusive curriculum which acknowledges and respects the uniqueness of each person's inherent goodness. It has been developed to ensure that human sexuality and respectful relationships education is accessible to all students in Catholic schools, and that it is delivered in an age appropriate and culturally sensitive manner. It is respectful of an individual's right to make healthy and informed choices about their bodies and their relationships.



How do I talk to my child? How might you support your child in their deepened understanding and growth of their human sexuality?

Here are some tips and guiding principles for opening dialogue in response to children's questions and promoting a space for healthy conversation about human sexuality:

- Be attentive and respectful.
- Teaching children about their bodies must happen in an age-appropriate way.
- Know what you really believe and why.
- Anticipate how you will respond if your child asks what you did.
- Talk often but not necessarily long.
- Know their world.
- Take time when they want to talk.
- Use correct terminology even when it makes you a little uncomfortable.
- Consider what their real question is?
- Talk about risk behaviours.
- When you talk about human sexuality, talk about human beings.
- Create a trusting relationship.
- Connect sexuality and spirituality.
- Tell the truth.



All Saints Day and All Souls Day:

Students have participated in prayer to celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The Feast of All Saints' Day celebrates all the Christian saints. As a special remembrance of our loved ones, someone special in their life who may have passed away, a saint that they felt connected to or a special living person in their life,

students have decorated crosses dedicated to these people which are displayed in the office prayer space.

RE Leaders Days:

Last Sunday, Monday and Tuesday I attended the Religious Leaders Reflection Days for the Port Pirie Diocese, to explore the theme for 2025 'Seeds of Hope' which aligns with the Jubilee theme Pilgrims of Hope. I look forward to planning the many ways we can incorporate this theme into our school next year.

Parish Mass:

Our Year 1/2 classes led our Parish Mass at the church today. The theme for the Mass was children of God. It was a beautiful Mass followed by a lovely morning tea back at school. Thank you to the Year 1/2 teachers for their work in preparing the students, Fr Emil for celebrating the Mass with us, the parishioners, parents and friends for their attendance and the students for all their preparation and their faith leadership.



**Chrissie Grocke
APRIM**

Parents & Friends:

Christmas Craft Idea:

Are your kids in the Christmas spirit yet? I know my kids are! This year our family will be making our own Christmas cards. Using a washable maker will enable even a very young child to become involved. Just colour in their finger and print them on paper. Here are just a few examples of how creative your child can get.

Happy making and Merry Christmas!

Lisa McLeod

P&F Committee



Christmas Raffle:

Any donations of new gifts are gratefully accepted by Wednesday 13th November.

Giulia DelZoppo

P&F Committee



Decorated Bike Comp:

RENMARK CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE Inc

Christmas Decorated Bike Competition Sponsored by ALMONDCO

The committee is holding a Christmas Decorated Bike Competition for children living in the Renmark Paringa Council area to be held at St Joseph's School oval (via No 2 gate) on

Saturday 30th November 2024 at 10.00am.

There will be a Boy and Girl individual category for 13yrs and under, 10Yrs and under and 6yrs and under however a decorated bike can only be registered in one category.

A child's bike will only be accepted on the day if it is registered in the competition, and a Parent or Guardian accompanies the child to the school with the decorated bike. Please tick the category (on the website) you wish to enter and **Submit** your application.

Category 1: 13yrs & under Boy

Category 2: 13yrs & under Girl

Category 3: 10yrs & under Boy

Category 4: 10yrs & under Girl

Category 5: 6yrs & under Boy

Category 6: 6yrs & under Girl

Three judges will inspect each category.

Prize money for each category will be:

First Prize \$50, Second \$30, Third \$20

Registrations on the website will close at **5pm on Friday 22nd November 2024** and winners will be published in the Murray Pioneer on Wednesday 4th December 2024. With parents' permission, the winners and their bikes will participate in the pageant on a float which will be provided by the Committee.



Student Wellbeing:

Importance of Gratitude

On Wednesday 13th November, we are focusing on 'Gratitude' with a special school value day called 'Be Grateful Day'. On this day, our whole school will come together for interactive gratitude activities with their buddy classes. We can all find something to be grateful for, no matter how big or small.

Gratitude is believed to be one of the healthiest emotions that humans can practice. Being grateful is the kindest gesture that you can show for what you have and value, it is the highest form of thoughts. When kids practice being grateful on a regular basis, they experience psychological and interpersonal benefits, such as, generosity towards others, feeling less stressed, increased positivity, feeling happier/optimistic, performing better at school, able to cope with difficulties effectively, better focus, increased self esteem, improved sleep and fewer health problems. Gratitude also teaches empathy, it helps set children up to be more understanding of the feelings and emotions of others, and why people say and do what they do, better equipping them to navigate the ins and outs of interpersonal relationships. Teaching gratitude to your child will set them up to be less demanding and entitled in life, as they grow and develop the ability to feel grateful for what they have to help them to approach what they want in the right ways.

Gratitude Can Help Fight Negative Thinking and Anxiety

Gratitude can lead to more positivity which can lead to more creative thinking, increase our attention span and allow one to reflect on your own emotions and thought processes. If you have a child stuck in their negative thoughts, you can see them spinning on certain topics. This makes it hard to process their thoughts and find creative solutions. You need to help your child change their negative mindset. Practice these 3 thought processes with a child of any age.

1. Change the Negative Into a Positive – Write down your common negative thoughts for the day and then at the end of the day go through those negatives and change them into a positive.

2. Turn A Worry, Into A So What? – If your child keeps worrying that they can't get their homework done on time, ask them, so what? Follow this train of thought. If they respond and say, then I will fail the assignment, then ask, so what? Then I will get a lower grade in class. So what? Lead them down this path to see that their worry really isn't over the end result.

3. Change Hard Situations Into "What Can I Learn?" – When children find themselves in a challenging situation, help them instead go into it thinking, what can I learn? Perhaps they will make mistakes, but we can learn from those mistakes.

Ways to Practice Gratitude

- * Start a gratitude journal
- * Use daily affirmations
- * Give gratitude to others
- * Be aware of the little things in life.
- * Make a picture collage of things you are grateful for
- * Create a gratitude jar
- * Read books that model gratitude
- * Write thank you notes
- * Go on a thankfulness walk
- * Participate in a generosity challenge
- * Smile and laugh
- * Nighttime routine -write down three things you are thankful for that happened today
- * Practice forward thinking gratitude – think of things in the future that you will be grateful for
- * Notice beauty in the world
- * Surround yourself with positive people
- * Leave positive notes around the house to find later
- * Pay it forward
- * Leave a positive review online for someone
- * Call a loved one you haven't seen in a while
- * Explore your child's strengths



Wednesday 13th November
1:40pm to 3:00pm

Join a buddy class for a gratitude activity.

A special day to show thanks and appreciation for the many wonderful people and things in our lives.

We can all be grateful for something, no matter how BIG or small.

Learning & Fun in 4/5TL class:



Measurement in Mathematics

