



Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

It has been another busy week with some wonderful learning opportunities, and special events and celebrations.

As I write this newsletter, I am preparing for surgery and will be away for a short time. I want to take this opportunity to wish all our staff, students, and families a smooth and successful remainder of the term. Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed, and I look forward to reconnecting soon. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope all continues to go well in the weeks ahead.

We have enjoyed a number of celebrations this week with St Patrick's Day, St Joseph's Day and Harmony Day, where the students have had the opportunity to reflect and grow in their understanding of being active members of our community, enhancing our Catholic Identity.



St Joseph's Day Mass gathering.



Harmony Day fun!

Year 6 Positive Learning Opportunities:

The Year 6s were involved in leadership activities including Project Compassion stalls during Harmony Day. Special thanks to Mr Hooper, Miss Lodge, Mrs Blackley and all our helpers and the Year 6 students for their amazing effort with this special day. The time and commitment shown was outstanding. The real-life skills that were developed through planning and preparation included responsibility, problem-solving, organisation, communication, and social skills. The raising of money for disadvantaged communities was simply amazing and all involved are to be congratulated.

NAPLAN:

We also completed our final NAPLAN testing this week, with students from Year 3 and Year 5 managing very well throughout the testing period. Thank you to all involved in the smooth running of this testing. We look forward to sharing these results with you when they are returned to the school.

The Season Of Lent:

As we continue to move through the season of Lent, I often reflect on messages from Pope Francis, in particular where he calls us to be people of hope and joy for all of humanity. He states that this work should happen every day within our hearts, among ourselves, and beyond our doors and borders. With this idea, we are using our





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
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MASS TIMES

23 March Sun 9.00am
29 March Sat 6.30pm
5 April Sat 6.30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

25 Year 7 Camp
28 "Be Hopeful" Day
31 9.15am Assembly by
5/TL class

Week 10 Interviews

April

1 First Reconciliation
4 9.30am Mass by 1/KV
10 Easter Play (Year 5s)
11 12.30pm Dismissal

Term 2

28 Student Free Day

theme 'Seeds of Hope' with our Staff and Students to help make the world a better place and looking at how our Actions Speak Louder than Words. Recently we have seen some examples of this within our own school community.

- Staff positive attitude with the many school events and activities.
- Older students helping younger students in many ways.
- Students embracing Lenten actions – sacrifice and acts of kindness- and why they are doing this.
- Students generosity, empathy, gratitude with Project Compassion.
- The many grace moments with our Harmony Day activities.

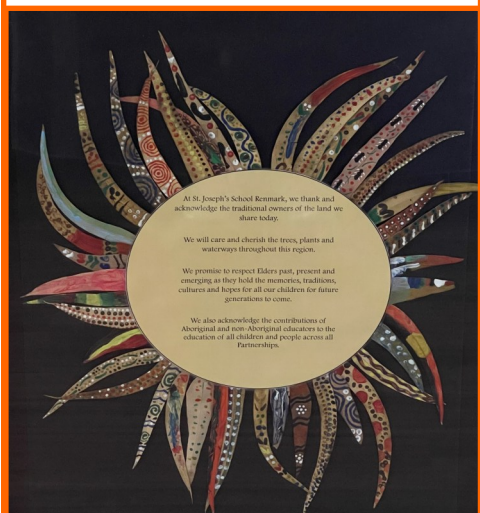
We often speak of giving things up, doing penance and other Lenten practices that may not put smiles on our faces. Pope Francis tells sour faced disciples to put on a happy face: "Our work must never look like we are someone who has just come back from a funeral!"

Our attitudes and actions during Lent should allow us to recover and deepen our enthusiasm when doing things that make us all better people!



Acknowledgement:

At St Joseph's School we acknowledge our learning experiences take place on Erawirung country and pay respects to Traditional owners and Elders past and present.



School Board - Update:

We recently conducted our School Board meeting when we welcomed new member Reece Glazbrook, who joined with re-elected members. With Fr Hau as our president, we are pleased to announce that Steve Atkinson has been re-elected to continue as chairperson. The P&F Rep is Jo Lloyd, and Nathan Burgess will take on the role of Treasurer. Sally Milich will oversee Wellbeing, Matt Jarvis will oversee Maintenance and Capital Development, Chrissie Grocke will continue as Staff Rep, while Courtney Tippet and Anna Petersen will continue as a board member. We reviewed the Master Plan and discussed many items, events, policies and strategic direction. We welcomed our school captains as special guests, Piper Wolf and Archie Sutton, who presented reports about their roles and reflections on the year so far. We also welcomed our new leader of learning, Kassie Charnstrom, who did a fantastic job presenting a detailed summary of our MultiLit Program and other learning programs that have been initiated.

Reading and Learning Journal Report:

I have taken considerable time to review our Reading Journals and how this tool has encouraged daily reading at home. Reports will be distributed outlining the following information:-

- Percentage of nights read for your child
- Average percentage for your child's class
- Average percentage for the school

I am particularly interested in the results which highlight positive participation in reading at home across the school. We will use this, plus other data, to inform future parent and student conversations. I again emphasise the importance of reading. As mentioned many times, studies have shown the link between regular reading and high achieving students. Reading just 20 minutes a day has been shown to increase the vocabulary and grades of students and increase it dramatically. Research has also shown that parental engagement promotes better student outcomes. At St Joseph's, we value that parents are the first educators for children and therefore acknowledge the responsibility that parents/carers have on positive educational outcomes. We believe that the Reading & Learning Journal is a simple way for parent/carers to show interest in Home Learning. It is expected that parents/

- Engage parents in the learning process because research shows that when there is a strong relationship between 'home' and 'school' students perform better.

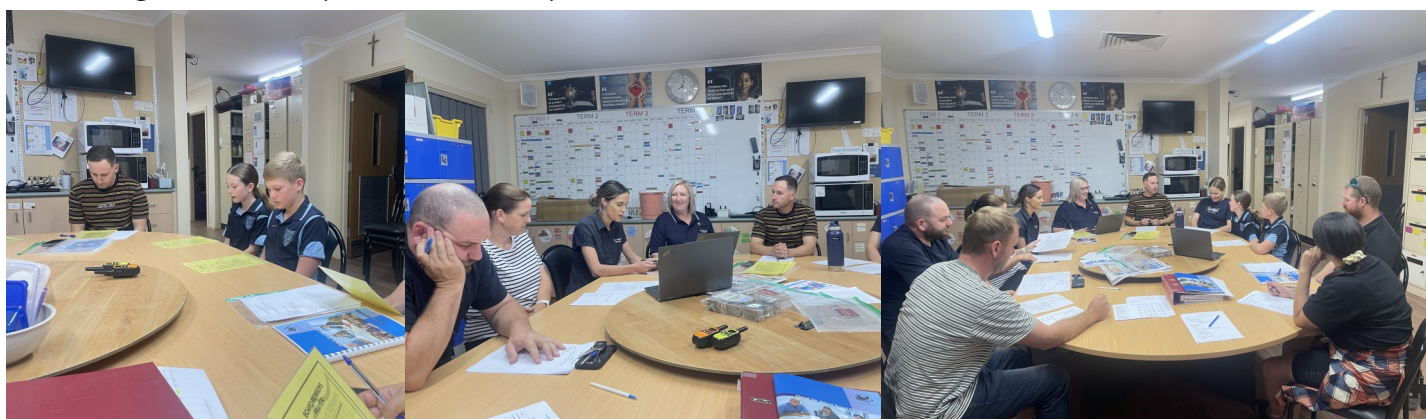
I trust you found this helpful and informative in the lead up to our Parent/Teacher Interviews.

Parent/Teacher Interviews - Positive parent/teacher relationships:

In week 10, we are conducting Parent/Teacher Interviews, and we thank parents/caregivers for their positive participation and communication. We believe parent/teacher interviews provide a great opportunity for you as a parent to find out how your child is progressing at school. We value this opportunity and welcome positive feedback and mutual meaningful discussions.

Project Compassion:

After counting money raised from last week's events, and adding to our ongoing donations in Project Compassion boxes, I wish to acknowledge the fantastic generosity, kindness and sacrifice of all our students and families who raised



carers check and sign the Reading & Learning Journals every night, recording how long your child has read. We will continue keeping a record of the number of nights all students have read, with the aim being to increase student reading.

Student Learning - Work Samples:

Parents/Carers recently received work samples via Seesaw that have been produced by our students. We value this process and I have welcomed the positive involvement and feedback of our Parents/Carers. This is a valuable process for our whole school and it will guide you in having a meaningful conversation with your child/children.

We send students' work home to:

- Showcase the learning they have done at school.
- Share and discuss their learning, thinking, interests, proposals and processes of learning.

over \$2300. This is an amazing effort with still two weeks to go. Our students are continuing to learn how this generosity and kindness will support and help many families in need. Well done to the students and our whole community.

Staff Announcement:

I am pleased to inform you that Miss Kiara Lodge has been appointed as the replacement teacher for Mrs Ella Smith, who will be commencing maternity leave at the end of this term.

Miss Lodge will officially take on the role of Class Teacher for Year 3/4SS class at the start of next term. Alongside Mrs Schloithe, she will continue to build upon the strong learning foundations and experiences already in place.

We are delighted to have Miss Lodge step into this important role, and we wish her all the best as she continues to grow in her teaching career.

I would also like to take this opportunity

to sincerely thank Mrs Ella Smith for her dedication and contributions this year. We wish her, Justin, and little Remy all the best as they prepare to welcome their newest family member.

Beware of over-functioning for your kids:

As Principal I am blessed to witness many grace moments. The morning routine continues to be a structure that brings joy to my face. I welcome the connection and relationships that are created between my staff and myself as we welcome the students and their parents into our school. I am also impressed with the responsibility of our students with the 'Kiss and Drop' and greatly appreciate the support, care and cooperation of our parents/carers.

As a parent myself, I embrace these conversations with all our other parents and carers and often find myself reflecting and reviewing my own parenting skills. As both my children grow I also find that the skills needed for us parents are always changing and this can sometimes be challenging. I often refer to an article by Erica Reischer, a proven clinical psychologist, who outlines that making mistakes and experiencing "failure" and disappointment are essential life experiences that provide the opportunity for young people to learn and practice good coping skills. However, during the article she outlined parents are at risk of 'over-functioning', that is, doing something for their kids that they are already capable of doing, or can learn to do themselves.

She used the term Helicopter Parents (who 'hover' above children, constantly worrying and fussing over them) which has received a lot of negative attention in the media over the past decade, but then she went on to use the term Lawnmower Parents. Lawnmower Parents clear a path for their child

before they can take a step, pre-empting possible problems and mowing down obstacles in their way. So I wondered if this relates to me and what I should consider when I am trying to support my children. It made me realise that over-functioning is potentially detrimental to my child's sense of self-confidence and independence. Erica also outlined that being a lawnmower parent can be very draining for the parent themselves, with constant pressure to make everything 'right' and be aware of all potential obstacles. These parents may be viewed as too competitive or difficult to get along with, impacting social relationships. My wife often describes me as too competitive which she finds frustrating. Does this then have an impact on my children?

The article highlighted some basic points for me when I am doing things with my children.

- Why am I doing this?
- Are they capable of doing this for themselves?
- What would happen if I didn't do this for them?
- Reflecting on potential changes that could make your parenting job a little easier!

I am always so appreciative of the many positive words of support and endorsement from parents, carers and visitors, and am so proud of the other dimensions of learning that is provided at St Joseph's. Above all else, it is always about the children and how we foster a positive and meaningful learning environment. We look forward to the next two weeks.

Regards,
Don DePalma
Principal

Parents & Friends:

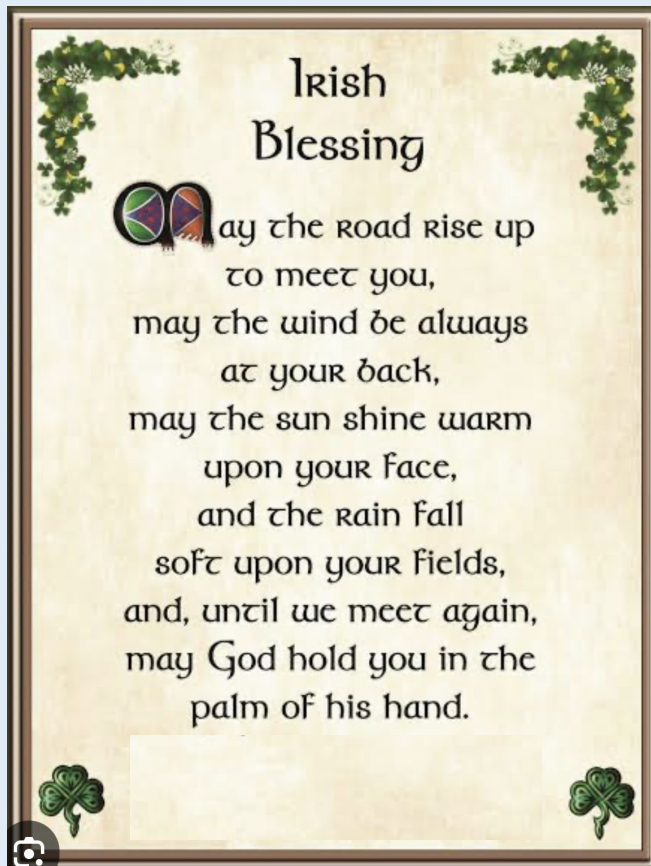
The P&F Community have been busy the past few weeks cooking and serving at the Expo sausage sizzle, Shrove Tuesday pancakes and St Joseph's Day festivities.



Religious Identity & Mission:

St Patrick's Day:

Last Friday we celebrated St Patrick's Day. Students in the 'St Patricks' team wore green and shared in an afternoon tea. The students learnt about St Patrick and how his mission was to spread Christianity throughout Ireland.



St Joseph's Day:

On Wednesday we had an exciting day celebrating St Joseph as we reflected on his story and character. We are so lucky to be a Josephite School, founded by Mary MacKillop, who based her order the 'Sisters of St Joseph' on the qualities of St Joseph – humble, kind, supportive, loving and faithful. Today we encourage everyone to be kind and try to be more like St Joseph in all our actions. We started our celebrations with a beautiful whole school Mass with Fr Hau, which included a special blessing for Mr DePalma for his knees operation. The students were then lucky to have Lyn and Heather from Rainbow Animal Farm share their beautiful animals for lots of cuddles and giggles. Finally, we feasted on a yummy lunch kindly provided for us by our P&F. All students had a fantastic day celebrating our Patron Saint St Joseph.



Seeds of Hope Banner

Mr Reeks has been busy working on a project with our Junior school, connecting our Diocesan theme of Seeds of Hope with Harmony Day, creating a banner called 'We Grow Together.'



Harmony Day

We had a beautiful whole school liturgy to acknowledge Harmony Day in our community this week. The true message of 'Everyone Belongs' was certainly recognised and celebrated. We then spent a fun, engaging and productive afternoon, facilitated our Year 6 young leaders raising money for Caritas Australia – Project Compassion.

Religious Identity & Mission:

Congratulations to everyone, it was a beautiful day of celebration.

Our Lenten Journey – Caritas Australia – Project Compassion:

Our fundraising for Project Compassion during this Lenten season is going really well so far. Students have been learning how their contributions help Caritas Australia in their work in other countries in our world. Please continue to discuss with your child/ren about how their care and actions can make a significant difference to others who are less fortunate than themselves. Mrs Trenwith has been supporting our Mini Vinnies with the counting of our fundraising each week.



Chrissie Grocke
APRIM



Leader of Learning:

What a productive term we have had so far! We are so proud of all our Year 3 and 5 students who have completed the recent NAPLAN testing. They tackled the testing with such positivity and determination. We are looking forward to receiving our results and using this data for future planning to inform our teaching.

The rollout of the MultiLit Suite in our literacy blocks has seen huge success. MultiLit teaches reading, writing and grammar through a variety of different delivery methods. We have already seen growth from the explicit learning in our classrooms. MultiLit is structured with a predictable routine, which children are really responding well to. The suite also goes hand in hand with our Positive Behaviour Intervention Support, delivering clear expectations and learning outcomes. After analysing data, we have rolled out Part A of our MultiLit Intervention and are now rolling out Part B. It has been a very successful rollout, and children are responding well to the explicit delivery.



Kassie Charnstrom
LoL



Congratulations to St Therese Red who successfully won the recent Challenge Cup event for Lental Deeds and Actions with 136 Points. Second was St Patrick Green with 131 points, third St Joseph Gold with 130 points and fourth St Mary MacKillop Blue with 119 points.

Pictured left are Captains Jenson Hardwick and Dakotah Searle are pictured with Eloise, Zara, James, Memphis, Harry, Lexi, Isaac and Madeleine.

Challenge Cup Award:





RAINBOW ANIMAL FARM

We all enjoyed our visit from Lyn and Heather and all of the gorgeous animals from Rainbow Animal Farm. The pony rides on Lollie and Rosie were a stand out and the baby goats were very popular! All of our students had a chance to get up close and touch many different animals.





Learning in 5TL

