



Messages from Donny

Dear Families, Friends and Students,

The recent holidays seem long ago, but I trust everyone had an enjoyable break and found time to spend with family and friends. We have certainly all come back and hit the ground running. The school is already a hive of community activity and learning. The term ahead is filled with many learning opportunities and community events for students to experience. I wish you all a happy and rewarding term.



My Leave:

I am so pleased to be back after getting my knees fixed up and have enjoyed the warm welcome from staff, students and families. I want to express my gratitude to all my staff for their support and professionalism during this time and especially thank Chrissie Grocke for her leadership and support, and congratulate her on a fantastic job as Acting Principal. For those who are very interested, I believe I am three centimetres taller.



This week, consultants engaged with students, parents and staff on our future planning.

TATU Strategic Plan Process:

This week we hosted TATU, a consultancy firm engaged to help us with developing our next Strategic Plan. I'd like to extend a big thank you to the students, parents and staff who participated in the focus group sessions and who have completed the online survey. Your voice and feedback is hugely impactful as we develop our goals for the future.

The work on the Strategic Plan, in conjunction with the updated Masterplan, will assist and guide us to be the best we can be, as our School naturally grows and evolves over the coming five to ten years. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to take the opportunity to express your thoughts by completing the Strategic Plan survey which will remain open until next Friday 16th May. Please refer to the previous post on Seesaw.

Catholic Education Week:

Next week we will celebrate Catholic Education Week with 106 Catholic schools in South Australia, which have 9,000 staff members who educate over 55,000 students.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

11 May Sun 9.00am
17 May Sat 6.30pm
25 May Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

12 Catholic Education
Week commences
14 Celebrations at SFOA
16 Walk Safely To
School Day
19 Book Fair Week
19 2.15pm Assembly by
3/4TH
23 9.30am Mass by Recs

June

7 Public Holiday

This is an exciting week for our whole system as the Adelaide Schools have again joined the Pt Pirie Schools in celebrating what it means to be involved in Catholic Education in South Australia. We will participate in several meaningful activities, including a combined Riverland Catholic Schools celebration at St Francis. Please refer to the booklet sent home yesterday.

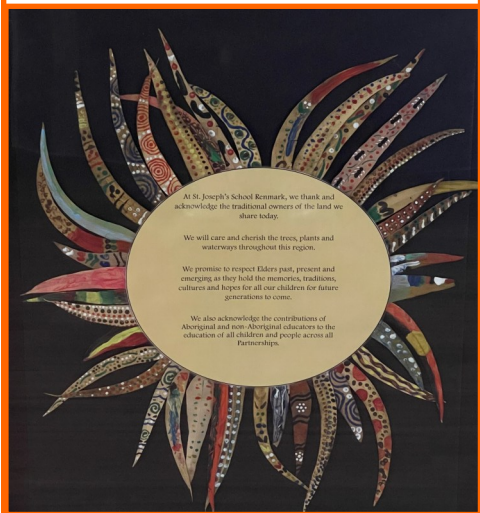
During this week, we will again be taking positive action against global warming, raising awareness about the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. We will demonstrate how schools, homes, and businesses can reduce their environmental impact by 'switching off'. This initiative will contribute to a greener future and provide a valuable learning opportunity for all our students and staff, empowering them to make a difference.



Staff members participating in the TATU consultation process.

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.



What is a Catholic Education?:

At St Joseph's, we embrace the opportunities that make us uniquely Catholic and think about how this creates the community we are all part of. The rich learning experiences allow all of us, whether we are Catholic or not, an opportunity to connect with Catholic values and how we can live them out in our daily lives. We believe that being a Catholic School means having excellent education and student wellbeing programs. We build a strong community. We have high expectations of students, but other good schools can do this too.

So what makes us distinctly different and the reason why families choose to come to our school?

- We use our prayer time to think of others in need. This builds empathy and feelings for others.
- We use the messages from the Bible to guide us to be good people and help us endure life's highs and lows.
- We come together as a community for celebrations that acknowledge our significant life moments, eg. School events, births, deaths, marriages, Eucharist, forgiveness.
- We follow the values and rules for life that the person of Jesus showed us – respecting and welcoming others, using manners and showing positive attitudes and actions.

- We stand up for those on the fringes of society – the poor, those who struggle to live well.
- We educate young people to make a positive impact on the world and to care for our environment.

Families often comment on how these religious values and practices give their children a reference point as they grow up so that they will live with these values. As members of the St Joseph's Community, parents, staff and students work together in unity to grow and develop these values. We are all responsible for supporting and promoting high academic and personal expectations.

Walk Safely To School:

I am a very big believer that Active Kids are Smarter Kids! Next week we will participate in National Walk Safely to School Day. This annual event encourages students and parents to walk regularly and safely to school. Figures show that Australian children are becoming less active. One substantial contributor is the decline in walking to school. Children who are regularly, physically active are also healthier and perform better academically. Walking regularly is an excellent form of exercise because you can build it into your daily routine. We look forward to many families participating in this great initiative.



Students recently enjoyed interacting with various animals from the Animal Farm visit.

Mother's Day:

May is the month of Mary, Jesus' mother, and as we reflect on the important role that Mary played when she said 'yes' to God and accepted the task of being Jesus' Mother, we take some time to acknowledge our Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts and any other special people in our lives who are like mothers to us. One of our school focuses is building community, and we were so pleased to enhance this today with our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. With over 280 people attending, this was a beautiful opportunity to recognise all our mums, special and important women and friends in our lives. There was a true sense of appreciation, welcome and hospitality felt by all who attended. Thank you to Mrs Del Zoppo for organising this wonderful celebration and to the staff, students and parents who assisted on the day. It was wonderful to have visitors into the school to share in this special occasion.

Wellbeing At Our School:

This term we continue to teach our children social and wellbeing skills. Research has helped us understand that children need to develop these types of skills to work through daily challenges. All of our children need to be supported to grow in understanding of how to cope with the many obstacles that they will meet in their lives. This understanding is vital for them to acquire as we live in a world where change is one of the few certainties we have. With change, there come many pressures and circumstances that were unknown 20 years ago for our young people to manage.

Some key thoughts that may be helpful to you in your own family as talking points to building strong, resilient spirits are:

- "Let Go"- allow children to take educated risks. It's alright for children to make mistakes.
- Resist the need to 'fix' everything all the time for them. Let them see you make mistakes and that mistakes are the learning posts in our lives.

- Praise and acknowledge their gifts and celebrate their achievements, even if small.
- Engage in dialogue as a family. Try to create times when the family just spend time engaged in each other's lives. Turn the TV off and chat around the dinner table as a family. Involve your children in tasks around the home and wider community. In this way, they find their own place and role in the family and this gives a strong sense of belonging and of responsibility to the family.
- Help your children to deal with disappointment. It's a part of life. It's O.K. to come second or last in something competitive. It is important that they deal with disappointments and acknowledge the performance of others.

negative impact on our children's wellbeing.

Many students enthusiastically tell me how much they enjoy games such as *Minecraft*, *ROBLOX*, and *Fortnite*—with some even sharing that they spend up to two hours a day playing them. While enjoyment in moderation is understandable, excessive screen time, including gaming, social media, and general device use, raises several safety and health concerns.

The World Health Organization (WHO) provides clear guidelines on appropriate screen time for children, and I strongly support their recommendations. Beyond the risks of online interactions, research shows that too much screen time can negatively affect physical health, sleep, and social-emotional development.

As a school community, we all play a role in safeguarding our children's wellbeing. I urge all parents and carers



We often hear the term 'helicopter parenting' which refers to parents who hover over their children, protecting them from any issues that may affect them. I do not like the term but I do recognise that if we, as parents, continually shelter our children from some of the knocks of life and 'fix up' all their little troubles, whether they be worries or relational issues, then our children are never able to learn to look within themselves to try and manage their lives. As parents, they need to know we are always there to support, but they also need to become thinkers and doers for themselves. I remind myself of this every day!

Screen Time Warning! – The Impact of Games like ROBLOX, Fortnite, and Minecraft

I would like to again raise an ongoing concern about the amount of time many children are spending on technology. Recent media reports and growing research around Artificial Intelligence and screen-based activities continue to highlight the potential

to regularly review and monitor screen time at home and to have clear, consistent plans in place.

For helpful resources and expert advice—particularly for parents of younger children—please refer to the following World Health Organisation article: To grow up healthy, children need to sit less and play more

<https://www.who.int/news/item/24-04-2019-to-grow-up-healthy-children-need-to-sit-less-and-play-more>

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children thrive both online and offline.

Master Plan Update:

We are so pleased with the progress of our master Plan and I want to provide you with an update.

- The houses we have purchased on 11th Street and 12th Street to be demolished in the coming weeks
- The process to relocate our existing COLA to begin during the upcoming School Holidays
- Our final concepts for our 4 new classrooms and landscaping has

been submitted to Catholic Education Office for final Approval.

- The build for our new classrooms is planned to start early Term 3

Staff/Students and Parents in the Community:

As winter sports have just started, I am so proud of our active involvement and participation in local community activities. A large proportion of our students are involved in some form of activity ranging from sport, dancing and gymnastics. I am also very pleased with our staff involvement. I have many staff either involved as coaches, playing, organising or helping. Going above and beyond their normal duties certainly adds to the strong relationship we are building. I also congratulate many of our parents who are actively involved in many ways. St Joseph's School certainly has a strong involvement and presence in our Renmark community. Well done to all involved.

P&F/Wellbeing contributions:

Our P&F and Wellbeing communities met recently and again discussed many ideas and activities. I am so pleased to have such active and supportive groups who are prepared to help in so many ways. We appreciate the valuable contribution of these fantastic sub committees in our school.

I congratulate the Top Ten participants in our P&F Footy Tips. I am disappointed in my efforts so far but aim to improve!!!

Positive future: - Mid Year Enrolment Interviews

I am very proud of our teaching and learning environment and am pleased at the ongoing positive feedback that we receive. I continue to meet with prospective families who have chosen St Joseph's as their school of choice. We will welcome many new students as they will commence their schooling as part of Mid Year Intake. Our excellent reputation in the community has seen a ongoing growth in our enrolments. I congratulate all our staff and families.

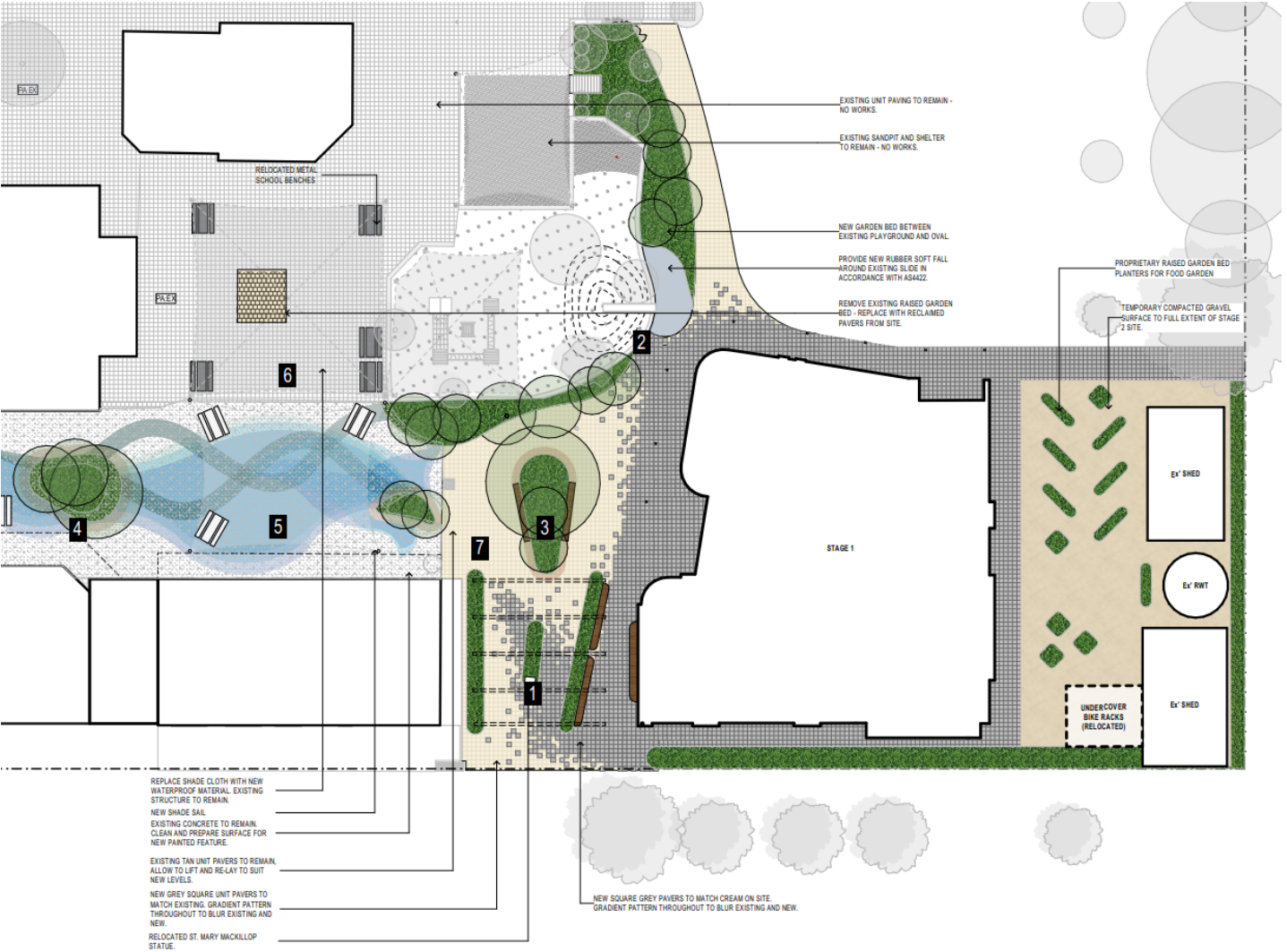
Finally, we again wish all our mums and special people a very Happy Mother's Day and we hope that you have a wonderful day on Sunday. Hopefully you get a chance to put your feet up, rest and enjoy some special treatment from your loved ones. We also take the time to remember those special women who are no longer with us.

Regards,
Don DePalma
Principal

An architects view of our Classroom Building Project.



Proposed redevelopment of the current shelter area.



Possible classroom design



Religious Identity & Mission:

Pope Francis:

We remember Pope Francis' deep love for God, his care for the poor and the planet, and his joyful, humble leadership. He lived his mission with a special charism that was his compassionate capacity to make the life of Jesus accessible, meaningful and relevant for everyone, everywhere.



With Pope Francis - everyone has a place at the table. He showed us and shared with us - over and over and over again - what that should look like in families, in politics, in economics, in schools, in cities, in countries... in the Church. Through prayer, we are encouraged to reflect on his example, and we are challenged to carry his message of mercy, justice, and hope into our own lives and communities. Please take a moment to honour, remember and be inspired by Pope Francis.

St Joseph the Worker's Feast Day:

Last Thursday, our St Joseph's team gathered for an afternoon of celebrating their team's patron saint. They discussed information about St Joseph, including the values and qualities that he showed in his life and how we can also show these in our lives. They enjoyed an afternoon tea and spending time together as a team.



Parish Masses:

Mr Luxton's Year 5 class led our Parish Mass at the church today celebrating the life and legacy of Pope Francis. It was a beautiful mass attended also by our Upper Primary classes and followed by lovely morning tea back at school. Thank you to Mr Luxton, ESOs and Mrs Guy for their work in preparing the students, Fr Leo for celebrating the Masses with us, the parishioners, parents and friends for their attendance and the students for all their preparation and their faith leadership.

Catholic Education Week:

We look forward to celebrating Catholic Education Week next week with the theme of "Seeds of Hope - Shine With Open Hearts." There are numerous events and activities planned to celebrate the wonderful learning that students experience at St Joseph's. Please refer to the detailed information in the CEW Booklet included with this newsletter.

Mother's Day:

May is the Month of Our Blessed Mary: Traditionally the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a different devotion. In May we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. We ask the Blessed Virgin Mary for her protection and for the grace to imitate her in her love of Christ, and Christ in His love of her. As the Mother of Christ, she is our mother too, and we look to her for guidance as we look to our own mothers on earth. Through praying the Rosary and the prayer Hail Holy Queen we ask Mother Mary to intercede for us.



A Mothers' Day Prayer:

I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother.

I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years.

She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways.

She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others.

She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.

Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today.

Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her.

Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace.

Bless her this day with your love.

Chrissie Grocke APRIM



Parents & Friends:

Apricot balls

A great lunch box snack!

Ingredients:

25g Milk arrowroot biscuits

395ml Condensed milk

250g Dried apricots

½ cup Desiccated coconut plus extra for rolling

Method:

In a food processor blitz the biscuits to a fine crumb, transfer to a bowl. Blitz the apricots into fine chunks add to the biscuits. Add coconut and condensed milk, mix to combine. Roll into balls and coat with more coconut. Store in the fridge. Enjoy!

Deanna Schiller
Committee Member



RANK	TEAM / TIPSTER	RO B TIPS	AVG/RND	TOTAL TIPS	RO B MARGIN	TOTAL MARGIN
1	PA4EVER Dan L	5	5.8	52	3	158
2	TATE THOMPSON Craig T	6	5.8	52	17	252
3	CROMMMMMMM Ava L	6	5.8	52	20	257
4	SAM & HARRY Sam S	6	5.7	51	14	201
5	CROWPLUS Vicki S	6	5.7	51	12	211
6	NATHANFARR Nathan F	5	5.7	51	23	217
7	TONYLUXTON Tony L	6	5.7	51	17	279
8	LEIGH-25 Leigh K	6	5.6	50	14	201
9	BELWEBB Belinda W	6	5.6	50	16	202
10	MADDEN1310 Madden H	6	5.6	50	7	207

SAPSASA Football:

Netball:

On Thursday our boy's netball team participated in the Riverland Carnival. They had a fantastic time, showed great sportsmanship and improved their netball skills immensely throughout the day. Congratulations to Lawson Dring who won best Team Player for the day. Thank you to Mrs Thompson for coaching and various parents for transporting and supporting.



Swimming:

Congratulations to Annie Hooper on being selected into the School Sport SA 12 years and under Swimming team. This team will compete in the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships in Ballarat, Victoria from 25 to 29 October. Well done Annie!



Table Tennis:

Congratulations to Joel Stoeckel on being selected into the SA Table Tennis team. Joel was selected after competing in a tournament in Adelaide recently. This team will compete in Traralgon Vic in July. Well done Joel!



Jackson McGuire
SAPSASA Co-ordinator

Week 4 in our Library
You're invited to our



SCHOLASTIC Book Fair

EVERY DOLLAR EQUALS RESOURCES FOR OUR SCHOOL



COURAGE

This weeks school value is courage. Teaching children to have courage is essential because it helps them to overcome challenges, express themselves, and grow both academically and personally. It allows them to ask questions without fear, stand up for themselves and others, and try new activities even when they feel uncertain. With courage, students build resilience, develop confidence, and navigate social and academic pressures with strength and integrity, setting the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Reasons why Courage is Essential for Children

1. Building Confidence and Resilience

Children encounter numerous situations where self-doubt may creep in—whether it's answering a question in class, making new friends, or attempting a difficult task. When they practice courage, they strengthen their confidence and learn to overcome obstacles. Courage teaches them that failure is a stepping stone to success rather than something to fear.

2. Encouraging Independence

When children are courageous, they develop independence. Instead of relying solely on parents or caregivers to make decisions, they begin to trust their own instincts. This fosters self-reliance and critical thinking, preparing them to tackle life's uncertainties with confidence.

3. Standing Up for What is Right

Teaching children about moral courage—standing up against bullying or speaking out about unfairness—helps them become compassionate and responsible individuals. By understanding the importance of fairness, empathy, and justice, they grow into people who advocate for themselves and others.

4. Embracing New Experiences

Fear of the unknown can prevent children from exploring new activities, hobbies, or opportunities. Courage allows them to step outside their comfort zones and discover new passions. Whether it's trying a new sport, learning a musical instrument, or traveling somewhere unfamiliar, courage enriches their lives by opening doors to growth and discovery.

there is a
SUPERHERO
of
ALL us
We just need the
COURAGE
to put **CAPE**
on the
-Superman

5. Handling Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is an inevitable part of childhood and adolescence. Courage equips children to resist unhealthy influences and make choices aligned with their values. Instead of succumbing to pressure, they can confidently assert themselves and make decisions that prioritize their well-being.

6. Cultivating Emotional Strength

Emotional courage is just as crucial as physical bravery. Teaching children to express their feelings, admit mistakes, and seek help when needed allows them to develop emotional intelligence. This fosters meaningful relationships and healthy communication, preparing them to navigate social challenges with grace.

Conclusion

Courage is more than just an act of bravery—it is the foundation of growth, confidence, and integrity. By encouraging children to embrace courage in their everyday lives, we prepare them for the future, ensuring they step into the world as resilient, independent, and compassionate individuals. When children learn to be courageous, they not only enrich their own lives but also inspire others to do the same.



2KC

Learning Beyond the Classroom & Growing as Writers through Book Making

This term, we are embracing our whole-school literacy approach to Book Making and Writing Workshop.

Each week, we engage in a focused book making lesson, but the heart of our routine is our daily 10-minute “Let’s Write” session—our silent pocket—where students independently work on their own books.

This practice is helping our young writers build confidence, focus, and a true love for writing.

As part of sharing our learning beyond the classroom, we recently brought our book making to the local aged care facility. This provided students a chance to share their stories, spread joy and connect with the residents.

We’re so proud of how 2KC is growing as a community of authors!

