Dear Families, Friends and Students,

This week I participated in a Principal’s Retreat at Sevenhills in Clare. This was a wonderful experience that involved much soul searching and reflecting about my role as a religious leader in a Catholic School. This enriched my connection with my faith and by using the stories of Jesus, helped me understand how I can live a life that inspires others to be people of love, kindness and compassion. I hope that this experience will strengthen my ability to positively lead our community at St Joseph’s. I thank Susan Frawley and the whole staff for their strong leadership during my absence.

Bishop Greg’s health update:
During my retreat, Bishop Greg made a surprise visit. This was such a grace moment as we have been wishing him well during his recovery from surgery. Bishop Greg recently had a tumor removed from his bowel. The operation was successful but as a precaution he will start Chemotherapy on Monday. We wish Bishop Greg well during his treatment and continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Uniform change:
At our recent School Board meeting we discussed our Uniform Policy. During the discussion a motion was tabled to amend the policy to allow girls to wear their skorts during winter. The motion was passed which is consistent with the boys being allowed to wear shorts during winter. Therefore girls are allowed to wear skorts all year round effective immediately. Please continue to support our Uniform Policy.

Catholic Education Week:
Last week we celebrated Catholic Education Week along with every Catholic School in the state. The aim was to promote the distinctive mission of Catholic schools throughout our Diocese. The week was celebrated through a range of activities, liturgies and events which all provided fantastic learning experiences. The theme this year was “where every child matters”. As a Catholic School, we believe that education is not only about academics but also about life and the formation of the whole person. We actively engage with our whole community to be proactive in living life to its fullness based on our values and morals. Our students are the centre of all our endeavours as we strive to help them become the best they can. Catholic Education Week is a special opportunity for our schools to celebrate and share the great things we are doing with school, parish and wider communities. We highlight and celebrate the efforts students make with their studies, the assistance they give to those in need, the simple joy they bring to one another, and the generosity and energy they bring to fundraising for charitable causes and supporting those less fortunate.

Amongst all the liturgies, events and activities I was filled with much pride as I reflected on the respect, reverence and positive behaviour displayed by all our students. I enjoyed wearing M&M multi-coloured clothes, sipping hot chocolate and walking to school. I must personally applaud and thank our whole staff for their outstanding effort and professionalism in preparing for this whole week. Their time, dedication and commitment was testament for the great people we have here at St Joseph’s School, Renmark. I also thank...
all Parents/Carers who participated and helped in any way. I certainly value the willingness of our whole community to become involved in all we do at St Joseph’s.

Grandparents / Volunteers Day: - National Families Week:
This was a very special day which highlighted the importance of community where families, teachers and students unite together. All our grandparents, volunteers, parents and carers are members of our P&F community. They are valued for their support and willingness to help in many different ways, including helping with reading, supervising with walking, donating items, busy bees, canteen, sports days, excursions, helping in classrooms, participation and attendance at Masses and assemblies and general support with learning experiences.

We live in a busy society but are reminded that life is short and time will pass us by very quickly. Embrace the opportunities we have with our children. The children always enjoy and respond well to this positive involvement.

We thank all our parents and carers as members of the P&F community for helping in any way especially with the Café, which proved to be a huge success.

Values Education:
Last term we raised $2315 for Project Compassion. This was a fantastic effort but the learning that was attached to this school activity was immeasurable. As a school community we were extremely charitable and showed generosity, sacrifice, kindness and thought for others. This is what we are about at St Joseph’s and these are the type of values that we hope will be constantly integrated into our curriculum. We continue to promote high expectations in all aspects of schooling. We will reaffirm our school values regularly and within our Religious Education we will also educate about our mantra of RESPECT, SAFETY, LEARNING and TRUST. These expectations will apply as to how we behave in the classroom and the school yard, and also how we conduct ourselves in the wider community. We look forward to many more learning opportunities including Year 7 Camp, Bookfair, First Holy Communion and Carnevale. Our school is certainly a place where great things are happening.

Kind regards
Don DePalma
Principal

Students’ thoughts on Catholic Education Week:
I liked going to OLER and all the activities there. I also enjoyed hanging out with my friends. Zoe

It was a Holy experience. Manjeevan

It was wild. We had a great time mixing with the other students. Thien

I loved the wonder balls the most. It was fun! Blake P

Going on the big Jumping Castle was the BEST! We loved our Grandparents visiting our class. Blake S & Henry D

I got my face painted as a pirate, arrrrr! Ryan L

Just some of the many families that enjoyed the celebrations last Friday.
Religious Identity & Mission:

Combined Catholic Schools Celebrations:
On Wednesday the whole school travelled to Our Lady of the River (OLOR) in Berri to celebrate Mass along with St Joseph’s Barmera, St Albert’s Loxton and OLOR Berri. We thank Fr Paul and Fr John for their involvement and acknowledge the wonderful organisation of Nanda deWinter and Louise Stavro. We had a wonderful day which included Mass, followed by jumping castles, face painting, Kiwi the clown, Wonderballs and the musical talents of OLOR’s Radio Station. This again was a great opportunity to highlight the joy of being Catholic.

St Joseph’s Switches Off:
In the past ‘Switches off’ day has been celebrated by the 13 Catholic Schools within our Dioceses of Port Pirie, however, this year on Thursday, all 100 Catholic Schools across South Australia, which is approximately 40,000 students participated in ‘Switch Off’. Each school switched off their technology (lights, smart boards, computers etc) in an attempt to reduce their schools footprint on the environment. Many groups encourage us to look after the Earth’s Resources and the Catholic Church lends its voice to this call. We need to work together to show our respect for God’s creation by increasing our sustainability, we join the fight against global warming. Thank you to all families for their contribution of a gold coin, and to students for their colourful clothing. All money raised will go to CARITAS Australia.

Walk Safely To School Day:
To end a wonderful week of activities on Friday, students, their families and staff participated in Walk to School Safely Day. This was followed by fresh fruit for all provided by the P&F Community, thank you.

Grandparents & Volunteers Day:
We were overwhelmed at the attendance and participation of about 120 Grandparents, Volunteers, Families and Guests. On Friday we concluded Catholic Education Week and also recognised National Families Week which we used as our theme to honour our Grandparents and Volunteers for the love and support they have shown to us throughout the years. Most importantly, we used this day to help our students become more aware of the strength, wisdom and love that they have gained from our Grandparents, Grandfriends and Volunteers. This was a very special day which highlighted the importance of community, where families, teachers and students are united together. We thank the P&F Community for their café, with freshly baked food and delicious coffee. We further thank our photographer Darren Berryman for the family pictures.

Susan Frawley

The First Holy Communion Sacrament will be held on Sunday 3rd July
9am in St Therese Church, Renmark.

Confirmation is to be held Saturday 13th August at 6.30pm.

Star Student Awards:

L-R: Chelsea Docking, Eli McLeod, Leo Liebich, Harrison Keynes, Max Hunt, Henry Dring, Eloise Lloyd, Ethan Bussenschutt.

L-R: Maria Tzanavaras, Colby Lawton, Alana Young, James Haslett, Stuart Lehmann, Declan Johnson, Torren Frawley, Breea Martinson, Katherine Tran.
Latest Federation e-News!
Go to www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au and click on the ‘News’ link for the Term 2 2016 edition of ‘Federation e-News’. This is the quarterly e-newsletter for parents and families from the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities.

The focus of this bumper edition is Catholic Education Week.
In this edition, we announce the recipients of the 2016 Tom Ffrench Awards for Family Engagement in Catholic Education and hear parents’ stories of how their schools have shown that ‘Every Child Matters’. And so much more…..

Community Lottery:
A reminder to return your raffle books as soon as possible. We appreciate the efforts of everybody to contribute to this easy fundraiser. 100% profit straight to your child’s school community! If you would like to sell another book please see Lyn at the front office, thank you.

Walk To School Safely Day:
It was a lovely fresh morning for many to gather and walk to school. Thank you to the DiCerbo family for supplying the fresh fruit which was cut up and distributed to children and families on arrival.

Grandparents, Volunteers & Open Day:
The P&F were pleasantly surprised by how many adults who came along last Friday to help celebrate the fantastic day. Beautiful coffee, tea & hot chocolates were enjoyed along with cakes, slices and biscuits supplied by the P&F Community. Adults then took the opportunity to interact with the children in classes. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for assisting.

Save This Date!!:
The P&F committee with be putting on their biggest fundraiser for the year. It will be on 20th August so save the date. More details to come.

Thank you
Kristine & the P & F Committee
Scholastic Book Fair coming soon:

GRAND OPENING on
Monday 6th June 1.10-1.30pm
ACTIVITY ROOM

Come and have a look at the
new and exciting books available.

Other opening times are:
Tues-Fri 8.30-8.45am
Mon-Fri Lunch 1.10-1.30pm
Mon-Fri after school 3.00-3.30pm

SPECIAL GUEST visit from
CRANKY BEAR on
Thursday 9th June at 1.10pm

Carnevale Day
Week 7
Wednesday 15th June
Stay tuned for more details

You’re invited to our
Book Fair!

Vocation Visit:
On Monday, 16th May, Fr Paul visited the Year 5, 6 & 7s
to talk about his journey to becoming a Priest in the
Catholic Church. He explained how he gave up football,
having a family and other things to follow his passion to
serve his community. The students enjoyed listening to
his stories.

Canteen:
Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the
success of our School Canteen. We require assistance
for the rest of this Term and also would like to start a
roster for Term 3 helpers. If you are able to help out
please contact Larissa, Jami-Lee or Lyn at the front
office.
We will be holding a Canteen Special Lunch Order
Day towards the end of this term. Details will be
provided soon.

THANK YOU to the family of
Wyatt & Cooper Neef
for donating some mandarines.
They were distributed to students to enjoy.
All donations are gratefully appreciated.

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Catholic Education Week Celebrations:
**Mini Vinnies Visit:**

The Year 7 class had an opportunity to meet Cathy Beaton who is the Regional President of Saint Vincent De Paul Society in the Riverland, Mallee and Yorke Peninsula. They had a discussion with her about the history and works of Saint Vincent De Paul Society, homelessness, the need to help, cardboard box sleepout and social justice. It was a great learning experience for the Year 7s as they moved on to their future activities and plans for the Mini Vinnies.  

**‘Bully No More’ Performance:**

The students enjoyed an engaging performance last Thursday by Glen & Abbey from Starrs Productions who dramatised a troubled friendship between two students at primary school. They offered positive strategies that enable children to deal with bullying.

**First Holy Communion:**

The Year 4 students who will receive their First Holy Communion soon visited Fr John at our church to learn about symbols present within the Church that show that God & Jesus is present.  

**KidsMatter Champion**

Our KidsMatter Champion was presented with her certificate and badge at the recent Assembly by Mrs Frawley. **Eloise Lloyd** was recognised for being a good friend who makes others feel happy, cared for and welcome at St Joseph’s School. Well done Eloise!!  

**Tony Luxton, Amy Thompson & the KidsMatter Team**
The Renmark Primary School Dental Clinic will be closed at the end of 2016 and amalgamated into the new Riverland Oral Health Centre at 10 Madden Street, Berri. These changes are part of a process of upgrading and consolidating South Australia’s public dental infrastructure to ensure that it complies with contemporary models of care and relevant standards, and provides a suitable environment for patients and staff. It is recognised that this may result in a degree of inconvenience for some patients and their families but assure you that our staff will work closely with parents in facilitating this transition. If you have any concerns or comments can you please contact Shane Sandercock, Local Operations Manager, Riverland on 0423 026 156.

As of Term 1, I’ve starting working with the Reception and Year 1 students, incorporating the Move to Learn Program as part of their curriculum. Brain development is a special interest to me, and a big part of growing well-functioning brains is movement! The Move to Learn sequences follow movements of development as infants, which when executed in the nurturing school environment allows students to learn to their full potential, helping with gross motor movement, concentration, behaviour and grasping new ideas and concepts – pretty important stuff really! Specifically the movements target integration of primitive reflexes (which we are born with), and if they are still present in children (or adults!), can create a bit of an unstable foundation in which to learn and grow. It means that the brain has to work harder to adapt around that! The students are doing incredibly well, with current movements involving rolling, Superman’s and tummy curls with progression happening as the whole group begins to master each movement. It is a pleasure to be a part of the school community environment and work closely with the students to aid in their neuro-development.

Jess Monaghan

It was great to see many faces at our Playgroup this morning. Please join us if you can.