

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 and have enjoyed the warm welcome from staff, students and families. I want to sincerely thank Nicole Russell for her leadership and support, and congratulate her on a fantastic job. My leave included many positive professional and personal learning experiences, including visiting schools in Canberra/Goulburn Diocese and schools in Adelaide. I also had some quality family time. Most importantly, my study progressed well. I have passed three significant assignments and have only one final assessment to go. I will have a big celebration when I finally finish! Once again, I appreciate the ongoing support and encouragement.



The students have adapted well to the combined Recess and Lunch play times.



Some of the many families who participated this morning in our National Walk Safely To School Day.

Catholic Education Week:

Next week we will celebrate Catholic Education Week with 101 Catholic schools in South Australia, which have 6,000 staff members who educate over 52,000 students. 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 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.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

12 May Sun 9.00am
18 May Sat 6.30pm
26 May Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

13-17 May Catholic Education
Week celebrations

20 24 May Bookfair Week

20 2.15pm Assembly 3/HS

24 9.30am Mass 1/2SP

25 P&F Quiz Night

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.

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.

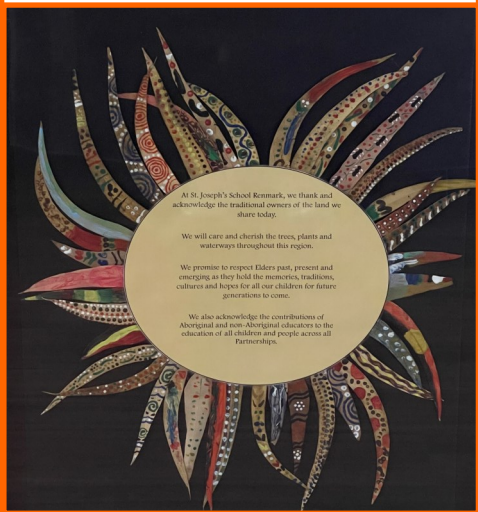


We congratulate Miss Lily Haynes on her successful Teaching Placement in the Year 1/2KC class.

Lily has learnt many tools and has great attributes for the making of a fabulous teacher. Well done Lily!

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 180 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.



Walk To School:

Active Kids are Smarter Kids! Today, we participated in National Walk Safely to School Day. It was amazing to see so many students, teachers and families involved. 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. Thank you to Ben Dring and Jo Lloyd for organising some fresh fruit for the students to enjoy afterwards.

Staff announcement:

I wish to announce that Mrs Jordan Whitelaw has accepted a teaching position in Loxton. This is closer to home for Jordan, so she can be closer to her family. I wish to thank Jordan for her many years of service to our school community. She is a highly regarded teacher and has been a valued staff member and will be missed. We wish her and her family all the best.



Mrs Jordan Whitelaw and Miss Rhianna McPhee

I also welcome Miss Rhianna McPhee who will join us in our Junior Graduate Program which supports young people in our community who are aspiring to be teachers. We hope she learns the many dimensions of the teaching profession and enjoys her journey in our community. Finally, Mr Reeks will remain on leave this term and will continue to promote his excellent Art Classes. We wish Mr Reeks well in pursuing his passion and enthusiasm for Visual Arts.

P&F/Wellbeing contributions:

Our P&F and Wellbeing communities met recently and again discussed many ideas and activities. We have our major fundraising event coming up – QUIZ NIGHT, which will prove to be a fun night with many prizes and give aways. 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!!!!!!

RANK	TEAM / TIPSTER	RD B TIPS	AVG/RND	TOTAL TIPS	RD B MARGIN	TOTAL MARGIN
1	KOJI N PA Graham	6	5.9	53	22	201
2	TONYLUXTON Tony L	5	5.7	51	43	231
3	SOPHIEBULLET AARON W	6	5.7	51	58	242
4	FISHINGBOY Ngai S	6	5.6	50	18	209
5	DARREN BUZZA Darren B	5	5.6	50	23	239
6	DALE LINDNER Dale L	5	5.4	49	40	233
7	SMASHY ASHMAN Ashton S	4	5.4	49	64	244
8	BELWEBB Belinda W	5	5.3	48	34	214
9	123CROQUETS K.A	7	5.3	48	13	250
10	SAM & HARRY Sam S	4	5.3	48	36	254

Child Safety - Kiss and Drop & Pick Up Routine:

As always this is a focus of our school to build strong relationships and partnerships between school and home. We have learnt that our children respond very well to Kiss and Drop structures and procedures and parents/carers value the efficient and supportive way to drop their children off at school. In doing this, students develop valuable skills such as responsibility, independence, and organisation. This also allows formal learning to start promptly and on time at the start of the day which proves to be so much more affective. So, as we start to establish our respective routines, I encourage all families to use our successful Kiss and Drop/Pick Up structures. We also ask that parents/carers understand and respect that lessons begin at 8.50am and should be out of classrooms before the music starts. I thank everyone for their support and understanding.

Some friendly reminders include:-

- **No Parking** on the Thurk Street school side.
- Pull into the furthest point. Do not overtake other vehicles in the line. Please show patience and due care.
- Do not break the flow or cut in front of other cars.
- Remember the speed limit when approaching the crossing—25km/hr (this should apply all around the school).
- We strongly ask that the School Crossing is used at all times when crossing the road.
- Cars should not be parked in laneways, too close to intersections as this obstructs local residents, pedestrians and other oncoming traffic.
- A phone call is appreciated if you are running late for collection at 3.15pm.

SAPSASA News:

SAPSASA Athletics:

On the 3rd of April, 30 students from St Joseph's Renmark travelled to Renmark High School to compete at SAPSASA Athletics. Throughout the day it was amazing to see the students challenge themselves and compete against the other Riverland schools. Some notable achievements for the day included:

Ninke Gardner – 1st in 100m & long jump, 2nd in 200m

Piper Wolf – 1st in 1500m and 2nd in 800m

Mya Elliott – 3rd in 200m

Isla Martinson – 3rd in 200m and 800m

Ava Lindner – 1st in discus and 2nd in shot put

Elsa Malinovski – 2nd in high jump

Eloise Hammond – 3rd in high jump

Noah Albanese – 1st in high jump & 2nd in long jump

Apollo Atsaves – 3rd in high jump

Peyton Johnson – 1st in long jump

10 year old boys relay finished 1st - this included Declan, Apollo, Lee and Peter

10 year old girls relay finished 2nd - this included Mya, Peyton, Billie and Olive

The students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and encouragement for their fellow team members. At the conclusion of the day, we managed to finish 4th out of all the schools which is a fantastic accomplishment, and the students should be proud of their achievements.

Thomas Smart

SAPSASA Coordinator



Walk safely to school day was well supported. Thank you!



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.

Positive future:

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

ST JOSEPH'S P&F COMMITTEE PRESENT:

QUIZ NIGHT

READY TO PLAY?
25TH MAY - 6:30PM

\$5 ENTRY. BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES
AT THE RENMARK CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL

Book a table of 10 or we can place you in a group.
Raffles, auctions & games. Tickets from the office.



Religious Identity & Mission:

St Joseph the worker's Feast Day:

Last Friday, 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.



Catholic Education Week:

We look forward to celebrating Catholic Education week next week with the theme of "Love My Catholic School – Raising Hearts and Minds – Let Your Light Shine." There are numerous events and activities planned to celebrate the wonderful learning that students experience at St Joseph's.

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



You're invited to our
SCHOLASTIC Book Fair

Find these books and more at the Fair!

EVERY DOLLAR EQUALS RESOURCES FOR OUR SCHOOL

SCHOLASTIC REWARDS

SCHOLASTIC

Our Bookfair will be held in our school library from

Mon 20th to Fri 24th May.

Opening times are 1.10pm and 3.00-3.30pm.

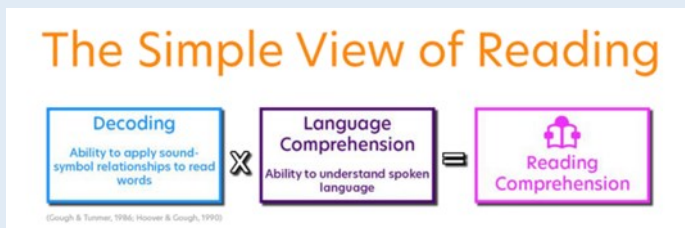
Leader of Learning:

Engaged Learning: Mrs. Server's and Mrs. Hill's Reception class were highly engaged in their Numeracy learning this week, developing skills and understanding in recognition and numerical order of the numbers 1-10.



Reading – Listening to your child read:

A basic way to think about how children learn to read is known as the simple view of reading.



To help students with decoding you can:

- Practice letter sounds and names
- Encourage your child to sound out unknown words instead of guessing
- Practice blending and segmenting sounds

To help with language comprehension you can:

- Read books together and discuss words and their meanings
- Talk about the characters and plot of a story
- Have regular interactive conversations with your child about a wide variety of topics

Decodable texts are written using words that contain sounds students have been explicitly taught. Students will bring home decodable texts (a variety of books, word lists, sentences and decodable passages) which include the phonics sequence your child has been introduced to and is working on. They should be able to read these texts with limited support, focusing on sounding out unknown words if they get stuck. Sometimes as parents we might think that the text is too easy for them, however, please remember that they are practicing their decoding skills with a focus on developing fluency.

We understand that learning to read is such an essential skill to not only find success in school and to thrive in society, but to also experience the joy that reading brings to life. Here at St Joseph's School, we want every child to be successful in reading and are excited to be working together with you on your child's journey.

PBIS:

As a part of our annual improvement plan we have embarked on the journey of being a PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support) School. Staff spent time during our student free day increasing their understanding of PBIS and the process we will be using for the next three years.

PBIS ...

- Is the application of behavioural science, in schools.
- Is a whole school approach. Everyone!
- Is an evidence-based multi-tiered framework for supporting students' behavioural, academic, social, emotional and mental health.
- Is a framework, it is not a specific 'model' or 'program', but a compilation of research-validated and effective practices, interventions, and systems change strategies.
- A way of getting organised around various behaviour, and treating it like a subject (we assess, plan, teach, assess).
- Creates positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments.
- Increases proactive management while decreasing reactive management.



Chrissie Grocke
Leader of Learning



TIPS TO NUTURE COURAGE FOR KIDS

This weeks school value is 'Courage'.

Courage for kids is a long process to build their self-confidence, and there's ways to approach it. With the rising rates of anxiety among children today, it's more important than ever to help our kids learn to cope with worry in healthy ways. Nurturing courage means helping kids develop the strength to face challenges without being held back by fear. The key to teaching courage for kids is showing them that feeling scared is perfectly normal, but we don't have to be controlled by it.

What Does Courage Really Mean?

For most of us, the kind of courage we need every day isn't about running into a burning building to save lives. Instead, courage is about the little things we all struggle with:

- Trying new things, even when we're not good at it
- Standing up for others
- Speaking up for what we believe in
- Owning up and apologising when you did something wrong

How Should You Teach Courage to Kids?

Teaching courage to kids is an art that combines empathy, understanding, and gentle guidance. It doesn't mean telling them to be brave or hold in their emotions—instead, it's about giving them the tools to handle their feelings as they move through life's challenges.

Here are six strategies that you can use to foster emotional courage in your child, through interactive role play to creating a safe and nurturing environment and beyond:

#1 Role play and practice scenarios with them

Kids naturally use imaginative play to develop coping skills for the real world, and you can use this as a tool for building courage, too. Role-playing provides a safe space to explore fears and uncertainty to develop emotional courage.

#2 Validate their emotions

As we said above, courage isn't about being fearless. So when your child expresses fears or concerns for everyday situations:

- Validate their feelings with acceptance and support
- Remember that you don't have to fix those feelings—focus on listening and making space for any and all emotions
- Talk about how expressing feelings is a way of being brave



#3 Nurture curiosity

Fear of the unknown is common in children (and let's be honest, adults too!). Welcome this feeling and let your child know that it's okay not to have all the answers.

Instead of worrying when something is new and unfamiliar, encourage your child to be curious:

- Asking questions and learning more
- Seeking help from others
- Talking about it instead of holding it in

#4 Lead by example

It may sound like a cliché, but it's true: children naturally look up to their parents and caregivers as their real-life superheroes. So how do you model courage in your own actions?

Instead, be open about your feelings. When you're worried about something, share it and talk about how you're handling the situation in a developmentally appropriate way.

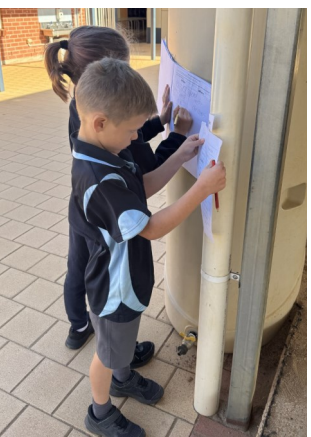
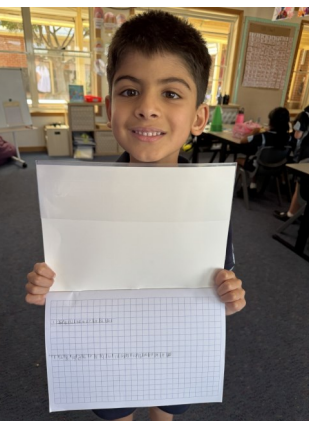
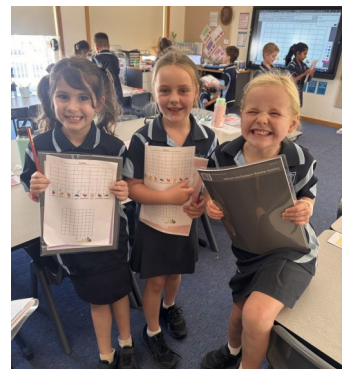
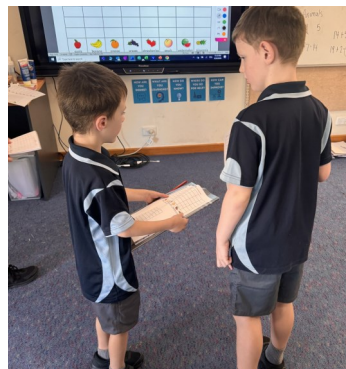
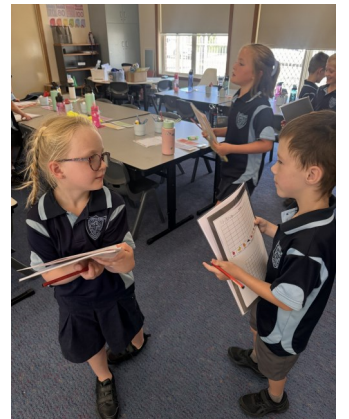
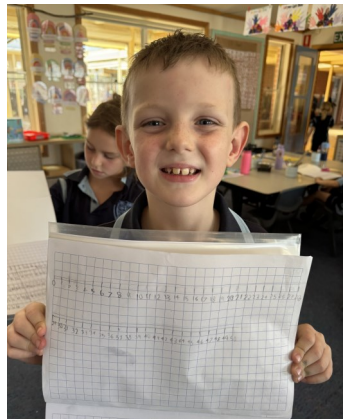
#5 Let them try it their way

Allowing kids to tackle challenges in their own way boosts their confidence and sense of self-reliance. Whenever possible, try not to take over their problems and solve it for them—instead, be a helper, and supporter. Let them know you have their back, but that you believe in their ability to figure things out themselves. This can help a child build courage and skills to overcome setbacks.

#6 Focus on the process, not the outcome

Whether acknowledging a child's efforts or talking about something that could have gone better, focus on the effort your child made rather than the end result.

Learning and fun in 1/2KC class:



Throughout our first term of learning, we have enjoyed participating in our Literacy and Maths lessons in a variety of different ways.

Some of our learning styles included outdoor education, word hunts, phonemic awareness on whiteboards, collecting data through surveys and using hands on materials such as MAB blocks and counters.

We even learnt to use our new Maths Graph Books! We have had lots of fun becoming confident learners and can't wait to continue our learning journey throughout the year.