

Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

You will note from our 'jam-packed' newsletters that this is a very productive term with many events, activities and diverse learning opportunities for students. The newsletter is always a terrific collage of the many dimensions to teaching and learning at our school. We take great pride in producing our newsletter and believe it is an important way to communicate but also to celebrate and highlight the many fantastic events and activities at St Joseph's.



We still believe in producing a hard copy so that we can encourage reading (the old fashioned way!) and encourage sharing stories about our school as a family. We draw together many different kinds of learning experiences to enrich our students' understanding of the world and to develop their knowledge and skills in a broad learning program. We are pleased to promote these experiences with our wonderful newsletter. I hope you enjoy the read and the photos.

Father's Day Breakfast:

I must acknowledge the fantastic support displayed this morning at our Father's Day Breakfast. We exceeded expectations with more than 220 adults (including granddads and special friends) and 200 students. The amazing success was felt in the positive vibe that was experienced and the meaningful discussion and interaction that was shared. The goal was promote our positive community culture and to highlight the value that dads have on the lives of their children and to show that parenting is a shared responsibility. The feedback was fantastic and I personally thank everyone for their involvement and look



Our large gathering of Dads, Grandads and Special Friends enjoyed Breakfast today.

forward to sharing more experiences with the dads of our community. Special thanks to our cooks, Kieren Johnson, Alex Lever, and Jason Seabrook, all our wonderful staff for their help and support.

"A good father knows how to wait and knows how to forgive from the depths of his heart.

He also knows how to correct with firmness.

The father who knows how to correct without humiliating,

is the one who knows how to protect without sparing himself". Pope Francis.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

31 Aug Sat 6.30pm
7 Sept Sat 6.30pm
15 Sept Sun 9.00am

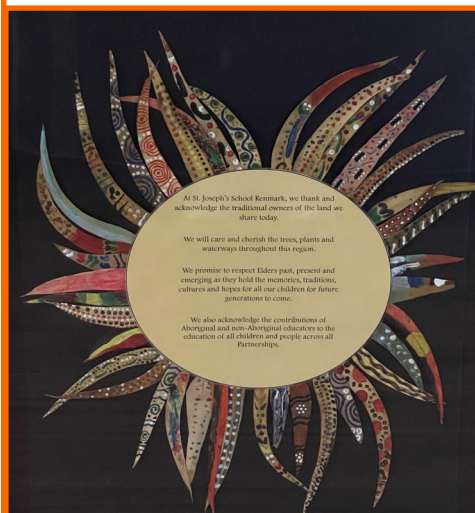
UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 1 Father's Day
- 1 Confirmation
- 2 2.15pm Assembly by 4/5RW class
- 6 Student Free Day
- 10 Board Meeting
- 12 'Be Caring' Day

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.



Confirmation:

I wish our students, families and staff all the best as they prepare for Confirmation. This sacrament of Christian initiation reminds us of our faith and enables us to carry out the mission to help build a better world. This event is a very special celebration and forms a unique element in our school community. I congratulate Matthew Latorre, Nathan Carslake, Poppy Milich and Eloise Hammond.

National Child Protection Week:

Next week, we will participate in National Child Protection Week. In the Australian context, we are asked to be someone who listens to children, starts conversations with them, and, if needed, is someone whom children will turn to when in need.



So.... to build on last year's theme of 'Where we start matters', this year's theme will be: 'Every conversation matters'. We will combine with our Child Protection Curriculum to help our students learn skills and strategies to seek help if they ever feel unsafe. At St Joseph's, we support and promote community-led prevention. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students, and we believe that by working with the wider community, we'll help protect children and young people. We hope to engage and educate all Australians to understand that they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect. During the week, we will be doing various activities to highlight how the safety of children is a priority.

Cybersafety - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

As we plan for National Child Protection Week in September, we continue to include the Child Protection Curriculum in our weekly lessons. One of the key topics is Cybersafety, a main issue for us parents and educators in an online society. As highlighted many times, there are ongoing concerns about the use of social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. At school, we try our best to educate students about these platforms' safety and appropriate use. Still, as parents and carers, you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences. At the beginning of this year, we sent home an Online Safety Booklet and Family ICT User Agreement Forms for your consideration. I strongly endorse this information, which covers some of the essential online safety issues for young people and includes practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services offering extra support. If you wish to have another copy, please contact the admin staff.

20 Words Whole School – Manners:

We are happy with the positive interest in our school amongst the wider community and have again received overwhelming enrolment requests. Families have been impressed by our school's physical and safe surroundings and the way they have been greeted and spoken to by polite, friendly, well-mannered children when entering classrooms and walking around the playground. In the coming weeks, we will be promoting our 20 Words activity, encouraging students to be more polite and use words, manners and sayings that we could use more often. Manners and etiquette for children are among the most important qualities to nurture in the family home. Instilling good manners in some children will feel almost impossible, but don't despair; keep at it. You will be surprised how much your expectation about being well-mannered stays with them. Good manners are essential for every child's self-confidence and success

in life. The 'manners seed' is planted and nurtured in the family home. Well done to all our staff and students for being such excellent ambassadors for our school.

Staffing and Enrolment Interviews for 2025:

I am currently meeting with all staff members as part of their professional reviews. This process allows the opportunity to discuss teaching options and class structures for the future. I will be conducting and finalising our intake for the Reception year level. I hope to announce class structures in the coming weeks.

Winter Sports Finals:

Whilst I am keeping a lid on the Swans upcoming Finals campaign, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate all our staff who have made it through to

respective finals and Grand Finals. We are so proud to have staff representation in local sporting events.

There are also many parents playing, coaching, umpiring, and supporting positively this weekend.

Good luck to everyone!

I wish everyone all the best as we cheer on our teams in the upcoming finals.

Regards,
Don DePalma—your friendly principal
Principal



Our Year 3-5s Participated in the Renmark Tennis Hot Shots

Religious Identity & Mission:

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

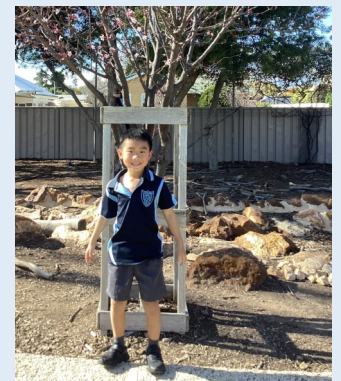
The season starts on the 1st of September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on the 4th of October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Students throughout our school in their Religious Education lessons, are focusing on Creation in some aspect. The Reception students are focusing on 'Nature is God's gift for all to love and enjoy' through the lens of sustainability of water. The Year 1 and 2 classes on the understanding that 'All people have a responsibility to care for creation—reduce, recycle and reuse.' Our Year 3 cohort are focusing on 'Care for Common home - where everyone is important and has a role of being a steward of creation,' and the Year 4 and 5 on developing an 'Appreciation the interconnectedness between God, people and creation.' As you can see they are

thriving in their learning and striving to build a world God desires.

I wish all dad's a Happy Father's Day, may God's love be shining in you, through you, and around you.

Chrissie Grocke—APRIM



The Importance of Happiness

This week's school value is happiness. We strongly believe that being happy leads to improved relationships, increases positive learning outcomes, increases social connections, as well as contributing to healthier physical well-being. A happy school environment facilitates an enriching learning experience and blossoms the talents of the students. Building authentic connections not only makes children feel happier and valued but it empowers them from within and encourages them to go further.

What is Happiness?

Happiness is something that people seek to find, yet what defines happiness can vary from one person to the next. Typically, happiness is an emotional state characterised by feelings of joy, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment. While happiness has many different definitions, it is often described as involving positive emotions and life satisfaction.

When most people talk about the true meaning of happiness, they might be talking about how they feel in the present moment or referring to a more general sense of how they feel about life overall.

Two key components of happiness are:

The balance of emotions: Everyone experiences both positive and negative emotions, feelings, and moods. Happiness is generally linked to experiencing more positive feelings than negative ones.

-Life satisfaction: This relates to how satisfied you feel with different areas of your life including your relationships, work, achievements, and other things that you consider important.

Some types of happiness include:

Joy: A often relatively brief feeling that is felt in the present moment.

Excitement: A happy feeling that involves looking forward to something with positive anticipation.

Gratitude: A positive emotion that involves being thankful and appreciative.

Pride: A feeling of satisfaction in something that you have accomplished.

Optimism: This is a way of looking at life with a positive, upbeat outlook.

Contentment: This type of happiness involves a sense of satisfaction.



While perceptions of happiness may be different from one person to the next, there are some key signs that we can look for when measuring and assessing happiness.

Some key signs of happiness include:

- Feeling like you are living the life you wanted.
- Going with the flow and a willingness to take life as it comes.
- Feeling that the conditions of your life are good.
- Enjoying positive, healthy relationships with other people.
- Feeling that you have accomplished (or will accomplish) what you want in life.
- Feeling satisfied with your life.
- Wanting to share your happiness and joy with others.
- Feeling positive more than negative.
- Being open to new ideas and experiences.
- Practicing self-care and treating yourself with kindness and compassion.
- Experiencing gratitude.
- Feeling that you are living life with a sense of meaning and purpose.

Parents & Friends:

The Father's day stall was a huge success. The students enjoyed buying gifts for their dad or special love ones.

P&F Footy Tipping Competition

Congratulations to Tony Luxton who came 1st on 138, Jonathon Sutton 2nd on 136 points and Aaron Wutke 3rd on 135 points.

We look forward to our School Disco in Week 9.

Giulia Del Zoppo—P&F



RANK	TEAM / TIPSTER	RD 24 TIPS	AVG/RND	TOTAL TIPS	RD 24 MARGIN	TOTAL MARGIN
1	TONYLUXTON Tony L	7	5.5	138	20	668
2	SUTTONJ Jonathan S	7	5.4	136	30	759
3	SOPHIEBULLET AARON W	7	5.4	135	36	641
4	DAVID KINNEAR Dave K	7	5.4	135	26	781
5	WALDOS Cherie M	7	5.4	135	30	862
6	KOJI N PA Graham	8	5.4	134	32	658
7	SAM & HARRY Sam S	8	5.3	133	33	652
8	THE 4 GOATS Effie K	8	5.3	133	23	802
9	SMASHY ASHMAN Ashton S	8	5.3	132	7	645
10	TODD VD Todd V	6	5.3	132	30	750

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece
was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Sports News:

Year 3/4/5 Hot Shot Tennis:

On the 27th of August, the year 3, 4 and 5 students competed at hot shots tennis in Renmark. This was a great experience for the students as they got to engage in a coaching clinic followed by some game play. Each team played six games and showed a great level of skill and sportsmanship. At the end of the event each school was awarded two sportsmanship awards which was won by Yasmin Ali and Lucas Drowley-McElroy. A big thank you to the teachers that helped to support the day.

Girl's Football:

Some Year 5 and 6 students participated in the SAPSASA Football Carnival. They won 3 games and lost 3. The girls showed excellent team work and perseverance. Congratulations to Agum who received the team spirit award. Thank you to Nick Malinovski and Mrs Del Zoppo for coaching

Mr Thomas Smart
SAPSASA Co-Ordinator



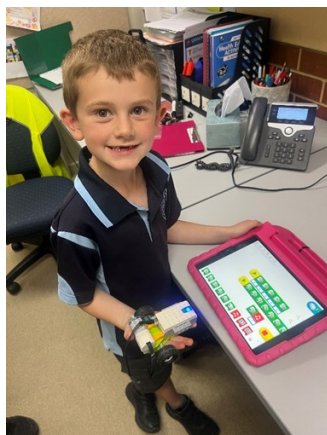
Leader of Learning:

Introducing Our Gifted and Accelerated Learning Program:

We are excited to announce the introduction of our new Gifted and Accelerated Learning Program, designed to meet the needs of students who excel in specific areas of the curriculum. After a comprehensive data collection and analysis process, we have identified students who will benefit from this program, ensuring they are challenged and engaged in their learning journey. These students will have the opportunity to work closely with targeted learning planned by Miss Williams and delivered by Miss Lodge, who brings passion for supporting gifted learners.

As part of the program, each student will be assessed using the AGAT (ACER General Ability Test), a widely recognised tool that provides valuable insights into their reasoning skills. The AGAT assessment is a measure that evaluates general intellectual ability, including both verbal and non-verbal reasoning across five diverse strands:

- Verbal Reasoning: Assessing students' ability to think, reason, and solve problems using language-based logic.
- Numerical Reasoning: Measuring the capacity to understand and manipulate numerical concepts and relationships.
- Abstract Reasoning: Evaluating students' ability to think conceptually and solve problems that do not rely on language or numerical skills.
- Spatial Reasoning: Focusing on visualising and manipulating shapes, patterns, and spatial concepts.
- Problem Solving: Testing the application of reasoning skills to complex and unfamiliar situations.

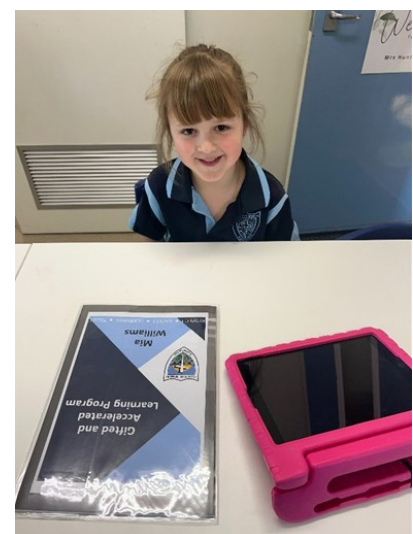


These strands are critical in understanding each student's unique strengths and areas for growth. The results from the AGAT assessment will inform tailored learning experiences that are designed to challenge and accelerate students in their areas of strength, whether that be literacy, numeracy, or another academic domain.

By offering differentiated instruction through our Gifted and Accelerated Learning Program, we are committed to nurturing each student's potential, helping them to achieve their personal best, and fostering a love for learning. We look forward to sharing more about the students' progress and celebrating achievements from the program in the coming months.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to know more about the AGAT assessment, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are excited to support our gifted and accelerated learners on this new and enriching educational journey!

Rowie Williams—Leader of Learning



Book Week Celebrations:



Father's Day Celebrations:

