

Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

We have again had a very productive two weeks with many meaningful learning experiences including Assembly, Confirmation, Child Protection Week, and excellent daily lessons. We are very proud of the variety of opportunities we are providing.



"Be Caring" Wellbeing Day - R U OK DAY:

The national day of R U OK is a day of action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask, 'are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever they spot the signs that someone they care about might be struggling with life.

We embraced and celebrated the National RUOK Day yesterday with our own Wellbeing Day which focussed on the message to 'Be Caring'. It was such a powerful and successful day that highlighted the importance of showing genuine care, kindness and concern for each other. I thank Mrs Linda Lawton, our Wellbeing Team and all our staff for organising such a wonderful day.



Charlie, Elsie, Leo & Chelsea with their Be Caring poster.



Mr Hayes & Bishop Karol

Staff Reflection Day - Shining Light - Sacred Insight:

Last week, we joined with St Alberts and Our Lady of the River Staff, for a combined Staff Reflection Day. This was a great opportunity to collaborate and share, which was an amazing experience that transformed Theological concepts through Indigenous Art and Culture. The Reverend Dr Elio Capra from Melbourne did an amazing job facilitating the day, showing effective pedagogical skills, including humour, and using stories, videos, and art to highlight the rich and powerful Indigenous culture and how we can include and integrate these messages in our daily lessons. I congratulate Chrissie Grocke and Rose Perre for organising such a successful day.

Congratulations St Francis of Assisi:

I want to sincerely congratulate Mr Nathan Hayes, Staff, Students, and the whole St Francis Community on a wonderful Opening Celebration. I was privileged to join Bishop Karol, special guests, and CESA dignitaries, including Ms Nichii Mardon and Dr Neil McGoran, to witness a momentous occasion for our Secondary College. We are excited about the future of Catholic education in our community and the many positive opportunities that will be offered to our students. Well done to all involved.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

15 Sept Sun 9.00am
21 Sept Sat 6.30pm
29 Sept Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

16-20 Footsteps Dance
18 P&F Disco
19 Cardboard Box Sleepout
23 Assembly by 1/2SP
25 Sports Day
27 12.30pm Dismissal

Cardboard Box Sleep Out:

We wish Mr McGuire, Mrs DelZoppo and the Year 6 students all the best for the significant event of the Mini Vinnies sleep out. For one night, the students will experience similar conditions to those that homeless people experience daily. It is an important learning opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our Catholic social teachings and develop a new perspective on the struggles that some people in our community and across the world face each and every day. The students will develop a new level of empathy for people in difficult situations I am sure. These learning experiences are invaluable to life long learning. Thank you to the families who have helped in any way, and for assisting the students to raise funds for the St Vincent de Paul Society.



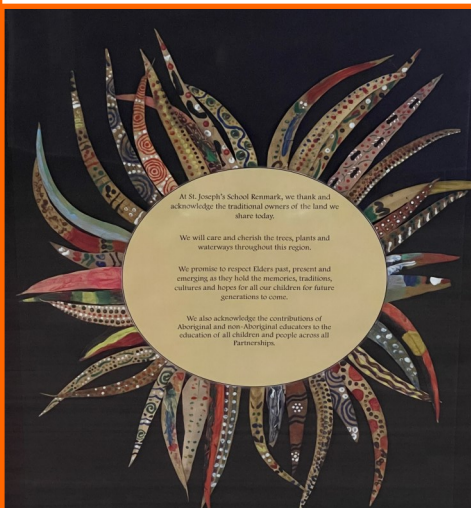
Year 6 students Mabel, Isla, Ninke, Hallie, Lily, Poppy & Kianna preparing for Cardboard Box Sleepout.



Mrs Grocke, Rev Elio & Mrs Perre at our Staff Reflection 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.



Class Masses:

I have been so pleased with the opportunity to have our Class Masses. They are such an important celebration in our school which outlines our culture and traditions and provides meaningful learning opportunities for our children including practicing public speaking and active participation.. We use the messages and themes to teach important attitudes and values of respect, empathy and kindness. We also enjoy the community focus and value the opportunity to join with parishioners and families and share a beautiful morning tea. Today the Year 3 classes did a wonderful job with their Mass and I congratulate Mrs Hayes, Mrs Smith and Miss Haynes, the students and their families.

2025 Staffing and Class Structure:

I continue working through our staffing for 2025 and I hope to have this finalised by the end of this term. At our recent Board meeting, I presented possible models for class structures for 2025. I am pleased to announce that we will maintain 12 classes. When considering such things, there is consultation with staff before the models are finalised. When looking at classes for next year we also consider learning needs of the students, social/emotional/behavioural needs, family/sibling/friend combinations and the available resources of the school. Given the steady increase of enrolments over the past few years, class size is also a very important consideration, along with ESO support. I will announce the final structures for 2025 at the end of this term.

Class Lists for 2025:

Parents who wish to request consideration for their child's placement in classes for 2025 are to submit their requests in writing to me outlining sound educational reasoning for the request. All requests are due by the end of this term.

National Child Protection Week:

Last week, we promoted National Child Protection Week, which aims to engage and educate all Australians to understand they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect.

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 together with the wider community we will help protect children and young people. Our lessons were well received by the students and we hope they have helped them with strategies in their own lives.

Sports Day:

We are looking forward to our upcoming Sports Day on Wednesday 25th September at St Francis of Assisi College. Mr Smart and Mrs Thompson have been busy preparing the students and have included some new games and different structures. I strongly advocate and promote our Sports Day and remind all students and parents/carers that it is an expectation that all students participate. As with any normal school day, Sports Day has so many positive learning outcomes. It not only promotes the benefits of exercise but also teaches many life skills, such as how to win and lose, resilience and effort, and also looks at all aspects of sportsmanship. Year 6 students have been practising leading the Health Hustle and House Captains have showed excellent leadership skills with their respective teams.



Students enjoying Art Club through Children's University.

I sincerely thank the P&F for their significant contribution to this day. The children are looking forward to being able to purchase some treats and sweets. They particularly enjoy having their parents watch their events and share in the many success stories.

Children's University:

I congratulate all our students who continue to be active in our community and build on their participation in Children's University. I have

been impressed with the many initiatives, including Clubs within the school day and Art Club. We will start looking at plans for their end-of-year Graduation Ceremony. I have been so proud of the students who have remained active and have continued to participate and complete numerous activities to contribute to their Children's University qualification. We again recognise and congratulate all participants.

Proud Principal:

As Principal, I am so proud of the many ways we inspire the students in our care to 'Let Their Light Shine', with the many wonderful events and activities during the term. One of my personal mantras is summarised by this wonderful quote.

**"A teacher and parent effects eternity.
He/She can never tell where this influence ends."**

I take seriously my responsibility as Principal and firmly believe that as a Catholic School we inspire and offer meaningful lifelong experiences for all students. We offer a positive education developing thriving people, capable learners, leaders for the world God desires. We acknowledge and value the importance of Parents and Teachers working together in partnership to support young people. One of our most powerful beliefs is that faith and education is taught in the home, supported in the school, and celebrated in the parish when the community comes together.



Mrs Trenwith and Mr K getting into the spirit of 'Be Caring' Wellbeing Day & RU OK? Day.

As the weather is starting to warm up I hope that you are able to get out and enjoy the sunshine this weekend with family and friends. It is also a timely reminder to check if your child has their school hat as it will be compulsory next term. These can be purchased from the front office for \$15.00.

Regards
Don DePalma
Principal

Religious Identity & Mission:

Confirmation:

Congratulations to our Year 6 students Poppy, Nathan, Matthew and Eloise who received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently. It was a beautifully spiritual celebration in our OLOR parish with Bishop Karol Kulczycki and Fr Hau Le.



Staff Spiritual Reflection Day:

Last Friday we gathered as a staff in Spiritual Reflection with the staff of both OLOR (Berri) and St Alberts (Loxton). The focus of the day was facilitated by Rev Dr Elio Capra where we collectively delved into the spiritual and biblical dimensions of indigenous artwork, exploring how they resonate with our theme 'Let Your Light Shine' and how they nurture the faith formation of staff and illuminate our understanding of shining our own lights in the world.



ReLAT:

This week our Year 4 students participated in an assessment in Religious Education. This assessment is conducted each year for all students in Year 4 in Catholic schools in South Australia. ReLAT is designed to assess some of the basic knowledge taught in Religious Education lessons. Please note that the assessment is not a measure of a child's faith nor their participation in the broader life of the Catholic community.

Cardboard Box Sleepout:

Our Year 6 students will hold their Mini Vinnies Cardboard Box Sleepout next Thursday. The purpose behind the activity is to enhance student's understanding and empathy around marginalised families and communities. This learning experience is integrated with their studies in Religious Education and Social & Emotional Learning and is an opportunity for them to develop important skills in, and dispositions towards social justice. A team from both the Adelaide and Riverland St Vincent dePaul Society will be in attendance.

St Vinnies:

Our Year 6 students continue to take turns in volunteering at the Vinnies shed each Monday morning. I was recently chatting with them about why they enjoy it so much and their responses were that they love helping the community, caring for the less fortunate, talking with the ladies and folding all the clothes, learning about where all the clothes go and caring for the environment so that the clothes don't just go to waste. This faith in action is certainly a big component of our school.



Class Mass:

Congratulations to Mrs Hayes and Mrs Smith's Year 3 class on the reverent way they led Mass today. This is another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrates their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity and a connection to our Parish.



Chrissie Grocke
APRIM

Star Student Awards:



Back: Serena Teusner, Ella Watkins, Mack Sutton, Byron Courtney, Achilleas Theodorou
Front: Riley McGorman, Beau Vermeeren, Elsie Brookes, Chelsea Mackenzie, Heydar Kazimi, Vivu Godara



Back: Amy Clohesy, Chloe McLeod, Casey Rover, Etienne Botha, Peyton Johnson.
Front: Archer Lever, Harry Sever, Yasmin Ali, Layla Neal, Yuvraj Sahota.

Term 4 starts on
Tuesday 15th October
Monday is a Student Free Day due to
Staff Professional Development.
OSHC is available ~ Ring Nicole 8586 4481

Challenge Cup Award:

Congratulations to St Patrick's Green who won the Challenge Cup activity for 'Premier's Reading Challenge' participation with 56 points.

St Mary MacKillop Blue finished with 54 points, followed by St Joseph's Gold on 53 and St Therese Red on 52 points.

Pictured right are Isaac Broughton, Clara McLeod, Alice Colligan, Riley Maywald, Kon Atsaves and Armaan Neelon.



Champion Citizen Awards:



Congratulations to
Lucy Watkins & Lucas Drowley-McElroy
who were recently presented with our
Champion Citizen Awards.

Student Success:

On 6th September Ava, Clara and Alice undertook their Comdance Grade 4 Tap Exam. They have been working hard to achieve a high standard of technique and performance. They all performed incredibly well, achieving scores of 80% and above, Highly Commended and Honours. Well done to each of you!



Parents & Friends:

Disco:

The children are excited for the P&F Disco on Wednesday 18th September. Please return your reply slips so we can attend to catering.



Sports Day:

We are looking forward to this fabulous day at St Francis. The P&F will be supplying a stall for students to purchase a snack. Please return the form if you can assist with supplying some products.

Giulia Del Zoppo—P&F

Volunteer Thank You:

There are many unsung heroes in our community volunteer force. One of these is our school parent, Kieran Johnson.

Kieran volunteers many hours through his SA Ambulance position but also through supporting sports clubs in Renmark and the Riverland. We thank Keiran for his service and support to these groups.

We acknowledge and appreciate all our parents who support students and many groups in our Community.



Kieran with Bailey, Olly, William & Apollo.

Student News:

The SRCs and the Mini Vinnies worked together to fundraise money to purchase sleeping bags for the homeless in the Riverland as a part of our social justice education. The students participated in a Pyjama Day and donated cans of food and recycling to help raise the funds. We sincerely thank our school community for getting on board and helping us to help the people in our community. The SRCs recently presented AC Care representatives Michelle & Kristie with the sleeping bags. Well done SRCs & Mini Vinnies!!

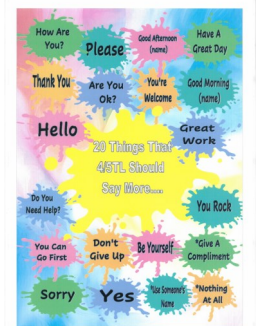
Mrs Thompson



20 Words Posters:

For the last two weeks across the school in our SEL lessons we have been promoting the importance of manners and respect.

Students have been contributing to posters of 20 words/phrases of 'Things I should say more often.' As a school we strongly encourage all members of our community to continue using these words in all our attitudes and actions.



20 kind words

Hello	Good job
Good morning	I believe in you
How are you?	Are you okay?
Excuse me	Well done
Thank you	You can make a difference
You're welcome	My pleasure
Please	You're the best
Good day	Good afternoon
Sorry	You are extraordinary
You are AMAZING	You are marvellous

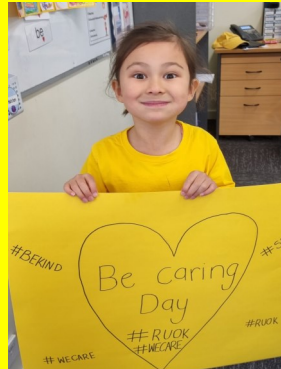
KINDNESS



Be Caring Day



On Thursday we celebrated “Be Caring Day”. This special day allowed us to focus on and highlight the importance of caring about others and having meaningful conversations. The day provided a great opportunity to check in with a friend or loved one and ask “RUOK?”. All of our students came together in their buddy class groups and spent a wonderful afternoon with each other joining in many different interactive games and activities. Our whole school made a colourful paper chain, each link represents all of our students and staff. “When we are all connected, together we are stronger”.



R/SH Class Bush Discovery:



R/SH Bush Discovery

We all enjoyed our recent adventure to Calperum Station. The open ended learning environment provided lots of opportunity to climb trees, create with natural materials, explore, question and wonder. We looked at some animal skeletons and talked about the native animals to the area. To top off the day we all toasted marshmallows and enjoyed a sausage sizzle.

Thank you to all the helpers on the day.

