

## Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 3 Week 8 ~ 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Rec LH, PH and SH:

The term has continued in a very busy fashion. Our Mid-Years have settled into routine and have loved all the activities that we have been involved in so far this term. Our teachers continue to analyse data and improve our teaching methods to achieve the best results for our students.

Our literacy blocks are well planned and timetabled and each reception class follows the same structure. We continue to look at all of our structures to make sure we are providing the students with the best chance to succeed.

All our Maths lessons begin with Let's Calculate, a ten-minute exercise that consolidates previous learning, provides opportunities for automaticity with number and introduces concepts that are soon to be introduced. This term our focus is on measurement and equal sharing and grouping.

In Religion we are continuing our focusing on God's creation. We will also be starting Mitiog soon and are just finalizing our staff training in this. This term the focus will be looking at new life, families and love and our bodies. Our 3pm daily prayer has been very successful and students look forward to hearing the chime to signal prayer time.

2024 Transition is in full swing, and Laura and Mikalya have visited the kindys to meet our new students for next year. Transition visits will occur in Week 1 of Term 4. We currently have 35 students, including our current mid years, on our list for 2024. It's going to be another exciting year.

### 1/2 KC, KV and SP:

The 1/2s have had a busy but fun few weeks! We have made Father's gift for our wonderful Dads, celebrated Father's breakfast and had Bush Discovery.

**Literacy:** Word Study is continuing to show amazing growth and we are happy with the scope and sequence we are following. In literacy, we have reviewed our structures and have decided to incorporate heart words and comprehension into our daily routine as the data shows us the students need extra support in these areas. For grammar, we have been learning about possessive adjectives and pronouns and understanding how to put it correctly into a sentence.

In Genre Writing, we are learning Persuasive Writing and how to use strong, descriptive language to persuade the reader to change their mind! The students have been super engaged and we have seen some amazing persuasive pieces. The students are now going to be preparing for debates in groups and presenting their strong opinions and reasons to the class! The students in the class will vote if the 'For or Against' team were more convincing.

**Maths:** In Mathematics, we are continuing to begin our Math lessons with Let's Calculate, so students can consolidate the four operations. We have just finished our measurement unit and the students loved this hands on unit and we saw good growth in their post test. The students are now learning about Fractions (whole, halves, quarters and eighths).

**Science:** The students have been learning about living things such as their needs, habitat and how we can look after them.

**Religion:** We are learning about God's creation and how we can look after it.

### 3 HM and HS:

The year 3 classes have been busy throughout Term 3 through being involved with many opportunities. We attended Tennis Hot Shots, Father's Day gift making, Father's Day breakfast and Book Week. We have loved watching students develop in all learning areas as it nears towards the end of term and coming into the last term of Year 3. Although we have had many fun things

on this Term, students have still maintained positive behaviour and particularly connecting this with the school values.

Students sent home their writing work samples and week 6. We are all impressed at how far they have come with their writing this year. It was great to get parent feedback based on their writing.

**Religion:** The focus for Religion this Term has been Caring for Our Common Home. Students have been completing many tasks involved in exploring 'Our Common Home' and how as a Catholic community and as individuals we are called to care for it and all those who live on it. Students have worked with specific scriptures and exploring practical actions to take to demonstrate Care of our Common Home.

**English:** Throughout our English Unit this term, we are continuing with our PLD Spelling and Handwriting lessons, with the students learning the structure of these well. Students also receive time three times a week to write from a themed task card called 'Let's Write', this program focuses on writing stamina and creativity, with students writing for the joy of writing. We have almost finished reading our Class Novel 'Runt'. This has been a very engaging topic for all learners in the classroom as we have been focusing on comprehension, writing, reading and art. We also had a few students dress up as the main character of Runt for book week which was a pleasure to see. Students look forward to attending the Chaffey Theatre in week 10 to view the movie Runt as a reward from all their hard work with their novel study learning.

**Mathematics:** Throughout Mathematics this term we continued with Fractions and Location. Students were able to complete a mapping challenge around the school to display their learning of location. The year 3's are now focusing on money with particular focus on exchanging coins and change.

**SEL, health and child protection curriculum lessons:** This term we have been focusing on areas of emotions with particular focus on mindfulness. Students have practised mindfulness strategies throughout these lessons. We also participated in Child Protection Week and completed activities on safety.

**HASS and Science:** We have continued to focus on Biological Science and connecting this with our Caring of our Common Home Religion topic. We have been looking into life cycles of animals and plants and we look forward to students creating a stop motion task to display their learning.

#### 4/5 PH, RW and TL:

**Mathematics:** In Mathematics, our focus has been on Statistics and Probability. As we near the end of our unit, students are engaging in a research task where they will explore a sport or an Olympic sport. They will examine various statistics and graph the performance of individual players, providing a practical application of the skills they have learned. This task integrates research, data interpretation, and graphing skills, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding of statistical concepts in a real-world context.

**English:** In English, we are continuing our unit on Information Reports. Year 4 students have chosen a country in either Africa or South America, while Year 5 students have selected a country in Europe. Currently, students are working on creating travel brochures for their chosen countries, combining research skills with persuasive and descriptive writing. This task not only enhances their understanding of informational texts but also allows them to creatively present their findings in a visually engaging format.

**Physical Education:** Students recently participated in the Hot Shots tennis program, which was a great opportunity for them to develop their tennis skills and engage in physical activity. The program was well-received, and students enjoyed the chance to learn new skills in a fun and supportive environment.

**Religion:** Students are in preparation for the RELAT testing, where they will demonstrate their understanding of key concepts in Religion. We are focusing on reviewing content, discussing relevant themes, and ensuring students feel confident ahead of the assessment.

**Science:** In Science, we are exploring the topic of adaptations, where students are learning about how different organisms adapt to their environments. This unit encourages critical thinking and observation as students investigate the unique characteristics that allow plants and animals to survive in diverse habitats.

## **6 JM:**

Term 3 is flying by for the Year 6s, and in the last few weeks we have celebrated the Year 6s last ever Book Week Parade and are now busily preparing for Cardboard Box Sleepout in two weeks' time. The students have been out in the community promoting this event and raising sponsorship money which will be donated to St Vinnies.

**English:** In English we are continuing to read "Once" by Morris Gleitzman, and the students have begun writing their Information Reports about an Asian country. In the next two weeks, we will begin looking at writing War Narratives, which will be entered into a story writing competition run by the RSL. The winners of this competition will be presented with an award at the Remembrance Day service in November.

**Maths:** In Maths this term we have covered measurement and have just finished our work looking at Time. The students learnt how to interpret public transport timetables, as well as how to plan a journey using multiple forms of public transport. They completed a task where they had to plan a class excursion to Adelaide and had to use their knowledge of time and timetables to plan a full day itinerary. The students enjoyed learning about these important life skills and created some excellent itineraries. We have just started looking at Shapes and Angles and the students have been learning how to estimate and measure angles using a protractor. We will finish Term 3 with a recap on some Number concepts before we dive into Term 4.

**Religion:** This Term the students completed a unit of work on Confirmation and the Sacraments and learnt about the Fruits and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and how the work of the Saints demonstrated these values. As part of their work, they had to choose a Saint that best represented their interests and ideals, and then had to create a Mandala that represented their Saint. Last weekend, we celebrated the Confirmation of Poppy, Eloise, Matthew and Nathan and we congratulate them on their commitment, respect and engagement in this significant Catholic rite of passage. In the last few weeks of the Term, the students will be working through MITIOG, and the boys and girls will be split with the boys being taught by Mr McGuire, and the girls, Mrs Del Zoppo.

## **Religious Identity:**

**Care for Creation:** The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God. The Season "Celebration" began last Sunday 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we will unite around the theme, "To Hope and Act with Creation." Teachers are incorporating this celebration into their RE teaching and learning.

**ReLAT:** This week our Year 4 students will be participating 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 in Week 9. 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.

**Confirmation:** Congratulations to 4 of our Year 6 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently. It was a beautifully spiritual celebration in our OLOR parish with the Bishop.

**MITIOG:** In the last two weeks of the term students will be learning the **Made in the Image of God (MITIOG)** is the Human Sexuality and Respectful Relationships Curriculum for SA Catholic Schools. This curriculum is grounded in the Catholic belief that human beings are made in God's image and likeness. It celebrates the Catholic Church's teaching centring on the dignity of the human person and as such honours the individual's worth and their right to experience respectful and healthy relationships. It is an inclusive curriculum which acknowledges and respects the uniqueness of each person's inherent goodness. The MITIOG curriculum has been developed to ensure that human sexuality and respectful relationships education is accessible to all students in Catholic schools, and that it is delivered in an age appropriate and culturally sensitive manner. It is respectful of an individual's right to make healthy and informed choices about their bodies and their relationships.

**Spiritual Reflection Day:** This Friday we will gather as a staff in Spiritual Reflection with the staff of both OLOR (Berri) and St Alberts (Loxton). The focus of the day is to collectively delve 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.

**Parish School Masses:** We continue to support classes in leading a Friday Parish Mass. We have celebrated 3 this term with the last one being next Friday. These Masses are another part of the faith formation of our students and demonstrate their commitment in developing our Catholic Identity.

### HPE and School Sport:

PE

As we are fast approaching Sports Day. Amy and Thomas have been revising Athletics disciplines and small team games (Junior Primary). We are both excited about the third Sports Day at St Francis of Assisi. The day will continue to fit into one day of competition, and finish at 2.00pm. The Health Hustle has been prepared with the assistance of Dana Hansen and the Year 6 sport Captains along with their classes will be busily rehearsing it. We hope the students, parents and friends have an enjoyable day.

Health

Students have been focusing on Sportsmanship and Resiliency in the lead up to Sports Day.

SAPSASA

We had a boys and girls team represent St Joes in Div 2 at Berri in Week 2 of this term. The boys came 5<sup>th</sup> and the girls won their division. Both teams demonstrated exceptional teamwork and sportsmanship.

The Girls Football carnival was held in Week 5. All the girls played extremely well and came in 7<sup>th</sup> position, with many new skills developed.

The Hot Shots tennis tournament was held last week in trying conditions. All students showed tremendous resilience and played well.

### **LAT:**

Mrs Del Zoppo is teaching a visual art unit focusing on the amazing artwork and the intriguing life story of Vicent Van Gogh. The students have learnt about the 'Starry Night' painting and have created their own using Van Gogh's as an inspiration. They have enjoyed the challenge of using oil pastels to add texture. Van Gogh is also famous for his landscapes . The year 3-6 students went down to Jarret Memorial Gardens to draw a landscape of their own. We have also recreated Van Gogh famous sunflowers, a life drawing in our art studio.

Mrs Pfeiffer is busy preparing for our cardboard carnival which will be held early in term 4. With a strong focus on the design process. Year 4,5 & 6 students are all working to design and construct arcade games out of cardboard. Year 3s have been given the task of designing and creating all prizes for the day. All JP classes have been testing various designs and creating their own maths puzzles for home use.

### **ESOs:**

As we have progressed through term 3, our ESO team have maintained positive focus on strong communication and collaboration with our school teachers and students to ensure the learning, safety and wellbeing of students is supported.

Wakakirri – We congratulate and acknowledge the important role Dana played in this year's Wakakirri performance that our year 3 – 6 students participated in at the Norwood Town Hall. Dana had a pivotal role in supporting Rachel McLeod as a dance instructor and assisted in an award winning performance by our students. Well done Dana! We thank the ESO team members who made the journey to Norwood to watch the performance to support the students as audience members.

Parish 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and Year 6 Confirmation – As we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parish Mass and Year 6 Confirmation Mass this term, our ESO team had a strong presence at these important events, demonstrating our team's commitment to our school faith and parish community.

PBIS – ESO team members on the PBIS team continue to attend training and provide training to the rest of our team to ensure a smooth role out of the PBIS program.

Book Week – Our ESO library team, Jamie-Lee and Eva, arranged yet another amazing Book Week Parade for our whole school. Members of our ESO team assisted in ensuring a smooth event in set up, photography, creating social media posts and supporting the students.

Hot Shots – ESO's had a strong presence and provided exceptional support walking over 100 students from years 3 – 5 to the Renmark Tennis Courts for Hot Shots Tennis and assisted in a day of fun, positive sportsmanship and social interaction.

Father's Day Breakfast – Our ESO team were up bright and early for the Father's Day Breakfast, supporting teachers and parents with cooking the BBQ breakfast, serving tea and coffee, taking photos, welcoming parents at the gate, supervising free play and the event clean up, all before welcoming the rest of the school community through the school gates for our 8:50am school start.

Bush Discovery – Our junior primary students had a great experience during their Bush Discovery, where members from our ESO team supported the teachers and students on the return bus rides and time spent exploring Calperum Station.

For the remainder of term 3, our ESO team will continue to support students in their regular learning and play time, as well as with special events - our 'Be Caring' wellbeing day in line with 'Are You OK' day, Footsteps Dance Program, the P&F Disco, Cardboard Box Sleep Out and Sports Day.

We look forward to a fantastic end to term 3 and a strong start to our final term for 2024.

### **Student Wellbeing:**

This term we have been trying something new to support wellbeing and learning in our school with our new Wellbeing and Learning Centre. So far the WLC has had a positive impact on our students, providing a safe, calm and versatile space. We have received plenty of positive feedback from our students and staff saying they love the extra room and they enjoy the many different options of activities/resources to do in each space. We have been getting many visitors utilising the space and it has been wonderful to see the WLC become such a success.

Charlie has been busy supporting students at kiss and drop and he has loved spending time in different classrooms and interacting with students and staff. Charlie's daily schedule consists of helping students regulate before school and during classes, emotional support for students, and helping to create a calming atmosphere when he is in the classroom.

This term we are celebrating and recognising 'Be Caring Day' which coincides with RU OK Day. All our students will come together with a buddy class for a fun and engaging activity. On this special day, we hope to show understanding and care toward others and have meaningful conversations to support each other. For our wonderful staff we are gifting a delicious RUOK? Cookie to show our appreciation for all the wonderful work they do each day supporting their students as well as each other.

We are looking forward to more exciting things happening this term.