

Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

I can't believe we only have three weeks remaining. In the last two weeks we have enjoyed so many positive learning experiences including Transition Days, Pogo Pulse/Skipping Demo, 'Be Grateful' Wellbeing Day and excursions. However, we still have many events and activities to complete and look forward to Splash Day, Pageant, Carols, Graduation and of course our famous Concert. This is a wonderful time of the year full of memorable experiences.



Congratulations to our Pogo Pulse & Skipping Teams who performed their demo on Wednesday.

Finish Strong:

We have encouraged staff to remain positive and bring a focus of an attitude to 'Finish Strong'. The final term of the school year is a crazy time in schools and in our homes. We are more likely to be sensitive, 'thin skinned' and emotional because we are, busy, anxious, run down and in need of that well-earned break. But we shouldn't be surprised. The same thing happens at this time every year. The important thing is HOW we respond to this challenge.

It is when times are tough that reputations are truly made. It is important to finish strong, just like we started the year! Whilst our reserves may be running low it is vital to remain focused and finish the year well. You earn a positive reputation by trying to do hard things well. I reflected on an article by Stephen MR who describes when world-class marathon runners 'hit the wall' and they feel like they can't go on. Instead of focusing on their exhaustion and how tired they are feeling and going into the 'survival shuffle', they lift up their head and pick up the pace. I believe this is a vital mind set for us parents and staff at this time of the year. By picking up the pace, you are really saying to yourself that you're not just going to finish, you're going to finish strong!

The Christmas Season: Advent ~ Challenge Cup – Good Deeds/Advent Attitudes and Action

We start the very special Season of Advent. This is the time when we begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. All teachers have been talking about Advent and all the classrooms have the Advent Wreath displayed. As a Catholic Community we are encouraged to remember to think about what we are really celebrating. We certainly celebrate the Christmas Season but focus on the birth of Jesus. It is also a lovely idea to try to do something special for others. As a school, our last





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

24 Nov Sun 9.00am
30 Nov Sat 6.30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

25 9.15am Assembly
29 9.30am Mass by all 4/5 classes

December

1 Carols in the Garden
5 Children's Uni Graduation
6 Splash Day
6 Christmas Pageant

Challenge Cup event, will look at Good Deeds and Advent attitudes and actions. We will be promoting how we can show care, kindness, and goodwill. Perhaps do extra jobs around the school, do a special kind deed for someone who needs it, leave a note for someone telling them how much they are appreciated, etc. Have a wonderful time celebrating this magical season!

Final Transition Day :

Last week was the final Transition Day for our 2025 Reception students. This was another successful day with so many memorable learning experiences. We received positive feedback about our whole Transition Program including the excellent Buddy Program. It is affirming, as Principal, to know that what we do with children and young people to support a positive start to schooling is effective. I congratulate all our Reception Staff, Year 5 buddies and all our new parents/carers for their support, commitment, enthusiasm and preparation.



Advent around our school

Pogo Pulse & Jump Rope for Heart:

This week our students participated in Pogo Pulse & Jump Rope For Heart Day, which is a unique program that promotes resilience and wellbeing. I congratulate all the selected students who showed outstanding improvement and represented our whole school admirably. I thank Mr Smart, Mrs Thompson, Miss Halliday, Mr Reeks, and other staff for their excellent support, organisation and time. I also sincerely thank Gay & Wayne Woosnam from Tri State Graphics for their considerable support with students' t-shirts.

Staff Announcement:

I wish to announce the appointment of 2 new teachers to our 2025 staff list. Mrs Ashlyn Brown and Mrs Mai Schloithe join us as experienced teachers. We welcome them to our St Joseph's Community.

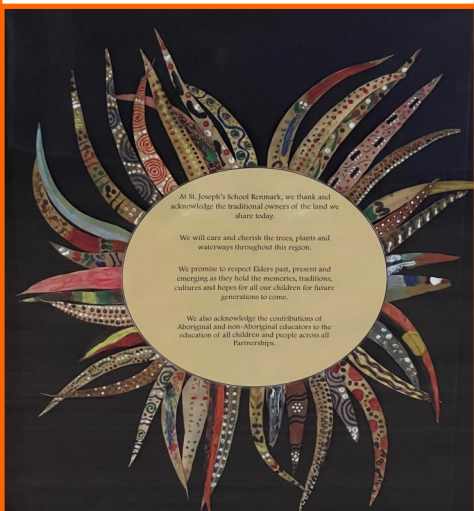
Staff for 2025:

I am pleased to announce the following Staffing and Class Structures for 2025.

Principal ~ Mr Don DePalma
APRIM ~ Mr Chrissie Grocke
Bursar ~ Mrs Karen Trenwith
Administration ~ Mrs Lyn Leuders
6/PH ~ Room 1 Mr Paul Hooper
5/AB ~ Room 12 Mrs Ashlyn Brown
5/TL ~ Room 13 Mr Tony Luxton
3/4ES ~ Room 11 Mrs Ella Smith
3/4HM ~ Room 10 Miss Hannah Manning
3/4TH ~ Room 16 Mrs Tamara Hayes
2/KC ~ Room 4 Mrs Kassie Charnstrom
2/LH ~ Room 3 Miss Lily Haynes
1/KV ~ Room 8 Miss Kearley Venables

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.



1/LH ~ Room 9 Miss Lauren Hill
R/LH ~ Room 6 Mrs Mikalya Luxton & Mrs Elisha Hill
R/SH ~ Room 7 Mrs Laura Sever & Mrs Elisha Hill
Various classrooms teacher ~ Mrs Mai Schloithe
Language, Art & Technologies ~ Mrs Giulia Del Zoppo & Mrs Belinda Pfeiffer
Digital Literacy ~ Mr Greg Reeks
Physical Education & Health ~ Mr Jackson McGuire & Mrs Amy Thompson
Inclusive Education Coordinator ~ Mrs Rachel McLeod
Wellbeing Officer ~ Mrs Linda Lawton
ESOs ~ Mrs Reeni Blackley, Mrs Larissa Bright, Mrs Rachel Dring, Mrs Desiree Guy, Miss Bianca Halliday, Miss Dana Hanson, Mr Dimitri Kanakaris, Miss Kiara Lodge, Mrs Eva Matulick, Ms Jami-Lee McKelvie, Mrs Melissa Watkins, Miss Mikayla Warner, Miss Rhianna McPhee, Mrs Michelle Ware, Mr Robert Courtney, Mr Bob Ware.

Children's University:

On Thursday 5th December, I will be attending our school's Children's University Graduation night at the Berri Town Hall. We have an amazing 26 students attending from Years 3-6 who will receive their certificates and officially graduate after achieving over 30 hours of additional learning over the year.

I would like to commend all our students and families who have participated in this program and look forward to seeing this grow across the school in 2025. I thank Mrs Giulia Del Zoppo for all her work in making this program possible.

Carols In The Garden:

I am very proud of our involvement and participation in the upcoming Carols In The Garden on Sunday 1st December at Jarrett Memorial Gardens. To have our staff and students join together and perform at this community event is an outstanding effort and is



We are excited about the many events to finalise our year.

Class list:

Thank you to all the families who have provided sound educational reasons for their children's placement requests. I am currently reviewing each submission carefully and am in the final stages of completing the process. Your input is greatly appreciated and will help ensure that placements are made with the best interests of the students in mind.

Collecting Data - PAT Tests and Running Records:

Teachers are working very hard to create your child's report, being mindful of ensuring that it is an accurate record of achievement during the year. These take time and much thought in order to represent accurate achievement details about your child. Along with this, they have been completing PAT tests and Dibels Summative Assessments to collect final data. I have been very pleased with the results which clearly indicate pleasing progress across the whole school. These have supported our pleasing NAPLAN results. I wish to commend the students and also the staff for their hard work.

another way which promotes our positive school identity and culture. I acknowledge Mrs Charnstrom and Mrs Guy for their outstanding commitment and organisation.

Splash Day:

To reward our students for a wonderful year we will be providing free pool entry to students from Reception to Year 6. They are to be congratulated on their efforts throughout 2024 and commended on their overall behaviour, attitude and efforts. Information about swimming permission, parental assistance and times allocated have been distributed. Please return all information to your child's class teacher. The Renmark Swimming Pool will not open if the forecasted temperature is 25C or below.

End of Year Concert:

Our concert will be held on Thursday 12th December under our shelter. All details will be distributed very soon. Our community awards will be presented during the concert and we will recognise our leaving families. I encourage all parents/caregivers to come along and bring

extended family to watch great performances by the students. I look forward to seeing you all there!

End of Year Mass:

On Friday 13th December at 9.30am we invite all parents, family and friends to attend the End of Year Mass to celebrate the year and to farewell our Year 6 students. We will present our school based awards at this special gathering in our church.

Community Involvement:

As mentioned, many times, I value our staff and students community involvement and embrace the many positive benefits this provides our school. I take this opportunity to wish our teacher Mrs Rachel McLeod all the best for her concert this weekend. We have over 50 students involved which will prove to be an amazing performance. I also acknowledge and thank Miss Dana Hansen and our other staff who are helping and supporting.

Parish Connections:

The school has been a tremendous support to the Parish with its renovations. The old carpet has been removed, and the floor is now ready for the new carpeting. This has required many hours of hard work, and we are deeply grateful to those who have contributed their time and effort. Additionally, many have generously supported the project financially, and we will be sure to thank everyone personally in the near future.

Master Plan Update:

As we continue updating these documents they will be available for public viewing this week at the entrance notice board.

I enjoy putting together our newsletter which helps promote and celebrate what we are about at St Joseph's. We enjoy and understand the extra dimension of community that is a feature of St Joseph's. We aim to work with our whole community to bring to St Joseph's the confidence, skills, knowledge and particularly the enthusiasm necessary to see our students reflect on their schooling firstly as enjoyable, with memorable relationships, a spiritual dimension to their life and an attitude that learning is a life-long process.

As a Principal, I am proud of the children attending St Joseph's, as their futures are in good hands.

Regards
Don DePalma
Principal



Religious Identity & Mission:

Advent:

We are very excited about the season of Advent and the many meaningful messages that can be used about our faith and how it relates to our everyday lives. Classes are enjoying learning about this special time in our liturgical year with creating the Advent wreath and Advent Calendar.

Advent wreaths:

Traditionally the Advent wreath has 5 candles; three purple, one pink and one white in the middle.

On the first Sunday of Advent the first purple candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit. This candle is called the "Prophecy Candle" and represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle represents love and is called the "Bethlehem Candle,".

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink candle is lit. This is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and it represents joy.

On the fourth Sunday the last purple candle, called the "Angels Candle," is lit. This candle



represents peace.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle".

ReLAT:

Our Year 4 students have received their ReLAT results this week. This is an assessment of the basic

content in the knowledge of our Crossways Religious Education curriculum. ReLAT complements the continuous, fuller, and deeper assessment of learning that occurs in the RE classroom. 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.

Our overall school data results showed a growth in three of the five strands from our 2023 data. Our 2024 focus on Sacramentality and Prayer as a part of School Improvement Plan goals, has impacted our growth in this area, and allowed us to reach above state average. Our focus area for 2025 will be based around the strand of Sacred Texts.

Chrissie Grocke
APRIM

Champion Citizen Awards:

Congratulations to Harley Johnson who, along with big brother Noah, represented the Riverland at the SA Special Olympic basketball carnival in Adelaide recently.

They were in C grade and had incredible opportunities to play basketball and be involved in this carnival, watching the top players in SA.

They came away 'Runners-up' with the silver medal.

We are so proud of you both!



St Francis of Assisi College
Laubata IV

END OF YEAR FAMILY NIGHT

TUESDAY
3 DECEMBER
5.30-7.30PM

We welcome current and 2025 students and families to join us in celebrating the end of the 2024 school year with a BBQ dinner, drinks and outdoor games.

- BBQ and soft drinks provided
- BYO chairs or picnic rugs
- RSVP appreciated

RSVP: www.assisi.catholic.edu.au/news-events-calendar-events-events

Student Wellbeing:



Be Grateful Day
 Our students gratitude flowed on this special day. Their time was spent with their buddies making a special card or gift to say thank you to a special someone. We can all be grateful for things no matter how BIG or small.



Parents & Friends:

As a busy working parent, with little time to cook for lunch box snacks. I really love it when I find a recipe that's not only easy but also healthy! These salted honey popcorn cups are great, tasty and super simple to make!

SALTED HONEY POPCORN

Ingredients:

5 cups popcorn (40gms)
1/4 cup coconut oil (60mls)
2 & 1/2 tbsp honey (50mls)
2/3 cup pretzels, lightly crushed (33gms)

Method:

In a small saucepan over a low heat, melt together the coconut oil and honey. Set aside and let it cool down.

Place popcorn and pretzels into a large bowl, mix the coconut and honey thoroughly with a fork. Drizzle the mixture over the popcorn and pretzels and mix well until all popcorn and pretzels are coated.

Divide mixture into 10 large patty pans, press firmly.

Chill in the fridge for approximately 1 hour or until mixture is stuck together.

One patty pan is 1 serving, store left overs in an airtight container up to a week. Get the kids involved, make them do the dishes!

Brooke Obst
P&F Committee



Decorated Bike Comp:

**RENMARK CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS
COMMITTEE Inc**

Christmas Decorated Bike Competition
Sponsored by ALMONDCO

The committee is holding a Christmas Decorated Bike Competition for children living in the Renmark Paringa Council area to be held at St Joseph's School oval (via No 2 gate) on

Saturday 30th November 2024 at 10.00am.

There will be a Boy and Girl individual category for 13yrs and under, 10Yrs and under and 6yrs and under however a decorated bike can only be registered in one category.

A child's bike will only be accepted on the day if it is registered in the competition, and a Parent or Guardian accompanies the child to the school with the decorated bike. Please tick the category (on the website) you wish to enter and **Submit** your application.

Category 1: 13yrs & under Boy
Category 2: 13yrs & under Girl
Category 3: 10yrs & under Boy
Category 4: 10yrs & under Girl
Category 5: 6yrs & under Boy
Category 6: 6yrs & under Girl

Three judges will inspect each category. Prize money for each category will be: First Prize \$50, Second \$30, Third \$20

Registrations on the website will close at **5pm on Friday 22nd November 2024** and winners will be published in the Murray Pioneer on Wednesday 4th December 2024. With parents' permission, the winners and their bikes will participate in the pageant on a float which will be provided by the Committee.



Learning is Fun in 1/2SP

