

Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on how this year has again been an incredible journey with this very special faith and learning community. As I continue to reflect on the whole year, I am so appreciative of the amazing support and encouragement that I have received from so many people. I have watched our children grow into wonderful young members of our St Joseph's School. I have valued getting to know more and more families, and finally I have enjoyed the growth and development of all our staff.

The role of Principal can be complex – with the many system initiatives and along with aspects of administration, finance, organisation, strategic planning and, the most important one, relationships. It is this last dimension of my role that I treasure most. Nothing can be achieved unless there is a relationship - it comes in many packages and formats. But, unless there is mutual respect, trust and a belief that we are in this together, nothing of worth can be achieved.



2024 Children's University Graduation - CONGRATULATIONS!

Advent:

Our school is certainly in the Christmas spirit with fantastic activities, decorations, and symbols. Our classes proudly display the Nativity Scene, the colour purple and the Advent Wreath. The Season of Advent focusses on looking forward and waiting for something greater. This is also relevant to how we are thinking at this time of the school year. This is a time when we are reflecting on the past year with all the wonderful events and activities and positive learning opportunities. We are also looking to the future with classes, learning styles and new expectations. As a Catholic School, these are important activities and events. 2024 has provided precious memories and valuable experiences. They also highlight the different and meaningful learning opportunities that are offered. It illustrates the positive community spirit that is present at our fantastic school. I look forward to an exciting end to the year and hope to witness our community spirit with some final events including, Year 6 Graduation, Concert Night and End of Year Mass.





OUR LADY OF THE
RIVER
CATHOLIC parish

ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

7 Dec Sat 6.30pm
15 Dec Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

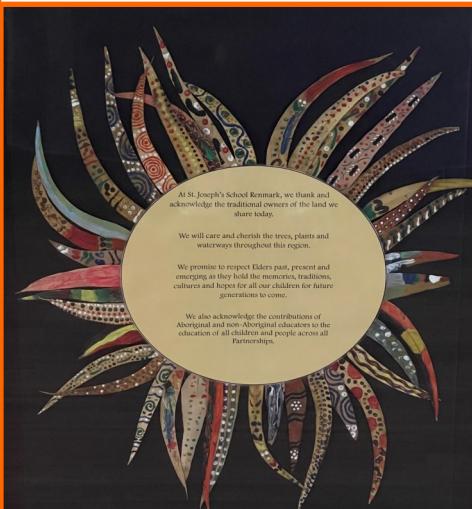
- 9 Year 6 Celebration Day
- 11 Year 6 Graduation
- 12 Concert
- 13 End of Year Mass 9.30am
- 13 12.30pm Dismissal

January 2025

- 27 Public Holiday
- 28 Student Free Day
- 29 Term 1 starts

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.



At St. Joseph's School Renmark, we thank and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we share today.

We will care and cherish the trees, plants and waterways throughout this region.

We promise to respect Elders past, present and emerging as they hold the memories, traditions, cultures and hopes for all our children for future generations to come.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal educators to the education of all children and people across all Partnerships.

Positive Minds - Class Placements

The end of the year brings many feelings and emotions particularly when it comes to class placements. As parents it is normal to have these feelings as supporting our children is our priority. But knowing that our children's emotions are interconnected with our feelings can help prepare them for next year.

So how we react will model how our children will react. Every year school brings different experiences of learning - new friends, different teachers, different learning environments. Guiding our children (not fixing it for them) through these situations, helping them to develop skills of working through change, is a powerful and valuable experience.

As a school, we have a very comprehensive process to follow when we are constructing classes, where many aspects are considered. We have been working hard to meet the needs of every child. We greatly appreciate the support, understanding and cooperation from our families and hope that by using a positive mindset that everyone will be ready for next year. Please see attached the article we distributed with many ways to help our children make a smooth transition for 2025.



Heartfelt Thanks for the Success of the Carpet Project:

I am so delighted to express my gratitude for the incredible success of the Catholic Church carpet project. It was truly inspiring to witness the community coming together with such dedication, generosity, and teamwork.

From the many volunteers who gave their time, to those who donated and contributed in so many meaningful ways, your efforts were nothing short of amazing. This project stands as a testament to the positive spirit and unity that define our community. Thank you for making this vision a reality through your unwavering support and shared commitment. Please see more details included.

Carols In The Garden:

I was again a very proud Principal as I enjoyed our participation in the Carols In The Garden last Sunday at Jarrett Memorial Gardens. To see our staff and students join together and perform was outstanding. This was another significant event in our community and our participation again promotes our school identity and culture. I acknowledge Mrs Charnstrom and Mrs Guy for their outstanding commitment and organisation and the many staff who attended to show their support.

Premier's Reading Challenge:

Our students have been amazing with their efforts completing the Premier's Reading Challenge. The participation and enthusiasm was wonderful with 248 students officially recognised. Our continued commitment promotes and encourages the importance of reading in our community. Well done to Mrs Del Zoppo and the teachers for all of their support, encouragement and organisation.

School Board Thanks:

The School Board members enjoyed their final meeting on Wednesday at the Golden Tiger. I acknowledge and personally thank each one of them for their positive guidance, support and counsel as we continue to work through many aspects of our school. We look forward to a positive future under their direction. I thank the Arkan family for hosting us and the beautiful meal we shared together with all our partners. At our meeting the Board endorsed changes to our revised School Times. These changes will be implemented at the start of the year in 2025. Please see more details further on.

school-based awards at this special gathering. This will be the last official gathering for the school year and we hope to see many parents and families attend.

Reports:

The staff have worked very hard producing End Of Year Reports which will be distributed next Friday at 12.30pm. They include content from the Australian Curriculum. It is essential to understand when a student achieves a C grade, it means that they are demonstrating an understanding of the concepts studied appropriate for their year level. The most significant aspect of the report is the teachers' comment and the



Congratulations to our School Choir



Advent Actions & Good Deeds

Children's University:

I was so proud to join our families last night to witness the Children's University Graduation Ceremony. I believe that promoting community involvement is such an important value, that enhances the skills and attributes of our children. I want to congratulate all the students on their efforts and participation. I also acknowledge Mrs Del Zoppo for all her work and organisation. Giulia won an award for \$1000 for her outstanding contribution to Children's University since its inception at our school. This was one of 10 awards distributed throughout the state. This extra responsibility is highly valued in our school.

attitude achievement. Parents should acknowledge and focus on the effort as a highlight and not only the overall grade. Arrangements can be made in writing for a nominated person to collect the report if students are going to be away. Class placements for the 2025 school year will be included in the report envelope.

Concert:

We are all very excited about our upcoming concert to be held next Thursday 12th December. Everyone has been working extremely hard to prepare for this special event. I look forward to seeing you all there! Please see the schedule included with this Newsletter. More class specific details will be distributed by your child's teacher.

Farewell Staff:

We farewell Miss Bianca Halliday, Miss Paige Hauptman, Mrs Amy Hunt, Miss Shania Pfeiller, Mr Thomas Smart and Miss Rowie Williams. We thank them all for their contribution to the success of St Joseph's and wish them well for their future endeavours.

New Teachers:

We warmly welcome Mrs Ashlyn Brown, Miss Lauren Hill and Mrs Mai Schloithe who will be joining us for 2025. We look forward to them sharing their knowledge and expertise in fostering a positive and inclusive environment.

End Of Year Mass:

The End Of Year Mass will be celebrated on Friday 13th December at 9.30am in Church. We invite all parents, family and friends to attend to celebrate the year and to farewell our Year 6 students. The Year 5 students will be part of the service in a Leadership Handover Ceremony at the start of the Mass. We will also present our

I'm so pleased with the many wonderful learning opportunities and experiences that have been recently provided over the past two weeks. We look forward to our final week with great anticipation.

Regards
Don DePalma
Principal

Religious Identity & Mission:

Sacrament Program 2025:

If you're interested in enrolling your child in the St Joseph's School Sacramental program in 2025, please complete the form included with this Newsletter and return it by 1st February 2025. Thank you very much for your cooperation!



End of Year Mass:

We look forward to celebrating and Giving Thanks for our Year with our End of Year Mass at St Therese church next Friday 13th December at 9.30am. All are most welcome.

"Let your Light Shine"
End of Year Mass 2024



Caritas Christmas Appeal:

Are you struggling to find a gift for someone who has it all? Or just looking for a way of supporting those who need our help? Caritas invites us all to support their work for the poor and vulnerable. You can make a big difference to the lives of vulnerable families during this season of giving. Donate now to spread the joy of Christmas to those in need. This is a great way of celebrating the real Christmas spirit of giving.

Go to <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/christmas-2024-appeal/> to donate.



Merry Christmas:

As we enter the Christmas season, we hope that all our families have a safe and happy time and remember what Christmas is all about. In this time of consumerism and personal greed, it is important that we reflect on the original Christmas story. The two Gospel stories that tell of the birth of Jesus have very different accounts. One has shepherds, one does not. One has some 'wise' men (maybe not 3 of them?) who visit Jesus in a house, but the other does not. None of them mention any animals in the 'stable', or even a stable, only that Jesus was laid in a manger, an animals' feeding trough. Our combined birth of Jesus is maybe different from the two versions portrayed in the Bible, but it doesn't change the meaning of the story - that two thousand years ago a child was born to a young girl in a land a long way away, and that child went on to become the person we know as Jesus. The same person who changed the world and influenced billions of people around the world to share his story, his beliefs and his love. As we open presents on Christmas morning, are we thinking about that child born a long time ago, or are we thinking of ourselves? Hopefully, we are thinking of both.



Hopefully, we are thinking of how connected we are to our God and happy that we have the lives full of love, that Jesus professed for all.

May God bless you and your family at this wonderful time of the year!

Merry Christmas

Chrissie Grocke
APRIM



Parents & Friends:

P&F CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

- Tickets \$1 each
- Books of tickets available from front office
- Prizes drawn at End of Year Concert - Thurs 12th Dec

1ST PRIZE

\$200 Paringa Hotel voucher & beach trolley filled with treats

2ND PRIZE

Large storage box with \$50 Foodland voucher, Angoves tasting voucher & treats

3RD PRIZE

Gift basket with \$25 Warburtons voucher & Angoves tasting voucher

4TH PRIZE

Coopers bag with \$25 Wish card & Angoves tasting voucher



Physical Education:

Congratulations to Lawson Dring who was selected to represent the Riverland in Division 3 at SAPSASA Tennis. Lawson participated during Week 6 at the Sealiff Tennis Club.

Great effort Lawson!



2025 Term 1 starts on

Wednesday 29th January

Monday is a Public Holiday.
Tuesday is a Student Free Day due to Staff Professional Development.

OSHC is available ~ Ring Nicole 8586 4481

Star Student Awards:



Back: Oskar Liebich, Joel Stoeckel, Mya Elliott, Emma Lloyd, Taylee Pobke, Clara McLeod, Agum Arkan.
Front: Sam Hughes, Yasmin Ali, Alexi Le, Eloise Burgess.



Back: Mehtaab Dehal, Hency Patel, Harry Lloyd, Lily May, Harper Stoneham, Eva Demou, Angelpreet Kaur.
Front: Tate Thompson, Lewis Gudgeon, Mia Cullen, Alice Abrey, Lucy Thorpe, Archie Bassett, Hazel McLeod.

Champion Citizen Awards:

Congratulations to **Ninke Gardner, Isla Martinson, Mabel Malinovski and Harry Sever** who were recently presented with our Champion Citizen Awards.



Student Wellbeing:

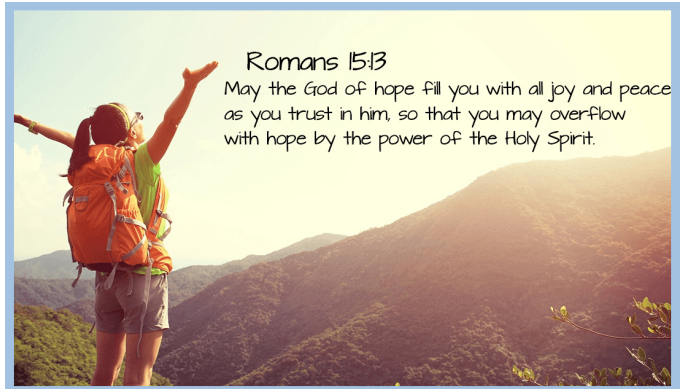
HOPE

This week our school value is Hope. Hope is a trusty companion throughout our lives. It is like a magical spark inside us, a special kind of belief that makes everything seem possible. It's the feeling that cheers us on when things seem tough, telling us that we can do it! Whether it's solving a tricky math problem or making new friends, hope is a friendly helper. It's the bright rainbow after the rainy day, showing us that good things are just around the corner. So, we should hold onto hope tightly, and let it will guide us through many adventures in learning. With hope by our side, every challenge is just a chance to discover something amazing! Hope reduces feelings of helplessness, increases happiness, reduces stress, and improves our quality of life.

Hope is like the heartbeat of the human spirit. It's crucial because it empowers us to persevere through adversity, to envision a better future even in challenging times.

Here's why hope is so important:

- **Resilience:** Hope gives us the strength to bounce back from setbacks. It fuels resilience, helping us to withstand difficulties and keep moving forward.
- **Motivation:** It's a powerful motivator. When we're hopeful, we're more likely to take action towards our goals, no matter how big or small.
- **Coping Mechanism:** During tough times, hope provides a coping mechanism. It offers a sense of control and helps manage stress by focusing on potential solutions.
- **Inspiration:** Hope inspires creativity and innovation. It encourages us to think beyond the present, fostering new ideas and possibilities.
- **Relationships:** It can strengthen relationships, fostering trust and mutual support, especially when individuals share hopeful perspectives.
- **Health Benefits:** Studies suggest that hopeful individuals tend to have better physical health outcomes, including lower stress levels and improved immune function.



On behalf of the Wellbeing Team, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Ho Ho Ho Holiday.

We look forward to seeing all your lovely smiles in 2025. Love from Mrs McLeod, Ms Lawton and Charlie.



Merry Christmas!



Thank you!

We are truly grateful for the remarkable outcome of the new carpet installation in our church, which has greatly enhanced the warmth and beauty of our shared worship space. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous contributions and tireless efforts of our community. Your kindness and commitment to this project have been a testament to the unity and dedication that define us. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and supported this endeavour—your contributions have left a lasting impact, and we are deeply appreciative of your selfless efforts.

Special thanks to:

The wonderful Samoan workers
Peter & Leanne Le
Croatian Aust. Society Upper Murray
Anne-Marie Weiss
Catholic Church Parishioners
Adrian & Imelda Maple
Graham & Kathy Anspach
Luke & Amelia Anspach
Wolf Family
Michael Zunic Family
Bev Hartshorne & Mum
David & Liz Ludas
Dinh & Tina Tran
Nick Milich
Nick Gregurec
Levak Family
Philipino Community
Dion and Margaret Thistleton
Margaret Smith
Ava & Tate Thompson
Michele Marafioti
Craig & Lyn Leuders
Carpet One Plus Mildura
Louis & Karina Curtis
Stoneham Family
Matt Pearce - Rockfords
St Joseph's School & Staff



Don DePalma

New School Times for 2025:

I would like to inform you of an important change to our school day. Beginning on Wednesday 29th January, the school day will now commence at 8.55am and finish at 3.05pm. This adjustment is made after considerable consultation with School Staff, the Enterprise Agreement Consultancy Team, the School Board and SA Catholic Education Office to better align with our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety, well-being, and overall care of every student and staff member.

Gates Open/Duty of Care commences 8.30am
Classrooms Open 8.40am

School Day Starts 8.55am

Classroom Admin	8.55am
Lesson 1	9.05am
Lesson 2	9.45am
Lesson 3	10.25am
Recess	11.05am
Lesson 4	11.35am
Lesson 5	12.15pm
Supervised Eating	12.55pm
Lunch Play	1.05pm
Lesson 6	1.35pm
Lesson 7	2.15pm
Classroom Admin	2.55pm

School Day Ends 3.05pm

As part of our duty of care, it is essential that students do not arrive before 8.30am, and are collected at 3.05pm, as we are unable to provide adequate supervision outside of these hours.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us uphold the highest standards of care for our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Don DePalma
Principal

Concert Outline:

5:45pm	School Gates Open Students go to their classrooms for roll call and final preparations. Parents go to the Shelter where chairs are provided.
6.10pm	All students are to be in their classrooms.
6.15pm	Students commence walking out.
6.25pm	Concert starts Leaving Families presentation Volunteer Award presentation Class presentations Whole School Song

Approx. 8.00pm Dismissal process

Pageant Thanks:

This is such a big event for our whole community tonight and we are so pleased to participate and look forward to seeing the joy and happiness in our children and all our families. I sincerely thank all our staff for their time and effort with organisation and participation.

I also thank and acknowledge the generous contribution of Cobby Fodder, John from Bond Engineering and Ben McPhee. We can not do these types of activities without this support. Heartfelt thanks to all.



Community Involvement:

We wish Karen Trenwith and the Renmark Rowing Club the very best for their upcoming rowing regatta this weekend! With over 800 participants, including teams from St Francis of Assisi, it's sure to be an exciting event along the beautiful Murray River. If you have the chance, please show your support and cheer them on as they compete.

