

Messages from Don:

Dear Families

Every year the schools in our grand, large diocese of Port Pirie, work under a special theme. This year's theme, 'Let Your Light Shine', allowed our schools, students, staff and families, the opportunity to explore and learn so much. We all learnt to show care and compassion for others, especially the marginalised and those less fortunate. We were challenged to put ourselves in the shoes of others, and look at where we can find peace, and create peace in our world. Pope Francis, when asked what to him was the greatest of all virtues, replied: "Well, the virtue of love, of giving oneself to another, and doing that from a position of gentleness."



As I write my final newsletter for the year, I reflect on the above messages and I look back and give thanks. As I reflect and review, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for being part of this wonderful community. Our last week of the year was filled with many wonderful events and activities. Our Year 6 Graduation Ceremony, Concert and Farewell Mass means these last few days have been challenging, industrious and simply amazing. I am so proud of the many events and activities that have been shared. We have certainly established a positive and vibrant school culture for our entire community.



Marilena Scidone was presented with the Volunteer Award.



Year 6 final performance

End of Year Mass:

Today we celebrated our End of Year Mass at the Church. It provided us with an opportunity to respectfully farewell our Year 6 students from the school and to give thanks for the school year. We heard from students, Clara McLeod and Matthew Latorre, as they reflected on their primary schooling. We also acknowledged the recipients of the St Mary MacKillop Award, Isla Martinson, and the Josephite Award, Matthew Latorre. These are awarded to students who have shown compassion and friendship, have been a positive role model for their peers and displayed loyalty to the school community. The Hotel Renmark Champion Citizen was awarded to Mabel Malinowski for her resilience, positive attitude and overall effort throughout the year. The Tim Whetstone Award went to Ava Lindner for her overall efforts in all areas of schooling. Gursher Nagra received the BVMS Scholarship Award for his excellent results in Academics throughout the year. Finally, the RSL presented their award to Angus Pfeiffer for displaying good leadership values and always giving 100% effort.





OUR LADY OF THE
RIVER
CATHOLIC parish

ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

15 Dec Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2025

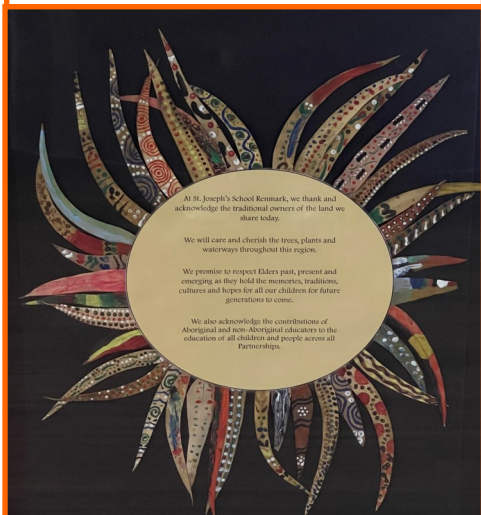
- 27 Public Holiday
- 28 Student Free Day
- 28 Open Class Visits 2-3pm
- 29 Term 1 starts
- 30 Parent Information Night
- 31 Welcome Assembly 9.15

February

- 3 Years 3-6 Swimming
- 14 Captains & SRC Induction
Assembly 9.15am

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.

Concert:

I congratulate Marilena Scidone for receiving the Volunteer Award and thank her for her substantial contribution to St Joseph's and the wider community over many years.

We bid farewell to 15 families whose time has come to a close with the St Joseph's School Community. We wish these families all the best with their future endeavours.

I must also acknowledge our wonderful staff. We are very fortunate to have staff who are willing to 'go the extra mile' for our students, providing them with a full and varied enrichment program. All year we have provided these types of experiences for our students. They provide opportunities to become well rounded learners. Great schools not only demand the highest academic standards, but also a depth of character, range of skills and common sense which can only be achieved through access to positive learning experiences. We have had many activities and events throughout the year which highlights the diverse, varied, flexible, engaging and fun opportunities that are provided to our students and our community.

Reports:

The staff have worked very hard producing Semester Two reports which were distributed today. The SEQTA format includes content from the Australian Curriculum. It is essential to understand that reporting and grade interpretations have changed significantly over the years and it is imperative that we have a clear and common understanding when reviewing reports. We have communicated the grading system that recognises each individual achievement and where they are at with their learning journey. The most significant aspect of the report is the teachers comment and the attitude achievement. Parents should acknowledge and focus on the effort as a highlight and not only the overall grade.



Staff performing at our Concert.

Challenge Cup:

The results of the Challenge Cup were announced yesterday for Advent Actions and Good Deeds. 1st St Mary MacKillop Blue, 2nd St Joseph Gold, 3rd St Therese Red and 4th St Patrick Green. We then announced the final standings for our Challenge Cup competition. 1st St Mary MacKillop Blue, 2nd St Joseph Gold, 3rd St Patrick Green and 4th St Therese Red. We commend everyone on their efforts for supporting the Challenge Cup for 2024.

Change of School Times for 2025:

As previously advised in the Week 8 Newsletter we have restructured our school day. Due to safety and duty of care concerns the gates will not be open until 8.30am and children must be collected by 3.05pm. Please contact Nicole at OSHC (P: 8586 4481) if this service is required. A connecting bus is available to transport children to and from the Renmark Primary School. We thank all families for your understanding and support of this new implementation.

2025 Open Class Visit Day:

Monday 27th January is the Australia Day Public Holiday. We will also have a student free day on Tuesday 28th January for Staff Professional Development, but we will be opening our classrooms on this day between 2.00pm - 3.00pm for children to visit and familiarise themselves again with their room and teacher/s. Please come along if you can.

Start Date for 2025:

School resumes on Wednesday, 29th January 2025. On Thursday, 30th January, we will have Class Information Sessions, where parents and carers can meet teachers and gather some information about their child's learning for 2025. We will welcome many new families to our school

community during a special assembly on Friday 31st January at 9.15am under the shelter. Please join us in welcoming them all to our community.

I sincerely thank you all for your support, commitment, respect, and dedication throughout this entire year. I have truly embraced and enjoyed my year as Principal, and I'm excited to see what the new year brings with such a fantastic team around me.

Together, I know we'll continue to achieve great things!

Regards
Don DePalma
Principal



P&F:

I'd like to say a huge WELL DONE to all students and staff involved in last night's concert – what a fabulous night it was! Also a big congratulations to the winners of our raffle.

As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every parent, grandparent, carer or friend who has made a contribution to the school community in 2024.

No matter how small you feel your contribution was, please know that it was hugely appreciated!

I wish all St Joseph's students and families a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to another fun and successful P&F year in 2025.

A special thank you to Santa for his visit.

Jo Lloyd
P&F President



Challenge Cup Award



Congratulations Mary MacKillop Blue

Year 6 Graduation ~ Farewell and Good Luck!:



Isla Martinson
Mary MacKillop Award



Matthew Latorre
Josephite Award
& School Captain



Clara McLeod
School Captain



Mabel Malinovski
Champion Citizen
Award



Angus Pfeiffer
RSL Award



Ava Lindner
Tim Whetstone
Award



Gursher Nagra
BVMS Academic
Award

Class of 2024

