



St Joseph's School Renmark

Term 1 Week 4 ~ 21st February 2025

RESPECT ~ SAFETY ~ LEARNING ~ TRUST



Messages from Donny

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

The last two weeks have seen numerous learning experiences for the whole school. Whilst visiting all the classrooms and interacting with the students, I have experienced a true sense of welcome, inclusivity and sharing of gifts, which aligns with our theme 'seeds of hope'. This has been highlighted at our recent Assemblies, P&F meetings, attendance at SRC & Captain Induction Ceremony, involvement in Swimming Lessons and assistance at the SAPSASA Swimming Carnival, and our recent Aged Care Visits.







We recently inducted our Semester 1 Student Representative Council.

Embracing the Journey: A Personal Update

It is with a mix of relief and resolve that I share some personal news—I have finally succumbed to the pain and made the decision to undergo a bilateral knee (both knees at the same time) operation which is booked in for the 20th March. After enduring ongoing discomfort, it has become clear that this step is necessary for my long-term well-being. While I know the road to recovery will require patience and perseverance, (especially from my wife Kristine) I am optimistic about the outcome and look forward to returning stronger than ever.

During my time away, I am grateful to have a strong leadership team stepping up to ensure the continued smooth running of our school. Mrs Chrissie Grocke will take on the role of Acting Principal, bringing her dedication and experience to the position. Supporting her will be Mrs Kassie Charnstrom, who will step into the role of Acting

APRIM. I want to extend my sincere thanks to both Chrissie and Kassie for their willingness to take on these key responsibilities and for their ongoing commitment to our community.

I appreciate your support and well wishes as I embark on this journey to recovery. I look forward to sharing my recovery —hopefully with a renewed spring in my step and maybe even a little taller!











ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337 8582 1894

MASS TIMES

23 Feb Sun 9.00am 1 March Sat 6.30pm 9 March Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

25 Board AGM

26 Family Welcome & EXPO evening

March

4 Shrove Tuesday

5 Ash Wednesday

7 9.30am Mass by 3/4HM class

10 Public Holiday

Acknowledgement:

At St Joseph's School we acknowledge our learning experiences take place on Erawirung country and pay respects to Traditional owners and Elders past and present.



<u>Aged Care Visits - Bridging Generations: The Power of Connection</u>

One of the most heartwarming aspects of our school community is the way our students embrace opportunities to connect with others, and this was beautifully demonstrated during their recent visit to the aged care home. We commend and congratulate our 3/4 class who attended with Mrs Schloithe and Mrs Dring. With open hearts and bright smiles, our children spent time with the residents, sharing stories, laughter, and kindness. In return, they were met with warmth, wisdom, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude from those they visited.

These moments of connection highlight the importance of empathy, respect, and the simple yet profound power of human interaction. For our students, this experience was more than just a visit—it was a lesson in compassion, a chance to listen and learn from those with a lifetime of experiences, and an opportunity to make a difference through small but meaningful gestures.

For our wider community, this program serves as a reminder of the value of intergenerational relationships. In a world that moves quickly, taking the time to engage with and care for others, especially our elderly community members, enriches us all. It fosters a spirit of understanding, appreciation, and mutual respect—qualities that are at the heart of who we are as a school.

We are incredibly proud of our involvement in this program and the way our students embraced this experience with such generosity of spirit. Their actions reflect the values we strive to instil—kindness, care, and the importance of giving back.





3/4HS class recently visited the Aged Care Facility and enjoyed interacting with the residents.

Rolling Out Our New MultiLit Literacy Program – Intervention:

We are excited to share that our new MultiLit Literacy Program is now in place, and we are already seeing excellent progress and strong structures that support student learning. This program is designed to enhance literacy development by focusing on decoding, comprehension, and fluency, ensuring that every student builds strong reading skills. We are also looking forward to rolling out our comprehensive Intervention structure which will further support all children.

We understand that families may have questions about this new approach, particularly regarding reading assessments. As part of our shift, we are moving away from levelled assessments and instead assessing students through the MultiLit suite. This means that rather than being placed on a numbered reading level, students will read a text and answer a series of

comprehension questions. Their results will then be categorized as below, satisfactory, or above standard based on their accuracy.

Here's what this means for students:

- Confident and Independent Readers

 If a student is categorised as above standard, they are considered independent readers. At this stage, they can choose any ageappropriate and contentappropriate book to enjoy and engage with.
- Targeted Reading Support For students who require more structured reading support, teachers will provide carefully selected decodable readers that focus on specific sound patterns targeted at the student's learning needs. These books are designed to build confidence and foundational skills step by step.

This new approach ensures that reading instruction is personalised and evidence -based, allowing us to better support each child's development. We appreciate your partnership in this transition and encourage families to reach out with any questions. Together, we are building strong, capable, and confident readers!

As discussed at the class info night, shows that research parental engagement promotes better student outcomes. At St Joseph's we value that parents are the first educators for children and therefore acknowledge the responsibility that parents/carers have on positive educational outcomes. We believe that the Reading & Learning Journal is a simple way for parent/carers to show interest in Home Learning. It is expected that parents/carers check and sign the Reading & Learning Journals every night, recording how long your child has read. We will continue keeping a record of the number of nights all students have read, with the aim being to increase student reading across the whole school.

Extension Program- G.A.T.E.WAYS Horizons:

We are delighted to announce that we will be launching our online Extension Program. This is an exciting opportunity for high achieving students in Years 3 to 6 to engage in 'Tales As Old As Time', a program designed to enhance their language, critical, and creative thinking skills.

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Horizons program offers selected students the chance to



Reading and Learning Journal Report:

We continue to review our Reading Journals and how this tool has encouraged daily reading at home. Over the coming weeks we will send home a Report for your child which outlines the following information:

- Number of nights read so far this year
- Percentage of nights read
- Average percentage for your child's class
- Average percentage for the school I am particularly interested in the results and will use the data to inform future parent and student conversations. I again emphasise the importance of reading. Studies have shown the link between regular reading and high achieving students. Reading just 20 minutes a day has been shown to increase the vocabulary and grades of students and increase it dramatically.

explore challenging and enriching workshops that go beyond the standard curriculum. The student selection process is based on triangulated data of grades, PAT AGAT, Dibels, PAT Reading and teacher input. Throughout the program, participants will complete weekly tasks that encourage deeper learning and expand their perspectives.

We have adapted a thorough criteria with an appropriate assessment. Details and more information will be shared next week.

Strengthening Our School Community with PBIS:

This week we had staff attend a **Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports** (PBIS) Professional Learning Day. At our school, we are always looking for ways to create a positive, supportive, and engaging learning environment for all students. That's why we are proud to implement the PBIS framework—a

proactive approach that fosters a culture of respect, responsibility, and resilience across our entire school community.

PBIS is built on the belief that **positive** behaviours should be explicitly taught, consistently reinforced, and celebrated. solely Rather than focusing correcting misbehaviour, **PBIS** encourages students to make good choices by providing clear expectations, structured support, and recognition for positive conduct. This not only creates a more harmonious school environment but also enhances student learning and well-being.



Thank you Mr Reeks for preparing our blue wall. Come and find your face!

Whole-School Benefits of PBIS

A Positive and Inclusive Culture PBIS helps shape a school environment where all students feel valued, respected, and included. It reinforces shared expectations, making our school a safer and more welcoming space for everyone.

Improved Student Engagement and Learning

When students understand behavioural expectations and feel supported, they are more engaged in their learning. PBIS reduces classroom disruptions, allowing teachers to focus more on instruction and meaningful learning experiences.

Stronger Social and Emotional Skills Through PBIS, students learn essential life skills such as self-regulation, conflict resolution, and empathy. These skills help them navigate relationships, both in school and beyond.

Consistent and Fair Expectations A school-wide framework ensures that expectations and consequences are clear and consistent across all settings—classrooms, playgrounds, and common areas. This fairness helps build trust and mutual respect among students and staff.

Recognition and Celebration of Positive Behaviours

PBIS shifts the focus from punishing negative behaviours to acknowledging

and celebrating positive actions. Whether it's through verbal praise, awards, or school-wide incentives, students feel motivated to contribute positively to their school community.

Our journey with PBIS is ongoing, and we are excited to see its lasting impact on our students, staff, and families. By working together—staff, students, and parents—we can create a school environment where every child feels supported to grow, thrive, and succeed.

Thank you for your support in making our school a positive and enriching place for all!



Our successful mixed open relay team of Max Jarvis, Marlon Brown, Annie Hooper and Elsa Malinovski who won the Uzzell Shield for the third time in a row. Congratulations!!

SAPSASA Swimming:

Congratulations to all the students on their collective performances this week, who participated showing good sportsmanship and persistence at SAPSASA Swimming. Thank you to parents for assisting on the day. Well done to Mr McGuire for organising a successful SAPSASA event.

<u>Leadership Inductions:</u>

Last Friday we held our Leadership Induction Ceremony where our school leaders and Student Representative Council were inducted. We use this event to promote leadership across our whole school, with emphasis on developing leadership skills in our Year 6 students. Over the past four weeks, we've explored the values of strong leadership, the responsibilities it entails, and its impact on the community.

We thank Deputy Mayor Margie Howie for presenting the badges and we were inspired by the speech by Citizen of the Year Alan Eckermann. Our students showed exceptional respect and maturity, honouring traditions such as the Acknowledgement of Country, the National Anthem, and Prayer, demonstrating a strong understanding of the values that unite us.

Congratulations to the following students, and we look forward to witnessing their leadership in our school community.

School Captains: Piper Wolf & Archie

Sutton

House Captains:

St Joseph's Gold ~ Elsa Malinovski & Lawson Dring

St Mary MacKillop ~

Blue Lucy Watkins & William Petersen

St Patrick Green ~

Nikita Seekamp & Noah Albanese

St Therese Red ~

Dakotah Searle & Jenson Hardwick

Class SRCs:

6/PH ~ Mya Elliott & Joel Stoeckel

5/TL ~ Lila Petersen & Marlon Brown

5/BS ~ Evie Leml & Peter Atsaves

3/4SS ~ Alexi Le & Jacob Elliott

3/4HS ~ Ivy Stoeckel & James Brown 3/4HM ~ Yasmin Ali & Angus Hill

2/LH ~ Lily Moldovan & Harry Lloyd

2/KC ~ Annaliese Bartel & Méhtaáb Dehal

1/KV ~ Alice Abrey & Mason Cameron

1/HS ~ Riley Eske & Harvey Kenyon R/SH ~ Maisie Collinson & Vivaan Godara

R/LH ~ Alyssa Little & Noah Hooper

<u>Parents & Friends Community and Wellbeing Team: Upcoming EXPO</u>

We have already seen how our Parents and Friends (P&F) Community and Wellbeing Team have contributed with our school activities and events. I would like to acknowledge and thank the parents who have willingly shown support and help - your time, energy and commitment really does make a difference.

We are very excited with our upcoming community event – Family Fete & Wellbeing EXPO and continue to invite and welcome parents/ caregivers to become involved. I also take this opportunity to invite all parents/carers to participate in our FREE online Footy Tips Competition. Details will be distributed soon via Seesaw.

Introducing Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Focus Group

We are proud to announce the formation of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Focus Group who will be led by Ms Jami-Lee McKelvie. This initiative marks a significant step



Classroom Pulse Check In:

This term every student in a Catholic School in South Australia will again participate in a simple online Classroom Pulse Check In. This Check In has been developed to ascertain how students are currently feeling about their experience in school. It is tailored to allow your child's teacher/s to check in and provide immediate feedback and support to them. The Check In will be carried out during the school days of Week 5 and Week 6.

NAPLAN - Withdrawals:

The NAPLAN testing will be conducted in Week 7 of this term. distributed a letter and supporting information to our Year 3 & 5 students who are encouraged to participate in the tests. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as parental beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. should be issues discussed immediately with your class teacher so a course of action can determined before the testing dates. Please contact your teacher if you have any concerns or questions.

towards deepening our students' understanding, respect, and appreciation for Indigenous culture and history.

Our inaugural meeting was a great success, bringing together passionate Teachers and ESOs who shared ideas and meaningful initiatives. The enthusiasm in the room was inspiring, and we are excited about the positive impact this group will have on our school community.

The primary focus of our group is to create opportunities for students to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in a meaningful way. Through cultural activities, guest speakers, storytelling, and curriculum integration, we aim to foster a deeper connection to Australia's rich Indigenous heritage.

We believe this is an essential focus for our school, ensuring that all students gain knowledge and respect for the cultures, histories, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We look forward to sharing our journey with the broader school community and welcome any input, support, or involvement. If you are interested in contributing to this exciting initiative, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you! Together, we can build a more inclusive and culturally aware school community.

Board Annual General Meeting:

We wish to promote our AGM which will be held in the Tenison Woods Centre on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm. We encourage and welcome all staff, parents and friends to attend. We see this as an excellent opportunity to share and highlight all our successes and challenges from 2024. Furthermore, this is an excellent meeting which highlights the partnership between staff, students, parents, parish and the wider community.

providing. I have recently received praise and positive feedback from visiting teachers about our learning environment. We operate with positive actions and attitudes and regularly promote all our successes and celebrations. understand that parents/carers occasionally be faced with challenges and We welcome feedback and questions. positive interaction encourage and communication between staff and parents/carers. With all grievances or questions we invite parents/caregivers to come in and see class teachers. With this overt approach, we welcome feedback and encourage constructive points for future consideration. We discourage a covert approach to addressing questions as this may result in unproductive and illinformed gossip that may damage







Recently, nominations were called for the incoming School Board. As a result, I am delighted to announce that Ms Courtney Tippet and Mr Matt Jarvis will continue their commitment for 2 more years. We welcome Mr Reece Glazbrook as a newly nominated person to the Board. We thank outgoing member, Mr Dale Lindner for his tremendous input years. over the past congratulations to Mrs Jo Lloyd who has been nominated as the P&F Rep. We are forward evervone's to contribution, as the school consolidates and evolves the strategic direction for

I wish to announce the School Board for 2025.

- Fr Hau
- Don DePalma
- Chrissie Grocke
- Steve Atkinson
- Nathan Burgess
- Reece Glazbrook
- Matt Jarvis
- Sally Milich
- Anna Petersen
- Courtney Tippet
- Jo Lloyd

<u>Teaching and Learning ~ Positive</u> <u>Communication:</u>

At St Joseph's we are proud of the positive learning environment we are

relationships. We will continue to make decisions based around educational research. Everything we have done and will continue to do is based around learning, resulting in improving student outcomes for your child. St Joseph's School is committed to moving with society and striving to significantly improve student outcomes, underpinned by current and progressive research. We are always consulting with other schools and systems and our Inquiry Strategies are student centered, cater for students' needs and allow all children to experience success.

Some guidelines include:

- To read all notes carefully and return them by the due dates.
- To see class teacher/s directly with any concerns or queries.
- To appreciate that engaging in yard gossip is non-productive and could result in further misunderstandings or queries.
- The sharing of grievances using social media is also inappropriate, hurtful and ill informed.

If you're not sure of something please come and see the teacher/s directly.

Gratitude for my staff:

I am so proud of all efforts of the staff so far this term. The last two weeks have been very busy but they have been

amazing with their calmness, patience and diligence whilst working with our students. In recent weeks, all students undertook internal testing with staff assessing and collating valuable data. This testing informs our teaching and learning and allows us to examine the growth in every child. The staff have worked tirelessly to collect this data and I take this opportunity to acknowledge their commitment, effort collaboration.

We have a fantastic school and it is a privilege to be a member of this wonderful community. It is with much pride that we highlight, recognise and acknowledge staff, students, parents, events and activities.

Have a good week and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Tuesday.

Regards Don Depalma Principal

Star Student Awards:



Back: Isabella Hammerstein, Brayden Bussenschutt, Agamjeet Singh, Elodie Oelofse, Lexi Kennedy, Elias Kazimi. Front: Patrick Luxton, Cohen Greenhalgh,

Colin Hentschke, Navleen Dhaliwal, Beatrice

Jones, Logan ter Bogt,



Back: Elise Pfeiffer, Kacie Smith, Gurleen Sharma, Sophia Mai, Noah Albanese. Front: Andy Nguyen, Ivy Gilford, David Perry, Jaxon Little, Joseph Seekamp, Hayden Sumner, Ella Phan.

Leadership Induction:



School Captains Piper Wolf and Archie Sutton with Mr DePalma, Mr Eckermann and Ms Howie who presented all certificates at the recent Induction Assembly.



Back: Mr DePalma, Mr Eckermann, Ms Howie Middle: Jenson Hardwick, Dakotah Searle, Lucy Watkins, William Petersen Front: Nikita Seekamp, Noah Albanese, Elsa Malinovski, Lawson Dring







The SRCs held their first meeting with Mrs Thompson recently. We look forward to hearing about their exciting plans and initiatives for 2025.

Religious Identity & Mission:

The Catholic identity of our school manifests itself in various ways: celebrations of prayer and liturgy, social justice and outreach, as well as classroom learning in Religious Education.

The Crossways Religious Education curriculum is area at the heart of our Catholic school, it is a specific teaching area that is planned, taught, and assessed with the same rigour as other curriculum areas.

The Crossways curriculum is informed by the Catholic Tradition and is shaped around the following 5 areas of Knowledge: (God, Us and Faith, Sacred Texts, Moral Life, Church for the World, Sacramentality and Prayer) and the skills and dispositions through the Wisdom strand: (Dialogue and respect, Interpretation and seeking truth, Discernment and engagement, Spiritual and religious self-awareness).

The Purpose of Classroom Religious Education is:

- to educate, inspire and support students in their religious selfunderstanding and spiritual awareness,
- to deepen their knowledge and understanding of, and ability to dialogue with,
 - the Catholic Tradition and its foundation in God who is Love and revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit
 - the broader Christian tradition and its relationship with other religious and philosophical worldviews,
- to enable students to seek truth and meaning through their learning and develop their ability to interpret experience and perspectives,
- to inspire and challenge students to engage more fully in life, the Church and society with growing wisdom, religious identity, prayer life and moral purpose to promote a just and nonviolent world.

The RE classroom is space of encounter, dialogue and wonder, where each student comes to understand that they are loved by God, encouraged to flourish in their learning and formation and are supported in realising their potential for agency and leadership.



Parish Mass:

Mrs Charnstrom's Year 2 class led our Parish Mass at the church today. It was a beautiful mass followed by a lovely morning tea back at school. Thank you to Mrs Charnstrom, Miss Hanson and Mrs Guy for their work in preparing the students, Fr Leo for celebrating the Mass with us, the parishioners, parents and friends for their attendance and the students for all their preparation and their faith leadership.



<u>Shrove Tuesday</u>

In Week 6, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with delicious pancakes made by members of our wonderful Parents and Friends Day, committee. Pancake or Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians to confession and "shriven" (absolved from their sins).

Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!



Ash Wednesday:

The following day after Shrove Tuesday is Ash Wednesday. On this day our Year 6 class

will represent the school at the Parish Mass and will bring the ashes back to school for school liturgy where the rest of the school receives Ashes from their teachers.



Religious Identity & Mission:

<u>Lent:</u>

In Lent, we talk to the students about what they are doing for others and how we can all help to make the world a better place. We invite you to talk to your children about what they are learning and show them what we can do for others, at home as well as at school. Maybe show them how you regularly put in spare change from your purse/wallet into the Project Compassion

boxes, or how you give surplus clothes to charity. By seeing what you are doing at home, and how this relates to what we are doing at school, our students grow into people who about justice and fairness for all people of the world.



Chrissie Grocke APRIM

Leader of Learning:

MultiLit Program:

The rollout of our new literacy program, MultiLit, has seen huge success. Children of these enjoying all aspects structured reading and spelling lessons. We look forward to seeing and celebrating the growth of our students. In the upcoming weeks, the Year 3 and Year 5 students will for the NAPLAN testing, prepare demonstrating their skills in literacy and numeracy. The idea behind NAPLAN is to provide a snapshot of how the nation's children are performing in these areas. We recognise that this National test is one of the significant systematic tools to collect data and we wish our students well in preparation for these tests.

Kassie Charnstrom LoL



SAPSASA Swimming:

What an incredible day at the SAPSASA Swimming Carnival! From the first race to the final relay, our swimmers displayed determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship both in and out of the pool. It was wonderful to see students cheering each other on, celebrating efforts, and giving their best in every event.

A huge thank you to our volunteers and parents for their support - our help made the day a great success! Well done to all our swimmers for their fantastic efforts!

Jackson McGuire SAPSASA Co-ordinator



Our fabulous team are:

Emmy Atkinson, Apollo Atsaves, Noah Albanese, Archie Sutton, Max Jarvis, Dino Demou, Marlon Brown, Annie Hooper, Elsa Malinovski, Jacob Elliott, Mya Elliott and Nikita Seekamp.

Congratulations to Noah Albanese, Marlon Brown, Dino Demou, Annie Hooper and Nikita Seekamp who have been selected in the Riverland team to compete in Adelaide at the end of this term.

Champion Citizen Awards:

Congratulations to
Brayden Bussenschutt & Piper Wolf
who were recently presented with our
Champion Citizen Awards.



Student Wellbeing:

Supporting Children with Online Safety

We can help our children safely navigate the online world by taking some basic steps to reduce the risks. Our support and guidance can give our children the knowledge to make sound decisions online and the confidence to ask for help when they need it.

Be engaged, open and supportive

Get involved with your child's online activities as a family. Play games together. Talk about favourite apps, games or websites.

Keep lines of communication open. Ask about their online experiences, who they are talking to and whether they are having any issues.

Reassure your child they can always come to you, no matter what. Your child may not communicate openly about things that worry them online if they fear being in trouble if they tell you.

If you notice a change in your child's behaviour or mood, talk with them about it. If you are concerned, consider seeking professional help – from your GP, a psychologist or school counsellor.

Set some rules

Set rules for devices and online access, with consequences for breaking them. As they grow in online skills and maturity you can review your rules together.

Model behaviour that you would like to see. Children will be more likely to follow rules if they see you doing the same.

Consider creating family а tech agreement (sometimes called a family media plan or family online safety agreement). This is a set of rules about how devices are used in your home as well what acceptable online as behaviour looks like. Establish clear time auideline screen limits. The recommended times vary children of different ages.

Use safety features and settings

Get to know the devices you and your children set use and them privacy and online safety. of parental controls advantage monitor and control screen time and access to content, based on your child's age and experience. See our guide to parental controls.

Choose apps and games carefully, and visit the App Store or Google Play for age ratings and consumer advice.









Charlie-in-Action:

The Year 3 & 4 students have enjoyed having Charlie spend time with them in their classroom.



3/4 HS class

















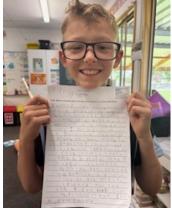






















FAMILY FETE & WELLBEING EXPO FOOD AND DRINKS













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