Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Last Friday I spent the day in Adelaide for Director's Day. This day provides the opportunity for all Catholic principals to gather together and meet the two directors of Catholic Education; Dr Paul Sharkey of the Adelaide Diocese and Ms Kathy McEvoy of the Port Pirie Diocese. The majority of the day was spent exploring the concept of equity, ensuring that all students are able to access the curriculum. In the afternoon session one of the principals from the northern suburbs of Adelaide reflected upon the “Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People” we provide to students in our Catholic Schools.

She reflected on an article that was in the newspaper about a family with 5 young children. As result of severe neglect, the children were moved into emergency foster care after being placed under the guardianship of the Minister. Before being placed in foster care, one of the children, who was 8 years old at the time, had fulfilled the role of carer of the other 4 children. After their new guardianship arrangements had been made, three of the children were enrolled at a Catholic school. It was not surprising that the children initially struggled settling into the school, and their engagement, participation and behaviour were a reflection of the long-term trauma they had previously experienced. It was encouraging to hear about the systems, accommodations and allowances the school put into place to support the children. As an outsider it would be easy to interpret these strategies as rewarding challenging behaviour, however in order to facilitate the care and wellbeing of these children, and for a positive shift in their behaviour to occur, this was what was needed. Over time, these children settled into school life, expressed their feelings appropriately and saw the school community as a safe and supportive environment.

I appreciate that I am the third Principal of St Joseph's School in recent years, and for some families the fourth in their child's education. I am very conscious that I operate and interact differently to my predecessors. Yes, you will see me playing 'KP' with students, running around on the oval, having a walk and talk with a child or being out in the garden. I am aware that this might be challenging for some families as this might not be their perception of "Principal work". I assure you that it is my understanding that this is at the heart of the work of the Principal.

When you see me out and about or wonder why I am allowing a child to do something that might challenge you, remember that the strategies that I use are purposeful and are about creating a shift in behaviour. These strategies underpinned by a clear focus on learning; the learning of that child, the rest of the class and the community. I would encourage you to place your trust in me and in the strategies that I am using, and know that I am not rewarding poor behaviour.

The care, wellbeing and protection of all the students at St Joseph's School, as well as the School's Mission, are at the forefront of my thinking at all times. These priorities include;
- welcoming all people into our community,
- honouring the dignity, worth and contribution of each member of the community,
- fostering positive relationships,
- providing a safe, healthy and happy environment,
- providing an holistic education for all children,
- being attentive to the development of skills required for creating good relationships,
- St Joseph's School being a forgiving community,
- honouring and supporting those in need, and
- celebrating the achievements and efforts of all members of the community.
I actively invited and encouraged all families to come and meet with me throughout this term. If at any time you are feeling challenged or you are unsure as to why I am implementing any particular strategies, please ensure you make a time to come in and see me.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the other Catholic school principals in the Riverland last week. Even though we are four schools with varying and unique needs, there are many benefits in working together as a unified region, especially when it comes to projects and initiatives. The way these projects and initiatives might be implemented at a school level may look different at each particular site, however acting as a cohesive region provides each school with opportunities to engage and participate. This year we will be engaging in the following projects:

- the Australian Curriculum,
- working with Allied Health Services,
- looking at ICT, and
- KidsMatter.

Last week I highlighted the key focus areas for St Joseph's School, Relationships, Learning and Community, which make connections with all these projects.

I am personally very excited about the Allied Health Services project. This will allow the school to access the services of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists etc. The way this will be implemented will be different based on the type of health service, and the finer details are still being finalised. I am imagining that the speech pathologist might come into the school one day a week and work with a class during their literacy block, or it might be enlisting the occupational therapist to create a sensory diet for a child. I reiterate that I am still in discussions as to the model of implementation we will adopt but this is an amazing opportunity for the school. I see great benefits this will make for students in our school as well as reinforcing the capacity of staff in working with students in the future.

In Term 1 students do not receive a report indicating their achievement. Instead Parent/Teacher/Student Information nights will be held on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th March. It is imperative that you attend with your child to meet with their teacher during these evenings. This will provide you with first hand information about your child's learning, their strengths and areas that need further development. In this newsletter you will find a booking sheet for the evenings so that you can make a time to meet with your child's teacher or myself.

Have a great week ahead.

Lee

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**Gala Night**

- Please return all raffle books sold or unsold by tomorrow, Wednesday 21st March
- Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, carers and parishioners who have offered their help on the night.
- If anyone has any produce (EG fruit, plants, baked goods, books, bric a brac) that they would like to donate please let Sam know on 0409001796 or deliver goods to the school on Friday morning.
- Thank you to the parishioners who have offered to bake.

**Competitions**

- Art/Craft and Photography Competition is still open for entries.
- Great prizes in all age categories and special guest judge Mr Garry Duncan, Australian artist and local riverlander will be judging on the night.
NEWS FROM THE PASTORAL SUPPORT WORKER

LENTEN BREAKFAST
The Mini Vinnies are doing a great job organizing the Lenten Breakfasts. Thank you to all those people who have helped with the cooking and food preparation. The money raised is going to Project Compassion to assist people in third world countries.

MINI VINNIES’ PROFILES
NAME: DILLON VANDERGIJSSSEN
AGE: 11
WHY HAVE YOU JOINED MINI VINNIES? Because I want to care for people and have fun.
MY ROLE WITH MINI VINNIES Media Rep.
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Drama, Art and P.E.
FAVOURITE FOOD: KFC
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Futurama
LIKES: Dogs
DISLIKES: Brussel Sprouts
IF YOU COULD HAVE 2 PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FOR TEA WHO WOULD YOU INVITE AND WHY? Mitch and Jesse because they are my best friends.

NAME: LEMAYAN TOROME
AGE: 11
WHY HAVE YOU JOINED MINI VINNIES? So I can help people.
MY ROLE WITH MINI VINNIES: Member
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Science
FAVOURITE FOOD: Pasta
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Adventure Time
LIKES: Building things
DISLIKES: Being bored
IF YOU COULD HAVE 2 PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FOR TEA WHO WOULD YOU INVITE AND WHY? Roger Federer because of the way he plays tennis. Lewis Hamilton because he is my favourite Formula One driver.

STORY FOR LENT
A lady once went to Reconciliation and confessed to the Priest that she had been gossiping about others. As a penance the Priest told her to go out and buy an unplucked chicken in the market place, and during her walk back she was to pull the feathers out one by one and scatter them along the way. Then she was to return to him and he would tell her what to do next. It seemed a strange penance, but she went off and did exactly what she was told.

On her return to the Priest he praised her for her obedience. He said:

“Now to complete your penance you must go back and pick up all the feathers.”

“But Father,” the lady exclaimed, “you know that is impossible. The wind blew them away and I could never hope to capture them now.”

“Quite true,” the Priest replied. “Neither can you recall the damaging words about your neighbours which by this time have passed from mouth to mouth far beyond your reach. Be careful in the future and watch every word you utter.”

GAIL PAGE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Kate Morena  19th March
Orana Reynolds  19th March
Lara Ambaras  24th March

FRUIT ROSTER
Wednesday
21st March
Irene Stavrou

MASS TIME CHANGE
Please note that Mass this Thursday has been rescheduled for Monday 26th of March and the R/1/2 Class will be hosting Mass on that day.
Dates to Remember

- 21st March Wednesday Harmony Day
- 23rd March Friday GALA NIGHT
- 26th March Monday Mass R-2
- 28th March Wednesday Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 29th March Thursday Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 1st April Sunday Family Fun Day
- 5th April Thursday Holy Thursday

End of Term

COMMUNITY NEWS

Barmera Monash Football Club: All intending players for season 2012 - Under 11 registration night and brief training session will be held on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at the Barmera Oval from 4pm-5pm - a sausage sizzle will follow training - further information or apologies to Justin Bannear 0419817672.

Barmera United Soccer Club: final registration night and first training on Wednesday 21st March at Bruce Oval U6, U8, U10 4.00pm—5.00pm. U13 and U16 at 5.00pm. Coaches still required for all junior grades. Contact Jim on 85881114

Chaffey Theatre: The theatre has a performance of Earth’s Dinosaur Petting Zoo Monday, 16 April at 1.30pm and 7.30pm. This interactive performance features an amazing selection of life like dinosaurs and creatures unique to Australia’s prehistoric past and unlike many other performances invites kids up on stage to meet and touch the dinosaurs. Tickets for this show are priced at the family friendly rate of $22 or the group booking rate of $20.

KARATE SHOTOKAN: Tradition & Sport MONASH, WAIKERIE, BARMERA, KINGSTON Beginners classes start in April, with first trial lesson free for everyone! For info contact Robert sensei: (NCAS ID Number: 4000156) 0418 503207 – 8583 0140 Self defence and fitness for the whole family, taught in a safe and friendly environment. Shotokan karate is non-contact, establishing the target within a few centimetres of our partner so it can be hit with full speed and power without risk of injury. The only Riverland karate group actively involved with the sports side of karate. Some of our members represent the Riverland on a regular basis at both state and national level. Sensei will represent Australia at the SKIF Worlds to be held at Sydney Olympic Park this November (with 120 countries attending, sensei will be the only South Australian athlete representing Australia on this occasion) Get fit and flexible while acquiring valuable self defence skills that may well get you out of trouble one day. Regular local colour belt gradings by Robert sensei, all gradings recognised nationally by SKIA. All black belt gradings are registered with SKIF HQ Tokyo. Competition may not be for you, but you can still be a part of the largest international karate group under one head instructor (Kanazawa kancho). Discounts apply for families and high attendance rates. Families only pay for up to 7 classes (no more than $70 per month if paid up front with class pass) regardless of the number of classes actually attended which could be 30 or more...Robert sensei has been involved with Shotokan karate since 1980 and has been teaching karate in the Riverland since 2003. Give him a call today for more info and to register your interest. Check out the web too! RIVERLAND SHOTOKAN S-K-I KARATE DOJOS www.robertmatthewskarate.com www.shotokankarate.com.au

Guitar Lessons
In week 10 guitar lessons will be held on Monday 2nd instead of Wednesday 4th April.

Winter Uniforms
It is that time of year again when we need to start looking at our winter uniforms for next term. Please find enclosed with the newsletter the winter uniform order form. Please fill out the form and send to the front office by the end of this week so that orders can be filled before the end of the term.

Family Fun Day
On Sunday 1st April, Palm Sunday there will be a family Mass beginning at 11.00am at the church. After the Mass there will be a Family Fun Day and activities held at the school and all school families, friends and parishioners are invited to attend. More information to follow before the end of the week.

Disabled Carpark
Today the Berri/Barmera Council have installed a disabled carpark area at the front of the school on Joyce Street. Please make sure that this space is left vacant at all times for the use of people who require it. The school zone has also been extended to include along Langdon Terrace, out the front of the church and McBride Street to include the Kiss and Drop Zone. This will be policed by the council parking inspector on a regular basis and fines will be given if needed.