Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Even though we are only entering the second week of the term, the school year is in full swing. This week the Primary and Middle Year classes have completed the Way2Go Bike Ed program. This is the fourth time we have had the Bike Ed program at the school. It has been pleasing to see repeat students continue to grow and develop in their confidence and skills. For the first time students to this program, they have settled well into their learning and have made significant growth over the sessions. We even had some students become first time riders without support.

I received sincere positive feedback from the instructors about our students, staff and the school. What stood out the most for them was the family feel the school had, how staff participated and how well the older students looked after the younger students. Given the weather, on Monday we had 40 riders in the multipurpose courts. I know the courts are large but put 40 people on their bikes and it fills quickly. The Bike Ed staff mentioned, having that many people on bikes in an enclosed area, would not have worked in many schools. It worked at St Joseph’s School as a result of how well students worked together.

I also received feedback from a parent about how impressed she was at pick up time. She mentioned how “her heart melted” as a number of students made supportive and complimentary comments to her child about how well he did during Bike Ed. I always love receiving positive feedback from families, visitors and the wider community but in saying that, it is also the behaviour I expect our students to do regularly – and they do! I am fortunate, as are many staff, we get to see many moments of “how good” our students are. There are many examples on a daily basis we get to see.

This week, we have also had the Early Years class participate in swimming lessons and water safety. Students have been enjoying the lessons and their water confidence has increased. Seeing moments of their new achievements has been priceless. I am pleased to see the 11 new reception children begin to find their feet in our school – fitting in, understanding the routines and structures and adapting to school life. Knowing that each child is unique and special, this also means that child learn and adapt differently and at different times. Some may be further along the journey than others but what I know is, they will all get there!

All families are welcome to catch up with their teacher or myself regarding their child’s progress or development. We are in partnership with you in the learning and wellbeing of your child. It is never a problem to touch base to see how things are going. It is important that the school also keeps you informed of how things are going and to share the strategies we might be using.

This week end we have our Welcoming Mass and Family Fun Day. This is an opportunity to gather as a community and celebrate what will be a great year ahead. The Mass is an opportunity to receive a blessing, welcome our new staff and families, and commission our year ahead. The Family Fun Day is a way to come together, meet other families in the school and share a meal. This is something I like to do a few times through the year.
Families would have received a letter regarding our Parent Information Night and AGM. The Information Night is a way to see your child’s classroom including their work and for your child’s teacher to discuss the year ahead and the structures that exist in the class. The AGM is a summary of 2016 and a reflection from a leaving family about their time at the school. There is also an opportunity for families to get involved with the School Board. I hope that as many families as possible are able to attend.

It is pleasing to see so many families around the school. This term we will introduce a fortnightly “come have a cuppa” gathering. It is not only for new families but for any family that wants to attend. The dates are listed on the attached term calendar.

Finally, if you are yet to like our school’s Facebook page, I encourage you to do so. It is updated regularly and filled with many photos of students. Over the next couple of weeks we have a number of activities taking place (which explains all the consent forms), Bike Education program, Swimming lessons, Mud Obstacle course and the Port Power visit.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela

Religious Identity + Mission

“Although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him” Romans 1:21

It can be hard to see the silver lining on the edge of the thundercloud.

“Be grateful” is common advice that everyone has heard: We all know that focusing on what you have instead of what you don’t have, can make you a happier person. But, let’s face reality: It’s difficult to be grateful when you don’t feel that way. If things are not going well, the last thing you want to do is “look on the bright side” or “focus on the positive.”

It is also difficult to feel grateful about things that come easy to us. Being thankful for the roof we have over our heads is hard for us to feel if we’ve never struggled with money or homelessness. Or, being grateful for the food we’re eating may not work if we can’t relate to someone starving in a distant land.

Our faith in God is easier when everything is going well.

However, it was gratitude to the Father that Jesus expressed at that first Holy Thursday table as he held out the bread and cup to his disciples.

Being grateful shows that we as human beings, have the capacity to realise that God gives us many gifts.

Being grateful allows us to appreciate the goodness in our lives and strengthens our connections to each other. We cannot “go it alone”.

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. Ephesians 1:16

What is good in your life?
Who are you grateful for?

Dear Lord
We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace.
Let us find such a place within ourselves.
We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty.
Let us find such places within ourselves.

We give thanks for places of nature’s truth and freedom of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging.
Let us search for these places in the world, in ourselves, and in others.
Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them.

May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature’s eternal wisdom.

Amen

Nanda de Winter
Parent Information Night and School AGM - Thursday 16th February 2017
Come in and see the changes that have occurred at school and meet your child’s teacher.
The school will provide nibbles and drinks from 6pm through to the end of the AGM.
To cater for your children during the AGM they will be able to watch a cartoon/movie in a classroom
under supervision.
Class presentations start at 6pm
- Middle Years (5 - 7) 6.00 to 6.15pm
- Primary Years (2 - 4) 6.15 to 6.30pm
- Early Years (Reception - 1) 6.30 to 6.45pm
School AGM begins at 6.50pm

All welcome! Come in and meet the teachers of your child and the School Board!

Happy Birthday to ...
16th February
Reece I and Mia T
18th February
Tyler H
19th February
Ellie A

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Early Years Swimming Lessons

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Primary and Middle Years Bike Ed

Student Learning and Wellbeing - St Joseph’s Breakfast Club
The Mini Vinnies group are hosting a free breakfast for all students every Thursday morning from 8.15 to 8.45. The free breakfast is supported by ‘Foodbank Riverland’ and we have cereal, toast and juice on the menu. Please join us every Thursday morning just outside the tuckshop.
Thank you - The Mini Vinnies
What is a Federation Ambassador?
A Federation Ambassador is a person who will promote the role of the Federation and encourage parents within their school community to Be Informed, Be Connected and Be Heard through the Federation’s Facebook page, Twitter feed, surveys and events.
What would a Federation Ambassador have to do?
The Federation Ambassador role is not onerous. We’d like you to regularly check your emails and if there is one from us, liaise with your school’s Principal or key administrative support staff to ensure the information is passed on to families via the school’s usual communication channels.
Ambassadors receive an induction package and will receive an invitation to attend the Federation’s 50th Anniversary celebration on 12th May 2017.
Who can become a Federation Ambassador?
Anyone can become a Federation Ambassador. You don’t have to be someone who is on the Board or involved with the P&F. The ideal Ambassador should have ready access to email and be able to liaise directly with the Principal or key administrative support staff to ensure information is passed on to families via the school’s usual communication channels.
How much time would it take to be a Federation Ambassador?
If you became your school’s Ambassador we would want you to regularly check your emails and if there is one from us, liaise with your Principal or key administrative support staff to ensure the information is passed on to families via the school’s usual communication channels. We plan to send you an email every few weeks.
How do I find out more information about becoming a Federation Ambassador?
It’s easy! Check out our website www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au/be-connected/ambassadors or contact the Federation’s Communications Officer, Leanne De Young on (08) 3016686 or fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au.

**Student Learning and Wellbeing - The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities**

Would you like to take your participation in your child’s education to the next level?
Join the Federation Ambassador Network

Supporting parents to be actively involved in their children’s learning and schooling and finding out what issues are important to parents is core to what the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities does but we need your help by becoming a Federation Ambassador.

**COMMUNITY OCCASIONAL CARE**
Every Thursday during school terms 8.50 to 11.30am at St Joseph’s School for children aged 3-5 years. Please contact school 8588 2154 for more information and bookings.

**ST JOSEPH’S FACEBOOK PAGE**
Log onto our school facebook page https://www.facebook.com/stjobarmera to catch up on all the latest news and pictures.

**BARMERA NETBALL CLUB PLAYER TRIALS**
Seniors (A1—C2 Grades) Tuesday 14th and Sunday 19th February, 7pm @ Barmera Rec Centre. Juniors (All U17, U15 Grades and the Development Squad) Thursday 16th and Monday 20th February, 6pm @ Barmera Rec Centre. All other Junior Grades (13, U11, U9 and Net Set Go) will start their trials later in Term 1
All new players, families, coaches and umpires welcome!
If you have any queries, please contact Sue Whitbourne on 0438 528 255

**Coming Events...**

**Sunday 12/2**
Welcome mass @ 11am followed by Family Fun Day

**Week 3:**
**Monday 13/2**
Loveday Mud Obstacle Course Event

**Tuesday 14/2**
Port Adelaide Football Club visit

**Wednesday 15/2**
Leadership Mass @ 9.15am

**Thursday 16/2**
Parent Information Night + School AGM @ 6 pm

**Thursday 23/2**
Tuck Day

**Friday 24/2**
School Assembly @ 9am in Library

**Tuesday 28/2**
Shrove Tuesday

**Wednesday 29/2**
Ash Wednesday

**Relationships, Learning and Community - A place were children find their way**