Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

It has been a great start to the year and the school seems to have settled well as a whole. This year we have introduced our new classroom structures; Early Years, Primary Years and Middle Years as it links closely with the Australian curriculum.

It has been wonderful to welcome 14 new students to the school. We have welcomed Antonio, Amira, Connor, Avril, Zach, Tyler, Ellamae, Hudson, Ryder, Mia and Tiana into the Early Years class. Bobby and Elizabeth into the Primary Years class and Connor into the Middle Years class. Mr Min has made a successful move from Adelaide into the Riverland and has already begun to settle into the community and the school. This year we also welcome Ms Kingham to the school. She will be working on Tuesday and Wednesday’s. Her teaching load will include, Spanish in the three classes, Environment in the Primary Years class and HASS in the Middle Years class.

In addition to the teaching staff, we also welcome Mrs Lueth who will be working on WH&S one day a fortnight and Mr Mac who will be working on the grounds one day a week.

Towards the end of last year and over the holidays a number of projects and upgrades have been completed at the school. We have upgraded computers in the Primary Years and Middle Years classes and rotated some devices around the school including the Early Years class. The classrooms have had the Interactive Whiteboards removed and replaced with Smart TVs, a pool of iPad Mini devices, the external wall of the Primary Years building on the oval side has been rendered and painted. The external walls, verandah and poles of the Early Years building has been painted. The poles on the courtyard side have been painted as well as the gutters, the Middle Years class has been painted internally, new furnishings have gone into the Occasional Care room, the bushes from the driveway have been removed as we prepare for a new project there, new stools have been purchased for the Primary Years and Middle Years classes plus the installation of a bench in the Middle Years class, not to mention carpet cleaning, window cleaning and pest control. As you move around the school and looking inside classrooms you will notice the changes and how good the school looks.

This year I enter into my 6th year as Principal of this amazing school. I was pleasantly surprised at the end of my third year as I am now starting my sixth year, that there has not been that itch feeling to move on. I am truly proud to be the Principal here, I work with a great team of staff, beautiful students and supportive families, and have made Barmera home.

As a school we are in exciting times, not only have we welcomed 14 new students to the school we have welcomed 11 new families to the school. This has not occurred for a number of years (well before my time). All 3 classroom teachers are permanently employed creating stability and opportunities for long term planning. We hold a positive profile in the community and what was once seen as unusual is now being seen as cutting edge, as other school have or want to implement structures, resources or strategies into their schools.
From the Principal continued . . . .

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.

Finally, know my door is always open, families and students are always welcome to touch base with me. I pride myself on not being a Principal that anyone should be scared of but in saying that, I do have clear boundaries and high expectations. If you have any questions, feedback or concerns, I invite you to come and see me.

Welcome to 2017!

Mr Lee Abela

Welcome back to the 2017 school year!
I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and have returned full of energy to start another year of learning. At the end of last year we closed the Year of Mercy.

The Port Pirie Diocese this year will use the theme “Honouring our past, Creating our future.” To me this means that we need to recognise and thank God for the work and effort of those who have gone before us and on whose strong shoulders we stand, while at the same time continuing to build and live the vision of tomorrow.

*Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him.*
Luke 17: 15

26th January  Australia Day/ Survival Day

As we have just celebrated the beginning of European settlement in Australia it is timely also to remember the importance of acknowledging the traditional owners of Australia. For the Aboriginal people who were present when Captain Philip landed in 1788, the arrival of Europeans was truly an invasion and its effects are still being felt today by their descendants.

We should honour the efforts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to reclaim their history and demand recognition from Australia’s government.

*From Ten steps to Creating a Place at the Table (Social Justice Statement 2016-17)*

1. Give Thanks

We should give thanks to God for the grace of a long life and for the prosperous and modern society we live in. We should be grateful for the inheritance we have received from previous generations. Their generosity can be seen, not only in the fruits of their labour and advances in science and technology, but also in the many institutions and policies promoting the common good and assisting people struggling through difficult times.

We can all give thanks for the gift of a long life, either for ourselves or for our family, friends and loved ones.

How will we use this gift for the benefit of our students, our families, our Parish and the wider community?

How will we use this gift for our nation or indeed our world?

*Living God,*
*Bless us with arms that nurture children*  
*Minds in solidarity with “the other”*  
*Eyes that recognise signs of you*  
*Ears attuned to good news*  
*Hearts with the capacity to invite all to our table.*

*Amen*

Nanda de Winter

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**Term Dates**

**For 2017**

**Term 1**  
30 Jan - 13 April

**Term 2**  
1 May - 7 July

**Term 3**  
24 July - 29 Sept

**Term 4**  
16 Oct - 15 Dec

**Scholastic Book Club**

**orders for Issue 1 are due Tuesday 14th February**
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!

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Welcoming new students and families

We welcome the following students and their families into our school community.
In the Early Years classroom we welcome.....

Avril with Ashley and Tash
Ryder with Nick and Kylie
Hudson with Tracey
Amira with Soheli and Mohammad
Tyler with Susan and Con

Ellamae with Sallyann
Tiana with Rolf and Amanda
Hudson with Adam
Mia with Grace
Connor with Jodi

We also welcome in the Primary years:  
Middle Years:

Antonio with Ev and Anthony
Zach with Kerry
Elizabeth with Maryann
Bobby with Raminder
Connor with Michelle
School Library Open Times:
The Resource Centre is open on Tuesday to Thursdays from 8.30 am till bell time. Parents and Children are invited to come in and return/borrow library books. There are new books arriving all the time so come in and browse.

This year’s library activities will include The Premier’s Reading Challenge, a Scholastic Book Fair in Term 2 and CBCA Book Week will be held in Term 3 with this year’s theme being ‘Escape to Everywhere’.

General Information:
> Every child will receive a named blue library bag. The name label is colour coded to match their class and borrowing cards.
> Each class has group borrowing during school hours with their Class Teacher every week.
> All students except year 7’s must have their library bags when they come to borrow books. NO LIBRARY BAG — NO BORROWING.
> The limit of books is 3 for the Early Years class and every other class can borrow up to 4 books at any one time. Each item is on loan for 2 weeks, then the item will be overdue and they will not be able to borrow until all overdue books have been returned.
> If books have been misplaced there is a standard fee per book charged and then your child can borrow again.
> If your child has an overdue item an overdue notice will be sent home via their communication book/diary.
> Even though students borrow as a class they can still come into the resource centre from Tuesday to Thursday mornings to return and borrow new books.

Your child’s Premier Reading Challenge form and more information about the challenge will come home via students library bags.

Happy reading!
Louise Stavrou - Library Facilitator

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 Squat) 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