Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students.

This week we had our last School Board meeting for the year. As a school we are fortunate to have a Parish Representative on School Boards, it is my understanding this is not common in many schools. I feel privileged that as a school we have a Parish Representative which has enhanced the link and relationship between the school and the parish.

As part of this meeting, we farewelled John Beech, who has been the Parish Representative for the last 6 years. The position can only be filled by the same person for a 6 year term which is why the farewell took place. John was presented with a personalized cross filled with pictures of moments he has shared with the school. John responded with “in the last 6 years his relationship with the school has been the best it has been since being connected with the school” and continued to acknowledge that the school is moving in the right direction and is travelling well.

I take these words as a real compliment and as a school community we all should. Though John will not be in this role, his connection with the school will still be present. In 2017 we will welcome Paul Ivanovic as the new Parish Representative. I am truly grateful for John’s contribution to School Board and look forward to working with Paul in the new year.

This week I sent home a letter about the change in structure in 2017. If you have any comments or questions around the changes, I encourage you to make contact with me at the school. Making whole school changes is not easily done and a lot of thought goes into the process. I know it is easy to say, “if it’s not broken, don’t fix it” but it is important that we don’t keep on doing something because we always do. It is important that the changes are not just based on numbers, it is important that we take into account the needs of our students. Often the required change is right in front of us but sometimes it can be the most difficult to see.

At a meeting I was at last week, Archbishop Wilson shared this story;

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson decide to go on a camping trip. After dinner they lay down for the night and go to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend.

"Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute.

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets."

"Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo."

"Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three."

"Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant."

"Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke: "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!"
The change in structure starting next year is the school’s way of acknowledging we need to see what is in front of us and ensuring we are providing the very best for our children!

On Wednesday we had our first full day transition for the year. We welcomed Mr Min who took the Year 4, 5 and 6 students as they prepare for the Middle Years class of 2017. The transition program is designed to prepare students for the change ahead and to work with the new students in the class and possibly changing teacher. One of the challenges of the transition program is that the space has not been setup for the incoming class which would cater for the needs of the students. This might be something to keep in mind as you have conversations with your child.

I would just like to ask families to be mindful as they drop off and pick up their child. I have noticed recently and have received some feedback about the speed that some cars are travelling and parking issues. The safety of every person in the school is of the highest priority for me. Can we please be a little slowly and careful around these times.

Finally, there are many events coming up as we journey towards the end of the term. I will be sending a key dates letter home on Monday next week as a friendly reminder with some extra details.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela

---

**Religious Identity + Mission**

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43:19

My first real job was as a sales assistant in a huge department store when I was 15 years young. I was stationed in the children’s department. I worked in the store on weekends and in the holidays. Next to the joy of making my own money the job made me feel grown up and gave me a sense of purpose. I got the sack the day after I turned 16. It devastated me. I felt embarrassed and unworthy.

My first real love was this cool boy from school. He was smart and wore army shoes. He had soft brown hair and dreamy big brown eyes. He pursued me. He put me on cloud nine and for a short period of me I felt like I was able to conquer the world. Until he rang me one day and told me it was over.

It devastated me. I felt embarrassed and unworthy.

The rhythm of life; up and down, up and down.

Up and down.

Up and down.

One thing I’ve learned in life—the hard way and long way unfortunately- is the mystery of my reality.

The mystery of why things happen the way they do. In every ending there is a new beginning, in every struggle a hidden blessing.

If I had not lost my job all those years ago would I have ever strived for more? Would I be working where I am working today? If I had not been dumped by that cool boy all those years ago would I have ever gone on to meet my one true love and been able to see what our love was able to create?

It is hard to find that hidden blessing in our struggles.

But it is always possible to trust God.

The 2016 school year is nearing its end. There are precisely 3 weeks left. As I am busy working through my long list of jobs it is easy to overlook the mystery of my reality; the blessing of working in a wonderful place with wonderful people and wonderful students. I thank God for every one of you.

Let’s stop for a minute and realise that the way we are now we will never be again.

For everyone who moves on I pray that you may one day see the blessing of being part of our community and that one day you may see the blessing of meeting all the people you have whilst you were here.

Hopefully your time here will open your path through the wilderness and become your river in the desert.

For everyone for whom this place is a new beginning I pray that you will recognise the hidden blessings that have brought you here.

Go to the end of the path until you get to the gate.

Go through the gate and head straight out towards the horizon.
Religious Identity and Mission continued . . .

Keep going towards the horizon.
Sit down and have a rest every now and again,
But keep on going, just keep on with it.
Keep on going as far as you can.
That's how you get there.

Ms Nanda de Winter

Student Learning and Wellbeing - 345 Class camp to Monarto Zoo

Student Learning and Wellbeing - R12 Class Liturgy

RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY - A place were children find their way
**Coming Events...**

**Week 7**
- Tuesday 29/11
- R12 Class visit the Barmera Post Office
- Wednesday 30/11 to Friday 2/12
- 67 Class School Camp

**Week 8**
- All Week Year 3-7
- Swimming Lessons
- Wednesday 7/12
- Carols Night
- Dinner from 5.30 to 6.30 and carols begin at 6.45 sharp.
- Friday 9/12
- Barmera Cemetery Memorial Christmas Tree

- Sunday 4th December between 10am and 11.30am. Bring along a decoration to put on the Christmas Tree in memory of your loved ones. Enquiries to Monique Gillespie 8583 0170.

**Week 9**
- Wednesday 14/12
- End of Year Mass @ 6.30pm at St Francis Xavier’s
- Thursday 15/12
- Splash Day
- Friday 16/12
- End of Year Assembly @ 11.30
- Dismissal @ 12.30

---

**Barmera Cemetery Memorial Christmas Tree**

- Sunday 4th December between 10am and 11.30am. Bring along a decoration to put on the Christmas Tree in memory of your loved ones. Enquiries to Monique Gillespie 8583 0170.

---

**Barmera Christmas Pageant**

- Committee and Transpacific Cleanaway presents

- “Aussie Snowman Competition”

- Create an Aussie themed Snowman from “rubbish” and recycled materials (Any size, any shape)
- Everybody’s doing it! Recycle!

- Entries to the Barmera Library by Friday 2nd December

- 1st Prize $100.00
- 2nd Prize $50.00
- 3rd Prize $25.00
- Age Categories 5 - 8 years 9 - 13 years

- Winners announced at the Barmera Christmas Pageant Friday 9th December 2016

---

**Student Learning and Wellbeing - Community**

**Team Josh invites you to**

**Barmera’s LIGHT NIGHT**

- Saturday 3rd December
- 5:30pm-10pm
- Lakefront Barmera
- Entertainment by McKenzie
- Food and drink stalls

- Listen to inspiring stories
- Participate in lantern lighting and a gentle walk
- $20 donation entitles you to a lantern

- Contact Meg or Monique Gillespie 8583 0170 for more info
- Sign up a team for Barmera’s walk or donate to Team Josh
- www.lightthenight.org.au
- Join us on Facebook “Light the Night Barmera”

---

The Leukaemia Foundation receives no ongoing funding from the government and relies on community support. All money raised will fund vital research to find cures.

---

**RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY - A place were children find their way**