Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students.

The rollercoaster ride that Term 4 is known to be is in full force. Though within the speed and busyness, there has been excitement, fun and rich learning. This week I have spent 3 days with the Year 3-5 class at the Monarto Zoo Camp. I am always surprised to hear camp sites make mention how unusual it is that there is a principal that attends and participates in school camps. For me, I wouldn’t have it any other way!

Whether it be a school camp, excursion or mud obstacle course, I want to be involved. This involvement allows me to get to know each child, know them as a person and a learner and for them to see, we are all part of the St Joseph’s School village.

As expected our students have engaged and represented our school positively on the camp as well as what happens on the camp. All our school camps seem to run smoothly as a result of the work that occurs in the background. I would like to thank Ms Nanda de Winter, Mrs Sonya Scadden and Mr Ashley Kassulke for their support and involvement on the camp and with our students.

Our whole school transition program is moving well. Our class of 12 Reception students next year has settled in well to our school community. I am always amazed and impressed how quickly this occurs and the way our students welcome them into the school.

Well done to our Mini Vinnies group who participated in the Cardboard Sleepout. Mrs Louise Stavrou had done an excellent job in planning, organising and running this event. Students from the Year 3-5 class were invited to participate in some of the evening which gave students a good grounding for what is ahead.

Last night a note went home to families about the staffing for the school. The school has been able to advertise and appoint 2 permanent teachers. This will be the first time in at least 6 years that the school will have all permanent teachers in the school. The process for these appointments has been gruelling and intense as a result of wanting to acquire the very best teachers for our children.

I know when I arrived 5 years ago, many families made mention of how good it would be to have another male on staff. My response to families then as it still is now is, the school needs to be employing the best teachers regardless of gender, age, experience or any other pre defined label. Experience has taught me, if you find the right people none of these factors matter.

I believe we have been successful in appointing 2 excellent permanent teachers to the school. Most people would know or have heard of Mrs Scarlett Yeomans (Luke). Scarlett became part of our teaching team in Term 2, this year on contract to the end of this year, as the Reception to Year 2 teacher. She has settled into our community successfully and has made a significant difference to the learning outcomes of children. She has made good relationships with not only students and families but also the local kindergarten, who have spoken positively about her. I am delighted that Scarlett has been successful in winning the position.
Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
John 4:7

Here we are, standing at the dawn of a new era as the USA goes to vote for a new president. No matter who wins, something new is about to begin. The beginning of something…..

Thinking about the outcome of this “race for the White House” makes me softly sing the words to a song from the Tribal Love Rock musical Hair:

“When the moon is in the seventh house
And Jupiter aligned with Mars,
Then peace will guide the planets
And love will steer the stars.
This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius”

The counterculture movement in the ‘60s and ‘70s used a lot of astrological imagery and semi-religious statements to focus their brand and create community around the goals of ending war and stopping oppression and exploitation of people and resources. One of the most common themes was the “dawning of a New Age”. At the roots of astrology lies a deep human desire to know the future and to explain the meaning and purpose of human life. What is the future going to bring us after these USA elections? Especially now the world seems wobbly, are the wheels going to fall off?

But wasn’t it God who set the stars in motion?
Love will steer the stars.

God is love.

There are only two feelings.
Love and fear.
There are only two languages.
Love and fear.
There are only two activities.
Love and fear.
There are only two motives,
two procedures, two frameworks,
two results.
Love and fear.
Love and fear.

Happy Birthday to….
20th November
Christian Mitolo

New to our community is Mr Matt Mins. Matt will be relocating from Adelaide to become the Year 6/7 teacher. Matt has an impressive presence which is underpinned by developing relationships. He has a clear vision which aligns with the school on how students learn, catering for the needs of children and preparation for high school. He is keen not only to be a teacher at our school but to also become part of our school community. No doubt you will have the opportunity to meet Matt before the year is over.

I have been saying for the last 5 years that my door is always open. If you have any questions, concerns, comments or feedback, I truly welcome them. I am a firm believer I would rather know than not know and by knowing I can do something about it! I know I haven’t made mention to this for a while but know the invitation is always there.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Lee Abela

From the Principal continued . . .

Term Dates For 2016

Term 1
1 Feb - 15 April

Term 2
2 May - 8 July

Term 3
25 July - 30 Sept

Term 4
17 Oct - 16 Dec

RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY - A place were children find their way
Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2016.

These students have successfully finishing the challenge and followed the clues to break the code which has unlocked their PRC door in the library.
• Waikerie Santa’s Cave
  Celebrating 20 years. Amazing for all ages, from Nativity to Wonderland. Enjoy a magical experience in the Waikerie Institute when you visit Santa’s Cave. Open from last Friday in November through to New Years Eve.

• Credit Union Christmas Pageant
  World of Magic and Wonder! 9.30 am Saturday 12th November in the city streets of Adelaide.

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

Come and Try
Sailing
All welcome
Saturday 12th November
10:00am – 4:00pm
At the Lake Bonney Yacht Club
Canteen will be open

For more information
ph: 8588 1186 Dorothy Dunk
ph: 0438 846 100 Steve Thomas

RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY - A place were children find their way
Barmera Christmas Pageant
Friday December 9th 2016
Pageant Princess and Queen Nomination Form
Junior Princess: 5 - 7 years old on day
Princess: 8 - 9 years old on day
Queen: 10 years and over on day

Name: ___________________________ Age: (on 9/12/16) ________ Phone No. ___________
Address: ___________________________ School: ___________________________
Parent/Guardian Name: ___________________________ Mobile No. ___________________________
Signature: ___________________________

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Barmera Christmas Pageant Queen and Princess Nominations
♦ All entries must be signed by a Parent/Guardian
♦ Nominees must reside in, or attend a school within, the Barmera Area
♦ Nomination Forms to Barmera Visitor Information Centre, Barwell Ave
  by 5pm Monday 28th November.
Any enquiries to Nikki Hill on 8588 1298 or 0418 966 312
♦ All nominees to come along to the Barmera Monash Football Club
  on Wednesday 30th November: Interview Times
    Junior Princesses at 6.00pm
    Princesses at 6.30pm
    Queens at 6.45pm