Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

On Wednesday this week we began our transition program. As a school community we welcomed; Avril, Mia, Tyler, Amira, Antonio, Ryder, Hudson, Zachary, Conner, Ellamae, Jordan and their families to our school community. Their first transition visit to the school was highly successful which translated into me smiling all day!

The morning started with lots of smiles and excitement which created a positive energy in the classroom. Our students made the kindy children feel very welcome during lunchtime. We have a beautiful culture in our school where all students take care of each other. I have already received a lot of positive feedback from our new families about how welcoming our community is and how successful their child’s day was.

I have been saying for a number of years, “Our school is the biggest secret in the Riverland”. We are in new times and it is clear that this is no longer the case given the amount of reception children we have for next year. I am sure our 10 new families to the school will continue to ensure our school is no longer a secret!

As a school, we don’t tend to celebrate World Teachers Day or World Support Staff Day. Nor do we separate staff into teachers and support staff. The reality is that every staff member provides education and support for your child and I’m not a believer in celebrating the work that the staff at St Joseph’s do on just one day. I am blessed to work with an amazing staff that are passionate in providing the best for every child and the desire in seeing your child in being successful. I try to make them away of this as often as possible.

An example of the commitment the staff have to our school and its beliefs was the Relay for Life held over the weekend. When we talk about Relationships, Learning and Community, it is more than just lip service – we actually live it! All the staff of St Joseph’s School, Barmera got behind the local community event of Relay for Life. The school also has two staff on the organising committee. It was also great to see current and past children and families involved in the event.

Next week the Mini Vinnies will be holding their own community event with the Cardboard Sleepout. There will be an opportunity for Year 3-5 students to also be involved in this event. It is an opportunity to have an appreciation and understanding of what being homeless is like. Children won’t have electronics available to use nor will they be having a feast for dinner. Money raised will go towards St Vincent de Paul to help the homeless. I always want our children to be taken care of and have access to what they need. At times I am frustrated that they don’t have an appreciation that not everyone has access to what they have. I hope that this is an opportunity for them to get this appreciation without permanently going without.

This year we have invested in ensuring our children are able to have access to resources that support their learning in the Digital Technology Curriculum. Our school already has a number of computers, laptops, tablets, voice recorders, video recorders and more. To allow students to engage more in coding we have now purchased Osmo kits, Spheros and Beebots. The media has
Religious Identity + Mission

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to discover the action of God in the soul but also to discover God in all things.”

~Pope Francis~

What was there in the beginning? What images spring to mind?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind sweeping over the waters.”

Genesis 1:1-2

As a child I found it difficult to imagine that there was nothing in the beginning. Just an endless dark and empty space. I remember asking the priest who taught religious education at my school, “Father, a dark and empty space is not nothing is it?”

What was there in the time before people and planets, atoms and protons? Nothingness to me is simply unimaginable. The bible story about God creating the world in seven days is possibly the narrative that captured my attention the most in the early days of my life. The reasons for this could be many but looking for purpose in this life and asking questions like “Where do I come from?” are natural to a child. However, taking the creation narrative literally will put God on the same level as Mary Poppins. God “the magician” who can make something out of nothing with the simple click of a finger. But like all children, who have a natural awe and wonder for God’s created world, I too knew very early on that something bigger was at work here.

“Religion and science don’t go together!”

This is something I was brought up to believe. I was painted a picture that the Church and science were in deep conflict with each other: the Church was against science. This also meant that if you were a scientist you were to disapprove of the Church. I have since learned that if the Church ever was against science that there would be very few or no catholic scientists at all but I know that the contrary is true. Working at a Josephite School has opened up the world of Fr Tenison Woods as a keen scientist, who has left quite a legacy.

For people to gain respect for God’s creation we need to relate to it in a deep and personal way. For us all to make connections between science and religion is of high importance to our development and to our world. There are many natural laws and nature evolves over time, giving us control of the choices we make. But it also confirms that there is something more to creation, something special, something that cannot be proven nor dismissed. It is something that all children understand when they look at the pattern on a snake skin, or the perfect dew drop on a leaf, or watching snow fall and knowing that every snow chrysalis is unique in the same way every person is unique. Identical twins might have the exact same genes, but they are not exactly the same. Wow, what an artist God is!

“If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are part, Christians in their turn realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.”

~Pope Francis~

Happy Birthday to….

31st October
Zoe Kassulke

1st November
Dejai Schapel

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

been highlighting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based learning and innovation. Our school has commenced work in this area before it became “trendy”. This is an area I hope to be exploring into the future and creating a “makerspace”.

Enclosed in the newsletter is the Term 4 calendar. Most of the dates have been included in the calendar though they may be some changes and additions. We will keep you informed of these.

Finally, I seek your support in ensuring that your child is coming to school in the correct uniform. The reason for this is to achieve a sense of belonging, creating community and school pride. I appreciate there will be times where as parents we are caught out but in general this should be achieved by all families. If you require support with uniform items, please contact the school.

Have a great weekend and take care

Mr Lee Abela

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

Enclosed in the newsletter is the Term 4 calendar. Most of the dates have been included in the calendar though they may be some changes and additions. We will keep you informed of these.

Finally, I seek your support in ensuring that your child is coming to school in the correct uniform. The reason for this is to achieve a sense of belonging, creating community and school pride. I appreciate there will be times where as parents we are caught out but in general this should be achieved by all families. If you require support with uniform items, please contact the school.

Have a great weekend and take care

Mr Lee Abela

Religious Identity + Mission

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to discover the action of God in the soul but also to discover God in all things.”

~Pope Francis~

What was there in the beginning? What images spring to mind?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind sweeping over the waters.”

Genesis 1:1-2

As a child I found it difficult to imagine that there was nothing in the beginning. Just an endless dark and empty space. I remember asking the priest who taught religious education at my school, “Father, a dark and empty space is not nothing is it?”

What was there in the time before people and planets, atoms and protons? Nothingness to me is simply unimaginable. The bible story about God creating the world in seven days is possibly the narrative that captured my attention the most in the early days of my life. The reasons for this could be many but looking for purpose in this life and asking questions like “Where do I come from?” are natural to a child. However, taking the creation narrative literally will put God on the same level as Mary Poppins. God “the magician” who can make something out of nothing with the simple click of a finger. But like all children, who have a natural awe and wonder for God’s created world, I too knew very early on that something bigger was at work here.

“Religion and science don’t go together!”

This is something I was brought up to believe. I was painted a picture that the Church and science were in deep conflict with each other: the Church was against science. This also meant that if you were a scientist you were to disapprove of the Church. I have since learned that if the Church ever was against science that there would be very few or no catholic scientists at all but I know that the contrary is true. Working at a Josephite School has opened up the world of Fr Tenison Woods as a keen scientist, who has left quite a legacy.

For people to gain respect for God’s creation we need to relate to it in a deep and personal way. For us all to make connections between science and religion is of high importance to our development and to our world. There are many natural laws and nature evolves over time, giving us control of the choices we make. But it also confirms that there is something more to creation, something special, something that cannot be proven nor dismissed. It is something that all children understand when they look at the pattern on a snake skin, or the perfect dew drop on a leaf, or watching snow fall and knowing that every snow chrysalis is unique in the same way every person is unique. Identical twins might have the exact same genes, but they are not exactly the same. Wow, what an artist God is!

“If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are part, Christians in their turn realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.”

~Pope Francis~
Student Learning and Wellbeing - Premiers Reading Challenge

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.

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Mini Vinnies casual day

In conjunction with the Mini Vinnies Cardboard Box Sleep-out being held on Thursday 3rd November, the whole school is invited to wear CASUAL CLOTHES on FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER and bring in a can of food or some kind of non perishable food item as a donation.

All donated food items will be given to our local St Vincent de Paul shop here in Barmera.

Thank you - The St Joseph’s Mini Vinnie Group

Student Learning and Wellbeing - R12’s creating shapes

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

Student Learning and Wellbeing - 345’s Jam making and Scone baking

Term 4
Week 3
Wednesday 2/11
School Liturgy
and
YEL @ Calperum Station
Thursday 3/11
Mini Vinnies
Cardboard Box
Sleepout @ school and
Casual Day

Week 4
Tuesday 8/11 to
Thursday 10/11
3/4/5 Class School Camp
Friday 11/11
Remembrance Day

Week 5
Friday 18/11
School Assembly

Week 6
Monday 21/11
Sports Day
Wednesday 23/11
School Mass
Friday 25/11
Student Free Day

Week 7
Wednesday 30/11
to Friday 2/12
67 Class School Camp

Week 8
Wednesday 7/12
Carols Night

Week 9
Wednesday 14/12
End of Year Mass
Thursday 15/12
Splash Day

Student Learning and Wellbeing - 67’s creating business enterprises

Our Lady of the River Parish
Youth and Family Ministry Team present:

FAITH/FEED/FUN

Join us for a youth led mass at St Albert’s in Loxton
Family picnic and sausage sizzle lunch after mass
Fun at Loxton Pioneer Playground

on: Sunday 6th November, 2016 - 11 am to 2 pm
at: St Albert’s Catholic Church, 7 Geraldton Street
then Loxton Pioneer Playground, Anzac Crescent
for: 11am Youth led Mass at St Albert’s followed by Family shared lunch at Loxton Pioneer Playground

This is a Youth and Family event - All invited
RSVP: Friday 4th November to your school office or local parish representative (listed below) to help with transport and catering.
Barmera Louise Stavrou 0417 827 534
Berri Nicolette Roberts 0423 223 727
Loxton Carina Nicholson 0418 843 663
Renmark Rehna Sotto 0467 267 150
Waikerie Louise Stavrou 0417 827 534

A child safety/photo permission form will need to be filled out and signed by parents/guardians for each participant to attend this event. Please contact your town representative for more details.

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Community

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

For more information
ph: 8588 7186 Dorothy Dunk
ph: 0438 846 100 Steve Thomas

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