Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Welcome back to the last term of the year. In talking with families through the year, not one parent has indicated the year has moved slowly. Sadly, this term will be the quickest of the four terms, partly because it is only a 9 week term, but by the time you factor in camps, excursions, transition visits, splash days etc and tick them off as they past, the end of year will be here in no time!

I know that the school holidays often are not holidays for parents but I hope you had the opportunity to spend some extra time with your child. Often, for school staff, the school holidays also are not “holidays”. As indicated in the last newsletter of the term, planning for 2017 is well on the way. Over the break I have confirmed bookings for the Year 3-7 Bike Education program and the Mud Obstacle Course Challenge for Term 1 next year.

We have also begun reviewing the structure of the school for 2017. There will still be 3 classes in the school but it is important that we ensure the current year level groupings still work well and provide the best learning opportunities for our children. At this stage no changes have been made and I will keep you updated as this progresses. We have also begun work on staffing for 2017. This process is taking a little longer than planned. It is still a couple of weeks before it will be confirmed. I look forward at the appropriate time to announce the names of the 2 permanent positions for 2017.

This is an exciting time for the school as it has been sometime since we have had all permanent staff in the three classrooms. Our school is in an important point of its growth and this opportunity will support the school in strengthening the systems we have in place.

Next week we will begin our transition program. We will be welcoming 11 kindergarten children to our school every Wednesday for 7 weeks. On these Wednesdays we will also be doing a whole school transition, which means the year 2 students will join the Year 3-5 class and the year 5 students will join the Year 6/7 class. This process supports all children that will experience change next year have a smooth transition.

Last week I met with Miriam and Chelsea from Relationships Australia. They are keen to work with families, provide support and answer any questions you might have around challenges we can experience at home with our children. In talking to them, it was clear that they are wanting to support families and at no time is it a judgement upon people. They can work individually with families or provide targeted information sessions. I will keep you informed as the relationship grows.

Also over the holidays, Tricia, Nanda and I travelled to Port Augusta to complete the final part of the Leadership course through the Queensland Educational Leadership Institute. We made our leadership project, the journey - past, present and future of leading school change. Though there wasn’t a grade given, it was clear that our presentation was well received.

Thank you to the families that were able to help on Sunday’s Working Bee or on the days prior to it. The huge mulch pile on the oval was relocated to the garden areas and many weeds were
Religious Identity + Mission

“Just as you did it, to one of the least of these... You did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Try to look at the world through the eyes of those who struggle to have the basics in life. They have dreams too.

This dream of a ‘full life’ for those we call ‘the poor’ can only be realised if we play our part. If we take up the mission that our unique gifts and talents have prepared us for.

World Mission Sunday (23rd October 2016) is celebrated every year in every country wherever there are Catholics committed to building a better world for all of God’s people, a world where everyone has all they need to live a dignified and fulfilling life. It is the day on which we reflect on the urgency to proclaim the Gospel in our “missionary activity is a response to the love with which God loves us. God’s love is the spiritual energy that can make harmony; justice and communion grow among persons, races and peoples for which everyone is searching. It is God, who is Love, who leads the Church towards those farthest away and calls us to be renewed from the original source, Jesus Christ, from whose pierced heart the love of God flows.

The God of love is the source of care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality and interest in other people’s problems, for spreading Christ’s charity around the world. When we allow God to act through us in love for others, bringing the fruits of the spirit into the world—reconciliation, forgiveness, justice, peace, harmony, joy, and love—we build God’s family and help everyone experience fullness of life.

We can all act to reduce poverty around the world and improve the quality of life for all our brothers and sisters in God’s family. We can stand in solidarity with all who suffer exclusion, poverty and injustice and whose life is in some way diminished.

What’s the use of this little hand; What’s the use of this little eye;
What’s the use of this little mouth When all the world is broken?
Make a cake with this little hand; Make a tear with this little eye;
Make a word with this little mouth When all the world is broken.

~Michael Leunig~

Nanda de Winter

From the Principal continued . . .
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 - School group photo orders

The following special group photos are available for order. Size: 8” x 10” (20cm x 25cm) and cost: $22.00 each. To place an order please call in and see Tricia at the front desk with money for your order.

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Science and new technology

Student Learning and Wellbeing - School Assembly

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Premiers Reading Challenge
IS YOUR CHILD ELIGIBLE TO START KINDY NEXT YEAR
If your child’s date of birth is between 1/5/2012 and 30/4/2013, they are eligible to start at the beginning of the 2017 school year. To ensure your child has secured a place, visit Barmera Kindergarten and collect an enrolment pack and return ASAP. Kindergartens will be sending out round 2 offers in week 10 of Term 4.

Berri Warriors Baseball Club
Junior training - Glassey Park in Berri, Boys and girls welcome from 8-16 years on Wednesday 19th October 5.15—coach pitch (introductory level, age 8-11) 5.30 U16’s. Wednesday 26th October 5.30pm, T Ball training (aged 5-8 years)

Riverland Triathlon Club
The Riverland Triathlon Club is offering 2 Junior Participation Sponsorships during the 2016-17 season. The Sponsorship includes: Membership to the club, A club polo shirt, Free entry to the Murrayman come n’ tri on 5th November at Barmera, Free entry to the Renmark Triathlon on 26th February, Access to club training days at Lake Bonney during the summer. The Sponsorship is open to children aged 10-16 who live in the Riverland and selection will be made on the basis of the application. Applications must be received by the Club by 2nd November, 2016. Application forms are available at the front office at school.

December 2016 & January 2017
Programs at over 130 pool & beach locations
Book online at vacswimsa.com.au

Childrens Week
Come and celebrate
Children’s Week
@ the Barmera Library...
3.30pm onwards

Tuesday 25th October
Mixed up Chameleons and Lolly pop craft
Free Face Painting

Wednesday 26th October
Join in with the Riverland Filipino Dance Group for some “Tinkling” and make a “Parol” (Philippine Lantern)

After school activities that are free 4 fun for kids of all ages.
Ph 858882572

Relationships Australia
South Australia
Infant Massage Is Coming Free to the Riverland

With a small group, our massage instructor will demonstrate techniques that suit you and your little one. A great opportunity to practice creating a special time with your baby and build your bond with them. Babies must be 1 month at the commencement of the program to attend.
The group starts on 26th October 2016 for 5 weeks
Wednesdays, 10.00am - 11.00am
26 October and 2, 9, 16 & 23 November 2016
Venue:
Relationships Australia SA, 9 Kay Ave, Berri SA 5343
Please call Nicole at Relationships Australia SA, 85884112 to register your interest.
There is no cost for this service.