Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

I would like to think that I have taught you that community is important to me. Our local school community, our connection with parish and our involvement in the wider community. Last Wednesday night there was a celebration Mass in Berri for the newly ordained Fr Ramel. Ramel visited our school last year for a week and worked with all classes and students.

Earlier this week, an invitation was given out to students to see if they wanted to attend the Mass. As always, there was no pressure for students to attend. We had 9 students attend the Mass and a few others that wanted to attend but with the short notice were not able to. Our students were the only students in attendance and was noted by many of the parishioners. People approached me and commented how impressed they were that St Joseph’s School, Barmera had attended and had 9 students there.

This was another moment (amongst many) where I have been very proud to be the Principal of this great school. To see our students interact and stand out in the way that they did, shows to the wider community how special they are. Sometimes people think our school is only for Catholic students (hopefully I have taught you this is not the case), out of the 9 students in attendance of the Mass, only 4 were catholic.

For me this highlights how inclusive our school is. It also highlights how proud our students are of the school and their want to represent the school.

I cannot believe how much sickness there has been in our school community – students, staff and families. With sick staff being away, it has been extremely difficult and on some days impossible to find a relief teacher to cover the day. This has resulted in me becoming that relief teacher and being in class. At the time it can be a little frustrating knowing that a day in the classroom means other work that needs to be done cannot be completed.

It is almost unbelievable how quickly that frustration disappears and my excitement to be in the classroom kicks in. Over the last two weeks, in addition to my normal teaching load of Science, I have spent the day with the R-2 class at the Adelaide Zoo, taught in the R-2 class and taught in the Year 3-5 class – and I have loved it.

The paperwork that is put on hold can be as important as spending me with your child. Those teachable moments I experienced and enjoyed would have been missed if I didn’t get the opportunity to be in the class on those days. I hope the students enjoyed it as much as I did!

Over the last few weeks, I have had a few enrolment interviews with families. People often comment how friendly and welcoming the school feels when they arrive. When I take them around the school, families are pleasantly surprised and impressed with the classrooms that we have. I often hear, “we had no idea the school was like this”.

St Joseph’s School
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www.stjobarmera.catholic.edu.au
Principal:
Mr. Lee Abela
Parish Priest:
Fr Paul Bourke
Phone: 8582 1894
Mass Times:
1st, 3rd + 5th Sunday: 6.00pm
2nd + 4th Sunday: 11.00am

Sunday 18th September
25 Sunday Ordinary Time • C
Upon hearing this, I am pleased families are impressed with the school but at the same time, it makes me wonder, “how else can we make the wider community aware of how great this school is?”. I would like to encourage you to share with people you know, if the opportunity arises, to make them aware of what the school has to offer and how much the school has.

Well done to all students in our school for how well they represent the school. The R-2 class received many compliments from strangers whilst at the Adelaide Zoo. Our students also represented the school well at the Environmental Expo at Barmera Primary. Well done to Kaleb, Ashleigh and Ellie who ran 2 sessions at the Expo!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela

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Last week there was a prayer day organised by Catholic Alliance for people seeking Asylum. At the same time it was National Child Protection Week (4th - 10th September). As parents and educators it is our business to protect our children from harms way every day. Imagine what it would be like to try to protect your child in a warzone. Like Joseph and Mary, faced with the possibility of their baby boy Jesus being killed by the soldiers of King Herod, did the last thing possible to ensure their child’s safety; flee.

In your head, make a list of things your family has in their home.

In your head, make a list of five things that belong just to you.

If, for some reason, you had to go away and take only two things that you could carry, what would you take?

What else would you really want to take?

What do you think it would be like to leave all the rest behind?

Lots of adults and children have to do this – because of the dangers of war and violence in their own country, or because of violence in their own home in Australia.

If you had to leave your home with hardly anything and maybe only part of your family, how would you like to be treated by other people?

Catholic teaching insists that:

Each human being is precious and their dignity must be respected.

Respect for human dignity means providing food, shelter, education, security, freedom to build a life – the things we need to flourish.

Respect for human dignity means not being used as a means to someone else’s gain.

Human beings are not separate individuals but depend on one another and are responsible to one another, especially to the most needy.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for all living in Australia who enjoy the peacefulness and opportunity of this bountiful land.

We pray for understanding of those forced from their homelands by war and persecution, and for the generosity to reach out to them.

We pray for all children and young people in our world that they may live in communities where they are seen and heard and where their participation is valued.

We pray that humanity and compassion inform our national policies affecting all who seek our protection.

We pray for those charged with the responsibility for these policies.

We make this prayer together with Jesus, Mary and Joseph who were once refugees.

Amen

Nanda de Winter

Happy Birthday to....

17th September

Josephine Abela
Student Learning and Wellbeing - R12 Class visit the Adelaide Zoo

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Students exploring with new technology

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Environment Expo

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Fr Ramel’s Mass of Thanksgiving

RELATIONSHIPS, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY - A place where children find their way
Our Lady of the River Parish
Youth and Family Ministry Team present:

FAITH FEED FUN

Join us for a gathering of youth in Renmark. Shared Subway lunch provided. Movie at the Chaffey Theatre 'Pete's Dragon'.

on: Wednesday 12th October, 2016 (school holidays)
time: beginning at 12:30pm, pick up by 4:00pm meet and pick up at the lawn area opposite the Chaffey Theatre car park
at: Chaffey Theatre, Seventeenth St, Renmark
for: shared lunch and movie
cost: $15 for students - $20 for adults

This is a Youth and Family event - All invited
RSVP: Friday 7th October to your school office or local parish representative (listed below) to help with transport and catering.

Berri
Louise Stavrou 0417 827 634
Nicolete Roberts 0413 223 727
Carina Nicholson 0418 841 693
Relina Sotto 0467 267 545
Louise Stavrou 0417 827 634

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.

• Berri Redsox Softball Club Season 2016/2017
Players wanted for Primary grade, C grade and Senior teams. First training Sunday 25th September at 10 am at Glassey Park in Berri. Please contact Kay Jesser 0448 965 991 to register your interest to play, score or umpire.

• Berri-View Lawn Tennis Club 2016-17 Summer Season
Juniors season start up hit (and expression of interest for teams) Friday September 16th at 4.00pm. New Hot Shots Come and Try Sunday October 23rd at 9.30am. Existing Hot Shots Saturday October 22nd Red Ball Girls at 9am and Orange Ball Mixed at 9.45am. Junior Registration Day Friday September 16th 4.30 to 6pm at the Berri Tennis Courts, McGilton Road, Berri. Phone Georgia 0403 803 548 for details.

KIDS KAYAK KLUB
School Holiday fun & games on the river!
Participants (8-15yo): $20

7th, 11th & 14th OCT
9am - 12
835 Murtho Road, Paringa
Phone Jim or Ruth 0475 754 222 to book

KAYAK SKILLS: Safety instruction - Games - Explore a creek Bring hat, sunscreen, water shoes, shorts, long sleeves tops, a snacks and waterhole.
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY / EQUIPMENT PROVIDED / WEATHER PERMITTING

Jetstar®
Little Athletics
Riverland/Berma

BARMERA LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB
For 3 – 17 years
COME 'N' TRY DAYS
MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 5:30-7:00pm
MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER 5:30-7:00pm
At: Glossop High School Middle Campus Oval
Come ‘N’ Try Session are free
For more information follow us on Facebook
BermaLittleAthleticsClub
Or contact: Cilla Marsden on 0418 824 264

September 25 Kids & Tween Movie Club
Time: 10am-1pm
Ages: 5-13 years
Cost: $10 each workshop
Location: Loxton Lutheran Peace Hall

September 25 Teen & Young Adult Horror Film Making
Time: 2pm-6pm
Ages: 13-26 years

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