Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Last week our school held its first school musical/production in over 6 years and it was sensational! On the night and early into the following week, I was overwhelmed with the amount of positive comments about the evening and the opportunity that was created for our students. Families who have had a long connection with the school, mentioned how “Kookaburra Kids” was the best production yet. It was important to the school that all students had the opportunity to be involved – not only on the night but also to the lead up to the event. Students were involved in the advertising & marketing, costumes, sets, props, backstage, lighting & sound and acting.

I would like to thank parents and the community for attending the evening as I was pleased with the amount of people that attended. Well done to the students in making “Kookaburra Kids” an amazing production and thank you to the staff who have been supportive and fantastic throughout the whole process. I also need to acknowledge Mr Lance Gum, he has been very kind and supportive to the school with his expertise in lighting and sound not only on the night but also during the weeks leading up to it.

Without the leadership and the direction from the director this production would not have been possible – I cannot thank Ms Nanda de Winter enough for making my suggestion of doing a school production this year possible. Many people have asked if we will do something again next year, my response...I hope so!

A couple of weeks ago the school had a two consecutive student free days. This gave the staff the opportunity to have a school visit and reflect on and deepen our understanding of our Catholic identity. Over the two days we were based at St Mary’s College in the city. The reason for this venue was significant in connection with Mary MacKillop. The rooms we worked in was a classroom in which she personally taught in and the chapel where she would often pray. Our school is open to all children and families regardless of their faith and beliefs. The work of both Mary MacKillop and Jesus was always inclusive.

We also attended another school to look at classroom layouts and the teaching that occurs there. On the school visit I was impressed with how far we have journeyed over the last five years. Our learning environments, the quality of style of teaching & learning and the resources we have is comparable with what is seen at high functioning schools. I sometimes fall into the trap of thinking what we have is normal but the reality is; it’s not. Our students receive much which they would not receive in some other schools.

In term 3 there are some educational days and weeks that take place – ESO/SSO day, Science week, Book week, Literacy and Numeracy week, etc. Many of these events we do not celebrate. In case you are wondering why, it is simply because we should be celebrating these things all the time. We should be having quality science, literacy and numeracy occurring every week and not just on the dedicated week. I value the support staff of the school every day and often give them thanks.

The media has been focusing a lot on STEM based learning and exposing students to coding. Sometimes I think we are a school ahead of our times. We have been doing this before it became “trendy”. Our students have been using block coding and have developed their own version of ‘flappy bird’ (for the last couple of years).
This term students will be using ‘Sphero’ balls and Blue-bots (the new version of the Bee-bots which we have used in the past) which they will program using code.

Next term we will continue using the ‘Sphero’ balls as well as using ‘Makey Makey’ kits. If you are unsure as to what ‘Sphero’ balls, Blue-bots and ‘Makey Makey’ kits are, I encourage you to google it or wait for the pictures – they are amazing!

This weekend we celebrate Father’s Day. There are many days/moments throughout the year that I feel special to be a father or I think about my own father and grandfathers. It is important that we take note of these moments and not just wait for the one day in the year to be appreciated. I would like to wish all fathers, grandfathers and others that fill these roles a very happy father’s day!

Have a great weekend.

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

Religious Identity + Mission

“The steps of a man are established by the Lord and he delights in His way. When he falls, he will not be cast down, because the Lord is the one who holds his hand.”
Ps. 37:23-24

We often see or hear the news that many times a day through television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet that seeing and hearing about local and world events, such as natural disasters, catastrophic events, and crime reports almost have become a normality. Every day new tragic stories of loss and hardship appear. We watch and listen to these stories and see that there are real people behind them. People who are loved, people who have mums and a dads that love deeply, brothers and sisters, grandparents, family and friends. We hear the stories, and we try to relate to the pain, the hurt and grieve, because we know deep down, this could happen to any of us. On this Father’s Day weekend I am thinking of every dad who longs to protect his child, who longs to cover them in the safety of his presence but are unable to do so.

Would your father do or have done anything to save you?

Of course he would, a father would do anything for his child. Fathers are brave and bold and strong. Fathers are loving, compassionate and kind. Fathers are faithful. Fathers are warriors who know where real strength is found. Fathers are powerful in the lives of kids. Fathers have hero status. Fathers are their children’s solid foundation.

As I watch the news this week I am reminded how truly precious life is. How we need to make every moment count. And although we’re not guaranteed a tomorrow, God has given us today. This day. Today I pray for God’s mighty blessing and strength to rest on all dads this Father’s day, and every day, as they seek to love well, live wisely and walk strong as they raise our children.

All my father left me was the moon.
“When I am dead, it’s yours”, he said.
And all too soon his will was read.
But he continued speaking from the grave
“It will not save you, this moon, I gave you from sadness, human madness, life and death.
But step outside into the night and take a breath.
And while you do, for what it is worth, that happy man up there, that got away from earth will smile at you.”
“Michael Leunig”

Happy Father’s Day

Nanda de Winter
Coming Events...

Week 7:
Tuesday 6/9
R/1/2 Zoo Excursion

Wednesday 7/9
R/1/2 Bush Kinder

Thursday 8/9
Breakfast Club
Year 3-7
Environmental Expo

Friday 9/9
Assembly

Week 9:
Tuesday 20/9
Parent /Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 21/9
Parent/Teacher Interview
Whole School Mass
R/1/2

- Riverland Youth Theatre: Tiny Tots Imagination Station: Mums and dads, bring along your little person and let’s create together. Drama to develop creative minds. Get moving with your little one and thinking about the world around us through drama. Imagination Station helps Tiny tots to stimulate imagination, develop communication skills and is great practices for following instructions.

- Kids Glee Club: Singing, musical instruments, dancing and rhythm. Come together and make music and have a blast with friends. A great way for kids to get moving, performing and being creative.

- Teen and Young Adult Comedy Acting Workshop: How do actors make us laugh? In this workshop you can discover the tips and tricks of performing comedic scripts. Learn about physical comedy and timing and have a blast watching each other doing hilarious performances.

Cobby Tennis Club:
- Hot Shots (5-7 year olds) will commence on Thursday 3rd November at 3.45pm
- Junior (Saturday morning competition) training will resume on Thursday 15th of Sept at 4.30pm
- Senior training will begin on Thursday 15th Sept at 5.30pm
- AGM Thursday 15th September 7.00pm at the Cobby Club

Contact: Shane Nettle
0428887115
cobbyfodder@bigpond.com

- Giving Blood feels good
The Blood Service Mobile Blood Donor Centre will be visiting Berri: Senior Citizen Centre, 1 Crawford Tce, Berri
Wednesday 14th Sept 12.00pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 15th Sept 7.30am to 12.00pm.
To make an appointment call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au

Family Fun Day

SPECIAL EVENTS
Caroline Eichenerberger
MC SRH’s Trever Scott
Riverland Batman
Tea-Joe de Dome
Renmark Dance Studio
BDYC Gymnastics Demo

EVENT DETAILS

FAIRY TALE CHARACTERS

WIN! 100% WINNERS FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE FROM PRIZE DRAW LIKE MUFFIN SURPRISE

To find out more
sharparadise@gmail.com
facebook.com/sharparadise
sharparadise.com/sharparadise