Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Last Saturday night the school held its annual Gala Night. I experienced my first Gala Night 5 years ago and it was after that I realised that the sign on the highway that says “We are a can do Community” was absolutely correct! On Saturday night the school raised over $5300.

The Gala truly is a community event including school families and the wider community. I am thankful for the parent group that led the organisation of the event, the staff for doing work in the background and on the night, families that contributed, businesses that donated or performed, the leadership the Year 6/7 class displaying whilst running the sideshows and the kindness of the Barmera Monash Football Club.

The money that is raised on Gala Night goes towards giving each and every child more….over the last few years this has included; purchasing of sporting equipment, sandpit toys, computers, iPads/tablets and of course the Jumping Pillow. Its important to remember that the money raised has contributed to these things which is greatly appreciated. I am still gobsmacked when I hear people say, “Small schools means they don’t have much”. I believe we give any school in the Riverland (and Adelaide) a run for its money!

Last week we had the whole school participate in Mini Relay for Life. This year the relay was held at Cobdogla Primary School. Our students behaved well and represented the school well. The Mini Relay was a dream of Mrs Sonya Scadden which she turned into a reality. Yet another fantastic community event.

Each year we have Italo Vardaro take our school photos. On some occasions, children do not like having their photo taken and the process of taking the photos can be painful. This year Italo had made special mention about how smoothly the photos went and how well the students behaved. I always love getting positive feedback about our children. I believe it is important to share this with you because it is too easy to take the student’s good behaviour for granted and think it happens everywhere.

Last week the R-2 class began its first session of Bush Kinder. This week we will be involved in a 4 week program with the Barmera Kindergarten. There will be opportunities to continue something similar within our school grounds. Over the last few years we have formed a positive relationship with the Barmera Kindergarten which I value. This has allowed joint programs and opportunities to occur. It has also made the transition from kindy to school smooth for children.

As you know, the school will have a two consecutive student free days this Thursday and Friday. We have used this model for the last three years. I know that when the school has student free days, it can impact on families significantly. Having the two consecutive days allows the staff to go outside of the region and have learning opportunities that we can’t experience locally.
It has never been a secret what my favourite movie is; The Sound of Music. I surely must have watched this movie a million times. I first watched the movie as a little girl with my grandmother and mother, later on I watched it with my friends and now I enjoy watching the movie with my daughter. As I have grown up watching the story of the Family Von Trapp, I end up seeing or learning something new and meaningful from their story each time. This weekend was no different.

So, last weekend I was fortunate enough to watch the Sound of Music as a musical on the stage in the Festival Theatre in Adelaide. I have to tell you that on this occasion, I was in the most excellent company of four women, all whom share a special love for the story.

Watching the stage version of the Sound of Music, I expected some things to be slightly different as the stage lends itself for a different type of storytelling than the close up storytelling of movies does. However, nothing prepared me for the twist at the end. (If you are yet to watch the stage version I would stop reading now, as this would count as a Spoiler Alert!) As the Nazi’s take over Austria a lot of people joined their side, mostly out of fear, but joined them nevertheless. In the story Liesl’s boyfriend Rolf is one who crosses over to the Nazi’s. The well to do Captain Von Trapp is encouraged to do the same and join their army, but he refuses. The Nazi’s are not letting him off easily and if the Captain does not come on his own accord they will simply take him. The Von Trapp’s want to stay together as a family and as they learn at the Salzburg festival that the Nazi’s will take the Captain without any chance of saying farewell to his family they decide to go in hiding together. They hide in the convent. This is obviously the first place the Nazi’s go looking for the Von Trapp’s. And this is where the twist happens. In the movie, Rolf, who has joined the Nazi’s, finds the family hiding behind the headstones in the grave yard. Liesl recognises Rolf and reveals herself to him. She pleads with him to let them go, she even invites him to go with them. But Rolf, loyal to his new found friends, blows the whistle which betrays them. In the stage version Rolf finds the family in the convent, Liesl reveals herself to him but….Rolf pretends he has not seen them and lets them go!

This has lead me to reflect on how easy it is to either make or break, help or hinder others with just a simple action or a few words. In both versions the Von Trapp’s end up fleeing as refugees, with nothing more than the clothes on their back, across the mountains into Switzerland. But Liesl’s feelings towards Rolf after they have found a safe haven will be completely different in both versions.

How do you feel when others use their actions and words to make you? How do you feel when others use their actions and words to break you? How do you use this power that you possess?

To make a difference in someone’s world
You don’t have to be amazing,
rich, talented, beautiful or perfect
You just have to care.
~Rebecca Fox~

Happy Birthday to ...

24th August
Jemma Kassulke

25th August
Seth Johnson

27th August
Ashleigh Haigh

28th August
Meg Kassulke

From the Principal continued . . .

Next week we will be celebrating Book Week and we will be holding a whole school play in the Bonney Theatre. I encourage you to invite your friends and family to this event.

Well done to Blake Kassulke and Ashleigh Haigh who are in Adelaide this week representing the Riverland SAPSASA teams in Football and Netball.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela
Student Learning and Wellbeing - Whole School Book Week Performance

St Joseph’s School staff and students invite you and your families to our 2016 Book Week performance of

The Kookaburra Kids
by Judith Prior

on Thursday 25th August
at the Bonney Theatre beginning at 7.00 pm

ENTRY IS FREE

Week 5:
BOOK WEEK
Thursday 25/8
Kookaburra Kids whole school musical at the Bonney Theatre 7.00pm

Thursday 25/8
Breakfast Club

Friday 26/8
Assembly @ 9.00am

Week 6:
Tuesday 30/8
Liturgy led by 6/7 Class

Wednesday 31/8
Bush Kinder R-2

Thursday 1/9
Breakfast Club

• St Joseph’s Old Scholars Centenary Dinner being held in Adelaide on Wednesday 5th October. 6.30 for 7pm start. Adelaide Royal Coach-24 Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town. $43 for a 3 course carvery. Guest speaker Sr Maria Foale RSJ. Bookings by 30/9 to Josie 8295 3667. Invitation for all former students/teachers from any Josephite schools to attend.

• 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.