Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

As some people may know, I have been coaching soccer at the Barmera Soccer Club for the last few years. This year, I have been coaching the under 6 team. Sadly, this weekend is our last game for the season. It has been a great season of soccer, where the players have improved over the season and we have had a strong focus on being part of the team.

On Wednesday we had our last training for the season. I thought it would be nice to have the last training at the school as a celebration of the season. We would train a little, have a jump on the pillow, have a parent/child game and finish with a BBQ. On Monday I sent the soccer families a text message informing them of the change of venue and my plan.

I began expressing my disappointment that the season was nearly over and how community is really important to me…. I then stopped and thought “this is going to be a very long text message”. Because community is very important to me and by coming together as I intended, was a celebration of the community we had created. As I thought more about the season, it had also been about learning. My mind wondered further and it was also about relationships.

At that point, I had a moment of clarity – 5 years ago when I introduced the concept/theme “Relationships, Learning & Community” is was more than a catchy phrase. More than something that lived in the school. These were my core values and beliefs. I knew that “Relationships, Learning & Community” was more than just lip service - it was the way that I lead – the way that I walked the talk. But as I was writing the text to the soccer families, I realised it was reflective of my life outside of the school.

When I think about what has made the school successful, it is the fact staff don’t try and believe in “Relationships, Learning & Community” it is already a part of them. The staff live this in and out of the school, it is a part of their life. We coach local teams, we play in local teams, we perform in local events, we fundraise for local causes – not because we have to but it is because of who we are and what we believe.

I know in other schools that I have worked in, “yard duty” was something that most staff didn’t enjoy. I love going out for yard duty at St Joseph’s School, Barmera. I am often reminded that our students also believe in “Relationships, Learning & Community”. I appreciate that they may not realise this or be able to articulate it but I see it in their interactions – the way that they treat and support each other, the level of kindness they show. I’m not saying that our school in perfect but there is so much goodness and positivity that I think we forget how special it is!

This week we welcomed Ethan Schmock and his family into our school community. Ethan has joined the year 345 class.

Last week, Mrs Stavrou and I took the Year 6/7 students to the McCormick Centre in Renmark for a CSIRO Sustainability workshop. Out of the 6 schools present, we were one of two schools that took an entire class. Most schools took 4-8 students each.
From the Principal continued . . . . .

Our students participated in this workshop well and behaved respectfully. I was particularly impressed with our students willingness and ability to answer questions presented to the large group. There answers were correct and delivered with confidence. Our students were able to answer all the questions and the presenter tried to encourage other schools to respond.

It is clear to me, what we are doing at St Joseph’s School, Barmera is working!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela

Religious Identity + Mission

We want more!

We want more money.
We want more holidays.
We want smart children.
We want a bigger house.
We want perfect looking bodies.
A conga line of millions well fed, rich world inhabitants, born there…. only by coincidence.

I am lost in this dark no man’s land. I am still watching the scales. They move ever so slightly up and down in the breeze. I don’t dare to move, I don’t dare to breathe.

To the right of me there is another light in the distance, less bright than the light to the left. It is almost silent on the right. The only thing that whispers from there are the eyes.

Please, see me.
Recognise me.
Lift me.
Help me.
Care for me.
Love me.

There is light in the distance to the left of me. I can feel the faint cadence of partying people dancing a conga line while chanting we want more we want more we want more we want more we want more.

I am in the middle of a dark no man’s land, frozen solid, holding my breath, watching an enormous set of scales. The scales are still in balance, for now. They are going to tip. I can feel it! I am scared and restless but I can’t seem to move. I am watching the scales.

"I am not a bit discouraged, and what is more, I so clearly see the hand of God in all that is now happening to us. I do not pray more, nor indeed as much as I did, and that never was much, but I feel calm and tranquil and so near to our dear good God."

~Mary MacKillop 19 Sept 1871~

Nanda de Winter

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

Happy Birthday to …

11th August
Joshua Butler

What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love. No, not just for some but for everyone
~Jackie DeShannon~

Educatng Tomorrow's Leaders Today
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 - School Photos

School photos will be taken on Thursday 11th August - Week 3

Photo envelopes were sent home earlier this week.

- All students are to wear FULL WINTER UNIFORM. This includes either your long sleeve school jumper or your long sleeve school jacket.
- All shoulder length hair to be tied back in a navy blue hair tie or ribbon.
- Year 7’s to wear their Year 7 jacket.
- Family photos (Sibling envelopes) are a separate envelope and are available from the front office.
- All photo envelopes need to be returned to the front office at school by TUESDAY 9th AUGUST even if your child/ren are not purchasing any photographs.

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
The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities produces a range of resources to support parents who choose Catholic education for their children. We’d like to share with you one of our most recent publications – Parent Teacher Communication: The Essential Conversation.