Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Yet again, we have had an action packed term, full of learning, fun and celebrations. I can understand from the outside, it might be hard to see how much we do as each term is like this, but the staff put in an enormous effort in ensuring that each child has as many learning opportunities as possible.

The staff at St Joseph’s School, Barmera absolutely go the extra mile. I often talk about all staff at the school are teachers, as each of them contribute to the education and care of your child/ren. I often remind them how much I appreciate all that they do. Many of the things I see the staff do you won’t but I assure you it all contributes to your child’s success and personal development and growth.

This week I had the good fortune of teaching both the Year 3-5 and Year 6/7 class combined on Tuesday as the result of a booked relief teacher being ill. There are many things I love about being a principal but I take hold of as many opportunities as possible to get back into the classroom and do what I love the most – teach!

I ended my day on Tuesday on a high and with extra bounce in my step. Not that I need reminding, it was more like another example of how wonderful our students are at the school and how well they can engage in learning, be kind and support each other and the community.

For just over a year the school has had a school bus. From the outset the bus was designed to support students and their learning opportunities. So far the bus has been used for school camps, excursions, splash days etc. Through some conversations in the wider community, it became clear that if the school provided a pickup/drop off service for their child, this would influence their decision to sending their child to our school.

I appreciate and am thankful for the families that get their children to the school on a daily basis but I also acknowledge that times have changed and getting a child to and from school is not always easy. This can be the result of work commitments, location of work, as well as a range of others reasons.

To support families and to increase the opportunities to make our school more accessible to the community, the school will be offering a pick up and drop off service. There will be some guidelines, limitations, fee and conditions associated with this service and more information will become available into the new term. As this becomes available, the school will be “finding its way”, so consequently it will be in a trial process with possible changes into the future. If you know of a family that would like to send their child to St Joseph’s School, Barmera but the transporting their child to and from school is a hurdle, I encourage you to make them aware of this new service becoming available. If you have any questions regarding the service please contact me on 8588 2154 or labela@stjobarmera.catholic.edu.au.
The school is committed to providing learning opportunities for both students and staff. Most schools will have 4 student free days (the entitled amount) per year. For the last few years, the school generally only has 3. So far we have had 1 in Term 2. In Term 3, I have organised another student free day. In consultation with the School Board, this will be 2 consecutive Student Free Days. I appreciate not having a child at school can be disruptive to families which is why I ensure that staff are getting the most out of the learning they are doing which impacts on student learning or the understanding of what it means to be a staff member at St Joseph’s School, Barmera. The Student Free Days will be on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August (Week 4).

Thank you for your contributions to the year so far and I wish you and your family a great holiday break. Well done to the many students that have received Report Awards which reflects their achievements at a high standard. I look forward to catching up with you next term.

Have a great weekend and holiday break.

Mr Lee Abela

Religious Identity + Mission

“We are all migrants”
“Pope Francis”

Nothing is what it seems. Things can move from impossible to possible to reality in a very short time. Nobody understands why people followed Hitler and his ideas in the late ’30’s, they seemed so outrageous; but Hitler had many followers. Nobody believed that England was going to lose their knock out soccer match against Iceland in the European Championship; but it happened. Nobody believed that Great Britain would vote to leave the EU; but it happened.

People feel unsafe. Countries want their borders closed. People are scared of extremists or Muslims or both.

How extreme is closing your borders? Why is one extreme ok and another not?

Mary and Joseph were not welcome in the inn that Christmas Eve, a long time ago in Bethlehem. They were told there was no room for them, that the inn was full.

I once wrote; Leaving my home country for good is one of the hardest decisions I ever made. It meant I had to break with all that I knew and make a new life for myself on my own. It was also one of the most exciting decisions I ever made, one that holds no regret. I like to call myself a “Modern Migrant”. A “Modern Migrant” being someone in search of adventure and freedom, possibly believing that the grass could be greener somewhere else and choosing to make a life abroad. As the world has become smaller and travel quicker, easier and more affordable it seems a simple decision to “just go” and live a slower paced life in a more exotic part of our planet. I get called brave. I was made feel welcome and wanted. I made a decision many only dream about…..

Leaving your home country, boarding a small boat with hundreds of others, sailing away from everything and everyone you know and never looking back is the hardest decision many people make. Not because they want to leave or because they are searching for adventure. Not because they want to build a new life in a more exotic part of the world or because they want to make a life abroad. They leave because it is the last available option. No parent would put their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the mainland. They get called illegal. They are put in detention centres and made feel unwelcome. It is a decision many dream they never have to make……

Australia is a country built on migration.

As Catholics we have opened the inn door and made room for Jesus in our lives. Jesus told us to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Isn’t this the approach we should have towards people in need? The impossible can move to possible. The possible can move to reality. If Brexit can happen, than Donald Trump can happen too.

And World peace…..?

What sort of world do you want to live in?

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 …

9th July
Sebastian Coote

14th July
Angus Chabrel

and

Thomas Clarke

20th July
Lachlan Cooper

and

George Patsis

24th July
Blake Kassulke

Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today
Religious Identity + Mission continued . . . .

Angels and Mortals,
Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
Look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
Look at each other, then into ourselves
And say without shyness or apology or hesitation.
Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

“Maya Angelou”

If the impossible is possible then we are left with hope as our motivator. Hope for the future, hope for a long and happy life, hope for a better world in which we live. Hope for Essendon to win another AFL match.

“And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us.”

Romans 5:5

Nanda de Winter

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 - The launch of ‘G’day Cobber’ by Fr Steve Ardill

Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today
The 67 Class lead our community with mass on Wednesday 29th June. During the celebration we had our commissioning of the St Joseph’s Mini Vinnies. Fr John blessed our badges and Mrs Stavrou and Mrs Spriggs invited us forward to receive our badges. We had to say together the Mini Vinnies pledge and prayer.

The Mini Vinnies have been very active with helping every Thursday morning with our St Joey’s Breakfast Club and we have already had 3 meetings this term to discuss different ways we can help and support people in our community. We will keep you informed of any upcoming, exciting ideas that we are involved with.

The Mini Vinnies group

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Fun in the library on a rainy day

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Policeman Yeoman’s visits

Student Learning and Wellbeing - 67’s enjoy PE at the Lake
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
Coming Events...

Term 3:

Week 1
Thursday 28/7
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am and 67’s CSIRO @ McCormick Centre - Renmark

Week 2
Thursday 4/8
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am

Week 3:
Monday 8/8
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day

Tuesday 9/8
Yr 3-7 Chaffey excursion

Wednesday 10/8
R-2 Bush Kinder

Thursday 11/8
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am and SCHOOL PHOTOS

Friday 12/8
Mini Relay

Saturday 13/8
GALA NIGHT

Week 4:
Thursday 18/8 and Friday 19/8
STUDENT FREE DAYS

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Barmera Library School Holiday Program

Come and ruffle some tail feathers at the Library this school holidays...

Tuesday 12th July with Special Guests from Bimbamboo Birds, craft to follow
Tuesday 19th July – Bird feeders and other bird crafts

From 2pm onwards, fun for all ages, for some tweeding fun.
Ph: 85832872

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Gymnastics Holiday Program

Looking for something different to do during the School Holidays? Why not try the Berri District Youth Club’s ‘Gymnastics Holiday Program’.

When: Tuesday 12th July, 2016
Where: BDYC Clubrooms
Wilkinson Street, Berri
(Tin shed by the swimming pool)
Cost: $20 per child (pay on the day)

Session Times: (Ages 7-17 years)
Session One: 9am-10.15pm
Session Two: 1pm-6pm

Wear: T-shirt & shorts/skirted etc.
Long hair must be tied up.

No shorts, jeans, buckles, belts, jewellery

Bring: a water bottle.

3 HOUR PROGRAM
1 Hour Gymnastics Session with our qualified coaches.
Snacks and Drinks for each child.
Free entry.

To Register: Email: Jo McFarlane (bdycgymnasticsclub@hotmail.com) to reserve your spot and include the following information:

Parent name
Contact Number
Name and Age of the child
Which session you wish to attend
If any food allergies, medical conditions or disabilities
You will then receive a confirmation email.

Note: participants do not need to be members of the club or have any gymnastics experience.

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Tacker Attack

Kids obstacle course

Fun outdoor fitness!
Sat 9th July 11am-3pm
Sun 10th July 9am-12pm
At Loveday 4X4 Adventure park at Barmera
Unfortunately, fun for only $15 per child
No need to book, ages 12 and under

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RYT

10 July Junior Glee Club
Ages 5-10

Time: 1pm-4pm
Cost: $20
Location: Lutheran Peace Hall, Loxton

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Loxton Arts and Crafts

School Holidays Craft Workshops

Wednesday 13th July, 2016
Location: Loxton CWA Hall – Kokoda Tce, Loxton

Mini Monster Felt Softies

with Domenica Toscelli
Workshop 1: 9.30am-10.30am
Workshop 2: 10.30am-11.45am
Recommended age: 5-12 year olds

Learn to sew a mini monster softie with felt. Learn how to do a running stitch to sew together a monster softie using a template or from a unique design.

Workshop Cost: $30 - Bookings essential

Pottery Bowls

with Erin Hardill
Workshop 1: 10.30am-11.30am
Workshop 2: 11.30am-12.30am
Recommended age: 5-12 year olds

Learn the skill to create a bowl from clay. Participants can add their own personal touch to make it unique.

Workshop Cost: $30 - Bookings essential

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Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today