Dear Parents and Caregivers and Students,

The last few weeks have been extremely busy and over the last 4 weeks I have had 7 days out of the school. If you take the public holiday into account, that is 7 out of 19 days (63% attendance). Unfortunately, as principal of the school, there are many out of school meetings that I am required to attend, some in Adelaide and others in Port Pirie. But in saying that, these generally are the “required” meetings I attend, there are many more that I could be attending and don’t.

I feel that it is important that I am present at school as much as possible. If you have ever spoken to me about the school, you would clearly hear the love and passion I have for the school. One of my roles as principal of the school, is to build the capacity of the school – ensuring that it functions well when I am away. I am thankful to all of the staff for the leadership they display when I am at school or away but also for care that they have for the school. When I am not at school, I often find myself thinking about the school but not worrying about the school. When I am away, having Nanda and Tricia lead the school, I know that the school and your children are in safe and capable hands.

After the long weekend, we congratulated and welcomed Mrs Yeomans (Ms Luke) to the school. I find it hard to believe that she has only been with the school for 10 weeks. She has settled into our community smoothly and she has connected with all students but especially those in her class quickly.

Over the last few weeks, our students have been involved in Planet Rhythm – Drumming, West Adelaide Football Clinic, Youth Environmental Leaders and a Wipe Out Waste performance. At all of these events, our students have engaged in the opportunity and have represented the school well. We have a wonderful culture within our school and we should be proud of our children.

On August 13th the school will be having its Gala Night. This is the schools major fundraising event which often brings $4500-$5500 into our school. This money is spent back into the education and opportunities for our students. Last year we moved Gala Night off site and it is now being held at the Barmera Monash Football Club. This has resulted in reducing the workload for the school and families.

Though it has reduced the workload, it has not disappeared completely. I appreciate that we are all busy, but I am asking families if they are able to help in preparation of this event or on the night. They say many hands make light work, so even if you are only able to help for 30 mins, donate something towards a stall or sell some raffle tickets, it would be helpful. The money raised benefits every child and for it to truly be a community event, having as many hands on deck would be appreciated.

Next Friday, your child’s ‘Mid Year Report’ will be ready for collection at the end of the day. The report should be a celebration of your child’s achievements with areas of growth. As the parent...
From the Principal continued . . . .

of your child, the reports are addressed to you, with this in mind, we ask that families come into the school to collect their child’s report. Reports will not be sent home with children. I ask that families sit down with their child and go through the report together.

This week we had WIN TV at the school, filming students and the school for our new television commercial. All going well, the commercial will go to air early next term.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Lee Abela

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Religious Identity + Mission

“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?””
Luke 10:29

I see myself as a lifelong learner and each day I find I have learned something new. Yesterday morning, on World Refugee Day, as I entered into a conversation with my students on this topic I learned something that I hadn’t seen coming. For some unexplained reason during this conversation my memory was triggered back to the time when I was in primary school, back to my aunty Jo who lived in the same village as me. The children I teach already knew of my aunty Jo as I do bring her up on occasion; they already knew the story about me hiding from aunty Jo every time I saw her anywhere because she would embarrass me by openly pulling me into the biggest hug, suffocating me with her enormous breasts and kissing me on both cheeks with her bright red lips right in front of my friends! Don’t get me wrong I did love my aunty Jo. I loved her, far away from my friends, my school and the general public; but behind closed doors I found her interesting and endearing, so I liked to spend time with her. On weekends I would often ride my bicycle to her house to visit. There was something I had forgotten about aunty Jo, until yesterday. My aunty Jo was my grandfather’s sister and with her outgoing character she never really cared what others thought about her. She was loud, she was funny and she had a big belching laugh. She lived on the outskirts of our village, the part of town where nobody wanted to live; Firstly because it was right next to the gypsy camp, secondly, because the highway ran straight past it and thirdly because it was the part where the refugees that came from Morocco, former Yugoslavia and Uganda were settled. But my aunty Jo loved it there. She had a way about her, a special flair; she could get on with everyone, she was able to talk to everyone and she opened her door to anyone. Aunty Jo took the refugees, her neighbours, under her wing and helped them with all sort of things; filling out forms, buying food, taking the children to school and talking to the teachers, taking them to the doctor, listen to their stories and teaching them the language. Aunty Jo took these people who had left their lives, and often their loved ones behind, under her wing. She became their protector, their voice and their children’s grandmother. In return these people would share their culture with aunty Jo. It was normal to walk into aunty Jo’s living room on a Saturday being greeted by a colourful wall of women and children from different backgrounds chatting away. I loved tasting their food and learning words from their language. I would admire their clothes and some of the women would show me their long hair under their hijabs. In turn they would touch my golden hair and count the freckles on my face. And Aunty Jo…she would be there in the thick of it all, laughing her loud laugh, pulling me lovingly onto her lap, feeding me biscuits and whispering in my ear; “isn’t this wonderful?”. I am ashamed to say that I never really realised how special my aunty Jo really was until my conversation with my students yesterday morning in my classroom. Aunty Jo was able to rise above the gossip, the looks, the whispers, the judgement and contribute in her own way to restore dignity to people who had lost everything.

Pope Francis calls us to show mercy to the refugees and welcome them into our countries and into our lives. He says “Refugees are not dangerous, they are in danger.”

What kind of neighbour are you? What kind of neighbour do you want to be?

Prayer:

Lord, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes.
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need. Amen

Nanda de Winter

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Happy Birthday to …

26th June
Kale Johnson
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.

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Student Learning and Wellbeing - Planet Rhythm Excursion

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Student Learning and Wellbeing - Book Fair

We raised the magnificent amount of $1488. We were able to collect $450 of books from the fair. Well done and thank you to everyone! A special thanks to Soula Kanakaris who again helped at this years fair.

Congratulations to Deja Schapel who was the lucky winner of the $40 voucher which he got to spend at the fair. Also to the 38 other students who were lucky enough to have their names chosen from the draw and won either a poster or a variety gift.

Again this year we had a colouring in competition and our class winners each received a $15 voucher to be spent at the fair.

Thank you to the following families who donated books to our school library:

Abela Family  Haigh Family  Kingham Family
Carter Family  Kariuki Family  Kirby Kingham
Chabrel Family  Kassulke Family

Thank you for your continued support - Louise Stavrou

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Student Learning and Wellbeing - SANFL Football Clinic

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EDUCATING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY
Coming Events...

Week 9
Wednesday 29/6
Whole School Mass @ 9.15am

Thursday 30/6
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am

Week 10

Thursday 7/7
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am

Friday 8/7
Whole School Assembly 11.30am

and

END OF TERM 2

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Student Learning and Wellbeing - Science with 67 and 345

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Wipe out Waste

Student Learning and Wellbeing - School Assembly

Community

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Loxton Arts & Crafts School Holidays Craft Workshops

Wednesday 13th July, 2016

Location: Loxton CWA Hall, Kokoda Tce, Loxton

**Mini Monster Felt Softies**

with Dominica Fassbinder

Workshop 1: 9.00am-10.15am

Workshop 2: 10.30am-11.45am

Recommended age: 5-12 year olds

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

Workshop cost: $10 - Bookings essential

**Pottery Bowls**

with Erin Harwood

Workshop 1: 10.30am-11.45am

Recommended age: 5-12 year olds

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

Workshop cost: $10 - Bookings essential

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Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today
In the Spirit of Joy and Thanksgiving all parishioners and friends of Our Lady of the River Parish are invited to the launch of the book

“G’DAY COBBER
Dare to be a Saint”
.... The Life and Letters of Fr Bill Edwards SDB.

Authored by Fr Steve Ardill

Come along to
St Joseph’s School
8 Joyce Street, Barmera
on Monday June 27th 2016 commencing at 7pm.

Supper will be provided by the generosity of the Riverland branches of the Catholic Women's League.

EVERY PERSON HAS A STORY.
EVERY STORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD AND LISTENED TO RESPECTFULLY.

This is the story of Fr Bill Edwards ... a boy from Wollongong who gave his whole life in the service of God and the young as a Salesian of Don Bosco in the Australian Church and as a missionary in the Pacific.

It is a story of love, laughter and letters. It is also a story of a life that ended in the courageous acceptance of illness and suffering.

Fr Bill’s story is remarkable both in its simplicity and in the breadth of its embrace and inspiration.

Countless lives have been touched and transformed by the prayers, preaching, pen and personal encounters with this ‘priest of and for the people’.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday - 11th</td>
<td>Nature play day!</td>
<td>*Start our worm farm *Planting in new garden *collecting nature items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday - 12th</td>
<td>Finding Dory</td>
<td>Watching Finding Dory 3D At the Chaffey Theatre.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday - 13th</td>
<td>Pet/Animal Day</td>
<td>Bring in your own pet if you can for a visit. Dress up as your favorite pet, bring a picture along.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday - 14th</td>
<td>Chinese Cooking Day</td>
<td>We are going to make rice paper rolls and fried rice for lunch!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday - 15th</td>
<td>AM - Messy Morning</td>
<td>Come in and make some gooey and slimy fun things at OSHC today.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PM - Movie &amp; Popcorn</td>
<td>Please do not wear your best clothes!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday - 18th</td>
<td>Electronics Day</td>
<td>Bring along your electronic device from home. Please be aware your game at OSHC is your responsibility!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday - 19th</td>
<td>Sports Day in the hall</td>
<td>Balls, shoot hoops, gymnastics, games etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday - 20th</td>
<td>Art &amp; Craft Day</td>
<td>Cup wind chimes * Bottle cap craft * Pet rock deco's * Bird feeders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday - 21st</td>
<td>AFL Day</td>
<td>Dress up, cut outs of your star! Competitions plus heaps more!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday - 22nd</td>
<td>Pajama &amp; Party Day</td>
<td>Come in your PJ'S and enjoy the party lunch. Girls please bring sweats Boys bring savory.</td>
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Please remember to pack a hat, drink and lunch unless stated. SOME LUNCHES AND AM/PM SNACKS ARE PROVIDED. PLEASE READ THE PROGRAM CAREFULLY FOR THIS INFORMATION. NO MEALS ARE PROVIDED ON EXCURSION DAYS.

BARMERA OSHC VACATION CARE

For Children aged 5-12 years. Children from all areas are welcome.

Vacation Care opening hours and sessions fees are as follows: 8.00am-6.00pm
*Excursion days $45.00
*Full Days at Oshc $36.00
*Half Days $20(excludes excursion days.)

After School Care runs from 3.20-6.00pm Monday to Friday
$15.00 session includes afternoon tea. Vacancies are available. Please ring in and book at your fist early convenience to avoid disappointment.
Fees will be substantially reduced with child care benefits. Please inquire for more information. Are you looking for care or respite for yourselves.