It only feels like the other day that we started the term and it is hard to believe we are now over half way through the Term. I have already warned the staff and students that the remaining time till the end of the term will be like a roller coaster ride. For this ride to be successful, it is important that we all move together, support each other and enjoy the ride. For me, this is symbolic of the partnership we are all involved in, students, staff and families.

Our focus of ‘Relationships, Learning and Community’ is evident throughout the school and I am beginning to realise how strong this also is in the community. This is my third year of coaching soccer for Barmera United, I do this as a parent as well as showing my commitment to the community. This year I am coaching the under 6 team. I have come to notice the commitment of other school families to the Barmera United Soccer team; the under 8 team is coached by the Chabrel family, the under 10 team is supported by Lynton Gilgen and the under 12 team is coached by Peter Rayner. In addition to soccer, there are other families that have community involvement in other sports such as Football and Netball. I also have no doubt our school families support our community beyond just sport. Through these roles, we are promoting in our community that the school values of ‘Relationship, Learning and Community’ extend beyond 8 Joyce Street.

Next Thursday night at 7pm, the school will be holding its first ‘Information Night’ for new families to the school. Really anyone is welcome to attend but I am hoping that this will be an opportunity to share with people that might not be that familiar with our school how amazing it is and all that the school has to offer. I am also hoping to do some myth busting on, school fees, resources, how often we go to church and more. I still struggle to understand how St Joseph’s School, Barmera is one of the biggest secrets in the Riverland and how little people really know about our school. I would like to thank families that have shared the promotion advert on Facebook and for the kind comments they have made about the school. If you know someone that might benefit in finding out more about the school, please make them aware this evening is one. Again it is not just for families that are looking at their child starting in Reception, it is also available for families that might be looking at moving schools.

The school will also begin an advertising campaign on television in the near future. Filming for this advert should be taking place early next week. I will be in contact with you if your child will be involved.

Last Friday the teaching staff were involved in a Student Free Day based on Assessment and Reporting. This provided these staff with the opportunity to ensure that we are assessing students consistently across the year levels. Also on this day, some students participated in the SAPSASA Athletics at Glossop High School. I commend these students for their participation despite it being a Student Free Day. I also thank Ms Drogemuller and Mrs Scadden for making this opportunity possible for these students.
Finally, this long weekend we wish Ms Scarlett Luke the very best and eternal happiness and she will become Mrs Scarlett Yeomans. Scarlett will be marrying her fiancé Brad in Strathalbyn. I look forward to seeing the photo’s when she returns to school on Tuesday. Scarlett and Brad will be honeymooning over the school holiday break.

Have a great long weekend and take care,

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

Happy Birthday to …
15th June
Massimo Mitolo

Religious Identity + Mission

“Everything you can imagine is real”
~Pablo Picasso~

Imagination is the ability humans have to form a mental image of something that is not experienced through the five senses. It is the ability of the mind to create worlds, objects or events that do not exist, are not present, or have happened in the past. Imagination plays an important role in the development of children as they try to understand the world around them.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind sweeping over the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)

What was there in the beginning? What images spring to mind?

As a child I found it difficult to imagine that there was nothing in the beginning. Just an endless dark and empty space. I remember asking the priest who taught religious education at my school, “Father, a dark and empty space is not nothing is it?”

What was there in the me before people and planets, atoms and protons? Nothingness to me is simply unimaginable. The bible story about God creating the world in seven days is a narrative that captured my attention in the early days of my life. The reasons for this could be many, but finding purpose in this life and asking questions like “Where do I come from?” are all natural to a child. I now realise that the images I have in my mind about the creation narrative has put God on the same level as Mary Poppins; God “the magician” who can make something out of nothing with the simple click of a finger. It causes us as parents and teachers to reconsider how we teach about God and the images we help create for our children.

I was reminded of the power of our imagination this weekend with the passing of Mohammed Ali, watching footage of an interview he gave as a young man. In this interview Ali speaks of his curiosity in the world around him. Like all children Ali displayed a natural curiosity in the world and questioned it. Ali grew up as an African American in a white dominated America. He asked his mother questions like; why is Jesus white? why were all the men at the Lord’s last supper white? why are all the angels white? Then the most crucial question Mohammed Ali asked his mother: “Where were all the black angels when they took the pictures?”

The power of a picture. What pictures pop into your mind when you think about Jesus? Which pictures do you show your children of Jesus?

All children feel awe and wonder for God’s created world. Deep down, I also, knew from an early age that God was not like a “magician” but that something bigger had to be at work here. That there is something more to nature including humans, something special, something that cannot be proven nor dismissed. It is something that all children understand when they look at the pattern on a snake skin, or the perfect dew drop on a leaf, or watching snow fall and knowing that every snow crystal is unique in the same way every person is unique. Identical twins might have the exact same genes, but they are not exactly the same. A most colourful picture that only God can create. What an artist God is! And although the historical Jesus would have been of dark skin, his colour should not be what we remember about him. Like Jesus, we are not defined by the colour of our skin but by the actions of our heart.

Nanda de winter

EDUCATING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY
Wednesday 8th June we went to the McCormick Centre in Renmark, when we got there we were given our school folder and name tags. When everyone arrived we played a welcome game where there were emu’s and kangaroos. Kaleb was an emu and had to catch all the kangaroos, it was fun. We had a recess break and had some free me, we went for a walk around the wetlands. When everyone got back we had 2 aboriginal guest speakers, they were Chris and Uncle Barney. They shared stories about their childhood and how their culture was sustainable, which means they only took what they needed, they were not greedy. Uncle Barney played the didgeridoo and a native American drum for us, even made up a song and sang to us. We were all given a piece of plywood in the shape of a boomerang which we could either decorate or adapt to make it fly back to you. We then had lunch and free time where we got to walk around the wetlands or play with our boomerang. We also had to collect a stick for an activity later. Cindy talked to us about the badges we can earn as a group or solo and we had to write down what ideas we had to take back to school to earn our badges. We had to fill out an evaluation form and then we used the sticks we collected to toast a marshmallow. We really enjoyed YEL and can’t wait for the next one.

By Ellie Ambaras, Ashleigh Haigh, Kristen Kanakaris, Kaleb Ivanovic and Mrs Stavrou.
**Student Learning and Wellbeing - Gala Night**

Gala night will be held on Saturday 13th August at the Barmera Monash Football Club. Please keep this date free and also consider helping out on the day. Any questions please contact Tash Chabrel.

**Student Learning and Wellbeing - Breakfast Club**

**Student Learning and Wellbeing - Kindy Information Night**

**Coming Events...**

**Week 7**  
Monday 13/6  
Queen’s Birthday  
public holiday  

Thursday 16/6  
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am  

**Thursday 16/6**  
Kindy Information Night @ 7pm  

**Friday 17/6**  
School Assembly @ 9am  

**Week 8**  
Wednesday 22/6  
Wipe Out Waste excursion @ Barmera Primary School  

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

**Thursday 23/6**  
Breakfast Club @ 8.15 - 8.45am  

**Week 10**  
Friday 8/7  
Whole School Assembly  
11.30am  
and  
END OF TERM 2

**St Joseph’s School, Barmera**  
Are you undecided about which school to send your child?  
Come and see what St Joseph’s School has to offer – Learning Environments, Resources, Information Technology, Learning Approaches, School Bus & more...

**Information Night**  
16th June 7pm  
The hour long session will be filled with information about the school and how your child can successfully be part of our community  

**Come & See**  
What awaits your child!  

**Contact the school on**  
8588 2154

**Community**