I am not sure how your child has been feeling but I have been on a buzz for the last 2 weeks!!! So much has happened, all of which has been a real school celebration.

Last week we celebrated Catholic Education Week. The week was filled with many community events and several highlights. The week began with Twilight Carnival. It was great to have the Barmera Kindergarten join us for part of it. In talking to the kindy staff, they were impressed with how well our students took care of the kindy students and each other. They were particularly taken by the way students cheered and supported students from other teams. For me, this kindness that students show to each other is always noticeable on a daily basis. The evening concluded with a school supplied shared meal. The sharing of a meal is significant for me. Coming together and eating is something I do with my family. Having this experience on Monday night highlighted to me, even though we are not “related” our school community is family.

On Tuesday we had our pyjama casual day and our whole school weave. The school weave again was a great example of how we are family/community. Each of us are a thread that contribute to the fabric that makes St Joseph’s School, Barmera.

Hopefully you have had a chance to see the photos on the school Facebook page showing how wonderful the four catholic school celebration was at Our Lady of the River School. Ms de Winter and Mrs Stavrou prepared and led the Mass that was celebrated in the morning. After the Mass, students were able to go on 3 different jumping castle/slides, roll in the wonder balls, have their face painted, and more....

Thursday we “switched off and Friday we celebrated Walk to School Day, shared breakfast, assembly and Grandparent/special person morning tea. It was pleasing to see many students involved in the walk to school day and grandparents/special person morning tea. The week began and ended successfully as well as many highlights through the week. Thank you to the students, staff, families and wider community for making this week truly successful.

This week highlights that Catholic Education Week actually exists every week. You would be hard pressed to find a week throughout the year where we were not celebrating ‘what is great about catholic education’.

On Wednesday our Book Fair began. Students and families have filled the library looking at and purchasing books and other treats. The start of the book fair was shared with the National Simultaneous Storytime. Around the country, school, libraries, kindergartens and families all read the book “I got this hat” at 11am. The school has been involved in this activity for a number of years and this year we were invited to participate in this event at the Barmera Library.

As a whole school we gathered at the Barmera Library and we read the story. The story was also brought to life by Louise Stavrou and Sue Webber. After this, Peggy and Jody co-ordinated a hat making activity for our students. I would like to thank the Barmera Library for their kind invitation. We all had a great time.
This week we have also had our sun sails installed in the school. Two large sails were installed over the jumping pillow and two over the sandpit and hammock station. Visually the sails have exceeded my expectations – they look absolutely AMAZING!!! These will be a great asset to the school.

Finally, there is a Student Free Day on Friday 3rd June. Selecting the date for Student Free Days are never easy and we always try to support parents in finding the best possible date. On the 3rd, staff will be involved in a staff day on Assessment and Reporting. This will support staff in preparation of your child’s report that you will receive on Friday of Week 9. This day is also the same date as SAPSASA Athletics in Glossop. The school is putting provisions in place to allow students to continue to be involved in this event. If you have any questions about the Student Free Day or SAPSASA Athletics, please contact the school.

Have a great weekend,

Lee

Religious Identity + Mission

Our History, Our story, Our Future

“Our history, our story, our future”, is the theme for Reconciliation Week this year. Reconciliation week is celebrated every year from 27th May- 3rd of June.

As Australians, we are all here, woven into this country. As part of our reconciliation journey, there are truths to tell, stories to celebrate, and relationships to grow.

‘Our History’ reminds us all, that historical acceptance is essential to the reconciliation journey. It is also a commitment to ensuring these wrongs are never repeated in the future.

‘Our Story’ reflects the fact that the journey towards reconciliation forms a significant part of Australia’s story, as do the stories of both trauma and triumph told by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It also encourages each and every one of us to make reconciliation part of our own story.

‘Our Future’ reinforces that reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, in the knowledge that we believe in fairness for everyone, that our diversity makes us richer, and that together, we are stronger.

We have done wrong. We are sorry. Help us, Father, not to sin again.

Aboriginal Our Father

On Sunday we celebrated First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Christian, Jemma, Josephine, Kelton, Lily and Taylor as they shared in the body and blood of Christ for the first time.

Last week we celebrated Catholic Education Week. The four Catholic schools gathered in Berri for mass. We were called to think about what it means to “have a good day.” After mass students and staff shared a meal together and participated in many fun activities on the lawns at OLOR.

Nanda de Winter
Catholic Education Week

Wednesday 18th May - Combined catholic schools mass and fun afternoon at OLOR

Thursday 19th May - Lights out day

Friday 20th May - Walk Safe to school day, Assembly and Grandparents/Special Friends morning tea
Student Learning and Wellbeing - National Simultaneous Story Time - “I got this hat”

Student Learning and Wellbeing - Latest Federation e-News!


This is the quarterly e-newsletter for parents and families from the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities.

The focus of this bumper edition is Catholic Education Week. In this edition, we announce the recipients of the 2016 Tom French Awards for Family Engagement in Catholic Education and hear parents’ stories of how their schools have shown that ‘Every Child Matters’. And so much more.....

If you have an article you’d like to contribute or have an idea about what you’d like to read please contact us at the Federation on 8301 6685 or email us at fed_admin@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Coming Events...

Week 5
Friday 3/6
Student Free Day
and SAPSASA
Athletics

Week 6
Wednesday 8/6
School Mass @
9.15am and
YEL Forum

Thursday 9/6
Drumbeat
incursion

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

Friday 17/6
School Assembly
@ 9am

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Community

- **Giving Blood feels good**
  The Blood Service Mobile Blood Donor Centre will be visiting Berri: Senior Citizen Centre, 1 Crawford Terrace Thursday 16th June 11am to 6.15pm and Friday 17th June 7.30am to 11.45am. To make an appointment call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au

- **Parents of students attending the Berri School Dental Clinic**
  The State and Federal Governments are in the process of upgrading SA’s public dental infrastructure. Part of the process of upgrading these services involves the closure of the Berri School Dental Clinic. There will be a upgrade of a new Riverland Oral Health Centre which is due to open at the end of 2016. This clinic will be located at 10 Maddin Street in Berri. School dental services for children who attend St Joseph’s School in Barmera will be transferred to the new Riverland Oral Health Centre. If you have any concerns or comments please contact Shane Sandercok on 0423 026 156.

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EDUCATING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TODAY
Student Learning and Wellbeing - 'Kickstart for Kids' Breakfast club

Kickstart for Kids has been set up in South Australia to support all school children to help make sure they have a great start to each day with a full tummy.

The Mini Vinnies group and Mrs Stavrou will be co-ordinating this programme.

The free breakfast will be available from the tuckshop every Thursday morning beginning at 8.15am and finishing at 8.45am.

All students are able to access this free breakfast club with items such as cereal, toast, canned and fresh fruit and yoghurt on the menu.

Hope to see you there - The Mini Vinnies and Mrs Stavrou