I hope all the mothers in our community had a joy filled Mother’s Day last Sunday. Often we can take for granted all the things that our mothers do for us and for me, Mother’s Day is a great moment of reflection to think about my mum and my grandparents and all that they have done for me and continue to do. Regularly, I see that same love, care and compassion that was given to me, now shown to my children through my wife.

Like Mother’s day, it can be easy not to think about what we have unless we are given a prompt to reflect. In my conversation with my mum over the weekend, she spoke about how the school has so much and how lucky the students are. If you have read of my mum’s Facebook comments, you would be able to tell that she is very proud of me but I think her reflection of the school is more than being a proud mother – I think she is right.

Our school does have a lot – excellent indoor and outdoor learning spaces, equipment, ICT resources, staff and more. Often I don’t really think about how much we have, but I am always reminded when I visit other schools or when I have friends visit from Adelaide. They often ask me how we are able to do this. My simple response is we work hard, give a lot (time and energy), have a supportive community and shop well! I hope in reading this, you too have had the opportunity to reflect upon the school and how lucky our children are.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that next week we begin our Catholic Education Week celebrations and it begins with the Twilight Carnival. I always appreciate the support that I receive from families (I hope I constantly make you aware of this) and in a way of giving back to the community, we will share a meal together. As part of the Twilight Carnival the school will be supplying dinner in the form of Marinated Chicken Breast steaks, Sandwich steak, Sausages and Coleslaw from 5-6pm. This invitation is not just to you and your child/ren, it is also available to your extended family... other children, grandparents, close family friends etc. I have sent out a text message regarding numbers and preferred food. If you have an idea of who might be coming, can you please respond to the message to help with the catering required.

This week, children in the year 3, 5 and 7 class have completed the NAPLAN testing. As you know, I simply tell children to try their best and to not worry about doing the test. The results of NAPLAN usually come out in September. Families are always welcome to make a time to come and see their child’s teacher and discuss how they are going. I believe St Joseph’s School, Barmera is a place where children find their feet and are able to be successful. We have a lot of data outside of NAPLAN that shows this.

Finally, next week the Sun Sails will be installed over the Jumping Pillow, Sandpit and Hammock Station. Have a great weekend,

Lee
We don’t accomplish anything in this life alone, and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of our lives and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something. ~ Sandra Day O’Connor

From 13th - 20th May 2016 we celebrate Catholic Education in the Pt Pirie and Adelaide Dioceses. During this week we will showcase Catholic Education and highlight all the wonderful initiatives our schools offer in South Australia. Although all Catholic Schools in South Australia have their own identity we all share the same overarching goal.

How are you a part of Catholic Education?
Reflecting on this question makes me think almost instantly of a colourful piece of material, woven together from many individual threads into one.

Do you know the story from Greek mythology about the weaving contest between Athena and Arachne? Arachne made Athena mad, not just because she claimed to be a perfect weaver, but because the story she created with her weaving showed Zeus, Athena’s father, in his less-than-perfect love affairs. Athena tore the perfect weaving to shreds and Arachne hung herself (not a nice detail but essential to this story). Athena, in an act of mercy, changed the rope into a web and Arachne into a spider. So, Arachne would continue to weave but would no longer be a danger to Athena’s reputation.

In other cultures, perfection is reserved to the Gods as well. The Navajo (Native American tribe), for instance, when weaving a rug, deliberately weave a thread into the rug that looks like a mistake. That “mistake” keeps the rug from being perfect and serves as a path for Spirit to enter.

Like a woven rug; we are not perfect, our students are not perfect and our schools are not perfect. But together we connect and relate. Together we are a community who create this piece of tapestry that is amazingly beautiful, joyful, energetic, generous, and individual.

The imperfections in our tapestry only serve as places with a deeper purpose; to create opportunities for the Holy Spirit to enter.

Into my life, I weave the love of God
Into my striving and my being, I weave the peace of God
Into the frayed edges of my life, I weave the crimson thread of His forgiveness and strength
Into my stony heart, I weave His kindness melting me into love
Into my darkness I weave His light and life
Into my time, I weave His eternity
Amen

Please feel very welcome to celebrate Catholic Education Week with us. A detailed outline of activities during this week is displayed elsewhere in this newsletter. As part of Catholic Education Week we will create a woven artwork in the front of our school. We will be looking for donated materials that can be used for our tapestry. The tapestry will be woven through chicken wire and as it is displayed outside materials need to be reasonably sturdy. You are also an important part of our community, therefore I encourage you to be part of our tapestry. Come over to the school during the week and weave your own thread into our tapestry.

Nanda de Winter

Happy Birthday to ...
26th May
Adrian Monaco and Mikayla Rayner
Celebrating Catholic Education Week 13th – 20th May 2016

“Where every child matters”

This year is the third year that the Diocese of Port Pirie is celebrating ‘Catholic Education Week’. It has sparked a lot of interest in the State and it is now going to expand into all Catholic Schools in South Australia. Catholic Education Week is a time to pause, ‘give thanks’ and celebrate all that is good about Catholic Schools.

This year’s theme is “Where every child matters”. St Joseph’s School, Barmera has many examples where this is the case. We have been saying for many years that students are able to “find their feet and be successful” in our school. The reason for this is, every child does matter! We cater for the needs of individuals and make sure they have access to what it is they need.

Each day from Friday 13 May – 20 May the school will be having an activity in celebration of Catholic Education Week. Families are welcome to be part of the activities and join in on the celebrations.

Friday 13th May        Display making activity

Monday 16th May        Twilight Carnival – activities begin at 2pm till 6pm
                      Families are encouraged to participate
                      Dinner supplied by the school at 5pm

Tuesday 17th May       School Casual Day
                      Theme – Pyjamas or Onesie

Wednesday 18th May     Combined school event at Our Lady of the River
                      10 am four Catholic Schools Mass
                      12-2pm Activities including Jumping Castle and Wonder Balls

Thursday 19th May      Diocese of Port Pirie ‘Switch Off’
                      All schools in the Diocese will have no power in the classrooms to support the environment

Friday 20th May        Walk Safely to School Day with Breakfast and Food Appeal
                      Followed by Assembly 9.15am and a Grandparent/Special Person
                      Morning Tea
Coming Events...

Week 3
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Monday 16/5
Twilight Carnival
2pm till 6pm
Dinner at 5pm

Tuesday 17/5
Casual Day
Theme: Pyjamas or Onesie

Wednesday 18/5
Combined Schools Mass @ OLOR at 10.30am
Activities at OLOR 12-2pm

Thursday 19/5
Diocese of Port Pirie ‘Switch off’

Friday 20/5
Walk to School Day, Breakfast and Food Appeal,
Assembly @ 9.15am followed by Grandparents Morning Tea

Week 5
Friday 3/6
Student Free Day

Barmera Kindergarten Family Night
Saturday 4th June at the Barmera Monash Football Club. Meals from 5.30pm. Entertainment by Mick Kelly. Special guest Peppa Pig! Auctions, Raffles, Money squares, Lucky dips, Face painting, Music. BRING YOUR WHOLE FAMILY! Book on 8588 2025

Mega May Auction presented by the Riverland Field Days. Your opportunity to buy or sell. Sunday 22nd May at the Riverland Field day site. Auction starts 9am. Goods to be delivered to the site Saturday 21st May 9am-5pm. For more information www.riverlandfielddays.com.au

Community

Introducing “Plus Fun” classes!
for the more casual students and parents who cannot commit to performances and outside shows.

Classes are available in:
- Classical Ballet
- Technique
- Tap
- Hip Hop
- Cheerleading
- Musical Theater
- "Plus Fun" classes

Come and celebrate Families Week 2016
Saturday, 21 May 2016
9.00am to 10.00am
Activities and information in the Chaffey Theatre forecourt.
The Chaffey Theatre is located on Seventeenth St, Renmark
Then join us at 10.00am for a film screening of Disney’s Zootopia.
This is a FREE event

Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today