



## Important Dates

House Captain  
Elections

Monday 5 February 2024

Nichii and Mary Visit

Monday 5 February 2024

Leadership Mass @  
10am

Thursday 8 February 2024

Whole School  
Assembly and Open  
Morning @ 9am

Friday 9 February 2024

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 13 February 2024

Valentines Day

Wednesday 14 February  
2024

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14 February  
2024

Swimming Carnival  
in Loxton

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Lenten Breakfast's  
begin

Wednesday 21 February  
2024

Whole School  
Assembly @ 9am

Friday 8 March 2024

Adelaide Cup-  
Public Holiday

Monday 11 March 2024

Learning Journey  
Interviews 12th and  
13th

Tuesday 12 March 2024

NAPLAN 2024  
Begins

St Joseph's Day

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Harmony Day

Thursday 21 March 2024

Holy Week

Sunday 24 March 2024

Good Friday-Public  
Holiday

Friday 29 March 2024

Easter Monday-  
Public Holiday

Monday 1 April 2024

Last Day Term 1,  
Assembly  
@11.30am,  
Dismissal 12.30pm

Friday 12 April 2024

---

## From the Principal

Welcome back! It's with great joy that we welcome our students back to school after the Christmas break. As we gather once again in the spirit of learning and community, I can't help but notice the excitement and energy that fills our classrooms. The Christmas break has provided our students with an opportunity to rest, recharge, and grow. Whether it's through new experiences, newfound wisdom, or simply the growth that comes with time, I am certain that our students have returned with enthusiasm for the year ahead.

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all the new students and their families joining our SJSB community. Just as Mary MacKillop believed in the power of education to transform lives, we too believe that each new student brings a unique light to our school, enriching our community in countless ways. Your presence among us is a reminder of the diversity and strength of our school family, and we are excited to walk alongside you on your educational journey.

I also welcome back the SJSB staff team. Our educators, support staff, and administrators are dedicated professionals who are committed to providing a well-rounded education that addresses the academic, spiritual, and social-emotional needs of all our students. The team's expertise, passion, and unwavering dedication, creates a nurturing environment where every child can thrive and grow. We are confident that our staff's collective efforts will continue to make a positive impact on our students' lives, ensuring that they receive the best possible educational experience.

The Diocesan theme this year "Let your light shine" serves as a guiding beacon for our school. It reminds us of the importance of embracing our unique gifts and talents and using them to illuminate the world around us. As we nurture the growth of our students, both academically and spiritually, let us encourage them to let their light shine brightly, making a positive impact on those around them.

In 2024 St Joseph's School Barmera celebrates its 70th anniversary. This year we will reflect on our journey from humble beginnings to the rich history and traditions that have shaped our community. We honour the generations of students, families, and staff who have contributed to our school's legacy of excellence. This milestone is a testament to the strength and resilience of our community, and I am excited to celebrate this significant achievement with all of you.

As we begin this new year, let us also celebrate the small moments that make school life so special. From the excitement of lost teeth to the anticipation of making new friends, each experience contributes to the unique tapestry of our school. Let us cherish these moments too.

There are many exciting learning opportunities to look forward to this term. On Monday next week we welcome the Director for Catholic Education of the Port Pirie Diocese, Mrs Nichii Mardon and the new Catholic Identity and Mission advisor, Mrs Mary Manning to our school. Next week we will induct our school leaders with a leadership mass on Thursday and on Friday we will have our first whole school assembly followed by a School Open Morning for families to walk through children's classrooms, meet teachers to ask teachers any questions you have regarding school routines and expectations. In week 3 we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and begin our Lenten journey towards Easter.

I am confident that this year will be filled with success, growth, and meaningful connections. Together, let us make it a year to remember, where our light shines brightly, illuminating the path to a bright future.

Nanda de Winter



# Catholic Identity and Mission



*May we remember to whisper to one another, every now and then, on purpose, at the right time: **you belong here**. There's room for you. There's room for all of us. We are part of the temple in which God is quite at home.*

This week we joyfully open our school doors for the very first time in 2024. This week we also celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, exactly 40 days after the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple in the bible marks the end of one important stage in Jesus' life and the beginning of another – his childhood and adolescence.

Every time I read the biblical story of the Presentation of the Lord, I can't help but draw a parallel with the narrative of Simba's presentation in The Lion King. Both stories speak to the profound human need for belonging and purpose. In the biblical account, the Presentation of the Lord symbolises Jesus' belonging to the Jewish community and his larger role in the salvation of humanity. Similarly, Simba's presentation in The Lion King marks his introduction to the pride lands and his eventual understanding of his place in the circle of life. Both narratives emphasise the importance of embracing one's heritage and responsibilities, as well as the recognition that true belonging comes from understanding and fulfilling one's role within a community. Just as Jesus was presented to the world with a divine purpose, so too does Simba come to realise his destiny as the rightful king. These stories remind us that belonging is not just about being a part of something, but also about recognising and embracing our unique contributions to the world around us.

The Feast of the Presentation reminds us that we too belong. We belong in our families, in our school, in our town and in our Church. As human beings a sense of belonging is important as it connects us to others, to each other and to God. By presenting Jesus in the Temple, the Holy family expressed their deepest awareness of God and demonstrated how they belonged to Him.

How wonderful it is to belong!

Welcoming new students and helping them and their families belong to the SJSB community, they received a plant to symbolise planting roots in our community and the growth and journey ahead.

## School Attendance

I would like to take a moment to emphasise the crucial role that regular school attendance plays in your child's educational journey. All parents have a duty to ensure children attend school regularly and punctually.

Attending school every day and making every minute count is essential for your child's academic, social, and emotional development. Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve academic success, develop strong study habits, and build lasting friendships. Furthermore, regular attendance helps students stay engaged in their learning and reduces

the likelihood of falling behind.

By ensuring your children attend school you are not only complying with legal requirements, but you are also actively contributing to your child's future success.

We understand that there may be circumstances that can affect your child's attendance, and we encourage open communication in such cases. Together, we can work to support your child's educational journey and ensure they have the best possible opportunities for growth and development.

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning



# St Joseph's School Baramera ENROLMENTS OPEN NOW!

Little Joey  
School  
Ready  
Transition  
Program

 85886100



Our 'Little Joey's School Ready Transition Program' is designed for students eligible to start Reception in Term 3, 2024. All children who turn 5 between April 30 and October 31, 2024, who are enrolled in the school can join the program for free. This program runs 2 terms prior to them starting school and helps transition children from kindy to primary school successfully. Our program has a proven track record of preparing children for their school journey by focusing on key developmental areas such as literacy, numeracy, social skills, and emotional readiness. Led by experienced educators, this program provides a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can grow and thrive, gaining the confidence and skills they need for a successful start to school. Enrol your child today to give them the best possible start to their educational journey! Call the school for more information.

**Little Joey's**  
**OCCASIONAL CARE**  
**MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS**  
**8:50-11:30AM**

Unlock a world of knowledge  
and endless opportunities for  
your little ones!

**Book Now!**  
to receive a FREE Little Joey Welcome Pack

 For More Information  
**8588 6100**

*Supporting all families in the Riverland*

We are expanding our Occasional Care service to cater to the needs of our wider community. Discover the joy of learning and play at St. Joseph's School in Barmera! Our occasional care program provides a nurturing environment for 2–5-year-olds, where they can explore, learn, and grow while you take care of your errands or enjoy some well-deserved 'me' time.

Our educators are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive. With their passion for early childhood education and their deep understanding of child development, our staff members create engaging learning experiences tailored to the unique needs of each child. Their warmth, professionalism, and genuine care for the well-being of every child make our occasional care service a place where families can feel confident and reassured to let them thrive in our loving community!

All new enrolments receive a FREE Little Joey Welcome Pack.

## Riverland Primary Schools Music Festival



We are thrilled to announce that our school will be participating in the Riverland Primary Schools Music Festival, an exciting opportunity for students in Years 4-6 to showcase their musical talents and be part of a vibrant musical community.

The festival is a three-term commitment, providing students with a rich and immersive musical experience that extends beyond the classroom. Through participation in the festival, students will have the chance to develop their musical skills, collaborate with their peers, and gain valuable performance experience.

If your child is interested in taking part in this enriching musical journey, we encourage them to express their interest with Ms. Petty. Ms. Petty will be able to provide further details about the festival, including rehearsal schedules, performance dates, and any additional costs and requirements.

## It's a Boy



Congratulations to Matt, Billie, Harlow, and Aysha on the safe arrival of their son and brother Jace.

Congratulations to Ev, Tom, Antonio, and Sofia on the safe arrival of their son and brother Samuel.



## Free 3-Hour Workshops for Families and Carers



Through our partnership with the Life Buoyancy Institute our families have free access to the following online workshops. Follow the links to register.

All of our upcoming events for the year are here: <https://lbi.org.au/upcoming-events/>

Key events open for registration include:

27<sup>th</sup> of February - [Responding to Child and Youth Anxiety and Depression](#)

27<sup>th</sup> of March - [Responding to Self-Harm and Suicidal Ideation](#)

9<sup>th</sup> of May - [Trauma and its Impact \(Advanced Under the Surface\)](#)

4<sup>th</sup> of June - [Motivating Others for Intentional Change](#)

# PARENT CORNER

## Resilience

### IS MY CHILD LACKING RESILIENCE?

We have a belief in our world that happiness is "good" and sadness is "bad" and this is perpetuated everywhere we turn. There is always something telling us how we can be happier, or what we can buy that will make us more vibrant or positive. Kids are growing up in a world where there is an underlying assumption that sadness is scary and should be avoided, so it's easy for kids to start thinking that their own difficult emotions are bad or wrong. This causes them to reject themselves when they are experiencing these emotions, which is why they struggle to cope when things are hard.

### HOW CAN I BOOST MY CHILD'S RESILIENCE?

As a parent, the best thing you can do for your child is to teach them that all feelings are normal, and that they can relate to their feelings in a healthy way. We want to help them see that sadness and disappointment are useful because they tell us what we care about, and that it is normal to feel scared or lonely at times. This will help them get out of cycles like shutting down, becoming aggressive, or having a meltdown when they are upset. Below is a step-by-step process for responding to your child's emotions when they are overwhelmed or acting out

## Tips for boosting Resilience

#### 1. SOOTHE THE FEELING, DON'T FIX THE PROBLEM

You can say: "I understand you're upset, it's normal to feel frustrated and sad when we are struggling with something! What does it make you feel like? How can we soothe your emotion?" Focus on things like taking long slow deep breaths, or going outside for a bit and then coming back to the task at hand.

#### 2. HELP THEM LOCATE THE EMOTION IN THEIR BODY

You can say: "Where do you feel that sensation in your body? What does it feel like? Can you draw it for me?" This technique brings them out of a sense of overwhelm and helps them relate to their feeling directly, which allows it to pass more quickly and less dramatically.

#### 3. NORMALISE STRUGGLE

You can give examples of people who have gone through hard things and reflect on the hard things you have faced – always showing them that people move through these things and that all hard experiences pass. For example you can say: "Life can be challenging for all of us – even people that you think might lead perfect lives will be struggling in their own way, it's part of everyone's life".

#### 4. SHOW THEM A PATHWAY FOR GROWTH

Help them reflect on the hard things they have faced in the past and what they gained from them. For example you can say: "Remember when that person was mean to you last year, and how you got through it and learned how strong you are, and what makes a good friend?" Use that to lead into their current situation: "What is the lesson you can learn from what you are facing now? Add a little bit of body text

# Term 1 Week 1 2024



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Ngawait people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.





**MR REEKS'**

*wonderful*  
FANTASTIC  
*Magical*

**ART CLASSES**

Young people will learn how to draw and paint with specialised teaching.

**INTRODUCTORY OFFER**

10 Lessons for \$100 (Materials \$10)

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday after school  
Commencing 6th February through to 10th April

3:30-4:30 (8 to 9 year olds)

4:40-5:40 (10 to 12 year olds)

5:50-6:50 (13+ year olds)

Monday Venue: Our Lady of the River Art Room, Berri  
Tues & Wed Venue: St Joseph's School Art Room, Renmark

Contact Greg Reeks for further enquiries on:

Phone: 0403 697 315

Email: [gregoryreeks@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryreeks@gmail.com)

ONLY  
**10**  
STUDENTS  
PER CLASS

R270601

# TOASTED LUNCH!

OPEN: When eating bell rings

Do you have a wrap  
Sandwich

COME TO THE CANTEEN IF SO!!

LAINIE, GRACE, ZOE <sup>and</sup> HAYLEY

GET YOUR LUNCH TOASTED  
at the canteen for...

**FREE**

It's open on  
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRI DAY

Inventive

Explore

Make

Get Creative  
with the Barmera  
Theatre Gallery  
Artists

Colour

Experiment

Imagine

suitable for 8 years +

Explore different styles of art,  
learn new techniques and create  
original artworks

**Get Creative**

**FREE**

**Tuesday's 4:00-5:00pm**

**at Barmera Library**

**February 6**

**February 20**

**March 5**

**March 19**

**bookings appreciated 8588 2872**

# BLUE SKY DREAMING

Sat 3rd February 2024

What does the future of RYT look like?

1:30pm **BRAINSTORMING  
WORKSHOP**

with members and  
friends of RYT

4:00pm

**STRATEGIC  
PLANNING  
SESSION**

Board Members  
only

6:30pm Dinner at

**MALLEE FOWL  
RESTAURANT**

All welcome by RSVP

Blue Sky Dreaming will be held on Saturday  
the 3rd February at the Renmark Institute  
(54 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark SA 5341)  
Please RSVP by email to [admin@ryt.org.au](mailto:admin@ryt.org.au) ASAP  
This event is ZOOM ready!

RIVERLAND  
YOUTH THEATRE





# Paint your own Bursting with *Love* Canvas

Saturday 10 February 2024  
Two Session Times Available  
11:00 am and 12:00 pm

Berri Visitor Information Centre  
24 Riverview Drive Berri

All Welcome  
Bookings Essential  
To Book Call 08 8582 5511

**\$5**  
per  
Canvas



