



Important Dates

Choir Rehearsal
Berri Town Hall
Monday 3 June 2024

YEL Forum Day
Wednesday 5 June 2024

Student Free Day
Friday 7 June 2024

Public Holiday-
Kings Birthday
Monday 10 June 2024

Kingham's Farm
Excursion
Friday 14 June 2024

Semester 1 Reports
Home
Friday 28 June 2024

Last Day Term 2,
11.30am Assembly,
12.30pm Dismissal
Friday 5 July 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.



Catholic Identity and Mission



Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

Before anyone experiences a loved one's death someone else's grief is only a formality. Before you feel humiliated yourself, you can never know how painful the daily paper can be to those who find themselves in it. And only until your own reputation is at stake, can you look at another person's shame without the grace to turn away.

This struck me when Jack Charles, the aboriginal actor, said on the ABC's *Ahn's Brush with Fame*, "I do not know how to love, because I have never in my life experienced love. I have never felt loved. I have never had someone tell me they loved me. How can I be expected to know how to love another human being?"

We cannot experience night without experiencing day.

We cannot experience victory without a loss.

We cannot feel strong without having felt weak.

And without the experience of sadness, we can never experience happiness.

The human experience is one of struggle. Out of struggle we come to see what is important. No one comes out of suffering, the same kind of person they were before they went in. It's possible, of course, to come out worse. Struggle at times, turns into bitterness. But it is also possible, if we choose to reflect on it, to come out stronger and wiser than we were when it began. What is not possible, is to stay the same.

The biblical meaning of community invites us to consider the significant relationship between Jesus and us. Jesus intended to fuse people together in groups where they could grow in character and live generously. Community is about two or more people who make a deliberate choice to accept one another. To commit to each other in this context is no incidental event. It requires discipline, humility, selfless love, grace, and the heart of a servant. It demands staying power, flexibility, and loyalty.

This National Reconciliation Week, let us all be brave and make change for those in our community, who struggle and become inspired by the last line of John Denver's song 'Perhaps Love':

My memory of love will be of.....you!

From the Principal



As we reach the midpoint of term 2, we have much to celebrate and reflect upon. The first half of the term has been filled with an array of wonderful events and milestones, from the joy and unity of Catholic Education Week to the meaningful observances of Laudato Si' Week and Reconciliation Week. Each of these celebrations has enriched our school community, fostering a deeper sense of connection and purpose. A particular highlight for us has been the well-deserved recognition of Louise Stavrou's outstanding contributions to our school, culminating in her receiving a Catholic Education Award. This honour not only acknowledges her hard work and dedication but also inspires us all to continue striving for excellence in everything we do.

Looking ahead, we are excited to mark a significant milestone in our journey towards updating the school uniform. Families can now place pre-orders, and the new uniforms will start arriving in July. This change represents our commitment to fostering a sense of pride and unity within our school community and to match the uniform to the contemporary and diverse needs of our students. Additionally, our Year 3/4 class is nearing the completion of their Maker's Empire project, which focuses on finding innovative solutions to the fruit fly problem in our Riverland region. Through their collaboration with PIRSA, the students have gained valuable insights and skills. They will present their projects to families next month, and we are honoured to have Con and Jason from PIRSA judging their efforts. One fortunate team will have the opportunity to showcase their solution in Adelaide, a testament to the incredible learning and creativity happening at St Joseph's School in Barmera.

At St Joseph's School Barmera, we are committed to fostering a positive learning environment through Positive Behaviour Intervention Strategies (PBIS). As part of our ongoing professional learning, we are collaborating with our students to create a whole schoolteacher matrix that clearly outlines what effective learning looks like at our school. This matrix is underpinned by our core values of Kindness, Safety, and Learning, ensuring that these principles are consistently reflected in our classrooms. By engaging both teachers and students in this process, we aim to cultivate a supportive and structured environment that promotes positive behaviours and enhances the overall educational experience for everyone.

As we approach the end of semester 1, it's a time for reflection and celebration of all the hard work and progress our students have made. Student reports will be sent home at the end of week 9, providing a comprehensive overview of your child's achievements and areas for growth. Reports will be emailed to families unless a hard copy is requested. Last year, we updated the format of our reports, and they are now more accessible and easier to understand. Each subject is graded on an A-E scale, with a 'C' indicating that a student is working at the expected standard. In addition to academic grades, we also include a rating for attitude, which is a crucial aspect of

understanding whether your child is working to their full potential. We hope these reports will offer valuable insights and foster further growth and development in the second half of the year.

During week 5 and 6 of each term students take part in the Classroom Pulse Check in. The purpose of the Classroom Pulse Check In is to find out how students are feeling about their experience of school. Our aim is simply to “check in” with our students and measure how they are feeling. Your child’s responses will help us to identify any potential social, emotional, or learning needs that they may have.

Please remember that Friday, July 7, is a student-free day. This day is dedicated to professional learning for our staff, an essential practice to ensure we continue to provide high-quality education for all our students. By investing in our teachers’ professional development, we enhance their skills and knowledge, ultimately benefiting every student in our school. We appreciate your understanding and support as we commit to continuous improvement and excellence in education.

Nanda de Winter

E-Safety



As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities of raising children in a digital age, I wanted to touch base on an important topic: internet safety.

Do you know what apps your children are using and what they are accessing online? Many of us would never allow our children to walk to school alone or roam around in the dark unsupervised. Yet, without realising it, we might be allowing them to venture into potentially dangerous online environments without appropriate supervision.

As parents and guardians, it's crucial to ensure our children are safe online just as we ensure their safety in the physical world.

One of the most concerning issues is the way young students may use inappropriate language in online chatgroups with their friends, language they would never dream of using in real-life situations. Internet safety goes beyond just protecting our children from harmful content. It also includes guiding them to develop respectful and responsible online behaviour.

Please take a moment to check your child's online activity, review the apps and websites your child is using, engage in conversations about internet safety and set clear rules and guidelines for online behaviour.

At school students are learning about e-safety through the *Open Parachute* program, and the *Keeping Safe Curriculum*. The students will also engage with police about staying safe online during a session in week 10.

CAREGIVER CORNER

Social Media

ARE THERE ANY POSITIVES OF SOCIAL MEDIA?

There are some positive aspects of social media, because it helps kids find communities and resources of like-minded people. This is especially important for children that are growing up in a culture where they are different from their peers. It can be easy for them to think there is something wrong with them if they are the only one they are in contact with who looks a certain way or has a certain set of beliefs or values. Online connections are also very useful during periods of isolation such as the pandemic

WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVES OF SOCIAL MEDIA?

There are also many negatives for kids growing up with social media. It creates an increasing pressure to be liked and validated, because this validation has become such a public affair. Kids often judge themselves and others based on how many 'likes' they get or 'followers' they have, which gives them the impression that other people's opinions should dictate how they feel about themselves. It's also easy to look at social media and think that other people have perfect lives because that is what they are posting. This leads children to feel negatively about themselves, especially as they reach adolescence and begin comparing themselves to others even more. It's also common for kids to feel negatively about the way they look, because it's hard for them to conceptualize that what they see in airbrushed images is not reality. Another negative impact of social media is that it creates a constant source of distraction which makes it harder for children to be know what they feel and what they care about.

TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD USE SOCIAL MEDIA POSITIVELY:

1. ESTABLISH TIMES AT HOME WHEN NO ONE IS ON A DEVICE

Have a daily check-in where you are giving your child your undivided attention and focusing on their world, thoughts, and interests. For instance, you could play a game that doesn't involve a screen, or do something together outside. This helps them learn to value this personal connection so they are less impacted by the forms of connection and validation they experience on social media.

2. SHOW AN INTEREST IN WHY THEY LIKE SOCIAL MEDIA

Get curious by saying: "Tell me about that game - what do you like about it?" or "What sort of friends do you make on social media?" Even if it doesn't make sense to you why they would want to message people they have never met or talk with friends online instead of in person, showing your curiosity, not your judgement, will help your child feel safe to share their online experiences with you so you that can guide them in these interactions. If your child has a negative experience online, help them brainstorm ways that they would like to respond, so it can become a learning experience in setting boundaries.

3. ASK YOUR CHILD HOW SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACTS THEM

You can say: "When you are on a device for a long time, I notice you can become a bit aggressive. I wonder what you're feeling that makes you act that way? I get how important technology is to you, and I also really care about you and I want to make sure you are OK, so if it is impacting you negatively we need to discuss cutting back or using it differently until it doesn't have that impact anymore."

SJSB 70th Birthday Invitation



St Joseph's School in Barmera
cordially invite

The St Joseph's School Community

to join our 70th Platinum Celebrations
to be held on Sunday 1st September, 2024
at St Joseph's School, 8 Joyce Street, Barmera

The celebrations will begin with a community mass
officiated by Bishop Karol Kulczyski SDS
to be held on the grounds of the school commencing at 12 noon
followed by refreshments, reminiscing and entertainment
by our present school students.

IS TURNING



Please RSVP for the day activities
by Wednesday 28th August, 2024
to trishk@stjobarmera.catholic.edu.au
or phone 08 8588 6100

YEL Veggie Patch



Hi we are Lainie, Grace, Imogen, Xavier, and Jordan the 2024 YEL group.

One of our projects this year is getting the veggie patch healthy again. First we talked about getting vegetables such as tomatoes, snow peas, garlic, sweet corn, beetroot, cauliflower and baby broccoli. Then we walked over to our local plant store called Beech Hardware and picked out some seedlings. With a bit of help from Mr. Clark we planted and watered our vegetables. We can't wait to harvest our veggies and do some cooking with them.





**The 3/4 Class are learning about
Laudato Si and we are organising a**

CLOTHES DRIVE

**You can bring your old clothes into
school and put into the special bin
so we can recycle them by taking
them to the Vinnies Shop in
Barmera for you.**



**Thank you,
Fateh, Will, Dustin
and Annelise**

Westley's Waste Warriors

In Celebration of Laudato Si Week, our very own Westley's Waste Warriors have been busy spreading the word around our school about the importance of putting rubbish in the correct bins!

Their enthusiasm and dedication to keeping our school clean and green is truly inspiring. By educating their peers about proper waste disposal and recycling, they are helping us all take better care of our environment.



SAPSASA Netball

Students from years 5 and 6 travelled to Loxton to participate in SAPSASA Netball. It was a great 2 days filled with fantastic netball, sportsmanship and a lot of fun aswell. Well done everyone!



Mum's The Word

St Joseph's School Barmera Celebrated all types of mother figures with our special "Mum's the Word" event at school. It was a heartwarming afternoon where students had the chance to pamper and entertain their special guests.





Crazy Hair Day

St Joseph's School Barmera Staff and Students showed off their most imaginative and colourful hairstyles, all to support 'Go Grey in May', a fundraiser dedicated to brain cancer research. A big thankyou to everyone who participated and donated.



Catholic Education Week

St Joseph's School Barmera joined the other Catholic Schools in the Riverland at St Francis of Assisi College in Renmark for a day of unity and celebration for Catholic Education Week. The day started with a liturgy with this years theme: Let Your Light Shine. Students then moved off in groups to participate in a wide range of activities. It was a day filled with laughter, learning and the spirit of community.







Grandparents Morning Tea

Students and Staff hosted a Grandparents Morning Tea where students were able to share their school experiences and introduce their special guests to their teachers and friends. The morning provided a lovely opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the important role of grandparents and special friends in our lives.





Immersion Day at SFoAC

Year 5/6 students had an incredible immersion day at St Francis of Assisi College, where they got to explore and enjoy the many resources and facilities the college has to offer. The day was packed with exciting activities and provided an engaging, hands on experience for our students.



2024 Catholic Education Awards

A big Congratulations to Louise Stavrou, who was officially recognised for her outstanding dedication and commitment to education and community service at the 2024 Catholic Education Awards.

Louise has made a profound impact on our school community through her tireless dedication and exemplary leadership. Her hands-on approach and unwavering spurity truly embody the values of Mary MacKillop.

We are so proud of you!



70's Trivia Night

What a great night at our 70's Quiz Night, organised by our P&F, to celebrate St Joseph's School's 70th birthday! Held at the Barama Monash Football Club, the night was filled with laughter, nostalgia, and some serious trivia skills. Congratulations to the "Trivia Newton-Johns" for taking out the win with their impressive knowledge of the 70's and 80's eras!

A huge thank you to all the families who supported this event and to everyone who generously donated prizes. Your contributions made the night a tremendous success. Special shout out to old scholar Kylan Beech, who did a fantastic job as our MC for the evening!





BARMERA IS TURNING



We're in town

See you soon, Renmark
13 June to 14 June



Renmark Pop-up Donor Centre
Greek Orthodox Community Hall,
Twentyfirst Street, Renmark SA 5341

*Please refer to our website for availability

Book your donation now



📞 13 14 95

📍 give blood

Inventive

Explore

Make

Colour

Get Creative
with the Barmera
Theatre Gallery
Artists

Experiment

Imagine

FREE

suitable for 8 years +

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

Get Creative

**Tuesday's 4:00-5:00pm
at Barmera Library**

May 7

May 21

June 4

June 18

July 2

bookings appreciated 8588 2872

**BARMERA
LIBRARY**

Libraries
SA
Firstival



Puzzle Swap



Do you have a puzzle sitting in your cupboard you no longer use but is still in great condition?

Bring it in and swap it for another one.

Grab a voucher 1:1 Adult or Child

Drop off June 24-29

Swap July 1-6

BERRI BARMERA
LIBRARY SERVICE

Berri Barmera
COUNCIL

**Wednesday after
school activities at
the Barmera Library**



**MAY
8**

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT
MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR MUM



**MAY
29**

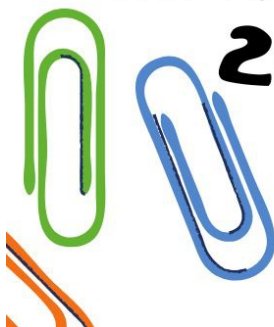
BUZZY BEE FUN

**JUNE
12**

GINGERBREAD DAY
MAKE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE AND MAN

**JUNE
26**

DESIGN YOUR OWN PLATE



BERRI BARMERA
LIBRARY SERVICE

Berri Barmera
COUNCIL



LOXTON HISTORICAL VILLAGE

presents



Bridal Gowns of Yesteryear

*Sunday,
16th June 2024
1.30pm*

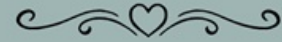
Tickets \$35

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