



# Week 8 Term 1, 2025

## Important Dates

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**Annunciation of the Lord**

Tuesday 25 March 2025

**Showcase 2:10-3pm**

Friday 28 March 2025

**First Reconciliation @ St Francis Xaviers Church**

Monday 31 March 2025

**Learning Journey Interviews**

Wednesday 2 April 2025

**Learning Journey Interviews**

Thursday 3 April 2025

**World Health Day**

Monday 7 April 2025

**Chrism Mass in Port Pirie**

Wednesday 9 April 2025

**Last Day of Term 1**

Friday 11 April 2025

**R-2 'Are We There Yet' @ Berri Hall**

Friday 11 April 2025

**Palm Sunday**

Sunday 13 April 2025

**Holy Week**

Sunday 13 April 2025

**Good Friday**

Friday 18 April 2025

**Easter Vigil**

Saturday 19 April 2025

**Easter Sunday**

Sunday 20 April 2025

**Easter Monday**

Monday 21 April 2025

**ANZAC Day**

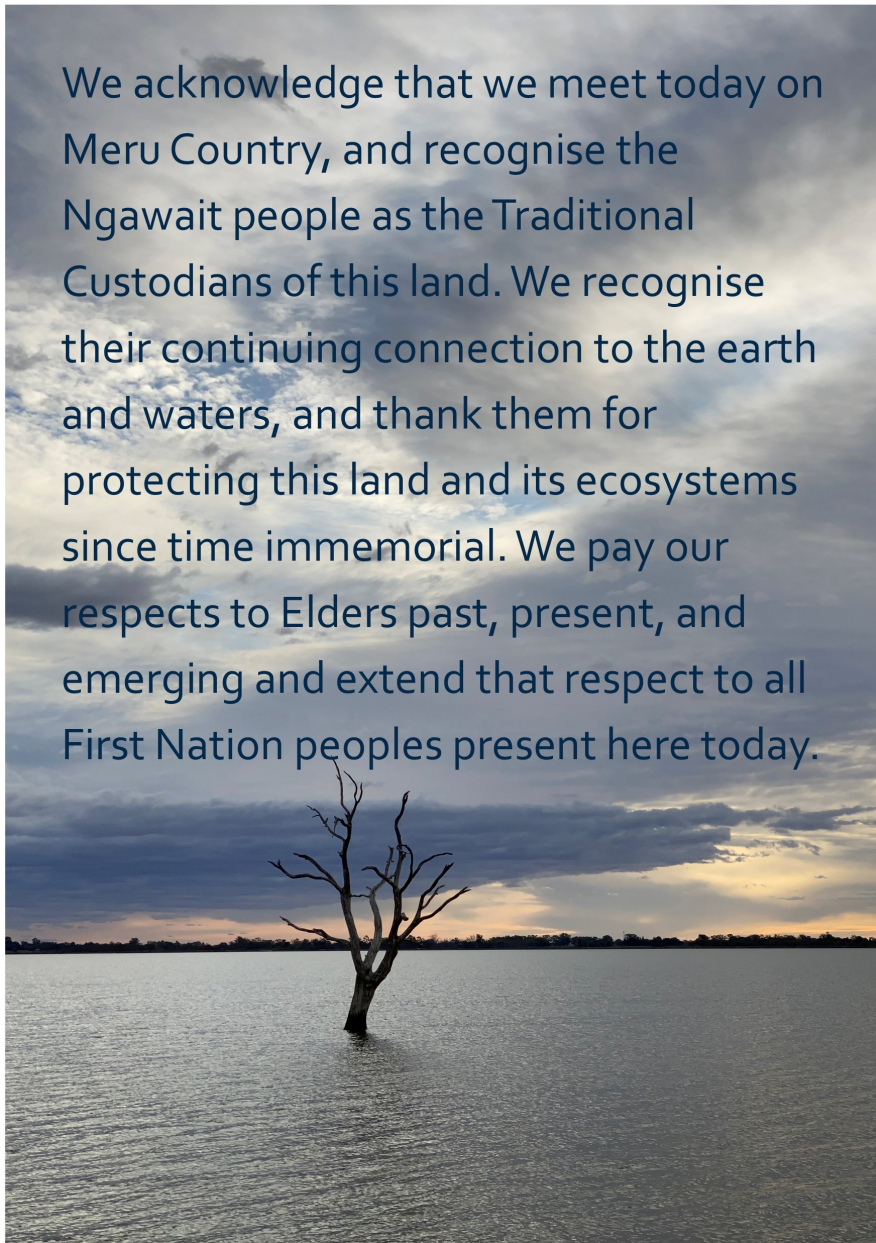
Friday 25 April 2025

**First Day of Term 2**

Monday 28 April 2025

## 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.



## Religious Identity and Mission

*“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt and was there until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”*

Matthew 2:13-15

On Wednesday March 19 we celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Not once, but three times, the Gospels describe Joseph as a man on a journey. First, he sets out for Bethlehem with Mary, his pregnant wife, for a mandated census. Then, with their newborn baby, they flee Bethlehem for Egypt. Later, during calmer political times, Joseph takes his family to Nazareth to build a new home.

It is that middle journey to Egypt that has such a powerful hold on my imagination. King Herod, terrified by reports of a newborn king living in Bethlehem, has ordered the death of all the boys in that city. And so, one morning, the families of Bethlehem awoke to soldiers knocking on their doors and the sound of swords being drawn from their sheaths. The frantic and terrified cries of mothers and children followed. It was this ancient form of terrorism that compelled Joseph to escape with his family from Judea to Egypt. He, like so many refugees in our world today, begins a long journey through the desert into Egypt.

Joseph's heart stands with those fleeing the realities of war, starvation and violence as they face the realities of what it means to be both, a father and a refugee.

Not that long ago we were also fleeing, albeit our enemy was the invisible coronavirus. Instead of crossing borders to find safety we were fighting this enemy by drastically scaling back movement, activities, and social interactions. In a very short time, coronavirus had a major impact on the world, closing borders, sending stock markets on wild swings and leaving people everywhere unsure of what comes next. Today, many are still dealing with the consequences of such measures.

St Joseph eventually finds a new home for his young family in Nazareth. It is in this new home, that Joseph builds, that Jesus grows up safely. Let's pray that together we have built a world that is safer and more loving for our children to grow up in.

St Joseph!  
Pray for us.

Dear Lord,  
We give thanks for our school  
and all the opportunities it gives us  
to grow and experience new challenges.

Help us to follow in the footsteps  
of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.  
Together we can work  
for peace in our community  
and for others in our world.

We ask St Joseph  
to protect and guide all teachers,  
parents and children as they work and play.

Lord, we pray that you will carry us  
in your loving hands  
and guide us into the future.  
Amen.



## From the Principal



As we close Week 8, we reflect on a wonderful second House Day, which was centred around our Harmony Day celebrations. As a Dutch migrant, I know firsthand the beauty and challenges of settling into a new country, finding a sense of belonging, and embracing the richness of different cultures. Harmony Day is a special time in our Josephite school to recognise the incredible diversity that makes up our community. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, through the example of Mary MacKillop, we are called to create an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and included. Our school reflects this beautifully, with students and families from a variety of cultural backgrounds coming together to learn, grow, and celebrate our differences. You might find these fun facts interesting as we bring Harmony Week to a close for 2025 (sourced from the 2020 Census):

- More than half (51.5%) of Australian residents were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- Since 1945, more than 7.6 million people have migrated to Australia.
- Nearly every single country from around the world was represented in Australia's population in 2020.
- More than 150 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages are spoken in Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Punjabi.

This week is also Neurodiversity Week. In the same way that we celebrate the many different cultural backgrounds that enrich our community, we also give thanks for the diversity of human experience, expression, and ways of communicating. Such diversity of human experience and our capacity to work together is the basis of our belief that we can overcome even the most complex challenges facing our local and global community.

This week, we also celebrated St Joseph's Day, a significant feast in our school community. St Joseph, as the head of the Holy Family, is a model of strength, humility, and unwavering faith. He worked quietly but with great dedication, ensuring that Jesus was raised with love and guidance. As a Josephite school, we look to St Joseph for inspiration in our daily lives—reminding us to be compassionate, hardworking, and to trust in God's plan for us. His virtues of patience, courage, and service are ones we can all strive to embody as we support one another in our school community.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who attended our School Board AGM this week. Your support and involvement are invaluable in shaping the future of our school. A special welcome to Jake Smith and Sue Yabsley, who join our School Board for 2025. We look forward to working together as we continue to strengthen and grow our school community.

Get ready to Boogie. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 4, because it's time to dust off your best neon outfit and get ready to boogie woogie at our School Disco! We're thrilled to welcome back the one and only DJ Sarez, who will be spinning all the groovy tunes to keep the dance floor buzzing. It's going to be an evening full of fun, music, and neon lights. You can find more information on the poster in this edition of the school newsletter.

Next Friday, March 28, we look forward to Showcase #2, which will take place from 2:10pm to 3:00pm. The theme for this Showcase is English. After the awards ceremony, families are invited to visit all classrooms, where students will proudly showcase their learning in English over the past eight weeks. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our students' progress and achievements and for you to engage with their learning journey.

Finally, we acknowledge the completion of NAPLAN testing for our Year 3 and Year 5 students. These assessments provide valuable insight into student learning and progress, guiding our teaching practices and helping us support students in their educational journey. While NAPLAN is just one measure of learning, we commend all students for their effort and resilience in undertaking these tests.

Thank you to our families for your ongoing support as we move towards the final weeks of Term 1. May we continue to foster a community that reflects the values of Harmony Day and St Joseph, creating a school where every child can shine.

Nanda de Winter

Principal

# THRIVE WITH 5

## 3. READ

Reading with, and to, your child sets up attitudes and behaviours for later learning. Modelling reading, too, influences your child's reading habits. Reading is more than books; it's reading the packaging on a breakfast box, the signs and notices around us and the stories your children write. Through books, children boost their imagination, creativity and knowledge.



1. PLAY

2. TALK

3. READ

4. EAT WELL

5. SLEEP

READINESS FOR LEARNING



Australian Primary Principals Association

### Why Reading with Children is Awesome!

Reading with children isn't just fun – it's super important for their growth! Here's why:

- **Boosts Language Skills:** Reading books, talking about pictures, and sharing stories help children learn speech sounds, words, and how to talk.
- **Early Literacy:** Doing these activities every day helps children and babies get used to books and words, setting them up to be great readers when they grow up.
- **Fires Up Imagination:** Stories make children dream big and learn about the world around them.
- **Bonding Time:** Reading together is a special time for you and your child to connect and enjoy each other's company.

### Fun Tips for Reading with your children:

- **Start Early:** You can begin reading to your baby from birth!

- **Quiet Time:** Children love calm reading sessions. Soon they'll be excited and involved in story time.
- **Interactive Reading:** Point out words and pictures and make your voice lively with different tones.
- **Pick Fun Books:** Children love books with rhymes, rhythm, and repetition. Funny story lines, graphic novel or comics are super fun too!

Remember, every time you read with your child, you're helping them grow smarter and stronger! So, grab a book and start the adventure together!

## SJSB Neon Disco



St Joseph's School Barmera

# NEON DISCO

WHEN: 4TH APRIL 6.30-9PM

WHERE: ST JOSEPH'S BARMERA

DRESS: NEON DISCO

GLOW STICKS: 3 FOR 50C

DJ SAREZ

FACE PAINTING BY RACHAEL

ALL WELCOME!



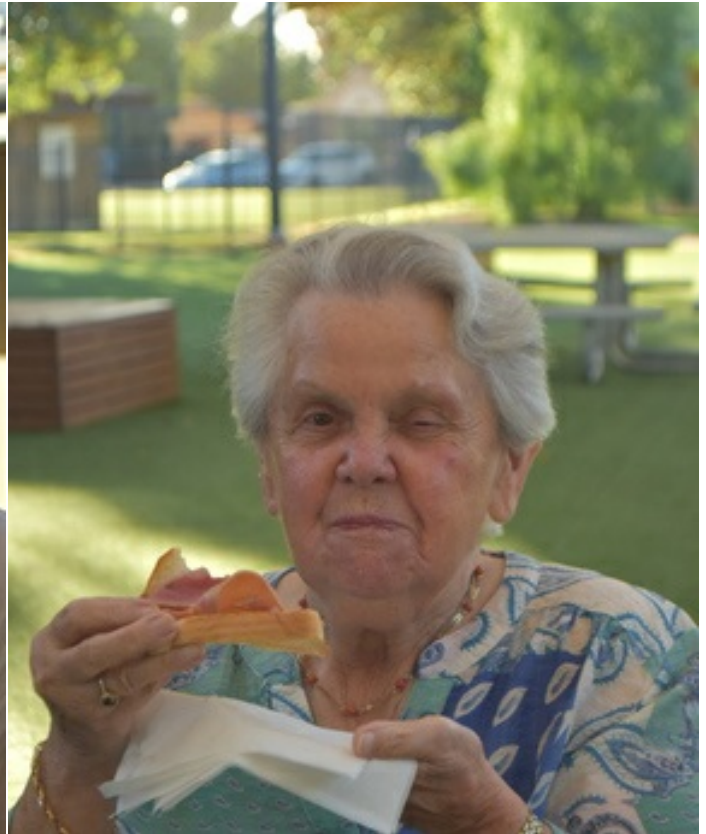
## Year 3-6 Aquatics Day at Lake Bonney



## Lenten Breakfast

Each Wednesday during Lent, our school and parish come together for Lenten Breakfast, sharing a simple meal and reflecting on the season of Lent. Prepared with love by our Year 5/6 Minni Vinnies, the menu so far has featured delicious pancakes and egg and bacon sandwiches—a perfect way to start the day! All proceeds are donated to Project Compassion.





# St Joseph's Day

Today, our school community came together to celebrate St Joseph's Day, honouring the patron saint of our school. Francis House students led a beautiful liturgy, reminding us of St Joseph's humility, faith, and dedication to serving others.

As a Josephite school, we are inspired by his quiet strength and unwavering trust in God's plan. Thank you to Francis House for your leadership and to all who joined us in prayer and reflection.



# Harmony Day Celebrations

We came together to celebrate Harmony Day in our House Teams, with a range of exciting activities that embraced the many cultures within our community. From cooking and sharing delicious foods from around the world to engaging in meaningful activities that highlighted diversity and inclusion, it was a day filled with learning, connection, and fun!





St Francis  
of Assisi College  
*Laudato Si'*

# 2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

**For more Information:**

Contact Claire Smith,  
Executive Administrator.

8595 4500  
[info@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@assisi.catholic.edu.au)



Woolworths 

**NET SET GO!** 

**BARMERA**  
Netball Club

The fun starts here.

All children welcome!

Starting term 2, Wednesday 30 April  
4.30pm @ outdoor courts.

Go to the Barmera Netball Club  
facebook page to register.

We're a provider!

**Sports  
Vouchers  
Plus**

Save up to

**\$200**

per child, per calendar year  
on sport, active recreation  
and music fees.



**Net:** 5 years old to year 1.

**Set/Go:** year 2 to 9 years old (or 10 if not playing 11u). Set/Go also play modified games against other towns on Friday after school, starting around week 3, term 2.

Each participant will receive a NetSetGo participant pack containing:

Size 4 netball / T-shirt- Suncorp Super Netball Team branded (choose size when registering) /  
Netball key chain - Suncorp Super Netball Team branded.



# 2025 SEASON BERRI HOCKEY CLUB



Come and Try - Thursday  
27 March & 3 April

Juniors 5-6pm

Seniors 7pm onwards

Sausage Sizzle and a  
drink for the kids



Trainings on Thursday

Games on Friday Night or Saturday

Please email expressions of interest to  
Club President, Brett Stokes  
Email - [berri.hockey5343@gmail.com](mailto:berri.hockey5343@gmail.com)

Join us on Facebook and Instagram

