

# eNews Term 2, Week 1, 2023



## Important Dates

Term 2 Commences -  
8.30am

Monday 1 May

Sports Day 2023

Friday 12 May

June Long Weekend -  
Monarch's Birthday

Monday 12 June

School Closure Day - Staff  
Training

Tuesday 13 June

Term Two Concludes

Friday 7 July

## Religious Education Week 1



### ~ MARY ~ Totally open to God's love

Most people don't mind being asked questions of a fanciful nature, because these types of questions are non-threatening and can be a means to entertainment as we go about constructing an answer. We would all like to ponder the possibilities of "What would you do if you won lotto?" or "If you were Prime Minister, what changes would you make for the benefit of ordinary people?" But how would we ponder if, by some strange means, we were able to fashion our own mother before we were born to her? How would we gift her in mind and body?"

Well, in a sense, this is what God did when He chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus. When Mary gave her "Yes" answer to Gabriel's question, she began to carry Jesus in her womb for the nine months of the first Advent, in preparation for the first Christmas. Later in her life, Mary was to be present at another birth, the birth of the Church at the first Pentecost. What's more, in the same manner as each mother who bore each of us is called our mother and not the mother of our body only, so Mary is the Mother of the whole person of Jesus Christ, who is God. What a great gift to be Mother of God and what courage to say "Yes".

Because we are human, we are aware of our limitations and weaknesses and probably find it hard to believe that we could do much for God. No doubt, when Mary was asked to be Mother of God, she found Gabriel's message difficult and thought immediately about her limitations. We are only being human if we find it difficult to accept that God could have a plan for us, as He did for Mary, namely, to bring Jesus to others by living His values. Just as Mary took Jesus everywhere she went during her pregnancy, we are invited to take Jesus with us everywhere we go.

We can be somewhat reassured by the fact that Mary did not have to do anything but just let God act in her life. So, all that is necessary for us is to allow God to dwell within us. At the Marriage Feast of Cana, Mary gave every generation of Christians a challenge when she said, "Do whatever He tells you". (John 2:5) When Mary gave her humble answer of "Yes", she agreed to let God love her and as a result she gave Jesus to the world and for this she is forever revered.

As Jesus hung dying on the cross, He announced Mary to be the mother of all, when He said through John to us, "She is your Mother". (John 19:27) As our Mother, Mary would wish that we, like her, would allow God to love us and through that love, be witnesses to Jesus in the ordinary daily actions of our lives. There is no doubt that Mary's humble acceptance of God's plan for her, is a model for all Christians; so, "Relax. Be like Mary. Let God love you."

Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day, the day we celebrate and show our mothers and the mother figures in our lives how much we love and appreciate them. I would like to wish all our Mothers, Grandmothers and those who are mother figures for people in their lives a very Happy Mother's Day.

## Prayer Service Times

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Every year children in Year 4 and above who have been Baptised Catholic prepare to be received fully into the church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the beginning of the church the Disciples and Mary received the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus after his resurrection. The Holy Spirit would be there to guide and them give courage to spread the wonderful news of Jesus' love for the world. This special day when the Holy Spirit came, we call Pentecost and believe to be the birth of Christianity.

Through our Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and then to complete our initiation into the church at our Confirmation we once again receive special gifts from the Holy Spirit to remind us that like the Disciples we are also given this chance to become the best people we can and through our actions spread God's love to all we meet.

We would like to congratulate Stephanie, Keller, Nicholas, Lachlan, Felisa, Dat, Ethan, JR, Austin and Khaly who have been preparing and will be confirmed by the Vicar General on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### Dates for Prayer Services / Masses

Wednesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Mass	9.30am
Friday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 3 Prayer Service	9.30am
Wednesday, June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Mass	9.30am
Wednesday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 4 Mass	9.30am
Friday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Reception Prayer Service	9.30am
Wednesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Middle Years Mass	9.30am
Friday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Prayer Service	9.30am
Wednesday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Mass	9.30am
Friday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Prayer Service	9.30am

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## From the Principal - Week 1



### Dear parents, carers, teachers and students,

Welcome to the beginning of Term Two. I hope that all families had a delightful and relaxing holiday break and took time to stop and embrace the many days of sunny Autumn weather.

On Tuesday, April 25, many of us from the St Joseph's School gathered at Sturt Reserve with people from all over the Murray Bridge region to pay respect to the memory of those gallant men and women who have served and are currently serving our wonderful country. It was a moving ceremony and an important time to reflect upon the selfless sacrifice of our service men and women and to thank them for the freedoms we enjoy today. The ANZAC spirit forged at Gallipoli will never be forgotten. ANZAC Day, 2023, also marked the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Alexis Watkins, our school captain, represented St. Joseph's School at the Dawn Service, and she was very humbled to lay a wreath from our school during the service.

*Lest We Forget*



**Staff Congratulations. Baby News!**

On behalf of the St Joseph's community, we congratulate Mr James McLaren (Year 5) and his wife, Kara McLaren, on the safe arrival of their second child, Sonny John McLaren, on April 18. An exciting time for them, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them every blessing.



**Staffing**

Similar to a business or large industry, schools have times when staff are on periods of leave or take on other roles during the year. This term, St Joseph's School will have several staffing changes. Mr James McLaren, Year 5 teacher, will be on parental leave until week five, and Mr Chris Overton will be working in a relief capacity. Mrs Robyn Coulter has resigned from her classroom teaching role in Year 3 and will support in other areas of the school. Miss Madeline Abfalter, who works two days a week at St Catherine's Stirling, will replace Robyn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Sarah Tucker has resigned from her Year 4 teacher position to take on another role outside our school. We are currently interviewing for a replacement Year 4 teacher, and leadership are looking after the class to begin the term. We welcome back Mr Michael Gates in administration and Mrs Sue Christian to run the Minilit Intervention program.

We also welcome several new staff. We have newly employed teachers, Miss Xue Tong and curriculum ESO, Kelly Schwerdt. All these new staff will support current classroom teachers as they are early career employees.

There is often some uneasiness about staff changes in a school community. Additionally, we remain uncertain about the effects of COVID-19, winter illnesses and teacher shortages across Australia. Please have reassurance and understanding that I will continue to work hard with our community and current staff to ensure we always provide quality learning, teaching, and student care.

Mrs Ros Oates



Principal

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## REAL Schools Information Evening

On Tuesday 2 June, Kirsty Lush from Real Schools, presented a Parent Info Session to the St Joseph's School parent and caregiver community, in the Performing Art Centre.

The evening started with a sausage sizzle, before Kirsty shared with us:

- Details of the Restorative Practices Partnership that St Joseph's School is embarking on.
- Strategies that can be utilised immediately in parenting. The same strategies the educators of St Joseph's are currently using with our learners.
- Learn how to respond, rather than react, to your child's behaviour.
- Spoke about and shared ideas for the best way to build a meaningful partnership with the school.

It was extremely encouraging to see so many people from the community on Tuesday night, to listen to a very entertaining and passionate presentation from Kirsty Lush. Kirsty spoke very confidently about the purpose of our successful school and community. To work in partnership to help ensure that all students flourish and are successful in contributing the world around them.

As Kirsty shared with us Tuesday night, you can contact email her at anytime with questions at [kirsty@realschools.com.au](mailto:kirsty@realschools.com.au)

We look forward to working in partnership with Kirsty and Real Schools over the next three years.

Jamie Mulcahy

Acting Deputy Principal

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## From the Classroom - Year Five



Term 1 went by in a flash in Year 5. Students quickly settled into their new classroom environments and communities and continued building valuable relationships.

Students took part in many valuable learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom throughout the term, highlighted by students from all three classes taking part in presenting



'The Story of Easter' (directed by Mrs Liebich) to the student body and a smattering of parents. Students demonstrated excellent resilience and persistence after having to endure several reschedulings due to inclement weather and they captured the significance of the story in our school tradition.

We were very fortunate to take part in a series of orienteering courses set up throughout the school, hosted by Zita from Orienteering SA. She taught us a range of new skills which focussed on map reading skills and allowed us to get outside and stretch our legs.

Students also took part in weekly Dance lessons with Jess an instructor from Footsteps Dance Company. Students learnt a new routine each lesson with a focus on different types of dance styles. Some dance styles they covered were pop, hip hop and old school rock.

In March, we celebrated St Joseph's day with Father John Vildzius by leading the whole school in Mass. Our students led the processions and undertook readings. The Festival Choir which contains several enthusiastic Year 5 students led us in singing several hymns.

All students gathered together early in the term to be trained in road crossing monitor training by a member of our South Australian Traffic Police Unit. Students were informed of the importance and responsibilities of the role, and many Year 5 students have volunteered to fill positions on the school road crossing throughout the term and have done so admirably.

In class, students worked thoroughly through a range of different topics including Narrative and Persuasive Writing, Rowan of Rin Novel Study, Colonial Australia, Place Value and the four operations, states of matter, and relationships.

Term 1 was definitely busy, and we are looking forward to another term of learning and more exciting opportunities in Term 2.

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## Sports Day 2023



### Let's Get Excited!

Sports Day will be in Term 2, Week 2, **Friday 12 May**

To be held at Homburg Oval & MB United Soccer Field. Corner of Beatty Tce and Cooke St.

Town bus students will be shuttled from school to Homburg Oval on the St Joseph's School Bus. All other students will meet at Homburg Oval for an 8.50am start.

For community members we will have DeCaf Coffee and McCues Bakery.

### Junior Primary (EC-3)

Presentations at 1.15pm

Students can be signed out at 1.30pm or stay in the Soccer Clubroom Creche till 2.45pm

### Upper Primary and Middle Year (4-9)

Presentations at 2.30pm

Town bus students will be shuttled from Homburg Oval back to school on the St Joseph's School Bus.

Refer to the letter that was sent home with students on Wednesday 3 May for more information.

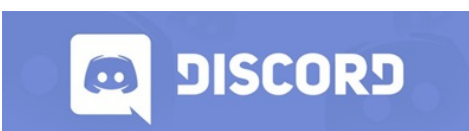
### #getexcited

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## Safe Gaming with Discord



**Discord** is a free application designed primarily for teenage gamers. Gamers can connect to the app and its network via desktop, laptop, or mobile phone, and can chat with others about – and during – the games they're playing.





Most young people use Discord [while playing popular games](#) like League of Legends, Overwatch, Fortnite, Battlegrounds, World of Warcraft, and Roblox.

Overall, the app itself doesn't naturally promote harassment, hate, or other forms of harm. However – and like with any app – there are always a minority of users who engage in hostile behaviour and abuse within chats, including [bullying, racism, and harassment](#). For example, some communities of chats have been "raided" by other communities (generally because their privacy and security weren't fully locked down by the creator of that chat). This includes [flooding them with controversial topics](#) related to race, religion, politics, and pornography.

#### Safety

On Discord, gamers can control every aspect of sending and receiving messages from others, who add them as a friend, image safety levels, and who and what content is allowed on the server. If someone else is being a jerk, users are requested to [block](#) them, or simply leave the server where the problematic behaviour is occurring.

Discord also encourages users to let them know about any activity or behaviour which may be considered abusive by sending a report and screenshots to [abuse@discordapp.com](mailto:abuse@discordapp.com).

Discord also offers a [parental guide with step-by-step instructions](#) on how to keep your child safe while on the app. This guide includes directions on password creation and management, customizing messaging and friend request features, how to monitor friend requests and direct messages, and how to block inappropriate content.

We encourage all parents to spend a few minutes in the Privacy and Security settings with their teen, and together just make sure that everything is how you want it to be to provide for an enjoyable chatting experience.

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## Mid Year Enrolment

**STARTING  
SCHOOL  
THIS JULY?**

**Give your child a great start.**

**FREE Term 3 & 4 Tuition**  
**for Mid-Year Reception starters.**

**ENQUIRE NOW**

 **catholic  
education  
south australia**

#### Starting School This July?

Like all Catholic schools across South Australia, St Joseph's School will continue to offer free mid-year Reception enrolment intake for students who turn [five on or before October 31, 2023](#), to reduce the financial burden on families. Please see the common questions below about children being ready to start school.

## When can my child start school?

St Joseph's School offers two intakes per year for children starting Reception.

Term 1 enrolment – for children who turn five years on or before April 30.

Term 3 enrolment (Mid-Year intake) – for children who turn five years on or before October 31.

## Why a Mid-Year intake?

A large body of research shows the benefit of high-quality early learning and care experiences for children in their first 1,000 days of life and the years before school.

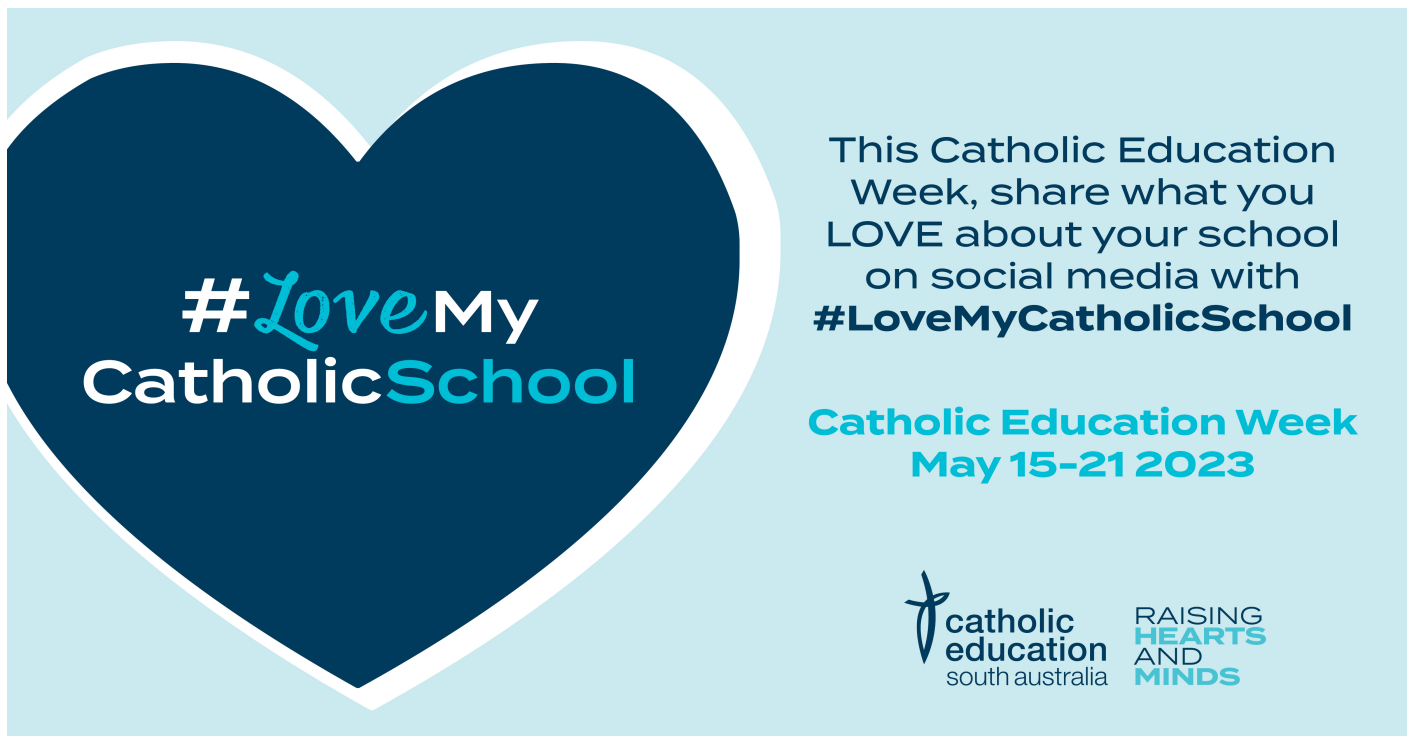
Students who start in Term 3 are likely to spend 18 months in Reception before progressing to Year 1. Reception students who join a 2023 mid-year intake at a Catholic school will get free tuition in Terms 3 and 4.

The free intake includes tuition fees and compulsory charges. It will exclude uniforms and extra-curricular costs.

Please call the administration office, 85342000, to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss enrolment and mid-term intake or tour the school.

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## Catholic Education Week 2023



The graphic features a large dark blue heart with a white outline on the left side. Inside the heart, the text "#LoveMyCatholicSchool" is written in white and light blue. To the right of the heart, the text "This Catholic Education Week, share what you LOVE about your school on social media with #LoveMyCatholicSchool" is displayed in dark blue. Below this, "Catholic Education Week May 15-21 2023" is written in light blue. At the bottom right, the Catholic Education South Australia logo is shown, featuring a stylized cross and the text "catholic education south australia" and "RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS".

**Catholic Education Week** will be celebrated in South Australia from May 15-21 2023 (Week 3, Term 2). Catholic Education Week is about education – celebrating quality teaching and learning across Catholic Education SA. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to:

- celebrate the excellent teaching and learning that happens in our Catholic schools every day
- reflect on and highlight what makes our Catholic schools so special
- increase awareness of the Mid-Year Reception Intake
- celebrate with the recipients of the Catholic Education Awards.

In 2023, we've got a particular focus on highlighting what students and staff love about their Catholic schools using the hash tag #LoveMyCatholicSchool

Special thanks to Jace for helping with the photographs.

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Tuning in to Kids





# Tuning In To Kids

EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT PARENTING

This program is for parents and carers looking to increase their confidence in parenting skills.

This parenting program helps children to learn and understand their emotions and practice regulating their emotion. Children with good emotional intelligence often have better social, emotional and physical functioning as well as fewer behavioural difficulties. Children are more able to manage conflict with their peers and have greater success with friendships.



'Tuning in to Kids' comprises five two hour sessions delivered once a week

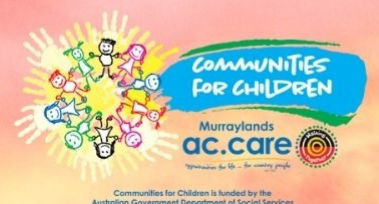
**Commencing Thursday May 25th  
@ Centacare Office.  
1A/2 Sturt Reserve Rd. Murray Bridge**



To Book in and register please contact  
Lyll at Centacare on 82156347



Communities for Children Murraylands is facilitated by ac.care, funded by the Australian Government department of Social Services and delivered by our Community Partner – Centacare



Communities for Children is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



## Catholic News - Southern Cross

The latest [The Southern Cross](#) news and the online edition of [The Southern Cross April 2023](#).

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## OHSC & Camp Australia



### A message from your Coordinator

Welcome back to term two!

We have lots of fun planned for this term, starting with our **All about Me** sheets. This gives children the chance to explore our interests, hobbies and share common interests.

Coming up this term we have two big fun filled weeks with our **Big Art Weeks**. Including a art competition which has children have a chance to win a share in \$3000 of prizes.

Also this term we have **Reconciliation Week** where we share and celebrate the culture and traditions of our first nations people.

Look forward to seeing you at OSHC

Sarah, Mikki and Annette

Our hours of operation are:

6:30am – 8:30am Before School

3:05pm – 6:30pm After school

### Resister free and book 24/7 via our app!

To attend our program you must register your child. You can register with us at [pp.campaustralia.com.au](http://pp.campaustralia.com.au) or via the Camp Australia smartphone App from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Find out more at [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

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## New Android Phones installing Qkr! app - Issue



Qkr! has informed us there is an issue with their app on new Android phones which has been identified and is being addressed by their tech team.

It will take a couple of weeks to solve. In the meantime any new Android users/parents can use the Qkr! website.

[Qkr! by MasterCard \(qkrschool.com\)](http://qkr!byMasterCard(qkrschool.com))

Thanks for your patience and understanding.

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## School Uniforms

It is pleasing to see over 90% of the students in their correct school uniform. Thank you. Parents are asked to communicate any difficulties with uniform ordering, purchasing or product quality via the school email address [info@stjomb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stjomb.catholic.edu.au)

It is appreciated if families do not express their grievances on any school matter, especially uniforms, through social media. I remind families that working with Vinnies is the most cost effective and easiest way to access uniforms, and prices remain reasonable, if not below cost for the quality, due to Vinnies supporting the school as a non-profit organisation. Please see further information below.

## Drum and Guitar Lessons

### PROCEDURES FOR ORDERING UNIFORMS

We have been working with Vinnies to help improve the process for our families to either book a uniform fitting order or place an order for the new uniform. This can now be done via scanning QR codes using a mobile device such as your mobile phone.

#### Book a Fitting

A reminder from Vinnies - 'Please book any future appointments online or they can call the store direct and we can book a fitting for the same day if needed, that way we won't get double booked and the parents won't be disappointed if asked to wait or come back at a later time.'

Please scan the QR code and make a booking for a suitable time. Opening hours at Vinnies in Murray Bridge are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 – 5:00 pm. Please call the store manager Rochelle on (08) 8532 6699 if you have any questions.

#### Place an Online Order

Please scan the below QR code to be directed to the St Joseph's Murray Bridge - School Uniform online order form. Or visit <https://vinniesuniformshop.simplybook.me/v2/#book> Once you scan the code, you will be directed to the Vinnies Shop page and will need to scroll to the bottom of the page to locate the school's online uniform order form. There is also a link to the School's Uniform Price List as of 13 October. This is also attached in this week's newsletter.



The graphic features a blue background. At the top left is the Vinnies logo, a stylized white icon of hands. To its right, the word "Vinnies" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below "Vinnies", the words "Uniform Shop" are written in a slightly smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the center, there are white line-art illustrations of a short-sleeved collared shirt and a pair of trousers. In the bottom left corner, the text "Scan the QR code to book a uniform fitting." is written in a yellow, sans-serif font, with a yellow arrow pointing towards the QR code. The QR code itself is a standard black and white square code located in the bottom right area of the graphic. At the very bottom, the URL <https://vinniesuniformshop.simplybook.me/v2/#book> is written in a white, sans-serif font.





One-on-One tuition for drum and guitar is available at St Joseph's School on a weekly basis.

For more information on lessons and costs please contact Nathan Hill on 0448 426 946

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