



Wednesday 6 March 2024

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week 6. I hope you had a relaxing long weekend spent with family and friends. We celebrate Labour Day to remember the achievements of workers, their marches and movements which were dedicated to obtaining a fair work week.

### **Student Leadership**

On Monday of last week, I had the pleasure of presenting the Environmental, Executive, Pastoral, Sport and Councillor badges to our 2024 Student Leadership group. Thank you to parents and caregivers who were able to join us. Our Student Leadership group sets an example for the rest of the student body. They organise and carry out school activities, service projects, create a practical agenda for change and promote student voice. The Year Six Leaders will meet with their teacher facilitators once a fortnight then feed back information and ideas to myself. Research indicates the benefits of listening to and acting on student voice include: an increase in student engagement and empowerment, more collaboration between students and their teachers, a positive impact on students' levels of effort and persistence as well as building a positive school-wide environment and culture. I very much look forward to sharing with you the outcomes of these meetings. Please find below our student representatives for the 2024 academic year.

**Environmental Ministry**-Emily Mileham (P), Molly Stewart (VP), Alexandra Manns, Lily McCann, Meg O'Beirne and Soraya Ruffino.

**Executive Ministry**-Isabella Judd (P), Oliver Iseppi (VP), Milla Anthony, Winston Felton, Amelia Galloway and Chelsea McCloskey.

**Pastoral Ministry**-Ava Berrelly (P), Samantha Brader (VP), Saxon Coad, Charlotte Johnston, Charlie Tulloch and Royce Wishart.

**Sport Ministry**-Mia Bishop (Peel), Amaya-Rose Silverthorne (Peel), Zayde Cook (Murray), Charlotte Greenham (Murray), Inaayah Bajwa (MacKillop) and Isaac Pierson (MacKillop).

**Student Councillors**-Anthony Brader (Year 4), Isla Johns (Year 4), Jenna Perkins (Year 5) and Kobi Trainor (Year 5).

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*Faith & Trust*



### **Shire of Murry Youth Summit**

Thank you to Amelia Galloway, Oliver Iseppi, Emily Mileham, Alexandra Manns, Kobi Trainor, River Lloyd, Charlee Mileham and Jenna Perkins who represented St Joseph's admirably at the Shire of Murray Youth Summit last week. The Shire asked for suggested activities to get the youth in the region 'out and about'. Our idea was a raft building competition! It is wonderful to see that our children have a voice in the future planning of their local community.

### **Radical Reader Awards, Maths Wizard Awards and Merit Award Assemblies**

Please join us for the Radical Reader Awards, Monday 11 March at 8:45am for our Pre-primary, Year 1 and 2 students.

Merit Awards will be presented on Friday 8 March and on the following Friday 15 March at 8:45am.

There will be a Maths Wizard Award presentation on Monday 18 March at 8:45am. All presentations are in the Assembly Hall.

### **Children's University Relaunch for 2024**

As I am sure you are aware, St Joseph's have partnered with the University of Western Australia and are part of the Children's University program. This program offers opportunities and recognition to students for completing and participating in 'beyond' school learning. Artem Bourov, the Children's University Coordinator, will be visiting our Year 5 and 6 students Friday 8 March, to relaunch the program for 2024.

### **National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)**

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 13 March for our students in Year Three and Year Five. Students' skills in reading, writing and maths are assessed over four tests: writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

I will 'borrow' from another principal who wrote to his student body, reminding them that NAPLAN scores only 'tell you how you did on that day', but 'they will not tell you everything about YOU'. These tests do not measure your child's character nor their attributes. These tests do not know how thoughtful, caring and helpful your children are. These tests do not know what a great friend your child is or that they try their best. Please parents, if you or your child have any concerns, please see your child's teacher, Mrs O'Dwyer or myself. I have provided a link below that may help answer any generic questions you have about NAPLAN.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>



### **Year Three Parent Reconciliation Meeting**

Students and parents of students making their Reconciliation this year are strongly encouraged to attend the Parent Information Meeting, Wednesday 13 March at 5:00pm in the Year Three classroom. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **BookClub**

Online Bookclub orders are due on Wednesday, 13 March 2024. Brochures went home today.

### **URStrong**

Staff participated in our first URStrong Professional Learning last week. URStrong is a whole school program that empowers students with friendship skills to create communities of kindness in schools. Relationships are the heart of social-emotional wellbeing and URStrong gives students the skills, language and self-confidence to be better friends and develop healthier relationships. Explicitly teaching children how to develop healthy friendships and manage conflict in a respectful way is the key to creating safe, caring learning environments and inspiring kinder, happier children. I look forward to sharing our learning with you as the year progresses.

### **Parent and Caregiver Interviews**

As communicated in last fortnight's newsletter, the bulk of our Parent and Caregiver interviews will be scheduled for Week 1, Term 2, **Monday 15 April**, a Pupil Free Day. Please return your three selected times to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Have a wonderful week. I'd like to finish with a quote from an American politician... 'Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents'. How lucky are we here at St Joseph's...we have all three in abundance!

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell  
Principal