



Wednesday 26 March 2025

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week 8. Well done to our staff, students and families who wore orange last week to celebrate Harmony Day, where we celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional custodians of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world. A huge thank you to Tara Cabassi and Brooke Mulholland who created our Harmony Day Tree which showcased our students' 'handprint' artwork. Our tree is proudly displayed in the Assembly Hall representing our school's diversity and connectedness. Check out our post on Facebook!

Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to announce St Joseph's newly elected CSAC Chair, Mr Owen McLarty. On behalf of the school, I congratulate Owen on his appointment and look forward to working with him and the Council in the service of our Catholic school community.

URStrong

A reminder about our online Language of Friendship parent-child workshop, tomorrow Thursday 27 May at 6:00pm to 7:15pm. You are invited to attend this ONLINE Language of Friendship parent-child workshop for URSTRONG Schools on **Thursday 27 March at 6:00pm**. Dana Kerford, Founder of URSTRONG, will be live from Canada to teach you and your children skills and language to foster healthy, feel-good friendships. This workshop will take place online via Zoom. If this is a first for you, you might want to [try a test by clicking here](#).

When it's time: [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

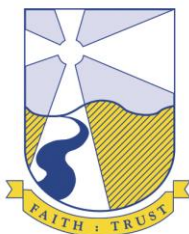
Meeting ID: 832 0306 9952

Password: URSTRONG

You are also invited to keep the conversation going at home with a [FREE membership for URSTRONG Families](#). Take advantage of activities, videos and articles to continue empowering your child with friendship skills. I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to find out how you, as parents and

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caregivers, can support your child/ren in fostering healthy, feel-good friendships.

Reconciliation Class Retreat

Please keep our students who are making their First Reconciliation on Friday, 28 March in your prayers. Students will be participating in a Retreat Day and Liturgy, while baptised students will be celebrating the First Rite of Reconciliation.

Maths Wizard Awards

Please join us Monday 31 March at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall for the Maths Wizard Awards.

Interschool Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 2 April is the day that selected students from Years Four, Five and Six will represent St Joseph's at the Interschool Swimming Carnival at Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Students should have already received communication from Mr Henry regarding the event. Parents and caregivers, please see Mr Henry if you are able to help us on the day. Your support is very much appreciated.

Merit Assembly-URStrong Friendship Ninja Awards

Please join us for our very first 'URStrong Friendship Ninja Award' Merit Assembly, Friday 4 April. The school has decided to replace our 'Worker of the Month Awards' with the more relevant and contemporary URStrong based Friendship Awards. These awards are presented to students who have been spotted displaying amazing friendship skills at school, thereby recognising them as 'Friendship Ninjas!'

Stations of the Cross Liturgy

Please join us Monday 7 April at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall for the school's Stations of the Cross Liturgy. Here, we commemorate Jesus Christ's last day on Earth, focusing on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. All are welcome.

AUSLAN Day

Wear rainbow colours on Wednesday 9 April to acknowledge AUSLAN Day! This now annual event celebrates the publication of the AUSLAN dictionary and highlights the importance of teaching AUSLAN.

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It is now estimated that over 16 000 people in Australia use AUSLAN!

Tuition Fees

As I am sure you are aware, all families have received communication from Mrs Bolt, our Finance Officer, regarding 2025 tuition fees. Those families who have not made arrangements with Mrs Bolt to pay their fees, please do so as soon as possible. As the Principal, it is my responsibility to ensure that tuition fees are paid. The school provides various payment options to ensure that all families are able to opt for a payment plan best suited to individual needs which enables our families to meet their commitments. In order for St Joseph's to plan and meet its financial commitments, we rely on all our families to contribute. I appreciate your cooperation and support here.

Parent and Caregiver Interviews

Here at St Joseph's we aim to communicate and share information with you about your child's learning, development and wellbeing. One of the processes we use to achieve this is through Parent-Teacher interviews. You will have received communication from your child's classroom teacher, inviting you to meet and respectfully engage in shared decision-making to support your child. Please note, the bulk of the interviews will be scheduled for Week 10, Term 1, Friday 11 April, a Pupil Free Day. Interviews will be 15 minutes duration and we ask that parents and caregivers respect this time allocation. If you feel you need a longer time frame, please let your child's teacher know. As teachers will be conducting interviews throughout the day, please be aware that children will not be supervised, so we ask that care arrangements be made for your children or that they remain with you during the interviews. As always, if you have any queries, please come and see me.

Easter Egg Raffle

A reminder to please buy some tickets and bring in your donations of Easter eggs, Easter baskets and Easter gifts to support Caritas Australia. Extra tickets are available at the front office.

In-term Holidays

I would like to draw your attention to some mandated information regarding in-term holidays.

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‘Section 23 of the School Education Act 1999 requires that, for every year of a student’s compulsory education period (i.e., Pre-primary onwards), the student must attend the school at which they are enrolled or participate in an educational program of the school on the days it is open for instruction. A student may be excused if they are prevented from attending due to temporary physical or mental incapacity or other reasonable cause. In-term holidays are generally not supported.’

Parents and caregivers, however, are always welcome to negotiate an absence in advance via written communication with me. Please note, there is no requirement for the school to provide work packages for students while on holidays.

Finally, thank you to our Year Six President, Jacob Ieraci and Vice President, Eric Allen, who represented St Joseph’s admirably at the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop George Kolodziej SDS last week. I would like to conclude this fortnight’s newsletter with a prayer for Bishop George.

‘Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Bishop George and we pray that you guide his steps and fill him with your wisdom and strength as he prepares to serve your people. May he be a shepherd after your own heart, leading with compassion and truth. Amen.’

Have a wonderful week.

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal