



Tuesday 24 February 2026

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week Four. It has been wonderful to see how well everyone has settled into the term. Classrooms are calm and purposeful and the playground has been full of moments of kindness-students looking out for one another, including others in games and showing genuine care in their interactions. Thank you for helping set such a positive tone as we move further into the term. I'm looking forward to the great learning and community spirit that lies ahead.

Year Six Ministries

Thank you to parents and caregivers who joined us last Friday for the Year Six student ministry speeches. The students spoke with confidence, clarity and genuine passion about serving our school community. Speaking in front of an audience takes courage and they all demonstrated excellent leadership qualities. Please see who our student leaders are for 2026.

Environmental Ministry- Arizona McLean (President), Abigail Thorne (Vice President), Baylee Dodd, Rhylan Hall, Harrison Lennon, Ali Palmer and Zaxson Van Den Elzen.

Executive Ministry-Mannat Pruthi (President), Brax Hague-Tyson (Vice President), Anthony Brader, Annabelle Earle, Isla Johns, Caris Menzies and Kash Sara.

Pastoral Ministry-Izaac Curtis (President), Cole McLean (Vice President), Evelin Backshall, Maia McCann, Bridee McGifford, Jax Silverthorne and Jaxon Summerfield.

Sport Ministry-Charlee Hagley (Murray), William Judd (Murray), Nate Middleton (MacKillop), Shayah Pippin (MacKillop), Henry Blythe (Peel) and Harley Rhodes-McMillan (Peel).

Student Councillors- Matilda Allen (Year 4), Max Forman (Year 4), Finn Ferguson (Year 5) and Annabel Licastro (Year 5).

Faction Swimming Carnival

Students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in the St Joseph's Faction Swimming Carnival, Friday 27 February at the Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre, start time 9:00am. Please return swimming notes as

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soon as possible so Mr Henry can organise events for your children. If you are able to assist in a volunteer capacity on the day, i.e., timers, ribbon presenters etc, please call the front office on 9530 5500 and indicate your willingness to help.

Students in Yr 3-Yr 6 are to bring their recess and lunch as the canteen will not be available for them.

Labour Day Long Weekend

A reminder Monday, 2 March is a holiday, recognising Labour Day. We look forward to seeing the students returning to school on Tuesday 3 March. Please note, the canteen will be open Tuesday 3 March for your convenience.

Children's University Launch for 2026

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 Tuesday 3 March, to relaunch the program for 2026.

Parent Reconciliation Meeting

Students and parents of students making their Reconciliation this year are strongly encouraged to attend the Parent Information Meeting, Wednesday 4 March at 5:00pm in the Year Three classroom. I look forward to seeing you there.

Merit Award Assembly

Please join us for a Merit Award assembly, Friday 6 March at 8:45 am in the Assembly Hall.

St Augustine's Parish BBQ

All families from St Joseph's, St Augustine's and the wider Christian community are invited to join us for a simple Lenten BBQ at the Murray River Foreshore, 7pm on Saturday 14 March. Pre-order a \$25, \$40 or \$60 meat pack for our fundraising BBQ. Please BYO drinks, salads, condiments and BBQ tools. There will be a \$10 raffle ticket that gives three chances to win wine on the night! And yes-a shared meal is suitable for



Lent, as Sundays are 'mini-Easters,' moments of joy within the season. Join us beforehand for 6pm Vigil Mass at St Augustine's, then gather at Pinjarra Town Square for food and fellowship.

National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 11 March for our Year Three and Year Five students. 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>

Project Compassion

As part of our Lenten practices, students have received a Project Compassion box to take home. Project Compassion, run by Caritas Australia, helps us focus on compassion, generosity, and supporting those in need. The boxes encourage families to make small donations or simple acts of giving throughout Lent, reminding us that even small contributions can create meaningful change for communities around the world.

Absentees

If you know your child will be away, we'd really appreciate you letting us know ahead of time through the school website using this absentee link <https://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/absentee/>

It helps us stay organised and ensures we can care for all students smoothly throughout the day. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating Birthdays at St Joseph's

At St Joseph's, we love celebrating birthdays and making each child feel special on their big day. Families



are very welcome to send along individual treats for classmates to share. We kindly ask that icy poles requiring the tops to be cut off are not sent, as they are difficult for teachers to manage during a busy school day. Thank you for helping us keep birthday celebrations fun and stress-free for everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful effort you put into ensuring your children arrive each day wearing their school uniforms with pride. Your support in upholding our school's dress standards is truly appreciated. I know how much time and care goes into those busy mornings-helping children get ready, gathering what they need, and setting a positive tone for the day. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and I am genuinely grateful for your continued partnership.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead!

God Bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal