



Important Dates

**9:15am Beginning
of Year Mass**

Friday 2 February 2024

**Parent Information
Evening**

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 13 February 2024

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14 February
2024

**9:00am Assembly
(Yr. 4s)**

Thursday 15 February 2024

**Staff
Commissioning
Mass, 11:00am**

Sunday 18 February 2024

**5:45pm - 'Carly
Ryan' Cyber Safety
Parent Workshop**

Monday 19 February 2024

AGM - 6:00pm

Wednesday 21 February
2024

**9:15am - Year 6
Mass**

Friday 23 February 2024

**10:30am -
Reception Liturgy**

Friday 23 February 2024

From the Principal

Welcome to 2024

Greetings to all as we begin the 2024 school year. A special welcome to students and families new to our community. I trust the holidays

were an opportune time for re-energising and connecting with family and friends. We are immensely looking forward to this year – learning, developing, and maintaining relationships, and of course enjoying ourselves along the way!

Staffing, 2024

We welcome the following staff members new to St Joseph's Payneham: Patrizia Puglia (APRIM, from St Michael's College Junior School, Beverley); Nicole Joanni (Inclusive Education Coordinator, from St Andrew's School, Walkerville); Ben Williams (Year 1 teacher, from St Mary's Memorial School, Glenelg); Nicole Zacher (Year 3 teacher, from St Andrew's School, Walkerville); Melinda Harding (Year 4 teacher, from Immaculate Heart Catholic Primary School, Queensland); and Angelica Mavrofridis (Year 6 teacher, from St Therese's Catholic School, Essendon, Victoria).

I provide a list of the staff at St Joseph's Payneham for 2024:

Leadership Team

Principal – Simon Mechis

Deputy Principal – Michael Musolino

APRIM – Patrizia Puglia

Inclusive Education Coordinator – Nicole Joanni (0.6)

Leader of Learning, Literacy – Sonia Vernillo (0.2)

Leader of Learning, Numeracy – Rosanna Parrella (0.2)

Preschool Teachers

Anna Garimella [Joey and Kanga groups]

Jess Vreugdenburg [Koala group]

Nicole Baans [Possum group] and Preschool Educational Leader

Reception Teachers

Rebecca D'Amico

Jen Mastrangelo

Joyce Nero

Lucy Martino

Year 1 Teachers

Ben Williams (0.8) and Caterina Musolino (0.2)

Donny Calabria

Maria Prestia

Tayla Carosi

Year 2 Teachers

Adriana Graziani (0.5) and Vickie Gagliardi (0.5)

Shendelle Watters

Tania Melfi

Year 3 Teachers

Margaret McConnell

Nicole Zacher

Sonia Vernillo (0.8) and Alicia Matikulas (0.2)

Year 4 Teachers

Bernardette Robinson

Melinda Harding

Rosanna Parrella (0.8) and Sara Altobelli (0.2)

Year 5 Teachers

Angela Scarpantoni

Yvette Vingelis

Year 6 Teachers

Angelica Mavrofridis

Charlelie Kalz

Specialist Teachers

Italian – Emily Parrella (0.7)

Music and Performing Arts – David Shinn (0.7)

Physical Education – Adrian Mastrangelo (0.7)

STEM – Nicholas Polvere (0.7)

School Counsellor

Andrea de Dezser (0.2, Thursdays)

Front Office

Administration / Reception – Josie Colangelo

Enrolments Officer, Marketing and Admin. Support – Lanette Burke

Finance – Josie Ferragamo and Helen Crosato

ICT Technician – Barb Cole

WHS – Dora Cavuoto

Educational Support Officers (ESOs) – Early Years

Tania Cardone

Giovanna De Meo

Maria Lupoi

Shima Safari

Celesta Seal [Occasional Care, 'Piccolini' Facilitator]

Chelsea Filippini [Occasional Care, 'Piccolini' support]

Educational Support Officers (ESOs) – Curriculum

Rachel Armstrong

Milena Belperio

Emma Burke

Manuela Ciniglia

Giovanna De Meo

Tina Hoffman

Linda LaBella

Laura Parletta

Kirsty Taddeo

Leah Tregenza

Julie Ward

OSHC

Director – Karina Forte

Assistant Director – Emma Burke

Canteen Manager

Josie Nicolescu

Grounds and Maintenance

TBC

Parent Information Evening, Wednesday 7 February

The Parent Information Evening will occur next Wednesday 7 February. Whilst most of you met with your child's class teacher/s last week (as part of 'Meet the Teacher/Family Day'), the Parent Information Evening is a further opportunity for you to hear and learn about the year ahead from your child's teacher/s. The session is for parents/caregivers only.

The evening will have the following format, in your child's respective classroom:

- Reception to Year 2, from 6:00pm until 6:40pm
- Year 3 to Year 6, from 6:50pm until 7:30pm

Seesaw....

The Seesaw app. will be used for sharing your child's schoolwork, as well as a communication tool. If details have not been shared

already, information will be coming home soon from class teachers.

Building work update

Over the holiday period, the two-level, eight classroom facility was completed, and this week welcomed our Reception and Year 1 students. Details about the name of the building are below.

The new Nature Playground has almost been completed and looking impressive. The children are looking forward to using this new space.

The Staff Carpark has been reinstated, after the removal of the double transportable. Further, the carpark development on the corner of Portrush Road and Tarcoma Avenue is nearing accomplishment, ready to be utilised for staff and families soon.

Name of New Building – Carlo Acutis Building

During the final term of 2023, there was consultation to decide on a name for the new building, housing our Reception and Year 1 students.

Discussions for the naming of the new building involved students (represented by the Student Representative Council), staff and School Board. After discernment and deliberation and agreement on a name, I wrote a submission to Catholic Education South Australia (CESA), for approval.

I am pleased to say that recently I received notification, advising that the proposed name, The Carlo Acutis Building, had been approved by our Archbishop, Patrick O'Regan and CESA Executive Director, Dr Neil McGoran. An official opening for the Carlo Acutis Building will be occurring in the near future. I will provide details in due course.

The rationale for the name, Carlo Acutis Building, is in honour of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Carlo Acutis was born in London in 1991 and a few months later, moved with his parents to Milan, Italy. He was diagnosed with leukemia as a teenager and died in Italy on 12 October 2006 at the age of 15.

Carlo demonstrated a special love for God from an early age, even though his parents were not particularly religious. He had a deep devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life. He went to Mass as often as he could, he spent much time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages. His love for Jesus in the Eucharist was manifested by his acts of charity for the poor and homeless – many of them attended his funeral. He is buried in Assisi and was beatified by the Catholic Church on 10 October 2020.

Carlo was known for bringing his parents and relatives to Mass when usually it is the other way around. Carlo also loved technology and was skilled with computers. He was a computer programmer who built a website cataloguing and promoting Eucharistic miracles. He also loved playing video games and his console of choice was PlayStation. Although he wanted to play it often, he allowed himself only one hour a week as a spiritual discipline. Young people today are born into a world saturated with technology – it is an ever-present theme in their lives, and it can negatively impact their lives if it is not used appropriately. Carlo provides an example of a young saint who used and engaged with technology in a responsible and positive way while exercising discipline in how much time he used it.

Blessed Carlo is the example of a young modern saint to whom the students, staff and families can relate. He is an authentic example of the Catholic way of life and a great role model for our students.

Extra-Curricular in 2024

This year, in addition to the after-school sports program and OSHC service, we are launching a new extra-curricular initiative (to be held after school). Further information will be distributed very soon. However, the following line-up will take place in 2024: Chinese lessons, Visual Art course (Term One); Cartooning classes, Chinese lessons and Dance sessions (Term Two); STEM focus (Term Three); and African Drumming (Term Four).

Volunteer News

At the End of Year Mass on 1 December 2023, I announced the recipients of the 2023 School Volunteer of the Year Award. I congratulate Ernie Icolaro and Melissa Geisler on this fine achievement.

We are grateful for all people who volunteer at our school. If you are interested in volunteering, you need to have signed the school's Volunteer Declaration and hold a current Catholic Working With Children Check. Ongoing volunteers also need to have completed the free 2 hour online Mandatory Reporting (RRHAN-EC) training. For further information, please see Josie Colangelo in the Front Office.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's St Joseph's School Payneham AGM will be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024, commencing at 6:00pm. Further details will be provided next week.

Parking, road safety, driver etiquette and being friendly to our neighbours

School drop-off and pick-up times are busy for everyone. The aim is for this to happen in a safe and courteous manner. Please demonstrate consideration and patience, as well as travelling slowly around the school, especially where marked (no faster than 25 km/h).

As a result of the busyness at drop-off and pick-up, finding a car park next to the school gate can be tricky. An idea could be to find a park a little further away from the school, where you will not only find it easier to locate a parking space, but also opportunity for some exercise with your child/ren, and an extra chance to 'connect', as you walk your child to and from school. You could even plan to meet with another family at a designated point, and then walk 5-10 minutes to school. Moreover, the new Medical Centre, which recently opened on the corner of Portrush Road and Marian Road, is not for school parking.

Lastly, please be considerate of our neighbours, which includes not parking or standing with your vehicle in their driveways. Lastly, kindly ensure your child(ren) are keeping out of residents' gardens. Thank you for your anticipated attention to the above.

Supervision

For children who arrive at school before 8:30am, they will need to go to Before School Care, as there is no supervision in the yard until this time. Likewise, after school, any child who is not collected from 3:25pm, will be taken to After School Care. Moreover, if your child is being collected early from school, they need to be signed-out at the Front Office.

Supervision at After School Sports Training and Clinics

A reminder that any siblings of children attending after-school sports trainings or clinics, need to be supervised by yourselves (or a caregiver i.e., a grandparent). If this is not possible, please ensure any children not directly involved in the after-school training or clinic are booked into OSHC. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

School Uniform

The students are looking very neat and professional in their uniforms. Wearing the correct uniform brings a great sense of belonging to the community as well as pride in one's appearance. Let's work together to ensure it is sustained. A reminder, students are to wear their school hats during Term One and from 1 September (including for after school sports and OSHC). Wearing the sport uniform is only to occur on the allocated days.

This year we have our new uniform being endorsed. There is a two-year transition period (between the current and new uniform); meaning that by the start of the 2026 school year, all students need to be wearing the new uniform.

Newsletter format

Parent Newsletters will be circulated three times a term – in Weeks 1, 5 and 9 or 10. Other relevant messages will be communicated as required.

Nut allergies

St Joseph's Payneham tries very hard to create a 'nut free' environment. There are several students across the various year levels in our school who will suffer an extreme adverse reaction — life threatening in some cases — if they come into contact with any food product containing the slightest trace of nut substance! For that reason, we ask parents/caregivers to avoid sending nut products to school. When classes have 'shared lunches', parents will need to be mindful that the plate of food that is being sent to school is 'nut free'. We appreciate this could be an inconvenience as some children love peanut paste, Nutella and other nut-based spreads. This inconvenience though is nothing compared to the extreme consequences that may result, and we therefore ask for your understanding.

Food allergies

Incidentally, in a typical classroom at least one student is likely to be affected by food allergies, and the number of children with food allergies is increasing. A food allergy is an adverse immune system reaction that occurs soon after exposure to a certain food. As children get older, allergen avoidance becomes complex as they desire to fit in with peers and navigate social activities. Therefore, the rest of the school community needs to be vigilant, to ensure that all children are not placed in awkward situations whereby they may experience a severe reaction. For that reason, we discourage students sharing food and touching other people's food.

Head injuries at school

Our school's current procedure for managing 'minor' student head injuries i.e., ball impact to the head, bumping into another object, etc., is for students to be assessed by a Senior First Aider in the Front Office. If students are identified to be well enough to continue their day at school, the child's 'first emergency contact' is telephoned to alert that a minor head injury has taken place.

Congratulations

I offer my best wishes to:

- Year 1 teacher, Ben Williams, who was married to his fiancé, Amy, over the school holidays.
- Year 6 teacher, Charlelie Kalz, who was engaged to her partner, James, during the school holiday period.

Wishing you well!

Simon Mechis

From the Deputy Principal

Welcome!

Welcome back to a new school year to all our families and a special welcome to all new families joining our school community this year. I hope you all had a joyous festive season and enjoyable holiday period. My name is Michael Musolino and I am the new Deputy Principal at St. Joseph's Payneham, starting this year. I have been working at the school for the last thirteen years in various roles and am excited and grateful to start the new role in our great school community. I look forward to working with you and your child/ren throughout the school year.

New Beginnings Week

This week at school, all students are involved in the 'New Beginnings - Ready to Learn' program. The program has an emphasis on the 'Berry Street Education Model' (BSEM). This is an important opportunity for students and teachers to develop positive relationships and to create cultures of learning which are outcome based, all of which support high quality learning. Classes will use this time to establish clear expectations around learning, develop routines and procedures and focus on social skill development. Educational research indicates that student learning is enhanced when expectations are high, and the learning environment is positive, safe, supportive and engaging. The New Beginnings week will support student success, foster a love of learning and develop a positive and healthy mindset within students as they begin the new school year in 2024.

School Values and Motto

Our school's culture is founded on the values of, 'Community', 'Curiosity', 'Excellence' and 'Creativity', along with our school motto, 'Love in Everything'. As part of the New Beginnings Program this week, students have been learning about our school's values and motto, and importantly, how they can learn to demonstrate these values and motto in their everyday interactions with others.

We believe that following our values, along with our Josephite traditions, underpin the vision of our school and encourage a flourishing school community.

Community - We are respectful to ourselves, our peers and our broader local community. We encourage active engagement in social justice issues, service to others and the promotion of peace.

Curiosity - Our educators strive to bring out your child's inner creativity and curiosity, encouraging them to learn new things and step into the unknown with confidence.

Excellence - Striving to reach high standards, we challenge, evolve and adapt to reach excellence within our school community. Through our teaching and learning programs, our extra-curricular opportunities and indoor and outdoor learning spaces, we aim for continuous improvement from Early Learning through to Year 6.

Creativity - Innovation comes from creativity. We are passionate about allowing children to express their creativity in different ways as they learn and grow over their school learning journey.

'Friendly February' calendar

Please find attached the 'Friendly February' calendar from the 'Action for Happiness' website. We encourage you to share this calendar with your families at home to promote kindness. An idea might be to place a copy on your fridge and discuss the activities with your child/children.

Wishing all our students the very best for the 2024 school year!

All the best,

Michael Musolino

(Deputy Principal)

From the APRIM

As we welcome the beginning of a new school year, with open hearts, I am delighted to share my new beginning as your Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM) at St Joseph's Payneham. Previously, I worked at St Michael's College as a teacher and leader in both primary and secondary campuses. I am happy to be here working alongside a team of vibrant and caring educators, sharing wisdom and insights. I look forward to getting to know you and to walking together with joy, as we accompany the children entrusted to our care along their journey of learning and faith. As a school community in the Josephite tradition, we are all invited to share the good news of God's love and to show care towards our brothers and sisters, especially the poor.

Beginning of the Year School Mass

The religious life of the Catholic school aims to nurture and enrich the religious and spiritual development of the children through prayer, celebration of the liturgy and sacraments. On Friday 2 February at 9:15 am, we gather to celebrate our Beginning of Year Whole School Mass: The Presentation of the Lord. The feast is known as Candlemas because of the words of Saint Simeon when he met the child Jesus in the temple: "For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ..." (Luke 2:30-32). Jesus is the Light of the World. On this prayerful occasion, all school candles will be blessed.

Lent and Caritas Project Compassion

On Wednesday 14 February we will come together as a community to celebrate Ash Wednesday, with a Liturgy to begin our Lenten Season. Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting for forty days – from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Thursday – the season draws us towards the light of Christ.

During the six-week period leading up to Easter, we are encouraged to engage in three spiritual practices – prayer, fasting, and helping those in need. It is a special time for us to reflect deeply, and to help us build better relationships with ourselves, others, and God.

Spanning across the six weeks of Lent, our school will support CARITAS Project Compassion by raising funds for people living in some of the most vulnerable communities across the world. The theme for this year's Appeal is For all Future Generations. Each year level will be participating in fundraising activities for the Appeal. Together, in a spirit of communal support, we can make a difference. More information to come.

Commissioning Mass

Our staff will be commissioned by Fr Michael on Sunday 18 February at 11:00 am Mass in Our Lady Queen of Peace. Our families are warmly invited to attend the annual gathering in support of our staff.

Sacrament Preparation

Through the sacraments we receive special graces from the Lord in a truly unique experience. It is wonderful to see the growing number of students from our school and parish who will be preparing to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Fr Michael, Sr Josie, and I look forward to supporting parents in their role as their child(ren)'s first educators of faith.

A letter to parents and caregivers of children who are preparing for their sacraments will be sent by Fr Michael.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Workshop will be on Wednesday 13 March at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, St Joseph's Gym.

Warm Wishes

Patrizia Puglia

APRIM

Library News

[Premier Reading Challenge Initial Letter for 2024](#)

OSHC

Please click onto link below for further information

[Out of School Hours Care \(OSHC\)](#)

Community News

[Catholic Education Awards info flyer 2024](#)

[Mary MacKillop flyer Term 1 2024](#)

[Junior Squash Program 2024](#)

[Newton Jaguars Junior Winter 2024 Registration](#)

Canteen

Canteen Sponsorship

Does your business need Promoting or Advertising?

Do you want to get involved and support your child's Canteen?

Sponsor the Canteen for just \$250 (tax deductible)

By becoming a Sponsor you will receive free advertising for the whole term in the School Newsletter and on the St Joseph's Payneham social media pages.

Any queries please contact Mrs Helen Crosato on 8206 5103.

Term 1 Calendar of Events 2024

[Term 1 Calendar of Events 2024](#)

2024 School Term Dates

29 January to 12 April

29 April to 5 July

22 July to 27 September

14 October to 11 December
