



Week 8 Term 4 2023

Important Dates

End of Year Mass -
 9:15am (+
 Immaculate
 Conception) (Yr. 5
 hosting)
 Friday 8 December 2023

Yr.6 Retreat Day
 Monday 11 December 2023

Last Day for Yr. 6
students
 Tuesday 12 December 2023

Yr. 6 Graduation
Liturgy
 Tuesday 12 December 2023

Yr 6 Student Dinner
at 6pm
 Tuesday 12 December 2023

LAST DAY OF
TERM 4 - 3:00pm
 Wednesday 13 December
 2023

Meet the Teacher
and Family Day
 Wednesday 24 January
 2024

First day of Term 1
2024
 Monday 29 January 2024

From the Principal

Dear Families,

Reflections, acknowledgements, and farewells

As 2023 draws to a close, I reflect on the challenges and successes that have taken shape throughout the last 12 months.

I believe it is always a meaningful endeavour as a family to do the same; that is, have a conversation with your child/ren, asking about their achievements; most enjoyable learning moments; what there is to be grateful; and to think about areas for growth moving forward.

I express my thanks and gratitude for your support this year, and for the care and encouragement you have shown to each other. I acknowledge the many parents/carers, grandparents, and other members in the community who have generously given their time to make St Joseph's Payneham a better place.

As highlighted previously, we will be farewelling long-standing staff members Ingrid Douventzidis and Marie Polvere, as they retire from dedication to Catholic education.

Ingrid Douventzidis: Ingrid concludes her 12-year Deputy Principal/APRIM tenure at our school and is also retiring from education at the end of this year. We thank Ingrid for all the contributions she has given to the community. We will certainly miss Ingrid's passion and love for teaching and learning.

Marie Polvere: After many years of steadfast service to St Joseph's Payneham, Marie is likewise retiring at the end of this year. Similar to Ingrid, Marie's thirst for learning has not wavered. We will miss Marie's expertise in Inclusive Education, but also wise and discerning thinking across all issues pertinent to schooling.

We also say 'goodbye' to the following staff members who are leaving St Joseph's. We wish them well and sincerely thank them for their input and service.

Vanessa Saccardo: Vanessa has been at St Joseph's Payneham since 2012. In the last few years, Vanessa has been part of the Leadership Team, mainly as a Leader of Learning, in the areas of Numeracy, Literacy, Assessment, Intervention and Gifted Education. Vanessa has won the role as Assistant Principal at St Joseph's, Kingswood. We congratulate Vanessa on a well-deserved appointment.

Amanda Karam: During the second half of the year Amanda has taught the mid-year Receptions. Prior to going on maternity leave, Amanda was at St Joseph's Payneham for five years, mainly teaching Receptions. Amanda is returning to Melbourne to be with her extended family. Amanda will be teaching at St Thomas the Apostle, Cranbourne East in 2024.

Emma Hills: Emma hasn't been at St Joseph's since mid 2022, when she had her second child. Emma taught Music for five years at our school. Emma is following her passion, teaching at the School of Languages, Croydon Park.

Shana Phillips: Shana commenced with us during Term One of 2023, teaching a Year 1 class. Shana has won a position at St Martin de Porres, Sheidow Park.

Vicki Traino: Vicki taught the mid-year Reception class across Terms Three and Four (a role which she also held last year).

Jessica Nunnari: Jessica has been at St Joseph's since Term Three, teaching one of the Year 3 classes. Next year Jessica will be working at St Joseph's, Tranmere.

Mitchell Wells: Mitchell has been an Educational Support Officer (ESO) at Payneham for the last three years. Mitchell recently completed his teaching degree and has won a position teaching Year 7-9s at Nazareth College in 2024.

Michael Mastrangelo: Michael won't be at St Joseph's next year. Michael will be teaching at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Albert Park. However, is due to return in 2025.

Our charming Year 6s have a few days remaining as students at St Joseph's Payneham. They have been a great group and bright examples for the younger children. I thank the Year 6s for their vibrancy and positive influence on our school. Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

For other students and families not returning to St Joseph's Payneham, thank you for your involvement in our community. Best wishes for 2024.

End of Year Mass, Friday 8 December at 9:15am

As has been promoted, at the End of Year Mass, tomorrow, Friday 8 December (at 9:15am in our church), we will farewell Ingrid and Marie, as well as the other staff leaving the community. Following Mass, parents/caregivers are invited to the school gymnasium, for light refreshments.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Also tomorrow, at the End of Year Mass, I will be presenting the 'School Volunteer of the Year Award'. For 2023, we have two recipients, which will be revealed at the end of the Mass.

Staffing, 2024

In 2024, I welcome the following new staff to St Joseph's Payneham, (some whom I have made mention in previous Parent Newsletters): Patrizia Puglia (new APRIM, coming from St Michael's College Junior School, Beverley); Nicole Joanni (new Inclusive Education Coordinator, coming from St Andrew's School, Walkerville); Ben Williams (new teacher, coming from St Mary's Memorial School, Glenelg); Melinda Harding (new teacher, coming from Immaculate Heart Catholic Primary School, Queensland); Angelica Mavrofridis (new teacher, coming from St Therese's Catholic School, Essendon, Victoria); and Nicole Zacher (new teacher, coming from St Andrew's School, Walkerville).

End of Year Student Reports

As cited in previous communication, the End of Year Student Reports, will be available via SEQTA Engage. This means you will be able to access your child's Report online. Student Reports will be issued online tomorrow, Friday 8 December. Families who wish to have a hard copy, can request this option from the Front Office.

2024 Classes and Orientation

On Monday afternoon, you will receive notification indicating your child's class teacher(s) for next year. Your response is important, as it can determine your child's attitude and mindset for 2024.

Students will spend a little time with their 2024 teacher(s) and peers on Monday 11 December. The intention is to reduce some of the anxiety that can exist for certain students. Knowing who is in their class, who is teaching them and being excited about the year ahead, generally helps our students to be ready for the challenges and opportunities of the new year.

Please note, that once class placements are determined, there will be no changes of classes. It is a practice which the staff have been working on since the beginning of term, and many deliberations are considered to determine where every child is placed. Thank you for respecting the professional decision-making which goes into this process.

End of Year Concert thanks

Our End of Year Concert, celebrated last Wednesday 29 November, was a fantastic community event with a really positive vibe. I am grateful for your attendance. The children were joyous in performing and looked spectacular on the stage.

I acknowledge the End of Year Concert Committee, David Shinn, Emily Parrella, Donny Calabria, Laura Parletta, Julia Johnson, Jen Mastrangelo, Rebecca D'Amico and Charlelie Kalz, for the effort and time invested for this community event.

A large thank you also goes to the Parents and Friends Committee, who also were responsible for organising many aspects of the evening. I especially acknowledge, Skye Campbell-Hand, Kayla Holding, Melissa Geisler and Liana Calabro. Also, a large thank you to one of our parents, Anthony Ferragamo for supplying the stage.

New School Uniform, 2024

Another reminder regarding the new school uniform, which is mandatory for all new students to the school from January 2024. For all other students, 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.

Condolences

I extend my sympathies to the Forte family (Valentina, 1MP and Pellegrino, PS 'Joeys group'), on the passing of their grandmother.

Baby News

Congratulations to the Carbone family (Lily, 1MP and Sienna, PS 'Koala group'), on the birth of a girl, 'Macy'.

2024 School Commencement date and 'Meet the Teacher and Family Day'

The first day of school for students will be Monday 29 January 2024, beginning at 8:40am. 'Meet the teacher and family day', whereby you, your child and the class teacher(s) have opportunity to gather for a short period of time, will occur on Wednesday 24 January. Next week, information will be sent home providing details, including booking arrangements.

Conclusion of the school year

Term Four, and the end of the 2023 school year, concludes on Wednesday 13 December at 3:00pm (the final day for our Year 6 students is Tuesday 12 December). Once again, thank you for your support this year. I trust everyone will have a safe and positive festive season and upcoming school holiday break.

Wishing you well!

Simon Mechis

From the APRIM/Deputy Principal

Farewell

Today as I contemplate my retirement from the position of Deputy Principal/ APRIM I am filled with deep appreciation for the experiences I've shared at this wonderful school- St Joseph's.

I can't help but feel a profound sense of pride in what we have achieved together as a school community. St. Joseph's has always been more than just a place of education for me; it is a family, a home away from home, where we all have collectively nurtured and shaped the minds and hearts of the next generation.

Retiring from a place that has become my second home is not an easy task, but it is a decision made with a heart full of gratitude. I am grateful for the opportunities to work alongside dedicated and passionate individuals who have made St. Joseph's a special place of learning and growth.

To the students, you are the heart and soul of this school. It has been a privilege to watch you grow, learn, and develop into remarkable individuals. Your curiosity, enthusiasm, and resilience inspire me daily, and I am confident that you will continue to carry the torch of knowledge and kindness into the future.

To the parents, your trust and partnership have been invaluable. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children.

To my fellow educators, your commitment to excellence and your unwavering support have been the pillars of our success. It is your dedication that has made St. Joseph's the vibrant and nurturing environment it is today.

As I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry with me cherished memories, lasting friendships, and the knowledge that St. Joseph's under the capable leadership of our Simon and Michael and the dedicated team of educators, the school will continue to thrive and evolve.

In coming weeks, may you find some time to reflect and relax as you prepare for the coming of the infant Jesus at Christmas. In your celebrations, may you share the spirit of joy, hope and peace with your loved ones near and far. I will miss you all dearly!

ADVENT



Last Sunday, marked the beginning of Advent, a time of reflection, anticipation, and spiritual preparation. At this time of year we are preparing for many things- the end of another school year, the end of the primary school journey for our Year 6s, Christmas within our families and all that this entails- it is a busy time of year!

Advent reminds us that this season is not merely a countdown to Christmas but an opportunity to cultivate hope, peace, joy, and love in

our hearts. It is a time for us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the way this can permeate through our words and actions. As a school community, we have been celebrating the season of Advent in many ways, including through prayer and liturgy and classroom activities. We speak to children about the way they can bring hope and joy at Christmas time through the way they treat others and by helping to make Christmas special for those in our community for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

As we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath known as the Bethlehem Candle. It reminds us of the long and arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, travelled by Mary and Joseph. This second candle represents 'Faith'

Vinnies Food Donations

The Vinnies group have asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks for the amazing generosity and thoughtfulness of our school community. Each week, Vinnies are receiving more requests for support at Christmas and your donations will make a big difference – so thank you all!!

**With Christmas blessings,
Ingrid**

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Club

We thank Neil and Archita (Social Work students on placement) for their dedication, passion and commitment whilst facilitating the wellbeing groups at our school this semester. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

SRC Update

Next week we will have our final SRC Meeting for the semester and year. It has been a pleasure working with the group and to hear the wonderful ideas they have provided at our meetings. The commitment shown to improving our school and advocating for the needs of their fellow classmates and community has not gone unnoticed.

Throughout the year, the SRC Members have consistently demonstrated their ability to listen to school concerns and effectively communicate them to teachers and school leadership. The efforts in organising initiatives and events, addressing issues, and implementing positive changes have truly enriched our school community.

To all our families, wishing you a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable and safe holiday break.

All the best to those families leaving our school community.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!

Keep well!

**Kind Regards,
Michael Musolino
(Leader of Student Wellbeing & Leadership Support)**

2023 Christmas Carols Night





OSHC

Please click onto link below for further information

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

Community News

[Royal Life Saving SA Holiday Swim Program 2023](#)

[YMCA The Parks School Holiday 2023](#)

[Christian Brothers College 2025 Senior Campus Scholarship](#)

[2024 Hectorville Football Club](#)

2024 School Term Dates

Term 1 - 29 January to 12 April

Term 2 - 29 May to 5 July

Term 3 - 22 July to 27 September

Term 4 - 14 October to 13 December

Term 4 Calendar of Events 2023

[Term 4 Calendar of Events 2023](#)

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