

## *From the Principal*

As we look back on the achievements of 2023, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude.

2023 has been a wonderful year at our school. Our student numbers have continued to rise, with enrolments coming from local schools and around the world. I believe the increase in numbers is due to the outstanding reputation of our teaching staff in the wider community. Teachers, your unwavering commitment to nurturing the minds of our students and fostering a positive learning environment is truly exceptional. Through your passion, expertise, and tireless efforts, you have been role models of faith and have inspired our students to reach new heights and encouraged them to embrace learning with confidence and enthusiasm. So, on behalf of all the children and families in our school, I say thank you to each and every member of the St Joseph's team.

2023 has certainly been a full and exciting year for our students. As well as engaging in quality learning in their classrooms, they have taken part in a wide variety of additional learning opportunities. This includes excursions far and near, an outstanding whole school musical, spellbinding visiting performers, and a wide array of sporting opportunities. Our students have represented St Joseph's and the diocese in sport to the highest level.

It is important to celebrate the achievements of our graduating class. Year Six, we are all proud of you. As you prepare to embark on the adventure of high school, remember the important lessons that you learned here at St Joseph's and carry them with you as you to shape your future.

To all our parents and guardians, you have entrusted us with the education and faith development of your children, thank you. Your support, collaboration, and involvement in our school community have been invaluable. Together, we have created a partnership that empowers our students to flourish, not only academically but also as well-rounded, faith filled individuals, ready to face the challenges of the world.

Throughout 2023, the Year Two families led fundraising with energy and intelligence, with the Helicopter Ball Drop being the smash hit of the year. I extend a heartfelt thanks to Jane O'Garey and Alice Greatz for their leadership and to the Year Two fundraising committee for their tireless work. This year, even more than ever, the whole Year Two parent group got behind our fundraising efforts. I thank all families for supporting their endeavours. The friendships formed along the way will continue. Over \$21,000 was raised for our school.

The St Joseph's School Council has once again made a significant contribution to the school, leading with positivity. I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all members of our Council for being a wise and practical parent voice. In particular I would like to acknowledge Angelo Piccolo. Angelo has chaired our School Council for many years. He is passionate about St Joseph's and has led the parent group with energy and commitment. As principal, I will always be grateful for his unwavering support. I thank incoming school council chair Giulia Calabro for taking up this leadership role in our community.



*We wish you the gift of faith  
The blessing of hope and the  
peace of His love at Christmas  
and always.*

*St Joseph's Staff*

## SJLE Calendar

### 2024, Term 1

#### Week 1 & 2

1st  
Feb

Maths Assessment - students come to school only for their Maths assessment.

2nd  
Feb

Maths Assessment - students come to school only for their Maths assessment.

5th  
Feb

Term 1 commences for students in Years 1-6

6th  
Feb

Kindergarten's First Day

As 2023 draws to a close we say farewell to the following staff who are either moving away or who have chosen less formal roles at St Joseph's next year: Mr Montgomerie, Miss Ierano and Mrs Berghofer. I thank you all for sharing your gifts with us during your time at St Joseph's. You will be missed.

We welcome the following staff who will be joining our team in 2024:

Miss Jane Rhodes - Year Six teacher

Mrs Amy Smith - St Joseph's Pastoral Care

Mrs Rochelle Lehman - Teacher Assistant

Miss Hayley Sloan - Teacher Assistant

To the families whose youngest child is graduating from St Joseph's, we wish you all the best. Wherever life takes you, you belong to St Joseph's and your family will always be part of the fibre of this school.

And finally, to you children, you are the heart of our school. I thank you for your boundless energy and your happy smiles. I thank you for trying your best every day to achieve your learning goals.

As we say farewell to the 2023 school year, I wish each and every member of our school community a Christmas of family, love, peace and joy. I urge you, in the busyness and activity of Christmas day to pause and give thanks. Give thanks for your blessings of faith, and family. For these are two of God's most wonderful blessings.

Recently we welcomed the Nyazika family to St Joseph's, Ethan has joined 4CM. Ethan & his family, Linda & Bernard have joined us from Zimbabwe. Please make them welcome if the opportunity arises.

*Mary Jane Simms*

**Principal**



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**2023**

**Thursday 14 December** - School concludes for all students.

**2024**

**Tuesday 30 January & Wednesday 31 January** - Staff Development Days - no school for students.

**Thursday 1 February & Friday 2 February** - Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) Testing for all students in Years 1-6. Students are required to attend school for an interview. Further details to available on Compass.

**Monday 5 February** - school resumes for students in Years 1-6.

**Kindergarten Best Start Testing** - Thursday 1 February, Friday 2 February, Monday 5th February.

**Kindergarten commencement date** - Tuesday 6 February 2024.

**Kindergarten rest days** (Wednesdays) - 7 February, 14 February, 21 February & 28 February.



### STAGE 2 2023 GIVING RAFFLE



A massive thank you to all Stage 2 students for their enormous efforts to make the Giving Raffle a huge success.

We raised \$2000!

This means we can also give a generous donation to St. Vinnies as well, which is just amazing!

Congratulations to our winners.

Stanley Wiggins, Teresa Kelly and Ava Bullock.

Thank you also, to Stage 2 families and friends who supported us. We are very grateful!

## Merry Christmas



### Christmas Mass times 2023

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December Vigil -St. Joseph's Church, **LEETON 6pm**

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December- St. Patrick's Church, **YANCO 8am**

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December-St. Joseph's Church, **LEETON 10am**



## MAJOR AWARDS 2023

### Year 6 Awards

The **Diligence Award** - Ella Tyrrell  
The **Citizenship Award** - Logan Longford  
The **Sportsmanship Award** - Max McGrath  
The **Academic Award** - Ben Brennan  
The **Creative Arts Award** - Abby Pirrottina  
The ***Encouragement Award*** - Carter Purtill, Annica Su  
The ***Year Six Choice Award*** - Gisella Piccolo  
The ***St Mary of the Cross Award*** - Adele Simmonds  
The ***Principal's Award*** - Bobby Jackson

### Whole School Awards

The 2023 ***St Joseph the Worker Award*** - Kate Jones and Kylie Maguire  
The 2023 ***Kim Dutschke Consistent Effort Award*** - Chelsea Franco  
The 2023 ***Environment Award*** - The 2023 Clean Team  
The 2023 ***Infants Award*** - Ava Puntoriero  
The 2023 ***Sporting Excellence Award*** - Jarvis Clayton

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2024

### SCHOOL CAPTAINS

James Robertson  
Sofia Mallamace

### SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

James Armanini  
Olivia O'Bryan

### TENISON HOUSE CAPTAINS

Jordan Eurell  
Tannar Tabain

### O'MARA HOUSE CAPTAINS

Ahaan Chand  
Rose Looby

### DWYER HOUSE CAPTAINS

Matt Oliva  
Will De Paoli

### MACKILLOP HOUSE CAPTAINS

Sofia Nardi  
Aria Gregurke



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 LEADERS & 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS





## 2023 Patron Saint Class Awards

	<b>Dwyer Citizenship Award</b> -Follows in the footsteps of Jesus by being CONSIDERATE and INCLUSIVE, RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS, HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE and IS ENCOURAGING OF OTHERS	<b>MacKillop Encouragement Award</b> - GIVES 100% - OFTEN ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE /CLARIFICATION - COMPLETES TASKS - POSITIVE ATTITUDE - PERSEVERES	<b>O'Mara Sportsmanship Award</b> - SHOWS SPORTSMANSHIP DURING ALL SCHOOL SPORTING ACTIVITIES - IS A TEAM PLAYER -SHARING THE BALL, OPTING TO SIT OUT TO GIVE OTHERS A GO	<b>Tenison Pursuit of Excellence Award</b> - EXCELS IN A VARIETY OF KLA (AT LEAST 4) - WORKS HARD TO MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE	<b>Bounceback Value Award</b> -displays most of the values explored this year (not necessarily the person who received the most Bounce Back awards) in their everyday life - the recipient is honest, cooperative, responsible, kind, courageous, optimistic, respectful and resilient
KF	Bernice Machingura	Lachlan Boots	Charlotte Collins	Fintan Irvine	Zaid Southgate
KM	Sophia Puntoriero	Haiyu (Halee) Lin	Adrian Scanu	Sadie Spowart	Stella Nardi
1B	Abby Vatumaka	Maya Frazer	Benedict Doolin	Mia Campbell	Luca Celi
1G	Maitaishe Garutsa	Nash Thompson	Alessa Italiano	Penelope Carn	Zoe Sinclair
1V	Dylan Harper	Jade Dunbar	Owen Chigayi	Van Gregurke	Neve Waters
2B	Norman Longhurst	Lance Looby	Gabriella Grey-Ebon	Mason Iannelli	Macie Puntoriero
2M	Bradley Woodruff	Indiana Berghofer	Indi Retallick	Roman Feagai	Harvey Stott
3C	George Chen	Rufaro Garutsa	Summer McCann	Thomas Lanham	Eva Quodling
3HH	Zion Gabriel Serad	Chelsea Franco	Isla Panuccio	Gurtaj Singh	Grace Tripodi
4CM	Annie Chen	Imogen Jones	Jonty Jackson	Shelby Webb	Denzel Maples
4LM	Caitlin Bell	Kane Fiumara	Macy Coelli	Eden Small & Solomon Caffery-Feagai	Bronte Sheldrick
5CS	Sofia Mallamace	James Armanini	Will De Paoli	Aria Gregurke	Dusty Halden
6BC	Tawana Garuta	Lilly Weymouth	Alexis Alampi	Kaweera Senevirathne	Bobby Jackson
6L	Ammiel Mazivanhanga	Maria Macmillan	Cooper Paull	Alexandra Haines	Naisha Chand

**YEAR 6 2023**



## **Sporting News | Term 4 Week 10**

### **Year in Review**

What a year it has been in the sporting arena for St Joseph's this year. From Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals to Gala days and various representative sporting opportunities.

We have had multiple students reach high standards in various sporting events throughout the year. Congratulations to all who achieved their best and displayed fabulous sportsmanship along the way.

Thank you to all of the parents and volunteers who assisted at sporting events this year too. We would be lost without your support and truly appreciate each and every one of you.

### **Representative Sport Trials**

Representative Trials will be held for many sports next year (some very early on), so please keep an eye out for information in our newsletters, and on Compass in 2024. Mrs Cooper will contact eligible students and their families as each trial arises.

These trials for Year 6 students in 2024. Each school in the Diocese is restricted to a certain number of students who have displayed exceptional skills in each chosen sport.

The sports include, Australian Rules, Basketball (boys and girls), Cricket (boys and girls), Soccer (boys and girls), Hockey (boys and girls), Netball, Rugby Union, Rugby League (Under 11 and Open ages), Softball (boys and girls) and Touch (boys and girls).

### **2024 Dates for your Diary**

St Joseph's Swimming Carnival - Thursday  
8th February

MIA Deanery Swimming Carnival -  
Wednesday 21st February @ Narrandera  
St Joseph's Cross Country Carnival -  
Wednesday 27th March

Diocesan Cross Country - Tuesday 9th April  
St Joseph's Athletics Carnival - Friday 24th  
May

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of sport at St Joseph's. I look forward to another fantastic year of fun, achievements and memories. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday break.

Mrs Fiumara  
Acting Coordinator





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Giving Mass

On Friday 1st December, Kindergarten led our beautiful Giving Mass which helped to raise money for St Vincent de Paul. The Kindergartens read amazingly and had the very special job of collecting the envelopes from each student. Our leaders, Ben B and Phoebe S presented the donations to our St Vincent De Paul representative who was honoured and humbled by the generosity of our school. Just from this Mass, we were able to raise \$1,414.40 which just demonstrates the generous school community we have. Thank you to our Kindergarten students and teachers for your hard work preparing for this Mass.

## Year 6 Graduation

On Tuesday evening, Year 6 had their final Mass for the year, their graduation Mass. It was so nice to see all their families and friends support them and congratulate them on finishing their primary school chapter. Students received their graduation certificates at the Mass which was then followed by a dinner at the Soldiers Club. Here, the Year 6 awards were presented for academic excellence, citizenship, sporting, creative arts, encouragement, diligence, Year 6 choice, the principal's award and the St Mary of the Cross award. All students were very deserving and should be very proud of their achievements. I would like to say a huge congratulations to them and wish them all the best for high school.



## End of another year...

Well that concludes another year at St Joseph's and a massive year it has been. It was a blessing to be able to have parents back for Masses and liturgies this year and we are looking forward to seeing you all next year. I would like to wish every St Joseph's family a very Merry and Holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. Have a lovely holiday spent with your families and friends and enjoy some time to relax.

Stephanie Cirillo

*Acting Religious Education Coordinator*



## YEAR SIX GIFT TO THE SCHOOL

A special tradition at St Josephs is that at the end of each year, Year 6 presents the school with a gift. As a year, we brainstormed ideas and voted on what we would like to gift the school. We decided on new backboards for the basketball court.

So that we could all be remembered for our time here at St Joseph's we wanted our names to go on the back so we were lucky enough to all paint our names on the back.

In order to fund this gift, the Year 6 Fundraising committee, consisting of Annica, Max N, Anuj, Nicholi, Adele, Kaitlyn, Kaweera and teachers came up with a fundraising plan. At the start of this term, every Monday, we sold baked goods at recess and zooper doopers at lunch time.

There are many people we need to thank for their support to make this happen. To all our parents who helped bake something. To the rest of the parents in our school community for giving the children money to support our fundraising every Monday. And to our teachers for helping us reach our fundraising goal by organising and giving up their time to assist us.

Our second fundraising initiative was selling digital copies of the 'Let the Games Begin' musical on USB's. A very big thank you goes out to all families who supported us by purchasing a copy. Miss Ierano deserves a special mention for coordinating it all, and helping us to complete the final touches of the backboards.

We would also like to thank Grant Pocock, our wonderful maintenance man, for spending his time over the weekend installing the new backboards for us.

We hope that the backboards will continue to be used and loved as much as we have enjoyed using them over our time here at St Joseph's.

- The Year 6 Class of 2023



BEFORE



AFTER



## ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEETON

### 2024 STAFF

**Parish Priest:** Fr Christian Obiekwe

**Principal:** Mrs MaryJane Simms

**Acting Assistant Principal:** Ms Lara Belford

**Religious Education Coordinators 2023:** Mrs Stephanie Ronfeldt & Mrs Vijaya Nicholas

**Coordinator:** Mrs Kate Cooper (Term One)

**Inclusive and Diverse Learning (IDL) Coordinator:** Mrs Luisa Tavella

**Literacy Instructional Teacher:** Mrs Selina Puntoriero

**Reading Recovery Teacher:** Ms Lara Belford

**Senior School Support Officer:** Mrs Kate Jones

**Principal's Professional Assistant:** Mrs Kate Jones

**School Support Officer:** Mrs Kylie Maguire

**Maths Focus Teacher (MFT-Primary):** Mrs Karen Vogel

**Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU-Infants):** Mrs Karen Vogel

**English As An Additional Language/Dialect Support** Mrs Fiona Morris

**Infants Support Teacher:** Mrs Gena Frazer

**Pastoral Care:** Mrs Amy Smith

#### 2024 Classes

##### **Kindergarten:**

Mrs Michaela Fiumara (KF)

Mrs Maria Maybon (KM)

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Virginia Salafia

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Angela McDonell

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Liz Quarisa-Tynan & Mrs Gena Frazer

##### **Year One:**

Miss Chloe Buchanan (1B)

Mrs Jane Vallance & Mrs Jenny Houghton (1VH)

Teacher Assistant: Ms Hayley Sloan

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Jenny Houghton

##### **Year Two:**

Mrs Kayla Frazer & Mrs Alice Greatz (2FH)

Mrs Gina Haines (2H)

Mrs Vigaya Nicholas (2N)

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Karen Coelli

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Toni Bailey /Mrs Amy Smith

Professional Planning Time: Ms Lara Belford & Mrs Linzie Nardi

**Year Three:**

Ms Catherine Lyons (3L)

Mrs Stephanie Ronfeldt (3R)

Targeted Support Teacher: Mrs Fiona Morris

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Kelly Taylor & Mrs Toni Bailey

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Kate Cooper

**Year Four:**

Ms Joie Chung (4C)

Miss Lia Marin (4M)

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Kay Strachan

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Linzie Nardi

**Year Five:**

Miss Emily Gillogly (5G)

Mrs Brooke Pattison & Mrs Selina Puntoriero (5PP)

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Judi McAliece

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Kate Cooper & Mrs Selina Puntoriero

**Year Six:**

Miss Jane Rhodes (6R)

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Rochelle Lehman

Professional Planning Time: Mrs Selina Puntoriero

**Italian Language Program:**

Mrs Liz Quarisa-Tynan

**Aboriginal Support Worker:**

Louise (Ginger) Longford

**Cleaning Contract:**

Mrs Edna Cooper

**Grounds/Maintenance:**

Mr Grant Pocock

**Canteen Coordinator:**

Mrs Jan Scali

**Centacare Counsellor:**

Vicki Rengger



## TERM 1 SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/ SUN
<b>1</b> January	29	30 Staff Development Day	31 Staff Development Day	1 MAI Testing for all students Years 1-6	2 MAI Testing for all students Years 1-6	3/4
<b>2</b> February	5 Term 4 commences for students In Years 1-6	6 Kindergarten's First Day	7 Kinder Rest Day	8 SJLE Swimming Carnival	9	10/11
<b>3</b>	12	13	14 Kinder Rest Day	15	16	17/18
<b>4</b>	19	20	21 Kinder Rest Day Deanery Swimming Carnival at Narrandera	22	23 Year 4 Tabloid Sports Day (Year 9 SFC Pass class)	24/25
<b>5</b>	26	27	28 Kinder Rest Day	29	1	2/3
<b>6</b> March	4	5	6	7	8 School photos	9/10
<b>7</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16/17
<b>8</b>	18	19	20	21	22	23/24
<b>9</b>	25	26	27 SJLE Cross Country	28	29 Good Friday	30/31 Holy Saturday/ Easter Sunday
<b>10</b> April	1 Easter Monday	2	3	4	5	6/7
<b>11</b>	8	9 Diocesan Cross Country	10	11	12 Last day of Term 1	13/14

**Note** - Information / dates for the Term calendar will be added each week as it is provided to us. Please check regularly for new updates. PD = Professional Development

St Peter's Anglican Church, Leeton  
Cnr Church and Oak Sts (ph: 69532107)

# Christmas Mass Times

## Christmas Eve

6:00 pm Children's Liturgy and Mass  
11:30 pm Procession, blessing of the crib and  
Solemn Mass

## Christmas Day

8:30 am Mass in the Lady Chapel



Reflect | Respect | Celebrate

# SURVIVAL DAY MURAL PARTY

FREE  
Breakfast  
Water Slide  
Painting Activity  
Summer Fun Day

**25 JAN 2024, 9 AM**

Gossamer Park | All Welcome

Proudly Supported by the NADC

