

Term 4, Week 8

Friday 1 December 2023

## From the Principal

Dear families,

Today we celebrated our annual Giving Mass, led by Kindergarten. Many thanks to all families for supporting the work of St Vincent de Paul by your donations. Your gift will assist those in need this Christmas. It was so lovely to see so many members of the wider school family, parents, carers, grandparents, extended family and friends with us at the Mass.



## Music Tuition

This week Stephanie Townsend visited St Joseph's to meet the students and let them know that in 2024, she will be offering music tuition at St Joseph's. If you are interested in this extra curricular opportunity for your child, Stephanie's contact details can be found in today's newsletter. This tuition is in addition to John Sloan, who will continue to provide voice and piano lessons next year.

**As we enter the final weeks of the 2023 school year, the following dates will assist you in your planning.**

### Sunday December 3 - Light Up Leeton

The St Joseph's Choir will perform at Light Up Leeton. Mrs Ronfeldt and the students have been busy polishing their item. Don't miss it! Students are asked to assemble behind the stage at 6.30pm, for their 6.55pm performance.

Our Dance Group is also primed and ready to dazzle. Many thanks to Mrs Cooper, Mrs Frazer and Mrs Ronfeldt for preparing the children. The Dance Group is to gather behind the stage at 6.50pm and will be performing at 7.10pm.

### 2023 End of Year Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, December 6

On Wednesday 6 December, commencing at 9.30am we will hold our 2023 End of Year Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will take place in the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) at St Joseph's. The ceremony will include Patron Saint Awards for each class, whole school awards and the announcement of St Joseph's School Captains, Vice Captains and Sporting House Captains for 2024. (The major Year Six awards will not be presented. They will be announced at a ceremony following the Graduation Mass on Tuesday 12 December.)

All members of the St Joseph's community are invited to join us for the Awards Ceremony on December 6. Parents/carers of students who will be receiving awards or leadership positions have been notified by telephone or via a text message.

**Please Note: All students are to be in full school uniform on December 6, not sports uniform please.**



*"You ... must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."*

*- Matthew 24:44*

## SJLE Calendar

2023, Term 4, Week 9 & 10

6th Dec	End of Year Awards Assembly (including Captains announcements) 9.30am COLA
8th Dec	Whole School Transition Kinder 12-3pm Years 1-6 11.30-1pm
12th Dec	Christmas Dress Up Day Year 6 Graduation Mass 6pm followed by dinner & awards at Leeton Soldiers Club
13th Dec	Year 6 Fun Day Lake Talbot Student reports issued via Compass
14th Dec	Last day of Term 4 for all students

**Whole School Transition- Friday 8 December**

Friday December 8 is Whole School Transition Day. On this day, each student will meet their new teacher and new classmates. For Years 1-6 this will be between 11.30am and 1.00pm. Kinder students' transition experience will take place between 12:00 pm and 3:00pm. **All 2024 Kinder students attend on this day**, regardless of whether their transition day has been Thursday or Friday.

Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that classes are organised by this day. We believe that knowing their teachers for the coming school year eases the worries students may have as they embark on a new year of learning.

**Semester 2 Reports- Friday 8 December**

2023 Semester 2 reports will be released on Friday 8 December. They will be available to parents/carers via Compass. A notification will be sent out on Compass to advise parents/carers when reports are available for reading. If you wish to meet with your child/ren's teacher to discuss the report, please contact them directly.

**Christmas Dress Up Day - 12th December**

Students are invited to wear something fun and festive on Tuesday 12 December. On this day there will also be a dance party in the COLA between 11.30am and 1.00pm.

**Final Newsletter for 2023**

The final St Joseph's newsletter for 2023 will be sent to families on Thursday December 14. It will contain a list of the 2023 Whole school and Year Six Award recipients and the 2024 student leadership group.

**Year Six Final Exit From St Joseph's**

Thursday 14th December will be the last day of school for all students. As this is the final day for Year Six, our tradition is that all classes gather in the COLA to farewell the Year Six group as they leave the school grounds when the bell rings at 3.20pm. Year 6 families are invited to join us in the COLA for this memorable milestone.

**MAI Testing 2024 - 1 & 2 February 2024**

At the start of each school year all students in Year 1 to Year 6 undertake an individual Maths Assessment to assist teachers to cater for the needs of each child in Mathematics. The dates for the 2024 MAI testing is scheduled for Thursday 1 and Friday 2 February 2024.

**An invitation to book a Maths Assessment Interview for your child/ren will be sent out to families on Friday the 8th December. Please ensure that you book a time for your child as the information gained at this assessment is used in planning your child's Maths program.** Each Mathematics Assessment Interview takes approximately half an hour and parents can either wait at the school or return to pick up their children.

**Students Return to School 2024**

Year 1 to Year 6 students will return to school on Monday 5 February 2024.

Kindergarten will commence school on Tuesday 6 February 2024.

*Mary Jane Simms*

**Principal**

## Fun and friendship at Kinder transition.



## PARISH MASS TIMES

### St Joseph's Parish Leeton:

Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm

Sunday - 10.00am

### Sacrament of Penance

Friday - 4.45pm - 5.15pm

Saturday - 4.20pm - 4.45pm

### Eucharistic Adoration

Friday - 4.30pm

### St Patrick's Parish Yanco:

Sunday - 8.00am



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2023

**Wednesday 6 December** - End of Year Awards  
9.30am - COLA

**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 follow 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.

## GOLDEN APPLE DOCKETS

A major fundraiser for St Joseph's is the collection of **GOLDEN APPLE DOCKETS**. The Golden Apple Supermarket very generously donates money to the school according to the amount spent over the year by the school (and extended) community.



This is an EASY fundraiser for the school, so please **KEEP YOUR DOCKETS AND SEND THEM IN WITH YOUR CHILD TO BE COLLECTED IN THEIR CLASS.**



## Sporting News | Term 4 Week 8

### Swimming Intensive & PE Lessons

Our swimming intensives and water safety sessions have come to a conclusion. Many thanks to all the staff who assisted with running these sessions, and providing the student's with this fantastic opportunity. We hope all students have developed their knowledge of safety in and around the pool, as well as their confidence in the water.

Year 6 have enjoyed their weekly Physical Education lessons at the pool this term. Thank you Mrs Cooper for organising this wonderful opportunity for our students and the teachers who have attended the pool each Tuesday to support our students.



### Representative Sport Trials

We have finished off the year with a bang! On Friday 17th November, Ahaan Chand represented our school at the Diocesan Basketball Trials in Albury. He represented our school with distinction and sportsmanship. Well done, Ahaan.

Further Representative Trials will be held for other sports next year, so please keep an eye out for information in our newsletters, and on Compass.

### Primary School Get Into Rugby program

The Get Into Rugby program that we have been participating in has been a great success. The students have learnt new skills throughout the program. We have one more week to go. Please remember to send your child to school in sport uniform each Thursday.



### 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

Mrs Fiumara  
Acting Coordinator

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Term 4, Week 8

## In Their Shoes Day

On Friday, Week 6, Year 6 participated in 'In Their Shoes Day' where they experienced what it is like to live in poverty. They were tasked with the challenge of not eating, only being provided with one meal of rice for the day. They also had to collect their own water, carrying a bucket to and from St Francis to use as their drinking water for the day. They completed activities throughout the day that focused on those who are less fortunate than us. In particular, they watched Ryan's Well, a story about a young boy who raised his own money to build a well at Angolo Primary School in Uganda. Year 6 learnt from Ryan that, **'Water is essential to all life and that it was a reminder that we can all make a difference – it applies to each and every one of us.'** Below are some reflections from our Year 6 students:

### **Beginning of the Day**

I am feeling quite moved by the video we just watched. I never really realised the velocity of this situation. They say water is life. Yet, so many people are dying without water. It is so incredibly sad. - **Anuj**

After we watched the video and said prayer I was a bit sad, because 1 in 4 people in this world do not have access to clean water, and 1 in 3 people lack sufficient access to basic sanitation. I remember these people in my prayers so I can help them. - **Adil**

### **During The Day**

A bowl of rice has never tasted so good after not eating anything, unlike what we would do in our everyday lives. Eating something like rice which would normally be a side food has become a survival food ... for those people who are living in poverty. I have never appreciated our food before, until we saw and were put into the situation of other's lives. - **Maria**

I can't believe how little some people in the world eat every day. I feel hot and exhausted already, I can't imagine how others feel. For us, it's just one day. People live like this over and over again, and they can't complain because that's what they're used to... We are truly lucky. - **Adele**

I find it extremely annoying that western society takes too much food and doesn't donate the stuff they don't eat. Instead, we keep food in our cupboards until it ends up being thrown out. There are 828 million people around the world that could eat that food! - **Ben**

I can't believe the amount of people that go hungry in the world, and very little of us help, very little of us cared, because we were never in their position. I wish my eyes had opened up earlier. I feel good that going out of this experience, everyone has raised more awareness and gratitude. - **Alexis**

### **After the day**

After today I finally see how lucky I am to have these privileges. I see how lots of people around the world don't have clean water and food - they might be starving. That's why I am grateful that I have food, clean water and the other privileges that I have. I hope that in the future we will finally find a solution to getting clean water and food for all the underprivileged people of the world. - **Tanya**

I am so grateful that I got to experience this, so that I can feel what it is like to be in someone's shoes. It was amazing to eat again at the end of the day but I deeply understand the privileges we have compared to others in the world. - **Annica**

After my evening meal I realised that I shouldn't take things for granted and I should be grateful for what I have. I know it was only a day experience, but people living in poverty have to go through that every day not knowing when their next meal is. - **Lilly**

## Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 12th December      Year 6 Graduation Mass - 6pm - led by Year 6**

Stephanie Ronfeldt  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

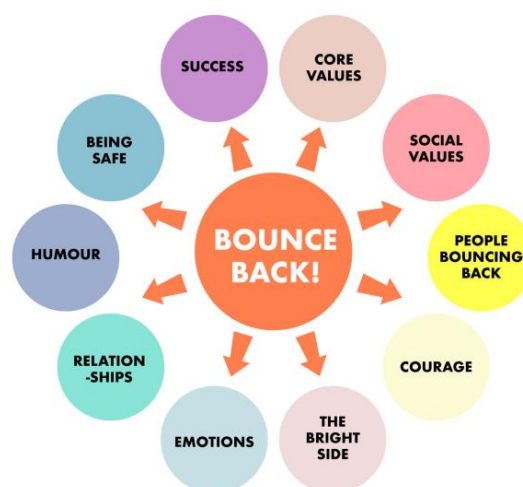
# BounceBack! AWARDS

Week 6 | Term 4

Javier P
Ella L
Violette S
Lilly-Anne P
Neve W
Nimrit K
Blake M
Eva Q
Ellie P
Shelby W
Adelyn R
Tannar T
Alistair A
Israel W

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*St Joseph's teaches the BounceBack program from K-6 to improve student wellbeing and help students to deal with the complexities of their everyday lives. It teaches them how to BounceBack when they experience sadness, difficulties and challenging times.*



## ST JOSEPH'S MERIT AWARDS TERM 4, WEEK 6 2023

Daisy C-J	KF
Fintan I	KF
Harry B	KF
Zaid S	KF
Halee L	KM

Luca C	1B
Molly T	1B
Charlee-Rae D	1G
Augustus N	1G
Zoe S	1G
Dylan H	1V
Alfie T	2B
Ava B	2B
Mason I	2B
Brian K	2M
Indi R	2M
Florence N	2M
Harvey S	2M

Bella B	3C
Charlotte H	3C
Thomas L	3C
Michael M	3C
Ava S	3HH
Chelsea F	3HH
Rami Y	3HH
Xuzhe L	4CM
Alex D	4CM
Jasmine K	4CM
Logan H	4LM
Mikey J	4LM
Hargun K	4LM
Julius W	4LM
Jordan E	5CS
Dusty H	5CS
Daniel K	5CS
Joel T	5CS
Alistair A	6BC
Aylah N	6BC
Ben B	6BC
Blake G	6L



## St Joey's CHESS TOURNAMENT Grand Final News!

Last week saw the Grand Finals for the inaugural St Joseph's Chess Club Tournament. The deciding games for 2023 Chess Champions were the best so far, in both DIVISIONS. The library was full of enthusiastic teachers, visitors and fellow students eager to support their classmates and watch the entertaining games unfold.



In DIVISION ONE, Anuj G came up against the experienced, formidable Kaweera S. Both players started off well but it soon became apparent that Anuj lacked the confidence that he had in earlier games. He was visibly nervous as he kept fumbling with his pieces but soon picked up, playing very cautiously.

Being good friends, both boys played a respectful, yet aggressive game. Seemingly evenly matched, both made mistakes and it was pretty much tick for tack until Kaweera, in a cunning move, placed Anuj's king in a compromising position which significantly weakened Anuj's defence. After that, Anuj played heroically but Kaweera took control of the game and soon was victorious. Both players are to be commended on an intelligent, well-played game. Congratulations to Kaweera, for being crowned Division One Champion Chess player of 2023!

However in typical tradition, DIVISION TWO wasn't quite so friendly!

Nor was it very long!

In this game, we saw Mr Julius W take on Sir Solomon C-F

in an action packed, short but brilliant game.

Both players came out swinging, each taking piece after piece, big or small.

The crowd was kept mesmerised as each queen were killed in swift, sure moves. Equally balanced, what happened next was totally unexpected.

Julius, in his eagerness, boldly swiped his knight across the length of the board to take Sol's rook, leaving his own king open. Sol saw the opening and quietly placed Julius' king into what he thought was "check". A quiet murmur took the crowd and someone chirped out that it was in fact CHECKMATE! And with that, the game was over.

An accidental yet sudden end to the game!!



Thankyou Julius and Solomon for a short but fun grand final!

Congratulations to Solomon for taking out Junior Chess Champ title for 2023.

We look forward to a new and just as exciting season next year!

Thank you to the 2023 SRC for your hard work in putting the tournament together. You have all shown great leadership this year.

Well done. I'm proud of you.

**Mrs Quarisa-Tynan (Signora Q.T.)**





# Christmas DRESS UP DAY

Tuesday 12th December



Students are invited to wear something  
fun and festive!

## Guitar and Voice Lessons

Would you like to learn guitar at school?

As well as piano, clarinet and voice lessons with John Sloan, our students can now learn guitar during school hours.

Stephanie is a vocal coach and guitar teacher who graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. She has over 7 years teaching experience and 15 years experience working in the music industry. Stephanie strives to perfect the balance between vocal technique and stage performance, specialising in the pop, musical theatre and jazz genres. She teaches singers how to achieve any sound they want without breaking the function of their voice or restricting them. She also offers guitar lessons for beginners and teaches those who are already singing how to accompany themselves on guitar. Stephanie offers half hour or full hour lessons, here at St Joseph's.

When St Joseph's parents contact Stephanie, she adds them to her roster. Fees are paid directly to Stephanie.



**Stephanie Townsend**

Acoustic Musician



0432 470 487



[stephanietownsendmusic@gmail.com](mailto:stephanietownsendmusic@gmail.com)



[www.stephanietownsendmusic.com](http://www.stephanietownsendmusic.com)



## STAGE 2 GIVING RAFFLE

To support the Community Christmas Lunch and gifts for residents at local nursing homes.

**1st prize:** 2 nights accommodation at Coogee Bay Hotel, Sydney & family passes to an amusement park

**2nd prize:** Cart full of toys

**3rd prize:** Couple's Pack- assorted gifts donated by local businesses

**\$2 each or 3 for \$5**

**Drawn Tuesday December 12th 2023**

**Buy your tickets from any Stage 2 student or through the blue box/office.**

**Thank you for helping us  
to help others!**



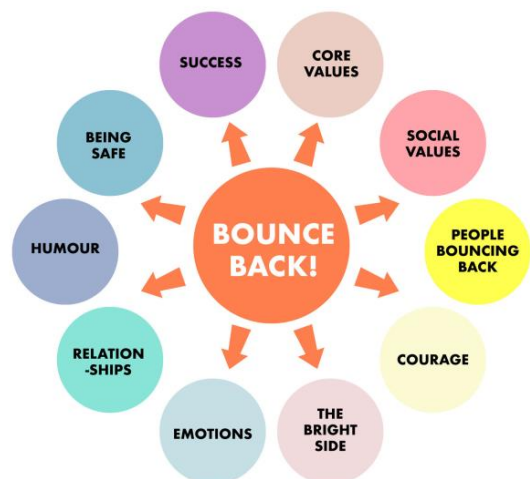
# BounceBack! AWARDS

Week 7 | Term 4

Scarlett B
Sophia P
Emma S
Maitaishe G
Andy J
Lewis R
Evie C
Rufaro G
Rami Y
Jasmine K
Jack B
Daniel K
Leodan C

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# ST JOSEPH'S MERIT AWARDS TERM 4, WEEK 7 2023

Jobe C	KF
Zara C	KF
Connor I	KM
Jamo G	KM
Sophia L	KM
Nicole M	KM

Bodie T	1B
Abby V	1B
Luca C	1G
Penelope C	1G
Ezequiel S	1G
Kye D	1V
Indi M	1V
Lucas G	2B
Bailey J	2B
Danny V	2B
Chanulya S	2M
Amos M	2M

Jayson I	3C
Wade T	3C
Hugh D	3C
Sophie C	3C
Ashleigh P	3HH
Evie R	3HH
Chelsea F	3HH
Gurtaj S	3HH
Pippa S	3HH
Grace T	3HH
Isla P	3HH
Willow F	4CM
Callum S	4CM
Denzel M	4CM
Sukhman S	4CM
Adele T	4CM
Caterina P	4LM
Adelyn R	4LM
Layla V	5CS
Matt O	5CS
James A	5CS
Charlie B	5CS
Rose L	5CS
Sofia M	5CS
Phoebe S	6BC
Tawan K	6BC
Gabrielle B	6BC

## 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




Leeton Ministers Fraternal  
Presents

**CAROLS IN THE PARK**  
**SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2023**  
**MOUNTFORD PARK**  
**6PM**

Bring a chair or picnic blanket and your best singing voices.  
Support the BBQ and drinks stall as a fundraiser for this  
community event.  
Glow sticks will be available for purchase.



Organised this year by St. Joseph's Catholic Parish,  
Leeton  
02 6953 2099



**INAUGURAL  
CSNSW SPORT  
AQUATHLON**  
**TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2023**

**Register Now!**



**Age Groups:**  
8 Years - 19 Years

**Cost:**  
**Entry - \$35 4th Dec**  
**Late Entry - \$55 11th Dec**

**Eligible Students:**  
Affiliated schools to  
Catholic Schools NSW

**First Race: 8:30AM** Max Parker Leisure & Aquatic Centre

**NSW TRIATHLON** [csnsw.sport/sports/csnsw-sport-programmes/aquathlon](https://csnsw.sport/sports/csnsw-sport-programmes/aquathlon) 