



St. Joseph's Primary School

Nolan Street, Kerang

Tel: 03 5452 1426

Fax: 03 5450 3657

e: principal@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au
www.sjkerang.catholic.edu.au



Newsletter No. 36

Friday 28th November 2025

Events Calendar...

Next Week ...

Monday 1st – 4th December
- Year 5/6 Camp Wilkin

Monday 1st December
- Scholastic BookClub orders due

Advance Notice ...

Monday 8th December
- Glasshouse Opening -
Foundation Students

Tuesday 9th December
- Step Up Day
- Transition Day #3 – 2026
Foundation Students

Wednesday 10th December
- Swimming – all year levels

Thursday 11th December
- Swimming – all year levels

Friday 12th December
- St Joseph's Swimming Carnival
12:30pm – 3pm - all year levels

Tuesday 16th December
- Last Day of Term 4 (students)
- **End of Year Mass & Graduation**

Please note dates may change for various reasons.

All dates can be found on the St Joseph's App and website.

St Joseph's is a Child Safe school.
We promote the Safety, Wellbeing & Inclusion of all students.

Catholic Schools
Child Safe Schools

Dear Families,

GRANDPARENTS DAY



It was incredibly special to see so many grandparents and special people come together to share our morning. Events like this can sometimes seem small, but their impact is profound, our students treasure the opportunity to share their learning space with their important people in their lives, and the joy it brings was certainly felt across the school on Monday morning. Thank you for helping make it such a meaningful and memorable Grandparents Day.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the families who generously contributed a plate for our morning tea.



ROTARY AWARDS

Last week, our Year 6 students who completed the **Rotary Junior Community Award program** attended a special presentation ceremony to celebrate their dedication and achievements. The Rotary Junior Community Award is a non-competitive initiative that encourages Year 6 students to actively engage with their community. Throughout the program, students take part in a series of activities designed to deepen their understanding of community values and give satisfaction in volunteering. Each student works through a diary of community-based tasks, requiring significant time, effort, and commitment.

We congratulate every child who completed the program. To reach this milestone is a wonderful accomplishment. A special thank you to Mrs Schlitz for supporting the students along the way.



ADVENT

This Sunday is the beginning of Advent. *Advent is a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas – the birth of Christ, the Nativity of Our Lord.* We prepare our homes and hearts for four weeks before Christmas. This Sunday, **the first candle**, which is purple and symbolises hope, will be lit. It is sometimes called the “**Prophecy Candle**” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. *It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.*



Enjoy the weekend,
Justin

Parish Priest: Fr. Aran Kumar Korlakanti

Email: stpatker@bigpond.com

Presbytery Number: 5452 1041

Sunday Mass Timetable: Cohuna – 8.30am ** Kerang – 10:30am ** (Saturday evening) Pyramid Hill – 6:30pm
2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MASSES BEING KERANG 9:00am COHUNA 10:30am.

For all Week Day Mass Times please see the Parish Bulletin issued each Sunday.

OR Contact: Presbytery - 5452 1041 St Joseph's School - 5452 1426

Reconciliation & Communion at home is available: by arrangement with Father.

Christmas Eve Mass Kerang : 5pm**Christmas Day Mass Kerang : 10:30am**

PBiS Award – Monday 24th November '25 Respect of Self, Others and Environment

F-HJ	Lenny H Respect for... Others by showing great sportsmanship after playing a class game.
F-BE	Ned H Respect for... Self by taking it upon himself to organise extra scarves for the Grandparents Dance.
1-DK	Charles H Respect for... Others by working well in a team and supporting his teammates in our Initial Lit Olympic games.
2-AM	Mianna C Respect for... Others for seeing a need and doing something about it – the Mary MacKillop Award! Ethan W Respect for... Self by making good choices to practise his Tricky Words to achieve success
34-JB	Ryder B Respect for... Self for showing determination to complete all tasks.
45-CO	Jye T Respect for... Self by persisting with his work and completing it within the lesson time.
56-KS	Callum C Respect for... Self for his positive attitude towards all areas of learning. Well done Cal. Ellie V Respect for... Others and environment for offering to assist in cleaning up the Art supplies after some busy Buddy sessions!



Academic Award – Monday 24th November '25

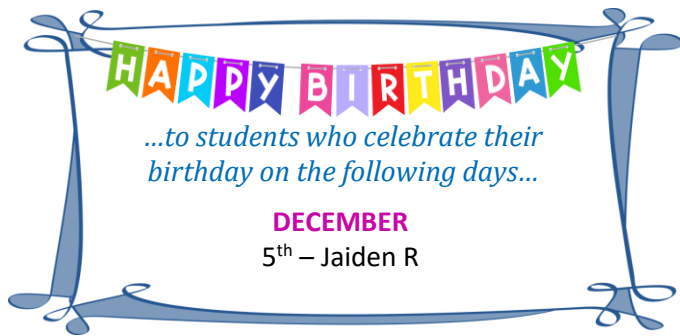
F-HJ	Theo F... For writing three sentences about 'The Dippy Dinner Drippers'!
F-BE	Evie B... for trying really hard to work on representing numbers using bundles of tens and MAB blocks.
1-DK	Ollie M... For his great work in solving addition and subtraction equations. Ava W... For writing a terrific information report about Dingoes.
2-AM	Tristan W... For using terrific expression when reading.
34-JB	Lewis W... For eagerly volunteering to share his knowledge to help others.
45-CO	Thea G... For writing a fantastic introductory paragraph for her persuasive letter.
56-KS	Sonny G... For the great use of persuasive devices and emotive language in his 'Save the polar bear' letter.



AMAZING!

Congratulations

AROUND THE SCHOOL



PBiS



Congratulations to this week's PBiS winners!

School Newsletter

Please contact Bree in reception if you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter each week.

Bus Families



Parents must notify the school of all changes to school bus arrangements either by phone 54521 426

or email admin@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au

Lost Property

There are a number of unclaimed jumpers, snack/lunch containers & drinker bottles waiting for someone to claim. These items are all in the lost property box for collection.



Canteen

Canteen Days:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

All canteen orders need to be placed on *CDFpay* by *Flexischools* before 9am each morning. Just a reminder to double check which date/day you are placing your order.

Term 4 – Canteen Roster

Friday 5 th December	Kate Adams
Friday 12 th December	Canteen Closed

Stacey Turner - Canteen Manager

Term 4 Canteen Specials

Term 4 Specials 2025

Tuesday 11th November
Wedges
GF Alternative Available



Tuesday 25th November
Sushi Rolls
GF Alternative Available



Tuesday 18th November
Taco Bowls
GF Alternate Available



Tuesday 16th December
Ice Cream Cones
GF Alternate Available



Gluten Free Alternatives Available where possible

Swimming

This year all students will participate in a mini Swim Program over 3 days at the Kerang Swimming Pool. On **Wednesday 10th** and **Thursday 11th December** all classes will have the opportunity to participate in a 40-minute swim session with a focus on Water Safety. Students will be shuttled to the Pool by bus. On **Friday 12th December**, ALL students will have the opportunity to participate in the St. Joseph's Swimming Carnival from **12:30pm - 3pm**.

Coming Home Next Week:

- Swim Program Permission Form
- Swimming Helpers- Parent Form

Kristy Hayes
Physical Education



Scholastic BookClub



Scholastic BookClub orders are due by Monday **1st December**.

Introducing
SCHOLASTIC
Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Clubs
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Clubs by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

GET IT ON
Google play

Download on the
App Store

2026: Financial Assistance

CSEF

Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent may be eligible for Camps, Sport & Excursions Funding (CSEF). CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps & sporting activities.

The 2025 one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus is not happening in 2026; that was a 2025 initiative.

However, the Victorian government is increasing the funding for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) to \$400 per eligible primary and secondary school student, effective from January 1, 2026. Forms are available at the school office and will need to be returned at the start of next year with a copy of your current concession card.



For more information, please see website:

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund | vic.gov.au
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



School Fees Concession Program

Families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) are eligible for a significant reduction in School fees

for the upcoming year, including all fees and levies.

To Apply:

- Provide a copy of your HCC to the school office.
- Complete a Camps, Sports & Excursions (CSEF) form.
- Set up a direct debit arrangement at the school.
- Complete School Fees Concession Program form. Please see reception for a copy of this form.

Opening The Doors Foundation



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice

Opening The Doors Foundation

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Victoria with educational funding such as school uniforms, books, school camps and other school associated costs. Applications for 2026 grant are now open.

Key Dates:

- Applications Open - 10th November 2025
- Applications Close - 2nd of April 2026 (strict deadline)
- ALL Vouchers expire on - 31st of May 2026

Families eligible for Opening the Doors need to complete the online application:

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/apply-now>

For more information, please see website:

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>



School Fees

All families will have recently received a fee statement. As the school year draws to a close, we ask that families please finalise their school fees before the end of term. Families on direct debits or payment plans will continue as scheduled/agreed. Any families who are experiencing financial hardship are asked to please contact the school to arrange a meeting with Justin.

If any families who would like to organise their 2026 school fees to be paid as direct debits, please contact Bree for more information.

Families who already direct debit, a letter was sent home with the eldest in the family today with next year's scheduled payments.

Please return by the 28th November 2025.

Community Events & Information – See School Facebook page for full details.

Saturday 6th December – Community Christmas Carols – 5pm – Atkinson Park Kerang.

December 1st to 31st January – Big Summer Read – Gannawarra Library Service.



MHiPS News

Dear St Joseph's Community,



This week, I wanted to share some information and useful links about the up-coming social media delay/ban for children under 16. For many students these changes won't have a real impact as they most likely don't have access to social media. However, for some students this may impact their social connections or change what that looks like as they head off to high school.

From 10 December 2025, the Australian Government will introduce new laws designed to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16. This landmark reform marks a major step forward in addressing growing concerns about the impact of social media on children's mental health and development.

These changes aim to create a safer, more balanced digital environment by shifting responsibility back onto social media platforms to verify user ages and reduce exposure to harmful content. For many families, this is a welcome and long-awaited move that recognises mounting evidence linking early social media use with anxiety, poor sleep, body image concerns and reduced wellbeing.

While regulation is an important milestone, it cannot replace parental guidance. Families continue to play a vital role in helping children navigate the online world with awareness and confidence. This is an opportunity to review technology use at home, set healthy boundaries and start open conversations about digital behaviour. By understanding what these new regulations mean and why they matter, parents and caregivers can feel empowered to support their children's online safety and wellbeing through this period of change. To stay informed about how these laws will work in practice, visit the **eSafety Commissioner** website for updates, tools and guidance.

You can also [click on this link](#) to see some of the key points about the changes and some ideas for having these conversations at home.

Wishing you all good mental health,



Kate Dunstan
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader



Community Christmas Carols

It's that time of the year again. The Community Christmas Carols will be held on **Saturday 6th December** at Atkinson Park. Students wishing to participate in singing Christmas Carols are asked to please assemble with Mrs English at 6:45pm near the stage, in **full summer school uniform**.



Big Summer Read