



St. Joseph's Primary School

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Newsletter No. 37

Friday 5th December 2025

Events Calendar...

Next Week ...

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

Advance Notice ...

Tuesday 16th December

- Last Day of Term 4 (students)-
Dismissal at 3:25pm

- **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,

YEAR 5/6 CAMP - ANGLESEA

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Year 5/6 camp in Anglesea this week. On behalf of all staff who attended, we cannot speak highly enough of our students and the way they conducted themselves throughout the camp. This experience presented many individual challenges, pushing students beyond their comfort zones. Yet, as a group, they came together, showing outstanding support, encouragement, and teamwork. It was truly remarkable to witness, and we couldn't be prouder of this group of students. Over just a few days, we saw significant growth, not only in each student individually, but also in the strength of the group as a whole. This experience helped build many long-lasting friendships, particularly for our Year 6 students as they move towards the end of their primary school years. A special thank you to Mrs Schlitz, Mrs O'Connell, Mr Murray and Zac for making this experience one to remember.



STEP UP DAY – TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER

Next Tuesday is our whole school transition day. All students will be moving into the classes they will be in next year. For all our current students, and our new Foundation students, this 'step-up' will begin at **9:30am and finish at 1:00pm**, with our current students then reverting to their current 2025 class.

END OF YEAR GRADUATION MASS – TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER

Our school community is invited to celebrate the Graduation of our Year 6's of 2025! Mass will be held in the church at 6pm and followed by a BBQ at 7pm. For those who are able to be part of this great annual event please bring either a salad or a sweet.

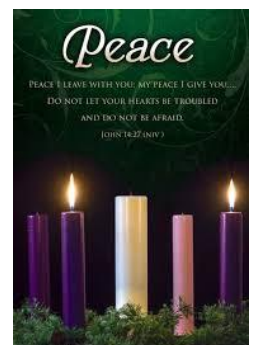
Salad – Families Surnames A-K

Sweets – Families Surnames L-Z

ADVENT

The second week of Advent is focussed on peace. Jesus came as the Prince of Peace. The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means wholeness or well-being. Jesus didn't come merely to end conflicts, but to bring us true completeness by saving us from our sins.

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 1st December '25 Respect of Self, Others and Environment

F-HJ	Phoebe M Respect for... Self and others by making great contributions to our class discussions
F-BE	Felipe G Respect for... Others for being so helpful with his peers and assisting them with counting.
1-DK	Dempsey H Respect for... For being resilient when things don't go quite to plan.
2-AM	Juddie D Respect for... Self for being willing to persist with challenges to achieve success in identifying patterns in numbers.
34-JB	Riley O Respect for... Others by being a great helper to his peers and teachers.
45-CO	Archer V Respect for... Self by making positive choices that help him complete his work.
56-KS	<i>No award due to camp</i>



Congratulations

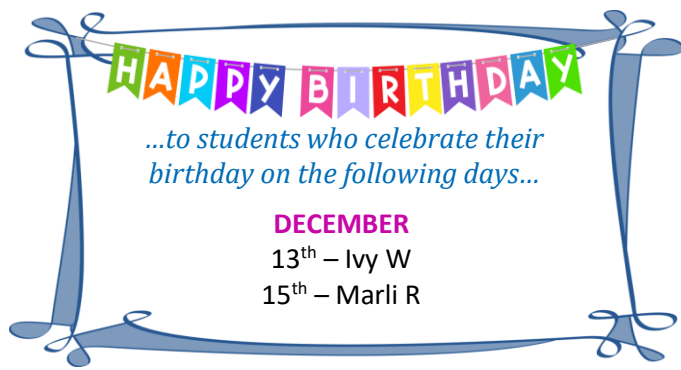
Academic Award – Monday 1st December '25

F-HJ	AJ P... For confidently making two digit numbers and ordering them from smallest to largest.
F-BE	Demi M... Writing a fabulous letter to the new Foundations for next year.
1-DK	Evie E... For pushing herself in maths to find alternate equations that make the same number.
2-AM	Ruby H... For being a tech whizz solving challenges when creating her toy ad in Book Creator on the iPad.
34-JB	Malea P... For using strong persuasive words and evidence in her writing.
45-CO	Sunny S... For getting all the words in the High Frequency Words Spelling Test correct.
56-KS	<i>No award due to camp</i>



AMAZING!

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 12th December

Canteen Closed

Stacey Turner - Canteen Manager

Term 4 Canteen Specials



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.

Friday 19th December - Pizza Pool Party - 3pm-7pm - Kerang Swimming Pool

Big BASH Challenge

Over the past month, Year 2AM have incorporated cricket skill movement breaks throughout the day to help with learning. The breaks consist of quick 1minute activities that students can participate in inside the classroom to help with encouragement, motivation and focus.

Well done to Juddie, Ruby M and Charli who also set up the Big Bash Home Challenge. Congratulations to Jack who topped the class point tally with over 9000!



Swimming Information

We are looking forward to our swimming sessions commencing next week. Thank you to the families who have returned all swimming forms. Permission Forms are due back at school by Tuesday, 9th December please.

SWIMMING HELPERS NEEDED - WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP!

If you are able to help out with our swimming program or Carnival Day, please fill out your availability on the permission form, or email, khayes@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au

SWIMMING DETAILS

Below are some important details about Swimming times, what to bring, and the canteen next week. Please also see the permission form for further information.

LESSON TIMES	WHAT TO BRING
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 12:50pm- 1:30pm FBE & HJ & 4/5CO 1:30pm- 2:10pm 1KD & 2AM 2:10pm- 2:50pm 3/4AJ & 5/6KS <i>Please note, recess and lunch times will be earlier on Wednesday & Thursday.</i>	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY- 40 min Lessons Swimming Bag , with all items clearly named . Swimmers / bathers Rashie / T-shirt (this is compulsory for students to participate) Towel Goggles (optional) Sunscreen (the school will supply some too) Plastic bag (to place wet items in afterwards) Slip on shoes / thongs (to wear to and from the pool) School hat Spare underwear- if wearing bathers under uniform to school. Other Swimming needs earplugs/headbands etc. (if required)
FRIDAY 12:15pm- 3:00pm Whole School at the Pool for Carnival Day.	FRIDAY- SWIMMING CARNIVAL DAY 12.30pm-2.30pm All of the above plus Extra Towel (2 Towels for Carnival Day) Food - Packed Lunch & lots of snacks Water bottle
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Uniform: Sports Uniform Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Canteen Thursday: As normal Canteen Friday: Closed	

Kristy Hayes
Physical Education

Community Christmas Carols



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/>



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)
<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.

Big Summer Read

BIG SUMMER READ

JOIN BORROW READ WIN!

1 December - 31 January

Join as a member of the Gannawarra Library Service
Enter online or via paper forms

One person from each group will win

- 0-4 years - \$30 Gift Voucher
- 5-8 years - \$50 Gift Voucher
- 9-12 years - \$75 Gift Voucher
- 13-18 years - \$100 Gift Voucher

Sign up now at Readbooks.com.au

MHiPS News

Dear St Joseph's Community,



This week I want to share with you some great information around students transitioning to high school by School TV.

SPECIAL REPORT: Starting Year 7

When a child starts high school, they suddenly become one of the youngest and newest kids at school all over again - a small fish in a big pond! The transition between Year 6 and Year 7 is one of the biggest jumps in a child's life and is a very important milestone. This can easily become a daunting time for students and parents alike.

Starting Year 7 poses many new challenges, but also exciting opportunities. It comes with a number of mixed feelings. Some students may be feeling a little anxious about their expectations of starting Year 7 and finding their place in the "big pond". As your child grasps new skills and engages in new study practices, it is important for parents to be supportive, but also realistic in their expectations. Parents and students can easily become overwhelmed during this time of transition but, there are several strategies that can be implemented to start things off on the right foot! Scan the QR code to watch a short video hosted by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. Wishing you all good mental health,



Kate Dunstan
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

Summer Fun

pizza POOL Party

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!!

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER
Cohuna Swimming Pool Free entry from 3pm Slide 5-7pm*	Kerang Swimming Pool Free entry from 3pm Inflatable 4-5pm* Slide 5-7pm*
Featuring 3pm - 5pm Ash Dinsdale 5pm - 7pm Darcy Ramage	Featuring 3pm - 5pm Elise Drake 5pm - 7pm The Known feat. Deaken Fawcett

Jam in the Van Live music

Wood Fired pizza
from 5pm
- first 100 pizzas free!
*conditions apply



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

Camp Wilkin Recount by Ayla

Monday 1st of December: On Monday the first of December, we caught Millar's Bus to Camp Wilkin. When we got there, we went into the hall. There we got a briefing about the place. And then we went on a tour and met back in the hall. Then we got told our cabin roommates, I was in a cabin with Mabel, Maya and Meeka. We went for a look at the games room and played there for a while, and then it was teatime, and we had schnitzel and gravy and for dessert, we had strawberry or chocolate topping with ice cream. We then went for a night walk to the beach, there we took lots of photos and started to head back to the teachers' lounge and had hedgehog slices for supper and then went to our rooms.



Tuesday 2nd of December: On Tuesday we woke up and had cereal or toast for breakfast and then we were set for lots of fun activities. We were split into groups, Group 1 and Group 2, which I was in Group 2 with Mabel, Arlie, and others. In our first rotation we did Archery and group 1 did Flying Fox. Then we swapped activities after we had morning tea which was biscuits and fruit. I liked the flying fox better than Archery. After the rotations we had lunch. We had sausages and hamburgers. Then we moved onto the Rock-climbing wall and low ropes. My group started with low ropes, which was Me, Mabel, Arlie, and Stella, in a team, but we came second with 11 penalties. And after that we had morning tea, and we had muffins and fruit. Then we swapped again so we did Rock climbing wall, and I made it to the top and chose to go down fast. After all that we headed to the volleyball pit and played a game of mixed teams, or girls vs boys, which was fun. Then it was tea and we had tacos and for dessert we had mousse with whipped cream on top with sprinkles. We also had a Trivia night, and we were split into teams. My team was Mabel, Maya, Me, Will and Harry. We came second by 1 point; the winners were 28 and we were 27. Then we had chocolate toppings with vanilla cake. Finally, we had showers and went to bed.

Wednesday 3rd of December: In the morning of our last full day, we woke up and had breakfast, which was the same as every other morning, cereal and toast. After breaky we went bike riding and played frisbee golf. I started at Frisbee Golf while the other



group did Bike Riding. In frisbee golf we were scoring but then we stopped after a while. It was quite challenging for some to find the net for the course. Then we had these vanilla banana muffins. And that we moved onto Bike riding and learnt about baby mosquitoes (Larvae) and how all the fish died out and weren't able to eat all the larvae. So, there were so many annoying mozzies. Next, we started to have lunch and that was a big sausage roll and Icey poles. Then we headed over to the leap of faith where we had to climb up a pole and jump frontwards or backwards from 8 meters high. It was so fun. Then we got a jam donut and were lucky enough to go down to the beach, where we got all the teachers wet by the water buckets and pistols. I think I got Mr. Colville the most, and we got Mrs. Schlitz, Mr. Murray, and Mrs. O'Connell. We also buried Mabel in the sand. Then we walked back to the camp, and had tea, which was spaghetti bolognese. Then we had an apple pie with ice cream. We had a little bit of free time in the games room where we played ping pong or table tennis. Then it was supposed to be movie night, but instead we played games, and we played categories then a True or False game. We had popcorn for supper or hedgehog slice, then ran down to our Cabins and went to pack some of our things ready for the morning.

Thursday 4th of December: On the last day of camp, we played a bit of gaga and volleyball. We then set up breakfast and had cereal and toast. Before we got on the bus, Abby, our host, gave us a goodbye briefing and then we put all our luggage on the bus and left Anglesea at 9:00 am and had 2 stops. Then we got home to Kerang at about 2:30pm and then went back home to have a rest. And that was the 5/6 camp.

