



SCHOOL Events

At St Joseph's, Clare, we have a number of Core Values that underpin our School Strategic Plan. One of these is **Continuous Improvement**; we are always striving to do better.

Towards the end of last year, it was apparent that some families had not experienced a number of events that we have become accustomed to, due to a variety of reasons. Regardless, we thought it best practice to provide an overview of events & activities each term, so you know what is coming up.

Remember - events are also listed in our fortnightly newsletters and on our website for your ready reference.

Line Up - Mondays, 8:50am

Each Monday morning, at 8:50am, the whole school gathers in our new hall to celebrate and set up for the week ahead - National Anthem, Acknowledgement of Country, share a prayer, learn value & action of the week, be updated as to what is happening in the liturgical calendar and around the school, celebrate birthdays, celebrate achievements and receive updates on upcoming events.

A shortened version of this takes part on Wed & Fri (R-6), and on Thursday (7-9).

Parents and school community are welcome to attend Line-Up.

Assembly

Twice each term we gather mid-way and at the end of term to celebrate the achievements of our students at a whole school Assembly. Each class acknowledges students who have earned a Program Achieve Award (Getting Along, Persistence, Organisation, Confidence, Emotional Resilience). We also present our prestigious Honour Award to students who have displayed excellence in one or more of the Program Achieve areas. These are only handed out for every two year levels (eg: Rec/Yr 1, Yr 2/Yr 3, and so on). Special achievements and awards are also acknowledged at Assembly. Our LEAD students organise, conduct and present our Assemblies. Once again, all parents and school community members are invited to attend Assembly. The P&F have the coffee machine running, with the assistance of our middle school student baristas. 😊 ☕

Term 1 Assemblies will be held on: Friday 8/3 @ 9am (Wk 6), Wed 10/4 @ 9am (Wk 11)

Sapsasa Events (South Australian Primary Sporting Association)

Throughout the year Sapsasa conducts 3-4 day state carnivals in numerous sports, and our Year 5 & 6 students have the opportunity to "try out" for these events. In addition to the carnivals, there are events in athletics, swimming, cross-country and more that students in Years 4-6 are eligible to trial for.

Sacpsa (SA Catholic Primary Schools Sports Assoc)

Students in Yrs 3-6 from all 103 Catholic Schools in SA are eligible to trial for sports run by this association. Our students take part in Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming.

Lower North Carnivals / SSSA

Lower North Carnivals are regional sporting events held for students in our Middle School (Yrs 7-9). Middle School students are also involved in events run by School Sports SA (SSSA).

Pupil Free Days

Pupil Free Days are days when our teachers undertake formal professional learning and students do not come to school on these days. Our school does not have any school closure days. The purpose of the Pupil Free Days is to undertake whole staff learning. Our school is permitted to schedule 4 x Pupil Free Days each year (more if required, and the School Board/CESA approve). Why isn't this learning done out of school hours? Much of it is!



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Staff participate in training during evenings, after school extended PD and many attend courses on weekends or during their holidays. We have a number of staff undertaking Graduate Certificate and Masters degrees.

We try to coordinate our Pupil Free days with the other schools in the region and, where possible, dovetail them with long weekends so it may provide an opportunity for families to have an “extra” long weekend and provide students with an extended break to revitalise.

We endeavour to provide as much notice for these days as possible and always liaise with Clare OSHC to ensure it is open. The availability of presenters often dictates when these days are held.

NAPLAN

This is an annual assessment, conducted in Term 1 across Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in areas including Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation. The assessments are held on allocated days, however there are also some additional “catch-up” days allowed.

Welcome Mass

As a proud faith community, we welcome all new students and their families to our St Joseph’s and Sevenhill Parish communities by offering a blessing upon these students and their families at a whole school Mass. Due to the increasing size of our school, this Mass is generally held in our School Hall. All new students receive a certificate of welcome, with the support of our student leaders and Reception buddies. Welcome Masses are held 2 times each year, with one in Term 1 and one in Term 3. Going to Mass is about being in community and we love to have family members join us in these celebrations.

Our Term 1 Welcome Mass will be held on Fri 1/3, from 9am

Family Mass

Family Masses are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month during term time - 9am, in St Michael’s Church, Clare. The purpose of these Masses is to engage children and young people in the Mass, with the songs and readings using language that is aimed at young people. Fr Kieran also addresses young people in his homily, which is a reflection on the readings. Our Parish, with support of families, provides morning tea after Mass, which is a great opportunity to meet with other families and parishioners. We invite children and young people, regardless of their faith background to take an active role if they feel comfortable to do so. Roles include; reading, taking up the Offertory (bread and wine), collection, saying prayers of the faithful, bringing up the lectionary in the Gospel procession and joining in the choir.

The first Family Mass for 2024 will be held on Sunday February 18 at 9am.

Carinya Visits

Carinya is a residential care home located on Victoria Road, just down the road from school. Local ministers and priests take turns to host liturgies there on a Tuesday. The Catholic church leads the service on the 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 10am. As part of our school’s mission to serve in the footsteps of Jesus and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our classes take turns in accompanying Fr Kieran to services held during term time. The residents love hearing our children sing and join in the prayer service. Parents are welcome to accompany us to these services.

Pulse Check-In

CESA takes the wellbeing of all students attending Catholic schools very seriously. As a result, they introduced an online survey a couple of years ago to gain information about the wellbeing of all students. The survey is



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conducted each term during Week 5 or 6, and asks the same questions each time. This is so we can compare the data, term to term and year to year.

Teachers are provided with an overview of the results, allowing them to 'drill down' if they require further information. Delvene Mathie (Wellbeing Coordinator), Tom Gilligan and Peter Shearer have access to this data and monitor it accordingly.

3-Way Interviews and Parent/Teacher Conversations

Midway through Terms 1 & 3 each year, our staff conduct 3-Way Interviews (Parents & Student attend) or Parent/Teacher Conversations (Parents only attend). This year, the Year 4-9 classes will be involved in 3-Way interviews in Term 1, whilst the Rec-Yr 3 students will have Parent/Teacher Conversations. The reverse will happen in Term 3.

Both formats are designed for the parent & teacher to have a conversation about the student's successes, challenges and goals - including academic, study habits, organisation, wellbeing, social and physical. Regardless of the format, the student is always at the heart of the conversation.

New Parents Dinner / Farewell Dinner

Each year, our school welcomes our new parents to our school and wider Catholic community by hosting a meal, usually at La Storta - a retreat centre owned by the Jesuit community. Our P&F do a fantastic job catering for this event, whilst our Year 6 students undertake the role of waiting staff for the evening and the Jesuits provide refreshments. New parents, regardless of what Year level their child is commencing in, receive an invitation to attend, with other key staff and members of the school community are also invited. It is a lovely social night where new parents can mingle with other parents and staff.

At the end of the school year, we host another event for families whose last child is graduating Yr 9 from our school.

School Picnic

At St Joseph's we believe in and act on making our school a welcoming community. At the start of each year, we hold a *School Picnic* to which all families and staff are invited to attend. BYO food, drinks, seat/rug and gather to share tea in our beautiful grounds. It is a great opportunity to meet families (old & new) and staff in a relaxed, social setting.

To make this event even more enjoyable, it is held on Shrove Tuesday which we celebrate by the School Board cooking & serving pancakes at the picnic! A fabulous social and fun event to meet and catch up with our wider school community.



This year's School Picnic will be held on Tuesday 13 February, from 6pm

Bikes 'n' Brekky

In Week 5 of each term, our local schools gather in the carpark at the top of Lennon St (adj Riesling Trail) to either walk or ride to school. The event commences with breakfast at 7:30am, provided by Rotary Club of Clare. Our staff join the students and either ride or walk with them to school. There is a long and a short ride to cater for different ages and abilities. Parents, grandparents & friends are invited to join in. We do ask that bicycles are road-worthy, helmets are worn and children can ride a bike. We transport the childrens' school bags to school, making the bike ride easier and more enjoyable. A fantastic way to start the day.