



# SCHOOL *Events*

## Term 2, 2024

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.

To assist our school families, and in line with best practice, here is an overview of events & activities for Term 2, 2024.

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

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### School Photos

Each year, we provide the opportunity for families to purchase photos of their children, taken here at school. Parents can select to buy photos of the individual student, the whole class, a photo of siblings or a combination - there are different 'packages' available. This is an activity coordinated by our P&F. Over the years, we have settled on *Vanessa Size Photography*, as the P&F has deemed them the best to work with, providing high quality, natural photography at a competitive price.

We try to plan School Photo days at a time when there is less likely to be a clash with other events. The P&F requests that all students wear their formal winter uniform for photos.

Once again, the P&F provides excellent assistance on the day - coordinating classes, avoiding clashes with specialist lessons where possible, and ensuring the students look their best.

Ordering is done online, per the emailed instructions sent to each family in Term 1.



*School Photos - Tues 7/5 and Wed 8/5 (Week 2)*

### Sacramental Program- Confirmation and First Holy Communion

During Term 2 we prepare for and celebrate the Catholic Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The entire Year 4 class learn about these Sacraments as part of their Religious Education lessons during this term. We also hold 2 parent and student sessions, led by Fr Kieran, Helen Hay and the Year 4 teachers, for candidates and their families to deepen the students' understanding and build connection as a parish group. Later in the term, the Sacrament Candidates will participate in a retreat day to reflect upon the Sacraments that they are about to receive. Parents are also invited to attend this day if they are able.

At Confirmation, the candidates 'confirm' the promises made on their behalf at their baptism by their parents and godparents. They are supported at this Sacrament by a sponsor. At the same ceremony, candidates receive the blessed Sacrament of 'Holy Communion' (the bread consecrated during the Eucharistic prayer), for the first time. We encourage their classmates to support them on this journey by joining us at Family Masses in the lead up to and at the ceremony itself. We would love for them to be a part of our choir, or to come along and sit with one of their friends.

This year, the celebration of Confirmation and Communion will be held at *10am on Sunday June 30* at St Aloysius Church, Sevenhill. A shared morning tea will follow the service.



### Sapsasa Winter Hub (South Australian Primary Sporting Association)

Winter Hub involves schools within our Mid North District playing in a football and netball carnival which has been held at Blyth Oval for a number of years. Students in Yrs 5 & 6 nominate to participate and attend trials from which they may be selected to represent their 'hub'. There are three hubs - Clare District, Burra District and Balaklava District. The students' performance at this carnival may result in them being selected to represent the Mid North District in the 3-day State Country Carnival, held in Adelaide, later in the year.

Whilst students need to be of a good standard, and be comfortable with the rules of the game, the Winter Hub is a good 'entry level' to Sapsasa Football and Netball. *Winter Hub - Wed 1/5*



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## Sapsasa Winter Hub 2

This year, Sapsasa has introduced a second Winter Hub event, in which the Mid North Girls Football Carnival will combine with the Central Country Region Boys Netball Carnival. (The Central Region is a brand new concept.) The purpose of this event is to provide the opportunity and space for girls in Yr 5 & 6 to play football, and boys in Yr 5 & 6 to play netball. As a result of the day, a Mid North District Girls Football Team will be selected to compete at the Sapsasa State Carnival in October and a Central Country Regional Boys Netball Team will be selected to compete at the Sapsasa State Carnival in June.

*Winter Hub 2 will be held on 22 May in Riverton.*

## Walk Safely to School

Walk Safety to School is an annual event coordinated by the Pedestrian Council of Australia. This initiative aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport & environmental benefits that regular walking or alternative active transport (especially to and from school), can provide for the long-term wellbeing of our children - not just for this particular day, but every day.

We are conscious that many of our students arrive to school via bus or are transported by car. Therefore, we suggest options such as parking the car a manageable distance from the bus stop or school and walking the remainder of the way. Alternatively, we have school leaders and staff who provide an opportunity to walk around the oval when students arrive to school.

Participants receive a "Walk Safely to School" sticker.



*Walk Safely to School - Friday 10/5*

## Pupil Free Days

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.

*Term 2 Pupil Free Day: Friday 7 June*

## School Community Dinner

Each year, our Year 7 parents coordinate the annual School Community Dinner. The evening is our major fundraiser, providing valuable funds for student resources across Rec-Yr 9, as well as supporting our Year 7s excursion to Canberra. We encourage you to book a ticket or a table of 2 and join us for what is generally regarded as a highlight on our school calendar. Whilst our Year 7 parents coordinate and host the dinner, everyone is welcome. It is a great opportunity to meet new people or have fun with those you already know. Tickets at \$80ea are available to purchase via QKR! This year, the event has a fun "Rock'n'Roll" theme!



*School Dinner - Saturday 22/6*



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## Year 4 Camp - Glenhaven

Our Year 4 students will travel to Glenhaven for a 3-day camp where they will work through a series of challenges which enhance group cooperation, teamwork and leadership skills. This camp promotes problem solving and critical thinking abilities, whilst building confidence and self-esteem. Please refer to our Camps Overview on the school website for more information about school camps.

*Glenhaven - 22-24 May*

## Pedal Prix

St Joseph's School, Clare, has been involved in Pedal Prix races for approximately 18 years. Previously, Pedal Prix had been only a Year 7 activity (as we were an R-7 school). With the growth to Middle School, we are able to offer the opportunity to students in Years 8 + 9 as well. Last year, we invested in 2 new vehicles bringing our total number of trikes to 8, which ensures all students (Yrs 7-9) get a chance to be involved.

Pedal Prix sees our students racing pedal-powered vehicles around a set course over 6 - 8 hours, depending on which event they are competing in. For Year 7s, the race occurs at Victoria Park in Adelaide. For our older students, the races take place at The Bend Motorsports Park.

Students spend their PE lessons learning about fitness, training programs, they examine data in Maths lessons, and they learn how to work as a team. The Year 8s and 9s do bike maintenance and study aerodynamics as part of a technologies subject and they also attend trainings at the Clare Aerodrome. Many students do extra bike rides, after school and on weekends with staff support, to increase their 'pedal fitness' in preparation for the races.

Pedal Prix is an outstanding event and is another opportunity for us to build community while providing our students with unique and memorable experiences.

*Sat 18/5 - Yr 8+9 race at Tailem Bend; Sun 16/6 - Yr 7 race at Victoria Park*



## Catholic Schools Music Festival

For the last 6 years St Joseph's School, Clare, has been proud to offer students the opportunity to participate in the Catholic Schools Music Festival.

More than 5,000 audience members, nearly 2,000 student performers, and countless support staff attend the festival each year. There are approximately 65 Catholic School Choirs involved in the festival and our students will sing on one night in Week 10, September 2024 with another 350 students on stage.

Our choir of 13 Year 5,6 and 7 students attend weekly rehearsals where they enjoy practising their performance and singing skills, whilst learning words of approximately 11 songs, some with choreography. The benefits of choir singing are well documented. Choir provides a safe group setting for young people to joyfully experiment with and find their own unique voice. It also broadens their musical aptitude and appreciation. These skills, learnt in choir sessions are transferable to other areas of learning such as language development and physical health and wellbeing.

Of course, participating in the final performance in September will reward the students for all their commitment and hard work and will be a highlight of their primary years for their whole lives.



We will release details about tickets, closer to the end of Term 3 and in between time, will continue to have fun singing!