



Important Dates

Year 9 Retreat
Monday 3 March 2025

School Picnic
Tuesday 4 March 2025

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 5 March 2025

Assembly - 9am
Thursday 6 March 2025

Pupil Free Day
Friday 7 March 2025

**Adelaide Cup Public
Holiday**
Monday 10 March 2025

Merino Field Days - Burra
Thursday 13 March 2025

**Buddy Mass - Year 4LL &
Year 2GF**
Friday 14 March 2025

St Joseph's Day
Wednesday 19 March 2025

**Mass Hosted by Year 8s -
12.00pm**
Friday 28 March 2025

From the Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrap up Week 5 of Term One, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the tremendous growth and enthusiasm our students have demonstrated. It's hard to believe how quickly the first

month of school has passed.

At St Joseph's, we continue to emphasise the importance of learning, with opportunities linked in with living the values of our faith. An example last week was where I was very fortunate to attend Carinya Aged Care Centre with our Year 3 students, along with Mrs Hay and Mrs Murphy. Our students put on a beautiful liturgy for the residents, which was very moving, and then our students and the residents spent time interacting with each other. Happy faces and conversations filled the room, and it was a great reminder of the importance of putting our faith into action.



We come together regularly as a school community most mornings and these are beautiful occasions. Each assembly brings a different focus, with intertwining of encouraging our students to continue to live out the virtues of kindness, respect, and responsibility. These virtues are not just words on a page, but the foundation of who we are as a Catholic school community.

Upcoming Events: We have several exciting events coming up in the next few weeks:

- **St Joseph's School Picnic** - We would love to see as many families as possible at this event next Tuesday, March 4 at 6.00pm. Pancakes will be served by the School Board to mark 'Shrove Tuesday' and the beginning of the special Season of Lent. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new families and connect with staff.
- **Lent** - As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to embark on a special journey of spiritual growth, self-reflection, and renewal. This sacred time in the Church calendar, beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and lasting for 40 days, calls us to deepen our relationship with God and our commitment to living out the teachings of Jesus Christ. For our school community, Lent provides an important opportunity to reflect on our faith, practice acts of charity, and embrace the spirit of conversion.
- **Professional Development Day for Staff: Friday, 7 March** - These are vital opportunities for our school to dedicate a day to enhancing the skills and knowledge of our teaching and support staff, ensuring they are well-equipped to continue providing high-quality education for your children. On this day, students will not be in school. We recognize that this may cause an inconvenience for some families, and we appreciate your understanding and support. We are committed to continuous growth and improvement, and we firmly believe that investing in our staff's professional development directly benefits our students' educational experiences. Clare OSHC will be available during the day if require, please book with them directly.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Together, let us continue to make this year a year of growth, joy, and faith.

Wishing you all a blessed weekend.

Joe



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

The Sacramental Program in the Sevenhill Parish is run through both St Joseph's School and the Parish.

Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation: Enrolments

Information about the 2025 Sacrament Program went out to students in Years 3 and 4 as a hard copy this week. There are also copies available in the Front Office.

An enrolment form for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Year 3 up) and Confirmation and Communion (Yr 4 up) can be accessed at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/gMzSXz8TWh>

The celebration for Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday July 27 at 10am at St Aloysius Church, Sevenhill. Reconciliation will be celebrated mid-week in late Term 3 at St Michael's Church, Clare.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday, in the Christian calendar, is the day before Ash Wednesday.

"Shrove" comes from the Roman Catholic practice of confessing one's sins and being absolved of them, or "shriven".

Shrovetide feasts were designed to use up the food that could not be eaten during the Lenten fast.

Shrove Tuesday is also known as 'Mardi Gras' (French for 'Fat Tuesday'). Many countries around the world hold carnivals on this day. **This year, Shrove Tuesday falls on Tuesday March 4.**

Ash Wednesday and Beginning of Lent

Ash Wednesday will be commemorated on Wednesday 5 March.

On **Ash Wednesday**, ashes from the burnt leaves from the year before are placed on people's foreheads in the sign of the cross (due to Covid, this year they will be lightly sprinkled on students heads). This shows that we are sorry for our sins and reminds us to live the way Jesus wants.

When we are marked on the forehead, Father or the leader says,

'Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel' or,

'Repent and follow the Gospel'

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church season of **Lent**. **Lent is a 40-day period** of fasting and reflection in preparation for Easter. During this time, we focus on the promises made at baptism. All of this prepares us for celebrating Christ's death and resurrection.

If you are visiting classrooms or the Church, you will notice that the **linens and vestments are purple as a sign of penance**. On the fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare) the colour is pink.

Lent is a special time when we stop and think about how we can play our part in God's hope for a world that is fair, just and peaceful. We think about our relationship with God, and how through serving others we can grow closer to him.

During Lent, classes will learn the stories of some vulnerable people from around the world. You may hear your children talking about Caritas 'Project Compassion' and it's 2025 theme to 'Unite against Poverty.'

What is Project Compassion?

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion invites you to Unite Against Poverty this Lent. Project Compassion mobilises Australians to raise much-needed funds to help alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in the world.

Schools, parishes and the wider Australian public participate in a diverse range of fundraising and awareness raising activities and events to support Caritas Australia's programs both overseas and here in Australia with our First Australian partners.

Project Compassion is an extraordinary demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters.

Next week, your children will bring home a Project Compassion money box. During Lent, they may opt to forgo something like treats and put a small amount of money into their fundraising box instead. We will ask for these to be returned in Week 10 of this Term.

You can learn more about Project Compassion at the link below:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/>



During Lent, we also think about the changes we can make in our lives, to be God's hands, God's love and God's mercy in our world, ensuring justice as we 'unite against poverty' this Lent.

God Bless,

Helen Hay

Assistant Principal- Religious Identity and Mission

From the Middle School



One month into 2025, our students are settling into their new classes and we have already seen some exciting "out-of-the-classroom" learning, sporting and academic success.

Sporting success

Ms Carling, Mr Slattery and Ms Stockman were given the task of organising the Mid-North Interschool Swimming Carnival. The day was a great success; our students did the school proud, the carnival was well-organised and there was extensive parent involvement in the running of the day. Our students were highly successful in their races, it was impressive to see them competing and trying their hardest.

Academic Success

At the end of 2024, we had a group of 21 students take part in the ACER Advance Awards, an academic competition testing literacy and numeracy skills. Two students, Bryce and Matilda, earned Distinctions placing them in the top 10% of all students who undertook the test across Australia. We also saw Maddison, Amalie, Evie, Tyson and Jackson earn Credits for their efforts. We are extremely proud of all students who undertook the test and look forward to seeing how they fare this year.



Lot 21

Over the summer we have seen bumper crops of tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, watermelon, garlic and more growing in Lot 21. During the break there was a lot of work undertaken, watering and setting up irrigation systems to ensure its success. The tomatoes have been eaten raw, cooked in meals, preserved and made into sauces. It is great to see the hard work that has taken place on Lot 21 paying off.



New Parents Dinner

A huge thank you to Alice Duncan, Laura Davidson and Adele Agars for planning and catering for another beautiful New Parents Dinner. I was really proud to see the way Maddie, Ella, Milton, Archie, Lachie and Hugo conducted themselves in the kitchen, helping prepare the food and then serving the new parents. This is a fantastic tradition that welcomes new families into our community. While this type of event may not be unique to our school, the deep connection and involvement from students and parents in the preparations is unique and a testament to the community we have here at St Joseph's School, Clare.

Braille Challenge

Congratulations to Patrick who recently travelled to Adelaide with his father to take part in the Braille Challenge Competition. Patrick came 1st in his age group and really enjoyed the two days. The Braille Challenge is an international celebration of Braille literacy that provides a fun, engaging way for young students who are blind or visually impaired to showcase their skills.

Run in partnership with the SA School for Vision, the See Differently Braille Challenge gives participants aged 6 to 16 the opportunity to test their speed and accuracy in reading Braille words and sentences through activities that cater to a range of ages and abilities.



Braille Competition

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I attended a Braille Challenge in Adelaide. I went down on Sunday morning with Dad because I had blind cricket training on Sunday. We then stayed overnight to go to the Braille Challenge on Monday, at 10 am.

I was competing against other blind people from all over the state. We were put into age categories to do four challenges, there were two comprehension challenges, a spelling challenge and a proof-reading challenge. We had 25 minutes for each challenge and I came first out of the 6 other people in my age category.

The prizes I won were a mug, a \$50 gift voucher to spend at different shops, a Guide Dog teddy and a pair of Guide Dog socks.

On Monday night we all had dinner together. The best thing was when we went to get icecream from a really cool shop called 48 Flavours, I chose honey and macadamia and it was fantastic!

I had a great two days, it was good to do something different and meet up with people I haven't seen for a while.

by Patrick

Student Leadership

These first few weeks, the Middle School students have been working hard to create leadership speeches to convince their peers to vote them in to a leadership role. Last Wednesday, the Year 8s confidently stood up in front of the Middle School (plus the Year 6s), reading out their speeches. At St Joseph's, we use a parliamentary system in our Middle School; this allows students to have a taste of how leadership may work in the real world. Well done to the following Year 8 students for their election to ministerial positions:

2025 St Joseph's School, Student Leadership
School Captains



Kiera



Eddie

House Captains

BURKE



Kelley & Alliahna

MACKILLOP



Madison & Charlotte

LENNON



Isla & Sophie

CLEARY



Will & Ella

Year 8 Leaders School Parliament



*Communications
Hugo & Edwina*



*Faith & Spirituality
Lucy*



*Health & Wellbeing
Millie*



*Technologies
Harry*



*Academic Excellence
Jackson*



*Environment & Agriculture
Mitchell*



*Inclusion
Madison*



*Arts
Georgia*

Year 6 Leaders

Primary Leaders



Clara



Sophia



Brodie



Max

Primary Leadership

Primary House Captains

BURKE



Jobe



Violet



Avie



Ruby M

MACKILLOP

LENNON



Ruby K



Matilda



Tanner



Henry

CLEARY

Mid North Zone Carnival

On Monday, Week 4, St Joseph's hosted the Lower North Swimming Carnival at the Valleys. It consisted of 6, teams. Burra/Eudunda, Clare High, Kapunda, Riverton, Balaklava and St Joseph's. It was a beautiful day and we came away with some individual medals.

U13 boys age champion - Cody U13 girls runner up - Tess

U14 boys age champion - Jackson U14 girls age champion - Alliahna

U15 girls age champion - Sophie

Cody also broke the U13 Boys Record for 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 25m Butterfly

A big thankyou to our wonderful P&F who organised a healthy delicious lunch for us, it was much appreciated.





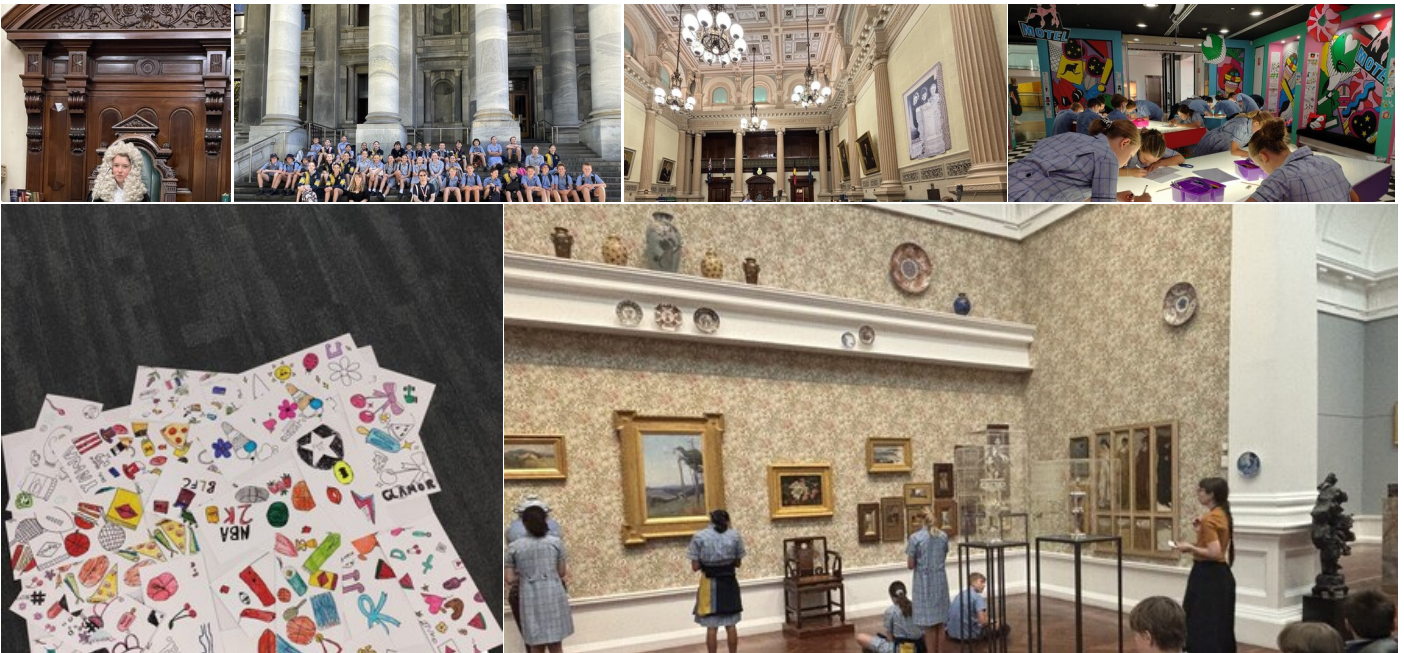
Parliament House Excursion

Last Friday, the Year 8s and 9s traveled to Parliament House and the Art Gallery of South Australia. In Parliament, we visited both houses and discussed the pictures representing women's rights to vote. This was displayed in tapestry, with an apron saying that "women belong in the house", meaning Parliament House. We had a heated role-play of women's right to vote, then headed to the Art Gallery. Here we did workshops and discovered the importance of tapestry and how things were recycled into types of protest and a way of communicating through art. The first workshop was making collages. We looked at a specific artist called Frida Las Vegas. We used bright bold colours with black bold outlines for our collages. The next workshop was floral drawings. We studied wallpaper, pictures and landscapes. There were many different pieces of art and statues. Next, we went to the exhibition downstairs, showcasing lots of different fabric art. There were many artifacts that were quite interesting and educational. Personally, my favorite was the dresses and fashion.

The bus ride home was quiet, with lots of naps taken. Thanks to our teachers, we have a different understanding of art, and the history and importance behind it.

- By Georgia

Excursion



Naplan Timetable 2025

This week, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 undertook the coordinated NAPLAN Practice test. The aim of this, was to test our systems and wifi in using the NAP Lockdown Browser.

During the testing week, it is even more important that students **arrive at school before the bell**, so that testing can begin at the scheduled time.

We appreciate that families may have booked appointments in advance of these dates. Please inform your child's teacher via email if your child will be absent for any of the testing days or times, so that we may schedule a catch up, within the testing window.

Parents are welcome to visit the NAPLAN Public Demonstration Site, where you can view sample NAPLAN tests. [NAP - Public demonstration site](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Hay hhay@stioclar.catholic.edu.au, Michelle Edmondson medmonds@stioclar.catholic.edu.au or your child's class teacher.

Week	10/3/25	11/3/25	12/3/2025	13/3/2025	14/3/2025
7	ADELAIDE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY		NAPLAN 9:00am Writing Yr 3- 40 min Yr 5- 42 min Yr 7- 42 min Yr 9- 42 min	NAPLAN 9:00am Reading Yr 3- 45 min Yr 5- 50 min Yr 7- 65 min Yr 9- 65 min Merino Field Days Burra	NAPLAN 9:30am Conventions of Language Yr 3- 45 min Yr 5- 45 min Yr 7- 45 min Yr 9- 45 min Yr 4LL & 2GF Buddy Mass Midday
	17/3/2025	18/3/2025	19/3/2025	20/3/2025	21/3/2025
8	NAPLAN Catch up tests St Patricks Day 17/3	NAPLAN 9:00am Numeracy Yr 3- 45 min Yr 5- 50 min Yr 7- 65 min Yr 9- 65 min	NAPLAN Catch up tests St Joseph's Day Mass @9am	NAPLAN Catch up tests Lower North – Zone track and field - Burra	NAPLAN Catch up tests SACPPSA Swimming (B) – Clare 11am
	24/3/2025				
9	Last Day NAPLAN Catch up tests				

Well Being/ Literacy

We know that the learning that happens at school and at home are critical to a child's success. The Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA), have put together a great guide to books to share with your children to help support this process. It features a diverse range of quality texts parents can read with their child; it provides discussion questions and points of reflection to thoughtfully evolve a child's understanding of respectful relationships. Here is the link to the guide - outlining the books, their storyline and some guiding questions for discussion with your child.

[Parents Guide to Respectful Relationships](#)

Reading – something we all need to do in life. But how do we know how our children are learning, how can we support them, and once they can read independently is my job done?

Learning to read and becoming an independent reader is a process of incremental skill building. The act of reading involves two main processes – decoding and comprehension. Decoding is where we learn that letters represent sounds and how to blend them to make words. This is what we do in Sounds-Write lessons from Reception to Year 2.

Once your child can decode, they can read words independently. It takes a while to learn all the letters that represent sounds, but decoding means you can do exactly that – make a word from the letter code. Does that mean they can read? Not yet! From Year 3 to Year 6 we learn about morphology and etymology – how words are built and where they come from.

Comprehension is the other big part of reading and is something we can all work on for life! Understanding what you read, making connections to the text, predicting what happens next, making repairs to your reading fluency, and thinking about what the author is implying, are all comprehension strategies that take time to develop, and need to be worked on regularly. Talking about books with your child can really help to strengthen their comprehension skills.

So, if children are doing all this at school, how can you help at home? If your child is learning to read, remember that there are “learn to read” books that are designed for purpose of teaching reading and “recreational books”, self-selected from the library. “Learn to read” books (often called decodables) are teaching tools with high-frequency words, simple sentences and graphemes the students have learned to help decode the text. The books from the library are self-selected, recreational reads and help young people develop an emotional attachment to reading and develop lifelong reading habits. Students need both – the readers for revising specific reading skills, and the library books for sharing a love of reading with an adult.

And once your child can read, spending time discussing characters, plots, and storylines, or interpreting information and expanding knowledge is a fantastic way to develop comprehension. If you have any questions about how your child is progressing in their reading journey, please contact their classroom teacher or come and chat to me.

Michelle Edmondson,

Literacy and Inclusive Education Coordinator

From the Classroom - Year 1 Gunn

READING TO YOUR CHILD WILL CHANGE THEIR LIFE

You will help to develop your child's literacy & communication skills, as well as to stimulate their brain development.

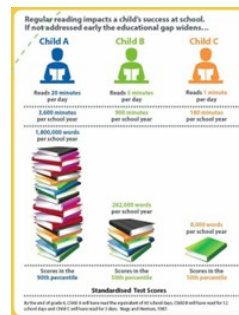
Did you know...

77%

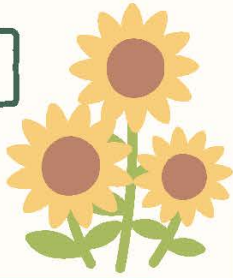
of people with average or higher literacy skills earn a high income. They are more likely to be employed in professional positions.

Reading for pleasure is a better indicator of a child's performance at school than their socio-economic background.

© Foundation for Early Reading, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of Education, Library and Numeracy Skills and Literacy Panel, Delivered in Australia Report



YEAR 1 GUNN



Art

This term, the Year 1 students have been exploring the art of self-portraits! We began by discussing what a self-portrait is – a drawing of ourselves, focusing on our facial features.

To bring our artworks to life, we used a variety of materials, starting with pencil to draw, outlining with Texta, and finally adding a vibrant background using water paints. This creative process not only helped develop their artistic skills but also fostered a strong sense of belonging in our classroom. Each portrait is a beautiful representation of our students, making our learning space feel even more special and personal.





Help me free the future from cancer.

My fundraiser is called Doing it for Grampa

When Until April 27th 2025

Where -

I'm raising funds for Cancer Council because In memory + honour of My Grampa Roy Miller

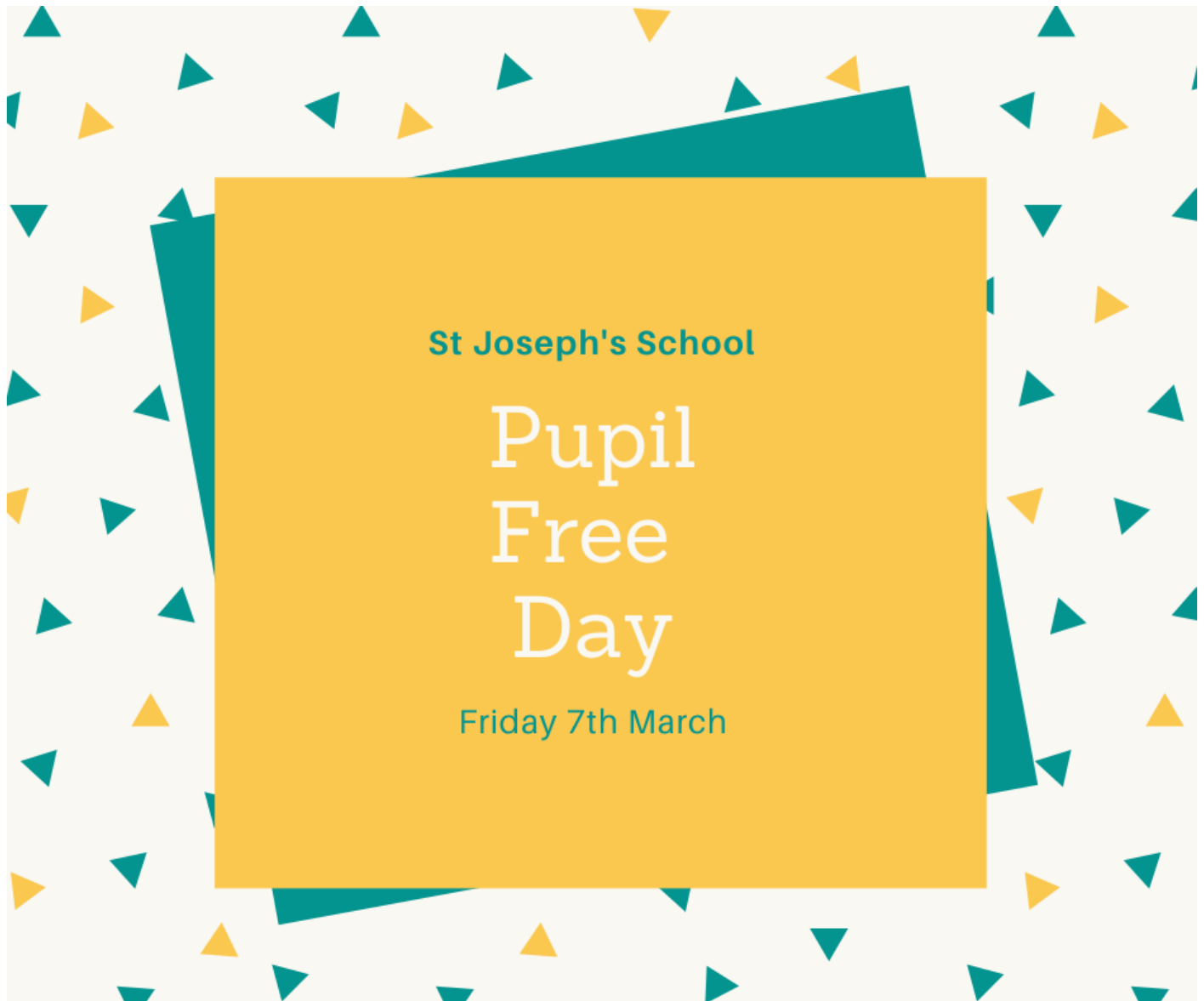
Search for my name and join me
doitforcancer.com.au

facebook.com/doitforcancer 1300 65 65 85



Or scan attached QR code

[View this article online to read more](#)



.... to enable staff to do work around Planning and Assessment, Literacy & Numeracy Agreements, and data analysis.

Clare OSHC will be available for our families if required on this day. Please contact them directly on 8842 1430 to book as needed.



St Joseph's School P&F

Easter Bakery Drive

Order Form available via QR code.
Order and pay via QKR!

Please return forms with payment by Friday 28 March.

**ITEMS AVAILABLE TO COLLECT
FROM SCHOOL ON THU 10 APRIL**



..... this is in partnership with the Little Red Grape at Sevenhill. Fill your freezer with goodies ready for Easter during the school holidays.

Order Form

St Josephs School Picnic



You're invited to join us for
ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PICNIC

TUE, MCH 4 / 6:00PM

on the lawns of the Middle School

**BYO: FOOD, DRINKS,
PICNIC RUG &/OR CHAIRS**

**Pancakes will be served by the School Board to mark
Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of the season of
Lent**



*A great way to meet and greet new families
and connect with staff*

[View this article online to read more](#)

Community News

[Clare Rodeo](#)

[Youth Art Exhibition](#)

[Boards Martial Arts - Clare](#)

[Clare Lions Prostrate Cancer Forum](#)

[School Holiday Programs – Autism SA](#)

[Come and Try - Blyth Snowtown Junior Football & Netball Club](#)

School holiday programs at Autism SA are where children aged 3-17 are supported to engage in activities that can help with the development of life skills, social and communication skills and friendships.

Have fun and make new friends while developing a range of life, social and communication skills. Follow the link below for more information.

□