



St Francis of Assisi College - Term 1 Week 2 - 2023

Important Dates

Year 7 Outdoor
Education Camp,
Port Hughes (13-15
Feb)
Monday 13 February 2023

Year 7 LifeChanger
Workshop
Friday 17 February 2023

St Francis of Assisi
College Family
Night
Saturday 18 February 2023

Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday 21 February 2023

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 22 February
2023

College Board
Meeting

College Photos
Thursday 23 February 2023

Parish & College
Mass

Swimming Carnival -
Adelaide Aquatic

Wednesday 22 February
2023

Wednesday 1 March 2023

Centre

Friday 3 March 2023

Year 7 LifeChanger
Workshop

Friday 3 March 2023

Year 9 LifeChange
Workshop

Friday 3 March 2023

Student Free Day

Friday 10 March 2023

Adelaide Cup Public
Holiday

Monday 13 March 2023

College Athletics
Carnival

Friday 17 March 2023

Harmony Day

Tuesday 21 March 2023

Athletics Carnival -
Bridgestone
Athletics Centre
Salisbury

Monday 27 March 2023

Parent/Student/Home
Group Teacher
Conversations

Wednesday 29 March 2023

College Board
Meeting

Wednesday 29 March 2023

REMEMBER If you are reading this newsletter from your email don't forget to click '*read more*' to expand your view and access all of our feature photos!

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



From the Principal

Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent

On February 22nd we will mark the start of the 40 days of the Liturgical season of Lent. This year all classes will attend a liturgy where each person will be marked with ashes on his/her forehead as a sign of repentance. The ashes are an outward symbol of the inward change we will make during Lent. Ash Wednesday is a time when we stop and assess how we're doing in our walk with God. Lent helps us identify spiritual areas in which we can grow and sinful areas that we need to avoid. To repent, put simply, means to turn away from sin and turn toward God.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from Palm Sunday which is the Sunday before Easter. It symbolizes Christ's return to Jerusalem after spending 40 days in the desert. In the Catholic tradition, we receive palm leaves, which have been blessed, to hold onto during Mass and bring home. The leftover palms from Palm Sunday are then burned and saved for the next Lenten season. So, this year's ashes are from the palms of Palm Sunday of 2022.

An outstanding start to the school year!

At the conclusion of the 2022 school year, our staff had two professional development and planning days where we signed off on all loose ends for 2022 and began our focus on setting up for a strong start to the 2023 school year.

Across our planning days in Week 0 this year, we continued this focus on a strong start to the new school and as a group, we asked ourselves the following question:

'To have an outstanding start to this school year....'

Here are some of the focuses we identified as a staff team:

- **What would be happening?**

- Educators are aware of our new students and how they might be feeling
- Educators are student centred and intentional in our practice
- Educators are aware of our new students and how they might be feeling

- **What is important?**

- A safe environment for students
- Establishing clear routines to support a settled start
- Clear expectations of each other
- A sense of belonging for our students and families

- **How would we need to act?**

- Educators are well planned and focused
- Educators encourage curiosity in our students
- Educators are consistent with follow up and communication with respect to student support.

As a team we have been really pleased with our start to the year, and we hope this has been felt by families also. We encourage parents and carers to contact your child's teachers if with any questions. We value early and ongoing communication to ensure a strong partnership to support our students in the best possible way.

Board Family Night

The School Board, led by our Community and Industry Engagement sub-committee, have organised a social gathering for all families. This year we plan to build on our opportunities for families to engage with their child's schooling, and provide opportunities for families to connect socially with other families.

An information letter has been emailed to all families with an RSVP included, here are the key details:

- Hosted by the School Board
- Saturday February 18th
- From 5pm at SFOAC for 6.30pm BBQ Dinner
- BBQ and Salads supplied by School Board, there will be some soft drinks and water supplied
- BYO drinks / nibbles and chairs / blankets to sit on (some tables and chairs will be available)
- Games, sports equipment, and the school grounds will be open for children to enjoy

Please contact the school administration team if you have not seen the initial information email and would like to RSVP.

Building Progress – Exciting Progress!

Through the course of Term 1, progress on Stage 2 of the College Build Program will be commencing. We expect to see our builders, Mossop Construction, on site through March.

The major works for Stage 2 is the Year 10 – 12 learning building, which will be opposite the current Year 7 – 9 learning building, and, the addition of two senior science labs that will extend from the Multi-purpose building.

CESA COVID-19 Approach

COVID-19 continues to affect the community and we all have a part to play in keeping our school community safe and minimising the disruption to learning that can occur when illness circulates at school. As such I ask you to follow the approach below:

- Students/staff who are unwell should stay home if they have cold or flu-like symptoms and get tested for COVID-19.
- If students/staff have COVID-19, please advise the school as soon as possible, and stay at home until all acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever) have cleared.
- Staff "Test to Stay" remains part of the CESA COVID-19 Management Plan for staff who become close contacts at school.

School Mass

This year we will continue to celebrate Mass at the College, on the first Wednesday of every month during term at 9.30am.

Each Religious Education class will take a turn in preparing and leading the Mass with Fr Hau.

This Mass is open to all families and members of the Parish, it would be great to see parents celebrate Mass with us.

Sacramental Program

This year, the OLOR Parish will be leading the Sacramental Program at each of our Riverland Mass Centres, in partnership with our Catholic Primary Schools.

If you have a child at St Francis of Assisi College that would like to participate in the Sacramental Program, please contact the College, and I can provide further information.

Wakakirri Dance Festival

This week we have been seeking expressions of interest from student interested in being involved in the secondary school's category for the Wakakirri Dance Festival. We have now exceeded the minimum number of students required to enter the competition. The secondary category is not limited to dancers only, students interested in being involved backstage can also nominate.

If your child would like to be involved, the need to give their name to Miss Newman at the school office by Friday 17th February.

More information can be found here:

[WAKAKIRRI | A National Story-Dance Festival For Schools](#)

Nathan Hayes, Principal

Leader of Learning

PAT Testing

In week 4, all Year 7 students will complete the Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT). There are two tests: PAT-R (reading) and PAT-M (Numeracy). These are diagnostic assessments conducted to measure student's growth throughout the year. They provide valuable information to teachers about your child's learning strengths and needs. The tests will indicate what skills students have mastered, what skills they are consolidating and even more importantly what skills they need to be educationally stretched. It will also provide teachers with objective information for setting realistic learning goals and enables them to better plan learning programs as students' progress through the college.

If you have any questions about PAT Testing, please contact the college.

Learning Around the College

Students and teachers have had amazing start to the school year. Teachers have worked collaboratively to provide learning that is relevant and engaging for all students. Throughout all areas of the curriculum, students have already had an opportunity to develop their communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. These are important skills as they develop into capable learners. As I have wander into classrooms, I have been very impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm displayed by all students.

Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning



College Community Wellbeing

Welcome back!

It seemed we all hit the ground running to start 2023! It has been excellent to see all our new students become so comfortable and for our returning students being great mentors and role models. By the end of the first week, students were seamlessly moving between classes, mastering their locks, and building on newfound friendships.

House Formation

Our aim is to ensure Home Group and each House is always a safe, welcoming, micro-community within the College where they are valued, have agency and form leadership skills. All teachers have begun to make strong relationships with their Home Group. Notably, the students have been open to forming friendships across year levels in our morning meetings and are already continuing to show pride and care of their house common areas where their lockers and rooms are located. We look forward to sharing each House's Credo and Agreed Responsibilities in the next newsletter!

A reminder that if you have any concerns or questions or information to share regarding your child's wellbeing or academics, please contact their home group teacher in the first instance via email or through the College phone number, (08) 8595 4500.

Home Group	Teachers	Email
IGNIS	Mr. Luke Cotter	luke.cotter@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	Mrs. Amber Burgess	amber.burgess@assisi.catholic.edu.au
TERRA	Mr. Fraser Sampson	fraser.sampson@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	Miss Mae Camporeale	mae.camporeale@assisi.catholic.edu.au
VENTUS	Mrs Isabella Trudgian	isabella.linnett@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	Mr. Nathan Hayes	nathan.hayes@assisi.catholic.edu.au
AQUA	Mr. John Lyons	john.lyons@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	Mrs. Natalie Meuret	natalie.meuret@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Student Leadership

Last year, we announced our Year 8 and 9 student leaders for the 2023 school year. In week 4, we look forward to announcing the year

7 student leaders and inducting the Student Leadership Council with a liturgy.

The College has the following leadership positions to be filled by elected members from the student body each year:

Wellbeing Focus Article

The Resilience Project: Recognising your childhood and the power of modelling

As parents, it's so normal that we want the very best for our kids. From the opportunities they can access, to their values and the way they interact with others – we want to raise well-rounded, resilient people who are equipped with everything they could need to succeed in life.

An important part of helping kids be the best version of themselves is helping them achieve balance. In our last blog about a child in balance, we talked about

- (1) the typical signs which show whether a child is in or out of balance, and
- (2) how connected parenting is vital in helping them develop and express their feelings.

And yet, despite our good intentions to practise connected parenting – like welcome our kids' emotions and holding a safe space for them to express the full spectrum of their feelings – especially big feelings like anger, fear and frustration – it can often trigger our own unwanted responses too.

[Read more...](#)

More resources

- [Book: Listen by Patty Wipfler](#)
- [Podcast: The Aware Parenting Podcast](#)
- [Book: The Whole Brain Child by Dan Siegel](#)
- [Video: TEDx talk – How to Raise Emotionally Intelligent Children](#)

“What's more likely to get your kids to talk to you: questioning them or allowing them some space?”

Extract from Do Pause by Robert Poynton, 2019

Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing

Congratulations - Via Naong



Congratulations to Via, and to her mother, Glenalene, for becoming Australian Citizens. Via and Glenalene made their declarations and received their citizenship from Mayor, Peter Hunter at the Australia Day Breakfast Ceremony.

Riverland Autistic & Autism Communities Forum

RIVERLAND AUTISTIC & AUTISM COMMUNITIES FORUM

An opportunity to hear from the Assistant Minister for Autism Emily Bourke and to connect with community members and industry stakeholders.

Saturday 18 February

1pm start

**Chaffey Community Centre
Renmark**

RSVPs are essential via:
[RiverlandAutismForumeventbrite.com.au](https://riverlandautismforumeventbrite.com.au)

ASSISTANT
MINISTER FOR
AUTISM
EMILY BOURKE





Air Force Cadet - Whole School Presentation

Thanks to John Sutton, Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Commanding Officer of 603 Squadron, and his Team. Today they gave a very interesting presentation covering the amazing opportunities available through the Air Force Cadets.

See below for details on the Cadets Come, Try and Apply Night, 6 pm Tuesday 14 February 2023.

Australian Air Force Cadets



603 SQUADRON RECRUITING NOW

13-16 YEARS | TUESDAY 6PM - 9.30PM
8 FOREMAN ROAD, BERRI

Apply now for Feb 2023 Intake



8582 2874



603 Squadron

SIGN UP @ www.airforcecadets.gov.au



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

REACH FOR THE STARS

603 Squadron
Australian Air Force Cadets

What do we do?

Flying	Gliding
Camping	Survival Skills
Drill and Ceremonial	Weapons Training (Rifle/Sword)
Aeromodelling	Navigation
Interstate / International Trips	

When?

Tuesday Nights - 6pm - 9.30 pm
&
Selected Weekends

Cost?

Cadets are issued two uniforms: Ceremonial Uniform and Camouflage Uniform are provided at NO COST!

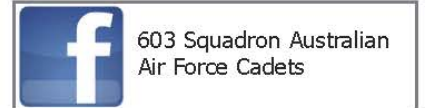
To Join you need:

- Be an Australian Resident
- commitment for 12 months
- Turn 13 years old in 2023
- Participate from 12 - 18 years old

Recruit Intake 2023 Come, Try and Apply Night

6 pm 6th December 2022
6 pm 7th February 2023
6 pm 14th February 2023

Expression of Interest Registration required online @ www.airforcecadets.gov.au
Intake to commence 14th February 2023



Your Local Unit is:

603 Squadron – Berri
Berri Training Depot
Loc: 8 Foreman Road, BERRI
Ph: 8582 2874
E: co.603sqn@airforcecadets.gov.au
W: www.airforcecadets.gov.au



2023 Youth Environment Council - Applications Open



2023 Youth Environment Council - Applications Open

South Australian students in Years 7 to 11 who are passionate about sustainability are invited to apply to be in the Youth Environment Council.

Eligible students, in both regional and metropolitan South Australia, are invited to apply.

Why join the Youth Environment Council?

- To share your passion for the environment and sustainability with other like-minded students across the state.
- To develop leadership, team building and public speaking skills at camps, workshops and forums.
- To take action for the environment and make a difference,
- To share your views and actions with government.

Applications are now open. Places strictly limited. Applications close week 5, Thursday March 2.

For more information, email info@yecsa.net.au or visit the [YEC website](#).

Riverland Youth Theatre - Term 1 2023

TERM 1 WEEKLY CLASSES AT RIVERLAND YOUTH THEATRE

MONDAY

PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC AND MOVEMENT IN RENMARK
Renmark Institute, 9am-9.45am, Gold Coin donation

12-120 YRS CRAFTAFTERNOON DROP INS IN RENMARK
Renmark Institute, 3.30pm-5pm, Gold Coin Donation

10-13 YRS DUNGEONS & DRAGONS WITH DAGZ
Renmark Institute, 4.15-6.30pm, \$55 for 8-week campaign

TUESDAY

12-16 YRS TEEN ENSEMBLE IN BERRI: *GAME SHOW THEATRE*
Berri Town Hall, 4pm-5.30pm, FREE thanks to Our Town Berri and Wellbeing SA. Showing: March 30

WEDNESDAY

12-15 YRS ART THERAPY WITH RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA
Coping with anxiety
Renmark Institute, 4.30pm-6pm, FREE

13-18 YRS ONLINE CREATIVE CLUB
Online through Discord, 5.15pm - 6.45pm, FREE

THURSDAY

6-10 YRS TASTE TESTERS IN RENMARK: *FROM RESIN ART TO VIRTUAL REALITY, LET'S TEST IT ALL!*
Renmark Institute, 4pm-5pm, \$50 per term.

10-13 YRS TWEENS IN BARMERA: *MOVIE MAKING*
Bonney Theatre, 4pm-5.30pm, \$75 per term. Showing March 30

FRIDAY

14-19 YRS DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: *CURSE OF STRAHD*
Renmark Institute, 4pm-6pm, \$100 per term.

AND THE FORTNIGHTLY ONES

3RD PLACE: 12-18 YRS *JUST A CHILL HANG*
Renmark Institute, every 2nd Friday, 6pm-8pm, FREE
February 10, February 24, March 10, March 24 and April 14

PONDI: 8-16 YRS *CONNECTION TO CULTURE, WORKSHOPS WITH ELDERS AND ARTISTS, A SAFE SPACE FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.*
Renmark Institute, every 2nd Sunday, 4pm-6pm, FREE
February 5, February 19, March 5, March 19, April 2 and April 16

MAKING CLASSES POSSIBLE THIS TERM:



Relationships Australia



RIVERLAND
YOUTH THEATRE

STEP BY STEP TOGETHER.

A DANCE THEATRE COMMUNITY PROJECT

5, 6, 7, 8...
READY, SET, GO...

EXPLORING COMMUNITY,
RELATIONSHIPS AND WHAT DANCE IS TO YOU AND
YOUR LOVED ONES



8 FREE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
MONDAY ARVO/EVENING
FROM
FEB 6TH 2023

Future paid
employment
opportunities



Join us at the info session to find
out more
@ Eternal Yoga, 6B Drabsch St
5th feb 2.30pm



ALL AGES AND EXPERIENCES WELCOME



FOR MORE INFO CALL SUE ELLEN - 0404389098 OR CLAIRE - 0407716105

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS - @STEP.BY.STEP.TOGETHER.2023
@STEP BY STEP TOGETHER



This initiative is supported by Federal Government's Regional Arts Fund and Country Arts SA and kindly Auspiced by Loxton Rotary

5, 6, 7, 8... Ready, Set, Go....

Local Riverland creatives in Loxton have been awarded \$29k to fund a dance theatre project in the community.

This initiative is supported by Federal Government's Regional Arts Fund and Country Arts SA and kindly Auspiced by Loxton Rotary.

Step by Step Together is a dance theatre project that will be led by Sue-Ellen Shepherdson and Claire Dalzell, who are local creative artists and educators. Sue-Ellen and Claire have a shared passion; to provide quality arts programs and performances while focussing on creating positive wellbeing and opportunities for the youth within their community.

The project will explore what dance means to our community members, questioning where, why and how people dance, including how technology impacts people and their relationships. With an in depth look at how dance, in today's technological age, can be used to create connections and deepen relationships, Sue-Ellen and Claire are eager to reach and include all interested community members, irrespective of age or skill and is free to all participants

This exciting opportunity involves 8 FREE community workshops starting on Mon 6th Feb 2023, that will explore what dance means to the everyday person. The workshops will include getting to know one another, discussion topics and opportunities to participate in dance activities if you wish. You can attend as many or little, of the workshops, as you like.

Please visit our social media sites for more info @

Step By Step Together | Facebook

Step By Step Together (@step.by.step.together.2023) • Instagram photos and videos

Or contact Sue-Ellen Shepherdson 0404389098 and Claire Dalzell 0407716105

or attend our info session 2.30pm on Sunday the 5th of Feb at Eternal Yoga Studio, 6B Drabsch St, Loxton.

Renmark Fire Station - Open Day



RENMARK FIRE STATION

Open Day

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2023

11AM—3PM

JOIN US AND OTHER LOCAL EMERGENCY
SERVICES AT 129 18TH STREET, RENMARK FOR:

CLOSE UP LOOK AT EMERGENCY VEHICLES
CHAT TO LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS
DEMONSTRATIONS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

See You There!



Carers SA

Renmark Carers Peer Group

Meet with other Carers for a “Coffee and Chat” Sessions. These sessions are facilitated opportunities to share experiences, focus on different topics aimed at connecting, supporting & empowering you in your everyday life.

We will cover the workshop content below, have guest speakers and the occasional café session.

Renmark Carers: Peer Support Group

Dates: 3rd Monday of the Month

Time: 10am – 11am

Where: Renmark Club

RSVP - Hannah Birch Carer Connector Riverland

Mobile: 0490 102 795

Email: hannah.birch@carerssa.com.au

Carers SA: 1800 422 737 www.carerssa.com.au

Carer Gateway: www.carergateway.gov.au

Workshop Content

Session 1: Connection

Session 2: Finding Community

Session 3: Making Meaning of Now

Session 4: Finding Purpose

Additional Sessions:

Session 5: Where to from here?

Future needs of the group, including ongoing support, will be determined by the group in session 5.

