Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

The Season of Advent: Sunday marked the beginning of the Season of Advent – a time of preparing for Christmas. Already the stores are ‘chockers’ with Christmas goodies and sales, urging us to stock up and spend up. As your family considers preparing your space for Christmas, have you considered including some elements to remind us of the real ‘reason for the season’? Perhaps you can display a nativity scene, an advent wreath with the four candles representing the four weeks of Advent, or a large star. While Christmas is a time of sharing and gift giving, don’t forget the greatest gift of all – Jesus! Our classes have many Advent symbols displayed in their classrooms.

An invitation is extended to all our families and friends of Our Lady of the River School to share in the Christmas spirit by coming along to our Christmas play. On Friday 2nd December all the children who have indicated they are wishing to be involved are asked to arrive at the St Mary’s Church at 5.00pm to be seated for a 5.15pm start. The community is invited to join us and after a short re-enactment in the church we will walk in procession behind our Advent trailer to the council office to continue our play. The procession will then head to the Berri Merri Christmas stage on Vaughan Terrace lawns to complete our play with 3 songs. The final song being played by our school band. We expect to finish between 6.15pm and 6.30pm.

Semester reports will be handed to parents on Friday 9th December. The teachers have worked extremely hard in putting these documents together for each student and they have reflected positively on their achievements this Semester. A reminder many parents are likely to see more “C” grades on their child’s reports. An “A” for Effort and a “C” for Achievement indicates that your child is “On Target” for their age. (This grade should be celebrated with students because it means they have worked hard to be where they need to be.) The “Effort” grades are also really important because they are a reflection of how, in the teacher’s opinion, the student is working consistently in class in that learning area (English, Maths, Science etc). Teachers will also often include their observations of a child’s overall achievement at school as well as their behaviours, work habits and relationships with their peers and staff to give parents a more holistic view of their child’s progress at school. You will find this information at General Comment. Should you have anything you wish to discuss further regarding your child’s report please contact their classroom teacher.

School fees. A gentle reminder that fees need to be finalised by Friday 9th December. If you are experiencing any difficulties with your fees, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal. Text reminders will be sent out to parents who have not made regular instalment payments in the next few days. Ros Oates

Please join the staff and students for our Christmas play and procession this Friday.
**COLOR SPORTS NEWS**

Pink Stumps Day
Thank you to all our families in making this a successful day. We raised $191.30 towards the McGrath Foundation. Great effort.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Congratulations to Patrick, Alexa, Sierra and Isaac on the arrival of your new addition Myles Patrick Broughton born 27/11/16 at 9.25am.

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**Australian Air Force Cadets**

Educates, Challenges, Excites. 603 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets is based in Berri and services the Riverland Region. For further information Ph: 08 8582 2874 or E: admino.603sqn@aafc.org.au

**CANOE The Riverland**

Kids Kayak Klub Holiday FUN & GAMES on the River Kids(8-15yo):$20
Jan. 10th, 16th, 24th & 27th 9.00am – 12 835 Murtho Road, Paringa
Phone Jim or Ruth 0475 754 222 to book
No Experience Needed, Equipment Provided, Weather Permitting

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**TRI STATE GRAPHICS**

We will close for our Christmas break 5.30 pm Friday 16th December 2016
And reopen at: 9.00 am Monday 9th January 2017 at
OUR NEW ADDRESS
216 Renmark Ave, Renmark 5341.
Ph: 08 8586 5815 Fax 08 8586 3200

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**2016 RE News**

Fr. Paul Bourke: 85821894
Fr. John Stuart James: 85882452 ~ 0419176514

**MASSES TERM 4**

Thursdays 9.00 am
St Mary’s Church

**New Weekend Mass Times**

Weeks 1, 3 & 5 Sundays of the Month
Berri 9am, Waikerie 11am, Loxton 11am, Barmera 6pm

Weeks 1, 3 & 5 Saturday night
Morgan 6pm and Renmark 6.30pm

Weeks 2 & 4 Sundays of the Month
Renmark 9am, Morgan 9am, Barmera 11am, Loxton 6pm

Weeks 2 & 4 Saturday night
Berri 6.30pm and Waikerie 6pm