



## ST JOSEPH'S Catholic Flexible Learning Centre ALICE SPRINGS

*A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition  
A Member of the EREA Oscar Romero Flexi Schools Network*

### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC FLEXIBLE SCHOOL TERM 1, NEWSLETTER 2025

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

► Dear St Joseph's Flexi Community

Werte. My name is Rob, and I am the new principal at St. Joseph's Flexi. My wife Kathy and I have spent the last two years at Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School, Santa Teresa. I was the Deputy Principal and Principal, and Kathy was Classroom Teacher / Religious Education Co-ordinator. Kathy and I have been teaching for 40 years in both Queensland and the Northern Territory including teaching at many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time so far at St Joseph's. I have spent a lot of time in classrooms and can confidently report that we are a place of learning and programs, and pathways are in place for our young people to develop their education.

An Annual School Improvement Plan (ASIP) has been completed in collaboration with all staff to ensure we have direction for the year ahead. Junior teachers Raewyn and Sophie have created very attractive learning environments and have started 'Bump It Up Walls' to track student achievement. Senior teachers Andrea and Graham are getting great numbers in their classes, and they are mapping students progress and providing pathways for students to either graduate with a Year 12 certificate or develop skills to enhance their job opportunities. Teachers are very well supported by Education Support Officers and Youth Workers. Our school is fortunate to have Jannette and Roshan organising the administrative side of things and Meg our chef is providing delicious food for our young people. Kathy is tracking student achievement and has tested over 50 students in Maths and Reading. She has created data walls to track attendance and student progress. Mel has worked well in the Inclusion space and has been busy supporting our students, both in the classroom and with educational support. Data Informed Practice will be a focus for 2025 and beyond.

The continued promotion of Aboriginal culture and identity will be a focus this year and has been identified as an area in our School Improvement Plan. To promote Catholic Identity and Mission, our staff will be involved in a 'Pilgrims of Hope' staff formation day facilitated by Catholic Education Northern Territory. Kathy will set up prayer tables to respectfully promote Catholic Identity. I encourage community members, parents, and carers to promote attendance and do all they can to get our young people to school. Our data is showing that high attendance results in higher achievement. Every day at school counts. Hopefully I will get to meet parents and community members at our Community Day on June 13th this term.

Kind regards,  
Rob



## SENIOR GIRLS

► The Senior Girls class has had an incredibly busy term. We've been developing our skills with English and Maths, with a focus on measuring and money in our baking unit. In Science, we've started learning about types of rocks and we're all looking forward to exploding our own volcanoes. Most of our girls have completed at least one subject on the way to achieving a Modified SACE and we're really proud to see the great work they've produced. Next term, we'll be starting to work on certificate courses and continue exploring the beautiful country around us.



## JUNIOR FELLAS

► Term 1 has been a busy time for Junior Fellas who have just joined us at St Joseph's Catholic School. They have been working on an integrated unit learning about Australia's states and territories as well as significant landmarks. For Science, the Fellas have been learning about the life cycles of different species in and around Alice Springs, visiting the Reptile Centre and learning about different reptile's habitats and how they blend in with their environment. The junior fellas have recently been completing tasks on the bump it up wall in the classroom, achieving success with their learning involving maths, writing, vocabulary and times tables by sharing what they already know and what they still need to learn. Next term, the Junior Fellas are looking forward to visiting Desert Park.





## JUNIOR GIRLS

► Werte! Term 1 has been a busy term with lots of new girls joining our school. This term, we have been working on an integrated unit, 'Around the World'. We have looked at various landmarks, cultures, and facts about Australia so that we can compare the country we live in with other countries next term. The girls have also enjoyed elective time in the afternoons, engaging in Cooking, Art, Girl's Club and Culture. The girls have followed our four principles at all times and I look forward to seeing them again next term.



## DEADLY DRIVING

► This term, our senior students had the opportunity to develop their understanding of road rules and how to be safe on the roads. They worked towards getting their Learner's licenses and have amazed us with the energy and enthusiasm they've showed. Congratulations to the Young People who've been successful in getting their license. See you on the roads!





## WORKING WORLD

► As part of the elective program this term, the Senior Girls and Fellas have worked really positively on exploring their strengths and interests as they prepare for the world of work. They've shown their ability by developing communication, confidence and collaboration –all essential skills in workplaces. We're looking forward to continuing to explore opportunities for work experience in the future.



## SENIOR FELLAS

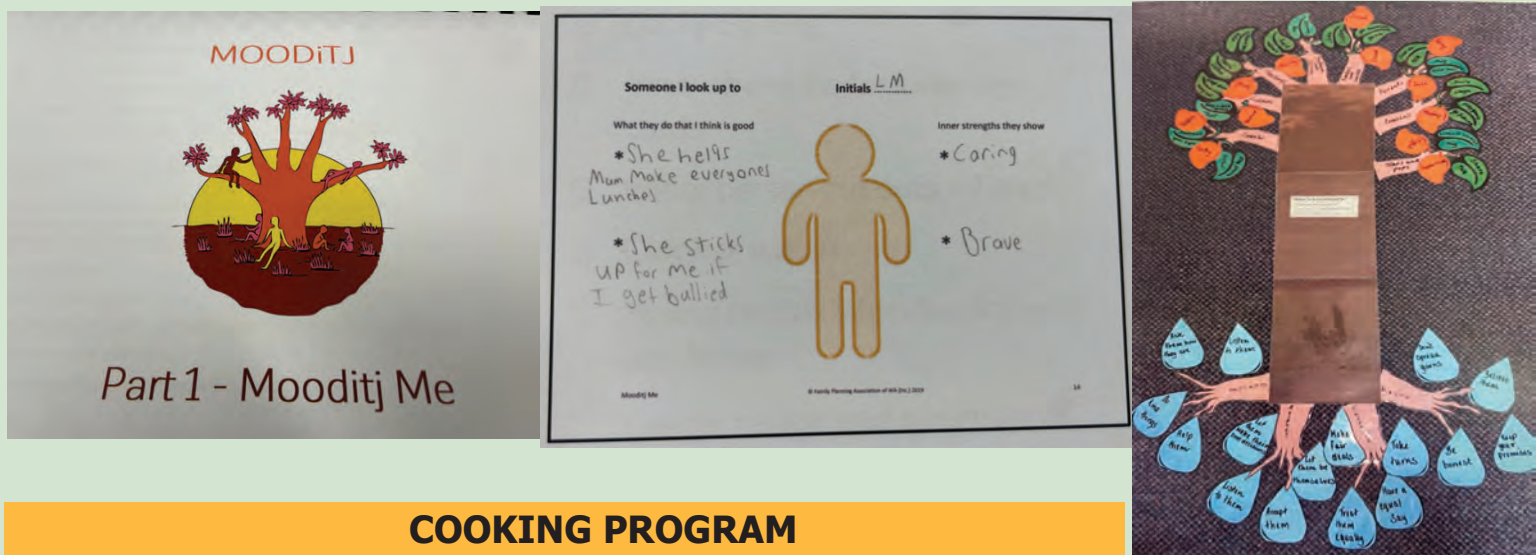
► This term has been an exciting time of new people and new things. As a class, the senior fellas have explored topics related to personal, cultural and societal issues. On top of studies related to numeracy, literacy and digital literacy they have also covered important areas like communicating fairly and to be heard but also to hear others as well as understanding relationships and how to be better at them learning to drive as a life skill and exploring work opportunities and ways to reach have also been a focus goals. The class has also left the classroom to experience the world around us. Sport, shopping and hiking have been enjoyed by all. We look forward to more activities as a class that help us to have fun, broaden our understanding of ourselves and the world around us and build bright futures.





## MOODITJ

► This term the senior girls started the Mooditj program in class. This program is a three part course especially designed for Aboriginal young people. The **three parts** are Mooditj Me, Mooditj mates and Mooditj More than Mates. This term we started part 1 - Mooditj Me, which helps young people grow their inner strengths, understand and have pride in their identity. The girls enjoyed the classes and began learning about who they are and what is important to them. They enjoyed and got involved in the weekly activities. We are looking forward to building on what they've learned next term.



## COOKING PROGRAM

► Last term, our cooking program gave young people a chance to explore the world of cooking while learning about measurements. Students created pizzas, savory quiches, baked treats, and fried rice, gaining hands-on experience with ingredients and portioning. They practiced measuring accurately, ensuring each dish was delicious and well-balanced. The program encouraged teamwork, creativity, and practical skills, leaving students with a sense of accomplishment and newfound culinary confidence for future cooking adventures.





## GIRLS CULTURE PROGRAM

► This term the ladies participated in the cultural program every Thursday afternoon. We are very proud to have this program, and we would like to thank the ladies for their participation and respect towards staff and each other. The ladies got to make bush medicine and lip balms with Akeyulerre Healing Centre as well as going out on country and connecting with the land, culture and each other. We look forward to another great term of the ladies Cultural Program in Term 2.



## FELLAS CULTURE PROGRAM

► This semester, the fellas had the opportunity to develop an understanding of their own identity through our culture program facilitated from Dion Forrester, John Francois and Jake Turner. The focus has been on the young fellas using their listening and speaking skills to show an understanding of their own emotional and physical wellbeing. The fellas have also taken part in cultural outings around Central Australia where they participated in wellbeing on country. We are planning to work with services who will help us make tap sticks and boomerangs which we will display around our school.



## MUSIC PROGRAM

► This term, the music program kicked back into gear with staff member Dion Forrester doing music lessons with many students who were trying music out for the first time. The program has given Young People the opportunity to participate in all things music such as, playing an instrument, podcasting, creating beats, technical set up and recording songs. This term all young people have gained interest and skills needed to become a radio host, musician, producer and sound engineer. We hope to get back rocking throughout the year.





## KICKBOXING PROGRAM

### ► Kickboxing Elective - Term 1 Recap and Looking Ahead:

In Term 1, we were excited to introduce the Kickboxing elective, offering our students a unique opportunity to engage in a dynamic sport that promotes both physical and mental well-being. This elective was designed to encourage healthy living, boosting fitness levels, building confidence, and supporting overall mental wellness.

We are thrilled with the positive response from students across the school, with both fellas and girls enthusiastically signing up and diving into the program. Their eagerness to learn and challenge themselves has been truly inspiring. Throughout the term, students have focused on building core physical strength through exercises like skipping, push-ups, sit-ups, and squats. These exercises have been integral in developing endurance, strength, and agility—key components of kickboxing. In addition to improving physical fitness, students have also been learning fundamental martial arts techniques. These skills not only enhance their control and discipline but also teach patience and perseverance. The journey of mastering these techniques is a rewarding challenge, and it has been wonderful to see students grow in confidence both physically and mentally. As we look ahead to Term 2, we are excited to continue offering this elective and to build on the momentum we've gained. We hope our students have enjoyed a restful holiday and are ready to kick off the next term with renewed energy and focus. We look forward to seeing even more progress as they continue their fitness journey in the gym. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting program!



## WELLBEING

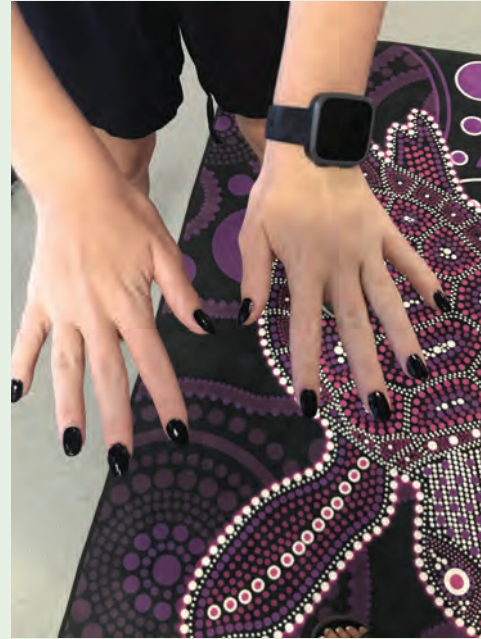
► This term, we proudly held a smoking ceremony to welcome our new Principal, Rob, along with two of our dedicated teachers, Kathy and Graham. It was a meaningful way to honour culture and mark a new chapter for our school community. Our incredible youth workers have also continued to go above and beyond—ensuring our students' well-being is always the priority. From supporting attendance to advocating for individual needs, they've worked tirelessly to make sure every student receives the care and support they deserve.





## GIRLS CLUB

► This term the junior ladies participated in the Girls club elective. Throughout this elective, the ladies were very engaged with the planned outings and activities. I would like to commend the junior ladies for their respect towards staff and each other. The ladies went to the Botanical Gardens enjoying a milkshake and the scenery, they got creative with nails designs as well as many other fun activities. We look forward to another great term of Girls' club in Term 2.



## WOODWORK PROGRAM

► In Term 1, the Woodwork program allowed students to build their understanding of how to use tools safely. They began making some basic projects as they move towards learning how to renovate and construct their own piece of furniture.





## STAFF TOP DAY

On Friday 8th March, the staff team traveled to White Gums for a pupil-free day of professional learning using the 'Technology of Participation' (TOP) protocols. The aim of the day was to introduce new Principal Mr Rob Dreise and his wife Kathy to the team and for staff to get to know them better. The team worked through some shared goals for 2025 and completed a 'Working Agreement' for how they want to work together as a new team in 2025 – much a like what we do at school with the young people. Neil Kelly from the EREAFS Qld/NT regional support team led the process and guided the team through a series of workshop activities. We had a lovely shared lunch together, celebrated Mikayla's birthday and met wise local woman, Marilyn Cavanagh.



## SJFS 2025 Vision Statement

Be united in our purpose to empower our young people and staff by communicating, listening, understanding each other's differences to build a stronger foundation for 2026 and beyond

[www.ereafsn.edu.au/st-josephs-catholic-flc-alice-springs/](http://www.ereafsn.edu.au/st-josephs-catholic-flc-alice-springs/)



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