



St Joseph's Primary School

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Dear Families,

On February 26 we will be holding our first closure day for 2024. On this day we will be working to develop a new Vision Statement for St Joseph's. We hope to create a vision for our future that is contemporary and a true reflection of who we are, what we do, and where we hope to be in the future.

We have engaged the services of [Meredith Bowdon \(Talking Futures\)](#) and [Jessamy Gee \(Think in Colour\)](#) to work us through this process, and hope to have input not only from the staff but from students, parents and carers.

Meredith Bowdon is an academically trained futures consultant and registered psychologist with over 20 years of professional experience. She has designed and facilitated a number of workshops and programs, internal and external, about leadership and futures thinking. She holds qualifications in Strategic Foresight (Masters), Psychology (Honours) and Early Childhood Education (Graduate Diploma).

Jessamy Gee is a graphic recorder who is internationally renowned for her work, and has serviced a diverse range of clients all around Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the United States and Europe across the corporate, community, education and government sectors. Jessamy has captured talks by some of Australia's leading minds including former President of the Human Rights Commission Gillian Triggs, former Greens leader Bob Brown, advertising personality Todd Sampson, actor Madga Szubanski, academic and presenter Waleed Aly, Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel and former Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon.

Meredith will guide us through 'Three Conversations' in which we will share our perspectives on St. Joseph's - 'Stories of the Present', 'Brutal Facts' and 'Stories of the Future'. Whilst Meredith is leading these conversations, Jessamy will be creating a visual representation of our thoughts and ideas – capturing content in real time, using a combination of words, shapes, symbols and imagery.

We are asking for parent/carer volunteers to participate in this process with us on Feb 26. This would involve working together with the staff from 11:15am, and wrapping up at about 2:15pm (**lunch will be included!!**). This will be an interactive session based on genuine conversation, rather than word-smithing, to gather input from all stakeholders and create a vision for the future.

We will also be seeking input from our students from years 4-6. We would like to have a conversation with our students focused on their 'Three Wishes' for their school. This session will run from 10am-11am, and will also be facilitated by Meredith and Jessamy. If you are able to bring your child to school during this time to participate in this process please indicate on the attached form – a special morning tea will be provided for our student participants!

I hope that you will take this opportunity to have an active voice in our school's future. Our staff is eager to work with you to create a progressive and inclusive vision for St. Joseph's that fits our unique context.

Kind regards,

Mary.

