FEBRUARY
Friday 5th February
Welcome Mass & BBQ
5:00pm

Tuesday 9th February
Parent Info evening 6:30pm

Wednesday 10th February
Ash Wednesday

Tuesday 23rd / Wednesday 24th February
Parent teacher exchange

MARCH
Thursday 10th / Friday 11th March
School Closure

Saturday 5th March
Working Bee

Saturday 13th March
Year 2 Family Mass

Monday 21st March
Harmony Day

Wednesday 23rd March
Athletics carnival

Thursday 24th March
Last day of term
Welcome to Year Two!

Welcome back to another busy and exciting year in Year 2 at St Joseph’s. The children are having a wonderful time in their new surroundings and are settling well into their new routines.

In the morning, the students need to be at school before 8.50am, ready to start the day. Simon and Michelle are on yard duty from 8.30am and we will be in our classrooms as well. If your child arrives on or after this time, please send them into the classroom as quickly and quietly as possible to ensure a smooth and quiet start to the day for all students.

The morning routine is essential in establishing a calm and focused learning space, restricting the number of distractions and interruptions to this time enables all children to switch their brains on for learning and start the day with a positive start.

We are here to support you in helping provide your child with the best possible education, so feel free to chat with us if you have any concerns, queries or feedback.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Claire Ryle and Christabel Martin

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SCHOOL LUNCHES

Eating a balanced and healthy diet is essential in assisting students with their learning. We are so pleased to see so many healthy and nutritious lunchboxes coming to school in the children’s bags. Each day we will be checking to ensure that the children are eating a sufficient amount to enable them to concentrate, we have already been named the ‘Lunchbox Police’!

Where possible please limit the amount of packaged treats that are sent to school. Of course we aim to be a ‘Nut free’ school so any food items that are sent to school are required to be free of nuts, this includes birthday sharing treats.

Numeracy

Through a range of hands on teaching and learning experiences your children will be exposed to the following concepts this term:

- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Length

We will focus on building a strong foundation of number knowledge as this forms the basis for so many areas of numeracy.
**INQUIRY**

This term our unit of inquiry is titled ‘Healthy me, Healthy we!’ We are exploring the rich question ‘How can I help make my community healthy?’ During this unit students will explore ways in which they can keep a healthy mind, body and spirit. We have some exciting incursions booked including a nutritionist who will conduct a healthy food theoretical and practical lesson with the children.


Some of the questions we are going to explore are:
- What does it mean to be healthy? Physically? Mentally?
- When have you experienced love and forgiveness with your family and friends?
- How does the Catholic Church help to build strong communities?
- I am a living thing, how do I grow and change over time?
- What are values and why are they important to ensure we are all happy and safe?

**LITERACY**

**READING:** This term our Reading Groups will commence in Week 4 after we have completed testing in Week 3. We will require parent helpers for the morning session to assist with running these lessons. Our parent representatives will be in touch with you when they are required.

Our reading learning focus this term will be about building upon the children’s literal and inferential comprehension skills as well as learning to read and interpret information texts.

**TAKE HOME READERS:** Take home readers will commence in Week 4 after testing has been completed. They will comprise of texts being allocated on Bug Club and books being send home in student’s communication pouches. Reading will need to be recording in their yellow reading journal; classroom teachers will check this weekly.

**WRITING:** This term our writing will be centered on writing to inform. This links nicely with our Inquiry unit and will allow us to look at a variety of informative text types such as: procedural texts e.g. recipes, Magazine articles & information picture books.

**HANDWRITING:** It is an expectation that by the end of Year Two students are able to write correctly sized and formed Victorian Modern Cursive using the 18mm dotted thirds. We will be conducting explicit handwriting lessons where students will be provided with opportunities to practice these skills.

**SPELLING:** Our spelling program this term will be guided by Words Their Way, an instructional program designed to target the individual spelling needs of each student. We will use this program combined with an inquiry approach, having students find words in their reading or writing. This also assists them to expand their vocabulary. Each student has been purchased a ‘Personal Dictionary’ where they are able to add words they use frequently in their writing.
**Class Mission**

At the beginning of each school year we spend some time with the children setting up a learning environment that allows each student to learn to their full potential. We discuss what a cooperative learning environment looks like, how we feel when we belong to a connected community. After this discussion we take the students ideas and write our class mission.

**2R Class Mission**

In 2R we will always work as a team to help each other learn lots of new and exciting things. Our goal is to follow our school rules of respect when working together and playing in our playground. We are here to learn and promise to never give up. We understand that mistakes are an important part of learning. When you walk past our classroom you will see everyone is calm, quiet and focused because that’s how we help each other to be happy and successful learners.

**2M Class Mission**

Marvellous 2M will be energy builders and bucket fillers who will support each other.

In our class we will follow St Joseph’s rules by being respectful to ourselves, others and the environment.

We will be the very best we can be, working together as a team. We will celebrate others’ success and learn from our mistakes.

Our positivity towards learning will give us the courage to take risks and achieve the best we can.

**SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

This year our specialist classes will take place on a Wednesday morning. Students are required to wear their sport uniform on this day. All students also need an art smock, which will be kept in the classroom and taken to art each week. We are very excited about the new music program, which began last week. Miss Angie will be teaching the junior music lessons.

**Birthday Celebrations**

Birthdays are a special celebration in every child’s life and we are happy for you to send along a small treat. Eg. Cupcakes or ice creams to share in the class. Individual treats are preferred.
Tuck-shop

This year our tuck-shop will be sourced from an independent company, Fun Fresh Foods. Tuck-shop day will be Wednesday and commence on the 10th February.


Orders need to be completed by 10pm on the Tuesday evening prior.

Brain Break & Fruit Snack

Each day at 10am students will be given a 5 minute brain break. During this break they will be able to eat their fruit snack. Fruit snacks need to be fresh fruit or vegetables and not packaged items.

Brain Breaks are a quick and effective way of changing or focusing the physical and mental state of students.

Research indicates that brain breaks also improve students’ concentration and relieve stress.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At St Joseph’s the social, emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing of our students is at the center of what we do. Students participate in a range of learning activities and programs to explicitly teach some of the skills they require to navigate their emotions, social settings and faith development.

YCDI

The You Can Do It program is designed to teach students the foundations of social and emotional wellbeing, confidence (academic, social), persistence, organisation, getting along, and emotional resilience.

This term our focus is ‘Organisation’. Students will learn what it means to be organised and how organization can help us to relieve stress and create a calm and balanced life.

Smiling Mind

Smiling Mind is modern meditation for young people. It is a unique web and App-based program, designed to help bring balance to young lives. We use this program as part of our mindfulness activities. The program is available for you to use at home, it’s free to access and easy to sign up.

**Italian**

In Term 1 we will be learning and practising introductions and greetings in Italian as well as describing ourselves and others. As part of our Italian Day celebrations early in Term 2 we will enjoy a performance by the company Commedia dell Arte. In preparation for this the children will be learning about some of the main characters from the Commedia dell Arte, a form of theatre that originated in Italy, and some of the language specific to the performance.

**Music**

We all know how wonderful music is and how it forms such an integral part in our lives, but what are the children going to learn? In Term One the children will be immersed in musical experiences such as singing, movement and playing percussion instruments. Through these the children will begin to understand some of the elements of music such as beat, rhythm, form, dynamics and how playing music involves working together as a team.

**Physical Education**

This term, the Year Two children will be focusing on athletics activities in anticipation for our school athletics Carnival on Wednesday, 23 March. We will focus on activities such as sprints, hurdles, shotput and long jump. During the term, they will also have the opportunity to participate in the tri skills gymnastics program. This will occur on Friday 12th, 19th, 26th of February and 4 March. Sports uniform will be required on these days. We look forward to an exciting and busy term in physical education.

**Art**

During Term 1, in Art the focus will be about 'Healthy Me' and making good choices. The children will create various construction pieces using a variety of mediums and materials depicting the Inquiry Unit. Followed by an Easter activity as a conclusion to the Term.