A Warm Welcome!

Welcome to our first term in Prep! We are thrilled that all the children have settled in so quickly and we have seen so many smiling and happy faces. Thank you for helping make the transition so smooth.

Our morning routine at school is most important as it establishes structure and sets up our day for success. Upon arriving at school, please encourage your child to unpack their school bag by placing their drink bottle and brain food container in the classroom, and in time also their communication bag, which includes their readers and any notices from you to us and vice versa.

If your child is late to school, please proceed to the office to receive a Late Pass. Early pick-ups should be avoided, however if you need to pick up your child early for any reason, please notify us in writing. If this is going to be a regular occurrence, a copy will need to go to Mr Collis and Mrs Moore. Dismissal is strictly from each class’ line on the grassed area. If your child is sick, please call the school office.

Please also remember to check the communication boards outside each classroom daily, as this is one way you will be kept up to date on classroom and school events.

Informal Parent Teacher Exchange will take place in Week 5 and we look forward to hearing all about your child.

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 at any time.

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ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,
We thank you for our wonderful school. We are glad we belong to St Joseph’s community.
We pray that we will be safe and happy at school, and that we will learn much about You, ourselves and the world.
Help us to treat each other with respect and generosity. We hope to be like St Joseph, a person who cared for others.

Amen

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday 9th February: Prep Information Night
- Wednesday 10th, 17th and 24th February: No Preps. Individual Testing
- Friday 12th, 19th & 26th February and 4th March: Tri-Skills
- Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February: Informal Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 26th February: 12pm Whole School Mass
- Tuesday 1st March: Prep Reading Information Night
- Saturday 5th March: School Working Bee
- Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March: SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS
- Monday 14th March: SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY – Labour Day Holiday
- Friday 18th March: St Joseph’s Feast Day
- Friday 18th March: Prep Assembly
- Monday 21st March: Harmony Day
- Wednesday 23rd March: School Sports Carnival
- Monday 21st March: Last Supper Assembly 3pm
- Tuesday 22nd March: Washing of the feet Assembly 3pm
- Thursday 24th March: Holy Week Assembly 9am
- Thursday 24th March: End Of Term 1 Mass. Students finish at 1pm
This term we are focusing on settling our new prep into the routines and structures of the classroom. As a result, our classroom helpers program will commence in Term 2.

This is an integral component of an effective and successful classroom environment and we look forward to sharing this time with you in Term 2.

RESPECT

**Others**

**Myself**

**Environment**

We have been learning our 3 school rules. These are:

Respect Others
Respect Myself
Respect the Environment

FAITH INQUIRY

This Term our Faith Inquiry Unit is ‘Who am I?’

Through this unit we integrate the Inquiry and RE curriculum in order to make more meaningful connections between the students learning and their faith.

Some of the key questions we will be investigating are:

- What do I know about me?
- Where do I belong?
- How do I learn best?

This unit will introduce the students to the Inquiry process, enabling them to investigate and explore their place in their classroom, their school and the broader community. They will be introduced to the class and develop friendships and get to know one another, as well as identifying skills to work together as a team. They will also consider how their actions can help create a sustainable environment in the school and surrounds. Students will investigate and explore the basic principles of living an active and healthy lifestyle, using the 5 senses.

They will be encouraged to wonder, ask questions and make connections to prior learning and their own lives.

The AusVels Domains being covered are:

- Personal and Interpersonal Learning
- Civics and Citizenship
- Health and Physical Education

As well as covering the subject areas stated above, this unit will also cover the Religious Education concepts of Prayer, Sacred Signs, Symbols and Rituals and Objects of the Church.

The students will investigate the question ‘How do I pray?’ and will learn about ‘The Good Shepherd’ and the Easter story.

BRAIN FOOD AND WATER

Please send a full drink bottle and a small container of ‘brain food’ (fruit or vegetables, cut up or whole) to school each day with your child. These are to be kept in the classroom throughout the day.

NUMERACY

Through a range of hands-on teaching and learning experiences, children will be exploring the following concepts:

- Addition
- Counting forwards and backwards using different number patterns
- Time- Days of the week and months of the year
- 2D Shapes
- Location
- Place Value

LITERACY

This term we will be sharing various texts with the children. During this exploration the children will be encouraged to listen with enthusiasm and respond through a variety of practical activities.

Through these activities the children will be learning about letter names and associated single letter sounds, book orientation, sequencing events, story structures and high frequency words, all of which create the foundation for future learning.

Take Home Readers will begin after the Prep Reading Information Night on Tuesday 1st March.
**Specialist Program**

**FEBRUARY**

| Tuesday      | Sport  
|             | Art    
|             | Italian | Prep D: Library |
| Thursday    | Music  
|             | Prep S: Library |

**MARCH**

| Tuesday      | Italian |
| Wednesday   | Music  
|             | Art    
|             | Sport  |
| Thursday    | Prep S & D: Library |

**LIBRARY**

**On Library days students will have the opportunity to borrow two books. Children need to bring their Library Bags and books.**

**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 and how playing music involves working together as a team.

**PE**

This term, the prep 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 construct various different collage activities, using a variety of different mediums and paper depicting the Inquiry Unit. Followed by an Easter activity as a conclusion to the Term.

**ITALIAN**

In their first term of Italian, the children will be introduced to the sounds and patterns of the Italian language through a wide range of activities such as rhymes, stories, songs, stepping and action games. With Easter arriving at the end of our term we’ll discover some of the wonderful traditions celebrated in Italy at this time of year and prepare

**Class Representatives**

Thank you to Mel Greterix and Renae Volz from Prep D and Michelle Quin and Bridget Gerrard from Prep S for volunteering for this role. We appreciate your organisation at the start and throughout the school year.

**Social and Emotional Learning**

At St Joseph’s we believe that social and emotional learning is integral to the overall development of the child. To facilitate the students learning we use the You Can Do It program and Circle Time. You Can Do It exposes the children to the five keys of success – confidence, resilience, getting along, organisation and persistence. These skills will be reinforced explicitly and implicitly, in the classroom and on the playground. This term the children will be focusing on what it means to be organised and how to organise themselves.

**BIRTHDAYS!**

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. Please include a list of all ingredients.

Please be mindful of children with allergies within in the class, particularly nuts. If your child has any allergies please arrange a special treat box for such occasions.
BUDDIES!

The Buddy program is designed to give the younger children a school support person and to allow the older children to experience the opportunity to take on added responsibility and leadership.

The children have been allocated a special Year 5 buddy. During the year, the children will be participating in weekly activities with their buddies.

Communication Bags

The children are required to return their pouch daily to the allocated tub. Please check your child’s pouch daily for any important notices. Once the Home Reading Program begins, your child will bring books home in their bag.

Tuck shop

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

Tuck shop is ordered online from http://www.funfreshfoods.com.au/tuckshop/st-josephs-primary-school/. Orders need to be completed by 10:00pm on the Tuesday evening prior.

Thank you again for a great start to the Term and the Year!

We can’t wait to see what the rest of 2016 will bring!

Monique Dullard and Bek Skehan