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

Welcome back to a busy and exciting year in Grade Three at St Joseph’s. A very warm welcome to our newest classmate, Aaron Lau and his family. The children have settled extremely well into their new routines and we look forward to getting to know you all throughout the course of the year.

In the morning, the students are required to be at school before 8.50am, ready to begin the day. Simon and Michelle are on yard duty from 8.30am and we will be in our classrooms. 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 speak with us if you have any concerns, queries or feedback.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Michael Barnhoorn & Maddison Brennan

mbarnhoorn@sjelst.catholic.edu.au
mbrennan@sjelst.catholic.edu.au

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 23rd & 24th - Parent Teacher Meetings
- March 7th - Excursion to MCG (Parent helpers required)
- March 10th & 11th - School Closure
- March 18th - St. Joseph’s Feast Day
- March 21st - Harmony Day & Holy Week
NUMERACY
Through a range of hands-on teaching, open-ended tasks and learning experiences, children will be exploring the following concepts over Term One:

- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions
- 2D and 3D shape

Please encourage your child to discuss their mathematical learning with you at home.

LITERACY
During the Reading Hour, the children will be working on guided reading as a means to explore texts in a greater level of detail, investigate new vocabulary, ask questions of each other and develop fluency. The overall focus is to build students' deeper level comprehension skills such as inferring, to enhance their reading for meaning.

During the Writing Hour, the children are exposed to many different writing genres through modelled, shared and independent writing. They are always asked to consider the purpose and audience with their writing. The focus for this term will be on persuasive and narrative texts.

SPELLING
This term we will focus on developing students' recognition of high frequency words and understanding spelling patterns and strategies to enable them to make more accurate attempts at unknown words.
Spelling is taught within context (from their own writing) as well as an explicit spelling lesson each week. Each child has been provided with a spelling journal, which will be used during writing sessions to record words they have spelt incorrectly. Students will then have the opportunity to find the correct spelling, other words with the same spelling pattern and then practice their words with the help of a partner.

HANDWRITING
This term students will continue to develop their Victorian Modern Cursive using a lead pencil and the ‘Targeting Handwriting’ workbook. Students will work their way through a series of activities that practice the beginning formations of the joins to provide them with the foundations of letter joins before joining their writing more regularly later in the year.

INQUIRY
This Term our Inquiry topic is ‘Healthy Me, Healthy We’. Through this unit, the students will be focusing on what health is, the different aspects of health and the ways in which belonging to a community can contribute to the overall health of an individual.

The domains from the Australian Curriculum that we will be covering are Civics and Citizenship, Health and Physical Education, Biological Science, Interpersonal Development and Personal Learning.
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING
The ‘You Can Do It’ program exposes the children to the five keys to success - confidence, resilience, getting along, organisation and persistence. This term we will be focusing on ‘Organisation’. They will be introduced to the ideas of goal setting, what it means to be organised and how to overcome challenges that can impact their success.

The aim of this program is to build the student’s social and emotional skills through explicit teaching and learning experiences, thus empowering them with the knowledge, language and skills to be the best they can be.

SPECIALIST PROGRAM
The children have Physical Education, Italian, Music, Visual Arts and Library on Tuesday. They will need to be in their Sports uniform and to have their library bags and art smocks at school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
This term, the Year Three 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, shot put and long jump. Parents are most welcome to attend the carnival. We are always looking for parents who are able to assist at this event, if you are able, please let your classroom teacher know. We look forward to an exciting and busy term in Physical Education.

ITALIAN
Our focus for Term 1 will be on the traditions associated with Carnevale, Lent and Easter. 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, its history and some language which will be specific to the performance.

ART
During Term 1, in Art the focus will be based on ‘Healthy Choices’ and ‘Community and Responsibility’. The children will create various collage activities using different mediums and materials depicting the Inquiry Unit. Followed by an Easter activity as a conclusion to the term.

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 untuned and tuned percussion instruments such as xylophones. Through these, the children will begin to understand some of the elements of music such as beat, rhythm, form, dynamics, pitch and how playing music involves working together as a team.
SACRAMENTS
This year, the children in Grade Three, who are baptised Catholics, will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Key Dates
- 13th April: Student & Parent Reconciliation Workshop
- 19th April: Reconciliation Mass 3B (Mr Barnhoorn)
- 26th April: Reconciliation Mass 3M (Miss Brennan)

CAMP
The students will be spending the night at the 'Zoo Snooze' Camp at Melbourne Zoo, later this year. We understand that for some children a night away from home can be quite daunting so we encourage you to start practising with sleepovers now. The children had an absolutely amazing time last year and we can't wait to share this wonderful experience with the Grade 3s again. More details to follow as the dates approach.

Thursday 1st December (3B) Mr Barnhoorn
Thursday 8th December (3M) Miss Brennan

HOMEWORK
Homework will begin in week four of this term and will be handed out on a Monday and submitted on a Friday morning. The majority of homework will be completed using the student’s Google accounts, either through Google Docs or Slides and is to be completed individually, unless advised otherwise. Occasionally students may be asked to complete a task as a poster or in a book but they will be given adequate instructions as required. Homework helps to consolidate the learning being done in class however our major goal is to instill positive study habits such as organisation, time management and ownership for learning. If homework is not completed on time or to the expected standard, students will miss out on Friday afternoon activities and/or will be asked to complete it over the weekend. We thank you for support in this matter.

BIRTHDAYS
Birthdays are a special celebration in every child's life and we are happy for you to send along a small treat, e.g. cupcakes or ice creams to share in the class. Individual treats are preferred. When bringing items into school, all ingredients must be clearly labelled.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together in Year Three, where your child grows academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Michael Barnhoorn & Maddison Brennan