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

Welcome back to another busy and exciting year in Year Four at St Joseph’s and a warm welcome to the Paruit (Audrey and Ami), Tsioutras (Yahna) and Bragagnolo (Felipe) families. 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 speak with us if you have any concerns, queries or feedback.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Claire O’Dowd, Rebecca Sargent and Bridget Murphy.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

● Tuesday 9th February - Parent Information Evening
● Wednesday 10th February - Ash Wednesday Mass @ 10am
● Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th February - Parent/Teacher Exchange Meetings
● Friday 26th February – Senior School Mass @ 12pm and Cake Stall
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Working Bee
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3/4 Excursion to the MCG
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March – School Closure
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – St Joseph’s Feast Day & Jump Rope for Heart
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Harmony Day & Holy Week Liturgy 3pm
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Holy Week Liturgy 3pm
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – St Joseph’s Athletics Carnival
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Week Liturgy 9.15am & End of Term Mass 12pm
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday

**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
- 2D Shapes, 3D Shapes and Symmetry
- Angles
- Addition
- Subtraction

Please encourage your child to discuss their mathematical learning. We also encourage you to continue to enhance their learning at home through practicing their target tables and completing any set homework that week. One avenue for homework is Study Ladder. The students have had their account set up and this can be used for supplementary homework tasks throughout the week.

**LITERACY**

During the Reading Hour, the children will be revising their Literature Circle roles. These include Connector (making explicit connections between my text and other books, the world and yourself), Literary Luminary (investigating the author’s purpose for the chosen sentence/paragraph), Discussion Director (writing four open ended questions about the set readings), Summariser (summarising the key points, main highlights, general themes and ideas), Word Wizard (finding two words and investigating their definition, synonyms, antonyms and writing the sentence from the book) and Illustrator (choosing a part from the story, drawing it in detail, writing down why we chose the picture and an explanation of the drawing).

During the Writing Hour, the children will be investigating recount writing. Texts that recount involve the writer retelling or recounting past experiences or events. The audience is given an insight into an experience, when it happened, who was involved, what happened and why. Writing to recount can be direct or indirect. Direct Recounting involves the writer recounting experiences in which they have been directly involved. Indirect Recounting involves the writer documenting events, incidents or particulars outside their direct experiences. Students are involved in this form of writing when they investigate historical people, for instance, to write a biography. Different text forms used to recount include diary entries, journal entries, autobiographies, biographies, reviews, minutes of meetings and retells.
SPELLING

This term we will continue to focus on developing the spelling strategies and skills of students in Year Four. Each week the children will receive an individual spelling list, which will be taken from their writing. The children will be required to learn their words throughout the week and complete a spelling test on Friday. The children will be strongly encouraged to take responsibility for their own spelling during all lessons and this will be closely monitored by the classroom teacher.

HANDWRITING

By the end of Year Four, it is expected that all students write in correctly formed and sized Victorian Modern Cursive using a lead pencil, in order to receive their pen license. The children will be required to provide five excellent samples of written work before receiving their pen licence ‘L plates’, which enables them to write in pen on Mondays and Fridays. They will then need to provide 15 excellent samples that are written in pen, in order for them to receive their full pen licence.

INQUIRY

This Term our topic is Community and Responsibility ‘Healthy Me, Healthy We’. Through this unit, the students will be focusing on the key idea: “all communities, including Catholic communities, have structures and rules to keep people safe and secure. We have a responsibility to make healthy choices for ourselves and how we work with others, so we can participate, contribute and build a strong Parish community for all.” We will take part in an exciting excursion to the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the National Sports Museum as part of the health component of our unit. Please look out for the Care Monkey notice regarding this excursion.

The domains from the Australian Curriculum that we will be covering are Civics and Citizenship, Health Knowledge and Promotion, Biological Science, Personal Development and Interpersonal 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’. Children who are organised plan to do their best in attempting new tasks and activities. They listen carefully to what their parents and teachers want them to do. Children who are organised use their time carefully by getting their work and chores done before they play. Organisation also means that children take care of their things and put things away where they belong after they are finished using them. They also try to keep their room (both at home and school) tidy and clean.

EXAMPLES OF ORGANISED BEHAVIOUR IN CHILDREN

● Before leaving home, he/she makes sure that everything he/she needs is in his/her bag.
● Carries his/her own bag.
● Wants to do his/her best.
● Listens to parents and teachers when being told to do something.
● Puts away toys, books in the right spot after using them.
● Gives parents or teachers important notes.

WAYS TO PRAISE YOUR CHILD FOR ORGANISED BEHAVIOUR
● “You are really good at getting ready on time.”
● “I see you are organised. You put all of your toys/equipment away.”
● “Good for you. I see you are trying your best.”
● “You are really good at keeping your school bag neat and tidy.”
● “I am pleased to see you organised and completing your homework.”

TEACH YOUR CHILD THE FOLLOWING ORGANISED THINKING
● SETTING GOALS: It is good to do my best work.
● PLANNING MY TIME: It is good not to waste time. It is good to be on time for things.
● LISTENING CAREFULLY: It is good to listen to my parents and teachers extra carefully when they are explaining something to me.
● TAKING CARE OF MY THINGS: I need to put things in their proper places. I need to clean up and be neat.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

The children have Physical Education, Italian, Music and Visual Arts on **TUESDAY**. They will need their library bags and art smocks at school, if they don’t already have them. On Fridays, they may participate in sport activities with their teacher, so they are welcome to bring their runners in their school bag.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Louise Howell**
This term, the Year Four 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. 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 - Robyn Clewer**
Our focus for Term One will be on the traditions associated with Carnevale, Lent and Easter. As part of our Italian Day celebrations early in Term Two, 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, it’s history and some language which will be specific to the performance.

**VISUAL ARTS - Lidia Chris**
During Term One, 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 - Lizbeth Quinn**
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 Year Four, who are baptised Catholics, will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist in Term Three. Further details will come as we get closer to this special time in your child's faith journey.

Dates:
- Family Workshop - Wednesday 22nd June at 6.30pm
- Commitment Mass - Saturday 4th June at 6.30pm / Sunday 19th June at 10.30am
- Eucharist Retreat Day - Wednesday 13th July (children are allowed to wear casual clothes)
- Eucharist Mass Year 4S - Sunday 17th July at 10.30am
- Eucharist Mass Year 4O - Sunday 24th July at 10.30am

CAMP

The Year Four will be setting off for Camp Wyuna, a YMCA adventure camp in Queenscliff on Monday 5th - Wednesday 7th December. The children will participate in a variety of activities, including mountain bike riding. Please ensure your child has had experience riding a bike that has handbrakes and gears before December. More details will follow closer to the date.

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. Please remember that we have allergies to eggs, nuts and dairy present in both Year Four classes.

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

Claire O'Dowd, Rebecca Sargent and Bridget Murphy.