



Term 1, Year 4, 2021

St Joseph's Primary School

Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Environment

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 to Year 4, 2021! As we settle into our classrooms with the students, we'd like to welcome you all to another year at St Joseph's. Year 4 will be full of excitement, with the children taking part in their belated Reconciliation. First Eucharist, School Camp, and a range of rich learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

In Year 4 there is a big emphasis on routine and developing students personal organisation and responsibility. Students are expected to be at school by 8.50am. We will be starting each morning with meditation and prayer so please ensure your child is on time for this as it is a beneficial way to start our morning.

Each Friday afternoon, we will send you an email outlining the coming week's events. We thank Katerina Karamitos and Michaela Pertile from 4D, and Fiona Lowe, Julia Fisher and Nat Frazer from 4A for being our parent representatives for Year 4 2021.

Our doors are always open for your questions and concerns. We look forward to working with you and your children, to ensure your child receives the best possible care and education.

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IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

29th January	Students Commence
3rd February	Reconciliation Family Faith Night 6pm
5th February	Year 4-6 Welcome Mass 10am
10th & 11th February	Parent/Teacher Interviews
12th February	Welcome Picnic 3:30pm - 7:00pm (TBC)
17th February	Ash Wednesday Mass Yr.1-6
19th February	School Photos
23rd February	Reconciliation 4D 6.30pm
25th February	Reconciliation 4A 6.30pm
4th & 5th March	School Closure Day
8th March	Labour Day - Public Holiday
13th March 14th March	Eucharist Commitment Mass 6.30pm Eucharist Commitment Mass 10.30am <i>Must attend one if your child is receiving their sacrament</i>
16th March	Eucharist Family Faith Night 6pm
19th March	Athletics Carnival St. Joseph's Feast Day
1st April	Harmony Day & End of Term 1. Finish at 1pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In the classroom, students will continue to take part in daily prayer and meditation. The explicit teaching this term will be based on the RE Curriculum area of 'Church and Community' and will be supported by 'Scripture and Jesus'. Children will explain connections between the family, local parish, the Archdiocese and the papacy. Students will reflect on a sense of belonging to the Church and school community and plan ways to contribute and take action.

Students will have the opportunity to 'take action' through the organisation and execution of Harmony Day.

TOPIC

This term, the children in Year 3 and 4 will be focusing on the Victorian Curriculum humanities area of Civics and Citizenship through the unit, 'Let's Build a Community'. Students will learn how people participate in their community as active citizens and factors that shape a person's identity and sense of belonging. We will be exploring the importance of volunteering and have been able to secure two wonderful guest speakers to talk to our students about their experiences. This topic will integrate beautifully with Religion this year. Students will take action by participating in the St Joseph's Harmony Day at the end of term to raise funds for East Timor.

NUMERACY

In Term 1, students will begin to revise their understanding of Number and Algebra skills, building on their knowledge from Year 3. Students will be provided with many opportunities to explore the below topics, using a range of authentic and open-ended learning experiences:

- Place Value
- Mental Computation
- Addition
- Subtraction

Students will be assessed regularly to inform our teaching and ensure that the learning is based on your child's needs.

LITERACY

Reading in Year 4 will be planned using the Fountas and Pinnell literacy continuum. Students will move from thinking **within** the text, to thinking **beyond** the text and, finally, **about** the text. In each area, there are twelve strategic actions that assist a reader in processing and understanding a text. Students will be explicitly taught each of these strategic actions, along with weekly Guided Reading groups, to target individual learning goals. Students will be grouped based on data collected from the end of 2020, and this will be used to set their personalised goals.



In Writing, students will maintain and strengthen their understanding of Persuasive texts. We will explicitly teach this text type and students will plan, draft, edit, share and publish their work. There will be a particular focus on pencil grip and the correct formation of letters in preparation for cursive writing.

SPELLING

The students in Year 4 will be participating in a spelling program called Spelling Mastery. This complements the spelling approach used in the junior school where we continue to explicitly teach spelling skills. Spelling Mastery builds dependable spelling skills for students through a highly structured direct instruction method that blends the following approaches:

1. Phonemic approach - Helps spellers learn the relationships between spoken sounds and written letters and then apply them to spelling.
2. Morphemic approach - Exposes spellers to prefixes, bases, and suffixes.
3. Whole-word approach - Gives spellers at all levels the meaning and root of a word and shows how the word's spelling is influenced.

Spelling Mastery interweaves these three approaches to teach the spelling skills students need to become proficient readers and writers. Verbal and modeled instruction is provided in

scaffolded steps to help students finish each concept before a new one is presented. Each week students will participate in four Spelling Mastery sessions.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At St. Joseph's we explicitly teach our students social and emotional skills and strategies within our SEL curriculum. The program is designed to address the Personal and Social Capability from the Victorian Curriculum, as well as the 5 SEL competencies of:

- Self-management
- Self-awareness
- Responsible decision making
- Relationship skills
- Social awareness

To complement the teaching of the Personal and Social Curriculum, students will revisit our school rules, create a class motto, investigate cyber safety as well as the 'St Josephs Safety Standards', written by the Student Representative Council. Alongside this, students will engage with the 'Body' domain from the Berry Street Education Model. Where we will explicitly teach the skills of:

- De-escalation
- Being Present, Centred and Grounded
- Self-regulation

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

MUSIC - Erin Absalom

Music in term one will introduce the students to the creation of melody and music using an instrument. Students will play on tuned percussion (a mix of xylophone, bells, marimba and glockenspiel), in order to experience the first 5 notes of the major scale as well as some fundamental rhythmic motifs. They will also experience aurally the combination of melody and harmony, as classes will be accompanied by myself playing a harmonic accompaniment on piano. Upon completion of this term, students should be able to play a song using the first 5 notes of the major scale whilst being accompanied by a piano harmony. They will see development in their fine motor skills, ensemble experience, and duet experience.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Louise Howell

This term, the Year Four children will be focusing on athletics activities in anticipation for our school athletics Carnival on Friday 19th 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. This will be subject to Covid rules & regulations. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding term in Physical Education.

VISUAL ART - Lidia Chris

In Term One, Visual Art is about extending collage and still life drawing skills based on the unit 'Let's Build a Community'. The children will begin with several collage activities based on the important aspects of the school community. They will also sketch a variety of different areas of the school community and conclude the term with an Easter activity.

ITALIAN - Franca Butera-Crea

In Term One students will explore the theme of 'Wellbeing'. They will learn vocabulary and expressions related to healthy food choices and ' Living a healthy life'. Children will also learn vocabulary related to sports/hobbies and recreational activities that contribute to our Wellbeing. They will formulate simple sentences and participate in basic conversations using present tense verbs.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

This year, we prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist for those who are baptised Catholics. As the Sacrament nears, further details will be released. For now, the below dates can be saved:

Wednesday 3rd February 6pm	Reconciliation Family Faith Night
Tuesday 23rd February 6.30pm	4D Reconciliation
Thursday 25th February 6.30pm	4A Reconciliation
Saturday 13th March 6.30pm Sunday 14th March 10.30am	Eucharist Commitment Mass (Students must attend one)
Tuesday 16th March 6pm	Eucharist Family Faith Night
Sunday 6th June 10.30am	4D Eucharist
Sunday 20th June 10.30am	4A Eucharist

CAMP

Between Wednesday the 8th and Friday the 10th of December, we will attend camp at Camp Wyuna, a YMCA adventure camp in Queenscliff. The children will participate in a variety of exciting activities, including mountain bike riding. ***We strongly encourage your child to practise riding a bike (with gears if possible)*** before December, so he or she can make the most of all experiences while away. Watch this space for more details!

DIARY MANAGEMENT AND HOMEWORK

This term, there is a big emphasis on organisational skills and developing independence. Each child has been given a school diary in which they will record key dates and events for the upcoming week. This will be done each week together as a class. The diary will also be used to record their reading each night, and we request that this is signed off each week with a parent signature. Your child's teacher will collect and sign diaries each Monday. We recommend that your child reads for 20 minutes each night to assist in developing their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills. We also encourage that you read with your child, to model the skills of a good reader and for your child to develop an enjoyment for reading.

Students will complete weekly homework that will be due each Monday and returned on a Tuesday. For Term 1, students will complete the following

- Reading 20 minutes (to be recorded in diary)
- Gratitude statement (to be recorded in diary)
- Maths sheet consolidating skills and strategies taught in class (in homework book)

We thank you in advance for your support with this, as we assist students to develop these important life skills, especially going into the senior school next year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Students will be allowed a fruit snack daily at 10am, so please remind your child to pack a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks in their lunchbox.
- St. Joseph's enforces a SunSmart policy, so students without a St. Joseph's hat will sit under the big tree during play time. Please ensure that sunscreen is applied before school.
- Please ensure birthday treats are free from **nuts** as there are allergies to these food items in Year 4. If you would prefer to bake, rather than bring packaged food, that is no problem but please provide an ingredient list.

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

Kassy Dowling and Adriana Aloï