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St Joseph's Primary School

Message From Mrs Reilly...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome all our students and their families back from a well rested holiday to an exciting and fun filled year of learning. A special welcome to all our new students and families. I am looking forward to meeting you all and sharing our hopes and dreams for St. Joseph's.

I would like to welcome back all our staff and especially welcome new staff members Mr Phil Margerison (Religious Education Coordinator and Year 6), Mrs Alison Busuttill (Instructional Coach), Mrs Kathleen McNally (Year One), Ms Emily Follan (Year Two), Mrs Fiona Hill (Music), Ms Vennessa Goode (School Counsellor) Mr Chris Koworowski (Music). An extra special welcome back to Mrs Jeanette Serrao.

The staff and I have already started to get to know one another and together we will work hard, in partnership with you and your children, to make this year of learning both fulfilling and exciting. The Leadership team began this work last week when we attended the System Leaders' Day with all leaders across the Diocese. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to share the hopes and dreams we have for 2017. Mr.Greg Whitby, CEDP Executive Director, challenged us:

"The work of all our schools is to focus on making connections with our learners, our families and our communities. We need to embrace the opportunity of transforming schooling for each child today not tomorrow or next year. It is as Martin Luther King Jr says - the urgency is now."

Over the next few days I will be visiting classrooms to get to know the children. I have heard that they are wonderful learners, display beautiful manners, care about each other and have excellent behaviour. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of them and the gifts that they bring.

As we continue Greg's challenge of transformation I encourage you to join today with us on this journey. It is together that we can transform each and every child at St Joseph's to achieve their very best.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2017,
Mrs Trish Reilly

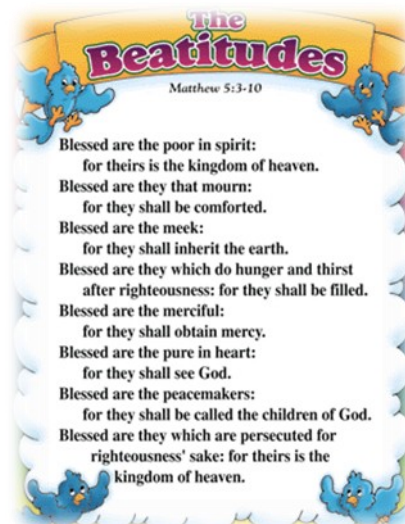


Catholic Culture News

It is very appropriate that at the beginning of the school year, the Sunday Gospel reflects the values and attitudes that we would like all our children to have. We would all like our children to be happy, to be peacemakers, to be just, to be merciful, to be people who readily comfort others. Let us pray that they grow and mature into the loving well rounded human beings that Jesus hoped for when he spoke these words some two thousand years ago.

Dates for Your Diary

13 th Feb	9.15am in the church	Opening School Mass including Installation of Year 6 Leaders and welcome to Kindergarten
28 th Feb	9.15 am COLA	'Burning of Palms' Liturgy to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday
1 st March	9.15 am MPA	Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word



Sacramental Programs

Dates for this year's Sacramental programs, run by the Parish, are as follows:

Reconciliation: Friday 7th April Registration – 5th March after 10am Mass

First Communion: Sunday 18th June Registration – 23rd April after 10am Mass

Confirmation: Tuesday 24th October Registration – 23rd July after 10am Mass

More information is available from the Parish Office and we will keep you updated in future school newsletters.

Phil Margerison

2017 February Census

Friday 10th February 2017

If you know your child/ren will be away on this day please advise the school in writing before this date. If your child/ren is away unexpectedly on this day please ensure you provide a written note explaining their absence on their first day back to school.

Parent Association Annual General Meeting

Our Parent Association AGM will be held at 7pm on Monday 20th February. This is a great opportunity to share with the Principal your ideas of how parents can support the school.

St Joseph's Information Night

Wednesday 15th February 2017

We will be holding an Information Night on Wednesday 15th February commencing at 5.30pm. We welcome all parents and children to attend this evening.

5.30 - Visit to your child's classroom

6.00 - Gather in the MPA for information about the school year

6.45 - Sausage sizzle

MAI Testing

Thank you to all the parents and students for your support with the MAI Testing. It ran very smoothly. Students who have not yet been tested will be tested during class time.

2017 Sport Days

Children are required to wear their sports uniform on their allocated days. Correct sports uniform must be worn along with appropriate shoes. Hats must be worn at all times when outside.

Kinder.....Wednesday and Friday
Year 1.....Wednesday and Thursday
Year 2.....Wednesday and Friday
Year 3Tuesday and Friday
Year 4Tuesday and Friday
Year 5Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6Monday and Friday

Whole School Assemblies

Commencing this week, assemblies will occur on **Friday afternoons**. The new time for assemblies will be **2:15pm** and they will still be held in the MPA. This change of time will ensure that key learning time is being used effectively. We are also hoping that this time will be more convenient for parents who would like to join us as we celebrate the successes of the school week. Looking forward to seeing you this Friday at 2.15.

2017 School Fees

All school fee statements will be posted out by the CEDP within the next couple of weeks. If you have any queries regarding fees please contact Mrs Jenny Pendleton at the school office on 4732 3999.

Student Attendance

Student attendance at school is important and has a significant effect on student learning. In 2016 St. Joseph's students missed **3,789 days of learning**. Absences from school due to illness is totally understandable however, many students are missing school for other reasons. Parents/caregivers are asked to minimise the number of days their children are away as it directly affects the student's learning and social interactions.

We currently have a school attendance level of **73.6%**. Our goal - **90%**.

In order to encourage students to come to school we have put in place the following:

- Infants and Primary Attendance trophy
- Attendance awards for students who attend school regularly
- Class surprises for improved attendance
- Diocesan Attendance Procedures implemented
- Staff directly responsible for analysing the data and supporting parents

If you are having difficulty getting your child to school please contact their classroom teacher who can work with you.

Morning and Afternoon Procedures

Morning procedures

All school gates will be locked until 8.20am when playground supervision begins. Parents dropping children at Joey's in the morning use the intercom at the gate.

When children enter the playground we encourage them to walk quickly to their morning play area where there will be supervision. We ask that **parents leave the playground when the music begins to play** unless they are attending a morning liturgy.

Please show consideration to staff who are on playground duty, need to attend meetings, prepare work for the day and organise resources before school. If parents wish to speak to their child's teacher please organise an appointment through the office. Teachers are happy to speak with you at a time that will not impact on their preparation for learning.

Afternoon procedures

Joey's After school Care: At 3.00pm children going to after school care will assemble where the roll will be called and organised by the after school care personnel.

Children being picked up by parents from the playground:

Children being picked up by parents, family members etc. from the playground can be collected by parents from the undercroft behind the Office. We ask that you remain in that area whilst you are waiting for your child.

Kiss'n'Ride Children being picked up by car

Children who are being picked up by car will sit near the top gate. When they hear their family name called they will then walk to the gate and wait with the teacher who will assist them to enter their car.

Parents are asked not to leave the car in this section to pick up children.

Any parents wishing to join Kiss'n'Ride will need to **display an A4 sign** with your **surname and first names of child/children**. It will need to be **displayed as you approach the front of the line of cars**. This will allow teachers to call your child to the gate and ensure that they are ready to enter the car when you reach the front of the line. 3 witches hats will identify where your child may enter the car. It is important that all parents involved in this service be **attentive to the rules of the road**.

We encourage you to stagger the time you come to collect your child as we are often blocking access to through traffic. Kiss'n'Ride duty commences at 3pm and it finishes at 3.25.

Primary parents - Why don't you come at 3.15?

Children catching a bus

Children being picked up by bus will sit on the seats near the top playground.

Nut Allergies

As you may or may not be aware there are a number of children attending our school who have nut allergies. This means that if these children come in contact with any nut products they will have a severe allergic reaction. We are asking that children refrain from bringing food to school that may contain nuts. (Nutella, Peanut Butter, Muesli bars etc.) We also ask that you remind your child/ren not share their lunch or any other food with another child.

Photo Permission

From time to time photos and/or videos footage of your child will be taken at school and school events. These photos may be used in the school newsletter, diocesan newsletter, brochures, advertising, newspaper, website or publications and video footage. If you do not wish for your child/ren's photos to be taken and published, please advise the school office in writing.

Child Protection

If parents are planning on assisting in the classroom, or on an excursion, they are required to first complete Child Protection Training. The training is undertaken over the internet at <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training> Simply click the training link under "Volunteer" to undertake the training. **This needs to be renewed every 2 years.**

2017 Student Leaders

Congratulations to the following students on becoming St Joseph's 2017 School Leaders!

Holly Bastin

Francesca Pereira

Laura Bowes

Kaitlyn Ross

James

Natalie Sibanda

Jett Hickson

Zeinab Slaibi

2017 Staff List

Leadership Team

Principal – Mrs Patricia Reilly

Assistant Principal – Ms Lisa Howell

Religious Education Coordinator – Mr Philip Margerison

Mrs Alison Busuttill – Instructional Leader

Coordinator 2 - Mrs Cheryl McGannon

Coordinator 1 - Mrs Ashu Aggarwal

Office Manager – Ms Jenny Pendleton

Specialist Teachers

Year 3 / Year 6 Support - Mrs Ashu Aggarwal

Reading Recovery - Miss Louise Grech

Learning Support - Mrs Amy Hoppitt & Mrs Jeanette Serrao

Drama Literacy Teacher - Mr Tim Martin

Music Teacher - Mrs Fiona Hill

Music Teacher - Mr Chris Komorowski

Physical Education Teacher - Mr Moreno Faccin

School Counsellor - Ms Vennessa Goode

Class Teachers

Kindergarten - Mrs Terrie Berg & Mrs Bernadette Purtell

Year One – Miss Brittany Carey & Mrs Kathleen McNally

Year Two – Miss Emily Follan & Mrs Catriona Pennay

Year Three – Mrs Vicki Geraghty

Year Four– Mrs Claire Devine & Miss Jana Webb

Year Five – Mrs Cheryl McGannon & Miss Gabrielle Whitney

Year Six – Mr Philip Margerison / Mr Moreno Faccin

School Support Staff

School Support Officer - Mrs Marie Brogan

School Support Officer - Mrs Karen Sprycha

Library Technician - Mrs Jeniffer Peto

Maintenance - Mr Stephen Crye

Dates for your Diary

<u>Week 2</u>	Thursday 2nd February	Kindergarten 2017 Best Start Assessments
	Friday 3rd February	Kindergarten 2017 Best Start Assessments 2:15pm Whole School Assembly
<u>Week 3</u>	Monday 6th February	Kindergarten 2017 start school
	Friday 10th February	Census 2:15pm Whole School Assembly
<u>Week 4</u>	Monday 13th February	9:15am Opening School Mass
	Wednesday 15th February	5:30pm Parent Information Evening
	Friday 17th February	2:15 Whole School Assembly

Parent Association AGM Agenda St Joseph's Primary Kingswood

Monday 20th February 2017
Meeting Start 7:00PM

Subject	Issues/ Comments/ Discussion
Acknowledgement of Country	Reading of acknowledgement of country.
Prayer	Reading of Prayer
Meeting to Order	Call meeting to order.
Confirm previous minutes	Confirm previous minutes 07/11/16
Principal's Report	Report from principle on issues to date.
Business Arising	Discuss issues from previous minutes.
None	All items closed
New Business	New issues raised since last meeting.
New Committee Members	All Committee positions are open for 2017. Voting for new Committee to be conducted.
Events for 2017	To discuss events for 2017 and schedule as required.
Close of Meeting	Meeting to close by 8:30pm

