Welcome to Prep 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A warm welcome is extended to all families as we begin Term 1 in 2017 at St Joseph’s School. The Preps are beginning to settle and learn the school rules and routines. A big thank you for your support during this important time for your child. This can be an exciting and challenging time for everyone. Please be assured that we are here to support you. If you are concerned in any way do not hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher.

Literacy and Numeracy interviews are being held with your child on 4 Wednesdays (you need to sign up for one Wednesday for Literacy and one Wednesday for Numeracy). This interview will take approximately 15 minutes and you are welcome to have a coffee in the staffroom while you wait. During the term we will be using information gathered from the interviews to assist us with teaching the children.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - Monday 20th February 7pm - 8pm

Covering:
- settling in/questions
- routines
- homework
  ➢ coloured words, readers, reading journal

IMPORTANT DATES:

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<th>Date</th>
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| Friday 17th February | Welcome Family BBQ  
(The classrooms will be open from 5:00-6.00pm for your child to show you around). |
| Monday 20th February | School Photos  
(Children need to be in clean, correct school uniform). |
| Tuesday 28th February | Shrove Tuesday  
Free Parent Night at St Joseph’s 7-8.30pm by Georgina Manning "5 Secrets" to develop confidence & resilience using Mindfulness. Booking https://goo.gl/forms/lxM0ExZmRWvV8k2N2 |
| Wednesday 1st March | Ash Wednesday |
| Monday 6th March | PREPS AT SCHOOL FULL TIME |
| Tuesday 7th March | P-2 Mass |
| Tuesday 7th March or Wednesday 8th March | Family Conferences  
(This is a time for us to meet with you and discuss your child’s progress and how we can support you in their ongoing learning). |
| Wednesday 8th March | Teddy Bear’s Picnic with their 5/6 buddies  
(Children need to bring a teddy bear) |
| Friday 10th March | School closure |
| Friday 17th March | Feast of St Joseph Mass P-6 9.15am |
| Friday 17th March | Kidsmatter Fun Day 2.30 Leadership Assembly |
| Friday 24th March | Prep assembly  
(Whole school assemblies are held most Fridays at 2.30pm. This is a very important time for all children at St. Joseph’s, as this is where we celebrate learning through class performances and individual You Can Do It awards. Parents are always welcome to attend. |
| Saturday 25th March | Prep Family Mass |
**Literacy**

Term 1 will see us learning many new and interesting things. During our literacy block we will be developing the children’s understanding of written text. This includes the front cover, title, direction in which we read, spaces, pointing to the words and the difference between words and letters. We will also be focusing on naming letters of the alphabet and their sounds as well as learning how to write them.

Each day the children are involved in writing activities. A key skill that we will focus on in Term 1 will be holding their pencil correctly and sitting with the right posture. They will learn how to write their name correctly using a capital followed by small letters e.g. Sarah. We will be learning how to write High Frequency Words such as the, he, she, went.

**Literacy Helpers** will not be required until Term 2. During Term 1 a parent helper’s course will be held to give you strategies and guidance as a helper in the classroom. All adults working with children are required to have a Working with Children Check and complete the Child Safety requirements sent home at the start of the year.

**NUMERACY**

Term 1 will include learning experiences that consist of how to count objects, sequence numbers and writing numbers to 10. They will learn counting objects using 1:1 correspondence (one at a time).

We will begin Mathematics Groups where the students will focus on their Number skills using hands-on activities, iPads and working in small groups with the teacher.

Students will copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

During Religious Education your child will learn about prayer as talking to and listening to God. Each day begins with a short Meditation (approx 1-2 minutes). Lessons will centre around prayer, including making the sign of the cross and being reverent during prayer and at Mass.

During the term, as part of a developing understanding of Lent and Holy Week, the children will be introduced to the stories of the Good Shepherd, the Lost Sheep and The Last Supper. These stories and themes are explored more fully in the following years of school.

Throughout the year there will be several Junior and whole school Masses. We always love to see as many families as possible at these Masses. Details of these Masses are always in the school newsletter.
INQUIRY

This term your child will learning about ‘Rules and Responsibilities’ so that we can work and play together in safety.

Key understandings:

● rules are there to keep us safe, happy and to help us learn
● rules affect all aspects of our lives
● good rules help us work out what is right and fair
● there are different kinds of rules for different situations
● rules only work if co-operate together
● consequences happen if poor choices are made

This term we will also investigate ‘Minibeasts’.

Key understandings:

● minibeasts are living things that breathe, think, eat, produce young, need water, grow, change and produce waste
● minibeasts have certain features that suit their habitat and help them survive
● minibeasts change and develop over a period of time
● minibeasts are an important part of the environment
● people can do things to help protect mini-beasts and their environment

We will take the students into the school garden to plant, learn about taking care of the garden and the chickens, weeding, watering and use the eggs and garden to cook.

YOU CAN DO IT

At St Joseph’s we are part of a You Can Do It program which aims at building self esteem and giving children the keys to being successful. There are five foundations, which are Confidence, Persistence, Getting Along, Organisation and Resilience which underpins all the foundations. Throughout the year the Preps will be introduced to these foundations and will be encouraged to put them into practise. The program lets children know that it is ok to make mistakes, that we should have a ‘never give up’ and ‘work tough’ attitude to be successful.

In Term 1 we will be introducing the program through puppets and songs. The characters in the YCDI program are Ricky Resilience, Gabby Get Along, Oscar Organization, Connie Confidence and Pete Persistence.

STAR OF THE WEEK

In the week starting Week 4, Monday the 20th of February, we will be beginning the ‘Star of the Week’ award. We will be choosing 2 students randomly from each class per week. They will be known as the ‘Stars of the Week’.

The ‘Stars of the Week’ will be our line leaders and will wear a special badge for the week.
The Stars of the Week also needs to bring an ‘All About Me’ box to school. This box could be a shoe box or a special box that you can decorate and have 5 special items in it. These items may include: a photo of their family, a favourite toy, a favourite game or a hobby item (eg ballet shoes, footy boots etc) which they will present and share with the class. It may benefit your child to practise presenting their items at home to assist them with their confidence and ideas before bringing their box to school.

Teachers will let parents know on the Friday so parents have the weekend to work with children to put their box of goodies together to bring to school on Monday morning. All items must fit inside the box so as to remain safe and secure. If your child wishes to share an item of particular importance or value, please consult the teacher. You child’s ‘All About Me’ box will remain with the teacher and will not be allowed to be taken outside onto the playground. The box will be needed for the week as children will share one item each day.

These ‘All About Me’ box presentations will help the students gain confidence in speaking in front of the class. These presentations help the teachers and other students in the class get to know this student.

We look forward to these presentations. We thank you so much for your cooperation.

**PHYSICAL Education**

Welcome to the exciting and fun filled sporting life at St Joseph’s. We begin the year with an extremely busy schedule. This term the Prep program will focus on preparing the children for the Athletics Carnival which will be held towards the end of the term. In the lead up to this big event the children will learn some minor games as well as practicing;

- Responding to the whistle
- Sprinting ( running in a straight line )
- Passing the Baton
- Long Jump
- Throwing events
- A Novelty event

The children will also be getting their first taste of Gymnastics. This unit focuses on Gymnastics skills and the children have a lot of fun with cartwheels, forward rolls, beam and mini tramp work.

The emphasis of the PE Program is on, ‘having a go, doing my best and having FUN’.

A reminder that on their PE and Gymnastics days, the children need to wear their sports uniform, runners and school hat as well as applying some sunscreen. Marina Coletti

**PERFORMING ARTS**

In Term 1 the students will be exploring Media Arts through trailer and film making using the ipads, imovie and other apps to support the project. Each week the students will present a specific piece of information about themselves that will be filmed and eventually made into their own Imovie. At times the filming will be done by the teacher and at other times the children will film each other. Liz Bolch
SPECIALIST DAYS

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<tr>
<th>Gym4Hire/Class Sport (Sports uniform)</th>
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<td>Physical Education (Sports uniform)</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Ms Coletti</td>
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<td>Performing Arts</td>
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<td>Mrs Bolch</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Ms Lazzaro</td>
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All Preps wear their sports uniform on Thursday and Friday.

HOMEWORK

Term 1 Homework for Preps consists of:

*Reading: From Week 6. Each student will bring home a reader each night to read with an adult. They can make predictions using the pictures, point to the words, and locate the sounds/letters we are learning. Reading is to be recorded in the reading journal which, with their reader, will live in their blue pouch and return to school EACH DAY. Journals will be checked regularly by the teachers. Our expectation is a minimum of 5 nights reading each week.

*Coloured Words: From Week 6. Each student will bring home a coloured list of high frequency words. When your child is fluent with all the words in the list (OUT OF ORDER) they receive a certificate and are given a new list of words to learn. Parental support is vital as the children benefit from daily practice, praise and encouragement. Please remember all children learn at different rates and succeed at different times.

Any experiences you can share with your Prep will help them develop their knowledge:

- turn-taking playing a game
- counting items in the shopping trolley
- recognising letters and numbers in their everyday world
- reading a story
- chatting about their school day

PARENTS

We love our parents at St Joseph’s and we especially love the special skills and talents they can bring to our school! If any parents can share their expertise with us we would love to hear from you! It could be a regular job such as classroom helpers or a stand-alone visit with your ambulance… for example.

Buddies

During the year the Prep children will have many fun and exciting opportunities to spend time with their Grade 5/6 buddies. We have already planned a Teddy Bear’s Picnic for this term and we will have other opportunities to play outside and share in reading, writing and craft activities.

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OTHER NEWS...

School begins each morning at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. Thank you for the great start to the school year, especially for settling and dropping off your child quickly so we can begin the day immediately. If you are late please go to the office to collect a late pass as your child may have been marked absent on the class roll and it will be updated at the office.

Corridor doors will be open from 8.30am, please note that some mornings teachers have before school meetings that may run over 8.30am. We appreciate your patience.

You are asked to supervise your child on the playground until 8.30am when staff will commence yard duty.

Hats **MUST** be worn outside until May 1st. Children need to wear their hat to and from school each day. Please remember to name your child’s hat. If children do not bring their hat to school they will need to play in the Woodbine playground which is shaded.

Library bags need to be brought to school on the day your child has Library (FRIDAY).

Your child needs to bring a named water bottle every day. Each Prep class stops during the morning for a short fruit break. Please make sure your child brings **one piece** of fresh fruit or vegetable sticks each day to eat during this time. Items such as muesli bars, commercial fruit sticks and fruit cups should be kept for recess time. **Children are not given long to eat this fruit, so often cut up pieces of apple, carrot etc are easier for them to eat than whole fruit.**

If your child has notes to return please remind them of this when you drop them off. **Allow them to bring the note into the teacher in the morning, as this will help them establish responsibilities that come with school. Notes **MUST** be returned to the classroom teacher and **NOT** the office.**

To promote independence, please encourage your child to carry their own belongings inside the classroom and place them into their named tubs themselves. Please remember, if your child is upset the quicker you leave the quicker he/she will be able to be calm, focused and enjoy the day. You may ring the office if you are concerned and the office staff will check on your child and let you know how they are settling.

Please check the weekly School Newsletter for important information and news about upcoming events. You may also download the St Joseph’s app to receive notifications and reminders (very helpful on casual clothes or dress up days!).

We look forward to working with you this term,

The Prep Teachers,

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