Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to all our Year 1/2 families for 2017. The students are well rested and are eagerly looking forward to the year of learning ahead. We are so pleased with the positive and happy attitude shown by all the students and already new friendships are forming. As the Year 1 students transition from Prep, they are keen to show greater independence. The teachers have suggested that you and your child/children agree on a meeting point on the playground for pick up at the end of the school day. This will also alleviate congestion in the upstairs landing. In the mornings the doors will open at 8:30. Please encourage your child to come up the stairs and unpack their bag on their own. Thank you for your efforts in preparing your child for the school year and organising them so beautifully.

Open classrooms
We look forward to seeing you at the traditional Opening of the Year BBQ on Friday 17th February. We are excited to show you our new learning spaces with classrooms being open from 5-6pm. You are warmly welcome to come and visit and view all the wonderful learning, photographs and displays so far this year. Following this will be a BBQ in our lovely garden area.

Named belongings
Thank you to all the parents who have labelled their child's pencil cases, clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and other belongings. This has assisted in a smooth beginning to the year.
A drink bottle is essential in this warm weather, so please ensure your child brings this daily.
All children will need to wear their sports uniform for Physical Education sessions as well as Gymnastics this term. Please take a moment to double check that all articles are clearly named - especially hats. As the students are required to remove their shoes for gymnastics, extra home practise tying laces would be greatly appreciated. A list of specialist days is included at the end of this newsletter.

Care Monkey
The health and safety of our students is of paramount importance to us, as a result we have adopted the CareMonkey system. We will be using CareMonkey in the best interest of the children whilst also reducing the burden on parents to fill out the same information on multiple forms throughout the year. CareMonkey offers the school and families Security, Up to Date Information, mobile access, electronic permission forms, multi use care profile for families. So when you receive an email or need to update your child’s medical details or contact information you can log on to care monkey. Contact the office for any queries.

For further information go to: https://www.caremonkey.com

Helping out in the classroom
Classroom helpers play a vital role in the junior school. Small group work runs so much smoother with the support of parents who are able to give their time to assist in the classroom. So far this term, we have been getting to know our students, building rapport and establishing routines and we anticipate parental assistance during our Literacy Blocks, to commence in Week 6. Please make sure you have completed the new Child safety requirements sent home at the start of the year.
Thank you to those parents who have already indicated they can assist with classroom programs. During Week 3 a helper’s roster for each class will be displayed outside the classrooms with a timetable.
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requesting volunteers. Literacy Block Helpers are a priority to assist with the smooth running of our programs. A Working With Children’ Check (WWCC) is required as well as completing the new child safety requirements distributed at the start of the year. If you are not a trained Literacy Helper, you will need to attend the Literacy Helper’s Training Course this term.

Some class teachers may organise for additional assistance with Mathematics, Art or ICT so please look out for the individual class rosters and discuss these points with your child’s class teachers.

Sign Up Sheets will be posted downstairs during Week 3.

What is happening in the Classroom Reading Program:

This term the students will be learning about and choosing ‘good fit’ books using the acronym IPICK: ‘Good fit’ books help in the development of your child’s confidence and fluency when reading aloud and further consolidate their comprehension while they practise using the strategies taught in the class reading program. The children will be taught reading strategies that successful readers use, from the CAFÉ framework and acronym, covering Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary. The children will be challenged at school with more difficult texts, during reading instruction, with the support of their classroom teachers.

The IPICK method is also used in choosing Library books to bring home, and in Reading to Self sessions in the classroom as part of the Daily Five Structure. Take Home books, Reading Journals and a bookmark highlighting useful reading strategies and the IPICK method, will go home in the children’s blue folders. This will be organised during Week 4 of Term 1. A note will accompany the books which will give further details of the Year 1/2 Home Reading Program.

How you can support your child at home

Learning to read is a major focus of the junior school. Supporting your child with nightly home reading will greatly help their reading development. Homework for Term 1 is for the children to read their Take Home Books nightly and for parents to fill in and sign the child’s reading journal. Please ensure the reading journal is brought to school every day. Home reading should be a pleasurable experience for the child and parent.

After the completion of Literacy testing, the teachers will organise for each child to bring home a Reading Journal and carefully chosen texts for your child to read with ease. In order for children to become strong readers they need to experience success through reading easy and familiar texts. By doing this they are able to hear themselves read in a phrased and fluent manner, where there may be only a few challenging words. Reading Fluency is a requirement for comprehension.

Easy and familiar books allow the reader to improve the speed and quality of the processing, integrating the information from all the different cues that the text provides. Readers are able to reinforce their knowledge of high frequency words, which are repeated in many different books. Children who enjoy reading want to read more!
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Homework
Students will begin take home reading in Week 4. In addition to the Home Reading Program, spelling homework will be organised for Term 2. Later this term students will bring home a Personal Writing Journal with instructions and details about how to decorate the covers to make it a very special writing journal to be used at school to further develop a love of writing. More details to follow.

NEW RESOURCE: In the upstairs corridor, there are two new tubs of Literacy and Numeracy laminated activities available for families to borrow if you would like to do so some extra practice at home. Working on the honour system, please just return the activities after a few weeks for others to borrow.

Numeracy
During term one, students will be focusing on skip counting forwards and backwards by twos, fives and tens starting from various numbers. There is a strong emphasis on understanding place value and making and recording numbers. Students will also be investigating money and addition. Finally we will finish the term with Chance and Probability work. In the junior school part of every session is mental computation. We begin the year with addition strategies, below is a summary of the sequence in which these strategies will be introduced. For the grade two students this is a valuable opportunity to consolidate prior learning and to be extended by using larger numbers.

Addition strategies:
1. Start at the biggest number - Start at the biggest number and count on.
2. Spin Arounds – If you spin around these equations you get the same answer. Eg. 5+3=8 and 3+5=8
3. Counting on 0,1,2,3, - You can use your fingers to count on 0,1,2,3.
4. Tens Facts – Equations that add to 10
5. Bridging to the nearest Ten
6. Doubles – We need to learn the doubles facts to 20
7. Place Value (adding Ten) When we add ten we keep the same number in the ones place value column.
8. Near Doubles If we remember the doubles, we can work out these sums.
   6+7= Think…. 6+6=12 12 plus 1 more

Most children are highly engaged when using an IPAD, so if you have one try Little Monkey Apps for some maths activities. They are available to download through the App store on iTunes.
For more information visit http://www.littlemonkeyapps.com/

Religion
Throughout the school, all students will participate in daily Christian Meditation starting at 8.45 am. Please ensure your child is on time for school each day and that the bag area is kept quiet in the morning. Late comers can disturb our prayerful reverence.

We would love to see as many families as possible at our level and school Masses each term. All children are encouraged to be respectful in prayerful situations and liturgies. Parents can reinforce this when they attend Mass with their children.

This term we will be looking at two units of work in Religious Education.

In Love One Another students explore a Christian way of relating to others. They learn about the story of the Ten Lepers and the teaching on how many times to forgive in order to explore the place of forgiveness, reconciliation, love and gratitude in relationships.

In the unit Journey Towards the Cross students explore Lent as a time of growth, change and service. They explore The Last Supper and Jesus Christ’s journey to the Cross in Holy Week.
Inquiry: Biological Science - Schoolyard Safari
This term our first unit of work is entitled 'Schoolyard Safari'. We will be learning about small animals and their habitat. We will explore bugs and minibeasts that may be found in and around our school, and in our own backyards. Don't be surprised if some students spend time exploring in your yard and bring bugs inside to visit! Just make sure that after some observation time that living creatures are returned to the native environment.

You Can Do It
This term we will be focusing on the key Getting Along. Getting Along involves supporting each other when learning and resolving conflict when working together.
Examples of getting along behaviours are:
• Being helpful when working in a group.
• Listening and not interrupting in class when someone else is talking.
• Sharing materials.
• Talking rather than fighting when someone acts unfairly.
• Following school rules.
• Treating teachers and other students with respect.

Specialist Timetable for Term 1

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*** Please wear sport uniform on sport and gymnastic days***

P/E
Welcome back to the Year 1/2 students. This year will once again be filled with lots of fun games and activities. One of the highlights of Term 1 is the Athletics Carnival to be held later this term. The Year1/2 classes will be busy preparing for the;
- Running
- Throwing
- Jumping and
- Novelty event and we look forward to seeing you at the Carnival.
The children will also be doing Gymnastics and they are very excited to be revisiting activities such as cartwheels, tumbles and mini trampoline skills.
As always the emphasis of the PE program is on participation, having a go being a good sport and having FUN. A reminder that the children need to wear their hat, sports uniform and suitable runners each PE and Gymnastics lesson. Marina Coletti
Benvenuti (welcome) to an exciting year in Italian. During this term the grade one and two children will be learning a prayer, greetings, class rules, the alphabet, and some basic questions and answers such as; My name is..., How are you? Etc... in Italian. The grade one and two children will be learning different expressions in Italian such as: I am well, thank you. I’m not bad. Etc. The grade one and two children will also be learning vocabulary related to the topic of Easter. I look forward to getting to know your children and helping them develop a passion for all things Italian! Signora Maria Morina.

Performing Arts
In Term 1 the students will be exploring Media Arts through film making using the ipads, imovie and other apps to support the project. Each student will present a hardcopy storyboard with pictures or written notes. The storyboard will include specific information set by the teacher with a few opportunities for students to add their own information about themselves. They will then use the planning on their storyboard to film slides and complete their imovie. Liz Bolch

Visual Arts
In term one the students will be exploring both cool and warm colours from The Spectrum. We shall be working on a variety of media including oil pastels and tempera paints. Students will be looking at line work as a form of communication. We will also be recreating a variety of animals in our school yard safari projects. Later in the term we will look at the beautiful floral work of Australian Artist Margaret Olley. Caroline Egan.
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Calendar

**February**
- Wednesday 8th
- Friday 17th
- Monday 20th
- Tuesday 28th

- Closure for 1 / 2’s due to Literacy Testing
- Welcome BBQ Rooms open from 5 - 6pm
- School Photos
- 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/IxM0ExZmRWvv8k2N2](https://goo.gl/forms/IxM0ExZmRWvv8k2N2)

**March**
- Wednesday 1st
- Friday 3rd
- Tuesday 7th
- Tuesday 7th
- Wednesday 8th
- Friday 10th
- Monday 13th
- Friday 17th
- Saturday 25th
- Friday 31st

- Ash Wednesday
- 1/2 Assembly
- Mass @ 9:15 for 1/2’s
- Family Conferences
- Family Conferences
- SCHOOL CLOSURE
- LABOUR DAY – SCHOOL CLOSURE
- St Joseph’s Day Mass @ 9:15
- Mass for P - 2 @ 6pm
- End of Term One @ 1pm