Welcome back! We hope you have had a great holiday. We have started the year with some engaging team building activities and hopefully this has given students an opportunity to become familiar with their learning environment and establish some new friendships. We have been implementing some new ‘Mindfulness’ meditation practices. This year the focus is on feedback and the students seeing themselves as learners with the teachers to support them in setting their learning goals. The aim is for the students to take ‘ownership’ of their learning.

HOMEWORK:
Reading is the main focus of homework for Term One with written homework to commence about Week Six. Children are expected to be reading 15-20 minutes each night - 5 minutes of that time MUST be OUT LOUD to a proficient reader (adult or older child) in order to work on their fluency and practice new vocabulary. The name of the book that was read needs to be recorded in the diary and signed by a parent. Diaries will be checked regularly by the teachers.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Term 1 units are Forgiving and Healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Lent and Easter as a journey of Christian Hope. Students are invited to write their own prayers of forgiveness and healing and to express their new learnings in a display for the school.
Throughout the second unit students will create a prayer place of symbols, objects, texts and prayers that take them through their journey from Lent to Easter.
We also encourage parents with children making their First Reconciliation to follow the requirements regarding information meetings and masses for this Sacrament. All parents and caregivers are always welcome to all class and school celebrations of the Eucharist to support our young people in their faith journey.

ENGLISH: Reading and Viewing
We will continue to use the CAFE Framework in the Middle School during our literacy sessions. As you are already aware, CAFE is an acronym for Comprehension (3 levels: Literal, Inferential and Evaluative), Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary. It is a framework which explicitly teaches reading strategies and good reading behaviours. Goal setting is a major component of the CAFE program as is documenting learning and growth in reading.
We encourage our students to continue to choose Take home readers and Library books that are “Good Fit”. The students have been learning that to become a better reader they need to read Good Fit books and are becoming familiar with choosing a book that is a Good Fit for them, using the acronym IPICK. Students use the IPICK method to assist them in the choosing Library books, take home readers and books to read during class time (Read to Self / Read to Someone).

ENGLISH: Writing
Similarly to CAFE in reading, we are using a writing framework, V.O.I.C.E.S. This acronym, represents a set of writing traits that proficient writers use: Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent word choice and Sentence fluency. We use this framework to support students on their journey to becoming successful writers. The framework is built up using the writing success criteria developed by teachers and students in meeting the Learning Intention of each writing task over the term. Developing spelling strategies and knowledge of basic grammar rules will be part of our program while students revise and proofread their work as part of the writing process.

ENGLISH: Speaking and listening
Throughout the school day the students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of discussions and activities that allow them to enhance their language skills and be active listeners. We teach them listening protocols and encourage them to communicate their thinking and learning.

MATHS: Over the course of the first term our main focus in mathematics is Number, we will be looking at counting, place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication strategies; including forwards and backwards counting to 1000 and beyond, bridging and partitioning numbers. We will be exploring mathematical vocabulary and students will be
learning about the difference between digits and numbers and applying values using a place value chart. We will also explore problem solving using a variety of strategies to assist us in solving worded problems.

**Hints for home:** take the opportunity to practise ‘real life’ maths at home eg: reading the time and timetables, measuring with metric units, counting money and calculating change, playing card games to improve mental strategies, encourage your child to count and use numbers. Help to foster in them, a love of Maths.

**INQUIRY:** This term we are inquiring into Civics and Citizenship, looking at rules and responsibilities that influence us. We will also be reflecting on our stewardship of the earth and our role in caring for our garden and the wider environment. How we act and the actions that we take are important and do impact on the environment. We can start with small contributions, such as maintaining a ‘rubbish-free’ lunch box!

**Specialist: ITALIAN**

Benvenuti (welcome) to an exciting year in Italian. During this term the year three and four children will be learning a prayer, greetings, class rules, the alphabet, some basic questions and answers such as; My name is....., How are you? Etc... in Italian. The year three and four children will be learning the days of the week, vocabulary and phrases 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! Grazie (Thank you), Signora Maria Morina.

**Specialist: PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Wow, this term starts with a bang! On Monday 13th February we have our Swimming Carnival at Mentone Grammar pool, Crn Lucerne Street and Como Pde West, Mentone. The children are very excited and keen to jump in the water and do their best for their team. We hope to see many of you on the day to watch your talented children!!

The hectic pace continues as we also prepare for the Athletics Carnival to be held later in the term. The children will spend their PE lessons revising; running, throwing, jumping and novelty events.

To make life even more exciting, we are also including Gymnastics on the agenda. The children are always enthusiastic about this unit and they are really keen to experience the next level of cartwheel, beam and mini tramp work.

The focus is as always on having a go, doing your best and having fun whilst being a good sport. Children are reminded that they need to wear the correct sports uniform and suitable runners on PE and Gymnastics days. Marina Coletti

**Specialist: 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 must complete an imovie about themselves. Each student will present a hardcopy storyboard with pictures or written notes. The storyboard needs to consist of the information the students would like to include in their imovie. They will then use the planning on their storyboard to film slides and complete their imovie. Liz Bolch

**Upcoming important dates:**

February

10th Social Activity and sausage sizzle @ Bicentennial Park 11:30-1:00pm

Mass for Opening of School Year

11th Saturday Reconciliation Mass 6pm

12th Sunday Reconciliation Mass 9.30am and 11am

13th Swimming Carnival

20th School Photos

21st 3/4 Mass 9:15am

23rd Reconciliation Information Night No 2 7:00pm

25th Saturday Reconciliation Mass 6pm

26th Sunday Reconciliation Mass 9.30am and 11am

24th District Swimming

28th 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
March

1st Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15am
3rd Working Bee
7th Family Conferences
8th Family Conferences
9th Reconciliation Information Night No 3       7:00pm
10th School Closure Day
11th Saturday Reconciliation Mass 6pm
12th Sunday Reconciliation Mass 9.30am and 11am
10th School Closure Day
13th Labor Day Holiday
17th Whole School Mass 9:15am/Ride to School Day
21st Reconciliation Year 4-6
22nd Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation- 10am & 5pm
30th School Athletic Sports - Edithvale Athletics Track
31st End of Term 1:00pm

Grade 3/4 Specialist Timetable Term 1

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<td>Performing Arts</td>
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*Sports uniform is required for both days (Phys Ed and Gymnastics)

In the event you need to communicate with teachers our email addresses are as follows. Please keep in mind we are teaching during the day and an immediate response is not always possible.

If the message is urgent it can be sent through the office.

Maurice Azzolini <mazzolini@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>  
Jodie Lucas <jlucas@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>  
Rochelle Morey <rmorey@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>  
Adele Hogan <ahogan@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>  
Kerry Corney <kcorney@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>  
Kate Cronin <kcronin@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au>

We look forward to a busy and exciting term!
Regards,
The 3/4 Team