Dear Families,

A warm welcome to all our new families joining St Joseph’s Primary School for the first time. Welcome back to existing families as well. 2017 promises to be a great year of learning. Staff have been preparing over the holidays for the year ahead and have lots of great things organised.

We, as a staff are working hard to help make the children see themselves as strong independent learners taking control of their learning. To allow this to happen we need all children at school on time. If you are late we will be encouraging the children to make their way to class independently.

We welcome Caroline Egan to our staff who will be working with all classes throughout the year teaching Visual Arts on a Monday. In term 1 Caroline will be working with the year 1/2 students.

Yesterday the staff spent the day working with Georgina Manning on Mindfulness. You will hopefully hear lots more about it during the year.
Today a lot of information will come home either in hard copy or electronically. Please read and complete where required. The volunteer/helper form is a new Child Safety requirement. Please make sure you read and complete the relevant sections and return the Code of Conduct form signed. You need to have a Working with Children Card, complete the online application form and return a signed code of conduct.

**Information Notices attached with the newsletter today**
Yr 1/2 Families only
Welcome BBQ
Anaphylaxis
PE & Gymnastics for Term 1 2017

**Information Notices coming home with your child today**
Prep Assessment Interviews (Prep only)
Prep Information for Parents 2017 (Prep only)
Photograph Permission Form/Standard Collection Notice (Sign & Return)
Student Information Sheet (Complete and return ASAP)
Acceptable Use Policy (Sign & Return)
Volunteer Letter & Forms (Read, complete & return Code of Conduct signed)

We hope we can all work together to create an open and caring environment, where parents and staff are of one mind to encourage all students to practice positive school habits.

If parents are involved and become committed to school decisions, student achievement will improve and student behaviour will be cooperative; this will lead to the enjoyment of high quality education. Teachers are professionals with training and experience and their conduct is guided by professional codes of conduct. Parents know their children better than anyone and when shared, this knowledge can be an invaluable resource in the progress of children’s education.

It is important that parents and teachers have good communication opportunities. Productive communication is about speaking and listening actively and respectfully and about not making assumptions or having minds made up before conversation has commenced.

Conversation is not simply an exchange of words but about listening and hearing. If problems arise, they do not have to be stumbling blocks; they can be opportunities to work together to find positive and creative solutions – solutions that will benefit children.

We hope that throughout the year, our community will come together to participate in and volunteer at a variety of school functions, activities and events, including celebrations of our Catholic faith. In this way relationships are formed and positive attitudes developed that give positive input to our children. It is said that a child’s life is like a piece of paper, on which every person leaves a mark. Hopefully, all marks left during the year will be indicative of respect, care and encouragement.

Central to the very existence of our school is the integration of faith and culture transmitted in the various subjects that comprise the curriculum. In this way we hope that our students will learn how to follow Christ within Australian culture. We invite all parents to feel welcome, comfortable and free to contribute to the cultural context of our school community.

“Lord, as we come together to form our school community for this year,
Empower us to be generous, confirming and obliging.
May the gifts of Your Spirit be alive and practised in every aspect of our school life, as we live it together.
Amen.”

**Yr 1/2 Students**
Next Wednesday 8th February there will be no school for the Yr1/2 students. This is to enable the staff to do some assessments of some of the children. Please see the letter attached.

**Helpers required**
If you can help with the following please let the office know. We would be very grateful if you could spare some time.
- Fruit Box Collection and distribution in bowls– Collected and distributed each Monday morning.
- Breakfast Club Bread pick up – 2 loaves collected from Baker’s Delight Patterson Lakes each night.
- Scholastic book club distribution of books to each child who orders (This is done twice per term)

**Yr 3 Reconciliation Sacramental Programme**
Preparation for the commencement of Year 3 will commence on Thursday 9th February. Information and permission will come home via caremonkey this week.
Canteen News
The canteen will open in the second week of term 1 next year. It will not operate at all on Thursday of Friday in the first week.

School Fees
School fee statements will be sent to all families next week.

Caremonkey
Please make sure all your child’s details are up to date.

Peace and Best Wishes
Gavan O’Donnell
Principal.

Term Dates 2017

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<td>18th April – Friday 30th June</td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Wednesday 1st February 2017**
  - All Students return Yr 1 – 6 full day, Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
- **Thursday 2nd February**
  - Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
- **Friday 3rd February**
  - Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
- **Tuesday 7th February**
  - Gym4Hire Commences Yr 5/6 students
- **Wednesday 8th February**
  - NO Preps and NO Yr 1/2 Students, Gym4Hire Yr 3/4 students
- **Thursday 9th February**
  - Reconciliation Session 1 begins at 7pm in the Library Year 3 Parents
- **Friday 10th February**
  - Opening Year Mass @ 9.15am
- **Monday 13th February**
  - Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival
- **Tuesday 14th February**
  - 9.15am Mass Yr 5/6, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4, Parent Education Board 7pm
- **Wednesday 15th February**
  - Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, NO Preps
- **Thursday 16th February**
  - Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
- **Friday 17th February**
  - Welcome BBQ 5.00-8.00pm
- **Monday 20th February**
  - School photos
- **Tuesday 21st February**
  - Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, 9.15am Yr 3/4 Mass
- **Wednesday 22nd February**
  - NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
- **Thursday 23rd February**
  - Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2, Reconciliation Session 2 @ 7pm in Library
- **Friday 24th February**
  - District Swimming
- **Tuesday 28th February**
  - Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, Shrove Tuesday
- **Wednesday 1st March**
  - 9.15am Mass Ash Wednesday, NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
- **Thursday 2nd March**
  - Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
- **Friday 3rd March**
  - District Swimming, Working Bee 4.30pm
- **Tuesday 7th March**
  - Family Conferences
- **Wednesday 8th March**
  - Family Conferences
- **Friday 10th March**
  - **SCHOOL CLOSURE**
- **Monday 13th March**
  - Labour Day Holiday