



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I formally **welcome** all students, parents and staff back on board for what I am sure will be a rewarding 2017. I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas, school holidays and were able to spend plenty of quality time together with family and friends.

We extend a very special welcome to the Preps and new students as they begin their year along with their families, and also to our new staff members. These are listed below:

**Preps:** Sophia Camera, Miley Markham, Samantha Johnson-Kennedy, Ethan Manno, Lilly Radford, Mia Roddy and Aydin Yazici and in **Year One:** Elijah Amos



**New Staff:** Felicity Rix (Pastoral Care Worker - Mon-Fri 12.30pm-3.45pm), Sharon Needham (Library Technician - Tuesday) and Julie Graham (Risk and Compliance Officer - employed full time between the four Catholic primary schools.)

We hope everyone enjoys their time being part of the St Joseph's community.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our **Beginning of the Year Mass/Classroom Visits and BBQ** from 5pm-8pm this Friday. Further details are outlined later in the newsletter.

Tomorrow our Grade 5/6 will have speeches and voting for our 2017 **house captains** for the **2017 school year**. Good luck to those involved. We have had many changes at school over the holidays with the installation of our new **fence**. Thanks to everyone who is being very patient with the changes to parking and access to the school. Staff will be making a big effort to support and educate parents in regards to these changes. Please be aware that the school won't be accessible from the Erskine Avenue car park from 8.50pm-3.10pm each day. If using this car park parents will need to access the school by walking around the tennis court.

Mark Gibson

## School Calendar

The following dates are scheduled for the near future. Make sure you are aware of the ones that are applicable to you.

### FEBRUARY

Wed	8	Grade Prep Rest Day
Fri	10	Assembly – Grade 6
Fri	10	Beginning of Year Mass/Classroom Visit/BBQ 5pm-8pm
Mon	13	2017 Sacramental Program Parent Mtg 7pm in Library
Wed	15	Grade Prep Rest Day
Fri	17	Assembly – Junior Choir
Sun	19	Sacramental Program – Reconciliation Lesson 1 9am- 10am
Wed	22	Grade Prep Rest Day
Fri	24	Assembly – Grade 4/5
Sun	26	Sacramental Program – Reconciliation Lesson 2 9am- 10am

### MARCH

Mon	6	Primary Schools of Red Cliffs Swimming Carnival
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### 2017 School Closure Days

*The following dates are confirmed as school closure days. No school will occur on these days.*

TBA



The following students/staff celebrated birthdays last week and over the next week.

3<sup>rd</sup> February – Charli  
5<sup>th</sup> February – Aydin  
9<sup>th</sup> February – Kycen  
10<sup>th</sup> February – Rodolfo  
12<sup>th</sup> February – Mrs Pitt

## Notes Distributed

The following notices have been distributed over the last week. If you missed them, copies are available from the school office.

### Prep/1

2/2/2017 Show & Tell  
Class Dojo invites  
Welcome letter &  
Timetable  
Facebook permission  
(Preps only)  
Pastoral Care Permission  
Form (Preps only)

### Grade 2/3

2/02/17 Class dojo invites

### Grade 4/5

6/02/17 Class letter

### Grade 5/6

6/02/17 Class letter

### Whole School

3/2/2017 Senior Choir - Information  
Note

6/2/2017 Parish Mission Flyer

6/2/2017 Book Club (orders due  
back 16/2/17)



## RE & PARISH NEWS

**Beginning of Year Mass:** At 5pm on Friday the 10th of February we will be celebrating as a community, and parish, our Beginning of the Year Mass. At this Mass we welcome our new families, induct our new school leaders and share the blessing of commitment of our staff for the new school year.

**Sacramental Program Parent Meeting:** Parents of baptised Catholic students from Years 3-6, who would like their children to complete their initiation into the Catholic Faith by participating in the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist, are invited to attend a parent information meeting about the 2017 Sacramental Program on Monday February 13 at 7pm in the Library.

**Parish Mission:** Fr Ray Sanchez will give the second part of his Parish Mission during Lent this year from Sunday March 12 to Friday March 17. More details about this program will be sent home in a flyer with the newsletter today.

**Francisco - The Man Behind the Pope:** A special screening will occur at Deakin Cinema Mildura on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. If you have reserved your tickets at the Sacred Heart Parish Office, please call in to pay for and collect your ticket @ \$21.65 each. If you missed out on reserving your ticket you can still purchase your tickets online: <https://tickets.demand.film/event/1407> so notify family and friends and make a night of it.



## GENERAL NEWS & UPDATES

**Breakfast Club Roster:** **Tuesday** - Sara Napoli, **Wednesday** - Christina Everett, **Thursday** - Jodie Pascoe, **Friday** - TBC.

**Bell Times:** We have made some changes to our bell times for 2017. At 8.40am each morning music will signal to children to put away sports equipment and participate in our walking bus on the oval. At 8.50am the music will stop and the bell will sound which will signal the start of the school day. Any children arriving after 8.50am will need to sign in on the iPad at the Office and receive a Late Pass. We have also introduced five-minute warning bells before recess, lunch and at the end of the day to help with organisation.

**School Assemblies:** Assemblies will be on Fridays at 2.50pm in the hall. Families and friends are invited to attend our assemblies. Our assemblies will often showcase many of the skills children are learning in our classes and music program. In 2017 classes/groups performing will usually be at the start of the assembly so please arrive early so that you don't miss out.

**Pastoral Care/ Chaplaincy services:** This year our Pastoral Care will be provided by Mrs Felicity Rix and we are fortunate to have her working with us every day from 12:30-3:45pm. Parents of students in prep and new families are asked to complete a permission form accompanying this newsletter so that your child can see Mrs Rix if the need arises. An information page is also included with this newsletter for all families to be reminded of the features of the service. If parents want to contact Mrs Rix, you can phone for an appointment between 12:30 and 1:00 or ask your child's teacher for a referral form to fill in. Mrs Rix is also available from 3:20-3:45 to speak to parents.

**Lunchtime activities:** As part of her role, Mrs Rix will be running a lunchtime program for interested students in the second half of lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the lunch shed. This week the theme will be 'Board Games' and any interested students are welcome to come along and join in.

**Breakfast Club** will run this year on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Breakfast is available from 8.20am-8.40am in the lunch shed. Please let Michelle know if you are able to assist with our roster.

**Uniform Shop** - In 2017 uniforms can be purchased directly from the office on a Tuesday from 8.30am-9am and on Fridays from 2.30pm-3pm. At these time uniforms can be tried for correct sizing.

**Sports Uniform** - In 2017, Sports Uniform will need to be worn on a Thursday only. On occasions children might be requested to wear it on other days.

## GENERAL NEWS & UPDATES (cont'd)

**Library:** The library is open on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am-8.50am for children to borrow. Parents are welcome to come into the library to hear children read or to help their children borrow.

**Facebook Page** - Last week we launched our official school Facebook page that celebrates the learning and events happening at our school. In Facebook search for the page 'St Joseph's Red Cliffs' and 'like'. We encourage parents to 'Share' or 'Like' posts so that word gets out about some of the fantastic things happening at our school.

**Administration** - Fee Statements are being sent home to families today. The first fortnightly direct debit will be this Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February and the first monthly direct debit will be 18<sup>th</sup> February. Also just a reminder that if you have not chosen to pay via direct debit, all fees are due by the end of Term 3. If you have applied for Family Fee Assistance, please ensure you make regular payments during the first half of the year to ensure you remain eligible - this will be applied in Term 3. Left over 2016 CSEF funding which some families may have had has been applied to fee statements. If you have any queries at all about your fee statement, please don't hesitate to see Trish in the School office.

**Asthma/Anaphylaxis Plan** - At the start of each year the school requests new copies of Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management Plans. Forms are being sent home to families who have children suffering from Asthma or Anaphylaxis to have these plans updated and signed by their doctor. Please return these to school over the next two weeks.

**Beginning of Year Celebration Evening:** Following Mass, students and families are invited to visit their child's *open classroom*, where informal get-to-know you and information sessions will be operating in each classroom and specialist area between 6-7pm. The children will love to show you around their classroom and share their learning to date. This is a great opportunity to chat to your child's teacher about routines, things that they might need to know about your little person, or book a time for a more in depth chat. Following this there will be a *school welcome BBQ*, jumping castle and some family games. We look forward to this event being the beginning of a wonderful year of learning together and a fabulous way of helping our students, parents and teachers to get to know each other better. **The cost of the BBQ is \$5 per family** for a sausage in bread. Please BYO salad. Water and pop tops and icy-poles will be available on the night from our Community Club for \$1, all funds raised will go towards our new playground. A note will go home to each family regarding the BBQ, if money could please be returned in an envelope as soon as possible for catering purposes, that would be wonderful.

**Class Parent Representative:** This year St Joseph's is looking for each classroom to have a parent/carer volunteer for the role as Parent Representative. This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of your child's education and the St Joseph's School community. As a Parent Class Representative, you are a valued member of our school community and your time and commitment are very much appreciated. The purpose of the Parent Representative is to help foster good communication in the school and to assist in the development of school community. It provides another means of uniting the school community and enhances the quality of relationships within the school between teachers, parents and the children. Each class from Prep to Grade 5/6 should have at least one Parent Representative. The role of the Class Parent Rep will be to welcome new families and make them feel part of the community, compile a family contact list for the class group via the correct school protocols (being aware of confidentiality) to organise volunteers for large organised school activities, organise family activities out of school hours. This provides an opportunity for families to meet each other etc. This can be done at least once each term and can include; - Mum's Dinner/Drinks - Dad's Dinner/Drinks - Children's Movies - Family Picnics. The function of the Parent Representative is not formally structured and is not meant to be an arduous task. It is really to assist with connecting our community and being a central point to assist families connecting for outside school as well. ***If you are interested in becoming a Class Parent Rep, please see Ms Leamon or your child's classroom teacher for more information.***

**Choir:** This year both our choir rehearsal times will be held in school time. Senior choir from 11:30-12noon. The Senior choir is an extension program for those children interested. It does involve a commitment of attending several outside school events such as The Mildura Arts Festivals Big Sing, ANZAC Day services and Carols by Candlelight. ***More details in the note home.***

**Marimba Band:** The Marimba Band is an important part of our extension and leadership program at St Joseph's Primary. All students who are chosen to participate in this program are expected to attend after school rehearsals on Thursday from 3:30- 4:10pm and role model excellent student behaviour and leadership. This year positions as a marimba player will come from auditions from Grade 5 and 6 students, with performance, demonstration of school values and personal commitment being considered. Additionally, this year there will be places open for a recorder, ukulele, guitar and piano player's. Students from Grade 4-6 will need to prepare a piece to perform at Thursday's audition, their past demonstration of school values will also be considered for these places. Auditions will be held next Thursday at lunchtime, letters of participation will be sent out next Friday and our first rehearsal after school will commence on ***Thursday 16th February.***

**Drumbeat:** As part of our *wellbeing program in Term 1* we will be running the Holyoake DRUMBEAT program. This program uses hand drumming to engage students in conversation and activities to support personal and social confidence and develop social skills. DRUMBEAT is a fun program that uses analogies and metaphors to raise awareness in students of the factors that support healthy relationships, social learning and in turn increase connectedness to community, health and wellbeing. The program will be delivered by Ms Leamon who has been trained to be a Drumbeat facilitator and Felicity Rix our pastoral care officer on ***Wednesday's from 2:20-3:20pm.*** Inclusion in the program will be initiated by Mrs Divola and Mrs Hawkes our Wellbeing co-ordinators, and selected students and families will receive information about the program in the coming week.

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES

Welcome back everyone! What a great start to the year, everyone looks bright eyed and ready to learn!

Some information for all students in the Junior School from Prep- Year 3:

- In 2017 all students will need to wear their PE uniform on a Thursday for PE with Mrs Tiller.
- Library borrowing will happen on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning between 8:40-8:50am - children need to bring a library bag to protect the books they wish to borrow.
- Parents and students are welcome to use the library for reading on these mornings.
- Next Friday it will be lovely to see as many families as possible at our beginning of year Mass, open classrooms and family BBQ. Children will be able to show their parents around the classrooms and parents can have informal chats with the teachers as well as getting to know other families.

Last Friday we were fortunate to have a visit from some NRL players who spoke to us about respect, belonging, being inclusive and teamwork.

"I really liked that the players had the time to come to our school." (Rodolfo Year 3)

"I really liked that they gave away prizes and autographs." (Ricky Year 3)

"I liked I wish they could come every day so we could all learn from them." (Charli year 3)

"I liked that they told us about themselves and that people got to ask them questions." (Harman Year 3)



## SENIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES

Welcome back to all the senior families! Mrs Hawkes, Miss Hancock and Mrs Manuel have been busy preparing for a fantastic year ahead and can't wait to share it all with our students. This term the whole school will spend time working through the expectations, routines and procedures we have in place to keep our classrooms and playground a safe and enjoyable learning environment. We will look at letter writing in Literacy and telling the time and developing Place Value in Numeracy. Students have had a wonderful start to the year and already we are feeling the excitement build towards starting our RACV Energy Breakthrough project. We hope you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing break and look forward to the weeks ahead!



Please note:

- This year students may borrow at any time they wish.
- PE will take place on a Thursday morning
- Grade 5 and 6 students will be presenting speeches this week for the honour of becoming House Captains

We look forward to seeing our families at our Start of Year Mass on Friday!



The following students won awards last week:

**Grade Prep/1W - Annamieke** - for always being a reliable and helpful member of our class.

**Grade 1/2F - Noah** - for engaging enthusiastically in all tasks.

**Grade 4/5M - Luke** - for offering opportunities to other students in their learning.

**Grade 5/6H - Shae** - for starting 2017 in a mature and confident manner.

**Music - Zaneesha** - for her enthusiastic and positive start to the school year!

**Everyone has the Right to Learn...**

**Junior Unit**

**Jye** - for always offering to help others without being asked.

**Senior Unit**

**Grace K** - for working productively in groups with everyone.