



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

In fantastic news for the St Joseph's school community, I received a call from the Mallee Federal Member of Parliament to say that we have been successful in our application for a **Catholic Capital Grant**. Planning will now continue for works on our administration area and junior unit classrooms with the project hopefully starting before the end of 2018.

As part of Community Club fundraising we are inviting families that are involved in their own business to advertise within our **2018 school newsletter**. As part of the package, each business will have their business advertised on the school newsletter (business card size) for the whole year. Cost to advertise is \$150. Please let Mr Gibson know if you are interested.

Today we had our third **Orientation** session from 9am-1.30pm. Next week, on Tuesday, 12th December, the students will have their last transition day from 9am-2.20pm. Children will need brain food, recess and lunch snacks and a hat. On this day we will be having our **St Joseph's Transition Day**. The students at St Joseph's will work in their 2018 classes with their 2018 class teacher. The Grade 6 students will be attending their Secondary College for next year on this day.

Our classes and teachers for 2018 are outlined below:

Junior Unit Leader: Mrs Divola **Senior Unit Leader:** Mrs Hawkes
Gr Prep/1: Mrs Nadine Williams **Gr 4/5:** Mr Dylan Darby
Gr 2/3: Miss Lexie Willems **Gr 6:** To be confirmed

We strongly encourage families to participate in our **Thanksgiving Mass** on Sunday 10th December at 10am. We will have some official farewells to our Grade 6 children, and each class will have particular roles to play. Tomorrow, Tuesday 5th December, our Grade 5 students will spend the day at St Joseph's Secondary College (SJC) leaving at 11am and arriving back at St Joseph's Primary School at 2.30pm. Students are asked to wear their physical education uniform. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Students will attend with Mrs Divola.

This Wednesday 6th December, we will be conducting a small '**end of year celebration**' that will include Christmas performances by the children and our annual award presentations. Children need to arrive at school by 6.40pm on the night for a 7pm start. We encourage families to arrive at school from 6pm and enjoy a picnic tea to share with their family in the school grounds. Today tickets have been sent home to those families who have returned their form indicating the family members attending. We only have limited seating still available so please hand back the allocation form tomorrow. On the night, you will need to bring your ticket to easily locate your seat. Your seat number and name will be written on the seat.

This Friday, 8th December we will have an **appreciation morning tea** from 11-11.30am to thank all of our parent helpers in whatever capacity they have assisted over 2017. This might have been a representative on Community Club or just helping out at various school activities.

We don't have **assembly** this Friday due to our Leadership Day with students. Our last assembly for 2017 will be on the last day of school at 2.50pm.

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.

DECEMBER

Mon	4	Prep Transition 9am-1.30pm
Tues	5	Gr 5 SJC visit
Wed	6	School Christmas Concert - 7pm
Fri	8	Parent appreciation m/tea 11-11.30am
Fri	8	Gr 6 Retreat
Sun	10	End of Yr Mass & Grad Lunch
Mon	11	Swimming Program
Tues	12	Swimming Program
Tues	12	Prep Transition 9am-2.20pm
Tues	12	Gr 6 SJC Orientation Day
Tues	12	Gr 6 RCSC Orientation Day
Tues	12	SJC Yr 7 2018 Information Evening (7.30pm-9pm)
Tues	12	Yr 2/3 History Expo
Wed	13	Swimming Program
Wed	13	Gr 6 RCSC Orientation Day
Thurs	14	Swimming Program
Fri	15	Swimming Program
Fri	15	Last day of school for Students 3.20pm finish

JANUARY

Wed	31	First day of school for students
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2017 School Closure Days

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

18th & 19th December – Staff Retreat
20th December – Synthetic Phonics PD
21st & 22nd December – 2018 Preparation



The following students/staff celebrate birthdays over the next week.

No birthdays this week

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

No notes sent home

Grade 2/3

4/12/2017 Invites for History Expo

Grade 4/5

4/12/2017 Girls' Information Session

Grade 5/6

29/11/2017 Gr 6 Graduation Information

4/12/2017 Puberty Information

4/12/2017 Girls' Information Session

Whole School

4/12/2017 PSG Meeting Times (emailed / SMS sent out)

4/12/2017 SRC Speech Information



St Joseph's finished in the **top 3 schools with the highest % of total student population participating** in Walk to School in 2017. Well done to everyone. As a result we have been awarded a Gift Certificate for a day of activities with Wild Side Outdoors. Activities they organise can include team building activities, bike education classes or fun activities. We hope to organise a day or days with students in the last week of the school year. This will be arranged around our swimming program.

RE & PARISH NEWS

Yesterday was the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new Liturgical Year in the Church calendar. It is also the beginning of the 4 week waiting time when we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

This Sunday we celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass and the Graduation of our Year 6 students. If any families have taken a tag from the St Vinnie's Giving Tree in the Church, please ensure that you return the gift this Sunday at Mass.

GENERAL NEWS & UPDATES

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

Library News: All books were due to be returned by 30th November as the library will be closed for borrowing.

Fr Green Scholarship - Any baptised member of our Parish in Grade 6 who is going into a Catholic secondary school in 2018 is entitled to sit for the Fr. Green scholarship, which is a small contribution towards the costs of Year 7. This year we have the scholarship sitting on December 5th at 9am here at St Joseph's school. Please let Mr Gibson know directly if you wish your child to take part. The scholarship is a standardised test that takes about 45 minutes.

Red Cliffs Carols by Candlelight - We are honoured again to have our choir groups invited to perform at the Red Cliffs Carols on Friday the 15th of December. Times will be confirmed in the coming weeks, but this year full summer school uniform will be worn.

Grade 6 Graduation - Our Grade 6 Graduation Lunch for staff, parents and family will be held at the Irymple Hotel Function room on Sunday 10th December from 12pm with orders placed by 12.30pm. This event follows our End of Year Mass. Grade 6 children need to wear school uniform to the Mass but can wear casual clothes to the dinner. We have a band of parents assisting with decorations etc. in readiness for the day. Numbers must be confirmed by Wednesday the 6th of December.

Leadership Speeches: This year we introduced a Student Representative Council (SRC) to formalise student leadership opportunities across the school. To allow us to present and announce our 2018 SRC student leaders, along with our other school leaders at our Beginning of the Year Mass, we will be preparing and voting for our 2018 SRC's over the next two weeks. In class our current P-5 will be preparing a speech that they will present to their new class during a step up session in the final week. Our new 2018 Preps will have a different rotating leadership role at assembly, so that all students are able to experience presenting to the community and leadership in 2018. A note regarding what is involved in being a SRC will go home with the newsletter on Monday. Students are encouraged to share their speech with their parents for fine tuning and practice before their presentation early in week 10. To allow as many students as possible participate in our SRC leadership program we will not have the same students elected two years running, but the opportunity is open again after this time.

Leadership Days: Friday, 8th December, is our Grade 6 Retreat Day. Children are to wear sunsmart casual clothes to be able to participate in activities led by Mrs Hawkes. In the afternoon children will have the opportunity to participate in Reconciliation activities with Fr Pat. Lunch will be provided for the Year 6 students, they are asked to bring a small share plate (fruit, dip, sweet treats) for morning tea. Also, on this day, Ms Leamon and Mr Darby will work with our Grade 4 and 5 students to continue our process towards electing school and house captains for the 2018 school year. Student speeches will be presented on Monday the 11th of December. We hope to have captains selected by the end of this year. Year 4 and 5 students will need to wear their sports uniform.

Swimming Program: This year we will be conducting our Swimming Program at the First Stroke Swim School in Mildura. We will be having recess at 10am for the entire week. **No lunch orders will occur in the last week of school.**

PSG Meetings: The final PSG Meetings for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 12th / Wednesday 13th December. Parents of the children involved will receive an email / SMS message informing them of their appointment time this week. Please contact Mrs Divola if you are unable to attend at your allocated time. This will be a short meeting to share celebrations from 2017 and set goals for 2018 Term 1.

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES

Wow we can't believe that we only have 2 weeks left of the year. How time flies!!!!!!

Please encourage your children to be doing extra jobs around the house to earn money to donate to the Christmas giving tree. Each class has 2 presents to buy and put under the tree.



Our Silkworms are growing very, very fat! It shouldn't be long now until they cocoon. We just have our fingers crossed for this to happen before the holidays. If not we will put lots of photos on Seesaw and Class Dojo.



To celebrate the Year 2/3 History Unit, the children will be taking home invitations to invite a family member or friend to come into class for our learning expo on Tuesday, 12th December.



Congratulations to all of our children who have made tremendous progress this year with their reading! All the extra help at home really does pay off! Well done Adam on reaching 250 nights of reading!!



Student Representative speeches

Grade 2 and 3 have been preparing speeches for this role in 2018. They have been most impressive.



SENIOR UNIT NEWS & UPDATES



The Thanksgiving Mass will be next Sunday, 10th December at 10.00am. The St Vincent De Paul Christmas tree is now set up in the Church and the grade 4/5 and 5/6 classes have been given their tags.

Students are reminded to do extra jobs to earn some money to donate to the appeal. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Families are also invited to take a tag or tags from the tree if they wish. There are more than 70 families registered for gifts this year.

Music: We hope you enjoy the musical item prepared by the Senior classes. The children have done a wonderful job layering parts and learning some complicated ukulele chords and marimba parts! With lots going on in the Senior Unit we had a shortened lead up time to our dance preparations this year, so we made participating in the dances an optional extra! We have been impressed by the number of students who have been keen to take part.



Term 4 Week 8:

No. of students who reached individual target

Grade Prep/1W

18/21

Grade 2/3F

20/23

Grade 4/5M

18/20

Grade 5/6H

19/23

The following students won awards last week:

Grade Prep/1W - Danita - for being a warm and caring member of our class.

Grade 2/3 F - Georgina & Riley G- for great persistence in class.

Grade 4/5M - Liam - for his fantastic work completing his government posters in Humanities.

Grade 5/6H - Ella - for striving for excellence in all areas of school life.

Music - Katie - for working really hard to memorise the ukulele chords for her class Christmas concert piece.

PE - Alexandra - for a great effort following the yoga and dance moves during our PE lesson.

Be responsible

Junior Unit

Miley- for being responsible by helping out in Science.

Senior Unit

Taylah - for being a great team captain at the RACV EB in Maryborough.

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