

Messages from Donny:

Dear Parents, Students and Families,

Our staff have been working hard to prepare the school for the return of students and have set up inclusive and welcoming spaces for the children to thrive. We encourage all families to attend our Parent Information Night on Thursday 30th January where you will get to meet your child's teacher and find out important information for the upcoming year.



First Day - Welcome from our Bishop and Director:

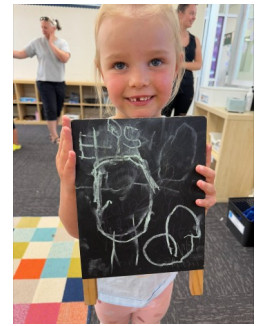
Bishop Karol and Mrs Nichii Mardon (our Director) both extend their best wishes for the start of the year. They remind us of our Diocesan theme, **'Seeds of Hope'** which will be integrated across all our schools. The theme is derived from Pope Francis' writings where he outlined that Hope Does Not Disappoint (cf. Rom 15:13). It will make us reflect on how we may bear credible and attractive witnesses to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope. We will use this message to promote planting our seeds of hope in all we do within our community this year.



"Seeds of Hope"



Many families attended our Open Classrooms



Welcome:

Building and fostering a vibrant and positive community is one of our strategies for providing a meaningful education. We warmly welcome all of our 27 new students and their families to the St Joseph's School Community. Particular acknowledgement is given to our Reception students as they embark on their first year of schooling. We are delighted that you have chosen St Joseph's as your family school. We now begin the journey of a new year together.

New Bell Times:

The new Bell Times that have been communicated have considered new Industrial Legislations and the updated Staff Working Conditions. I have also had to reflect on the Duty of Care responsibilities for our staff and the safety and well-being of students. I understand and respect that this has created concerns and questions for some families, especially those who are working, but I want to reassure everyone that all pastoral care questions will be taken into account. I welcome parents/carers to personally contact me if you have any questions.





ST. THERESE'S RENMARK

Fr Hau 0401 367 337
8582 1894

MASS TIMES

1 Feb Sat 6.30pm
9 Feb Sun 9.00am
15 Feb Sat 6.30pm
23 Feb Sun 9.00am

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 30 Parent Info Night
- 31 8.30am Coffee'n'Chat
9.15am Welcome
Assembly

February

- 3-6 Year 3-6 Swimming
- 3 7pm P&F Meeting
- 7 9am Mass by 6/PH
class
- 11 6/PH Aquatics
Activities
- 14 9.15am SRC &
Leadership
Inductions
- 17 9.15am Assembly by
3/4SS class
- 18 School Photo Day
- 21 9am Mass by 2/KC
class
- 25 Board AGM
- 26 Family Welcome &
EXPO
- 28 Clean Up Aust Day

March

- 4 Shrove Tuesday
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 10 Public Holiday**

Reminders:

Start of the Day:-

8.30am - Gates Open - students and families to remain around Admin area until 8.40am

8.40am - Classes Open - students and families welcome to move off to their respective classes

End of the Day:-

3.05pm - Students dismissed. We ask that students do not play on the playgrounds and that all siblings are supervised by their parents. We had some very close calls at the end of last year and some children were injured or had some altercations with others.

Building relationships:

The opportunity to visit teachers and classes yesterday was a great success. As we start this year, we are looking at ways to again invite parents/carers into the school. As always this is a focus of our school to build strong relationships and partnerships between school and home. We have learnt that our children respond very well to Kiss and Drop structures and procedures and parents/carers value the efficient and supportive way to drop their children off at school. In doing this, students develop valuable skills such as responsibility, independence, and organisation. This also allows formal learning to start promptly and on time at the start of the day which proves to be so much more affective. So, as we start to establish our respective routines, I encourage all families to use our successful Kiss and Drop/Pick Up structures. We also ask that parents/carers understand and respect that lessons begin at 8.55am and should be out of classrooms before the music starts. I thank everyone for their support and understanding.



Parent Information Night:

I wish to promote this night, scheduled for Thursday, 30th January. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff, parents, carers, and students to join together in a welcoming manner. Staff will also present brief details about their class structures and processes, and outline thorough Parent Handbooks. More details are provided in the note distributed with this newsletter.

Communication:

We understand that communication is very important and we hope that we will support all our families to understand the many dimensions of our school environment. Today you will receive a comprehensive pack with numerous requirements. Please refer to the checklist and contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Teaching and Learning/Positive Communication:

Following on from the above, at St Joseph's we are proud of the positive learning environment and whole

school culture we have established. We operate with positive actions and attitudes and regularly promote all our successes and celebrations. We understand that the start of the year could present numerous feelings and emotions and that parents/carers may occasionally be faced with challenges and questions. We welcome feedback and encourage positive interaction and communication between staff and parents/carers. With all grievances or questions we invite parents/caregivers to come in and see class teachers as the first point of contact. With this overt approach, we welcome feedback and encourage constructive points for future consideration. Everything we have done and will continue to do is based around learning, resulting in improving student outcomes for your child. St Joseph's School is committed to

As we move forward with our journey at St Joseph's, we are excited about the introduction of the MultiLit Literacy suite which will support our consistent whole School Literacy focus. We will continue to use our Reading Journals to promote Reading as an important structure and together with our Writing Program, Mathematics, Intervention, and many other structures, we are always looking at ways to work with our staff, students and parents to be better.

We work together like Peas and Carrots:

We have also identified that society is always changing and that people are faced with more challenges than ever before. The recent world events have reminded us to put life in perspective and be grateful for all we have. As a staff, we want to be able to support



moving with society and striving to significantly improve student outcomes, underpinned by current and progressive research.

Some ways you can support your child is to:

- read all notes carefully and return them by the due dates.
- see class teacher/s directly with any concerns or queries. Class teachers are the first point of contact.
- appreciate that engaging in yard gossip is non-productive and could result in further misunderstandings or queries.

If you're not sure of something please come and see the teacher/s directly.

Changes and Initiatives: - MultiLit Literacy

We continue to evolve as a community with 4 new staff and many new families. We have changed all classes and with all the changes in class structures, there will certainly be a different 'feel' around the school, but we can assure you of the same high standards, passion, enthusiasm, and overall care for your children.

each other and all our families. We want to show care and kindness and be there to help in any way. To do this we are promoting a community of working together like **"Peas and Carrots"** focusing on our attitudes, actions and behaviours. We are called to support each other, cherish each others flavours, take ownership, accountability and responsibility for our actions and attitudes, to nourish all in our community.

So, at St Joseph's we want to promote and encourage everyone to think, behave and operate together - just like Forrest Gump said "from that day on, we was always together. Me and Jenny was like peas and carrots."

P&F and Wellbeing Meeting:

We welcome all parents to join our community at the first Parents & Friends and Wellbeing meeting on Monday 3rd February, 7pm at the Hotel Renmark Function Room. This is a very good opportunity to look at our community connections as we look at ways to make the school better. We discuss activities, ideas, events and ways for families to be more involved in the school environment. All welcome.

We enjoy and understand the extra dimension of community that is a feature of St Joseph's. We aim to work with our whole community to bring to St Joseph's the confidence, skills, knowledge, and particularly, the enthusiasm necessary to see our students reflect on their schooling as enjoyable, with memorable relationships, a spiritual dimension to their life and an attitude that learning is a life-long process.

We look forward to a fantastic term working together.

Regards

Don DePalma
Principal



'Seeds of Hope' Diocesan Prayer

God, our loving Father,
In this Jubilee year,
you remind us of our call to love creation.
Help us to work together to replant,
repair, and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light,
In this Jubilee year,
you remind us of our call to love our
neighbours and to set free those who
suffer.
Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to
be fair, forgiving and kind.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,
In this Jubilee year,
you remind us of our call to grow in faith
and love.
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see
Jesus in others, and to be united as God's
global family.

**Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.
Amen**

Parent Information Night Thursday 30th Jan 2025

Dear Families and Friends,
We will be holding a Parent Information Night this Thursday 30th January. The aim is to provide parents/carers with details of class structures, processes and expectations, and to provide parents/carers an opportunity to meet your child's teacher/s. We will split class presentations to allow parents every opportunity to listen to all of their children's class teacher/s. All presentations will be held in the Tenison Woods Centre.

Teacher Presentation Times ~ Tenison Woods Centre

- 6.00~6.20pm: R/LH & R/SH Classes
- 6.20~6.40pm: 1/HS & 1/KV Classes
- 6.40~7.00pm: 2/KC & 2/LH Classes
- 7.00~7.20pm: 3/4HM, 3/4HS & 3/4SS Classes
- 7.20~7.40pm: 5/BS & 5/TL Classes
- 7.40~8.00pm: 6/PH Class



Save the date

Welcome Night & Wellbeing EXPO

WEDNESDAY 26th February 2025

More details later

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL RENMARK 2025

FAMILY FETE & WELLBEING EXPO

Save the Date

5:00PM-7:30PM

FREE WELLBEING SHOWBAG FOR EVERY CHILD

WELLBEING EXHIBITORS:

- Dr James McLeod (Local GP) & Medical students
- Allied Health Services
- Sporting Clubs & Organisations

FOOD VANS AND DRINK STALLS

PROCEEDS GO TO THE
Royal Flying Doctor Service

FREE ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES:

- Animal Nursery
- Pony Rides
- Face painting
- Dance & Sport demonstrations
- Kooka the Clown

RAFFLE

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

Gold coin entry