



Issue 19 4 December 2019

## St Joseph's School

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### In All Things Love

#### Uniform Shop

Open on Monday and Fridays  
8.30 am to 9.30 am

#### Playgroup

Friday - 10.00 am to 11.30 am

#### Out of School Hours Care

##### Daily

6.30 am to 8.30 am  
and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

**Tuesday** 2.45 pm to 6.00 pm

Bookings essential

Mobile: 0437 863 067

#### St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Priest - Fr Marek Ptak CR

Phone: (08) 8447 3223

Email: [smax@ottowayparish.com](mailto:smax@ottowayparish.com)

#### Mass Times

Saturday 6.30 pm

Sunday 8.30 am English &

10.30 am Polish

Weekday 6.30 pm English & Polish

Except Tuesday

(check with Parish)

# Newsletter

## Premier's Reading Challenge



Thank you to those parents and caregivers who have returned books and notices from our Library. I am trying hard to leave the Library as well organised as possible for 2020, as I am retiring at the end of this year.

The photos are from our recent Premier's Reading Challenge and Best Borrower assembly. We had 99% of students complete the challenge this year. Well Done!

A big thank you for supporting our Book Fair. We took \$1000 and so chose \$300 worth of books for our library.

Please use your local public library over the holidays and keep reading to your children.

Happy Christmas

Deb Cashel

We acknowledge that our school is on Kaurana country. We recognise and respect the Kaurana people as the continuing custodians of the Adelaide Plains and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

## Principal News

It's hard to believe that the 2019 school year is rapidly coming to an end. It's certainly been a year full of many different and exciting learning opportunities for our children. When I reflect back on the year I have fond memories of the following experiences our children have been involved in outside of their day-to-day learning; excursions, incursions, camp, sports carnivals, masses, liturgies, STEM Open Day, St Joseph's Feast Day, Sports Day, Book Week, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day, Multicultural Mid-Autumn Festival, School Disco, Graduation, Family Fun Night, assemblies and fund raisers, just to name a few.

As we find ourselves in the Advent season, a time for preparation and waiting, there is an opportunity, regardless of our age, to step back and to evaluate the priorities which we live out in our daily choices. There is a chance to take stock and feel the gentle 'nudging' of the Spirit. So, as Christmas approaches, amidst the busyness of shopping and organisation, perhaps there will be an opportunity to be attentive to the inner voice, the voice which calls us to see at this time of the year the new born child, a countercultural message to reorder our priorities, to put people, not things first and to give first call to love.

In the words of Pope Francis:

"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love."

### Curriculum News

In this newsletter edition I have included two mathematical tasks which you might like to have a go at with your child/children at home.

This week's Mathematical tasks:

**Reception to Year 3** - I drew a shape with 3 sides. What might my shape look like? I made a picture using only triangles and squares. What might my picture have looked like?

**Years 4-6** - The Year 5 students said they were going to mark out a soccer pitch. Write down the instructions they need to follow. A shape has at least two sides 6cm long and at least two sides 12cm long. One angle is 90 degrees, one angle is less, but the rest are more. What might the shape look like?

Happy inquiry.

Below is part of an article that has been published in the Sydney Morning Herald focusing on the benefits of reading to children.

Melbourne researchers have proven what parents have intuitively known all along - the more often you read to your children from an early age, the greater the positive effect on their reading and thinking skills.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research has not only proven a causal effect between the frequency of reading to a child and his or her development, but have also for the first time measured the benefits.

Children four to five years old who are read to three to five times a week have the same reading ability as children six months older (who are read to only twice or less a week).

Reading to children six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to. It was also found that reading to small children has a positive effect on the development of numeracy skills.

"It does appear to be the case that children who are read to more often keep doing better as they age than other children," said Professor Guyonne Kalb, director of the institute's Labour Economics and Social Policy Program, and co-author of the study.

The research - which was funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - found the positive outcomes occurred in children regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background.

"We wanted to try and determine whether reading itself is leading to better outcomes, or do parents who read to their children have other things going on," Professor Kalb said.

"We worked with children representing a whole range of families, from all different backgrounds and economic circumstances. We found it doesn't matter if a child is from a poor or rich family, or if the parents are highly educated or not, doing this basic thing of reading to them leads to better developmental outcomes."

The longitudinal study followed the reading skills of more than 4000 children, aged four to five years in 2004, through to age 10 to 11.

Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the research was "an exciting step forward" in understanding the importance of reading to young children.

Happy reading.

### 2020 School Board Nominations

Nominations are now open to members of the school community who would like to serve on the school board in 2020. The school board plays a valuable role in school governance. The board also allows parents to have a voice in the strategic direction of the school.

Being a part of the school board can be a very fulfilling and rewarding experience. If you are interested in serving on the school board in 2020 please complete the attached nomination form and return it to the front office.

### Sacramental Program

Last Sunday morning, December 1 I had the pleasure of celebrating communion for the first time with the following children from our school, Gian Belegal, Aliza, Dela Cruz, Mia Haines, Gion Vitog, Harry Marino, Bella Marino, Gillean Ramos, Grent Aguado and Nicholas Lees. As part of our 2018-2019 Sacramental Program these children celebrated their First Communion at our St Maximilian Kolbe 8:30am Parish Mass.

A big thank you to APRIM Simon McCullough for all the work he has put into preparing our children to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion) over the past 12 months.

Our 2020-2021 Sacramental Program will commence in the second half of next year with the preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the lead up to celebrating Confirmation and First Communion in 2021.

### Family Fun Night

This term we will once again hold our Family Fun Night. The event will take place in the school grounds tomorrow evening, Friday December 6 between 5:30pm and 8:00pm. Members of our Parents and Friends have been working alongside APRIM Simon McCullough to plan for and prepare the evening. Thank you also to Rebecca Allen for preparing food for the evening through the canteen. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Principal News Continued

### Year 6 Graduation

Next Wednesday, December 11 our Year 6 children will celebrate the completion of their primary years schooling with our Year 6 Graduation Liturgy which will take place in the school hall at 6:00pm. Following the Graduation Liturgy the children will travel by bus to and from the Watermark Hotel, Glenelg to celebrate their Year 6 Graduation Dinner together. Families of our Year 6 children have been provided with further details surrounding the evening by their classroom teacher.

### Staff News

Term 4 is often a time of reflection and of some changes in staffing. Next week we will be thanking and farewelling Deb Cashel. Deb Cashel will conclude her time at St Joseph's School at the end of 2019 to commence retirement. Deb began her teaching career in Catholic Education in 1977 and commenced at St Joseph's in 2003. Deb has held a variety of role in the school during the 17 years she has been with us including Classroom Teacher, Teacher Librarian, Special Education Coordinator and ICT Coordinator. Deb also coached our school netball team for a number of years. Deb has been a dedicated, professional and caring teacher who has worked hard to provide students with the best possible learning experiences. We wish Deb every blessing as she embarks on the next phase of her life in retirement.

Our school chaplain Amanda Razon will also be leaving us as she has won a teaching position as a Reception teacher at St John the Baptist School. We had the opportunity to farewell Amanda as a staff during Week 5 of this term. I thank Amanda for the wonderful support she has provided our school community throughout 2019.

In other news, Janine Meyer will return from parental leave in 2020 to resume her permanent part time (0.2) role, becoming our Specialist French Teacher in 2020.

Catherine Crosbie has extended her maternity leave until July 2020. Maddie Marenda will continue in her current role of Preschool Coordinator throughout Terms 1 and 2, 2020.

### 2020 Staff and Class Structures

I have completed the process of putting together class structures and teaching roles for the 2020 school year. Teachers have completed the process of placing children into classes in preparation for 2020. Children will find out the class they are in on Tuesday December 10 as part of our Whole School Transition in preparation for the 2020 school year.

Below is an outline of our 2020 staffing structure:

Shaun O'Leary: Principal, Leader of Teaching and Learning: Numeracy and STEM

Simon McCullough: Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission (0.6), Administration (0.2), Specialist Music and Drama Teacher (0.2)

Louise Moody: Leader of Teaching and Learning: English as Additional Language, Literacy and Library, Inclusive Education Coordinator.

Preschool Coordinator: Maddie Merenda (Terms 1 & 2)/Catherine Crosbie (Terms 3 & 4: TBC).

R/1 Classroom Teacher: Fran Wanders

R/1 Classroom Teacher Malama Theodosi

2/3 Classroom Teacher Natalie Doyle

3/4 Classroom Teacher Ben Higgins

4/5 Classroom Teacher Matt Pick

5/6 Classroom Teacher Jane Smith

Janine Myer: Specialist French Teacher (0.2)

Cristian Morgado: Specialist Physical Education Teacher (0.2)

### Whole School Transition in Preparation for 2020

On Tuesday December 10 between 1:00pm and 1:30pm all children will visit their 2020 class teacher and classroom in preparation for the 2020 school year. This provides an opportunity for children to familiarise themselves with the classroom environment, classroom teacher and children they will be spending the 2020 school year with.

### Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who have supported our children and school in so many different ways throughout 2019. There is strong research that indicates that student learning outcomes improve when families are engaged and working closely with schools. Without the support of our volunteers we simply would not be able to offer the many different opportunities for our children. The ongoing efforts of our volunteers is greatly appreciated.

### Upcoming Events

I would like to draw your attention to the following upcoming events:

**Term 4 Concludes – 12:30pm Friday December 13.**

**Term 1 Commences – 8:45am Tuesday January 28.**

### The Importance of Play: When Should Adults Join In

**If a child is busy playing, you might simply look on and get to know how they play, what they're good at and what they like doing.**

Sometimes children will signal that they'd like you to be involved. Young babies who are just learning how to play might look at you as if they want to do something with you and be delighted when you engage with them. They communicate through their expressions and body movements when they're tired and have had enough. Toddlers and older children will often let you know they want to play with you as well as when they want to play on their own again.

When a child is not already playing but is perhaps looking for something to do, it's appropriate for you to invite them to play or be more directive. This may be to learn a new game, to listen to a story, to sing a song or just to have fun.

Sometimes when children's play isn't working well, they may need some help, such as when they get frustrated with something they're doing and want to give up, or when they don't have the skills to negotiate social situations.

For further information visit **Be You** (formerly Beyond Blue)

<https://beyou.edu.au/fact-sheets/development/brain-development>

## Principal News Continued

### Semaphore Street Fair

On Sunday November 24 our school band performed at the Semaphore Street Fair. Our band were fantastic in their performance. This was a great opportunity for our school band to perform to a live audience and compliments the band's involvement in the *Battle of the Bands Competition* earlier in the year. The Semaphore Street Fair was also a great opportunity to promote our school, showcasing what we have to offer to the surrounding community. A big thank you to school band coordinator Duncan Kilburn for preparing the band for the day.

### 2020 School Fee Reduction

As part of our overall school marketing strategy I am pleased to announce that the school board has ratified a small decrease in school fees to \$1990 in 2020 (currently \$2115 for 2019) for the 1<sup>st</sup> child. This represents a fee decrease for the first child of around 6%. Fees for 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children have been reduced slightly also to reflect an overall reduction in school fees for our existing families and new families. Our current school finances have provided an opportunity to bring about a small reduction in school fees in 2020. As always, I encourage families to come and speak with either our Finance Officer Rosalie Fergus or myself if they are experiencing difficulties with meeting their school fee obligations.

### Extended OSHC Opening Hours Trial

Due to an increase in before school care use this term, it has been decided to continue the extension to our OSHC opening hours each morning in 2020. Throughout Term 4 OSHC has been opening between 6:30am and 8:30am each morning before school to accommodate families who start work early. It is hoped that continuing to open the service at 6:30am each morning will support our working families meet both their working commitments while at the same time ensuring quality care for their children.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for the wonderful encouragement and support I have received in my first year as Principal of this great school. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities and many successes we have experienced throughout the year and I look forward to our continuing partnership in the years ahead.

I wish all of our families an enjoyable end to the school year, a safe summer break and hope Christmas is a joyful celebration of Jesus' birth and ongoing presence in our lives.

Shaun O'Leary.

## APRIM News

### **First Communion**

The celebration for the Sacrament of First Eucharist was held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December in St Maxamillion Kolbe Church. We congratulate Gian, Aliza, Mia, Gion, Harry, Bella, Gilleen, Grent and Nicholas.



The Christmas Raffle will be drawn at the St Joseph's Family Fun Night celebration, Friday 6 December. We thank you for all the generous prize donations.



**Vinnie's Christmas Appeal** – we are now collecting goods to place in Christmas Hampers to support the work of St Vincent De Paul. Bernie and Esther from the Parish always tell us that the goods collected make a great difference to the families they try to support. Please send any donations to your child's classroom. There is a donation basket there. Thanks for your wonderful and generous support.

**Next Mass** – please join us if you can to celebrate our End of Year Mass on Monday 9 December at 10.00am.

### **Peace and Harmony**

Our wonderful school band, Peace and Harmony performed at the Semaphore Street Fair last Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was a wonderful performance and very exciting to see these great children sharing their talents and working together. We are very grateful to Duncan Kilburn for all of his wonderful work throughout the year.



To: Shaun O'Leary

## SCHOOL BOARD 2020

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the St. Joseph's School Board.

Nominee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to nominate myself \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the St. Joseph's School Board in 2020

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE 2020

I wish to nominate myself \_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the St. Joseph's School Parents & Friends Association as a:

**Co-Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer or Committee member (please circle)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_