



Issue 5 1 April 2020

# St Joseph's School

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Email: info@stjotto.catholic.edu.au  
Website: www.stjotto.catholic.edu.au

## 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: stmax@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

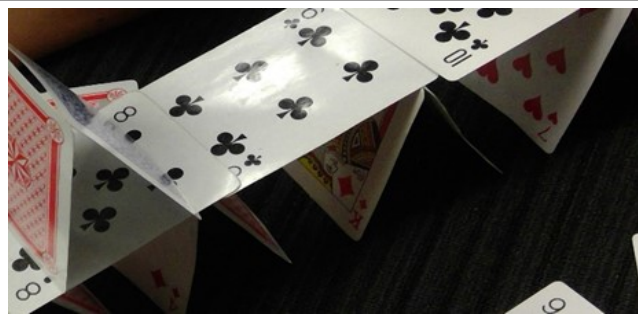
(check with Parish)

# Newsletter

## Building a house out of cards



The 2/3 Students formed groups to problem solve a way to build a house out of cards. Students used maths, co-operation and communication skills to complete this task. Here are a few finished houses that they built together.



Remember you can do a lot with a simple pack of cards.

Building  
Addition/subtraction  
Memory game  
Snap  
Times tables

and there are many more games that you can all play together as a family.



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

We are certainly experiencing strange times at the moment in light of the Covid 19 outbreak. Currently it is the intention of both the state and federal governments to keep schools open while providing parents with the option of keeping their children home if they feel this is the best option for their families. At St Joseph's we continue to maintain a strong focus on personal hygiene across the school and are able to report that no child or staff member has contracted the Covid 19 virus at this point in time.

Teachers across the school have moved to a remote learning curriculum for all children regardless of whether they are physically attending school or are learning from home. Classroom teachers will continue to be in contact with children who are learning remotely, monitoring learning progress and wellbeing closely.

### **Making Space for Learning 2 Year Inquiry Project**

Across 2020-21 our school will participate in the Making Space for Learning Inquiry Project. The aim of the inquiry is to be able to identify the behavioural and learning difficulties associated with developmental trauma and formulate an informed and effective educational response. To this end, the inquiry begins with a detailed understanding of early year's brain development. It then examines the nature and effects of developmental trauma. Lastly, it provides strategies to respond to the specific behavioural and learning difficulties associated with developmental trauma. The whole school staff were involved in the initial 2 day workshop held on January 22 and 23 this year.

On Wednesday March 4 we facilitated our first school visit as part of the project where we established our whole school inquiry question; **Does the use of core practice at the beginning of learning blocks support and improve student self-regulation?**

Early in Term 2 the coordination team: Jane Smith, Simon McCullough and myself will unpack the Inquiry Project further with staff as part of a staff meeting. Teachers will then begin collecting pre data as part of the Inquiry Project before introducing strategies they plan to incorporate as part of the project. Post data will then be collected and analysed throughout the project timeline.

### **Parent-Teacher Learning Conversations**

Parent Teacher Learning Conversations in Week 9 were conducted via telephone or email. Thank you to parents who were able to take part in these conversations. I'd also like to thank our teachers for their preparation work and for making themselves available. These conversations provided an opportunity for teachers to share the academic and social progress your child has made and to discuss areas of growth and future goal setting. Our *Parent Teacher Conversations* also provided an opportunity for parents to ask teachers questions related to their child's development.

If you were unable to take part in last week's conversations and would like to make a time to speak with your child's class teacher, please feel free to do so by contacting the front office and we will pass a message onto your child's teacher to telephone you.

### **Catholic Identity**

Lent is the Church season leading up to Easter. It is a time of prayer, reflection and giving of oneself to others in order to become closer to God. It is also a time where we prepare ourselves for the events of Easter, namely the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

When God chose to enter this world as Jesus, he did it in full measure, becoming one of us even until death. He was rejected, despised, abused, mocked and murdered. He suffered, died and was quietly buried. His message was like a seed buried in darkness, deep underground, waiting for the moment to burst into new life.

Next week is the last week of Lent, namely Holy Week, the week we begin the journey towards Easter. As a school we will visit the events of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross. The story continues thereafter with the celebration of the Risen Lord during the Easter season.

### **Student Representative Sustainability Council**

This year our school Student Representative Council (SRC) will once again take a lead role in driving our whole school Environmental Awareness and Sustainability focus. The aim in 2020 is to broaden student involvement by establishing a Student Sustainability Council which consists of representatives from all classes. The sustainability council will meet to discuss and plan projects to be undertaken across the school while also providing progress reports to the SRC. Jane Smith has once again accepted the POR role of Sustainability Coordinator across the school.

### **Student Safety and Wellbeing**

The *Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People* policy can be found on our school website under Community, Welfare, Your Child's Welfare. The policy outlines the key principles and responsibilities of Catholic schools to ensure a total community approach towards the protection of children and young people in their care. I encourage you to visit our website to view the full policy.

*The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum*, in a sense is the curriculum component of the *Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People* policy and links directly to the Religious Education Curriculum, the Made in the Image of God Curriculum and our recent professional learning around the Kids Matter program.

The *Cyber Safety: Keeping Children Safe in a Connected World* document can also be found on our school website under Community, Welfare, Your Child's Welfare. The document aims to ensure a safe learning environment for all children when using ICTs and working online.

If you have any questions around any of these documents or would like further clarification feel free to speak to your child's classroom teacher, our APRIM Simon McCullough or myself.

As part of our learning in recent years around the *Kid's Matter* project, our school has registered on the **Be You** (formerly **Beyond Blue**) website to receive regular communication around professional learning opportunities to support the wellbeing of our children. The website also provides a range of resources and ideas to support the mental health and wellbeing of our young people. I encourage you to visit the website at <https://beyou.edu.au/> and have a look for yourself.

### **NAPLAN Testing**

NAPLAN testing across Australia in 2020 has been cancelled due to the impact the Covid 19 outbreak is having on school life.

### **Curriculum News**

I have included two mathematical challenges which you might like to have a go at with your child/children.

This week's Mathematical challenges

### **Reception to Year 3**

In my pocket I have \$1 and 25 cents. What coins might I have?

### Years 4-6

I went to get \$235 out of the bank. What are the different ways I can ask for this amount in notes?

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.

### Term 3 Preschool and Reception Intake

St Joseph's School will once again have a Pre-school and Reception intake at the start of Term 3 this year. Our Term 3 new Pre-school children will replace those moving into Reception as part of our Term 3 Reception intake. Our Term 3 new Receptions will join our current R/1 classes. The criteria for starting Pre-school or Reception on the first day of school in Term 3 is that a child will have turned 4 (Pre-school) or 5 (Reception) between 1 May and 31 October in that year. During Term 2 we will hold a number of transition visit mornings for our new Pre-school and Reception children with the aim of supporting their new start.

### What is Self-acceptance?

Self-acceptance for children and young people means they acknowledge they're a complex, imperfect human capable of making mistakes as well as significant accomplishments.

When faced with strong criticism, lack of success or negative perceptions, a child or young person who demonstrates self-acceptance is more likely to choose to think, "I accept myself no matter what".

Self-acceptance can help children and young people deal with stressful situations, such as poor achievement, negative peer comments, issues with body image, identity, and other developmental challenges and difficulties.

Self-acceptance is not an excuse for an individual to accept their bad or inappropriate behaviour –rather, with strong self-acceptance, it's much easier for a child or young person to realistically evaluate what they do and to work on changing behaviour that's inappropriate or self-defeating.

To learn more about how you can help build resilience in your children visit **Be You** (formerly Beyond Blue)

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

### Skool Bag App

To keep up to date with what is happening within our school along with upcoming school events why not download the **Skool Bag App** from the App Store on your mobile phone. Once downloaded simply search St Joseph's School, Ottoway and add to your Skool Bag page. Many of our families currently use the **Skool Bag App** to keep up to date with what is happening across our school.

In addition our school website **News and Events** link is regularly updated to assist our families in keeping up with what is happening across our school.

May God's love continue to be with us during these uncertain times.

Working in partnership with you.

**Shaun O'Leary**

School Calendar	
Term 1 2020	
April	
9 to 12	Pupil free Days (OSCH open these days please see Meike for bookings)
10	<b>Good Friday - School Closed</b>
Term 2 2020	
27	First day of term 2 - 8:45 am





**Sports Day** we are currently looking to defer Sports Day to a date later in the year. Please stay tuned!

**Parents and Friends and Volunteers**

Thank you to those who have volunteered some time to help with Parents and Friends. If you want to chat about what is involved, please catch up with me before or after school one day or send back the flyer below and I will be in touch with you.

**Tea and Coffee** is usually set up on the barrels each Tuesday morning and we look forward to this. We will resume this as soon as we regather as a community.

**Orphanage Appeal**

This term Fr Marek has asked that we support an orphanage the parish is helping in South America. We are asked to donate good quality clothes or toys, and these will be sent to the orphanage later this year. Fr Marek tells us that these kinds of goods are vital and that our support would be wonderful. A basket is in the office for you to leave any donations and we thank you on behalf of the parish. So far, we have received many generous donations.

**Project Compassion**

As a result of the casual clothes donation from St Joseph's Day we have raise over \$270. This is being sent to Caritas Project Compassion. Thank you all for your generosity.

Notice Board

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Technical College

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Reply Slip

Please return to Simon McCullough

I, \_\_\_\_\_ would like to support the 2020 Parents and Friends events or volunteer in another way.

My child / children are in: \_\_\_\_\_(class)

I am best contacted on: \_\_\_\_\_ (phone / email)