We wish to welcome back all families after the summer holidays and hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday period. We especially welcome our nineteen Prep students and their families and other new students and families to the school – we look forward to working in partnership with you in our wonderful school community. To assist with the smooth transition into the new school year a Term Calendar and Class Term Overviews will be sent home within the coming week. Also included in the body of the newsletter is the 2016 Staff List and the days classes have specialist subjects.

On Saturday, 13th February we have our Opening of School Year Mass at 6.00pm in the church. We invite all families to share in this liturgy to welcome the new school year. At this Mass our Year 6 students will be presented with their leadership jackets and our Prep students will be presented to the school and parish community. This will also be the Commitment Mass for students making their Sacrament of Reconciliation this year. Mass will be followed by a BBQ dinner. We look forward to seeing all families there on the night.

Next Monday, 8th February is the Reconciliation Parents Reflection Night at 7.30pm in the church. If you have a child in Year 3 who is wishing to make this Sacrament (or Years 4-6 who have not previously made this Sacrament) it is compulsory that at least one parent attend this meeting. As part of the preparation for this Sacrament students MUST attend one of the Reconciliation Commitment Masses on the weekend of the 13th (Opening of School Year Mass) or 14th February.

Our first School Improvement Committee (SIC) meeting will be held next Monday, 8th February at 6.00pm to plan for our first Working Bee on Saturday, 20th February. Anyone interested in joining our SIC Committee is most welcome to attend.
Our **Parent Teacher Chats** will be held on **Tuesday, 16th February**. These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to gather information about the students in their classroom from their parents. **School concludes at 1.00pm** on this day to allow staff to meet with all families. Notes have been sent home this week providing further information about the Parent Teacher Chats. Bookings will again be completed by families online or by contacting the office if you do not have this facility.

During the coming days all students will receive a “**Cybersafety Use Agreement**”. Could you please take time to go through this in detail with your child/ren before signing and returning this to school. Students will be restricted from using the internet at school for lessons until this form is received.

Students must wear correct **school uniform** to school each day. Students are not permitted to wear runners to school unless it is their sports day. Students not in correct uniform must bring a note from parents. Simple earrings and watches are the only acceptable jewellery. Chains, dangling earrings and bracelets are a safety issue especially on the playground. Make up and nail polish are also not to be worn at school.

Information has been sent home regarding the new **sports polo** that is gradually being introduced in the school. Students in Year 1-6 do not need to purchase these but if you wish to they are available for $26 from the uniform shop. Already these have become quite popular and unfortunately we have SOLD OUT of Sizes 4,6,8,10,12 polos. A new order has been placed, and will not be available for 8 weeks.

St Joseph’s School is a **SunSmart School** - All students are required to wear an appropriate SunSmart school hat at all times between 1st September and 30th April when they are outside at play. Students without hats are required to sit in the designated shaded area during recess, lunchtime and during sporting or other outdoor activities.

Can you please ensure that your **child’s clothing and belongings are clearly named**. Already in a week we have found “new” clothes left outside and placed in the Lost Property basket. I appreciate that families spend good money to purchase school uniforms – if they are named we can return them to their owners.

**To encourage independence in your child** we ask you allow them to carry their own bags, to pack and unpack their own belongings and to follow classroom routines at the start and end of each day. Although it is often easier to do these things for them this does not allow your child to be independent and take on these simple responsibilities. It is also important that if you see your child to the classroom (and you are not staying as a classroom helper) that you leave promptly to allow your child and the class to settle into their daily program.

**Students arriving late to school MUST** be brought to the office by their parent and have a late arrival form filled in and signed. This is not only a legal requirement but also is essential if there was an emergency evacuation. School rolls are completed at the start of the day and without this late arrival form being completed there is no record that your child is on the premises. If you are picking up your child before the end of the school day, you will need to fill in an **early dismissal form** at the office and take it to your child’s classroom when collecting your child. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
At the end of the school day, children can be met at their classroom, or alternatively they will walk to the designated pick up area located on the stairs at the front of the Administration building. A teacher will be on duty until 3:45pm. Supervision of students is from 8:30am—3:45pm. If your child has not been collected by 3:45pm they will be brought up to the office.

If your child is celebrating a birthday and you wish to bring along food to share, this must be prearranged with the class teacher. When planning this, staff need to take into account food allergies and special dietary requirements. Prearrangement is crucial as we have students in the school who are **Anaphylactic, a severe peanut allergy which is life-threatening**. Students are also reminded not to share any food or drink as we have students with severe food allergies and Anaphylaxis. We ask to avoid providing Peanut Butter and Nut products in your child’s lunch to support these students. Please also discuss and stress with your child/ren the importance of washing hands following eating.

Thank you our commUNITY@StJoes team for organising and funding the **Coffee van** on Monday to Welcome Back families. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying a coffee and chat, and a lovely way to welcome our new families to our school community.

Finally, before school commences each day teachers are preparing for and focusing on their day with their students. Unless prearranged this is not the most practical time for an unscheduled meeting. At St Joseph’s School the teachers are very approachable and always happy to meet with parents to discuss any concerns, however, at the start of the day their focus must be on their teaching and their students. To make a suitable time to meet, please arrange this with the class teacher or contact the office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Once again welcome back and we look forward to a great year!
Peter Vanstan

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**EDUCATION IN FAITH**

Hello Everyone,
Welcome back for yet another busy year ahead and we start our term with our Reconciliation Parent Information Night next Monday at 7.30pm in the Church. The children in Year 3 were given a detailed letter outlining the Reconciliation Sacramental Program for this year. Then on Wednesday our school will celebrate Ash Wednesday by attending Mass at 11.30am in the church and everyone is most welcome to attend. On Saturday night we will participate in our annual Opening of the School Year Mass at 6.00pm. This Mass is always well attended and the students will be actively involved in many aspects of the celebration. Looking forward to seeing as many people at the upcoming celebrations as possible.
Yours in Faith,
Nerida Byrden
STAFF 2016

Parish Priest: Fr. Mirek Knap
Principal: Peter Vanstan
Deputy Principal/Student Services: Leonie Sheehy
Administration Officers: Marg Booth, Gayle Ashdowne, Nerida Byrden, Leonie Sheehy, Sandra Anderson, Liz Miller
Religious Education Leader: Nerida Byrden
Learning & Teaching Leader (Literacy): Leonie Sheehy
Learning & Teaching Leader (Maths): Sandra Anderson
Student Wellbeing Leader: Liz Miller

Teacher

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<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Kylie Hare</th>
<th>Leonie Sheehy <em>(Fri f’nightly)</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1/2 A</td>
<td>Sandra Anderson</td>
<td>Jenny Small <em>(Thurs)</em></td>
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<td>Year 1/2 B</td>
<td>Georgina Bennett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4 NL</td>
<td>Nerida Byrden <em>(M, T, W)</em></td>
<td>Liz Miller <em>(Th, Fri)</em></td>
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<td>Year 3/4 K</td>
<td>Julie Klep</td>
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<td>Year 5/6 D</td>
<td>Maree Davis</td>
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<td>Year 5/6 M</td>
<td>Troy McGown</td>
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Reading Recovery Teacher: Anne Baumann
PE: Anne Baumann
LOTE (Indonesian): Olivia Hutabarat
Visual Arts: Jane Strickland
Student Services support: Maree Jones
Kitchen Garden: Cathy D’Arcy Evans
Library Technician: Elaine Folino
Maintenance: David Amor
Cleaners: Edward Mayarich

2016 Specialist Days

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<th></th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>LOTE (Indonesian)</th>
<th>Physical Education (PE)</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Jane Strickland)</td>
<td>(Olivia Hutabarat)</td>
<td>(Anne Baumann)</td>
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<td>Prep</td>
<td>Wednesday (Tuesday in Feb)</td>
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<td>Year 3/4NL</td>
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<td>Year 5/6D</td>
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<td>Year 5/6M</td>
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OFFICE NEWS

For all families new to St. Joseph’s we use the ‘bucket system to distribute correspondence. In each classroom there is a bucket where correspondence from school to home and from home to school is sent. The buckets are brought to the office at the beginning of the day and returned to the classroom at the end of the day. Fee payment, Uniform Shop Orders, Special Lunch Day Orders, Student Banking or any other correspondence can be sent to the office via this system. Please don’t hesitate to contact Marg or Gayle if you have any further questions.

Please contact the office if you have changed any of your personal details i.e. Phone number, address, emergency contact etc. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically you can do so by emailing your details to

gashdowne@sjboronia.catholic.edu.au or by filling out the form below.

The school newsletter is distributed each WEDNESDAY via email and the bucket system (for those requiring a hard copy). All information for inclusion in the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 4pm to Gayle Ashdowne at the address listed above.

CDF Student Banking CDF SCHOOL BANKING DAY is every Tuesday. CDF encourages you to open an account for your child, to teach them about saving. As a practical sign of appreciation, there is a welcome gift for each child who opens a CDF Student Account. Further information /or an application form can be obtained from the office.

NEW SPORTS POLO SHIRTS

Due to the huge popularity of our new sports polos there is only limited stock left in Sizes 14 & 16.

We have ordered new stock, and hopefully it will arrive in 8 weeks. All outstanding orders will be supplied as soon as the stock arrives.

Thank you.

I would like to receive the school newsletter via email/hardcopy - please circle

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Email address:(please print clearly): ______________________________________

________________________________________________________

Please return this form to the office via the bucket system

Thank you.
Hi Everyone,
Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to an exciting year of Wellbeing for all our students and their families. Our whole school focus of ‘Nourish and Nurture’ will underpin all our wellbeing initiatives this year, as we aim to nourish each and every member of our school community through the development of social/emotional skills, and to nurture the individuality and potential off each child and family in our school community. This builds on our Kidsmatter theme of ‘Every Face has a Place’.

At St Joe’s, we implement a variety of practices and programs to develop wellbeing, and these include: Meditation, Mindfulness, Circle Time, Buddy Groups, You Can Do It, Kitchen Garden, Healthy Together Knox, student leadership, morning fitness…the list goes on. However, we are always keen to hear of new ideas and practices. Please feel free to pop in to the teacher office on Wednesdays if there is anything to do with wellbeing that you would like to discuss.

Have a great week.
Liz Miller

AUDITIONS FOR THE GREEN AND GOLD SONGBIRDS (SCHOOL CHOIR) 2016 HAVE TAKEN PLACE
And what a fabulous group of singers we have! Our BIGGEST CHOIR EVER 41 Choristers!
Choir takes place every Tuesday at 2.40pm!
We are looking forward to singing at the Opening Year School Mass, Knox Festival and Parish Fete!

COMMUNITY
All Families and Friends of St Joseph’s School Community
Are invited to our
OPENING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS
ON
SATURDAY, 13th FEBRUARY 2016
Commencing at 6.00pm
St Joseph’s Church, Boronia
♦ Year 6 Students will be presented with their leadership jackets
♦ Prep students will be introduced to the school and parish community
♦ Year 3 students making their First Reconciliation will make a commitment at this Mass.
Mass will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle Dinner
(If you are able to assist with the BBQ on the evening please leave your name at the school office)
We welcome to St. Joseph’s School the following families: Deng, Congerton, Ferry, Gommers Grimes, McCandless, Lawa, Patnaude, Wasilewski, Ngo-Tran, Parker, Drew, Law & Wallace, and our new staff member, Mrs Jane Strickland (Visual Arts). We hope that your time as part of our Faith Community is full of support, friendship and blessings.

Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday to Bailey Shaw, Ruby Bundy, Alexandra Kund, Ruby Ferry, Lily Edwards, Mitchell Smith, Olivia Wakartschuk, Aaron Kelaita, Allegra Castrechini, Jasmine Buis, Lachy Dalton, Laurie Martingale, Brodie Genovesi, Clare Somueli, Emily Hill, Max Westwood, Luke Smith, Ms Strickland, Mrs Ashdowne, Mr Lambert & Mrs D’Arcy Evans who have celebrated their birthdays during the holidays or are celebrating in the coming week.

Congratulations to the Lawa Family, Harold, Kristine & Bella (Prep) on the arrival of their new son and brother Kobe, born January 4, 2016. “New joy to hold in your arms, new love to hold in your heart”.

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL
If your child has achieved something notable as part of a club/hobby, we would love to acknowledge it in the newsletter. Information can be sent via email to: gashdowne@sjboronia.catholic.edu.au

MUSIC LESSONS AT ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY

** MUSIC TUITION INCREASES CONFIDENCE, SELF ESTEEM AND HELPS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SUBJECTS – MATHS, LITERACY, SCIENCE, READING ETC **

ST JOSEPHS Primary School in association with Metro Music School is now offering Music Lessons to students who are interested in learning an instrument at school every week. Lessons are held during school hours (30 mins/once per week) at suitable times. (Prep to Gr 6) Enquiries are welcome on 9460 4818 (Metro Music School).

Lessons Offered: KEYBOARD PIANO GUITAR SINGING

Discount Hiring and Purchase also available. Contact us for details or visit our online shop at www.metromusic.net.au

FROM $13.20 per lesson (incl GST) ENROLMENT forms can be obtained from the school office or contact Metro Music School direct. You can also enrol online at the above website address.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef