29th January, 2016

Re: Welcome to the 2016 School Year

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Welcome to the 2016 School Year. A special welcome to our new teachers Mrs Toni Moffitt, Mrs Rennae Vicary and Mrs Sarah Osborne.

A warm welcome also to all of our new students and to the 43 new families who have joined our community this year. May God bless you and keep you in his care.

As the staff and I welcome you to the new year, we would like to provide you with a few updates and general reminders to ensure that we continue to flourish as a school community.

Changes to Traffic Conditions:

As you will be aware, the Council are undertaking works outside the front of the school. These works are scheduled to continue over the next few weeks and at their conclusion will provide us with improved parking and central median strips which will act as both areas of beautification and refuse for pedestrians as they cross the road. We would however like to clarify the following:

- Please exercise patience and caution when traveling in proximity to the school. A reminder about the 40km per hour speed limit within the school zone and hours.
- There is currently bunting along the curb and guttering to the footpath adjacent to the drop/off pick up zone outside the school hall. Please ask your children to exit vehicles closer to the hall as there is safe clearance near the double gates.
- Please note: At no point is the drop off/pick up zone to be used as a parking area during the hours of 8.00am-9.30am and 2.30-4.00pm daily. Please do not park and leave your car unattended during this time. Parents/carers can parallel park in the zone whilst dropping off and collecting their children. This zone can be used for parking outside these hours when visiting the school.
- Signage in this zone has also changed. We will be conducting Road Safety sessions with our students once the works have been completed to educate them about these changes.

Reception:

A new glass door and panelling has been installed into the Office administration area. This door has been installed to ensure the safety of our students throughout the day. All visitors to the school must sign in and out of reception. Students are not to use this door as a general thoroughfare and are encouraged to use the gates as entry and exit to the school.
Attendance:

Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in each school term, by the end of school the student will have missed over a year of education?

It is a legal requirement that all children from six years of age attend school. Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance at school helps your child to develop the skills needed to access the world and enhances their ability to learn the importance of punctuality and routine and to make friendships. Parents are asked to limit the times their child arrives late to school or departs early.

School commences at 8.55am and concludes at 3.10pm daily. We understand that children get sick, families have commitments and sometimes life can intervene with our regular plans, however, where possible please encourage full attendance at school because “every day counts”.

Uniform

This week I spoke to the students about the importance of wearing their uniform with pride. I believe that every day should be just like school photo day. Thank you for your efforts in preparing your children with the correct uniform to commence the school year. Attached is information regarding our uniform expectations. Please note the following:

- As a duty of care it is our responsibility to ensure that our students wear a hat when they are outside. At St Joseph’s we have a “no hat, no play” policy. This is non-negotiable as we must ensure the safety of our children when exposed to the sun.
- Decorative earrings, additional piercings, anklets and bracelets are not to be worn to school as they are not considered part of our uniform. Students are encouraged to wear these items in their own time. On the first occasion a student is seen wearing the incorrect items these will be confiscated by the teacher and returned to the student at the end of the school day. If the student continues to wear the incorrect uniform items, the items will be required to be collected by a parent/caregiver and aspects of the behaviour management policy will be adopted for not following teacher instruction.
- Please refer to the guidelines regarding hair as dyed hair, hairstyles such as spikes, patterning, mohawks and rats tails are not permitted.

Your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Over the coming weeks you will receive communication regarding our school Behaviour Management Policy. In 2016 and beyond, we will be working towards a school wide positive behaviour for learning framework. We will continue to promote the wonderful achievements of our students. However, we will not tolerate inappropriate or disruptive behaviour and are committed to ensuring that all students have a right to learn in a safe and supportive Catholic school environment and that all teachers have a right to teach and be respected as educators.
Communication

For each child to get the best education they can, we encourage communication with our families. Please refer to our weekly newsletter, letters, emails, access the school website and Skoolbag app or phone the school if required. Please contact us at any stage. We want to work in partnership with you to ensure your children get the best education they can. We have attached a copy of our Term 1 Calendar for your forward planning and information.

Commitment to Learning

As a staff we are committed to all of the children in our care. We will always do our very best to ensure that individually each child gets what they need. St Mary MacKillop said “Do your best and God will bless your effort”. Please promote the importance of learning to your children and as a community we will continue to be blessed.

St Joseph’s School is a wonderful Catholic Community. Thank you for your support as we begin the year ahead and we look forward to working with you in 2016.

Many blessings,

Melissa Turner
PRINCIPAL, ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL