Week 1 Term 1
4 February 2016

Dear parents and carers,
We have had a wonderfully smooth return to school this week. The students were very keen to see their friends and they have all begun the year with enthusiasm and a great sense of calm. All teachers have commented on just how settled the students are.

On Monday the students heard about our revised Vision, *Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community* and were introduced to our *Growing in Excellence* focus, Seeds of Growth.

On Wednesday the staff led our community in a Prayer Celebration during which our *Christ-centred Community* focus, Seasons of Love, was introduced.

These two foci were introduced to parents last night at this year’s Parent Information Night. The format of the evening was different this year with Foundation parents hearing from their child’s teachers and then all parents gathered together to hear from the Leadership Team about our revised Vision and 2016 *Christ-centered Community* focus. ELC parents then moved to the ELC to hear specifics about pre-school and school parents remained to hear of our *Growing in Excellence* focus.

Handouts of class information was available for parents and anyone unable to join us last night will receive their information today.

A copy of the address I made last night is included as an attachment.

**WELCOME BBQ**
Our Welcome BBQ will be held tomorrow evening, weather permitting! RSVP’s were due today. We will decide by 3:00 pm tomorrow should we need to cancel. We’ll tell the students and send out a notification via Skoolbag.

**P & F**
The first P & F meeting will be held next Wednesday 10 February at 7:00 pm in the Staffroom. Please join us, you will be very welcome! For those who have attended P & F meetings before, why not invite someone new to attend the meeting with you? A special invitation is extended to all parents new to our school.

With the school Fete being held on 19 March, there is much to do so the P & F will appreciate all interest and offers of help. Attached is the Volunteer note given out last night.

**CALENDAR**
A whole year calendar is on the school website. Please regularly check in case we’ve had to make unexpected changes. The Newsletter will also have dates for the next fortnight.

**PARK**
For those familiar with our school, you will know how seriously we take safety in and around the car park. I implore ALL PARENTS to drive in a responsible manner at all times and be mindful of the students as they move through all parking areas. Please refrain from parking on the nature strip as doing so limits vision for other drivers. Until the reconfiguration of the car park happens, staff are parking at the Church to free up additional spaces at the school. I thank the staff for taking this request on board.

**REMINDERS**
At the beginning of the year it’s important that certain points be highlighted.

- If your child suffers from asthma, we require an annually updated Asthma Plan developed by a GP, labelled puffer and spacer.
- If your child suffers from an anaphylaxis reaction to allergens, we require a medical plan and epi-pen.
- We require correct email addresses. One of our goals is to become paper-free and more information will be provided electronically so it is very important that your details are accurate. Please email Amanda office.sjo@cg.catholic.edu.au if your email address has changed.
- Volunteers must display their Working with Vulnerable People card in a lanyard, obtained from the Front Office when signing in.
- We are a nut free school. We are no longer required to be liquid-dairy free.
- The children are to wear the correct school uniform every day which includes the school hat and bag.
- NO jewellery is permitted except for a simple watch, plain stud earrings and school wrist bands.
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back.
- We require notification of the date and reason for a student’s absence.
- Parents must escort their child to the Front Office if late to school. We require a slip to be signed and given to the class teacher as a record of late attendance.
- Students who are required to leave during school hours must be signed out / back in by an adult.

**COMING EVENTS**
- 8 Feb – 5:30 – 6:30 Parent Workshop – ICT Boot camp
- 10 Feb – 9:00 Ash Wednesday Mass
- 5:30 – 6:30 – Parent Workshop – Multi-age
- 7:00 – P & F meeting
- 17 Feb – 6:00 School Board

So, as we begin the 60th year at St Joseph’s School we look forward to wonderful celebrations and history-making moments. I hope to catch up with you all at the Welcome BBQ.

Thank you for your positive comments and expressions of joy and happiness about school being back!

May God bless you in all that you do.

Sue
Seeds of Growth

Schools must write strategic and annual plans. The strategic plan spans three years and the annual plan, as it suggests, spans one year.

Within one year we strategically work towards our annual plan through two foci, our Christ centred-Community focus (CCCF) and our Growing in Excellence focus (GEF).

Luke Donnelly will lead our CCCF, Seasons of Love, and I will lead our GEF, Seeds of Growth.

Seeds of Growth are four key understandings that underpin the learning and teaching philosophy of SJO. They can be understood at an adult level as;

Learning to learn
Learning to be
Learning to create
Learning to collaborate.

Obviously this language is too difficult for students to understand, so to make this focus more accessible to students we will use the language Seeds of Growth; learning, being, creating and collaborating.

These understandings have grown from the knowledge, research and professional insights of teachers that contemporary education calls for action. In November 2015 the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation released their research paper titled, “The futures of learning; what kind of learning for the 21st century?” This paper outlines three significant challenges for educators; a call for a new model of learning, the skills needed to effectively function in the 21st century and the pedagogy required to achieve these goals.

The paper describes the overall vision for 21st century learners as;

Learning to know
Learning to do
Learning to be
Learning to live collaboratively

I don’t have to point out to you the similarities between the paper’s vision for 21st century learners and our vision for learners at SJO. I would however like to invite you to our Seeds of Growth Day, on Thursday 11 February from 9:00- 10:00am? You will be given the opportunity to plant four seeds while listening to your child explain what the four seeds are.

Survey

Each year we send out a survey asking parents to communicate their appreciations and concerns from the year that has been. The results of the survey indicated a need for a focus on communication.

Communication falls under communication of student learning and communication of dates and times.

There are formal and informal ways we communicate student learning.

The formal communication of student learning has not changed. On the web site there is an adaption of the school’s Assessment and Reporting Policy. This document explains the formal avenues you can use to understand your child’s progress. Please be informed about the numerous ways you can learn about your child’s progress.

There are also a number of informal ways we communicate student learning. In response to your concerns, we have adapted our current practice in the following ways.

The Newsletter

Firstly there will no longer be a classroom component of the Newsletter each week. There will however be an “F to Six, in one great Fix” special edition in the Week Seven Newsletter. This special edition will include a report from every class in the school.

Home Learning

We have modified our Home Learning policy so that all students take their home learning home on Tuesday and return it on Monday. The students have been taught this week that, “Tuesday is take home Tuesday”, which means take your Home Learning home on Tuesday and “Make sure Monday” which means make sure your Home Learning is in your bag ready to be returned on Monday.

All Home Learning sheets are the same format. All purple boxes are compulsory Home Learning and all others are optional. All Home Learning sheets need to be signed in the same place, all home reading needs to be recorded in the same place. All Home Learning is a reflection of last week’s learning. All teachers will provide you with information at the bottom of the Home Learning sheet about the week to come. All students who have their Home Learning signed will come to me to receive their Bees Knees for reading.

Student Work Books

Student work books will be sent home during Week Eight. This will allow parents to look carefully at their child’s progress over the weekend. We ask that you send the books back to school on the following Monday.

Parent Workshops

We are providing a series of ten workshops across the year for any parent that is interested. The workshops have been placed on a Monday from 5.30-6.30pm throughout the year. The topics for the workshops are ICT, Seeds of Growth, Multi age classes, Spelling, Reading and Writing, Numeracy and Assessment.

There is a pamphlet available on the school website for your convenience.

In regards to the communication of dates and times please refer to the communication policy that is on the school website. This policy outlines the plethora of avenues used to communicate, how they are used and who is responsible for disseminating the information.

Having referred you to the website could I make particular reference to the live calendar? In the latter part of 2015 we moved to an online calendar. This calendar will be continually updated as the year progresses. The major events for 2016 are already on this calendar. It can be accessed in three different places; on the home page of the school website, in the calendar tab of the school website and through the skool bag app. If you have not downloaded the app please do so as we send reminders through the app. For issues with the app see the communication policy for trouble shooting contact details.

Finally I send out a challenge to you, if you have a question about teaching and learning, come and ask me. I love nothing more than discussing the process of learning.

Caz Perryman
**EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**

Welcome to the Early Learning Centre for 2016. It has been a wonderful start to the year, meeting all the new families and welcoming back many returning families. At the start of every year there are feelings of excitement, nervousness, anticipation and expectation. I am confident that all the children will settle beautifully into their new classrooms.

This year I am delighted to welcome four new staff to the ELC team and wish them all well as they start the school year at St Joseph’s.

Rose McIntosh – After School Care Coordinator
Helene Tewari – Office Manager
Natalia Ciuffeteli – Blue Gecko Educational Assistant
Jill Lambert – Blue Gecko Teacher

Communication is very important at the ELC and in order for you to be informed about events and happenings, please remember to read our weekly Newsletter, down-load our Skoolbag app onto your mobile, check your child’s pouch in their classroom and look for emails coming from your teacher for any information and up-coming events.

Please remember that your child needs a cot sized fitted sheet and top sheet for their afternoon rest/relaxation, a library bag, a drink bottle and a healthy morning tea, lunch and fruit snack.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Preschool routine, please feel free to contact Helene or myself in the ELC Front Office. The office hours are 8:30-3:30. We are looking forward to another wonderful year in the ELC!

Happy Birthday to the following children:

Ashley F
Amelia M

God Bless and enjoy the first week of Preschool.
Molly Henson
ELC Director

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Christ-centred Community Focus**

At the PIN last night we officially launched our Christ-centred Community focus, Seasons of Love. This year we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary and the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will explore the focus of Seasons of Love through the themes of share love, give love, spread love.

**Ash Wednesday and Opening School Masses**

Next Wednesday we will attend the Ash Wednesday Mass with the parish at 9am. All members of our Christ-centred community are welcome to attend. We would also like to invite you to attend our Opening School Mass on Thursday 25 February at 12pm. The Mass will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to celebrate the start of the school year and to present our Yr 6 leaders to the community.

**What do you LOVE about St Joseph’s?**

We invite you all to take 5 minutes to complete the St Joseph’s 2016 survey reflecting on love in our community. The comments from the survey will be used to produce our Seasons of Love video for the school website and to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. If you know of any ex students or parents please distribute the link so they can also contribute to the survey.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2VZ5KL

Yours in Christ,

Luke Donnelly
Religious Education Coordinator
luke.donnelly@cg.catholic.edu.au
DATE FOR THE DIARY: The first P&F meeting for the year is on next Wednesday, 10 February 7pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion, so please come along. Please feel free to approach any of the committee members if you would like to know more about the P&F. Agenda items: Fete, New Playground Equipment, Canteen, Uniform shop operating model, Fundraising events calendar 2016.

2016 P&F COMMITTEE: President - Sasha Billett, Vice-President Kate Osborn, Treasurer/P&F Board Representative - Lauren O’Callaghan, Secretary - Misel Lucic, Canteen Coordinator - Alison Marks, Uniform Store Coordinator - Marcela Leon.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME: Uniform Shop Volunteers are required Wednesdays 2:45-3.15 and Fridays 8.45 - 9.15. If anyone is available, even once a term, please contact Uniform Shop Coordinator Marcella Leon at uniformshop_stjosephs_oconnor@yahoo.com.au

PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS: Do you have uniforms that are outgrown? Donations of pre-loved uniforms are welcome for resale at the uniform store. Drop off area is at the uniform store. Pre-loved uniform items are available for $5.

TEEBALL/SOFTBALL

There will be training for Joeys Red on Friday at 4pm.

Teeball and Softball games resume this Saturday 6 February and conclude Saturday 19 March, 2016.

No games will be held on the Canberra Day Long Weekend.

Please ensure you have the Skoolbag App to access notifications.

For further information please contact Mrs McFarland carolyn.mcfarland@cg.catholic.edu.au

CANTENE NEWS

Welcome to all our new students and parents and welcome back to all our returning students and parents.

I hope everyone has had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

MENU CHANGES: The updated menu was distributed at the end of last year so most returning parents should have a copy. If not, there are copies at the Front Office and Canteen. You can also download it from the school website - just go to the Communication tab then click on Canteen. There is also information on how to use Flexischools.

There are new items on the menu this term. We now have flavoured milk drinks, custard and yoghurt and new Gluten Free options to name a few. We will have new items available from time to time for over the counter sales, so stay tuned.

The Canteen is still in desperate need of volunteers. If you can help out on the following dates please contact me via email stjosephscanteen@gmail.com.

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<th>Wednesday 24 February (Week 4) – 9:30am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 1:30pm</th>
<th>Wednesday 9 March (Week 6) – 9:30am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 1:30pm</th>
<th>Wednesday 23 March (Week 8) – 9:30am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 1:30pm</th>
<th>Wednesday 30 March (Week 9) – 9:30am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 1:30pm</th>
<th>Wednesday 6 April (Week 10) – 9:30am to 11:30am or 11:30am to 1:30pm</th>
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There are several shifts available so if you would like to help please let me know. Jackie—Canteen Manager

CANTENE ROSTER WEEK 2

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<tr>
<td>AM – Wanda Kaucz (morning &amp; afternoon)</td>
<td>AM – Andrea Murphy-Foot</td>
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<td>PM - Help needed</td>
<td>PM – Help needed</td>
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Friday 11/12/2015
AM - Kimberly Holman
PM - Misel Lucic
JUNIOR BASKETBALL TRIALS

The Canberra City Stallions Basketball Club, will be holding junior trial/grading sessions at Emmaus Christian School, Davenport Street, Dickson in the coming weeks. Ages range from U10 to U14 and both boys and girls are welcome. Please see website for further details www.canberracitystallions.com or contact Club President, James Savoulidis on 0447 167 930.