Dear parents and carers,

Our annual Parent Information Night for all school and ELC parents will be held next Tuesday 14 February at 7:00 pm in the Hall. This is an important meeting for parents to attend. The evening will include the launch of this year's focus, information from the Leadership Team and information about the car park redesign. ELC parents will break away for specific information relevant to them and primary class information packs will be distributed at the end of the session.

P & F

The first P & F meeting for the year was held last night with many new parents joining us which was wonderful to see. P & F meetings are held every Wednesday of Weeks 2 and 6 at 7:00 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.

PARENT CONTACT

Each class would benefit from having a Parent Contact to foster school spirit and further develop our welcoming community. The role of the Parent Contact is to:

- Coordinate class / year level social events
- Farewell departing students
- Welcome new families to the class group
- Provide support to the teacher
- Be a contact for that group of parents

A booklet with information about the role of Parent Contacts is available. If you would like to be the contact for your child's class, please email me sue.dempsey@cg.catholic.edu.au

MORNING SUPERVISION

A teacher is on duty from 8:20 am each morning in the Courtyard. An additional teacher goes on duty at 8:30 am on the oval. If the oval is too wet the Learning Hub will be opened instead. We ask that no children play on the equipment before school even if they are with an adult. The equipment can only be used when a teacher is present to formally supervise. This applies in the afternoons as well. Thank you for assisting us with this.

SPORT DAYS

Foundation – Tuesday and Friday
Year 1 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 2 – Monday and Friday
Year 3 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 4 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 6 – Tuesday and Friday

REMININDERS

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. 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.
- The students 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 leave during school hours must be signed out / back in by an adult.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the McRae, Pugh and Lacar families who each welcomed a new baby over the holidays.

PRAYERS

Please remember the Hosie family in your prayers following the death of Katja (1 Teal) and Ellajen’s (4 Blue) much loved grandmother.

Thank you everyone. May God bless you in all that you do.

Sue Dempsey
Principal
In 2017 students in the ACT, SA, Vic, Qld and WA will participate in NAPLAN online. This will provide more precise results and faster turnaround of information. The Education Council has agreed that, for the time being all schools will continue to conduct Year Three Writing using pen and paper. This component of the testing will not be online in 2017.

During 2016 our school participated in a trial to determine the readiness of schools to implement NAPLAN online. This trial demonstrated a high level of readiness in ACT Government and Catholic Schools.

A public demonstration site has been created with information and mini demonstration tests. Please feel free to access this site for further information
https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site

SWBAT
Has your child come home and used an unusual term SWBAT? SWBAT is an acronym for students will be able to. It is a strategy all teachers are trialling in Term One to help students focus on the learning outcomes of a lesson.

A teacher will determine the purpose of a lesson and begin the lesson by saying SWBAT. Students respond by repeating SWBAT. The teacher will then articulate what the SWBAT is e.g. students will be able to recognise an acute angle. Students then repeat the full sentence. While students are saying the SWBAT, teachers are also pointing out the written SWBAT. In this manner students have engaged their auditory and visual learning tools. When students are aware of the intended outcome it is more likely they will achieve the goal and feel success as a learner.

Some students were asked to share their thoughts on SWBAT. Here are some of their responses-
I like SWBAT because you can actually learn, it is a cool word, it reminds me of what I am learning, it tells you what to do, I can copy Mrs Knight, its unique, I’ve never heard of it before, it helps me remember what I’m learning, it prepares me for what I’m about to learn, the teacher makes the lesson really clear in a quick way.

Opening School Mass
Our Opening School Mass for 2017 will be held on Monday 20 Feb at 9:15am. We encourage all parents, grandparents and special friends to attend the Opening School Mass and we will be sending out an invitation early next week asking for RSVPs and requesting participation in the Mass. We look forward to celebrating this Mass to commemorate the start of the school year.

Can you, or someone you know, sew?
As we have started the new school year it has become apparent that our prayer cloths are in need of an overlock or hem. There are around 60 1m x 1m cloths requiring this so a team effort will be required. If you or your parents or grandparents are handy with a sewing machine or overlocker and would be happy to take some prayer mats home, we would be extremely appreciative. Please email or see Luke Donnelly if you are available to assist.

Yours in Christ,

Luke Donnelly
Religious Education Coordinator
luke.donnelly@cg.catholic.edu.au
Merit Awards - Week 2 Term 1

Congratulations to the following students who will receive an award at tomorrow’s Morning Gathering

Being a Learner

Year 1 Purple: Dev J, Alyssa S
Year 1 Teal: Josephine B, Diego L
Year 2 Magenta: Angela L, Daniel McK
Year 2 Yellow: Alli P, Hamish D
Year 3 Lime: Alarna N, Rea N, Chelsea P, Sophia D
Year 3 Silver: Madeline S, Poppy S
Year 4 Blue: Ewan G, Leo Q, Savidu W-F
Year 5 Orange: Nam N, Alex F-S
Year 6 Green: Hazina B, Harry O

P&F UPDATE

P&F Meeting Summary

- The Canteen Manager’s role is currently being re-advertised.
- Canteen is open on Wednesdays and Fridays offering over the counter purchases. Lunch orders are not available until the manager role has been filled.
- Volunteers are continuously needed to support the canteen operations. Thank you to all who find the time to come in and help, putting a big smile on children's faces.
- A friendly reminder to all that the uniform shop at St Joseph's is operating and offers all uniform needs.
- Girls slacks will be on sale in coming weeks - just in time for winter, don't miss out!

Misel Lucic

Uniform Shop

Hours of Operation
Wednesday 8:30am—9:00am
Friday 8:45am—9.15am

Please direct any queries to:
Uniformshop_stjosephs_oconnor@yahoo.com.au

Marcela Leon

The Athlete's Foot

The Athlete’s Foot Canberra is an ongoing supporter of St Joseph’s School through the School Rewards Program. Every time you purchase any pair of shoes from The Athlete’s Foot Canberra Centre, $5 will be donated back to the school. This applies to the whole family and across the entire footwear range, including school, athletic, work and casual shoes. There are no restrictions and it’s unlimited. So spread the word!

Happy Birthday

This week to:

Tenzin D
Andy McP
Antonio S

ST JOSEPH’S MEMORY BOOK
$20.00 EACH
AVAILABLE FROM FRONT OFFICE
Volunteer Roster
The Canteen is in need of more volunteers for the term. Can you help? You can come for the morning and help prepare food, or just come and serve during the breaks. Please email stjosephscanteen@gmail.com if you can volunteer some time.

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Please remember you need a Working with Vulnerable People Card (or receipt showing you have applied).

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Keep saving for a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland.

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky School Banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they'll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo DisneySea. This prize includes:

- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland & Tokyo DisneySea
- AUS$1,000 spending money

How to enter
Simply make 13 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017 and you’ll automatically receive an entry into the competition for your chance to win.

Find out more at commmbank.com.au/schoolbanking
SOFTBALL/TEEBALL

Due to the extreme heat on Saturday, games may be cancelled. Teams will be notified via email from their Team Managers if matches are cancelled.

Carolyn McFarland

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball will once again be held during break time from Weeks 4 to 10 in Term 1.

An information sheet and registration form are attached to this Newsletter if you would like to take part.

Places are limited and fill quickly, so please return registration forms as soon as possible to the Front Office.

Carolyn McFarland and Rachel Uren
Term 1 Week 2

This week the Green Frogs have been discovering snails throughout our garden, especially after the rain. They have been learning how to pick up snails and watch how they move. During the cooler weather the children explored the school grounds and counted 17 crosses. Ball games were played with Year 5 buddies and the children participated in their first MEP music session. Look at what we have been exploring this week.

Mowven Dyer, Vanessa Wesley-Smith and Belinda Kivela

The ELC children have had a beautifully calm start to Week 2. Thank you for ensuring your child has a library bag for their library day, a cotton sized sheet (fitted and top sheet), healthy morning tea, lunch and fruit snack all in separate containers. Please help your child to unpack their belongings in the morning and put their food in the correct baskets or location. As the term progresses the children will become more and more independent and will be able to demonstrate where everything needs to go. Until that time, please ensure everything is labelled and is in the correct place for your child to start their day.

For your diaries please note the following dates:

14 February 7:00 - 8:00 pm Parent Information Night (all classes - meet in the School Hall)
Mondays - Green Frog Library Day (please return your child’s library books in their library bag)
Wednesdays - Blue Gecko Library Day (please return your child’s books in their library bag)

Enjoy the rest of your week,

Molly Henson