



# St Joseph's Primary Schofields Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4 2020

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

### Informal Parent Communication

On Tuesday evening we were very pleased to welcome you to school to meet with the classroom teachers. It was also a good opportunity for me to have an informal chat with many of you and to hear your stories of how the children have settled in with their new teachers and classes. I know how much you are looking forward to the new buildings and your appreciation of the hard working, professional teachers is heart-warming.

After the first few weeks of term its inevitable that some matters will arise- perhaps you have already spoken about a couple of these with the teachers. I know that many of the teachers referred you to the **use of See Saw** to let them know of any concerns. Your communication with the teacher is private and so we prefer this to Facebook. Its not usual to email teachers but this can be done by mutual consent.

### Formal Communication

From Week 6 we will start to use the Skoolbag app for the Newsletter and will also put on any notes and important announcements. This is your first port of call for information from school. Skoolbag also has a calendar that will be updated from Week 6.

### Can I send an absent note via Seesaw?

Seesaw is not able to connect with our computer system. Please send a written note, an email or a message via **Skoolbag**.

### Facebook

We have a school Facebook account and there are also parent Facebook pages. Most information is not sent by Facebook as not all parents have social media. Or preference is always Seesaw for informal notes and messages and Skoolbag for the regular messages such as Newsletters.

**Finally, thank you to all our parents making the effort to drop off and pick up their children SAFELY!**

With kind regards,  
Lesley Studans  
Principal

## School Fees

Fees are expected to have been mailed to your home address on Thursday Feb 20. If you would like to make arrangements, please phone the office.

## Date Change from Calendar

School Photos Day is Tuesday, May 19. Children will wear full school winter uniform.

## Assistant Principal's Message

I AM SAFE, I AM RESPECTFUL and I AM A LEARNER is our Joey Code at St Joseph's. This is part of our Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L), a framework we use to create a safe, consistent and positive learning environment for students, staff and parents.

Students can earn Joey tickets anywhere in the school by any staff member when they are seen to be demonstrating the Joey Code. Our main focus is reinforcing and rewarding positive behaviours.

Once students have collected 10 Joeys, they get a stamp on their Joey Card. There are three levels of Joey Cards and Awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold. 10 Stamps for a Bronze award, 15 stamps for a Silver Award and 20 Stamps for a gold Award.

Teachers continually monitor student behaviour, focusing on reinforcing **good and positive behaviours at all times**. Unfortunately at times, some students need little reminders. Therefore, as part of the PBS4L project, the staff has developed a consequences flow chart for the times that students are not demonstrating our Joey Code. This is a flow chart that details the steps that teachers follow in managing student minor and major behaviours.

When it is a minor behaviour, students are given several opportunities to change their behaviour before going to the reflection space to reflect on their behaviour. This consists of giving students **three reminders** to help them monitor and regulate their behaviour. At each reminder the teacher reminds and re-teaches the expected behaviour. When students reach the third reminder, they are required to complete a reflection sheet that gets sent home for you to discuss with your child, sign and return. The teacher will contact you to inform you of the situation and to let you know that a reflection sheet is coming home. If the student continues the behaviour they are then referred to the coordinator who will remind them of expected behaviour. After three reflections sheets the stage coordinator will then contact you. If it is a major behaviour, the coordinator, Assistant Principal, or Principal are involved immediately and you will be notified. If you have any questions about the consequences flow chart please see your child's teacher.

### **Stage Coordinators**

Kindergarten - Katie Bates

Stage 1 - Anne Watson

Stage 2 - Trevor Atkins

Stage 3 - Joanna Delvecchio

## Attendance

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. ***Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.*** If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Online: log the absence directly using *Skool Bag App* (***avoid using Seesaw for this***)
2. Email: the school at [stjosephsschofields@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stjosephsschofields@parra.catholic.edu.au)
3. Telephone: the school office 8869 8100
4. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

### Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

### What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner every day 

## Parent Helpers

A reminder that the Parent Helper Session is being run on Tuesday 25th February at 2.45pm. If you wish to help in the classroom or sporting events or attend any excursion you need to have attended one of the school run child protection sessions. If you are unable to attend the training please let the office know so we can arrange an alternate time.

## Medication

The dispensing of medication to students is governed by clear guidelines from the NSW Catholic Education Commission that ensure the safety of the child. If your child is required to take medication in any form such as tablets, asthma puffers, vitamins, tonics and creams, the office is to be notified and a form is to be completed for the office staff to safely administer the medication. This form can be obtained at the school office when required. Under no circumstances do teachers administer medication. Please note the following;

1. All medication sent to school should be in its **original bottle or box** with an accompanying measuring cup if required and handed to the school office upon arrival.
2. Medication must be accompanied by a **signed request** from the parent or carer, clearly stating the **name of the medication, dosage** and **time of administration**.
3. All medication is kept in the school office and administered by one of the school's office staff, who maintains the school's medication register.
4. Where medication is long term, a **letter from the prescribing doctor** will be requested.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

## Bushfires Fundraiser/ Crazy Sock Day



We ask our school community of St Joseph's to support the Bushfires Fundraiser/Crazy Sock day. This Bushfires Fundraiser is to support the St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal. The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to assure the community that every dollar raised for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal will be used to support the people impacted by the fires.

Students are encouraged to wear crazy socks ( this could mean to wear different coloured socks, odd socks, socks that are not school socks) on **Friday 28th February**. To support the Bushfires Fundraiser, students are encouraged to bring in a **gold coin** for wearing their crazy socks. Students will hand in their gold coins to their class teachers in the morning.

### **Together we can give hope to those in need!**

#### **PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:**

Eternal God,

In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land, on our starving and displaced animals, on our failing crops and burning farms, towns and forests.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires, those who have lost family, friends, property and stock. Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members of essential services.

In your loving providence, send abundant rain to quench the fires  
and to restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son,  
in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy  
Spirit, the Lord the giver of life:

Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

## **Upcoming Liturgies**

**All families are welcome to celebrate  
with us the following Liturgies.**



## Ash Wednesday

**Week 5**

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy 26th February @ 12 noon.**

## Catholic Schools Week

**Week 6 Tuesday 3rd March, Liturgy 8:45  
followed by Open Classrooms 9:30**



### From the Library

What a fabulous year of reading 2020 will be!

Soon the Premier's Reading Challenge will begin. This is a great opportunity to broaden reading horizons and set goals, challenging students and discovering many new stories.

Sacred Heart will be celebrating National Simultaneous Storytime in May, with the help of some talented students.

Later on in the year we shall be enjoying Book Week with all the fun that goes along with that fabulous week.

Book Club catalogues are on their way for a wonderful start to the year – there's nothing like ordering books of your very own!

As we watch the new buildings get closer to completion, re-establishing the library is also getting closer and it will be terrific to see the comings and goings of students as they use the space and borrow books. Meanwhile, if there are any school library books at home, please make sure they are returned to the office as soon as possible.

Joanne Neill  
Library Technician

### Special Health Initiative

**Thursday 5th March**

Only 5% of NSW children eat enough vegetables. To improve this, we are increasing children's knowledge, exposure and positive attitudes towards vegetables. To help improve this, we are increasing children's knowledge, exposure and positive attitude towards

vegetables. 'The Big Veggie Crunch' is an attempt by the NSW primary schools students to break the record for the highest number of children eating vegetables simultaneously - and to get kids excited about vegetables. Primary schools across NSW will be joining together to break the record for the most students crunching vegetables:

- 50 260 students crunching simultaneously (2018 record)
- 14 991 students crunching at other times over Vegetable Week (2019 record)

St Joseph's will be supporting this initiative on

**Thursday 5th March at 10am**

**What can you do to help?**

- Pack a container of vegetables (**not fruit this time**) for your child to eat on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Remember to keep

serving up the vegetables at home and in your children's lunchboxes!

