

THE SJ VIBE

Monday 22nd February 2021
Edition 2, Volume 1

As Pope Francis called for the Year of St Joseph's in 2021, so too, we are so blessed to open our doors for the first time! As Catholic Education in Australia celebrates 200 years, we celebrate St Joseph's Catholic Primary School first steps of our educational journey as a school. Our rooms are alive with conversation, love and laughter. Thank you for the families' courage in believing in the vision created for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I am working hard for each of you by name, and although I haven't mastered it yet, I am working hard to achieve this. This is reflected in classrooms with our educators and students taking the time to connect with our families. Thank you for your welcome and smiles.

We have celebrated the first day with a whole school liturgy, which was reverent and respectful. The staff collaborated to create some memorable moments for the children to participate in throughout the day. There has been a skipping and soccer competition, fostering participation at lunchtime, led by Mike.

At St Joseph's, we action positive behaviours for students. Explicitly teaching respect, courage, kindness, and safety look like.. These values are explicitly taught to the students. These behaviours and actions are clear and consistent, enabling students and families to have transparency as to how we implement classroom expectations and how we expect students and adults to treat each other within our school and beyond. We ask our families to dialogue with their children about the positive behaviours for learning (PBL).



I would like to thank families for the calm nature of how you managed the Lockdown last week. The wellbeing of all students, staff and families will always be of priority to me. The teachers were thrilled to have the chance to speak to all of the families and check in with your children. Although many things had been put into place last year so we would be ready, the issues that we have experienced in being a greenfield school have delayed some of the things I had wished to already in place. Whilst all other schools had the great delight of having staff and a plan established, having a new team gave us the chance to collaborate to formulate the St Joseph's Plan.

Our COVID Plan for flip learning

- iPads will go home with every student - school-owned
- iPads have the apps already uploaded ready for use
- User agreements are to be signed before going home
- St Joseph's ICT Policy
- Expectations for how students use devices
- Expectations for time usage of devices

The staff have been outstanding in creating interactive and engaging activities to build connections and relationship between peers. Thank you for your efforts. More information will be shared with families this week regarding this.

The students will begin using their iPads this week. Time and energy will be spent teaching the students how to use their devices respectfully and responsibly.

Every Monday, we gather in prayer as a whole school, with the classrooms beginning next week in leading these. This enables your children to lead the school in public speaking, take time to pray, and share in the joy of song.

We are asking all families to add themselves to Skoolbag as this is the platform of communication for newsletters and urgent messages that families may need to know. Families will also be notified soon about Operoo, which will allow families to update medical details and give permissions for excursions etc.

We have welcomed our fabulous Foundation students and how they have settled to be little leaders of St Joseph's. The time has come to invite existing families to enrol their child or children for 2022 by Friday 26th February 2021. Siblings take priority but must be enrolled. This will enable us to discern how many Foundation (Prep) spaces will be available for 2022. Enrolments will open for 2022 from March 1st, 2021 and close at the end of Term 1 (Thursday, April 1st, 2021).

As the new governance model of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) begins, that influences the St Joseph's School Model. To encourage connection amongst our community, we will conduct Community Conversations as part of our Community Leadership Team. This will take place this later this term to start conversations around teaching and learning, what is happening in our school, hearing from staff and sharing the critical strategies in the Annual Action Plan for 2021.

May you have a week of fun, learning, love and laughter.
Kind regards
Shelley



Spirit of unity: Respect Courage Kindness

INTRODUCING OUR TEAM

OUR 2ND ENRICHMENT TEACHER

Hello everyone! My name is Leisa Rickard and I feel very fortunate and proud to be part of our beautiful St. Joseph's community. I come to you as a teacher with considerable experience. I began my career in the inner city, working closely with children who were refugees or newly arrived to Australia. I have worked in a number of schools in many different roles. Most recently I was a Performing Arts teacher, specialising in Drama and Wellbeing. I love developing positive, authentic relationships with the children (and grown ups) I work with.

At St. Joseph's, I am an enhancement teacher. I will be working alongside our talented classroom teachers to boost the children's learning.

I live locally so if you see me when you're out and about, make sure you come and say hello! I live with my husband Troy, our daughter Daisy and dog, Louie. Daisy completed year 12 last year and is off to Monash University to study Law and Biomedicine. Troy and I can't quite believe that our baby is going to be a University student. It sure does go quickly, doesn't it?

When I'm not working, you'll find me collecting recipes and cooking. Unfortunately, this means that I'm often collecting diets as well!!! I am also part of a choir. This proves that even someone who is not a great singer can sound wonderful as one of many voices.

I look forward to getting to know you all. You'll see me out in the yard on Thursdays and Fridays in the morning and after school.



SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Hello! My name is Grace O'Neill and I am thrilled to be apart of the St Joseph's community especially when it's brand new! Nothing like being apart of something special at the foundation of it!

I am fresh out of study and will be the schools chaplain for 2021 and I am so excited to meet every single one of you and work with you beautiful families.

It's only the beginning but every day I have been at St Joseph's, I have loved seeing all the student's excitement and smiling faces and I know that this year is going to be the best yet!

I would say I am an optimist, and always love a good chat, so please don't hesitate to come and say hello!

I love road trips and travelling, so I cannot wait until I can get in a plane next and enjoy a double summer!

My passion is working with young people and helping our next generation in guiding their next steps, building confidence and resilience, and kick starting their dreams and goals!

So there we have it a little about me and I'm excited to get to know more about you! The least I could say again is hello and thank you for the amazing privilege to be apart of the St Joseph's community.



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INTRODUCING OUR SPECIALISTS TEAM

Physical Education

Hi Everyone! My name is Louise White and I am lucky enough to be the Physical Education teacher at St Joseph's. I have been a Primary School Teacher for over 25 years. I have taught all classroom levels from Prep to Year 6. I began teaching in Ballarat where I grew up, I then spent most of my years teaching in the Werribee area! I now get to share my time teaching PE in 2 schools within the Parish of St Andrews, at St John the Apostle in Tarneit and here at St Joseph's.

I live in Newport with my husband and my 3 daughters. My favourite season is Summer because I love the warm weather, being outdoors and I especially love going to the beach.

I enjoy keeping fit. I particularly like running and cycling and playing lots of different sports. I am very passionate about health, fitness and having a positive attitude. I believe that being active, playing sport and learning healthy habits enables our students to set a positive foundation for their future.

Being a founding staff member of a brand-new school is such an exciting adventure to be a part of. I look forward to meeting you all and building a wonderful, friendly, and welcoming community.



Environmental Education

My name is Elizabeth McPherson. I'm excited to be taking on the role of Environmental Education teacher at St. Joseph's. I have lived in Point Cook for 16 years and I also spend much of my time at our little beach shack in Werribee South.

I have four children who light up my life as well as Pip the dog, Luna the cat, Chip and Spike the chickens and Erebus and Apollo the axolotls.

I enjoy shopping, cycling, reading, trying foods from different cultures, being out in nature and helping things grow (both plants and people).

I believe that we are all lifelong learners and I enjoy being on that journey together with the children I teach.

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SPECIALIST (Cont)

Music

Hello St Joes community. My name is Tim Parsons-Yarrow, but you can call me Tim!

I am 45, married to the love of my life, Emily, who is a Secondary English, humanities and VCE Dance teacher. I have two children, Raine who is 21 and Sunny, who is 16 and two dogs Paddy and Daisy, who loves beach walks near where we live in Torquay. This is my second year teaching Primary students, as I am also a Secondary English, Drama and VCE Theatre Studies teacher.

My previous life was as an award-winning actor and director in London, Edinburgh and NZ before teaching in 2014. I love the beach, surfing, paddle boarding, drumming, tennis and I am a huge film and theatre fan.

I am looking forward to working with St Joseph's students on Wednesdays to create some awesome music this year and hopefully, COVID wiling, putting on a small musical performance!



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INTRODUCING LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS

Foundation

Hi Everyone! My name is Sylvia Chambers and I am thrilled to be part of such a dedicated and caring team at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I have absolutely loved getting to know our new students and am looking forward to an exciting journey ahead. In my spare time I love spending time outdoors with my family and friends, especially my wonderful husband Dean and our 2 precious children Darcy and Jasmine and let's not forget our adorable Puglier, Monty who is an absolute delight. I love travelling and spending time away on holidays in Ocean Grove. I love the beach, cooking, walking, watching my children play football, basketball and cricket and supporting the Mighty Pies. I have worked in Education Support since 2013 and I cannot wait to be a part of all the positive learning in this wonderful community at St Josephs.



Year 1 & 2

My name is Golda Villegas and I am very excited to be part of the foundation team at St Joseph's. I have been working as a Learning Support Officer since 2018 but have volunteered in the classroom since my oldest daughter started school in 2005. I love working with children and strive for each child to feel loved and valued like the children of God and true heirs of heaven they truly are.

Rommel, my husband and I have been living in the North West since 2000, where we are raising our 5 children- Erika, Amelia, Enrico, Romina & Inigo. Swimming trainings on weekdays and swimming competitions on weekends



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IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday 24th February: No Foundation Students (Prep)

Wednesday 3rd March: No Foundation Students (Prep)

Friday 5th March: First Aid training for staff.
This is a **pupil free day** closure to all students and year levels.

Monday 8th March: Labor Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 10th March: All students will attend full school days
(Foundation Students included) from this date unless notified otherwise.

Wednesday 17th March: St Patrick's Day

Friday 19th March: Feast of St Joseph

Friday 19th March: Sacrament of Confirmation 6.30pm

Thursday 1st April: Last Day of Term. Whole School Liturgy/ Assembly @ 12.00pm. Finish at 2.10 pm

Monday 19th April: First day of school

Friday 30th April: School Photo Day (Term 2)

2022 ENROLMENT INFORMATION NIGHT

The 2022 Enrolment Information Night will take place on Tuesday 2nd March from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. This will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, 50 Treeve Parkway. This may need to be adjusted to a virtual platform, but we will notify families of his change should it be necessary. Families will need to register online at Trybooking.com at the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/BPBXT>.

This opens Tuesday 23rd February 2021 and closes on Monday 1st March at 11.00 am.
Please add your name, child's name - Year level for 2022, email address and contact phone number. Please let us know if you are unable to attend via email.

We look forward to seeing you there.

NB: Existing families are asked to enrol their child or children for 2022 by Friday 26th February 2021. Siblings take priority but must be enrolled. This will enable us to discern how many Foundation (Prep) spaces will be available for 2022. Enrolments will open for 2022 from March 1st, 2021 and close at the end of Term 1 (Thursday, April 1st, 2021).

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