

THE SJ VIBE

Friday 4th June 2021

Edition 2, Volume 4

Principal's Message:

"Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for the people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voice of division. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."

The St. Joseph's Community has displayed courage within ourselves and towards each other in lockdown this week. It was announced yesterday that this would be extended for another week until Thursday 10th June. Students have engaged creatively and interactively over the past week, with Italian Masterchef creations, singing and dancing, as well as some very entertaining storytelling from Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The staff have been thrilled with the participation of the children and the work that has been uploaded.

The time of Pentecost calls us to reflect on and engage in life-giving relationships. For a community to be in the right relationship there needs to be effective communication, trust, space, time, as well as feedback. I extend an invitation to our families to contact us if you need to discuss any anxiety you may be feeling. You can book a time to talk via email or phone call.

For this reason, it is important for students to log in daily because this is seen as a normal school day and a legal requirement to track attendance through the daily roll call. It needs to be clear that the expectation of face-to-face virtual time in teaching curriculum areas comes from the directive of the Victorian Government and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). Every Catholic School is mandated to deliver time for each curriculum area. This is another way of looking out for each other as a community, especially the social and emotional well-being of each other. Having said that, teachers will structure their daily check-in and how they lead their learning through Seesaw and Google meets. Please check Seesaw for this communication.

The 2022 enrolment interviews began this week and will continue over the next few weeks. We have had an abundance of enrolments and feel very grateful for aspiring families who wish to join our St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.



Spirit of unity: Respect Courage Kindness

The St Joseph's Community Leadership Team has begun with the first Community conversation taking place earlier this term. Families engaged in dialogue and discussion. The first fundraising meeting has also kicked off, generating ideas for ways of connecting families and raising some funds to put towards resources for students to enhance their learning and school experience. Feedback from our families and carers assists us to evolve and move positively towards the future. Reflective practice allows us to share safely, reflect, create space, question, analyse and celebrate our practice. Our vision is our measuring stick, reminding us of the importance of respect, courage and kindness in all that we do and how we engage with each other as a St Joseph Community.

Patrick, Joseph and Kenzie represented St. Joseph's at the Bicentennial Mass held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne on the 27th of May. The students delivered prayers of the faithful with clarity, confidence and passion. It was a proud moment for me as the St Joseph's principal, to see our three students dressed in our uniform, representing all of the Catholic Schools across the Archdiocese.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the children who received their reconciliation and eucharist over the last few weeks as part of our St. Andrew's Parish Sacramental Program. This was a special time for families and the students. I would also like to acknowledge our religious education leader, Laura Chamberlain. Laura has worked tirelessly since the beginning of the year to put together our masses, prepare for the Official Opening and coordinating, together with Glenn Mugavin, the Sacramental Program. Laura alongside of Rose Thomas is leading our staff in deepening our knowledge and understanding of the Religious Education curriculum so that we can grow our understanding of the pedagogy of encounter.

May you find strength in each other.

Kind regards,

Shelley



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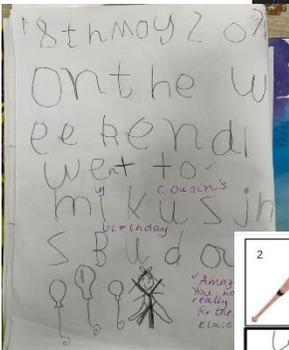
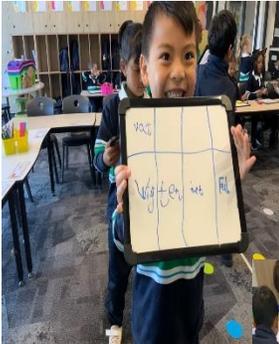
STUDENT VOICE

Foundation

So much learning has been happening in Foundation.

We have been writing about getting our chicks.

On Tuesday we got nine eggs. They are in an incubator to keep warm.



We have been adding and creating addition Hungry caterpillars.

We have been doing more work in small groups with our teachers, Sylvia and Leisa.

In inquiry our seeds and cut off vegetables are really growing well.

We have been learning how to say sorry (Reconciliation) and be reverent during prayer time.

We can say lots of words in Italian and say them very well.

We have been focusing on being respectful and kind.

We are getting better at writing our phonemes by matching them to letters.

STUDENT VOICE

Year 1/2 Mike

Kennedy: In Maths I learnt that there is a shape with 12 sides and now I know it's called a dodecagon.

Jarrah: I like that some letters like the letter 'x' give you a clue to remember the name of a 2D shape like a hexagon.

Sadie: I enjoyed talking about God's creation. I like learning about how God created the earth, animals, flowers, sun and night.

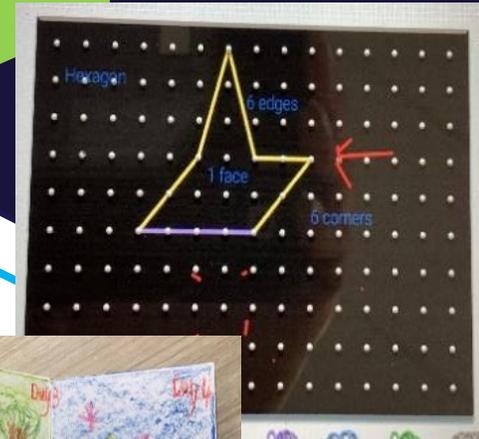
Riazwen: God made and created earth, water, land, birds, animals and people. God created a beautiful environment for all of us.

Beau: I enjoyed learning about butterflies and chickens and in my Inquiry I am learning more about frogs. "Did you know some frogs have poisonous skin?"

Lucy: I like singing and dancing in art.

Katea: I Enjoyed learning about the chickens. They were eggs and then they hatched into beautiful and fluffy yellow chicks. They will grow into big and beautiful hens or rosters.

Sienna: I learnt about bugs and how they can change colour to save themselves from predators during our excursion.



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STUDENT VOICE

Year 3/4

We congratulate Vielle, Noah, Sarina, Michelle, Jaiden and Savina for making their first Reconciliation on Tuesday May 18. We look forward to their first Eucarist on Sunday May 23 at 1pm.

Raising Chickens

Sammarth: Our chickens have been growing fast- we have named them. They like to sleep together because it keeps them warm. They are so cute and soft.

Sophia: We named our chickens: Donut, Beyonce, Stormy, Jelly and Freddo.



Year 5/6

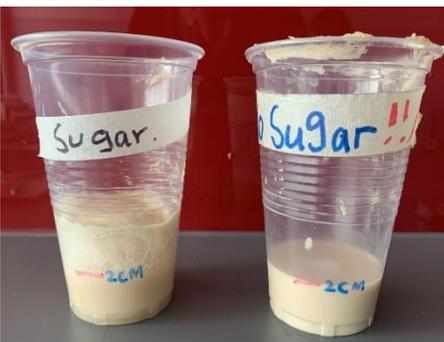
The Year 5 and 6 learners have been busy growing living-things in their learning this term. Read to find out about their learning adventures

I am learning to organise facts into graphic organisers. I am using concept maps, cross classification charts and venn diagrams. I am searching for lots of facts about animals and biology. By Kenzie.

Every animal has a purpose and helps humans stay alive. I created an infographic of the life cycle of a butterfly. By Amy.

We are learning about chickens by watching our pet chickens grow. We are watching their lifecycle. In Writer's notebook, we tried to persuade Shelley to keep the chickens at school and not send them back to the chicken farm. By Heemakshi.

In Mathematics I have been creating videos to teach kids how to add fractions and decimals with my great personality. I made 'Korestar's' channel and 'Maths Is Cool' channel. By Korey



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OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

School Advisory Council

As part of our organisational structure, it is required that St Joseph's forms a School Advisory Council. The School Advisory Council (SAC) is one part of our community leadership team, along with Building and Maintenance, Fundraising, Catholic Identity and Finance. Please contact me on principal@sjwerribee.catholic.edu.au if you would like to find out more about joining this team.

Reports

Reports will be sent out for the first time on Friday 18th June. This will be in paper or electronic form, depending on whether the ICON Community portal is fully functional.

The reports will contain a general comment, work habits and progression points in relation to each curriculum area, for each child. Our primary focus has been on the well-being of our students, ensuring they have made connections and settled into school routines. Alongside this, we have also collected student data to enable assessment of academic growth.

In readiness for second semester reports, we will be engaging in surveys to gain a clear understanding of what parents are seeking. We will be having parental forums early next term to gather feedback about what families expect to see in reports. This will be collated and then workshopped to create the report for next semester.

The reporting timeline:

- Friday, 18th June Reports to be sent home via digital ICON Community portal or paper copy.
- Tuesday 22nd June and Wednesday 23rd of June- Three-way conversations between student, teacher and parents. When interview times are made available, please book a time for you and your child/children to meet with the classroom teacher.

These conversations enable your child's voice to be heard in relation to what they are learning and what they are working towards. It is also a time for parents to ask any questions and an opportunity for staff to celebrate the contributions of learners in our classrooms. It is the aim that these conversations will be a positive experience. If you feel you need to speak to the classroom teacher or principal about other matters, it is best to make another time so we can give fidelity to the conversation.

Reports should reflect the learning that your child or children have completed throughout the course of the semester and we hope that teachers have been in constant dialogue with your family.

Curriculum Expectations and Scheduled Time

We received some valuable feedback from our families about scheduled hours for curriculum areas. I have attached a document sharing this information which is mandated by the Victorian Government. The Positive Behaviour for Learning focus for this term is kindness. We encourage our families to be part of this dialogue with the children at home. We hope these behaviours are being modelled and actioned in every facet of their lives.

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OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



St. Joseph's Child Safe Practices

Collection of children - classrooms

Parents and Carers are reminded that drop off for school is 8.30 am for school to begin at 8.45 am.

School pickup is at 3.10 pm. Onsite only from 3.00 pm for health reasons.

With COVID Plans back in place, I remind families that they are not permitted on-site, indoors or outdoors without masks. The 1.5 m distancing rule applies in line with the COVID Plan and families are to meet their children from 3.10 pm outside the classroom door. We ask families to leave quickly for your safety and others.

Drive-thru - Kiss and drop - Treeve Parkway

The gates open at 3.00 pm.

As parents arrive you are advised to park in the furthest space, near the Staff carpark end. Then, as more people arrive spaces can be filled back from there. The parking is for drop and go, (5 mins) so please refrain from parking and leaving your vehicle unattended. As the weather becomes less kind, I want to prevent accidents and ensure the students get into the cars quickly and safely. Secondly, if parents can refrain from crossing traffic to turn into the Drive-thru on Treeve Parkway, it will eliminate the chance of an accident with walkers, riders and drivers. It is advised that you come from the Fairhall Ave end or go around the roundabout and come back to turn into the Drive-thru. The safety of our students and families is of utmost importance.

Mother's Day Liturgy

The Mother's Day Liturgy was a beautiful occasion. Many Mums, Carers and Grandparents attended the liturgy in family groups. It was so lovely to have everyone on site. For some families it was the first time indoors. The love was electric and it could be felt flowing throughout the building. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Report Writing Day

There is no school on Monday 7th June due to a report writing day. Kelly Club whole day care is available. Bookings are essential.

MacKillop College Visit

Earlier in term two, I was fortunate to be welcomed to MacKillop College by the principal Rory Kennedy. I was very impressed with the way MacKillop creatively uses space. I observed a spiritual space education centre that promotes high academic expectations as well as high self-expectation as an independent learner. MacKillop College is St Joseph's zoned secondary school. The most significant part of the visit was observing how MacKillop College has embraced the charism of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph's of the Sacred Heart. Knowing this charism is at the heart of St Joseph's, this left me feeling connected.

Inquiry of Biological Science - Chicken Coop

Over the past six weeks learners have engaged in investigating biological science- living and nonliving things. The year five students presented expositions and letters to answer the question 'Why should we build a chicken coop to house the chickens that we have reared over the last six weeks?' What a pleasure it was to hear the reasons for building a chicken coop. I listened to these reasons and was happy in supporting the proposals.

I'm delighted to share that we will be building a coop for the chickens. If any parents and their children are interested, capable and able to assist us in creating, designing and building, I would be very pleased for you to contact me on principal@sjwerribee.catholic.edu.au These could be built over holidays and we will provide the materials.

Covid has impacted our excursion to Animal Land but it has been moved forward to the first week of next term. We have engaged in a local excursion to our Harpley wetlands which have enabled our students to gain a better understanding of our local habitat, as well as the impact that we have on our environment. I would like to thank Susan Millard, Learning and Teaching Leader, for coordinating this. The students have gained a great deal of knowledge about their own environment of Werribee.

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OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



Religious Education

What an exciting few weeks it has been for our School.

Our Year 4 and 5 children of Catholic Faith received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion. We are immensely proud of the reverence the children displayed. Please keep all our children in your prayers.



We are also bursting with pride as our Year 6 Leaders Joseph and Patrick, with Kenzie from Year 5, read the Prayers of the Faithful at St Patrick's Cathedral. This was to celebrate the Bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia. We feel very special that St Joseph's was selected to represent the Catholic Primary Schools.

You can watch the Mass on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDPRKDruHkA>

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OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

NAPLAN

On May 11th - 13th all of our year 3 and year 5 students sat their NAPLAN assessment. We were so proud of the way our students entered these assessments. They showed great persistence and resilience in their approach and we know they tried their very best. As a school we are very proud of them and congratulate all of our year 3 and 5 students for their hard work over those three days. Results from the assessments will be sent out to families later in the year.

Italiano

FAMILIES AS CO-LEARNERS

buongiorno	hello
arrivederchi	goodbye
ciao	hi/bye
per favore	please
grazie	thank you
prego	you're welcome
Mi scusi	excuse me
si	yes
no	no

Buongiorno,
The fabulous staff and learners at St. Joseph's have been developing their Italian oral language. We encourage our families to be co-learners alongside our learning journey. Each newsletter we will share new language to embrace in your homes. Grazie. Arrivederchi, Jayde.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

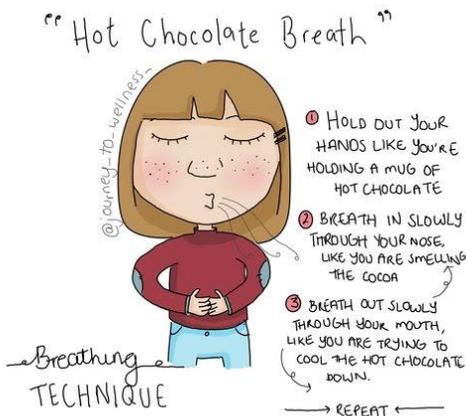
WELLBEING

A huge congratulations to every student, teacher and parent for making it this far in the year! Week 5 of term 2 and there is so much happening

In every class room you enter there is lots of excitement for the day ahead of learning and fun! However, during this time of the year, the days become more full, which to some students can become overwhelming.

Being overwhelmed is going to happen at some point of the year with many of us, me included!

So here are a few things we can do to help us feel less overwhelmed or even prepare us in the car ride to school!



1. Be present in the moment and take some Hot Chocolate Breaths!

Use your imaginary cup in front of you - take a big breath in and use your big breath out to cool your hot chocolate! Do this 3-5 times to slow down your breathing and be present.

2. List three things you are grateful for:

This may sound super simple, but having a moment of gratitude can put things in perspective!

Examples: I'm grateful I can walk to school safely, I have food in my lunch box, I am blessed enough to be able to have school resources to use

This could also look like listing things you are excited about that will happen in the day.

- Examples: Excited for performing arts with Tim, looking forward to going outside at lunch, or even for piano lessons after school!

3. Have a moment and take a break!

In our society today, it can almost be like we need to be proud of ourselves when we are "busy" or "most productive" - we can wear it like a badge!

But taking a moment to ourselves, having a walk outside, playing with our favourite toy or doing 10 jumping jacks, is very helpful when we are feeling overwhelmed - just take a break!

Three things we can do when we are feeling overwhelmed - might be simple, but they are great tools to remember when it happens to help you and others!

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ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Attendance - Skoolbag or voicemail

If your child is absent from school, you need to ensure you communicate this with the school. SKOOLBAG has an attendance e-form which can be filled out and submitted direct to the office. Alternatively, please use the school phone number and select the attendance line option. When leaving a message please ensure you clearly state your child's full name, class and the reason for their absence. We must have a valid reason for marking your child/children absent.

Late arrivals process

When arriving after 8.45am, your child is marked absent. To ensure your child's attendance is marked accurately, we ask that students arriving after this time come into the front office via Fairhall Ave and sign in as a late arrival on the iPad in our Foyer. This is to ensure we account for all children. Your child will then need to enter the building to go to class from the reception area. This supports our commitment to child safety.

School Fees

Updated statements have been printed and have now been sent out to families. Please let the office know if you haven't received a copy.

CSEF

CSEF forms are now due. If you have not returned your Camps, Sports and Excursions Funds form please do so ASAP. This is open to all families who have a Health Care Card or Pension Card. This card must be in the parent/guardian's name.



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We are excited to partner up with Scholastic books. Our first group of orders have been packed and have gone out to our families.

Issue 4 is now open and will close on Monday 7th June, 2021. Please complete an online order if you are interested in ordering some books and supporting the school.

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Monday 31st May – Thursday 10th June – Remote Learning

Monday 7th June – School Closure Day (Report Writing)

Monday 14th June - Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 25th June - Last Day of Term. Finish at 2.10 pm

Tuesday 31st August - Reconciliation Family Meeting

Thursday 9th September - Reconciliation

Thursday 2nd December - Year 6 Graduation

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