Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what promises to be a busy and eventful term. It is hard to believe that we have entered the final term of the year and our Prep students are getting closer and closer to being in Grade 1. It doesn’t seem that long ago when they took their first steps into the Prep classrooms. They have taken the daily routines of school in their stride and are confident and capable learners. Together we should feel very proud of all of their achievements to date and celebrate what has been a very successful first year at school.

100 Days of School and Curriculum Night
A big thank you to families for supporting both our 100 Days of School celebration and our Curriculum Night, held in the last week of term. Both of these events demonstrated the great community spirit we have at St. Simon’s and it was wonderful to see the looks on students faces as they were able to show their families the amazing work they do at school. The education of our students is a partnership between school and home and it is humbling to see so many parents who enthusiastically support their children in such a visible way.

St Simon’s Feast Day
St. Simon’s Feast Day will be celebrated on Friday 28th October. The day will begin with a whole school Mass and continue with fun filled activities throughout the day. All students will also take part in a concert with Andrew Chinn during the course of the day.

Religious Education
This term in R.E. the students will be exploring a unit on Parables, looking at the messages these stories provide us. They will also explore Advent and Christmas later in the term.

Integrated Inquiry Unit
This term the Prep students will be exploring ‘The Polar Express’ story for our Integrated Inquiry Unit. We will focus on the question ‘What is the meaning behind believing?’ In this unit the students will explore the language of Narratives, looking at the different features of Narratives such as the setting, characters, plot and text structure.

Literacy
In Literacy, the Prep students will be focusing on reading and writing Narrative texts. Students will continue practising fluency, the use of punctuation and word building.

Mathematics
In Mathematics, we will explore measurement, looking at length, weight and volume. Number work, including counting, will continue to be revised each week.

Discovery Centres,
Our popular Discovery Centres will continue each Wednesday this term. Once we launch our ‘Polar Express” unit, the Discovery Centre learning activities will be related to this unit.
Specialist Classes
Specialist classes will continue on a Thursday this term. It is expected that all students return their library book each week and have their library bag ready for borrowing.

| Prep Green | Art | PE | Library |
| Prep Blue  | PE  | Library | Music |
| Prep Yellow | Library | Music | Art |
| Prep Red   | Music | Art | PE |

Specialist classes not covered by a specialist teacher will be covered in the classroom each week by the classroom teacher.
*Prep Yellow PE Day this term will be on Thursday
*Prep Red Library Day this term will be on Monday

Puffing Billy Excursion
This term all Prep classes will be going on an excursion to Puffing Billy. This excursion will take place on Friday 4th November. This excursion has been planned to enhance our Polar Express Integrated Inquiry Unit, and will provide the students with an experience of travelling on a steam train. An excursion permission form and request for parent helpers for the excursion, will be sent home shortly.

Swimming
A two-week intensive swimming program will take place in weeks 7 and 8 this term. More details regarding this program will be sent home at a later date.

Literacy and Numeracy Testing
This term all Prep staff will be involved in Literacy and Numeracy testing. Although the class teacher will be out of the room, working one on one with each child, this testing will not affect the daily routines of your child’s class, as other teachers will teach the program as planned by the classroom teachers.

Reminders:
- If your child is ill, or absent from school, it is a legal requirement that a letter of explanation is sent to the class teacher when they return to school. An online form can also be filled in on the School App.
- Due to the warmer weather all children are required to wear their hat during term 4.
- The classroom doors open at 8.30am each morning. The time between 8.30 and 8.45 is for unpacking bags, saying goodbye and sitting ready to begin the school day.
- Please ensure that long hair is tied up and out of your child’s face each day. Plaits and pony tails are best for long hair.
- All students are encouraged to bring their brain food (a piece of fruit or cut up vegetables) to eat during the Literacy block each day.

Assembly Dates
Prep Yellow will be presenting their Liturgy on Friday 21st October at 11.30am
Prep Green will be presenting their Liturgy on Monday 7th November at 2.30pm.
Parents are invited to attend.

Prep Christmas Music Concerts
The Prep Christmas Music Concert is a highlight of the Prep year. Despite the busy end to the school year, this concert provides parents with the opportunity to see their children showcase their music learning under the direction of our music teacher Mrs Laura Nackashian. The concerts will take place on Tuesday 13th December between 2.00 and 3.00pm. More details will follow at a later date.
Academic School Reports
Written academic reports will be sent home at the end of term, so there will be no scheduled Parent/Teacher chats. If you would like to speak with your child’s teacher, please feel free to make an appointment. As it is an extremely busy term, it is suggested that this is done sooner, rather than later in the term, avoiding Monday of Tuesday afternoon as these are already booked with staff meetings.

Parent Information Evenings
During term 4, St Simon’s will be having three parent information sessions presented by Georgina Manning, a registered Counsellor and Psychotherapist. Information regarding these sessions and a link to inform the school of your wish to attend can be found on the school website in the Events Calendar. All parents are invited to attend any or all of the sessions.

Parent Session No 1 - '5 Secrets' 18th of October 2016 @ 7.00pm
- Practical strategies to support their child to build confidence
- Effective parenting strategies that foster resilience
- How to teach their child positive and effective thinking habits

Parent Session No 2 - Understanding Anxiety in children - 25th of October 2016 @ 7.00pm
- The foundations that help to prevent anxiety
- Parenting strategies that help to develop resilience in children
- How to recognise the signs of anxiety in children

Parent Session No 3 - Friendly Behaviours in the Primary Years - 15th of November 2016 @ 7.00pm
- Practical strategies to support their child to build healthy friendships
- Effective parenting styles that support social awareness and intelligence in children
- Normal development stages of friendships
- Age appropriate social behaviours

School Closure Days
There will be no school on Monday 30th October and Tuesday 1st November.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and enthusiasm this year. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child this term.

Elizabeth Rodrigo       Samantha Lutgens       Natalie La Fontaine       Megan Hiscox
TERM 4 CALENDAR

OCTOBER
Sunday 2nd  Daylight savings begins
Monday 3rd  Term 4 commences for students
Monday 3rd  Assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 4th  Feast of Saints Ellen Donovan (patron saint of farmer’s wives) and St. Francis of Assisi
Wednesday 5th  World Teachers’ Day
Wednesday 5th  Year 6 Graduation Meeting 2.30pm
Wednesday 5th  Parents Association Meeting 7pm
Thursday 6th  Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Saturday 8th  Working Bee 9 – 12 noon
Friday 7th  Year 3 Excursion to Royal Botanic Gardens
Friday 7th  District Summer Sports
Friday 7th  Level Term Letters sent home
Monday 10th  Hoop time - Future Stars
Monday 10th  Year 2 Excursion to Coal Creek
Wednesday 12th  Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday 13th  Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Friday 14th  Year 6 Summer Round Robin
Friday 14th  Stand Up Day Liturgy (4G) 11.30am
Friday 14th  Parents’ Association Students’ Disco Night 6pm to 10pm
Saturday 15th  Avila Feast Day
Saturday 15th  Stringybark Festival – St. Simon’s Choir to perform 3.45pm
Tuesday 18th  Parent Info Night (1) 7pm – ‘5 secrets to develop confidence and resilience’
Thursday 20th  Basketball Regional Finals
Thursday 20th  Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Thursday 20th  Year 4 Camp Don Bosco Safety Beach
Friday 21st  World Mission Liturgy (Prep Y) 11.30am
Saturday 22nd  Family Photo Day 9am – 6pm
Sunday 23rd  Mission Sunday
Monday 24th  Year 6 Excursion to Melbourne City
Tuesday 25th  Parent Info Night (2) 7pm – ‘Understanding Anxiety in Children’
Wednesday 26th  Advisory Board 7.30pm
Thursday 27th  Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Friday 28th  2017 Booklists Due
Monday 31st  Professional Development Day – No school for students

NOVEMBER
Tuesday 1st  All Saints Day
Tuesday 1st  Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 2nd  All Souls Day
Wednesday 2nd  Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm
Thursday 3rd  Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Thursday 3rd  Year 3 Sleepover
Thursday 3rd  Prep 2017 Transition Session (1) 11.30am to 1pm
Thursday 3rd  Year 2 Prayer Night/ Sacrament Registration 7:00pm
Friday 4th  Anointing Mass 9.15am
Friday 4th  Prep Excursion to Puffing Billy
Saturday 5th  Bogan Bingo Night 7pm to 11pm
Monday 7th  Assembly/ Liturgy (Prep G) 2:30pm
Wednesday 9th  Year 2 Prayer Night/ Sacrament Registration 7:00pm
Wednesday 9th  Parish Pastoral Team 7.30pm
Thursday 10th  Year 2 Camp Day
Friday 11th  Remembrance Day/Tim’s Day Liturgy 10.15am
Monday 14th  Swimming program begins for Years Prep to 4
Tuesday 15th  Parent Info Night (3) 7pm – ‘Friendly behaviours in The primary years’
Wednesday 16th  Prep 2017 Transition Session (2) 11.30am to 1pm
Friday 18th  Year 6 Outdoor Ed – Arthurs Seat
Wednesday 23rd  Advisory Board Meeting AGM 7pm
Wednesday 30th  Year 5 Life-Saving - Inverloch
Wednesday 30th  Parent Helpers Morning Tea
Wednesday 30th  Prep 2017 Information Evening in Library – 7.00pm
Sunday 27th  Advent – Week 1
DECEMBER
Thursday 1st  Assembly/ Advent Week 1 Liturgy (1 Blue) 2.30pm
Friday 2nd  Anointing Mass 9.15am
Friday 2nd  Christmas lunch - Last Day Canteen 2016
Sunday 4th  Advent – Week 2
Monday 5th  Advent Week 2 Liturgy (1 Yellow) 2.30pm
Wednesday 7th  2017 Book Sales for Years Prep to 6 in Lower Common Room 8.30am to 6pm
Wednesday 7th  Prep 2017 Orientation 9 to 10.30am
Thursday 8th  Advent Week 3 Liturgy (5 Blue) 2.30pm
Friday 9th  Year 6 Graduation Mass 6:00pm
Sunday 11th  Advent- Week 3
Monday 12th  Advent Week 4 Liturgy (5 Yellow) 2.30pm
Tuesday 13th  Prep Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm
Wednesday 14th  St. Simon’s Orientation for Years 1-6, 2017
Wednesday 14th  Reports sent home
Wednesday 14th  Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7.30pm
Thursday 15th  Year 6 to Jells Park
Friday 16th  Thanksgiving Mass 9:30am (5 Green) Allan Tudge Presentation of Aston Shield
Friday 16th  Students Finish Early Dismissal 1:15pm
Friday 16th  Term 4 ends
Monday 19th  School Administration closes 12.30pm
Sunday 18th  Advent – Week 4
Sunday 18th  Parish Christmas Carols
Sunday 25th  Christmas Day
Monday 26th  Boxing Day

JANUARY 2017
Monday 30th  Staff return
Monday 30th  Uniform Shop open 10am – 1pm
Tuesday 31st  Students (Gr. 1 to 6) return

FEBRUARY 2017
Thursday 2nd  Preps return (half class)
Friday 3rd  Preps return (other half class)

DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING - SUBJECT TO CHANGE