Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4, how quickly we’ve arrived at the last term for 2016! Wow, where has the year gone? We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Term 4 will once again be another busy term, however, it will be a very exciting time. This term includes the School Swimming Program, St Simon’s Day Celebrations and School Closure Day. Grade 1 Blue and Grade 1 Yellow are also looking forward to presenting their Advent Liturgies towards the end of the year.

Sun Safety Policy

It is now Term 4, which means the school’s policy, “NO HAT NO PLAY” applies. It is essential we teach our children from this early age to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun. Please ensure your child has a named St. Simon’s School hat with them each day for their own protection. Only school hats are to be worn and any child without a hat will be asked to sit in the shaded area outside Building D for the duration of playtimes.

Uniform

All children must be in full summer uniform. Sport uniform should only be worn on P.E days and if they have Sport. If your child is out of uniform, please ensure that a note is sent to their classroom teacher explaining the reason. If your child chooses to wear black runners as part of the uniform, these runners need to be completely black with no other colours showing. Students will need to bring their runners every Friday as we will be participating in whole year level sports. Students do not wear their sport uniform or runners to school on a Friday.

School Closure

This term we have a School Closure Day on Monday, 31st October. Note this is the Monday before Melbourne Cup Day.
Swimming Program

The Swimming Program will take place from Monday, 14th November to Friday, 25th November. Please ensure that all your child’s items are labelled. Session times will be sent home with the permission form before the commencement of the Program. Please read the Contact each week to be up to date with other important school information.

‘Nude Food’ Thursdays

Nude Food Thursdays is a new initiative at St Simon’s. As a school we are aiming to reduce our waste impact on the environment. It is encouraged that every Thursday the students must bring a rubbish free lunch. This means no disposable wrappers or plastics. The students are asked to bring their lunches in containers they can take home, wash and reuse. This includes sandwiches, yoghurts, brain food (putting it in a container), chips, biscuits etc. There is going to be a whole school tally kept as well as a tally in each individual Grade One classroom. A number of the students who consistently bring their lunch in nude will be rewarded for their conscientious efforts at the end of term. As the students learned all about being sustainable and looking after our environment last term, they are aware of the impact rubbish has and are looking forward to decreasing their contribution. We encourage students to include nude food every day of the week, but Thursday is a requirement. We appreciate your understanding and support.

Absentees

If your child is absent from school, his/her classroom teacher requires a written note explaining the reason for the absence. These notes are required by the government and are stored as legal documents. Using the St. Simons School Smart Phone App to notify of absences is an acceptable method of informing the school of any absences.

A Reminder

Please check with your child that he/she has all the stationery items necessary for use at school such as scissors, rubbers, textas and coloured pencils. Sometimes these get lost throughout the term and need replacing. Please ensure all items are named.

School Disco

The School Disco is NEXT Friday, 14th October starting at 6pm for Grade Prep, 1 and 2’s and finishing at 7pm. $2 Entry Fee per student. There will also be a sausage sizzle on the night.

Student Reports

At the end of this term you will receive a comprehensive end of the year school report based on what your child has achieved to date. You will also be informed of your child’s class and teacher for next year, 2017.

Religion
Overview

Our Religious Education units for Term 4 are; Transition, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Our Transition unit will be centring on the concept that our actions affect other people and recognising and understanding how our behaviour changes and transitions. We will also explore Jesus’ behaviour from his junior years until his death, and how it affected those around him. Students will be continuing to participate in school liturgies and masses throughout the term and Grade 1 Blue and Grade 1 Yellow will be presenting Advent Liturgies during the term. Students will also learn about the season of Advent as Christmas approaches. This year the students will be focusing on the ‘Epiphany’, which is the visit from the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. These men, often called Kings or Magi, brought valuable gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to honour the baby.

Literacy

Overview

During Term 4 we will continue to provide students with rich and engaging learning opportunities across all literacy areas; Reading, writing, speaking and listening, spelling, punctuation and grammar. This term we will cover a number of text types including narrative, exposition and poetry. Our reading focus is to begin to develop each student’s ability to understand what he or she is reading, it would be incredibly beneficial for your child if you could ask questions before, during and after reading with them on a nightly basis (see Question Sheet attached). Students need to develop their ability to understand information in all contexts, and this will help them in all areas of their learning. During Term 4 we will be participating in a Buddy Reading program, where the students peer read with their Grade 5 Buddies twice a week.

Wushka

We would like to extend a big thank you to all those families that participated in the Wushka challenge. It was very impressive to see how many students got involved and read lots of fun and interesting books! Please remember that students have access to Wushka at home and we encourage students to continuing reading books on a regular basis.

Reading at home

We would just like to reiterate the importance and immense benefits of reading at home with your child. We feel passionately about this, as it really supports your child’s learning in all areas including Literacy and Mathematics. It is important that you listen to your child read and ask them questions before, during and after each book. You may also model answering the questions yourself. There is no right or wrong way to read with your child, it is just imperative that you do read with them.

We can suggest some approaches:

- You may like to read a book to your child.
- You can read a book together (One page each, a few lines each, etc).
- Listen to them read to you.
- Children could record themselves reading and listen back to it.

Show & Tell

During Term 4 we are continuing ‘Show & Tell’. You will have received a Show & Tell Roster and a Show & Tell Topic Timetable. Show & Tell is beneficial for oral
language and develops students’ speaking and listening skills; we will use these short presentations to supplement our literacy program. Our focus is on developing the student’s’ ability to research and present specific information. It is important to read the Show & Tell Topic Timetable to know what the topic is each week, and what questions your child needs to research and present. This may be done in a number of ways, but a student will not present if they are unprepared or do not have the appropriate show & tell.

Parent Helpers
Teachers have tried to roster fairly, to ensure that all parents who have volunteered have the opportunity to help. If you are interested in helping but need to complete the course please contact Mr John Downie on jdownie@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au. All parent helpers need a Working With Children’s Check and must bring it with them to the classroom every time they are assisting.

Mathematics

Overview
During Term 4 we will be covering a number of Mathematical concepts including Measurement (with a focus on Volume and Capacity), Probability and Chance, Money, 2D and 3D Shape and Fractions.

Mathletics
We would like to remind you that students have access to Mathletics. ‘Mathletics switches kids on to maths. It’s engaging, supportive and targeted to the Australian Curriculum for primary and secondary students’ (Mathletics, 2016). Students can engage with interactive mathematical activities to reinforce what they are learning at school. Through the Mathletics interface students also have access to Rainforest Maths, which has a large number of fun and engaging activities for students to play. Students may also play Live Mathletics against students from around the world in a safe and competitive environment. We encourage all students to access Mathletics on a regular basis, striving to use it at least 3 times a week.

SOSE

Overview
Our whole school SOSE focus for Term 4 is Transition. Transition is an exciting time when we can reflect on the past and prepare for the future. The Grade 1 students will be identifying and exploring a variety of animal life cycles, followed by the students exploring and comparing their own journey and transition over the past 7 years. We will also be preparing the students through many discussions and activities for Grade 2, looking at what Grade 2 will look like and how they might be feeling.

Homework:
Each week the students will continue to be introduced to a new sound focus. This will be the sound that they will learn and revise throughout the week. This sound
will also be linked to their spelling homework. Spelling homework is compulsory and will be given each Monday. Every night of the week students need to write their spelling words out in the columns provided.

At the bottom of the spelling sheet is a spelling activity that the children encouraged to complete in the spelling exercise book. Parents are also encouraged to challenge their children with their spelling words by covering them up and asking them to spell the words, playing games like memory or finding words in magazines. The spelling homework is then collected every Friday and the children will complete a spelling test to see the progression they are making. This is a whole school approach and if we begin providing time for children to see the importance of spelling correctly it will only benefit them later on in life. Again children are also encouraged to complete maths activities from their ‘Maths Toolkits’. Also don’t forget to login in to Mathletics for some fantastic activities relating to the maths topics that are being covered in the classroom.

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<th>Specialist Timetable</th>
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<td><strong>1 Blue</strong></td>
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<td>11.15 - 11.55</td>
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<th>Class Teacher Taught Specialist Timetable</th>
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<td><strong>1 Blue</strong></td>
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<th>Japanese Timetable</th>
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**Calendar**

The calendar attached has all dates required for Term Three. Many of these dates are replicated on the school App, which conveniently has an easy to use facility to notify the school of student absences.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your continued support. We look forward to another extremely busy and enjoyable term working together.

**Teachers Emails**
Grade 1 Teachers

Jessica Cannizzaro (1 Green)  Molly McKinnon (1 Yellow)  Sharni Spriggs (1 Red)  Lauren Drill (1 Blue)