February, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! We trust you all enjoyed the Christmas break and you're ready for a challenging Term One in 2017 with new grades and new teachers. The children are settling in well to work in Year Three with lots of ‘getting to know you’ activities and, yes, a little testing happening at present too.

For the new children to our school, we offer a warm welcome to you and your families.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE:**
- Monday, 13th February - Parent Teacher Chats 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Thursday, 16th February - Parent Teacher Chats 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Friday, 17th February – Twilight Movie Night “Sing”
- Monday 20th February – Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30 (3 RED)
- Wednesday 22nd February – Reconciliation Session 3, 2.pm, 7.30pm
- Tuesday, 28th February – Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday 11.30 Mass
- Wednesday 1st March – Reconciliation Session 4, 2pm, 7.30pm
- Wednesday, 9th March - School Photos

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & INTEGRATED STUDIES**
The Year 3 Religious Education (R.E.) program follows the new curriculum of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Our R.E. units of work are very much intertwined with the overall curriculum. The topics that the Year 3 students will cover in Term One are as follows:

**Reconciliation – ‘Forgiveness and Healing’**
In this unit, the students will explore the concepts of forgiving and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will explore the different rites of Reconciliation celebrated in the Catholic Church. The four stages of reconciling a friendship will also be examined. The students will be invited to write their own prayers of forgiveness and healing and to express their new learnings through written works and drawings.

**‘Making Choices’**
This unit of work is closely linked to Reconciliation. The students will explore living in right relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the whole of creation. They will learn about the freedom to choose given to them by God and examine the belief that freedom of choice also involves being responsible for the consequences of their choices. At the conclusion of the unit the students will be able to identify ways they can make positive choices.
• Lent and Easter – ‘A Journey of Hope’
As Easter Sunday is celebrated the weekend before the start of Term 2, we will be introducing this unit to the children at the end of Term One and continuing it at the start of Term 2. The students will explore the seasons of Lent and Easter. They will learn about the symbols, colours, texts and events of these seasons and what they mean. The events of Holy Week and Easter will also be discussed and studied.

INTEGRATED STUDIES
As a level, we will focus on the following two topics:
*Civics and Citizenship & “Getting to know you”*
-New classroom, new teacher, new classmates! We hope to create a safe and happy learning environment where each and every class member is treated with respect. The students will review the School Rules and the consequences issued if they are broken, as well as discuss and create Class Rules together. Students expand on their knowledge of the law and how laws affect the lives of citizens and communities. They will be introduced to the key values of Australia’s democratic system of government and be given a brief insight into the voting process beginning with voting for a class SRC.
**“Australia Unit”**
In Year 3 our unit of work will focus on the early settlement of Australia. Beginning with the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, students examine European exploration and colonisation in Australia.

LITERACY
As part of the Reading Program in Year 3, the students are expected to borrow books from the school and/or local library and read regularly both at school as well as at home. It would be greatly appreciated if an adult heard the child read once or twice a week to assist in developing their fluency, expression and comprehension (questioning the child about the text).

Through a variety of activities, the students will be working on improving their speaking and listening skills. This will be achieved through oral presentation of their work and class sharing and oral reflections. The students will be asked to describe their thoughts about particular texts read in class, the skills they know and understand about reading and how they might be able to further improve in this area.

We will once again be implementing the ‘SMART Spelling Program’. Grammar and Handwriting will be covered within the framework of the children’s written work. This term’s creative writing focus will be on Narrative and Persuasive Writing in preparation for NAPLAN which will take place in Term 2.

The school iPads and class computers will be incorporated into the daily program wherever possible to enrich the children’s learning experiences. We ask all parents to remind their child of the Year 3-6 Cyber Safety Use Agreement they sign at the start of each year.

MATHEMATICS
• Statistics and Probability
Our first Term focus will provide the students with the opportunity to explore the language of chance through participating in fair and bias games and discuss the outcomes of these games. Students will collect data on questions they generate and collate this information using graphs and graphing software. They will also learn how to correctly label graphs and obtain relevant information from the graphs created and studied in class.

• Number and Place Value
Students will utilise hands on activities and add and subtract numbers to develop effective mental computation strategies and a deeper understanding of our number system. They will be provided with a number of opportunities to develop their skills of recognising, modelling, representing and ordering numbers and identifying the value of numbers.
**“Please”** ensure your child has a Maths Toolkit stocked with the following: the ‘Targeting Maths Dictionary’, playing cards, dice and a calculator. Various other items will be provided in the classroom.
The use of Mathletics will continue this term with the same Usernames and Passwords as in 2016.
SPECIALIST SUBJECTS
This term Sport, Art, Music and Library (on a rotational basis) will be held each Wednesday morning. Sport uniforms are to be worn only on this day and on special occasions designated by the teachers. Children and Parents will be informed of these special days.
*Children in 3 Red will need to wear their sport uniform on Wednesdays as well this term despite not having Specialist Sport lessons with Mr Healy. They will follow his program with Mrs Whelan.
*Japanese will be held each Tuesday for all classes.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Full school uniform is required at all times and the school Sun Smart policy of “No Hat – No Play” will be enforced during Term One.
- Year 3 students will need to bring their runners to school in a plastic bag every second Friday this Term. The class teacher will remind the children prior to the nominated Friday. They are to wear their school shoes to and from school on this day.
- Written notification needs to be provided to your child’s teacher for all student absences. You may choose to use the note template provided in the students’ school diaries. The diaries are also a great tool to be used for notes and communication you require between yourself and school.
- The children have been asked to check their pencil cases and stock those with essentials only, i.e. grey leads, a red pencil, an eraser and a sharpener. Texta colours and coloured pencils could be kept in another pencil case as these tend to be bulky.

HOMEWORK
It is our school policy here at St Simon’s that the Year 3 students receive homework on a regular basis. They are not expected to undertake more than 30 minutes of set homework per night. It is important that students continue to read every night, whether that be out loud to family members or quietly to themselves.

Homework will generally consist of the children completing the R.E. activity in their School Diary, a Maths game or activity and a Literacy activity (Spelling, Grammar, Comprehension, etc.). Please ensure that a parent, or both parents, check the completed homework and Student Diary and sign each on Thursday night prior to the Friday due date.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher with any concerns or essential information at any time on the email addresses below. We hope and pray that everyone enjoys their learning in Year 3 during Term One.

We look forward to working with you this year!

Best Wishes,

The Year 3 Team.

Year 3 Team:

Miss Jessica Cannizzaro  jcannizzaro@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Miss Louisa Pontin  lpontin@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Mrs Grace Whelan  gwhelan@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Mr Shane Wilson  shanew@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au