Dear Parents,
Welcome to the start of a new school year. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful break with family and friends. The children have settled into their new classes and are catching up with their friends and beginning to make new ones. This year we welcome into the Grade 4 level Mr Nathan Carey. Some students may remember him from his time with Miss Wallis in Grade 3. We wish Nathan an enjoyable and successful first year of teaching at St Simon’s.

During Term 1 and Term 4 the NO HAT, NO PLAY policy is in place for Sun Smart protection. Only school hats are to be worn and any child without a hat will need to sit in the shaded area outside Building D (opposite the hall) for the duration of playtimes.

In the past few years the number of ‘special’ items and pencil cases on the student desks are increasing. So much so, that your child’s learning space and their peers desks are crowded with ornamental stationery items. The Grade 4 teachers would like to encourage these ‘special’ items to stay at home as they often get misplaced, lost, traded, mistaken as another students or they serve as a distraction during learning times. Students are welcome to bring in these items to show and share with their peers, however, we would prefer one pencil case on the students’ desk only with the items stated on the stationery list. We appreciate your support in this matter.

School times are as follows:
8:30am Classroom opens for students to begin preparing themselves for their day. Unpacking bag, placing notes etc. Students are allowed to go back out into the playground if they choose and visit the toilets if need be.
8:40 First bell. Students should be in their classrooms now ready to learn
8:45 Second bell. Prayer and daily instructions begin

Please ensure that your child is in the classroom by 8:45am as late comers not only miss out on valuable learning experiences but disrupt the learning of others.
10:35 – 10:45 Time to eat playlunch
10:45 – 11:15 Recess Play
11:15 – 1:15 Class time
1:15 – 1:25 Time to eat lunch
1:25 – 2:15 Lunch Play
2:15 – 3:15 Class time
3:15 Dismissal

RELIGION
The units to be covered in Term 1 are:

Prayer – In this unit, students will explore the question ‘How does prayer connect us to God’s love and community?’ The students will look at the value of friendship and the gift of community. Students will explore how scripture shows us that God values relationships and aim to support students in creating a positive classroom community. Students will investigate the many forms of prayer – personal, traditional and communal and develop their relationship with God. This unit connects with the term’s Inquiry learning.
Lent/Holy Week – In this unit, students will develop an understanding of how Christians grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Students will be given the opportunity to discover ways to use their gifts and talents to serve others during Lent as a preparation for Easter. The students will be guided through the events of Holy Week to remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and come to recognise Easter as the most important event in the Church year.

**LITERACY**

**Reading**
- Making predictions about a text using plot and setting
- Sequencing
- Summarising
- Retelling and discussing own interpretation of the read texts
- Attending to punctuation when reading to add expression and develop fluency

**Writing**
- Develop knowledge of writing strategies of planning, composing, revising, editing and publishing
- Recount
- Writer’s Notebook
- Narratives
- Revise common punctuation and their use i.e. full stops and commas

**Speaking and Listening**
- Make presentations and contribute actively to class and group discussions, varying language according to context
- Listen for key points in discussions
- Answer simple questions about familiar topics or recent events
- Retell ideas that they have heard from books or seen in plays or presentations
- Demonstrate active listening strategies (e.g. asking focused questions, responding to cues, making visual contact)

**Spelling – Using SMART Spelling Program (Say, Meaning, Analyse, Remember, Teach)**
- Developing different spelling rules and generalisations (e.g. ‘i’ before ‘e’)
- Investigating letter/sound combinations (e.g. eigh or ey) and word families (e.g. ight as in knight, bright)

**MATHEMATICS**

In Mathematics, the concepts to be covered include:

**Data**
- Identify questions to investigate using categories
- Plan and trial methods of data collection and recording
- Use a variety of methods of data presentation

**Place Value**
- Count and order numbers to and from tens of thousands
- Use place value language such as 11 tens and 3 ones to calculate numbers.
- Partition numbers and recognise that numbers can be ‘broken up’ in many ways, e.g. 154 = 15 tens and 4 ones or 14 tens and 14 ones.

**Addition**
- Use addition facts to develop efficient mental strategies for computation
- Use equivalent number sentences involving addition to find unknown quantities
Throughout the term, number facts and mental computation skills will be practised alongside the above concepts.

**INQUIRY**

How can we work as a classroom community?

This unit will focus on the concept of teams and choices and building a strong positive classroom community. In this unit, students will revise the school rules, establish a common understanding of the classroom expectations and investigate what it takes to work in a positive team. Students will explore positive and negative choices and discuss the consequences. They will learn and share about their individual strengths, positive coping strategies when upset and ways to solve problems.

**SPECIALISTS**

**Tuesday**
Japanese – 4 Blue, 4 Green, 4 Red  
PE (Mr. Cahill) – 4 Blue  
Art – 4 Green  
Music – 4 Red

**Wednesday**
PE (Miss Roberts) – 4 Red  
Art – 4 Blue  
Music – 4 Green

**Thursday**
PE (Mr. Cahill) – 4 Green  
Art – 4 Red  
Music – 4 Blue

Please note: In Term 1, all Grade 4s do not have specialist library lessons and will be given opportunities to borrow books on Monday or Friday with their classroom teacher. Students can also change their library books in the library from 8:30 till 8:40am and from 3:15 till 3:30pm Monday to Thursday. Students are allowed to borrow 3 books and we would encourage students to leave a chapter book at school for silent reading during the week.

**UNIFORM**

The students are to wear their Sports Uniform on their PE day. At all other times, it is expected that the full summer school uniform is worn. In regards to accessories, only a small Religious cross/medal may be worn around the neck. Watches are permitted, but no other bracelets. Silver/gold studs or small sleepers are permitted to be worn. Students with long hair must have it tied back. The appropriate colours for hair ties or headbands are yellow, brown, black or white.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework will be given out on a weekly basis and it will begin in Week 4 to allow the students some time to settle into their new classroom and school routine. Teachers request that parents sign the completed homework. Homework will take the form of revision of work done in the classroom. It may also include some Number Facts work, Spelling and Religion. Students are expected to read every night and keep a record of this in their diary, which must be brought to school each day.

**MEDICATION/ALLERGIES**

If your child has an allergy or is in need of medication (even if only temporary) it is important that you advise your child’s teacher in writing and inform administration. A form, obtained from the office, needs to be completed before any medication can be administered. Please note that no form of pain killers can be given at school. Children with asthma are required to have an Asthma Plan in the office and are able to have labelled puffers stored in the sick bay in the office. If you feel your child is unwell, please refrain from sending them to school, as the risk of spreading infection is extremely high in the
school and classroom environment. Any cases of headlice should be reported to the office and treated immediately.

There are several students in the school that have a severe nut allergy and suffer from severe reactions even when exposed to nuts on their skin. To make our classrooms and school safe places for all students, we ask that students refrain from bringing nuts and nut related products such as Peanut Butter and Nutella sandwiches to school. We really appreciate your support in this matter.

ABSENCE NOTES
In accordance with legal requirements, three options are available for notification of your child’s absence from school.

- Written note
- E-mail to the classroom teacher
- School Smart phone App use of the absence form.

TERM 1 DATES

FEBRUARY

Friday 5th
Sunday 7th
Monday 8th
Tuesday 9th
Wednesday 10th
Wednesday 10th
Wednesday 10th
Wednesday 10th
Wednesday 10th
Thursday 11th
Sunday 14th
Wednesday 17th
Wednesday 17th
Wednesday 17th
Sunday 21st
Mon 22nd – Fri 26th
Monday 22nd
Tuesday 23rd
Wednesday 24th
Wednesday 24th
Wednesday 24th
Thursday 25th
Friday 26th
Friday 26th
Friday 26th
Sunday 28th

Level Term letters sent home
Staff Commissioning Mass 9.30am
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm
Shrove Tuesday
Caritas Project Compassion begins
Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am (6G)
Reconciliation Session (2) 2.00pm or 7.30pm
No school for Preps
Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm
First Sunday Lent
Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm
No school for Preps
Reconciliation Session (3) 2.00pm or 7.30pm
Second Sunday of Lent
Year 6 Camp to Canberra
Harmony Day Liturgy 2.30pm (3R)
Prep Prayer Night 6.30pm to 7.30pm
No school for Preps
Reconciliation Session (4) 2.00pm or 7.30pm
Advisory Board Meeting 7pm
Parent’s Association Movie Night 7pm
Closing date for applications to Yr 7, 2017 for Catholic Sec. Schools
Ron Barassi’s Birthday
Third Sunday Lent

MARCH

Tuesday 1st
Wednesday 2nd
Wednesday 2nd
Wednesday 2nd
Friday 4th
Friday 4th
Friday 4th
Saturday 5th
Sunday 6th
Monday 7th
Monday 7th
Wednesday 9th
Wednesday 9th
Wednesday 9th
Thursday 10th
Thursday 10th
Division Swimming
Reconciliation Session (5) 2.00pm or 7.30pm
Halogen Young Leaders Day
Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm
Anointing Mass
National Ride to School Day
School’s Clean Up Australia Day
Working Bee 9-12. All families invited.
Fourth Sunday Lent
Regional Swimming
Assembly/ Liturgy 2.30pm (3G)
School Photos – All day
Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm
First Rite Celebrations 7pm
Year 1 Camp Day
First Rite Celebrations 7pm
Friday 11th                  Professional Development Day for Teachers – No School
Sunday 13th                 Fifth Sunday Lent
Monday 14th                  Labour Day Public Holiday – No school
Tues. 15th – Fri. 20th       Catholic Education Week
Wednesday 16th               Parish Rite of Reconciliation 7.30pm
Thursday 17th                St. Patrick’s Feast Day
Friday 18th                  Passion Sunday Liturgy 11.30am (2Y)
Sunday 20th                  Passion/Palm Sunday
Monday 21st                  Holy Thursday Liturgy 2.30pm (3Y)
Monday 21st                  District Tennis
Tuesday 22nd                 Prep Sports Night 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Wednesday 23rd               School Advisory Board Meeting 7.00pm
Thursday 24th                Good Friday Liturgy 11.30am
Thursday 24th                End Term 1 Dismissal 1.15pm
Thursday 24th                Holy Thursday
Thursday 24th                AFL Season commences with Rich vs Carl
Friday 25th                  Good Friday
Sunday 27th                  Easter Sunday

APRIL
Sunday 3rd                  Daylight Savings ends
Sat. 9th / Sun 10th          Eucharist Commitment Masses
Monday 11th                  Term 2 commences
Wed. 13th – Fri. 15th        Year 5 Camp
Wednesday 13th               Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm
Friday 15th                  Alleluia Day Liturgy 11.30am (1G)

TERM DATES 2016
Term 1 – Thursday 28th January – Thursday 24th March (Students dismissed at 1:15pm)
Term 2 – Monday 11th April – Friday 24th June
Term 3 – Monday 11th July – Friday 16th September
Term 4 – Monday 3rd October – Tuesday 20th December (Students dismissed on Friday 16th December)

Please always check the weekly edition of Contact as the dates may be subject to change. If you have not as yet received an electronic copy of the newsletter please contact the office and check if your e-mail details are correct.

You may also choose to avail yourself of the school smartphone App, which has most of the school dates in an easily accessible form. The App also allows you to submit Absence notes for those times your child is not attending school.

We look forward to meeting with you at the Parent/teacher chats, if not earlier, and working closely with you this term, as partners in the education of your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have queries/concerns about any matter.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Donald                  Sallie Dunstan                  Nathan Carey
Grade 4 Teachers

donald@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
sallied@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
ncarey@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au