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. The children are settling into Year Five well with lots of testing happening at present. For the new children to our school we offer a warm welcome to them and their 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 7.00pm
- Tuesday 28th February - Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 1st March - Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am
- Monday 13th March - Labour Day (Public Holiday)
- Tuesday 14th March - Staff Professional Development Day (No Students)
- Wednesday 22nd March - School Photo Day
- Tuesday 21st March - Georgina Manning Resilience Talk 7.00pm - 8.00pm
- Friday 31st March - End of Term 1

- Thursday 13th April - Holy Thursday
- Friday 14th April - Good Friday
- Sunday 16th April - Easter Sunday
- Monday 17th April - Easter Monday (Public Holiday)

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM TWO:**

- Tuesday 18th April - Term 2 Begins
- Tuesday 25th April - ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)
- Wednesday 26th April – Friday 28th April – **Year 5 Camp!**
The Year Five Religious Education (R.E.) program follows the curriculum of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (Religious Education Curriculum Framework). This year we are combining our R.E. units of work with the Integrated Studies unit as they are very much intertwined. The topics that the Year Five students will cover in Term One are as follows:

- **Change**
  Accepting change in our lives, change of teacher, year level, classroom, friends. The children will hopefully come to realise that change is an inevitable part of life that requires response and adaptation.

- **Australia**
  In this unit, students will be given the opportunity to gain an understanding of Australia's history, government and the development of the Catholic Church.

- **Lent**
  Here, students will explore ways in which Lent offers us opportunities for growth and change. This unit takes us through Lent and then into Holy Week and Easter.

**LITERACY**

English, as always, is embedded in a variety of school activities. The children will be working on improving their speaking and listening through oral presentation of their work, debating argumentative topics, class sharing, reflections and explaining of strategies. The children will consider themselves as Readers describing their thoughts about the text, using the skills they know and understand about reading and reflecting how they might be able to further improve in this area.

Handwriting, Spelling and Grammar will all be covered within the context of the children’s written work. Various styles of writing will be addressed throughout the year with a focus on Narrative and Persuasive Writing this term. This will be especially important for Year 5 students who will be required to write either of these genres during NAPLAN during Term Two.

The school iPads and class computers will be used to enhance learning experiences and we ask all parents to remind their child of the Year 3-6 Cyber Safety Use Agreement they signed at the start of the year.

**MATHEMATICS**

This term we will begin with a focus on data by exploring different ways of collecting and representing information. Students will also participate in a range of learning activities and reflective discussions to foster their development of mathematical strategies, problem solving and mental processing. This will include the reading of numbers (place value) with focus on building upon their ability to work with numbers confidently when applying them to written problems.

Please ensure your child has a Maths Toolkit stocked with a protractor, ‘Targeting Maths Dictionary’, playing cards, dice, plastic pocket for sheets 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 Japanese, Sport, Art, Music and Library (on a rotational basis) will be held each afternoon from Tuesday to Thursday. Sport uniforms are to be worn only on your child’s sport day and on special occasions designated by the teachers. Children and Parents will be informed of these special days.

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**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.

- 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 them with essentials only, i.e. blue and red biros, grey lead, eraser, sharpener. They’re welcome to use special pens at home or for project work when required. Texta colours and coloured pencils could be kept in another pencil case as these tend to be bulky.

- Nude Food Thursday, could you please ensure the children bring in healthy food with as little processing and packaging as you can. If the children are bringing packaging that cannot be recycled, they are asked to place it back into their lunch boxes and take the rubbish home with them.

- The school canteen operates on a Monday and Friday. The canteen will open for the first time this year on Monday the 13th February. A list of items for sale and instructions about how to order can be found on the school website.

- If your child has an allergy or requires medication it is important that you advise Administration and your child’s teacher in writing. The relevant form must be completed before medication can be administered. Please note that no painkillers can be administered by the school. Children with asthma are to have labelled puffers stored in the sick bay in the office. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home as the risk of spreading infection is very high in a classroom environment. Any cases of head lice should be reported to the office and treated immediately.
• You will have received a Cyber Safety Policy Form. Please ensure you read this with your child and complete the appropriate slip and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

• The Grade 5 staff are available to discuss any of your concerns, we ask you to make an appointment time to meet. Booking an appointment assists us in giving you the attention you require to address your concerns adequately. Alternatively, you may choose to contact us via the following email addresses:

  nlafontaine@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
  slutgens@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
  rcalvitto@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au

**HOMEWORK**

It is our school policy here at St Simon’s that the Year 5 students receive homework on a weekly 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.

Please ensure that a parent, or both parents, check the completed homework and student diary and sign each on Thursday night.

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 5 during Term One.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Best Wishes,

**Year Five Team**

Natalie La Fontaine     Samantha Lutgens     Rachel Calvitto