Dear Parents,

Welcome back! Wow, your child’s last year of Primary School! Can you believe it? We trust you enjoyed the holiday break and are ready for a busy and rewarding year ahead. The five Year Six class teachers for 2016 are as follows:

6 Blue - Mrs. Helen Rochecouste  
6 Green - Mr. Nick Frederiksen & Mrs. Melissa Court  
6 Red - Miss. Natalie Di Carlo  
6 Yellow – Mr. Chris Giosis

We are sure that it will be a fantastic year for us all, beginning nice and early with our Camp to Canberra on the 22nd February 2016. Over the next 2 weeks, there will be various information sent home. We thank you for your prompt returning of the paperwork.

We have three new additions to the Year 6 team this year. Miss Natalie Di Carlo has followed the children up from Year 5. Mr. Chris Giosis is more height appropriate now after coming up from Year 2 and we would like to welcome Mrs. Melissa Court, who is new to St Simon’s this year.

Parent/Teacher chats are being held on Monday 8th and Thursday 11th February. These conversations enable the teachers to begin open dialogues with parents as we journey together with your child’s education. The times can be booked online through the St. Simon’s home page (www.ssrowville.catholic.edu.au) as per previous years.

Attached is an important form that need to be signed by students and parents. The form is the Positive Behaviour Policy, setting out the expected behaviour of a St. Simon’s student. If your child is away or late for any reason a note is needed with an explanation of why. (School starts at 8.40am)

If your child’s medical information has recently changed, it is imperative that the school office is contacted so relevant areas of the school can be properly informed. Please take some time during the upcoming Parent/Teacher interviews to review this information.

**Religious Education**

This year the majority of the Year 6 students will be making their Confirmation in August. In preparation for this, some of the students will be making the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this term. At the end of Term 1 the Church celebrates the most special period in the Catholic Calendar, Easter. This will be the main focus of Religious Education during Term 1. The units are outlined below;
**Teach us to Pray!**
In Teach Us To Pray! students explore the traditional forms of prayer in the Christian tradition. They shall encounter experiences such as meditation, contemplation and vocal prayer, and shall analyse the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew’s Gospel. At the conclusion of the unit students are invited to name what significance prayer has in their own lives, and to prepare prayer and rituals based on their new learning.

**Lent to Easter we are Transformed!**
In this unit students explore ways in which Lent offers opportunities for growth and transformation. Through the exploration of the parable of the Prodigal Son and personal stories of people in the community, students learn that, through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers hope to all Christians. Healing, reconciliation and transformation are experienced in the forgiving love of the Father and through the willingness to forgive and to rebuild relationships with others. The students use journals to reflect on any personal growth and change they undergo during the Lenten season.

**Literacy**
All students will participate in a variety of literature activities using appropriate texts and focusing on specific skills. We will investigate the use of evidence drawn from the text to support interpretations, look at strategies for working out the meaning of different words, and make links to prior knowledge: text to text, text to self, text to the world.

In Term One, one of the main foci in writing will be Recounts using our Canberra trip as a stimulus. There will also be a large focus on planning and editing of work. There will be a spelling test each week, studied for homework. For public speaking the children will be practising related skills to be able to communicate effectively and confidently, culminating in the presentation of a leadership podcast.

The School will be providing the Literacy Pro service to all the children in Year 6. This will test the comprehension levels of all the students while suggesting appropriate reading material the students can choose from.

**Mathematics**
During Term One, the children will be completing a series of tests to inform future teaching for each student. At the start of the term there is an emphasis on the collection and representation of data. After camp the students will focus on place value and being able to successfully use the four processes. Towards the end of the term the children will explore fractions and decimals along with chance events.

There is a strong emphasis placed on knowing and using the multiplication tables in Year 6. Each student needs to be proficient in this area and each individual needs to ensure they are constantly practising. These basic operations are necessary tools for successfully learning about place value and number this term.

The children will continue to have access to Mathletics throughout the year. It will be used as a teaching tool in class and the students will have access at home and from time to time might have specific homework tasks.

Each student will need to have their maths toolkit fully stocked at school, and will be required to use it for homework tasks. Each toolkit should have a mathematics dictionary, calculator, ruler, playing cards and maths set including a compass and protractor. The
school will be providing the students with dice.

**Inquiry Topic**

Our Inquiry topic for this term will have two parts. The first part will be in preparation for our Canberra trip. There will be a focus on our Australian history, politics and leadership. The unit will culminate in each student making a Podcast as to why they would make a great Prime Minister.

Our second part of the unit will enable each of the students to share their experiences of Canberra through a Multiple Intelligences project, allowing each student to choose a topic based on their academic strengths.

**Specialist classes**

Japanese will be held on Wednesday mornings for 6 Blue, 6 Yellow and 6 Green with 6 Red participating in Japanese Wednesday afternoons. This term, other specialists for Year 6 classes are held on Tuesdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 Blue</th>
<th>6 Green</th>
<th>6 Red</th>
<th>6 Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>P.E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>P.E</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uniform**

Students are to wear full summer school uniform, with the blue school hats being compulsory for this term. Sport uniform should only be worn on P.E days and Fridays, when we have Sport. If your child is out of uniform, please ensure that a note is sent to their classroom teacher explaining the reason. Each student needs to have a blue P.E top before our Canberra trip.

**Homework**

In preparation for Secondary School, to learn successful study habits and develop organisational skills, it is imperative homework is completed weekly. Therefore it shall be sent home on Friday to be handed in the following Friday. This allows students with extra-curricula activities to plan their week. As part of the homework requirement, students need to read a **minimum of 20 minutes per night**. Homework will cover most areas of the curriculum with Mathematics largely including open ended questions. Book responses need to be completed at the end of the week in the homework book. Please see the teacher with any questions.

**Inter-School Sport**

Throughout the year, the Year Six students will have a number of opportunities to represent the school in a variety of sports. There will be a chance for every student to be involved in a team environment and gain a vast variety of skills that are not necessarily available in the classroom. We know that the students will represent their school to the best of their abilities!

We will also require parental assistance during these times. Whether it is as a head coach, assistant coach or another type of team support staff, we may require a helping hand from time to time. If you have any expertise in a particular sport and are willing to
lend a hand, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher who can then get in contact with the most suitable staff member.

The swimming carnival occurs during the Year 6 camp to Canberra. Although the Year 6 students will not be able to add to the points tally on the day, we are endeavouring to allow the students to swim elsewhere. This will hopefully allow our talented swimmers the opportunity to progress through to the Regional Finals. Further information will be provided as soon as it comes to hand.

**TERM 1 CALENDAR 2016**

**FEBRUARY**
- Wednesday 3rd: Parents’ Association Meeting 7.00pm
- Friday 5th: Opening School Mass 11.30am (6B)
- Friday 5th: Level Term letters sent home
- Sunday 7th: Staff Commissioning Mass 9.30am
- Monday 8th: Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Tuesday 9th: Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 10th: Caritas Project Compassion begins
- Wednesday 10th: Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am (6G)
- Wednesday 10th: Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm
- Thursday 11th: Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Sunday 14th: First Sunday Lent
- Wednesday 17th: Parents’ Association AGM 7.30pm
- Sunday 21st: Second Sunday of Lent
- Mon 22nd – Fri 26th: Year 6 Camp to Canberra
- Wednesday 24th: Advisory Board Meeting 7pm
- Thursday 25th: District Swimming
- Friday 26th: Parent’s Association Movie Night 7pm
- Friday 26th: Closing date for applications to Yr 7, 2017 for Catholic Sec.
- Schools:
- Sunday 28th: Third Sunday Lent

**MARCH**
- Tuesday 1st: Division Swimming
- Wednesday 2nd: Halogen Young Leaders Day
- Wednesday 2nd: Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm
- Friday 4th: Anointing Mass
- Friday 4th: National Ride to School Day
- Friday 4th: School’s Clean Up Australia Day
- Saturday 5th: Working Bee 9-12. All families invited.
- Sunday 6th: Fourth Sunday Lent
- Monday 7th: Regional Swimming
- Monday 7th: Assembly/ Liturgy 2.30pm (3G)
- Wednesday 9th: School Photos – All day
- Wednesday 9th: Parish Pastoral Team Meeting 7.30pm
- Friday 11th: Professional Development Day for Teachers – No School
- Sunday 13th: Fifth Sunday Lent
- Monday 14th: Labour Day Public Holiday – No school
- Thursday 17th: St. Patrick’s Mass
- 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
- Wednesday 23rd: School Advisory Board Meeting 7.00pm
- Thursday 24th: Good Friday Liturgy 11.30am
- Thursday 24th: End Term I Dismissal 1.15pm
- Thursday 24th: Holy Thursday
- Friday 25th: Good Friday
Sunday 27th        Easter Sunday

APRIL         Monday 11th          Term 2 commences

Please note any changes to the calendar dates will be printed in Contact

Sincerely,

Helen Rochecouste       Nick Frederiksen/Melissa Court       Natalie Di Carlo       Chris Giosis
6 Blue                  6 Green                              6 Red                   6 Yellow

hrochecouste@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
nfrederiksen@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
mcourt@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
ndicarlo@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
cgiosis@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au