Dear Parents,

Welcome back to your child’s last term of Primary School. We trust you enjoyed the two week break and are ready for the hectic term ahead. We assume all Bulldogs supporters had a great holiday. We would like to welcome Ellie McCallum to 6 Blue. This last term will no doubt fly by and will be filled with great opportunities for students, teachers and parents to reflect on their time at St Simon the Apostle Primary School.

We hope that you have a great Term 4 and as always please feel free to come and speak to any of us or email on the addresses below.

Religious Education

During Religious Education in Term 4 there will be two main areas of study. The students will be learning about social justice issues in our ‘Transition Unit’. The last half of the term will be focusing on the coming of Jesus through the celebration of Advent and Christmas.

Transition –

Our Transition unit will explore the many opportunities that we have to make a difference in the world. Students will be encouraged to become Global Citizens and identify how simple behaviors at a local level can impact a wider community. This will be taught through ‘The Beatitudes’ and culminate in each student making a manifesto about what is important to them as an individual.

Wait For The Saviour – He Will Come!

In this unit students learn that Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of the Son of God at Christmas. They explore the writings of the prophet Isaiah and the symbolism of the Jesse Tree to reveal signs of God’s presence in the lives of the Old Testament people and in their own lives today. At the conclusion of this unit the students are asked to develop a personal action for celebrating Christmas.

Literacy

Throughout the Literacy lessons in Term 4, there will be a large focus on consolidating the skills the students have learnt throughout their Primary School Years. Each student will focus on recounting their years for their Memorabilia task. There will be guided reading for each class, and an emphasis that each student continues to develop the ability to speak in front of a group of people, not just necessarily their peers in their class.
There will be a spelling test each week, focusing on words studied for homework. For public speaking the children will be practicing related skills to be able to communicate effectively and confidently going into next year.

The Year 6 students will continue to engage with the Lexile Reading Program. The program continues to encourage each student to read a variety of books and forms part of our end of year testing program.

**Mathematics**

During Term Four, the students will be completing a series of post-tests to inform the teachers of individual results throughout the year. The post-testing process will inform the students of the areas they need to continue to focus on in their future studies.

Integrated throughout the Inquiry Unit (See Below) the students will focus on different ways the number between 0-1 can be represented, Probability and Chance, Data and Geometry. Knowing your multiplication tables features heavily throughout these units and the students need to keep learning and understanding their tables.

**Inquiry Topic**

The main focus for the Year 6 students is to make sure that every student is comfortable with the transition to Secondary School. Our transition program includes a City Experience Day on Monday 24th October. This will hopefully allow the students to be comfortable catching public transport, while relating to our Social Justice themes studied this year.

During weeks 2, 3 and 4, the students will undertake lessons in a ‘Secondary School’ environment. This will involve mixed classes being taught different subject matter by different teachers. Each student will receive a timetable to follow for the fortnight and there will be the likelihood of homework tasks set between lessons.

The subjects being taught are R.E, English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Economics, I.C.T, Drama, Health and Global Citizenship.

Towards the end of the term our Inquiry topic will be integrated with our R.E topic of ‘The Messiah is Coming.’ This will be a Christmas/Advent based unit.

**Specialist classes**

Japanese will be held on Tuesday mornings for 6 Yellow, 6 Blue and 6 Green. 6 Red attend Japanese in the afternoons on Tuesday.

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**Uniform**

Students are wearing full summer school uniform, with the blue school hats being compulsory for this term. Sport uniform should only be worn on P.E days (as designated by the classroom teacher). It is a school expectation that all students, including Year 6, will be
in full school uniform whilst at school. If your child is out of uniform, please ensure that a note is sent to their classroom teacher explaining the reason.

**Note:** this reason is an allowance for one or two days, not the last few weeks of the year.

**Homework**

In preparation for Secondary School, learning successful study habits and developing organisational skills, it is imperative homework is completed weekly. This is the last opportunity for the students to find good studying habits at home. Each week the students will have to create a Google Document and contribute ideas in a collaborative way through Hapara. This will be explained in class. This needs to have been edited completely letting the teacher know it is ready to be evaluated. It is expected that the students still read 20 minutes each night. There will be an open ended maths question and a R.E question also as part of the homework. During the Transition Program, the students will receive homework from their lessons, which in all likelihood will be due the following day. This is not going to be a stressful process, but one that will prepare them for the rigors of Secondary School.

**Inter-School Sport**

During Term Four all Year 6 students will compete in the Summer Round Robin and there are students off to the Regional Carnival for athletics. We also have two teams representing St. Simon’s at Basketball. We wish all these participants good luck.

**Outdoor Education**

During October and November the Year 6’s will participate in a variety of Outdoor Educational activities. For week 1-5 the students will participate in a ‘Footsteps’ dancing program, catering for fitness and creativity.

The students will be spending a day at a High Ropes Centre at Arthur’s Seat on Friday 18th November. There are other activities at the park that the students will participate in.

On the 1st and 2nd December, 2 classes each will be attending a Sailing program at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron as well as spending time at Point Nepean National Park. Please note that this activity is very weather dependent and there is little room for rescheduling.

**Graduation**

Graduation will be on Friday 9th December. We will begin the evening with a Mass and presentation which begins at 6pm. There will then be a dinner for the children followed by a disco and a final reflection for the families in the Church again at 9pm.

If you have photos of groups of children throughout their Primary Years, the organising committee would love them for a DVD presentation. For all students who were not a St Simon’s in Prep, we will need a copy of their Prep photo. If this can be given to Nick Frederiksen so he can copy/scan them and return the following day.

A big thank you goes to the Graduation committee, and if you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact the school. Make sure you continue to read ‘Contact’ as valuable information regarding Graduation will be relayed in the newsletter.

There will be a Year 6 day at Jells Park celebrating this event on Thursday 14th December.
TERM 4 CALENDAR

OCTOBER
Sunday 2nd Daylight savings begins
Monday 3rd Term 4 commences for students
Monday 3rd Assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 4th Feast of Saints Ellen Donovan (patron saint of farmer’s wives) and St.Francis of Assisi
Wednesday 5th World Teachers’ Day
Wednesday 5th Year 6 Graduation Meeting 2.30pm
Wednesday 5th Parents Association Meeting 7pm
Thursday 6th Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Saturday 8th Working Bee 9 – 12 noon
Friday 7th Year 3 Excursion to Royal Botanic Gardens
Friday 7th District Summer Sports
Friday 7th Level Term Letters sent home
Monday 10th Hooptime - Future Stars
Monday 10th Year 2 Excursion to Coal Creek
Wednesday 12th Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday 13th Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Friday 14th Year 6 Summer Round Robin
Friday 14th Stand Up Day Liturgy (4G) 11.30am
Friday 14th Parents’ Association Students’ Disco Night 6pm to 10pm
Saturday 15th Avila Feast Day
Saturday 15th Stringybark Festival – St. Simon’s Choir to perform 3.45pm
Tuesday 18th Parent Info Night (1) 7pm – ‘5 secrets to develop confidence and resilience’
Thursday 20th Basketball Regional Finals
Thursday 20th Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Thurs. 20th – Fri. 21st Year 4 Camp Don Bosco Safety Beach
Friday 21st World Mission Liturgy (Prep Y) 11.30am
Saturday 22nd Family Photo Day 9am – 6pm
Sunday 23rd Mission Sunday
Monday 24th Year 6 Excursion to Melbourne City
Tuesday 25th Parent Info Night (2) 7pm – ‘Understanding Anxiety in Children’
Wednesday 26th Advisory Board 7.30pm
Thursday 27th Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Friday 28th 2017 Booklists Due
Friday 28th St. Simon’s Day Celebration, Mass 9am (6Y)
Monday 31st Professional Development Day – No school for students

NOVEMBER
Tuesday 1st All Saints Day
Tuesday 1st Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 2nd All Souls Day
Wednesday 2nd Parents’ Association Meeting 7pm
Thursday 3rd Footsteps Dance Program for Year 6 (11.15am – 12pm)
Thurs. 3rd – 4th Year 3 Sleepover
Thursday 3rd Prep 2017 Transition Session (1) 11.30am to 1pm
Thursday 3rd Year 2 Prayer Night/ Sacrament Registration 7:00pm
Friday 4th Anointing Mass 9.15am
Friday 4th Prep Excursion to Puffing Billy
Saturday 5th Bogan Bingo Night 7pm to 11pm
Monday 7th Assembly/ Liturgy (Prep G) 2.30pm
Wednesday 9th Year 2 Prayer Night/ Sacrament Registration 7:00pm
Wednesday 9th Parish Pastoral Team 7.30pm
Thursday 10th Year 2 Camp Day
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<td>Friday 11th</td>
<td>Remembrance Day/Tim’s Day Liturgy 10.15am</td>
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<td>Mon 14th - Fri. 25th</td>
<td>Swimming program begins for Years Prep to 4</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15th</td>
<td>Prep 2017 Transition Session (2) 11.30am to 1pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th</td>
<td>Prep 2017 Transition Session (2) 11.30am to 1pm</td>
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<td>Friday 18th</td>
<td>Year 6 Outdoor Ed – Arthurs Seat</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd</td>
<td>Advisory Board Meeting AGM 7pm</td>
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<td>Year 5 Life Saving - Inverloch</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30th</td>
<td>Parent Helpers Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30th</td>
<td>Prep 2017 Information Evening in Library – 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Sunday 27th</td>
<td>Advent – Week 1</td>
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**DECEMBER**

Thursday 1st | Assembly/ Advent Week 1 Liturgy (1 Blue) 2.30pm |
Friday 2nd   | Anointing Mass 9.15am                             |
Friday 2nd   | Christmas lunch - **Last Day Canteen 2016**       |
Sunday 4th   | Advent – Week 2                                   |
Monday 5th   | Advent Week 2 Liturgy (1 Yellow) 2.30pm           |
Wednesday 7th | 2017 Book Sales for Years Prep to 6 in Lower Common Room 8.30am to 6pm |
Wednesday 7th | Prep 2017 Orientation 9 to 10.30am                |
Thursday 8th | Advent Week 3 Liturgy (5 Blue) 2.30pm             |
Friday 9th   | Year 6 Graduation Mass 6:00pm                     |
Sunday 11th | Advent- Week 3                                    |
Monday 12th | Advent Week 4 Liturgy (5 Yellow) 2.30pm           |
Tuesday 13th | Prep Christmas Concert Hall 2.15pm                |
Wednesday 14th | St. Simon’s Orientation for Years 1-6, 2017        |
Wednesday 14th | Reports sent home                                  |
Wednesday 14th | Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7.30pm            |
Thursday 15th | Year 6 to Jells Park                               |
Friday 16th  | Thanksgiving Mass 9:30am (5 Green)                 |
Friday 16th  | Allan Tudge Presentation of Aston Shield           |
Friday 16th  | Students Finish Early Dismissal 1:15pm            |
Friday 16th  | Term 4 ends                                        |
Monday 19th | School Administration closes 12.30pm              |
Sunday 18th | Advent – Week 4                                    |
Sunday 18th | Parish Christmas Carols                             |
Sunday 25th | Christmas Day                                      |
Monday 26th | Boxing Day                                         |

**DATES CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING - SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Sincerely,

Helen Rochecouste  Nick Frederiksen/Melissa Court  Natalie DiCarlo  Chris Giosis

6 Blue 6 Green 6 Red 6 Purple