

St Joseph's P-6 School

Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community



Dear Parents, Carers and the St Joseph's Community,

Welcome to the new school year. The start of 2020 has been a dramatically challenging one for so many in the community, with the ongoing bushfire disaster dominating much of the summer. Currently, there are 12 schools across our archdiocese that have been directly impacted and are receiving additional support for the start of the new school year. We keep all in those communities, the emergency services and each other in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time.

I do hope that the summer break allowed you all to spend time as families and with friends, to celebrate Christmas and to stop and rest after a busy 2019. For me, it was wonderful to spend time with my family and to travel to Japan to experience a different culture. It has also allowed me time to look ahead and plan for the exciting year to come.

Today we happily welcomed many new members of our St Joseph's community. We have 54 students who are in the Early Learning Centre, 31 students who eagerly entered their Foundation classrooms and 14 new students who have started in Years 1 to 6. It is always such a delight to be in a school on the first day, and today was no different. Parents and grandparents proudly saying goodbye and students and teachers eagerly eyeing the year ahead. I wish everyone a fantastic 2020!

We also welcomed new staff to St Joseph's. Michelle Vuli as Coordinator and classroom teacher in 4 Gold, Jake Kucher as classroom teacher in 4 Green, Hayley Gould as classroom teacher in Foundation Red, Linley Ellis as classroom teacher in 6 Lime, Mara Pangallo as classroom teacher in 5 Orange and Josephine Krippner as Classroom Support Teacher. In our Early Learning Centre, we are joined by Dione Martin as classroom teacher in the Blue Geckos and Lucy Mutuku as Classroom Assistant. Welcome back to all of our wonderful staff. It will be a great year!

In 2019 we focused on the three strategic priorities from our Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021;

Mission	Performance	Service
Our purpose is to <i>deepen</i> our St Joseph's Catholic identity.	Our purpose is to <i>intensify</i> the focus on improving student learning outcomes.	Our purpose is to <i>promote</i> the growth and wellbeing of the St Joseph's community.

In working on these priorities, our goals for 2020 are:

To develop a St Joseph's pedagogical framework for conceptual inquiry that centres learning around the student.

To introduce open-ended and engaging; investigations, teaching and learning that promotes the application of mathematical thinking and skills.

To use data to inform teaching and learning, identify student achievement and to guide school-wide decisions.

Pleasingly, the building works have begun. This is stage two of our Master Plan, with the addition of four new classrooms to the side of our existing Foundation classrooms, as well as a refurbishment of the downstairs classrooms in the original school building. This will provide us with much needed additional and new contemporary learning spaces. We will also undertake works on our playground, adding two sandpits and landscaping between the two existing playground spaces.

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The strength of St Joseph's is our active parent community. As parents and carers, you are the first educators and in turn are a vital part of the success your children have as learners and citizens in our wonderful world. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities to be part of the school, either by listening to children read, helping in the Canteen, tidying up during a working bee or just coming along to social events. No matter what way you choose or are able to be part of St Joseph's, know that you are always welcome and your presence within your child's education is an important part of their success.

2020 is also a School Fete year and I am confident this will bring St Joseph's together in November to not only raise funds that go back into the school and the students, but also to celebrate all that makes St Joseph's a wonderful community. Thank you in advance for the tireless work that will go into this important event and I call on all the community to support the fete in any way you can.

We continue to seek to appoint a Canteen Manager. While the canteen operated tremendously well throughout 2019, with the incredible support of volunteers and members of the P&F, particularly in Term 4, it is not possible to open the canteen until a new Canteen Manager is appointed. Therefore, it is expected that **the canteen will remain closed until at least Week 5 Term 1**. This is unfortunate and I apologise for the inconvenience. The Canteen Manager position is currently advertised at <https://careers.cg.catholic.edu.au/cw/en/job/496006/canteen-manager-st-josephs-primary-oconnor-act>

2020 promises to be a wonderful year, with many exciting things to come. The best way to stay up to date with what is happening at St Joseph's is to have access to the Schoolzine app – Szapp. We use this to distribute the newsletter each week, send out alerts to the community and it has a link to our school calendar.

<https://www.sjo.act.edu.au/frequently-used-forms>

A couple of key dates and events to be aware of in the coming weeks:

- **Wednesday 12 February – P&F Meeting 7.00pm in the Staffroom**
- **Thursday 13 February – Opening School Mass and Leadership Ceremony 9.15am at St Joseph's Church**
- **Thursday 13 February – Parent Information Night and Welcome BBQ 5.30pm – 7.30pm**

Welcome again to the new school year and I hope you all have a wonderful 2020. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and welcome any opportunity you may take to stop and have a chat.

Yours with Christ,



Cameron Tarrant
Principal

