Welcome to the beginning of Term 1, 2016. We are set for a very busy first term in the Junior School, with many exciting adventures ahead!

**Start Up Week**

The Junior School, as part of our wellbeing program and for Start-up week have been engaging in activities that invite the children to identify what makes us “bucket fillers or bucket dippers”. The children are using an analogy of imagining that they have an invisible bucket above their heads. They are recognising that sometimes when they feel sad it may be because someone has dipped into their buckets. This might look like when our friends will not share or say mean things. The children are learning that when our buckets are full we are happy.

Everybody can be a bucket filler!

**You Can Do It Program**

The students will participate in a program for wellbeing, known as You Can Do It! They will be exploring what it means to be a successful person and throughout the term the children will be working on the important skills of confidence, persistence, organisation and getting along.

**Religious Education**

This term the Juniors will be preparing for their class Liturgies which will be held on a Thursday. Please check the dates on the calendar and personal invitations will be sent out via Tiqibiz prior to each Liturgy.

**Lent and Holy Week**, in preparation for Easter, will be our main focus in Religious Education. This term the children will be encouraged to give up something and to take something up as their personal action during this special time. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal when we take time to reflect on our own lives and how we are travelling and if necessary change our ways.
English

We are using the Daily 5 to teach both reading and writing. The Junior school children are learning about the structure of Recount and Procedural texts in their reading and writing during the first half of the term. The children will then be focusing on persuasive texts.

Mathematics

During Mathematics lessons in Term 1 the Junior School is working on the four Mathematical proficiencies, these include fluency, problem solving, mathematical understanding and reasoning. We are working on Statistics and Probability in which children will investigate data by posing a question, data collection, data representation and data interpretation. In Number and Algebra the students will gain competencies in counting, skip counting forwards and backwards and investigating number patterns. The children will explore Place value of numbers in Number and Algebra and work on addition and subtraction strategies. In Measurement and Geometry the children will explore Location with a focus on positional language and mapping.

Science

Earth and space sciences

Year 1
The Up, Down and around unit of work provides opportunities for the children to explore natural, made and managed features that undergo change. Through outdoor observations and photographic records, the children will investigate the daily, weekly and seasonal changes in their local environment.

Biological Sciences

Year 2
The Watch it grow unit of work is about how living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves. At the end of the unit the children will be able to describe changes to a living thing.
History

Year 1
Families: The Present and the Past

This term the children will be investigating how life was in the past for our parents and grandparents. They will engage in activities to further develop their understanding of how our community has changed over time.

Year 2
The Past in the Present:
This term the children will be investigating the history of our school and what it reveals about our past as part of our history unit.

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A reminder that sports uniform is to be worn on Friday for class sport.

If there are any further questions or concerns about your child’s learning or wellbeing please don’t hesitate to see your child’s classroom teacher. Alternatively, you may contact your child’s teacher by phone or via email.

Ms Lorraine Nihill: lnihill@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
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Looking forward to a busy and exciting Term 1!

Regards,
Junior School Teachers,
Stef Edens, Lorraine Nihill, Erin Horman, Sandra Ramos
Carla Mackintosh and Deb McWaters (Junior School Co-ordinator)