General News

Welcome back to school! We hope that you had a restful summer holiday. We have had a great start to the year and have enjoyed getting to know one another. We are looking forward to sharing the year together.

We look forward to meeting with all of you on either Tuesday 23rd or Wednesday 24th February at the ‘Meet and Greet Parent Teacher Interviews’. If you require any assistance with setting an interview time online, please contact your child’s classroom teacher.

STO and SFT will be celebrating their first class Mass for the beginning of Lent on Thursday 11th February at 9am in the Chapel. The theme of the Mass is Temptation. We would appreciate your attendance and we look forward to welcoming you to more of our class masses later this term.

Please ensure that a Late Pass is filled in for your child if they arrive at school later than 8.45am. Notes need to be provided for any days absent from school. These must be kept for our records. There are absent slips on page 149 of the school diary that you may wish to complete, alternatively there are green absent slips in the office and on our school website or you may simply write a quick note.

Uniform

All students now need to be wearing their school hats at play times, in accordance with our School Sun Smart Policy. If your child is not in correct summer uniform for any reason, a uniform pass and written note is required. Jewellery (aside from plain sleeper and stud earrings) and nail polish are not permitted to be worn at school.

Homework

The Senior School Homework will commence this week. Homework will be distributed on a Thursday and collected the following Thursday. We would appreciate your assistance and encouragement in ensuring that your child develops a good homework routine.

Religion

This term we will be focusing on the weekly Gospel readings. Our teaching and learning will be centred around the messages in these weekly readings. Each of the Senior School classes will be preparing and participating in a class Mass which will be held at 9.00am on a Thursday in the Chapel. We would love to see you there! Invitations will be sent home prior to the Mass.

Yesterday it was Shrove Tuesday. In class, we made and ate pancakes to prepare ourselves for our Lenten journey. Today, we will be marking the beginning of Lent with a blessing of ashes on our foreheads, for Ash Wednesday. We encourage each child during this season of Lent, to take up almsgiving and prayer and to try to give up something that they really love, but could do without (for example: chocolate or soft drink). Please talk to your child about their Lenten promises and encourage them in achieving what they set out to do.

Diaries

Student diaries are a very important tool for communicating between school and home. Nightly reading is required to be recorded (title, duration and number of pages read) by the student and then signed by a parent. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the diary is brought to and from school each day. However we would appreciate your support in reiterating the importance of this routine. Diaries are initialled by the classroom teacher each day.

Dates for the Diary:

- 11th February: STO and SFT Class Mass 9am -Chapel
- 12th February: School Closure Day
- 23rd & 24th February: 3.30pm onwards ‘Meet and Greet Parent Teacher Interviews’
- 11th March: School Closure Day
- 23rd March: School Photos
- 25th March: End of Term 1

Interschool Sport

All Senior School students will have the opportunity to participate in Interschool Sport and Lightning Premier-ship events throughout the year. Some of these events will be Interschool (ie—competing against other schools) while some occasions will be Interlevel (ie—competing at school, within the year level). All children will be assigned to a sport team and will practice for their sport during Sport lessons with Mr Haines. Please ensure that your child is dressed in full sport uniform each Friday. More information on dates, locations and permission forms will follow, on Care Monkey.

Fruit Snack

At approximately 12.30pm each day, the Senior School sets aside time to have a fruit snack. Please send along a fresh piece of fruit or some vegetables, in your child’s lunch for this time. Thank you.
Literacy
During Term 1 the Senior School children will be using a variety of reading and writing strategies to improve and strengthen their reading and writing skills. The literacy program allows children to work individually or in small groups with the teacher to meet specific needs. The Daily 5 structure for the reading hour will be operating in all senior classrooms and includes time for students to read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, work on words and work on writing. Throughout the Daily 5 students focus on reading comprehension, reading accuracy, reading fluency and expanding their vocabulary.

Mathematics
This term in Mathematics we have begun by focusing on data collection, representation and interpretation and in the coming weeks we will be focusing on Number (place value, counting, addition and subtraction) and Measurement (length, perimeter and temperature). During Mathematics sessions, students will often be working in small groups targeted at their learning needs. Please ensure that your child makes use of the Mathletics program at home, in order to consolidate concepts taught at school.

Science
This term, the Senior School students will be studying ‘Marvellous Micro-Organisms’ in Science. They will be learning about the yeast micro-organism and the bread making process. Students will investigate the conditions that affect mould growth on food and they will learn about the role of micro-organisms in the discovery and development of the antibiotic, penicillin.

Geography Unit – ‘Australia – Our Country’
This term, students will be developing their knowledge of the Geography of Australia – its states and territories, physical features, surrounding oceans and seas and neighbouring countries.

Classroom teachers are available to meet after school, however it is important to make an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. You can also communicate through the student diary or via email:
tocallaghan@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
dbennett@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
jfinley@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
jturner@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
sgriffin@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to a successful and productive term.
Senior School Teachers:
Tahlia O’Callaghan, Donna Bennett, Jen Finley, Samantha Griffin and Janine Turner.

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**SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

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Cooking pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

Lisa from STO, ready to eat her pancake!