Welcome to the beginning of Term 1, 2017. 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 maybe because someone has dipped into their buckets. This might look like when our friends will not share or when they may say mean things. The children are learning that when our buckets are full we are happy.

Everybody can be a bucket filler!

**Religious Education and Integrated Topic**

This term the Juniors will be preparing for their class Liturgies which will be held on a Thursday at 9:00am. Please check the dates on the calendar and personal invitations will be sent out via Tiqbiz prior to each Liturgy. We look forward to you joining us to celebrate our liturgies.

Our topic this term is “Belonging”. This unit of work will be integrated with, Religion, History, Geography and English, making links to the Intercultural Capability and Ethical Capability as part of the Victorian Curriculum.

The children will learn that being part of a group, including those we are born into and those we join, based on common interests or values help us to belong to a community. They will come to realise that they belong to many different groups, and within each group they have certain roles and responsibilities. The children will gain an understanding, acceptance and empathy for others who may be
different from them in a variety of social settings. They will learn about Jesus Christ as one who welcomes, loves and includes them. The children will be introduced to Baptism as a sacrament of initiation into the Church community. They will investigate the ways in which we belong, who belongs and the rules to belonging. The children will demonstrate the difference between groups based on characteristics and groups based on interests. They will look at different types of groups and the reasons why people join groups.

As part of this unit of work the Junior teachers would like to invite any parents, grandparents or relatives to be our guest speakers. This would require you to share your stories, Religion or culture with the children. Being part of our unit will be a valuable experience for all and make the students' learning more meaningful. If you are willing to be our guest speaker please contact your classroom teacher. We are looking forward to working with you during this “Belonging” unit of work.

**English**

We are using the Daily 5 to teach both reading and writing. The Daily 5 literacy rotations consist of Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listening to Reading, Word Work and Work on Writing. In these sessions the children are building their stamina in both reading and writing. Individual conferencing enables the teacher to set student goals and focus on the reading strategies of fluency, accuracy, comprehension and building vocabulary.

This Term the children will be introduced to The Writer’s Notebook. This book will be used to generate ideas or “writing seeds” to assist the children in their writing sessions and encourage them to explore different writing genres such as Recount, Narrative and Procedure.

**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. In Statistics and Probability the 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 Daily 3 Mathematics rotations are being used in the classroom to give children hands on experiences in Mathematics. These rotations consist of Math by Myself, Math Work, Math with Someone and Math with the Teacher. The children will explore Place Value and Partitioning of numbers in Number and Algebra and work on addition and subtraction strategies. In Measurement and Geometry the children will explore Time in relation to days and months; and Location, Transformation, Positional Language and Mapping. We encourage children to use the Mathletics program at home to consolidate the mathematical concepts being taught in class.

If your child does not have their Mathletics login please contact your teacher.
2017 – Specialist Timetable

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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
Mrs Stefanie Edens: sedens@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au
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Mrs Carla Mackintosh: cmackintosh@sjcarrumdowns.catholic.edu.au

Looking forward to a busy and exciting Term 1!

Regards,
Junior School Teachers,
Stef Edens, Lorraine Nihill, Tracy Finnegan, Sandra Ramos, Carla Mackintosh and Deb McWaters (Junior School Coordinator).