A prayer for the start of the School Year

Loving God,
Our creator, our saviour, our companion,
Bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today.
Refresh our souls
And renew our spirits
As we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called to us to.
We welcome those who are new to this community and
Ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given the them.
Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this school,
And may you guide them to return with open hearts and mind eager to learn
We ask this in Your name,
Amen
**Things to Put on Your Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Swimming Program Commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>SZ Principal's Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Matt O'Brien to visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Opening School Mass @ 10:30am, School Picnic Dinner 'The Gardens' @6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Life Ed Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Last day of Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>St Joseph's Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>SGSSA Swimming Carnival - Penshurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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**1st MARCH**

- Ash Wednesday

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**Opening School Mass**

St Joseph's will be celebrating its opening school mass on Friday 17th February @ 10:30am. Fr Paddy will be leading our celebration of the new school year at the St Joseph's Church. Families, parishioners and members of the community are most welcomed to attend.

**Swimming Program**

Our swimming program will commence on Wednesday 8th February. This year we have 2 swimming instructors coming from the Hamilton Indoor Aquatic Centre. We will have 4 groups that will have half an hour lessons. As per the note that was handed out last Friday we are after some parent support to help walk the students down and back to the pool. If you are available can you please send back the note with your preferred time. Our swimming program will culminate to our School Swimming Carnival on Thursday 23rd February. It is asked that a few helpers stay behind after our Swimming Carnival to help prepare for the SGSSA Swimming Carnival which is the following day Friday 24th February at the Penshurst Pool.

**Indonesian is coming to St Joseph's**

We are excited to announce we will be conducting Indonesian lessons for our students from F-6. Maria Patience will be our Indonesian teacher, she has many years experience teaching Indonesian at schools. Maria will teach on a Tuesday afternoon in our 3 classes. Maria will commence her classes after swimming with her first day to be on the 28th of February. We look forward Maria joining our team of staff and community.

**Attachments**

We have some important attachments to our newsletter they are as follows:

- School Photograph Permission
- Chaplancy Consent Form

If these documents could be completed and handed back to Andrea in the office ASAP that would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions relating to these documents, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

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**News and Messages from the Principal**

A warm welcome to the 2017 school year. I have been overwhelmed with the kindness and friendly nature of everyone that I have met so far. The Penshurst community certainly know how to embrace new faces and for that I have been very thankful. Speaking of new faces it has been fantastic to see our new preps thrive in their first few days at school. We look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as the term and year progress. I would also like to officially welcome Ainslie Walker who is teaching in the Investigation Station classroom with Mrs Page. Your enthusiasm and passion for teaching will certainly be an asset to St Joseph's. I look forward to meeting more members of the community as the term unfolds.

Kind Regards

Matt Uzkuraitis

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**Mass Times**

- **Sunday 12th Feb**
  - **Hamilton:** 6pm Saturday 10:30am Sunday
  - **Penshurst:** this week School mass 8:30am

**Mass Ministries**

- **Lector:** Colleen Page
- **Prayers:** St Joseph's Primary School
- **Gifts:** St Joseph's Primary School
- **Spec Minister:** Brendan Kelly

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School Vision Statement

“St Joseph’s School Penshurst is a place for children to grow spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally within a framework of Leadership and Christianity, with a respect for individuality and a sense of belonging. We will embrace the many varied talents of our children, teachers and staff and we will utilise all resources available to ensure our children are able to meet the challenges presented in modern society.”

Preps - Wednesday’s

In a follow up to the note Toyah sent home to the prep students on Friday, we have decided that it would be beneficial for our prep students to attend the Wednesday’s while swimming is on (these dates are 8th Feb, 15th Feb, 22nd Feb) and also Ash Wednesday which is the 1st of March. The remaining Wednesday’s in March will be optional days for the prep students. We will leave it up to the parents discretion as to send your child to school or not. As our experience tells us that some tend to get tired and need that time away while others are able to attend. If you would like any clarification please feel free to contact Matt or Toyah.

School Dinner at ‘The Gardens’

As a school we invite you, your family and members of the community to come and celebrate the new school year with a Picnic Dinner at The Gardens in Penshurst on Friday 17th February at 6pm. This would be a fantastic opportunity to meet new faces and catch up with some well known ones. BYO your dinner/drinks and we look forward to seeing you there.

School Fee Arrangements

Our fee schedule for 2017 is as follows;
School Fees $850.00 per family
Maintenance Fee $50.00 per family
Student Fee $240.00 per child
Excursion Fee $ 60.00 per Gr P-2 child
$200 per Gr 3-4 child
$420 per Gr 5-6 child
Capital Fee $100.00 per family

As always, we encourage any family who may be experiencing financial difficulty to contact Matt and alternate arrangements can be made that suit that family’s particular circumstances. We’d also encourage families to consider direct debiting their fees which is an effective way of managing your payments over the course of the school year; please speak with Andrea if interested. I would also encourage all families who qualify for a Health Care or Pension Card to contact Matt as the Diocese have established a Family Fee Assistance Scheme which aims to reduce the cost of educating children in Catholic schools.

Family Assistance Fee

The Education Maintenance Allowance is no longer funded by the Government. However the Ballarat Diocese has maintained their commitment to continue the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The scheme offers a tuition fee concession to families who hold a current Health Care Card/Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card.
Families who qualify for the scheme will pay $520 per annum for primary school tuition fees. The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, student fees and excursions. An application form needs to be completed and are available at the office. These forms, plus a copy of your current Health Care Card/Centrelink card, must be received by Tuesday 28th February, 2017. If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for Health Care Card/Centrelink, please come and discuss this with Andrea. Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.
Some Quick Notes & Reminders:

1. **Newsletter Clarification:** If at anytime you are unsure about anything listed on the newsletter, no matter how minor it may seem, please contact Andrea or Matt for clarification. Please note that the newsletter will be handed out on a Tuesday.

2. **Bell Times:** Please be aware that all children are expected to be in class at 8.55am to be ready for formal learning at 9am. Classes conclude at 3:20pm.

3. **Fruit Break:** At 10am each day the children will have fruit break, it is important that all students have fresh fruit at this time which will help sustain children and give their brain energy for the next period of learning.

4. **Yard Supervision:** Supervision is provided by members of staff for students from 8.40am until 3.30pm. It is asked that students should not arrive at school before 8.30am.

5. **Late arrivals/ early departures:** any children arriving late or leaving early must be signed in or out by an adult, this register is located in the office.

6. **Sunsmart:** All students must have a school hat each day. Our policy is ‘no hat – no play’. Your assistance and support of our Sunsmart policy is greatly appreciated.

7. **Absences:** An explanation is required each time a child is absent from school. It is a legal requirement of teachers to keep an accurate roll of student attendance. Absences can be verbal, via a note or by email.

8. **Assembly:** Assemblies will be held each Monday at 3:00pm, parents are welcome to attend. These will commence once swimming has finished.

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**IN THE CLASSROOM**

It has been so pleasing to see our 2017 Preps start their schooling off in a terrific way. We have seven preps this year. We have Zoe Calvert, Chuck Cameron, Raine Hoyt, Alex Juby, Wally Morton, Hilton Mullins and Kitana Seymour. We wish them all the very best and we are sure there will be lots of learning and fun being had in Mrs Allen’s room.

We also have Charlotte and Riley Turner starting in Grade 3. We welcome them and their family to St Joseph’s and the Penshurst community.
Community Rosters

Gardening: 27th Jan-16th Feb: Pye Family  Cleaning: 10th Feb: Brent Page Family

Meals on Wheels Roster-
Commencing 14th March 2017 11:45am

Please make sure your Police Checks are up to date:

Monday:
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:

Parents and Friends Meeting 22nd Feb @ 7:30pm in the Library
Declare all positions vacant and ask for nominations

As with previous years, we also require parents to assist with walking children to and from school each day. If you are available, please enter your name in the relevant spaces below and return the form to Andrea at your earliest convenience.

A reminder that parents assisting with walking must have a current WWCC.

Please note that in the case of inclement weather, we will notify walking parents at 11:30am if swimming is to be cancelled.

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<th>Leave School @ 1:10pm</th>
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<th>Leave School @ 2:10pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Feb 8th</td>
<td>Julia Gibbs</td>
<td>Brooke Mooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb 9th</td>
<td>Paula Cook</td>
<td>Melissa Pye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 10th</td>
<td>Paula Cook</td>
<td>Melissa Pye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Feb 13th</td>
<td>Julia Gibbs</td>
<td>Brooke Mooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Feb 14th</td>
<td>Julia Gibbs</td>
<td>Brooke Mooney</td>
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<td>Wednesday Feb 15th</td>
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<td>Thursday Feb 16th</td>
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<td>Friday Feb 17th</td>
<td>Paula Cook</td>
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<td>Wednesday Feb 22nd</td>
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