School Principal: Mr Travis Bienkowski

Assistant principal: Mrs Lisa Gallin

Administration staff: Mrs Lyn Della Franca & Mrs Heather Brown

Pre-primary teaching team: Miss Brigitte Gaillard - PP Teacher
Mrs Silvana Vitale - PP Education Assistant (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning, Thursday)
Miss Mia Catalano - PP Education Assistant (Wednesday afternoon and Friday)

School telephone: (08) 9782 6500

School email: admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au
Miss Gaillard’s email: gaillard.brigitte@cathednet.wa.edu.au
We would like to welcome you and your child to our Pre-Primary classroom. Our programme endeavours to provide a warm and friendly environment for the nurturing and development of all children entrusted in our care. The Pre-Primary year will see your child develop skills in social, emotional, physical, language, intellectual and spiritual areas. Our programme is as interactive and stimulating as possible and is play-based.

**TIMETABLE**
Miss Gaillard teaches in PP Monday - Friday.
Mrs Vitale is in PP on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday mornings and Thursdays.
Miss Catalano is in PP Wednesday afternoons and Fridays.
Library with Mrs Gallin is on Tuesdays.
Sport with Mrs Langan is on Wednesdays.
Music with Mrs Langan is on Thursdays.

**MORNINGS**
The classroom door will open at 8.20am each day. Whilst we may be in the classroom before then, we are doing class preparation for the day. We will generally wait until 8.20 to open the doors so that we are free to greet each child as they arrive.

As your child enters the PP classroom, there are a few things they need to do:

- Place their drink bottles on the drinks trays next to the door
- Put their crunch and sip in the fridge
- Unpack their homework bags placing their diaries, homework folders and homework bags in the allocated baskets. If it is library day (Tuesdays) they will also need to bring their library bag in and place it in the correct basket.
- Find their name card and carefully trace their full name in between the lines. They then take the blank card and attempt to write their name again to practise writing it freehand.
- It is then time for a book or puzzle on the mat before one of our Focus Children rings the bell to start our day.

**PARENT HELP**
We are looking forward to having parent volunteers come in to our PP class. However we won’t be doing a parent help roster until Term 2 as we would like to get the children comfortable and confident in their new routines first. These will most likely take place in the mornings before Recess but if you can only make a certain time, I am sure we can work something out! If you have any special skills or hobbies you could bring to the PP class on your day of help, feel free to let us know. This could be cooking, craft, gardening, constructing or even educating the children about what you do for work. The children take so much pride in showing off their parents and we can’t wait either!
MAKING JESUS REAL
Our school is a Making Jesus Real School. This means that we encourage the students to act like Jesus in their interactions with others. In Pre-Primary, we encourage children to share, speak kindly, be helpful and to show kindness to others. The approach involves everyone in the school community and is a lovely way to make everyone feel a sense of belonging.

DEVELOPMENTAL TEACHING
Please remember that the early childhood years are ones of immense growth for children. Each child will develop at a different rate, so please try not to compare your child to others. We have goals for our class for the semester, and for the year, but not every child will achieve them all. This does not necessarily mean there is something wrong with them. It often just means they are not developmentally ready to learn what we are teaching. Please do not panic if you think your child is behind. Come and see us and we would be happy to go over the skills your child has mastered and explain those they are still working on. Most children will achieve Pre-Primary outcomes with practice and support. If we have any concerns about your child’s progress, we will certainly let you know.

WALKER LEARNING
All of our early childhood classes (K-2) have adopted the Kath Walker Learning Approach. The emphasis of this type of pedagogy is learning through exploratory play. A large amount of our day is spent in planned play experiences. This is not ‘free time’. Rather, it is purposeful and supported by the teachers and education assistants. In addition to exploratory play, we have a number of explicit teaching sessions during the day. These are short periods of sitting on the mat where we introduce specific teaching points. We also spend time with children in small groups, and individually, to target their particular goals.

Focus children: The Walker Learning Approach includes the opportunity for each child to be a focus child once a fortnight. The program usually offers 3 focus children a day but as we are a small school, we focus on 2 students per day with the chance of your child being focus child twice a fortnight. The focus children speak to the class during ‘tuning in’ phase of the morning, informing the teacher and their peers of their investigation intentions. The teacher and education assistant work individually with the focus children to scaffold their learning. Focus children report back at ‘reflection time’ to share learning and observations.

Reporter: The reporter has the special task of finding out what the focus children are working on during Investigations and reporting back to the class about it during the reflection part of our morning. As the children are still learning to write, they have been drawing what they see the focus children doing and the educators scribe for them. This role helps the children extend their social skills by approaching and talking to peers they may not usually interact with. It also assists in their communication skills as they are required to use questioning in order to receive information.

Photographer: The photographer’s task is similar to the reporter in that they have to find out what the focus children are doing, however they take 3 photographs using the iPad rather than drawing. We have been working on the best way to hold the iPad so the pictures are not blurry, and also stepping back to take a photo of what the focus children are doing and not just their faces! The photographer then shows the pictures to the class using the SmartBoard and describes what their pictures are of.
LITERACY
We will be introducing letter names and sounds using a particular sequence, as listed below. This sequence allows reading and spelling to begin quickly, as it allows simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant words such as ‘pin’, ‘nap’ and ‘sip’) to be used. Each set of letters builds upon the previous set, allowing the students to read and spell more and more words as times goes on. At this stage, we will only be teaching the most common sound for each letter. Our aim is that by the end of Term 2, all children in the class will recognise each letter of the alphabet and it’s most common sound.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 – <strong>s a t</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
<td>Week 1 - Revision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 – <strong>p i n</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
<td>Week 2 – <strong>o u b</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
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<td>Week 6 – <strong>m r h</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
<td>Week 3 – <strong>w j v</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
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<td>Week 7 – <strong>e c d</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
<td>Week 4 – <strong>k z y</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
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<td>Week 8 – <strong>f l g</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
<td>Week 5 – <strong>q x</strong> sound and letter recognition revision from last year and writing/blending activities</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Week 10 - Revision</td>
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NUMERACY
The focus will be on counting and recognising numbers to 20. Numeracy in Pre-Primary also involves skills such as counting with one-to-one correspondence, understanding spatial words (such as over, behind and inside), recognition of common 2D shapes, recognising and continuing patterns and sorting objects into categories.

HOMEWORK
From Week 4, your child will be bringing home alphabet homework. This will be based directly on the letters we are introducing each week. Later in the year, your child may bring home some simple reading books. The main thing to remember is that homework should not be a cause of stress in your family.

We are teaching the class to write their names independently, with correct letter formation. Please encourage your child to do the same at home. Correct pencil grip is also very important and we ask that you be mindful of how your child is holding their pencil. Habits formed at this age are very hard to break!

We encourage you to help promote your child’s numeracy skills by encouraging them to count objects for you, allowing them to help you with measuring ingredients for cooking, as well as using positional words (over, under, through, inside, etc) to describe things you would like them to do.

INVESTIGATION CENTRES
We will be setting up a number of investigation centres and activities, based on the interests of the children, during the year. There are some items we will need to do this. As I am still forming an
understanding of your children’s interests I do not have a list of things we need yet. If I do need anything I will keep you posted on our PP Facebook page. However if anyone has or knows anyone who has free access to untreated wood for the children to construct with, that would be fantastic. The PP’s definitely love getting creative in our woodwork area and that’s both our boys and our girls!

ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTING
In Pre-Primary, we assess the children in a number of areas. We are constantly looking at what your child can, and cannot, do and adjusting our programs to suit their needs. Each child has an assessment folder where we keep records on their progress and how we are helping them to achieve their next goals. In Terms 1 and 4, we complete OLI tests, which is a nationwide computerised assessment which looks at literacy and numeracy skills. At the end of Term 2, you will receive a written report of your child’s progress in literacy, numeracy and motor skills. With the report, we will also send home a work sample book so you can see some of the work they have completed in class. Keep an eye on Facebook too. You will see many examples of learning that cannot be put onto paper!

UNIFORMS
Children are to wear their sports uniform to school every day. Please ensure the correct colour hair ties and ribbons are used (blue, gold, white or the colour of their faction shirt they are wearing that day).

You may want to put a change of underwear in their schoolbags, just in case of accidents. We have spare uniforms they can wear if an accident does occur. If this happens, please wash and return the borrowed uniform as soon as possible.

HATS
All students need to have a St Joseph’s School hat. Our school has a ‘no hat, no play’ policy which means that your child will not be permitted to play in the sun if they do not have a school hat on.

ABSENTEES
Please call the office before 9am if your child is absent. When your child returns to school, we need written advice that they were away. If your child is late to school, or needs to be taken to an appointment during class, they must be signed in and out at the office.

POLICY FOR COLLECTION OF CHILDREN
If you are unable to collect your child from school, please make a note in their diary that someone else will be picking them up. If your child usually catches the bus, but is not on a particular day (or vice versa) please also note this in their diary.

HEALTHY LUNCHES
Thank you for packing healthy food for your child’s lunchbox. It would be greatly appreciated if lollies and chocolates are not brought to school. Thank you for packing fruit every day for Crunch ‘n’ Sip.
MORNING FITNESS
After our morning mat session greeting we kick start our day by going outside for some morning fitness. We find out what skills Mrs Langan is teaching them in sport and practise them for 20 minutes.

LIBRARY
Pre-Primary have Library every Tuesday. Please ensure your child has their library bag so they can borrow books and please double-check that it has their name on it. We encourage you to read the books your child brings home each week. It is beneficial to re-read the same book a number of times over the week, as this helps to improve your child’s comprehension of the story and they will be able to answer your questions about what is about to happen.

ATTACHMENTS
- Foundation Font letter formation sheet
- Ways to build your child’s positive self-esteem and resilience and phrases of encouragement sheets