Helping your child learn to read

Although many children have well-developed pre-reading skills by the time they start school, the teaching of literacy skills begins in earnest well before. Speaking and listening, reading and writing are all part of literacy and your child needs to develop all these skills.

And while some children seemly learn to read overnight, with very little help, most children need plenty of encouragement and guidance before they are flying solo as independent readers.

With a reader coming home in the school bag each day, many parents feel ill-equipped to help their child on the exciting journey to independent reading, but there are many way you can help and encourage your child to become a reader:

Your child will want to read if:

- **there is a choice of things to read.** If everything you own has been read a million times and now seems a little young for him/her, take a trip to the library or perhaps try swapping some much-loved books with a friend.

- **you offer a variety of texts.** Have him/her read a recipe to you as you cook, or read the instructions for a board game you're going to play together, or even the back of a DVD you want to rent. By doing this, they'll begin to understand that by reading, they can make a lot happen in their world.

- **you're not too ambitious.** Reading at home with you should be about building confidence in reading – they've worked hard at school all day mastering new literacy concepts so your time with them shouldn't be about challenging them further. That's the teacher's job.

- **you have regular reading times together.** The end of the day is often a great time to read together, or a lazy Sunday morning in bed - you can either take turns reading aloud from the same book, or just lie side-by-side reading your own books quietly.

**IMPORTANT!**

Make sure that you take some time to read for pleasure too. The best way to get your child enthused about reading is for you to model the behaviour you want to see. If you have a boy, it's often helpful if he sees his Dad enjoying reading too.

This article was written by Ella Walsh for Kidspot. Sources include Dept of Education and Training and S.A. Govt's Parenting and Child Health
Last week I wrote about the Australian Curriculum and in particular the General Capabilities. You may recall I focussed in on the capability of Personal and Social Capability. This week I will expand on the capability of Literacy.

As you would be aware we teach English formally but we also want our students to develop the literacy skills across all the areas of the curriculum. This includes the ability to read and understand a variety of texts and genres (eg fiction texts and information texts) and write in different ways; narrative writing, recounts, procedure and report writing. We want our students to understand how language works (word knowledge and grammar) and be able to communicate both orally and in the written form for different purposes.

Our school data shows us that we need to improve student’s comprehension. We know our students can decode or sound out the words when they read but that deep understanding and making sense of what they are reading is what we need to improve. In other words we need to provide opportunities for them to think about what they reading and makes sense of the written word in the text. This will be our goal this year. For you as a parent please remember it is not how quickly your child moves through the levelled readers but rather does my child understand what they have just read. Any kind of work you can do in this area would be great. Listening to your child read (across all year levels), asking questions about the picture, characters and the plot of the story will all be helpful. I was interested to read the Sunday Mail (24 February) about Julie Gillard’s proposal for a 3 year reading blitz to improve reading. I hope you will be pleased to hear we have been working on improving reading for the past 2 years. We will be running Reading Workshops for parents on Wednesday 13 March. The workshop will outline how children learn to read and provide helpful strategies. This is focussed for our Early Years parents but all parents are welcome to attend.

I invite all parents and caregivers to Café Conversation 2 to be held on Wednesday 20 March from 7pm – 9pm. The first part of the evening will be to look back over the school’s performance in 2012. We want to share with you the results of the DISA online survey that was undertaken last year. This date has been very supportive but also offers challenges. Then we will move into conversation about learning for the 21st century. What knowledge, skills and attributes do students need now and for their future? What kind of teaching and learning is needed? How can we strengthen parent engagement in learning? Your ideas will help to shape our vision for learning. I hope many of you will be interested in this topic and come along to share your ideas. Nibbles and drinks will be provided. The first Café Conversation was held in September 2011 and the feedback was very positive. Come along, bring a friend and have your say!

Are you interested in joining the School Board? This is an excellent way to get involved in our school. The Board works in partnership with me as Principal and we plan together the directions for the school. We have many interesting conversations and I very much value the Board’s input and ideas. If interested please feel free to call me on 8337 6044 or the Chairperson Mario Lupone on 0410 079 132.

This week is a heavy one for me as I have a number of meetings at the Catholic Education Office. One of the meetings is attending the SA Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS). SACCS is the overarching body for all Catholic schools and St Joseph’s operates within the policies of SACCS. It is a great opportunity to continue to be a commissioner this year and participate at this level.

I hope the week goes well for you and your family.

With best wishes

Leanne Carr
Principal

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences and prayers are extended to Pauline Rossetti whose mother recently passed away. Her funeral was held last Thursday.
May she rest in peace.
From the Deputy Principal

At St Joseph's School Hectorville, our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Faith and Service, Inclusion and Integrity are particularly important in the lives of our students and are integral to all we do.

The staff certainly believe in the importance of these five school values and are totally committed to being living examples of these values to our students and parents every day. So many different components of our dynamic school community such as pastoral care activities, modern teaching and learning pedagogies, excursions, whole school Masses, Liturgies, and our quest to build positive relationships with all our students and their families are all examples of this unerring commitment.

In building positive relationships between school and our families, we recognize the significance of a solid three-way partnership between students, their families and the staff. At St Joseph's School we acknowledge the importance of the meaningful participation of parents or caregivers in the education of their child.

Parents’ knowledge and understanding of their child is integral to the work of the school. The role that parents play in the education of their child has the potential to strengthen the support provided by our school in improving the educational outcomes of students. When the relationship between the school and family is trusting and collaborative there are benefits for all, but most importantly the student.

All of our lives are very busy. We must, however, be attentive to the things that are of the utmost importance; Parent meetings, students’ school attendance, reading all school communications eg Class notes and Parent Bulletins and making ourselves aware of all upcoming school activities and supporting the school by adhering to school rules and procedures.

There is unequivocal evidence that parental involvement in their child’s education makes a significant difference to their educational achievement. When schools and parents are able to work together in constructive and meaningful ways much can be achieved.

Have a great week and hope to see you all at the Parents and Friends Movie Under the Stars, Saturday 16 March.

Marilena Cianfaglione
Deputy Principal

From the APRIM

Project Compassion was launched on Ash Wednesday and the theme for this year is “Open Doors into the Future”. We are called to assist marginalised communities through our support of Caritas International. As a community we seek to engage in a deeper understanding of this season and the responsibility we have, as people of strong faith, in assisting those who are in need of support through aid and connections with developmental networks. The opportunity exists for us to give generously to the Project Compassion appeal through the boxes that were distributed to each family last week. The boxes will be collected at school before the end of Week 9.

This leads me to the scripture quote from this week’s readings:

“Give and gifts will be given to you, a good measure packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.” Luke 6:38

Reminder of upcoming events:
Friday 1 March 9.15am - Year 7 classes will be leading the Community Mass in Church of Annunciation
Friday 1 March 11am - Year 5 students will be having Reconciliation in Church of Annunciation
Tuesday 5 March we will be hosting a Youth Forum on Sustainability in the Hall
Thursday 14 March 1.30pm - Year 6 students will be assisting with the Anointing Mass in the Church of Annunciation

Best wishes for a good week

Iva Denton
APRIM
**Wellbeing**

The Child and Youth Health Website supports wellbeing – it can be found at [www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com). When visiting this site there is a link to Kids' Health Ages 6 – 12 providing health information just for kids. Topics available include - Your Family, Body, Food, Health, School, Feelings, Safety, Fun and Games.

**Your School** provides information about friendship and making friends which at times can be a challenge for children, especially at the beginning of a new school year.

**Your Feelings** discusses anger, being teased and resilience (not letting things get you down), along with many other topics.

Information is written for children to access and includes relevant illustrations.

As a parent/caregiver please have a browse of this site to decide whether the information may be suitable for your child.

Louise Kilpatrick  
Wellbeing Coordinator

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**Parents & Friends**

The next P&F Meeting is on Tuesday 5 March at 7.30pm in the Staff Room. If you are considering or would like to join the P&F Committee please come along.

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**Movie Night under the Stars**  
Saturday 16 March  
Gates open at 5.30pm

BBQ, Drinks and Snacks available for sale on the night  
Movie to start about 8.30pm  
Pre-order tickets by Friday 8 March via your classroom office box.

Additional forms are available from the Front Office.

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**Sports Day**  
Friday 22 March

Please note – The flyer for Sports Day indicated that soft drinks will be available for sale on Sports Day. This is incorrect, Fruit Juice will be available for sale. If you are able to help on the day and are on the School’s Volunteer Register please fill in the form and return it via your child’s class box by Friday 15 March. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Lunch orders and Donut orders are to be placed by Friday 8 March via your classroom office box. Donut order forms have been given out this week. Please use lunch bags for your orders and return via the class box. Please do not put orders with the canteen orders. We are only taking orders for Sausage, Steak and Donuts. Drinks are not to be ordered. They are for purchase on the day.

Emilia Lewis  
P&F President
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
Please note the shop is open on the first Tuesday morning of the month in the Mini Gym between 9 – 9.30am and is run by volunteers. For all enquiries please call Toni Gladwich on 0403 784 403. Purchases are cash only.

Sport News

Sports Day is on Friday 22 March. If you are able to come along and support your son/daughter, these are the times that they will be participating:

**Sports Day Times:**
Receptions and R/1Bucco: 9.00am - 12.45pm  
Year 1/2: 9.00am - 1.30pm  
Year 3: 9.00am - 2.05pm  
Year 4: 9.00am - 2.20pm  
Year 5/6/7: 9.00am - 3.10pm

A notice will go home in the coming weeks with the specific timetable for your child.

Jessica Woolford  
Physical Education Teacher

JS EXPRESS UNIFORM SHOP

Monday 8am – 12 noon  
Wednesday 1pm – 5pm  
Saturday 9am – 12noon

Shop 5, 272 Montacute Road Rostrevor. For all enquiries please call Lilly on 0433 618 496.  
Credit card facilities are available.

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| **Week 6** |
| Monday 4    | Nikki Franzin, Diana Thoeny |
| Tuesday 5   | Anna Romano, Help Needed     |
| Wednesday 6 | Gracie Tortorella, Viola Perone, Carmel Novia |
| Thursday 7  | Linda Della – Verde, Gina De Ieso |
| Friday 8    | CANTEEN CLOSED - Professional Learning Day |

Canteen News

Vegetarian pasties are now available in the canteen. Please write ‘vegetarian pasty’ on your order otherwise your child will get a regular pasty.

The canteen needs your help. If you can spare half an hour or more it would be greatly appreciated. On the days there is no help the canteen will not be able to open for over the counter lunch sales. Lunch orders will still be processed.

Di and Sue  
Co Canteen Managers

PLEASE NOTE
Parent Bulletin items should be emailed to school by MONDAY 11 AM EACH WEEK to bulletin@sjh.catholic.edu.au