Hello and welcome to Term 1 2015 in Year One at St Joseph’s.

Our year level theme Here I Am recognises that we all belong, encourages us to be confident and ‘have a go’, and celebrate success in our learning.

Our classroom environment is designed to capture the awe and excitement in learning which is present in all young children. We encourage all children to develop as learners through play, inquiry, imaginative thinking, engaging with the environment and connecting with our Catholic tradition and wider community.

Through curriculum differentiation we will provide different learning experiences for children and ensure the learning environment is a place where they can take risks, build knowledge and skills and take responsibility in directing their own learning.

We recognise that our school values of respect, inclusion, responsibility, integrity and faith and service are important in helping us build positive relationships.

Religious Education
In the units of work My Family and God Loves Me the children will understand the Catholic belief that we are all created in the image of God and that we are all unique and special. They will have the opportunity to name people who love them and are special to them. We will celebrate the Liturgical Year of the Church through our preparation and observations of the season of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

English
The English curriculum is built around three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the strands focus on developing each child’s knowledge, understanding and skills in reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.
In the strand of Language we will explore different ways of asking information. We will learn how to ask questions through our History topic. The children will develop an understanding about the purpose of texts and express their comprehension of the text. We will develop sound and letter knowledge through the exploration of sound-letter matches (og, ag, ig, in, ap, an, us, ox words and Galaxy Words).
Through the strand of Literature we will examine literature by listening to, reciting and performing songs, poems, chants and rhymes, imitating and inventing sound patterns including alliteration and rhyme.
The strand of Literacy involves the interaction of children through their engagement in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest and contributing ideas, information and questions. We will focus on phrasing, fluency, phonic knowledge and text processing strategies and comprehension (prediction, monitoring, meaning and rereading) through our exploration of a variety of texts.

As differentiated instruction meets the requirements of all learners so that they experience success in their learning, the children have individual reading programs and we will continue to monitor their progress regularly through running records and other assessment strategies.
Mathematics
The mathematics content is covered in three content strands of: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.
When learning Mathematics, the children will be developing an understanding of number and learning how to use strategies to help them perform simple operations. They will also be learning to identify and explain patterns. Another important element of their learning will be the vocabulary they need to use to help them think mathematically. They will be using this vocabulary to solve problems relating to everyday life.
The children will be using concrete materials to reproduce patterns, help them solve problems and play games to practise skills and strategies.
In the strand Number and Algebra, we will look at the numerals to 100, find them on a number line and explore number sequences to and from 100 from any starting point. We will investigate number patterns formed by skip counting.
Through the strand of Measurement and Geometry, we will classify familiar two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional objects. We will measure and compare the lengths and capacities of objects using informal units.

Health
Our focus this term is building Positive Relationships. We will use our school values and Positive Relationships process to help the children build their knowledge. We will brainstorm and engage in discussions about what makes a good friend.

Physical Education
The Year 1 children will spend Term 1 learning and practising athletics. In the lead up to Sports Day children will have an opportunity to practise both novelty events as well as track events. They will also learn and practise field events in order to develop their skills.
I am looking forward to seeing the athletic abilities of all children, Steven Grelli.

Science
This term we are exploring a topic from the Chemical Sciences strand, titled Spot The Difference. In this unit we will be investigating how every day materials can be physically changed in a variety of ways. We will study heating and cooling and introduce current scientific views about how properties of foods change when they are cooked.

History
In our History unit, Present and Past Family Life, we will study and pose questions about present and past family life within the context of the child's own world. Our questions and research will help us identify and learn about similarities and differences in family life by comparing the present with the past. It is an opportunity for children to explore the connections they have with their parents and grandparents.

Geography
The children will participate in activities and represent the location of places and features on pictorial maps and use everyday language to describe direction and location such as the playground and their bedroom. We will also explore the concepts of natural, managed and constructed features of places such as the park.

Italian
The Year 1 children will be learning about Carnevale and Pasqua. We will be focussing on comprehending texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive illustrations.
Children will also be learning about the cultural aspects and meaning of Lent, and the history and significance of Carnevale and how it is celebrated. A brief introduction of some of the most popular Carnevale characters (maschere) will also be introduced through the introduction of La Commedia Dell’Arte. Children will be engaged in oral interactions using hand puppets when introducing the Carnevale characters. Children will also be introduced to Holy Week and the significance of each of the holy days through language specific vocabulary, through the use of flashcards and questioning, and demonstrating comprehension by responding verbally and non verbally. Revision of classroom objects and classroom commands will also be a focus, through action related activities and songs. Kind regards, Rosa Vento and Jenny De Vizio.

The Arts
This term in the Arts the Year 1 students will be doing Drama. Children will imagine and act out roles and situations participating in miming through role play. They will explore feelings, ideas and stories by working with others to plan and shape a sequence of events in their drama. Children will learn how to express emotions and activities through mime and share them with each other. I look forward to developing the children’s dramatic skills, Bernie Phillips.

Important Dates for Year 1:

**Week 4:** Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday
- Disco on Friday night

**Week 6:** Professional Learning Day for teachers on Friday

**Week 7:** Adelaide Cup Day (Monday)
- Sports Day on Friday

**Week 8:** St Joseph’s Day Mass on Thursday 19 March at 9.15am

**Week 9:** Class Mass (Year R-2) on Friday at 9.15am

**Week 10:** Holy Week Prayer Service in Hall on Thursday at 9.15am
- Good Friday

**Week 11:** Easter Monday
- Casual Day on Wednesday
- End of term dismissal at 12.55pm on Friday

Term 2 commences Monday 27 April

We look forward to working together with you and celebrating your child’s successes this year.

Yours sincerely,
Su George
Belinda Muscat
Maggie Schapel
Debra Goour