



## Welcome to 2024

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to the 2024 school year! We are excited to have our amazing students back with us.

This term, we are taking a deliberate and steady approach, ready to handle any challenges that may come our way. We have nine weeks of exciting learning ahead, and we will be working closely together as a Senior unit on various occasions throughout the term.

We are especially looking forward to engaging with both students, buddies and families. Establishing clear expectations and routines is essential for student success and building strong connections within our school community.

Over the next few weeks, students will explore different learning areas, including Physical Education with Miss McEvoy

RARR with Mrs. Bennett

Digital Technology with Mr Davidson

Visual Arts with Mrs. Carmichael.

Mrs. Trewick and Mrs. Carmichael will be working closely in the Senior classrooms to support student learning and create leadership opportunities for our Year 5/6 students, such as assembly leaders, wellbeing teams, and much more.

Please reach out to Ms. Lupa or Miss Eade if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to ensure a positive and enriching experience for your children.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments!

Warm regards,

Yvette Lupa and Amy Eade

# MEET THE TEACHER



Ms Yvette Lupa

## ABOUT ME...

I grew up in Melbourne and moved to Echuca several years ago. I have been working at St Joseph's for 3 years now and love what I do! In my spare time I love to spend time camping with friends and family. I especially love all water sports including water skiing and wake boarding. Drawing and reading are some of my other hobbies that I really enjoy also. I have two daughters who also love living here and are currently studying at Uni and working. I absolutely adore spending precious time with my family and love being a Mum!

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Emerald Green
- DRINK: Soda Water
- PLACE: Italy
- SOUND: Chimes
- ICE CREAM: Strawberry
- MOVIE: Ghost
- HOLIDAY: Camping



**Please don't hesitate to contact me via phone 54841797 or email:**

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# MEET THE LSO



Leanne McInnes

## ABOUT ME...

I grew up in Strathlea and moved to Lockington in 1983.

I live there with my husband Max and our dog Bentley. I like to play lawn bowls and enjoy quilting.

I have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. I also have 2 step children and 7 step grandchildren. This is my 19th year in my role at St Joseph's School.

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Green
- DRINK: Water
- PLACE: Near Water
- SOUND: Rain
- ICE CREAM: Honeycomb
- MOVIE: Pretty Woman
- HOLIDAY: Family



# MEET THE TEACHER



Miss Amy Eade

## ABOUT ME...

I grew up on a beef farm in Lockington. I attended primary school in Lockington and secondary school in Rochester. After leaving school I worked as a parts interpreter at a tractor dealership before spending 3 years in childcare. Whilst working in childcare I started studying my teaching degree. I first started working at St Joes as an LSO before graduating and becoming a classroom teacher. In my spare time I enjoy all things outdoors such as farming, fishing, water sports and camping.

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Green
- DRINK: Juice
- PLACE: Western Australia
- SOUND: Rain and Thunder
- ICE CREAM: Salted Caramel
- MOVIE: Safe Haven
- HOLIDAY: River Holidays



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# MEET THE LSO



Leanne Hansen

## ABOUT ME...

I am a single mother of 3 beautiful adult children.

I live in Rochester.

I have worked at St Joseph's Rochester for the past 12 years as an LSO.

I have two small fluffy dogs named Oreo and Buddy.

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: orange
- DRINK: soda and lime
- PLACE: South Australia
- SOUND: Thunder storms
- ICE CREAM: vanilla
- MOVIE: I read books
- HOLIDAY: Camping / Hiking

# ENGLISH

In Term 4 2023 staff at St Joseph's began professional learning with Jocelyn Seamer (Jocelyn Seamer Education) with a focus on a whole school approach to Structured Literacy in 2024 and beyond.

There is now a large amount of research about how to teach children to read in a way that works for the largest number of children possible. This involves:

- 1) Teaching children the relationship between the speech sounds of English and the letters that are used to represent them in writing. This is also known as phonics
- 2) Teaching children to blend sounds together to read words (blending) and pull them apart for early spelling (segmenting).

This is taught to children in explicit lessons where adults direct student attention and closely monitor progress.

When children have strong oral language skills and can read words with ease, reading comprehension can happen. Making meaning is the goal of reading instruction, but phonics knowledge and being able to read words with ease makes this possible.

## Our Literacy Block- What it looks like

- Daily Review (reviewing previously learnt words and sounds).
- Morphology (introduction of new rule i.e 'adding the suffix 'ed' without spelling change').
- Phonics (learning and implementing sounds).
- Oral Reading Practice
- Sentence Level Writing (using new knowledge of morphology and phonics to write sentences).
- Text-Based Units (exploring texts with a specific focus i.e adverbial phrases).

Despite the changes, students will continue to hone their skills in spelling, reading, and writing. We're looking forward to embarking on this engaging journey together!

## Supporting children's reading development at home.

Encourage children to 'sound out all through the word'. Help children practise their phonics.

Include opportunities to develop oral blending in everyday life. "Can you please pass me the /f/ /or/ /k/?"

Encourage children to read the books they bring home multiple times. Help children develop oral language.

Encourage them to speak in full sentences. Encourage children to spend time with books they enjoy.

## Speaking and Listening:

Students will look at asking appropriate questions, and share their thoughts in class and in small group discussions. They will look at the importance of expressing their opinions, and make sure they do it with clarity and respectfully. They make presentations for a defined purpose and contribute actively to class and group discussions, using a variety of strategies for effect such as using a variety of digital supports eg google slides and CANVA.



# MATHEMATICS



## Retrieval Grids /Math Warm ups

Each day, our students will start with fun math warm-ups covering all areas of the Victorian Curriculum: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics, and Probability.

During these activities, they will solve small problems using efficient strategies and share their solutions with the class. We encourage them to talk about how they solved each problem, which helps them learn new ways to tackle challenges. These sessions are a hit and keep them excited about math!

## Number: and Algebra

Students will once again dive into the exciting world of numbers! They will be concentrating on Counting, Place Value, Rounding and Number Patterns, where they will be using both written and mental strategies to solve problems.

There will be an emphasis on using mathematical language. They will learn to explain how they got to an answer using their understanding of mental maths processes. Students will be delving into various ways of adding and subtracting and they will be learning to identify the most efficient strategies to use when problem-solving.

## Measurement and Space

During the Measurement unit, students will revisit the properties of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. They will explore the connections between three dimensional shapes and their nets before learning about the construction of simple prisms and pyramids.

## Essentials Assessment (School wide assessment program)

Students will be using the Essentials Assessment program. This platform is a powerful tool for both assessment and learning across all mathematical domains, including Shape, Number, Measurement, and Chance and Data. The Essentials Assessment program adopts a comprehensive approach which is tailored to each student's needs. Through pre and post-testing, differentiated according to individual abilities, the program ensures personalised assessments. It offers continuous feedback and a curriculum designed to foster their understanding and knowledge based on their current grasp of the maths topics.

We believe that the implementation of this program will significantly enhance the learning experience for your child and support their academic growth. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.



# RELIGION

## Charism

In this unit, your child will learn about treating everyone with kindness and respect. We will talk about the Brigidine Sisters, who are great examples of people fighting for fairness. Your child will understand that every person, no matter their age, race, gender, or religion, has the right to live in a safe and happy way.

We will also explore the concept of "Charism" and discuss how your child can be a part of making our school a great place. We will look at the symbols of St Joseph's school and talk about personal qualities and special gifts that your child can share with their school community.

## How Lent can Transform our Lives ?

In this unit, your child will be exploring the impact Lent can have on our lives. Lent isn't just a season on the Church calendar; it's an opportunity for deep reflection, growth, and spiritual renewal.

Understanding Lenten Symbols: Your child will learn about the various symbols associated with Lent and what they represent in our faith journey.

Reflecting on Lenten Promises: We will guide them in identifying meaningful Lenten promises and reflecting on how these commitments can bring about personal and spiritual growth.

Exploring Scripture: Through engaging with a variety of scripture readings, your child will uncover the meaning behind the life and death of Jesus Christ. They will discover how these narratives continue to impact our lives on a daily basis.



# INQUIRY

## MAKING DEMOCRACY

This Term the students will learn about the values of Australian Democracy and the key features of the Electoral process.

They will learn about the responsibilities of the three levels of government and explain these levels using Google slides.

Students will also learn about the Stolen Generations and the fight for equal rights in Australia by identifying the problems this faced and discussing with peers how it may be resolved moving forward.

They will create and set personal and social goals by writing a reflection on what values they think is very important in Australian Democracy and the impact it has on their current life.





# RRRR

*with Mrs Bennett*

My name is Fran Bennett. This year I will be teaching the Specialist subject Resilience, Rights and Responsible Relationships (RRRR) as part of their Specialist rotation. The aim of this program is to develop each students' social, emotional and positive relationship skills. Social and emotional skills help students develop the resilience to deal with change, challenge and unpredictability.

In Term One, we will be learning all about emotions. Students will take part in learning experiences that will help them explain how emotional responses influence behaviours. Activities will guide them in explaining the influence of emotions on behaviour, learning and relationships. Students will also analyse factors that influence their ability to regulate their emotions. The second part of the term will focus on students identifying and describing personal qualities and strengths. Activities will help guide the students in monitoring how to consolidate their strengths and will assess the value of working independently.

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

*with Mr Davison*

Welcome to the new term in Digital Technologies! This term, our Grade 5/6 students will be delving into the exciting world of the internet, focusing on key outcomes that will empower them to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and positively. Throughout the term, our young learners will explore the various ways people use the internet in their daily lives. They will discover how individuals, including themselves, contribute to community life through positive online actions. Additionally, students will gain insights into demonstrating respect and protecting the rights of others in the digital realm. A crucial aspect of our curriculum will involve discussing how online activities can impact their health and wellbeing positively. Students will be encouraged to share their experiences and thoughts on maintaining a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

In order to equip our students with the skills needed to navigate the digital world safely, they will be learning effective behavioral and technical strategies to manage online risks. Identifying services that can offer support in case of online issues will be another essential aspect of their learning journey this term.

We are excited about the valuable skills and knowledge our students will acquire during these lessons. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Let's work together to ensure our students become responsible and informed digital citizens!

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*with Ms McEvoy*

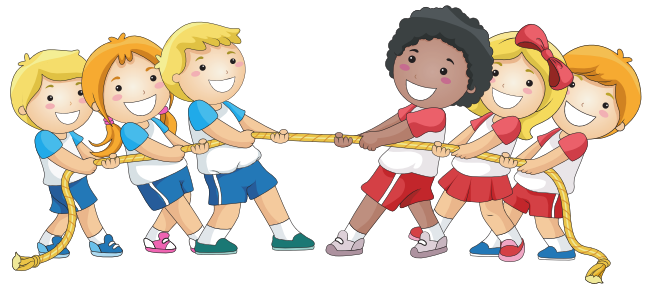
Welcome back to all students and families to what plans to be a fun and fulfilling school year in Physical Education. My name is Olivia McEvoy and I am delighted to be returning in 2024 to undertake the role of the Physical Education educator across all grades. I look forward to introducing some new and exciting sporting programs throughout the year.

This term will begin with a cricket program which will be the major focus for the first 4 weeks. The skills learnt during the program will be batting, bowling, fielding and throwing where students will learn the correct technique for these skills. These lessons are based on the 'Change It' approach which centers around ensuring activities are engaging and adaptable for students of all abilities. The 'Change It' approach stands for Coaching, How to score, Area, Number of students, Games rules, Equipment, Inclusion and Time. Students will conclude the program with a modified cricket round robin.

The following 4 weeks students will complete a tennis program which is similar to that of the tennis 'Hot Shots' program. The program modifies courts, racquets and balls to cater for varying skills and abilities. Students will learn to progress and extend tennis specific skills, strategies and matchplay.

## KELLY SPORTS

*with Wade*



We're dedicated to promoting physical literacy and a lifelong love of sports



### Supporting kids

Physical activity is so important for our children. At Kelly Sports, we're committed to helping kids learn the fundamentals of sport, improving their motor skills and coordination through multi-sport programmes. Not only does this boost their skills and fitness levels, but it also gives them the confidence to join local clubs or teams, embarking on a lifelong relationship with sport.



### Supporting parents

Life is busy, and it can be hard to fit everything into each day. That's why our programmes run before, during and after school, as well as in the holidays, making it easy for parents to give their kids quality sports coaching, even if they're stuck at work.



### Supporting schools

With pressures to increase numeracy, literacy and reporting, teachers have become more stretched than ever before. Kelly Sports' expert coaches offer in-school programmes to help principals and teachers, giving young learners a love for sports. We also provide professional development sessions for teachers, aiding with sports skills, lesson planning, materials and activities, and fundamental movement skills programmes at preschools or kindergartens.



### Qualified coaches

All our coaches complete comprehensive training to ensure that they have the knowledge and the skills to deliver top-quality training sessions.



### Peace of mind

Providing a safe and secure environment for the children we teach is paramount. All paid Kelly Sports staff who work with children enrolled in our sporting programmes are police vetted and have a Working With Children Check, and these safety checks are repeated every year. This regulation applies to all staff who deliver in schools or within the organisation to school groups.

# KELLY SPORTS

This term students will participate in a 9 week Kelly sports program with a "sports" focus. Students will have a 40 minute session each Friday which will be facilitated by Coach Wade.

They will have the opportunity to focus on the following sports - basketball, netball, T ball, hockey, AFL and soccer. Each week, through a focus on a particular sport, students will use the basic skills associated with each sport eg; dribbling, passing, shooting, handballing, marking and kicking. The skills will be taught and practiced through a range of fun skill based games and activities. Students will also participate in a Mini Olympics circuit with a range of events to test their athletics abilities. They will be invited to create team banners and choose a country to support for the session. In the final session of the term students will participate in team building activities where they will need to work in teams throughout a variety of challenges to promote working together as a team. It will be an action packed term with lots of fun and learning to be had by all.

# AUSLAN

*with Tim*

Students at St Joseph's learn Auslan with a deaf teaching assistant, Tim. Auslan emphasises that for Deaf individuals, sign language (like Auslan) serves as their primary mode of communication, similar to how spoken language functions for hearing individuals. In Auslan the children learn the significance of non-manual signals, such as eye contact and facial expressions. Eye contact in Auslan serves a similar purpose by signalling who the signer is addressing. This helps clarify the communication and ensures that the message is directed appropriately. Facial expressions in Auslan are likened to the tone of voice and body language in spoken language communication. They convey a wide range of emotions, attitudes, and subtle nuances of meaning, enriching the overall communication experience.

# VISUAL ART

*with Mrs Carmichael*

Welcome to another year of Visual Art! We are thrilled to be in a dedicated art room with all our supplies at our fingertips and vinyl on the floor ready to get creative! For some students visual art is their favourite place to be and for others inspiration doesn't come as easily.

While working together students will be reminded that everyone can be an artist –

EVERY  
CHILD  
IS AN  
ARTIST  
~PICASSO

## BE AN ARTIST

**A**

Art materials stay in our art making space

**R**

Respect the materials, your work and everyone's ideas

**T**

Talk about your ideas, they are important!

**I**

Imagine, experiment, don't be afraid to make mistakes

**S**

Share and be kind - everyone is trying their best

**T**

Tidy up your art making space once you're done

This term, students will be spending the beginning weeks exploring and using colour; primary colours and work by Piet Mondrian, secondary colours, tones and shades. The focus will then shift to the Rochester Mural Festival and exploring their theme of "I have a dream...". Students will be given the opportunity use a range of mediums such as paint, oil pastel and watercolours to produce their art work.



# SCHOOL DATES

<p><b>Week 2</b></p>	<p><u>Tuesday 6th February:</u> Safer Internet Day</p> <p><u>Wednesday 8th February:</u> Foundation students rest day</p> <p><u>Friday 9th February:</u> 9.30am: Beginning of Year Mass or Liturgy (venue to be confirmed) Kelly Sports &amp; Auslan</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b></p>	<p><u>Tuesday 13th February:</u> Boys to the Bush (students will be notified of this opportunity)</p> <p><u>Wednesday 14th February:</u> Foundation students rest day</p> <p><u>Thursday 15th February:</u> Welcome Night (5.30pm – 7.00pm) BYO Picnic Tea On the grass at St Joseph's Classrooms open between 5.30pm – 6.00pm Friday 16th February: Kelly Sports &amp; Auslan</p>
<p><b>Week 4</b> <i>Wellness Week</i></p>	<p><u>Tuesday 20th February:</u> Boys to the Bush</p> <p><u>Wednesday 21st February:</u> Courage &amp; Crowns – day 1 Foundation students rest day</p> <p><u>Friday 23rd February:</u> Kelly Sports &amp; Auslan</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b></p>	<p><u>Tuesday 27th February:</u> Boys to the Bush</p> <p><u>Tuesday 27th February:</u> Foundation students rest day</p> <p><u>Friday 1st March:</u> Kelly Sports &amp; Auslan</p>



# SCHOOL DATES

<b>Week 6</b>	<p><u>Tuesday 5th March:</u> Boys to the Bush</p> <p><u>Friday 8th March:</u> Pupil Free Day</p> <p><u>Saturday 9th March:</u> Elmore Charity Ball (a fundraiser for our school)</p>
<b>Week 7</b>	<p><u>Monday 11th March:</u> Public Holiday</p> <p><u>Tuesday 12th March:</u> Boys to the Bush</p> <p><u>Wednesday 13th March – Friday 15th March:</u> Grade 5/6 Camp Cave Hill Camp, Beaufort</p> <p><u>Friday 15th March:</u> Kelly Sports &amp; Auslan</p> <p><u>Saturday 16th March:</u> Elmore Tractor Pull (a major fundraiser for our school)</p>
<b>Week 8</b>	<p><u>Tuesday 19th &amp; Wednesday 20th March:</u> Learning Conversations</p> <p><u>Wednesday 20th March:</u> Courage &amp; Crowns – day 2</p> <p><u>Friday 22nd March:</u> Golden Hammer Day</p>
<b>Week 9</b>	<p><u>Monday 25th March:</u> Community Learning Day – Holy Week</p> <p><u>Tuesday 26th March:</u> Chrism Mass – Grade 6 students</p> <p><u>Thursday 28th March:</u> End of Term</p>



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

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(please note this phone is not manned at all times and any urgent messages should be given via phone call)

