



Welcome to 2024

Dear Parents and Families,

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

This term, we have nine weeks of exciting learning ahead, and we'll be working closely together as a Junior unit on various occasions throughout the term.

Over the next few weeks, students will explore different learning areas, including Physical Education with Miss McEvoy, RRRR with Mrs. Bennett, Digital Technology with Mr Davidson and Visual Arts with Mrs. Carmichael.

Please keep an eye out for our fortnightly newsletters via our school facebook page, as important dates and events for the term will be found there to inform you of any further details.

Feel free to reach out to me via email, if you have any questions or concerns. We're 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,
Lauren Sortino

MEET THE TEACHER



Miss Sortino

ABOUT ME...

I live in Moama but am originally from Numurkah, where our family farm is.

I have a younger brother (Marc) and sister (Eilish). I love spending time with my family and friends. I especially enjoy going away on day trips or weekends with my family and friends, exploring new places.

A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

COLOUR:	Green
DRINK:	Watermelon/Pineapple/Mint juice
PLACE:	Anywhere near a beach
SOUND:	Nature/the beach
ICE CREAM:	Ferrero rocher
AFL TEAM:	Geelong Cats
DREAM HOLIDAY:	Italy



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

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MEET THE LSO

Pink



Corrie Seabrook

ABOUT ME...

I currently live on a farm in Nanneella with my 3 younger brothers and parents. I enjoy spending time with friends, family and my dog, Molly. I play netball for Colbinabbin, and work at the American Hotel in Echuca on the weekends.

A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Pink
- DRINK: Chocolate milkshake
- PLACE: River with ski boat
- SOUND: Rain
- ICE CREAM: Strawberry
- AFL TEAM: Western Bulldogs
- DREAM HOLIDAY: The Great Ocean Road

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.

Across the F-2 classrooms we have grouped the students based on their specific learning needs, these groups will change as the needs of the students change. Students will work with an adult in these small groups 3 times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) and then practise the sounds in whole class settings through independent and small group activities for the remaining 2 days. While working in small groups students will be introduced to a new sound, practise phonics they are familiar with, practise writing the sound they are being introduced to and engage in phonics activities with a partner. After their small group work students will return to their classrooms to engage in writing, for the start of this term all Year 2 students will be working on simple and complex sentences and the text based unit (lessons formed around a text). So far we have completed Possum Magic and this week we're moving onto The Imagineer.

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.



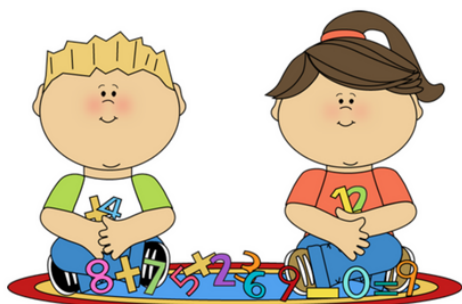
MATHEMATICS

Each day the students will begin their Maths tasks with a Place Value warm up and then move to working within other areas of the Maths curriculum. Other focus areas throughout the term will be:

Statistics - Students will collect data from relevant questions to create lists, tables and picture graphs. They will learn to interpret data and use everyday language to describe outcomes of familiar events.

Counting - Students will continue to develop their skills in counting forwards and backwards by ones from different starting points. We will also continue to develop our understanding of skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's using various concrete materials to support understanding.

Place Value - Students will focus on recognising, ordering and modeling numbers (three digit and four digit numbers). The students will use a variety of materials; counters, bundling sticks, bead strings, abacus - to model numbers. We will also investigate and discuss patterns that we find in number sequences.



RELIGION

Our Story

Our first unit for the term is 'Our Story'. Students will learn what our school charism is and how they can live the charism in our school community. They will learn to recognise and explain the sacred symbols of our school and understand how their decisions and actions shape their lives and the lives of others. Within their learning, they will discover who the founders are of our school and their attributes as a person and identify how their importance is visible in our school today.

Lent and Easter

Our second unit for the term is 'Lent and Easter'. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of Lent and Easter being a part of the liturgical year and will explore the significance of the signs and symbols associated with this topic. They will learn to recount the key events of Holy Week and the first Easter Sunday morning. Students will also learn to describe how the paschal candle and the 'Alleluia' are used in the Easter season to celebrate that Jesus is risen.



INQUIRY

Places and Spaces

Students will develop an interest in their local community and the services that it provides. They will learn to appreciate the role that emergency service providers fill in our community and be clear and confident when communicating in an emergency. Students will also develop a curiosity about the design and constructions of sustainable buildings in their local town and learn how the impact of living sustainably is better long term.



RRRR

with Mrs Bennett

My name is Fran Bennett. This year I will be teaching the Specialist subject RRRR. Students will be participating in the 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 teach them to recognise and identify their own emotions. They will also discuss situations that may evoke these emotions. The second part of the term will focus on the students identify and and describing their personal strengths. Activities will help students draw out how their strengths can help them contribute to family and school life as well as identify ways of making and keeping friends.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

with Mr Davison

Welcome to an exciting term of Digital Technologies for our Grade 2 students! This term, our focus is on "Staying Safe Online," cultivating responsible digital citizens. Here's a glimpse of what they'll explore:

- We'll unravel the importance of passwords—why they matter, who uses them, and how to keep them safe. Students will practice creating strong passwords to protect their information.
- Revisiting online behavior rules, we aim to reinforce kindness and respect in both physical and digital realms. We'll tackle cyberbullying, discussing strategies to respond with empathy.
- Digital threats like pop-up files will be demystified, teaching students to identify and avoid potential harm. Opportunities for collaborative online sharing will encourage creativity in a safe environment.
- Your support in reinforcing these concepts at home is invaluable. Feel free to reach out with questions. Let's make this term of digital exploration safe and enriching!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

with Ms McEvoy

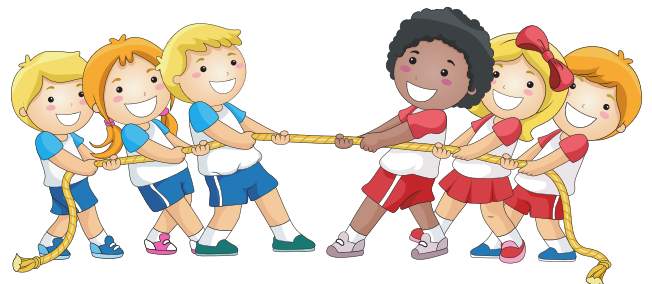
Welcome back to all students and families on what plans to be a fun and fulfilling school year in Physical Education. My name is Olivia McEvoy and I am delighted to be returning in 2024 to undertake the role of the Physical Education educator across all grades. I look forward to developing your child's fundamental motor skills and promoting healthy lifestyles among all students.

At the start of the term, we will discuss how to work cooperatively, how to accept winning and losing and how to keep safe in our Physical Education classes as well as participate in a number of get to know you games. Following this, students will participate in a cricket modified program where students will develop their skills of striking and throwing. 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 number of modified throwing and striking games.

The following 4 weeks, students will continue to develop the skill of 'striking' through 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.

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>Week 2</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 & Auslan</p>
<p>Week 3</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 & Auslan</p>
<p>Week 4 <i>Wellness Week</i></p>	<p><u>Tuesday 20th February:</u> Boys to the Bush</p> <p><u>Wednesday 21st February:</u> Courage & Crowns - day 1 Foundation students rest day</p> <p><u>Friday 23rd February:</u> Kelly Sports & Auslan</p>
<p>Week 5</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 & Auslan</p>



SCHOOL DATES

Week 6	<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>
Week 7	<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 & Auslan</p> <p><u>Saturday 16th March:</u> Elmore Tractor Pull (a major fundraiser for our school)</p>
Week 8	<p><u>Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March:</u> Learning Conversations</p> <p><u>Wednesday 20th March:</u> Courage & Crowns – day 2</p> <p><u>Friday 22nd March:</u> Golden Hammer Day</p>
Week 9	<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)

