

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR



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TERM 1 2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	Professional Development Day	Professional Development Day	31 JANUARY Students Commence	1 FEBRUARY SJP Edu Dance Commences	2 FEBRUARY	3 FEBRUARY	4 FEBRUARY
2	5 FEBRUARY	6 FEBRUARY Parent Information Night Session 1 5.30pm-6.15pm Session 2 6.30pm – 7.15pm	7 FEBRUARY Campus Mass 9am	8 FEBRUARY	9 FEBRUARY Year 6 Leadership Commissioning Assembly 9.00am	10 FEBRUARY P&F Sundowner Venue TBA 4pm to 8pm	11 FEBRUARY
3	12 FEBRUARY	13 FEBRUARY Shrove Tuesday Staff Meeting SJP	14 FEBRUARY Ash Wednesday 9am Years 1-6	15 FEBRUARY	16 FEBRUARY	17 FEBRUARY	18 FEBRUARY
4	19 FEBRUARY SJP & PN House keeping Assembly	20 FEBRUARY Cluster Meeting PN SAC Meeting 6pm P&F 7pm SJP	21 FEBRUARY	22 FEBRUARY	23 FEBRUARY	24 FEBRUARY	25 FEBRUARY
5	26 FEBRUARY NAPLAN Practice Tests	27 FEBRUARY Staff Meeting SJP	28 FEBRUARY	29 FEBRUARY	1 MARCH Swimming Carnival	2 MARCH	3 MARCH
6	4 MARCH Labour Day Public Holiday	5 MARCH Cluster Meeting PN	6 MARCH	7 MARCH	8 MARCH School Tours 9.30 PN 11.00 SJP	9 MARCH	10 MARCH
7	11 MARCH Professional Development Day Justin Coulston	12 MARCH Y6 Camp Parent Teacher Interviews Commence	13 MARCH NAPLAN Commences	14 MARCH	15 MARCH Y6 Camp Concludes	16 MARCH	17 MARCH
8	18 MARCH Parent Teacher Interviews SJP Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards	19 MARCH	20 MARCH	21 MARCH Edu-Dance Concert SJP Green 2.15pm	22 MARCH NAPLAN Concludes	23 MARCH	24 MARCH Palm Sunday
9	25 MARCH Parent Teacher Interviews PN Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards	26 MARCH Staff Meeting SJP	27 MARCH Campus Mass 9am Years 1-6	28 MARCH Edu-Dance Concert SJP Red 2.15pm	29 MARCH Good Friday	30 MARCH Easter Saturday	31 MARCH Easter Sunday
HOL	1 APRIL Easter Monday	2 APRIL	3 APRIL	4 APRIL	5 APRIL	6 APRIL	7 APRIL
HOL	8 APRIL	9 APRIL	10 APRIL	11 APRIL	12 APRIL	13 APRIL	14 APRIL

Please note:

Edu-Dance and Swimming lessons will take place during different terms next year for each campus. This is due to availability of venues and staff.

Edu-Dance: Term 1: SJP Pre-Primary - Year 6
Swimming Lessons: Term 2: SJP Years 1-6

Term 2: PN Pre-Primary - Year 6
Term 3: PN Years 1-6

Please keep in mind that unforeseen changes may occur to a school's calendar. To stay updated, we recommend regularly checking our online calendar at <https://melmaria.wa.edu.au/our-parents/calendar/>

Sacramental Dates will be released early next year..

Principal's Message



Week Nine Term Four

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare for Christmas let us ponder a while on three human beings like us: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We try to imagine how they reacted to the extraordinary events in their lives. In a vulnerable, fragile and beautiful new-born baby God's gift of love was made known to us. The baby Jesus challenges us to live with the tenderness he stirs in our hearts.

How will Christmas be this year? Hopefully, it will be a family celebration that builds treasures of memories for our children which will include a respect for Christ's humble entry into our world. As Christians, we are a community that should be known for its compassion, care and love without discrimination. Christ came for all people but especially the disadvantaged; we need to be bearers of his attitude to the people who come in and out of our lives.

The mystery of Christmas is the demonstration of the immense love the Father has for humanity and all of creation. Because of that love, God our Father has sent the Son to redeem humanity and offer the way to salvation to each person.

It is this that Christmas Day celebrates. We celebrate the birth of our Saviour with our brothers and sisters in the faith around the Table of the Lord at Mass, where we are offered gifts of peace and hope to strengthen our hearts.

We will celebrate Christmas, as well, around another table, along with those we cherish in our lives. If we are fortunate, it will be family that we will join. Friends may invite us to join them and their family at their table.

Regardless of where that table may be, Christ will be in our midst, and if we remember this, the time together will be one of true joy and blessing. When we realise that Christ is with us and who he is, we should not be surprised to experience peace and a special communion among us.

This Christmas let us turn towards the life-giving compassion of Jesus Christ, who offers blessings and joys to you, your families, and those who are seeking and searching for meaning in their lives. In this way, we move beyond those narrow expectations and definitions often imposed on people through ignorance and fear.

Saint Paul says in the first reading on Christmas morning to Titus, Jesus came amongst us "for no reason except his own compassion to save us". The message of Christmas is eternal and offered to all.



Where will the gift of Christ be born this Christmas?

- in the retelling of a well-loved family story?
- in a reconciling phone call to an estranged family member or friend?

I take this opportunity to wish all God's blessings on the Year 6 Students who are leaving us this year. They have been an outstanding group of students who we have all watch grow and mature. I have certainly been most impressed with the level of leadership they have offered the school this year. I pray for God's guidance as they enter the next phase of their learning journey.

I would also like to recognise the families who are leaving us at the end of this year. Thank you for all your help, support and involvement with the school over the years.

The Advent Wreath

Advent is a season with its own special mood, colours, sounds, words and joys. The colours of advent are violet, mauve or magenta. An Advent Wreath is a circle, usually of evergreen branches, with four candles placed in or around it (usually three purple and one rose), one for each of the four Sundays of the season. The circular wreath is a sign of God's loving and never-ending care.

During Advent, one candle is lit every week.

- The purple candles are for the sorrow we feel for not loving Jesus enough.
- The rose candle is for the joy surrounding the impending birth of Jesus.
- The evergreen symbolises God is with us always and will never change.
- The circle symbolises that God is eternal, with no beginning and no end.



This Sunday we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent where the purple candle will be lit.

Reports - Pre-Primary to Year 6

Semester Two student reports will be online in SEQTA on Friday, 8 December after 3pm. This report provides parents with an overview of how their child has progressed, **across the entire year, in relation to the end of year Achievement Standard for each learning area for their year level.** The grade provided is taking into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed across the entire year, not just Semester 2.

Students are commended on their efforts throughout the semester, and we thank the parents who have supported us by ensuring that students are continuing in their learning and development as a whole person. We encourage parents to take the time to discuss the Semester Two Report with their child/children and, if there are areas of concern, to make an appointment to see the class teacher.

Staff Farewells

It is always difficult and sad at this time of the year to say farewell to those members of staff who are leaving us at the end of the year. Particularly, as each of them have made such a positive impact on the lives of the children they teach, but also the colleagues they work with and the members of the school community. We wish the following staff members all the very best for their future and thank them enormously for all that they have done at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School in their time here:

Mrs Maree Passmore
Mrs Lisa Yensch
Mrs Pierina Monaco
Mrs Lara Karsten

Number of Years - 22
Number of Years - 24
Number of Years - 31
Year 1 Teacher

We also thank,

Shawn Brogden
Karen Gan
Nina McLernon
Caitlin Berry

Mrs Edwina Cottino is also taking some leave for the first six months of 2024, so we wish her safe travels and look forward to her return in Semester Two of 2024. Mrs Anna Ruston will be also taking leave in 2024 and Mrs Bianca Stewart who is going on maternity leave, we wish them all the best.

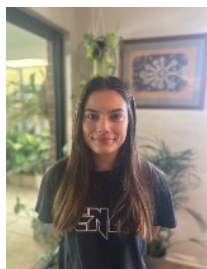
Thank you to Carol Osbrough who has been assisting at the SJP canteen for the past 5 year.

Welcome

We welcome to Mel Maria Catholic Primary School the following Staff who will be joining us in 2024: who the children moving into year Four met on Wednesday. I am sure that the Mel Maria Catholic Primary School community will extend a warm welcome to these new staff members next year.



Miss Breanna Spencer



Miss Briana Ryan



Miss Belle Logan

2024 Term Dates

Please find below the listed Term Dates for Mel Maria Catholic Primary School for 2024. Included in these are the scheduled Pupil Free Days for the year.

Term 1	Wednesday 31 January – Thursday 28 March
Term 2	Monday 15 April – Friday 28 June
Term 3	Monday 15 July – Friday 20 September
Term 4	Monday 7 October – Friday 6 December



Pupil Free Days 2024

Monday 11 March	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 4 June	Pupil Free Day
Friday 16 August	Pupil Free Day
Friday 20 September	Pupil Free Day
Monday 7 October	Pupil Free Day



Dr Justin Coulson

Please click on the [link](#) to see a message from Dr Justin Coulson regarding the **Mel Maria Parent Information evening on 11 March 2024.**



Prayer for the Week

Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter,
we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us:
for shining star and angel's song,
for infant's cry in lowly manger.

We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child.
We behold his glory and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas,
the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact,
the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder.
We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, Wiseman.
Help us to rise bigger than we are.
Amen.



Thought for the Week

Merry Christmas

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School continues to make a lasting impression on the lives of those who are associated with our beautiful school. Many of our successful outcomes are achieved because of the fantastic relationships forged between staff, children and their families. I am extremely proud of the endeavours of our staff who work diligently to make our vision become a reality. It is evident that they are deeply committed to their vocation and continue to support our children to [#MakeADifferenceEveryday](#)

May God's blessings be given to you, your family and friends this Christmas, and may He bless all your hopes and aspirations for 2024. I wish all of you a very happy and holy Christmas and I look forward to catching up with you all in the New Year.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Hille".

Paul Hille
Principal

[#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY](#)



Leadership Team

Principal	Paul Hille
Head of Campus Pater Noster	Joanne Scouler
Head of Campus St Josep Pignatelli	Ros Nichols
Assistant Head of Campus - Administration	Roman Popadynech
Assistant Head of Campus - Pater Noster	Tia Horsley
Assistant Head of Campus - St Joseph Pignatelli	Cathleen Massimi

Administration Staff

Business Manager	Mardi Dodgson
Finance Officer	Cathy Cowcher
Enrolment Officer	Sylvia Tamigi
Pater Noster Admin Officer	Lyn Dowie
Social Worker	Christine Pittman
Library Technician	Greta Scheggia / Glynis O'Neill
Uniform Shop	Sara Wearing
Groundsman	Aaron Gale

Specialist Teachers

Physical Education	David John
Physical Education	Damian Williams
Japanese	Cate Cooper
SEEDS	Teresa Marra
Digital Technologies	Roman Popadynech
Science	Angie Cannell / David John
HaSS	Irene Windsor
Health	Briana Ryan/Edwina Cottino
Music	Luke Murphy
Support SJP	Michelle Fanowrios
Support PN	Joanne Ciccarelli
Drama	Tonya Blair

Telethon Speech and Hearing

Teacher	Karina op den Dries
Education Assistant	Mary Norman



Classroom Teachers

Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten Green(3 Days)
Kindergarten Red (5 Days)
Pre-Primary Green
Pre-Primary Red
Year 1 Green
Year 1 Red
Year 2 Green
Year 2 Red
Year 3 Green
Year 3 Red
Year 4 Green
Year 4 Red
Year 5 Green
Year 5 Red
Year 6 Green
Year 6 Red

Gemma McGinnity
Lynda McCormick
Rebecca Galliven
Michelle Marcelino
Tia Horsley / Angie Cannell
Alkyra Papaphotis
Chiara Scafetta
Marie Brown / Elizabeth Pell
Melanie Linden
Madelyn Healy
Tim Neill
Judy Shales
Breanna Spencer
Melissa Giancola / Teresa Marra
Caitlin Taylor
Naomi Smyth
Owen Connolly

Education Assistants

Lucinda Bachiller
Daniella Scafetta
Rossana Basso Betancourt
Jennifer O'Donnell
Carolyn Farmer
Maria Paparella
Danielle Dunn
Leanne Coster
Natalie Naven

Support Education Assistants

Renae Doncon
Narelle Thoms
Danielle Nelson
Zoe Holland
Tanya Kitson
Clarissa Rapanaro
Tess Ryan
Tonia McGuinness
Caroline Delic



Staffing 2024 - St Joseph Pignatelli Campus



Classroom Teachers

Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Pre-Primary
Year 1 Green
Year 1 Red
Year 2 Green
Year 2 Red
Year 3 Green
Year 3 Red
Year 4 Green
Year 4 Red
Year 5
Year 6

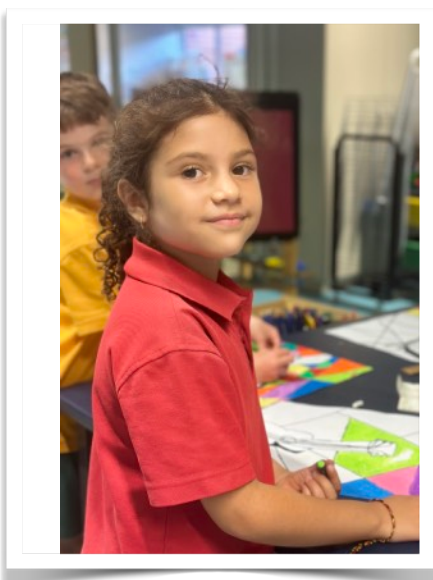
Tonya Blair
Laura Morgan
Kristy Stedman
Rhiannon Shemeld
Charmaine Faulkner
Belle Logan
Jane Sparrow
Angela Fourie
Louise Robinson
Cathleen Massimi / Briana Ryan
Michael Corrie / Jemima Bacich
Andrew Carr
Stephanie Figueira

Education Assistants

Kara Corica
Robin Della Bosca
Shelia Cain
Toni Di Loretto
Kylie Kerrigan
Tania Tsagaris

Support Education Assistants

Rossana Basso Betancourt
Teresa Nolan
Claire Moreschi
Melissa Bond
Deanne Hartree
Xavier Gribble
Carol Pritchard
Caitlyn Berry
Linda Valetta
Narelle Thoms
Colleen Morris





MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

Graduation 2023

This week marks both the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one for our Year Six students. As they bid farewell to us, their future shines with promising adventures awaiting them.

We will hold onto the memories they created and the laughter they brought, cherishing the impact they made during their time with us.

The pride we feel for our Year Six students is immeasurable. It has been an absolute privilege to witness their growth over the years and to celebrate their numerous accomplishments and achievements. Their journey has been remarkable, and we eagerly anticipate the incredible things they will achieve in the future.

To Our Year Six Students

In the realm of cherished memories and swirling emotions, We find the tale of Year 6, filled with heartfelt devotions.

Their spirits ablaze and dreams set alight,
Graduating in 2023, a moment shining bright.

For years they ventured together, side by side, Through laughter and tears, forging a bond they couldn't hide.

With lessons learned and friendships dear,
From 2015 to 2023, a chapter that's clear.

Now, upon a new horizon, their brave souls embark,
Equipped with knowledge and passion, ready to make their mark.

With gratitude, they'll hold onto memories so grand,
Year 6 Class of 2023, forever they'll stand.



happy
graduation!

Year 6 Students
2023



MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols



happy graduation!



happy graduation!





MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols



happy graduation!

happy graduation!

#MakingADifferenceEveryday!



Religious Education

Our Parishes Christmas Timetable

St Joseph Pignatelli

JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME!

Christmas Eve Vigil for Children

Sunday December 24th Mass 5.30pm

Children are invited to participate by dressing in biblical characters of the time of Jesus' birth.



Christmas Eve Vigil

Sunday December 24th Mass

8.00pm

(Christmas Carols - 7.40pm)

Please join us after this Mass for Panettone and drinks in the Hall.



Christmas Day

Monday December 25th Mass

7.30am & 9.00am

Parishioners are invited to place a flower at the Crib as a birthday gift to Baby Jesus.

New Year's Day

Mary Mother of God - Solemnity

Monday 1st January 2024

Mass 9.00 am

The Octave of the Nativity

Tuesday 26th – Saturday 30th December

Weekday Masses 9.00am

St Joseph Pignatelli Parish

www.attadale.org

Pater Noster

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December

Children's Mass - 6.00pm

Carols - 7.30pm

Vigil Mass - 8.00pm

Indonesian Vigil - 9.30pm

Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

Mass - 7.30am & 9.30am

Korean Mass - 11.30am

Indonesian Mass - 4.00pm

Pater Noster Parish

<http://www.paternostermyaree.org.au>



PN Pre - Kindy



This term we continued with our Mystery Bag, this develops our speaking and listening, our ability to develop clues and the understanding of guessing, surprise and turn taking.

We also continued our finger gym activities, helping us strengthen our hands, we used play-dough rolling, pinching, squeezing, and creating. We used our finger gym pegging to create dinosaurs and towers while interacting and creating with our friends.

This term we sent letters/pictures home to celebrate receiving and we learnt about mail and Christmas time. Our wonder and awe focusses around the birth of baby Jesus and the gifts and Joys of Christmas. The children loved wrapping and un-wrapping presents, decorating the trees and using our class nativity. We will finish the term with our lovely Christmas concert and celebrating the end of the year.



SJP Pre - Kindy

Term 4 has been a busy and exciting term. We have been working on our name projects and we are well into Christmas preparations this week. On Thursday and Friday, we will be holding our Christmas concert in the pre-kindy classroom. Ms Blair and Mrs Corica are feeling very proud of us, because everyone is joining in and singing the songs beautifully.

The children have grown so much this year and the teachers would greatly like to thank the parents and children for such a fantastic year. We have done such a wide range of activities and most importantly played together and learned a lot about one another and ourselves.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and hope you have precious time to spend with your families and loved ones. Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year!

Ms Blair and Mrs Corica



Raising confident kids.

Right from birth, kids learn new skills at a dizzying rate. And along with those new abilities, they also acquire the confidence to use them. As children get older, that confidence can be as important as the skills themselves. To thrive, kids need to trust in their own capabilities while, at the same time, knowing that they can handle if they aren't successful at something. It's by experiencing mastery and rebounding from failure that they develop healthy self-confidence. Here are 12 ways you can set kids up to feel capable and get the most mileage out of their skills and talents.

1. **Model confidence yourself** Even if you're not quite feeling it! Seeing you tackle new tasks with optimism and lots of preparation sets a good example for kids. That doesn't mean you have to pretend to be perfect. Do acknowledge your anxiety, but don't focus on it—focus on the positive things you are doing to get ready.
2. **Don't get upset about mistakes** Help kids see that everyone makes mistakes, and the important thing is to learn from them, not dwell on them. Confident people don't let fear of failure get in their way—not because they're sure they won't ever fail, but because they know how to take setbacks in stride.
3. **Encourage them to try new things** Instead of focusing all their energy on what they already excel at, it's good for kids to diversify. Attaining new skills makes kids feel capable and confident that they can tackle whatever comes their way.
4. **Allow kids to fail** It's natural to want to protect your child from failure, but trial and error is how kids learn, and falling short on a goal helps kids find out that it's not fatal. It can also spur kids to greater effort, which will serve them well as adults.
5. **Praise perseverance** Learning not to give up at the first frustration or bail after one setback is an important life skill. Confidence and self-esteem are not about succeeding at everything all the time, they're about being resilient enough to keep trying, and not being distressed if you're not the best.
6. **Help kids find their passion** Exploring their own interests can help kids develop a sense of identity, which is essential to building confidence. Of course, seeing their talents grow will also give a huge boost to their self-esteem.
7. **Set goals** Articulating goals, large and small, and achieving them makes kids feel strong. Help your child turn desires and dreams into actionable goals by encouraging them to make a list of things they'd like to accomplish. Then, practice breaking down longer-term goals into realistic benchmarks. You'll be validating their interests and helping them learn the skills they'll need to attain their goals throughout life.
8. **Celebrate effort** Praising kids for their accomplishments is great, but it's also important to let them know you're proud of their efforts regardless of the outcome. It takes hard work to develop new skills, and results aren't always immediate. Let kids know you value the work they're doing, whether they're toddlers building with blocks or teenagers teaching themselves to play the guitar.
9. **Expect them to pitch in** They might complain, but kids feel more connected and valued when they're counted on to do age-appropriate jobs, from picking up toys to doing dishes to picking up younger siblings from a play date. Homework and after-school activities are great, but being needed by your family is invaluable.
10. **Embrace imperfection** As grown-ups we know perfection is unrealistic, and it's important for kids to get that message as early as possible. Help kids see that whether it's on TV, in a magazine, or on a friend's social media feed, the idea that others are always happy, successful, and perfectly dressed is a fantasy, and a destructive one. Instead, remind them that being less than perfect is human and totally okay.
11. **Set them up for success** Challenges are good for kids, but they should also have opportunities where they can be sure to find success. Help your child get involved with activities that make him feel comfortable and confident enough to tackle a bigger challenge.
12. **Show your love** Let your child know you love him no matter what. Win or lose the big game, good grades or bad. Even when you're mad at him. Making sure your child knows that you think they're great — and not just when they do great things — will bolster their self-worth even when they're not feeling good about themselves.

<https://childmind.org/article/12-tips-raising-confident-kids/>

An aerial photograph of a large green field where a group of students has formed the words 'MELBIE' and 'MARRA' in large, block letters. The students are dressed in white and dark clothing. The background shows trees and a paved area.

'We strive to create happy and successful children who we are proud of... we are more than a school, we are a community, united by our motto, 'Unity is Strength.'

Contact Us

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