Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for 2016! We hope you had a wonderful holiday break and we are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and growing. The JP team would especially like to warmly welcome four new families to MECS this year— the Wilson family, the Barton family, the Deakin family and the McRae family.

The Junior Primary team for 2016 is:

- Bandicoots: Miss Fiona Murray. Learning Assistant: Mrs Sandra Jordan.
- Wallabies: Miss Vivienne Theunissen. Learning Assistant: Mrs Narelle Wilson
- Frilled Necked Lizards: Mrs Daniela Repse.

We are very excited about our new team and the learning program that we have planned for 2016.

Some Important Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1-Feb 5 (Week 1)</td>
<td>Culture Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Feb 10, 1:45pm (Week 2)</td>
<td>JP Information Afternoon</td>
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<td>Venue: PUMP Room</td>
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<td>1:45 for a cuppa. 2:00pm Information session commences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Feb 19 (Week 3)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly</td>
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<td>Our first whole school assembly for the year will be on Friday, February 19 at 9:30am. We'd love to have as many parents as possible join us! Coffee and tea will be available in the staffroom between 9-9:30am so you are most welcome to stay after school drop off.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Mar 10 (Week 6)</td>
<td>Grandparents and Special Friend's Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 14 (Week 7)</td>
<td>Labour Day holiday (school closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Mar 23, 9:00am (Week 8)</td>
<td>‘Bugs in the Garden’</td>
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<td>JP Mini Beast dress up day, garden parade and mini beast project showcase in the classrooms. All families welcome. More details to come.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Mar 21 (Week 8)</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Thursday Mar 24 (Week 8)</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – 3.15pm dismissal</td>
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<td>Monday April 11</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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JP Parent Information Afternoon Wednesday February 10 at 2:00pm
Junior Primary Parents are warmly invited to come along to an Information Session in the PUMP room to hear about the JP program for 2016. This is a valuable time to learn more about the JP program, ask questions and get to know other JP parents and the JP teachers. Please come at 1:45pm for a cuppa and a chance to chat. The information session will commence at 2:00pm. For those who are unable to attend, relevant information will also be sent home.

Core Studies
Mini Beasts
We are excited about commencing our Core Studies Investigations unit Mini Beasts this term. We anticipate a great time of wondering, questioning, exploring, research, and excitement as we seek to investigate the question – What do mini beasts teach us about God? We learn about the world around us when we wonder, observe, question, and respond. Core Studies Investigations allows students to pursue interests, discover new things, work with others, develop investigation skills, and learn in a guided learning environment. We trust the children will grow in thankfulness to God and understand Him as an amazing and intricate designer and creator.

‘Bugs in the Garden’
To celebrate our learning about mini beasts, we are excited to invite parents and families to join us on the morning of Wednesday March 23rd at 9.00am (Week 8) in the Creation Garden and JP Classrooms for a parade of costumes and sharing of some of the wonderful things we have learnt during Term 1. Children and teachers will come dressed as a mini beast that they have chosen and researched for their project. A note will go home in the middle of the term to let families know which mini beast their child has chosen to research.

Home Studies
The Junior Primary Home Studies program supports the learning that is taking place in the classroom each day. It is an opportunity for families to work with their students to further practise the skills that they are learning at school. The JP Home Studies program will focus on Reading and Spelling and will commence in early Term 1.

SMART Spelling and High Frequency Words
Each week students will practise their SMART Spelling sound and High Frequency spelling words during Home Studies. Please work with your child as they complete their spelling worksheet each week.

Home Readers
Readers are chosen to suit your child's reading ability and comprehension skills. They should be easy enough for the child to read with fluency, expression and deep understanding. This year readers will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
All JP children will have a READING RECORD BOOK. This will tell you your child's Home Reader Level. Please record the title of your child's readers each week and sign once they have completed them. The class teacher and learning assistant will check these regularly.

Reading Eggs
In JP, all students will have access to Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress at home and school. These are both highly beneficial and enjoyable programs to develop and extend your child's literacy skills. You will receive your child's login details soon.
Parent Helpers

We are thankful for parents partnering with us by being willing to be Parent Helpers in the classroom, and on excursions and camps. All Parent Helpers must have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) and register this at the School Office before committing to becoming a Parent Helper.

Please see you child’s teacher if you are interested in helping in the classroom. Areas that you may like to assist on a weekly basis in the classroom include:

- Numeracy Workshops (Tues, Wed and Thurs 11:30-1:00)
- 3:00pm Regular Readers (Listening to an individual student read from 3:00-3:15 each day)
- Art Sessions

JP Housekeeping

Brain Food: Brain Food is at approximately 10am each day and gives the students an opportunity to have a healthy snack to give them an energy boost and allow sustained learning and concentration. Brain food is either a raw or dried fruit or vegetable or a nut snack. Please send Brain Food in a small, named, separate container.

Banking: Student banking is available – for enquiries please contact the School Office. Banking books are to be brought to school each Wednesday.

Boomerang Bags: All correspondence, readers, notices etc. from the classroom and home will use the Boomerang Bag. Please ensure your child’s name is clearly written on their Boomerang Bag and that it is brought to school everyday.

Drink Bottle: We encourage students to have a drink bottle in the classroom each day.

Hats: It is compulsory to wear a broadbrim hat during Terms 1 & 4. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly named. Children without a hat will not be able to participate in outside activities.

Show & Tell: A class roster and weekly focus list will be sent home soon. Show & Tell encourages listening and growing in confidence in speaking in front of others clearly. We look forward to hearing each child share with their peers.

Tissues: Please send in a box of tissues during Week 1 or 2 for your child’s class. Thank you.

VIP: The VIP program is a wonderful way to celebrate each student within the class. Each student will have an opportunity to be the class VIP throughout the year. VIPs will enjoy special privileges throughout the week, including an opportunity to enjoy a special morning tea with our Principal, Ms Sketcher.

Please see your child’s teacher if you have any queries, questions or concerns. We look forward to a wonderful term of learning with our amazing JP students.

Blessings,

Kaye Smith, Miss Vivienne Theunissen, Miss Fiona Murray, and Mrs Daniela Repse.

Junior Primary Teachers 2016