Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome!

Welcome to the Year 4 Parent night for 2015. I am really excited about the year ahead and am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. The following pages contain some general information on how the Year 4 class is organised. If you have any more questions please don’t hesitate to ask either as we go or at the end.

My Background...

This is my 8th year of teaching. I have now taught nearly all primary year levels, having had 3 Year 4 classes previous to this. Through these years I have been exposed to a wide range of children, special needs, programs and views of learning that give me great confidence to provide your child with the best opportunities.

My Goals for the year...

• Building a supportive classroom where students recognise strengths and weaknesses in themselves and others and are able to use this knowledge to better the classroom environment.
• Developing critical and creative thinking skills. This will be a big emphasis in assessments, really pushing students to think outside the box.
• Students becoming more confident to begin and complete tasks independently.

Our Classroom...

Attached is a yearly overview, with my intentions for ensuring the Australian Curriculum is covered for the year. This overview may change but at the moment it is the plan that I am working towards.

Time Table

Also attached is the weekly timetable I have made for Term 1. Occasionally things pop up each week, but in general this is the timetable and any missed lessons will be caught up.

Important weekly events

Japanese on Tuesdays
Physical Education on Wednesdays
Library on Fridays (encourage your child to bring a library bag)
Footsteps is running on Thursdays until the end of week 5 this term, kids wear their sports uniform.

Term 1 Curriculum

English: Writing expositions, reviewing reading comprehension skills & spelling.
Maths: We will be exploring numbers to 100 000, chance and data.
Religion: Looking at Being Human and being created in God’s image.
Science: A Primary Connections unit on forces, titled Smooth Moves
Health/Program Achieve: This is the main unit, which will have a big emphasis on being safe, emotional wellbeing and getting along with others. This will run into Term 2.
The Arts: Footsteps will count towards meeting the Dance component of the curriculum.
Civics & Citizenship: Exploring rules and laws and how these are made. Students will be questioning whether they are fair and considering what they would change.

Daily Talk

Each day children are rostered on for a 1-minute daily talk. This will provide each child with an opportunity to speak in front of the class at least once a week, a key component to developing confidence and oral language skills. Daily Talk will be quite flexible; it can involve show and tell, news, fictional stories, jokes and speaking games. It aims to be fun! Ask your child what day they are on, and have them practice at home if you like.

Daily Jobs

We have a jobs chart in the classroom with important jobs that need to be completed daily to ensure the room runs smoothly and is kept tidy. Children work in groups of 3 to complete their job for the week. This also fosters responsibility and co-operation in our classroom.

Diaries

Diaries are to be brought to school and home each day. Students leave them on their desk so they are accessible all day. Children write their homework in their diary and any important events. Parents are welcome to use the diary for communication, but please tell your child to show me their diary, as I do not check them until Friday. I also will write positives in their diaries and any behaviour concerns from the day. Please sign their diaries each week.

Homework & Home Readers

Homework will be handed out on Mondays and is due Fridays. Children are to keep their homework in their folder and bring it to school each day. Homework this year will be 1 page of literacy/spelling and 1 page of Numeracy. Please encourage children to read instructions and do homework by themselves. Reading of at least 15 minutes is expected each night and is the most
important part of homework. Children are to record their reading in their reading logbook, also due on Fridays. Students will mark their homework as a class on Fridays, any missing/incomplete homework will coincide with time in the Rethink Room at lunch break.

Behaviour Management
I have big emphasis on positive reinforcement in the classroom and always try and praise children who are making good choices, giving them more attention than those who aren’t. We do use the 5R’s and these are recorded daily and put in diaries, alternatively kids may miss out on free time/a more fun activity. Good behaviour is rewarded with points, prizes and stickers.

Communication...

Each term I will send home a note briefing you on the term ahead and what the children will be learning. Formal interviews about your child’s progress will be held in Term 3 Week 8. Later this term are the 3-way interviews hosted by the students.

Invitations or reminders will go home when there are any special events that involve Year 4 students.

Diaries can also be used to arrange appointments, for basic concerns and absences.

If you have any concerns or questions please come and see me first. I will happily organise a suitable time for us to chat before or after school, likewise I will be in contact with you if any concerns pop up. You can also email me at acalandra@stjoclar.catholic.edu.au

Sacramental Program...

This is an exciting year for many of our children as they make their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Celebration dates for Confirmation and Holy Communion are Sunday the 9 August, 2pm at St Aloysius Sevenhill.

Children will need to be well prepared for this special day. Term 2 Religious Education will have a big emphasis the importance and meaning behind receiving these sacraments. The first Preparation Meeting will also be held on Tuesday 24 February at 7pm in St Michael’s Church.

Camp...

As in previous years, grade 4 will be attending a 3 day camp at Errapapa. The camp’s goals are to promote persistence, risk-taking, co-operation and support. This will link in nicely with our Term 1 Unit. Camp dates are the 6–8 of May. More information will be provided towards the end of term as well as a Parent Information Meeting.

Uniform...

A reminder that children are to be in the correct uniform each day. Formal uniform is Monday, Thursday and Friday. Sports uniform days are Tuesday and Wednesday, however because of Footsteps, children will wear sports on Thursday up to and including Week 5. Hats need to be worn Terms 1 and 4. Please write a note in your child’s diary if they are in incorrect uniform.

Upcoming Events...

- Andrew Chinn will be visiting our school next Thursday 5 February. We look forward to participating in songs and Mass with Andrew.
- Mass & Supper with Archbishop Wilson on Friday 20 February at 6.30pm at St Aloysius Sevenhill.

Thank you for attending this evening. It has been lovely to meet you all. I hope I have provided you with a clear idea of how Year 4 will be organised this year. If you do want any more information, please ask!

Anita Calandra
Year 4 Teacher