Dear families and friends,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2016 school year at Galilee. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces that we have missed over the holiday break as well as so many new faces too.

We welcome the following new children to the community:
- Mrs. Kinnear’s learning community: Luca, Annabelle, Zoe, Sunny, Sienna, Kalani, Gypsy, Brock, Leif, Noa, Indiana, Mia, Hamish, Liam, Aaliyah, Dane, Connor, Cael, Holly, Lachlan and Ocean.
- Ms McCluskey’s and Mrs Pengilly’s learning community: Oliver, Jasper, Lily, Seth, Daisy, Jet, Scarlett, Gemma, Laila, Joe, Charlotte, Zoe, Harrison, Lucas, Cayden, Mollie, Maddie, Ari, Zander and Albey.
- Mr Nizzola’s learning community: Lukah, Christian, Daniel, Fletcher, Maya, Jethro, Jesse, Kaiden, Amazing, Noah, Ailani, Cameron, Florence, Jessica, Kaden, Jett, Aston, Dakar, Lily, Evie, Asha and Alexsander.
- Mr Westover’s learning community: Sebastian, Mrs Janssen’s learning community: Martijn.
- Mr Buchanan’s learning community: Emma.
- Mrs O’Reilly’s learning community: William.
- Ms Balacco’s learning community: Jayden and Isla.

We also welcome new staff to Galilee:
- Mrs Kerry Janssan who teaches in one of our Year 5/6 learning communities, Miss Sheridan Beech is teaching music with the Stage 2 and 3 children and working with our 3/4/5 and Festival Choirs during this term while Ms Buffy Woolcock will be teaching music with the Early Years and Stage 1 learning communities while Ms Linda Rankin is on leave until later this term.
- Welcome back to Ms Carla Opie and Ms Nicole Perry who have returned from parenting leave. Carla will be teaching in a 1/2 learning community with Ms Tania Guilfoyle, while Nicole will be teaching in another 1/2 learning community.

Thank you to everyone who has passed on their best wishes and thoughts for our substantive principal Mrs Jodie Higgins and her husband Ray. It certainly is an exciting time for Jodie and Ray. We all wish them well with many blessings for the coming days and weeks ahead.

The new year has started with great enthusiasm and energy at Galilee. Children have been eagerly getting to know the children and adults in their learning communities, establishing routines and confirming agreed practices that will help their learning communities to become wonderful places to learn, take risks, be challenged, ask questions, develop theories and construct new understandings.

A common question asked by parents is, ‘How can I help my child to be successful at school?’ Some of the most important things you can do to support your children are the very basic things such as:

- Ensure your child has a good night’s sleep.
- Provide healthy, wholesome food for their lunch and morning tea.
- Establish simple and consistent afternoon and morning routines that help your children to be prepared.
- Communicate regularly with their teachers to clarify how they are settling in and progressing.
- Take an interest in their learning.
- Speak respectfully and positively about school and the people at school with and around your children.
- Engage in school activities when time and space permit - a great start would be the upcoming Galilee Community Picnic and the Acquaintance Nights.

Galilee Catholic School

Week 1 – Term 1, 2016

welcoming, respecting, constructing
Beginning of Year Events at Galilee
There are a number of community events at Galilee that provide great opportunities for us to gather to support our children’s learning, open communication channels with each other and develop strong connections between school staff and yourselves. Research shows that children’s learning is enhanced when strong, constructive connections are made between families and staff at school.

Tuesday 9th February - 8.45 - 11.00am
Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday - we are seeking volunteers for cooking and serving pancakes - please see the separate note that was sent home this week and the roster on the blackboard by the front gate.

Wednesday 10th February
Ash Wednesday - We begin the season of Lent together as a community - please see further details below.

Friday 12th February
Galilee Community Picnic - please join us on the figure eight lawn area for our traditional community picnic - an informal evening where we bring a picnic tea, some rugs and chairs and enjoy a relaxed evening with friends and make connections with staff as well as welcoming new families.

Acquaintance Evenings (Parent Information Evening)
This year we will be trialling a new format for our acquaintance nights in response to feedback we have received from families. Our acquaintance evenings are now separate from the AGM and will be split over two nights to allow more families to meet and engage with each of their child’s home room teachers and discuss how you can support your child’s learning and development. We will also have guest speakers who will share valuable information that will support families with children at specific age groups. A creche will be available too.

The schedule will be:

Wednesday 17th February - Session 1: 6.00 - 6.45pm - Early years families and teachers
Session 2: 7.00 - 7.45pm - Stage 1 families and teachers

Wednesday 24th February - Session 1: 6.00 - 6.45pm - Stage 2 families and teachers
Session 2: 7.00 - 7.45pm - Stage 3 families and teachers

We will be sending home a separate invitation for these evenings in the coming days that will outline provide further information.

I am looking forward to working with you all in my capacity as the Acting Principal while Jodie Higgins is on leave.

Have a wonderful week and thank you for your contributions to our community.

Anthony Garton
Principal

Ash Wednesday
You are very welcome to join us on Ash Wednesday – 10th February in Mary of Galilee Church for one or all of our Ash Wednesday services:

Mass at 9am with the parish – Stage Two & Three learning communities
Prayer at 10.30am - Early Years learning communities
Prayer at 11.30pm – Stage One learning communities
Each group will also be involved in planting and gardening as part of their prayer focus.

Please join us if you can. Thank you.
Q Is the School closing early this Term?
A Yes. Tuesday, 1st March the school will be closing early at 2.30pm, due to Work Health & Safety compliance staff training. Please mark this day in your diary.

Q What day is school banking?
A School banking will happen every week on a Tuesday. If you would like to open a new account for your child/ren with Bendigo, please come to the front office to collect an account enrolment pack. Once your account is opened you will be supplied with a ‘Welcome passbook’ account pack for your child/ren.

Q Can I buy a Galilee school hat from the front office at school?
A Yes. Hats are $16 each and will be available from the front office. We have two sizes and styles available; bucket and slouch. Small/medium or large/extra-large.

Q Do private music tutors teach lessons on site at Galilee?
A Yes for Guitar, Piano and for Violin. If you are interested in private tuition for your child you can contact the relevant tutor below and they will provide information about lessons which are held on site and during the school day. These lessons are rostered at a different time each week so that your child will not miss out on the same lesson each week. i.e. the lesson may be at 9am one week and at 10am the next and so forth. For more information contact:

GUITAR: Tammara Wellman 0410 595 300
VIOLIN: Robin Anthony 0450 981 476
PIANO: Beth Maddock 0412 284 594
DRUMS: Kyrie Anderson 0403 882 382

Q Where is the Lost Property located?
A Lost Property is located adjacent the Front Office on the Eastern side. Lost property will be cleared out each fortnight.

Q When is the Second Hand Uniform shop open?
A The uniform shop will be open the following times in term 1:

MONDAY Morning and afternoon
THURSDAY Morning and afternoon
Morning opening times: 8.45am–9.15am - Afternoon 3.00pm–3.30pm