Welcome to our new Receptions who were quite at home on the play equipment this morning.

We also welcome Kimmi Varcoe and Sarah Childs to our staff. Kimmi is in Yr 2/3 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Sarah teaches Italian on Thursdays.
Dear Parents

What a great start to the year we are having. Children and teachers are very excited to be back together again and are settling in to their learning activities with enthusiasm.

The school has undergone a few improvements over the holidays:
◆ New drinking, taps, troughs, and tanks—Thanks to the Community Club for funding this.
◆ Sliding doors have been installed in the Joeys’ Room and Pinchunga Room (R/1)
◆ New carpet in the Admin block
◆ New carpet in McCormack Room (Year 4/5)
◆ The COLA is underway!!

School Board AGM

The AGM for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 7th February at 7:00pm. There are two vacancies for elected members for 2017/18. If you have any questions regarding being nominated for the Board please contact Nick Zema or myself for further information. A separate note is being sent home today with further information regarding the Board and a nomination form. **Please note this is the AGM only and will finish around 7:45pm.**

Family Night

Families are invited to visit classrooms and visit teachers on Wednesday 15th February. A note explaining times and the format will be sent home next week. **Volunteers** are needed next week to help with the tracing of silhouettes of each child in readiness for the Arts Festival. If you have an hour to spare next week please let me know.

Uniforms

We are currently sourcing some samples for new Rugby tops and Polo shirts for PE and will provide further information as soon as we can so that we can begin a transition process. It is not a simple process as we need to consider long term availability, quality, price and colour range. Other items which will also be reviewed this year on are the blue button up shirts, styles of shorts for girls and boys, ties, shoes.

Parents are asked to have a look at the uniform policy on the website and ensure their children are in correct uniform. **This year we will be sending home reminder notes to parents when children are wearing incorrect attire without a note in their diary explaining why.**

Congratulations to our new **House Captains**

Cameron: Skye and Liam
Woods/MacKillop: Flynn and Sam
McCormack: Caitlin and Seb

They are looking forward to their first official role at the Swimming Carnival in Week 4.

Just a reminder that you are encouraged to contact teachers to discuss any of your concerns regarding your child and their learning and wellbeing.

Blessings
Maureen
Children's University

Information session and

Official launch

Wednesday 8th February

2:30 in Hall

Children's University Australia provides high quality, voluntary educational experiences for children aged between 7 and 14 years, and volunteering opportunities for students aged between 15 and 18 years. Children choose which activities they would like to participate in and collect stamps in their Passport to Learning as they go. They are rewarded for their participation with certificates presented at formal ceremonies held in high profile locations. Children graduate in caps and gowns just like the adults do and celebrate their achievements with friends, family and teachers.

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this launch to find out more about how the program works.

Please note there will not be an Assembly in Week 3 due to the Children’s University launch in Week 2.

Sacrament Program

If you would like your child to be part of the Sacrament Formation Program this year please contact me.

This could include First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion.

Children would usually be in Year 3 or above to participate.

Families are invited to join us in St Joseph’s Church for the following Masses

Beginning of Year Mass
Tuesday 21 February at 9:15
Reception to Yr 7

Ash Wednesday Mass
1 March at 9:15
Yrs 2—7

R/1 Class will have a Liturgy in their classroom on Ash Wednesday at 11:30am and parents are welcome to attend.
**Book Club**

Book Club orders are due back on February 15th.

**Birthdays**

Happy birthday to Mrs O’Connell (2nd), Ellinore (10th), Eddie (12th), Jedd (15th), Jessie (21st), Skye (27th) and Chloe (29th) who celebrated their birthdays in the holidays.

Happy birthday to Caitlin (31st), Christopher (1st) Sophie (2nd), Lucy (2nd), Bea (6th) and Tess (7th) who celebrate their birthdays this week and next week.

We hope you all have a great day.

**Thank You**

Sister Helen Saunders rsj sent the following message to the school community:

> “On behalf of Mary MacKillop International, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. During 2016 we raised approximately $62,000. This has far surpassed our 2015 effort. Thank you for all your contributions. From 2001 till now our total is almost $186,000! It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.”