Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Guardian Angels’. We hope our new families have settled in and are already starting to feel a part of our school community. This term provides students with opportunities to grow and learn in all areas of their development and make some new friendships. Thank you for the support you have given your child and teachers during these first few weeks. Your enthusiasm has helped to create a warm and positive environment and has facilitated a smooth transition into Year One.

**Religious Education**

Students will explore the Catholic teaching that all people are created in God’s own image and learn about living in accordance with God’s plan by living safely and happily in the community. They will discuss using God’s gift of freedom to make choices responsibly. Students will explore these teachings by focussing on our school rules, choices and consequences of just and unjust actions. At the end of the term students will explore the Church Season of Lent and prepare for Holy Week. Within the Virtues Project, they will explore the Virtues of Kindness, Humility, Enthusiasm and Prayerfulness and be encouraged to practice these in their everyday lives.

**Mathematics**

This term students will be exploring numbers to thirty. They will be learning to read, write and represent these numbers in numeral and word form and by manipulating concrete materials. By the end of the year, the students will be expected to have a sound knowledge and understanding of numbers at least to 100. Students will also be making, matching, describing, sorting and classifying a range of patterns, objects and collections. Many other concepts including number patterns, time, money, length, 2D and 3D shapes, addition, subtraction and picture graphs will be investigated. Days of the week and months of the year will be introduced as part of the daily weather chart or class calendar.

**HASS: Humanities and Social Sciences**

Within Geography students will explore the ways that the space within places, such as a classroom, park or backyard, can be used to suit a variety of different activities or purposes. They will discuss how to rearrange spaces and identify where activities such as police, church, parks and schools are located. Our History unit will provide students with opportunities to explore family roles and structures in the past and present. Students will compare how these have changed in size or structure or remained the same over time. Students will discuss different family types, compare family sizes and roles such as work at the home – cooking, cleaning, or gardening. An important part of our unit will be discovering the family structures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the kinship system.

**Science “Chemical Changes”**

Our Science unit students will explore how everyday materials can be physically changed in a variety of ways. Students will be given opportunities to predict and compare how the shapes of objects, made from different materials, can be physically changed through actions such as bending, stretching and twisting. They will also be exploring how materials such as water, chocolate or play dough change when warmed or cooled. A Street Science Incursion will be held on February 23rd in the school hall and the cost has been billed to Term One fees. Please return the permission by 19th February.
Students will be developing their reading fluency and love of literature through various activities. They will continue to develop and apply their knowledge of letters, sounds and punctuation to reading and writing tasks. Oral speaking skills and attentive listening skills will continue to be encouraged. Students will deconstruct procedures and compose simple written recounts based on familiar topics.

**Reading** Thank you to those parents who have already offered to help with our reading program this year. Parents, please note that it is compulsory for all reading and classroom helpers to have completed the workshop for volunteers. Volunteers must also sign in at the office before every session in the classroom. You will find more information about the Volunteer Register on the school newsletter. Please listen to your child read nightly and when formal readers go home and please return books the following day so that the book can be changed. This will reduce the need to search for missing home readers.

**Dolch Sight Words** Sight words are high frequency words that commonly occur in texts. We encourage students to practise these words nightly, with your assistance. Words need to be instantly recognised for students to become more fluent and confident readers. At home, students will work at their own pace through their individual sight word program. Thank you for your wonderful support at home in this vital area of learning. Please remember, that it is important that reading remains a fun and enjoyable activity.

**Specialist Lessons**

In Drama students will focus on the elements of role and relations by exploring how to use their bodies, voice and facial expressions to create character. There will be an overarching focus on teaching and fostering the skills of collaboration, trust, self-expression, and respect which are essential to learning in the drama room. In HPE students will perform locomotor movements such as jogging, dodging, running; develop basic balls skills and participate in basic learn to swim activities. They will demonstrate how they can balance, include others in activities and work cooperatively when practicing new skills. The Music program will continue to develop their fundamental music skills learnt in Prep. In ‘Elements Explored’ students will engage with the Elements of Music to learn new rhythms, music literacy and listening skills through singing, playing, creating and aural development.

**Swimming**

Please remember that students are required to wear thongs or sandals to walk between the classroom and bus. You will need to provide your child with a swimming cap, goggles, swimmers, towel, sunscreen and a rash shirt to bring each week. Students also need to wear their sports uniform on Fridays for swimming.

**Homework Bags**

Students have a red homework bag that will be sent home every day. It is important that these bags are checked and returned to school each day as important notes, KIT books and reading books will be put into them. The students also need to become responsible for bringing these to school and putting them into the allocated spot in their classroom each morning.

**Date Claimers for your Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Swimming lessons begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Street Science Incursion - Chemical science</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Class Vision ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Term One concludes Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Term Two begins - Monday</td>
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We are committed to building a strong rapport with both parents and students. No concern is too small, so please always know that our door is open to discuss any issue or answer any question. We really look forward to working in partnership with you and hope that you have an enjoyable year at Guardian Angels’. Thank you in advance for your continued co-operation and support and we look forward to getting to know you and your families.

Kind regards,

Danielle Carroll   Jane Johnston   Mary Osterio   Sue Tully