



# ST JOSEPH'S INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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JOEY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Warm greetings of peace and joy to you all in the love of Christ. As I begin my journey as the new Executive Director of St. Joseph's International Catholic College, I am filled with gratitude and a sense of purpose. It is an honor to welcome you to a new school year, a time for renewal, growth, and shared hope for our children's future.

Inspired by the Gospel, we recall the words of our Lord in Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Just as Jesus encourages us to let our light shine before others, we are dedicated to fostering an environment where each student can illuminate their unique gifts and talents, radiating brightly within our community and beyond.

In alignment, too, with the theme of the Jubilee Holy Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope," we embark on this academic journey together, guided by a spirit of hope and renewal. This theme inspires us to advance with faith and hope, seeking knowledge and truth as we cultivate the spiritual and academic growth of our students.

With this, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for entrusting us with the sacred responsibility of your children's education. Your confidence in St. Joseph's International Catholic College reaffirms our mission to guide and inspire young minds with faith, hope, wisdom, and compassion.

I eagerly anticipate collaborating closely with you, our dedicated teachers, and the entire school community to ensure that your children's educational experience is both enriching and transformative. Together, let us forge a future where our students emerge as empowered leaders of hope and catalysts for positive change in the world.

May the Holy Spirit guide us in our endeavours, fostering growth in faith and unity. Thank you once again for your trust and partnership. Together, let us make this year truly remarkable for our children.

With blessings and gratitude,

Fr Zander Murillo Conson, RCJ  
Executive Director



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

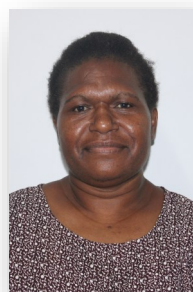
### NEW PRIMARY TEACHERS



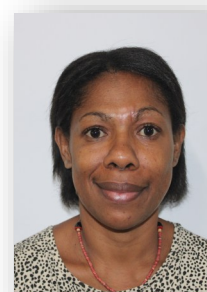
Ms Tania Mangonson



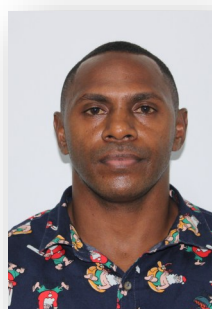
Mrs Melinda Nongkas



Ms Ruth Wamsa



Ms Isabel Tabel



Mr Leonard Kale



Mrs Lorina Bareng



Mr Edward Gisoba



Ms Esther Thomas

### Term 1 Curriculum and Administrative Activities:

Week	Day / Date	Activities
3	Monday – Friday 10-14 Feb	Assessment 1 - Quiz – Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
	Friday 14 Feb	Whole Primary School Parents Information Meeting 2:30pm Peace Theatre
4	Monday – Friday 17-21 Feb	Assessment 1 - Quiz – Prep, Grades 1 & 2
	Friday 21 February	Students Dean Meeting – 2:30pm – 3:00pm
	Saturday 22 February	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall
5	Wednesday 26 February	Public Holiday - National Remembrance Day of the late Sir Michael Somare
	Friday 28 February	Primary SRC meeting - 2.30pm – 3.00pm
	Saturday 1 March	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall
6	Monday – Friday 3 – 7 March	Assessment 2 - Test – Prep – Grade 6
	Saturday 8 March	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Week	Day / Date	Activities
7	Wednesday – Thursday 12-13 March	NAPLAN Trials 2 – Grades 3 & 5
	Saturday 15 March	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall
8	Monday – Friday 17 – 21 March	Assessment 3 - Assignment – Prep – Grade 6
	Saturday 22 March	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall
9	Monday – Wednesday 24 – 26 March	NAPLAN TESTS – Grades 3 & 5
	Saturday 29 March	St Joseph's Sports Competition 8:00am – 11:00am Baubau Sports Field and Centennial Hall
10	Monday – Friday 31 March- 4 April	Assessment 4 – Term 1 Exam – Prep – Grade 6

### Election of Primary School Students' Leaders

The Primary School students participated in the election of their class captains and vice captains last week, from Preps to Grade 6. We congratulate the class captains and their vice captains on accepting their roles.

Our appreciation also goes to the Grade 5 and 6 teachers and students for their participation in the election of the Primary School SRC and for carrying out the process with honesty and transparency. We thank and congratulate them on this successful accomplishment.

The official declaration of the School Head Boy and Girl, as well as the Vice Head Boy and Girl, will take place on Monday of Week 3 during our first Primary School assembly.

Welcome to a New Year at Primary!

We're so excited to kick off Term 1! Get ready for a year of learning, growth, and fun. Here's a peek at what's happening:

A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff!

We're delighted to introduce some new faces to our school community:

Preschool Stars: Ms. Tania Mangoson, Mrs. Melinda Nongkas, Ms. Ruth Wamsa are joining our wonderful preschool team. We know they'll bring lots of energy and creativity to our youngest learners!

Primary School Additions:

Mrs. Lina Numbasa (Grade 1 Teacher): Get ready for a fantastic start to your primary school journey!

Ms. Isabel Tabel (Grade 2 Teacher): Building strong foundations for learning and friendship.

Ms. Esther Thomas (Grade 3 Teacher): Exploring new ideas and growing together!

Mrs. Lorina Bareng (Grade 4 Teacher): Engaging lessons and exciting discoveries await!

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Important Dates for Term 1

Here's a calendar of key events and assessments to help you plan:

Week	Dates	Activities	Notes for Parents
3	Feb 10-14 (Mon-Fri)	Assessment 1 - Quiz – Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6	Help your child review key concepts leading up to the quiz.
	Feb 14 (Fri)	Whole Primary School Parents Information Meeting – 2:30 PM, Peace Theatre	Don't miss this important meeting! Learn about our curriculum, school goals, and how we can partner together for your child's success.
4	Feb 17-21 (Mon-Fri)	Assessment 1 - Quiz – Prep, Grades 1 & 2	Ensure your child is well-rested and has a healthy breakfast before the quiz.
	Feb 21 (Fri)	Students Dean Meeting – 2:30pm – 3:00pm	
	Feb 22 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	Come cheer on our students as they participate in friendly competition!
5	Feb 26 (Wed)	Public Holiday – National Remembrance Day of the late Sir Michael Somare	Enjoy the day off with your family and reflect on our nation's history.
	Feb 28 (Fri)	Primary SRC meeting - 2.30pm – 3.00pm	
	Mar 1 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	Let's show our school spirit!
6	Mar 3-7 (Mon-Fri)	Assessment 2 - Test – Prep – Grade 6	Tests will cover material learned since the beginning of the term.
	Mar 8 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	

JOEY NEWSLETTER

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

JOEY NEWSLETTER

Week	Dates	Activities	Notes for Parents
7	Mar 12-13 (Wed-Thu)	NAPLAN Trials 2 – Grades 3 & 5	These trials will help students become familiar with the NAPLAN format.
	Mar 15 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	
8	Mar 17-21 (Mon-Fri)	Assessment 3 - Assignment – Prep – Grade 6	Check with your child's teacher for specific assignment details and deadlines.
	Mar 22 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	
9	Mar 24-26 (Mon-Wed)	NAPLAN TESTS – Grades 3 & 5	Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep and arrives at school on time each day.
	Mar 29 (Sat)	St. Joseph's Sports Competition – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Baubau Sports Field & Centennial Hall	
10	Mar 31-Apr 4 (Mon-Fri)	Assessment 4 – Term 1 Exam – Prep – Grade 6	This exam will assess your child's overall understanding of the Term 1 curriculum.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Student Leadership Elections**

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the election of Class Captains and Vice-Captains! A special thank you to our Grade 5 and 6 students and teachers for ensuring a fair and transparent process for the Primary School SRC elections. The official announcement of the School Head Boy, Head Girl, and their deputies will be held during our first Primary School assembly in Week 3. Stay tuned!

### **A Reminder of Important School Policies**

To ensure a positive and productive learning environment for all our students, we would like to remind you of a few important school policies:

#### **Punctuality Matters:**

Being on time for school and classes is essential. Lateness disrupts learning for everyone. Learning in class starts at 8:00 a.m. and students are required to be at school by 7:30a.m. or before 7:50 a.m. so that they are ready for learning. Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives at school on time. If your child is repeatedly late, we will contact you to discuss strategies to improve punctuality or advise you to look for alternative learning environment.

#### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is crucial for academic success. If your child is absent, please notify the school as soon as possible by diary note or email. Please provide a written explanation for the absence upon your child's return to school. Extended or unexplained absences will be investigated and may result in serious consequences.

#### **Uniform and Appearance:**

We take pride in our school's appearance, and we expect all students to wear the correct uniform with pride. Please ensure your child's uniform is clean, in good repair, and worn according to the school's uniform policy. Hair should be neat and tidy, and any accessories should adhere to school guidelines.

We appreciate your support in upholding these important policies. Working together, we can create a positive and successful learning environment for all our students.

We look forward to a fantastic term ahead!



**Yours sincerely**

**Victor Piniau  
Principal-Primary School**

## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **Arrival and Departure:**

To ensure maximum safety, students should arrive as close to the starting times as possible. Upon arrival, students are to remain in the school area until the bell rings at 7:50 am. After school, children should immediately proceed to their designated pick-up gate. Students with parental permission to walk home will be given a School Walking Pass and allowed to leave by the gate-duty teacher. Children waiting for parent pick-up must remain at their pick-up gate until collected.

Parents are encouraged to pick up their children as soon as possible after school by 3:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and by 3:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays unless prior arrangements have been made with the school administration. Parents will be informed of any changes to the regular arrival or departure arrangements.

### **Contacting Staff:**

We encourage parents to regularly communicate with their child's teacher regarding progress. Please note that all staff members are engaged in teaching duties from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Teachers are available to meet with parents before and after school, or during lunch, by prearranged appointment. Principals can be reached between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Formal report cards are issued at the end of every term, and parent-teacher interviews are held at that time. Additionally, Parent-Teacher Information Meetings are conducted at the start of the school year.

### **Bullying Concerns and Grievance Policy:**

No school, including St. Joseph's International Catholic College, is entirely free from bullying. When incidents of bullying occur, we are committed to addressing them promptly and effectively as soon as they are reported. We encourage you to follow our Grievance Policy Guidelines for any concerns raised by your children, whether at school or at home, so that we can resolve these issues fairly and constructively.

When concerns about bullying are brought to our attention, we listen carefully and document the details of the incident. Through this process, we aim to help students understand any lessons that may emerge from the situation. Our conversations are recorded and can be communicated via email or written notes to the relevant Homeroom Teachers. If necessary, the administration will also be involved to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

### **Parent Communication with the School:**

Effective partnerships between parents, students, and the school are vital to educational success. We value trust and openness and encourage parents to voice any concerns, as doing so helps us improve our services. Feel free to raise any issues with any staff member. To discuss concerns with your child's teacher, please make an appointment. Our staff is trained to address concerns positively and sincerely. In the event of a complaint, parents should follow the grievance policy by emailing or writing a note to the homeroom teacher outlining the issue.



SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Transforming Lives: Journeying with Faith and Learning

Welcome to the 2025 academic year! As we embark on this new academic year, let us embrace the theme "Transforming Lives: Journeying with Faith and Learning." This year presents not only an opportunity for academic growth but also aligns beautifully with the Catholic Church's celebration of its 50th Jubilee year, focused on the theme: "Pilgrimage of Hope."

As pilgrims of hope for our students, let us strengthen and improve our working relationships—parent to student, student to teacher, and teacher to parent—to create an environment that nurtures spiritual and intellectual development. We aim to foster a curriculum that reflects Christ’s teachings and encourages compassion, resilience, and service to others.

Everyone is encouraged to actively participate in meaningful discussions at home about the values of respect, responsibility, and faith, promoting a culture that champions personal growth and community service. We invite families to engage in school activities, volunteer for community projects, and support one another as we cultivate an ecosystem of learning that transcends textbooks. By working together, we can inspire our students to become not only educated individuals but also compassionate leaders, ready to transform their own lives and the lives of others in our community. Let us walk this transformative journey in the year 2025, hand in hand, guided by faith and an unwavering commitment to learning.

School Hours

We expect students to arrive on school grounds by 7:40 am to begin preparing for the day and lessons.

Homeroom Time:

7:50 am: All students must be inside their homerooms for prayers, attendance, and announcements regarding important information for the day or week.

Lesson Time:

8:00 am: Period 1
8:50 am: Period 2
9:40 am: Period 3

10:30 am: Recess Break

10:50 am: Period 4
11:40 am: Period 5

12:30 pm: Lunch Break

1:00 pm: Period 6
2:00 pm: Period 7
2:50 pm: Period 8

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, we will have eight periods, with pick-up time at 3:30 pm. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we will have seven periods, and pick-up time will be at 3:00 pm. Please note that these schedules may change due to special events, sports, functions, or rehearsals.

JOEY NEWSLETTER

## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

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**School Communication with Parents:**

A school newsletter is published and distributed online via our website: [www.stjosephsinternational.ac.pg](http://www.stjosephsinternational.ac.pg).

Newsletters include information about school events and functions, classroom activities, changes in school routines, sports, student performances, parent meetings, and other relevant announcements. Parents are encouraged to access these newsletters to stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities to support their children.

JOEY NEWSLETTER

## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

**Sign-In / Sign-Out Register:**

Parents must sign in all students arriving late at the office before proceeding to class, and office staff should be informed of their arrival. For students leaving early, a parent must come to the office to sign the Sign-In/Out Register. No child is permitted to leave the school grounds without a parent signing the register.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is compulsory for children of school age. Parents must inform the school by 8:15 a.m. if their child will be absent, providing a reason as required by our school attendance policy. Notifications can be made via phone call or email. If no absence notification is received by 8:15 a.m., parents will receive a phone call or email regarding the unexplained absence and will be asked to provide a reason.

We encourage parents to ensure regular attendance, as each day's work builds upon the previous day's activities. However, if a child is ill, it's best for them to stay at home to recover promptly before returning to school.

**Uniform and Appearance:**

Students at St Joseph's International Catholic School are encouraged to wear the prescribed school uniform according to our dress code guidelines, which aim to:

- Promote a safe learning environment by allowing easy identification of students.
- Foster an effective teaching environment by minimizing distractions related to fashion.
- Create a supportive atmosphere that encourages a sense of belonging.
- Foster mutual respect by reducing visible economic and social differences.

We have faced challenges regarding uniform and appearance on: incorrect hairstyle, uncombed hair, incorrect inside T-shirt, incorrect uniform, incorrect shoes and we appreciate parental support in ensuring students are appropriately attired for different school activities. Guidelines on our school uniform can be accessed on our website: [www.stjosephsinternational.ac.pg](http://www.stjosephsinternational.ac.pg)

**Sporting Houses and Events:**

Our sporting houses are Hartzer (Blue), Cartage (Green), Marella (Yellow), and Chevalier (Red). Students are assigned to a house team during their first year at school, with younger siblings placed in the same team as older siblings. In grades 11 and 12, students are redistributed to maintain gender balance within each house.

House captains are elected at the beginning of each year to assist in organizing and leading their house during school sports events: Sporting events for year includes:

- Term 1: St Joseph's Day Competition
- Term 2: Inter- House Athletics Carnival
- Term 3: Inter-School Athletics Carnival, and Netball Competition

**Mobile Phone Ban Policy:**

At St. Joseph's International Catholic College, all electronic communication devices (mobile phones, iPads, iPods, etc.) are not permitted on school premises, as they contribute to numerous issues we've dealt with in the past. If students need to contact their parents, the school has facilities to assist with such communication requests.

JOEY NEWSLETTER

## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you for being a pilgrim of hope to each other and for your cooperation and support in making our school a productive and positive environment for learning in the academic year 2025.

### Grade 7, 9, and 11 Parent Information Meetings

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents and guardians who attended the recent Parent Information Meetings for Grades 7, 9, and 11. Your presence and support are invaluable and play a vital role in the educational journey of our students.

These meetings provided an opportunity for meaningful engagement and open communication between parents, teachers, and the school administration. We shared important updates on the curriculum, school activities, and expectations for the term. Additionally, parents were able to gain insights into their child's education and discuss any concerns or queries they might have had.

During the meetings, we introduced the subject teachers and homeroom teachers for each grade. These dedicated educators play a crucial role in guiding and supporting your child's academic and personal development throughout the year. Their contact information has been provided, and we encourage parents to reach out to them with any questions or concerns.

### Course Overviews

For those who were unable to attend the meetings, please be sure to check with your children regarding the course overviews that were distributed. These documents contain important information about the curriculum, expectations, and key learning objectives for the term. Kindly take the time to read through the content to stay informed and to help guide your child's academic progress.

### Term 1 Academic Activities

Grade 11 Differential Aptitude Test (DAT)

Date: Week 5, Monday, 24th February

Grade 7 and Grade 9 NAPLAN Tests

Dates: Week 9, Tuesday to Thursday, 25th - 27th March

Term 1 Exams (all grades)

Dates: Week 10, Monday to Thursday



## SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Term 1 Academic Activities

Grade 11 Differential Aptitude Test (DAT)

Date: Week 5, Monday, 24th February

Grade 7 and Grade 9 NAPLAN Tests

Dates: Week 9, Tuesday to Thursday, 25th - 27th March

Term 1 Exams (all grades)

Dates: Week 10, Monday to Thursday

### 2025 Term Dates

Term	Weeks	Inclusive Dates	Term Holiday	
Term 1	10	27 Jan – 4 April	1 week	Mon 7 April – Fri 11 April
Term 2	10	14 Apr – 20 June	1 week	Mon 23 June- Fri 27-June
Term 3	10	30 June – 5 Sept	2 weeks	Mon 8 Sept - Fri 19 Sept
Term 4	11	22 Sept – 5 Dec		Mon 8 Dec –Fri 23 Jan 2026

**Yours sincerely**

**George Anthony Swamy  
Principal- Secondary School**



JOEY NEWSLETTER