Term One 2015 Curriculum Overview

Prep

Things you need to know about the Prep Year and school routine:-
We regularly send out Prep newsletters to keep you informed with what we are up to in our classrooms, as well as lots of practical information. We have also started a Prep Blog which parents can access and follow classroom news. The following is an outline of our foci for Term 1.

- Establishment of classroom routines;
- Settling into the school environment;
- Getting Along with others and making friends.

Integrated Studies: This term the Prep unit is ‘Interesting Me’. We focus on:
- Belonging to special groups (family, class, school community);
- Each person is special with their own likes and dislikes;
- Looking at the lifecycle.

Religious Education
- ‘Praying to Jesus, the Good Shepherd’ – learning about prayer places, the sign of the cross and learning about Jesus;
- ‘Following Jesus – Loving and Serving’ – learning about Lent and Holy Week.

Literacy
- Concepts about Print, for example, print contains a message and the difference between words and letters;
- Letter & Sound Relationships;
- Beginning to record simple sentences in writing;
- Development of fine motor skills through our Fine Motor Program, to prepare students for the demands of handwriting, cutting and many other skills.

Mathematics: The main foci for mathematics will be:
- Counting strategies and numbers to 10 (and beyond);
- Data Collection and basic pictographs to display our results;
- Location language.

Class Sport
- PMP to help build coordination and body awareness.

Supporting your child at home
- Read to your child daily;
- Look for print in your everyday environment (shop windows, television commercials etc.);
- Reinforce letter and sound relationships through helping your child to complete their Sound Book;
- Have your child count everyday objects, for example, plates and cutlery when setting the table;
- Engage with your child in meaningful discussions to help build their oral language skills.
Year One/Two

Things you need to know about the Year 1 and 2 routine:-

Our foci for Term 1 include:
- Establishment of classroom routines, especially being punctual;
- Taking lots of responsibility for self, belongings and problem solving;
- Getting Along with others, making friends and making good choices;
- Wearing the correct school uniform, with sports uniform only worn on Specialists and Sports days (Wednesdays and Fridays).

Integrated Studies: This term our units of work focus on:
- Establishing an understanding of the values of honesty, responsibility, respect, doing our best and fair go, so that we can make our classrooms safe and happy places to learn;
- Healthy Me, Healthy You, Healthy Us – in this unit of work students will be learning about healthy habits, lifestyle, personal and interpersonal health. We complement our unit with a walking excursion to the Apollo Parkways IGA to purchase groceries to make a healthy snack back at school.

Religious Education
- Love One Another (Year 1), Journey Towards the Cross (Year 1);
- Experiencing God (Year 2), Lent and Holy Week (Year 2);
- All parents, and extended family are invited to attend our Easter and Holy Week reflection to be held on Thursday 19th of March at 12.15pm in the Church.

Literacy
- **Reading**: Students will be consolidating reading strategies as they read a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts for a variety of purposes; they will view and respond to visual texts including pictures, diagrams and graphs. Students will be given opportunities to develop skills in reading through ‘Café Reading’. This will involve understanding how to choose a suitable text to read (Good Fit Books), and the correct reading behaviours to follow when reading independently (Read to Self) and reading with a partner (Read to Someone).

- **Writing**: Students will use the writing process as they construct Recounts, Personal Information Reports and reading of Procedural texts. They will be also focusing on their handwriting, especially correct letter formation and pencil grip.

- **Speaking and Listening**: Students will be engaged in purposeful conversations with others in order to discuss, share opinions and information, and to inform others. They will be encouraged to monitor their ability to be ‘whole body listeners’. They will be practicing their public speaking skills through inquiry related oral presentations.
• **Spelling**: Revising high frequency vocabulary, building spelling knowledge and strategies.

**Mathematics**
- **Number and Algebra**: counting patterns, place value;
- **Statistics and Probability**: simple graphing.

**Class Sport**
- **Kidskills Gymnastic Program (Friday for Years 1 and 2)**

**Supporting your child at home**
- promote independence;
- encourage taking responsibility for their actions and belongings;
- assist your child to be prepared for their weekly inquiry-related, oral presentation;
- enjoy reading with and to your child each night.

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**Year Three/Four**

**Things you need to know about Year 3 and 4:**
- Students wear their sports uniform on Mondays for their Gymnastics lesson and on Tuesdays for P.E. during Specialist lessons.
- Homework has commenced including Home Reading, which students are expected to record on their reading log.

**The Literacy Assessment Project (LAP)**

Our school is continuing to participate in the Literacy Assessment Project (LAP), an initiative of the University of Melbourne and the Catholic Education Office. The LAP is an evidence-based approach to improving reading comprehension for students in Years 3 -6. This year, the students in Years 3 & 4 will be involved in LAP online testing in Term 1 and Term 3. This assessment provides clear evidence for teachers to use in their planning, decision-making and teaching. LAP gives teachers the opportunity to better understand their students' abilities and focus their teaching to meet the needs of their students more effectively.

*For further information, please see Anne Tehan (Literacy leader)*

**Integrated Studies**: This term our unit is called ‘Australia – Our Story.’ Our Inquiry involves us in investigating aspects of Australia’s history, enabling students to become more familiar with the concepts of identity and empathy. We will learn about our Indigenous people as the original inhabitants of Australia, and their spiritual relationship with the land. We will become more familiar with the contribution of other people who have been significant within the development of our Australian community.

**Religious Education**
- Year 3 –Forgiveness and Healing, Lent and Easter – A Time of Hope;
- Year 4 – Meeting God through Prayer, Alleluia: He is Risen.
  The Year 3’s will also be making the sacrament of Reconciliation this term.
Literacy
- **Reading**: Making Connections (text to text, text to self, text to world correlations), Comprehension Strategies (Understanding Words, Finding Information/Main Idea and Inferring) using a range of text types and media.
- **Writing**: Writing to inform, to entertain and to persuade; Spelling – revisiting vowel sounds and common letter patterns, as well as the use of CHIMP as a strategy for practising spelling; Grammar – Punctuation.
- **Speaking and Listening**: Group discussions, oral explanations and presentations, visualisation tasks.

Mathematics
- **Number and Algebra** – Place Value, counting, Addition, mental computation strategies.

Class Sport
- **Kidskills Gymnastic Program** and ball handling skills.

Supporting your child at home
- Assist them with time management skills by setting aside regular time to supervise their homework, home reading and support them to take ownership for their own learning and pride in work completed;
- Encourage them to speak up for themselves, to empathise with how others may feel, and to work towards positive conflict resolution.

Year Five/Six

**Things you need to know about Year 5 and 6**
In Year 5 and 6 students are encouraged to use their diary to assist with organisation. This means taking it home each night, writing reminders in it and bringing it into class. Parents are encouraged to check their child is doing this. Students wear their sports uniform on Thursdays and Fridays and are required to bring a cloth specialist bag for all their specialist equipment. Homework has commenced and is due weekly. Year fives and sixes are expected to live out the values of **Responsibility, Respect, Doing Your Best, Fair Go** and **Honesty** in all facets of school life.

**Integrated Studies**
**Chasing My Dreams**: This term the Year 5 and 6 students will investigate success. They will investigate successful people and identify the qualities these people had that helped them overcome obstacles and chase their dreams. Students will identify what their own dreams are and what qualities they need to develop in themselves in order to achieve them.

**Religious Education**
**Lent**: A time for God’s Generosity
Literacy
The Literacy Assessment Project (LAP):
Our school is a participant in the Literacy Assessment Project (LAP), an initiative of the University of Melbourne and the Catholic Education Office. The LAP is an evidence-based approach to improving reading comprehension for students in Years 3 -6. This year, the students in Years 5/6 will be involved in LAP online testing for the first time. Testing occurs in February and September. This assessment provides clear evidence for teachers to use in their planning, decision-making and teaching. LAP gives teachers the opportunity to better understand their students’ abilities and focus their teaching to meet the needs of their students more effectively.

For further information, please see Anne Tehan (Literacy leader)

Reading:
Book Club: Students will be exploring novels in order to gain a rich understanding of texts.
Visual Literacy: Students will also be viewing and responding to visual texts.
Reading Comprehension: Students will participate in a range of activities to improve their reading comprehension skills.

Writing:
Narrative Texts: Students will be investigating what makes a good narrative, revising the structure and using a rubric to ensure they write narratives which are interesting, engaging and well structured.
Persuasive Text: Exploring types, structure and connective words for writing a persuasive argument.
Writers Notebook: The Writers Notebook process encourages students to write from the heart, reflect on the world around them and “Unlock the writer within you”. – Ralph Fletcher.

Speaking and Listening
Students will be involved in impromptu speeches and oral presentations including speaking and listening skills as part of their Inquiry unit Chasing My Dreams.

Mathematics
- **Number**: Place values of whole numbers and addition and subtraction
- **Statistics and Probability**: Data representation and interpretation

Class Sport
- Preparation for Interschool Sports

Supporting your child at home
- Encourage your child to read each night. They must record their reading in their Planners which must be signed by you at the end of the week;
- Create a quiet space for your child to complete their homework tasks;
- Supervise and assist with homework tasks when necessary;
- Assist your child with the recall and learning of timetables;
- Engage your child in discussions about our Inquiry unit ‘Chasing my Dreams,’ including discussions about successful people throughout history.
Term One 2015 Specialist Curriculum Overview

Prep

Visual Arts: The focus will be:
- Exploring a range of materials to develop confidence, self expression and oral language;
- Learning some basic building techniques, when working with clay.

Italian: The focus will be:
- Sharing in simple Italian stories and songs;
- Counting to ten in Italian;
- Using simple Italian greetings and words, for example, Ciao, Buongiorno and Grazie;
- Identifying the colours of the Italian flag and understanding that Italy is a different country where the people speak a different language.

Gardening: The focus will be:
- What’s growing in the garden?
- There’s more to the garden than we first see;
- Using our five senses in the kitchen garden.

Physical Education: The focus will be:
- Practising basic motor skills in a variety of environments with or without equipment.
- Learning to follow simple directions and simple rules through a number of physical games.

Year One/Two

Visual Arts: The focus will be:
- Learning how artists used images to tell stories;
- Experimenting with a range of drawing materials to develop skills and techniques when drawing their own stories;
- Enhancing their oral language when giving feedback or discussing their opinions.

Italian: The focus will be:
- Sharing in Italian stories and songs;
- Using simple conversational language in Italian. For example, introducing themselves and asking others how they are, as well as Italian greetings.

Gardening: The focus will be:
- Taking care of the garden;
- Why plants need water, saving water in the garden and protecting plants from the weather.
**Physical Education: The focus will be:**
- Bouncing, throwing and controlling the ball with two hands;
- Using basic movement patterns with and without equipment;
- Using equipment and space safely.

**Oral Language: The focus will be:**
- Wondering – wondering exercises assist children to formulate questions based on curiosity and to engage with each other dialogically so as to better understand their own and other’s wonderings.
- Cooperative Learning Skills are relied on as children move through different groupings and listen and speak while exploring their sense of wonder.

**Year Three/Four**

**Visual Arts: The focus will be:**
- Extending their understandings of how to work with a range of materials, through technical exercises;
- Encouraging each student to choose a medium which enables them to confidently express their skills and creativity;
- Sharing their ideas and opinions about art and art making.

**Gardening: The focus will be:**
- Friends and foes in the garden;
- Investigating beneficial and harmful creatures in the kitchen garden.

**Physical Education: The focus will be:**
- Ball Control;
- Bouncing and controlling the ball with both hands and with balls and bats;
- Using basic movement patterns with and without equipment;
- Using equipment and space safely;
- Following safety principles in games and activities.

**Domestic Kitchen: The focus will be:**
- Becoming familiar with safety and hygiene practices in the kitchen;
- Recognising fruit and vegetables grown in the kitchen garden;
- Reading a recipe and following it with assistance;
- Becoming familiar with measuring equipment such as scales and metric cups and spoons.

**Drama: The focus will be:**
- developing confidence within themselves and their performance abilities;
- developing focus and concentration skills for performance;
- using their imagination and creativity to create objects and scenes through the use of movement and levels.
Year Five/Six

Visual Arts: The focus will be:
- enabling students to choose a preferred medium which showcases their skills, techniques and creativity;
- building confidence and oral language when speaking and listening.

Gardening: The focus will be:
- Scarecrow building team project focusing on construction, creativity and sustainability;
- Following the steps of research, plan, design, build and evaluate.

Physical Education: The focus will be:
- Ball Control;
- Bouncing and controlling the ball with both hands and with balls and bats;
- Using basic movement patterns with and without equipment;
- Using equipment and space safely;
- Following safety principles in games and activities.

Domestic Kitchen: The focus will be:
- Using safety and hygiene practices in the kitchen;
- Connecting what grows in the garden to what is cooked in the kitchen;
- Reading and following a recipe;
- Confidently using various cooking equipment.