Term One 2016 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. The following is an outline of our foci for Term One:

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

Integrated Studies: This term the Prep unit is ‘Design and Creativity’. We focus on:

- Using different materials for making different things;
- Following a design process when creating;
- Reflecting on our design and changing things to improve it.

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

- Perceptual Motor Program (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 (Starting soon);
- 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 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 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

**Integrated Inquiry Units:** 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;
- Students will experience a play-based introduction to our science unit focusing on the key concepts of Change and Reaction. They will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of tasks relating to all aspects of science. Students will begin to develop their ability to think like a scientist - to predict, question, observe and record their thinking.

**Religious Education**
- Introducing the Year of Mercy
- Love One Another (Year 1), Journey Towards the Cross (Year 1);
- Experiencing God (Year 2), Lent and Holy Week (Year 2);

**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 also be 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
- **Measurement and Geometry:** time
- **Statistics and Probability:** simple graphing.

**Class Sport**
- Teamwork and playground games.

**Supporting your child at home**
- promote independence;
- encourage taking responsibility for their actions and belongings;
Year Three/Four

Things you need to know about Year 3 and 4:
- Students wear their sports uniform on a Tuesday for P.E. during Specialist lessons. Other days are specified by the classroom teacher.
- Students are expected to take greater responsibility for organising themselves. This includes preparing themselves for the day, having their school bag organised with notices, wearing the correct uniform and taking responsibility for their homework.

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.

Integrated Studies: This term our unit is all about investigating living and non-living things. Students will investigate how living things can be grouped based on observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things. Students will also consider how different living things have different life cycles and depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Religious Education
- Year 4 – Meeting God Through Prayer, Creation: Living in Harmony, Alleluia: He is Risen.
The Year 3’s will also be making the sacrament of Reconciliation this term.

Literacy
- **Reading**: Students will continue to develop Comprehension Strategies (Predicting, Clarifying, Questioning, Observing, Making Connections, Building on Prior Knowledge) using a range of text types and media. They will be encouraged to foster an interest in reading by choosing ‘good fit’ books.
- **Writing**: Students will be writing to entertain and to persuade; Spelling - investigating words by using visual strategies and identifying common letter patterns; Grammar - students will revise the rules of simple punctuation.
- **Speaking and Listening**: Group discussions, oral explanations and informal presentations.

Mathematics
- **Number and Algebra** – Place Value, Counting, Ordering Numbers, Counting Patterns, Addition and Mental Computation Strategies.
- **Measurement and Geometry** - Shapes and Angles

Class Sport
- Sporting activities with their classroom teacher.

Supporting your child at home

• enjoy reading with and to your child each night.
- 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 Wednesdays and Fridays and are required to bring a cloth specialist bag for all their specialist equipment. Homework will commence later in the term and will be 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
This term students are developing their own personal inquiry unit related to the Religious Education Units. They are developing their own rich questions on a topic of personal interest and developing an action.

Religious Education
Life Is Good!
Students explore the concepts of human dignity and respect for human life. Students will identify and explore either a personal, local or global issue concerning human dignity and respect for life and analyse it in light of Church teaching.

Lent to Easter: We are Transformed!
Students explore ways in which Lent offers opportunities for growth and transformation. Through the exploration of the parable of the Prodigal Son and personal stories of people in the community, students learn that, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers hope to all Christians.

Literacy
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Reading:
Book Club: Students will be exploring novels in order to gain a rich understanding of texts in groups and as a class.

Visual Literacy:
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 text 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 Personal Inquiry and RE units.

Mathematics
- **Number**: Place values of whole numbers and related processes
- **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 diary 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 their Personal Inquiry unit.