HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR

SCHOOL

NEWS AND INFORMATION

TERM ONE, 2017

Holy Family
A Community of Faith; Learning for Life.

Faith
A vibrant faith community living like Jesus, in the spirit of the Good News.

Learning
Confident life-long learners who embrace challenges and experience success.

Life
Active, informed and courageous members of a global community.

TEACHING TEAM:

LAURA ADCOCK
KAYLA DUCA
KIRSTY HAWKINS
KELLI JOHNSTON
JACQUI MCKENNA
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Holy Family. It has been great to see the familiar faces return with such eagerness to share their holiday adventures! We especially welcome back the Halvy family. We hope you and the family have settled in well and the children are forming friendships amongst the school community.

Over the past two weeks the students have been getting to know all of their classmates and the teachers in our teaching team. Within our classrooms, we have spent time setting up our prayer space, revisiting the school vision and setting up new classroom expectations. We have also revisited the schoolyard rules and expectations.

We ask that families talk to their child/children about the importance of not bringing in toys to play with during play and lunch time. Unfortunately items can be lost or damaged and is best left at home.

Parent Helpers have started this week and we thank all parents who have been able to assist in the classroom. If you are still interested in joining your child’s class for the two hour Literacy Block, please speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Throughout the year, junior school newsletters will be sent home at the beginning of each term. The school website is updated weekly so please ensure you use this to download forms you may require and to keep up to date with what is happening. We, as a teaching team, are more than happy to meet with you. We ask that you organise a mutually convenient time to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely,

The Junior School Teaching Team,
Laura Adcock, Kayla Duca, Kirsty Hawkins, Kelli Johnston and Jacqui McKenna

You can contact your classroom teacher at:
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Curriculum Overviews

Religious Education

It has been lovely to reflect and explore the ways we pray at school. We have been creating prayer routines and our Level meditation has been a wonderful time of simply ‘being’ with God and creating a sense of community among us. It has been exciting to see the way the children have retained all their knowledge and practice about meditation.

Throughout the Term the students will learn about the different relationships we have with ourselves, friends and family and God. We will look at Scripture to assist us in identifying the different types of relationships shown between Jesus and his disciples and followers.

The students will be involved in learning experiences and discussions to assist them with developing these key understandings:

• Students will reflect on and identify relationships with God, Self, and others.
• The students will understand that to show respect means to be aware of other people’s feelings and treat them with dignity. (CST/RE).

These understandings will also be linked to our Term Inquiry unit on relationships. By linking key concepts across subject areas and making connections, the children’s understandings are enriched.

Towards the end of the Term we will move on to learning about Lent and Easter. We will be exploring Lent as a time of love, growth, change, service and prayer. We will also inquire into the story of the ‘Last Supper’ and Jesus’ journey to the Cross in Holy Week.

As part of our Easter Unit, we will explore some of the Catholic Social Teaching Principles.

The students will be involved in learning experiences and discussions to assist them with developing these key understandings:

• Everyone is special and has basic Human Rights
• Our Church, Bible and School Vision Statement guide us in how we are to treat others
• God loves everyone and is particularly concerned with those who are suffering.
• We are called to care for all and those who are suffering
• The Catholic Social teaching principles help us to know why we need to help others by taking action (See, Judge & Act).

These understandings will be linked to the key concepts of Easter as well as our school vision statement and school expectations. Through linking key concepts across subject areas and making connections, the children’s understandings are enriched.
Inquiry

In order to make learning relevant for students the curriculum is integrated into connected units or questions of Inquiry. These are based on significant learning area content that enable students to develop 'big ideas' about the world as well as integrating general capabilities such as:

* Critical and creative thinking  
* Personal and social capability  
* Numeracy  
* Intercultural understanding  
* Ethical understanding  
* Literacy  
* ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

The essential question the students will be exploring in Inquiry this term is:

"Are relationships important?"

Students will find out about the different relationships people have and identify the difference between positive and negative relationships. Students will be able to differentiate between relationships we have with family members and with sports clubs. Throughout this unit students will identify the attributes of a positive relationship through stories, role play and experiences.

Through a guided inquiry the students will understand:

- why relationships are important.
- that they have rights and responsibilities to be part of a healthy relationship.

Literacy

Advertise the Joy of Reading!

Our goal is to motivate children to read so they will practise reading independently and become fluent readers. This happens when children enjoy reading. As parents you can do for reading what the big toy chains do for the latest new toy...ADVERTISE! We advertise by reading great stories and poems to children. Although the life of a parent is often hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time.

We can help our children find the tools they need to succeed in life. Having access to information through the printed word is an absolute necessity. Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. But reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments together.
With your help, as your children begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, they can grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.

When parents read with their children, they open the door to a big, exciting world and help develop a love of stories, poems etc. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of parents reading to their children as well as having your children read to you.

Here are some home reading tips:

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Discuss the different purposes for reading e.g. for pleasure, to find information.
- Read poems aloud together to explore rhythm and repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read favorite stories to you every day.
- Go to the library together and explore books.
- Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Talk about and discuss what they read. Ask questions like ‘Who were the characters in the text? What happened? Why do you think...? What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that? Did you like this text? Why/Why not?’

Students in grades 1/2 will have started to bring home a nightly take home book. We encourage the students to choose their own readers under the guidance of the teacher. It is an expectation that students read each week night with a member of their family. The take home books should be at an easy level for your child as the emphasis is on developing a love of reading, fluency and phrasing and the meaning of the text. The texts read in class will be at an instructional level to continue to develop your child’s skills.
In Number and Algebra, the students will explore skip counting by 2’s, 3’s, 5’s and 10’s using number lines, 100 grid and songs. They will further investigate a range of number patterns beginning from different points on a number line.

Students will look at the different forms of numbers, showing the ability to read numbers, words as well as make them.

Students will then work with numbers using place value. They will explore numbers from ones to thousands using skills such as grouping, trading and bridging.

14 is 1 ten and 4 ones
Then
1 ten + 4 ones = 14
Measurement and Geometry

In Measurement and Geometry, the students will be learning about time. They will revisit the days of the week and events we have on particular days. This is a great connection to the new daily timetable we have for specialists. The students will then learn about the different Months in the years alongside the four seasons. Students will then conclude the unit by looking at calendars and their features and purpose.

Take Home Readers and Bags

As reading is an essential lifelong skill, particular attention is given to reading as a major component of the home task. We also aim to encourage a love of books and reading. The habit of reading every night is vital to support students in developing strong reading skills.

Reading logs will be used to monitor the frequency of reading and to communicate with parents' issues regarding the take home reader. Reading can be a combination of students reading aloud to their parents, reading independently, listening to reading by parents or audio books, reading to younger siblings and reading together as a family. The Junior Level will also have Take Home Bags which will provide students with experiences in Religious Education, Numeracy and Literacy. They are intended to provide students an opportunity to interact with their family in solving problems, developing strategies, playing games and communicating their numeracy and literacy skills, thinking and understanding.

Classroom Helpers

The efforts of classroom helpers (mums/dads/grandparents/aunties etc.) are highly valued and immensely important to the running of our learning programs at Holy Family. Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for our school community while showing their children the importance of participating in the larger community. Not only will our school reap the benefits of your involvement — you will too. By interacting with teachers, students and other parents on a regular basis, you’ll gain a firsthand understanding of your child’s daily activities and curriculum. While the responsibility of teaching remains with the teacher, parent helpers assist with classroom activities and allow the teacher to run focussed and individualised groups. Classroom helpers generally assist in the classroom during the morning block (from 9a.m to 11a.m.) but if you are only available at other times please let us know and we shall try and accommodate you. Please ensure you have an up to date Working With Children Check in order to help in the classroom. It is imperative that you have attended a classroom helper training session in order to work with the students in the classrooms. If you have not, could you please let your child’s teacher know and they will organise a classroom training session as it prepares you for the format of literacy and numeracy sessions and clearly outlines your role in assisting the teachers and students.
School Attendance and Punctuality: helping your child make the best start.

At Holy Family School we recognise that attending school regularly and on time has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for our students. We encourage attendance and punctuality for all students, by offering an environment in which our students feel valued and part of the school community. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early years will be more likely to continue them throughout their schooling. When your child attends school on a regular basis, they take an important step towards reaching their full potential, and are given the greatest opportunity to learn new skills and develop their understandings.

Students who are frequently absent or arrive late consistently miss carefully planned sequences of instruction. They may miss out on active learning experiences and are more likely to feel apprehensive and less confident in class due to the disrupted start to the day.

• School Gates open at 8.30 am.
• Classroom doors are open from 8.45 a.m. Students are able to enter their classrooms if their teacher is present. Students are encouraged to unpack their own bags and organise themselves to be ready for the day.
• At 8.55 a.m. another bell will signal, all students should be in their classrooms ready to begin the day.

Allergies

We Are Allergy Aware!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. We have children in the Junior School who are allergic to nuts and legumes (beans). Please do not send any nuts, to school. especially cashews and pistachios. NO nut products such as: peanut butter or nutella. NO bean products such as chickpeas, hommus dip, lentil burgers, soya beans, soy sauce, baked beans. Additionally we have children with specific health conditions who are susceptible to illness, it is of utmost importance that you keep your child at home if they are unwell.

We want to do our best to keep those at risk, as safe as possible! Please help us to keep EVERYONE safe!

Non-food sharing policy:
Please be aware that Holy Family is non-food sharing school. This is to ensure the safety of those with allergies. This includes birthdays and special occasions.
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* Please note: Children are to wear their sports uniform on sport and physical education days. Library borrowing sessions require students to bring a cloth drawstring library bag. Communication Bags and plastic bags are not permitted to be used for the library borrowing process. Children also require a named art smock that is to be brought into school as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

**Literacy and Library Support**

We encourage parents to meet with Adrienne, to bring your children into the Library/Literacy Resource Centre before and after school on a Wednesday or Thursday and to tap into Adrienne’s expertise and knowledge of different authors and genres. It is also an opportunity to discuss some strategies you can use to make your child thirsty for reading.
• Sports uniform is to be worn on the designated sports day only
• All students will need an art smock on their designated day. Art smocks stay at school and go home to be washed at the end of the year
• Please keep your child at home if they are unwell. Should students be absent through illness, or for any other reason, a brief note must be forwarded to the class teacher explaining the reason for non-attendance
• Students are reminded to bring a water bottle (preferably a pop-top) to school, which they are able to leave in the classroom for the day. This is important especially in the warmer weather.
• It is compulsory for students to wear the school hat when outdoors in first and fourth terms. A no-hat-no-play policy is our practice during these terms. It is also a good idea that sunscreen is put on before coming to school. A small tube of sunscreen can be left in your child’s school bag for easy access.
• Toys and electronic equipment should not be brought to school.

Dates and Newsletter

Please remember to read the school newsletter each week to check important dates and to keep up to date with what is happening at school. It goes home on a Thursday afternoon, and is the main communication between home and school.

TERM ONE DATES

FEBRUARY
Friday 24th 1/2A Class Mass 9:15am
Tuesday 28th Classroom helper session 7:00 - 8:00pm

MARCH
Wednesday 1st Ash Wednesday 1/2 Liturgy 12pm - 1pm
Friday 3rd Classroom helper session 9:00 - 11:00am
Clean up Australia Day
Friday 10th School Closure Day
Monday 13th Labour Day
Tuesday 14th School Closure Day
Wednesday 15th Photo Day
TERM ONE DATES CONTINUED

MARCH

Friday 17th  St Patrick’s Day
Monday 20th  Scholastic Book Fair (1 week only!)
Tuesday 21st  Reconciliation
Friday 24th  1/2M Class Mass 9:15am
Wednesday 29th Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday 30th  Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 31st 1/2A Class Mass 9:15am
            Term 1 concludes - 1:30pm