Senior School (Year 5/6)
LEVEL NEWSLETTER
TERM TWO, 2015

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.

TEACHERS:

Barb Grabau
Kirsty Hawkins
David Hyde
Martin McGauran
Andrea Smith
Kayla Tonelli
Anna White
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term Two. This term we see the beginning of winter interschool sports, a highlight every year for the Year 5/6’s. We have some other important things happening this term, including the NAPLAN testing for our Year Fives and reporting and interviews which will again take place towards the end of the semester.

We are now beginning to prepare ourselves for school camp which is Monday 15th June, Tuesday 16th June and Wednesday 17th June. You have received a number of forms that have been returned to school to ensure that all planning for camp can be finalised. If your child suffers from Asthma or any form of allergy, please ensure that the school has a current management plan. Further correspondence will follow.

Here is a brief outline of our planned curriculum for this term:

**Religion**

In Religion this term, students will be learning about death, resurrection and eternal life (in reflection of Easter and the Lenten season) in our unit *New Beginnings*. They will also learn about the sacraments of initiation, healing and service. Students will investigate the signs, symbols and rituals of the seven sacraments and the significance of them in the Catholic tradition in our unit *The Seven Sacraments: Signs of God’s Presence*.

**Inquiry**

Our level inquiry for Term Two will be exploring the essential question: **Can our future world be a place where human needs are met in harmony with other organisms?**

The key understandings that we will be working towards are:

- Over time humans have changed their environment to satisfy their wants and needs.
- Humans have recognised the world has need for conservation of living things.
- There are by products/results of science that have impacted on living things.

We will be developing our knowledge, skills, values and worldviews necessary for us to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. This inquiry will enable us as individuals and a community to reflect on ways of interpreting and engaging with the world. Sustainability education is ‘future-oriented’, focusing on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. Actions that support more ecologically friendly patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, ethical, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence.
**Literacy**

In Literacy this term, students will have a writing focus on the exposition and explanation genres. We will be modelling our writing sessions on the writers’ notebook strategy, where the students will develop greater ownership of the topic of their writing, individualising the content and increasing engagement in the subject.

We will be using the Reciprocal Reading and Literature Circle strategies to develop reading comprehension and discussion skills. Our focus on exposition texts will lead us to develop reasoned arguments for the purpose of informal debating and developing speaking and listening skills.

**Mathematics**

In Mathematics this term, we will be having a major numeracy focus on multiplication and division. We will work towards developing greater competence in mental multiplication skills, strategies for understanding and solving multiplication and division problems, and using formal algorithms.

Other areas to be covered in Mathematics this term include measuring and calculating length, perimeter and area, location, transformation and order of operations.

**ICT**

Term 1 was an exciting time as students worked toward their probationary and full Chromebook Licences. It is now an expectation that Chromebooks are taken home each night and returned, fully charged to school each morning.

This term all Year 5/6 students will continue the focus on cyber safety through the creation of their very own website that will be published to the world! We will also continue to use Edmodo, Google Drive and individual blogs to collaborate and connect within and beyond our classroom walls.

**NAPLAN**

The Year 5 students will complete NAPLAN testing on the 12th-14th of May, where they will be participating in assessments of their reading comprehension, language conventions, writing and numeracy skills. Part of our planning in the lead up to NAPLAN is to ensure that our students are prepared for the testing procedures and that they are in a position to perform to the best of their abilities.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to go home on a fortnightly basis using the structure of the ‘Negotiated Homework Grid’ in Term Two. We will focus on classroom learning, communication, family time, personal organisation and possibly some research time.

Thank you for your support in following up and participating in your child’s homework when required. We feel that it is very important that you as parents are involved in your child’s learning and are seeing the type of work that they are doing in school.
**Sport**

This term we will be competing against other schools in our district interschool winter sports program. This involves participation in team sports, including netball, volleyball, football, soccer rounders and kickball. There will be an explicit focus on participation, fun and sportsmanship in all components of our interschool sports.

Also this term in sport we will continue training for the upcoming cross country event. Training sessions will be made available for all senior students on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:30am) until the district cross country on the 29th May.

**Reporting**

You will be receiving your child’s mid-year report later this term and will be invited to attend a parent-student-teacher interview. Please remember that we are always willing to meet with you at any stage throughout the year but we ask that this be prearranged for a mutually convenient time.

### Classroom Specialist Timetables

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Sports uniform must be worn on allocated *P.E. days only*. All students are to keep an art smock in the classroom at all times.

Notification will go home as to when Library sessions will begin when the library reopens. Children will borrow on a weekly basis, and will have a book appreciation session with our librarian, Mrs Adrienne Morris each fortnight. All children should have brought their drawstring library bag into the classroom at the start of the year.

### Term Dates

- **21st April** – Class Mass - 5/6T
- **21st April** – Monash Anzac Day Ceremony
- **22nd April** - Whole School excursion to the Royal Melbourne Zoo
- **24th April** – Interschool Winter Sports
- **25th April** – ANZAC Day
- **26th April** – Grade 6 Parish Mass 10:30am
- **28th April** – Class Mass - 5/6H
- **29th April** – Holy Family Cross Country
1st May – Interschool Winter Sports
4th May – Class Mass - 5/6S
8th May – Interschool Winter Sports
12th-14th May – NAPLAN testing
25th May – Class Mass - 5/6H
29th May – SDSSA District Cross Country 11:15-3:15 (Jells Park)

12th June – Interschool Winter Sports
15th-17th June – School Camp
23rd & 24th June – Parent / Child / Teacher interviews
26th June – End of Term Two

We Are Allergy Aware!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. We have children in our school who are allergic to poppy seeds, nuts (peanuts, cashews, pistachios, hazlenuts), legumes(beans), eggs, potato and eggplant. We ask that you refrain from sending any foods containing the listed foods (nut products such as: peanut butter, nutella, bean products such as chickpeas, hommus dip, lentil burgers, baked beans or breads containing poppy seeds etc).

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

Thank you all for your continued support and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5/6 Teachers

Barb Grabau, Kirsty Hawkins, David Hyde, Martin McGauran, Kayla Tonelli, Anna White
and
Andrea Smith (Senior Level Leader)