Senior School
(Year 5/6)
LEVEL NEWSLETTER
TERM FOUR, 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 to Term Four! Once again we come to the final term of the year, preparing to farewell many of our students and families and also begin the transition of our Grade 4 children who look to move into the senior school.

We would like to once again say thanks to all of the parent helpers for their support of our Term Three inquiry unit. It was a huge commitment that was greatly appreciated. It could not have happened without your help. Thanks also to the large number of families who came to our expo day to celebrate the wonderful learning experiences that our students had gained last term.

Some major events and activities that are occurring in Term Four include graduation for our year sixes, leadership activities and voting for the year fives and transition programs for all of our senior students.

It is sometimes the case in the senior school for students to lose focus in the final weeks of school. It will be a major focus of ours to ensure that all students see the year out in a positive way and we ask that you support us in this from home also.

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

**Religion**

In Religion this term, students will continue exploring significant people, events, places and times, beliefs and values from the scriptures in our unit *Sacred Stories – Sacred Peoples*. The will examine both the Old and New Testaments to make connections between prophecy and the actual coming of the Messiah in *Waiting for the Messiah*.

Each class is scheduled to attend a Tuesday morning 9:15am mass each term and we welcome any parents from the class to join us on those days. The following dates have been scheduled for Term Four:

- Tuesday 20th October Class Mass - 5/6T
- Tuesday 27th October Class Mass - 5/6S
- Tuesday 17th November Class Mass - 5/6H
- Tuesday 1st December Class Mass - 5/6KH

**Inquiry**

The year 5/6 inquiry for Term Four is a Health and Religious Education based unit investigating the essential question;

*What do we need to maintain ‘optimum’ health?*

The understandings that we will be working towards are:

- That there are several dimensions that impact on our health and wellbeing (*Physical, Social, Emotional and Spiritual - heart, mind, soul, hands*)
- We are responsible for our bodies and there are many things we can do to respect and care for them.
- There are people and resources in our community to help us maintain our health and wellbeing
- The Church’s teaching on social justice promotes the *dignity of each human person.*
**Literacy**
In Literacy this term, students will be revising some writing types from earlier in the year, including reports and recounts. The students will also be focusing on procedural texts in conjunction with this term’s inquiry unit.

Through our reading workshops this term, students will learn a range of comprehension strategies that will assist them in decoding words, phrases whilst viewing a range of text types.

**Mathematics**
Our focus in Mathematics this term will be further development of the concepts of fractions, decimals, percentages and revision of number processes. Our measurement focus includes volume, capacity, mass and time. We will also focus on location and transformation.

We will be aiming to use mathematics in authentic contexts through problem solving tasks and investigations where suited.

**Sport**
In Term Four we have the mixed volleyball team representing our school and district. Although weekly interschool sport has ceased for the year, our regular sport and PE programs will be running with a focus on athletics and the skills required for summer interschool sports. The year six students will also be attending a community links sports day towards the end of the year.

**Sharing of student work**
At Holy Family we are endeavouring to make our students’ learning and achievements available for all families to see. There are a couple of initiatives in place to ensure that this happens, including open learning “expo’s” at the end of each term and through the use of our blogs. Student work samples, news reports and photos of school life can be viewed here from home. To access the blogs, log onto the school website [www.hfmw.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hfmw.catholic.edu.au) and click on “Learning and Teaching” to access our student blogs.

**Uniform**
In Term Four there will be a whole school focus on students wearing correct school uniform, appropriate to their timetable for that day. Many students have been pushing the boundary of this in recent weeks and we request your support in enforcing this, as the staff will be at school. This means that we need to make sure that we are wearing the correct school shoes and green socks on non-sport days, and girls need to remember that nail polish and jewellery are not part of the school uniform and should therefore not be worn to school.

Please also remember that in Terms One and Four we have “No Hat, No Play” as part of our sun smart policy.

**Assessment & Reporting**
In Term Four we will be completing formal assessments across all curriculum areas to assist in moderating student achievement in preparation for end of year reports. You will receive written reports and progress reports in the final weeks for the year, reporting on your child’s achievements, improvements and learning needs for the coming year.
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.

**Term Dates**

**October**
- Monday 5\(^{th}\): Term Four begins
- Tuesday 13\(^{th}\): 5/6H Class Mass
- Tuesday 20\(^{th}\): 5/6T Class Mass
- Friday 23\(^{rd}\): MW Division Volleyball finals
- Tuesday 27\(^{th}\): 5/6S Class Mass

**November**
- Monday 2\(^{nd}\): School Closure Day
- Tuesday 3\(^{rd}\): Melbourne Cup Day
- Tuesday 10\(^{th}\): Footsteps Dance Incursion
- Wednesday 11\(^{th}\): Remembrance Day
- Tuesday 17\(^{th}\): Footsteps Dance Incursion
- 5/6H Class Mass
- Thursday 19\(^{th}\): Italian Day
- Friday 20\(^{th}\): School Closure Day
- Tuesday 24\(^{th}\): Footsteps Dance Incursion

**December**
- Tuesday 1\(^{st}\): Class Mass - 5/6KH
- Footsteps Dance Incursion
- Wednesday 2\(^{nd}\): Family Christmas night / Advent ceremony
- Tuesday 8\(^{th}\): Footsteps Dance Incursion
- Wednesday 9\(^{th}\): Year 6 Graduation
- Thursday 10\(^{th}\): Visit new classes
- Thursday 10\(^{th}\): Reports go home
- Friday 11\(^{th}\): Community Links Sports Day (Year 6)
- Tuesday 15\(^{th}\): Whole School Mass
- Wednesday 16\(^{th}\): Final Assembly
- Last day of school!

*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)**