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

This term we have many exciting things happening in year 5/6 beginning with our community partnerships inquiry project on Tuesday, where we venture out into local businesses for our first taste of what it means to work for a living. We look forward to these weekly visits and presenting everything that we find out later in the term.

We again have plenty happening in the way of interschool sport this term, with details to be outlined later in the newsletter. This term is also an important time of preparation for many of our year 6 students who are getting ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Later in the term we will have another opportunity to meet formally to discuss your child’s progress in interview format and we will be inviting parents to join us in celebrating our learning and seeing some of the exciting work we have done in our community partnerships inquiry towards the end of the term. Further details about these events will be made available closer to the dates.

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

**Religion**
In our first Religion unit, *The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit*, students will learn about the Holy Spirit in Scripture and through an introduction to the study of Confirmation. They will explore Confirmation as a sacrament and a celebration and ways in which they can use their gifts and talents to serve God and others. In our second unit students will be learning about significant people, events, places and times, beliefs and values from the scriptures in our unit *Sacred Stories – Sacred Peoples*.

**Please note** our second Confirmation preparation night on the 5th August will include information on the Sacrament, the sponsor and the logistics of the sacrament. We look forward to seeing the candidates and parents!

During Term Three all students will be learning about the sacrament of Confirmation and helping their classmates in preparation to be confirmed on Friday 28th August. Our Confirmation candidates will be attending some sacrament evenings and a reflection day in their preparation; these dates have been sent out by the Parish and are outlined in the calendar below.

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 Three:

- Tuesday 21st July  Class Mass - 5/6T
- Tuesday 28th July  Class Mass - 5/6H
- Tuesday 25th August  Class Mass - 5/6KH
- Tuesday 1st September  Class Mass - 5/6S

**Inquiry**
The year 5/6 inquiry for Term Three is based on the concept of Economics, and we will be exploring the essential question: *How does our community work together to ‘make cents’?*

The key understandings that we will be working towards are:
- There are lots of different businesses supporting our community.
- There are personal, social and community benefits to having a small business.
- Training and education are important for obtaining and maintaining a business.
- There are many skills that you need in order to work, e.g. people skills, organisation, training
- Needs and wants are the reasons why people work in our community.

This unit will have a specific focus on our community partnerships project where the students will be entering into community businesses to work, learn and create a portfolio to be presented at
the end of the term. Families will be formally invited to an expo later in the term, but if you wish to learn about the businesses involved and the great work that the students will be doing you can do so by checking the group reflections that will be posted regularly on our class blogs.

We have had a wonderful response from local businesses who were eager to be part of this initiative and we are grateful to them and to the parents who have kindly donated their time to assist and supervise our students.

**Literacy**
In Literacy this term, students will have a writing focus on transactional texts, learning to compose letters, emails and other means of communication to be integrated into our Inquiry unit. Students will investigate these genres by completing the process of planning, drafting, editing and publishing their own writing pieces. Students will continue to participate in reading through guided and reciprocal reading with an emphasis on comprehension and research.

**Mathematics**
This term our focus in mathematics is centred largely on developing the students’ knowledge and understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages. We will be learning to compare, order, convert, add and subtract with these types of numbers. We will also be learning about various forms of measurement including time and will also be investigating chance and probability.

**Homework**
Homework will continue to go home on a fortnightly basis, in the form of the ‘Negotiated Homework Grid’. Homework at Holy Family is designed to introduce students to the importance of managing their own learning and organisation skills. The tasks are not designed to be arduous for the students, but are merely a follow up to classroom activities, reinforcing their learning and developing their study habits for future years.

Students are expected to spend 20 minutes reading nightly and to complete eight activities across a fortnight, with each activity to last for no more than half an hour. If you find that your child is taking much longer than this to complete an activity, we ask that you make a judgement to decide that they have spent enough time and effort on that ask and sign off on it. Accordingly, if the work is far too simple then your child has the option to negotiate with their teacher for activities that will benefit them more.

**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.

During Term Three the senior school classes will be coming together to work as a level on a regular basis. We will be combining at some point on most school days to participate in activities based around our inquiry and literacy programs as outlined earlier in the newsletter. This will provide a variety of benefits for our students.
**Sport**
The sporting calendar for Term Three is fortunately not as hectic as last term, however there are still several upcoming events to keep in mind. Already some children have competed in the soccer round robin with the girls’ team winning their division and the boys’ team coming very close! Later in the term all 5/6 children will be competing at the winter sports lightning premiership and we will be running trials for the basketball round robin event.
In addition to this, our regular sport and PE programs will be running with a focus on the skills of soccer and badminton and developing sports and games for enjoyment.

**Term Dates**

**July**
- Tuesday 21st: Class Mass - 5/6T
- Thursday 23rd: Girls Regional Soccer Finals
- Saturday 25th: Confirmation Commitment Mass
- Or Sunday 26th: Confirmation Commitment Mass
- Monday 27th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 28th July: Placement at local business.
- Wednesday 29th: 100 days of school day – Buddy activity

**August**
- Monday 3rd: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 4th: Placement at local business.
- Wednesday 5th: Confirmation Family Preparation Night
- Friday 7th: School Closure Day
- Monday 10th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 11th: Placement at local business.
- Friday 14th: Winter Sport Lightning Premiership
- Monday 17th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 18th: Placement at local business.
- Wednesday 19th: Confirmation Reflection Day – Buddy Activity
- Monday 24th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 25th: Class Mass - 5/6KH
- Friday 28th: Sacrament of Confirmation
- Monday 31st: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion

**September**
- Tuesday 1st: Class Mass - 5/6S
- Monday 7th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Friday 11th: District Basketball Trials
- Monday 14th: ‘Super Speak’ Public Speaking Incursion
- Tuesday 15th: Parent Child Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday 16th: Parent Child Teacher Interviews
- Friday 18th: Last Day of Term Three

**October**
- Monday 5th: Term Four begins

*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)*