Love in Action, is Service

Year 1 Term 2 Newsletter 2016

15th April, 2016

Dear Grade 1 Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2 of our school year. We hope that you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and are prepared for what promises to be a long but productive term. We have a busy term ahead with lots of learning as well as the Queen’s Birthday, reports and parent teacher interviews. Just a reminder that as the weather is beginning to cool down, children are expected to be wearing full winter uniform. The Year 1 students have had an exciting start to the term already. During our first week Year 1 Green has presented their brilliant Liturgy and all the Year 1 students enthusiastically participated in a basketball and Auskick clinic.

During Term 2 we will be covering the following units of work:

**Literacy**

In Literacy, we will be focusing on our reading skills with an emphasis on reading comprehension, sequencing, predicting and finding key ideas from the text. Students will also be reminded to continue listening to and following instructions. Spelling homework will continue in Term 2 with a sound focus each week. The handwriting emphasis will be on developing fine motor skills and using the correct letter formation while paying attention to the dotted thirds. The punctuation focus will be on full stops, capital letters, talking marks and exclamation marks. The grammar focus will be revision on noun and verbs and students will be introduced to adjectives. The students will continue to revise how to write a recount and will be introduced to letter writing as well as discovering hot to write an information report.

**Mathematics**

In Mathematics we will be covering the topics of Measurement, Location, Place Value and continue with Number. Students will gain further understanding of Duration and Time. They will begin to link events with time e.g. months, weeks and days. We will also continue to use
the 'Maths Toolkit’ which will come home, at times, with activities that are meaningful to the current classroom learning and individual student needs. Please ensure you return the ‘Maths Toolkit’ each day as the equipment is often used during class times. We also encourage students to logon to their MATHLETICS account. This program caters for students at all levels. The teachers have design and set tasks that students are encouraged to complete. These activities link to the current units being taught in the classroom. It is a rewarding program that assist the students with reinforcing their learning at home.

Religious Education
Today we celebrated ‘Alleluia Day’ as a whole school. We congratulate Grade 1 Green on a fantastic effort. It was a memorable and enjoyable way to celebrate Easter together. During this term the Year 1’s will be exploring ‘God the Creator’ and throughout this unit we will investigate how God created us to be stewards of the Earth. We will be focusing on how we should be caring for our environment and how our actions impact on the environment. We are exploring 'Sustainability' this term. Within this area there are strong cross curricular links between Religion and Sustainability within our Inquiry Unit of work. The student’s will be challenged to think about what being a ‘Steward of the Earth’ means, and how they can follow God’s example to look after the environment both locally and globally.

Inquiry Learning
Initially students will explore the concept of Sustainability by engaging with the movie 'The Lorax'. We aim to develop and deepen the students' understandings of what healthy and unhealthy environments are, and how actions can directly impact the environment. In order to develop their understandings we will be exploring concepts such as Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, water sanitation, deforestation and pollution, as well as other concepts. Our approach will encourage students to make real life connections in a fun and interactive way. The Year 1 teachers are currently in the process of organising and planning various activities to enhance the students' learning throughout the unit of work.

Homework:
Each week the students will be introduced to a new sound focus. This will be the sound that they will learn and revise throughout the week. This sound will also be linked to their Spelling homework. Spelling homework is compulsory and will be given each Monday. Every night of the week students need to write their spelling words out in the columns provided. Down the bottom of the spelling sheet is a spelling activity that the students are encouraged to complete in their spelling exercise book. Parents are also encouraged to challenge their children with their spelling words by covering them up and asking them to spell the words, playing games like memory or finding words in magazines. The spelling homework is then collected every Friday and the students will complete a spelling test to see the progression they are making. This is a whole school approach and if we begin providing time for children to see the importance of spelling correctly it will only benefit them later on in life. Again students are also encouraged to complete maths activities from their ‘Maths Toolkits'. Also don’t forget to login in to 'MATHLETICS' for some fantastic activities relating to the maths topics that are being covered in the classroom.
Specialist Times: (Wednesday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>1 Green</th>
<th>1 Red</th>
<th>1 Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15 – 11.55</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.55 – 12.35</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.35 – 1.15</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specialist lesson taught by classroom teacher:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>1 Green</th>
<th>1 Red</th>
<th>1 Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library (Monday)</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Thursday)</td>
<td>(Thursday)</td>
<td>(Friday)</td>
<td>(Friday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Japanese Times: (Thursday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>1 Green</th>
<th>1 Red</th>
<th>1 Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15 – 11.45</td>
<td>11.45 – 12.15</td>
<td>12.15 – 12.45</td>
<td>12.45 – 1.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note - Students wear their sports uniform and runners on their sports day only. On all other school days full uniform is to be worn. Students need to bring their library bags, to change their library books, on their library day. Students can also change their library books in the library from 8:30 to 8:40am and from 3:15 to 3:30pm Monday to Thursday.

A Few Reminders

Please check with your child that he/she has all the stationery items necessary for use at school such as scissors, rubbers, textas and coloured pencils. Sometimes these get lost throughout the term and need replacing. Please ensure all items are named.

Classrooms are open from 8:30am for students to hang their bags up and get ready for the school day. We are encouraging the development of independence in students by urging students to enter classrooms on their own each morning and organising their own belongings. Of course, parents are most welcome to come in and see what is happening in the
classrooms. However students should be able to enter classrooms on their own to build this independence.

Please strive to have your child at school and in their classroom by **8.40am** as this is when the 1st bell rings and students are expected to be sitting and ready to begin lessons at **8.45am sharp**. It would be greatly appreciated as late comers often disrupt student learning.

**Excursion**
The Year 1 Teachers are in the process of planning an excursion for Term 2 to supplement our Sustainability unit. A letter and permission slip will be sent home when details have been finalised.

**Take-Home Books**
We encourage parents to support teachers by reading daily with their children and we ask parents to sign the yellow logbook each night. This includes any books read from home or public libraries. Students are encouraged to put their take-home book back in their green pouch once they have finished reading and discussing the book with an adult. Encouraging your child to put it back into their green pouch straight away will avoid the problem of losing it.

**Extra Clothing**
With winter fast approaching it is suggested that labelled spare socks and tracksuit pants are kept in school bags in case they are needed. Please ensure that all clothing items are clearly labelled.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**
At the end of this term you will receive a comprehensive school report based on what your child has achieved to date and these reports will be followed with a Parent/Teacher interview. Please feel free to make an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

**Absentees**
If your child is absent from school, his/her classroom teacher requires a written note explaining the reason for the absence. These notes are required by the government and are stored as legal documents. Using the St. Simons' School **SmartPhone App** to notify of absences is an acceptable method of informing the school of any absences.

**Literacy/Numeracy Parent Helpers**
Thank you to all parents who have volunteered to assist us in our daily learning. Your help is invaluable. A timetable will be given by the end of week two, however if you still haven't provided your child's class teacher with your available times please do so by Monday 18th of April. A reminder to parents of the importance of **confidentiality** when helping in the classroom: no discussion about student progress is to take place with anyone other than the classroom teacher. Any concerns or observations of students should be made to the
classroom teacher immediately on the day. Teachers have tried to roster fairly to ensure that all parents who have volunteered have the opportunity to help. It is also very important that if you are assisting with students that you hand in a copy of your Working With Children Check to the office.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your continued support. We look forward to another extremely busy and enjoyable term working together.

**Teachers Emails:**
Jessica Cannizzaro  jcannizzaro@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Molly McKinnon  mmckinnon@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Sharni Spriggs  sspriggs@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Lauren Drill  ldrill@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to working with you throughout 2016.

**Year 1 Teachers**

Jessica Cannizzaro  (1 Green)
Molly McKinnon  (1 Yellow)
Sharni Spriggs  (1 Red)
Lauren Drill  (1 Blue)