"Love in action is service"

2016 YEAR 5 TERM ONE LETTER

5th February, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the school routine!

We trust you all enjoyed the Christmas break and you’re ready for a challenging Term One in 2016. The children are settling in well to work in Year Five with lots of testing happening at present. For the new children to our school we offer a warm welcome to them and their families.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE:

- Monday, 8th February - Parent Teacher Chats 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Thursday, 11th February - Parent Teacher Chats 3.30pm to 8.00pm
- Tuesday, 9th February – Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday, 10th February - Ash Wednesday
- Friday, 26th February – Twilight Movie Night “Alvin & The Chipmunks Road Chip”
- Wednesday, 9th March - School Photos
- Friday, 11th March – Staff Professional Development Day (No students)
- Monday, 14th March – Labour Day (Public holiday)
- Tuesday, 15th March – Alleluia Day Celebration 11.30 Liturgy
- Thursday, 24th March - End of Term One, Good Friday Liturgy 11:30am

**IMPORTANT DATE FOR TERM TWO:**
- Wednesday, 13th April – Friday 15th April – Year 5 Camp!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & INQUIRY
The Year Five Religious Education (R.E.) program follows the curriculum of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (To Know, Worship and Love). This term we are combining our R.E. units of work with the Inquiry unit as they are very much intertwined. The topics that the Year Five students will cover in Term One are as follows:

- Change
  Accepting change in our lives, change of teacher, year level, classroom, friends.
  The children will hopefully come to realize that change is an inevitable part of life that requires response and adaptation.
**Mission Possible**
In this unit, students develop an understanding of justice in the light of the Christian message of love and justice for all, particularly those in the margins of society. They will investigate charities, organizations and individuals who have made a significant impact on assisting the poor and underprivileged in our world.

**New Beginnings**
Here, students will explore ways in which Lent offers us opportunities for growth and change. This unit takes us through Lent and then into Holy Week and Easter.

**LITERACY**
English, as always, is embedded in a variety of school activities. The children will be working on improving their speaking and listening through oral presentation of their work, debating argumentative topics, class sharing, reflections and explaining of strategies. The children will consider themselves as Readers describing their thoughts about the text, the skills they know and understand about reading and how they might be able to further improve in this area.

Handwriting, Spelling and Grammar will all be covered within the context of the children’s written work. Various styles of writing will be addressed throughout the year with a focus on Narrative and Persuasive Writing this term. This will be especially important for Year 5 students who will be required to write either of these genres during NAPLAN during Term Two.

The school iPads and class computers will be used to enhance learning experiences and we ask all parents to remind their child of the Year 3-6 Cyber Safety Use Agreement they signed at the start of the year.

**MATHEMATICS**
This term we will begin with a focus on data by exploring different ways of collecting and representing information. Students will also participate in a range of learning activities and reflection discussions to foster their development of mathematical strategies, problem solving and mental processing. This will include the reading of numbers (place value) with focus on building upon their ability to work with numbers confidently when applying them to written problems.

Please ensure your child has a Maths Toolkit stocked with a protractor, ‘Targeting Maths Dictionary’, playing cards, dice, plastic pocket for sheets and a calculator. Various other items will be provided in the classroom. The use of Mathletics will continue this term with the same Usernames and Passwords as in 2015.

**SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**
This term Sport, Art, Music and Library (on a rotational basis) will be held each Tuesday morning. Sport uniforms are to be worn only on this day and on special occasions designated by the teachers. Children and Parents will be informed of these special days.

*Children in 5 Red will need to wear their sport uniform on Mondays this term.

Japanese will be held each Thursday for all classes.
OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Full school uniform is required at all times and the school Sun Smart policy of “No Hat – No Play” will be enforced during Term One.

- Written notification needs to be provided to your child’s teacher for all student absences. You may choose to use the note template provided in the students’ school diaries. The diaries are also a great tool to be used for notes and communication you require between yourself and school.

- The children have been asked to check their pencil cases and stock them with essentials only, i.e. blue and red biros, grey lead, eraser, sharpener. They’re welcome to use special pens at home or for project work when required. Texta colours and coloured pencils could be kept in another pencil case as these tend to be bulky.

HOMEWORK

It is our school policy here at St Simon’s that the Year 5 students receive homework on a weekly basis. They are not expected to undertake more than 30 minutes of set homework per night. It is important that students continue to read every night, whether that be out loud to family members or quietly to themselves.

Please ensure that a parent, or both parents, check the completed homework and student diary and sign each on Thursday night.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher with any concerns or essential information at any time on the email addresses below. We hope and pray that everyone enjoys their learning in Year 5 during Term One.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Best Wishes,

Year Five Team

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