July, 2016

Dear Year 5 Parents,

We trust you are all enjoying the winter weather and rugging up against the cold. We are all very proud of how hard all students worked in Terms 1 & 2 and hope that they are ready for the excitement of a new term.

The children have been asked to check their pencil cases and re-stock them with essentials which may have run out in Semester 1. Please see note regarding Maths Tool Kit also.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM THREE**

- Please see the attached Term Calendar. The highlighted activities are relevant to Grade 5.

**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 again linking our R.E. units of work with the Inquiry unit as well as keeping in mind the children in our school and community who are celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation later on in the term. The topics that the Year Five students will cover in Term Three are as follows:

- **People of God in Australia**
  
  In this unit, students learn about the development of the Catholic Church in Australia. They will investigate the Church’s history and some of the people who have shaped the Church. They reflect on how the Holy Spirit inspires individuals and organisations to spread God’s justice and goodness and some of the ways that Catholics contribute to Australian society.

  We will also be investigating the question “How does past and present Religious Art capture and influence our faith?”

- **The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit**
  
  In *The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit* students learn about the Holy Spirit in Scripture and through an introduction to the study of Confirmation. They learn of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and begin to explore Confirmation as a sacrament and a celebration.

*Our Inquiry aspect of the combined curriculum areas will focus on the question “How do various artists capture the identity of the Australian culture through time?” The students will
have the opportunity to study a number of famous artists who have made an impact on our cultural and religious history as well as tap into their own artistic talents through various art projects.

**LITERACY**
Continuing from Semester One, all students will participate in a variety of literature activities using a range of printed texts and electronic media. They are expected to read a variety of appropriate texts that will develop their comprehension skills, both factual and inferential, and their expression and fluency.

We will be consolidating specific skills in predicting, inferring, drawing conclusions and summarizing as well as focusing on the author’s purpose, sequencing, comparing and contrasting and looking at story elements: plot, characters and the setting. There will be further opportunities to address handwriting and grammar within all forms of written work as well as the continued implementation of the new Spelling Program S.M.A.R.T.

As part of the Speaking and Listening component of our Literacy program, the students will be encouraged to participate in group and class discussions on the content of various texts and on world affairs while at the same time listening to and responding to others. They will also be required to make various oral presentations to the class and to small groups. The presentations will range from impromptu, informal talks to prepared researched presentations.

**Home Reading**
Being read to, reading with a more skilled reader and having regular independent reading time, greatly improves your child’s reading skills, regardless of age. There can also be great benefit to comprehension and spelling skills. It is important that your child reads regularly with you at home. Reading material could include home readers, re-reading favourite stories, newspapers, magazines, eBooks and information on the internet.

Set a time a few days a week for reading, that is free of interruptions. Talk to your child about what you read, helping them to make sense of the text. Most importantly, enjoy the special time that you spend reading together.

**MATHEMATICS**
In Mathematics this term we will be focusing on the following topics.

- **Multiplication**: Identifying when multiplication can be used in everyday life and verbalizing the thought processes used to solve problems, multiplying 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers by a single digit (2 or more digits with some students).

- **Fractions**: Ordering common fractions from smallest to largest, simplifying common fractions, adding and subtracting common fractions, identifying common fractions that are bigger than/smaller than another common fraction.

- **Decimals**: Ordering decimal numbers from smallest to largest, rounding decimal numbers up or down to the nearest hundredth, adding and subtracting decimal numbers including numbers with zeros.

- **Time**: Reading analogue and digital clocks to the nearest minute, converting 12-hour clock time to 24-hour time, reading and interpreting timetables and schedules.

**Extension activities will be provided for the more able students and enabling activities for those who need to build up their skills in particular areas.**

**Each student is required to know their multiplication tables and it is up to them to constantly practise these, eliciting an automatic response when completing Multiplication equations and problems and, later, Division equations.**
**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 to be included in our day to day learning. We strongly encourage parents to allow children to make use of this fantastic resource at home as part of the weekly Homework activity.

Remember that the children have the same Usernames and Passwords as in 2015.

**SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

Sport, Art, Music and Library (on a rotational basis) will continue to 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.

*Year 5 Blue will have their Sport lesson on Friday.*

Japanese will continue to be taught each Thursday for all classes.

**HOMEWORK**

As per previous terms, students will receive homework on a weekly basis. Year 5 students 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. Most weeks, children will have a spelling list. It would be beneficial for your child if you could spend some time helping them practise their personalised list.

Please ensure that the homework book and student diary are checked and signed on Thursday night. We understand that sometimes it may be difficult to complete homework on time. If this is the case, please let your child’s teacher know through a note in their diary.

If you have any queries or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

Best Wishes,

**Year Five Team**

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