Our School theme this year is **Treasures of our Faith**.

What are we curious about and how can we answer these questions?

February 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year Six and the final year for your child in Primary School. We hope you had a relaxing holiday. The children have started the year on a very positive note and we are looking forward to a great year.

**LITERACY:**
The Year Sixes will be looking at a variety of texts related to communication, body language and Australia as a Federal Nation. We also be viewing ‘Behind the News’ and other media clips as well as related websites to assist the children to understand Australia’s path from colony to present. The children are expected to be reading novels that are age appropriate, throughout the term for both home and school use.

We will be focusing on the power of descriptive language as well as persuasive writing, note taking skills, summarising main ideas and reflective writing. We will be revising editing skills and focus on the correct use of basic punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing and the use of tense and perspective, rereading their own writing as well as peer editing.

**MATHS:**
This term students will be involved in various group work and whole class activities related to:

- Place Value (numbers from thousandths up to and including one million)
- Working mathematically (recall of multiplication facts and estimating/checking possible solutions)
- Exploring and discussing strategies to solve word problems
- Revision of the four basic operations and inverse operations
- Revising multiplication facts and strategies (times tables 1-10)

**Our RE focus is Lent to Easter: We Are Transformed!**
In this unit students explore ways in which Lent offers opportunities for growth and transformation. Through the exploration of the parable of the Prodigal Son and personal stories of people in the community, students learn that, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers hope to all Christians. Healing, reconciliation and transformation are experienced in the forgiving love of the Father and through the willingness to forgive and to rebuild relationships with others. The students reflect on personal growth and change they undergo during the
Lenten season. Students participate in a Mass for the Beginning of School Mass and Ash Wednesday on 10th February.

INTEGRATED INQUIRY:
Our topic for Term One is ‘The Australian Federation.’ We will focus on the history of our Government and the move from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students will be shown the significance of Australia’s British heritage, the Westminster system, and other models that influenced the development of Australia’s system of government. Along with our Camp to Canberra where we are exploring Federal politics. We are currently investigating an excursion to the State Parliament. We will look at inspiring leaders, leadership qualities and what makes a positive role model. We shall explore the leadership qualities Jesus demonstrated and other past and present people in our community. The children will also be attending ‘Young Leaders Day’ on Wednesday 2nd March.

CAMP:
Please ensure you have thoroughly completed all documentation for any dietary requirements, if you would like your child to have insurance, medical needs etc. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if there is any questions or information regarding your child.

HOMEWORK:
Children will be required to complete homework each week, usually handed out on a Monday and due in on the Friday. There will be a variety of tasks, including both short and longer research projects which will be explained at length to students when handed out. The children are expected to be reading a novel of their choice.

If your child cannot complete the homework tasks before it is due, or are experiencing difficulty or need further clarification, please encourage them to speak to or email us BEFORE the due date. We will go through homework and model it with students when it is handed out, however students are responsible for asking questions and speaking with their teachers about the homework tasks during the week. Our email addresses are below and we would like to encourage the students to email teachers about homework on the weekend before it is due.

aevans@smbeaumaris.catholic.edu.au
deniseg@smbeaumaris.catholic.edu.au

Your child’s diary must be taken home each night to check important events, sport uniform, etc. and returned each day.

SPORT:
Inter-school sport includes Kanga Cricket, Volley Stars, Hot Shots Tennis and T-Ball. We need parents to help, or even just to support the teams, so if you can help us, please let us know! Please ensure you have completed all forms on Caremonkey and provide your deposit.

Denise Gee and Amanda Evans
LIBRARY: Helena Graham
Students participate in Library lessons once every two weeks on a Thursday and for Year 6 students this will be during week 2, 4, 6, and 8. During library lessons students have the opportunity to borrow and return books as well as participate in lessons to enhance their understanding of library organization and procedures, expand their author knowledge and increase their appreciation and enjoyment of a range of literature. The library is also open every Thursday at lunchtime for students to browse and borrow or return books. Students can return books to the library any day by placing them in the black tubs marked RETURNS, located in the library. Year 6 Library Leaders have opportunities to assist with library tasks such as returning books, shelving or locating books on a specific topic. They will also assist to promote Library events such as The Premier’s Reading Challenge and C.B.C. Book Week.

Library classes for Year Six students this term were structured to support the Classroom Integrated Units as well as consolidate the library resource skills required for locating books and information in a library. Students will be encouraged to explore various texts written by an author as well as experiment with unfamiliar authors to give them an information base for determining their literature preferences. Students will extend their learning about Melville Dewey and the Dewey system of classification for non-fiction books. They will have the opportunity to create shelf spacers to identify specific subjects or topics such as: 629.2 cars and trucks, 780 music and 790 sports.

PE: Kristina Van Oosterum
In Term 1, Year 6 students will be refining basic and complex motor skills and applying them in track and field events in athletics. They will explore individual sprints, both in a straight line and in a circular format, throwing activities such as shot put and discus, and jumping activities such as long jump, triple jump and high jump. A selection of these events will be practised in preparation for the school Athletics Carnival in Week 8. Students will work with peers to help improve their own as well as each other’s performances. The fundamental motor skills we will be focusing on are the run and leap.

PERFORMING ARTS: Serena Jordan-Monroe
The Performing Arts provides students with an opportunity to explore music, dance and drama through hands-on experiences in a variety of contexts. These contexts include both individual and group responses, which build students’ confidence, social skills and body awareness. Students learn about musical instruments and notation as required, learn to sing safely, express themselves dramatically, undertake dance routines and respond to different media. This allows students to be creative and learn valuable skills which are transferable to all areas of the school curriculum, such as problem-solving and teamwork.

This Term, the Year 6 students will get to know their new Performing Arts class through a variety of team-building activities. The students will revise the elements of drama in order to create a dramatic response to Federation, which is being studied as their inquiry unit in class. The students will develop the safe practice of vocal warm-up and sing various group songs. They will identify and apply the elements of drama in their final performance.
JAPANESE: Yumiko Aiki
Year 6 students will engage in a live interaction with students from the Kakegawa primary school in Japan on Skype (audio and visual connection) in week 4 (Tuesday, February 16, 2016). They will prepare for their Skype presentation in the second and third weeks of term. All year 6 students will have an opportunity to actively participate in this event which, being live, will be exciting and a great opportunity for students to foster their interest the Japanese language and culture. Soon after the presentation students will write a self-introduction card in Japanese and English which, together with their photo, they will send to the students at the Kakegawa school. These activities will be incorporated in the year 6 assessment for term 1, 2016. Extensive revision of hiragana characters will also occur this term. The Year 6 students will have a further opportunity to for live interaction with Japanese people when visitors attend the school in week 9.

ART: Kelley Dellazzeri
In Art this term each year level will commence with ‘Wrong Handed Self Portraits’. The children really enjoy this fun art activity. (Very Picasso!) This will be followed by two weeks of coloured pencil skills and techniques. Prep will be focusing on the technique of blending. Then each year level will be exploring the work of an artist. This study will mentor your child’s work and they will produce an original and individual piece of artwork that reflects critically thinking influenced and based on aspects of the artist’s work. Year 6 will focus on Andy Warhol. (His work is currently being exhibited with fellow artist ‘Al Wei Wei’at the National Gallery of Victoria which I viewed last weekend.) The major focus this year is on artists world-wide and in Australia. By the end of the year your child will have been exposed and explored in detail the work of three great artists and in the final term an Australian artist.

Please ensure your child has an appropriate art smock that is water-proof as paint, glue and water dye seep through cotton smocks. Looking forward to spending time with your child and being creative!

We look forward to working with you and your children and thank you for your support in your child’s education.

Yours in partnership,
Denise Gee and Amanda Evans