April 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your families enjoyed the break. The students looked refreshed and ready to begin a busy and productive term. We are sure all the Year Six students have enjoyed beginning the term with swimming and are now ready and focused to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

INTEGRATED INQUIRY:

Our topic for Term Two is related to change, adaptation and survival. In this unit, the students will look at immigration and reasons why people migrate as well as investigate how living things can have specific adaptations in order to survive within the environment in which they live. They will understand how specific behaviour like this helps increase the likelihood of survival.

Our RE focus is New Beginnings and People of God in Australia.

In the unit New Beginnings students explore the Catholic beliefs about death, resurrection and eternal life. They examine and compare the Resurrection stories in the gospels and the symbols of the Easter Vigil that express light, hope and new life. They consider ways they may be a witness to resurrection, hope and life in their words and actions. Students prepare and participate in a liturgy that celebrates Easter hope and joy.

In People of God in Australia students learn about the development of the Catholic Church in Australia. Students investigate the Church’s history and some of the people who have shaped the Church (Saints). 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. At the end of the unit students form an action plan to serve their community.

LITERACY:

For reading this term the Year 6’s have been asked to choose a text of interest and then will be required to complete a book report summarising the text and relaying aspects of the book they have chosen. During writing sessions we will be focusing on voice and word choice to make their writing more impacting, powerful and engaging to the reader. We will also continue to encourage the students to proof read and edit their work.
The children will shortly be bringing home a list of words which have been compiled as a result of the testing we have undertaken with them. We will be working with them during class to develop strategies to spell these, and like words. The children will be required to complete activities relating to their individual word list for homework.

**MATHS:**
This term during mathematics sessions the students will be studying fractions and decimals in greater detail. They will learn to add and subtract fractions with like and related denominators, make connections between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages and multiply and divide decimals by powers of ten. Whole numbers, integers and Roman Numerals also form part of our study. The students will also investigate angles and be able to accurately measure their sizes using a protractor or knowing the degree of the opposite angle. They will interpret a range of data displays and realise that data can be represented in different ways. The students will work in small groups, individual and teacher directed groups. The will undertake maths investigations and engage in problem solving activities to demonstrate the application of what we have studied throughout the term.

**ICT:**
Our iPad are arriving really soon and we will be using them as a learning tool for the remainder of the year. The focus of our ICT sessions will be on cybersafety. We encourage you to discuss safety internet usage with your family and monitor your child’s usage. If you haven’t had a chance already, please take time to view your child’s portfolio with them.

**HOMEWORK:**
Homework will continue to be on our Google Classroom pages each week. Please note that weekly homework runs from Monday to Monday. Most tasks will be due weekly, while others might have a different time line. We would appreciate you checking in with your child for their homework requirements.

Please note, 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.
SPORT:
Winter Inter-school sports include Soccer, Netball, Football and Softball.
Amanda Evans and Denise Gee

PE: Kristina Van Oosterum
During intensive swimming lessons, students will build on their water skills at the appropriate level for each individual. Skills that will be taught and practiced may range from safe water entry and exit to freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and diving. Some more advanced swimmers will also practice butterfly and longer distance swimming.

Leading up to the Olympics, students will participate in a unit called, *Can We Play a Game?* There will be a focus on striking and fielding games, such as Cricket and Hockey, where students explore batting techniques with a range of implements. Students will also experience Rugby Union and explore the similarities and differences, between this code and other football codes.

LIBRARY: Helena Graham
Library classes for Year Six students this term will allow students to explore the range of books written by popular authors and they will show their learning by creating shelf dividers for an author. Learning in Library classes will also support the classroom Integrated Units and Community events such as ANZAC Day. Students will continue to consolidate the library resource skills required for locating books and information in a library. They will be encouraged to explore various authors, to read different types of books and evaluate their choices.

PERFORMING ARTS: Serena Munroe-Jordan
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 begin learning their song and dance routine for the school concert in September. Their songs are: Opening Medley: Part 1 (6E) and Opening Medley: Part 2 (6G). Learning these routines will involve listening skills, vocal skills, body awareness and co-operation. These routines include performing in unison with different actions after the safe practice of vocal warm-up.

**JAPANESE: Yumiko Akiai**

Further examination of natural disasters will occur this term. Year 6 will look at how this impacts on life in Japan and compare it to how it may occur in Australia. There will be a focus on using Hiragana more confidently and incorporating this into sentences and simple, short paragraphs such as those used in a self-introduction.

**ART: Kelley Dellazzeri**

In Art term two each year level will commence with making Mothers’ Day Cards and if time allow Anzac poppy activities. This will be followed by 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 critical thinking based on aspects of the artist’s work. The artists to be focus on this term will be as follows;

*Year Six: Pablo Picasso*

As outlined in the last class newsletter, the major focus this year is on Great Artists’ world-wide and in Australia. You may want to google and read some information with your child about their artist. 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.

Also please take a wander through the Bunjil building as the childrens’ artwork is often displayed there. Please ensure your child has an appropriate art smock that is water-proof as paint, glue and water dye can seep through cotton smocks.

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