

Years 3 and 4 Term Two Newsletter 2017

Welcome to a new, busy term. We hope you and your child/ren are well rejuvenated for the hectic term ahead and had a lovely, reflective Easter remembering the sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation.

We have a long 11 week term jammed packed with many celebrations, new discoveries and learning, as well as, two incursions! What an amazing term we have ahead of us.

Here is a snapshot of what your child will be learning this term and some tips on how you can help.

Literacy

With a big term comes loads of learning. We continue our intensive CAFE reading approach which the students have been working diligently to develop their reading stamina and focus.

Please help us have an array of books for your child ready to read at school and at home by visiting the Nook before or after school Monday to Thursday where Mrs Martin is more than willing to help with suggested texts and borrow books out for you. Each class is scheduled to visit the Nook fortnightly and we invite the students to borrow from the green library boxes before school

During our CAFE reading teaching time we will be working on the following strategies: Inner voice, making connections to self, world and text, creating visualisations from the text and inferring what the author might be saying indirectly. Ways you can help develop these strategies are to ask the following questions during or at the end of a home reading session:

1. When you were reading the story, what were you thinking about?
2. What struck you in the story and made you stop and reflect what might happen next?
3. Did the character in the book do something that reminded you of something you have done before? For example, the character may have gone fishing just as your child did on holidays.
4. Does the character/s remind you about another book you have read before?
5. Does the storyline remind you of something that is happening in the world now or in the past?
6. Can you draw me a visualisation of the image you have made in your mind of what the character/s looks like and/or the setting?
7. Did you read between the lines to find a hidden meaning that the author has shared?

In our Writing block we will continue to cover all the important elements of spelling, grammar, handwriting and punctuation. Our first style of writing is 'Writing to Entertain' where we will be extending your child's creative story writing to write a story to a targeted audience. We will be looking for detailed plot development, dialogue between characters, paragraphs that follow the genre process with a complication (problem) and more than one solution that doesn't work before the final resolution (final solution).

We will then begin to explore 'Writing to Persuade' (Exposition) and 'Writing to Inform' (Information/Explanation) which will tie up our Inquiry unit on Forces nicely and will make a great evaluation of all they have learnt about forces.

Numeracy

The great learning will continue in Maths with a huge range of number and measurement units to be covered. These include: symmetry, place value, number patterns, subtraction, money, 3D objects, mapping and time.

Each fortnight when homework is set via Mathletics you will notice that we will be setting these units to bring the learning from school home and should be familiar to your child.

To make the learning in maths real and practical for your child here are some suggestions to help make connections:

1. Play games incorporating number: "Can you guess my magic number that has a 7 in the thousands, 5 in the tens, and every digit is an odd number?" Then have your child ask you to think of their magic number and see who can guess it in least number of guesses.
2. Play board games that involve money. A great one is Monopoly.
3. Start learning the times tables. There are great table songs on Rainforest Maths in Mathletics and YouTube to help.
4. Have your child help you purchase a few items from the shops and calculate how much it will cost and how much change you will receive for dollars.
5. Use google maps or your car navigation system to go on a family day out.
6. Ask at the shopping centre concierge for a map of the centre and locate the shops you are going to visit and have your child navigate the way.
7. Create a shopping list from junk mail catalogues

Inquiry/Religion

This term we will be focused on Physical Science, in particular forces.

The students will learn that whenever an object is moved or lifted, we can say that a force has been exerted (applied) to make it happen. In other terms, we can define a force as a **push**, a **pull** or a **twist** that acts to move an object. It can make an object go faster (accelerate), to slow down an object, to make a moving object change direction or to keep it at rest. Forces can also be used to change the shape of an object. For example, stepping on an aluminium can change the shape of an object.

We will also be incorporating forces in our faith with the following statement:

"FORCES CAN CHANGE THE WAY WE MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR FAITH AND LIFE"

This term is a very exciting one for many of our year 3 students as they will be partaking in their First Reconciliation and welcomed to the Lord's Table by celebrating their First Eucharist.

Please look at the special dates in this newsletter and keep our students in your prayers and perhaps join in some of the celebrations. Also, clear your diaries so you can join your child/ren in our Family Week Mass on Friday the 19th of May. Our students always love when their parents come to church with them.

Homework

During Parent Meetings early in term 1, the majority of families agreed and signed our homework agreement. A great number of students are fulfilling their commitments to complete homework and having their diaries signed weekly.

Unfortunately, the teachers are spending a good deal of time contacting families where a child has only partially completed homework or made no attempt. If homework is an issue at home please contact us and let us know how we can assist.

Below I have created a link to our school homework policy so you can revisit the requirements.

Homework Policy

We thank-you for your continued support. Please contact us if you have any queries about your child's learning or important news that we may need to know.

Year 3 & 4 Teachers

Mrs Diosi - mdiosi@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au

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Our Incursions this term

Professor Bunsen Incursion

The Science of Toys (Forces, Motion & Energy)

This session focuses on the physical laws that govern the movement of bodies. We use toys to discover the forces acting on them, see how they move and how they store energy to keep moving.



- * Types of forces: push & pull
- * What is the outcome of a balanced force and an unbalanced force?
- * Does no movement mean "no force"?
- * Can we levitate a product by balancing the acting forces?
- * Can we balance and even beat gravity with other forces?
- * Direct acting forces and forces acting over a distance
- * Examples of forces between molecules, smaller objects and massive objects such as the Earth and Sun
- * The fundamentals of motion: an unbalanced force & energy
- * See all three of Newton's laws in action
- * We find that energy can be stored in batteries, food, muscles, springs, fuel, elastics, capacitors and we see examples of all.
- * We discover how energy is converted from potential energy to kinetic energy in toys, steam engines, see chemical energy 'explode'
- * We lift a table using air, float objects and eventually a student on air!



Woodwork for Children



Craft Power Incursion

Anatoli the creator behind Craft Power has visited our school a multiple of times to the great joy of the students. Every child leaves his session beaming holding their own creation. Anatoli arrives fully equipped with workbenches, saws, hammers and enthusiasm to share his love of woodwork and construction.

We have enlisted Anatoli to help the students build their own Solar Drive Cars using their own solar panel to convert the sun's energy to electricity.



Years 3 and 4

Special Dates

Date/Time	Event	Venue
APRIL		
Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th	School Closure Days	
Tuesday 25th	ANZAC Day	
Friday 28th	Professor Bunsen Incursion	Level 3 Link
MAY		
Tuesday 2nd	First Eucharist Information & Activity Night 6:30pm	Church
Friday 5th	Cross Country 9 - 11am	
Saturday 6th	First Eucharist Commitment Mass 6:30pm	Church
Thursday 11th	Year 3 First Reconciliation 3:30pm and/or 6pm	Church
Friday 12th	Mother's Day Prayer and Cupcake Celebration 2:45pm	Classroom
Thursday 18th	Year 3 First Eucharist Activity Day	PAC
Friday 19th	Family Week Whole School Mass 9:15am	Church
Saturday 20th	Yr 3 First Eucharist Liturgy 6:30pm	Church
Sunday 21st	Yr 3 First Eucharist Liturgy 10:30 am	Church
Saturday 27th	Yr 3 First Eucharist Liturgy 6:30pm	Church
Sunday 28th	Yr 3 First Eucharist Liturgy 10:30 am	Church
Wednesday 31st	Feast of the Visitation - Whole School Mass 9:15am	Church
JUNE		
Monday 12th	Queen's Birthday	
Tuesday 20th	Progress Interviews	Classroom
Friday 23rd	School Closure Day - Progress Interviews	Classroom
Wednesday 28th	Craft Power Incursion	PAC
Friday 30th	Last Day of Term	