



Term 1 - 2022

Curriculum Newsletter



ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, PYRAMID HILL

A NEW YEAR

A NEW BEGINNING

This new year has brought with it a number of new faces, new ideas and new beginnings. It's been wonderful to have the knowledge and wisdom of Jean, Leiza and Jessie and the support of Penny, to help guide all the new staff as we start our St. Pat's journey.

As in past years, we will send home a Curriculum Newsletter each term. This newsletter will set out our plans for the current term in each area of the curriculum: Religious Education, Literacy, Mathematics, Social and emotional Learning, Languages/Tagalog, Technologies for Learning, Music, Art and our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG) program.

As most of you would be aware, last year the school undertook a commitment to Visible Learning. Making learning visible refers to teachers being clear with their learning intentions and success criteria so that the learning that takes place is visible. This lets the teacher know what sort of impact they are having on student learning. It also refers to student having clarity about what they meant to be learning, where they are on that journey and what a successful outcome looks like.

Part of this process is for students to develop specific learning dispositions. The dispositions we will be focusing on this year are:

- Self-directed Engagement;
- Critical Thinking;
- Curiosity;
- Resilience;
- Collaboration
- Creative Thinking.

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive Term 1.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Saint Mary of the Cross, the Foundress of the St Joseph Sisters inspires in all of us a call to work towards the well-being and support of others. Mary's famous quote - *'Never see a need without doing something about it'* calls us to be constant agents of God's love. Our Learners will delve into the life of Mary MacKillop discovering her profound love of people and of God. We will look at how we can be like Mary in our everyday lives both at school and home.

Later in this term we will move into Lent. We will look with retrospect into our own lives, consider what it is that we have done well and what we could do better. The Learning Dispositions mentioned in Inquiry will cross over into here as well. It is our character, our faith and our journey that lead us to a true and meaningful relationship with Jesus and our call to be like Christ.



LITERACY

Literacy in Reading and Writing is key to much of our Learner's personal achievements and success.

This term with Reading we will be using rotations which will have each student participate in Guided Reading (GR), Handwriting Tasks and Grammar, Language and Punctuation (GLP). Each student will complete a 20 minutes rotation each day. This will encourage students to visit the taught skills each day and to continually build on the previous learning.

Guided Reading (GR) is small group sharing of a text - either online or hands-on and a range of word study activities. Reading fluency and comprehension skills will be the focus.

Handwriting skills is an independent task, graded appropriately to build on handwriting fluency and letter writing accuracy. This is an important life skill.

Grammar, Language and Punctuation (GLP) focuses daily on language conventions used in both reading and writing. Our current focus is on nouns.

Learners will continue with Words Their Way (WTW) building on the spelling skills and letter sound combinations from last year. Our early year students will build up a repertoire of phonetic letter sounds and grammar rules.

The genres of Narrative and Persuasive will be our Learner focus for writing during this term. We will kick off with Narratives and have already begun our focus on characters, setting, conflict and resolution. Our Learners are currently enjoying the creativity that writing narratives encourag



MATHS

Our Mathematics program for this term leaps from the Victorian Curriculum and our Scope and Sequence covers the areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Data and Chance. We will be using our lessons to build on Learner skills, problem solving and self-reflection.

Learners have been divided into groups according to need and a vast range of engaging and skill appropriate tasks are being included in all Mathematics lessons.

Our intended outline for the term will flow like this:

Week 2-4 -Number and Algebra - Place Value and Skip Counting

Week 5-6 -Measurement - Length and Shape - 2D and 3D shapes

Week 7- 8 - Number and Algebra - Multiplication, Fractions and Decimals

Week 9-10 - Chance and Data - Probability, Data Collection and Data Display



INQUIRY



This term our Inquiry unit considers the way a Learner learns.

We will consider the learner dispositions or behaviors/skills of:

Self-directed Engagement; Critical Thinking; Curiosity; Resilience; Collaboration and Creative Thinking.

During Inquiry this term we will look to generate new and creative ways of solving problems using hands on activities and open-ended questioning. Learners will make choices using personal preferences and review their personal strategies.

Our Learners will spend time identifying and describing their interests, skills and achievements. They will also reflect on how this contributes to building a positive life. Learners will undertake a variety of activities to attempt and recognize the importance of persisting when faced with new and challenging tasks. Learners will be given opportunities to interact, demonstrating care for others whilst describing similarities and differences in points of view. Learners will also be provided with simple problem-solving situations and they are to work towards overcoming any difficulties they may encounter. There will be a range of fun, hands on, engaging activities for them to get involved in - which started with our Inquiry Launch on Thursday 10 Feb.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Self-love is a critical part of each of us. How can we be effective learners if we struggle to like or understand ourselves, our way of learning, our way of interacting. During our time we will ask Learners to think deeply on respectful relationships. This also links beautifully with the Learner Dispositions mentioned in Inquiry.

We will ask ourselves - How much do I love me? How well do I know myself? If I can understand myself well, can I have worthwhile relationships with others and with God?

Time spent considering our own self-love will be very worthwhile.

LANGUAGES - TAGALOG

To start a new term, a recall will be done to gauge what the learners gained in Filipino Language (Tagalog) during the previous year such as numbers, shapes, colours, days of the week and months of the year. Greetings and prayers in the said language will be revisited from time to time.

Familiarising with the basic questions and answers regarding personal information using the language will be introduced. Also, identifying the things found in school that help our learners to be an effective learner will be tackled. After the lesson, they will be given a set of notes for quick references to revisit the topics at home.

In our SAKG, we will still continue to introduce Filipino Language in identifying the ingredients and materials to be used in the recipe.

TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

Technologies for learning will be incorporated across all of our curriculum areas.

We will endeavor to bring to life a range of technologies through hands on tasks, computer-based experiences and learning experiences. There will be a focus on using Google Classrooms and Google sites to assist in our learning experiences.



MUSIC

Music is such a personal journey for many of us, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to be able to share with others. As we start our year, our Learners will be experimenting with the concepts of Beat and Rhythm and using a number of programs to assist with basic music composition.

We will also look at Solfa. Solfa is a system of learning music and singing where every note of a scale is given its own unique syllable, also sometimes referred to as the Do, Re, Mi method

Hopefully, our Music lessons will be exciting, creative, memorable and fun experiences for all of our learners.



ART

There are so many wonderful learning experiences planned for Art this term. In Term 1 we will explore the Catholic Education Sandhurst Diocese theme of 'Tell the good News'. We will tie this in with our own school theme of Hope. We will use these themes to explore artwork around love, hope and joy. We will read a text titled Oliver's lollipop and explore what brought joy to this boy and what makes us joyful. We will make our own coil lollipop. We will learn about the coil pottery of First Nations artist, Louise Goodman. During the term, we will also listen to the book, The Love Monster and make our own Love Monsters as well as create some collage hearts. We will learn about the heart art of artist Jim Dine. Another book we will read this term will be The Tree of Hope and construct our own tie-dye posters of Hope and construct a Hope Tree. We will learn about tie-dye artist Zak Zyroka. To culminate the term, we will create some Easter Craft. As we engage in some crafts, we will remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a busy and fun term of learning we will have in the Art room!



S.A.K.G. PROGRAM

At this time of year, I am always reminded of one of my favourite Bible verses from Ecclesiastes, chapter 3 verses 1 to 8. A Time for Everything. So as the hot days of Summer linger on, in the garden we are preparing our garden beds for a time to plant so that we can harvest that which is planted. As the days start to change to Autumnal weather the planting will begin. Planned for the garden beds will be corn, potatoes, beans, carrots, pumpkin and onions.

In the kitchen, we are continuing to strictly adhere to Covid rules. The Learners are each preparing their own meals. We continue to be creative to select recipes that Learners can make by themselves. So much fun in the kitchen with all the chopping, grating and slicing to prepare a healthy lunch. It is always exciting when the Learners express their joy at trying new foods. As always, a busy time in the kitchen will be had each even week Friday!

