



CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

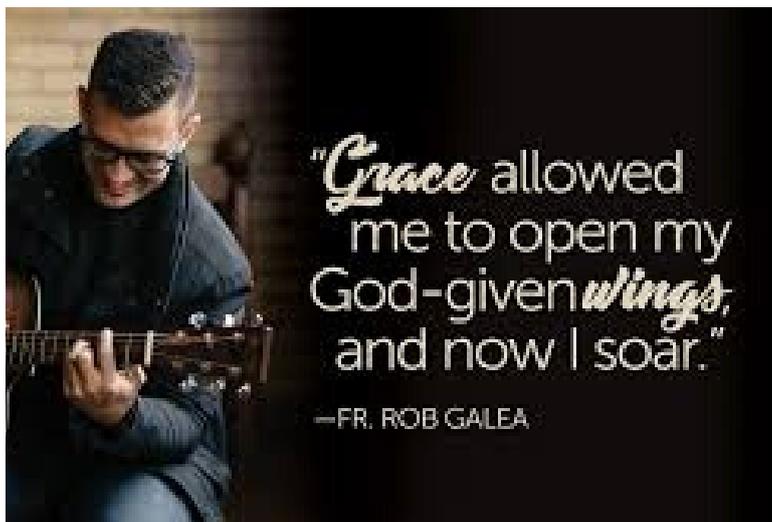
TERM 1 2020

"IS LIFE MEANT TO BE EASY?"



INQUIRY

It is often said, the lessons that we learn as children can set the scene for how we deal with life's challenges as we grow into adults. From the day that we are born, we face challenges and interactions that influence our thoughts, feelings and wellbeing. In these times, we recognise our weaknesses as well as our strengths and utilise these to solve problems. We grow from our experiences into resilient and collaborative adults. Through the Inquiry topic 'Is life meant to be easy?' our Learners are going to explore persistence, resilience, collaboration, wellbeing strategies and habits of mind that they are able to utilise in facing and growing from the challenges that everyday life brings.



SAKG

As we begin the School year we think of the many benefits that can be gained from Learners engaging in the garden and kitchen. As the Inquiry focus includes wellbeing strategies, we think of all the joys that a garden can bring. Time spent in the garden and the natural stimulation of being outside replenishes the mind and re-energises the body. Gardening and cooking engage all the senses. Gardening and cooking for many people is therapeutic and with the skills learnt in the SAKG program, gives the Learners practical skills and stress relief strategies for life. With the recent bushfires that ravaged the Country, a charity gave a plant to every person who lost their home. The joy that this brought was immense to have something green and colourful amongst all the devastation. Plants and gardening certainly bring delight. This year the program has been tweaked with the Learners alternating between kitchen one fortnight and gardening the next fortnight. We want to ensure the Learners delight in the kitchen and garden more regularly. We also warmly welcome Nizelle and what better way to learn a language but through hands on learning in the kitchen and garden.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We begin the year exploring what it means to be a Christian and what it means to serve others. This unit is particularly relevant as we continue to support Caritas through our fundraising efforts during the season of Lent as well as those who have experienced great losses during the recent and ongoing bushfires. Learners will explore those who provide service to others within our own community as well as those throughout the country. Our service will continue in our community as we volunteer with the 'Meals on Wheels' program as well as providing meals for those who are in need at various times. We look forward to celebrating the new School year with our families and community at our beginning of the year Mass on Tuesday 25th February at 6.00pm.

TAGALOG LANGUAGE

This year we welcome Nizelle Sawit as our Language Assistant supporting learning of the Tagalog language. Term 1 will introduce Learners and staff to daily greetings and gestures as well as language which will be used in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program such as verbs including cut, slice and mix along with the numbers to ten.

MATHS

In Term 1 Mathematics, our Learners will be using their persistence and problem solving skills from our Inquiry unit to further develop their abilities in the following topics: Counting & Place Value, Time, Location and Data. Learners will have the opportunity to engage in warm up activities, work in small focus groups, engage in hands-on independent activities and receive ongoing feedback to achieve their individual goals. The Maths Inquiry Grid will continue to be utilised to ensure that Learners are given the opportunity to practice and apply the skills that they are learning to hands-on and real world situations.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL

Research suggests that children who engage in emotional literacy programs are able to develop positive relationships and work collaboratively. Therefore, in Social and Emotional Learning for Term 1, Learners will be investigating emotional literacy and problem solving which will connect with our Inquiry topic in developing an understanding of how to nurture our own wellbeing while facing the everyday challenges that life can bring to our lives. Through these topics, our Learners will be able to recognise that challenges are a daily part of life, understand emotional responses to different situations and problem solve by using persistence and trialling various strategies. Learners will also be given the opportunity to engage in the 'Bullying No Way!' program by participating in various activities which develop the confidence to act on bullying situations.

LITERACY

In Literacy this term, our Learners will explore the question, "Is life meant to be easy?" They will investigate challenges, collaboration and wellbeing through narratives, information texts and procedures, using the purpose, processes and features of these genres to improve their writing and reading comprehension. These will be further supported through the acquisition of targeted reading strategies, word studies and individual goal setting. To reinforce our learning, each student will be provided with a Literacy Grid which will allow them to practice and extend their literacy knowledge, understanding and skills.





MUSIC

Music is such a powerful medium of exploration and expression allowing Learners to develop and strengthen their own identities and to connect to worlds beyond their own. In addition, Music has strong links to improved learning outcomes across the curriculum, including Literacy and Numeracy.

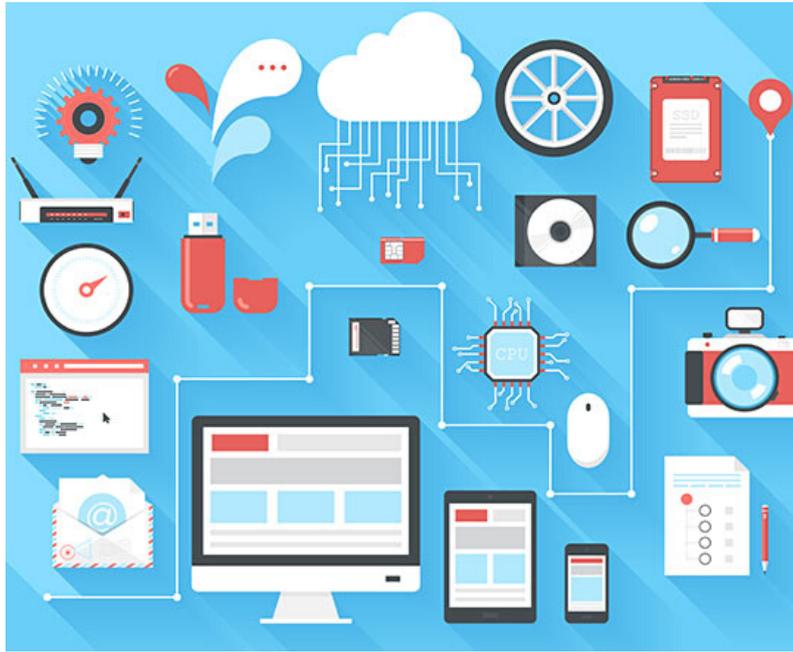
This Term, Our Foundation - Grade 2 Learners will be exploring beat, rhythm, and melody as they compose and share their own compositions, using a variety of instruments, including the Djembe and Ukulele, and through song and movement. Similarly, our Senior Grades will be comparing rhythm and beat, composing rhythms and melodies, and investigating how dynamics can influence their audience.

ART

The Catholic Education Sandhurst theme for 2020 is 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying'. What wonderful words to inspire us. In our first art lesson, we will decipher what this means to us. We will be guided from the verse in Romans 8:27-28 that includes 'And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them'. We will all delight in the joys of paper marbling and then to draw ourselves expressing how we can work together for God's purpose. The theme fits nicely with the Inquiry unit which will guide our learning for the term. Other learning experiences will include looking at the work of Henri Matisse. Henri coined the expression 'Creativity takes courage'. We will construct a mural that reflects this. We will also construct large rainbow collages. We will read a beautiful picture story book and reflect on the symbolism of a rainbow appears after rain. We look forward to a creative term in the art room.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For four Wednesday's of Term 1, our Learners will be travelling by bus to Cohuna, accompanied by teachers, to participate in a safe, inclusive and enjoyable gymnastics program. This program is designed to provide our Learners with the scope to practise and develop the fundamental movement skills they need to lead an active and healthy life. The additional weeks will be covered on SAKG days where Leiza and Jean have planned activities to continue to support students' development and wellbeing.



LIBRARY

Reading is explored through every curriculum area promoting skill development as well as a love for literature. Learners will require a Library bag to allow them to borrow from the Library ensuring books are well protected. Borrowing opportunities will be available on a *Wednesday* during the afternoon break from 2.00 - 2.20pm. The Library will remain open to all Learners during this time for those who would like to read and browse through the shelves.

TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING

In Foundation - Grade 2, Learners will be exploring how a sequence of steps and decisions are used to create programs that solve simple problems as well as how to check and fix a program they have created.

In Grades 3 - 6, Learners will be exploring a range of digital systems including computers, mobile devices and cameras. They will use these devices to be able to investigate different components and their functions, transmit data between devices as well as problem solve using technology.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

February

- 5th - Foundation rest day
- 7th - First SAKG day
- 10th - P.L.A.N for each Monday commences
- 10th - Swimming sports practice
- 10th - Parent/Teacher/Learner Conversations
- 12th - Foundation rest day
- 19th - Gymnastics in Cohuna
- 19th - Foundation rest day
- 20th - First Aid in Schools Program at PHC
- 21st - Swimming sports day
- 24th - Foundations begin full time attendance
- 24th - School Photos
- 26th - Beginning of the year Mass at 6pm
- 26th - Gymnastics in Cohuna

March

- 4th - Gymnastics in Cohuna
- 9th - Labour Day Holiday
- 11th - Gymnastics in Cohuna
- 13th - Kids in the Kitchen Program
- 21st - Pyramid Hill Fiesta
- 27th - End of Term and 2.30pm finish



St. Patricks School
Pyramid Hill