

TERM 1| JANUARY 2021

HOW CAN I BE ALL THAT I CAN AT ST PATRICK'S?



INQUIRY:

Our Heavenly Father created us in His image, with the potential to become like Him. He blessed us with unique gifts and talents that help us to fulfil not only our responsibilities but our greatest potential. Knowing who we are and who we can be, gives us purpose and helps us to live out our lives to the fullest.

Our Inquiry unit for Term 1 'How Can I Be All That I Can?' asks our Learners to investigate resilience, perseverance and coping strategies to overcome challenges and ensure that we are always striving to be our best selves. This unit makes strong connections to both our Religious Education unit about Charism as we investigate how St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was all that she could be as well as the Respectful Relationships Program which provides lifelong strategies and links to Learners' own personal stories. This topic for exploration aims to build a base for 2021, where Learners are able to reflect on the challenges from the previous year, draw from and build upon known strategies for dealing with stress and challenge as well as use their strengths to guide them on their journeys toward being the best that they can be, always.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Charism identifies our founding mothers, the Sisters of Saint Joseph and their work to provide Catholic education to the Pyramid Hill community and beyond. Understanding the Charism of St. Patrick's Primary School identifies the work of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop and how her story inspires ours. Story is important for us to know our individual identity and our personal gifts which are found in the image and likeness of God. This term we will consider the qualities of Mary MacKillop and how these inspire our personal and individual story as well as the story of our School community. Persistence and courage were two of Mary MacKillop's attributes which she called upon throughout her life. Our Learners will be supported to develop these attributes in themselves, guiding them to be the best version for themselves. Learning is challenging and requires both persistence and courage!



LITERACY

Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing skills are all dependent upon each other when developing literacy in children. We are better able to communicate when we are using all of these skills together by reading and analysing texts, holding discussions about learning and responding to texts or ideas through writing. This year, we will utilise this knowledge, by creating a Literacy block that encompasses all of these skills within one designated block of time. This time frame will continue for the same duration each morning: two hours. From 9am, the Words Their Way spelling program will commence, followed by reading, which will be a springboard for discussion, and then further into responding through writing.

Our Learners may not notice much change in routine, however, they will notice the interconnectedness between speaking, listening, reading and writing as they explore these skills in unison.

As we begin our 'Visible Learning' journey this year, our Literacy block as well as all other areas of learning will be guided by Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.

These will continue to play a major role in helping our Learners to be able to name both what they are aiming to learn and achieve, as well as when and how they have been successful. When Learners understand what they are learning and why this is important, there is often more success in both the learning and the understanding.



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The Resilience Rights and Respectful Relationships program that has been implemented in schools across Australia, aims to teach children social, emotional and positive relationship skills from a young age. Studies and evidence shows that efforts to promote social & emotional skills and positive gender norms in children and young people can improve health related outcomes and individual wellbeing. In Term 1, through teacher-led discussions, use of multimedia tools, personal reflection and relationship building activities, Learners will identify and investigate theirs and others emotions. This involves identifying how they or others may be feeling, how they are able to express this, how to positively interact with others and what the consequences may be of expressing emotions in social situations.

MATHEMATICS

Patterns are at the heart of Math. The skills involved in recognising, continuing and creating patterns, supports Learners to make predictions based on what they can see. Understanding patterns helps prepare Learners for working with complex number concepts.



In Term 1, we are using this understanding to map our Learning in Mathematics to integrate and connect learning in meaningful ways. Learners will explore the concepts of: Patterns and Algebra, Number, Location and Place Value.

Mathematics continues to be a structured block which includes a warm up, small group instructional time and practice of skills as well as Math Recall Grid time where Learners apply their skills to new contexts.

We are very excited to announce that this year, we will be introducing a double block of Mathematics sessions each Monday. Over a period of two weeks, Learners will be engaged in a total of 12 hours of Mathematics.



Learners will experience little change in routine as the structure will remain the same, however they will benefit from extra learning time allowing them to further practice and develop their Mathematical



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Loddon and Terrick Swimming sports have been scheduled to occur on Friday 12th February. All Learners will have an opportunity to practise for their events on Wednesday 3rd February departing for the pool at 2.00pm.

We hope that our Foundation Learners will join us on our walk to the pool as we will pick them up on the way past their home! Gymnastics will be the sport of focus for the four weeks following the Swimming sports. Palmer's Gym in Cohuna will lead the learning for these weeks.

ART

The Catholic Education Sandhurst theme this year is, Faith in our Future. What a wonderful and reassuring theme to guide us through another year as we think about how we can each grow our faith and in turn share our faith.

From the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 22 and verses 37-9 we are reminded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind as well as love our neighbour as ourselves.

In Art this term, we will explore the notion of faith and hope.

During the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, a children's publisher collated artwork from children all around the world and used this to write a children's book called Hope the Rainbow Fairy.

We will read the text together and complete our own hopes and dreams for the future by completing a crayon resist drawing. We will also use paint pens to draw on wooden blocks to reflect how our faith in God can be as solid as a rock.

Furthermore, we will look at street artist James Goldcrown and his famous mural of hearts as we draw our own heart drawings using pastels and smudge for artistic effect. We will also complete a painted tape art heart. As we lead into Easter, we will complete an Easter collage picture using paper scraps as inspired by Henri Matisse and his collage style. An exciting term ahead, as always in the Artroom this term!



SAKG

Just as a new year heralds a fresh start, the same applies to our garden. During Term 1, the Learners will prepare the garden beds and research what can be planted now to give us an abundance of food in Terms 2 and 3. Learners will rotate each fortnight to assist with garden duties.

How the kitchen will run this term will depend on Covid guidelines. We have shown our adaptability in the kitchen previously with each Learner preparing their own meals. We hope that we will once again be able to share meals together soon. Learners will continue to plan the menu, prepare and cook healthy food with produce from the garden. We look forward to igniting our taste buds again in the kitchen this year!



MUSIC

Music has the power to open our hearts and minds. So we are beginning the year with learning that is designed with the capacity to empower Learners to recognise their uniqueness and reveal, affirm and develop their talents. By using our imagination and experimenting with musical ideas this term, Learners will be encouraged to explore their thinking and learning in exciting and innovative ways. This will also be a fantastic platform for exploring instruments, body percussion, movement, and dynamics. Our Junior Learners will launch into music with lots of games and activities that allow them to explore body percussion and then transfer this to other percussion and string instruments.

Our Senior Learners similarly will commence the year by experimenting with body percussion and then enriching this learning with a variety of acoustic and electronic instruments. It is also noteworthy that this year's music lessons will only be held during odd weeks; however, as music provides links to learning across the curriculum Learners will be able to sustain, practice, and use their musical learning in other areas of their school lives.



TAGALOG

The learning continues as we progress into our second year in Tagalog language. This term, we will start with the learner's motivation that language is more than vocabulary. Tagalog greetings and prayers will be re-introduced, we will use them inside and outside of our classroom to have spontaneous learning through communication skills. We will introduce ourselves using the language, recognise the stationeries and different facilities in and around the school. We will deal with the fundamentals of words and its use as we learn about numbers, colors, shapes, days of the week and months of the year. Also we will infuse the language in our SAKG, we will continue to nurture not only our appetite but the use of Tagalog in the recipe and kitchen guidelines as well.



IMPORTANT DATES IN TERM 1

- Foundation rest days: (Wednesday) 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th February
- Beginning Year Mass: 9th February
- Cohuna Gym dates: 16th, 23rd February & 2nd, 9th March
- Learner Free dates: 26th February (Staff professional learning day) & 8th March (Labour day public holiday)
- St Patrick's Day: 17th March
- End of Term 1: 1st April @2.30pm