

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Over the past few weeks, everyone has been working incredibly hard, and it's truly inspiring to see the students' enthusiasm for learning. We've been exploring the St. Joseph's values and discussing how we can embody them in our daily lives. This week, our focus is on **kindness** and being a good friend. With the start of Lent, we turn our attention to the practices of reflection, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

On Wednesday, **NAPLAN** will begin for the Year 3 students. They completed a practice session last Friday to help them prepare and become familiar with the process for the upcoming assessment.

Please remember to bring **homework folders** back to school on Mondays so we can update them with new homework, home readers, and spelling test results.

IMPORTANT DATES

12 March
NAPLAN begins for Year 3 & 5

17 March - 21 March
Parent Teacher Interviews

21 March
Harmony Day

11 April
Last day of School



ENGLISH

Spelling

Spelling groups have been organised for the term, with students focusing on their individual spelling targets. Each day, students participate in songs, explicit lessons, and brainstorming activities, followed by the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, students select a task to complete using their spelling words. On Fridays, they test their knowledge through peer or teacher assessments.

Writing

We've been engaging with the novel *Kensuke's Kingdom*, using elements from the story to guide our writing lessons. We've explored the structure of narratives and even written our own stories about a message in a bottle. Currently, we're focusing on persuasive texts—examining their purpose and structure.

Reading

Our guided reading groups are well-established, and we're actively practicing our reading through the STARS comprehension program, the Epic reading app, independent Accelerated Reader novels, and various activities tied to our novel study.

HASS

In History we will be learning to compare homes of the present and past, and how these have changed or remained the same over time. We will also discuss dates and changes that may have personal significance (e.g. birthdays, holidays, celebrations, seasons). We will also be learning about daily life for the first settlers.

TECHNOLOGIES

In Design Technology, students will learn about First Nations Peoples' shelters and compare this to first settlers pioneer homes. They will design and make First Nations shelters using materials such as twigs, branches, leaves, mud, spinifix grass and mud. Students will also design and create an olden day, pioneer home. In HASS we have been learning about what life was like for the early settlers, and the students will also apply this knowledge to features of their design, for example by creating an outdoor 'dunny'!

SPORT

In sport we will continue working on our catching and throwing skills. Students will focus on underarm and overarm throw, increasing distance and accuracy. We will be linking our catching and throwing skills in with some modified Tee Ball games. Students will develop their ability to strike the a ball and understand the tactics of running between bases.

HEALTH

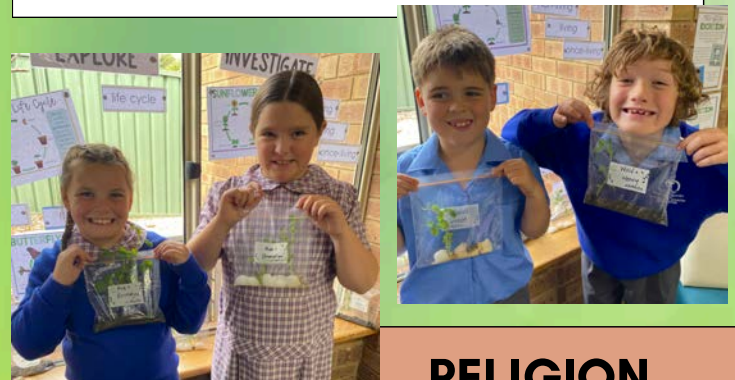
For the remainder of this Term in Health, Year 1/2/3 students will continue exploring the concept of Staying Safe. Students have learnt strategies to identify feelings and identify safe places. They will now explore the warning signs their bodies might provide when they are feeling unsafe, explore the concept of risk taking and learn about how to respond in emergency situations.

MATHS

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on Place Value, learning to identify numbers up to 10,000. Daily practice includes reading these numbers, writing them in words, and comparing them to determine which are larger or smaller. We have also begun our unit on addition strategies, where we are exploring both mental and written methods to solve addition equations.

SCIENCE

We have been exploring the criteria that distinguish living from non-living things. Over the past four weeks, we have been observing and recording the growth of our seeds, comparing the differences between seeds grown in soil and those grown in cotton wool. Next week, we will begin researching the life cycles of various animals.



RELIGION

Our Religious Education unit will explore the meaning of Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter. We will be learning that people celebrate important dates and events and that Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. We will learn that Christians remember the events of Holy Week and celebrate Jesus is risen at Easter. We will learn that Christians share the good news that Jesus is risen with others

HEALTH

In Health we are still exploring the topic of being safe. In the coming weeks, we will learn about identifying risks in certain situations. We will then focus on what to do in certain emergencies and how to navigate emergency situations to stay as safe as possible.

HASS

This term, the students will explore the Geography strand in HASS. Year 4 students are exploring the effect we have on our environment and why sustainable habits are important. We will turn our attention to water sources and how these are maintained and sourced appropriately.



TECHNOLOGIES

We have started our Design and Technology units based on food and fibre production. Students have explored how milk gets from the farm to the shop and investigated different milk cartons. In the coming weeks, they will create their own design. Students will then examine how food and fibre production has changed over the years in efforts to become more productive and sustainable.

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RELIGION

Students will be discussing virtues that help people make good choices. We will be exploring how the Holy Spirit gave Jesus strength and guides and comforts us in times of need. Students will explore scripture stories and the Stations of the Cross, focusing on the history, geography and traditions relating to the prayers of the Stations.