20 February 2017

**Stage 1 - Term 1 Overview**

Welcome to St Luke’s Catholic College, where we believe that a strong partnership between parents, students and teachers is essential to ensure the best education for your child. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this term.

**6 Pillars**

As mentioned at our recent information evening, the following 6 Pillars form the cornerstones for our work at St Luke’s. Students will be taught to do the following at a level appropriate to their age:

- Witness by living the Good News as revealed through the Gospel of St Luke;
- Manage themselves - both in the classroom and on the playground;
- Relate to others - through all interactions across the day;
- Communicate and collaborate with peers and experts;
- Think creatively and critically, reflecting on their actions and their work; and
- Be digitally literate.

**Key Value - Respect**

As part of the ethos of our school, we value respect. We explicitly teach students to show respect for self, respect for others and respect for their environment. This is done as part of Religious Education, Personal Development, Health & Physical Education, Science, as well as being a focal point across the school day.

**Guided Inquiry**

Guided inquiry prepares students for living and working in the information age by facilitating the development of a range of skills and strategies that will promote autonomous learning. Following the gradual release of responsibility model, teachers explicitly guide students to engage in deep learning, with increasingly greater responsibility being given to students for the learning over iterative cycles of inquiry. Students learn how to engage with a topic of choice by locating, scanning, questioning, analysing, synthesising, creating, sharing, reflecting and evaluating.

**Religious Education**

This term we will learn about Jesus, our Friend. Through the teaching and learning in this unit the children will develop an understanding of the qualities of a good friend and identify ways in which they could make others feel special. Students will listen to, read and recall Scripture stories which reveal the qualities of Jesus’ friendship. They will also create a prayer of thanks to Jesus and identify how caring for others reflects and responds to the love of Jesus. In our second unit, *Lent: Growing Together*, children will identify Lent as a time of growth and change, explain
how they are growing and changing and explain how Jesus helped others change into better people. Students will also describe actions they can take to help others during Lent.

**English**
Across Stage 1 students will communicate with a wide range of people on familiar topics, interacting effectively, learning new communication skills and selecting appropriate vocabulary to enhance meaning. They will pay attention to instructions, share ideas and communicate effectively in group and class discussions. They will draw on their own experiences, their imagination and ideas learnt when creating spoken texts.

Students will use an increasing range of viewing and comprehension skills and strategies, including meaning, grammar/structure and letter-sound relationships, to make connections between texts. They will learn to read short texts with some unfamiliar vocabulary, simple sentence and images using fluency and intonation. Students will locate information that is explicitly stated, as well as using language and images to make inferences about characters’ motivations.

Students will create a range of texts on familiar topics by planning, proofreading and editing their own writing. Students will write for different purposes and audiences using basic grammar and punctuation. They will use their knowledge of letter-sound correspondence, sight words and spelling patterns when attempting to spell unknown words, as well as writing consistently and clearly using NSW Foundation Style and digital technologies. They will also explore digital technologies to construct multimodal texts. Students will learn to reflect on and assess their own and others’ learning.

**Mathematics**
Students will ask questions, use known facts, objects, diagrams and technology to explore problems and develop mathematical fluency. Students will link mathematical ideas and support conclusions by explaining or demonstrating how answers were obtained. use appropriate language and diagrams to explain strategies used.

This term students will focus on the concepts of Whole Number, Addition & Subtraction, Patterns & Algebra and 2D Space. They will use place value to help count, order, read and represent two- and three-digit numbers. They will use a range of strategies and informal recording methods when adding and subtracting one- and two-digit numbers. Students will create, represent and continue patterns involving numbers and objects, as well as sorting, representing and describing two-dimensional shapes, including quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and octagons.

**History - Present and Past Family Life**
Across Semester 1 students will work on a unit called *Present and Past Family Life*. They will explore how family life has changed over time, show how the present and past differ and describe the sequence of time. They will develop understanding of other people’s views and experiences and how these affect decisions made. Students will use skills of historical inquiry and communicate using appropriate historical terms.

**Science - Spot the Difference**
Students will learn to show interest and enthusiasm towards science and technology, responding to their curiosity, questions and perceived needs and wants. They will engage responsibly with issues that are relevant to their lives. Students will question, predict, investigate, collect and record data when producing solutions to identified needs and want. This term students will focus on identifying ways that everyday materials can be physically changed and combined for a particular purpose.

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Learning = Infinite Possibilities
**Personal Development, Health & Physical Education**
Students will describe characteristics that make them both similar to others and unique. They will also continue to work on communicating appropriately to enhance their relationships with others, as well as recognizing that their safety depends on the behavior of themselves and others. Students will recall and reflect on previous experiences when making decisions and solving problems. They will take part in physical activity, discussing the importance of physical activity and positive health choices on wellbeing.

**Creative Arts**
Students will be involved in Visual Arts and Drama experiences across Term 1. They will make artworks about real and imaginary things. Students will learn about artists - who they are, what they do and what they make. They will begin to interpret the meaning of artworks and the role of the artist and his/her audience. In Drama lessons students will take on roles to explore familiar and imagined situations. They will use elements of drama, expressive movement and voice to depict events and feelings.

**Other**
Further information will be provided relating to content across each of the learning areas at the beginning of every term.

*Miss Gomez & Sr Teresa*  (Stage 1 Teachers)