20 February 2017

Kindergarten - 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

The following 6 Pillars form the cornerstones for our work at St Luke’s, with students being taught to do each of 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

During Term 1 we will focus on the unit, God Loves Me, through which the children develop an understanding of the God–given qualities that make them unique, describe and critically reflect on how they express their feelings, recognise and appreciate that God loves them and identify how they can show their love for their family and friends. We will also explore a unit on Lent, whereby children will identify Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent, recall the story of the first Palm Sunday, recognise special signs and symbols and develop a greater appreciation of Lent through participation in liturgies.

English

Across the year Early Stage 1 students will communicate informally with peers, teachers and known adults. They will learn to communicate clearly and purposefully when engaging in pair, group and class discussions. They will become active listeners who can follow simple instructions and ask relevant questions, as well as delivering short presentations using familiar and learned vocabulary.
Students will use a range of viewing and comprehension skills and strategies, including meaning, grammar/structure and letter-sound relationships, to make meaning of short, predictable texts on familiar topics. They will learn to read with fluency and accuracy. Students will respond to various written, visual and digital texts, identifying main characters and events in imaginative texts and key ideas in short informative texts. Students will make connections between what they read and their personal experiences.

Students will be made increasingly aware of the nature, purpose and conventions of written language. They will create, recreate and retell simple texts through performance, drawing and images. Students will demonstrate awareness of the basic text structure, grammar and punctuation needed to communicate a message, applying simple editing techniques to improve the quality of their work. Students will use their knowledge of letter-sound correspondence when attempting to spell unknown words, as well as writing most lower and upper case letters appropriately. They will also explore digital technologies to construct multimodal texts. Students will learn to reflect on and assess their own and others’ learning.

**Mathematics**
Across the year students will ask questions, use known facts to explore problems and develop mathematical fluency. They will use everyday language, concrete materials and informal recordings to show understanding. Students will link mathematical ideas.

During Term 1 students will focus on the concepts of Whole Number, Addition & Subtraction and Patterns & Algebra. They will learn to count to 30 and order, read and represent numbers to at least 20. They will combine, separate and compare collections of objects and record using informal methods. Students will work on recognising, describing and continuing repeating patterns.

**History - Personal & Family Histories**
Across Semester 1 (Terms 1 & 2) students will work on a unit called *Personal and Family Histories*. They will communicate with one another about their own heritage and the heritage of others, using objects from the past and the present. They will listen to, recall and retell stories about familiar objects and events, distinguishing between the past, present and future. They will various forms of communication, including oral, graphic, written and digital technologies. Students will also identify similarities and differences between individuals in the past and the present.

**Science - What’s it made of?**
Across the year 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 explore their surroundings by questioning, observing using their senses and communicating to share their observations and ideas. During Term 1 students will use a simple design process to produce solutions to problems.

**Personal Development, Health & Physical Education**
During Term 1 students will continue to develop skills in the area of respecting self and others, expressing their feelings, needs and wants in appropriate ways. They will give examples of how individuals care for each other. Students will also participate in physical activities and seek help when needed.

**Creative Arts**
Students will be involved in Visual Arts and Music experiences across Term 1. They will make simple pictures about things and experiences, experimenting with a range of media. They will begin to understand that artists make artworks and communicate their ideas about these artworks.

Further information will be provided relating to content across each of the learning areas at the beginning of every term. Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Mrs Stone & Miss Stivactas*
Early Stage One Teachers.