Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to a very productive, exciting and fun year of learning together. 2013 brings with it the introduction of the new Australian Curriculum (AusVELS) in the areas of Mathematics, English, History and Science. All other subject areas will be taught and assessed against the VELs curriculum. Below you will find an overview of our Term 1 foci:

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Our first Parent/Teacher meetings are scheduled for Tuesday February 12th from 1pm to 7:30pm and Wednesday February 13th from 3:40pm to 6:30pm. We are looking forward to hearing about your aspirations for your child in 2013. We find this initial information about your child invaluable and it also helps us in establishing the very important partnership between home and school.

**Religious Education**

The R.E topics for Year 5, Term 1 are:
~ Life is Good- God creates each person with dignity
~ Lent- A time of God’s generosity- I can live generously through Lent

The R.E topics for Year 6, Term 1 are:
~ Teach us to pray- Prayer in the Catholic tradition
~ Lent- Identifying the barriers between God and ourselves
~ Easter- Interpreting the significance of the events of Holy Week

**Inquiry**

Our Inquiry Unit for this term is “How is Australia Governed?” This unit will begin with our camp to Canberra and will continue throughout Term 1. Some aspects to be covered will be The Three Levels of Government, Democracy, Timeline of Federation, How Laws are Made and Voting Rights and Processes. We will end the term with a mock parliament to see who our future politicians are!

**English**

In writing we will be exploring autobiographies and expositions, both persuasive and argumentative. Year 6 will also be exploring newspapers and writing articles.
In reading students will be completing literacy rotations such as Reading Journals, grammar activities, comprehension, teacher focus group and an ICT based literacy activity.
Spelling is still part of our Writing and there will be a lesson dedicated to a spelling focus every week.
In grammar we will be addressing specific grammar and language conventions as well as revising punctuation rules and proofreading and editing strategies.
Mathematics

Year 5 will be covering the following areas throughout this term:
~ Place Value
~ Counting
~ Addition and subtraction
~ Multiplication and division
~ Measurement and geometry
~ Problem Solving

Year 6 will be covering the following areas throughout this term:
~ Multiplication
~ Division
~ Decimals
~ BODMAS
~ Area and perimeter
~ Problem solving

Art

As a follow up to visiting the National Gallery in Canberra, students will be exploring different art genres and experimenting and creating their own artworks based on these genres during Semester One.

Homework

Now your child is in the senior years of primary school our focus for homework is on helping children learn time-management and organisational skills. We ask for your support as we establish this learning. If there are extenuating circumstances, which prevent your child from completing his/her homework to the expected standard we ask that a note be written in their diary.

In Year 6, homework will be given most weeks on a Monday and collected on the next Friday. In Year 5 homework will be given on Thursday and collected on the next Wednesday. We ask that parents sight/check homework each week and sign their child’s homework. Reading is still an expectation for a minimum of twenty minutes and the students have a reading log to complete in their homework book.

Housekeeping

Weekly Timetable

Monday  Library
Tuesday  ICT, Inquiry lesson
Wednesday Music, Italian, Art
Thursday Choir, PE, Inquiry lesson
Friday  Inter School Sport
Testing

During the first few weeks of a new school year the students are tested in a variety of ways in the areas of Maths and English. The results are then reviewed and programs/strategies put into place to enhance individual learning.

Absent Notes

It is a legal requirement that a note is provided for any school absence. This is kept on file as part of our school records.

Dates for your diary

Feb  1   School leadership speeches
       4 - 8  Canberra Camp
       11  Badge ceremony for school leaders assembly
       12  Parent teacher Meetings 1pm – 7:30pm
       12  Early dismissal - 1pm
       13  Ash Wednesday Mass 9am
       13  Parent teacher Meetings 3:45pm – 6pm
       17  Sunday – Opening School Mass 9am
       25  District swimming (to be confirmed)

March 12  Open morning for parents 9am – 11am
         14  Year 6 Leadership Conference
         28  End of term 1pm

April 15  Term 2 commences

In Years five and six at Sacred Heart there is a strong emphasis placed on students’ initiative and ability to work independently. The expectation is that students will be involved in all areas of school life and work to the best of their abilities.

As you can see it will be another busy but productive term. If any problems or queries arise please feel free to drop us a note or make an appointment to speak to us outside of class hours.

Thanking you
Sarah Duffy & Sara Borghesi