Welcome to Year 3! We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable break. We are really looking forward to a wonderful year of learning.

**Religious Education**
Our unit this semester is Reconciliation: Living in a Forgiving Community. This module is designed to support the Parish Sacramental Program for First Reconciliation. In this module students will explore the human experiences of forgiving and being forgiven. The module introduces students to the Sacrament of Penance where we celebrate our reconciliation with God and one another.

The second unit we will be studying this term is Lent to Easter. In this module students will explore the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way. Through participation and involvement in the module as well as in whole school Lent and Easter activities and celebrations the students will explore how Jesus reached out to others through his relationships, actions, feelings, healing, lifestyle and word.

**English**

**Reading:**
The children will participate in Guided Reading groups daily during the class literacy block. Groups are levelled according to reading and comprehension ability. Other groups work independently on spelling, punctuation, grammar and reading comprehension activities, while the teacher is instructing the focus group. Children are encouraged to be independent learners during this time. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily. Some of the aspects we will be looking closely at this term are:

- Reading a variety of text types, in particular this term, Information Reports, Narratives and Persuasive texts
- Practising known reading strategies
- Developing strategies for reading more complex texts
- Comprehension Strategies
- Summarising
- Note taking
- Identifying audience and purpose

**Spelling**
We will be using the Sound Waves Program as well as engaging ways to explicitly teach five core spelling strategies. We want children to think about patterns in our language as well as gain an awareness of what strategies they use

- Sound – focusing on sound
- Visual – focusing on how words look
- Meaning – thinking about word meaning
Connecting – making connections with other words

Checking – using live, print or electronic resources

Each child will receive a fortnightly spelling list comprised of list words from the Sound Waves Spelling program and personal words. These lists target the phonemic approach focusing on the sounds of our language.

**Handwriting**
Children have a focused handwriting lesson each week. In Year 3 they begin to learn joined foundation handwriting. The children will use the Foundation Handwriting text to practise the correct skills. Correct pencil grip is encouraged at all times. Children who do not have a correct pencil grip are encouraged to use a moulded pencil grip for all of their writing.

**Speaking and Listening:**
The children will be involved in oral storytelling, group presentations of research and independent speaking activities. They will also be involved in oral comprehension activities and following sequences of oral directions.

**Library**
Both Year 3 classes have their library lessons with Mrs Harrison on Wednesdays.

**Mathematics**
Our Mathematics program follows the New Australian Mathematics Syllabus. We focus on Stage Two outcomes, which cover the areas of Numbers and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability and Working Mathematically. The children will be using a variety of materials to explore and develop the concepts involved and they will record their investigations in their Mathematics books.

The key areas we are investigating in Term 1 are:

**Whole Numbers**
- Count forwards and backwards by 10's or 100's from any starting point
- State the place value of digits in numbers up to 4 digits
- Read, write and order numbers of up to 4 digits

**Addition and Subtraction**
- Model and apply the associative property for addition
- Use and record a range of mental strategies for addition and subtraction of 2, 3 and 4 digits
- Perform calculations with money, including calculating equivalent amounts using different denominations
- Use the equals sign to record equivalent number sentences

**Time**
- Recognise the coordinated movements of the hands on a clock
- Read and record time to the minute, using digital notation and the terms ‘past’ and ‘to’

**Data**
- Plan methods for data collection
- Collect data, organise into categories and create displays using lists, tables, picture graphs, and simple column graphs (one-to-one correspondence)
Multiplication tables are taught and practised throughout the whole year. Children will be expected to recite and practise these for homework continually, to improve speed and accuracy of mental calculation.

As part of a whole school initiative, students will be focusing on **Counting** strategies throughout the term. Your child will have some activities to complete as part of their homework each week. Please see the homework book and mark these off as they are completed.

**Science**
Our Science unit for this term is “Mini Beasts”. The students investigate observable features, change and growth of living things. They research the stages in the life cycle of a mini beast. If the children would like to bring any mini beasts in to class could they please be in a sealed plastic container and be of the non-poisonous variety!

**History**
This year we are exploring further the new History Curriculum. Our History unit this term is Community and Remembrance. The unit explores:
- celebrations and commemorations of significance in Australia and the world
- how significant individuals, groups and events contribute to changes in the local community over time
- the skills of historical inquiry and communication

Student will have the opportunity to sequence key events and people in chronological order and identify key dates. They will pose a range of questions about the past, identify sources (such as written, physical, visual, oral) and locate information to answer these questions. They will recognise different points of view and the students will develop and present texts, including narratives, using historical terms.

**Personal Development/Health and Physical Education**
The children will have PE lessons with Mrs Kerr once a week on **Thursdays**. The extra Sport lesson with their class teachers will be on **Tuesdays**. Children are required to wear their sports uniform on these days.

Our PDH unit for this term is Positive Relationships which includes ‘Understanding Bullying’ and ‘Co-operation Crusade’ which covers positive relationships, bullying, conflict, the need for rules and peer influences.

**PBL**
Our core value for this term is: **Respect**. The rules will be focusing on showing justice to self, others and the environment.

In our PBL lessons the children have been learning about cyber safety. Below are 2 websites that you may want to look at with your children regarding cyber safety at home. It is very important that the children are aware of this at school and at home. The other rules are constantly being revised as a whole school focus.

**Creative Arts**
Music/ Drama lessons will be with Ms Rudd on **Thursdays**. Visual Art lessons will be in class with the class teacher. Could you please make sure your child has a paint shirt as they will be required to wear them in most art lessons. The unit for this term will focus on creating Mini Beasts through drawing, painting and design.

**Technology**
The children will be using the Internet to research Mini Beasts for their Information Report. They will also be learning how to make a Venn diagram on the computer and will be printing it out to show the likes/differences of Mini Beasts. The children will also continue to use Word for their publishing of writing and other learning tasks. Computer skills are integrated across the curriculum.

**Homework**
Homework this term will consist of reading 15 to 20 minutes each night, spelling words, Mentals book and whole school Maths homework. On occasions topic research may be included.

This term we will be giving homework on a Monday fortnightly and it will needs to be returned on Thursday morning of the second week. The Mathematics Mentals book is taken home for homework but please make sure it is returned each fortnight. If your child is struggling with the Mentals book please circle the Question and we can address it with them in class.

**Dates for the Diary:**
07 Feb - Parent Information for Reconciliation & Eucharist (1pm in Church)
09 Feb - Parent Information for Reconciliation & Eucharist (1pm & 7pm in Church)
10 Feb - Opening School Year Mass (11.30am)
17 Feb - Welcome BBQ
21 Feb - Parent Information / Meet the Teacher Evening
23 Feb - Group Leader Information for Sacrament of Reconciliation (1.30pm & 7.30pm in Church)
28 Feb - Northern Beaches Swimming Carnival
01 Mar - Ash Wednesday Mass (11.00am)
04 Mar - Yr 3 Family Mass + Rite of Enrolment for Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharist
06 Mar - Catholic Schools Week
09 Mar - Broken Bay Swimming Carnival
17 Mar - St Patrick’s Day Liturgy
22 Mar - Yr 3 Class Mass (9.15am)
22 Mar - Polding Swimming Carnival
24 Mar - Open Morning - Kinder 2018 + New Families (9.30-11am)
28 Mar - Soccer Gala Day - Yrs 3 & 4
31 Mar - Rehearsal for Sacrament of Reconciliation (5pm in Church)
05 Apr - Sacrament of Reconciliation (4.30pm & 6pm in Church)
07 Apr - Holy Week Liturgy (9.15am in Church)
07 Apr - Last day of Term 1

We hope this curriculum note has outlined our class program and expectations for Term One. It should be a wonderful term of learning! Please don’t hesitate to make an appointment with us, either before or after school, if you would like to see us regarding any matter.

Kind Regards

Brooke Perry and Skye Nolan-Brown