Year 2 Curriculum Note and Class News

Term 4 – 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope the school holidays gave your children (and perhaps yourselves) a break from the school routine. Below is an outline of what we will be covering in all Key Learning Areas throughout Term 4.

Religious Education

Confirmation
This term many of the students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which is on Saturday 18th October at 11 am and 12:30 pm at Pittwater Parish, Mona Vale.
Please know that the children are in our prayers as they deepen their understanding of God’s love for them in this sacrament, as well as the love and support of family and friends who celebrate this special occasion with them.

Mission: Loving God and others like Jesus
In this module, students relate their experience of the loving actions of family members and others to the example of Jesus through a study of ‘Jesus and the Blind Beggar’ (Lk 18:35-43). Students will learn how Christians with a sense of mission can love God through their relationships with others at a personal, local and global level. Students will be encouraged to identify how they can participate in the mission of Jesus through loving God and other people in imitation of Him.

Advent to Christmas:
Advent: Students will be introduced to the Old Testament prophet Isaiah who waited in joyful hope for the coming of the Saviour. This module consolidates the concept of Advent as a time of waiting.
Christmas: Students relate their experiences of waiting for Christmas and of the celebration of Christmas with biblical accounts of how Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men responded to the birth of Jesus. In learning more about the Church’s celebrations of Christmas, they will participate in activities which reinforce the true meaning of Christmas as a time of happiness when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and receive and spread God’s love, peace and joy.
English

The children will be engaged in learning activities involving speaking and listening, writing (including spelling and grammar) and reading and viewing.

Reading and Viewing
Reading groups take place daily. Children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is instructing a focus group during instructional/ guided reading. Continuing to develop strategies for reading unknown texts will be a focus of our reading group sessions this term. Strategies such as questioning, inferring and summarising will be modelled and practised. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily.

Writing and Representing
The text types that will be taught explicitly this term as part of our writing program are Narrative and Exposition. The children will be involved in construction of shared and independent texts. Grammar conventions and punctuation will be taught through writing. This term we will examine prepositions, phases and clauses as part of our study.

Spelling
The students learn a number of strategies to assist them in becoming proficient spellers. During this term, students will be expected to use a number of resources to correctly spell unfamiliar words. The students will continue to use the whole school, systematic approach to teaching spelling in Term 4. The program acknowledges that sounds can be represented in more than one way in the written form and therefore teaches the 40+ sounds and the different letter representations of each sound. We would also appreciate parents to encourage their child to edit for correct spelling during homework times.
The children are also expected to use dictionaries, word banks containing theme words and a Have-a-Go process to support them with their writing. The children will also be looking at word origins and the visual/aesthetic nature of the word.

Handwriting and Using Technologies
The children will continue to learn correct formation of letters and practise these during explicit handwriting lessons as well as practising the formation of numerals correctly. Correct posture is encouraged at all times. We are endeavouring to ensure the children hold their pencils in the correct manner as this habit will continue into future years. Please remind them about correct pencil grip if you notice they are not holding pencils correctly. It is expected that the students realise the importance of presentation of work to ensure clear communication with the reader. We appreciate your support in encouraging them to present their work neatly.

This term we are continuing to use the Interactive whiteboard as a teaching and learning tool. The children will have access to the classroom computers to carry out learning tasks that are integrated across the curriculum as well as other tasks related to particular subject areas. These lessons will focus on developing the students’ skills and knowledge in various computer software and applications as well as being able to utilise this software as a tool for learning.
Speaking and Listening
Throughout the term, the students will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of speaking and listening tasks. We will be working on individual, paired and whole class learning tasks. During Literacy groups this term they will participate in specific activities to improve listening skills. We encourage you to help your children practise active listening at home.
There will be assigned topics for them to prepare and present orally to the class again this term, but if your child has any special news that they would like to share with the class, there will be opportunities for them to do so.

Library
Library lessons will be held each Tuesday for 2D and 2M. The children are required to have a library bag to borrow books and the children are encouraged to borrow books for home reading and/or for reading during class (silent reading time).

Mathematics
In Mathematics the learning activities include warm ups, explicit teaching followed by group and independent leaning tasks.

Focus Topics to be covered this term include:

Revision of –

Addition and Subtraction,
Multiplication and Division

Data
At the end of this topic the students should be able to:
- pose questions and collect categorical data
- create data displays using lists, tables and picture graphs (one to one correspondence)

Mass
At the end of this topic the students should be able to:
- use uniform informal units to measure, compare and estimate the masses of objects
- record masses by referring to the number and type of uniform informal unit used

Science
This term in Science the students will complete the following units:
- “Pushing and Pulling”
- “Floating and Sinking”
- “Hot and Cold”

They will be develop skills in observing, investigating, experimenting and recording results.
Personal Development/Health and Physical Education

Personal Development and Health:

This term our unit is ‘Keeping Myself Safe Around Medicines’ This unit seeks to develop an ability and a commitment to act in ways that will protect self and others from harm. It emphasises respect for the human person and the development of a co-operative, caring society. Some of the questions we will be addressing are:

- What should I do to get help?
- What needs to be kept in a safe place?
- How do my friends and I use medicines safely?
- How do I know what is safe for me?

P.B.L (Positive Behaviour for Learning):

P.B.L. lessons for the Year Two students will cover the rule ‘Caring for Others”. As part of this, the students will also participate in weekly “Respectful Relationships Groups”. These include students from Kindergarten to Year 6. In addition, each student will continue to track their 'Reason to Smile' sticker awards. These sticker awards and certificates acknowledge individual achievements.

Physical Education

The children will participate in a PE lesson with Mrs. Munro on Thursday. Extra Physical Activity with the Year 2 class teachers will take place on Tuesday. The program includes Tennis, Basketball Clinic and Ball skills. Sports uniform to be worn on Tuesday and Thursday.

Creative Arts

This term in Visual Arts the students will have the opportunity to use a variety of media and continue to develop these skills. Towards the end of the term we will focus on Christmas Art and Craft. Students will be participating in a weekly Music/Drama lesson on Thursdays with Ms. Rudd.

Homework

As in the past terms the students will continue with a set day for receiving and returning homework each week, which means they will have 7 days to complete the tasks e.g. Monday’s group will get readers and homework tasks on Monday and return them the following Monday, Tuesday’s group will receive and return theirs on Tuesdays etc. The children have been provided with a plastic folder and or homework bag for their home readers, homework books and notes. The homework will include daily reading, Spelling, Numeracy and usually an activity from another Key Learning Area. The Mathematics text will also be used for homework at times. It is essential that the Maths text book is returned to your child’s school bag each day, as we will be referring to specific tasks within school time too. Could you please check and sign your child’s homework before it is returned. If children are not able to complete their homework please write a note on their homework sheet. This assists us greatly as we then know that you are aware that the homework hasn’t been completed.
**Absent Notes**

Please ensure that you send in a note regarding absences. The roll is completed online. If notes are not received within 3 days then the absence is recorded as “unexplained absence”. A reminder too, that if your child is going to be absent from school (e.g. holiday) for more than 5 days then an “Application of Exemption from Attendance at School” needs to be submitted prior to the absence.

**Birthdays**

Once again a reminder that if you choose to send in any food to celebrate your child’s birthday please be aware of the children who may have allergies. Please also consider the choice of food, i.e. food that requires preparation or a cake that requires cutting is not suitable.

**Morning Organisation**

We appreciate your co-operation in not blocking the area near the school bags and doors so that the children can focus on unpacking their bags independently.

**Afternoon Organisation**

At the end of the school day, we frequently give reminders to the children and hand out notes. It is important, therefore, that the children are present and attentive. Recently, many children are looking for parents or being distracted by parents talking near the classrooms. It would be greatly appreciated if the parents could wait away from the classrooms.

We hope that this information sheet outlining our class program and expectations for Term 4 has been helpful to you. We are happy to meet with you regarding any concerns throughout the year. Please note, if more than a few minutes are needed, then it is best for parents, teachers and your child to organize an appointment so that the discussion is uninterrupted and any data required is at hand.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the education of your child,

Yours sincerely,

Suzy Driscoll    Diana Sullivan    Carmel Mitchell