

Year 6 Parent Information Night 2017

Welcome to Year 6. We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year working with your children. Year 6 students are expected to have a positive influence on our school population. They will be expected to take ownership of their behaviour and accept the consequences of their choices. Consolidation of independent learning and good work habits will be a focus for this year. It is also expected that as leaders of our school each Year 6 student will wear the full school uniform with pride.

Key information –

- Parents must visit the office during school hours if they wish to speak to their child or if collecting them early.
- **Punctuality** – to maximise each child's learning it is essential that they are on the Marist site by 8:48am each day. Late arrival is unsettling for the student and also disrupts the rest of the class. If, on some occasions, your child has to arrive late or must leave early you need to obtain a slip from the office and bring it with you to the class teacher. Please ensure that you deliver your child to the teacher. Sometimes students who are late have been left on the wrong site when their class is at music, drama or sport.
- **Absences** – a legal requirement for all schools in Australia is the keeping of accurate attendance rolls with notes from parents or caregivers explaining absences. If your child is absent please send a note the next day (even if you have phoned) or you can advise the school through email or skoolbag, stating whether it was illness or family reasons (we do not need any other details). Please note that all partial absences (even 5 minutes) must be recorded.
- **Wet Weather**- when wet weather has been called in the morning, a yellow sign will be on the fence and students are to be dropped at their classrooms after 8.30am. On a Friday Year 6 need to be dropped at the Marist site in the event of wet weather as their classes begin on the Marist site.
- **Pick Up and Kiss**– this is a very convenient way to collect your children. For the safety of all children we cannot allow children to leave their lines to get into cars as we are walking to the dismissal area. Pick Up and Kiss is called from 3:10 to 3:30 each afternoon. In extreme wet weather Pick Up and Kiss may be cancelled but if this is the case a notice will be put up on the gates and in the Pick Up and Kiss area.
- **Rainwear** – as students cross the road numerous times during the day (Library, Music, Drama etc) it is very important that your child has some way of protecting themselves from the rain. They may bring either a raincoat or an umbrella.
- **Dismissal**: Students are to assemble in the afternoons in the designated dismissal areas. Children being picked up from the COLA need to remain seated until their parent or carer collects them from this area.

- **Positive Behaviour School:** We aim to reinforce positive behaviour across the school. Bullying is not tolerated and students are encouraged to report any bullying incidents. Students involved in bullying incidents need to fill out a bullying form and the teacher in charge of the Stage will interview all students involved. Please remember that bullying is not a one off incident, it is when a child is targeted over a period of time by the same student/s.
- **Uniform policy-** Students need to be in correct uniform otherwise an “infringement notice” will be given.
- **ICT-** The acceptable use agreement was handed out last week. All students and parents must sign this agreement for students to be allowed to use the computers at school. These notes must be returned by the end of the week. Any child who hasn't returned it by then will not be allowed to use the technology at school.
- **Class Parents-** every year the P and F ask for class parent representatives. Please consider volunteering for your class.
- **Library-** Year 6 will attend library every Friday. Reading is a gift and one we use for life. Please encourage your child to borrow books and to read every night.
- **Sport uniform-** Students are to wear their sports uniform on a Wednesday and Friday. If students are not wearing the appropriate sport shoes, they will not be able to participate in the sport lesson.
- **Year 6 Shirt-** We are in the process of organising our Year 6 shirt. We hope to have this arranged and sorted within the next few weeks. Once they have been finalised, students are able to wear this shirt in place of the navy school sport shirt. This is an optional piece of school uniform.

Homework

Homework will remain the same as last year, it will consist of reading, reading activities, spelling and number fact revision. At times, students may be required to complete additional research or finish class tasks. We will also be setting up accounts in Studyladder for the students to access.

Events for Year 6

Canberra – In line with the units of work on Australian Democracy and State and Federal Government, the students will be attending a two night excursion to Canberra- 31st May – 2nd June. Detailed information outlining costs, itinerary and packing requirements will be sent home in the next few weeks as soon as costings are finalised.

Voice of Youth – In Term 3 the students will participate in a public speaking competition. This will require them to present a 3-4 minute speech. Two or three students from Year 6 will be selected to represent St Mary's at a Diocesan public speaking competition. The number selected will depend on the cluster's decision. All schools in the cluster will send the same number of children.

Allergy Aware School

We ask for parental support in maintaining our status as an allergy aware school. Due to the potential risk students with nut allergies might be exposed to, we ask that you do not send food products containing nuts (e.g. peanut butter/nutella sandwiches) to school. Also remember that NO birthday cakes or lolly bags are permitted at school.

Parent / Teacher Communication

We are always willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have. We do ask that you use the diaries, email or call the office to arrange a time when you need to meet to discuss things. Sometimes the matter to discuss may be urgent and requires an impromptu meeting and we are aware of this, however, it is usually best to arrange an appointment time. We will use the student diary to make contact when necessary and hope that you will do the same. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please approach the class teacher first. We ask that we always be your first "port of call". During meetings all Year 6 teachers may be in attendance. Do not be alarmed if this is the case. It is an opportunity for all involved to be kept up to date and work towards achieving the best for all the children in our care. Please provide a current email address as a further means of communicating.

Curriculum Overview

Religious Education: Students will be engaged in a range of units from the Diocesan syllabus 'Sharing Our Story'. They will be involved in Masses, Liturgies and Reconciliation throughout the year. We encourage parents to be actively involved in the spiritual side of school life. Please try to attend the Liturgies and Masses throughout the year. We also encourage you to develop the faith and attend Sunday Mass regularly with your children.

Project Based Learning (PBL)

Last year the Stage 3 teachers joined many other schools across the Diocese in a 3-day workshop about Project Based Learning. Stage 3 will gradually introduce this approach to learning, particularly in relation to the History, Geography and Science curriculum areas. All the work we have done on Inquiry Based Learning has formed a wonderful foundation for us as we begin using this model. Groupwork forms a significant part of PBL so we have begun the Term with a Project related to working cooperatively in groups.

English:

Activities covered will include:

Guided, modeled, shared and independent reading and writing, talking and listening

We will continue to develop the students' knowledge and skills of the writing process which will involve: Conventions of grammar and sentence structure, spelling patterns and rules. We will be working on the children's editing skills and encouraging them to self reflect on their writing so as to develop the skills that will encourage them to be reflective writers for a variety of purposes.

Mathematics: Each strand of mathematics will be studied throughout the year with particular focus on the process and the language of mathematics. Students will work independently, in pairs or in groups to complete rich tasks. The focus being the processes and the language involved in mathematics, so as to develop their mathematical understanding and ability to transfer their knowledge to everyday activities. Whilst drill and repetition may allow some children to rote learn facts they are not necessarily the best way to develop understanding.

History/Geography and Science: These units will be taught with a PBL focus.

Term One: Federation & Government/Electricity

Term Two: Migration (Government)/Space

Term Three: Global Connections:Asia/ Properties and Material

Term Four: Yet to be decided/ Environment and affect on growth and survival

PD.H.PE:

PE-

Students will participate in gymnastics, athletics and dance activities with Miss Gonnet every Friday. Students will participate in other sport activities on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

PD.H-

Positive Behaviour Management Program/Protective Behaviours focusing on growth and change, encompassing puberty and adolescence. This unit includes an information evening for parents tonight and parents and students later in Term 1.

Creative Arts

Students will be actively engaged in Drama/Dance and Music lessons with Mrs Kirkness and Mrs Dennis.

If there is anything that you would like to discuss in more detail or are concerned about, please contact us and we will happily give you our time.

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