Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 5 Term 1 2016!

Our initial focus for this term is student leadership and relationships. Throughout the year, students will be exposed to the issues that leadership entails in formal and informal positions. From this they should come to a realisation of the greater responsibility that they have as part of being in Year 5. We look forward to seeing our students embrace this concept.

**Teaching and Learning**

**Religion**

In Religion this term students will learn about "Reconciling God". It encourages students to form a deeper relationship with God and explore their personal spirituality. This unit also has a strong connection to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Specifically, students will study the way Indigenous people care for the land and their environment.

**Literacy**

In writing, our activities will be focusing upon persuasive arguments and the correct use of punctuation and grammar. These styles will be assessed during NAPLAN testing, so we encourage you to take every opportunity to read examples with your child. This could include written examples such as Letters to the Editor, but could also include listening to TV reports/programs involving people explaining and validating their point of view on an issue.

Our spelling program involves a combination of students using the Sound Waves 5 text and a variety of spelling activities tailored to the students' specific needs. Activities to assist their spelling and vocabulary development occur at school, and we expect students to consolidate these activities with practice of their individual list at home, as part of their homework.

Reading activities will be based upon strategies from the First Steps curriculum resource. Students will be participating in whole class, modelled reading, guided reading and independent reading activities. This will effectively compliment the Literacy program.

**Mathematics**

Our year in Mathematics begins with regular revision of mental computation strategies such as bridging, chunking, estimation, rounding, etc... Maths lessons will involve group and individual activities as we focus upon addressing the specific needs of your child. Concepts covered will include: Number, Measurement, Geometry, Space, Probability and Data.

**Integrated Unit**

This year at St Anthony’s we will be implementing a program called Everyone Everyday across the whole school. It is a national award winning program that has been developed by Disability ACT’s Community Development team. Everyone Everyday is a toolkit for Inclusion It is a comprehensive teaching resource for mainstream primary schools, and focuses on the concept of ‘inclusion’. The program aims to create a cultural shift in community attitudes towards those who are excluded for a range of reasons including disability. The underlying assumption is that we all benefit when the environments in which we work, live and play are inclusive; and that we all have a role to play in creating inclusive communities. The Everyone Everyday program targets the Primary School setting and builds on what the school is already doing in the areas of values education and social and
emotional learning. The aim of the program is to equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take personal and collective action to enhance the inclusion of all people, especially children, in everyday life.

**Science**

Our first Science unit is ‘Desert Survivors’ and will be a biological science based unit. It will focus on the adaptations of plants and animals to the Australian environment. The students will be completing a number of experiments to observe and learn the reasons why plants and animals behave the way they do.

**PDHPE**

The focus for this term is ‘Cooperative Games’ and will link to the Integrated Unit on ‘Everyone Everyday’. The students will be developing the skills associated with cooperative team sports which will involve such skill sets as kicking, running, catching and team building. Students will also participate in regular fitness sessions.

**The Arts**

*Visual Arts* will be focussing on famous world artists and their styles, techniques and inspirations.

**Fruit Break**

Please remember to pack your children a small fruit snack each day. Please cut up all fruit into manageable bite size pieces. Healthy ideas might be grapes, blueberries, carrot sticks, dried fruit, etc.

**Behaviour**

We will continue to maintain high behavioural expectations for each student throughout the year, both in the classroom and in the playground. Your child has a clear understanding of these expectations and of the consequences and privileges that are part of being a Year 5 leader.

In Year 5 we believe students are developing self-management skills and as such are given a greater level of responsibility for their behaviour and learning. We will be using a class management program called Class Dojo. This program is an online rewards type system where students can earn points for a range of positive behaviours (focusing on their learning, contributing to a group, good manners, seeing a need and doing something about it, completing tasks to the best of their ability, offering a helping hand, displaying leadership skills, using inclusive language and the list goes on and on). It is designed to reward positive behaviours and to encourage students to consider the choices they make about both their learning and their behaviour.

In Year 5 we have high expectation of the students, particularly within their leadership roles. We believe that the positive support of parents is a crucial element of students developing these self-management skills. Parents will be kept informed of any learning of behaviour concerns or issues that arise within the classroom.

**Homework:**

At St Anthony’s it is an expectation that all students will complete homework. (In the event of a hectic fortnight, a brief note to the teacher informing them that tasks have not been completed would be greatly appreciated). Our Homework practices are outlined, in detail within our Homework policy. The expectation is that students in Year 5 will complete 30 minutes of homework each night. A major component (15 mins) of this is reading. Homework will give the students an opportunity to consolidate their learning and rehearse skills already covered in the classroom. Homework does not include new learning, unless it is an investigation of an upcoming concept and will be labelled as ‘pre-learning’. Homework is set fortnightly to allow students who participate in extracurricular activities to complete set tasks.


You might find this useful in helping your child with their homework.
LIBRARY, ITALIAN, MUSIC & SPORT

All of Year 5 will be involved in Music, Italian and Library on **WEDNESDAY**

Year 5 Sport days are **WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY**

**WWVP PERMISSIONS**

It is a requirement of the ACT Government that all person working (or volunteering) with vulnerable people in schools and similar organisations have approval to do so. All teachers, support staff and parent volunteers working with children, (who are considered vulnerable people under section 28 of the Human Rights Act 2004), are required to apply for a working with vulnerable people (WWVP) card. Parents who do not have this approval and identification will not be permitted to work, even voluntarily within the school. WWVP permissions do expire. If you already hold a WWVP card, please check the expiry date and have it renewed. For new applications and further information please visit [https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Important Dates:**

- Swimming Carnival will be held at Tuggeranong Aquatic Centre Thursday 18 February
- School Athletics Carnival April 1st
- Three Way Conferences 4-6 April
- Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival April 3
- School Photos Tuesday 29 March
- Naplan will be held early Term Two (10-12 May)
- Camp will be held at Sovereign Hill 19th – 21st September (Term Three)

- Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that all items are clearly labelled.
- If your child is absent from school, please send in an absent note as these are a legal requirement.
- Students have been supplied with basic stationary. Please supply a small pencil case to assist in organising your child’s possessions.
- For hygiene reasons, shoulder length hair must be tied back
- If your child is unable to participate in sport or fitness please send in a note.
- Please ensure all food in your child’s lunchbox is nut free as we currently have children in our year level and school that are anaphylactic.
- Catholic Education Office policy states that parents must contact the school immediately if their child contracts an infectious disease (eg. measles, chicken pox, swine flu).

We have a shared responsibility in teaching your child and we value open communication between home and school. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange an appointment at a time that is suitable for both you and the teacher.

As leaders of the school, students are expected to display the appropriate behaviours as outlined in the St Anthony's Behaviour Management policy. Parents will be contacted if students’ behaviour is not in line with the St Anthony’s policy. If a student repeatedly displays inappropriate behaviour that results in their parents being contacted, they may miss out on privileges offered to Year 5 students including camp, wearing a leadership badge or will be required to attend Attention.
If possible a donation of tissues, disinfectant wipes or disinfectant cream would help in keeping our classrooms clean and tidy.

We look forward to sharing the year with you and your children.

Regards,

The Year 5 Team

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