Thursday 11th February 2016

Dear Kindergarten Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Kindergarten. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and working in partnership with you so we can create the best possible learning environment and experiences for your child.

Curriculum

Religion

In Religion, our units align with the Catholic Education programs. Our first unit will be ‘I Can Talk to God’ where students will participate in liturgical celebrations, learn how we are part of the Catholic community and how we can be kind and inclusive of others. We will also teach a unit on Lent and Easter in the Church.

Integrated Unit

Our Integrated Units of work will encompass a variety of Key learning areas including English, Maths, the Creative Arts, History and Science. Our first five week unit is “Me” and will focus on what makes each child special and the differences between each individual. The main emphasis in this unit is the Personal Development of the child and Protective Behaviours. Following this we will complete a ten week unit on “Living Things”. During this unit students will explore a variety of pets, farm and zoo animals. There will be an excursion to the National Zoo and Aquarium.

Literacy

In Literacy we’ll be using the Sound Waves programme to introduce and develop the student’s knowledge of letters and their sounds. Each week students will learn and memorise a small number of sight words. Literature will involve reading Big Books so that students can see the words and join in shared class reading.

Speaking and listening will be covered during daily news and general class activities where students will contribute to class discussions.

Your child’s news day is: ..........................................................

It is important that you reinforce the work being done in class by practicing sight words, letters and sounds consistently.

Student’s progress is being monitored and tracked regularly throughout the year. We will change your child’s reading level after they have been formally assessed. Students take home readers at a lower level than what they are reading in class. This is to develop confidence, fluency and comprehension.

Mathematics

Kindergarten Maths is based on the iMaths Programme. Over the ten weeks concepts from each of the major mathematical strands; Number, Patterns and Data, Space and Measurement will be covered.

Some concepts covered this term will include:

- Studying numbers to ten.
• Exploring, sorting, describing and representing 2D shapes
• Using a range of concrete strategies and informal methods for basic addition, subtraction and grouping of objects.
• Estimating, measuring, comparing and recording using informal measurement.

Sport

Sports days are on **Monday and Thursday**. On these days the students will be participating in Gross Motor Activities to develop strength and skills for involvement in basic games including ball games.

The Arts

The visual arts programme will focus on developing fine motor skills such as cutting and folding. The activities will be integrated within the Literacy Programme and Integrated Unit. Drama will be undertaken through role play during Religion and the *Everyone Everyday* programme.

Everyone Everyday

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.

**House Keeping**

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<th>Library</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Italian</th>
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<td>Tuesday.</td>
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<td>Children require a library bag in order to borrow a book.</td>
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**Need to bring to school**

- Lunch Box
- Water bottle (tap water only please)
- Fruit break container - Children are invited to eat a piece of fruit at 10am each morning. Please ensure that this can be easily consumed. Fruit needs to be pre-cut for your child to eat whilst completing work. No oranges, mangoes or melons please.
- Small flat chair cushion if desired
- Library bag
- Art Smock
- Commercial play dough
Box of tissues
Wet wipes
Cleaning sponges
All items of clothing and personal items must be clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

Parent Help

During Art and Literacy, it is wonderful to have an extra set of adult hands. It is always great to have one or two parents to give the desks and benches a clean on a Friday afternoon and sharpen pencils from 2:45pm. If you are available any other times of the week please contact your class teacher to discuss times. Parent help is invaluable for these activities.

Working with vulnerable people card

It is a requirement of the ACT Government that all personnel 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/

Community Prayer

Please join us on Thursday morning at 9.00am for community prayer in the breakout area. Each week a different year level will be leading prayer. The class for each week will be published in the Newsletter.

Homework

We have a whole school approach to homework. We are trying to make homework more home and family friendly. Your child should do a maximum of 10-15 minutes per night. Please return homework folders on Friday of each week.

Notes:

- If your child is absent (including half day absences) please provide a written note on their return. This is a legal requirement. Alternatively you can make use of the School bag app. Phone calls or emails are not sufficient. **We require a written note with your signature.**
- If you have any concerns or matters you want brought to our attention please make an appointment to see us. We can be contacted by phone or email.

Kind regards,

Kindergarten Team

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