Welcome to the first edition of Holy Spirit’s new Learning and Teaching eNews. In the eNews, we aim to communicate information that helps families come to know some of the curriculum content, share some current research on learning and teaching with you, offer tips to support your children at home with learning experiences and share and celebrate the current learning experiences of Holy Spirit students.

Being a digital publication, we can easily embed links to useful sites, publications and work samples for you to explore further.

In this edition:

- Mathematics Dimensions – Learning to know and do in Maths
- Term 3 Curriculum overviews for each Learning Community

As always, we welcome your feedback. Comments can be emailed to awedding@hsthornburyeast.catholic.edu.au or shared in person with your child’s classroom teacher or a member of the leadership team.

Allison Wedding
Learning and Teaching Leader

Mathematics Strands – Learning to know and do in Maths

From 2014, new Mathematics titles began appearing on our school reports. We began to refer to terms such as geometry, algebra and statistics from a primary school viewpoint and to assess our students under these new headings. The Australian Curriculum emphasises links and natural relationships between these different areas (or strands).

Number and Algebra: This strand incorporates our traditional number work including counting, operations, place value and number properties. The algebra part of this strand incorporates exploring connections between operations, recognising patterns, relationships and equivalence. Algebra at a primary school level does not necessarily look like the $x, y, a, b$ experiences that we generally associate with it, but children, right from Prep, are engaged in exploring early ideas that promote algebraic thinking.

Measurement and Geometry: In this strand students develop understandings about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and objects, visual patterns and transformations. They learn skills, such as constructing figures and objects. Where possible, Measurement and Geometry are presented together to emphasise their relationship to each other and students are involved in measuring attributes of shapes and objects including length, area, mass, capacity and volume. This strand also incorporates work on location and mapping and further experiences of measurement including time, temperature, speed etc.

Statistics and Probability: This strand involves students analysing and interpreting data, such as graphs and tables. They learn to ask appropriate statistical questions, gather data and present findings in different forms. Students are involved in predicting outcomes from games and experiments involving chance. As they progress through the school, they increasingly assess likelihood and assign chance by testing and calculating probabilities (eg. ‘There is a 1 in 6 chance that a dice will land on 4’).

The Australian Curriculum also emphasises four Proficiency Strands: Fluency, Understanding, Problem Solving and Reasoning. Whilst we don’t assess students against these strands, their development is highly important and they feature in our everyday learning.

More info can be found at: http://ausvels.vcaaq.edu.au/Mathematics/Overview/Content-structure
Welcome back and we hope you enjoyed the break and are ready for another busy term together. We have already celebrated Italian Day and during Term 3 the students will celebrate Book Week and participate in our school production.

RELIGION
Students will continue to engage in Godly Plays about miracles of Jesus, in particular, *Feeding the Five Thousand* and *Jesus Calms the Storm*. They have been learning about Jesus’ friend Simon Peter who was our first Pope. We are also learning about sacred objects and symbols in God’s house.

ENGLISH
During English we are fostering literacy independence in the students through the Daily 5 program, which consists of: Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Read to Someone, Word Work and Work on Writing. The Daily 5 is designed to engage students to build their stamina and independence in each of these tasks. It also encourages students to engage in meaningful, authentic reading and writing for extended time frames.

We are continuing to focus on teaching students developing reading and writing strategies. In Writing students are will be further exposed to creating recounts, letters and using graphic organisers such as T-Charts and mind maps. In Word Work students are doing activities that will assist them to learn high frequency words, common letter patterns and blends.

MATHEMATICS
In Mathematics we will continue to explore counting forwards and backwards, place value, and patterns. We will be focusing on the concepts of subtraction and shapes. Students will also be learning about Location including position and directional language. They will undertake learning activities that will also incorporate Statistics and Probability.

INQUIRY
In our Community Unit, *Home Sweet Home*, the students have been exploring different types of homes and materials used to build them. They will be designing and building a simple cubbyhouse in small groups to complete the unit. Later on in the term we will commence a unit of work on the ‘Natural World’.

COMMUNICATION (via Email)
Emailing your child’s classroom teacher is suitable to communicate information such as absences, late arrivals/early pickups, uniform matters and other quick questions. With matters concerning your child’s progress or specific situations that have arisen in the classroom or yard, we direct you to make an appointment time with the classroom teacher to discuss these matters in suitable detail. Please note that teachers are usually only able to check emails at the beginning and end of each day and any urgent matters will need to be communicated through the school office.

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We are looking forward to working with you again this term,
Junior BEP - Anna Bianco, June Edwards and Pauline O’Dwyer
English
Reading and Viewing:
- Continue to develop strategies to respond to texts
- In particular comparing and contrasting and making connections to texts

Writing:
- Spelling the first 200 high frequency words as on the Oxford Word List
- Descriptive writing that compares two objects
- Narrative writing: adding detail and descriptive words to stories
- Revising and editing writing

Speaking and Listening:
- Developing the skills of engaging the audience, maintaining eye contact, speaking clearly and listening skills

Mathematics
Multiplication and Division:
- Developing understandings and concepts
- Making equal groups of objects and arrays
- Sharing objects into equal groups
- Developing skip counting patterns
- Matching multiplication stories with arrays

Financial Mathematics:
- Counting money
- Making equivalent sets of coins

Statistics and Probability:
- Language of chance
- Recording results of a chance experiment
- Collecting data and graphing results

Faith and Life Inquiry Based Learning
Inquiry:
- History/Community “How do things change over time?”
- Comparing how home life, school, technology and communication has changed over time
- Celebrating with the People of God
- Objects and rituals of the Mass
- Concert preparation and dance practice
- Science - Natural World
Wishing you a warm welcome back to another exciting term of learning and fun at Holy Spirit Primary School. The Middle Team all hope that you had a safe and happy term break and with plenty on in our area this term, we look forward to continuing to share more memorable moments with you and your children.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support that you have given us throughout Semester One. Please know that we are accessible to discuss any issues and of course celebrate the successes that your child experiences.

Once again, we continue to have the support of Carrie Napolitano, Anna Maria Santoro and Trish Gangi working with us to assist the students through various learning programs and experiences.

We look forward to working with both you and your child as we continue to embark on an exciting learning journey.

Fabiola, Susan, Christine and Warren

**ENGLISH**

Throughout this term the students will be reading, viewing and writing information pieces. They will practise the skill of how to infer information from a text to support their understandings. Students’ understanding of a text will continue to be the underlying focus during the reading hour, within our reading groups and independent work tasks. During Writing students will be composing a variety of information reports. We will be working on skills such as researching, searching for key words, note taking and summarising. We will continue to work on accurate spelling of words within their writing and using correct formation of cursive letters, including starting and ending points.

**MATHS**

During Maths our Number and Algebra focus will be on Multiplication and Division where we will work on developing recall of multiplication facts and their related division facts. We will also encourage students to develop mental and written strategies to solve multiplication problems with larger numbers.

In Measurement and Geometry the focus is on Location, which will include reading maps and grids, following directions, and using scales to calculate distances. We will relate this to the work students are doing in our inquiry unit and investigate the community around us. We will follow this with work on 3D geometry and some related measurement concepts, such as volume.

**RELIGION**

Throughout this term we will continue to on with the concept of Church. The children will investigate the different ways that you can describe the Holy Eucharist, such as presence, meal and memorial. They will break open the structure of the mass and learn about the responses, gestures and rituals used by the priest and the community. Our next unit explores the concepts of human dignity and respect for human life and our natural resources. We will consider ways in which people care for and respect human/natural life and ways in which human/natural life may be harmed. Students will identify and explore either a personal, local or global issue concerning human dignity and respect for life and analyse it in light of Church teaching. At the end of the unit students are invited to make a personal commitment to the issue they have explored.

**INQUIRY**

In our inquiry unit focussing on the concept ‘Community’ students have been exploring the way in which people and societies organise their way of life and interact with the physical environment, both now and in the past. They have and will continue to explore how some aspects of life in different communities and families change, and some remain constant, and how major events have shaped our community. Our next unit will focus on The Natural World and students will have opportunities to further their scientific skills as they learn about natural phenomena.

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- School concert Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th August
- Sport uniform (Monday & Tuesday)
- Diary/ homework – must be completed on a weekly basis
- Class Mass Middle S – Friday 14th August 9am
- Class Mass Middle NM – Friday 28th August 9am
- Middle P Mass – Saturday 12th September 5pm
- Parent Teacher Interviews – Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th September
WELCOME
This term has had an exciting start with Italian Day, which was a big success, our Indigenous guest speaker and excursion to Sovereign Hill. This group of senior students have shown that they have great questioning skills and a real thirst for knowledge. The school concert is also approaching quickly and the students are loving rehearsals for this.

LIFE AND FAITH INQUIRY
The students are currently working in the ‘finding-out’ phase for our inquiry ‘What is Australia’s Story?’ and will soon be moving into their personal inquiries. Throughout the unit the students have explored the Gold Rush, the history of the Catholic Church in Australia, Significant Australians and major events that have shaped Australia’s indigenous history. As part of the learning, a guest speaker from Michael Long’s ‘The Long Walk’ spoke to students and we attended Sovereign Hill.

Our next unit, focusing on ‘The Natural World’, will begin later in the term.

RELIGION
We began this term by looking at the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. In doing so, the students explored the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and the roles of the specific leaders. On Friday the 7th of August the school will be celebrating the Feast of Mary Mackillop at 9am. In preparation the students have studied the life of Mary Mackillop and identified the significance of her actions and beliefs.

ENGLISH
This term, in the area of Reading, our students have been working in mixed groups exploring Australian Poetry. Within these groups students have been given opportunities to explore the expressive language used by poets, act out and recite aspects of the poems and continued to hone their comprehension skills through detailed analysis of each text.

Our students are now working in ‘reading course’ groups again (as they did in Term 2.) They have been given the opportunity to choose a novel which they have begun to explore, focusing on different areas of comprehension and responses to literature. They will continue to be exposed to a variety of graphic organisers to assist them to record and to sort their thoughts, ideas and understandings.

In the area of Writing students are exploring Poetry. They will be immersed in many styles of poetry and be given opportunities to compose and write their own interpretations. They will be supported to use correct structure and choose language appropriate to each style and in accordance to purpose and audience. These lessons will be used as a vehicle to address individual needs and goals including, punctuation, spelling, drafting, editing and publishing. Students will continue to assess and reflect on their written pieces using success criteria.

In the area of Speaking and Listening the students will prepare and present a formal presentation. This will occur later in the term.

MATHS
In Maths, we continue to provide the students with a variety of mental and hands on tasks in order for them to connect their learning to real life situations. There will be a continued focus on maths literacy skills, including the exploration of strategies needed to successfully complete worded problems. Classes have been focusing on several concept areas in Number and Algebra, including multiplication and division and fractions. We will then explore 3D Geometry, measurement and location.

HOMEWORK & DIARIES
A reminder that homework is due each Monday and needs to emailed to homeroom teachers. The students choose one activity from the homework grid to complete each week. Diaries also need to be handed in once a week. The students should fill in their home reading, complete the religion task and ask a parent to sign it. Both of these tasks encourage the students to develop self-management skills which will become more and more important as the students get older.

We invite you to accompany us to our class masses this term:
Senior R & M - Saturday 29th August 5pm

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher Interviews,
Loretta, Emily and Tom