

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 1 Week 3 ~ 9th February 2021

Rec PH and SS:

The new Receptions are transitioning well into school life. They are learning routines and expectations whilst developing positive relationships with peers and staff. The Reception unit has been lucky enough to receive a great amount of support from ESO's. Dana Hansen has been working in the Reception SS classroom and Chloe McKenzie is working in the Reception PH classroom. Both Chloe and Dana have shown fantastic initiative and are building great relationships with the students and parents alike.

Through Maths we are looking at the topic Number. Students have been enjoying hands-on activities to develop their understanding in a play-based approach. We recently completed a Natural Maths Professional Development which is guiding our teaching strategies to incorporate mental routines during our maths warm up.

Through our English block, we have had a strong focus on alphabet knowledge. We have been doing an array of activities each morning to work on this. Through THRASS students have been beginning to work on articulating the 44 phonemes on the THRASS chart and identifying what they look after. Students have demonstrated engagements towards our THRASS activities.

During Discovery Time the students have explored a range of different of activities. This has provided them with many opportunities to develop key social skills which are critical to our transition to school. We have already seen an improvement with students' behaviour cooperation and sharing.

1/2 GE, KC and TH:

We have had a wonderful start to the year in the Year 1/2 cohort. We warmly welcome Miss Georgia Eckermann and Mrs Tamara Hayes as new teachers here at St Joseph's. Students have been adapting to the new routines well and continue to follow the school rules and values consistently. Class structures are coming along well with minor changes along the way. All students are thoroughly enjoying their specialist subjects, showing much enthusiasm when attending each lesson. Our parent information night was an excellent success. We had such an amazing turnout with some wonderful feedback. Parents also really enjoyed having welcome night on the same night. The students had so much fun while their parents attended the sessions. We will continue to link our school values into our Religion lessons and maintain a focus of making prayer meaningful. We will be starting with 'physical science – light and sound' in Science and incorporating HASS focus into our literacy lessons. So far it has been a very positive start to the year with all students on board showing eagerness and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

English: Through our English unit, we have been continuing with our Word study and Handwriting lessons, with the students learning lesson structure very well. We continue to follow the structure of handwriting, THRASS chart articulation, Word Study followed by our word break down activity. We are continuing to adapt our writing lessons to suit the needs of each students, making lessons exciting and engaging. We continue to provide students with writing prompts, teaching them basic page set up and sentence structure. The VCOP program will be implemented, teaching children to include Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation in their writing.

Maths: Through our Mathematics unit, we have been focusing on number and place value. Students have been exploring basic number and number facts through a range of hands-on activities in the Anne Baker 'Natural Maths' program. The daily structure of Natural Maths includes a mental routine for warm up, problem and a reflection at the end of the lesson. Part of our Home Learning will be linked to Natural Maths, focusing on the topic in which we are delivering in class. We are looking very forward to implementing this new program in our classrooms.

Social and Emotional Learning: Through our SEL unit, we continue to have a major focus on the 5 Point Scale – an emotional regulation tool teaching child how to effectively manage their emotions and how to recognise these feelings. We will be reintroducing the child protection unit, looking at feelings and trust networks – what actions to take if children are feeling unsafe.

3/4 BP and SW:

We have had a great start to the year in our 3/4 hub with students settling in extremely well with their new classes and teachers. Students are excited to be back at school and have adapted well to the expectations and routines that we have put in place. We started the year with many relationship-building and getting to know you tasks and activities. Students have had opportunities to reflect on their gifts and talents, and to think about and set learning goals for the term and year ahead. With collaboration from the students, we have outlined clear classroom expectations centred around our school values of respect, safety, learning and trust and students have been working hard to meet these expectations.

We will be starting most of our formal curriculum lessons in the coming week. In English, we will be having daily THRASS lessons where we focus on reading, spelling, writing and phonemic awareness, with the goal being to give students strategies to help them across all areas of the English curriculum. We will be looking at narrative writing using our 7 steps to writing approach and will also be teaching students a variety of reading strategies in our reading comprehension lessons. The staff completed a second Natural Maths PD with Ann Baker in the holidays, and we are excited to implement the strategies we learned to help our students in their mathematical understanding. We will begin with a strong number focus, with the goal being to give students a solid foundation of their number and counting knowledge which we can then build on throughout the year. With our continued whole school focus on reading every day, students have already been filling in their diaries and reading nightly at home. This will form the basis of our Home Learning this year, in addition to a maths activity which we started this week. The students completed swimming lessons in week 2 and enjoyed the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone and build their confidence in the water. We look forward to lots of other exciting events and learning opportunities in the coming weeks and term ahead.

4/5 AH and GM:

What an exciting start to the year! Our classes have begun the year establishing a culture built on Respect, Safety, Learning and Trust. We have spent the first week getting to know the students and developing relationships between all members of our class. Week 2 has allowed us to develop these further and begin introducing more routines and structures with our learning. We welcome Linda Lawton and Jami-Lee McKelvie (ESOs) to our team who are vital in providing support to all the students in their learning.

Our parent information night was great success. It was lovely to have so many parents there demonstrating their support for the students in our care.

The Primary PLT consisting of all the teachers in the Year 3-5 classes have been working closely together during PLT planning times to provide consistency across the Primary PLT and support new teachers to our school. We recognise that our Year 4 students are members of all our classes and therefore focus on ensuring that they access similar learning experiences.

Assessment Data: Diagnostic tests have been undertaken in Maths, Spelling, Reading and Writing this week, allowing us data to gauge where the students are at individually and as a cohort. This data has informed us of each student's learning pathways which has guided our curriculum planning to support and extend all students in their learning.

English: In English, we are working at establishing Guided Reading routines to support students with developing their reading strategies, comprehension, and vocabulary. We are using a word study approach to break down the origin of the words and using the THRASS chart exploring the phonemes and spelling choices of our theme words. Our writing program will begin with the genre of Narrative. We will be using the Seven Steps to Writing program where students will participate in learning the purpose of this text type, structural features and develop skills and techniques in planning and constructing creative Narrative texts.

Maths: In Maths, we are focussing on Number, developing students awareness of the range of efficient strategies to count collections of values and be able to represent these visually, symbolically and with concrete materials. We will then extend their understanding through place value to develop foundational knowledge and the basic principles of number.

Religion: We have begun the term highlighting the importance of Prayer through a unit called 'What is Prayer?' Students are exploring the different types and purposes of prayer and will develop skills in

constructing and leading creative prayer experiences with their peers. Following our prayer unit, we will learn about the season of Lent with the theme of 'Be More'. We are focussing on showing almsgiving to those in need which is connected to Caritas Australia Project Compassion.

Home Learning: Home Learning will focus mainly on establishing and maintaining a regular reading routine. In addition, the children will complete a Maths task each week. Home Learning will commence in Week 3 apart from the Reading which has begun since the start of the school term.

Camp: We have booked our camp for Wednesday and Thursday of week 10 this term at Illawonga (just outside Swan Reach). The camp places a strong emphasis on the Team work and outdoor activities. The activities at Illawonga Camp are varied and are based on a study of river ecology, animals & the Murray Mallee. Information about wombats, Kangaroos and aquaculture are included. The learning takes place in a fun environment and may include the activities of yabby fishing, ride on a tour boat and go to Sunnydale farm. The camp also has a gymnasium with a huge foam filled pit. Other activities include team rowing in a large boat, campfires, archery, 8 ball and table tennis.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning with our enthusiastic team of students!

6/7 EN, SH and TL:

This year has started positively for the Year 6/7 classes with students embracing their roles as leaders within the school community. They have developed leadership skills through their work in many different activities with each year 6/7 teacher. They were also fortunate enough to complete a leadership session with Nathan Hayes. He was also able to present some interesting images of the new Catholic high school, which engaged all the students. All the leadership experiences have allowed students to prove themselves as potential candidates for leadership positions in 2021. We are looking forward to electing our leadership roles in week 3.

Our key focus has been the development of leadership qualities discussing what types of leaders they hope to be. We have already seen considerable growth in maturity as a result of our leadership program and are excited to continue to see the students evolve.

As a result of our leadership program students have been looking at important skills such as speech writing and public speaking. Students are stepping up to the new pressures of Year 6/7, working hard to meet expectations and due dates.

Swimming has made a big impact on relationships built across the two weeks, leading to a more positive and cohesive learning environment. In addition to this, our focus on creating flexible seating arrangements has been a great success, with positive student feedback as a result. We are excited to begin implementing our combined flexible learning to complement our environment moving forward.

As we come to an end of our first two weeks, we begin to introduce our new middle schooling approach and describe to the students the strong structures to prepare them for High School. We are looking forward to seeing how this plays out in the next few weeks.

Year 6/7 teachers roles this term:

Home group – religion, child protection, leadership, problem solving strategies and THRASS – all teachers

Ella Noack – Integrated Teacher

Stephanie Hocking – English Teacher

Tony Luxton – Maths Teacher

Year 6/7 team

Religious Identity:

We have begun our year well. Our Diocesan theme this year is "Come and Stay". This is about welcome, hospitality and making families feel like they belong at our school. Across the school we are looking at how to engage students and families with our theme, and bring it to life within the school.

Classes have outlined Masses that they will attend and prepare on Friday mornings over the course of the semester. Families will be invited to attend these with their children and share morning tea afterwards, following COVID rules.

Desiree Guy has continued work as our school Youth Worker. This is a part of the School Chaplaincy program. Desiree is working with Michael on how to support the school and parish in their work with young people. She will be working with lots of students through choir and ESO-type roles.

Mini Vinnies are hoping to begin their visits to the Vinnies shed on Thursday mornings to help with clothes sorting and food pack preparation. Last year this was missed quite a lot with COVID rules, as out of school events were difficult. We want to make sure that all students in Year 6 & 7 get a chance to visit this year.

We are in the planning stage for our Sacramental Program this year. We have 28 students who will be taking part in Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation this year.

The Grad Cert in RE continues, but teachers are going to Adelaide for it this year. Five of our teachers are taking part in different subjects. This will help them with the teaching of RE and ways to make it engaging and relevant for students.

We are starting to look at our Caritas Project Compassion fundraising plans for Lent. We will have our usual Harmony Day/St Joseph's Day fundraising day (on March 19th) which the Year 6s & 7s run. We are also trying to look at other things we can do during Lent.

Bishop Karol will be officially opening our STEAM building on St Joseph's Day (19th March). This will be a big event.

Our whole staff attended Mass in Loxton 2 weeks ago, where we joined all Riverland Catholic school staff for the Commissioning Mass, including Nathan Hayes.

Michael is going for a meeting with Bishop Karol next week in Port Pirie.

We are awaiting information about how events such as Ash Wednesday can happen for the school.

Special Education:

Teachers are currently identifying students who need support. This support will be co-ordinated to include reading intervention, as well as things like Speech assistance, numeracy assistance and social/emotional assistance. Michael will be co-ordinating these interventions and support with Paul, Kassie, Ella, Chrissie, Tony, Julie and Amy, as well as all ESOs involved with these students. We are using our OneNote tracking tool for all staff to use to record adjustments, strategies and communication for the students identified in our school as needing adjustments for their learning. Currently we have 69 students across the school who are being tracked.

We are looking at inviting our new Learning & Behaviour Support consultant from the CEO to our school to learn our context and work with us to best support students.

HPE and School Sport:

In Health, all classes have had a focus on developing their Growth Mindset in preparation for the upcoming challenges they will face in and out of the classroom. There has also been a significant focus on mindfulness in lessons. We have started the year in PE participating in activities that promote teamwork, leadership and communication, building important skills that will be required throughout the year. Both the R-2 and 3-7 classes will begin their focus on fundamental Athletics skills from Week 3 onwards. This 5-week unit will allow time to prepare for our Sports Day in Week 8. Mrs Thompson (R-2) and Mr Sampson (3-7) have been setting clear expectations regarding attitude, participation and teamwork in lessons.

In School Sport, students have been nominating for SAPSASA events with Swimming being the first event of the year in Week 4. We hope to fill as many races as possible and see if we can improve on our strong efforts from previous years.

Fraser Sampson & Amy Thompson

Arts:

The students drew and painted a kookaburra, focusing on using pale colours on the background to add contrast and depth to their work.

They are drawing facial expressions of different levels of emotions for the 5 Point Scale.

The Reception students have designed artwork on the Kid Pix computer program..

The students decorated the school with 'Come and Stay' (religious theme for the year) posters for the Information/Welcome Night.

Languages and Technologies:

We are doing the same flip model this year with Language and Technology. Some lessons will be integrated using both subjects.

R-2 classes have started comparing Australia and Italy through a variety of activities and will be introduced to the Italian Language.

3-5 classes have started recording basic information about 4 different countries and will be using this information to help design their own country.

6/7 classes are doing Home Economics this year and have the Italian Language integrated in lessons. We have started with kitchen safety and set up.

ESOs:

What a smooth and exciting start we have had to 2021. We have farewelled Tayla James from our team as she returns to her study in Adelaide. We have welcomed Eva Matulick, Dana Hansen and Linda Lawton who all bring a multitude of skills to our wonderful team. We're trying to use the same structure as previous years with consistent ESOs in year levels. Our team consists of the following amazing people;

Adrian Hunt	Grounds maintenance
Chloe McKenzie	Rec-1/2 HUB
Dana Hansen	Rec-1/2 HUB
Deb James	Wellbeing Coordinator
Eva Matulick	Rec-1/2 HUB
Jake Anspach	6/7 HUB
Jami-Lee McKelvie	3/4 & 4/5 HUB
Kiara Lodge	Rec-1/2 HUB
Larissa Bright	Canteen and Rec-1/2 HUB
Linda Lawton	3/4 & 4/5 HUB
Reeni Leuders	3/4 HUB & IT

The school holidays consisted of the BIG MOVE, yes just as big as last year's BIG MOVE – "wow!" is all we can say. Every class teacher changed classrooms including supporting the Admin move for the fantastic new floor! (We'll have that in our spaces too Donny!!)

ESOs are continuing to take turns on recess and lunch duty to help in the Nature Play area. The term has been a very busy start including assisting all swimming lessons during week 2 as well as helping collate all the start of year data. We look forward to an exciting year ahead in what has already shown to be an awesome success.

The ESO team.

Student Wellbeing:

It has been a great start to the year, particularly with our new students and families settling in really well. Fraser Sampson will be teaching health lessons this year which will comprise of a combination of social & emotional learning, safety teaching, food & nutrition, community health, the human body and the impacts of technology, sleep, water etc. Lessons will have a clear focus, e.g. Growth Mindset, which will be consistent throughout the school. However, each year level will participate in different age appropriate learning activities. Fraser's aim is to incorporate some bite sized mindfulness exercises that students can use for themselves when needed.

We are very fortunate to have welcomed Kirsty Johnson as our Counsellor this year. Kirsty brings with her a high skillset and has strong knowledge of what is required here at St Josephs. She has already formed some positive relationships with students and their families.

The Wellbeing Action Team consists of Donny, Chrissie Grocke, Fraser Sampson, Kirsty Johnson, Julie Slagter and me. We are in the process of forming a Wellbeing Committee which will comprise of parents and we will work closely with the P & F Committee to complement one another and work towards common goals for our whole school community.

Deb James