

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 2 Week 3 ~ 11th May 2021

Rec PH and SS:

The Receptions are transitioning well into school life this term. 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. Miss Dana, Reeni and Ms. Guy have shown fantastic initiative with students and have built great relationships with parents too.

Our Maths unit for the next 2 weeks is on the topic of Shape. Students have been enjoying hands-on activities to develop their understanding in a play-based approach. We are continuing to look at a number of the day as we are recording each day at school. This is helping students to develop number and counting skills. We will be further extending these activities to provide a Maths warm up to every lesson.

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. We also have alphabet focussed activities throughout our literacy work. Through THRASS students have been working on articulating the 44 phonemes on the THRASS chart and identifying what they look after. Students have demonstrated engagements towards our THRASS activities. Students have started to also earn their Hot Word Books. This book is given to students once they learn all 26/26 letters of the alphabet (lower and capital letters). This is a very exciting stage as it will then lead to students being tested for levelled readers.

We have also introduced STEM lessons into our planning this term. These activities will be completed fortnightly. The students have already completed one challenge of building a ramp with the aim to measure which car goes the furthest. The skills needed for STEM range from resilience, critical thinking skills, communication skills, designing and drawing plans and sharing resources. Students have demonstrated great engagement to this learning and are very excited for the next challenge.

1/2 GE, KC and TH:

What a great start to term 2! Students have come straight back from holidays and are eager to learn! We have our specialist subjects in which the students have been working very hard in already. I know a fan favourite has been working on Mother's Day portraits in Art with Mr Reeks. As teachers, we have been making it our upmost responsibility to keep you informed with what we are doing in our classrooms, sharing work samples, displays and pictures of the students in the depths of learning experiences. We have celebrated Catholic Education week in Week 2, sharing our love and compassion for learning in a Catholic school, especially around our theme of 'Come and Stay'. In relation to religion, we are focusing on the Church as our theme this term. We will be conducting a tour around the Renmark Catholic Church together with Fr Paul and Fr Hau, documenting the most important elements inside the Church and why they are important for us to know. The junior primary classes are also going on an excursion this term to Monarto Zoo! We are eager to get up close and personal with the Animals. Because of our excursion to Monarto, we thought that the science unit of 'Living things' would connect best for this term. Through the unit of living things, we will be looking at the life cycle of mealworms, what habitats the animals need that are at the zoo and also how we as humans grow and change as we develop. Our classes are beaming with enthusiasm and eagerness for all the things that will be going on this term and we look forward to sharing more of what we are doing in class with you throughout the term!

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 are focusing on formative writing, recounts and informational texts throughout these writing lessons. 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. 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:

Our 3/4 classes have had a strong and successful return to school for term 2. We continue to encourage our students to challenge themselves in their learning and we are proud of the efforts we are seeing. We are assisting children to find better ways to negotiate challenges that arise from interactions with peers.

We are helping to prepare our year 3 students for the upcoming NAPLAN assessments. This is their first time to undertake this style of assessment and we have been working to make sure they are familiar with the online testing method.

English

- Continued use of the Reading Eggs program for literacy development
- Detailed word study of 5 words each week, as well as revision of HOT words and continued activities with the THRASS method
- Introduction of a weekly spelling activities contract to promote independent practice and correct written usage of high frequency words
- Persuasive text using Seven Steps
- Daily Reading and Guided Reading

Maths

- Continued practice of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Developing fluency of times tables
- Commencing Unit on Fractions and decimals
- Problematised situations

Science

- Finishing our unit on Life cycles
- Starting Sun, Earth and Moon (Y3) and The Earth's Surface (Y4)

HASS

- Geography Focus
- Australia, our Neighbours and Our Diverse Planet

Religion

- Catholic Education Week. "Love one another as I have loved you", looking at how we show love to our family, friends and community, and how the spreading of love has a positive impact our lives and the lives of others.
- Preparation for First Eucharist, understanding the sacrament that some of our classmates will be taking this term.

4/5 AH and GM:

Our students have settled well back into school routine. We are looking forward to lots of rich learning tasks to do the term ahead. We are practicing and supporting our year 5 students to prepare for their NAPLAN assessments to take place next week.

Assessment Data: Diagnostic tests continue to be undertaken in Maths, Spelling, Reading and Writing. This data will guide our teaching and provide focus for areas of improvement.

English: In English, continue to use the THRASS chart exploring the phonemes and spelling choices of our theme words. We will be focussing on persuasive writing and recount throughout the term. Students are showing a solid foundation of understanding which we are building upon.

Maths: In Maths, we continue our work within the four operations 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 also begin to cover fractions and decimals in the coming weeks.

Religion: In celebration of Catholic Education Week, we had a strong focus on hospitality and how we can incorporate this into our lives to have positive effect on others. We are also exploring the idea of 'Ubuntu'. Ubuntu is named after the Nguni philosophy of ubuntu, which Canonical indicates means "humanity to others" with a connotation of "I am what I am because of who we all are". Ubuntu means love, truth, peace, happiness, eternal optimism, inner goodness, etc. Ubuntu is the essence of a human being, the divine spark of goodness inherent within each being.

Home Learning: Home Learning will continue to focus a regular reading routine as well as a Maths task for students to complete.

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

6/7 EN, SH and TL:

As we are now well into the school year the Year 6/7s are continuing to have great success with their learning and numerous special events. The 6/7s are constantly demonstrating their leadership skills and qualities as well as being mindful of their peer's wellbeing regarding bullying, both of which have been important focuses this year.

During Week 8, the Year 6/7s demonstrated their leadership skills once again at Sports Day. All house captains did a fantastic job ensuring that members of their team were at their events on time and the day ran smoothly. Those students who were not in a house captain role also demonstrated leadership by encouraging team spirit and caring for younger students.

Week 8 was a busy one with Harmony Day, St Joseph's Day and the opening of the Tennison Woods STEAM Building. The Year 6/7s worked for weeks leading up to Harmony Day preparing their stalls to make money for Project Compassion. This included many rich learning experiences surrounding profit, budgeting, estimating, persuasive writing, advertising, teamwork and leadership. The day was a great success and the Year 6/7s raised \$1,590 through their efforts.

During the first week back for Term 2 the 6/7 students were visited by Senator Anne Ruston. Senator Ruston spoke about her path to politics, what her role entails and the importance of leadership. The 6/7 students shared the bullying posters that they had created in Visual Arts with Mr Reeks and discussed the impact it has on school aged children and the wider community.

During Week 2 of Term 2, the 6/7 students involved in Mini Vinnies had the opportunity to serve the lovely mothers, grandmothers and friends of our community for Mother's Day afternoon tea. The students thoroughly enjoyed being able to service the community.

For many weeks now the Year 7 students have been working hard in preparation for NAPLAN in Week 3. We have been working on question and answer formats, understanding what a question is asking, locating information and positive mindsets going into the tests.

After a busy start to the year, Term 2 has afforded us the opportunity to return to our normal structure and routine. In English the 6/7s have learned about autobiographies, biographies and are currently focusing on narrative writing. The focus in Maths has been learning about simplifying fractions. In Integrated lessons the 6/7 students have learned about Ancient Egyptian societies and are currently focusing on renewable energy, recycling and the impact humans have on our planet.

Religious Identity:

This week we celebrate Catholic Education Week. Our Diocesan theme this year is "Come and Stay", and this is also our theme for this week. We have a number of liturgies this week celebrating being a Catholic school. We also have our annual "Switch Off" day on Thursday, where we go without power and highlight environmental conservation and the Catholic perspective of being Stewards of Creation.

Class Masses on Fridays continued last term. We will continue these this term, so hopefully all classes will have had a Mass by the end of the Semester.

We have had a great start to our Sacramental Program this year. We had 9 students who took part in Reconciliation in Holy Week and will have 9 celebrating First Communion in about a month.

We had a great response with Project Compassion fundraising this year. The whole school raised \$4715 which is an amazing effort.

Bishop Karol officially opened our STEAM building on St Joseph's Day (19th March). This was a great celebration and important moment for the school community.

Michael and Don recently completed a Masters subject in the Theology of St Paul. This was a very interesting and challenging subject, and one which helps our understanding of the beginnings of the church.

Inclusive Education:

Michael recently attended a PD day in Adelaide with other coordinators which outlined the new collection tool and requirements for our NCCD students. Teachers need to collect information and evidence about each student who requires adjustments and upload these to the portal by the end of this term. This is a big job as we are still getting used to using the portal (SEQTA) and will take quite a bit of time for teachers to complete. Teachers worked on PPLs (Personalised Plans for Learning) for students towards the end of last term, particularly for students with extra needs. This was our first time using these new plans, and it was a good process to go through. These will also be added to the SEQTA portal.

We have a visiting Speech Therapist (Samara Nield) from Novita who will spend a day each week for the next five weeks supporting students and teachers as well as ESOs with what we can do to further support students with learning needs. She will be working intensively with 5 students, but also offering support to further develop strategies which will support the learning of many students.

As we head towards report time, teachers will be identifying which students need an adjusted report and working with parents to understand what this means.

HPE and School Sport:

In Physical Education, Mr Sampson & Mrs Thompson are focusing on Invasion Games across all year levels. With the R-2 classes, the focus sport will be Football for the first 4 weeks. The learning intentions are to develop fundamental movements skills, participation levels, confidence with handballing and kicking, and a high level of enjoyment.

In 3-5 Physical Education, the focus sport will be Basketball for the first 4 weeks. The learning intentions will surround the concepts of basic skills, enjoyment, tactical understanding and sportsmanship. In 6-7 Physical Education, the focus sports for the first 4 weeks is Hockey. Students have enjoyed the game so far and will have a strong emphasis of sportsmanship, developing basic skills and tactical understanding of the game.

In SAPSASA, a small group of interested students joined students from other Renmark primary schools to form the Renmark All Stars at the District Hockey Carnival on Friday of Week 2. This was a great opportunity to allow students to participate in Hockey and develop their skills and knowledge under the guidance of Beth Hueppauff. Upcoming SAPSASA events this term includes Cross Country (Week 4), Soccer (Week 5) and Girls Football (Week 8).

Arts:

Senator Anne Ruston, Federal Minister for Women's Safety, accepted an invitation to view and discuss our Year 6-7 students' 'Bullying' posters.

Every student had a piece of work in the exhibition for the opening of the Tenison Woods building.

Students have created work on ANZAC Day, Easter/Holy Week, Harmony Day and writing topics/books like the Rainbow Fish and Possum Magic.

Winners for the Visual Arts Awards from last term will be announced at the next school assembly.

I attended a workshop on Chroma Key Critters, Animations and Screen Trickery organized by the Dream BIG Children's Festival.

I organised a creche for the St Francis Assisi College Information Session in Renmark.

Languages and Technologies:

In Languages this term the R-2 students are learning Carnevale. Also focusing on the Italian Language. 3-5 students are learning about China through a variety of activities. They will be exposed to simple greetings. Technology will also be integrated in some of the topics. 6/7s will continue cooking lessons and learning new techniques in the kitchen.

ESOs:

As we reflect on the end of term one, we welcomed many special guests to the school for the wonderful celebration of the Blessing and Official Opening of the Tenison Woods Centre. The special occasion welcomed, Bishop Karol, Nichii Mardon and many other guests. The day was concluded with St Joseph's day celebration and Harmony day activities. The day proved a huge success and highlighted the culture of St Joseph's school staff enjoying a range of activities with the children. A real highlight of the term for our ESO staff.

We also contributed to Sports day held at the Renmark High school, this was a great day for all staff and students working collaboratively and effectively to make the day such a success for all our students.

We have wished Deb James all the best as she takes a term of long Service leave. Linda Lawton will assist in filling the wellbeing role as well as Kirsty Johnson now working Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This adjustment will help support all our students over the term 2 period.

The ESO timetable has been adjusted and proving a success this far. In class intervention has taken a focus and is tracking well.

The ESO team.

Student Wellbeing:

After a very successful Term 1 and all new staff and students settling in well, we have started Term 2 very positive and with clear goals in mind. Teamwork being our strength at St Josephs, we aim to have another productive term focusing on improving student outcomes and making sure that wellbeing is kept at a high standard.

At our recent student free day, all staff got the chance to review the Wellbeing Hub site. We split into groups and looked at what should remain in the site, what should be deleted/changed and what should be added. There was a lot of useful feedback for the Wellbeing Action Team which helps to improve the site to make it more accessible, helpful and interesting for all those choosing to access it.

Chrissie Grocke is continuing to do the iHeart programme (Innate Health Education and Resilience Training) with all the Year 6/7 students this term. The programmes core belief is that "we have everything we need inside us" focusing on mental wellness, prevention and education which is very empowering for our young people. This started last term and the students have been responding very well and they look forward to the fun and interactive activities the programme offers.

This term in health Fraser Sampson is looking at social and emotional health. The main topics include emotions, relationships, wellbeing strategies and resilience. To finish the term will be a 3-week unit on sport and culture.

Charlie our therapy dog is currently receiving specialist training twice a week and is responding well. He is spending more time in classes to help with his training which the students are really enjoying. The students respond well to him and are very aware that he is still in training and are very thoughtful and respectful of this. This term we will be continuing to expose Charlie throughout the school aiming to get him into each class. We are currently making a power point presentation to help all students, staff and parents understand the requirements regarding Charlie (do's and don'ts) so that everyone is very clear. This helps Charlie to do his job better and feel safe and happy.

Deb James is away on long service leave for Term 2 so I am filling in as Wellbeing coordinator for this term and as well as continuing with my ESO responsibilities. I will be working closely with the Wellbeing Action Team and teachers to help support students with their wellbeing. Linda Lawton