Year 6 Information Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. 2017 promises to be a busy year, full of new responsibilities and transformation as we prepare our students for high school. The purpose of this letter is to provide information pertaining to Year 6 in order to assist you in supporting your child’s learning.

The Year 6 Team

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Books and Further Resources

All the children have been provided with their books and stationery for the year. We do ask, if possible to provide your child with a

- Drink bottle
- USB stick

New books will be sent home over the weekend and we ask that books are covered with contact and clearly labelled. We would like to have ALL books back promptly.

BYO iPad

Thank you to those children who have begun to bring in their ipads. The BYO iPad program will continue as per last year. Please ensure iPads are fully charged each morning. Acceptable use of the computers and the Internet will be discussed with the children and user agreement notes will be sent home shortly and must be returned before students can access the school network. We ask that you also take the opportunity to speak to your child/ren about the responsible use of technology.

Library, Music and Indonesian

All Year 6 classes have Library, Music and Indonesian lessons on Monday mornings. Library borrowing will take place weekly during Library lessons. All children are invited to have a library bag to take books home. Children will be encouraged to borrow books for both home and school.

Sport

Sports uniform is worn on Wednesdays and Fridays. The children will be involved in a variety of sporting activities beginning with skill development and followed by modified games. The swimming carnival, athletics carnival and cross country carnival are all being held this term. Further information about dates, permission etc will be sent home shortly.
Camp

The children in Year 6 will be attending camp in Week 7 of Term 1. This camp is designed to enhance leadership skills and allows for students to participate in outdoor activities they are not usually exposed to, giving them the opportunity to challenge and push themselves beyond their capabilities. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. The camp notes will be handed out this week and we ask that they are returned as soon as possible. Please ensure the online medical information is completed by Monday 13th February.

Parent Notes

Notification is required when children have been absent from school detailing the date/s and a reason for absence. We would appreciate these notes coming to school the day of the absence via email, through the Skoolbag app or by written note, as soon as your child returns to school after the absence. Children who arrive at school late (after 9am), need to be signed in at the front office and brought to the classroom by their parent or guardian.

Notes from parents are also required should your child not be participating in any school activities, eg. unable to participate in sport due to an injury. Please ensure the note includes the amount of time the child is not able to participate.

Uniform

Children are to be in complete school uniform each day unless a note of parental permission is brought to school with the student. Normal school uniform is to be worn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sports uniform, including correct school shorts (not basketball shorts or any other kind) is to be worn on Wednesdays and Fridays. No jewellery other than earrings, and no nail-polish is to be worn to school. Children are required to wear their school hat. This includes before school, recess, lunch and after school during supervision times.

Birthdays

If your children would like to share treats with their classmates on their birthdays, please send in individual items such as ice-blocks, Freddo frogs, cupcakes, lamingtons or a pre-cut cake. This makes our job much easier!

Allergies

No peanuts or nut based products should be brought to school. This includes Nutella and other hazelnut spreads. This is due to several children who have allergies. We appreciate your support with this.

Term 1 Curriculum Focus

Integrated Units for 2017

- Migration (History)
- Natural Disasters (Science)
- Federation and Government (History)
- Global Connections (Geography)

Religion

The first Religion unit is titled ‘Australian Church’. In this unit the students will be identifying the place of the significant people who have shaped the Catholic Church in Australia.

The children will also participate in a mini Faith based unit on what it means to be Catholic in Week 1 to prepare for the Whole School Focus of 2017 of ‘Community - Friendship’. In addition to these programs, the children will be involved in Masses and prayer celebrations.

Confirmation

Year 6 is an exciting year in the Sacramental life of your child. This year our students celebrate their Confirmation. If you wish your child to receive the sacrament, it is important that you register your child at the information and registration session held at Holy Family Church. Further details will be provided in coming weeks.

English

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. The Year 6 teaching and learning programs will be balanced and integrate all three strands. Together the strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and
creating. Learning in English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and teachers will revisit and strengthen these as needed.

This term, we will be reading the novel “The Happiest Refugee” by Anh Do. This text explores themes of interpersonal relationships and ethical dilemmas within real-world settings. Students will use informative texts to supply technical and content information about migrants and the formation of multicultural modern Australia.

**Reading**

The students will participate in regular reading lessons including modelled reading strategies, book discussions and independent novel studies. Students are also required to borrow and read personal choice books each night and during silent reading time at school.

**Writing**

This term the students will be continuing free writing and writing a variety of genres, this term specifically biographies. They will learn the text and grammar conventions associated with each text type and a large focus will be on editing their writing and the further development of research skills.

**Spelling**

A new approach to spelling is being trialled this year. The students will not receive individual and class words, and no spelling homework will be given. Students will be taught common letter patterns, spelling rules and generalisations as well as be exposed to the origins of words. We will also spend a lot of time discussing and implementing strategies in order to correctly spell words.

**Mathematics**

Throughout Term 1, students will be investigating, describing and recognising the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers. They will develop an awareness of decimals, fractions and percentages, and how these are used in the real world. The students will continue to further develop their use of all four operations with whole numbers and decimals. Students will be encouraged to continue to work on exploring their mathematical language.

**Integrated Unit**

Our History based Integrated Unit is centred on the formation of Australia through the contribution of significant people. There will be a large focus on the multicultural element of Australia and the migration history of Australia. Students will investigate people who have migrated to Australia and the contributions they have made to the development of the nation. Throughout this unit, students will be asked to choose a significant Australian who has contributed significantly to our society and research and present their information creatively.

**Science**

This term, our Science unit, ‘Marvellous Micro-Organisms” is based on Micro-biology. We will be investigating the role of yeast in the bread-making process and the way mould spores develop on various food items.

**Art**

Our Art unit is based on Portraiture where the students will examine a range of artists’ work that focus on the face and the various techniques used to create artworks.

**Dance**

The students will participate in Dance lessons this term. They will learn to extend their awareness of the body as they combine movements that use body parts and actions with those involving body zones and bases. The students will also explore meaning and interpretation of dance and trial various forms and elements of dance.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

This term, our Personal Development is focused on keeping safe in the sun, on the bike and on the scooter. We will also be looking at cyber safety. In Physical Education, we will be focusing on Athletics and European Handball. For these units, we create rotations where the students are exposed to the variety of events they will participate in for the Athletics Carnival.

The Year 6 students will also participate in two fitness sessions each week. The fitness sessions will teach many basic physical skills including balance, strength, speed, agility, flexibility and hand-eye-coordination. These fitness sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students are invited to bring their runners to wear for the fitness session.
Homework

In preparation for High School, the students are provided with fortnightly homework. Each week the students are required to complete a range of compulsory tasks that directly link to their classroom work. **Reading is expected by all students for at least 20 minutes each night.** Students should read a variety of age-appropriate texts to further develop their comprehension and critical literacy skills.

Many of our Year 6 students still find times tables challenging and we encourage all students to develop their speed and accuracy of the tables they find most challenging. This can be done through mini-tests with an adult, skip counting and several Apps on computers and handheld devices will assist with their recall of multiplication facts.

They also have a variety of other related tasks to complete. Regular sporting commitments and extra-curricular tasks outside of school hours are highly encouraged, although they are not an excuse to omit doing homework. It is the student's responsibility to manage their time effectively to ensure homework is completed to the best of their ability in the timeframe given. It is important that homework is encouraged and enforced at home, as it is vital to gain organisational skills in preparation for high school. If homework is not completed for any reason, a written note from parents is needed.

Leadership

Each student has chosen their Leadership Group for the year. The students will be placed on a roster for their specific role. They will be presented with their leadership badges at the opening school Mass on Friday 10th February. Leadership badges are a compulsory part of the school uniform. Replacements badges are available from Mrs Caragh at a cost of $15 each.

We are all very excited about having your children in our classrooms for their last year of Primary school. Please feel free to come and discuss any issues pertaining to your child at any time.

Yours Sincerely

Priscilla Caragh
Anita Ramirez
Damien Webb
Rachael Saint