



# MERCEDES COLLEGE

COMPASSION LOYALTY JUSTICE INTEGRITY RESPONSIBILITY MUTUAL RESPECT

## Class Newsletter

### Year 4

Week 1, Term 2, 2016

Dear Parents

We hope you enjoyed some quality time with your child during the break. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term. All the children have settled back into our class routines and are becoming more independent and responsible.

We would like to welcome Melissa West to our Year Four team for Term 2. Melissa will be teaching 4BC on Thursdays while Melissa Buske will be undertaking the role of Junior School and PYP Co-ordinator for Term 2.

Everyone is very excited about the upcoming Year Two and Year Four Production. Mrs Mavis Waddington will be teaching the Drama elements and Mrs Janine Crookes will be teaching the Dance component to both Year Four classes. We will soon be asking for some volunteers to assist in various ways in preparation for the performance. A note will be sent home shortly in regard to this. All information about tickets and dates will be distributed at a later date.

### Religious Education

For the first half of the term our unit will focus on:

- **Mary** where children will explore Gospel stories of Mary's faithfulness. They will be encouraged to learn from the example of Mary and her response to God, as well as having opportunities to honour Mary through liturgy and prayer.

### Inquiry

Our unit of inquiry explores the Central Idea: "Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity".

The lines of inquiry are:

- natural processes that affect the earth's surface
- the effect of natural phenomena on the landscape
- human activities that affect the earth's surface

Information Literacy: This term we will be continuing to build students reading comprehension skills by supporting them in their research and note-taking skills. We are using the 'New Learning' strategy to select and record important information for our Unit of Inquiry. We are also taking this a step further by concentrating on learning how to organise our notes effectively and efficiently.

**Please email us if you think you could contribute to this unit, or have any contacts in this area.**

### Mathematics

Our aim is for students to acquire the mathematical knowledge, ways of thinking and confidence to apply mathematics in real and abstract situations. Multiplication facts will continue to be reinforced and students will need to continue to practise these regularly. Learning of these facts will assist students to further develop their mathematical fluency and stamina.



Topics we aim to explore in the first half of Term Two are:

- Mental computation – building up a repertoire of strategies with a particular focus on subtraction
- Multiplication Facts
- The relationship between multiplication and division
- 2D shapes – comparing & describing using a variety of attributes

Year 4 students will continue to be involved in the Numerical Acumen Challenge 2016 which is a long term challenge where students will build capacity with mental strategies. Five minutes a day is all that is needed to help improve their mental strategies in adding near tens, multiplication (x2, x3, x10) multiplication (x4,x6, x8, x9) Fractions (the ideas and comparing). Using this site will help develop speed, accuracy and confidence: [www.numericalacumen.com/santchallenge](http://www.numericalacumen.com/santchallenge) . The challenge finishes June 13.

In addition please encourage your child to continue to use the Mathletics website or app and complete activities which support and consolidate the topics taught in class.

### **Literacy**

It is really important to not only listen to your child read, but to read to your child. This models expression, reading strategies and is quality time together.

The Premier's Reading Challenge ends in September, so please encourage your child to work towards and record the books they are reading.

We will be focussing on the strategy of questioning. Good readers ask questions before, during and after reading to better understand the author and the meaning of the text. This strategy will be explicitly taught as well as a focus strategy during independent reading groups.

This term our focus is on the genre of explanation which will be integrated into our unit of inquiry. The writing trait that will be our focus is sentence fluency. Sentence fluency is the flow of the language and the way the writing plays to the ear not just to the eye. We will be practising this strategy through our Writer's Notebook.

### **French**

Last term the Year 4 students learnt about the verbs “être” and “avoir” and common adjectives in order to describe their feelings and their families. They enjoyed creating imaginary families using famous people. The students made posters which are displayed in the French room and in the Year 4 classrooms.

The students enjoyed using the Duolingo iPad application as a way to continue their learning at home and make connections with their learning in French lessons. The students will continue to use this application as part of their French homework this term.

This term the students will extend their knowledge of adjectives to describe weather in French. In the second half of the term, the Year 4 classes will be investigating French Poetry through their Unit of Inquiry “*Creating and responding to poetry develops an awareness of ourselves and the world around us*”. Students will use their knowledge of verbs and adjectives from last term to create their own French poems.

The vocabulary for the “Weather” unit can be found on the Junior School French website as well as links to vocabulary games and information about homework. The address is:

<http://mcjsfrench.weebly.com>

Please encourage your child to go on the Website to support their learning in French lessons.

*Merci beaucoup!*

**Belinda Roberts**  
*Junior School French Teacher*

### **Physical Education**

This term we will be developing an understanding of the central idea; **invasion games require an understanding of attacking and defending principles of play**. Students will explore the concepts of attacking and defending, develop strategies and gain an understanding of the rules in order to be successful Netballers and Footballers. The first part of the term we will be applying this knowledge in Netball and then Football for the second part of the term. It will be a great opportunity for students to apply their learning and make connections in different sports.

*Tracey Cramond and Simon Munn*  
**R-5 PE Teachers**

### **Music**

In Music lessons this term students will learn a wide variety of songs from different genres. These songs will assist students in gaining a greater understanding of metre, rhythm, sequencing, and patterns. Music lessons will support class central ideas and lines of inquiry, with a particular emphasis on poetic devices utilised in a variety of Music compositions. Additionally, students will be learning how messages can be conveyed and communicated to communities through the use of musical patterns and the function(s) of the patterns.

**Ms Loretta Bowshall**  
PYP Music Teacher

### **Visual Arts**

To support the classroom inquiry students are investigating the Earth's surface through the use of google earth. They are looking at creating compositions that include interesting features of the Earth by doing screen shots and manipulating the image. Students are then painting this image to create a representation which will be attached to a variety of different Earth's surfaces to create a 3-dimensional piece.

Please ensure your child has an art smock to ensure they can participate in all art activities.

**Ryan Stor**  
Visual Arts Teacher

### **Important Dates**

#### **May**

- 3 Start Term 2
- 6 Year 2 Morning Mass
- 13 Assembly
- 10-12 NAPLAN Testing (Years 3 & 5)
- 10 Early dismissal **1:05pm**
- 12 Year 1 Excursion SAPOL Road Safety Centre
- 17 ICAS Digital Technologies Competition
- 24 Year 4 Excursion Brown Hill Creek and Mitcham Quarry
- 27 Assembly (Receptions hosting)
- 31 ICAS Science Competition

#### **June**

- 9 Assembly (Year 2 hosting)
- 10 Student Free Day
- 13 Queen's Birthday Holiday
- 17 Year 3 Morning Mass
- 24 Year 4 Morning Mass
- Assembly (Year 3 hosting)
- 14 ICAS Writing Competition

## **July**

- 5 Assembly
- 6 End of Term 2 3:30pm Dismissal

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We are sure that all children will continue to produce their best efforts and enjoy the range of experiences and opportunities provided.

Kind Regards

**Franca Iskra**

**Janine Crookes**

**Melissa West**

Year 4 Class Teachers

