



Class Newsletter

Year 4

Week 1, Term 3, 2016

Dear Families

Welcome back to Term 3. We would especially like to warmly welcome Ava Apted, Laura Fitzgerald and their families to Mercedes College. We have had a busy and productive start to the term with students preparing for the Learning Conferences. We look forward to the students sharing their learning with you in Week 3.

Religion

In our unit this term we will be investigating how Jesus used parables to teach about the Reign of God. A reminder that Year 4 children will be participating in an assessment in Religious Education (ReLAT) which will take place during Week 7 of Term 3 (5 September – 9 September). More details about this assessment will be provided shortly.

Units of Inquiry

We will be commencing our new unit of inquiry. The central idea is: **Living things depend on each other and the environment for their survival.**

The students will be exploring cycles within habitats, factors that threaten living things and their habitats, conservation of animals and their habitats. We will be visiting the Adelaide Zoo on Friday 18 August to take part in the Planetkeeper education program on threatened species. If you have a current Catholic Police Clearance and would like to help us on this excursion please contact your child's Class Teacher.

Mathematics

This term there will be a focus on fractions, exploring the relationships between families of fractions and investigating equivalent fractions.

Students will also be comparing the areas and perimeters of regular and irregular shapes using metric units. Learning of basic number facts is a continued focus and the children need to keep learning these to reinforce their quick number fact recall. We will be using the App "Quick Maths – Arithmetic & Times Table Game" which was on the initial iPad App list at the beginning. Please ensure that this has been downloaded onto your child's iPad. Quick Maths improves fluency and promotes development of mental strategies with the focus on self-improvement.

We have been pleased to see the enthusiastic way that students have approached Mathematics. Please continue to encourage your child to access their account as part of their homework.

Literacy

Our main focus in written language will be constructing information reports based on our units of inquiry. We will focus on the writer's trait of organisation where we will investigate the structure and specific language features of information reports.

Our novel study for this term will be Blueback by Tim Winton. This book has allowed us to focus on improving our descriptive writing by using 'chocolate words', similes and metaphors which hopefully the students will begin to transfer into their own writing. We are encouraging students to use interesting words and phrases to support the topic and motivate the reader, a strategy that Tim Winton uses consistently in Blueback.

The children will continue with their word sorts and will be required to complete a variety of activities to consolidate their understanding of letter sounds and patterns.

The children will be required to learn a set poem and a poem of their choice to recite to the class to help improve fluency, expression and presentation skills. One child from Year 4 will be chosen to represent the College at the IPSHA Poetry Competition later in the term.

French

Music

Physical Education

Visual Art

Stationery

At the end of last term we were beginning to notice that children were without essential stationery items such as rulers, pencils, erasers, glue sticks and scissors. Please check with your child to see what equipment they need to re-stock.

Term 3 Dates

Please be aware dates are updated in the Mercy Vine and the JS Bulletin.

Janine Crookes

Melissa Buske

Franca Iskra

Year 4 Class Teachers