



Term 1, Year 6, 2021

St Joseph's Primary School

Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Environment

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

We thank you for our wonderful school. We are glad we belong to St Joseph's community. We pray that we will be safe and happy at school, and that we will learn much about You, ourselves and the world.

Help us to treat each other with respect and generosity.

We hope to be like St Joseph, a person who cared for others.

Amen

WELCOME

Welcome to Year 6, 2021!

We are so pleased with how Week 1 went and can't wait to get to know our class more throughout the term. The children are very settled and looking smart in their Year 6 jumpers. We are looking forward to catching up with you all at the parent information exchanges in Week 3.

This year the 6M students are fortunate enough to be taught by Mrs Pepper on a Wednesday. Mrs Pepper will also teach 6O on Thursday afternoons. Mrs Pepper has been a valuable member of our staff for many years and her experience with the students and knowledge of the curriculum is exceptional, we welcome her to the Year 6 team. During this time Mrs Martin will work on her Senior Literacy role and Miss Opasinis as Senior Leader, coordinating key events in the school. Some time will also be allocated to the Year 6 Leadership roles.

Throughout the year, we also welcome Mrs Amanda Bowman and Mrs Jen Khan, who will be working with our Year 6 students in different capacities. As always, we really appreciate the differentiated teaching and learning that such support enables.

We have an exciting term with Canberra camp and the commencement of the leadership program which we look forward to beginning this year. More details will be included in the weekly bulletins regarding these.

We're looking forward to a wonderful year with a great team. As always, please don't hesitate to approach or email us with any questions, concerns, or simply to touch base.

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IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday, 29 January - Term 1 starts
- Friday, 5 February, 10.00am - Welcome Mass
- Friday, 5 February, 3.30pm onwards - Welcome BBQ

- Wednesday, 10 and Thursday, 11 February - Parent/teacher information exchanges
- Friday, 12 February - Year 6 Assembly
- Wednesday, 17 February, 10.00am - Ash Wednesday Mass; Lent begins
- Wednesday, 17 February, 7.00pm - P & F meeting
- Friday, 19 February - School photos
- Friday, 19 February - District swimming
- Monday, 22 to Friday, 26 February - Year 6 Canberra Camp
- Thursday, 4 and Friday, 5 March - School closure days
- Monday, 8 March - Labour Day public holiday
- Monday, 15 March, 10am - Year 5/6 Sexuality Education and Protective Behaviours session
- Friday, 19 March - School athletics carnival, Sandringham Athletics Track
- Monday, 22 March, 10am - Year 5/6 Sexuality Education and Protective Behaviours session
- Friday, 26 March, 12.00pm - Year 6 Parish Mass
- Monday, 29 March, 10am - Year 5/6 Sexuality Education and Protective Behaviours session
- Monday, 29 March - Commencement of Holy Week Liturgies
- Thursday, 1 April - Harmony Day
- Thursday, 1 April, 1.00pm - Term 1 ends
- Monday, 19 April - First Day of Term 2

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Term 1 will start with the unit, 'Morality and Justice'. The students will explain the concept of justice in relation to relevant community issues. They will reflect on ways to participate responsibly and contribute ethically to the community.

A key focus throughout all subject areas this year will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures; a Cross-curriculum Priority. RE lessons also provide opportunities for authentic links with the Critical and Creative, Personal and Social, Intercultural and Ethical Capabilities from the Victorian Curriculum. As such, students will be encouraged to view real-world issues of social justice through the lens of Catholic social teaching.

TOPIC

Students in Years 5 and 6 will be immersed in the topics of 'Government and Democracy' and 'Citizenship, Diversity and Identity' this term. Students will explore Australia's values, principles and institutions, considering the rights and responsibilities of the three levels of government and those of Australian citizens. Students will also experience how laws are made and enforced at the state / territory and federal levels. Again, authentic links with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures will be made, through the consideration of alternative methods of governance. This weaves in nicely with our Year 6 camp to Canberra.

CANBERRA CAMP

We're very lucky in Year 6 to spend the week in Canberra, between Monday, 22nd and Friday, 26th February (Week 5, Term 1). For now, please write these dates in the diary, before further information is released in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on Operoo and these weekly email newsletters. If you have any concerns about this camp, these can be discussed further in the Parent Teacher Interviews in Week 3.

NUMERACY

The year will begin with revision of Number and Algebra skills, in order to determine each child's understandings and misconceptions to inform forward planning. The units that will be covered in Term 1 include:

- Place value (including factors and multiples, negative numbers, and estimation and rounding)
- Multiplication and Division
- Addition and Subtraction
- Time

Throughout all units, students will practise their mental computation and multiple-step worded problem solving across all four operations. The Digital Technologies Curriculum will also be implemented purposefully, and where appropriate, to enhance student learning.

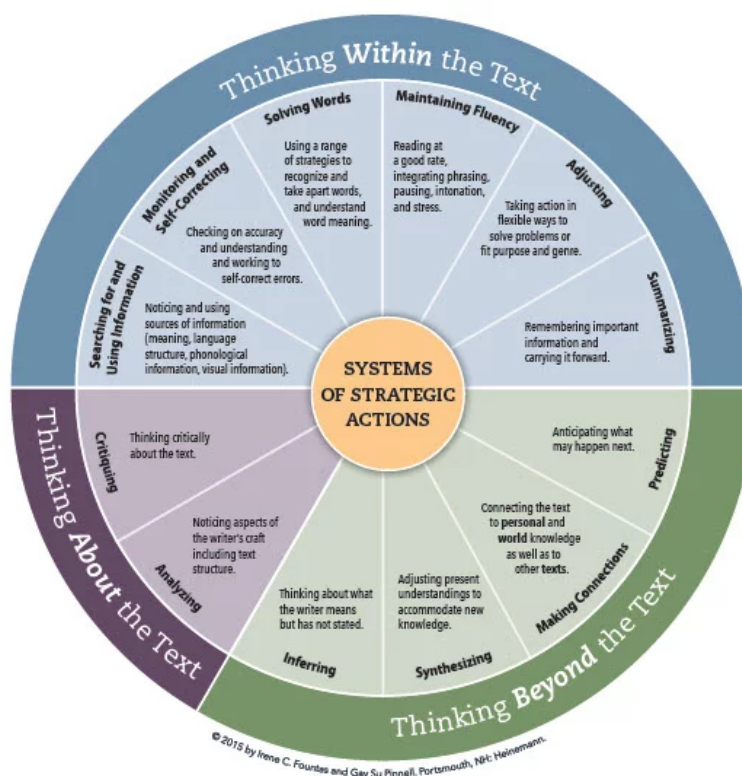
We will have some additional support at various times throughout the week, which will ensure that all students receive targeted teaching. Therefore, students will have the chance to participate in a range of whole class instruction, small group work, and self-directed learning tasks. During some units, students will be streamed across both classes in order to target their individual learning needs.

LITERACY

The Reading Program in Year 6 will be planned around the Fountas and Pinnell literacy continuum. Students will move from thinking **within** the text, to think **beyond** and **about** the text. Within these three categories sit twelve strategic actions that assist a reader in the processing of a text.

In Writing, students will start by revisiting the four VCOP elements:

- Vocabulary - using ambitious vocabulary to 'uplevel' descriptions and engage the reader.
- Connectives - expanding sentences using coordinating (for, and, nor, but, or, yet) and subordinating (because, if, when, while) connectives.
- Openers - using a range of outstanding openers to vary the way sentences are started.
- Punctuation - compiling compound and complex sentences using a range of higher-level punctuation.



We will also be using The Writing Revolution to explicitly teach sentence structure and the components that make up sentences. This will be used to enhance students' writing skills. With these in mind, students will study and create a range of persuasive texts, including expositions and letters, encouraging them to think about each text's function and audience. The Topic unit allows

for meaningful integration across subject areas also, to ensure all the students' writing is purposeful.

The focus of stand-alone spelling lessons will involve the revisiting of previously learned generalisations and rules. The Year 6 scope and sequence then involves a greater emphasis on morphology (how words are formed) and etymology (word origin), encouraging students to take a more investigative approach.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

At St. Joseph's we explicitly teach our students social and emotional skills and strategies, within our SEL curriculum. The program is designed to address the Personal and Social Capability from the Victorian Curriculum, as well as the 5 SEL competencies of:

- Self-management
- Self-awareness
- Responsible decision making
- Relationship skills
- Social awareness

To complement the teaching of the Personal and Social Curriculum, students will revisit our school rules, create a class motto, and investigate cyber safety. From there, the 'Body' domain from the Berry Street Education Model will be used to explicitly teach the skills of:

- De-escalation
- Being present, centred and grounded
- Mindfulness
- Self-regulation

Year 6 Leadership Program

All students will be given the opportunity this year to be involved in the Leadership Program. Students will be presented with a range of events and initiatives throughout each semester and will apply for a position which interests them. Once assigned an initiative, they will work with the teachers involved and assist in the planning and the implementation of specific events. This is a great initiative to develop students' organisational skills and to develop the tools needed to work collaboratively with others. Some of the events that students will be involved in include Harmony Day, the Smoking Ceremony, and our relationship with MITS (Melbourne Indigenous Transition School), just to mention a few.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

MUSIC - Erin Absalom

Music in term 1 will be focused upon learning to play basic melodies on the ukulele, using as a resource the *Essential Elements* Series by Hal Leonard. Students will be introduced to the first 5 notes in the major scale, as well as some fundamental rhythmic motifs. Upon completion of this term, each student should be able to demonstrate a development in their fine motor skills, aural understanding and ensemble performance experience. The character strengths we will be focusing on are bravery, perseverance and teamwork.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Louise Howell

This term, the Year Six children will be focusing on athletics activities in anticipation for our school athletics Carnival on Friday 19th March. We will focus on activities such as sprints, hurdles, shot put and long jump. Parents are most welcome to attend the carnival. We are always looking for parents who are able to assist at this event, if you are able, please let your classroom teacher know. This will be subject to Covid rules & regulations.

The Year Six students have the opportunity to trial for state sporting teams in AFL, netball & soccer. If you feel your child is highly skilled and has the potential to play at a state level in one of these sports, please visit the school sports victoria website and follow the appropriate links to submit your child's application. (www.ssv.vic.edu.au)

VISUAL ART - Lidia Chris

In Term 1, Visual Art is about extending painting and construction skills based on the unit, 'Let's Build a Community'. The children will begin with sketching and painting their own version of an important aspect of the school community. They will then create a 3D construction of the school community and conclude with an Easter activity.

ITALIAN - Franca Butera-Crea

In Term One children in grades 5/ 6 will explore the theme of 'Wellbeing'. They will learn about making healthy food choices and 'living a healthy life'. Students will investigate, and learn vocabulary related to sports, hobbies and recreational activities. Children will learn to conjugate verbs in the 1st and 2nd person of present tense verbs. There will be a strong focus on oral work, and sentence formulation.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

This year, we prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to take place on Tuesday, 24th of August (Week 7 of Term 3). As the Sacrament nears, further details will be released. For now, please save this date in your diaries. Leading up to this sacrament, there will be a Commitment Mass and student Retreat Day. We will release more information as this approaches.

HOMEWORK

In the Senior School, the objective of homework will remain organisational skills and self-discipline. Homework will be set on a week-to-week basis this year, with tasks being directly related to our class work. These tasks should not be difficult as they are a revision of what the students have learned in class. At times, there will be a range of tasks with different levels, all students will have the right to choose the task they will complete. Students will then have the full week to complete the task, which will be collected by Thursday. Students who don't complete this work may miss out on our Friday afternoon sport. Tasks will be online and hard copies will be available if needed. The size of each homework task will take into account any additional school commitments that week.

If students finish a task and wish to do additional work, they will have access to their school Essential Assessment account. They are also required to maintain practise of their multiplication facts, as well as read for 20 minutes 4-5 times a week, which should be recorded in their school Diary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Children must be wearing a school hat at all times when they are outside. This includes all break times. Students who forget their hat are required to sit under a tree. Remember: "No

Hat, No Play, No Fun Today!" Please ensure that your child is wearing sunscreen. There will be additional sunscreen in the classroom if they wish to re-apply.

- Mobile Phones and Smart Watches are to be handed in at the beginning of each day, to be safely stored by the classroom teachers. This is in line with recent legislation made by the Victorian state government at the end of 2019. These devices can become an unnecessary distraction during the day and also an expensive exercise if they become lost or broken. No responsibility is accepted by the school for lost or damaged devices.
- If your child needs medication administered at school, you will be now required to fill out this [document](#) and notify the office. Medication must be handed in to Kerry or Fiona in its original packaging **by a parent or guardian**. We ask that this is brought into school as soon as possible.
- If you would like to bring in a birthday treat for your child, please be conscious of allergies, especially nuts. If you are unsure, please include a list of ingredients with the treats. Icy poles seem to be an easy option (especially during these hotter months!) There are 20 students in 6O and 21 in 6M.
- Students are required to bring in labelled headphones for class use and an old sock or cloth to use as a whiteboard eraser. Please make sure all materials are labelled clearly.
- The Year 6 jumpers have now gone home. Please make sure these are labelled clearly. Please note, if you choose to use a marker on the tag, this can fade once washed so please keep an eye on this.