

## Religious Education

In RE students have been learning about the concept of discipleship. Discipleship is following in the footsteps of Jesus. After listening to a Godly Play Parable of when Jesus called His first disciples students were asked in teams to create a drama about what it means to be a 'fisher of people' (someone who helps others follow the way). Caring for the sick, poor, lonely and old were all great examples students displayed through their drama. An individual assessment activity was to identify a person who is a modern day disciple. Students chose someone they knew either a family member, friend or well-known figure. They did a terrific job with identifying the Gospel values these people display including: grace, love, service, justice, peace or faith.



Students also listened to another Godly Play, the Parable of The Good Samaritan. After listening to the play the students were asked some 'I wonder questions.' As questioning has been our focus in reading this term we thought it was a good opportunity for students to comprehend what the Parable was about. The students were able to identify who was the good neighbour in the story and the message behind the story. Their answers were very deep and meaningful.



### Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you enjoy our latest class newsletter. It's almost half way through the year already, with lots of great learning experiences to come. The classroom has been a hive of work, with activities focusing on a range of knowledge, understandings and skills across many different learning areas. We would like to welcome to our teaching team Mrs Sue Platts, a very experienced classroom teacher who has a wealth of knowledge. She has been working in Grade 4 as a numeracy support teacher between recess and lunch Monday to Thursday. Of an afternoon Sue will be working with Upper Primary students focusing on reading support.

We look forward to meeting and talking with all parents at the upcoming parent teacher meetings. It will be a more personal opportunity to update you all on your child's progress.

Kind regards

Ben McCulloch & Melissa Scharvi

## Science

In Science we have been learning about the scientific inquiry process. Scientists ask questions, develop a hypothesis, conduct fair tests, gather data and draw conclusions. Students have been guided through these stages as they are concepts that are new and challenging. Now that they have an understanding of the process, students have been working in teams to conduct an inquiry into the Science of Bottle Flipping. We have emailed World Bottle Flipping Champion Joshua Horton from America who has given us some tips. An example of one of the student investigations is: What is the best amount of water to put in a bottle to get a successful flip? Students have to write a hypothesis and give reasoning. They have learnt about mL and how to use a graduated cylinder. They now know to only change one variable to ensure a 'fair test'. They will also record, graph and interpret their results.



## Humanities & Social Sciences

We have continued to explore our unit 'Aboriginal Way of Life.' To help us explore how Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders lived, used and cared for the land, we were very lucky to have David Gough share his knowledge, experiences and resources of what it was like for Indigenous people growing up. To conclude our unit students are putting together a diorama and iMovie of how Indigenous people lived, cared and used the environment before white settlement.

## Reading

Students have continued to be active readers by looking at what good readers do during reading. One strategy we have particularly focused on this term has been questioning. The students have been posing questions before, during and after reading a text. By allowing students to ask and answer questions it helps them to become engaged in the text. This also provides a purpose for reading and gives the students a reason to clarify meaning. This connection helps to deepen their comprehension. This term students have enjoyed reading our class novel 'Grandpas Great Escape' and many questions have arisen from this story to help deepen their understanding and connection with the text.

## Writing

In our writing students have been learning about the key characteristics of quality writing: ideas, organisation, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and voice. We are currently focused on improving the descriptiveness of our writing (word choice) by using precise language that describes a situation or event. The overarching goal for students in writing for 2017 is to have a tool kit of transferable skills that can draw on allowing them to be successful in the future when writing for a variety of purposes.

## Maths

During Maths students have been looking at and discussing what is data, why we collect data and how we collect it. Together as a class we collected data on the favourite sport that we like to play. We recorded the information together and talked about our findings. Students then selected their own topic that they would like to survey the class on. Firstly they presented the information in a table, followed by a graph and finally interpreted their data by writing and asking questions. Some of the findings students found were very intriguing.

### Tables Champions

We have been so impressed with students attainment of number facts. Through individual practice and collaborative games students have made outstanding progress with their automatic recall of times table and division facts.

Students have now completed their gathering of interesting information through their 'The Time of My Life' unit. Be sure to ask them questions such as how many days they have lived for so far, or how many meals they have eaten.

In numeracy our focus now turns to a unit titled 'Ripper Rides' where students will learn that geometric shapes, patterns and angles are seen everywhere in our daily life and often inspire artists' designs. It will involve explicit learning about equivalent fractions, angles, symmetrical and tessellating patterns, regular and irregular shapes and area.