



St Brigid's

GRADE 4

RE

Recently we began our 'Jesus' unit of learning. This unit of learning will make strong connections with our current season of Lent. As students recognise that they have been gifted with the Spirit they will begin to understand how the Spirit of Jesus is alive and active in us as his community. This love for Christ will transfer into their daily lives through witness as they seek the reign of God through their lifestyle and choices.

Meditation

Of an afternoon Wednesday to Friday, students have been participating in Christian Meditation. At the moment the children are learning to sit in stillness and silence. They repeat in their minds the mantra ma-ra-na-tha which means 'come Lord'. Students have been observed to be much more relaxed at the end of the day.



MJR (Making Jesus Real)

With Miss Reynolds students have been learning about what it means to be a 'Happy Chappy'. By looking at, and accentuating the positives in our lives it is easier to feel happy. Student have also been learning how to recognise the Spirit of Jesus in their lives.

Term One, Week 6, 2016



Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first edition of our class newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated on the exciting learning experiences of your child. Students have been busy engaging in a variety of hands-on tasks, small group and independent activities and rich class discussions.

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parent Information Evening. We look forward to discussing the needs of your children and your aspirations for them at the coming 'Getting to Know Your Child' Interviews on the 21st and 22nd of March. We are both so pleased to hear such positive feedback from many parents about how the children have settled into their learning environment.

Kind regards

Ben McCulloch & Megan Macgregor.





Science

In Science we have been discussing the seven characteristics of living things. Our inquiry question was - how do you know if something is dead or alive if everything stopped moving? This was the beginning of our Science inquiry, 'Circle of Life'. What a discussion this created! The students proposed some fantastic ideas including that the living object would be breathing, blinking, generating heat, and over time, growing and changing.



History

In History students are learning about the **diversity** of Australia's First Peoples. So far they have learnt that many languages were spoken across Australia and that small groups or clans moved according to seasonal patterns chasing food sources.

A big part of this unit will be understanding the importance of sustaining environments. Students are excited about watching *The Lorax* and responding with a persuasive speech.

Reading

In Reading we have been discussing what a good reader does. Good readers activate prior knowledge, predict/make inferences and question. During reading, good readers visualise and make connections. This term we have focused our learning on activating prior knowledge and visualising. When we activate our prior knowledge we focus on the vocabulary, topic and concept knowledge that we already have, this helps us to connect the text to what we already know. The visualisation strategy supports our comprehension because we can create our mental images of what we are reading. Be sure to come into the classroom and see our visualisation cubes on display, our Nogard drawings and the 'Pair of Shoes' visualisation task.

Writing & Spelling

Students are currently learning what good writers do. In these learning experiences the children will be exploring the writing process of generating ideas, planning and drafting, feedback and refinement, and publishing.

Students are currently learning how to apply the appropriate rules when adding word endings such as ed, ing, er and est. Our focus will soon shift to base words.

Grammar and Punctuation

Our Grammar focus has been to be able to select specific common and proper nouns to represent people, places and things. We will be able to transfer our knowledge of nouns to support our word choices when writing.

Maths

You will be amazed to know that we have been gathering some pretty interesting information about ourselves. We have been working on a Maths unit called 'The Time of My life'. We have gathered data which will enable us to calculate how many days we have lived for so far, how many meals we have eaten, how many days we have spent at school, how many times we blink and breathe in a day and how many times our hearts beat in a day. As part of this learning students have been explicitly taught about place value, multiplication strategies and addition and subtraction of large numbers.

Students' skills in *Number* has also been supported through their individualised number facts programs, learning times tables and division facts.