

the GRADE 5 Classroom

TERM THREE NEWSLETTER WEEK 4

Welcome to Term 3!

Term 3 has already been one of our busiest school terms this year! So far this term we have taken part in Fire Safety, The Black Box (an interactive Skype Session with the Melbourne Museum), Gymnastics, a visit from the Young Scientist Team and a trip to Marist to see Joseph and the Technicolour Dream Coat. Coming up in Week 5 we have Catholic Education Week, Book Week in Week 6 and the Utas Science Awards in Week 7. So as you can see there are some very exciting events ahead.



Speaking and Listening

In Grade 5 we are building a classroom culture that encourages regular, purposeful discussion. It has been well documented that a classroom that values the process of speaking and listening is a classroom that allows for increased student engagement, increased quantity and quality of student conversation while fostering the development of deeper thinking skills. By encouraging a think-pair-share approach to class discussions all students are accountable for their own contributions to in-class discussions in comparison to the traditional 'hands-up' approach that often results in contributions being dominated by a select few.



Reading

Grade 5's have been concentrating on the skills required to read efficiently and purposefully when searching for information. There is a current focus on recognising key words and phrases in a given text and then taking notes using this information. By learning how to recognise these key words, facts and phrases, and having the ability to take notes, students will have acquired two of the most helpful tools in being able to summarise information into their own words.



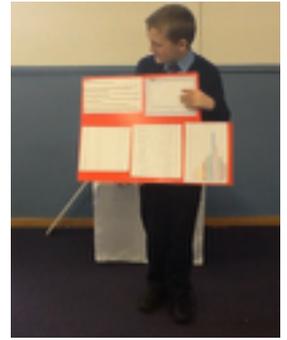
The Writing Process

To compliment the reading focus that they have been working on, Grade 5's have been learning to summarise information. After locating the key words or phrases located in a given text, students will then summarise, often through discussion first and then re-writing in their own words. The skill of summarising key information is a skill that Grade 5 students will use throughout their school life.



Maths Investigations

Grade 5 students have been conducting an investigation into the wastage of one of our most precious resources - water. Through the careful consideration of water wastage at school, home and the greater environment, students are drawing conclusions on the impact an individual can have by minimising their own water wastage. Students have devised testing methods to collect measurable data relating to water wastage across a range of scenarios. The skills that students are using throughout this investigation include: collecting data, devising a fair test, choosing appropriate methods of measurement and drawing conclusions.



We are Scientists

Grade 5 students are Scientists!! Students are taking on the role of being active scientists within the classroom. Grade 5's will be participating in the Utas Science awards later in the term where they will be showcasing their scientific skills and knowledge among fellow budding scientists from Years 5-12 across northern Tasmania. In groups, students have developed their own science inquiry questions and hypotheses, which they are exploring through research and experimentation. By following the steps of real-world scientists, Grade 5s are developing an understanding of the relevance of scientific exploration in the real world. Grade 5 students will be conducting experiments that are classified under the sub-section of Chemical Science - which means they will be exploring chemicals, liquids and gasses, and the way these forms of matter interact with each other.



RE

As a school, St Brigid's students are working on a unit of work about the meaning of Church and Sacraments. The word Church means something different to everyone. We have been exploring the symbols from within our own St Brigid's Church. Grade 5 has begun to explore the idea that as well as being a place of worship, the word Church refers to the mission of the people within the church. Part of this exploration is how we can show the meaning of church by helping others in our school and local community. Last year (when in Grade 4) the students worked with Mr McCulloch on a project to build a 'buddy seat'. The purpose of this seat is to offer any student in the playground that has no-one to play with, a place to sit where others' can see they need a 'buddy' and invite them to join in. This term Grade 5s will decorate and finish the buddy seat. The creation of this seat is a testament to the way in which St Brigid's students show the values of church, everyday.



Civics and Citizenship

Grade 5 students recognise that as Australians we are fortunate to have a say in our local, state and federal government. They have been examining the rights and responsibilities we have as part of a democracy in comparison to other forms of government such as a Dictatorship or a Monarchy.

