

## Religious Education

Students have been focusing on a 'Jesus' unit of learning. 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 students' daily lives through witness as they seek the reign of God through their lifestyle and choices.

During the term students have been introduced to the period of Lent and Easter as seasons in the Church's liturgical year. On Shrove Tuesday the day before Ash Wednesday students were able to enjoy making and eating delicious pancakes. Through Holy Week students are able to remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They are able to recognise that Easter is one of the most important events in the Church year.



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'.

## 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 children. 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 and the 'Getting to Know Your Child' Interviews. We are both so pleased to hear such positive feedback from many parents about how the children have settled into their learning environment. If you haven't had the opportunity to see us please send an email or phone the office to arrange a time. We hope you have a wonderful Easter break with your friends and family.

Kind regards

Ben McCulloch & Melissa Scharvi

## Science

In Science we have been learning about the scientific inquiry process. Scientists make observations, ask questions, develop a hypothesis, conduct fair tests, gather data and draw conclusions. Grade 4 students are learning about the scientific inquiry process in the context of Physical Science, specifically the concept of forces. Students have effectively worked in collaborative teams to conduct their various investigations.



## Humanities & Social Sciences

In our unit “Aboriginal Way of Life” students are developing an understanding of Australia’s First People before Europeans settled. They are exploring how Aboriginals lived and gained knowledge of the diversity of Australia’s first people. During our unit students have learnt that a variety of languages were spoken across Australia and have investigated how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people used and cared for the land in the past. They have also looked at how Aboriginal people lived in small communities moving around within their territory according to season and living on what nature provided. Grade 4 have an inquisitive nature and have been asking some deep and meaningful questions.

## Reading

In reading this term we have been exploring how prior knowledge, predicting and inferring helps us to become a better reader. Through prior knowledge we can think about what we already know and how it gives us a base to build new knowledge and helps us to make connections to the text. The prediction strategy has encouraged students to become active readers and keeps them actively engaged in the reading process. During class students have been looking at photos and making predictions and inferring what was happening before, during and after the photo was taken. The inferring strategy supports our comprehension because students develop a deeper understanding of the text, they are able to see that the author is implying something but doesn’t exactly say it in the text.

## Writing

At the moment students are learning what good writers do. In these learning experiences the children will be exploring the writing process of generating ideas, planning and drafting, feedback, editing and refinement and publishing. In class we have been learning visual and written strategies in the context of editing our writing. **Please scan the QR Code to listen to students share their work after learning to edit text for improved meaning. Free QR Code Apps can be found on the App Store. They are a great way to bring the classroom to you at home.**



## Maths

With Mrs Scharvi each Monday and Tuesday students have been looking at Mental Maths as this caters for all numeracy strands. During Term 1 we have been focusing on looking at timetables, telling the time and the duration of time. As a class we have discussed where we can see different timetables in our everyday living and how am and pm connect to our twenty-four hour clock. We have also explored how there are many ways to tell the time.

You will be interested to know that soon we will be gathering some pretty interesting information about ourselves. We have been working on a Maths unit called ‘The time of my life’. We have developed the skills 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 or 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 table and division facts.