



Curriculum Overview

Term 1, 2021

Stage One (Years One and Two)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Stage One, 2021. We look forward to a year of fun and dynamic learning.

Religion:

Our focus this term is on 'Who is Jesus'. Our learning will explore Jesus' life which reveals both his humanity and divinity. We will focus on his miracles and learn how to follow the example of Jesus' life so we can become more like him. Students will develop an understanding that through Jesus all people are invited into a relationship with God.

English:

Students will continue to build their literacy skills this term. Students will partake in Shared Reading where reading strategies are explored and modelled. Guided reading is where small group sessions focus on instructional strategies such as questioning, prompting and explaining to develop skills good readers use. Our writing focus this term is on the writing givens, which are: for all students to write full sentences, using correct grammar and punctuation. Students will explore factual texts formats as well as use the Play Based Learning as inspiration for their writing. Students will have a writing journal which is used to explore 'free' writing, it is a great opportunity for students to explore their writing capabilities without any restrictions, so that they can build their love of writing. This term we will continue to grow our speaking and listening skills through our Play Based Learning (Play Pods). The playpods will link with our Science and Geography units. Students this year will also have an opportunity to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) based inquiry within the play pod framework.

Mathematics: Students will be learning about Whole Number involving two and three digits, Addition & Subtraction, Data, Chance, Time, Position and Three-dimensional Space. There will be a strong emphasis on hands-on activities that involve rich problem solving tasks. Students will engage in higher-order thinking as they work on appropriately challenging tasks. The purpose of this is to promote problem solving, reasoning and mathematical communication, where students can explain and build on learning.

Geography: This term our topic is *Features of Places*. Students during the second half of the term will investigate the natural features of different places and explore maps of Katoomba and the Blue Mountains. They identify the active role we have in the care of the places we use. Students investigate how places are managed and cared for: for example, National Parks.

Science and Technology: During the first half of term students will be exploring Our Living World. This is an inquiry based learning Project. It requires students to inquire into how they can improve our local school environment to encourage living things to thrive. Students investigate how living things and their environment play a central role in the support for and survival of humans. Students will be asked to bring in recycled materials for this project as we will be making Diorama models.

PDHPE: Sport will be held on Friday.

This term the children will be participating in a dance program run by ***Dance Fever***, students will learn a range of different dance routines. Students will also be participating in regular fitness activities focusing on a range of fundamental movement skills.

The Personal Development topic is Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L). This is a whole school program that promotes positive behaviour. PBS4L is a framework that seeks to improve the social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for all students.

Visual Arts: This term our Visual Arts Program will be run by Ms Morley on a **Wednesday**. Students will be focussing on drawing skills and investigating how shape, texture and line can be used to express ideas about themselves and elements in the Australian environment.

Music: The students will be participating in **Music** on a **Thursday** with Ms Frazer. The students will be working on developing their concrete skills in beat/pulse and rhythm playing on percussion, as well as solidifying their understanding of rhythm reading and melody and harmony auditory skills gained in 2020.

Library: Our Library Borrowing day is Tuesday.

Library time is designed to encourage a lifelong love of literature. Please encourage your child to borrow every week, this is vital to their learning.

Homework

At the Stage One level, daily homework will take up to 15-30 minutes. It is important for your child to develop good reading practices, the Online PM Readers are a great reading resource. A daily reading routine at this age level is crucial for positive reading results. It is also nice for students to read their library books to you or to read along as you read them.

Students will be bringing home a Soundwaves homework book with their weekly word list. Students are encouraged to read the list three times, practice spelling the words and using them in a sentence.

Students will occasionally bring home small extension tasks that gives them an opportunity to share and showcase their learning from school. This is a great opportunity to extend learning from school to home.

We look forward to a stimulating, fun and productive year. Please feel free to organise a time to contact me if you would like to discuss any issue that may arise.

Yours in education,
Ms Alice Krawczyk (Stage 1 Classroom teacher)
akrawczyk1@parra.catholic.edu.au
and
Mrs Sally Piggot (Diversity Teacher)
sbennett@parra.catholic.edu.au

Growth Through Love & Learning

St Canice's Catholic Primary School
158 Katoomba Street
PO Box 1200
Katoomba 2780
Ph: 4780 6800 Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au