

Curriculum Information for Term 2 2024 for Year 6

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all managed to have a relaxing break and got to get away and enjoy some time with your families. In the interests of parent engagement, and the hopes that you will ask your child about their learning, this is a quick and simple guide to what your child is focusing on this term in Year 6.

Our **Religious Education** unit this term is **Ancient Words and Good News**. Students will understand that The Bible is the foundation of the faith tradition of Christianity; its significant people and events. Its structure and formation provide information about how history is conceived, perceived and received.

In **English** this term we are teaching units from the new NSW English syllabus. Our main novel focus is *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* By Katrina Nannestad. The organisation of outcomes and content of the new English syllabus highlights the role and connection that Understanding Texts and Creating Texts have across all areas of English. The organisation of outcomes and content reflects the essential knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to learn, including the study of a wide range of literature. The focus areas for each stage support students' growing knowledge and understanding in the areas of:

- Oral language and communication
- Vocabulary
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Creating written texts
- Spelling
- Handwriting and digital transcription
- Understanding and responding to literature

In this 10-week unit, students will gain a deeper understanding of the textual concepts of 'characterisation' and 'narrative'. Through the text *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief*, students will explore the development of characters as depicted through their appearance, words, thoughts and actions. They will explore the models of behaviour presented and how the relationship between characters enhances a reader's engagement with the text. Students will create imaginative and informative texts, drawing on their knowledge of characterisation as well as historical knowledge gained. Students will also explore the textual concepts of 'imagery, symbol and connotation' with the supporting concept of 'genre' using the mentor text *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* by Katrina Nannestad and the supporting text *The Feather* by Margaret Wild. Students will discover that literature does not always follow the form and function of a single genre, and that symbols are used within both written texts and illustrations. Students will apply their knowledge of symbol, imagery and genre in the creation of a narrative picture book with poetic elements.

In **Maths** we are teaching units from the new NSW Maths syllabus. By studying mathematics, students develop essential numeracy skills and fluency, while nurturing the ability to think logically, critically and creatively. They learn about patterns and reason about relationships, creating opportunities to generalise their solutions and to solve non-routine problems.

When students enjoy learning mathematics, they develop a positive self-concept and become self-motivated learners through active participation in appropriately challenging tasks. This can enhance their resilience in solving mathematical problems relevant to further education and their everyday lives.

Science: Our unit is titled **Material World**, (*NRMA Future of Transport Challenge*). Students will identify a problem to do with transport and pose a solution to the problem. Students will work in teams and have an end of term STEM parent engagement session, each team will show and describe their solution and teachers/Leadership will pick the winning teams to be entered into the NRMA Challenge. Students investigate how different properties of materials affect their suitability for products. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of the properties and performance of materials through observation and manipulation. They have the opportunity to design and make a solution to the transport problem.

Geography: This term we will continue on with our unit is titled **Factors that Shape Places!** Students investigate how people change the natural environment in Australia and other places around the world. They also explore how the environment influences the human characteristics of places.

Creative Arts: This term we will focus on photography and digital forms. Our artists in focus are Ansel Adams and Annie Liebovitz.

PDHPE: This term our main focus in PDH is the **URSTRONG** program which was introduced last Tuesday. URSTRONG is a whole-school strategy that empowers kids with friendship skills to create communities of kindness in schools. Relationships are the heart of social-emotional wellbeing! URSTRONG gives kids skills, language and self confidence to be better friends and develop healthier relationships. Using a kid-friendly approach, educators and parents learn a simple framework to support and coach kids towards positive relationships.

Home Learning

Current research on Home Learning is that it can be beneficial for students in Stage 3 to establish simple Home Learning routines to help build positive study habits ahead of secondary school. It is also helpful for students to revise what they are learning in class to facilitate the transfer of skills and content to their long term memory. In Year 6, students receive Home Learning on a Monday (on Google Classroom) and it is returned by Friday. Most of the set work is digital.

Each week, students will need to be prepared for the following routine activities:

Monday - Home learning is set on Google Classroom

Tuesday - Library

Wednesday - Class Sport will be taught by Mrs Kath McCamey

Thursday - Assembly (even weeks)

Friday - PE with Mrs Frost, Music with Mr Warby and home learning is collected on a Friday (or Monday at the latest)

Uniform

Last term, our students in Year 6 set a very high standard for wearing their uniform. It is vital for our senior students to continue to model this high standard - thank you in anticipation of your support.

Communication

My door is always open and I **love** to talk with you about your children.

To communicate with me or set up a meeting:

Phone - 7256 2134

Email: lisette.calleja@dbb.catholic.edu.au (*I will respond within 48 hours)

I will communicate with you in the following ways:

- All school based communication through Compass
- Email through our class parents or specific class notifications on Compass

Thank you for your support. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout 2024!

Kind regards

Lisette Calleja