

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 2 Week 3 ~ 14th May 2024

Rec LH, PH and SH:

The Reception classes have had a fantastic start to Term 2. We were very impressed by how well all the students settled back into routine after the holidays, fresh faced and ready to learn! We welcome Rhianna as a new ESO into our cohort as we lose some to Uni Placement.

In English we have split the children into 4 ability-based groups for Word Study. This ensures that all students are being exposed to content that is appropriate for their level of learning, allowing all students to be both challenged in their learning, but also experience success. The groups are run by the reception teachers and ESOs. We are so proud of our ESOs being able to step up and confidently teach Word Study. This has a significant positive impact on all our students learning. We are also completing Daily Reviews, Handwriting, Heggerty and our Book Study lessons have been met with enthusiasm by all students, as we delve more into the English Language and Literature strand of the Curriculum, whilst also consolidating our phonics learning with writing and reading tasks.

In Math's we have been focusing on Number 1 - 20. Students have loved the hands-on experiences this unit has provided, and we are seeing a pleasing acquisition of knowledge from all students. Each class also has a "Daily Math's Chat" PowerPoint presentation that they go through, a resource used made available to us via catholic education. This is a fantastic math's warm up activity, whilst also providing a way to review and consolidate previously learnt content, as well as expose children to new ideas not yet explicitly taught. We are also doing Number talks and problem-solving questions devised from Early Years PAT testing that was completed earlier in the year.

In Religion we are focusing on God's love for us, as well as daily prayer. We are also very excited for Catholic Education Week next week and the learning opportunities that this week will provide. In Science, we are looking at living things and excited to have Kerry from Half Barrel Honey visit u our school. We also are using multiple teachable moments throughout the day to discuss bucket filing, respect, persistence, kindness, and growth mindset.

Mother Day afternoon tea was very exciting for all students and a great way to connect to the community, we are also looking forward to our Excursion coming up in the next few weeks as well as our Mid-Year transition program.

We cannot wait for all the learning and growth that we are so blessed to be a part of this term.

1/2 KC, KV and SP:

We have had a great start to Term 2! We have made Mother Day's gift for our beautiful mums and celebrated Mother's Day afternoon tea.

Literacy: At the end of Term 1, we conducted a Word Study assessment and assessed the data then changed some groups so all students are at similar learning abilities. We have been covering the gaps in the data then will move onto the next stage in the word study sequence.

For grammar, we have been learning about coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to use in our writing so our writing can flow more cohesively.

In Genre Writing, we are learning about retelling a text in detail with all the main elements of characters, setting, problem and solution.

Maths: In Mathematics, we are continuing to learn about addition and subtraction strategies such as using a 100s chart, number line, doubles, near doubles, split strategy and jump strategy. We also have been analysing our PAT data and including that in our daily math chats so we can cover the gaps and consolidate skills they had difficulties with in the test.

HASS: We have been learning about family structures and roles and how they have changed over time.

SEL: The students have been learning about the values of the school and how we can put this into actions at school and home.

Religion: We are learning about how Jesus taught us about forgiveness and how to make right choices instead of wrong choices.

3 HM and HS:

The year 3 cohort has hit the ground running this term with classes running smoothly. The classes have just celebrated Mother's Day and have participated in creating gifts for their mum or special person. The students created a pot and plant. They propagated a plant, painted a pot and planted their plant in special soil.

Students are celebrating Catholic Education week this week, with classes engaging in Liturgies, creating thank you cards, switching off the power and donating coins for those in need.

Students are consistently following the classroom routines, rules and school values, showing how they can be role models for the students in all grades. We are having a large school focus on promoting positive behaviour and language. For example, students have been hearing and using the term 'we walk' instead of 'no running'. Our students are doing well at listening to the change of language and following the school's expectations.

Languages and Technology: All students are engaging positively during specialist lessons with Mrs Del Zoppo, Mrs Pfeiffer, and Mr Smart. In LAT with Mrs Del Zoppo, Mrs Pfeiffer students are learning all about Paris and connecting this to the 2024 Summer Olympics. In PE, students are focusing on Basketball and invasion games.

English: Throughout our English Unit this term, we are continuing with our PLD Spelling, Handwriting lessons and Narratives, with the students learning the structure of these well. Students also receive time three times a week to write from a themed task card called 'Let's Write', this program focuses on writing stamina and creativity, with students writing for the joy of writing. The Year 3's are continuing with their Reading comprehension lessons focusing on cause and effect and how we can bring this strategy into reading.

Mathematics: Throughout Mathematics this term we have been consolidating our understanding of place value from last term to then move into addition and subtraction. We are working towards adding and subtracting numbers of 3 digits and regrouping larger numbers. We are also learning about 2D and 3D shapes throughout the start of this term.

SEL, health and child protection curriculum lessons: This term we will be focusing on areas of Relationships from Program Achieve and Child Protection Curriculum. Some lessons that will be covered include, what makes a good character and Let's Get along.

HASS and Science: This term we are focusing mostly on our Science unit around Physical Sciences. Students will be looking at heat energy and the way states of matter change depending on temperature.

4/5 PH, RW and TL:

English: In the Year 4/5 HUB, our focus in English has been narrative writing, with a particular emphasis on exploring the themes of convict life through the novel "Tom Appleby: Convict Boy". This engaging narrative has captivated our students, providing a rich framework for our exploration of storytelling techniques and character development. Our narrative unit is not only fostering creativity but also deepening students' understanding of historical contexts and human experiences.

Mathematics: As we wrap up our exploration of the four operations, our attention is shifting towards fractions, decimals, and percentages. Building upon the foundational skills developed earlier in the year, students are prepared to tackle more complex mathematical concepts. Through hands-on activities and real-world problem-solving tasks, we aim to cultivate a deeper understanding for the connection of mathematical principles and their practical applications.

Science: Our recent science unit on forces has drawn to a close, paving the way for an exciting journey into the realm of space technology. Through the Makers Empire course, students are embarking on an exploration of how space technology can address local challenges. Partnering with industry leaders like the COSTA Group, students have the unique opportunity to apply their scientific knowledge to real-world problems such as fruit fly infestations, drought management, and precision agriculture. This collaboration not only enriches our curriculum but also empowers students to see themselves as agents of change in their communities.

HASS: In our Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) curriculum, we've been delving into the history, focusing on life in Britain in the 1800s, the First Fleet, settlement in Australia, and the process of colonization. Through a combination of primary sources, multimedia resources, and interactive activities, students are gaining insights into the complexities of historical events and their enduring impact on society. Through this unit we aim to foster critical thinking and empathy.

6 JM:

It's been a positive start in Term 2 for the Year 6 classroom. Term 1 was full of many exciting and engaging learning opportunities, including St Joseph's Day, the Year 6 Camp, and the Year 6 Leadership Day. In Term 2, the students will attend the first of their "Immersion/Transition" days at St Francis and Renmark High School, which will give them a taste of high school lessons and life. These days will occur each term, until term 4 when they begin their formal transition days.

English: In English this term we have begun reading the novel "Us Mob Walawurru" by David Spillman, which is a novel that follows the life of a young indigenous girl growing up in Central Australia in the 1960s. The story highlights situations and dilemmas related to cultural differences in education, language, relationship to country and environment, and the ideas of ownership. This text will anchor our novel study unit, our writing unit on Historical Recounts, and ties in with our HASS – History learning about Federation and the Stolen Generation. It has been interesting to hear students' perspectives and thoughts about this novel and prompting them to challenge their thinking about how it is important look at different perspectives when studying important historical events. By the end of the unit, the students will have the knowledge, skills and understanding to craft a historical recount about Federation. This term we will also be looking at writing Biographies, and the students will be researching and writing about a key figure in Federation.

Maths: In Maths, we complete a Daily Number routine with times table club on a Monday, and then a Daily Review PowerPoint on the other days. This helps the students with their recall and automaticity with number, as well as reinforcing and practicing concepts taught in lessons. We have started the term by looking at fractions, firstly fixing some misconceptions and gaps in knowledge, which were highlighted in the unit pre-test. This term we will also start looking at Measurement, and some more work on Number.

Science/Technology: This term the Year 6s and the 4/5s will be taking part in a program called "Kids in Space", which is endorsed by CESA. It is a project related to space and the students will get the opportunity to work in a team to either identify and solve a problem for astronauts in space, or use space-based technology to solve a local problem on Earth. They will work through the Design Thinking process to define their problem, come up with ideas, design a prototype, test the prototype, and then present. The project will also give them the opportunity to utilise the

school's new 3D printer. There will also be a contingent of students from St Joe's who will travel to Adelaide to present their project at a state-wide Space convention.

Religious Identity:

There are many events that students will participate in this term including St Joseph the worker Feast Day, Mother's Day, Catholic Education Week, Be the Light day and Pentecost.

The connection with our Parish with our Friday Parish Masses remains this term, as well as our First Eucharist celebration with our Year 4 students and the beginning of preparation for our Confirmation candidates.

Catholic Education Week: We look forward to celebrating Catholic Education Week this week with the theme of "Love My Catholic School – Raising Hearts and Minds - Let Your Light Shine." There are numerous events and activities planned to celebrate the wonderful learning that students experience at St Joseph's. We also have our 5 Riverland Catholic Schools coming together at Saint Francis of Assisi College on Wednesday to celebrate Catholic Education.

Coaching: As a component of my APRIM role I am working with teachers and students in class, modelling high impact teaching practices and delivering a rich RE Curriculum.

This will also incorporate directives from the Catholic Office Religious education team, including purchasing and using the new Learning sparks resources, which link with the Crossways framework.

HPE and School Sport:

PE: This term sees all students experiencing invasion games in PE. The Years R-2 have started the term with AFL using the Auskick skills and activities. This allows all students to participate regardless of ability level. They will then commence learning about Soccer skills.

The Years 3-6 students have been learning some Netball and Soccer skills leading up to our SAPSASA carnivals.

SAPSASA: This term we have our Netball carnival just completed on Thursday for the boys and Friday for the girls. We entered 2 girls' teams and 1 team of boys. This provided the opportunity for many of our students to play and compete on the day. We thank Tamara Hayes and Reeni Blackley for taking on the coaching roles for the girls. Amy Thompson was just excited to be teaching boys the rules of netball and how it differs from footy and basketball.

We have Cross Country Athletics fast approaching as well. We will be taking a team of students to Berri this year with the hope of securing a flag to decorate the front office.

Your next carnival will be Soccer, where we will be taking a boys' team and a girls' team.

LAT:

This term our country focus is on France as the Olympics are in Paris.

To start the term the students will be learning about French folklore using the green screen and the iMovie app.

They will all create movie productions.

We are also looking at the Notre Dame and stained-glass windows. Each student will design and create their own.

In week 1 and 2 the students created some artworks using water colours and were exposed to different techniques.

We are looking forward to more planning about France and a great term of learning.

ESOs:

The ESO's have transitioned back into term 2 smoothly, although there are plenty of obstacles to overcome. We welcome Rhianna McPhee onto our team as she joins us in the JP HUB. We wish the following ESOs as they partake in their UNI placement at other schools within our region. Kiara is on placement until week 9, Dana is on placement until week 6. And Bianca is doing placement every Thursday. Lily continues her placement this term within our school until week 7 and is doing an amazing job.

As well as our normal class support, we are assisting Donny as he takes on the combined 4th hour NIT with the R-2 and 3-6 HUBs. Our amazing team of ESOs are also contributing to our PBIS discussions with Linda, Larissa and Reeni a part of the team. Jami-Lee, Eva and Desiree are busy getting ready for the Book Fair in week 4. Eva has taken over Kiara's role in literacy intervention whilst she is away. We congratulate and thank Kiara for all she has done as her lead role in intervention for the years 3 – 6s, she has gone above and beyond her role as do all our ESOs.

We look forward to all our upcoming events that we heavily partake in background work. Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, Walk to School Day, Catholic Education Week celebrations at St Francis of Assisi, National Reconciliation Week and SAPSASA events.

Student Wellbeing:

In week 5, we are celebrating 'Be the Light Day' which ties in with our catholic education theme this year, 'Let Your Light Shine'. On this special day we want students to reflect on how/what their light shines and what makes them and others special and unique. We are going to do a whole school activity which will be displayed on the large blue board by the canteen. Each student will personalise a lantern with bright, shiny colours along with their photo. These lanterns will all be displayed together to represent unity. All our students will join their buddy class for the afternoon. Seeing students spending time with their buddies is very rewarding and these special school value days are very beneficial and enjoyed by everyone.

Last term we celebrated "Be Green Day" which was a great success. We have already seen a reduction in the number of bins going out each week. It has also been positive to see many students still bringing nude food lunch boxes each day.

We purchased new rubbish and recycling bins for each classroom, this is to prevent rubbish falling out of bins and looking untidy. We had some Year 6 and SRC students go around to each class to explain and enforce the importance of using all our bins correctly.

Keisha and I continue to work with students in small groups, in one-on-one therapy sessions and during regulation sessions. This intervention helps to support students' wellbeing and learning outcomes, helping students to feel connected and ready for learning and feel safe, regulated, and ready to challenge themselves. These groups are already helping to support and build stronger relationships between students.

In the sensory/wellbeing room we have a variety of activities available to support students when spending time in there to regulate. Within this space, Charlie (therapy dog) is also available when an adult is present. The students can choose to have some alone time and read a book curled up in a bean bag for their break or they may choose to have company and to talk to someone, during this time they can take Charlie for a walk, play a game of UNO or Jenga or simply go pick veggies from the veggie patch. The wellbeing and sensory room is a calm safe place for students to regulate or have quiet time to themselves. Our students really enjoy helping in the vegetable garden and tending to the 3 worm farms at school. These activities are a good chance for us to connect with students and help support them socially by meeting and mixing with other students and learning new skills.

Charlie has completed his Level One dog training last term. This training helps support his role at our school, keeping him and the students and staff. He has learnt new skills and tricks which is

popular with the students. This training is beneficial and necessary for Charlie's mental stimulation, and it keeps his mind sharp and engaged. Training helps prevent boredom and helps maintain a healthy state.

Charlie has been busy supporting students at kiss and drop and has loved spending time in different classrooms and interacting with students and staff. Charlie's daily schedule consists of helping students regulate before school and during classes, emotional support for students, and helping to create a calming atmosphere when he is in the classroom.

We are looking forward to the many exciting things happening this term.