

Staff Reports for Board Meeting Term 4 Week 3 ~ 29th October 2024

Rec LH, PH and SH:

As a new term begins, we prepare ourselves for the busiest term of the year. The students have returned energized and enthusiastic about the events occurring this term. Transition is a huge focus this term with our Optional visits completed. Once again, we have visited the Kindys and built relationships with our students beginning in 2025. We had positive feedback from parents, and we look forward to our official visits starting in Week 3. Both optional visits had a pleasing attendance and we used our current Mid-Year Students to support our 2025 students. The Year 5 cohort have also played a significant role as their big buddies supporting both the students and parents at transition. The Year 5 cohort showed amazing leadership and should be commended for their efforts

We continue to evolve our Literacy block and develop our students knowledge. Our structures remain the same with Word Study groups completed each day. Our classes also look at handwriting, heart words and Heggerty each day, as well as writing and reading tasks daily. Our ESO cohort has also been a great support with in-class intervention to help increase student knowledge.

All our Maths lessons begin with Let's Calculate (previously Daily Chat) – a ten-minute exercise that consolidates previous learning, provides opportunities for automaticity with numbers and introduces concepts that are soon to be introduced. This term our focus is on Location as well as a big emphasis on consolidating our basic number.

In Religion this term, we are doing Mitiog, which is easy to teach in Reception considering the limited content we must cover. With Christmas approaching fast we are teaching our students about the characteristics of Jesus and what our students can take from him into their real lives with kindness, empathy, manners and forgiveness.

Our teachers are going to be very busy this term with Grandparents Day, Peter Combe (older teachers slightly more excited than some of the students for this), Be grateful Day and World Kindness Day, Remembrance Day, All Souls Day, End of Year Concert, Report writing and of course preparing for Christmas craft activities.

1/2 KC, KV and SP:

We can't believe that it is Term 4 already! We are looking forward to an exciting term filled with many fun-filled activities. Along with all the exciting activities ahead, everyone is super excited for all the Christmas festivities. We look forward to delivering the RE program, with a strong focus on our relationship with God and the Liturgical season on Advent. We have also started delivering the MITIOG program, which children are enjoying participating in. In Science, we will continue to look at Earth and Space Science and Geography in HASS. Students have shown strong interest and engagement within these two topics, and we look forward to continuing them throughout the rest of the term. We have begun working on our concert items for the end of year concert. Students are really looking forward to participating in this, showing their items to their families and friends. Miss Dana will be supporting us with our concert items, doing music alterations and dance choreography. Sports Day was a hit and a very successful day. Students loved participating in all the games and demonstrated strong sportsmanship throughout the day. We are really looking forward to welcoming our Grandparents into our school for Grandparents Day, celebrating with a liturgy, classroom activities and an afternoon tea.

In Maths, we have been delivering basic number through 'Let's Calculate' and will continue to do this throughout the term. We will continue to look at data collection, collecting some core number collection for moderation and reporting. We have been focusing on Time and look forward to our Location and Transformation Unit. Students have enjoyed learning and participating in a range of different hands-on activities indoors and outdoors. We will be moving into shape and money in the coming weeks.

In Literacy, we have continued our data collection for reports through looking and comparing writing samples, heart words, alphabet recognition, phonemic awareness in Word Study and our reading assessment – Sparkle. Students have also enjoyed looking Information Reports, where they have had the opportunity to research an animal of choice using technology and present the information in poster form. We can't wait to see the results. Students will be presenting these in class. We are now excited to begin our unit on poetry to finish up the year.

3 HM and HS:

The Year 3 cohort have started the last term of the year strong and focussed. The students are flourishing, and it is at this time of the year that teachers are noticing an overall growth in maturity of being young people of our world.

Classes are busy organising their song and are about to begin learning their dance routine for the school concert at the end of the term. Students are showing a keen interest and excitement for this event. They are also greatly anticipating our excursion to Barmera, taking place later this term.

English: Our PLD groups are continuing to run smoothly, and teachers are continuing to observe an overall growth in spelling abilities following the assessment conducted at the end of Term 3. We are also seeing great progress with students taking part in Intervention groups. For the first half of the term students are learning about Information Reports, including structural elements, specific vocabulary, diagrams and conclusion. Once this unit is complete, classes will focus on Poetry for the remainder of the term. Students continue to complete 'Let's Write' task cards enjoy using their creativity in this free-writing activity. We are still completing reading, spelling and writing assessments multiple times a term to collect data about each student in our classes.

Mathematics: We have begun the term with a focus on Statistics and Graphing and we'll then be swiftly moving through a number of units on topics such as Probability and Angles. Throughout these topics we will revise and develop number skills previously learnt during the year. We look forward to seeing the overall growth of their learning within Mathematics when completing a PAT Mathematics test in the coming week as well.

SEL and Child Protection Curriculum; We continue to work through our Program Achieve lessons in SEL, with a focus this term on social-emotional blockers and the skills to overcome them. We will also be covering Child Protection Curriculum throughout the term.

HASS: Following our Science focus last term, in Term 4 the Year 3 students will be working on Geography knowledge and skills. We have begun our unit on Australia and Neighbouring Countries. We are integrating this topic with our English Unit on Information Reports. We have listened to an interesting presentation from our own staff member Mrs Desiree Guy, who taught us many things about her home country of the Philippines. Students have also been learning to use an atlas and Google Maps. Ultimately, our students will conduct their own research to create an information report about one of our neighbouring countries. We know how quickly this term is going to fly, but we are looking forward to spending these last 6 weeks with our class.

4/5 PH, RW and TL:

The Year 4/5 HUB has commenced the term with a remarkable level of enthusiasm and engagement across all subject areas. Students have demonstrated a positive attitude towards their learning, effectively settling into their routines and showing a keen interest in the topics at hand. This strong start sets a solid foundation for a productive term ahead.

English: In English, we have initiated an exciting biography unit of work. Students are currently engaged in researching a famous First Nations Australian as part of their final assignment. This project not only enhances their research skills but also significantly deepens their understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

We are guiding students to focus on the contributions and impacts of their chosen individuals, encouraging them to connect with the stories of these remarkable figures. This approach promotes respect for First Nations perspectives and helps students develop empathy and a broader worldview. Students are also learning how to present their findings effectively, honing their writing and communication skills. We have incorporated a variety of resources, including texts, videos, and guest speakers, to enrich their learning experience and provide diverse perspectives.

Mathematics: In Mathematics, we are exploring the concept of angles in greater depth. Students are learning to identify, measure, and draw different types of angles, including acute, obtuse, and right angles. We have designed engaging hands-on activities, such as using protractors and engaging in angle hunts around the classroom and school environment, to reinforce their understanding and practical skills in geometry.

By connecting mathematical concepts to real-life applications, we aim to make learning relevant and enjoyable. For instance, students have been tasked with measuring angles in various structures around the school and creating their own angle-based art projects. These activities not only enhance their learning but also foster creativity and critical thinking.

HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences): Our focus in HASS is on civics and citizenship, where students are developing a nuanced understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of the community. Through dynamic discussions and engaging activities, we aim to foster an appreciation for democratic values and the importance of active citizenship.

Students have participated in debates and role-playing activities that simulate decision-making processes within a community context. This experiential learning approach allows them to grasp the significance of civic engagement and encourages them to think critically about their roles in society. Additionally, we are integrating discussions about current events to help students connect their learning to the world around them.

Student Engagement: Overall, students have started the term off exceptionally well. Their engagement and participation in lessons have been commendable, reflecting a strong commitment to their studies. This enthusiasm has been evident in their collaborative work, discussions, and willingness to explore new ideas. We are excited to see their progress in these areas as the term continues and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

As we move forward, we will continue to provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment. Our goal is to encourage students to take ownership of their learning and explore these important topics in depth. We will regularly assess their understanding and adapt our teaching strategies to meet their evolving needs, ensuring that each student can thrive academically and socially.

We are committed to fostering a culture of curiosity and respect, preparing our students not only to be informed learners but also responsible and active members of their communities. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to nurture the growth and development of our Year 4/5 students.

6 JM:

It's been a positive start in Term 4 for the Year 6 classroom. Term 3 was full of many exciting and engaging learning opportunities, and in Term 4 we look forward to many events such as High School Transitions, End of Year Excursion, Graduation, School Concert, as well as many others.

English: In English this term we have begun reading the novel "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown, which is about a robot who washes up on an uninhabited island. The robot learns to adapt to the environment by observing and copying behaviours of the animals of the island, and soon becomes an integral part of the island's ecosystem. The story explores themes of nature, technology, belonging, and sense of purpose and identity. This text will anchor our novel study and Narrative writing units.

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 Number, covering number lines, decimals, positive and negative numbers, and percentages. This Term in Maths we will also be looking at Chance and Probability and Transformation and Location.

Religion: This Term in Religion, we have started our MITIOG (Made in the Image of God) unit, and we have split the class into boys and girls. The boys will be doing their learning with Mr McGuire, and the girls with Mrs DelZoppo. This Term the students will also be doing a Bible study unit with Mrs DelZoppo.

Science and HASS: To start the Term in Science, we have begun by looking at Energy, and the different types of Energy that we interact with in our day to day lives. We will also be looking at Chemical Science towards the end of the term. In HASS this Term, the students will be undertaking a unit on Civics and Citizenship. They will discover how Australia's parliamentary system works, what it means to be an Australian citizen, how laws are made, and how elections and voting work.

Religious Identity:

As we begin our final term for the year, we maintain our vigorous approach to the teaching and learning in our school and the beautiful celebrations which enhance our Catholic identity.

Grandparents Day: On Friday we celebrated Grandparents and Special Persons Day. The students welcomed their Grandparents and the Special elderly people in their lives, acknowledging and celebrating the gift of them and the vital role they play in our lives. We reflected on their great wisdom and experience, which is passed from generation to generation, and we celebrated the gifts all our ancestors have forged for us- the gifts of life and love.

All Saints Day / All Souls Day: Next week teachers will lead a prayer time with their classes to celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The Feast of All Saints' Day celebrates all the Christian saints. Saints are holy people who are believed to be very close to God. All Souls' Day is a special day set aside by the Catholic Church to remember and pray for those who have died. As a special remembrance of our loved ones, someone special in their life who may have passed away, a saint that they felt connected to or a special living person in their life students will decorate crosses dedicated to these people to be displayed in the office prayer space.

RE Leaders Day: On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday I will be attending the Religious Leaders Reflection Days for the Port Pirie Diocese, to explore the theme for 2025 'Seeds of Hope' I look forward to working with the other RE leaders to explore the theme in preparation for next year.

Parish Masses: We have 4 Parish School Masses organised for this Term.

Week 1 Year 6JM

Week 4 Year All Year 1/2 Classes

Week 6 Year All Reception Classes

Week 7 Year All Year 4/5 Classes

Week 9 End of Year Whole School

We look forward to celebrating our faith with our parish and the opportunities for our students to exhibit their leadership in the faith dimension.

Remembrance Day: Our Year 5 students are in the process of preparing a liturgy to acknowledge Remembrance Day on Monday 11th November. We look forward to recognising this event in our community.

Catekids: I am preparing 5 students from our school through the Catekids program to receive the Sacrament of Baptism on the 6th of November. This is a very special time for them, and I feel privileged to be a part of their journey.

HPE and School Sport:

In Physical Education, the R-2 classes have been learning skills in Gymnastics and will then commence skipping skills. We will also be learning Road Safety this year as a pedestrian.

In 3-6 PE, classes have been developing their skills, tactics and understanding of a variety of modified Striking & Fielding games, including Cricket and Softball. Term 4 has also marks the start of our annual Pogo Pulse and Jump Rope for Heart program, running from week 2-6. This program has again received great interest from students with 35 students participating in morning trainings and our 'Bounce Back Day' on Wednesday of Week 6.

We are not participating in any SAPSASA events this term.

LAT:

We were very excited to hold our SJSR Cardboard Carnival. It was an opportunity for our students to showcase the Technology projects they worked on for during the end of Term 3. They followed the Design Process to develop their ideas into fun and exciting games to be enjoyed by everyone. The cross-curriculum priority of sustainability encouraged students to help create this fun day using items we already had laying about. This was assisted by a kind donation of cardboard offcuts from Visy Board. We were extremely impressed by the quality of work that our students presented.

Looking forward to term 4, we are excited to be part of the CESA Christmas Card Competition. Students are designing their own Christmas Cards to be submitted for consideration.

ESOs:

What a fantastic start we have had to the final term of 2024. All ESO's have been flexible, as we had Dimitri away due to knee surgery and Reeni away for ankle surgery therefore we have all stepped up and assisted wherever our support is needed.

We gathered on the first Monday of the term for a student free day where we discussed the upcoming term. We were educated on our current PBIS approach and our case management structure.

This term is filled with many exciting events including Grandparents Day, pogo pulse, Carols in the Garden, year 6 Graduation and the end of year school concert.

Our 2025 receptions have completed their first optional transition day, where they met with their new buddies and were supported by our teachers and ESO's. We look forward to welcoming them to our school in the upcoming weeks.

We farewelled Adrian, and welcomed Bob Ware into our school community who will assist in the maintenance of our school.

We will ensure we are making the last term of 2024 a fun term for everyone.

Regards, ESO Team.

Student Wellbeing:

Our Wellbeing and Learning Centre continues to be successful as it supports many of our students. This versatile space provides a safe and calm place for students to utilize and regulate. Within this space students can access a range of resources as well as getting support from our well-being staff. Students enjoy spending time with Charlie in this space if they choose.

Charlie has been busy supporting students at kiss and drop and he has loved spending time in different classrooms and interacting with students and staff. Charlies 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 continue to support Charlie with his training to keep him focused and feeling safe and happy.

This term we are celebrating 'Be Grateful Day.' On this special day we hope to highlight the importance of showing gratitude and appreciation for the many things we are all fortunate enough to have. All our students will come together with a buddy class for a fun and engaging activity.

We have formed a Wellbeing Expo Committee, and we are busy planning our 2025 Family Fete and Wellbeing Expo. With the support from the P&F Committee, we have many great ideas and look forward to planning a great night for everyone to enjoy. We are very thankful to Flinders University for the grant money which we have received to support our event.

We are looking forward to more exciting things happening this term.