Welcome to 2017 and Grade Four

RELIGION
This term we have begun by focusing on the meaning of gratitude and we have had discussions about how it is connected to our faith. As a link to our first inquiry into money we will investigate the Catholic response to issues such as homelessness in our local and global community. We will look at needs and wants and our excursion to the Big Issue Classroom will help students to understand different groups that make up our community. Students will also learn about how we as Catholics have a responsibility towards others in the community. For the remainder of the term, our religious focus will be on Lent and Holy week leading up to Easter.

Unit of Inquiry
How we Organise Ourselves
Transdisciplinary Theme:
An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

Central Idea
Access to money contributes to quality of life.
An Inquiry into:
- Our responsibility to the other (Share it, Don’t waste it) (Responsibility)
- How money facilitates the exchange of goods and services. (Function)
- Why money needs to be earned and carefully managed. (Connection)

LITERACY
Reading – Students have been working on the STARS/CARS reading program where they have been given texts suited to their reading level and they work through 8-12 comprehension questions about a text they have read. Students have been recording the questions they have been having difficulty with and we will work through 2-3 comprehension strategies a term so students have a better understanding. The twelve comprehension strategies are finding main idea, recalling facts and details, understanding sequence, recognising cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, making predictions, finding word meaning in context, drawing conclusions and making inferences, distinguishing between fact and opinion, understanding author’s purpose, interpreting figurative language and distinguishing between real and make believe or summarising.
**Good-Fit Books** - Children will discuss what a ‘good-fit book’ is. They will practise following the criteria explored in class in order to successfully choose a ‘good-fit book’ for themselves. Students will be making an IPICK bookmark to help remind them of this.

**Writing** – We will explore the variety of texts students can write, as well as their different purposes and audiences. We will also be focussing on the various parts of writing fundamentals such as punctuation, sentences and paragraphs. To begin this term, students will explore the descriptive writing as well as work on some procedural and letter writing.

**Spelling** – Spelling will also be addressed as a focus this year, beginning with revision of the high frequency words. Children will participate in various spelling activities to aide them in their spelling strategies. There will be a spelling sound or blend that will be the focus each week and this will also be a part of spelling for homework. It may seem simple at first but it is important students have an in depth knowledge of the different spelling sounds that can make up a word.

**Handwriting** - Handwriting is an integral part of each child’s writing and will be a major focus for Grade 4s – especially considering the children will be receiving their pen licences at some stage later this year. Handwriting is not only a focus to be undertaken at school but also at home, this will begin to prepare children for joined handwriting.

**NUMERACY**
This term we will be focussing on the following concepts in numeracy/maths –
- Place value
- Working with money
- Reading, writing, renaming, comparing, ordering, counting and representing whole numbers
- Constructing and labelling Venn diagrams and bar graphs

**HOMEWORK**
Each child is expected to read 20 minutes every night, parents are to sign the diaries at least once per week, as this will be checked at the end of the week. Homework tasks will be based around concepts and ideas covered in class. Children are also expected to revise spelling words or sounds and practice maths counting patterns. We encourage students to independently ask their teacher for help if they are having difficulty with anything in the homework.
An idea to support the learning at school would be to ensure that (should you wish to) have children earn money rather than just receiving it. We will be undertaking an earn and learn project at school that we would encourage parents to continue with at home. Information about this will be included in the homework coming home shortly.
**Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to unpack their bag, hand in any notes and set up their learning space **when** the first bell rings (8:30am). **This is each student’s responsibility.** All students need to be in class and reading **when** the second bell rings at 8:45am.

**Important Dates**

Please note that PE will be taken by the specialist teacher on Wednesdays and the classroom teacher may take an additional sports lesson on a Friday. Children are required to wear their sports uniform each Wednesday and Friday.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th February</td>
<td>Grade 4B Hosting Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th February Thursday 16th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange 3:30- 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th February</td>
<td>Grade 4 Hosting Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th February</td>
<td>Grade 4G Hosting Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th February</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday <strong>(We will be making pancakes in the middle block - We would love some helpers. Please let us know if you can help)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass</td>
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<td>Friday 10th March</td>
<td>Grade 4 Attending Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th March</td>
<td>Labour Day- School Closure</td>
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<td>Friday 17th March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31st March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 students finish at 1.30pm</td>
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To help us out throughout the year, we ask that each child brings in two boxes of tissues. These will be collected by the class teacher. Thankyou 😊

If you have any questions, concerns or queries please contact us via our email addresses below or come and see us in our classrooms anytime for a chat.

**Thank you the Grade Four Team**

Sam Richardson- srichardson@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au

Joe Moore - jmoore@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au