Welcome to 2016 and Grade Four

RELIGION
This term we will begin with focusing on the meaning of hope and discuss how the concept of hope is connected to our faith. Children will be revisiting the main prayers that we practice daily including the school prayer. As part of a whole school initiative, students will begin the year with a strong focus on Saint Francis. In addition to this, students will explore that we are all created in the image of God and are called to live in harmony within our world. For the remainder of the term, our religious focus will be on Lent and Holy week leading up to Easter. We will also be focussing on important liturgical season in the Catholic calendar, Lent.

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
Rules and laws promote or deny equality.

An Inquiry into:
● The purpose of rules and laws (Causation)

● How rules and laws are made (Function)

● Positive and negative effects of laws and rules and how they help promote equality for all (Perspective)

LITERACY
Reading – Students will be grouped according to their testing results at the start of the year. These groups will change over the course of the term as their needs and abilities will develop. This term we will be focussing on inferential comprehension skills using both fiction and non-fiction texts. We will also be the reciprocal reading roles to assist the students to explore texts at a deeper level. The students will develop their note-taking skills and ability to locate key words and information from a text. These strategies are invaluable tools for the
children to become independent in, as they promote text discussion and improve their ability to predict, infer, clarify and summarise.

**Good-Fit Books** - Children will discuss what a ‘good-fit book’ is. They will practise following the criteria in order to successfully choose a ‘good-fit book’ for themselves.

**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 genre of procedures. Students will focus on the structure and language features used in this genre. To further develop their writing, students will also begin to explore narratives in greater detail.

**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. We will begin to teach the children to become more independent and confident, choosing their own misspelt words from their writing each week. We will continue to have weekly spelling investigations to target recognisable spelling errors in the students’ writing.

**Handwriting** - Handwriting is an integral part of each child’s writing and will to be a major focus for Grade 4s – especially considering the children will be receiving their pen licences at some stage 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 –
- Vertical addition and subtraction
- Place value
- Ordering whole numbers
- Constructing and labelling Venn diagrams and bar graphs
- Worded problems involving the operations, including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

**HOMEWORK**
Each child is expected to read 20 minutes every night, parents are to sign the diaries as often as possible, 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 and practice maths counting patterns.
**Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to unpack their bag 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 Tuesdays. An additional sports lesson with the classroom teacher will be on a Friday every fortnight. Children will have to wear their sports uniform on each Tuesdays and Fridays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange 3:30-6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th February</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday <em>(We will be making pancakes in the middle block- We would love some helpers. Please let us know if you can help)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass at 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange 3:30-6:30</td>
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<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Grade 4 attending Mass</td>
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<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>Clean Up Schools Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
<td>Parent Helper Training</td>
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<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Grade 4 Hosting Mass</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day- Day off</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>Open Day Tours @ 10am and 12pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th 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 or queries please contact us via our emails or come and see us in our classrooms.

**Thank you the Grade Four Team**

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

Samantha Signorelli- ssignorelli@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au