

Year 5 Term Letter, Term 1 2020

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Welcome to the 2020 School Year. I hope the first few weeks of life in the Year 5 class have been both enjoyable and stimulating for your child. It has been fantastic to see everyone back with such a positive attitude and displaying so many of the Kid in the Crest values right from the first day of the year. There have already been numerous examples in our classroom of students demonstrating that they can *Think and Learn*, *Care for One Another* and *Act to Make a Difference in our World*. The students have returned with great enthusiasm and it promises to be an exciting year ahead as we encourage everyone in our community to 'Embrace the Challenge' in 2020. I am very much looking forward to the year.

We welcome new students Laura Varley and Oliver Hoole to our class.

We have already been busy establishing routines and expectations for the students, as well as making an industrious start on this year's curriculum. Activities relating to all of the curriculum areas will be located on our Year 5 Blog, located at <http://doloursf.edublogs.org>

Term 1 Units of Work

Religious Education

In Religious Education this term, our goals are to identify the many ways in which faith is shared and strengthened in communities of believers and to broaden our appreciation of the significance of personal and communal prayer and worship.

English

Our students have already commenced work on our English unit of work for this term, which is built around the "Extreme Adventures" series of novels written by Justin D'Ath. These novels provide the basis for a wide range of reading and writing tasks, including the creation of written narratives. Over the course of the term, students will engage in a comprehensive investigation of the structure of narratives and will examine language features and techniques used by authors when writing narratives.

Humanities and Social Science (Geography)

Students will be developing their understanding that bushfires and floods are relatively common occurrences in Australia, varying in frequency, severity, duration and location. They will look at the impact of bushfires on the environment, people, communities and wildlife.

Humanities and Social Science (History)

Our studies from the Year 5 National History Curriculum will focus on the reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia, and we will investigate some of the experiences of particular migrant groups. We will also have a focus on the foods that are available to us as a result of the amazing multicultural society in which we live.

Mathematics

Our Term One Mathematics Program is built around some excellent hands-on resources, including our iPads, iMaths Program and “Maths in a Box”. These programs cover a wide range of mathematical concepts, and cater for multiple ability levels. We will work on a daily basis to reinforce the value of quick and accurate mental computations, as well as consolidating our knowledge of times tables. Major focus areas for this term will include measurement, units of measurement, area and perimeter, using grid reference systems to describe locations, describing routes using landmarks and directional language, factors and multiples, rounding to 100 and 1000, place value beyond millions, multiplication 4-digit x 1-digit and 3-digit x 2-digit, and division 3-digit ÷ 1-digit.

Students will complete a number of maths investigations throughout the term, which will contribute to their assessment in this area.

Science

This term, students will engage with Biological science when they investigate ‘*What is a living thing?*’. They will complete investigations looking at how plants and animals have adapted to their environment, with a special focus on our very own Australian Native Stingless Bees.

Health Education

Year 5 students will investigate, plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing. They will explore the food pyramid, compare product labels on food items or nutritional information in recipes and suggest ways to improve the nutritional value of meals.

Music

This Semester, students will investigate how we represent music in written form. This includes how musicians read and write dynamics into their compositions. Students will create their own masterpieces and explore how the elements of music impact on the interpretation by the audience. Students will also be introduced into the Brass family of the orchestra.

Physical Education

As well as participating in Swimming Lessons this term, Yr 5 students will participate in physical activities designed to enhance fitness and discuss the impact regular participation can have on health and wellbeing.

Students will require togs, towels, swimming caps and sunshirts each Monday for their swimming lessons. We’ll be travelling by bus to Everton Park State School for lessons and our time slot is 12:00 / 1:00pm.

Design and Technologies

In this area, students use a variety of materials, tools, equipment and techniques to safely

generate and produce designed solutions for authentic needs and opportunities. They will be encouraged to investigate possibilities as they develop solutions to challenges. This term, students will design and build a marble run incorporating a chain reaction.

Digital Technologies

Year 5 students will put into practice the coding skills they developed in previous years by working through 'how-to' exercises in the block coding program Scratch. They will design an interactive maze game where the user can receive feedback on their progress through the maze. In doing so they students will use computational thinking as they design the game, decompose problems and design algorithms to provide a solution. They will use online examples to help them construct a range of projects.

LOTE / Japanese

- Details TBC.

Visual Arts

This term students will explore some of the practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to learn about how these artists communicate intention. Students will explore a diversity of ideas, concepts and viewpoints as both artists and audience.

Homework

Homework is discussed with students and loaded onto the Year 5 Blog every Friday. The focus is on the reinforcement of concepts covered throughout the week. At Our Lady of Dolours School, it is our belief that Homework:

1. Supports the learning journey of students.
2. Promotes responsibility for learning and encourages ongoing student reflection.
3. Supports the development of time management skills and the work and organisation habits of students.

Year 5 students are given opportunities during the week to discuss any problems, challenges or concerns that may arise. It is expected that homework will be returned on Friday mornings, to be discussed and corrected in class. Homework should take no more than 30 minutes each night, although I would recommend that students are also reading for 15-30 minutes per evening, if possible. If you have questions or concerns regarding homework, please feel free to contact me. My email address is dcrawford@bne.catholic.edu.au or you can just pop in and see me before or after school.

Additional info.

- Our Library borrowing day this term is a Thursday.
- Specialist lessons are on Mondays again this year, so sports uniforms are to be worn on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Some important dates

Date	Event
Monday 10 th February	Swimming Lesson 1 (Everton Park SS)
Wednesday 12 th February	Yr 5 Parent Information Evening, 6pm – 6:45pm
Friday 14 th February	Opening School Mass, 9am
Friday 14 th February	Year 5 Prayer Assembly, 2pm
Monday 17 th February	Swimming Lesson 2
Tuesday 18 th – Thursday 20 th	Yr 5 introducing Prep Buddies on 8:30am assembly
Monday 24 th February	Swimming Lesson 3
Tuesday 25 th February	Km Club starts, 7:45am at Sid Loder Park
Wednesday 26 th February	Ash Wednesday Liturgy 2pm
Monday 2 nd March	OLD Swimming Carnival (Everton Park SS)
Tuesday 10 th March	Yr 5 Reconciliation
Friday 20 th March	Zone 4 Swimming Carnival (Valley Pool)
Friday 27 th March	Yr 5 and Prep Mass
Thursday 2 nd April	OLD Cross Country Carnival 11am – 3pm, Teralba Park
Friday 3 rd April	Last day of Term 1

And, down the track a bit

Tues 12th - Thurs 22nd May, NAPLAN (Term 2, Weeks 4/5)

Mon 12th – Wed 14th October Year 5 Camp, (Maranatha Recreation Camp, Yandina)

I am looking forward to a great year. It is my aim to provide a challenging program and a stimulating environment in which your child can grow and be happy, and I encourage you to make me aware of any issues or concerns that you may have at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Duncan Crawford
Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener
Principal