

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term II.

This term we will begin the teaching of the Jesus Strand. This should take us to the end of Week 4 approximately.

**When teaching the Jesus strand our overriding aims are**

- Jesus shows us how to live and bring us closer to God
- Jesus gives Himself in the Eucharist
- The life of Jesus
- The values of Jesus and our role as Disciples today

This term we are going to experiment with our planning for both major strands by focusing on only one or two main ideas and trying to ensure we really cover those in depth. This may mean that some pages in the work book are not worked on at school but by all means let the children work at them at home if they wish. They will know which ones they are.

The teachers will then move onto the teaching of the the Prayer module which is based on traditional forms of prayer and the responses at Mass. This is a great time at home to encourage the use of the traditional prayers like the Our Father, The Hail Mary, and the Glory Be as part of your child's prayer time. We would like to think that as part of your child's R.E. programme and their daily routines there is time set aside for prayer. The Prayer Module will take one week and then we will move on to the teaching of the Holy Spirit Strand.

**When we teach the Holy Spirit Strand our overriding aims are:**

- To create the knowledge of Spirit,
- To know the symbols and titles of the Holy Spirit.
- To have some understanding of the mission of the Holy Spirit in creating sustaining and renewing the church in our lives.

Work will also take place on the great feast of Easter in Week 1 and throughout the term on other major church feasts such as the Ascension and Pentecost.

As always at the end of each teaching strand the children will show you the comment box. In this box the child will have written a comment relating to the work covered. If you also can write a line or two relating to the content of the work, and the teacher writes theirs in too, then that obviously has all of us working together in the same direction. All of us showing such interest reinforces in the child's mind that Religious Education is something important and worthwhile. If you have difficulty thinking up an appropriate comment, look in your Family Whanau Book Pages 39 - 40 have parent comments covering all levels (0-7) of all the strands. Year 8 may not feature in your Family Whanau book. I have an addition to the book covering Yr 8 comments. Any parents of senior students who have a Family Whanau book and need the addition let me know.

All new entrants are expected to purchase a Family Whanau Book. For our older pupils and more long standing families if you wish to purchase a Family Whanau Book at the cost of \$13 see Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Blacklow or myself and we will obtain one for you.

Our sincere thanks to children and parents for the money raised during Lent. The amount was an amazing \$824.00 We hope this was a worthwhile experience for the students as they did their respective jobs to raise money to help others. The money raised will go to Caritas for the Lenten appeal (which this year was work in a number of countries ) and mission work being carried out in various places by the Sisters of Our Lady the Missions- our founding order.

As always teachers keep themselves fully updated in Religious Education with Professional Development courses and Staff Meetings.

On the back of the newsletter is the Term timetable covering all that is happening Religious Education as known at this time.

If you wish to discuss any problems relating to your child and the teaching of Religious Education, I am always about the place and am happy to help in any way.

Melvina MacDonald  
Director of Religious Studies