Welcome to Year 5, Term 1. I hope you had an enjoyable, relaxing break and are now ready for the busy term ahead. As the children enter Senior School this year, it is extremely important that they develop an independence in, and responsibility for, their own learning and their preparedness for learning. Therefore, we will be working on developing effective organisation skills this term. Students must have their school supplied diary with them every day.

**Religious Education**
The following units will be taught:
- Leading as a Disciple of Jesus within the Brigidine Tradition.
- Lent to Easter

**English**
This term’s writing focus will be Discussion and Exposition. Reading skills, including comprehension and critical thinking, will be taught by exploring a range of factual and literary texts as a whole class and as part of a smaller instructional group. Spelling will continue to be taught as part of the reading and writing program. Speaking and listening skills will be taught through class discussions and presentation of research across the different KLA’s. It is expected that students use cursive handwriting in Year 5 across all KLAs.

**Mathematics**
Students will be grouped flexibly within the class based initially on their number knowledge and application. This term there will be a focus on mental computation strategies for addition and subtraction and general number facts. We will also be working on 2D space, 3D space and Time.

**Science and Technology**
This term 2 units will be taught – ‘Light Shows’ and ‘Desert Survivors’. Light Shows will explore the properties of light and how it enables us to see. Desert Survivors explores some of the physical and behavioural adaptations of plants and animals to desert environments, and compares these with plants and animals from other environments. The students will further develop their skills in computer operations, concepts, word processing, graphics, research and cyber safety skills associated with internet use.
There will be no HSIE taught in Term 1 to allow considered planning for the new NSW History Syllabus which will be implemented in Term 2.

**Creative Arts**
“Making Music,” – The students will be exploring the qualities of musical instruments and how artists use these in their artworks. Students will respond to their musical instruments through investigations in their artmaking, exploring details of their shape, size, form, texture and sounds.
Music and Drama will be taught by Mrs McNally, on Tuesday.

**PDH**
This term we will explore “A Healthy Me.” We will be covering a range of concepts on what it means to be healthy and how to stay safe in different environments. Mr De-Villiers will
facilitate specialist PE lessons on Tuesdays and the students will attend Gymnastics on Thursdays.

**Weekly Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music/Drama</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Due each Thursday and new homework will be given out each Friday</td>
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**Homework**

Students will be given homework tasks on a Friday which will be due back the following Thursday unless otherwise stated. Weekly homework may consist of word study, Literacy tasks, Maths tasks and often a research task related to a class topic.

Homework will be available on Google Docs (When Mrs Shestowsky returns) and may also be recorded by the students in their diary. Parents will be required to sign their child’s diary on the night before homework is due, to endorse that all homework has been completed, including 5 nights of reading (Book title and time read must also be recorded). Please send a note in your child’s diary if he/she has not completed any part of the homework by the due date.

This year students will be exposed to and explicitly taught how to use the Google suite of programs. They will be required to complete and submit tasks online using these programs. It is therefore, expected that they will have home access to a computer, laptop, other. Please do not hesitate to discuss any issues which may arise from this expectation.

**Dates for the diary**

- Wednesday 10th February - Ash Wednesday School Mass
- Friday 19th February - Swimming Carnival
- Thursday 25th - Friday 26th February - Staff Development Days
- Thursday 10th March - Lenten School Mass
- Friday 11th March - Cross Country
- Friday 25th March - Good Friday
- Monday 28th March - Easter Monday
- Wednesday 6th April - Easter School Mass
- Friday 8th April - Last day of Term 1

Just a reminder that the roll is a legal document and if your child is absent for any part of the school day the school must be informed, by note, email or a phone call.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support. Should you have any concerns at any time, please contact me via the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet.

Donna Shestowsky