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. Students will be introduced to debating as part of this focus. 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. Talking 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 KLA’s.

**Mathematics**
Similarly to Literacy, 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 Position.

**Human Society and its Environment**
“How is Australia a democratic country?” The students will explore the history of democracy through time, with the majority of the learning based around the development of democracy in Australia and democratic rights. The unit will finish with a look at what it means to be an Australian citizen.

**Science and Technology**
The unit this term will be “Change Detectives”, building on student’s knowledge of solids, liquids and gases, by exploring the concept of reversible and non-reversible changes to substances. The students will further develop their skills in computer operations, concepts, word processing, graphics, research and cyber safety skills associated with internet use. Access the internet from school.

**Creative Arts**
“The Australian Image” - The students will be exploring how different artists represent faces using a variety of mediums. We will also explore entries made to the current Archibald prize. Students will then create their own Archibald entry.
Music and Drama will be taught by Mrs McNally, on Tuesday.
PDH
This term our unit is called ‘You, Me and Us”. The students will be examining their rights and responsibilities, maintaining positive relationships and how to be Cybersmart.

Miss Camden 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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Due each Wednesday and new homework will be given out each Thursday</td>
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</tbody>
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Homework
Students will be given homework tasks on a Thursday which will be due back the following Wednesday unless otherwise stated. Weekly homework may consist of word study, Literacy tasks, Maths tasks and often a research task related to a class topic. All students are expected to read for 30 mins per night and to record what they read and for how long, in their diaries.

Homework will be recorded by the students in their diary and 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. Please send a note in your child’s diary if he/she has not completed any part of the homework by the due date.

Dates for the diary
- Tuesday 10th February - Parent information night
- Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday School Mass
- Friday 20th February - Swimming Carnival at West Pymble
- Friday 13th March - School Cross Country
- Wednesday 25th March - Lenten School Mass
- Thursday 2nd 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