Term 4 Year3 Newsletter

As I sit here typing this newsletter, a scary thought pops into my head - there are only 11 weeks till Christmas! Then I think of all the amazing things Year 3’s will be doing in those 11 weeks and I’m excited! Can’t wait to sink my teeth into this term! So here’s what is happening.

Margy D’Rozario: mdrozario@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au
Amanda McCurdy: amccurdy@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au

Important Dates

October 13th - Beginning of term Mass
October 27th - T20 Cricket Day (Year 3 & 4)
October 29th - Year 3 class Mass

November 3rd - School Closure Day
November 6th - School Closure Day
November 7th - Melbourne Cup Day (School Closure Day)
November 17th - St John’s Ambulance First Aid Training (Years 3-6)

November 20th - Scienceworks Excursion

December 1st - Whole school Swimming Carnival
December 6th - Carols Night
December 11th - ‘Up’ Day
December 20th - Last Day for 2017 (children dismissed at 1.50pm)
This topic takes us to the far corners of our universe as we explore the Earth and space sciences. The BIG QUESTION we will be exploring in this unit of work is: “How does the Earth’s rotation on its axis cause regular changes, cycles of non living things and the world around us?”

The students will learn ‘The Canticle of the Sun’ a prayer from St Francis of Assisi to connect their Faith life with their exploration of the effects of Earth’s rotation on its axis. They will inquire about and question their world and explore relationships that assist the survival of living things and determine daily, monthly and seasonal changes on Earth. This unit also has a design and creativity focus which will involve the students in responding to an open-ended design task, making a simple design brief, and representing their knowledge of the Earth’s rotation using a model.

In week 7 of the term, Monday November 20th, we will be attending an excursion to Scienceworks to further deepen our understanding of this topic. Keep your eyes peeled for more information later in the term regarding this day.
One of the novels that we will be reading as a class serial this term will be Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White. This story looks at friendship and belonging. Two very important themes for a year 3 classroom. It also looks at the changing seasons and the effects these have on what needs to be done on the farm. Again, a link to our Faith Life topic of Brother Sun, Sister moon, where we are exploring the changes of our earth and the cycles.

We will continue to use the writing strategies of VCOP and ‘7 steps’ to focus on procedural writing, poetry, narrative and letter writing. We will continue to extend our vocabulary and use new and exciting words and phrases to improve the quality of our writing and to engage our readers.

Spelling will continue this term as we focus on:

- words that have common morpheme, eg. two, twice, twins, twenty
- silent letters gn and kn
- compound words
- Contractions

Reading has really taken off this term in grade 3, which is very exciting to see. The children are discovering new books and authors and it is wonderful to hear them sharing stories about which book in the series they’re up to or which author they are enjoying at the moment. We have a ‘Recommended Books’ list which the children add to as they read. This promotes tremendous discussion about books and has prompted them to share and read more. Please continue the fabulous work you are doing, reading and talking about books with your children. The benefits are enormous and will set the children up to achieve to the best of their abilities in the future.
Numeracy

We will continue to encourage students to use a range of strategies when solving mathematical problems, justifying their answer/solution. We will be working on a couple of iMaths investigations this term; ‘Slide Show’ which has a fraction focus. We will also be taking a closer look at the topic of Stats and Probability - chance, 2D and 3D shapes as well as Volume and capacity.

Homework

As per usual, homework will continue to be distributed fortnightly and collected on a Friday, unless otherwise stated. Students are to complete activities in their homework book.

The first homework cycle for this term will begin in week 2.

In line with our new homework policy, parents are asked to correct and sign any work completed at home and sign their child’s reading diary on a daily basis.

Maths Mate will continue this term and it is expected that 1 sheet per week (double sided) is completed and handed in EVERY Friday along with the signed reading diary. Maths Mate sheets will be corrected in class with the teacher. Parents are not expected to correct the Maths Mate, but asked to sign in the parent signature area.

Please do not stress if your child is finding a task difficult, as we may not have covered it in class yet. If you highlight or asterisk the question/s, we will endeavour to go over them in class together, as there may be other children experiencing similar difficulties.

The timing for homework is a total of 30 minutes per night. The recommended breakdown could be a minimum of 15 mins of reading and 15 minutes of the other assigned activities.
Some parents have requested the names of popular authors and books that Yr 3 students may like to read. Here are a few that you could try:

Trekker series
Aussie Bites/ Nibbles series
Emily Rodda
Roald Dahl
Paul Jennings
Judy Bloom series
Louis Sacher
Andy Griffiths

Uniform and Specialist Days

At St Finbar’s in Year 3, it is important that we continue to be wearing correct uniform with pride and modelling to the younger children the high standards that we uphold. A reminder that nail polish and jewellery are not to be worn to school. Earrings must be plain sleepers or studs.

Please remember that now the sun is coming out it is ‘hat’ season which means - **NO HAT, NO PLAY.**

**3D**
Tuesday - P.E.
Wednesday - Performing Arts
Thursday - Italian, Art and Sport
Friday - Library

**3M**
Tuesday - Performing Arts
Wednesday - P.E.
Thursday - Italian, Art and Sport
Friday - Library
Students will continue to develop their ICT skills through a range of Google applications including: Google classroom, Google docs, sheets, slides and forms. Through projects, such as Genius Hour, they will have the opportunity to explore different presentation platforms, such as PowToon, to further enhance their ICT skills and abilities. They will continue to explore SeeSaw and how to write a ‘quality comment’.

**Genius Hour**

This term, all year 3 students will continue to work on Genius Hour. It is expected that the children will further extend their research, note taking and summarizing/re-wording skills with this second ‘Genius Hour’ project. This will take place on a Friday afternoon for the duration of the term.

It has been wonderful to witness the growth the students have made between completing their first genius hour project and the second. It is this process of self assessment, taking on feedback and making improvements which will assist the students with their future learning. We look forward to the students again taking on board the feedback given by teachers and peers, making the adjustment and improvements required and presenting work of an extremely high standard.
What is Genius Hour?
Genius hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school. It’s not easy to determine where the idea was originally created, but there are at least two events that have impacted genius hour.
(Source: http://www.geniushour.com/what-is-genius-hour/)

Communication
If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to email or make an appointment with us if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Each teacher is also available via email:

Margy D’Rozario: mdrozario@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au
Amanda McCurdy - amccurdy@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au

We are looking forward to a successful term 4 to round off what has been a busy and fruitful year. Thank you for your time and support.

The Year 3 team.

Margy D’Rozario and Amanda McCurdy