

2020 School Board Comments
Week 4, Term 2
School Representative: Vanessa Saccardo

Preschool – Jess and Maria P

Term 2 is now well underway, with almost all of our children now back in attendance. The Pre-schoolers have reconnected very well with us, as well as with each other, and with our daily routines. It's been very nice to get back to the new normal here at Preschool. We are currently exploring children's interest in construction sites, our community and community workers. The children are developing their sense of agency, their social skills and problem-solving strategies, language and vocabulary and their mathematical knowledge as they build elaborate structures using various construction sets and realistic tools (tape measures, leveller, etc.) as props to enhance their play. Each week we have been facilitating children's understanding of rhyme through singing and acting out a range of nursery rhymes. Our numeracy focus is currently on patterning. We have been on a pattern hunt around the Preschool and we have clapped, snapped, stamped out pattern routines using our hands and bodies to music and created simple patterns using a range of materials. The children are also exploring patterns in sentence structure as evident in many picture books such as 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You see?' and in the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar'.

Reception – Joyce, Amanda, Jennifer, Sonia

After the unusual circumstances, the Reception children have come back to school enthusiastic and happy to begin a new term of learning. May is the month of Mary and in our Religion lessons, the children have been learning about Mary by listening and reflecting on bible stories about Mary. In Literacy, the children continue to practice and learn the Jolly Phonics sounds. Through whole class shared reading, the children have been learning how to use the reading strategies 'Eagle Eye' and 'Lips the Fish'. The genre focus areas this term in writing are procedure and recount. Last week, the children enjoyed making and eating fairy bread, and then as a class, constructed a procedure for how to make fairy bread. In Mathematics, the children have been learning about 2D shapes and identifying shapes in their environment. The children are now being introduced to addition. They have been using concrete materials to create their own addition stories. In Geography, our focus is on Special Places in the Community. Through this unit, the children will identify places that are special to them and how they care for these special places. In our Science Unit, the children will explore the properties of materials and will be able to use different materials to construct designed solutions. A very busy term ahead!

Year 1 – Lucy and James

It has been great to see the students returning back to school after home learning! It was pleasing to hear such positive feedback from families about online learning. This term we have been focusing on changes over time within most areas of our learning topics. The students brainstormed as a class different words relating to time, and from this we will be exploring changes in our environment over time, and how we identify important change in our lives. In addition to this, in Mathematics we will be exploring months, days and seasons of the year. In Literacy, we are learning about the author Mo Willems and the books he writes. The students will be making their own Mo Willems inspired stories in their book making sessions. For Religion, we are learning about the Sacrament of Baptism and the importance of the Hail Mary prayer. We look forward to a fantastic rest of term!

Year 2 – Michael Musolino, Tania and Shendelle

Welcome back to all our students who have been online learning. Thank you to all students and families for supporting our classroom teaching at home. The children adapted well to online learning through Seesaw. This term has seen the children immersed in wonderful, rich new learning, working collaboratively and individually on a variety of activities. The last three weeks the children have been making a paper mache world globe, requiring many layers to create a hardened shell. It was pretty messy but lots of fun in the process. Now we continue with learning about the continents, oceans, hemispheres, cardinal direction and lines of latitude. In Religion we have been focussing on the first Sacrament of Initiation 'Baptism' and the children were engaged in their story of baptism, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan and also acknowledging other religious ceremonies of initiation. Our morning Literacy block focus is on children's development in reading, listening and writing. We continue to work on the purpose and language structure of persuasive writing, focusing on a variety of texts including: 'I wanna Iguana', 'I wanna new room' and 'Don't let the pigeon drive the bus'. These are just some of the texts we have been reading and incorporating into our persuasive writing. I wonder if we can persuade our parents for a new pet giraffe or zebra or elephant? We wait to hear from our parents with their response. We have also begun reading our class novel by our favourite children's author Roald Dahl, 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. In Mathematics, we have been learning skip counting by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s from any given point using two and three-digit numbers

and we have also have also had some children extending themselves beyond 3-digit numbers. It's sure to be a busy term!

Year 3 – Margaret and Angela

It has been wonderful to have all our Year 3 students back at school learning in their classrooms and playing with their friends. It has been uplifting to see all their happy and excited faces. It was pleasing to observe the children being able to successfully access and upload their work using the TEAMS app when they were accessing online learning. In Religion, the children are learning about Jesus' love and forgiveness through the parables. In HASS, the children have inquired about ANZAC Day and the ANZAC spirit. They have completed an inquiry investigation about this special and important event in Australia's history. In Science, the children are exploring the topic of heat; how heat is produced and how heat is transferred. In English, the children are reading and writing creative and interesting narratives. In Health, the children are exploring ways to keep themselves safe, fit and healthy. The children are currently enjoying reading the class novel "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". It is a busy term with lots of wonderful learning taking place.

Year 4/5 – Bernardette, Rosanna, Adriana, Yvette

In Year 4/5 we are so pleased to see each of the children's smiling faces back at school. We have begun our Religious Education lessons this term by looking at the Creation Story. We are enjoying learning about exposition writing in English as well as refining our skills in researching information from the internet, highlighting the key words and the putting these into our own words. In Mathematics, we are building on our learning in Number by learning about fractions and decimals. Civics and Citizenship was an interesting topic where we researched about our local government and also touched upon federal government. Designing a healthy meal using a "Balanced Diet Food Pyramid" for us and our whole families to enjoy has been lots of fun to assist in our learning about healthy eating in Health lessons. In Science we will explore our Earth by looking at Australia's landscape. We will also learn about the Solar System and the position of the sun, moon and stars throughout the day. We are looking forward to a busy and eventful term of learning. Year 4/5 Team

Year 6 – Vanessa, Michael Mastrangelo and Matthew

We are so excited to have our amazing group of Year 6 students back! Despite all the interruptions and madness, we have engaged in lots of different learning experiences since the beginning of the year. In Literacy we began the year looking at descriptive and creative language which led us to writing our very own narratives. We also did a novel study on 'Wonder' which tied in with our exploration of language techniques used by authors to entertain as well as the importance of possessing a growth mindset. In Mathematics we spent the first term exploring Number which has led us to BODMAS and have focused on transferring our knowledge and skills to a range of mathematical investigations and resolving situations. In HASS our inquiry question is 'Why do people move?' – through the unpacking of this question we have explored the violation of human rights with especially children's and women's rights locally, nationally and globally. We are now looking at the rights of Aboriginal people and the inequality that has existed for many years with particular focus on The Stolen Generation, through a novel study on 'Rabbit Proof Fence'. This inquiry question also links to Science as students have explored the effects of Natural Disasters and how it affects people and environments which can often lead them to move. The students have also learnt how to write a practical investigation and focused on broadening our literacy as part of Science. Our inquiry question also related to Religious Education which focused on the many different faiths around the world and also the differing of values and beliefs which can cause disruption and movement in our world.

As you can see, our leaders have been keeping busy and we look forward to continuing the term with the enthusiasm and love of learning they come to school with every day!

Italian – Emily Parella

Students across all year levels have begun this term with excitement and enthusiasm, as always! They have jumped straight into their language studies through both online and face-to-face methods. Already this term, students from Years 3-6 at SJP have "flown to Italia" with 'Captain Signora' via Google Earth. They have also had virtually guided 3D tours that included: The Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum, Stadio San Siro, Vesuvius and Vatican City, to name a few!

Our Early Years students have developed their colour theory and mathematical skills in Italian, as well as created cards for their beloved mamma or mother figure written completely in Italiano! What an achievement!

Throughout the remainder of the term, students at SJP will be exposed to a variety of Italian language and cultural concepts that will support them in continuing to build a strong foundation and deep understanding of the Italian curriculum. Bravissimi ragazzi!

Music – Emma Hills

This term in Music our junior years are working on rhythm and beat through a variety of practical activities and short performances. We're also looking at pitch and learning about high and low notes. Our Year 3s have just started learning the recorder and they have already mastered their first song! Years Four and Five are learning ukulele and have been practicing tuning their own instruments. Finally, in Year Six, we are busy perfecting our skills in reading music so students can apply their musical knowledge to learning an instrument or continuing with music high-school.

Physical Education – Michael Musolino

Physical Education looked a lot different at the start of this term as the specialist teachers setup their lessons online via Seesaw and Microsoft Teams. Those students who were at school participated in the same lessons as those students at home. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those students who were working from home, in this new learning environment. Looking at the responses to the activities I received online, the students enjoyed the activities provided. As of Week 3, of this term, our students have gone back to face-to-face mode of teaching. In Years Reception to Year 2, our students are working on basic movement, ball handling skills and games. In Year 3, our students are working on cooperative games, ball handling skills and games. In Years 4-6, our students are learning to play the following invasion games – netball and badminton.

I'd like to thank the parents and the students for their patience during this COVID-19 time that we are all going through. I know many of the students who play school sport are continually asking me when it's coming back. At this stage I am yet to hear from the sporting associations that we are affiliated with as to when school sport is returning. As soon as I know more information, I will pass on the details. Let's hope it happens soon!

STEM – Michael Mastrangelo

In STEM, the Reception and Year One students have been introduced to algorithms and coding. They have enjoyed providing and receiving instructions from their peers to complete simple tasks. They have used this knowledge to program a code for the bee-bots and have been particularly excited watching the bee-bots drive through their set algorithms. As the term progresses, students will create their own bee-bot mats and mazes and they will continue to program these bee-bots with various algorithms.

The Year 2 students have enjoyed learning about data. They have used digital technology to record data about how people in their class travel to school, what food they have for lunch and what months of the year they're born. The students have enjoyed asking their peers questions and comparing their data to find some interesting discoveries! They are now attempting to present this data in a graph using software such as Microsoft Excel.

The Year 3 and Year 4/5 students have been learning about the different components of digital systems; hardware, software and peripheral devices. They have investigated old and new technology to compare these digital systems and their purposes. The Year 4/5 students have particularly enjoyed exploring inputs and outputs by manipulating a circuit board such as 'Makey Makey' to initiate different actions. They have investigated conductivity by connecting their 'Makey Makey' system to items such as bananas, play dough, aluminium foil and lead drawings and have been surprised with the results.

The Year 6 students have undertaken a problem-solving approach to plan and create an obstacle course for the Sphero technology to run through. As the term progresses, the students will challenge their peers to complete the obstacle course by coding a Sphero to complete various learning tasks.

Inclusive Education/Literacy Educator – Marie Polvere

Term 2 has commenced and it is lovely to be working with children one to one again, building their Literacy skills through my Reading Intervention Program. I have made contact with the children's parents who are happy to have the children back at school and receiving the individual support that is assisting them with their specific needs. Already I am observing improvement in their independent problem-solving strategies and phrasing when reading and writing. The smiles when they do something without help is something which I aim to see as often as possible.

Last Wednesday afternoon, our staff meeting was focused on understanding ways to identify, plan for and record Personalised Plans for Learning. Over the next few weeks we will be meeting with some parents to review their child's learning and set up specific interventions to help their learning journey.

We are also planning professional learning with all teachers to further their journey with reading comprehension strategies, so as to further the students' engagement with active reading for meaning. It is exciting to be a part of this continual journey for improvement and the children are the beneficiaries of these initiatives. I am so proud of their literacy development and positive attitudes.

Religious Education – Ingrid

Catholic Education Week

Week 3 we had Catholic Education Week 2020 where we saw the first time launch of CESA's new statement which will be used to spread the good news of Catholic Education SA. You might remember the statement used over the last four years, 'Where Every Child Matters', this will now be transitioned to 'Raising Hearts and Minds'.

This statement communicates 'why' we are here.....

- It's what we do every day.
- We work in partnership with families to educate and nurture the whole person.
- We help young people to thrive, to become capable learners, and extraordinary human-beings.

Sacramental Program

All families in Year 4 who have enrolled their child/ren and have attended the workshops for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist will be notified of possible new dates and time to celebrate the First Eucharist at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

At this stage we cannot give you further information about Confirmation, as we await direction from the Archdiocese.

Month of May

"By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. In May, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion arose among Jesuits in Rome in the late 18th Century and quickly spread throughout the Western Church. May crownings and other special May events in honour of Mary, such as public recitation of the rosary, stem from this time."

May is a very good month to begin praying the rosary daily and one website which may be helpful in learning how to pray the rosary is www.how-to-pray-the-rosary-everyday.com/rosary-guide.html

The Installation Ceremony of Archbishop designate Patrick O'Regan

This week we will see the arrival of our Archbishop designate Patrick O'Regan. The Installation Ceremony will take place in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 10:30am on Monday 25th May, the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia.