

WOLLEMI COLLEGE

Key Parent Function Term 1, 2014



Year 6 2014

TEACHER NAME: Mr. Bryan Reyes

CLASS SIZE: 27 Boys

CLASS PARENTS: Alan and Gena Soriano

SPECIAL DAYS:

Mass: Friday
Sport: Monday
Choir: Monday
Homework due: Friday
Record book and diaries: Monday

YEAR 6 TEACHERS

English: Mr Bryan Reyes
Religion: Mr Bryan Reyes
Mathematics: Mr Chris Scanlan
Science: Mr Chris Scanlan
HSIE: Mr Chris Scanlan
Sport: Mr Julien Perrottet
Art: Mr Iain Fraser
Spanish: Mr Kieran Williams
Music: Mr Mark Ranftl

Important Dates

Term 1 2014

Wk 1 Feb 3	TERM 1 Begins
Wk 2 Feb 15	Football Season begins
Wk 3 Feb 21	Public Speaking R1
Wk 4 Feb 24	Wollemi Swimming Carnival
Feb 28	Public Speaking R2
Feb 28 – Mar 2	Years 3 and 4 Father and Son Camp
Wk 5 Mar 5	Ash Wednesday
	IPSHA Swimming Carnival
Mar 7 – 9	Years 5 and 6 Father and Son Camp
Mar 7	Wollemi Cross Country Carnival
	First Friday
	Public Speaking R3
Wk 6 Mar 10	Immunisation
Mar 12	HZSA Swimming Carnival
	OPEN Day
Wk 7 Mar 19	Information Evening @ Alice and Joe's
Wk 8 Mar 26	CIS Swimming Carnival
	Careers Evening Years 10 – 12
Mar 28	Debating R1
Wk 9 Mar 31	ACIES Swimming Carnival
April 4	First Friday
April 4 - 11	Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations
	Debating R2
April 5	Basketball Semi-Finals
	IPSHA Cross Country Carnival
	Footy Season begins
Wk 10 April 11	TERM 1 Ends

OTHER DATES:

April 12	Basketball GF
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Easter
April 24	ANZAC Day

CLASSROOM PRACTICE

The boys have been organised into four teams competing in a points-based system. The reason for a team based incentive scheme is that positive peer pressure and working for a mutual goal increases each individual's performance and creates a positive classroom atmosphere; enhancing socialisation, good behaviour and academic focus.

The team competition also encourages team work, leadership and healthy competition. The winning team for the class receives a championship hat at the presentation night and the winning sports team is presented with a medallion.

HOMEWORK

- The boys will receive most of their nightly homework on Mondays. They will also receive homework daily for some subjects. It is important that the boys use their diary for planning out their week's activities with homework in mind.
- Homework is to be brought in each day.
- Duration – Average **30 - 40 minutes + 20 minutes reading + 20 minutes** of band instrument practice
- In exceptional circumstances, please send a note with your son if he cannot do his homework. Be demanding with your son and encourage initiative. If you have a family function on a particular night, your son could do his homework the night before.
- The boys should read their spelling words out loud a couple of times each night both for reading and spelling.
E.g. You will hear: *"Wed nes day.....Wednesday"*
- A few quick tests at home will reveal the problem words on which they can spend more time.
- Boys who default in classwork or homework are made to catch up on work at the teacher's discretion.
- If your son is having problems let me know as soon as possible.

READING

- The boys will be encouraged to take home books from the Library
- They are to log their reading in their record book. This will be checked by the class teacher every Monday.

MATHEMATICS

A topic test is administered after the completion of each unit (roughly every 2 weeks). The units concentrate on the 5 strands of Primary Mathematics:

- Number
- Space and Geometry
- Measurement
- Patterns and Algebra
- Chance

A key focus this year is daily numeracy practice. They will be doing daily maths drills in class and will be given practice sheets as part of homework.

SPALDING

Spalding is a total language arts approach as it uses English phonics to teach the elements of the language by combining the teaching of reading, listening, speaking, spelling and writing.

The students receive instruction in:

Spelling – Students learn the 70 phonograms (1 or more letter combinations) that represent the most common English speech sounds. At the same time they learn and understand the rules that govern spelling. The phonograms, rules and also new words are entered into a spelling notebook, helping improve reading, writing and vocabulary. The acquisition of these new skills enables them to decode words accurately and hence read. During spelling instruction they also learn to understand the concepts of written language and become proficient writers.

Writing – The boys will learn about sentence structure along with the rules of language and spelling. They apply this knowledge to correctly construct better paragraphs and passages. Throughout the instruction, spelling, rules, analytical reading and higher-level thinking are encouraged and reinforced. The boys will be introduced to and will write a variety of text types.

Comprehension – By learning the specific mental actions that are necessary for accurate comprehension, the students develop a love of reading. They learn that authors write for different purposes and as a result texts are organised differently.

The philosophy of the Spalding program encompasses many ideas that stimulate lifelong learning. It is multisensory, i.e. students learn by hearing, saying and writing. Each task is meaningful and valued by the student as each task and concept and their purpose is explained clearly. The program also places high expectations on the students. They are encouraged to stretch to their potential, fostering true self-esteem, which in turn develops the desire for continued learning.

Helping your child with his reading:

1. Listen to your son read as often as possible.
2. Read to your son every now and again.
3. Sign your son's diary every night to indicate that they have read for the allotted time

RELIGION

The 'Faith and Life' text is used in Year 6 and covers basic topics from the Old and New Testaments, and Church doctrine. The text is read out loud to the class, with teacher explanations and clarification. Students are to complete activities to reinforce concepts covered in each chapter. Frequent reference is made to significant Old and New Testaments (children's copy) events and people.

An oral Test is given each week to help students memorise the Catechism. Students are to learn 4 – 6 questions per week. This is included in their homework schedule. Whole class games and activities are used as an incentive to encourage students to learn Catechism questions. Examples are discussed and explanations used to help students understand the practicality of Catechism questions.

Occasional homework projects will be given to students throughout the year to reinforce concepts taught in class.

Lessons are to be presented on saints and for special dates in the liturgical year. Stories, activities and videos are to be used on lives of particular saints.

Instruction will be provided to help students learn and understand prayers, including the "Morning Offering", "Angelus" and the "Memorare" are recited during school time. Time is reserved for the recitation of a decade of the Rosary in the morning during the months of May and October. The traditional May pilgrimage is always an event to look forward to.

THEMES FOR SCIENCE AND HUMAN SOCIETY IN THE ENVIRONMENT (H.S.I.E.)

TERM ONE:	Environmental Changes after 1788 Oceans
TERM TWO:	Current issues: Antarctica Package it Better (Materials and design)
TERM THREE:	Gold Rush! Change Detective (Chemistry)
TERM FOUR:	China Down Under It's Electrifying (Physics)

If you are able to support your child with reading/research books and materials that correspond with the above topics throughout the year it would be greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATION

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