

WOLLEMI COLLEGE
Key Parent Function Term 1, 2015



Year 5 2015

TEACHER NAME: Mr Bryan Reyes

CLASS SIZE: 27 Boys

CLASS PARENTS: Michael and Camille Wiggins
Jim and Julie-Ann McLoughlin

SPECIAL DAYS:

Mass: Thursday
Sport: Tuesday
Homework due: Friday
Diaries: Monday

YEAR 6 TEACHERS

English: Mr Bryan Reyes
Religion: Mr Jay Pacquing
Mathematics,
Science, HSIE, PE: Mr Chris Scanlan
Art: Mr Iain Fraser
Spanish: Mr Kieran Williams
Music: Mr Mark Ranftl

Important Dates

Term 1 2015

Wk 2 Feb 13	Wollemi Swimming Carnival
Wk 4 Feb 18	Ash Wednesday
Wk 5 Feb 27	Wollemi Cross Country Carnival
Feb 27 – Mar 1	Years 3 and 4 Father and Son Camp
Wk 6 Mar 2	HZSA Swimming Carnival
Mar 4	IPSHA Swimming Carnival
Wk 7 Mar 11	OPEN Day
Wk 8 Mar 20 – Mar 22	Years 5 and 6 Father and Son Camp
Wk 9 Mar 28	IPSHA Cross Country Carnival
Wk10 April 2	TERM 1 Ends

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 their basic homework on Mondays. They may 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.
- Daily duration: Average **20 - 30 minutes + 25 minutes reading**
- 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 extra 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.

ENGLISH

Direct Instruction

Direct Instruction (DI) is an explicit, intensive instructional teaching method that allows students of all abilities to become confident, capable learners. For nearly 50 years, reading and language arts intervention programs using the direct instruction model have helped teachers to deliver consistently high levels of student achievement when used for early intervention, response to intervention (RtI) and targeted skill instruction.

The explicit direct instruction teaching method relies on common instructional planning, frequent assessment, and consistent classroom routines to boost student skill mastery in reading, spelling and language. The programs provide concrete, clear curricula that have been highly successful in a wide variety of instructional settings nationwide.

Direct Instruction teaching programs go far beyond memorization to:

- Emphasize priority concepts critical for student success
- Move from basic skills to integrated, sophisticated skills
- Develop learning strategies and their application in new situations
- Help you make a measurable difference in classroom achievement
- Create successful, confident learners

Spalding

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.

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.

Primary classes have 1 scheduled Mass day per week and many opportunities for confession.

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:	Oceans Package it Better (Materials and design)
TERM TWO:	Colonial life Gold Rush
TERM THREE:	It's Electrifying Change Detective (Chemistry)
TERM FOUR:	China Down Under Japan: Study of a cultural group

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

School office: (02) 9833 0499

BRYAN REYES (Class Teacher)
Email: bryanreyes@wollemi.nsw.edu.au

CHRISTOPHER SCANLAN
Email: chrisscanlan@wollemi.nsw.edu.au

KIERAN WILLIAMS
Email: kieranwilliams@wollemi.nsw.edu.au

IAIN FRASER Visual Arts
Email: iainfraser@wollemi.nsw.edu.au

MARK RANFTL Music
Email: markranftl@wollemi.nsw.edu.au