The New School Year Has Begun! Yay!

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The new school year has well and truly begun and the students are settling well into their classes and daily routines.

We warmly welcome Miss Nicole Dodds (4 Yellow) to Year 4 as she joins with Mrs Bernadette Williams (4 Blue), Mrs Anne-Maree Harrison (4 Red) and Mr David Trimble (4 Green) to form a very experienced teaching team.

We are a very experienced team.

We welcome also the new families who have joined our Guardian Angels’ School community.

Our school theme for this year is The Year of Mercy and this will be apparent in many school and class activities throughout the year.

Thank you for your cooperation which has enabled our smooth start to the term. The students are ready to focus on their learning and challenges for the year ahead.

Religious Education

This term our Religious Education unit is titled Ancient Voices. In this unit we will study the structure of the Bible, discuss ways we can ‘hear’ God’s voice through the Scriptures and consider God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Students will learn a variety of biblical skills to assist them in beginning to explore and interpret Scripture and understand the Bible as a ‘library of books’ containing a variety of text types.

The Church seasons of Lent and Easter will also be a special focus at the end of this term.

Mathematics

This year the students will be engaging in learning activities centred on Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability and Measurement and Geometry from the Australian Curriculum. All three strands of Mathematics will be covered during every term to varying degrees.

Highlights this term include students revising, consolidating and extending their understanding of: numbers to at least 99 999; addition and subtraction involving larger numbers; multiplication facts to 10x; problem solving across a variety of contexts; fractions and analogue and digital time.

Students will work in groups, pairs and individually within Maths sessions to enable each type of learner to achieve to their very best.

Your support is appreciated in assisting the students to revise number facts on a regular basis, particularly times tables for homework.
Our excursion to Ngutana-Lui is a highlight in Term 1. Students and teachers will experience the living traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**English**

The Year 4 English curriculum sees students participating in a variety of literacy activities and exploring a range of spoken, visual and written texts throughout the year.

Reading and viewing activities this term, will enable students to develop their literal and, most importantly, inferential comprehension skills as they learn to respond to different types of text, not only within the context of English, but across all subject areas.

As well, targeted lessons will focus on punctuation and grammar, including parts of speech and how these elements work together to improve imaginative or fictional writing. Students will create their own written narrative inspired by our History unit relating to traditional Aboriginal culture and lifestyle.

We ask for your support in encouraging students to read at home as much and as often as possible, so as to improve their fluency, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

**Science**

In Science, students will develop a sense of wonder and appreciation of living things as they investigate the process of germination and the stages in a number of life cycles. Most importantly, students will discover how changes in and to the environment, including those caused by humans, impact the life cycles of living things in both positive and negative ways.

**Technology**

Aspects of Technology will be integrated across the curriculum this term, as students have the opportunity to use both laptops and Ipads. Students will be taught about the appropriate use of digital devices and will begin to utilise them for purposes of research, word processing, presenting and consolidating basic skills (eg, times tables).

**Specialist Classes**

**Drama:** During this term, Year 4 students will be introduced to the core elements of Drama which are the building blocks upon which all Drama is created. Focusing on the elements of role and relations, students will explore how to use their bodies, voice and facial expression to create character.

There will be an overarching focus on teaching and fostering the skills of collaboration, trust, self-expression, and respect which are essential to learning in the drama room.

**PE:** Students will be engaged in physical activity requiring them to catch, throw and hit towards a target. They will improve their endurance which will assist them leading up to the cross country and will begin to learn skills required for the athletics carnival.

As always, students will learn to recognise the importance of fairness and inclusion in team games, and propose strategies to encourage these attitudes in themselves and others.

**Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)**

HASS includes the areas of History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship.

During Term 1, students will investigate the rich cultural history of Australia’s Indigenous peoples and what life was like before the arrival of Europeans. They will consider how Indigenous Australians employed practices to ensure our Earth’s sustainability as they lived in harmony with the land.

Students will also explore aspects of personal and national identity as they learn that the groups they belong to shape their thoughts, ideas and feelings.
Music: Term One in Music will allow the opportunity for students to explore a new instrument with an ‘Introduction to the Ukulele’ unit. This unit will help students to understand the basics of playing the ukulele, develop coordination, dexterity and put music making into a real world experience. Musical literacy, aural skills and composing will also form part of the program.

Important Dates

As usual, there are important dates to keep in mind. Apart from the list below, keep an eye on the school newsletter for other significant dates as they arise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th Feb.</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday 11th Feb.</td>
<td>Year 4 Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 12th Feb.</td>
<td>P&amp;F Welcome BBQ</td>
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<td>Thursday 18th Feb.</td>
<td>4 Red Vision Celebration 8.45am</td>
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<td>Thursday 18th Feb.</td>
<td>4 Green Vision Celebration 2.15pm</td>
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<td>Friday 19th Feb.</td>
<td>4 Yellow Vision Celebration 8.40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th Feb.</td>
<td>4 Blue Vision Celebration 8.40am</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Holy Thursday - Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td>Friday 25th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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We look forward to a great term,

The Year 4 Teachers

Nicole Dodds        Bernadette Williams
Dave Trimble        Anne-Maree Harrison