Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Guardian Angels. I hope that you had an enjoyable break over Christmas and are ready for the fabulous year ahead. A big welcome to the new families and I am looking forward to working with both you and the existing families to ensure a smooth and seamless transition into the new year.

In the first weeks of the term, both Year 6 classes worked together to create the Senior Vision. During these sessions the students explored and discussed concepts related to identity, values and leadership. The vision that they produced clearly defines the way in which we wish to conduct ourselves as successful learners, active and informed citizens and creative and confident individuals throughout the year.

During Term One, learning opportunities will be provided to develop specific literacy, numeracy and social skills through a range of activities, as well as Science, History and Geography units that relate to the Australian Curriculum.

Religion
As part of our Religious studies, there will be a strong emphasis on investigating a range of whole school and classroom activities to help students appreciate the significance of the Season of Lent and the message of Easter. We will be undertaking a unit called “Images of Jesus”. This unit will give students the opportunity to look at the many images and titles for Jesus and explore how these are represented in the Scriptures. At Guardian Angels we are also involved in The Virtues Project, where we will explore a range of virtues and be encouraged to identify and undertake these in our everyday lives.

History
The Australian History Curriculum provides opportunities for students to study Australia’s move from colonial times, through to the development of Australia as a nation. During Term 1, we will be specifically reviewing the factors that led to federation by studying the key figures and events that led to this important event.

Science
As part of our Science studies, we will be undertaking the unit, ‘Marvellous Microorganisms’. Students will conduct a range of experiments designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of micro-organisms, such as mould, bacteria and fungus. They will maintain a detailed learning journal to document their findings and draw conclusions.

English
An extensive range of activities will be undertaken each week to develop every child’s abilities in areas such as reading, comprehension, spelling, grammatical and punctuation conventions, vocabulary choices, speaking and listening, editing and writing in a range of text types. These will involve opportunities for whole class, small group and independent activities to both learn new information and consolidate known conventions.
We will be exploring the procedural genre with students this term, and students will be able to see these in action during our science experiments. We will also explore the performance genre with a mini drama unit following camp. Students will also be required to prepare and present a book report to the remainder of the class during the term. This will be done using either PowerPoint, Keynote or Prezi.

**Mathematics**

The Australian Curriculum has been adopted for a number of years now and is reflected in a diverse and comprehensive Maths programme. In line with the philosophy of the ‘Signpost’ program, the new curriculum places a strong emphasis on the proficiency strands of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning. Maths lessons will be conducted daily and should be reinforced with further practice at home.

Some of the areas that will be covered this term include a unit on collecting, presenting and analysing data and interpreting timetables. We will also explore whole numbers, apply logical number sense and explore everyday situations for Maths.

**HPE**

Students will be undertaking a range of fitness activities and modified games in which they will learn a variety of skills required for participating effectively in team sports. They will also undertake a variety of cardio activities to increase their level of fitness in preparation for the cross country.

**Music**

This term, Year 6 continue to deepen their exploration of the Elements of Music, enhance singing and aural skills, as well as composing and musical literacy competencies. These skills will be further developed with their application in the ‘Guitar Program’ to create real world experiences.

**1:1 Contemporary Learning Program**

As you would be aware, the students are involved in a new 1:1 Contemporary Learning Program at school, which means they now have access to their own Apple Mac Laptop. These should go home on a daily basis and be stored securely in their cases when not in use. The students are required to charge their devices at home when needed. There will be a variety of tasks completed on these devices that will be detailed on the weekly homework and class emails. As these devices start to go home remember to ensure that you know how they are being used and be sure to contact me if you have any issues or concerns.

**General Information**

The children have specialist lessons as follows:

- **Music** - Monday;
- **PE** - Monday (Sports Uniform to be worn);
- **Japanese** - Wednesday and Friday;
- **Library** - Thursday (Library bags); and
- **Interschool Sport** - Friday (This will commence in Term 2 and run throughout the term. Sports Uniforms may be worn on Friday in the meantime, if you wish).

Homework will include a range of activities such as Maths Mentals, spelling, reading and assignment work. An important strategy for students to learn this year is the use of a diary to plan for tasks, record due dates and deadlines and for other reminders. While this seems like an easy enough task, many students need to be closely guided through this process, and we ask for your assistance in encouraging your child to manage their time effectively.

**Date Claimers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th February</td>
<td>Leadership Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd – 24th February</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>First day of Term Two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The school theme for 2016 is 'People of Mercy'. In line with this, I am really looking forward to working closely with you and hope that you have an enjoyable year at Guardian Angels.

If you need to contact me the best option is to use my email address: cokeeffe@bne.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,

Caitlin O’Keeffe