Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Guardian Angels'. Hopefully you have enjoyed a fantastic break over Christmas and are ready for the fabulous year ahead. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you and your families to ensure a smooth and seamless transition into the new year.

In the first weeks of the term, both Year 6 classes have been working together to create the Senior Vision. During these sessions the students explored and discussed concepts related to identity, values and leadership. The vision they have 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 Religion, 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 and Science**
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.

As part of our Science studies, we will be undertaking the unit, ‘Marvellous Micro-Organisms. We will be learning how the growth and survival of living things is dependent upon matter and energy flows within larger systems. Within this unit, students will conduct experiments where they will observe, measure and record changes that have been influenced by variables and then develop explanations for the patterns they have observed. This will all be based around some of the micro-organisms that play key roles in improving the lives of people.
**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 mainly focussing on some persuasive genres this term in the form of simple expositions and developing discussions. Reflexive practices will be developed as we learn about diary writing and then retell some authentic and constructed experiences from a range of perspectives. Imaginative texts will also be explored, where students will work in groups to create and perform a dramatic skit to their peers. 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 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 whole numbers in the millions; metric units of measurement; connecting fractions, decimals and percentages; and measuring and constructing angles. Students will engage with these concepts through mental strategies, hands-on activities and individual bookwork. All operations will be covered within these units, with an emphasis on accurate and prompt recall of the multiplication tables and basic addition facts.

**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.

**Laptops**
The year has started well with the introduction of the 1-to-1 laptop program and the children have enjoyed becoming familiar with their new devices both in class and as part of the boot camp process. 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 - Friday (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
Week 4: Vision Ceremony
22nd Feb – 24th Feb: Year 6 Camp
24th March: Last day of Term One
11th April: First day of Term Two

I take pride in being an approachable person who is committed to building a strong rapport with both parents and students. No concern is too small, so please know that my door is open to discuss any issues or to answer any questions.

Should you need to contact me via email, you can reach me at

wkay@bne.catholic.edu.au

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’.

Kind regards,

Warren Kay