

4/5 Huon



Information Booklet 2016

Parent Information for Huon 4/5

Introduction

Welcome to Grade the 4/5 Huon. Students in Huon, as in the rest of John Paul II Catholic School, have the opportunity to learn in a happy, dynamic and caring environment where individual needs are respected and catered for.

Our Classroom

Students at John Paul II are indeed very fortunate to have excellent facilities and spacious classrooms. These classrooms incorporate contemporary design features such as; soft furnishings and lounge spaces; large, bright open planned classrooms with easy access to the outside; flexible desk and seating arrangements; large floor areas to spread out in; large art and multi use areas; large wall mounted televisions that connect via wi-fi to student's iPads and laptop computers so they can share their ideas with the class and ceiling mounted projectors to project information onto wall screens.

4/5 Huon and 5/6 Sassafras students are also fortunate in that they can open up glass doors and expand the size of the classrooms to allow cooperative learning activities between the two classes.

All these features have been purposely designed into the classrooms to maximise student comfort, engagement and learning.

Curriculum

Students have access to a wide range of learning opportunities at John Paul II Catholic School including **Religious Education** and the following subject areas from the Australian Curriculum:-

English

Mathematics

Science

History

Geography

ICT

Visual Art

Drama

PE and Health

In addition, to these learning areas, students in Grade 4/5 take part in additional activities such as :-

- * School and Interschool Athletics Carnivals
- * School and Interschool Swimming Carnivals
- * School and Interschool Cross Country
- * Interschool Football and Netball Competition
- *School Parliament
- *Bi Annual Canberra Trip
- *Bi Annual School Camp

Homework

Students will be given homework tasks from Monday to Thursday, this will include reading and mathematics tasks from their own Maths homework book. Students may also choose or be required to finish occasional project work at home.

Many parents get stressed about homework tasks, my philosophy on homework is that it is but one tool to help reinforce learning and expose students to new concepts. It is not designed as a source of stress and anxiety for students and parents. If your child has trouble with an activity, simply highlight the problem they are having via a quick note in their diary, an email or a question mark against the particular problem. This is an important tool for me to find out what your child needs additional help with and what we will need to revise.

Students are encouraged to develop good reading habits by reading for at least 15 minutes per night. **Home Reading Logs** are issued to students to help them keep track of their reading habits and certificates are issued to students as they attain reading goals. This is the most important “homework” your child can do as it not only develops their reading skills but also increases their general knowledge, comprehension and vocabulary and most of the time it is a pleasure for them!

Students are encouraged to use the *Mathletics* Website to access the varied Mathematics activities and lessons aimed at their individual ability or to help extend them.

Behaviour Policy

In Huon students are expected to conform to the PBS model we have in place in the school, That is:- **Students should be Safe. Students should Learn. Students should show Respect.** With this as our guiding principle, we encourage and teach students to respect themselves and to treat each other with respect. This goes for the playground as well. If there are problems, students will be reminded of the rules and if further steps need to be taken, parents are contacted through a phone call or through a blue behaviour form sent home with the child.

If you have any issues or your child complains of any bullying or negative behaviours displayed towards them, please do not hesitate to contact me, the school principal or vice principals.

ICT and iPads

John Paul II Catholic School implemented a policy of student ownership of iPads for all students from Grades 3-6. This initiative has been in place for 3 years and has been a fantastic innovation that allows for more effective, efficient, flexible

and creative teaching opportunities for our students. The school operates a plan that allows parents to buy and pay off the iPads over time.

Whilst the educational benefits of iPads are easily recognisable in class, parents do need to have rules in place at home to ensure that they are used in a sensible and meaningful way that doesn't lead to conflict or problems through overuse. Please contact myself, or the ICT coordinator Kelly Collinson, if you need help setting up home use plans and boundaries for the iPads.

The school has an *ICT Acceptable Use Policy* that parents and students need to read and sign before any iPad or computer can be used. This is also a good starting point for establishing the ground rules at home.

At school student's iPads are used as a tool for learning and, as such, are not used for game playing in class or lunch times. Students are allowed to access school apps only for educational purposes. Students are allowed to listen to music through earphones occasionally. Students are not permitted to use iPads to chat to each other in class, send photos, etc these rules are set out clearly in the *ICT Acceptable Use Policy* that you and your child signed at the start of the year.

Specialist Times

Music	Tuesday	Teacher:	Mr Leigh Jobs
Library	Wednesday	Technician:	Mr Simon Gerrard
PE	Thursday	Teacher:	Mr Simon Terrell
Chinese	Wednesday	Teacher:	Ms Flora Cheng

Uniform Policy

Students are expected to abide by the *School Uniform Policy*, this means wearing their correct uniform at all times. If, for a legitimate reason, they can't wear their uniform, students need to have a note from their parents.

School Times

School starts	8.40am
Recess	10.55am -11.20am
Lunch	12.50pm- 1.40pm
School Finishes	2.50pm

Running Club

Students wishing to participate in the Running Club need to wear their sports uniforms for the Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning sessions. Sessions usually last no longer than 20 minutes and are run by myself.

Diaries

All students have diaries and will be expected to bring them to and from school each day so that parents and teachers can use them to communicate with. Parents can also call, email and phone me at school, however mornings are

usually a busy time, so if you would like an extended discussion please make arrangements for a time after school.

Lunch and Recess

Students are expected to have healthy and suitable food for their lunch and recess to sustain them throughout the day. While it is sometimes challenging to find appropriate foods that children actually enjoy, it is recommended that food should be less processed and should contain a minimum of sugar. Likewise, water bottles should contain water, no fizzy drinks or cordials, as these are very high in sugar and can have an impact on student behaviour and concentration levels.

Students have time in class to eat their food and all efforts are made to ensure they do actually eat their food, however if you see food coming home in their lunchboxes, please let me know.

Daily PE

All students participate in a *Daily PE Program* 3 days per week. These sessions are run by the Grade 6 students from Sassafras and are an important way for students to learn games and keep active. Huon students will often go out for additional games and PE, particularly if the weather looks like it will mean there will be no outside play for the day.

Excursions

Huon students are encouraged to participate in excursions throughout the year. Whilst parents sign a form at the start of the year allowing their child to attend excursions, addition notices and emails will be sent home in advance of each excursion outlining the nature, destination and duration of each excursion. Parent help is often needed on such occasions.

Parent/Carer Help

Parent or carers are always welcome in the classroom at anytime. If you would like to help or you have a skill or talent you think could be useful to the students, please contact me to arrange the best time for you to come in.

**Current legislation does require parents or carers to have a "Working With Vulnerable Children Check" before working with students.*

My Contact Details

I hope to make your child's year in Grade 4/5 Huon enjoyable for them and as stress free as possible for you. My focus will always be to achieve the best educational, social, emotional and spiritual outcomes for my students within a stimulating and caring environment. If you need to contact me on any issues or just want to have a chat about your child, you can contact me before and after school. For longer discussions it is best to arrange an appointment after school. You can phone me via the school number before or after school or email me on jeff.camp@catholic.tas.edu.au anytime.

Have a great year!

Regards,
Jeff Camp