

5/6 Sassafra



Information Booklet 2016

Welcome

Welcome to the new year at John Paul II Catholic School. We (Mr Tony Lennard & Mrs Kelly Collinson) are very pleased to be working with you and your child this year.

Email

Parents who would like to contact us via e-mail are very welcome to do so. Our e-mail addresses are kelly.collinson@catholic.tas.edu.au or tony.lennard@catholic.tas.edu.au and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible. We will be setting up a class email group so that you are kept up to date with any information specific to Sassafras (eg: projects, notices, excursions, homework, etc). We will also use this to communicate with you individually if the arises. Please let us know your email address so we can set up this group ASAP (happy to add more than one email address per family).

Vision Statement

John Paul II Catholic School is a dynamic, inspiring community, led by a committed team of educators. We share a love of learning and an authentic desire to make a difference in the life of every student by empowering them to achieve their personal best. We do this by working in partnership with our students, parents, the Parish and the community. Together, we are preparing our students to be ethical and active members of society in a context of promise and hope.

Mission Statement

All that we do at John Paul II Catholic School has its foundation in our belief in Jesus Christ and lived commitment to Christian values. Through a supporting, challenging and stimulating environment we are developing each child's awareness and understanding of the gift of life.

Values

The values that underpin our work are a commitment to:

- Spirituality
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Connectedness
- Equity
- Achievement
- Creativity
- Empathy

Curriculum Areas

In Grade 5/6, students will be covering work from all curriculum areas - English, Mathematics, Religion, The Arts, Science, Technology, LOTE, Health & Physical Education and History & Geography. ICT is embedded in all curriculum areas.

Our **Religious Education** program is based on the "Good News for Living" program. The main focus of our school community is our faith in Jesus Christ. With the Gospels as a basis we aim to bring Jesus into the lives of our students. They are led towards opportunities where they are able to respond to God and live with him in a unique relationship.

There are several strands which will be covered in **Mathematics**. These are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics & probability. It is very important at this stage of their education that the students have a mastery of their times tables. Nightly revision will assist those who have yet to master their tables. The Curriculum we are using in Mathematics is the Australian Curriculum (ACARA).

The **English** strands we incorporate in our curriculum include, Language, Literature and Literacy. The Curriculum we are using in English is the Australian Curriculum (ACARA).

The Arts incorporates Dance, Drama, Music, Media and Visual Arts. Time is set aside each week to experience The Arts. The Arts are often incorporated into Integrated Units with other learning areas.

Technology is often incorporated within our science lessons, but students will also have lessons dedicated to the development of their knowledge and skills in this particular curriculum area.

(HASS) History and Social Sciences & Geography allow students the opportunity to discover more about the world they live in and its historical development. Several units we will be covering this year are, Parliament, Australian History and Geography, Aboriginal Studies and various Science units. The Curriculum we are using in is in line with the Australian Curriculum (ACARA).

Languages Other Than English (LOTE). The students have the opportunity in these lessons to learn the language and about the culture of China. Miss Flora Cheng is our teacher for Chinese.

Physical Education lessons this year will be taken by Mr Simon Terhell. The **Health** component in this curriculum area is taught in the classroom.

Masses

We attend Mass as a whole school at least once a term. A community Mass is held weekly at John Paul II Church and all parents are welcome to attend.

Physical Education

Every Thursday, Grade 5/6 Sassafras will participate in Physical Education. Lessons will be devoted to increasing each child's motor skills, fitness level and skills that relate to particular sports.

Children are to wear school polo top, blue shorts or school tracksuit, school rugby top or polar fleece and sandshoes.

If your child is an asthma sufferer they will need to bring their medication to school on Physical Education days. This should have a pharmacy sticker attached with name and recommended dose.

From March children from Grades Prep-6 will participate in a Daily PE Program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Children are permitted to wear sandshoes for Daily PE.

Dates and Events

There are a number of sporting and special events throughout the year. Please consult the school calendar which is accessible on the school website. These events are also listed in the school newsletter.

Homework

Homework Procedure for Grade 5/ 6 Sassafras

Each student is expected to complete 30 minutes of homework each night. If the set task(s) have not been completed after this time, students should stop where they are up to and ask a parent to sign and date the work.

Students must read each night in addition to the work set.

If students are unable to complete the homework, a note in their diary from their parent outlining the reason is expected. Diaries should come to school everyday.

Monday	-	Spelling + English/Mathematics
Tuesday	-	Spelling + English/Mathematics
Wednesday	-	Spelling + English/Mathematics
Thursday	-	Spelling + English/Mathematics
Friday	-	Completion of unfinished work (only as necessary)

* The above daily subject activities may be changed if the need arises.

Specialist Programs

John Paul II offers a number of specialist programs. The Grade 5/6 Sassafras specialist timetable is as follows:

Music	Ms Leigh Jabs	Tuesdays
Chinese	Miss Flora Cheng	Wednesdays
Physical Ed.	Mr Simon Terhell	Thursdays
Enrichment Program	Mrs Bronwyn Douglas	Wednesdays

Library lessons will be taken by class teachers this year. Books will be borrowed on Wednesdays.

Assessment and Reporting

Students will receive a Mid-Year and an End-of-Year report which will indicate their progress in all curriculum areas and in personal/social development.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Out of school education includes such experiences as bus trips, excursions, participation in inter-school visits, camps, sporting competitions and attending performances.

Our sequential program from the Early Learning Centre to Grade Six is intrinsic to our whole school curriculum bringing real life experience to classroom work.

While integral to school life, aspects of this program should be regarded as earned, not the right of any individual.

Whilst attempts are made to fund this exciting program through levies, seldom do we cover costs. Appropriate student behaviour before, during and after excursions will determine whether any child is invited to participate.

The program will reflect classroom activity, with excursions building on and affecting classroom teaching.

It is expected that skills will develop from Prep (eg. Bus behaviour) to Grade Six (eg. Overnight camping). Normally the Outdoor Program will not involve the purchase of new gear.

Parents and families are encouraged to become involved in such excursions, in many cases being essential to our school offering a full program.

Across the years it is also expected that parent access to programs will be shared between the parent community.

Parents on camp/excursions should regard themselves as parents to the whole group rather than comforting just their own children, with confidentiality as always important.

Excursions

Excursions are integrated into many curriculum areas in our school. Our school bus allows classes the opportunity to attend a varied number of places around the Hobart area to enhance their understanding of work, which has been undertaken in their classrooms.

Camp

This year Grades 5 and 6 will be going to Canberra in November. More information will be given out throughout the year.

Absences

If a student is absent from school a phone call to the school office before 8.50am is expected.

Assembly

Assembly is held at times advertised throughout the year on Mondays at 1.45pm. Parents are always welcome to attend. At every Assembly three general awards and one uniform award for each class are presented.

Canteen

The school canteen offers lunches on Thursdays. Orders are collected in class boxes and taken to the canteen by a class monitor. This monitor is responsible for the collection of lunches at lunchtime. Snack items may be purchased over the counter following the bell at 1pm. Special lunches will be advertised in the newsletter.

Medication Policy

All medications (prescribed and non-prescribed) must be administered to students at the school office. All medication must be clearly labelled and in original packaging. Parents must provide a written permission for delivery of medication.

It is the responsibility of the parents to provide the school information about their child's condition and provide the school with the medication.

Newsletters

A school newsletter is emailed to families and is placed on our website every second Friday. It will also be accessible through our new Skoolbag App. Newsletters will be distributed to families who do not have internet access.

School Arrivals and Departures

The school doors open for student entry at 8.20am when teacher supervision commences. Students should not arrive at school prior to this time.

If students need to leave the school grounds during the day they must be accompanied by an adult, with the class teacher notified before departure. The student will need to be signed in if attending school late and signed out if leaving school early. This will need to be completed at the school office.

Sporting Houses

The three houses are: Toepfer (Red), Gannon (Green), Conolly (Yellow).

Toepfer is named after George Toepfer, the first principal of John Paul II School. Gannon is the family name of one of the first enrolled families, who still have ongoing involvement in the school community. Conolly house is so named after the first Catholic priest in Tasmania, who visited the area regularly.