Year 3
Parent Information Night
2017

Teachers

3 Blue M       Mrs Vicki Major
3 Gold L       Mrs Kate Laffey
Welcome to Year 3, 2017. We hope that your child will have a safe and happy time learning in our classrooms.

**Classroom Rules and Visions**
We have developed our rules and a Class Vision for each of our classes based upon what we want to see, hear and feel in our school.

**Religion**
In Year 3, children develop their understanding of God’s relationship with people as individuals and as a community. In Term One they learn how the scriptures can be used as a guide for making choices. They will learn about the symbols and people that are important to our school and will have many experiences of formal and informal prayer. The students will also discuss why the season of Lent is important to Christians and how Lent helps us to prepare for Easter.

**English**

*Speaking and Listening.*
Children will learn that language is used for formal and informal social interactions. They will plan and deliver a variety of short presentations creatively making language choices to express a range of feelings and opinions. They will listen to a variety of different opinions and justify their own.

*Spelling*
This year students will be using the Soundwaves program which will be used either in text book format and/or in an online version. Spelling lists and activities will be set for the students to work on.

*Reading*
Good readers think about what they are reading, ask questions, search for answers and mentally picture events and objects relating to the text. Year 3 will continue to focus on these skills to build comprehension skills and be able to self-monitor and correct their reading.

*Writing*
Children will plan, draft and publish imaginative, factual and persuasive texts. This term we will concentrate on Persuasive and Narrative texts.

**NAPLAN Tests** are held for Year 3 in Week 4 of Term 2. (May 9th, 10th, 11th). More information about these tests will be provided later this term.

**Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)**
Students from both Year 3 classes have been placed into 3 groups and will participate in rotations each Monday to work on activities from the HASS curriculum.
The Year 3 curriculum focuses on the diversity of people and places in their local community and beyond, and how people participate in their communities. Students will discover how communities have changed and how significant events of the past are celebrated today e.g. Australia Day, Anzac Day. They will also explore the significance of country and place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This term the children will explore the historical features and diversity of Australia as represented as symbols and emblems of significance. (They will learn that each Australian State and Territory has a flora, fauna and flag emblem.) They will learn about Australia’s states and territories and Australia’s major natural and built features e.g. rivers, Great Barrier Reef, Harbour Bridge. They will describe the location of places and their features using simple grid references, compass points and geographical language.
Mathematics
Each term we will cover the strands of mathematics (Number, Space, Measurement, Chance & Data and Patterns & Algebra).
In Year 3, we will work hard to achieve automatic recall of addition, subtraction and multiplication facts especially –2X, 3X, 5X and 10X Tables.
Children will experience a wide range of activities to develop mathematical skills through games, problem solving, computer tasks, hands on activities and written tasks. By the end of Year 3 students should be:
- confident to read, write and count numbers from 1 to 10,000.
- tell time to the nearest minute.
- use metric units for length, mass and capacity.
- make models of 3D objects.
- conduct chance experiments.

Science
Throughout the year we will cover the four areas of scientific understanding: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences and Chemical Sciences. The children will develop skills in asking scientific questions, conducting experiments and communicating results. In Term One the children will describe features common to living things and identify the difference between living, non-living and once living things.

The Arts
In Year 3, children will have opportunities to work across the strands of the Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts & Media Arts). In Term 2, we will have weekly lessons from DanceFever. Drama & Visual Art activities will be used to support learning in other areas of the curriculum. In Year 3, Media Arts involves using images, words and sounds to create texts for particular purposes with and without technology.

Home Readers
Children are expected to read for a minimum of 10 minutes every night. We send home-readers home each day to encourage this. If you are unsure whether your child is reading at the appropriate level or are concerned with their book choice, please come and see us. Whatever they read needs to be written in their Reading Log in their Homework Book so that we may monitor it at school.

Homework
Homework is given to practise concepts taught at school and to give children the opportunity to show that they are responsible for their own learning and developing independence. It is designed to be able to be completed without parent assistance, and will follow a similar format each week. There are times when children may need clarification from parents. If they are having trouble please see us before it is due. We would appreciate it if parents would sign the homework sheet in the appropriate places each week. Homework will run on a weekly basis and each week we alternate between a Homework A and Homework B book. Homework will be sent home each Wednesday and is due back on the following Wednesday.

Specialist Lessons
| Gymnastics | Monday |
| Library | 3 Blue M - Wednesday and 3 Gold L - Thursday |
| Social Skills | 3 Blue M & 3 Gold L – Thursday |
| Music | 3 Blue M & 3 Gold L – Thursday |
| P.E. | 3 Blue M & 3 Gold L - Tuesday |
**Mid-morning Break**
At approximately 10.00am each day, students will stop for a short break. 3 Blue M will break so that students can go to the toilet and have a drink of water. 3 Gold L will stop for a short fruit break. We would appreciate it if you could only provide healthy fruit, vegetables or yoghurt for this break.

**Eating Time**
This year, as in all recent previous years, we have a small number of children enrolled in the school who have severe allergic reactions to some foods in particular peanuts, nuts and eggs. With some of these students their reaction is so severe that their life is endangered by contact with them. **For this reason, we ask that families do not send food containing peanuts, nuts or nut-based products.** Peanut paste, in particular, because it can stick to hands so easily is one product that we encourage all families not to send to school.

Parents can help minimize the possibility of an allergic reaction by reminding your child not to share their food and to wash their hands before and after eating. Please also assist by removing all traces of food from your child’s (and toddlers coming into the classroom) face, hands and clothes, if it is possible that they have eaten anything containing nuts. Please do not send any items to school for box constructions which have contained any nut products. **We realize that this may not always be possible, but every effort you can make will be certainly appreciated by these children, their parents and the staff at St Patrick’s.**

**Parent Help**
There are many opportunities to assist in the classroom throughout the year. If you would like to help could you please let us know. We would really appreciate parent assistance with reading groups on a Thursday morning from 9.00 – 9.30am but would be happy to welcome you at other times that are convenient.

Please remember though that you need to be registered at the office as a volunteer. You can get a volunteer package from the office. Parent helpers also need to sign in and out at the classroom on the day of volunteering.

**Permission Notes**
Permission notes will need to be accessed from the Parent Portal unless there is a request for a hard copy to be sent.

**USE OF EMAILS**
As you can appreciate your children are our priority. Giving our students our full attention is paramount. For this reason it is not possible for our staff to be constantly checking emails. The teaching staff have been asked to respond to emails within a 24 hour turn-around during the working week. Therefore, if it is something that needs immediate action, a message through the school office is a lot more practical. Using social media to ask staff questions about school issues is also not appropriate. Our email addresses are listed below and we will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Vicki Major  
vmajor@bne.catholic.edu.au

Kate Laffey  
claffey@bne.catholic.edu.au

We are both really looking forward to working with you in educating your child this year.

Vicki and Kate