



Year 7&8 Team Newsletter

Term 2 2018

Welcome back for Term 2!

We are looking forward to a busy term ahead, full of learning opportunities. If you need to contact a teacher, please email to make an appointment, or teachers are available from 8.30am in classrooms if you want to pop in. Our Year 7&8 staff are:

Rm 1: Rhonda McFarlane r.mcfarlane@stjosephs.school.nz (Rhonda teaches in Rm 1 on Tues, Wed & Fri)
 Kylie Malpass k.malpass@stjosephs.school.nz (Kylie teaches in Rm 1 on Mon & Thurs)

Rm 2: Steffan Beaurepaire s.beaurepaire@stjosephs.school.nz

Rm 3: Ann Wilkinson a.wilkinson@stjosephs.school.nz

Rm 4 Aleise White a.white@stjosephs.school.nz (Aleise teaches in Rm 4 on Mon, Tues & Fri)
 Lisa Harvey l.harvey@stjosephs.school.nz (Lisa teaches in Rm 4 on Wed & Thurs)

Team Leader / Deputy Principal - Tracy Svendsen - t.svendsen@stjosephs.school.nz

Term 2 2018 Curriculum:

<p>Literacy: Oral language - continued focus on clarity and fullness of expression in all interactions Reading - Comprehension of texts at appropriate levels. Writing - skills focus through a range of writing contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing processes - giving and responding to feedback, editing and revising (realising that my first draft is not my final piece of work!) - Writing scientific procedures - Writing log book entries - Visual presentation of science fair boards 	<p>Maths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding and applying fractions and decimals as appropriate to each maths level. - Statistics - links to science - displaying and interpreting data.
<p>Religious Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayer, Liturgical Celebrations - Ascension & Pentecost - Jesus Strand 	<p>Integrated Topic: Science - Fair testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about the principles of fair testing and applying these skills to projects for Science Fair. <p>Please see the attached information about Science Fair</p>
<p>Physical Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness - Circuits - Winter Sports - ball skills 	<p>Hauora - Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict Resolution / Peer mediation - Cybersafety (ongoing) - Growing in the Image of God - Understanding Sexuality (see Parent Information Session date below). <p>Te Reo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matariki - Kites
<p>Rotations: Students rotate through "hands on lessons" during Terms 2&3: Theatre Sports, French, Art, Dance, Health & Pilates</p>	

RE Focus:



Our **Value Focus** this term are The Fruits of the Spirit - **Peace and Love - Rangimarie & Aroha**

Liturgical Year: There are several liturgical celebrations we will learn more about this term, including:

Ascension of the Lord- SOLEMNITY - Sunday 13th May
Pentecost- SOLEMNITY- Sunday 20th May

This term in RE students will:

- Learn about prayers and devotions to Mary and their use
- Use Jesus as a model for prayer using imagination and meditation
- Learn about the many titles for Jesus and use these through prayer
- Understand the ways in which Jesus is the Advocate for the poor and the weak
- Learn about Ascension and Pentecost and recognise that, before his Ascension, Jesus commissioned his disciples to continue his work on Earth.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

Year 6-8 Growing in the Image of God - Understanding Sexuality Programme Information Session for Parents Tuesday 5 June

Towards the end of Term 2, students in Years 6,7 and 8 will take part in our “Growing In the Image of God” lessons. This unit covers age-appropriate information about self image, friendship, body changes and puberty. These lessons have been carefully developed with full regard to our Catholic character. There will be a parent information meeting on **Tuesday 5 June** from 6.00-7.00pm in Room 1, where parents will be shown the lesson outlines and resources used. ***If you attended this meeting in previous years, you do not need to come again as the lessons are unchanged.***

Catholic Inter-School (CIS) Winter Sports Tournament Friday 22 June

The Catholic Full Primary Schools in Hamilton hold a tournament of Winter Sports each year. Each school can enter Rugby (7 a side) Football (6 a side), Netball and Hockey teams (6 a side). It is a great opportunity for many of our senior students to represent St Joseph’s in a team sport, even if they do not usually play competitively. The Winter Tournament is on Friday 22 June and is held at Sacred Heart (netball) and St John’s College. We will soon be organising teams and practicing as part of our PE programme.

If you are interested in supporting us by being a coach/manager on tournament day, 22 June, please let Mr Beaurepaire know.

Weekly Home Learning in Term 2

Regular weekly home learning for Year 7&8 in Term 2 is:

Maths:

1) Maths Buddy Weekly Revision – this is a set of questions at your child’s level which they complete online weekly. It is expected that students will write their strategies/working out in their homework book. Ask your child to show you this – they can access their scores too.

2) Number knowledge ladders – students can work on these progressions independently. They can be accessed through the Learning tab on the school website.

Reading: It is important all children **read daily at home for at least 20 minutes**. A good idea for reading is <http://kiwikidsnews.co.nz>, to raise awareness of national and international news. Students do a weekly current events quiz based on this and may have classroom tasks set at times also.

Spelling: The best way to support your child at home with spelling is to help them work through learning the lists of irregular spellings that are found on our website under the Learning tab.

Science Fair Investigation or Invention - students will have weekly homework checkpoints - see the Science Fair Information attached for more details.

On top of this, students may be expected to complete work they do not complete in class in their own time if this is appropriate.

Term 2 Costs:

The additional costs for Year 7&8 syndicate for Term 2 will be added to your account if/when they apply to your child:

- \$3.00 – Bus transport to CIS Winter Sports Tournament for those who attend
- Science Fair boards cost approximately \$7.00, these will be ordered and invoiced later in the term for those required.

Mobile Phones:

If your child brings a phone to school, it needs to be turned off and handed in to the teacher on arrival at school, to be collected at the end of the day. If your child needs to contact you during the day, this will be via the class teacher or office. The school can accept no responsibility for loss or damage of phones. Students are not to take photos or be on social media on the school grounds before or after school. Please consider whether your child really needs to bring a mobile phone to school.

Uniform Reminders:

Our Year 7&8 students are great role models. Please remember:

- * No make-up or nail polish
 - * No jewellery except a small pair of studs or sleeper earrings
 - * Plain hair ties in school colours
 - * Students need their PE gear at school every day.
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Important Dates for Year 7&8 - Term 2 2018

Week 1	Thursday 3 May	Yr 7&8 CIS Lit Quiz @ St Joseph's Morrinsville (8 students)
	Friday 4 May	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 2	Tuesday 8 May	Kids Lit Quiz 6-9pm @ Southwell School (8 students) AIMS Games Parent Meeting 6.00-7.00pm Rm 1
	Wednesday 9 May	Yr 7&8 Syndicate Mass Sacred Heart Open Day
	Friday 11 May	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 3	Tuesday 15 May	School Photos - Class & Portraits 6-8pm St John's College Information Evening
	Friday 19 May	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 4	Wednesday 23 May	Whole School Mass
	Friday 25 May	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am PTFA Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Week 5	Tuesday 29 May	CIS General Knowledge Quiz (4 students)
	Wednesday 30 May	EPro8 Challenge 5-8pm (4 students)
	Friday 1 June	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 6	Monday 4 June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
	Tuesday 5 June	Yr 6-8 Parent Information Session - Growing In the Image Of God - Puberty Lessons 6.00-7.00pm Room 1
	Wednesday 6 June	Yr 7&8 Syndicate Mass
	Friday 8 June	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 7	Friday 15 June	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am
Week 8	Friday 22 June	CIS Winter Sports Tournament - No Create this week
Week 9	Wednesday 27 June	New Students Liturgy - Room 1 hosting
	Friday 29 June	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am PTFA Sausage Sizzle Lunch 1.30pm - Choir - Disney Concert with special guest Gwen Lyon
Week 10	Wednesday 4 July	Whole School Mass
	Friday 6 July	Create @ Fairfield Intermediate 8.50-11.30am Term 2 Ends

Science Fair – Supporting your child in their self-management

This term our major focus is Scientific Inquiry. This involves the students learning how to conduct fair tests, observe and measure results and form conclusions. They carry out a science investigation of their choice and present it on a science fair board or poster at our St Joseph's Fairfield Science Exhibition held in the first week of Term 3. Some of the most thorough investigations will be chosen to represent St Joseph's at the NIWA Waikato Science Fair on 24th August (Term 3).

Science Fair is a great opportunity for your child to practise their self-management skills. The process will be guided by the class teacher and will have clear timeframes, with the expectation that work at home will also be involved. Regular "homework checkpoints" will be set out, and it can be stressful for children (and parents and teachers!) if they fall behind.

How can you help at home?

- Please check regularly with your child about what stage they should be at on the homework checkpoints and ensure they have a quiet workspace at home.
- Discuss their learning with them. Praise what they have done well, and suggest improvements. Students will benefit from talking through the process with an adult. The homework checkpoints will guide each step so look at them with your child.
- Remind your child to bring their science fair work to school daily.

Choosing a topic for investigation:

Option 1: Experimental Research = a project that involves a controlled experiment.

Over the next 3 weeks, students will be discussing what makes a good science fair question for experimental research, and viewing previous examples. If you want to look at some ideas, these websites are useful:

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects.html>

<http://www.sciencebuddies.org>

<https://sciencebob.com/science-fair-ideas/ideas/>

As we will be discussing with students, the most successful science fair topics link to a real interest of the child, and address a real life question.

Students can work individually or in pairs, but their partner must be in their own class so that we can organise time effectively at school. The only exception to this is siblings. Siblings may choose to work together, as we appreciate that having 2 science fair projects on the go in one household may be challenging!

If students work in pairs, it is important that both families are supportive of this - the children will need to get together regularly after school / at weekends to work on this project, so please discuss with your class teacher to confirm that this is possible.

Option 2: Technology Development = Junior Invention - creating or designing something to help people or make life easier.

Another class of exhibit at the NIWA Waikato Science Fair called Year 7&8 Junior Invention.

(From the NIWA Waikato Science Fair Student Handbook):

Inventions and innovations are applications of science and technology which solve a problem. For this class you are asked to apply your knowledge to make a device that has a practical application. The steps and stages in development should be recorded so that it is clear how you overcame any problems that were encountered. You will also need to discuss the scientific principles and ideas used in solving the original problem that was identified. Originality and creative thought are important aspects of this Class. Exhibitors will use the standard display board to present their invention/technical innovation.

We anticipate that most students will choose to do Option 1, a science investigation, as the scientific process will be well supported by learning about the principles of fair testing in class. However, we are happy to also offer this technology pathway to potentially exhibit at the Waikato Science Fair also. However, students who have an invention idea and wish to take this option would need strong support from home in terms of access to tools and materials. Students follow the design process for their idea, keep a log book of their thinking, make a prototype, get feedback, make improvements and finally package and market their invention.

Steps of Science Investigations, Design Process and Judging Criteria - Parent Information

The following 2 pages are taken directly from the Student Handbook for the Waikato Science Fair, to give parents an overview of the processes we will be working through.

Please support your child in choosing a suitable topic over the next few weeks.

The website has further information if you are interested: <http://www.waikatosciencefair.org.nz/>. Any questions please encourage your child to talk to their teacher!

(Science Fair Student Handbook Pages 9, 10 & 13 attached)

- Scientific investigation flowchart and Technology Development flowchart
- Judging criteria

Thanks for your ongoing support -

Tracy, Rhonda, Kylie, Steffan, Ann, Aleise & Lisa - The Year 7&8 Team.