

Bethany Catholic Primary School, Werribee

Exploration Centre News- Preps - Term 2, 2023

Welcome Back!

We hope all families have had a restful break and are feeling refreshed. We are looking forward to yet another fantastic term with many opportunities for students to engage in rich learning experiences.

Reminders:

- **School Uniform**

We kindly ask you to check regularly that all of your child's school uniform and items such as drink bottles, lunch boxes, etc are named. Over time, names do wash off or fade, making it difficult to return the item to their owner.

- **Morning Routine**

This term we are encouraging all students to start lining up in their hub groups as they begin to arrive at school. We ask that you encourage them to wait calmly and quietly with their bag on their back ready to enter the classroom and begin their learning when the bell rings at 8:45am.

- **Resource Centre**

Thank you to those parents who have already sent along a cloth bag for their child to borrow a book when attending the Resource Centre. If you are still yet to do so, please send one along as soon as possible so that your child can begin to borrow books and share them with you at home. This will ensure all books are protected, as well as making it easier to transport them to and from school. Please label this bag with your child's name and hub. Library books may be borrowed for a duration of two weeks.

Your child's Resource Room day is as follows:

STAR HUB: Tuesday

EARTH HUB: Thursday

OCEAN HUB: Tuesday

SKY HUB: Friday

- **Excursion**

On **Thursday 4th May** the Exploration Centre went on an **excursion to Animal Land Farm** in Diggers Rest, where students learnt about various farm animals and obtained an insight into how a farm really works. All students participated in a range of hands-on farm activities such as tractor rides, milking a cow, nursing baby animals and much more. It was a fun-filled day for all!

- **Hatching Chicks**

Later in the term the students in the Exploration Centre will have the exciting opportunity of watching chicks hatch as part of our Inquiry Unit 'From Farm to Table'. This rich learning experience will help our students gain an understanding of living things and how they grow and change.

- **Brain Break Food**

Please provide students with a small portion of fruit or vegetables for them to eat as a brain break during our morning session. This is only a 5 minute break for the students to quickly eat something while continuing with their learning. If the fruit is cut up or there are a few separate pieces, we ask that you put it in a separate, named container for easy access for your child.

- **Please place a set of spare clothes in your child's bag, including a change of underwear and socks.**

Special Events:

- **Athletics Day**

On **Friday 16th June**, Bethany will be having a whole school Athletics Day. This is a fun day of physical activity for all involved. Further details will be available closer to the date.

Important dates:

- Thursday 4th May: Animal Land Farm Excursion
- Thursday 11th May:
 - Mother's Day Breakfast
 - Parent webinar - Raising Kids in the Digital World @ 7:30 pm.
- Friday 12th May: Mother's Day Stall
- Thursday 25th May: Whole School Mass @ 10:00am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Exploration Centre Community Helpers Visit Firefighters and Police in Schools

Last term the Tarneit Fire Brigade and the Police in Schools came to visit all the Prep students in the Exploration Centre. They chatted with the students about how to keep themselves and their families safe and spoke about what their role was within the community. Both the firefighters and the police showed the students their full uniform and what they would look like if they came to their house. All the students were also able to see and interact with both the Fire Truck and Police Car.



Swim and Survive Program

All Prep students attended a swim and survive program at Aqua Pulse last term that encouraged the development of swimming and water safety skills for all children. It was a fun, exciting and engaging learning environment where students were provided with a solid foundation in swimming, survival and basic rescue skills in, on and around the water.



Nathan



Chioma



Henry



Isabelle



Aiden



Storm

Term 2 Learning and Teaching in the Exploration Centre...

In **Religious Education**, students will focus on how God welcomes them into His family through the life of His Son, Jesus, and the Sacrament of Baptism. They will explore their understanding of the Church community and that God is always with them when they gather together with others in His name.

Victorian Curriculum - English

Throughout the term, students will continue to engage with a variety of Literacy experiences that will set them up for success when working during their English lessons.

Reading & Viewing

Students will :

- engage with a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts during shared and independent reading.
- continue to develop their letter/sound knowledge through the ability to hear, identify, blend, segment and manipulate the sounds or phonemes in spoken words
- Revise their knowledge of the **Level 1 Sounds of Reading Phonemes**
 - s/ a/ t/ p/ i/ n/
- begin learning the **Level 2 Sounds of Reading Phonemes**
 - m/ d/ g/ o/ c/ k/ ck/e/ u/ r
- begin to read decodable texts using the above letter/sound patterns
- be immersed in new vocabulary.

Writing

Students will:

- know that spoken words are written down by listening to the sounds heard in the word and then writing letters to represent those sounds
- use their knowledge of concepts about print, sound-letter relationships and word knowledge along with simple punctuation to create short pieces of writing
- learn to construct and expand simple sentences using the grammatical features of who, what and where in their writing
- learn to record their writing from left to right and experiment with leaving spaces between words, capital letters and full stops.

Speaking & Listening

Students will continue to engage in multiple speaking and listening experiences that allow them to develop an understanding of the following:

- how to listen for and identify rhyming words
- how to listen to and respond orally to texts
- how to communicate with others during

Victorian Curriculum - Mathematics

Throughout the term, students will engage with a variety of hands-on learning experiences across all Mathematical areas of the curriculum.

Number and Algebra

Students will continue to experience a range of Number learning experiences that will help develop their knowledge and understanding of:

Number

- oral Counting
- connecting number names, numerals and quantities
- counting collections of objects using 1:1 correspondence
- quickly recognising small collections of objects without counting.

Addition

- using addition vocabulary such as *and, plus, makes, add, total, altogether, etc*
- model addition problems using hands-on materials and pictures
- doubling numbers to 10
- learn addition relationships and patterns.
 - $2 + 3 = 5$ is the same as $3 + 2 = 5$

Pattern

- sort and classify familiar objects
- copy, continue and create patterns using objects and drawing.

Measurement & Geometry

Students will engage with a range of learning experiences that will help develop their knowledge and understanding of:

Shape

- naming and describing 2D Shapes.

Statistics & Probability

Students will engage with a range of learning experiences that will help develop their knowledge and understanding of:

Data Representation

- sorting familiar information into different groups and using this to answer yes/no questions and make simple true or false statements.

informal and structured classroom situations using interaction skills, such as listening, while others speak.

Inquiry: Science

Our Inquiry unit this term is 'From Farm to Table'

Over the course of the term students will learn and understand that:

- Living things grow and change
- Life cycles are unique to plants and animals
- Animal offspring have particular names
- There are many different types of farms
- Animals and plants provide us with food and products.



Through this unit of inquiry students will develop their understanding of what farms look like and where food comes from. They will explore why we need farms and what products we get from animals and plants.

Parlo Italiano (I Speak Italian) - Claudia Pesolilla

Buongiorno! This term we are continuing to learn Italian at Bethany. Claudia Pesolilla, our Italian Language Assistant supports the teaching of Italian with each hub. Every fortnight the students are learning, and consolidating daily, a set of 5 Italian focus words and accompanying gestures, Students are encouraged to practise the language daily and to speak to each other in Italian as often as possible throughout their school day. Italian videos, flashcards, games and songs are used daily to reinforce the Italian language. Arrivederci.



Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Line up and walk calmly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words and actions • Use whole body listening • Follow directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look after self, others and equipment • Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Use spaces and equipment correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use kind words and actions • Be a good sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look after self, others and equipment • Wear correct uniform • Walk promptly to line up

We continue to have high expectations of students and the way they behave by being safe, respectful and responsible. Staff will continue to teach, reinforce and acknowledge the expected PBL behaviours. To support your child at home you can also speak to the PBL matrix and acknowledge when your child is being safe, respectful and responsible with siblings, friends and yourself.

Specialist Subjects

At Bethany students rotate throughout all our Specialist Subjects across the year. Each cycle runs for 13 weeks and will often cross over Terms. In Term 2, Cycle 1 will continue from weeks 1-4 and Cycle 2 will begin in Week 5 (Monday 22nd May) and then cross over into Term 3. All students will have the opportunity to experience the different Specialist areas as the year progresses.

Cycle 1 of Specialist opportunities (Term 2, Week 1-4):

PE	Music	Music	Social & Emotional Learning
SKY HUB OCEAN HUB		STAR HUB EARTH HUB	

Cycle 2 of Specialist opportunities (Term 2, Week 5 - Term 3, Week 8):

Art	Music	Art	Social & Emotional Learning
STAR HUB EARTH HUB		SKY HUB OCEAN HUB	

Physical Education - Veronica Spencer

Students from the Exploration Centre will be preparing for the Bethany Athletics Carnival. They will practise the fundamental skills of athletics and participate in a range of athletic events such as the 100 metre race, long jump, javelin (using a vortex), shot put (using bean bags) egg and spoon race, sack race and having fun with a parachute. We will continue teaching students what it looks like to be a good sport.

Students from [Sky](#) and [Ocean](#) hubs will continue learning about being a good sport with a focus on teamwork and how to be a team player supporting each other when playing games both individually and as a team.



Social Emotional Learning - Natasha D'Cunha

Students from [Earth](#) and [Star](#) hubs will continue to explore Social and Emotional Learning. They will learn about a Growth and Fixed mindset and what helps us to use a Growth Mindset Voice. They will have an opportunity to work in groups to complete tasks together collaboratively. Students will begin to understand that each person has qualities and talents and that they make us unique and who we are.

Starting in week 5, [Sky](#) and [Ocean](#) hubs will begin Social and Emotional lessons. They will explore the different emotions we experience and different strategies to help us manage these emotions. We will learn the importance of wellbeing and sleep and how this helps us in our everyday lives.



Digital Technologies - Ash Hudson

In Digital Technologies (robotics), students in *Star* and *Earth* hubs are continuing to build on their understanding of directional language, computational thinking and simple programming through the use of the Bee-Bot robot and coding games. The students will progress to predicting, creating and testing algorithms that will instruct their robot to perform tasks, such as collecting objects and drawing shapes.



Visual Arts - Jo Allison & Genevieve Murray

In Visual Arts *Star, Earth, Sky and Ocean* hub students will enjoy exploring painting, drawing and printmaking. Through application of various materials, collage and construction, the children will develop understanding of primary and secondary colours alongside discovery of texture and patterns in their environments. They will be inspired by and build an appreciation of artists such as Sidney Nolan, Piet Mondrian and Australian Indigenous illustrator Bronwyn Bancroft.



Music - Trish Hollenbach

Students in *Earth* and *Star* hubs will be continuing to build their knowledge of Music Theory by practising singing and performing various songs with actions and improving in their ability to play tuned instruments including marimbas, xylophones and boomwhackers. They will expand their familiarity of musical notation, symbols and reading and locating different notes. By the end of the unit, they will have a repertoire of simple songs they can play as part of a group. They will have developed a beginning understanding of the definitions of musical concepts including Tempo, Dynamics, Duration and Pitch.

Students in *Earth* and *Star* hubs will be beginning their knowledge of Music Theory by listening to a wide range of music and musical story books, along with playing Musical games to consolidate their knowledge. They will be singing and performing various songs with actions, performing body percussion along to music and identifying and playing various untuned percussion instruments (such as claves, shakers, drums, maracas) as well as the tuned instruments including marimbas, xylophones and boomwhackers. These experiences will help build skills in turn taking, listening, waiting and keeping a steady beat.



Bethany Daily timetable

8.45am Welcome bell.

8:50am Morning Bell

8:50-9:00am Prayer and Attendance Roll

9:00-11:00am Learning and Teaching Time

10.00am Brain food (eaten while working)

11:00- 11.30am Lunch Play
11:30 -11:50am Students eat lunch
11.50 - 1.30pm Learning and Teaching Time
1:30pm - 2:00 Recess
2:00pm -2:10 Eat snack
2:10-3:00pm Learning and Teaching Time
3:00pm Dismissal bell

Exploration Centre Educators

Please do not hesitate to call or email for anything you need.

Educators:

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