

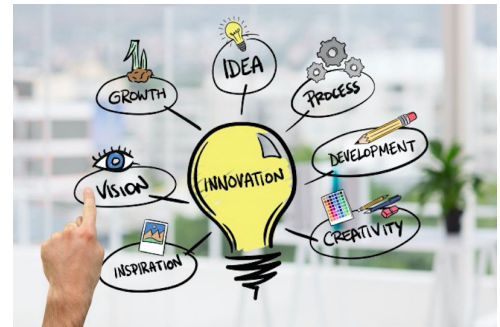
LEARNING AT QUEEN OF PEACE

Term 4, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

9.10.19

Welcome back to Term 4! Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. The positive partnership between home and school is crucial to children's development both socially and academically. We have another busy and productive term planned as we work together in the education of your children. This term the children in all year levels are participating in a Faith Life Inquiry 'Innovation.' Many exciting learning experiences will be happening to engage the children in learning about innovation.



Faith Life Inquiry

Our whole school Faith Life Inquiry unit is 'Innovation.' The children will explore Innovation through the lens of the Design Technologies Food Specialisation and Food Production strands of the Victorian Curriculum. Food Specialisation explores the characteristics and properties of food, food selection and preparation, and contemporary food issues. Food Production focuses on how food is produced and managed sustainably. The children develop their knowledge and understanding about food production through creating designed solutions.

In the Faith aspect the children will focus on scripture and how it can be recontextualised for our world today. The children will explore how beliefs and traditions are founded on Scripture and expressed in the story of the Catholic Church: The Bible.

Our focus on religious scripture and the related image is:

Image



Scripture

"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

Isaiah 40:8

In this scripture, Isaiah tells us that the Word of God stands; it lasts forever. The children will engage with scripture in the Old and New Testament and analyse the text. They will view the scripture from the lens of their contemporary world. The children will sit with the words of scripture and consider: What does this mean for me today? What does it tell me about God? What does this scripture call me to do? How can I apply the message to my life?

The children will be involved in much discussion around this scripture. The children will explore scripture through the 3 Worlds of the Text:

- **The World of the Text:** This element is text-centred and focuses on the literary elements of scripture and the world presented in the text e.g. Jesus' world. Just as you can read a novel and examine its plot, characters, literary features and so on, you can look at the Bible as a text, at its characters, plot and literary features.
- **The World Behind the Text:** This element is author-centred and focuses on the social, political, cultural and ideological aspects from the author's world and his intent e.g. Luke's world.
- **The World in Front of the Text:** This element is reader-centred. Here the reader brings his or her perspective to Scripture e.g. How does this text speak to me in my life?

The Three Worlds of the Text. Retrieved from

<https://renewre.org.au/learning-the-word/worlds-of-the-text/>

The children will explore the following understandings related to Scripture and Jesus:

Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People listen to and retell Jesus's stories eg: The Parable of the Sower ● Jesus' stories have a message for us today ● The parables teach us how to be like Jesus
Years 1&2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Bible is very old and sacred, but still has meaning for us today ● Our personal experiences can affect how we understand the messages from the Bible ● It is important to respect everyone's responses to scripture
Year 3&4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The parables have messages that show God's goodness ● The messages in New Testament stories are relevant in the world today ● People make personal connections with scripture
Year 5&6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scripture can be explored through the contexts that have contributed to the texts ● Scripture can be interpreted for what it means in the contemporary world ● People make personal connections with scripture

Pope Francis

"I ask you: how many of you read two minutes of the Gospel each day? Two minutes!

Try, and you will see how your life changes.

Why? Because you will meet Jesus.

You will meet him with the Word."

– Pope Francis

[Video message to Argentinian youth, 28 May 2018](#)



Catholic Social Teaching

In the Innovation topic the children will make connections to the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity. "Solidarity is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (Saint John Paul II - Sollicitudo rei socialis). The children will identify how everyone has an obligation to act in solidarity and promote the rights and development of all people across the world. The children will explore how all people belong to one human family and that everyone should work together so that all people benefit from innovations.

Throughline

For each Faith Life Inquiry Unit there is a 'Throughline.' A 'Throughline' is a central theme, concept or idea that is developed across the school from Prep to Grade 6. The Throughline for the Product Innovation unit is:

As people of Faith, we are called to follow the Word of God as it relates to us in our world today. People engage in critical and creative thinking to gather information and knowledge about problems, needs and opportunities in our world and create innovative solutions. It is our ethical and social responsibility to make choices that are good and fair for all people and the environment. Innovation involves a cycle of investigating, producing and evaluating to ensure the product, space or service meets the intended purpose.

In each level, the children will explore the following understandings related to Design and Technologies:

Prep:

Year Preps will explore innovation through the lens of Food Production. They will investigate where our food comes from and how it gets to us from farms and factories. They will represent their ideas on a flowchart to illustrate the path of one everyday food eg broccoli, to show the journey of one product from paddock to plate. The children will also explore how people grow their own food to eat. They will use recycled plastic or paper pots to plant cress and sprouts and use these foods to create an innovative sandwich or salad.

Understandings:

- People grow food in a variety of places to meet people's needs

- Food is harvested, processed, packaged and moved so that it stays fresh and safe
- Food is selected and prepared for healthy eating
- People use thinking skills to make changes to and create new products

Year 1&2:

The Year 1 and 2 children will explore how food is selected and prepared for healthy eating. They will examine the multi-step processes involved in getting various food products from the farm to the supermarket shelves. The children will explore various ways to categorise food and why people make specific food choices. The children will explore the thinking and work of designers. They will design innovative ways to grow herbs at school and create a recipe to use the herbs.

Understandings:

- There is healthy and unhealthy food choices
- Foods can be grouped into categories
- Culture can impact on food choices
- Food is prepared, stored and carried so that it is fresh, safe and hygienic
- People think in different ways to innovate when growing, preparing and selecting food

Year 3&4:

The Year 3 and 4 children will investigate food production, preparation and consumption through practical experiences that build knowledge and understanding. They will begin the term learning about planting and work together to sow vegetable and flower seeds. The children will explore the technologies, materials, processes, tools and equipment involved in producing and preparing food. They will explore the thinking and work of designers. The children will design innovative recipes containing the ingredients they have grown and create ways to reduce food waste.

Understandings:

- Plants require ideal conditions for successful growth
- There is a process for planting in order for healthy plants to grow
- Procedures and guidelines for food preparation keep people healthy and safe
- There are both benefits and disadvantages from buying food from shops and growing your own food
- Food waste can be reduced
- People innovate with ingredients to create recipes and minimise food waste

Year 5&6:

The Year 5 and 6 children will investigate a range of primary industries that produce food in Australia and the sustainable management practices they use to do so. The children will

explore the idea that primary industries can be part of the future by improving sustainability, adapting to environmental and social change and producing quality food products. The children will explore the complex global food issues and the innovations that are helping to feed the planet.

Understandings:

- Primary industries play a major role in our food production and distribution
- Management practices in food production respond to environmental, social, economic, cultural and political needs
- Farmers use technological advancements to produce food
- Innovation provides opportunities to enable sustainable food production practices and consumption
- Digital technologies communicate learning

Advent and Christmas

At Queen of Peace, the Faith Life curriculum supports the children in their lifelong journey in faith by helping them to understand, appreciate and celebrate the richness of the Catholic Faith. Throughout the term, all children will explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The children will reflect on Advent as the season of preparation for the 'coming' or advent of Jesus into the world.



PAT Testing

As part of the assessment schedule at QoP the children will do the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) Progressive Assessment Test - Mathematics (PAT-M) and Progressive Assessment Test - Reading (PAT-R) tests this term. The PAT-M and PAT-R are an Australian, nationally normed series of tests designed to provide objective and data based information to teachers about their children's' skills and understandings. In the first 3 weeks of term 4, the children will undertake the online PAT Reading comprehension (PAT-R) and Maths (PAT-M) tests. These tests are done annually. Each test takes approximately 40 minutes (two tests in total) and each is done online. The school will use the data to focus on individual achievement with a focus on growth since the test was last done in 2018. There will also be a focus on improving teaching and learning programs and highlighting common areas of educational success and challenges amongst our children.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN results for children in years 3 and 5 were released late in term 3. These tests in the key areas of literacy and numeracy provide parents and educators with a snapshot of how the children are progressing individually, as part of the school community and nationally. The 2019 national data indicates that Victoria continues to be a high performing system leading in seven out of 10 NAPLAN measures.

While individual results can be quite variable the overall NAPLAN results present an opportunity for further analysis and are valuable for planning and evaluating our school programs. Your child's mid-year report, 3 way learning conversations and ongoing dialogue with teachers, together with the NAPLAN results, provide an accurate assessment of your child's learning.

Well done to all children in Year 3 and 5 who participated in NAPLAN online testing; the results reflect the children's positive learning dispositions and their ability to respond to this mode of online formal national assessment.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Christmas and New Year holidays are not far away and as this is the final Learning at QoP for 2019 I thought I would include some ideas to enhance your child's learning over the holidays.

Take advantage of Maths in the world

Summer holidays are a great time to learn how Maths relates to the real world. Maths is everywhere and can be practised naturally!

Below are a few ideas to get you started:

- Cooking can involve weighing, measuring, ordering, estimating, adding, multiplying
- Restaurants and shopping can involve money, number identification, estimating, adding, subtracting, dividing
- Parties can involve matching numbers of people to plates, cutlery, area of tables, estimating and multiplying
- Trips can involve time, distance, budgeting, speed, evaluating various routes, license plate games (e.g. adding or multiplying the numbers on the plate)
- Home projects can involve estimating, measuring, multiplying
- Gardening can involve measuring, counting, calculating area, dividing

These ideas all demonstrate how much Maths is involved in our daily lives and will support your child in his or her basic computation and problem-solving skills in authentic, fun and real ways.

Take a Break Read a Book

Children look forward to holidays, but summer holidays are not a time to take a break from reading! Here are some suggestions to keep a book in your child's hands over the Christmas and New Year holidays:

- Visit your local library; libraries offer books to borrow and other fun activities
- Make fun reading choices
- Holidays are a great time to explore new authors and illustrators. Read book reviews together and have your child choose his or her own books
- Bring along a book, whenever you leave the house, bring a book with you. Children can find time to read at the beach, at the park, in the car, on the train, or waiting in line

FINALLY...

We are looking forward to the term ahead and an exciting time for learning. Before we know it, the teachers and children will be planning and rehearsing their item for the end of year celebration and Christmas will be upon us. May I take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for continuing to support your children's learning and to the teachers at Queen of Peace for their commitment and ongoing hard work.

Joanne Pearce
Director of Learning and Teaching