Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2017!

We are all very excited to be learning with your children this year. Mrs. Challen will be teaching in 4C and Mrs Connelly & Mrs Spackman in 4CS.

We have begun this term with the virtue of 'Friendliness' and will continue throughout the year to deepen the student's awareness and encourage them to make Jesus real by living the virtues in their daily life.

You may have heard from your child already that we are doing things a little differently in year 4. We've embraced the concept of Flexible Seating. This involves having various 'work stations' that allow the students to choose where and how they best work, rather than having the traditional desk and chair for each child.

Work stations include standing tables, smaller tables with yoga balls, mats and cushions, beanbags, lap trays, camp chairs, as well as a small number of desks and chairs. We are really impressed with how well the children have embraced the less structured environment. We are certainly on a learning curve and will continue to evaluate and adjust along the way! The ultimate goal is for each child to discover their optimal work station to enhance their growth mindset.

Our topics this term are:

RE- God’s Stewards: students will learn about the importance of our relationship with Creation and our role as caretakers.

Maths- We will be covering all strands of Mathematics this term: Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

English- This term our literature unit will be “Utterly Me”. We will look at a variety of quality literature with the aim of fostering a love of reading through the exposure of a wide range of text types. The students will also be writing with a focus on representing themselves as a storyteller.

History- Our unit for this term looks at the significance of early explorers prior to the European colonisation of Australia. The unit will be student directed as they complete a variety of online research tasks.

Science- Our main focus for Science this term is “Plants in Action” and “Friends and Foes”. Here we will look at food chains, food webs and the importance of these to our environment.

Creative Arts- We will be focusing the areas of Painting, Drawing and Digital Art activities. This is a very enjoyable hands on unit!

PDHPE- Health: This year Mrs Bolger will be taking the students each fortnight for Health. Mrs Ryals will be taking the students for PE each week. The Year 4 students from 4/5H will be joining us for sport on Fridays.


**Homework**—will consist of weekly *Maths Mentals* and a reading focus. There will also be student directed research, writing or presentation activities which may run over a number of weeks. We would love for your child to read for at least 20 minutes every night and record the book and number of pages in their Homework Diary. This is a great opportunity for you as parents to monitor your child’s reading and foster a love of literature! If you would like some additional reading and writing strategies or resources, please let us know.

**Philosophy:** These sessions will explore children’s thinking, will be run within varying curriculum each week.

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**HOUSE KEEPING**

- Library day 4C: Tuesday and 4CS: Wednesday
- PE and Sports days are 4CS: Tuesday & Friday and 4C: Wednesday and Friday.
- Mrs Spackman will be in 4CS on Fridays.
- If your child is absent from school, please remember to send a note in when they return to class. These can be either via email, *Skoolbag* or using the slips in the back of the Homework Diary.
- If your child arrives later than 9:30 am, they must be signed in at the office. The same applies when children are taken out of school for appointments, they must be signed out and back in from the office.
- Label all clothes
- Remember to pack fruit and a water bottle each day
- Remember “No Hat No Play”

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Finally, if you ever have any questions, concerns or would like to just catch up, do not hesitate to contact us at school and arrange a time. If you would like to use email as a way of contact, our addresses are:

- [leonne.challen@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:leonne.challen@cg.catholic.edu.au)
- [kym.connelly@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kym.connelly@cg.catholic.edu.au)
- [sally.spackman@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sally.spackman@cg.catholic.edu.au)

The Homework diaries also allow for communication between us and we encourage you to make use of these.

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Looking forward to a **fantastic** term!

Kym Connelly, Sally Spackman and Leonne Challen