



Year 4 Parent Information Evening



2021





Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

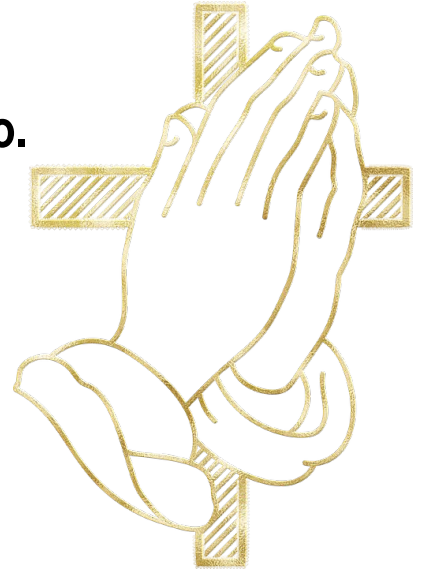
I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet; the Kamilaroi people. As we share our knowledge, teaching and learning we pay respect to the Elders past and present and to the knowledge forever embedded within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.



St Nicholas School Prayer

**Loving God,
We thank you for the example of St Nicholas,
who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned,
gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all.
May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do.
Give us the courage, love and strength of St Nicholas,
so that like him we may serve you through loving our
brothers and sisters.**

AMEN



Principal's Address (video):



General Organisation:

- With before school care now available to parents through Esteem Kids and with a duty of care to staff and students, from Week 6 onwards, St Nicholas School gates will not be open until the arrival of the first school bus at approximately 8.10am. It is not appropriate for children to be at school before this time.
- **8.45am** – All children should be at school as classes begin at this time.
- First Break **10.45- 11:20am**, Second Break **12:50pm – 1:25pm**, Bell to go home **2:55pm**. Please attempt to make all appointments for your child outside of school hours where possible.
- **Hats**– Our school rule is ‘No hat, no play!’ Children will be asked to remain in the shade if for any reason they do not have a hat.



Sport Days:

- Sports uniform is to be worn each Monday, Wednesday and Friday unless specified otherwise on the Communication note/ Newsletter due to other activities eg Mass.

Library:

- Each Thursday afternoon, after second break.
- If children wish to borrow from the Library, they must borrow during this time. They need to bring their library bag to borrow and return books. Borrowing is monitored.



- **Birthday celebrations-** are acknowledged in class (30/31 students per class). If you are sending in a Birthday cake for your child to share, please send in patty cakes, lollipops, freddo frogs or icy poles as they are easy to distribute. (Please remember we are a 'nut free' school). Should your child have an allergy, please feel free to send in a treat that can be easily kept at school.
- **Lunch Orders-** Qkr (available for download from the app store). Lunch orders and school fees are able to be paid for on this app. The canteen is 'Cashless'.



- **Newsletters:** are a very important and useful communication tool. They are updated on the St Nicholas School Website each Thursday and sent home via email, they contain valuable information and **we will not be sending home notes to tell you any information that is covered in the Newsletter.** Please contact the front office if you need a hard copy. If you require any extra information, please don't hesitate to contact the office.



Communication:

- Communication between home and school is very important to us and your children. Please feel free to email or write a note if there is a change to your child's routine, something going on at home that we need to know about or if you just need to let us know something.
- Absentees are also accepted via Compass, email or the School Website link and need to be submitted within a week of the absence.



Term 1 KLA's:

- **English:** Perspectives and Foxes- Fantastic Mr Fox, Description, Narrative, Information Report.
- **Maths:** Variety of topics such as time, mass, addition and subtraction, whole number, multiplication and division (times tables- big focus).
- **Religion:** Living the Law of Love- The 10 Commandments. A Time to Make Choices- Lent.
- **History:** Early explorers
- **Science:** Paddock to Plate
- **Health and PE:** Movement skills, invasion games (basketball) and Feelings
- **Visual Arts:** linked to other Key Learning Areas.



Excursion (pre warning):

- History Excursion to 'The First Fleet Park' at Wallabadah.
- Term 4 (date TBA)
- Small cost involved, we will let you know.
- Children and teachers will be bussed to the park during school hours. We will arrive home in time for normal afternoon procedures.
- Morning tea, lunch and a drink bottle must be packed.



Pen Licence:

- These are given out in Year 4.
- We ask the children to place a tick against their name with every exceptional piece of work selected by the teacher.
- 10 points in total gains them their pen licence.
- The presentation of their bookwork is one of the focus areas of Year 4.



VCOP Program:

- **V**-ocabulary, **C**-onnectives, **O**-peners, **P**-unctuation.
- This is a Literacy strategy we will be implementing in Year 4 (and across the rest of the school). As the year progresses we will begin writing task which involve 'Home Chat'.
- Home Chat- Students will bring home a stimulus/ topic to be discussed with their family in preparation for the next days writing task. This home activity will be compulsory.
- There will be an information session later in the year offering much more information that you will be invited to attend.



Reading

Over the past 4 weeks we have been individually testing the reading ability of the children in Yr 4. Some observations:

- Many children are fluent readers and able to offer a detailed retell of a text read.
- Many children are able to answer literal questions but are having difficulty answering inferential, vocabulary and applied knowledge questions. This prevents them from progressing reading levels.
- We would like to share an example of the Reading Test with you now.



Home Revision:

- There will be no compulsory, structured homework as such, however, the children are encouraged to maintain their reading for leisure and practise their times tables and spelling regularly.
- There will be a “Communication Sheet” sent home each Friday. This sheet will have any messages of news from Year 4. Communication sheets will also be posted on Facebook so that you have an electronic copy and nothing is missed.

*“Homework has been found to have no effect on the progress of primary school children. To get it right without getting rid of it, children at primary level should be given **less projects and more activities** that reinforce what they learnt that day instead. Whilst homework does make more of a difference to secondary school children, too much emphasis is placed on it; 5-10 minutes of practising what was taught that day at school has the same effect as 1-2 hours does.”*

– Professor John Hattie, Education Researcher.



Living Well, Learning Well!



Living Well, Learning Well

A Student Support Framework for the Diocese of Armidale

Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Armidale



Living Well, Learning Well

A Student Support Framework for the Diocese of Armidale

I am
SAFE

- Follow safety rules for different settings
- Take safety drills seriously (know what to do in an emergency)
- Hands off for physical safety
- Say nothing hurtful
- Use technology with care (think before searching, opening, sending, sharing)
- Be a peacemaker (give good advice)
- Seek help for self or others when there is a safety concern



I am **VALUED,
RESPECTED
and CARED
for**

- Attend school (be part of the team)
- Be friendly (greet people)
- Be positive- it's catching!
- Take time out when you need to settle
- Choose words and tone that are right for good conversations
- Be a good listener
- Care for our resources, belongings and wellbeing
- Be a helper and a problem-solver



I am a
LEARNER

- Students and staff form learning teams (be part of the team)
- Try hard (persist when things are tough)
- Get back on track if re-directed
- Self-question: - What am I learning? - How am I going?
- How can I improve my work and learning?
- What help do I need? - Who can help?
- Don't disrupt the learning of others or the work of adults who are helping us learn



Behaviour:

- We encourage the children to observe and obey school and learning space expectations. In addition, they are encouraged to display good manners and show respect and kindness to each other.
- Children are made aware of the consequences of inappropriate behaviour. Parents will be contacted in the case of consistent inappropriate behaviour.
- Strict rules are also in place surrounding the use of Chromebooks/ technology. Children will receive no warning for the incorrect use of these. They will be removed for an increasing amount of time each time a rule is broken. ICT agreements have all been signed.



Uniform:

- We have high expectations on the way that students are dressed in their uniform each day ie correct socks (change depending on regular or sports uniform), jewellery (only 1 signet ring, plain studs/ sleepers, medical bracelet), no nail polish, green hair ribbons/bows or school fabric scrunchie only.
- A 'uniform note' will be sent home should your child not be in the correct uniform. This will come from Mr Clery.



LEARNING SPACES AT ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL

What are Campfires, Waterholes and Caves?

One of our goals at St Nicholas School this year is to maximise the potential of our modern new learning spaces. We do this with the intention of providing quality opportunities for modelled, shared, guided and independent learning.

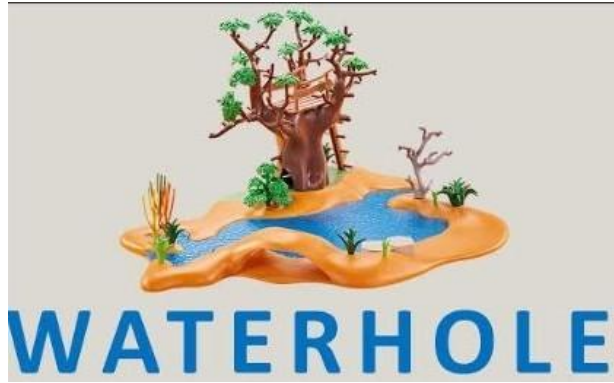
The following is a brief explanation of the way our students and staff are now using our spaces. This is based on the research of educational futurist David Thornburg, and already we are seeing evidence of improved student engagement and learning.





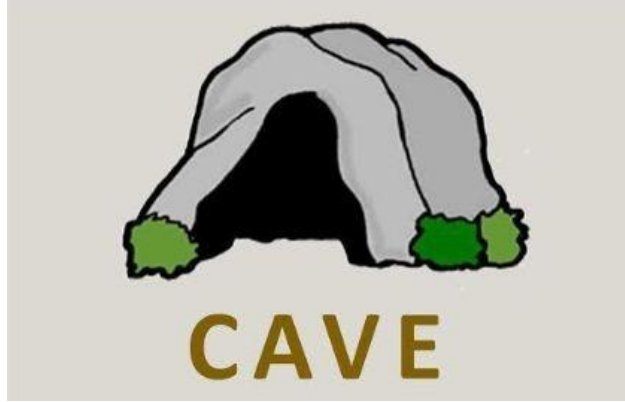
- **The campfire is a space where a group meets to gather knowledge and instructions.**
- In the campfire learning space, the experts are not only teachers and guest speakers, but can also be students who share their learning with peers and other teachers.
 - ONE VOICE TOO MANY!





- **Waterholes are spaces where students work in small groups to complete tasks. They are encouraged to discuss, collaborate and share ideas.**
- Watering holes are informal spaces where students can share information,
- Knowledge and discoveries. Students can learn from others as well as teach and help others.





- **The cave is a space where students work independently to complete tasks.**
- The cave is a private space where a student can think, reflect,
- and transform learning from external knowledge to internal belief.
- When a student is working in a cave, we encourage and respect their private, quiet, individual time.



Helpful Hints:

- Write your child's name, class and details of event on envelopes containing money/notes.
- Tie long hair up to help prevent head lice. As a rule if it touches shoulders it should be pulled back.
- Try to read and pray with your child regularly.
- Always praise his/her attempts when learning new things.
- Provide your child with pens, pencils, scissors and glue so that they have their own belongings for activities at home and at school.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for his/her things i.e. lunch box, library bag, notes etc.



Question Time:

Have we missed anything?

Is there anything else you would like to know?



Thank you for attending!

Team 4.

