I dreamt I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child’s mind and they fashioned it with care.

One was the teacher; the tools she used were books, spelling and art.
One was a parent with a guiding hand and a gentle heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled, with a touch that was soft and sure.
While the parent laboured by her side, and polished and smoothed over some more.

And, when at last their work was done, they were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had moulded into the child could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed they would have failed if they had worked alone. For behind the parent stood the school, and behind the teacher, the home.
**KEY INFORMATION**

**Sports Uniforms** are to be worn on Wednesday and Friday. PE lessons are currently on Fridays but this will change to Wednesday once interschool sport commences in Week 6.

**Homework** runs from Monday to Monday with grids distributed on a fortnightly basis. Homework diaries should be monitored and homework grids signed by parents.

**Assembly** takes place on Friday morning.

**Absences** - notify the school office or classroom teacher at tcampbell12@bne.catholic.edu.au. All absences should be followed by a written note or email from a parent/caregiver.

**Leaving early** - Go to the office and sign your child out. The office staff will call the classroom to advise you are waiting for them and they will be sent to meet you.

**Arriving late** - Come straight to the classroom and your child will be signed in as arriving late.

**Medication** - All medication must be labelled with your child’s name, accompanied by a doctor’s letter and taken directly to the office. Children may keep asthma puffers in their bags.
Communication - Email is the preferred form of communication and the following communication protocols have been adopted school wide.

- All email responses will be within 48 hours of receipt.
- All emails will be precise and professional in response and copied to the Principal or his/her delegate.
- Should a reply email require more than a short response it will determine that a meeting should be arranged.
- Emails from parents detailing information about change in a daily plan or arrangements for their child must be directed to ptoowong@bne.catholic.edu.au.

My email contact is tcampbell12@bne.catholic.edu.au

Swimming lessons will now be conducted as an intensive week long block in Term 3.

Interschool sport will commence in Week 6. More details will be advised in due course.
**General Information**

Year 6 is a time when students are starting to emerge as individual learners in their own right. They are developing crucial organizational and study skills and habits that will stand them in good stead for their final year of primary school and their future studies as secondary school students.

In 2012 Year 6 students continue their journey to becoming critical, capable and independent lifelong learners. Students will be encouraged to develop the attributes of a lifelong learner including; the capacity to be a knowledgeable person with deep understanding; a complex thinker; a creative person; an active investigator; an effective communicator; a participant in an interdependent world; and a reflective and self directed learner.

This can be a demanding time as students strive to meet these new challenges in their academic, personal and spiritual life. Parents/caregivers and teachers share the responsibility of guiding and supporting students in this crucial stage of their learning journey.

At St Ignatius, our goal for learning is to empower our students to be a contributing part of our changing world, by living the gospel of Jesus. As such students are expected to model Christian qualities in their interactions with classmates, school staff and the wider school community.
**Homework**

It is expected that students in Year 6 will be spending an average of 30 minutes on home tasks each night. Homework tasks will continue to follow Ian Lillico’s Homework Grid system.

Each grid will be completed over a two week period and parents are asked to monitor and sign that tasks have been completed.

Curriculum aspects of homework will include:

**Written homework:**
- Spelling Conventions - one unit completed per week
- Maths Mentals - one unit completed per week
- Writing task - to be completed fortnightly

**Research/Computer Assignments:**
- Set tasks related to units of work.

**Reading:**
- Library task/book of own selection - 20 mins/night

**LOTE:**
- Italian as required from lessons during the week

**Music:**
- As required from lessons during the week

Homework is a critical component of a child’s learning, essential for reinforcing concepts introduced during class time and developing crucial study habits. In addition, the homework diary is an essential tool in the development of students as independent learners, providing an avenue through which parents/caregivers and
teachers can support students in achieving their individual learning goals.

To this end, homework diaries are to be used as a record of class weekly timetable and parent/teacher communication. The following guidelines outline the expectations of student, teacher and parent/caregiver in relation to the setting of homework and the use of the homework diary.

Expectations for:-

The student:

1. Write homework tasks neatly in diary.
2. Complete set tasks by the due date.
3. Find out the homework given if absent.
4. See your teacher prior to the next lesson if you have a question/problem.
5. Develop a positive attitude towards homework as an educational aid, not a penalty.

The teacher:

1. Set homework that is meaningful.
2. Set homework on a regular basis.
4. Check homework on a regular basis.
5. Monitor those students who do not follow class expectation.
The parent:
1. Provide a suitable work space.
2. Assist students to develop time-management skills.
3. Take an active interest in homework, including providing assistance when required and checking and signing homework grids.

On the rare occasion when homework cannot be completed due to extenuating circumstances please send a note to school with your child.

Camp

In Term 4, 2012 Year 6 and 7 students will attend a week long camp in our Nation’s capital, Canberra. More details regarding this exciting event will be advised in due course.

Religious Studies

Our Religion program is based on the Religious Education Guidelines and RE Modules. Our units this year are as follows:

- Church Community: Words and Actions (Beliefs)
- Sacramental Celebrations: Origins and Practices (Celebration and Prayer)
- Scripture: Historical, Historical, Social and Cultural Contexts (Scriptures)
- Perspectives on Morality (Morality)
**Mathematics**

In 2012 St Ignatius will be implementing the new national Math's Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum: Mathematics is organised around the interaction of three content strands and four proficiency strands.

The content strands are *Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability*. They describe what is to be taught and learnt. The proficiency strands are *Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving, and Reasoning*. They describe how content is explored or developed, that is, the thinking and doing of mathematics.

In particular there will be an increased focus on the development of student mathematical skills through the use of Math's Investigation pedagogy.

The use of the children’s **Resource Book** is encouraged to help with homework or in the recall of formulae and rules.

**English**

In 2012 St Ignatius will be implementing the new national English Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum: English is organised into three interrelated strands that support students’ growing understanding and use of English. Together the three strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in
listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing. The three strands are:

- **Language**: knowing about the English language
- **Literature**: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature
- **Literacy**: expanding the repertoire of English usage.

It is essential that students develop an appreciation that certain genre and their text types have features, which are associated with particular writing purposes and audiences. In addition, the capacity to critically evaluate a range of text types is imperative for students to make meaning of an increasingly multi-modal world.

The text type focus for Term 1 will be the Exposition genre with students required to prepare their own persuasive oral presentation arguing for or against the Federation of Australia.

Year 6 students will also participate in Literacy Blocks where they will be given the opportunity to work independently on reading and writing tasks.

The presentation of written work will focus upon the importance of accurate spelling, paragraphing and proofreading skills. The development of suitable spelling strategies and mastery of grammar are also included in homework tasks.
History

In 2012 St Ignatius will be implementing the new national History Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum: History is organised into two interrelated strands:

- **Historical Knowledge and Understanding** - the strand includes a study of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped world history from the time of the earliest human communities to the present day.

- **Historical Skills.** - this strand promotes the skills used in the process of historical inquiry.

The Year 6 Curriculum moves from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Key inquiry questions for Year 6 students include:

1. Why and how did Australia become a nation?
2. How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?
3. Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?
4. What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?
The topic for Term 1 is **Federation**. Scaffolds will be provided where required and assistance with this will be given in Library and Computer lessons each week.

History units for the remainder of the year will be informed by the curriculum requirements and determined by discussion with students incorporating student interest and learning needs.

**Science**

In Term One, Year 6 science will focus on the *Life and Living* strand investigating the impact of feral animals and pests on Australian ecosystems.

**Health and Physical Education**

The requirements of this curriculum area will be achieved via 45 minutes of PE lessons per week, units of work in class time and special emphasis on Personal Development and Relationships.

*School sport* in 2011 will include swimming, interschool sport for ten weeks over Terms 1 & 2, athletics and cross country.

**Italian**

In Year 6 students participate in classes conducted by our specialist teacher for 90 minutes each week.
Music

Students participate in classes conducted by our specialist teacher for 45 minutes each week.

Technology

Through the use of computer lab, students will consolidate their computer skills including developing skills in the use of the following:-

- Word processing and spreadsheeting
- Publisher and Power Point presentations
- Notetaking and Editing
- Research through the use of the Internet and CD ROMs

The Arts

Strands to be covered this year: Visual Arts, Media, Dance and Drama.

Library

In addition to consolidation of research skills, the children will also be introduced to research tasks associated with literature.
In Term 1 students are involved in a literacy task set by the teacher-librarian and monitored by the classroom teacher. This involves reading one of the new novels that are yet to be introduced to the Library. Students are required to read the book, create a Story Ladder outlining the main events in their story and create a bookmark as a gift for the first reader of the novel.

**General**

- *Class Coordinators* – Judy Nicolls and Nikki Bolton.
- *My email address* is [tcampbell12@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tcampbell12@bne.catholic.edu.au) or the school email of [ptoowong@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ptoowong@bne.catholic.edu.au) may also be used.

If you have any problems or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me via email and if necessary we can arrange a time to meet in person.

I am looking forward to a positive, productive and enjoyable year with your children.

Kind Regards

Tonia Campbell
Year 6 Classroom Teacher
Children seldom misquote. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
- Author Unknown

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.
- Stacia Tauscher

A characteristic of the normal child is he doesn't act that way very often.
- Author Unknown

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.
- Harold Hulbert