NEWSLETTER

20th February 2017

“Jesus wants me to tell you again... how much love he has for each one of you – beyond all you can imagine.”

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

Today marks World Day of Social Justice. The Australian Human Rights Commission has this to say about social justice, “Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

The General Assembly proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007, inviting Member States to devote the day to promoting national activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all”.


What then does this day mean to our learning community? The patron of our learning community Mother Teresa is an exemplar model of someone who reached out to the poorest of the poor to make a difference to them regardless of gender, age, race ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. The patron of our new parish school Blessed Oscar Romero is another exemplar model fighting for those treated unjustly and living in poverty.

Our current whole school scripture, the Ten Lepers enables us to explore the notion of social justice. Who are those who are excluded or on the fringe of society today? Who do we make the lepers in our society, in our learning community or in our families? Last week we were challenged to consider the wrongs done to Indigenous Australians and our invitation to create a more just Australia. Next week the season of Lent begins in the Catholic faith. In what ways will we take up the Lenten invitation to be better people? How will we bring about a learning community of justice? How will we take up the challenge to bring about justice every day?

Kind regards

Chris

This Week’s Happenings

Monday 20th February
Child/ Parent/ Teacher conversations 1.30pm onwards for Mrs Leahy’s learning group
Welcome visitors from Catholic Education Office Sandhurst

Tuesday 21st February
Professional Learning ~ Faith and Life Inquiry
Welcome Kath Murdoch
Our Lady’s Parish Priest & Principals’ Meeting

Wednesday 22nd February
Professional Learning ~ Faith & Life Inquiry, 9 pedagogical practices for inquiry
Parents and Friends Welcome evening 7.30pm – 9pm

Thursday 23rd February
Parish Council

Friday 24th February

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th February
Reconciliation Sign Up weekend
**Staff Car Park not a drop off zone.**
The staff car park is for staff only not for parents to drop children off at school. Over the past week a number of parents have had to be reminded of this after taking advantage of the gate left open for construction work. Sadly it is parents who have been at our school for some time. Don’t drive in the staff car park!

**Ash Wednesday Mass ~ Wednesday 1st March 9.15am**
On Wednesday 1st March we will participate in Ash Wednesday Mass. Mass will take place in the central Year F – 2 learning space. All welcome.

**Staff Acknowledgement Mass ~ Sunday 19th March at 11.00am**
The staff of Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School will be commissioned at 11.00am Mass at Our Lady’s church on Sunday March 19th at 11.00am. We would be delighted to see the whole school community join with us on this day as the staff are acknowledged for their role in the mission of the church and commissioned to continue the work of Catholic Education. All Parish Primary Schools in our parish will be commissioned at this Mass.

If your family does not regularly attend Mass this might be an occasion to join the Mother Teresa School staff and provide an opportunity for your child/ren to experience this celebration of the Catholic faith.

**Foundation Children**
The Foundation children are now at school every day 8.50am – 3.30pm Monday - Friday.

**Student Levy & Family Fee**

**Student Levy Payments 2017**
The Student Levy of $275 will now be invoiced to families for Term 1 2017. This levy is per student.

**School Fee 2017**
Our family school fee in 2017 is $1,260. This fee is broken into three accounts: Term One $420, Term Two $420 and Term 3 $420.

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<tr>
<th>Term One $420</th>
<th>Accounts forwarded</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Term Two $420</td>
<td>Accounts forwarded</td>
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<td>Term Three $420</td>
<td>Accounts forwarded</td>
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**Payment Arrangements**
If you wish be pay via instalments and/or direct debit please see Mrs Nehme to arrange this.

**Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application**
Parent CSEF applications close on 30th June 2017. To be eligible you must:

a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Application forms are available at the school office.
Packaging free learning community
Over the past eight years the children have been engaged in a number of inquiries that have investigated the many types of packaging that are used for food. These inquiries initially included weighing the amount of packaging children brought to school over a period of time and reducing this. We are now a package free school. As a “Package free school” we ask that you do not send food in packaging. There are many plastic containers available for food storage. This can assist in reducing packaging and keeping food fresh. Please label your plastic containers!

Skoolbag App – download it!
You can keep up to date with school happenings, access the newsletter, update contact details and notify us of absences through the Skoolbag App.
You are encouraged to download this to your mobile phone or iPad. Details for download can be found at http://www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au/news-events/354/article/100/skoolbag-app

Sacramental Preparation and Celebrations
Families of children in Year 3 – 6 who are to receive sacraments this year are asked to note the dates below:

First Reconciliation
Saturday 25th February / Sunday 26th February – Reconciliation Sign Up Weekend. Attendance at one of the parish Masses is required.
Monday 27th February - Workshop for children and parents at Mother Teresa PS (due to numbers your time will be forwarded in the coming week)
Wednesday 22nd March - Reconciliation Celebration 6pm and 7.30pm at Mother Teresa PS (you will be allocated your celebration time)

Parents & Friends News
Parents and Friends Wine and Cheese ~ Welcome evening this Wednesday evening
Our Parents and Friends will be hosting a welcome evening for parents new to our school on Wednesday 22nd February from 7.30pm – 9pm. This welcome wine and cheese evening is for parents only and a great opportunity to meet new families and to catch up with old acquaintances.

Parents and Friends Meeting
Our first Parents and Friends Meeting is to take place on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm at the school. On this night we will look at our fundraising and social events for the year. All welcome.

Zooper Doopers Fridays
Zooper Doopers are sold each Friday in terms one and four. They are $1 each with funds raised going towards the school.
If anyone is free to help on Fridays this term to sell the Zooper Doopers at lunch time please leave your name at reception.

What’s Happening in the Learning Spaces
“Parents should be educated in the language of schooling, so that the home and school can share the expectations, and the child does not have to live in two worlds – with little understanding between the home and the school”. John Hattie, 2009

Foundation – Year 2 Learning Spaces
As Inquirers we are continuing to Tune In to our compelling question ‘What’s my story? What’s your story? What can we learn from stories?’ by sharing our first thinking about What stories are? Who tells stories? and What puzzles me about stories?’ As communicators we will share our thinking by engaging in dialogue in focus groups using the thinking routine ‘Think-Pair-Share’ and ‘What Makes You Say That?’
As part of our Faith and Life inquiry, last week we had the opportunity to engage in a shared learning experience with Murrundindi to learn about his story. We used the thinking routine ‘Connect Extend Challenge’ to document any connections that we made between what we already knew and any new information gained through dialogue. We then had the opportunity to ask Murrundindi any new wonderings or challenges that arose throughout the day. As a way to sort out our thinking, we documented our discoveries on a Venn diagram, where we considered the two questions ‘How are we the same?’ and ‘How are we different?’

As readers and inquirers, we have been exploring texts about significant Australians. As researchers, we are finding out about the story of these individuals, and how their similarities or differences helped them to get along with others. We will also use this opportunity to find out more about the text type biography. As writers, we have documented our first thinking on our own life story, as well as further explore the text type biography and add to this as we learn new information.

A number of our year 3 children are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this term. This coming weekend they are asked to attend one of the parish masses to sign up to receive this sacrament. Through our Faith and Life inquiry we will continue to explore our whole school scripture about the ten lepers and the connections this has with the Lenten season the church begins next week and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Year 5/6 Learning Spaces

Sorting out is a critical phase in the assessment of understanding. In this phase students are typically analysing and sharing their discoveries. They are talking, responding, sharing and processing. They are revealing a new and deeper understanding of the concept and noticing patterns and trends. New questions may emerge as a result of this processing of information. Kath Murdoch 2015

As part of sorting out, our discoveries, as researchers we are reflecting on the information we gathered at Sovereign Hill and linking and documenting this information to our initial wonderings. As thinkers we are recording our thinking in different ways and as collaborators we are understanding and
respects other points of view. As part of developing the understanding ‘Significant individuals and events shaped Australian colonies and contributed to Australian Federation’, we are reflecting on the information we gained on our excursion, in particular our role play of life as a digger, banker, miner and trooper, and, also reading and viewing a variety of texts to help us sort out and document some of the significant events and significant people that shaped Australian colonies.

As inquirers we are engaging in our iTune and identifying a learning focus for each of our sessions. As part of their iTune Luka and Aaron are learning how to design and build a robot using some step by step instructions from the EV3 LEGO MINDSTORMS kit. As inquirers they are finding out how to use the EV3 programming tool to build a program for their robot to help make it move. As thinkers they have remained open-minded and have persisted with their learning.

As mathematicians we are demonstrating our current understandings related to counting and place value. We are using the thinking moves identifying theories and reasoning with evidence as we engage in a variety of learning opportunities. In particular we are reading and counting fractions and reading and counting decimal fractions. As mathematicians we are also interpreting number lines and identifying the position of particular numbers. We are writing numerals, ordering decimals and interpreting fractions. Prior to our mathematical focus groups with our Numeracy consultant, we will document and email our wonderings in preparation for our sessions next Monday.

Performing Arts Learning
As collaborators, the Foundation – 2 students are exploring imaginative ideas and concepts to develop a role-play for performance. Through our creative exploration the students have identified and are documenting a narrative, focusing on sequencing the beginning, middle and end of the story using a storyboard to sort out their creative ideas. This week the students will be stepping inside the story and modelling their dialogue through action, focusing on becoming a character and narrator.

As performing artists, the year 3-6 students are investigating a fictional story context for creative development. This is a collaborative project for the students to 'step inside' and investigate the outcome of the story. Through our narrative writing and wonderings, we have identified possible endings for the storyline and will be creating characters and dialogue for creative exploration. As communicator's, the students will model their dialogue through role-play and improvisation.

Japanese Learning
As communicators Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students will sing a song about Japanese words for greetings entitled “Ohayo.” After singing the song students will discuss the questions “I wonder what this word means?” As communicators students will role play greetings using appropriate gestures. The focus will then turn to reading Japanese. Students will explore some simple hiragana characters whilst considering the compelling question “How does Japanese look different to English?”

As self-managers Year 3 and Year 4 students will discuss and role play learning routines which support their learning in the Japanese space. As communicators they will use Japanese words and phrases to engage in these routines. They will then focus on learning about Japanese script through reading a selection of one stroke hiragana. They will use mnemonic strategies to support their learning in various focus groups, including hiragana match, deciphering words and building words.

As thinkers Year 5 and Year 6 students will discuss and role play learning routines which support their learning in the Japanese space. As communicators they will use Japanese words and phrases to engage in these routines. They will then focus on learning about Japanese script through learning what their name looks like in Japanese. As thinkers they will explore the difference between hiragana and
katakana and then practice writing their name in katakana through attention to correct shape in the characters. This will consolidate the learning the students engaged in last lesson.

**Melbourne Japanese Summer Festival 2017**

This event will take place at Federation Square and will feature food, activities and performances showcasing contemporary and traditional Japanese culture. It will take place on Sunday 26 February from 12 noon until 6pm. For further information please use the following link: [http://jcjsm.org.au/fest/](http://jcjsm.org.au/fest/)

**JLTAV Book Cover Conference Competition**

Students are invited to design the front cover of the 2017 JLTAV Conference Book for conference delegates. They are encouraged to be creative and to design a cover which reflects the Japanese language or Japanese culture. Students may submit a digital or hand drawn cover design. **Please note that students are not able to use images that are already copyright (e.g. Hello Kitty etc.).** The words ‘2017 JLTAV Conference’ need to be included in the design. Only individual entries will be accepted. The book cover size is A4. Up to five entries can be chosen to enter the main competition. **Entries are to be handed to Osborne sensei by Thursday 2nd March.**

**JLTAV Inc. Sticker Design Contest**

Students are invited to design a sticker to be printed as JLTAV advocacy stickers. The winning entry will be printed as stickers and distributed at the 2017 JLTAV Conference. **Please note that students are not able to use images that are already copyright (e.g. Hello Kitty etc.) or recognizable faces and that designs should be suitable for viewing by students and the wider community.** Only individual entries will be accepted. Up to two entries per year level can be chosen to enter the main competition. **An entry sheet with further details is available from Osborne sensei and should be submitted by Tuesday 7th March.**

**Physical Education Learning**

Thanks to last week’s fine weather, all Foundation to Year two students were able to begin their introduction to the Fundamental Movement Skills of Throwing and Catching. Our focus last week was on the Underarm throw and the Two Hand Catch. This week we will be continuing to practice Throwing and Catching through a series of fun and engaging games and activities.

Last week, Years Three to Six worked on their fielding (throwing and catching) skills. Fielding is an essential part of Aussie T-Ball and is often where the game is won or lost. This week, students will be continuing their exploration of Aussie T-Ball this week. We will be discovering the rules, positions and general gameplay of this inclusive and engaging game. Students will also be learning the appropriate batting technique and will have the opportunity to develop this during a modified game.

**Physical Education Timetable**

**Mondays the following learning groups will participate in Physical Education:**
- Year 5/6 Miss Follacchio, Miss James and Mrs Larkin’s learning groups
- Year 3/4 Miss Dale & Miss Vinci’s learning groups

**Tuesdays the following learning groups will participate in Physical Education:**
- Year F – 2 Miss Erin, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Broadhurst and Mrs.Scott’s learning groups

**Wednesdays the following learning groups will participate in Physical Education:**
- Year 3/4 All Year 3/4 learning groups
- Year 5/6 All Year 5/6 learning groups

**Thursdays the following learning groups will participate in Physical Education:**
- Year F – 2 Miss Marsico & Mrs. Leahy’s learning groups

**Friday’s the following learning groups will participate in Physical Education:**
- Year F – 2 Miss Charry, Miss Pereira, Mrs. Bell and Miss Weston’s learning groups

**Sustainability Learning**

*Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for*
other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. Pope Francis, Laudato si', (211)

This week in Sustainability learners will be sorting out more information about solar energy. Our Year 5/6 senior Sustainability learners will use their investigative skills and combine them to engage collaboratively with a small team to build their own solar powered circuits. These circuits will be able to turn on a light, power a fan or use solar energy to move a robot. The students will apply their theoretical knowledge in a more practical way. By engaging in a collaborative team the students will be able user different strategies to build their model.

Students in Year Foundation - Year 4 will be dialoguing the importance of a rubbish free lunch box. As inquirers students will develop wonderings about why our learning community is rubbish free and how that impacts our learning environment. Students will examine their own lunch box and we will discuss options for package free lunch boxes. As thinkers they will document the importance of being package free and collaborate with their peers.

Please make sure your child has a hat, drink bottle and sunscreen for Sustainability learning as we will primarily be outside even in warm weather.

After School Care at Mother Teresa Primary School
Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!
We have had lots of fun this past week at after school care, socialising and getting to know all of our friends again.

Please see important information below to ensure you are ready and organised to use Extends service this year.

New Families – Enrol Today
Enrolling is simple and can be done online via our Parent Portal. The annual enrolment fee will not be charged until you use the service, so it’s a great way to ensure you can have emergency access if the need arises. See information on operating hours, fees and how to enrol and book at extend.com.au.

Have You Secured Your 2017 Bookings?
If you have used our services before, we look forward to seeing you again throughout Term 1. Please ensure you have made your 2017 bookings on the Parent Portal in advance.

Questions?
Check out the FAQs on our website which contains useful information for new parents.

Parent Portal: extend.com.au
At after school care we use many recycled materials such as boxes, bottle caps, plastic bottles and anything else that can be reused for art/craft.
If you have any recycled materials that we could use please drop them in to after school care,

Next week we also have many fun activities for everyone to participate in, and we hope to see you all there!

Note to Parents: We have access to the gate on Olrig Grove, next to the basketball courts. Please use this street to pick up your child/children from the service as it provides a safe and easy avenue for both parents and children.
Vanessa.

Please don't forget your hats to wear at after school care!!!! No Hat No Play!!!
**Community News**

**Hammers Basketball Club**

We are currently looking for under 10 Girls to join in, have fun, make some friends and try something new!

So if you know anyone who may be interested at joining or giving it a go please don’t hesitate to pass this flyer on.

Looking forward to some new friendly faces soon.

Any enquiries please call Cedah on 0404 370 296

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**Term One Dates**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<td>Wednesday 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Welcome Staff from Catholic Education Office, Sandhurst (Bendigo) visiting our learning community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<td>Friday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; / Sunday 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Sign Up weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Reconciliation child/parent workshop</td>
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<td>Wednesday 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am</td>
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<td>Friday 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up day</td>
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<td>Sunday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Sunday of Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Meeting 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Sunday 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Sunday of Lent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Thursday 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<td>Friday 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td>Sunday 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
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<td>Thursday 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Reconciliation Celebration</td>
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<td>Friday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<td>Sunday 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Murrundindi at Mother Teresa PS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>School concludes for Term One @ 3.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Term One: Wednesday 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; February – 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March 2017</td>
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**Term Dates 2016**

Term One: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Term Two: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Term Three: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

Term Four: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

The following dates are correct at the time of printing. Please read the newsletter each week and note the weekly happenings.