



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

November 14th December 2020

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier".

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

As a young man I read a number of books by a Dutch Jesuit theologian Henri Nouwen. His spirituality and insights into everyday life experiences made an impression on my thinking and aspects of my own spirituality. Recently I came across this quote from one of his works:

"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift... The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

"We are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment..."

What struck me about this quote was that it is at odds with the belief of entitlement so often expressed in various ways today. By entitlement I refer to the belief that I have a right to something or that I am inherently deserving of certain privileges. Such a position was evident in some narratives around COVID-19. We saw glimpses of it when people were outspoken about their rights not to wear masks or remain in a 5km radius. Such positions lack an awareness of the common good or a sense of gratitude for the gift of health; of life.

The celebration of Christmas might provide us with the time and opportunity to reflect on the Christian belief that God became human in the person of Jesus. Through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus each person is given the gift of new life – a gift of unconditional love.

This Christmas may we experience the discipline of gratitude and acknowledge the gift of Jesus freely given. May we take a moment to reflect on where we are and be grateful in the present moment.

Christmas Blessing to you and your family.

Kind regards

Chris



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This Week's Happenings

Monday 14th December

Tuesday 15th December

Wednesday 16th December

Term 4 Concludes at 3.30pm

End of term 4

Our 2020 school year will conclude on Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 3.30pm.

Mini Vinnies ~ Thanks

To all in our Learning Community,

As a Mini Vinnies group we collaborated in teams to take action to give hope to people in need at Christmas. We are very thankful for all the time and effort that our learning community put in to help us send donations to St. Vincent de Paul.

Over the past few weeks we collected donations and prepared hampers of toiletries and children's books to be delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. We also made Christmas cards to some of the children that St. Vincent de Paul supports.

We thank all those people who donated to help us achieve our goal of spreading hope in a time of pandemic.

Tiarna and Lareen on behalf of the Mini Vinnies Group

On behalf of Mother Teresa Mini Vinnies Farewell Students and Staff

We farewell our Year 6 children on Wednesday 16th December. We wish them well as they leave to begin secondary school.

We also farewell Miss Alysica Marscio who is joining the St Fidelis Moreland community, Miss Angerosa who is moving to Our Lady's Craigieburn, Miss Lauren Zappia who is moving to St Joseph's Mernda and Miss Pinar Uluer who is taking up other teaching positions. We wish them well as they join new learning communities.

Welcome to Mother Teresa learning community

We have had the chance to welcome new families and children to our learning community in the past weeks with our Foundation orientation sessions. We will also welcome a small number of children in other levels of our school this week.

A very big welcome is extended to a number of new staff – Miss Shania Murray, Miss Bianka Zorzut and Mr Cristian Stella who will join our learning community in 2021. Both Miss Murray and Mr Stella will join our Leadership centre while Miss Zorzut will join the Bridging centre.

With Thanks ~ 2021 Staff

True inquiry teachers have what Susan Engel (2015) so beautifully calls 'hungry minds.' They become fascinated by the questions children are raising, they are curious about their own ways of thinking about and seeing the material they are sharing with their students. They are voracious learners with open minds and hearts. Kath Murdoch 2020

Thanks to the staff of Mother Teresa learning community for their ongoing commitment to learning and the nurturing of inquiring minds. Thank you for your continued belief in the Catholic Dialogue School making sense of the Catholic faith in a multifaith and culturally enriched society. Thank you for your promotion of learning assets, learning dispositions and a commitment to bring about excellence in Catholic education at Mother Teresa PS. The Learning Space teaching staff for 2021 are:

Foundation to Year 2 Team

Mrs Melanie Brooks, Miss Ebony Caiafa, Miss Christelle Chayeb, Miss Loredana DeMarco, Mrs Georgia Mangat, Miss Laura Nichol, Mrs Emma Scott, Mrs Nicole Smith, Miss Vania Sparano and Miss Manisha Willey.

Year 3/4 Team

Miss Ashley LaPorta, Mrs Stefanie McNeil, Ms Joanna Pereira, Mr Michael Richardson, Miss Erin Smith, Miss Bianka Zorzut.

Year 5/6 Team

Miss Michelle Follacchio, Miss Kirby Fisher, Miss Shania Murray, Miss Melissa Paolino and Mr Cristian Stella.

Orientation for 2021

Some of our Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 children will engage in orientation tomorrow morning Tuesday 15th December. The remainder of the school will engage in orientation on Wednesday morning.

School Return in 2021~ Please note your child's attendance requirements

Thursday 28th January, 2021 - Children in Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 are required at school.

Children are required to attend school in their full summer school uniform and to bring their brain food, morning tea and lunch and all stationary to school this day.

This includes books, pens, pencils, glue sticks, book box, two boxes of tissues, art smock and headphones.

This will be a normal school day for the children. Each child will have their photo taken and engage in a number of literacy and numeracy tasks. School will begin at 8.50am and conclude at 3.30pm.

Friday 29th January, 2021 - Children in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 are required at school

Children are required to attend school in their full summer school uniform and to bring their brain food, morning tea and lunch and all stationary to school this day.

This includes books, pens, pencils, glue sticks, book box, two boxes of tissues, art smock and headphones.

This will be a normal school day for the children. Each child will have their photo taken and engage in a number of literacy and numeracy tasks. School will begin at 8.50am and conclude at 3.30pm.

Foundation children begin school on Monday 1st February, 2021. Current families with a Foundation prep child begin at 8.50am. New families to our school with a Foundation child begin at 9.50am.

All children Year 1 – 6 attend Monday 1st February, 2021.

Year 5/6 Camp

Our Year 5/6 children will have the opportunity to attend a camp to Sovereign Hill, Ballarat in 2021.

This is a wonderful experience and one that previous Year 5/6 children have thoroughly enjoyed. The dates for camp are Monday 22nd February 2021 to Wednesday 24th February 2021. Further details will be forwarded in the coming days.

Student Levy 2021 ~ Payable by 5th February 2021

The student levy of \$300 per student is due to be paid by 2021. If you pay directly into the school account please ensure you place the child's name and family name in the reference.

The school bank details are:

Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

BSB: 083 347

Account: 82676 1906

National Australia Bank

Trespassing

You are encouraged to contact Craigieburn Police if you see any unusual activity on our property over the Christmas and New Year period. Craigieburn Police can be contacted on 9303 4433 or call 000.

Book Packs ~ online order

Book packs are ordered through WINC online service. For your reference the site is www.wincschools.com.au and the Mother Teresa Primary School access key is 3QY3W.

What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

“Parents are vital partners in education. They influence their children’s attitudes about learning, and support learning at home. They are a vital link between home and school. And when they become involved in the life of the school, they make our schools better places to learn, grow and thrive (Parents in Partnership, Ministry of Education, Toronto, 2010)

Foundation – Year 2

As thinkers, we are continuing to reflect on our compelling question “How can we keep ourselves safe, happy and healthy?” by finding ways to share our thinking with others. Some learners will be creating videos, books, PowerPoint presentations and pamphlets to share what they have learned about keeping themselves safe, happy and healthy. As communicators, children will be given time and opportunity to share their thinking with their learning spaces.

As people in a Catholic Dialogue School, we are engaging with the Nativity story by identifying key events and documenting our thinking using a storyboard. As thinkers, we are identifying the different names of Jesus in the story and explaining why the gospel writer/s may have used those names. We are also making connections between the scripture story and what it means for us today.

As mathematicians, we are revisiting the concepts of counting and place value by engaging in a range of tasks that help us to explore numbers in a range that is achievable for us as learners. For some learners that will be identifying number patterns and sequences such as counting by 2’s, 3’s, 5’s and 10’s from a non-zero starting number and for others it will involve counting forwards and backwards from 120. We will continue to make connections to concepts such as addition and subtraction to help us see how we can use our number knowledge in different contexts.

As readers we will continue to be word detectives by looking at words closely. Some learners will be identifying if the words are Nouns, Adjectives or Verbs and other learners will be focusing on breaking words up into parts by developing their knowledge of onsets and rimes i.e. c-at ‘cat’. This will help us to understand the importance of reading with meaning and how to be efficient readers.

As writers, we are finding out about what good writers do and practicing these skills during guided focus groups and independent writing time. Some learners are focusing on using the writing process to plan, draft, edit and publish a piece of writing of their choice, while other learners are focusing on experimenting with punctuation.

In preparation for 2021, all children are required to have a book box. If your child has their book box at home, please send it to school as it will be passed on to their 2021 teacher. We also ask that you return any school books you may have at home.

Bridging Centre

Year 3/ 4

“And there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.” – Luke 2:8-9

We have had **time** and **opportunity** over the past week as part of our **Faith and Life Inquiry** to look at the **‘world behind the text’** from **‘The World Jesus Knew’** by Marc Olsen. As a way to **go further** with our **wonderings** and **challenges** of the **nativity story** from **Luke’s Gospel 2: 1-14** we **reflected critically** and **dialogued** with **others** about **‘what we think life was like?’** As we **interpret text** and **symbols** we are **using** the **key thinking moves summarising** and **distilling** while we **engage** in the **thinking routine Word-Phrase-Sentence**. As **communicators**, we are **dialoguing** with **others** while **identifying** a **powerful** word-phrase and sentence, one that **provoked** or **grabbed** our **attention**. Through **hospitality** and **dialogue**, we are **making connections** between the two scriptures from Luke’s Gospel and **making meaning around why Jesus was named a Saviour, Messiah, Son of God**. As we consider this **scripture** from a **future orientated perspective** we are **reflecting critically** on

What might the birth of Jesus mean for people today?

*What hope might the story bring to people of this time?
What hope might this story mean for you?
How might you consider hope in light of your beliefs?
What hope might this story have for Catholic schools today?*

As we **celebrate** and **acknowledge** the end of a **challenging** and different year and the **stories** of **learning** we have **documented** we **invite** you **scan** some of the following **QR Codes** to **read** our **reflection** of **2020**. The students will have **time** and **opportunity** to **share** their own **stories** with their **families** in the coming week.



**Bianca's
Story of Learning**



**Carmelo and Massimo's
Story of Learning**



Olivia, Garima and Vivien's Story of Learning

Leadership Centre

Year 5/6

We wish all our Year 6 students all the very best as they move on to secondary school. We thank them for their leadership and their continued engagement in learning throughout the 2020 school year.

16th December End of School Year for children 3.30pm

Community News

Colour Melbourne

Mother Teresa PS was invited to participate in the promotion of this initiative. This came about through our access of learning opportunities with Kid Helpline. Congratulations to those children who participated in the Let's Melbourne Again promotion through Kids Helpline and Bupa. It was amazing to see our school highlighted on Channel 9 news on Saturday.

<https://www.facebook.com/9NewsMelbourne/videos/223744925786224>

All children are encouraged to participate in this initiative – Let's see how many Mother Teresa artists can be represented! See the link below to enter to your artwork.

<https://www.bupa.com.au/campaigns/colour-melbourne>

Help Bupa and Kids Helping bring some colour back into Melbourne by encouraging the little ones in your life to draw their favourite thing about visiting the city.

Is it catching the tram? Eating dumplings? Going to your favourite playground? Whatever it is we'd love to see an artwork showing what they love most, to help create a colourful celebration of Melbourne.

Local artist Beci Orpin will then use these drawings to help create a giant artwork that will live at 33 Exhibition Street for you to visit. Chances are you might even spot a drawing you recognise!