



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

12th December 2022

It is not enough for us to say, 'I love God, but I do not love my neighbour'.

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

During the Advent period our community was invited by our Mini Vinnies group to bring items for the needy in our area. The response to this invitation was extremely generous with many donations brought in over the past weeks. These were collected today and will be distributed to needy families in the Craigieburn area. For our learning community this action of outreach is seen as one way we can impact positively on the lives of others – in a sense bringing a new promise of hope to people in need.

Through the lens of outreach and providing hope for others I am drawn to consider the meaning of Christmas in light of our educational endeavors as a Catholic Dialogue School. I would like to view this again in light of a quote from Pollefeyt and Moyaert, from the Catholic University Leuven, which you have seen before:

“The end product of Catholic education is not the perfectly socialized pupil, but a pupil who is able to inquire into everything and everyone positively and with an open mind, inspired by a profound sense of humanity and by a connection with old and new stories which can open alternative worlds and which grant the future a utopian orientation (i.e. the promised land, kingdom of God)” Pollefeyt & Moyaert, 2004

Is Christmas about a utopian orientation i.e. the Promised Land or Kingdom of God? What is it that the Christ child's birth brings about in us today? As a positive inquirer and open minded thinker does it provide time and opportunity to consider my own role in bringing about the Promised Land? How can I recontextualise this old, yet sacred story and make it new today or write the next chapter? Through everyday encounters am I able to bring about those ideas of peace, joy, harmony, equality, acceptance and tolerance often articulated in Christmas carols and greeting cards? Does the incarnation of God become man in the person of Jesus challenge us to be more Godlike? I think we can be Christ to others. While this is not a new idea, as throughout the ages Christians have been invited to be Christ to others. How then, can we use multiple lenses to gain new understandings to this birth event? What might those who hold other religious beliefs or philosophies of life take from our celebrations or beliefs?

It is my hope that as we enter this Christmas Season we can spend a moment reflecting on the invitation to see the revelation of God in our own lives and create the next chapter.

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 12th December

Tuesday 13th December

Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm Our Lady's Church

Wednesday 14th December

Whole School Mass 9am

Thursday 15th December

Friday 16th December

End of year prayer 3pm

Term 4 concludes at 3.30pm

Year 6 Farewell Mass ~ Tuesday 13th December

Our Year 6 Farewell Mass will take place at Our Lady's Parish Church on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm. On this night we will engage in a Mass of Thanksgiving for our Year 6 children and present a number of awards.

End of Year Mass ~ Wednesday 14th December

We will have an end of year Mass on Wednesday 14th December at 9am at Mother Teresa Primary School. Families are well to join us as we pray in thanks for our 2022 school year.

End of 2022 School Year ~ Friday 16th December

Our school year will conclude on Friday 16th December at 3.30. We will conclude as is our school tradition with whole school prayer at 3pm.

Farewell

We will farewell a number of staff at the end of 2023:

Miss Shania Murray who is pursuing further study;

Miss Bianka Zorzut who is joining St Fidelis PS, Moreland;

Mrs Anita John who is joining The School of the Good Shepherd, Gladstone Park;

Mrs Louise Hall who has taken up additional hours at her other school Holy Trinity, Sunbury;

Miss Ashley La Porta is joining St Vincent's in Strathmore and the following pairs:

Miss Melissa Paolino & Miss Loredana De Marco who are joining St Francis PS Mill Park;

Mrs Georgia Mangat & Miss Manisha Willey who are joining St Dominic's PS in Broadmeadow; and

Mr Nethercote & Mr Insolia who are joining St Damian's PS in Bundoora.

We wish these staff well as they leave us and thank them for their contribution to our learning community during their time with us.

Miss Ebony Caiafa will be on leave next year to pursue some travel and work overseas. We look forward to her return in 2024.

Staff 2023

We continue to engage in the recruitment of new staff for 2023 mindful of the staff shortages across all education sectors in Victoria. At Mother Teresa PS we are pleased to have promoters such as Kath Murdoch who recently had this to say on social media about our school:

It is not often you have the experience of watching a school be 'born' and then being part of its life and growth over many years. I have been so fortunate to partner with Mother Teresa Primary School since it opened and am excited to say there are several teaching positions advertised for 2023. This is not a school for teachers who want to close their classroom door, hand out worksheets and avoid high expectations of professional learning and growth. Over the years, MTPS has partnered with myself, Ron Ritchhart, Debbie Sukarna and others to ensure they offer a contemporary, thoughtful, challenging inquiry based approach to teaching and learning. Located in outer Melbourne, this is a suburb rich with cultural diversity. This is a school for passionate, open minded, learning oriented teachers willing to embrace flexible learning spaces and collaborative planning. We have already mapped some beautiful big questions for 2023 ... I am so looking forward to seeing how the children respond and learn.

We are pleased to welcome the following staff to our learning community Miss Rita Mancini, Miss Sophie MacKinnon and Mr Adam McDonald. We continue to seek *passionate, open minded, learning oriented teachers willing to embrace flexible learning spaces and collaborative planning.*

Our arrangements for learning space staffing in 2023 for the beginning of the year are:

Foundation to Year Two Staff

Miss Cassie Iranios

Miss Sajantha Santhiapillai

Miss Joanna Pereira

Miss Rita Mancini

Miss Anna Camuglia*
Mrs Amy Leahy*
Mrs Bernadette Jacovidis*

Year 3/4 Staff
Mrs Stefanie McNeil
Mr Michael Richardson
Miss Erin Smith (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)
Mr Christopher Reed* (Monday & Friday)
Mr Patrick Collins*
Mr Bradley Hall*

Year 5/6 Staff
Miss Michelle Follacchio
Mrs Dilisha Sunnadeniya (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)
Miss Sophie McKinnon
Mrs Melanie Brooks
Mr Russell Osborne*

**We are grateful to these staff who are taking up Learning Space positions while we continue to advertise for Learning Space staff. These specialist staff who offer extra –curricula learning are a crucial part of our school. Opportunities to engage in specialist programs will be offered in different ways in Term 1.*

The children will have an opportunity to meet with their 2023 teacher during the week.

School Year 2023 ~ Start Dates

Our school year will begin on different days depending on your child's year level. Please note when your child is to return to school.

Monday January 30th 2023 - Years 2, 4 & 6 children to come to school for the day.

Year 2,4 & 6 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. They 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.

Tuesday January 31st 2023 - Years 1, 3 & 5 children to come to school for the day.

Year 1, 3 & 5 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. They 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.

Wednesday February 1st 2023 - All children Foundation to Year 6 at school

Foundation children will commence school at 8.50am if they have siblings at school and 9.50am if they are new to our community.

Foundation to Year 6 children at school today

2023 Book Packs

Book packs are ordered through WINC online service wincschools.com.au **If ordered and paid for by 20th December 2022 delivery fee will be avoided.** The order form for book packs have been forwarded to families. The access key is 2TU9Q

School Fees and Levey Structure 2023

A number of weeks ago all families would have received a note regarding 2023 school fees.

The school fee amount per family is \$1,656. Accounts of \$552 are forwarded in term 1, 2 & 3.

The curriculum levy per child is \$ 312. This levy is payable by Monday 6th February 2023.

Concessional School Fee

Families who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for a fee concession:

- Any family of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
- Any family holding a HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Any family holding a DVA Gold Card
- Any family identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard

Please collect a concessional fee application form to be considered for the concession fee.

Sacramental Celebrations 2023

Preparations are underway for the celebration of sacraments in 2023. Children in Year 2, 3 & 5 received a note today asking parents to indicate if they would like their child to celebrate Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation in 2023.

Catholic children in Year 3 can receive Reconciliation.

Catholic children in Year 4 can receive First Eucharist.

Catholic children from the Roman Catholic rite can receive Confirmation from Year 6. Our Eastern rite Catholic children (e.g. Chaldean, Syro-Malabar, and Maronite) have already received Confirmation or Chrismation at Baptism.

Reconciliation (First Confession) Year 3

This celebration occurs in term 1 and will involve

- Reconciliation Parent & Child workshop at Mother Teresa PS – **Wednesday 8th March, 7pm**
- Reconciliation Sign Up and Presentation Weekend - **Weekend of March 18th and 19th 2023**
- Celebration of First Reconciliation at Our Lady's Church – **Thursday 23rd March, 7pm**

First Eucharist (Communion) Year 4

- Eucharist Parent & Child workshop at Mother Teresa PS – **Wednesday 17th May, 7pm**
- Eucharist Sign Up and Presentation Weekend - **Weekend of 20th and 21st May, 2023**
- 1st Eucharist Celebration for children from Mother Teresa PS at Our Lady's Parish Church – **Sunday 18th June, 3pm**

Confirmation Year 6

- Confirmation Parent & Child workshop at Mother Teresa PS – **Wednesday 19th July, 7pm**
- Confirmation Sign Up and Presentation Weekend - **Weekend of 12th and 13th of August, 2023**
- Confirmation Celebration, venue TBC – **Sunday 20th August, 2023 (Time to be confirmed)**

COVIDSafe Practices

Minimising the transition of COVID-19 means we are committed to the following COVIDSafe Steps, these include:

- taking all steps possible to maximise external air flow and good ventilation including the use of purifiers;
- maintaining strong hygiene practice
- promoting the wearing of face masks in indoor settings or outside where physical distancing is not possible, as is recommended by the Department of Health.

Child Safe

The learning community of Mother Teresa PS is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children. Our interactions with all in our community is founded on respect for each person. Within a Catholic community this respect of each individual is rooted in the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God.

Child Safe Standard 9: Child Safety in physical and online environments – Ensure that physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing whilst minimizing the opportunity for children, young people and students to be harmed.

Our current Inquiry learning continues to address safety in both physical and online environments. Parents are encouraged to dialogue with their children about the learning associated with safety that is documented in Faith and Life Inquiry Portfolios.

Parents & Friends News

The Parents and Friends group supports the building of our learning community through numerous social and fundraising events. If you are available to help on any of the following dates, please leave your details on the sign-up sheet at the front office and we will be in contact with you.

Christmas Raffle

Our Parents and Friends are organising a Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be forwarded later in the week.

Term 4 Zooper Dooper Fridays

Each Friday in Term 4 our Parents & Friends will be selling Zooper Doopers for \$1 at lunch time. Sales take place between 1.40 – 2.10. If you are able to assist with sales please register your name at reception.

What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

Term One Dates 2023

Friday 27 th January	Staff Return
Monday 30 th January	Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 attend school
Tuesday 31 st January	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 attend school
Wednesday 1 st February	Foundation to Year 6 attend school Welcome Foundation children to Mother Teresa School New families with Foundation child begin at 9.50am Current families with Foundation child begin at 9.50am
Wednesday 8 th February	Foundation Rest Day
Thursday 9 th February	Year 5/6 Camp Sovereign Hill
Friday 10 th February	Year 5/6 Camp Sovereign Hill
Wednesday 15 th February	Foundation Rest Day
Wednesday 22 nd February	Ash Wednesday
Friday 3 rd March	Parents and Friends Movie Night
Tuesday 7 th March	School Closure Day – Staff professional development day No School for children this day
Wednesday 8 th March	Reconciliation Parent/ Child Workshop 7pm
Monday 13 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday No School this day
Friday 17 th March	St Patrick Day
Saturday 18 th March	Reconciliation Sign Up Weekend
Sunday 19 th March	
Thursday 23 rd March	First Reconciliation Celebration
Thursday 6 th April	Term One Ends
Monday 24 th April	Term Two Begins

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



BOOKINGS FOR 2023 ARE NOW OPEN!

We're delighted to have provided a year of excitement and joy!
We look forward to welcoming your family back into a
service of never ending fun!

Get to know our professional Educators
in a wholesome environment where
memories are made!



Prepare for a New Year of creative
activities that'll spark wild imagination!

Create delicious meals that help you
stay healthy and active!



Go to [extend.com.au](https://www.extend.com.au) and help us ring in the New Year with style!