



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

5th 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,

The papacy of Pope Francis has been marked by a desire to dialogue with all peoples of the world. Dialogue provides the opportunity to discover the views and thinking of others. Pope Francis' recent visit to Bahrain in November had a focus on opening up the dialogue and in particular interfaith dialogue.



The Pope's press office pronounced that the papal symbol for the visit represented 'the commitment of peoples and nations to encounter each other free from prejudice and in a spirit of openness as brothers and sisters'. Such dialogue has the potential to break down barriers and identify similarities rather than a focus on difference.

One of our focuses as a Catholic Dialogue school is that of hospitality. On the surface this means being welcoming to all. However, at a deeper level hospitality is an invitation to encounter 'the other'. Through being open to others we seek to gain new perspectives and understandings not only about 'the other' but ourselves. In terms of our hermeneutical learning we speak of 'seeing new layers of meaning', 'valuing a multiplicity of voices' and 'an openness to and from other religions, cultures and ways of life'.



Through our encounters with one another Pope Francis suggests we can encounter God. In a recent tweet about Advent the Pope said: 'Let us be shaken out of our torpor (mental inactivity) to recognise God's presence in daily situations. If we are unaware of His coming today, we will also be unprepared when He arrives at the end of time. Let us remain vigilant!'

The challenge for us as members of a Catholic Dialogue school is to take up the invitation to be hospitable and enter into an authentic dialogue in order to encounter others. Through such hospitality the mystery of God among us can be realised in our daily encounters not just at Christmas.

Advent, therefore, challenges us to see God's presence each day—How might this be realised for you this week through your offer of hospitality and the invitation to encounter an other?

Kind regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 5th December

Tuesday 6th December

Wednesday 7th December

Professional Learning ~ School Organisation

Thursday 8th December

Friday 9th December

Year 5/6 Bowling Excursion

Zooper Dooper Friday

Resource Stocktake

Please check at home and return any books that belong to the school. Thank you.

Year 5/ 6 Camp 2023 – Permission forms required

A small number of children have not yet returned camp forms. Please do so by tomorrow.

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 Levy 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.

Year 6 Farewell Mass & Farewell ~ 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.

This coming Friday 9th December our Year 5/ 6 children will participate in bowling and have a pizza lunch. This will allow our Year 5/6 children the time and opportunity to say farewell to their peers.

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.

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 of 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.

As our school year draws to a close we continue to promote physical and online safety as part of our learning and teaching.

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. Prizes include A Scooter and Helmet; Art Pack; Lego Pack; Games Pack and a Vivofit Kids fitness tracker. Tickets are \$1 each and were forwarded to families today. The raffle will be drawn on Friday December 16th after our 3pm whole school prayer.

Term 4 Zooper Dooper Fridays

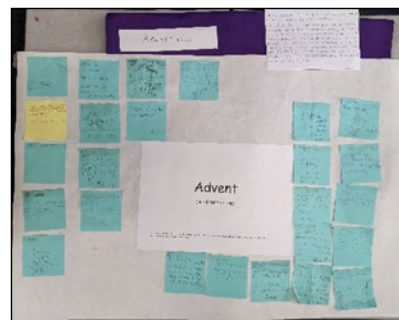
Each Friday in Term 4 our Parents & Friends will be selling Zooper Doopers for \$1 at lunch time. Sales take place between 1.40 – 2.10. If you are able to assist with sales please register your name at reception.

What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

Foundation-Year 2 Learning Spaces

"One of the most common responses from groups is that in a culture of thinking, there is a sense of purpose to the learning" ~Ron Ritchhart.

As a Catholic Dialogue school, we are continuing to inquire into the Season of Advent. We are finding out about Mark's Gospel (Mark 1:1-8). We will engage in the thinking routine **Word-Phrase-Sentence** to capture what **we found meaningful in the text**. We will use the hermeneutical prompts, **seeing new layers of meaning** and **interpreting texts and symbols** as we engage with the scripture. Using simple commentaries and images, as **researchers** and **thinkers** we will consider the community of writer's Mark wrote for, as we dialogue with each other to **recontextualise** the gospel for today. There will be **opportunity to discover** about the person of John the Baptist and his role in the scripture. We will reflect critically to **make connections** between the scripture and what it might tell us about Advent. Through continuous reflection on our dialogue about Advent, the gospel and the **provocations** around the school, we will consider what the meaning behind the Catholic story of preparing for the gift of Jesus at Christmas might have for ourselves, our beliefs and the world today using a **future orientated perspective** - *This text talks to me of a world in which...*



As **researchers**, we are continuing to find out about the understanding, "Our bodies grow and change over time but this process is different for everyone". We will closely **observe** the photos of ourselves from when we were a baby to now. We will take the time and opportunity to place our photos/drawings on a timeline. We **will identify and compare** how we have grown in our ability to use strategies to manage our emotions, look after ourselves and keep ourselves safe.

As **thinkers**, we are taking **time** and **opportunity** to **reflect** on our learning by sorting out all the information we have gathered. We will use a mind map to document what we have discovered about feelings, body signals, protective behaviours and how we grow and change over time. We will **identify** our own wonderings and ideas that we might be interested in to investigate further as part of our shared compelling question, *What are my feelings telling me? What should I do next?* As self-managers and researchers, we will be planning our own proposed question or idea as we enter into the **going further** phase of our inquiry. To **go further** invites us to plan and research our own personal inquiry that we can share with others.

As **mathematicians**, we are continuing to **consolidate** our **place value** understandings. Some of us will use **concrete materials** including bundling sticks, number lines to **find out** and **sort out** our **thinking** of place value. Some of us will practise **ordering numbers** according to **different criteria** for example, ordering from smallest to largest. We will use a range of manipulatives to help us demonstrate our thinking. We are focussing on the thinking routine, "What makes me say that is..." to help us develop the thinking moves **justify** and **reason with evidence** to help us explain our **mathematical thinking**.

As **readers**, we will continue to engage in reading a variety of texts. Some of us will use the **comprehension strategies** of **read and retell** and some of us will use the colourful semantics prompts to help us strengthen our **comprehension skills** and make meaning about what we read. We will **collaborate** by sharing our ideas in dialogue with each other to make connections, question and justify our thinking. We will continue to engage in reading and developing our reading behaviours through the PMe Collection.

Bridging Centre

Year 3/4

'School is a place to build strong relationships and for learning how our strengths can become gifts to enhance the lives of others' Kath Murdoch

As a **Catholic dialogue school**, we will have **time and opportunity** to **consider** our first thinking as we **look closely** at a text *'I Like, I Don't Like'*. As **hermeneutical learners**, we will **interpret** the text after **listening** to it and **consider** what this has got us **thinking** now. **Allowing** our **thinking** to **change** and being **open** to **interpretation**, we will **reflect** on the text and **consider** in **light of the season of Advent** what our new thinking is. As we **open up** our **hermeneutical space**, we will **reflect critically** on the prompt *'expressing meaning in more than one way'*. As **communicators** and **contributors**, we will **respectfully share** our **interpretations** with each other and **consider** our **actions** as **families** and as a **community**.

To **go further** with our **thinking**, we will **read** an **excerpt** from the **newsletter** of **Fr Brendan Reed**. We will **respectfully engage** with the **Catholic tradition** and **consider** how our **thinking** is **changing** and our **reinterpretations** of this **liturgical** season of **Advent** is shifting. As we **reflect** on our **thinking** we will use the reflection stem *Advent is.. yet Advent is also...*

As part of our **going further** phase of our **inquiry** into the question **'Health: What Influences my Decisions?'** we have had the **time and opportunity** to **formulate questions** to **find out** more about the area of **health** we have focused on. We have **collaborated**, together on a **data chart**, **summarizing** the information from each of our **health experts**, **identifying** what aspect of health they address and when and why a person might use their services. **Reflecting** on our **findings** as a group we are **considering** what questions we might still be **wondering** about that have yet to be answer through our learning experiences.

In our **mathematical** learning we have been **consolidating** our **understanding** of **measurement**. We have been revising the **concepts** of perimeter area and volume and its connection to two- and three-dimensional shapes. We have been making **connections** between our **understanding** of **geometric** shapes, their **properties** and how to **measure** and **record** them **accurately**.

Leadership Centre

Year 5/ 6

Leadership Centre - Celebration of Learning



As part of our Faith and Life inquiry compelling question, *How can we manage the challenges of change?*, as part of the **Going Further** phase of inquiry, we **engaged** in a personal mini inquiry. As **researchers** we **explored** something we were interested in **finding out** more about and had **time and opportunity** to **analyse** and **reflect** on our **discoveries** and **changes in our thinking**. We **engaged** in the thinking moves **making connections**, **identifying new ideas** and **uncovering personal reactions**.



Last Friday we engaged in a **Celebration of Learning** where we **shared** our **mini inquiries** with each other. As **reflective thinkers** and **communicators** we **demonstrated** a **deeper understanding** of what we inquired

into when we shared our personal inquiries with each other and **articulated** the **skills and dispositions** we **strengthened** throughout



our investigation. There was an array of ways our learning was documented including podcasts, flip books, digital presentations, diamond 9 strategy, brochures, books and infographic posters.



Our **celebrations** will continue this week with our time together at Wyncity Bowling Keon Park where we will engage in two games of Tenpin bowling and on our return to school enjoy our Pizza Lunch. Our Year 6 children will be presented with their Graduation Bear and have an opportunity to collect signatures.



We look forward to another **Celebration of Learning** when we **share** our **Portfolios Showing Growth Over Time** with you. This is an opportunity for us to **celebrate the learning opportunities** we have **engaged** in throughout the year, our **reflections** on what we **have learned**, **how we learned**, **wonderings we explored**, **authentic learning experiences we engaged in**, **investigations we researched** and some of the **challenges and growth** we experienced as learners throughout the year.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish our Year 6s all the best as they continue their journey of learning.

Japanese Learning

As **learners** and **thinkers**, students will have the **time** and **opportunity** to **reflect** both backwards and forwards in connection with our Japanese learning this year. We will use **reflection stems** to **identify** what we **have already learned** and what we **would like to learn** moving into the future.

Students in **Foundation, Year One** and **Year Two**, will consider the reflection questions

What did I learn in Japanese this year?

What do I already know?

What would I like to learn?

What would I like to discover?

Students in **Year Three** and **Year Four**, will consider the reflection stems

Now I understand more about...

It was really interesting when...

It would be good to learn more about...

I am wondering about...

Students in **Year Five** and **Year Six**, will consider the reflection stems

It was really interesting when...

It would be good to learn more about...

In **connection** with their **future learning**, students will also consider how the **dispositions for language learning** might be useful as they move into their next year of language learning, in particular **Year 6** students as they move into secondary school. These include being: '**curious**' – language learners are curious about what words mean and how they sound in the language they are learning; '**persistent**' – practicing over and over to learn words, sentences, and correct pronunciation; and '**open-minded**' - language learners are open minded about learning new ways of communicating and about understanding other cultures. They know that building relationships is about understanding each other.

Sustainability Learning

As **thinkers** all our **Foundation – Year 2** students had the opportunity to dialogue and share their thinking about the process of preparing and planting the strawberry seedlings in our strawberry towers. There were three steps needed to complete the task carefully. Students used a photo of themselves engaging in this, to help with their own documentation of their own part in this task.



As **collaborators** some of our **Year 3 – Year 6** students continued to plant the remainder of our Albion Strawberry seedlings, some students engaged in weeding, watering and basic care around our veggie and herb plants and garden beds. Other students engaged in dialogue and documentation of a reflection piece, on their learning during Sustainability throughout semester two, while others collected all our compost bins from around the spaces to prepare and cut lots of appropriate food scraps for our worm farms over the Christmas holiday period.



Cybersafety

"Don't pet strange dogs. In other words, if it doesn't feel right, don't click on it."



Safer Internet Day will be held on Tuesday the 7th of February next year. The theme for 2023 is **CONNECT, REFLECT, PROTECT**. Below is a brief message about how we can **CONNECT, REFLECT, PROTECT** when online.

- **CONNECT** safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.
- **REFLECT** before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.
- **PROTECT** ourselves and others with knowledge – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

Beacon Cybersafety App



The **Beacon Cybersafety App** is a great resource for parents to access tips and strategies about dealing with issues such as **cyberbullying, screen time, gaming** and other issues. Click on the following link for the Beacon website (<https://beacon.telethonkids.org.au/>) or head to the **Apple** or **Google** App Stores.



eSafety Parent Resources

Below is a link to a new eSafety resource containing videos and fact sheets that are available in **English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Dari, Tamil and Vietnamese**.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources/online-safety-for-every-family>. If you are after parent resources from eSafety you head to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> and <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars> where there are plenty of free resources to assist you.

Digital Technologies

"LEGO has essentially taken the concrete block, the building block of the world, and made it into the building block of our imagination. - Ayah Bdeir, CEO of littleBits

This week in years **Foundation - 2** some of us will have the **time** and **opportunity** to complete a **reflection** on the different things we've learned in **Digital Technologies** this semester. We will think about the different things we've built with **Lego WeDo** and document our **favourite creations** and **how** they **work**. Those of us who have finished our **reflections** will have an **opportunity** to further **explore** the **indi, laptops and Lego**.

This week in **year 3/4** we will be continuing to have the **time** and **opportunity** to complete a **reflection** about our **experiences** with **Scratch** and **Excel**. For our **Scratch reflection** we will be **documenting** using the **reflection stems** **"I was a thinker when I..."** and **"It was challenging when..."**. For our **Excel reflection** we will use the **reflection stems** **"I was a researcher when I..."** and **"I found it interesting when..."** the rest of us will have an **opportunity** to **independently explore** how the **indi robots** work.

This week in **year 5/6** we will be continuing to have the **time** and **opportunity** to complete a **reflection** about our **experiences** with **Binary** and **Excel**. For our **Binary reflection** we will be **documenting** using the **reflection stems** “**I was a thinker when I...**” and “**It was challenging when...**”. For our **Excel reflection** we will use the **reflection stems** “**I was a researcher when I...**” and “**I found it interesting when...**” the rest of us will have an **opportunity** to **independently explore** how the **indi robots** work.

Physical Education

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope and someone who believes in them.” - Magic Johnson.

In Physical Education learning this week all students will be engaging in learning with a focus on the **fundamental movement skills** and the **teaching games for understanding**.

Foundation to Year 2 students will be practicing and revising their fundamental movement skills particularly the overarm throw with a major focus also on catching. Students will be activating their **prior knowledge** as we continue to **explore** sports that incorporate both throwing and catching.

Year 3/4 students will also be practicing their fundamental movement skills particularly the overarm throw and be applying these as they engage in play based learning activities. As **learners**, students will be practicing the correct sequence when performing this skill and will be learning to throw with accuracy as they engage in games which will require them to think tactically.

Year 5/6 students will learn about the sport of golf. Through their learning we will learn about the importance of our posture, our stance when hitting and our body’s position when making impact with the ball. Students will also learn about the importance of taking a full swing of the golf club when striking the ball.

Performing Arts

“There is music in every child. The teacher’s job is to find it and nurture it.” -Frances Clark

Our musicians from Foundation–Year 2 will continue our inquiry of the musical notes. We will be practicing how to sing and perform the matching Curwen hand sign for the notes Do, Re and Mi. We will focus on the learning asset **collaborator**. We will consider what it means to be a **collaborator** as we practice our Christmas carols for the End of Year Mass.

Year 3/ 4 will be continuing to engage in our inquiry of the musical language solfege and the matching Curwen hand signs. We will focus on the learning assets **collaborator and self manager** we will consider what it means to be a **collaborator and a self manager** as we practice our Christmas carols for the End of Year Mass.

Our musicians in Year 5/ 6 will continue to engage in our inquiry of the ukulele. We will be exploring the different chords in the key of C major. We will need to use the learning assets **self-managers, contributors** and **collaborators** as we also engage in the practice our Christmas carols for the End of Year Mass.

Visual Arts

“Respect yourself, Respect others, Respect the environment.” Bunjil the creator

Foundation – Year 2

As **communicators** we listened and dialogued about the story of “Bunjil The Creator” to help us understand the history and traditional beliefs held by First peoples.

We found out that Bunjil is the Ancestral Wedge-tailed Eagle, who created much of south-eastern Australia including the features, people and animals that live there.

As **thinkers** we made **connections** with the Christian creation story. We found out that Bunjil and God created a beautiful place for us to live and share with the animals and plants. It is our responsibility to care for the environment and each other.



I can be a steward of creation by:

- “Recycling and pulling out weeds.” Ally
- “Only taking what I need from the earth.” Madeline
- “Not wasting food and not hurting animals.” Rita
- “Planting lots of plants and trees because they help us.” Arav

Year 3 – 6

As **artists** we continue to explore how shape, line, texture and colour can be used in our artmaking



Term Four Dates 2022

Tuesday 13th December
Wednesday 14th December
Friday 16th December

Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm @ Our Lady's Parish church
Whole School End of Year Mass 9am @ Mother Teresa School
Term 4 finishes for children

Term One Dates 2023

Friday 27th January
Monday 30th January
Tuesday 31st January
Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 8th February
Thursday 9th February
Friday 10th February
Wednesday 15th February
Wednesday 22nd February
Friday 3rd March
Tuesday 7th March

Wednesday 8th March
Monday 13th March

Friday 17th March
Saturday 18th March
Sunday 19th March
Thursday 23rd March
Friday 24th March
Monday 3rd April
Thursday 6th April
Friday 7th April
Saturday 8th April
Sunday 9th April

Monday 24th April
Tuesday 25th April

Staff Return
Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 attend school
Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 attend school
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
Foundation Rest Day
Year 5/6 Camp Sovereign Hill
Year 5/6 Camp Sovereign Hill
Foundation Rest Day
Ash Wednesday
Parents and Friends Movie Night
School Closure Day – Staff professional development day
No School for children this day
Reconciliation Parent/ Child Workshop 7pm
Labour Day Public Holiday
No School this day
St Patrick Day
Reconciliation Sign Up Weekend

First Reconciliation Celebration
National Ride2School Day
Foundation 2024 Information Night 7pm
Term One Ends
Good Friday
Holy Saturday
Easter Sunday

Term Two Begins
ANZAC Day
No School this day

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!