



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

13th February 2023

"Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness."

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

Our focus in these past weeks has been 'Learning to learn'. This focus at a surface level incorporates daily routines and structures important elements in a learning environment. At a deeper level, however, we are inquiring into what learning is and what it looks like to be a learner. This is about considering learning assets and dispositions. It recognises learning as a collaborative endeavour. Through learning alongside others we have the opportunity to learn from each other.

The Catholic dialogue school recognises the impact of engaging with others. If you enter our school through the main entry you will see the words: "Hospitality and Dialogue... an invitation to encounter". Our openness and hospitality to others enables us to learn from others and to be enriched by our encounters.

Last week we welcomed our friend and Aboriginal Elder, Murrundindi. This is the first time since the COVID lockdowns that Murrundindi has been able to join us onsite. Murrundindi joined us at prayer last week and participated through playing the didgeridoo. At the conclusion of prayer Murrundindi addressed us. As he began talking to us he told us he loved coming to Mother Teresa. He spoke of the richness of diversity that is present in our school and the importance of knowing your own background and your cultural heritage. Further Murrundindi shared his own cultural background and his role as Wurundjeri elder and what this means to him. Through this sharing Murrundindi expressed his search for meaning, embracing his own cultural heritage and expressing this through a knowledge of culture.

This search for meaning and understanding in the Catholic dialogue school is expressed as a hermeneutical space. Each one of us recognises this search for meaning and understanding, whether we are 6 years old or 60 years old. Our learning community is most fortunate to have a relationship with Murrundindi that over many years. His presence not only invites us to understanding the Aboriginal peoples, one of the oldest culture in the world, but he challenges us to embrace our own search for meaning within ourselves, our families and learning community.

As we continue with our learning this term we will have the time and opportunity to consider our own story and the stories of others. Through our hospitality and dialogue with others it is possible to enter our hermeneutical space discovering the stories of others and in turn discovering more about ourselves and our stories.

Kind regards

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 13th February

Tuesday 14th February

*Year 5/6 Peer Mediator training
Professional Learning ~ Planning
Parents & Friends Meeting 7pm*

Wednesday 15th February

Professional Learning ~ Faith & Life Inquiry

Thursday 16th February

Friday 17th February

Zooper Dooper Friday

Keep up to date with school events

To ensure you are kept up to date with school happenings our newsletter is distributed each Monday via email, Skoolbag App. and also on our school webpage. You are strongly encouraged to read it each week so that you are continually informed about school events. Today's newsletter contains lots of important information including coming school events and important aspects of school organisation.

Year 5/6 Camp ~ Thanks You

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 children for the way in which they engaged in our camp to Sovereign Hill. Thank you to the staff who attended our Year 5/6 camp last week – Mrs Brooks, Miss Follacchio, Miss MacKinnon (Miss Mac), Mrs Ruberto, Mrs Sunnadeniya (Mrs. S) Mr Collins, Mr Osborne, & Mr Safaa. We are grateful for their commitment to this learning opportunity for our children. Particular thanks to Miss Follacchio for all her organisation for the camp which began last year.

Parent Child Teacher Chats 2023

Our Parent Child Teachers chats will take place on Wednesday 1st March 2023 from 1.30pm. Our children will be dismissed at 1pm on this day.

Second hand uniform sales ~ this Friday

Our Parents and Friends group are organising a second-hand uniform sale to take place this Friday 17th February after Morning Prayer between 9.15am – 9.45am. This will take place in our main building near our staff space.

Prices will range from \$5 - \$ 30.

Ash Wednesday

Our learning community we participate in Ash Wednesday Mass next **Wednesday 22nd February at 9.15am**. This Mass will take place at Mother Teresa School. Families are welcome to attend.

End of day dismissal ~ where your child will leave at the end of the day

Please remind your child where you will collect them at the end of the day. Our Foundation (prep) are able to collect their children from their learning space until they are comfortable to find a meetings space at the end of the day.

Anaphylaxis

A number of children in our Learning Community suffer from food allergies. A small number are anaphylactic. Ingesting foods such as nuts, eggs, milk (any dairy), wheat, or chickpeas can cause a life threatening reaction. We ask that sandwich spreads such as **Peanut Butter** and **Nutella** are **not sent in lunches**, as these can be very sticky and remain on furniture and door handles.

You are also asked to remind and explain to your children that food is not to be shared at school.

Your support of this request is appreciated and shows our care and support of all children and families in our community.

Medical Conditions

It is important that we are aware of children who have particular medical conditions. If your child does have a medical condition please notify the school immediately if you have not already done so. Medical Action Plans are required to ensure the correct care can be administered in the case of a reaction or emergency. This includes Anaphylaxis, Asthma and Diabetic Action Plans. Mrs Doria will be contacting families to ensure we have all up-to-date medications.

Parking & Movement around our learning community

Please be aware of parking areas particularly parking restrictions around the school. You are advised to allow extra time to drop off and pick up your children. **Please be patient and civil with others who are also dropping and picking up children. Please be aware of neighbours driveways and nature strips when parking your car.** Please ensure your child know which gate you will collect them from at the end of the day.

وقوف السيارات حول المدرسة
نوا الى المدرسة يرجى ركن السيارة بالأماكن المسموح بها الوقوف. من الافضل ان تمنح وقتاً إضافياً لإنزال أطفالك واصطحبهم
بدعم التخطيط على الحدائق الامامية لأطفالك يرجى الان تباطؤ لطف فامع الاخرين. عند مرافقتك
لجيران
عند ركن سيارتك يرجى التأكد من أن طفلك يعرف البوابة التي سوف يغادر منها

Parent Helpers

At Mother Teresa we value the partnerships we have with parents and families. We are looking forward to be able to once again invite parents or community members who would like to volunteer some time and assist with children's learning across the school. If you are available and would like to engage with small groups of children please contact Mrs. Leahy via reception or email amy.leahy@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au Please note to be able to assist within the school you must have a current **Working With Children's Check** (WWCC). To obtain one please visit <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Parent Information Night – Engaging in Home Learning Monday 20th February

We are offering an evening on **Monday 20th February** for parents to find out about the expectations and ways to engage in home learning with your children. The evening will begin with Foundation-2 families at 7:00-7:30pm to follow with Years 3-6 from 7:30-8:00pm. This opportunity will allow you to clarify and ask questions about;

- The routine for Sight Words and games you can play
- Expectations around home reading for all levels
- Expectations around mathematical learning at home
- School routines

Please keep an eye on your emails for a google form to register your interest.

Troward Harvey Way – School Gate Closure due to School works

The basketball /tennis ball courts are being resurfaced. This work is well underway and will hopefully be completed by the end of this week. **During this time there will be no access to the school via the gate in Troward Harvey Way.** Those who park in Troward Harvey Way are asked to walk to the main gate in Windrock Avenue or access our other gates.

Student Levy & Family Fee

Student Levy Payments 2023~ Overdue

Thank you to those who have paid the student levy of \$312 which was due for payment by Monday 6th February 2023. If you have not paid please finalise your account to avoid us chasing up this levy.

School Fee 2023

Our family school fee in 2023 is \$ 1,656. This fee is broken into three accounts:
Term One \$552, Term Two \$552 and Term 3 \$552.

Term One \$552	Accounts forwarded	6 th March 2023
	Payable by	24 th March 2023
Term Two \$552	Accounts forwarded	22 nd May 2023
	Payable by	9 th June 2023

Term Three \$552

Accounts forwarded
Payable by

14th August 2023

1st September 2023

Payment Arrangements

If you wish to pay via instalments and/or direct debit please see one of our reception staff to arrange this. Thank you to those who have already made payments of both levies and fees.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application

Parent CSEF applications close on 16th June 2023. 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.

School Fee Concession

If you are the holder of a health care card you may be eligible for a school fee concession. Please speak to one of our reception staff and collect the necessary forms.

Sacramental Celebrations 2023

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

Eucharist or Confirmation in 2023. If you have not let the school know that you wish your children to receive the sacraments please let Mrs Leahy know via email amy.leahy@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

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 in 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 August, 2023**
- Confirmation Celebration, venue TBC – **Sunday 20th August, 2023 (Time to be confirmed)**

School Starting Time and Supervision ~ Be On Time

School begins each day at 8.50am. Children and families are able to enter the learning spaces at 8.30am **NOT before 8.30am.** While staff are at school prior to this time they are engaged in preparation for the day and are not able to supervise children prior to this time. **Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated and required.**

Children arriving after 8.50am are late for school and required to collect a late pass from reception.

Items to bring from home

Please note that all children are requested to bring the following items from home.

- 2 boxes of Tissues
- Art Smock
- Earbud Headphones

It is particularly important that all children F – Year 6 bring an art smock as paint, clay and ink are often used in Visual Arts and Japanese Calligraphy learning.

Foundation Children Testing Day

The Foundation children received a note last week regarding the rest day and testing day timetable please see the timetable below.

Learning Space	Wednesday 15 th February
Learning Space 1 - Miss S	At School – all day
Learning Space 2 - Miss Cassie	At School – all day
Learning Space 4 - Mrs Leahy	At School – all day
Learning Space 5 - Miss Camuglia	At School – all day
Learning Space 6 - Miss Pereira	Rest Day
Learning Space 8 – Miss Rita	Rest Day
Learning Space 9- Mrs Bernadette	Rest Day

Book Boxes ~ Take home books

If your child requires a replacement Book Box these are available for purchase at the school office for \$10 each.

Parents & Friends News

Movie night Friday March 3rd 2023~ Minions – The Rise of Gru

When: Friday March 3rd 2023

Where: Football Oval @ Mother Teresa Catholic PS

Time: 5.30pm – Gates Open

This is a ticketed event with tickets purchased through the school reception and are \$15 per family or \$5 a single. Cash only payments please.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

6pm-7pm – SASH Entertainment High energy dancing and singing, games and challenges.

8pm – Screening of the Movie

Bring along your picnic rug, chairs and a comfy blanket!

Food trucks will be on premises for purchase of pizza, burgers and fish and chips!

Coffee Van and Confectionary will be available for purchase.

(Confectionery will only be available to purchase with a cash sale only)

This is an alcohol-free event.

Security will be present on the night.

Term 4 Zooper Dooper Fridays

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

Parents and Friends meeting ~ Wednesday 15th February

Our first Parents and Friends meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th February 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to plan for our upcoming fundraising and social events including Mother's day stall and morning. All welcome.

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

"When students feel that they are the ones "doing the learning" rather than the teacher they are undoubtedly more engaged, and with engagement comes increased potential for learning." (Kath Murdoch, 2007)

This week, we are **finding out** about the disposition, **curiosity** and the **thinking move wondering**, by reading the text, *The Wonder of Winsome*. Before we begin to read we will **make predictions** about the text using the **title** and **illustration** on the **front cover**. After reading we will take the time and opportunity to **share our new ideas** about what **wondering** is and ways **we might be curious**. As researchers we will **stay curious** as we work out ways that we can **gather information** to make new discoveries. We will use this opportunity to express our curiosity and develop questions. As the students are looking around and developing wonderings, we will take photos for the Faith and Life Inquiry portfolios.

As **self-managers** and researchers, we will gather our wonderings and **make a plan** for ways we might find out and sort out our thinking for further **discoveries**.

As **hermeneutical learners** and **readers**, we will take the time and **opportunity** to look closely and zoom in on the narrative from Matthew's gospel. We will identify **who** the author of the narrative was. We will **identify who** the key people/characters are in the text. We will spend some time wondering about Jesus by **asking questions**, 'What do we know about Jesus?' 'Who do we think he is?' 'What is the gospel telling us about Jesus?'

As researchers we can use simple commentaries to find out about Matthew and the other gospel writers. We can make some discoveries about who the writers of the gospels might have been and when they wrote the gospels using a timeline. To help us **sort out** our thinking about what is happening in the world of the text we will sequence the steps and actions of the narrative in the three scenes. We will make our thinking visible in words and pictures. As hermeneutical learners, sorting out our thinking about the events of the text, will help us to **interpret the text** and begin to think about the meaning of the text for today.

- What is happening in the beginning?
- What is happening in the middle?
- What is happening at the end?

After we have sorted out our thinking we will wonder - 'What might the purpose of this gospel be?' 'What might be puzzling us?' 'What might be something in the text that challenges us?' As thinkers we will **take time to think before responding, persist with our thinking** and **make connections between new ideas**.

As mathematicians and inquirers, we are engaging in a variety of learning opportunities related to Number and Algebra. Some of us are developing our understanding around skip counting, reading and interpreting numbers and continuing and creating sequences involving whole numbers. We will also be engaging in digital programs such as Rainforest Maths to consolidate our understanding around these concepts.

Bridging Centre

Year 3 – 4 Learning Spaces

‘In a complicated fast changing world the intelligent path is to let go of being a knower and embrace being a learner’ Guy Claxton

As part of our **Faith and Life Inquiry** and as part of **tuning in** to our **compelling question ‘Australia: how is our story told?’** We had **time and opportunity** to **activate** our **prior knowledge** and **formulate wonderings**. We **considered** as **thinkers** **what** we already know about **Australia** and the different stories told by different people. We **engaged** in the **thinking routine Think Puzzle Explore** - using the **thinking moves activating prior knowledge, wondering and planning**.

Being **thinkers**, we **looked closely** at some **keywords** - *perspective, change, same, stories, past, influenced, historians* and **engaged** in a **concept map**. In order to tune into our thinking, we **identified** what we think each of these words mean by **collaborating** with others. **Reflecting** on our **learning to learn** compelling question - we **contributed** ideas in a group and shared our thinking **respectfully**. As part of **reflecting critically** on our **thinking**, we **made our thinking visible** by identifying three words and creating a statement that shows our current understanding.

As **researchers** we had the **time and opportunity** to engage with **Murrundindi**, the **Indigenous elder** of the **Wurundjeri** people. He **shared** with us his **perspective** around the history of the **Melbourne** area giving us an **opportunity** to consider not only the **historical story**, but also who is **telling** the story. We are **enormously privileged** to have such **opportunities** and look forward to gaining further **insights** in future learning experiences with **Murrundindi**.

In our **mathematical learning opportunities** with have begun to **investigate** place value to **develop** a deeper **understanding** of the foundational **concept** of **mathematics, number**. As **thinkers** we are using place value charts, MAB blocks and number lines to **explore** a range of **representations** to build a solid **relational understanding**. We will **extend** our thinking over the coming weeks by **applying** our place value **knowledge** in a range of **different contexts**.

Leadership Centre

Year 5/6 Learning Spaces

In the sorting out phase the students make sense of the information gathered. They analyse, organise, compare, contrast, sift and sort. It is the analysis, synthesis, reflection and transfer that leads to deeper understanding. Students reflect, respond and express new thinking. They revisit questions, refine and add new ones. Sorting out is a critical phase in the assessment of understanding. Kath Murdoch 2022

As part of our Faith and Life inquiry understanding, **Historical information is told and seen through different perspectives**, as **thinkers**, we are engaging in a variety of **sorting out** learning tasks. We are **reflecting** upon, **analysing** and **synthesizing information we gathered** to assist us in **sorting out** our experiences at Sovereign Hill. We are also using the **photos** taken during our education session, **Put Yourself in the Eureka Story**, where we **recreated scenes of the key events of the Eureka Rebellion**, to **understand more about how history can be determined by the actions of individuals and events**. We will have **time and opportunity** to **interpret and synthesize** this key event by engaging in the thinking moves **summarizing** and **capturing the heart** through the **thinking routine Headlines** and write a headline that we believe captures the most important aspect. As **collaborators**, when sharing our thinking, we will **respect and value the ideas of others**. We will have **time and opportunity** to engage in documenting in our **Sovereign Hill journal** where we will add photos, illustrations and writing as we **reflect** on our **discoveries** and **sort out** and **document** the **changes** in our **thinking**. As **critical and creative thinkers** we will engage in the thinking routine **Circle of Viewpoints** as this will support us in **building a deeper understanding** and assist us in **analysing, evaluating and exploring multiple perspectives**. We will also create some **‘what if’ scenarios** by **constructing different outcomes for key events**, for example, **‘What if Peter Lalor had encouraged gold miners to pay rather than resist license fees?’**

As **writers** we are beginning to **document our thinking** in our **Writer's Notebook**. This is a place where we use **scaffolds or note-taking** and **unpack our ideas** and **shape our thinking into purposes for writing**. We can gather our **ideas** through **thinking, talking, imagining, questioning** and **creating**. As writers we will use 'seeds' in particular **images** and **photos** from our **camp at Sovereign Hill** as inspiration. As **reflective and critical thinkers** we will **engage** in the thinking moves **activating prior knowledge, making connections** and **wondering** through the thinking routine **Three Levels of Thinking** to assist us to **sort out** our thinking. **Surface Level Thinking**: What can we see in the image? What are the facts? **Below the Surface Thinking**: What do we think? What questions do we have? How are we feeling? **Core Thinking**: What are the key messages? What connections can we make? As **writers** we will be **developing texts** and **organising** and **presenting information** using **sources of evidence from Sovereign Hill and texts we have read or viewed**. We will **engage** in the thinking move **perspective taking** as we **compare the different experiences and perspectives of people** on the Goldfields including the **miners, gold buyers and troopers**. As **writers** we will investigate how our **vocabulary choices** can **enhance our writing** and how our **effective use of language** can **engage and persuade the reader**.

As **readers** we **developing our comprehension strategies**. Some of us are **focusing on the strategy of locating information directly stated** and/or **rephrased and reworded in a text**. Some of us are **focusing on inferring**. We are engaging in the thinking moves **activating prior knowledge, connection making, predicting** and **identifying new ideas** through a variety of **texts**. **Inferring** is a **strategy** in which we **deliberately think about what we know and the ideas presented in a text** in order to **help us understand information the author has not stated explicitly**. We are using this strategy to help us **gain a deeper understanding** of what the **author has written**.

As **mathematical thinkers**, as part of Measurement and Geometry some of us are **finding out** about the **Cartesian coordinate system** and how it is used to **plot points**. The Cartesian plane is like **two number lines that cross at zero**; one of them is **horizontal** and the other is **vertical**. The Cartesian plane is **divided into four quadrants**. The position of any point in the plane can be **represented by an ordered pair of numbers**. The **first number** tells us which **line through the x-axis** we are on. The **second number** tells us which **line through the y-axis** we are on. These **ordered pairs** are called the **coordinates of the point**. Some of us are engaging in **mathematical thinking learning opportunities** related to **place value** and **counting** based on our **areas for further improvement and growth** from our written pre-assessments and our Mathematical Assessment interviews.

Year 5

Writing

Reading

Conventions of language

Numeracy

As **curious learners** we will begin to **familiarise ourselves with the types of questions and features** in the **Year 5 NAPLAN Online tests**. As part of **finding out** about the **range of question formats and interactive features**, over the next few weeks, we will have **time and opportunity** to **explore the NAPLAN demonstration tests**. This will **provide an opportunity** for us to **become familiar with answering the questions by clicking, typing and dragging, listening to audio** and using the **interactive tools**. We **require our headphones** for our **NAPLAN online**

practice tests as some questions require us to

listen to audio.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site>

Cyber Safety

Upcoming FREE eSafety Parent Webinars

Webinar	Date and Time	Registration Link
<p>eSafety 101: How eSafety can help you For the parents and carers of students in primary and secondary school. It will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is eSafety • What can be reported to eSafety • Resources and helpful advice for parents and carers 	Monday 21 March 7:30pm to 8:00pm	https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/9079267171533697803
<p>Setting your child up for success online For the parents and carers of students in primary school. It will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age-appropriate expectations and boundaries • online risks and strategies to keep your children safe • where to find support for you and your child when things go wrong. 	<p>Tuesday 28 February 12:30pm to 1:00pm</p> <p>Tuesday 14 March 12:30pm to 1:00pm</p>	https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1671877126416238091
<p>Getting the most out of gaming For the parents and carers of students aged 7-14. It will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when gaming can be beneficial and strategies to promote better in-game experiences • how to keep children safe online – using safety and privacy settings in games and platforms • strategies to promote more balanced gaming and how to create smoother transitions from game-play to other activities • the key online risks and where to find help for things like bullying and harassment in games. 	<p>Tuesday 14 February 12:30pm to 1:15pm</p> <p>14 March 7:30pm to 8:15pm</p>	https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1334321559130979344

Term One Dates 2023

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
Thursday 6th April
Monday 24th April

Foundation Rest Day
Ash Wednesday Mass **9.15am** at Mother Teresa School (note time change)
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
Term One Ends
Term Two Begins

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