



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

20th February 2023

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

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

The Catholic Church is rich with rituals, signs and symbols developed and celebrated over many years. While the source and summit of Catholic belief is celebrated in and through the Eucharist or Mass there are many ways to express and understand the Catholic faith. One of the challenges faced by not only Catholic schools but parishes today is how we explore and express our faith in 2023. How do we make real the message of Jesus for ourselves and visible to others? Our search is not new and is a theological one, 'faith seeking understanding' as articulated by Anselm, a Father and doctor of the church.



This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Season of Lent within the Roman/Latin Catholic tradition. Our learning community will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass with the distribution of ashes. These ashes are a sign of our human frailty and need for penance; they also remind us of our finite life and creation from the earth to which we will return.

Our prayer space will reflect this season, a purple cloth, a sign of penance and our need for reconciliation and the placement of ashes in a bowl will remind us that we are invited to enter a time of prayerful reflection ~ What does it mean to be a Christian and how we can be better people? Through Lenten signs and symbols and gospel stories we can gain greater insights into our own responses to the invitation to be better people. Learners in the coming weeks will be invited to consider the signs and symbols of the Lenten season and to make meaning of them within their own lives considering the traditional meanings and perhaps consider them in a new context that is, recontextualising them. Didier Pollefeyt in his research on Catholic identity suggests:

"We are continuously looking for new ways to express the gospel, new practices to make it come true today. While doing this we're standing with one foot in the Christian tradition and with the other in a yet unwritten future. It is uncertain what the outcome of the search will be. It might be possible that valuable things from the past fade away in new times...Nevertheless we rejoice about the new discoveries along the way, and we hope that the Holy Spirit walks with us always."(ESCIP)

For Christians entering this Lenten season it is my hope that those within our community have the time and opportunity to consider what being Christian means to them and how this is lived out each day. I also encourage families to take the opportunity to dialogue with each other about your family's beliefs and traditions. What does Lent mean to you? Those of other faiths might consider this within their own context. Through the view of multiple lenses I am sure we will all be able to identify similarities, differences and hopefully a renewed discovery about our own faith.

Kind regards

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 20th February

Mathematics consultant – Colleen Monaghan

Tuesday 21st February

Professional Learning ~ Planning

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am All Welcome

Professional Learning ~ Faith & Life Inquiry

Thursday 23rd February

Year 5/6 excursion to Melbourne Museum

Friday 24th February

Zooper Dooper Friday

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 ~ Friday 24th February

Our Parents and Friends group will facilitate a second-hand uniform sale again this Friday 24th 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 will participate in Ash Wednesday Mass this **Wednesday 22nd February at 9.15am**. This Mass will take place at Mother Teresa School. Families are welcome to attend.

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/>

Toward Harvey Way – School Gate Open

Access to the school via the gate in Troward Harvey Way is now available again.

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)**

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.

(Confectionary 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.

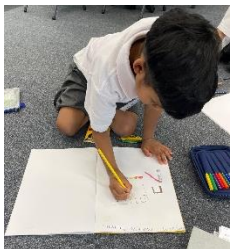
Sales take place 1.40pm – 2.10pm. If you are able to assist with sales please register your name at reception.

What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

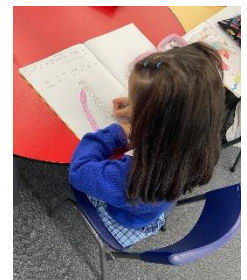
“Parents should be educated in the language of schooling, so that the home and school can share the expectations, and the child does not have to live in two worlds – with little understanding between the home and the school”. John Hattie, 2009

Foundation – Year 2 Learning Spaces

“Inquiry learning helps students to know how to learn. Through inquiry learning they come to understand and manage themselves as learners.” (Kath Murdoch, 2007)



As **self-managers** we are **learning** about and **consolidating** our understanding of some of the **Agreed Ways of living and learning** at **Mother Teresa Primary School**. An example of this is setting up and packing up for ourselves and taking responsibility for our things. As **thinkers** we took the time and opportunity to document our thinking on the **Agreed Ways** for Photo Blocks. We **documented** our **thinking** in pictures and



words. We are staying curious about what we are learning and reflecting on what we feel and what we have learned. As communicators we will continue to have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with others about how to be respectful, responsible, and safe within the learning spaces and outside play areas.

As **mathematicians**, we will participate in small focus groups **to find out** about counting. We are learning to use different materials and resources to support our thinking such as blocks, counters, number charts and the Turn & Learn. Each morning, we have the opportunity to dialogue about the calendar and identify the day, date, and month. We are learning to identify our sports day to remember when we wear our sport uniform.

As **inquirers**, we have been **finding out** about our lunch box and its contents. We have explored brain food, recess and lunch time and the types of food we eat during each of these times. Through dialogue we have identified what it means to be a package free school and explored ways that we can have no packaging in our lunch boxes. To extend our thinking we are collecting data about daily lunches to create picture graphs.

As **hermeneutical learners**, we listen to and dialogue with scriptures of the Catholic tradition. We will listen carefully to the story from Matthew's gospel. We will engage with the thinking routine **Think-Puzzle-Explore** to identify and make visible our first thinking and connections, the parts of the text that puzzle us and what we would like to explore or **find out** more about.



As people of a **Catholic Dialogue School**, we are **tuning in** through the thinking moves of **wondering** and **activating our prior knowledge**, to the **Season of Lent**. Lent in the Catholic tradition begins with **Ash Wednesday** and concludes at Easter and the celebration of Pentecost. As researchers we will stay **curious** as we visit the provocation that has some of the **symbols** of Ash Wednesday and Lent. We will engage with the thinking routine **See-Think-Wonder** as we wonder about and **make our thinking visible** about the symbols in the provocation. As **hermeneutical learners** we will reflect on our thinking by identifying how we have been **interpreting text and symbols**. We will explore what the symbols might and their

connection to Lent.

As **readers**, we are continuing to listen to a variety of fiction stories. We are observing good reading behaviours and will have time and opportunity to independently consolidate these skills. Many of us are beginning to learn the 307 Oxford Sight Words. It is important to practice these every day for home learning. In foundation, it is expected that children can identify the 307 Sight Words by Term 3. Other children will continue to **find out** about the strategy of breaking up a word into onset and rime. For example: bat/ b-at.

Please remember to return headphones and book boxes to Learning Space Teachers. If you have sight words at home, could these also be returned with the two rings, pencil case and all word cards. Year one and two students please return your clipboards from last year.

Bridging Centre

Year 3 – 4 Learning Spaces

As learners in a Catholic Dialogue school, we have been *tuning in* and *finding out* about **Ash Wednesday**. We have been making *connections* to what we already know and using texts and images to find out more about this celebration. As we find out more we will consider our understandings today and engage in the process of recontextualisation – How might the celebration of Wednesday be understood in our current context? How might we express this?

As **inquirers**, we have been using a range of *texts* and *videos* to help us **find out** about James Cook and the Aboriginal perspectives of the First Fleet. We will continue to make connections to our compelling question 'Australia: How is our story told' through dialogue and documentation.

As **writers**, we have been engaging in dialogue about the structure of a *Narrative* as well as incorporating more detail and punctuation into our writing. As **readers**, we have been using texts based around our inquiry to help us summarise and identify the key facts from the texts.

As **thinkers** and **mathematicians**, some learners have been tuning in and finding out about **Place Value** and **counting** by counting from different numbers, ordering and making numbers from 2 to 6 digits and making connections to their prior knowledge. Other learners have been exploring the concepts of **fractions** and **decimals** as another way of representing a number. We have been using a variety of tools such as fraction wall, fraction pies, decimats, MAB blocks and flip charts to sort out our thinking about these concepts.

Clipboard

All children are required to have a clipboard at school. This was part of the book pack requirements. If your children does not have one please supply one as it will be required for many learning experiences including our 3/4 excursion to the Melbourne Museum on the 28th February.

Leadership Centre

Year 5/6 Learning Spaces

Learning is an act of meaning-making where individuals connect new experiences to existing schema and reflect, process and construct understanding over time.

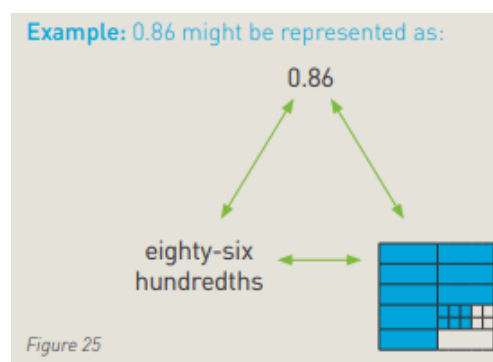
Kath Murdoch 2022

As **curious** and **open-minded inquirers** and as part of **finding out** about our compelling question, **How does the past influence the present and the future?**, and our **understanding**, **‘Historical information is told and seen through different perspectives,’** we will be **engaging** in an **excursion to Melbourne Museum** to explore the **First Peoples Exhibition** at Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre. In particular we will focus on ‘Our Shared History’ and be **guided through the exhibition** to help us come to understand how **indigenous peoples are connected to each other and to country** - the land, the animals, trees, culture and people. **As researchers** we will gather **new information** in a variety of ways including **listening to stories, viewing artefacts and artworks, observing, dialoguing, sketching, note taking and taking photos.** Our friend and Aboriginal Elder, Murrundindi, will be **joining us at Melbourne Museum.** We will have **time and opportunity** to **listen to his insights and perspective, ask our wonderings** and **engage in some hands on and interactive learning opportunities** with him.

As part of **tuning in** to **Ash Wednesday**, as a Catholic Dialogue school, we will have time and opportunity to engage in the thinking moves **observing closely, interpreting and wondering**, through the thinking routine **See-Think-Wonder**, as we **explore images** by **digital artist Ugur Gallenkus**, who through his art, aims to make a difference in how we understand the lives of others. We will read the text, *Ashes to Easter*, by Fr Frank O’Loughlin, to help us explore the season of Lent as a time of prayer. **As critical and reflective thinkers** we will **engage** in the thinking moves **making connections and identifying new ideas.** We will be **learning hermeneutically** as we engage in the **continuous process of seeing new layers of meaning**, having an **openness to change and reinterpretation** and **dialoguing with each other.**

As part of Number and Algebra **as mathematicians and inquirers** some of us are engaging in learning tasks about **decimals.** We are using a variety of mathematical tools to help us find out about **decimal size and decimal place value** and we are using **fractional language** to describe decimals. **As mathematicians** we are **representing decimal numbers** by documenting our thinking on a **number triad.** For example, on a number triad, we can use the decimal number 0.86 to represent the relationship between the word, symbol and diagram. As part of Measurement and Geometry some of us are engaging in the thinking moves **making connections and identifying new ideas** as we continue to use a **grid reference system to describe locations and routes using landmarks and directional language and the Cartesian plane to graphically and visually describe location.** **As inquirers**, as part of **finding out and sorting out our thinking** we will **engage** in the thinking routine **Claim Support Question.** This routine helps us to **develop thoughtful interpretations** by **encouraging us to reason with evidence and explore strategies to justify our responses.**

As writers we will engage in a **writing self- assessment** where we will document our understanding and feelings, at this moment in time, using the following Kath Murdoch reflection stems: As a writer I am proud of the way



I ..., As a writer it would be good to learn more about ..., When I think about myself as a writer I feel ..., As a writer I am still confused about ..., As a writer I am still wondering ... and As a writer it is really interesting when

As reflective learners we will identify a **learning goal** by selecting a **learning asset** and a **particular skill for further improvement and growth**. We will **identify specific actions** that we will **need to take towards achieving our goal**. We look forward to sharing our goal with you during our Parent-Child-Teacher conversations next week.

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 22nd February

Ash Wednesday Mass **9.15am** at Mother Teresa School (note time change)

Friday 3rd March

Parents and Friends Movie Night

Tuesday 7th March

School Closure Day – Staff professional development day

Wednesday 8th March

No School for children this day

Monday 13th March

Reconciliation Parent/ Child Workshop 7pm

Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 17th March
Saturday 18th March
Sunday 19th March
Thursday 23rd March
Thursday 6th April
Monday 24th April

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.